

McLean
CONNECTION

Artisans Offers Artistic Gift Ideas

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 10

PAGE 10
**Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2013**

From left, Rachael Waugh and Haida McGovern, staff at The Artisans, show off a few items for sale, mostly made by local artists.

Learning to
Live Life

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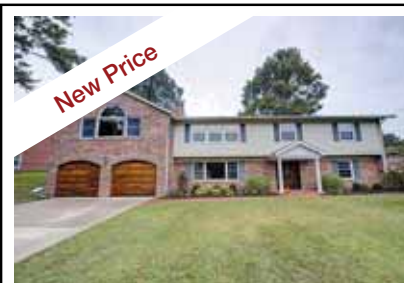
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Learning to Live Life

Motivational speakers and authors address local women.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to happiness, Joda Coolidge, Mindy Mitchell and Alison Nancye have seen both sides of the coin. Like everyone, their lives have seen ups and downs, but the trio have used their experiences to get to where they want in life.

It was with that in mind that they hosted an event in McLean last month, where they hosted several dozen women at an event designed to help them live the life they want.

"A lot of people feel that there's something not right with their day-to-day existence, they talk about where they should be, and this happens to people of all ages," said Coolidge, a life and wellness coach in Great Falls. "That begs the question: just who are you listening to? Is it someone that really matters to you, or are you just endlessly comparing yourself to others? Because constant comparison is a surefire way to never be happy."

Coolidge recently re-connected with Mitchell, a design consultant with Sun Design in McLean who specializes in future planning. After a few conversations, they found that their respective fields might make for an interesting combination.

"Joda and I re-connected, and we had an idea about doing a talk, and all of a sudden it was spontaneous combustion, we exploded with ideas," Mitchell said.

THE EVENT featured Mitchell, Coolidge and Australian author Alison Nancye. Each of them told their stories and their quest to achieve the life they wanted.

"Our theme was 'create the life you want' and how to live it now," Coolidge said. "Women get a lot of messages about what their life is supposed to be, about how much money to make, about starting a family and having kids, and it's easy to get derailed from your true passion."

Each of the three women told how they found themselves living away from their passions, and how they found their way back.

Nancye's book, "Note To Self" is a fictional story about a woman who hates her present life, and after a breakdown, she decides to chase her dream in Peru.

"Alison's story is about the concept of what you focus on, grows," Coolidge said. "If you dwell on the negative parts of your life, that part will grow, and vice versa."

Coolidge's message as a life and wellness coach is the power of positive thinking, and she shared that with the group.

"We're hard-wired to think negatively, it's a protection device the human psyche has developed," Coolidge said. "To change that, you have to re-train your brain to think positive thoughts, and then approach your goals in a manageable process, step by step, from A to B to C to D, which allows you to see your progress."

Coolidge said that message helped at least one attendee repair a relationship in her life.

"I received a few follow up e-mails from a woman who has been estranged from her 21-year-old son," she said. "She told me the event gave her the idea that if she changed the way she reacted to him from



From left, Mindy Mitchell, Joda Coolidge and Alison Nancye. The three women hosted a session with local women last month to help them live the life they wanted.

a negative, that he only calls when he needs something, to a positive, about how proud she is of him, and how she now makes an effort to start all their phone calls with that thought."

Mitchell said she has been lucky enough to enjoy her job, and after downsizing her residence, she liked her living situation. But there was one thing missing.

"I realized that at age 59, and having been divorced, that I was simply tired of being alone. So, I wrote a description of my perfect partner, and eventually, I was able to find him," she said. "What stops people the most are the 'what ifs,' and I was determined not to let that stop me."

MITCHELL'S BOOK "The Lube of Life" tells the true story of her modern romance, through e-mails and online chat logs, through their conversations and eventually their meeting.

She said from evaluations and further contact with the group, she believes different parts of the presentation resonated with different people.

"People get stuck, it happens to everyone, you just become anesthetized to what's happening," she said. "A woman came up to me after the program and said she was worried about the magnitude of changing, and I told her the first step is to look down at where you are."

Find out where you want to go, develop momentum and just keep working toward it. People are often too focused on what's happened to them in the past, or what the future will hold, but the present day is what matters."

"One of the most positive parts about the event was that we all saw that the message we were talking about is available to anyone, ages 20 to 80," Coolidge said. "It's a step-by-step process, and it's not always easy, but if we can do it, we feel that anyone can do it."

Coolidge said the event received such overwhelming support that they are looking to expand the possibilities. An all-day workshop, a TED talk and even an outreach event to younger women have all been discussed.

