

Great Falls
CONNECTION

Gift Shopping in Great Falls

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 10

Haddad Ballet Presents Annual Nutcracker

NEWS, PAGE 10

GFCA Raises Contamination Questions

NEWS, PAGE 3

From left, Havana Vintage owner Nolkis Roman and boutique assistants Sophia Iglesias and Alex Grieco. Havana Vintage is a consignment shop in Great Falls that offers a wide variety of designer clothing and other accessories.

PAGE 10
Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2013



ROTARY CLUB GREAT FALLS VIRGINIA



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CREW



REPLACING PIPES AT EMBRY RUCKER SHELTER

"I was impressed by the Rotary members' strong work ethic as they labored many long hours on one of the coldest days of the year to complete this project for us. These volunteers truly embodied the guiding principles of goodwill, fellowship, enterprise, and service to society for which Rotary members are famous." – *Susan Alger, Volunteer and Donations Manager, Embry Rucker Community Shelter*



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GFCA Raises Contamination Questions

Initial corrective action plan missing pieces, public comment period to come.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Great Falls Citizens Association Special Committee on Groundwater Contamination presented an update Tuesday, Nov. 12. The committee recently made comments on a corrective action plan that outlines strategies to remove contamination from the site of the former Exxon station at the southwest corner of the Georgetown Pike-Walker Road intersection.

The Exxon station closed in 2012, and TD Bank currently has a proposal to build a new branch on the property.

The report is the result of a spill or leakage from at least one of the three 10,000 gallon tanks that were underground to store fuel for the station. In 2009, the onsite potable well was found to be contaminated with gasoline constituents.

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, the site was studied and monitoring wells were dug to see if the contaminants, particularly one known as MTBE, have spread. Methyl tertiary-butyl ether, or MTBE, is an additive that was used in gasoline until 2006.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's guide on MTBE, a process such as soil vapor extraction, which involves drilling to the location of the contaminant, and using air to force the vapors through a charcoal filter, is useful, since MTBE is not known to stick to carbon in soil.

However, MTBE is water soluble and does not degrade, and according to the EPA, "when MTBE is dissolved in water MTBE treatment may be more difficult and time consuming than for other gasoline compounds."

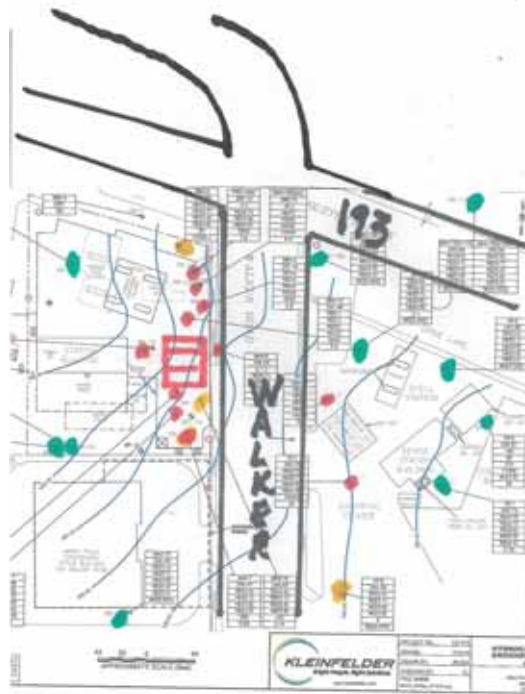
The idea behind soil vapor extraction is to remove the contaminants before they reach the groundwater. That is why many residents of Great Falls, most of whom are on well water, are concerned about potential contamination.

"A few of those wells had a barely recognizable amount of MTBE, according to their tests" said Eric Knudsen, president of the GFCA. "Since then, most of the wells they have continued to test are showing up clean."

According to a survey taken by 650 Great Falls residents, 70 percent had not heard of the leak.

A corrective action plan has been developed by Kleinfelder, an engineering firm, for cleaning up the site, which must be approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Members of the GFCA's committee were given a copy of the report last month, and have found it lacking in several areas.

Among their requests were that Kleinfelder define the "plume" of contamination with modeling, verify that it hasn't moved north by digging a well, design a groundwater pump and treat system for onsite and offsite cleaning and to a better description of the site's geology and hydrology among others.



A sketch of the area surrounding the former Exxon station in Great Falls. The red dots mark monitoring wells that have tested positive for MTBE.

"In our October 30 meeting with DEQ, we reached an agreement that contained many of our directives," said Glen Sjoblom, a member of the committee. "However, they sent a letter Nov. 1 to the owner of the site, and not all of the agreements were requested in that letter, which made us wonder."

The GFCA committee met again with the DEQ on Nov. 12, where several of their requests were agreed to.

"They did agree this afternoon, and they will put in the plan, that soil vapor extraction will be done as soon as they can," Sjoblom said. "That will likely start early next year. They also identified where the offsite monitoring wells will be when it is submitted for review."

THREE MONITORING WELLS will be placed at the Safeway shopping center, assuming the property owners agree. One well will go down to 150 feet, and the other two will go down 60 feet.

"From that they will determine what can be done on that side of the road," Sjoblom said. "There will also most likely be a deep monitoring well placed on the north side of Georgetown Pike."

Ralph Lazaro, president of the Great Falls Business and Professional Association, said he will be speaking to business and property owners about the monitoring well proposal.

Sjoblom said he expects the corrective action plan to be published within the next few weeks. After it is published, there will be a 30-day comment period.

Once the comment period is over, the plan will be amended, then approved, if it meets DEQ's criteria. Work can begin after the final approval from DEQ.

"We suspect the soil vapor extraction will last six months perhaps, maybe up to a year, until the levels taper off. Then we may not be getting much more out, he said. "Then you stop that system for a while. Then vapors which have gotten into organic materials, or in the rocks, can come back out, then you start the system back up."

The GFCA will host a meeting with the DEQ's tank remediation director on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. More information is available at www.gfca.org.



JFK's Own USAF Pipe Band.

Honoring President Kennedy, 50 Years Later

Friday morning, Nov. 15, John F. Kennedy's own United States Air Force Pipe Band stopped off at the Great Falls Village Centre before heading in to Arlington National Cemetery for the Saturday, Nov. 16 special ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the funeral of President John F. Kennedy.

Just as they did at JFK's graveside funeral service 50 years ago, original members of the USAF Pipe Band, including Pipe Major Sandy Jones and Lead Drummer John Bosworth,

played "Mist Covered Mountains" in appreciation of the support that the recently reassembled Pipe Band has received from sponsor Teel Construction, Inc. Teel has offices in the Great Falls Village Centre and Parker Teel was presented with a plaque in thanks from the Pipe Band.

The 50th Anniversary commemoration ceremony was organized by Taps for Veterans, Arlington National Cemetery and the Military District of Washington.



