

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

DECEMBER 11-17, 2013

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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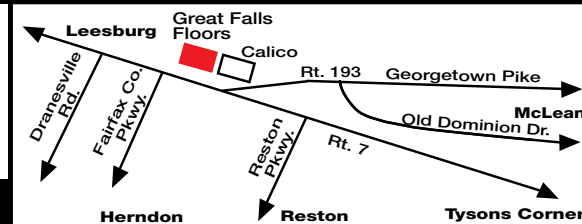
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Speakers line up to voice their concerns to Schools Superintendent Karen Garza at the Listening Tour held Saturday, Dec. 7, at Cooper Middle School in McLean.



PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION

Garza Holds Listening Tour

Schools Superintendent visits Cooper Middle School in McLean.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Schools Superintendent Karen Garza, Ph.D., held a Listening Tour on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Cooper Middle School in McLean where more than 100 residents of the Dranesville District shared their concerns about local schools. The meeting, which was attended by local teachers, principals and parents, included School Board Rep. Janie Strauss (Dranesville).

In the five-and-a-half months she's been in power, Garza has visited 52 schools in the county. When she conducts meetings, she stresses "Pride, Concern and Hope" over the challenges she faces.

Garza oversees a \$2.5 billion budget – where \$500 million goes to the central office and about \$2 billion goes directly to supporting classrooms. That translates to about \$13,564 cost per pupil (FY-2013). She calls the \$137 million projected deficit a "real challenge." The cause for the deficit is that revenues have not kept pace with growing enrollment and increasing costs. The county currently has 184,625 students and enrollment has been growing by more than 15,000 students over the past five years.

Garza said we need to be creative, looking at schedules and course offerings – and "how do we redesign ourselves." She said she will avoid student programming, and on Jan. 9, she will present the new budget to the Board of Supervisors.

Garza hails from Lubbock, Texas, and oversaw two school systems in Houston. When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005, she organized the 8,500 students seeking refuge in Texas schools in just a few days.

ONE BY ONE residents took to the microphone at Cooper Middle School as Garza listened to their issues. The No. 1 concern was classroom overcrowding – what Garza said was the "most pressing challenge." The actual FCPS class sizes are: 29 students in first grade; 30 in second grade; and 35 in fourth grade.

One PE. teacher said she has 44 students in one class, and cited safety as a major concern. As a re-



Schools Superintendent Karen Garza speaks at her Listening Tour on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Cooper Middle School in McLean.

sult, she has to incorporate "creative techniques" to adapt. One parent lamented how her daughter's gym class consists of "sitting on the line," waiting for her turn to participate in activities.

Another parent said it's time to establish caps on classroom class size. "Large classrooms deprive them of a quality baseline education," she said.

Garza agreed, saying she spends a lot of time on the overcrowding issue. "Our money has gotten tighter and tighter over time. There's not a lot of fluff left over." She said the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors controls the money decisions, with about 15 percent of school funding coming from the state. She told parents to talk to their elected officials about how much money should be allotted for schools.

An art teacher said that school art programs are slowly becoming "dismantled," and former art galleries that once displayed students' artwork have been converted into spirit-wear stores.

One parent pushed for more funding for special-ed programs, especially with autism on the rise, and teachers having limited resources. "Special-ed should not be cut with the rise in autism," she said.

Another parent said large class sizes "impede ac-

SEE SUPERINTENDENT, PAGE 9

Online Launch for 2013 Wish List Project

Being a Wish List "Angel" easier than ever before in 14 year history of The Wish List Project.

BY JEAN T. JIANOS
THE CONNECTION

With a little help from her friends, Great Falls resident Ginger Mahon, founder of The Wish List Project, has taken The Wish List high-tech. A Wish List "Angel," donor Lissa Perez, assisted Mahon with building online sign up capability for The 2013 Wish List Project on the website "SignUp Genius." Perez is a Great Falls resident and partner at Deloitte & Touche, LLP.

Now Wish List Angels are sent email invitations and the link to sign up for any of the holiday gift items requested by families in area shelters and teens in Fairfax County foster care. In her email announcing the new online capability, Mahon says,

"This year (our 14th year making a difference!) will bring a new and exciting way for ALL to see the Wish List requests, choose and donate. You will receive all the information: easy to share with family, friends and office mates with just a 'click' using SignUp Genius link . . . YOU are going to make this an amazing year for children and families in need this holiday!"

Once again, The Wish List Project is part of Paisano's "Share the Pie" campaign. Paisano's "Pizza, Pasta, Subs, Strombolis, Wings & More," with locations in Reston, Vienna and Herndon, will donate 10 percent of any order on Sunday,

Dec. 15 that mentions "The Wish List." 100 percent of donations will go directly to The Wish List.

Another Wish List Angel and donor of the past 14 years, Patrick Devlin of Great Falls, has already delivered bins that are ready and waiting for the donated gifts that will be dropped-off no later than Saturday, Dec. 14.