More information can be found at www.jodacoolidge.com, www.libeofligfe.com and www.alisonnancye.com.



Present for the event were Tom Biesiadny, Director of Fairfax County Department of Transportation; Dranesville Supervisor John Foust; Department of Transportation Senior Transportation Planner, Tad Borkowski; Haycock Elementary School Principal, Dr. Kelly Sheers; Construction Project Engineer Fairfax County Capital Facilities Department, Lisa McCorkle; and Michael J. Stevens, Engineering Inspector Fairfax County Capital Facilities Department.

Intersection Improvements, Walkway Installed at Westmoreland Street and Haycock Road in McLean

On Nov. 5, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Haycock Elementary School Principal, Dr. Kelly Sheers, and Fairfax County Departments of Transportation and Capital Facilities personnel met at the intersection of Westmoreland Street and Haycock Road to celebrate the completion of a pedestrian walkway, signal crossing and right turn lane recently installed by Fairfax County. The transportation improvements coincide with significant changes to the kiss-and-ride and parking facilities at Haycock Elementary School constructed by Fairfax County Public Schools. The new walkway connects to an existing trail on the east side of Westmoreland Street, across from Placid Street. The sidewalk continues south on Westmoreland Street, west on Haycock Road, and terminates at an existing trail at the western entrance of Haycock Elementary School.

These transportation improvements were initiated in 2009 by Supervisor Foust and funded by Fairfax County Commercial and Industrial tax revenues. Construction efforts took place over the summer months of 2013 with the project substantially completed in October 2013.

Westmoreland Street is a busy road that serves as a primary walking route for students of Haycock Elementary School

and Longfellow Middle School. With the completion of the walkway, there is now continuous pedestrian access along the west side of Westmoreland Street between Kirby Road and Haycock Road. Recently, Fairfax County installed other pedestrian safety measures along Westmoreland Street, including a walkway between the Chesterbrook Taiwanese Presbyterian Church and Temple Rodef Shalom. In recent years, at the request of Supervisor Foust, numerous improvements have been installed to address pedestrian safety concerns along Westmoreland Street between Kirby Road and Chain Bridge Road, including pedestrian crossing medians, upgraded crosswalks and signage, and an experimental "Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon" at McLean High School.

In addition, the Haycock Road segment of the new walkway completes a missing pedestrian link to provide continuous sidewalk on the northern side of Haycock Road from Boxwood Drive to the West Falls Church Metro Station.

"These are long-needed changes," said Foust. "Students at Haycock can now safely walk that last block to school and cross this busy intersection with pedestrian-activated walk lights. Drivers should also notice improvements with the additional right turn lane on Westmoreland."

McLean Homes Tour to Cover Four Centuries

The McLean Woman's Club Holiday Homes Tour on Thursday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will feature four houses each representing a separate century. Built in 1754, 1842, 1954 and 2010, respectively, the homes also display distinctly different architectures.

Bienvenue, 1754

Bienvenue, a modest 18th century colonial on Churchill Road, has ties to both the Revolution and the Civil War. The home's 0.75-acre lot was originally part of a 3,400-acre estate granted to a colonist by Britain's Lord Fairfax in 1724. The basic house was reputedly built in 1754 of sandstone from a quarry just down the street, with an extension of the same material being added later. A well fed by an underground stream and lined with the same sandstone is behind the house.

During the Civil War, the home served as a field hospital for Federal troops. A wooden carriage house behind it was used to accommodate male nurses caring for the soldiers. The names and ranks of troops billeted in the main house are said to have been carved on the attic joists. Bullets from the Civil War era have been discovered in the basement walls, and a cannonball was extracted from an outside wall. Some architectural details in the home can be traced to the 18th and 19th centuries. Gen. George McLellan, a commander for the Union Army, reputedly tied his horse to the trunk of a massive sycamore tree next to the house. The property has been known locally as "the Sycamores" in addition to "Bienvenue," a French word that means "welcome." A 1971 plaque on the side of the house and a 2002 sign near the gate add details believed to be part of the home's history.

Langley Ordinary, 1842

This stately, two-story house with a wraparound porch was built on Chain Bridge Road in 1842, according to a sign at the entrance; county records, however, peg the time as 1856 to 1861. The house was reportedly constructed as a drover's rest, or "a place to park livestock and wagons before crossing Chain Bridge and heading into Georgetown," according to a local historian. The house served as the headquarters of Union Gen. George McCall, then as a Civil War hospital and finally as an "ordinary," or public meeting house. As at Bienvenue, Civil War soldiers left their signatures in the attic. Across the street is a gatehouse where tolls were collected. Next to it is a small, picturesque church, where travelers reputedly worshipped.