Lead Drummer John Bosworth and Pipe Major Sandy Jones.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 20

Using Today's Tools to Tell

Your Story. Malene Davis, President & CEO, Capital Caring, will Speak at Nonprofit Fundraising Development Speaker Series, 8:30 a.m.- 12 noon, at Booz Allen Hamilton's Newman Auditorium, 8283 Greensboro Drive, McLean. Davis will join five fellow panelists to discuss the challenges nonprofits face in reaching their target audiences on a daily basis. Cost \$25. To register go to: <https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=NONP32E&OID=130>

SATURDAY/NOV. 23-SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Landscape Painting Indoors.

9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, 1144 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. Learn to paint the great outdoors from the comfort of a warm studio during the chilly Virginia fall. In this class learn how to use own photo references to create a work of art. Learn how to use reference material effectively by simplifying, adjusting, and editing it in order to capture the essence of your subject. Cost \$199. Register: www.greatfallsart.org



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Artist Jeff Watson by his stand at the Kiln Club's Pottery Show at Colvin Run Mill barn.



Reston resident Tracie G. Tso displays a piece of pottery by her stand at the weekend pottery show at Colvin Run Mill.

Potters Return to Colvin Run Mill

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

Local potters returned to Colvin Run Mill the first weekend of November for their holiday sale. Many of the potters are juried members of the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery located in Alexandria. "It is something we look forward to every year, it is so lovely to have so many creative people come down to display their work at the mill. It has been a good relationship," Mike Henry, manager of Colvin Run Mill, said.

As stated on their webpage, the Kiln Club of Washington is a professional organization for working ceramic artists, serious continuing students and supporters of the ceramic arts.

"We have 16 artists here, and they are all local," Reston resident Tracie G. Tso said.

Tso, the Chinese brush-painting teacher at Reston Community Center Lake Anne, is also a member of the Washington Ceramic Guild and the Kiln Club. Tso exhibits some of her brush painted pottery monthly at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery. "We have a summer pottery show in Bethesda, so this is our fall show on the Virginia side."

This is the fourth year the handcrafted pottery show has been at the Colvin Run Mill barn. "This is my first year at this show, although I am familiar with the property," said potter Susan Schumpert. A studio potter for over 25 years, Schumpert sells from her studio and Annapolis Pottery Guild events. "When I was 7-years-old I saw the work of Beatrice Wood and I decided I wanted to become a potter when I grew up," Schumpert said.

Colvin Run Mill is the sole surviving operational 19th century water-powered mill in the D.C. area. Colvin Run Mill Park is located at 10017 Colvin Run Rd. in Great Falls, at the intersection of Colvin Run Rd. and Leesburg Pike (Rt. 7). Membership in the



Susan Schumpert decided at the age of 7 she wanted to become a potter. The annual holiday sale at the Colvin Run is an opportunity for vendors to speak and make contact with customers.

Kiln Club is open to anyone interested in the ceramic arts. In order to show and sell at Scope Gallery, in Alexandria, one must be juried into the Club.

To learn more about the Kiln Club, visit their website at <http://www.kilnclubwdc.com>



PHOTO BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

Proprietor and Master Designer, Jorge Adeler, assists Great Falls resident Mary Schroeder in the Adeler Jewelers showroom and design studio.

'The Most Wonderful Time of the Year'

GIFT BUYING AT VILLAGE GREEN **Adeler Jewelers Annual Holiday Sale.**

BY JEAN T. JIANOS
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls resident Lynn Kemmerer has already been shopping locally this holiday season. "I just recently shopped at Adeler's," Kemmerer said. "I bought earrings for myself!" Kemmerer joins a long list of celebrities in wearing Adeler designed earrings, one of the most recent being Halle Berry at the Oscars for her 50th anniversary tribute to James Bond. Kemmerer took

advantage of the substantial percentage discounts that Adeler Jewelers, located in Great Falls Village Centre, offers annually during November through December 24. Their "Countdown to Savings Calendar" is online at adelerjewelers.com. The Adeler showroom contains a variety of gemstone, pearl, diamond and gold jewelry and watches.

Valentina Adeler said that, "it's a great time of year . . . Our holiday promotion is the one promotion that we do all year."



PHOTO BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

Afternoon Tea is available Monday - Friday by reservation at Katie's Coffee House.

Give the Gift of Sharing

BY JEAN T. JIANOS
THE CONNECTION

Afternoon Tea at Katie's.

This holiday season give friends and family the gift of sharing Afternoon Tea at Katie's Coffee House in the Great Falls Village Centre. Your gift recipient will

enjoy finger sandwiches, Irish scones, pastries, petit fours, and imported or loose leaf teas set

SEE GIFT, PAGE 17



Erin Lobato

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Celebrate Great Falls Foundation Hires New Director

The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation has announced the hiring of Erin Lobato as the Foundation's Director. Lobato comes to the Foundation with a background in change management and leadership with Bank of America and a diverse volunteer experience. Lobato and her family recently moved to Great Falls from Montgomery County and she brings a new resident's perspective to the organization's mission.

Celebrate Great Falls Foundation has an active calendar of events that relies heavily on an evolving volunteer base. Lobato will help develop the Foundation volunteers and ensure the smooth execution of events.

Mike Kearney, President of the

Foundation, said, "The addition of Erin to our organization will help the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation continue to build the community feel for local residents. We are really excited to have her on board."

CGGF serves as the umbrella organization for major local community events including the Annual Charity Golf Tournament, 4th of July Hometown Celebration & Parade, the Celebration of Lights and Concerts on the Green.

The Foundation's major mission is to help create and preserve a sense of community in Great Falls. For additional information, please contact Erin Lobato at ErinLobato@CelebrateGreatFalls.org or visit www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org.

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Celebration of Lights



Saturday, December 7 ~ 5:30pm to 8:00pm
Great Falls Village Centre Hill

Join us for our Celebration of Lights! Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree. Enjoy the petting zoo, pony rides, fire pit, hot cider, hot chocolate and popcorn. And don't miss the beautiful, live nativity scene.



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Dr. Donna Greco, Great Falls Family Dentistry

5:30-5:50pm ~ Live Holiday Music
6:00pm ~ Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive to light the Christmas Tree
6:15pm ~ Petting Zoo and Pony Rides
7:00pm ~ Live Nativity Scene

All activities are FREE to the public.

**Holiday Decorating Contest for Great Falls Merchants,
Offices and Organizations**

Vote for your favorite holiday display on-line or at select local merchants.

For more information go to www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org





Seventh Grade Physical Education teacher and Langley Cross Country Team Coach Scott Worthington speaks to students before the start of the event.



Seventh grade students appear shortly after the start of the run.



Langley High School senior Tim Kostelancik holds up a poster describing effective nutrition.

Cooper Middle Hosts Super Cooper Looper

Students take part in a mile-long fun run for health and fitness.