PHOTO BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

The 2013 Wish List Project sign up on signupgenius.com is a user-friendly way to donate holiday gift items requested by families in area shelters and teens in Fairfax County foster care.

The visual impact of the online list re-emphasizes the enormous need that The Wish List has fulfilled for the past 14 years, benefiting over 325 gift recipients last year. The list of gifts already pledged is impressive, but there are items requested by families and foster teens still to be selected and donated. You really don't have to be a genius, just generous. Contact Mahon at gingermahon@aol.com for the email invitation and signupgenius.com link.



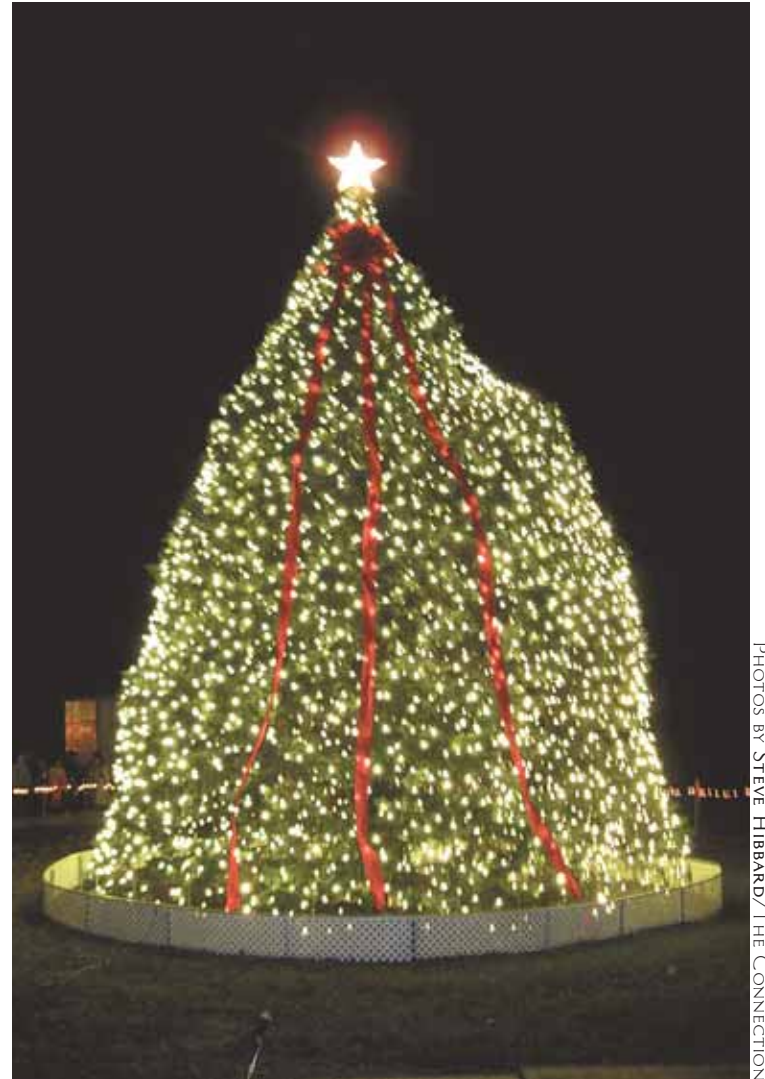
People manage to stay warm by the bonfire.

Great Falls Celebration of Lights

Dozens watch Santa and Mrs. Claus light the Great Falls Christmas Tree.

The Great Falls Village Centre was the site for the annual Santa and Mrs. Clause lighting the Christmas Tree after arriving by lighted, antique fire truck on Saturday, Dec. 7. The event included a performance by the Great Falls Village Green Day School, pony rides, a petting zoo, a bonfire, hot apple cider and hot chocolate.

— STEVE HIBBARD



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Santa and Mrs. Claus lit the holiday Christmas tree at the Great Falls Celebration of Lights.

Children from the Great Falls Village Green Day School perform songs.



Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in this lighted, antique fire truck.



Joe, Marianna and Eli of Great Falls play with the Snow Globe.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Thomas Windus, Mitchell Pan, and other Troop 55 Scouts prepare to enter the Shenandoah River.

Boy Scout Troop 55 Celebrates 35 Years

Scouts will host a cooking demonstration this Saturday.

Boy Scouts from Troop 55 in Great Falls experienced rappelling down cliffs, spelunking in caves, skiing down mountains, canoeing in rivers, backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, traversing white water rapids and improving their marksmanship. These are just a few of the activities that the boys enjoyed as they developed their skills in leadership, responsibility and community service.

Younger Scouts learned basic scout skills, such as lashings, knots, first-aid and cooking as they advanced through the ranks to First Class. Scouts continued to advance through demonstrated leadership, which included teaching younger scouts important skills, participating in a variety of community service activities, and active participa-

tion in monthly outings. Ultimately, scouts work to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, which is Scouting's highest honor. Over 100 Eagle Scouts have been awarded this rank from Troop 55 in their 35 year history.