Starting three years ago, the house was extensively renovated, with an effort to maintain or replace historically correct details. In addition, fixtures, furniture and fabrics were chosen to reflect the simpler living of the 1800s. An archaeological excavation of the 2-acre lot turned up



Bienvenue, an 18th century colonial on Churchill Road, has ties to both the Revolution and the Civil War.



The Chain Bridge Road Colonial sits at the top of a long hill that was used as a bunker by Union troops.

bullets, pocket knives, nails, coins, pottery and belt buckles harking back to the mid-1800s. As you cross the threshold, you enter a past era of high, beamed ceilings, hardwood floors and Americana décor. The house has an adjacent guesthouse that provides additional living space; together the two structures have six bedrooms and six modern bathrooms.

Chain Bridge Road Colonial, 1952

This large, imposing colonial, on a nearly 3-acre lot next to Langley Ordinary, sits at the top of a long hill that was used as a bunker by Union troops. The property has been a mecca for Civil War buffs searching for cannonballs and other buried artifacts. A two-story home plus attic and basement, its above-grade living area is 4,583 feet. Six single dormers grace the conservative façade, and a long driveway winds up from the street.

The house was expanded starting in 1986, when an award-winning D.C. architect recommended updating its rectangular shape by incorporating additional angles and new exterior materials. The renovation included a new kitchen, bath, master bedroom, family room and screened porch and the updating of a guest/pool house to blend with the original dwelling. The back exterior was also updated to

incorporate the charm and warmth of the original home. A large, circular patio was created behind the house by bringing in 400 truckloads of soil from construction at Tyson's Corner to raise the ground level. The home has four bedrooms and three full and two half-bathrooms. There is a swimming pool and a detached garage.

The property is further distinguished by numerous large, old trees; one near the guest/pool house is estimated to be 200 years old.

Benjamin Street House, 2010

This 8,500-square-foot, two-story home suggests contemporary north European design, with its open floor plan, straight lines, and large, uncurtained windows for maximum light. Interior walls on the main floor have been mostly omitted except for a wall closing off a large office/library. However, dining and living areas are well-defined by shape and furnishings. There is a single fireplace; the owners wished to avoid large chimneys that could shut out light. The house has uncarpeted, all-wood floors; the absence of drapes or carpeting reflects a modern trend. The full basement includes a large recreation room and a mini-soccer field. Behind the home are large patios, a swimming pool, a garden house and a cabana for dining.

PHOTOS BY LAURA SHERIDAN/THE MCLEAN WOMAN'S CLUB



This stately, two-story "Langley Ordinary" house with a wraparound porch was built on Chain Bridge Road in 1842.



The Benjamin Street House's use of leading-edge technology, as well as its open design, shows that it belongs to the modern age.

A three-car garage is attached to the home.

The house's use of leading-edge technology, as well as its open design, shows that it belongs to the modern age. It uses geothermal heating, whereby energy is produced by a process in which tubes reaching 300 to 400 feet below the foundation capture the earth's heat. The system can provide two-thirds of the air conditioning needed. In addition, solar panels are being installed to make the house carbon neutral.

Tour Tickets and Woman's Club MarketPlace

Tickets which consist of a booklet with a tour map and information on the houses – are available at Mesmeralda's Gifts of McLean (1339 Chain Bridge Road), Karin's Florist (527 Maple Ave., E., Vienna) and Great Dogs of Great Falls (9859 Georgetown Pike). On Dec. 5 they will be for sale at the free "MarketPlace," at Trinity United Methodist Church, McLean (1205 Dolley Madison Blvd.), and at the houses. The cost is \$25 before the tour and \$30 on Dec. 5, the

tour day. The tour will be self-guided, but free buses based at the church will facilitate access. Car parking will not be available at the Churchill Road and the two Chain Bridge Road houses. There should be plenty of street parking at the Benjamin Street house.

Open concurrently, the MarketPlace will feature 15 vendors from local businesses, handmade crafts, collectibles, a Woman's Club bakery, a lunch and dessert concession, tour tickets and a silent auction of high-value merchandise and services. There will be ample free parking at the church.

This year's honorary host for the Holiday Homes Tour and MarketPlace will be Rear Admiral Kathleen L. Martin (Ret.), executive director of the Navy Marine Coast Guard Foundation, including the Wounded Warrior Housing project at Vinson Hall. All proceeds of the two events will be donated to local charities and nonprofits, as well as used for scholarships and education. A kickoff ceremony for the two events will take place at Langley Ordinary at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 5, attended by Admiral Martin and local officials.