BY NGALULA TSHISHIMBI
THE CONNECTION

On a crisp and sunny November day, Cooper Middle School students took even breaths and careful strides as they leapt towards the finish line in the

Super Cooper Looper. The Nov. 13 event featured both seventh and eighth grade student participants in two separate mile-long fun runs. In conjunction with the actual run, students were asked to donate shoes and coats upon signing up for the fun run. The Super Cooper Looper provides students with an

opportunity to give back while also engaging in a fitness activity designed to be fun and educational. The students, both running club and non-running club members ran on a track behind the school, designed by faculty organizers. As they ran, they were cheered on by fellow students, faculty organizers, spectators, and Langley High School Cross Country team members. As the students ran, they attempted to achieve their personal bests. Seventh grader Dylan Reed finished first with a time of 6:18 (six minutes and eighteen seconds) which, in addition to becoming his personal best, set a new record for the best time overall. He was followed by Ben Kostelancik with a time of 6:23. For the seventh grade girls, Charlotte Smith came in first with a time of 6:41, followed by Gianna Mitchell in second place at 6:55. For the eighth grade boys, Hans Volmeck arrived in first with a time of 6:19, followed by Pierce Gallo with a time of 6:25. For the eighth grade girls, Olivia Gromers arrived with a time of 7:11, followed by Zoe DeTrani in second place with 7:18 on the clock.

More than just a run, the Super Cooper Looper is a learning initia-



Langley High School Cross Country Team member Candace von Hoffman cheers for runners as they pass by.

Physical Education teacher Scott Worthington described the event as an opportunity to encourage students to run and learn more about healthy living. Worthington stated that he and fellow teacher for eighth grade Civics Duane Novotni, who coined the name of the event, are themselves marathon-runners who wanted to parlay their knowledge of running into an educational opportunity. According to Worthington, the

event reinforces education regarding fitness and nutrition which is a current focus in the Fairfax County curriculum. Worthington facilitated this year's run along with fellow facilitators Novotni and teachers Sarah Aldini, Jody Jacobs and Jennifer Perantoni.

While participants ran the race, they passed by Langley High School's Cross Country team members who volunteered to hold signs describing good nutritional habits.

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13th Annual Enchanted Forest Holiday Extravaganza

The Junior League of Northern Virginia's (JLNV) annual fundraiser, The Enchanted Forest, will take place on Nov. 23-24, at the Westin Tysons Corner.

The Enchanted Forest celebrates its 13th year and showcases a spectacular forest of themed holiday trees, which are decorated with items donated by businesses, groups, and individuals, and bid on during a weekend-long silent auction. The event also boasts live entertainment, a model train display, a festive holiday marketplace and hands-on activities for children.

In addition to exploring the forest of trees, guests of The Enchanted Forest will enjoy a variety of events for the entire family. Both Saturday and Sunday, attendees can create holiday wonders with hands-on children's activities featuring the Children's Science Center and Kids in the Holiday Kitchen.

Dazzling holiday entertainment on the main stage will include musical, dance, and magic performances by Ukele Phil & the Hula Kids, Pirate Magic, Oh Susannah!, Groovy Nate, The Great Zucchini, Reston Conservatory Ballet, Maple

School of Irish Dance, Adagio Ballet, and The Banjo Man Frank Cassel. Come view the charming National Capital Trackers model train display, attend the gingerbread workshop, and get a head start on holiday shopping at the Holiday Marketplace. The highlight of the weekend is Saturday evening's "Mistletoe Masquerade Ball", which will feature an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, live and silent auction, music by DJ Loud Tone, dancing, and Vegas-style gaming.

General admission to The Enchanted Forest is \$13 per person per day.

JLNV will also host a variety of premium events, including breakfast and photos with Santa; cookies, milk and story time with Santa; Georgetown Cupcakes and cocoa with the Snow Fairy Princess; and a gingerbread workshop where attendees take home their own decorated gingerbread house. General admission, premium events and gala tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.jlnv.org/the-enchanted-forest.

Premium ticket prices include one general admission ticket.

For more information, visit www.jlnv.org.



**Open House Date
December 10**

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OPINION

Shop Locally, Shop in McLean

Small business Saturday isn't enough;
don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.

An effort to support locally owned-businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 30. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is known as a dedicated day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

It sounds like an obligation, and it is. But there is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

The economy continues to improve slowly without inspiring. Local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally

EDITORIAL

owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

Some of the upcoming holiday events in the area include:



The Loss of a Father Magnified

BY BARBARA IANNIELLO

As we approach the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination, it is still difficult to fathom the idea of a young charismatic president with a beautiful family having his life taken away in an instant by a senseless act of violence. For me, this sad milestone reminds me over and over again that I do not have a father. My father passed away at the age of 39, the year before President Kennedy. Like Kennedy, his life was taken in an instant, but unlike Kennedy my father died of a heart attack. Who died of a heart attack in 1962 at the age of 39?

Unlike the Kennedy family, I had four siblings and my mother was pregnant with her sixth child when my father passed. I was 3 years old, about six months younger than Carolyn Kennedy. I have no personal recollection of my father.

Frankly, I did not know anyone without a father growing up. People divorced infrequently. We were somewhat of an anomaly. I made a mental note, "I hate Father's day." We used to make an

art project in elementary school to bring home as a Father's Day surprise. I always made the project, but I never knew what I would do with it. Most years, I just hid it or threw it out. I did not want to upset my mother.

In my own way, I felt connected to the Kennedy children. To me, they were not the president's children, but like me they were children without a dad. Their father was also absent from graduations, ball games, and weddings or if you just wanted to talk. At various stages of my life, I read about the Kennedy children with keen interest to see how they were doing and used their happiness and success to gauge how I was doing. If they got into trouble I thought, "Life was not perfect for them either." My mother remarried around the same time that Carolyn and John became stepchildren. While my stepfather had some wonderful attributes, it was not always smooth sailing. The Onassis/Kennedy union had its share of issues as well. Both of our stepfathers died prematurely. Around the

same time that I went to Georgetown Law School, Carolyn was attending Columbia Law School. Carolyn married a few years after me and her first daughter was born three days before my daughter was born. I had a son a few years later and Carolyn added two more children, including a son.

At times, I was a bit envious of the Kennedy children, even as an adult, since they had something I did not have, all this video footage of their father. They could see his intelligence, his leadership, his humor and most of all they could hear his voice. To me my father was a mythical figure. That same single ageless picture of my Dad that was in our home on the mantle is forever frozen in my memory. I wondered, "What type of voice did he have? Was it a deep voice, a tough voice, a compassionate voice." Until recently, I never asked. I always thought it was too painful to bring up my father. When I finally asked, it did not seem satisfying to have someone describe his voice.

We all remark that it is difficult to believe that President Kennedy has been gone for 50 years. It also

McLean's Winterfest

Bring out the family to McLean's Winterfest, the only community parade in McLean. Watch the colorful floats pass by while listening to holiday tunes. It all takes place on Sunday, Dec. 1 at 3:30 p.m., at Old Chain Bridge Road.

Vienna's Annual Church Street Holiday Stroll

Leisurely stroll along the streets amid the sights and sounds of the holidays. Admire beautiful houses adorned in colorful lights while walking with beloved family and friends at the Annual Holiday Stroll, on Monday, Dec. 2 from 6-9 p.m., at Church Street between Lawyers Road and Mill Street in Vienna.