Troop 55 is chartered by St. Francis Episcopal Church (9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls).

This Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Troop 55 will host a cooking competition at St. Francis Church. Each of the eight patrols will compete against each other, making a three-course themed meal using only raw ingredients and camp equipment. "While this competition is quite a challenge for the Scouts, it is amazing to see the variety and quality of the meals they produce," says Scoutmaster Gary Pan.

The community is invited to observe Troop 55 Scouts demonstrate their culinary expertise. Boys who are age 11 or in 5th grade or older and enjoy the outdoors, should consider stopping by to see Troop 55 in action. Send inquiries to bsa55scoutmaster@gmail.com.



Ryan Withers and fellow Scouts reach the Summit at Old Rag in the Shenandoah National Forest.

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Thanks to All!

Who Participated in the Celebration of Lights

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NEWS

Holiday Musical Comes to Alden Theatre

Theatre IV's production of "The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves" will be presented at The Alden in McLean, as part of its McLean Kids Performance Series, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for McLean tax district residents. The theatre is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue, inside the McLean Community Center.

A heartwarming, holiday musical, Theatre IV's show puts a yuletide spin on the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale. Two elves are sent to work for a poor cobbler until he does something nice for them. When he does, they will become true Christmas Elves and be sent to work for Santa at the North Pole. Based on the story by the Grimm Brothers, the book, music and lyrics are by Paul Deiss. Audience members will delight in this magical story of a poor shoemaker and the magical elves that show him the true meaning of Christmas. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/17JW4IX>.

Tickets are on sale now. Dis-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves' will be presented at The Alden in McLean on Saturday, Dec. 14.

counts are available to seniors, students and groups of eight or more. For more information or to pur-

chase tickets online, visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123.

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- Premier Invisalign Provider 2012, 2013
- Attending Faculty— Orthodontic Department Children's/Washington Hospital

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2013 Washington Business Hall of Fame Laureate and Northern Virginia Technology Council President and CEO Bobbie Green Kilberg with Virginia Governor Bob O'Donnell and Junior Achievement student and student at George C. Marshall High School Matt Colwell. The annual Washington Business Hall of Fame, now in its 26th year, is considered the "Academy Awards of Business" for the D.C. region.



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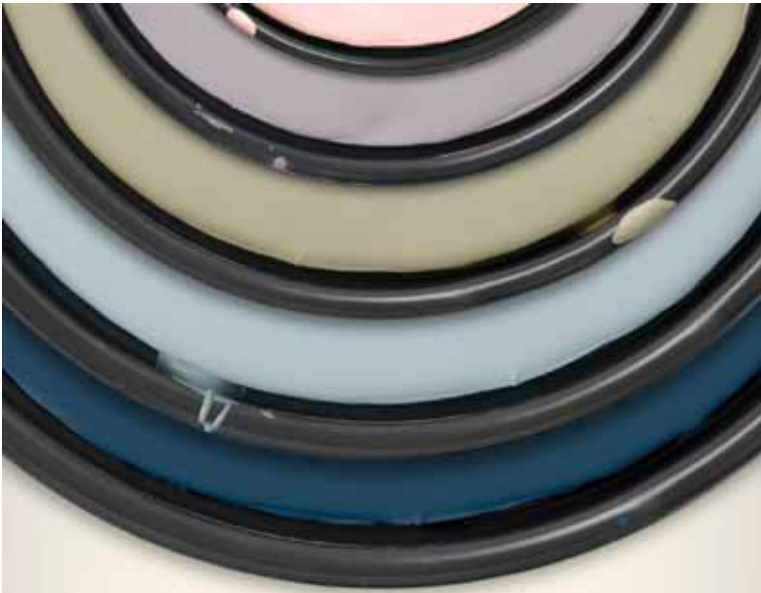
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OPINION

Happy Holidays, Safely

SoberRide safety net, 1-800-200-TAXI.

Holiday party season is well under way, along with winter weather advisories. It's up to individuals to make good decisions about celebrations that involve alcohol and how to handle transportation.

Plan to abstain. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you will be comfortable for some period of time. Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

WRAP, a local nonprofit organization, will offer free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout Northern Virginia during the winter holidays.

More than 10,000 died in drunk driving related accidents in 2010. Tens of thousands

more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas and New Year season in particular.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 13, 2013, and continuing until Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2014 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During these times, area residents celebrating with alcohol can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home.

Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30. Last December 1,927 people took advantage of this program. On New Year's Eve alone, 387 people call on SoberRide for a safe trip home.

SoberRide is offered in throughout the Northern Virginia and Maryland suburbs. In these areas, local taxicab companies will be providing this no-cost service to local residents

age 21 and older who might otherwise have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 58,576 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

We know that many young people over 21 are living at home with parents, or will be visiting for the holidays. Parents, be brave. Have a conversation with your children whether they are under or over 21. Be sure those over 21 have a plan, and are equipped with the SoberRide number.