For more information, contact a Woman's Club member at 703-556-0197 or visit the club's website, www.mcleanwc.org.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Family Science Night at Spring Hill Elementary

Spring Hill Elementary School recently held its 10th Annual Family Science Night, called "Scientists in Our Midst." Professional scientists from the school's own families and neighborhoods included a racecar engineer, a renewable energy inventor, a wildlife expert, a real live rocket scientist and more. Pictured: Assistant Principal Mike Casey (far right) with students clambering about in his raft (in which he has logged thousands of white water miles). They learned basic principles of physics, kinetic energy and balance.

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News

School Promotes Healthy Meals

In conjunction with Fairfax County Public School's wellness initiatives, Churchill Road School is encouraging students to include more fruits and vegetables into their meal choices. On the first day of school, members of the school's eco-team planted a variety of crops in the raised beds including purple beans, soybeans, cabbage, spinach and a variety of lettuce types. Earlier last week, Churchill Road eco-educator Debra Maes and the patrols harvested their crops. The students were able to enjoy a healthy, colorful and tasty salad made from the greens at their monthly breakfast with Mrs. Maes and Principal Don Hutzel.

Churchill Road eco-patrols Anna Krause-Steinrauf, J.J. Bellaschi, Teddy Spaner and Sydney Bamdad harvest the greens they planted from the school's raised beds.



PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Churchill Road eco-patrols Michael Hoeymans and Jake Yates share a laugh with Principal Don Hutzel about eating salad for breakfast.



PHOTO BY DEBRA MAES



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Trimming the Trees for Safety

Bartlett Tree Experts, Area Wide Protective and VDOT partner with McLean Trees Foundation.

Bartlett Tree Experts, Area Wide Protective (AWP) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) together donated services to the McLean Trees Foundation (MTF) for removal of dead or dying Bradford pear trees on the Dolley Madison Boulevard median, between Elm Street and Beverly Road. Bartlett Tree Experts is a family-owned, international company that provides scientific tree and shrub care services locally out of their office in Springfield. Area Wide Protective is America's traffic control leader, providing safe, reliable and cost-effective solutions to utilities and contractors throughout the Eastern United States.

"The Dolley Madison Boulevard pear tree project, facilitated by the McLean Trees Foundation, is an excellent example of a public-private partnership that benefits the entire community," said Joyce Harris, chairman of the McLean Trees Foundation.

Of the 113 Bradford pear trees that were originally planted in 1972, 40 trees remain on the Dolley Madison Boulevard median today, but are in poor health, according to the McLean Trees Foundation. The median, one of the major corridors in McLean, is often littered with downed tree limbs. A crew from Bartlett Tree Experts removed 10 trees that were dead or that showed significant dieback. Additionally, the crew removed large dead branches from some of the trees to help reduce the risk of falling limbs. The work was conducted during a five-hour period and involved lane closures in both directions on Dolley Madison Boulevard.

WOOD CHIPS generated from the pear trees were then distributed to create mulch paths for the Chesterbrook Living Classroom on Kirby Road in McLean. Sponsored by the City of Falls Church Water Utility, the Chesterbrook Living Classroom is an environmental project designed to promote a healthy watershed and reduce the effects of stormwater runoff. The Living classroom is maintained with the assistance of the Fairfax County Restoration Project and Lands and Waters, Inc. Elementary students from the City of Falls Church and Fairfax County have access to the site as an outdoor lab for observing, analyzing and enhancing ecosystems, plants and wildlife.

"We are grateful to Bartlett Tree Experts for making the Dolley Madison Boulevard



The Bartlett crew removes a dying Bradford pear tree from the Dolley Madison Boulevard median in McLean.



A Bartlett arborist removes a dead Bradford Pear limb using an aerial lift truck.

pear tree project possible and for their guidance on tree care," said Harris. "AWP and VDOT, who assisted Bartlett by donating traffic control services, did an outstanding job of managing traffic under challenging conditions. Furthermore, the wood chips from this project have now been put to good use on a site designed for stormwater control."

Commercially released in the early 1960s, the Bradford pear, *Pyrus calleryana* "Bradford," is a thornless, ornamental pear tree native to China and Korea that was developed in the late 1950s by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was initially very popular because of its fast growth, white flowers in the spring, and conical shape. As suburban development exploded in the 1960s, many communities, including McLean, used it as a favorite street tree. However, the trees have a short life span and don't age well. As the tree matures, the trunks and branches start to break apart.