Great Falls Celebration of Lights

Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Christmas tree on Dec. 7, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Great Falls Village Centre Hill. There will also be a petting zoo and pony rides for children immediately after the tree lighting ceremony.

McLean's 31st Annual Holiday Crafts Show

Eighty artisans from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings and more. It is the perfect place to purchase your holiday gifts. Mark your calendars for Dec. 6-8 at McLean Community Center.

is hard to believe that Carolyn and I have been without a father for about 50 years. At this point in my life, I do not dwell on the loss of a father but for this anniversary, I am more reflective having enjoyed my children for 25 years, I think about how lucky I am to have a wonderful husband and father for my children. Most important, I think about what my father missed and I am in awe of my mother, this extraordinary woman who guided us with her beauty, grace, and wisdom despite being thrown life's curve balls. This anniversary also provides all of us a time to reflect and to look at the fatherless and motherless children in our communities to ensure that we are reaching out to friends, family and neighbors to make a positive difference in the lives of these children to help fill this void.

I have a big smile on my face thinking of Carolyn Kennedy's achievements and that she is now our new Ambassador to Japan. Carolyn's father would have been so proud. I would love to go to Japan some day.

Barbara Ianniello lives in Great Falls. She is an author and attorney.

Great Falls CONNECTION

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NEWS

Doreen Montis Exhibits at Katie's Coffee House

Autumn Splendor – Scenes and Colors of Autumn in Virginia, a collection of fine art photography by Doreen Montis, will be on display at Katie's Coffee House in Great Falls, during the month of December. The photographs in the exhibit capture the beauty in our region, from the gorge at Great Falls to colorful sugar gum trees in hunt country. Montis' images have received top honors at several exhibitions and contests. They have appeared in magazines and are in personal collections nationwide. Katie's Coffee House is located at 760 Walker Road in Great Falls. To see more of Doreen's images, visit her website at www.dmontisphotoart.com.

Autumn Splendor – Scenes and Colors of Autumn in Virginia, by Doreen Montis, will be on display at Katie's Coffee House in Great Falls in December.



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From left, Ava Campbell, Hana Belt, Shelby Wilcox, Hope Patrick and Amelia Frischling, angels and trumpeters in the Haddad School of Classical Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker."



Dolls in the Haddad School of Classical Ballet's "The Nutcracker" from left, top row, Caroline McBride, Rachel Davenport, Jordan Campbell, Caroline Causay and front row, Sabrina Luz, Kiana Kousnoud.

Haddad Ballet Presents Annual Nutcracker

Production will be at Madeira School Nov. 30, Dec. 1.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

For the 22nd year, the Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet will present their performance of "The Nutcracker." Haddad, who has been teaching ballet for more than 50 years, has put on performances of "The Nutcracker" in four countries, the U.S., England, Kenya and Lebanon.

"This year performance will feature about 65 to 70 dancers, from 5-year-olds to professionals," Haddad said.

Shira Lanyi and Kirk Henning of the Richmond Ballet will be guest artists, as well as William Smith, Aleksey Kudrin and Julianne Gurgul from the Manassas Ballet. Alexie Tochilin will also be a guest performer.

Mary Jean Stack, who has been one of Haddad's students since she was 4 and is currently attending school in New York, will return and perform in the show.

This year's program will feature two dancers playing the main part of Clara, Amanda Baird for the Saturday shows and Justine Verheul for the Sunday show.

"I think having two girls play the part of Clara will give them both a chance to enjoy playing a starring role in the show," Haddad said. "Both girls



Snow angels in the Haddad School of Classical Ballet's "The Nutcracker," from left, top row, Sarah Conrad, Faye Giebink, Annie Lalov, Ariana Soltany. Middle row, Lauren Stella, Emma Walker, Julianna Haddad, Claire Banducci. Front row, Annabelle Spruill, Ashleigh Watkinson, Flora Hannay.

"This year performance will feature about 65 to 70 dancers, from 5-year-olds to professionals."

— Margaret Haddad

have their own distinctive styles, and will have the opportunity to show it off over the course of the



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Abbey Lentine, Nicole Luz and Taylor Shenk, flowers in the Haddad School of Classical Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker."

shows."

The dancers will be changing in and out of more than 280 different costumes over the course of the show.

"We couldn't put on a show without the fathers helping us build the set, and the parents that helped out, too many to list them all," Haddad said. "Rita

Parks was instrumental in putting costumes together, Mandy Sagar helped organize everything as we

prepare for the show and Liz McBride was a major help in hand-sewing the costumes. The willingness of the parents to help with everything from the costumes to prepping the theater itself has been wonderful."

Performances will be Saturday, Nov. 30 at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 1 at 4 p.m. All shows will be at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

Tickets can be purchased at www.certifikid.com, or at Living Social.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Gift Shopping in Great Falls

Havana Vintage, Salud Healthy Pantry offer gift ideas.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Shopping malls are almost guaranteed to be among the most crowded stores around as the holiday season approaches, but great gifts can be had a long way from Tysons Corner in Great Falls, just at the corner of Walker Road and Colvin Run Road.



Havana Vintage offers a selection of designer clothing and other items at consignment store prices.

HAVANA VINTAGE is an upscale consignment boutique founded in 2011 by Nolkis Roman, a native of Cuba who moved to the U.S. in 1987. Since its opening it has quickly established itself as one of the most fashion forward places around.

"I go into Havana Vintage with 100 percent confidence that I'll find something that not only looks great, but looks good on me too. The staff is great about answering questions, giving suggestions, and finding things that will complement it," said Sarah Ferlin of Vienna. "And the price, especially for what brands you're getting, is very friendly as well."

While the racks of clothes, handbags, scarves, shoes and other items are what people imagine when they think of a consignment store, there are other items as well.

European soaps and lotions, as well as a wide selection of jewelry, is available, as well as a selection of home goods. Roman is planning to expand the store next year to include a section with more home furnishings.

"We've had a lot of people coming in to look at our jewelry selection," Roman said. "We've got pieces that you would find for \$2,000 to \$3,000 that are under \$1,000 here."

Roman says other popular items of late have been sweaters, especially cashmere, as well as wallets,



Local organic seasonal produce, part of Salud Healthy Pantry's Community Supported Agriculture program, which people can subscribe to in order to get weekly shipments of produce.

belts and handbags, which are 100 percent authentic, which Nolkis says can be hard to find in other consignment shops.

There is also a men's section with a selection of Ferragamo neckties, jackets and more.

"It's been a great time so far, and I'm so grateful for our customers, whose amazing support is the key to success," Roman said.

"It's been great to see what kind of support this community has for a small business."

Havana Vintage will have a Black Friday sale Friday, Nov. 29, where they will open at 8 a.m. and have 10 percent off of designer handbags and clothing, and 20 percent off many other items in the store including fur coats.

They will also raffle off a Burberry handbag, with a purchase good for a chance in the raffle.