SoberRide is not available for underage drinkers, but parents still should talk to their children about their plans, and tell them out loud that you expect them not to drive impaired and not to get into a car with an impaired driver. Tell them to call, and you'll come get them if necessary.

It's a good time for a conversation about the risks of drinking to excess beyond drinking and driving as well.

One Year Since Newtown – It's Time for Congress to Act

BY MARTINA LEINZ

A few months ago, I met the father of one of the first-graders murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School. I expressed how sorry I was for his loss and how grateful I was that he had found the strength to fight for sensible gun laws in an attempt to spare other families the pain he has suffered. What I did not share, because it did not seem appropriate, was just how deeply I was grieving too. None of those children were mine, but they all felt like mine. They were America's children.

I don't believe I am alone in these feelings. The carnage at Sandy Hook Elementary School one year ago (Dec. 14, 2012) was devastating not just to the families and community of Newtown, Conn., but to the entire nation. Twenty first-graders and six educators were murdered by a deranged individual in possession of dangerous weapons that he never should have had. It affected us all.

We will never fully recover from this tragedy as individuals or as a nation but there is much that Congress can do to prevent other tragedies like this from occurring. A critically important step is to enact sensible legislation to require background checks on all gun sales.

Many people incorrectly assume that we already conduct universal

background checks on gun purchasers but the Brady law, enacted 20 years ago, only covers about 60 percent of gun sales. It does not cover online purchases, sales through classified ads or transactions by private sellers at gun shows. This leaves the door wide open for criminals, terrorists, domestic abusers and those adjudicated mentally ill to purchase guns without having to pass a background check.

Imagine if the FDA only screened 60 percent of pharmaceutical drugs and allowed the other 40 percent to hit store shelves with no testing, no screening, and no questions asked. It does not sound very safe, does it? Well, that is exactly the scenario we face with gun purchases in this country.

Our children deserve better than 60 percent when it comes to background checks. This is because like FDA testing, when done completely, background checks work. Since President Clinton signed the Brady bill into law, background checks have blocked more than 2 million purchases, keeping guns away from convicted felons and other dangerous people.

It is now time for Congress to finish the job and expand Brady background checks to cover all gun sales. A bipartisan bill, H.R. 1565, the Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2013, has been introduced

in the House that would do just that. It has already been co-sponsored by 186 Representatives including Congressmen Connolly, Moran, and Scott of Virginia. None of the Republican Representatives from Virginia have yet co-sponsored this important legislation. Hopefully they will soon.

This is not a partisan issue, nor is it a Second Amendment issue. There is nothing inconsistent with respecting the right for law-abiding citizens to own guns while trying to keep them out of the hands of dangerous individuals. More than 90 percent of Americans support extending background checks including over 80 percent of responsible gun owners and NRA members. It is time for Congress to listen to the public and enact

sensible solutions meant to reduce the number of gun deaths. In a country where gun violence kills more than thirty-one thousand people a year, sixty percent is not getting the job done.

To commemorate the lives taken in Newtown and the more than 32 people killed by guns each day in the United States, Congress should act now and require that background checks be conducted on all commercial gun sales. Keeping guns away from dangerous individuals is an important step to curbing the epidemic of gun violence devastating our country.

Martina Leinz is President, Million Mom March, Northern Virginia Chapter, the grassroots wing of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Humanity at Its Finest

To the Editor:

Thank you to the ladies and police of Vienna who gave support and encouragement to a handicapped old lady whose walker tipped and she ended up waiting an hour in the street for an ambulance. This was kindness and comfort way beyond the call of duty. Thank you for examples of humanity at its finest.

Gratefully,

Clare Schwartz
Oakton

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Great Falls Writer's Group. 12-1:30 p.m. Great Falls Library. Writers from all levels are encouraged to attend to share their work with others. No registration needed. All are welcome. For more info: 703-757-88560.

Reading Buddies. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Grab a book, grab a buddy! Teen volunteers available as reading buddies. Ages 5-10. Sign up sheet at Information Desk or phone 703-757-8560.

FRIDAY/DEC.13

Drop-in Chess Club. 1-5 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Players of all ages and all skill levels welcome. All ages. 703-757-8560.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Holidays Around the World. 3-4 p.m. . Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge, McLean. Celebrate the holidays. Listen to music and dance-along with Cody & Bj. Registration required. All ages. 703-356-0770.

Lego Club. 2-4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and build your engineering skills with LEGOs! Age 3 & up with adult. 703-757-8560.

MONDAY/DEC. 16

Preschool Storytime. 10:30- 11:15 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Join us for stories, songs and activities. Registration required. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-757-8560.

Kids' Book Club. 4-5 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, by Michael Morpugo.