"Bradford pear trees look pretty in the springtime when they are flowering, however, they have a tendency to split apart due to their brittle wood, poor branching structure, and weak crotches," said Stewart

Bunn, a certified arborist for Bartlett Tree Experts and former Virginia Tech extension agent for Fairfax County from 1977-1986. "In this case, as the trees aged, branches littered the roadway and became a potential safety hazard to the cars passing through this section of McLean. The work completed helps maintain their safety for residents and visitors."

"Projects like the one on Dolley Madison Boulevard not only bring people together, but they also educate and inform the community," said Ellen Vogel, Northern Region Landscape architect for VDOT, who assisted MTF. "We are glad that we could help move this project forward."

"Sometimes tree care involves significant safety concerns, and in those cases, it is important to rely on professional services," said Harris.

"As an organization, safety is at the center of everything AWP does. We have numerous jobs in this area and we welcomed the opportunity to give back, especially in a way that improves the safety of this community," said Dan Bertke, manager of Estimating and Contracts for AWP.

"Bartlett Tree Experts has been providing scientific tree care for over one hundred years and giving back to the community is one way we demonstrate our passion for trees," said Stewart Bunn. "This project is good for the community. All landscape projects benefit from proper planning, tree selection, regular pruning and maintenance beginning immediately after planting."

THE MCLEAN TREES FOUNDATION was founded over 43 years ago as a semi-autonomous committee of the McLean Citizens Association before incorporating in 2004 as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. MTF's mission is to preserve, plant and maintain trees in McLean; to educate the public about benefits of trees; and to assist residents in taking an active role in caring for trees in McLean.

Tax-deductible donations, suggestions for projects, and offers for volunteer assistance can be addressed to The McLean Trees Foundation, PO Box 113, McLean, Virginia 22101, or contact Joyce Harris, chairman, at McLeanTrees@verizon.net.

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.

PHOTOS BY JOYCE HARRIS

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:

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to Sharon Bulova

Dear Chairman Bulova:

Perhaps I am mistaken, but your recent article ("Library Reorganization Deserves More Work," The Connection, Nov. 13-19, 2013) sounds to me like a repudiation of the hard-fought community efforts over the last several months to maintain strong library services. It also appears to be a pre-emptive strike against the Library Board of Trustees presentation to be made on Nov. 19.

I understand that these are hard times financially, but I also understand that in hard times people need their public libraries to resolve personal and financial issues by researching jobs, careers, education, with the help of experienced librarians in a non-intimidating, friendly, neighborhood environment. Therefore I do not think this is the time to take the Fairfax County Public Library down the road to destruction by continuing to refuse to provide it with the funds it needs to be of service to the community.

In your article, you mention other library systems have successfully saved money in hard times by reducing hours, cutting services, or even closing library branches. These approaches by other library systems have one thing in common: they are all temporary cutbacks which can be re-adjusted slowly over time as the financial situation gets better.

The Beta Plan however will effectively destroy the library by reducing to a point of no return the quantity and quality of staff and services the library is able to provide. The Beta Plan is not a temporary plan. The changes are designed to be permanent (re-designation and reclassification of personnel is not to be undertaken lightly; nor is a one-size fits all library system where branches no longer serve the needs of their individual communities.) There will be no easy, gradual return to the level of quality and service at FCPL that we all know today, let alone to bring FCPL to the level it was at before the series of extensive budget cuts the Library has been taking over the last five or six years. The Beta Plan will be a mortal

wound to the Fairfax County Library system and the Fairfax County citizens who need and deserve the best library they can get. It will take a lot more money to bring FCPL back from the Beta Plan.

I certainly hope that your Nov. 13 comments in The Connection do not reflect a closed mind and an intent to go forward with the Beta Plan no matter what the citizens of Fairfax County want and need, and no matter what the Library Board of Trustees present to you on Nov. 19. I hope that your charge to the Library Board to find out what the public wants was not an exercise in futility and that you will listen with an open mind and do the right thing.

Mary Alice Giarda
Springfield

Bad Plan for County Libraries

Chairman Bulova:

I find it very disturbing that after many hours of public meetings, hundreds of speakers, and thou-

sands of emails and petition signatures about the proposed "strategic redirection" of Fairfax libraries you can still believe that absolutely dreadful plan contains many ideas "of value" which "should continue to be explored." The problem was not that the plan was "too much for the organization to absorb;" the problem was that the plan was a bad plan which was condemned as such by staff and public alike. What is worth pursuing about lowering educational requirements and eliminating the expectation that there be any actual librarians in our libraries or in eliminating staff specializing in service to children?