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

ONLY A FEW FEET AWAY from Havana Vintage is Salud Healthy Pantry, a market with plenty of gift ideas. The store opened up in the summer of 2012, and while they specialize in organic groceries, there are plenty of gift options available.

"Our Skincando and Shea Terra skincare products are quite popular, they're organic and great for gifts," said Denise Rodriguez, the owner.

Salud has a selection of gift baskets for lovers of all things food, including chocolate (with Bolivian El Ceibo chocolates) and tea (with selections from the Great Falls Tea Garden).

"We can also make a custom basket for anyone that walks in, we'll walk them around the store and fill it with whatever they'd like," Rodriguez said. "We can do things like a gluten-free basket with some great snacks that we have in stock."

Rodriguez says other popular gift items are Cervantes Coffee (freshly roasted in Maryland), juice cleanses, gluten-free dog snacks, vintage teapots, or a selection from the ol-

SEE GIFT, PAGE 12

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FROM PAGE 11

ive oil bar, which includes flavors such as garlic, rosemary, basil, blood orange and the latest selection, black truffle. They also have gift cards.

"Last year I came to Salud for stocking stuffers, and they went over very well with my nieces and nephews," said Gina Haywood of Great Falls. "I got them some of the dark chocolate flavors, gluten free snacks and some of the crackers with whole grains, and it was a hit, different than usual snacks, and healthier than a Snickers and some potato chips."

Their Community Supported Agriculture club also sells gift memberships for those who are always on the search for good produce.

"We offer subscriptions to the CSA by season. For example, the fall is seven weeks. Our members sign up for the produce they would like, and it comes in every Saturday," Rodriguez said. "It's all fresh, picked less than 24 hours before pickup, its all in season, and it comes from local farms. People just come in every week and pick



A wide variety of specialty gift baskets available at Salud Healthy Pantry. Custom made baskets can also be made at anytime.

of their bag of fresh produce."

The club had about 40 members for the fall season, where they offered items like potatoes, bok choy, onions, apples, sweet potatoes and cauliflower.

Another popular item is the made-to-order kombucha, a fermented tea drink that aids in immune and digestive function, among others. The drink can be

ordered by the case with the recipient's name on each bottle.

Salud will also have a Black Friday sale. Customers can get a free cup of coffee with any purchase, and there will be 30 percent off all supplements and 20 percent off Skincando and Shea Tera skincare products.

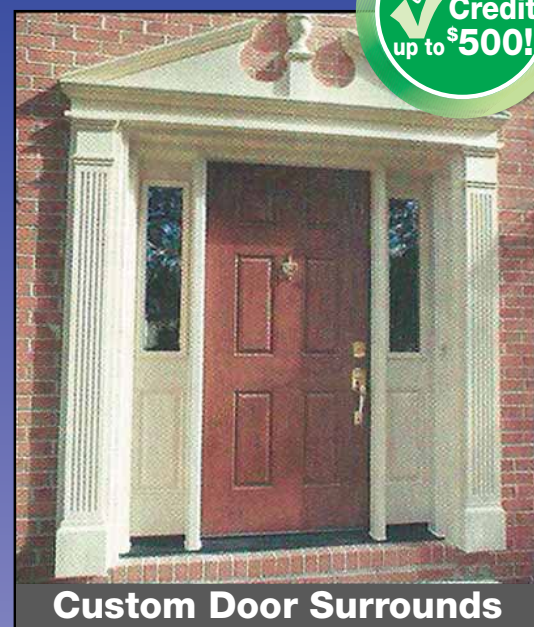
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Holiday Cooking with Children

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Maria Kopsidas recalls childhood holidays filled with turkey, sweets and merriment. Because she grew up in a family of professional chefs, cookbook authors and culinary enthusiasts, the stretch from Thanksgiving to Christmas always brings fond food recollections. "My grandmother was always tasked with seven to eight pies, my aunt made her famous stuffing and brownies [and] my uncle cooked the turkey. My mother was in charge of everything else, [including] and more importantly, playing referee between my two grandmothers, who competed over the invisible gravy of the year award," said Kopsidas, who owns Cookology Recreational Culinary School, in Dulles Town Center.

Kopsidas and other culinary instructors say the holidays are an ideal time to spend time in the kitchen with children. When tasks match a child's age and ability, the kitchen becomes fertile ground for making memories, learning and creating lasting bonds.

"Don't let holiday cooking take away from time with your kids," said Erika LaChance, of Tiny Chefs Cooking School, with locations in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax and McLean, Va., and Potomac, Md. "Get them involved too. A great way to get in some extra quality time with the kids during the holidays is to let them lend a helping hand in the kitchen. Depending on how old they are, they can help with a number of different tasks, which will not only help them build confidence in the kitchen, but also enjoy the feeling of contributing to the family meal."

Stephen P. Sands, of Culinary Cooking School in Vienna, agrees. "Besides being educational — teaching them math through measuring ingredients, and the chemistry of food, such as why egg whites cause soufflés to rise, or why or how baking soda works — it bonds families together," he said. "It provides all with a purpose, a fun way to work together, and the results are enjoyed by everyone. Some of life's great lessons can be learned in the kitchen."

Kopsidas believes that children between the ages of 3 and 9 would enjoy creating a dish designed especially for other children. "Sit

down with your children to discuss what they think each child/guest would like to eat for Thanksgiving," she said. "Discuss who is a picky eater, who would love vegetables, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, pie. Let them help make baked goods like pies, brownies and cupcakes."

Sands said praise and encouragement can make meal preparation a joyful experience for children. "At an early age, provide positive reinforcement, a sense of accomplishment and pride in the work they produce," he said. "However, remember there are

Details

Other child-friendly recipes from Maria Kopsidas, of Cookology, and Tiny Chefs Cooking School can be found online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/nov/19/holiday-cooking

in chocolate splatter on the walls, not to mention you, them and probably the dog. Regardless, it is a fun experience all will enjoy."

Even children who may not enjoy spending time in the kitchen

"Don't let holiday cooking take away from time with your kids. Get them involved, too. A great way to get in some extra quality time with the kids during the holidays is to let them lend a helping hand in the kitchen."

— Erika LaChance of Tiny Chefs Cooking School

those negatives: like egg shells in the batter, salt being added to a dessert instead of sugar and my favorite, the spatula in the mixer while it's running, [which] results

can take part in process. "Have your kids set the kids' table, making colorful place settings with each kid's name and maybe a drawing of their likeness," said



PHOTO COURTESY OF COOKOLOGY

Holiday cooking with children promotes learning and self-confidence and creates fond memories.