Age 8-12. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/DEC. 17

Reading Buddies. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Grab a book, grab a buddy! Teen volunteers available as reading buddies. Ages 5-10. Sign up sheet at Information Desk or phone 703-757-8560.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 18

Who's Hibernating? 10:30-11:15 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge, McLean. It's cold out and the sun is scarce. How do animals survive the cold winter? Join us as we discover what different animals do in order to survive the winter months. Meet an animal and discuss it's adaptations to the seasons. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-356-0770.

ESL Conversation Group. 2-3 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. English conversation for non-native speakers. Adult. 703-757-8560.

Pokemon Club. 4:30-6 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. English conversation for non-native speakers. Join your friends for a Pokemon Trading Card Club! Age 5-15. 703-757-8560.

THURSDAY/DEC. 19

Reading Buddies. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Grab a book, grab a buddy! Teen volunteers available as reading buddies. Ages 5-10. Sign up sheet at Information Desk or phone 703-757-8560.

Book Discussion Group. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

Superintendent Comes to McLean

FROM PAGE 3

cess" for children with special needs, and kids with disabilities like ADHD are "getting lost in the system," and require that parents spend money on private tutors.

Another parent complained how student's progress reports (report cards) focus more on student behavior than on academic metrics.

Garza praised the county's FLES foreign language program that's currently offered in 40 out of 140 schools. She touted 47 percent of Fairfax County graduates who are fluent in a second language.

Marsha Sharon, a former special-ed teacher who transferred to teaching FLES, added: "I'd hate to see this wonderful program gone ... It's a global world now."

Regarding the early 7:25 a.m. start time, student Robert Miller said he doesn't want to change it because getting home from school later will allow him less time to do homework. A parent agreed, saying to leave the bell schedule alone

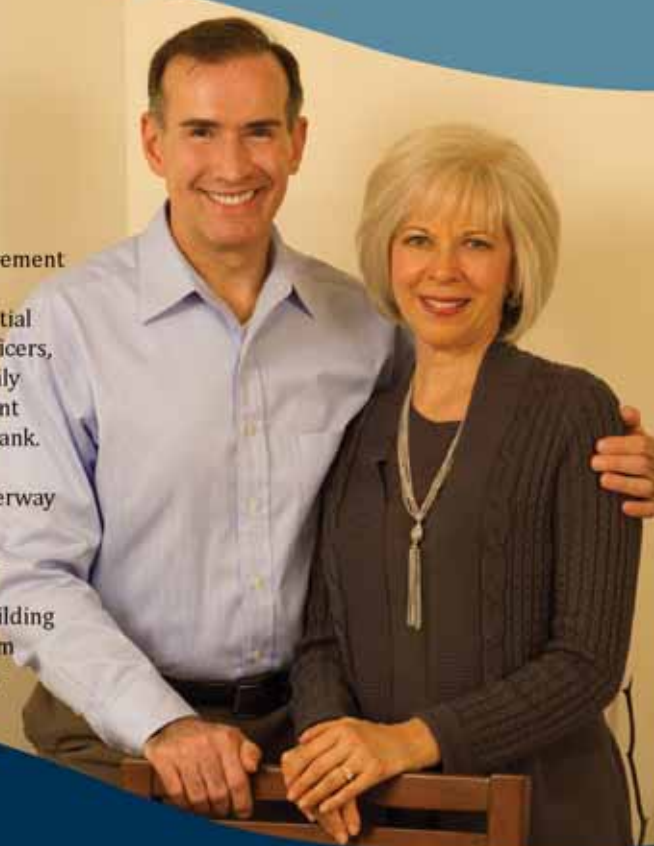
or he'll have to pay for 20 extra minutes of early childcare due to his demanding work schedule.

ONE PARENT lamented about teacher's heavy workload, saying teachers are spending more time on administrative tasks and working more hours without extra pay. "Seventy percent of the teachers at McLean High have to have second jobs," she said. "They're being asked to do more and more for less — in larger classrooms."

Garza is proud of her ongoing "Portrait of a Graduate," where a committee of 70 stakeholders is drafting a document to communicate their expectations for the school system — a tool that will help measure learning and teaching. "This is what our community expects of our schools," she said. "It will help us craft conversations," she said of the draft, which is due in February.

And as for goals, Garza said: "My primary goal is to be out in the schools as much as possible."


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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Gifts for the Foodie in Your Life

Local gourmets share their favorite products for the food lovers on your list.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Whether you're shopping for a seasoned cook or a budding culinary enthusiast, buying presents for a foodie can be a daunting task. What's the best pan? The coolest gadget? The latest trend in desserts? Local gourmets come to the rescue with culinary goodies to entice even the most discerning of food aficionados.

Nancy Pollard, owner of La Cuisine in Old Town Alexandria, suggests the Thermapen cooking thermometer. "This is clearly the best probe thermometer on the market," said Pollard. "It has gotten a lot of kudos from chefs and test kitchens."

Also on Pollard's list are mortars and pestles made from Carrara marble. "We buy these in Carrara, Italy," said Pollard. "They are made of pure white Carrara marble so it is so much easier to see what you are doing.