This was not a plan to enhance or improve our libraries. It was a plan which would degrade our library services and devalue our library staff. Fairfax libraries do not suffer from a failure to reinvent themselves. They suffer from years of budget cuts and staff reductions. Fairfax libraries have fallen behind neighboring systems because we have been increasingly unwilling to fund them. The li

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

McLean CONNECTION

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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>

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

History of Air Force Fixed Wing Gunships. 7:30 p.m., at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., hosts John Bessette, a Vietnam War Air Force veteran, for a discussion of the history of the AC-47, "Puff the Magic Dragon," gunship development to defend outlying Vietnamese villages and military posts and to support American combat ground operations. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

ONGOING

Volunteers Needed. The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Volunteers can work in facilities close to where they live. Training is provided. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Find more information on becoming a long-term care ombudsman volunteer at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/vol_ombud_program.htm.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

brary budget has been gutted by 25 percent over the last few years and the materials budget slashed by 2/3. No misguided search for further "efficiencies" will rectify that situation. Only a restoration of appropriate funding will solve the ills which afflict our libraries.

Please listen to the clear message from library users and library staff. We want no part of the despised "Beta plan." It needs to be tossed in the dumpster just as hundreds of thousands of taxpayer purchased books were over the last year. Our libraries need a restoration of funding, a restoration of staff morale, a restoration of public trust in library leadership, and a restoration of hope that Fairfax County is indeed committed to supporting the sort of first class library system a County of our wealth and population deserves.

Charles Keener
Vienna



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Complimentary Refreshments





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 Khoussoud.

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

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

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."

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

Artisans Offers Artistic Gift Ideas

Jewelry, housewares, local art among items featured at The Artisans.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to buying local, The Artisans in McLean practice what they preach. The eclectic gift shop is filled with handmade jewelry, pottery, clothing, accessories and much more.

From necklaces by local artist Donna Barnako to the first two novels by McLean author Suzi Weinert, there are gifts for people of all ages and interests.

"We like to say if you can't find something here for just about everyone on your list, then you're just not looking hard enough," said Haida McGovern, who works at the store. "One of my favorite items we have, that we just got in, is the Pouchee, a small pouch that goes in our purse. You can use it to store money, keys, phone or credit cards, and then when you switch purses, you just grab the little bag and move it to the new purse."



From left, Rachael Waugh and Haida McGovern, staff at The Artisans, show off a few items for sale, mostly made by local artists.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Upon entering the store, to the right is a wall filled with jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets and earrings made of a variety of materials. Amy Kozak, who is also the office manager at The Artisans, is also a jewelry designer, and has several kinds of necklaces and earrings in stock.

Monique Mayer, a native of Switzerland and local resident, calls her work Second Chance Glass. She makes earrings, as well as platters, glasses and other items out of re-purposed wine and soda bottles.

Keeping with that theme, another area of the store boasts "flip flop animals," toys made out of recycled foam sandals, and tin animals and ornaments made from old soda cans.

"I can honestly say that coming to The Artisans is one of my favorite ways to holiday shop, because I have so much fun looking over everything," said Debbie Manley of McLean. "It beats the mall or any other retailer hands down, because I feel I can find

something that my family and friends will never find anywhere else."

Rachael Waugh, who works at the store, says one of her favorite items are the food slabs. Made by New England-based American Stonecraft, the slabs are made of polished field stones, and can be used as cutting boards or serving trays, and every single one is unique.

Other items include a wide variety of artisan soaps, lotions and candles, as well as scarves, clothing and more. For the younger members on the list, there is also a selection of children's items, including toys, games, puzzles and books.

The Artisans is located at 1368 Chain Bridge Road in downtown McLean, and can be found on Facebook or at www.theartisansblog.biz.



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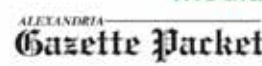
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Holiday Cooking with Children

Local culinary instructors offer suggestions for bonding in the kitchen.

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 chem-

istry 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



PHOTO COURTESY OF COOKOLOGY

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

work they produce," he said. "However, remember there are 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 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 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 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."

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21 Announcements

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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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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.

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MONDAY NOON

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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HOLIDAY

Celebrating Thanksgiving Like a Chef

Local chefs and culinary experts share family stories and recipes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As a teen, Chef Guiseppe Ricciardi's Thanksgiving dinners were anything but traditional. Ricciardi, the proprietor of Dolce Vita and Dolce Veloce in Fairfax, moved to New York from Italy with his family when he was 14. His family celebrated Thanksgiving in their new country, but they put an Italian twist on the holiday.