Kopsidas. "This will make the guest children feel special when they arrive at a new home." Children who are 10 and older can be tasked with making a specific dish. "Work with them to choose a recipe and encourage them to gather the ingredients and make the dish themselves, with little or no supervision, except when it comes to dealing with the oven or the stovetop," said Kopsidas. "A lot of ingredients can be prepared in the microwave, such as melting

chocolate chips. Children who are 9 years old and older have the motor skills to handle a knife. Give them a quick safety tip on keeping their stabilizing hand away from the cutting blade, and tell them calmly to take their time when they are cutting." For those looking for cookbooks designed for children or parents and children, Emily Henry of Hurray for Books in Old Town Alexandria recommends "I'm Dreaming of a Chocolate Christmas: Recipes and Holiday Inspiration for Chocolate Lovers," by Cheryl Burkirk and "Cooking with Love: Comfort Food that Hugs You" by Carla Hall.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

“James and the Giant Peach.” 7:30 p.m. The Langley School, 1411 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Chronicles the adventures of 9-year-old orphan James Henry Trotter who lives an unhappy life with his two greedy aunts in England. Tickets: \$8. www.langleyschool.org

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

Remembrance and Recommitment to the Principles of JFK Presidency/ Requiem Event. 8 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. A performance of the Requiem in D Minor (K. 626), in remembrance of John F. Kennedy, on the 50th anniversary of his death. Free. 703-771-8390.

Featured Artist Linda Larochelle.

10 a.m. - noon at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Linda Larochelle, a printmaker, will demonstrate forming her composition, transfer and carving of linoleum and further use of images. She will also discuss choice and use of tools and equipment. 703-790-0123.

Mozart Requiem. 8 p.m., at St. Mark Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. A performance of the Requiem in D Minor (K. 626), in remembrance of John F. Kennedy, on the 50th anniversary of his death. Free. 703-771-8390.

Kekuhi & Kaumakaiwa

Kanaka‘ole. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Hawaiian chanters of the 20th century, this family duo present native songs in a multigenerational performance. Tickets: \$25-\$30. Call 1.877.WOLFTRAP or wolftrap.org.

“James and the Giant Peach.” 7:30 p.m. The Langley School, 1411 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Chronicles the adventures of 9-year-old orphan

James Henry Trotter who lives an unhappy life with his two greedy aunts in England. Tickets: \$8. www.langleyschool.org

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 22-24

Area-wide Art Exhibition. 7-9 p.m. and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sunday noon-4 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Vienna's largest exhibition of the year features hundreds of original artworks by artists from around the region, to include Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Enjoy music and light refreshments while meeting the artists at two receptions. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Jonathan Edwards. 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. This singer/songwriter has been performing feel-good honky-tonk and heartfelt bluegrass for more than 40 years. Tickets: \$25. Call 1.877.WOLFTRAP or wolftrap.org.

Landscape Painting Indoors. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, 1144 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. Learn to paint the great outdoors from the comfort of a warm studio during the chilly Virginia fall. In this class learn how to use own photo references to create a work of art. Cost \$199. Register: www.greatfallsart.org

“James and the Giant Peach.” 7:30 p.m. The Langley School, 1411 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Chronicles the adventures of 9-year-old orphan James Henry Trotter who lives an unhappy life with his two greedy aunts in England. Tickets: \$8.

www.langleyschool.org

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Stuff the Sleigh 5K Run / 1 Mile Run/Walk. 9 a.m.-11 a.m. At the entrance to 7925 Jones Branch Drive in Tysons.

Landscape Painting Indoors. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, 1144 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. Learn to paint the great outdoors from the comfort of a warm studio during the chilly Virginia fall. Cost \$199. Register: www.greatfallsart.org

MONDAY/NOV. 25

Saving Money and the Environment. 1 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Upstairs, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Susan Stillman's power-point presentation, Vampire Energy, outlines how energy is generated in Virginia compared to other states, and suggests ways to reduce home energy consumption. Non-members wishing to attend should contact Cherie Lejeune at latripp24@gmail.com or 203-400-3668.

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

Thanksgiving with Wildfire. 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Wildfire at Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor. A special family style menu featuring spit roasted turkey and all the traditional Thanksgiving dishes. Cost is \$42.95/ person and \$16.95 for children 12 and under. For reservations call (703) 442-9110 or visit wildfirerestaurant.com/mclean.

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service. 10 a.m. St. John's Church,

6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

“Annie!” the Musical. 7 p.m. McLean High School Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage in the perfect family-friendly musical. Adults \$15 and Students/Seniors \$10. Reserve seats at www.mcleandrama.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

“Annie!” the Musical. 2 & 7 p.m. McLean High School Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage in the perfect family-friendly musical. Adults \$15 and Students/Seniors \$10. Reserve seats at www.mcleandrama.com

John Eaton The Roaring Twenties: A Salute to the Jazz Age. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Eaton highlights the illustrious discographies of some of the Jazz Age's most successful artists. Tickets: \$25-\$27.

MONDAY/DEC. 2

The GoAround. 7 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E., Vienna. An alt-rock/pop duo made up of brothers. Tickets: \$10.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

An Evening with John Medeski in Concert. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Jazz pianist John Medeski showcases engaging and meditative compositions in this solo debut concert. Tickets: \$25.

“Annie!” the Musical. 7 p.m. McLean High School Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage in the perfect family-friendly musical. Adults \$15 and Students/Seniors \$10. Reserve seats at www.mcleandrama.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Bill Frisell's Big Sur Quintet Featuring: Eyvind Kang, Hank Roberts, Rudy Royston, and Jenny Scheinman. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A combination of avant-garde and post-bop jazz with classical, folk, and country influences. Tickets: \$35.

“Annie!” the Musical. 7 p.m. McLean High School Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage in the perfect family-friendly musical. Adults \$15 and Students/Seniors \$10. Reserve seats at www.mcleandrama.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

“Annie!” the Musical. 2 & 7 p.m. McLean High School Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The popular comic strip heroine takes center stage in the perfect family-friendly musical. Adults \$15 and Students/Seniors \$10. Reserve seats at www.mcleandrama.com

Antigone Rising. 7 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E., Vienna. The all-female country rock band Antigone Rising who has shared stages around the world with acts like The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, The Allman Brothers Band and Rob Thomas.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR



Santa Claus hands out candy to children during the 5th Annual WinterFest Parade in McLean last year.



Santa Claus arrives by fire truck for the 2012 annual Great Falls Celebration of Lights and Christmas Tree Lighting.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Christmas Craft Show. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Variety of hand-made items and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. More info: www.oaktonbrethren.org or 703-281-4411.

FRIDAY, NOV. 22

Christmas Craft Show. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Variety of hand-made items and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. More info: www.oaktonbrethren.org or call 703-281-4411.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Holiday Party at Lofty Boutique. 3-7 p.m. 354 W. Maple Avenue, Vienna. Makeup and hair demonstrations, a trunk show, pampering treatments and more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 22-24

Area-wide Art Exhibition. 7-9 p.m. and 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sunday noon-4 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Vienna's largest exhibition of the year features hundreds of original artworks by artists from around the region, to include Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Enjoy music and light refreshments while meeting the artists at two receptions. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Holiday Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Paintings, photography, fused glass sculptures, jewelry, bird houses and more. More info contact: melarkins@verizon.net

Christmas Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Variety of hand-made items and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. More info:

www.oaktonbrethren.org

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

2013 Vienna Turkey Trot. 8 a.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street S., Vienna. Admission: \$15-\$35. <http://www.viennaturkeytrot.com/>

Stuff the Sleigh 5K Run / 1 Mile Run/Walk. 9 a.m.-11 a.m. At the entrance to 7925 Jones Branch Drive in Tysons.