The one that is particularly useful is 22 centimeters because it is big enough to make mayonnaise, pesto and other sauces."

Chopping vegetables can even be made more interesting with a custom made cutting board, says Lenora Lawson chef faculty at The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Washington in Arlington. "You can get a cutting board in the shape of your home shape or even a cutting board that has Van Gogh's art on it."

When it comes to kitchen tools, "I'd suggest a nonstick baking mat ... a lovely wooden French rolling pin, a beautiful olive wood cheese board — with a cheese for sampling, of course — or a fun, colorful, Swiss-made Kuhn paring knife," said Nichole Ferrigno, a certified holistic health coach and chef at L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda. "It comes in lots of bright colors and with a safety sheath, making it a great addition to a picnic basket."

Culinary instructor Andie Nelson of Cre-

ative Kids Kitchen, LLC in Arlington, says her top recommendation is a Vitamix blender. "[This is] the blender that seems to have become a religion among foodies," she said. "This big-ticket item would definitely make any foodie or health-conscious person very, very happy. It even makes soup."

ANOTHER GIFT SUGGESTION on Nelson's list is aimed at helping save a few trees while adding an elegant touch to the kitchen. "I think that having great linens in the kitchen is highly under-rated," she said. "Many cooks buy lots and lots of paper towels, but I can tell you that having a great set of dish towels — French dish towels are the best — can be a worthwhile and beautiful investment for the kitchen."

Help keep clothing stains at bay with an apron by Marcy Butler Designs. "This is a local designer," said Pollard. "The aprons are made from Italian linen, but they were made in the United States."

If your foodie prefers cookbooks, sweet treats abound in "Fat Witch Brownies: Brownies, Blondies, and Bars" from New York's Legendary Fat Witch Bakery by Patricia Holding. "This book has great reci-

pes for brownies," said Pollard. "We usually suggest that people give this book along with a set of Italian seven-inch disposable square pans. Her recipes will make two perfect square pans of brownies and you can put one in the freezer."

For young cooks, Pollard suggests "Best Lunch Box Ever: Ideas and Recipes for School Lunches Kids Will Love" by Katie Sullivan Morford. "This is a great book for teenagers or anyone over the age of 7," said Pollard. "It encourages them to make their own lunches for school."

Pollard also suggests "The Washington Post Cookbook," curated and edited by Bonnie Benwick, the deputy food editor of the Washington Post. Pollard herself created three of the recipes, including two for Thanksgiving. She says one of her favorite recipes is the Man Catcher Brownies, which she created.

Another interesting read, says Pollard, is "The Billionaire's Vinegar: The Mystery of the World's Most Expensive Bottle of Wine" by Benjamin Wallace. The book tells a true story of a 1787 Château Lafite Bordeaux — supposedly owned by Thomas Jefferson — that sold for \$156,000 at auction.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LA CUISINE

A black, Italian linen apron, like this one by Marcy Butler Designs, will help your food lover's clothes stay clean during meal preparation.

Ferrigno suggests going a step beyond cookbooks and sending your foodie back to school. "There is such an array of options



Nancy Pollard, of La Cuisine in Alexandria, suggests giving the food lover in your life a mortar and pestle made from white Carrara marble.

available," she said. "One could sign up for a knife skills class, a topic specific class like 'puff pastry,' or something more fun and experience oriented, like a couples cooking

class, or 'girls' night out.' This is such a fun gift."

CONSUMABLE GIFTS are also on

"A Thermapen cooking thermometer is clearly the best probe thermometer on the market. It has gotten a lot of kudos from chefs and test kitchens."

— Nancy Pollard, owner of La Cuisine in Old Town Alexandria

Ferrigno's list: "A bottle of good Champagne or Scotch, beautiful pink or grey sea salts, a spice collection ... or a box of homemade baked goodies" are always hits, she said.

For beer lovers, Lawson suggests a beer brewing kit. "It is something different," she said. "Rather than buying beer, they can make their own and appreciate the beer-making process."

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 • 10:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
 Christmas music at 9:30 p.m.

December 25 – Christmas Day
 • 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

For information about St. John's Church:
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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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HOLIDAY CALENDAR



PHOTO BY WALT LAWRENCE

An image of a Mute Swan printed on canvas will be on exhibit at the annual Great Falls Studios Holiday Art Show and Sale.

Holiday Art Show and Sale Moves to Wolf Trap

This year the annual Great Falls Studios Holiday Art Show and Sale will be held at the Center for Education at Wolf Trap on Dec. 14 & 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Because of this new larger venue more than 30 members are able to

participate in this event. The Center is located at 1645 Trap Road in Vienna.

Great Falls photographer Walt Lawrence will be featuring his waterscape and bird images that he has taken from a boat on the Potomac.

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Free Concert & Living Nativity.
 6:30-8:30 p.m. 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

\$75 per person. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

6:30 p.m. GF School of Art, 1144 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. \$50 fee (includes all supplies).