"We had turkey on the table," he said. "But we couldn't help but add an Old World favorite: crepe manicotti with cheese."

From keeping the Old World alive to serving Asian influenced side dishes to making over traditional southern foods, local culinary experts like Ricciardi are preparing for the holiday, but turkey isn't the only thing on their menus.

For Chef Stephen P. Sands of Culinary Cooking School in Vienna, Thanksgiving is a family affair. "My sons began in the kitchen cooking with me from when they

were about 3," he said. "Now, every holiday we share the duties and enjoy the conversation and share stories that have happened during the year, or reminisce about times past."

This Thanksgiving, he can be found in the kitchen with his adult children braising cabbage with red wine or making his own Asian-inspired cranberry sauce with ginger and pinot noir.

"Asian ingredients have become part of the mainstream culinary mix," said Sands. "Ginger and Chinese five-spice powder É turn up along with Oregon wine in É this classic holiday dish."

Arlington-based chef and instructor Kristen Robinson, of The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Washington, said her Turkey Day menu has roots in her childhood traditions. For her, Thanksgiving was an all-hands-on-deck family affair.

Her most cherished memories are those spent her grandparents' sides, helping in their restaurant in Mount Carmel, Pa. "I can

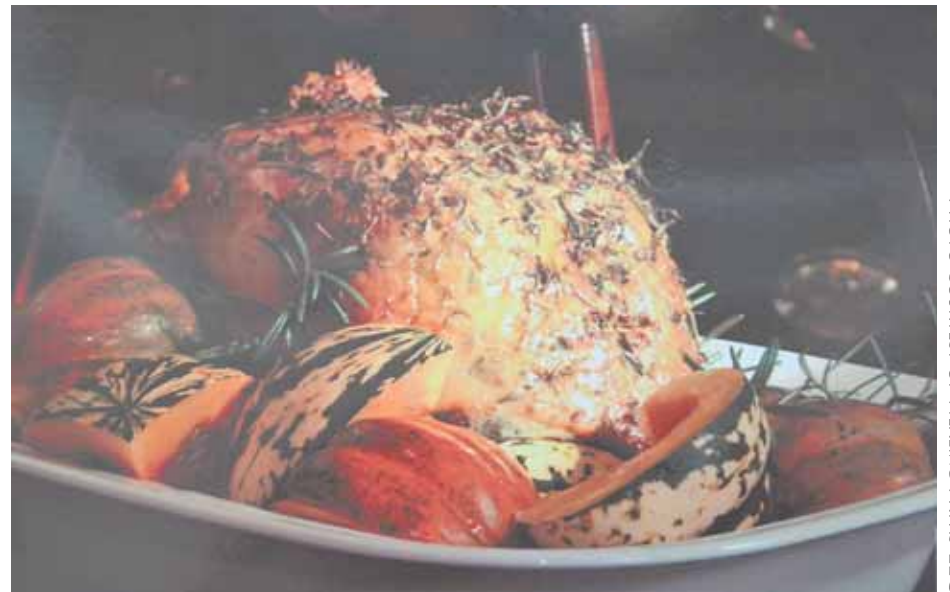


PHOTO COURTESY OF HEALING PATHS LLC

Turkey breasts stuffed with pears, carrots and celery and rubbed with a mixture of fresh garlic, oregano, rosemary and olive oil is a staple on nutritionist Teri Cochrane's Thanksgiving table.

remember helping my grandfather push peeled potatoes through a fry cutter while I stood on top of a five-gallon bucket so that I was tall enough to reach it," she said, adding that she would then help her grandfather roll out dinner rolls and make hundreds of pies and other sweets with her grandmother. She also helped her uncle roast turkeys and make huge batches of mashed potatoes and stuffing.

When the last patron left the restaurant, Robinson's family would clean up from the public Thanksgiving rush, lock the doors and re-set the table.

"We would all gather around the table after a long day's work and laugh and eat,

say thanks for all that we had," said Robinson. "It always felt like a true accomplishment, feeding hundreds of people and seeing the joy spread across their faces. But the best part was the end of the night when it was just family, talking and laughing about funny things that had happened."

Those childhood Thanksgiving influences remain. One of Robinson's Thanksgiving dishes this year is baby carrots and garlic tossed in balsamic and olive oil. Also on her menu are a yellow squash casserole with goat cheese, roasted Brussels sprouts with bacon and buttery mashed potatoes.

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 19

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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>



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31st Annual

McLean Holiday Crafts Show

December 6-8

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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 Osbourn 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 Osbourn'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. Osbourn's lone

scorer, Hayes, potted a goal at the 11-minute mark of the third and tried to spark an Osbourn comeback, 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 Osbourn 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.