Holiday Bazaar. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Paintings, photography, fused glass sculptures, jewelry, bird houses and more. More info contact: melarkins@verizon.net

THURSDAY/NOV. 28

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service. 10 a.m. St. John's Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

Thanksgiving Day Brunch. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Take part in traditional Thanksgiving fixings and festive selections of brunch favorites. \$120 per adult; \$40 per child, ages 4-12. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

Four-Course Thanksgiving Dinner. Bazin's on Church, 111 Church Street, NW, Vienna. Admission: \$39/person. Kids 10 and under \$15.95. <http://www.bazinsonchurch.com/>

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Annual Gingerbread House Opening. 2 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Visit the life-sized gingerbread house. It is large enough for guests to walk around inside and explore the sugary construction. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

McLean's WinterFest. 3:30 p.m., starting from Old Chain Bridge Road. McLean's only community parade. www.mcleanwinterfest.org

MONDAY/DEC. 2

Annual Church Street Holiday Stroll. 6-9 p.m. Church Street between Lawyers Road and Mill

Street, Vienna. Visitors are invited to stroll along the streets amid the sights and sounds of the holiday season. 703-938-5187.

Breakfast with Santa. 9-10 a.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor. Get into the holiday spirit early with a holiday breakfast buffet. Cost: 10.95 per child and \$13.95 per adult. 703-442-9110.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

John Medeski in Concert, Solo Piano. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Jazz pianist showcases original songs and improvised compositions from his debut solo album. Tickets: \$25. <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

31st Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Eighty artisans from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings and more. Tickets: Adults \$3; ages 13 and under \$1.

Bill Frisell's Big Sur Quintet. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Eyvind Kang, Hank Roberts, Rudy Royston, and Jenny Scheinman. Dynamic mixture of nature-inspired orchestral jams and jazz riffs composed by guitarist Bill Frisell. Tickets: \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

Christmas with FCS: Trumpets Sound! Voices Ring! 8 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, NE, Vienna. Welcome in the holiday season with the Fairfax Choral Society and the Washington Symphonic Brass. Purchase tickets at www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Celebration of Lights. 5:30-8 p.m., at Great Falls Village Centre Hill. Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree. Afterwards, Santa will meet all children who wish to share their holiday wishes. <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org>



McLean Community Center
The Center of It All



Here's What's Happening at MCC



31st Annual

McLean Holiday Crafts Show

December 6-8

Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. • Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission: \$3, adults; \$1, ages 13 and younger.
Good all 3 days! • Take \$1 off with this ad.

More than 70 fine artisans from across the country convene for this highly-regarded and much anticipated juried show. Don't miss it!

Midday Movie Musicals

"Funny Girl"

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1 p.m.
Free admission

Theatre IV's

"The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves"

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents
Old Firehouse Teen Center

Winter Break Trips

Thursday, Dec. 26

Ripley's Believe it or Not,
Baltimore & Hard Rock Café

Friday, Dec. 27

Newseum, Fuel Restaurant,
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Monday, Dec. 30

G-Force Karts

Not able to take time off during the Fairfax County Public Schools' winter break?

Sign your child up now

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Langley volleyball team won the 6A North region championship with a 3-1 victory against Osbourn Park on Nov. 16.



Langley Jessica Donaldson had 16 kills against Osbourn Park in the 6A North region championship match on Nov. 16.

Langley Volleyball Wins 6A North Region Championship

The Langley volleyball team defeated Osbourn Park 3-1 to win the 6A North region championship on Nov. 16 at Osbourn Park High School.

It was the Saxons' first region title since 2007 and the first 6A North volleyball championship for any team after the VHSE's six-class realignment.

Langley's Jess Donaldson tallied 16 kills and four aces against Osbourn Park. Alex

Andrejev had 12 kills, a .385 hitting percentage, five aces and 16 assists. Rachel Andrejev totaled nine kills and five aces, and Maxine Friedman dished 27 assists.

"Except for an uninspired second set," Langley head coach Susan Shifflett wrote in an email, "[it was] probably the best they have played since we opened at the Showcase on Labor Day weekend."

Langley's road to the region title

involved winning a trio of road matches during the tournament — a product of losing to Yorktown in the Conference 6 tournament semifinals.

"They realized they really blew a great opportunity when they lost to Yorktown and it has really motivated them to work hard in practice and play harder during the matches," Shifflett wrote. "They just never quit. [They're] a pleasure to coach."

After losing to Yorktown, Langley swept

Battlefield at home in the first round of the regional tournament. From there, the Saxons earned road victories against Chantilly, South County and Osbourn Park.

Langley (25-3) will travel to Richmond to face Forest Park in the state quarterfinals at the Siegel Center at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 20. The state championship match is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23.

Langley Football Beats Battlefield in 6A North Playoffs

With the game tied at 21-apiece in the fourth quarter, Langley mounted an epic 17-play, 90-yard scoring drive that took more than 8 minutes off the clock to scratch-out a 28-21 first-round 6A North playoff win over the Battlefield Bobcats.

On the drive, the Saxons overcame a first-and-31 from their own 10-yard line, converted a fourth down, and recovered a potential fumble before senior quarterback Nick Casso could plunge in with the go-ahead score. Battlefield's attempt to answer with only 2:07 left was fought every foot of the way by a determined Langley defense before junior Brian Pitts picked-off a pass in the Saxons' end zone with 2 seconds remaining.

The thrilling victory advanced Langley to the quarterfinals, where the Saxons will host Stonewall Jackson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 22. It will be the first time the Saxons have hosted two postseason games in some 20 years.

The large, noisy home crowd, animated with "fat-head" posters of players and gold "terrible towels" kept up a steady stream of support for the Saxons all night. The energy helped Langley overcome an early Bobcat lead to tie the game at 7 in the first quarter, when Tyler West capped off an 11-play 76-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run. West also scored the only points of the second quarter on a 20-yard run to

make it 14-7 at halftime after Erik Swayne added the extra point, as he did on all the Saxons scores. For the game, West ran the ball 22 times for 172 yards and three touchdowns.

When Langley scored on a 42-yard breakaway dash by West early in the third quarter to make it 21-7, it appeared like the fight might have been taken out of Battlefield. But, the Bobcats came clawing back with two scores behind quarterback Matt Gallagher's short passing attack to tie the game at 21-all early in the fourth quarter. It was at this point Langley turned to its veteran senior signal caller Casso, behind one of the best offensive lines in the region, to lead the team on its crucial game-winning drive.

Throughout the night, Langley won the battle up front in the trenches against the Bobcats as the Saxons piled-up 323 yards on the ground. Casso rushed for 151 yards and one touchdown to take the pressure off of West, while completing 5 of 10 passes for 84 yards.