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Welcoming Santa Claus. 1-3 p.m. Freeman Store, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. Capture that perfect holiday photo with Santa. www.historicviennainc.org.

"The Shoemaker & the Christmas Elves." 2 p.m. The Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A holiday musical, Theatre IV's show puts a yuletide spin on the classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale. <http://bit.ly/17JW4IX>.

Santa Coming to Colvin Run Mill. 3-6 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Visit Santa, stay warm with a bonfire and roasted marshmallows, and make a family craft. \$5 per person.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14, 21

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Learn to make your own gingerbread house. \$70 per child, ages 2-12. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14-SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Great Falls Studios Holiday Show and Sale. Wolf Trap Center for Education, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. This annual show includes paintings, pottery, traditional and digital photographs, jewelry, drawings, art quilts, and hand pulled lithographic prints, plus artful gifts and cards.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14, 21

The Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Watch the ballet production of "The Nutcracker" while enjoying afternoon tea and treats.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Welcoming Santa Claus. 1-3 p.m. Freeman Store, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. Capture that perfect holiday photo with Santa. www.historicviennainc.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15, 22

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Learn to make your own gingerbread house. \$70 per child, ages 2-12. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15, 22

The Princess Tea. 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Watch a theatrical production feature Disney princesses while enjoying afternoon tea and treats. \$75 per person. Children under 2 are free. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

TUESDAY/DEC. 17

Langley High School Holiday Concert. 7:30 p.m. 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The concert will feature all six Choral Department choirs including Women's Treble, Women's Select Treble, Concert Choir, Women's Chamber Choir, Voicemale and the award-winning Langley Madrigals singing a variety of winter and holiday favorites. Admission is free and the community is welcome to attend.

Gingerbread House Workshop. 4:30-6:30 p.m. GF School of Art, 1144 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. Pre-made houses will be adorned with frosting, candy, and other fun decorations. \$50 fee (includes \$10 supply fee).

Glass Ornament Workshop. 4:30-

SATURDAY/DEC. 21, 22, 28, & 29

Annual Train Display at Colvin Run Mill. Colvin Run Mill Barn, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Watch G-gauge trains wend their way through a miniature western town in the Colvin Run Barn.

SUNDAY/DEC. 22

A Festival of Lessons & Carols. 9 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Lessons will be read by parishioners, seasonal anthems presented by the choirs, and carols sung by the congregation.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

St. John's Episcopal Church Christmas Worship Services. 3:30 p.m. 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-356-4902. This service is especially designed for families with young children.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 25

Christmas Day Brunch at Entyse Bistro. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Celebrate the holiday with brunch. Enjoy live musical entertainment and special activities, including face painting and a balloon artist for the children. \$120 per adult; \$40 for children under 12. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve at Entyse Bistro. 5:30-10:30 p.m. at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Ring in the New Year with a four-course tasting menu, champagne toast and live music. \$135 per person. Reservations required. 703-917-5498.

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street South, Vienna. Adults: \$8; Seniors 65+ \$7; Children under 12 \$6; Children 4 and under are free.

Drawing Workshop with Michela Mansuino. 2:30-5:30 p.m. GF School of Art, 1144 Walker Road, Suite D, Great Falls. Drawing from large still life set ups of boxes, cups, teapots, buckets, and other manmade objects in progressively oriented exercises. These exercises are particularly important in the understanding of form and proportion, and how these are affected by perspective. \$50 per session [\$5 supply fee paid directly to instructor on 1st day of class] Recommended for ages 9 - 18.

SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3. 703-938-1379.

Country Western Dance. 4:30-5 p.m. West Coast Line Dance lesson; 5-5:45 p.m. beginner Country Western Two-Step lesson; 5:45-6:30 p.m. intermediate Country Western Line Dance lesson. 6:30 - 10 p.m. dance with Ed Cottrell as DJ playing a Country Western music mix. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$15 for the entire event. No experience or partner needed. www.colvinrun.org.

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm Announces: Colonial Wassail. 1-4 p.m. The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Gather in the Farm's orchard to wassail or toast the trees with singing, dancing and chants to ensure a "howling crop." Enjoy hot spiced cider, sugar cakes, a roaring bonfire and 18th century games. Regular admission: \$3 adults, \$2 children and senior citizens.

SATURDAY/DEC. 21

Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m.; Viennese Waltz lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ music from Craig Bukowski playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. \$15 for the evening. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

SATURDAY/ JAN. 4

Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m. Waltz lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Live music from Mike Surratt & the ECB playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. \$20 for the evening. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

SATURDAY/ JAN. 18

Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m. Quick-Step lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ music from Craig Bukowski playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. \$15 for the evening. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

Mosby and Rangers Topic of Great Falls Senior Center January Event

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) event for January will focus on the Civil War in Fairfax County. GFSC members have shown particular interest in local Civil War history.