HOLIDAY

Getting Ready for Guests at Thanksgiving and Beyond

Ideas for prepping your home so that visitors feel welcome.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Thanksgiving kicks off the holiday season next week, it will mean an onslaught of house guests for some. Local style gurus offer simple ideas for getting your home ready for visits from friends and family.

"There's nothing like leaving someone's house after a stay and feeling as though you were staying at a special place," said Ann O'Shields, of The Next Egg in Fairfax. "Easy touches can make a house guest feel as though you've really prepared for their arrival, are pleased they've chosen to visit and stay with you and help them enjoy their visit."

In addition to towels, washclothes, linens and blankets, toiletries can make guests feel welcome. Fragrant lotions and soaps should not be overlooked. Angela Phelps, owner of Le Village Marché in Arlington, recommends "big blocks of Savon de Marseille. French soaps made in the Marseille region of France are a nice touch," she said. "They come in scents such as lavender, rose and verbenia."

Courtney Thomas, of the Picket Fence in Burke, also suggests "stock[ing] the bathroom with



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

Baskets filled with luxurious soaps and lotions in holiday fragrances help guests feel welcome in your home.

luxurious soaps and lotions in holiday fragrances. Foaming soaps are very popular as are the bar soaps with matching dishes. They come in beautiful packaging, which adds a touch of the holidays."

Even though many guests expect to live out of a suitcase during short holiday visits, experts say clearing out closet space and providing extra hangers will not only make guests feel welcome, it will keep the guest room looking neat.

"It is very important is to make sure your drawers and closets have adequate space for your guests to unpack and put their clothes," said O'Shields. "Make sure you have at

least one open drawer and a set of five to ten hangers available."

Clear out nonessential items so that guests have an adequate area in which to relax. "If your space has toys and other items that make them feel as if they are intruding on someone else's space, remove them and place in the garage or storage for the duration of the visit," said Sallie Kjos, of GreyHunt Interiors in Chantilly.

In addition to gift baskets, visitors might find books, magazines and maps useful: "Put together a little goodie basket with holiday treats," said Thomas. "Some cocoa with peppermint stirrers along with some festively wrapped candies make a great welcome basket for guests."

Candles or diffusers placed on a bedside table are a chic way to welcome guests as well. "One of my favorite scents is Roland Pine," said Phelps. "It is really fresh and clean and not too overpowering. Another nice touch is a carafe and a glass for water on a nightstand."

Amy Rutherford, of Red Barn Mercantile in Alexandria, also suggests a scented candle by the bedside as well as wine glasses and a bottle of wine or carafe of water. "Turkish towels stacked on a chair with some nice soap would be really nice, too," she said. "A bouquet of flowers in the room would also be a nice touch."

"For an added bonus, stick a treat on their pillow," said Kjos. "This will make them feel very welcomed and comfortable in your makeshift guest room."

Holiday Cooking

FROM PAGE 15

"I try to make sure each side dish I prepare has a nice variety of flavors with lots of vegetables and fruits," she said. "I will actually be deboning my turkey after I brine it this year and rolling it into a roulade to ensure I have a nice crispy skin on each serving."

Reston-based nutritionist Teri Cochrane of Healing Paths LLC believes Thanksgiving can be about health as well as family. In fact, she assembles her menu based on the healing properties of each dish.

When it comes to her bird, Cochrane focuses on the breast. She stuffs the cavity of a bone-in turkey breast with pears, carrots and celery, then rubs it with a mixture of fresh garlic, oregano, rosemary and olive oil. "I am thankful for the bird that keeps on giving," she said. "You can use the leftovers to make multiple meals."

She also slices carrots, peels sweet potatoes and dices beets before coating them — along with fresh

rosemary — with olive oil and sliding them into the oven.

"The vegetables' colors display the abundance of beta carotene you will be taking in," she said. "Beta carotene, typically found in these vegetables, has been shown to be protective against lung cancer when taken through foods. My nervous system is soothed and I experience restful sleep after É this meal."

Also on Cochrane's Thanksgiving table is a new twist on a deep-south dish: wilted collards over brown basmati rice. "This version of collards takes a Southern dish typically seasoned with pork fat and converts it into a gluten-free, vegetarian option mixed with brown rice and offers generous amounts of vitamins K, A, C and E," she said.

Her dessert includes a fruit-packed bread pudding, but skips the refined carbohydrates, butter and sugar found in traditional bread puddings. "I like to weave a flavor thread with my menus," said Cochrane. "This takes the cranberries through dessert."

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