Defensively, the Langley secondary was tested by the "West Coast" style Battlefield attack that counted on short passes underneath to move the ball. Seniors Michael Porter and Garrett Collier, along with junior Scott Rosener, flew about all night breaking-up passes and making tackles, until Pitts' interception ended it.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Langley ice hockey team defeated Osbourn Park 5-1 on Nov. 15.

Langley Ice Hockey Team Beats Osbourn Park

The Langley Saxons continued their hockey domination with a commanding 5-1 win over a competitive Osborne Park team on Nov. 15.

Backstopped by a solid performance in goal from Ryan Guidi, who stopped 27 of 28 shots faced, the depleted defensive corps, led by assistant captain Will Clemson, Faisal Alsaif and Chris Lane kept Osborne's offense on its heels. Clemson and Alsaif laid out several heavy hits.

The teams skated to a scoreless tie in the first period before Langley sent pucks to the twine in the second. Alsaif, Lafuria and Jason Guidi put Langley ahead 3-0 after the second period. Osborne's lone

scorer, Hayes, potted a goal at the 11-minute mark of the third and tried to spark an Osborne come back, but Langley captain Drew Schneider and Lizzie Weingast tacked on insurance goals and put the game away.

Penalty trouble seated some of the Saxon skill performers which gave an opportunity for the rising freshmen to perform. Hannah Hanuschack and Shane Clayton elevated their game and kept Osborne from mounting any serious attack. The teams skated to a shot tie of 28-28, but the Saxons were able to capitalize on their chances and come away with the win.

GIFT BUYING AT VILLAGE GREEN

Give the Gift of Sharing

FROM PAGE 4

on a linen dressed table. Boxes of petit fours are also available for purchase. For the person on the go, combine a gift card with a Katie's Mug that they can refill with their favorite beverage at a discount. Breakfast is served every day until 11 a.m., eat in or carry out. Katie's Gift Cards are available in any amount.

Great Falls residents Lynn Kemmerer and Lottie Johnson share each other's company at Katie's.



PHOTO BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

Kaleidoscope of Gifts

Endless possibilities at Jinny Beyer Studio

At the Jinny Beyer Studio you can buy an artisan kaleidoscope as a gift that will entertain and amaze, or a kaleidoscope quilt kit for the new or experienced quilter on your holiday list. A hardwood cutting board inlaid with the Mariners Compass accent design might be the perfect holiday addition to the kitchen of a sailor or boater. The boards are completely food safe and finished with vegetable oil, not peanut oil. Sterling silver sewing tools and jewelry designed by silversmith T.J. Lane include the "Jinny Beyer Thimble."

— JEAN T. JIANOS



PHOTO BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

Jinny Beyer, wearing a batik patterned tunic offered in a variety of colors, also showcases the work of other artists at her studio shop in Great Falls Village Centre, like these hardwood cutting boards made by craftsman Gary White.

Today's Art, Tomorrow's Heirloom

Invest in a gift of art from Artists on The Green.

"The cost of an original oil painting is affordable," Great Falls artist, Gail A. Pean said, "and an original oil painting can be passed on for generations. They are a one-of-a-kind investment and oil paints last thousands of years." Five full-time artists have their work for sale at Artists on The Green, in the Great Falls Village Centre. Drop-in anytime, or join them at the Opening Reception for their winter-themed exhibit on Friday, Dec. 6, from 6 – 8 p.m. and a Holiday Open House all day on Saturday, Dec. 7. They will be open until 9 p.m. on Dec.



PHOTO BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

One of the Artists on The Green, Gail A. Pean, prepares for their holiday show and sale of winter-themed art, Dec. 6 - 8.

7, during the annual Great Falls Tree Lighting celebration, and from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8.

— JEAN T. JIANOS

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During the last week of each year, the Great Falls Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students. The results are always remarkable, and the editions have won many awards. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through e-mail or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be provided in .jpg format. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Friday, Dec. 6 for publication the week of Dec. 26.

E-mail submissions to:
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To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
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above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Thitiporn Sankom, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2013, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2014, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,500 to \$9,750.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,050 to \$1,090†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$35 to \$36.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$9.20 to \$9.80†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.29 to \$2.42 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.45 to \$3.55 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
9. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$44 to \$45.
10. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$17 to \$20.

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

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Cost of Living



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As the person primarily responsible for stocking the house with supplies and maintaining miscellaneous inventory, I am frequently in stores (supermarket, drugstore, pet store, etc.) buying the staples (not an office supply reference) our family needs to maintain our lifestyle, such as it is. And if I do say so myself, and I do, I do an excellent job balancing needs, wants and available cash flow to fulfill those various requirements. I don't know if I should win an award, but I should definitely be nominated for the tasks I regularly undertake and the success I have completing them. Moreover, considering the underlying fact that I have a terminal disease: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (the incurable kind), and a cash flow which is hardly guaranteed or predictable, I certainly deserve an "A" for effort.

As much as I don't/didn't want to factor my original prognosis: "13 months to two years" into my daily life, especially when allocating resources/spending money, not considering that prognosis/time line has been nearly impossible. The logic goes something like this: why spend money today on an item I might not need in six months (if you know what I mean)? Why deprive/neglect myself today (a definite) in order to prepare/plan for tomorrow (a maybe), a tomorrow that, ever since my February, 2009 diagnosis is no longer guaranteed, or at least no longer anticipated as it was prior to that date – on paper, anyway; given the fact that both of my parents lived into their mid-eighties (I was diagnosed at 54 and half)?

Nevertheless, as my life has gone on, somewhat unexpectedly, considering what my oncologist said to Team Lourie back in early 2009, my attitude about the future has evolved. Whereas once I had one (pre-diagnosis), then didn't (post diagnosis); now I sort of am having one, subject to change of course and therein lies the rub (although, it's a heck of a lot more than a "rub," it's more like a systemic irritation); trying to live/consume normally in the face/context of a terminal cancer diagnosis. It has been and continues to be the bane of my rather fortunate existence. I don't want to pretend or presume that life goes on as I have said it has – for me, but acting as if it doesn't is hardly the negative attitude I want to embrace. And for the most part, I haven't.

This emotional maturity manifested itself recently at the supermarket. I bought multiple items that I didn't need now (charcoal lighter fluid, two cans of shaving gel; in general, non-perishables), but presumably would need later (months later), but given their sale price, their net cost to me was too appealing to resist, so I bought them – without thinking too much about my life expectancy time line. In fact, the time line thing didn't hit me until later when I realized that I had made purchases whose ultimate benefit to me (other than the price discount now), when I would actually use/need the items, was not now, but later, much later. A "later" that I'm not 100-percent sure I have, given my semi-precarious cancer-centric existence. The future was once again part of my instinctive planning. And that realization made me feel unburdened somehow.

Mind over matter, I'm sure, since I've received no result (lab work, CT Scan, etc. – and certainly no assurance from my oncologist) to indicate that my medical status has changed somehow. Still, it was a good feeling to have and one that gave me hope that my future is indeed more than just an abbreviated version of my past.

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

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