Guest speaker Don Hakenson will address Colonel John S. Mosby's combat operations in Fairfax County where Mosby had some of his most interesting raids.

Hakenson is a past president of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society, founder and member of the Board of Directors for the Franconia Museum and is a civil war advisor for the Mosby Foundation. Hakenson is a Washington, D.C. native who has lived most of his life in Fairfax County. He comes by his in-depth interest in local Civil War history quite naturally—two great-great grandfathers served in the Confederate Cavalry of the Army of Northern Virginia and other relatives served in the Forty-Third Battalion of Virginia Cavalry of Mosby's Rangers.

The Jan. 7 event will be held at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The

program runs 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. A modest contribution is appreciated.

The January event sponsor is the Dr. and Mrs. William M. Busey Family.

Reservations are a must. To reserve, e-mail Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345. Guests who require transportation to attend, call Gene or Maddie McCabe at 703-438-0810.



Don Hakenson

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FAITH NOTES

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

Historic Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, invites the community to come and Go Sing-Along Coffee House. Great musicians will share music. Join us for a selection of delicious coffees and sweets, fun singing, and for an opportunity to see inside our beautiful chapel. Photos will be taken for your family Christmas card. Free. Children can ring the historic church bell. Saturday, Dec. 14, 1 - 3 p.m., 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. All are welcome. For more information go to www.antiochdoc.org

GriefShare, a weekly support group for adults grieving the death of a loved one, meets Sundays 6-7:30 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Part St., Vienna with a video/discussion format through Dec. 8. \$20 for workbook. GriefShare@viennapres.org.

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

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms are open, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

Centering Prayer Group meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers'/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays.

Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

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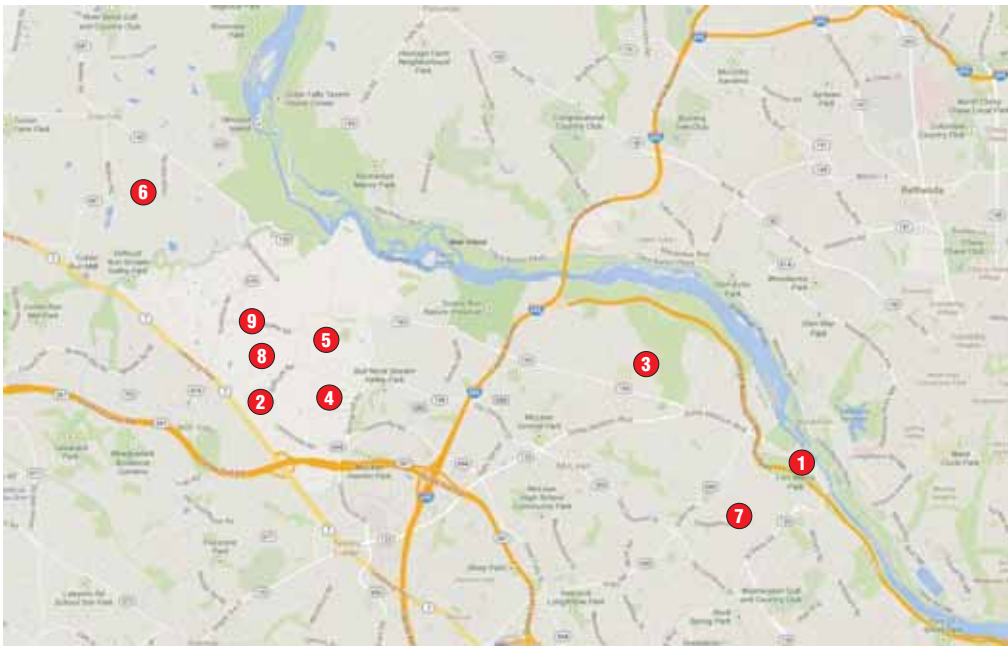
PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

October, 2013 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean

IN OCTOBER 2013, 10 GREAT FALLS HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$2,400,000-\$640,000 AND 82 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$9,500,000-\$205,000 IN THE MCLEAN AND FALLS CHURCH AREA.



2 8900 Gallant Green Drive, McLean — \$5,000,000



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3 829 Turkey Run Road, McLean — \$4,000,000



9 1127 Bellview Road, McLean — \$2,000,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal City	...	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 634 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	10	.	8	..	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$9,500,000	....	Detached	....	6.52	.....	CHAIN BRIDGE	.....	10/11/13
2 8900 GALLANT GREEN DR	6	..	6	..	3	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$5,000,000	....	Detached	....	4.13	.....	WOODSIDE ESTATES	.....	10/07/13
3 829 TURKEY RUN RD	6	..	5	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$4,000,000	....	Detached	....	1.10	.....	TURKEY RUN	.....	10/01/13
3 8324 WOODLEA MILL RD	5	..	7	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,775,000	....	Detached	....	0.83	.....	WOODLEA MILL	.....	10/18/13
5 8408 PARHAM CT	5	..	6	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,750,000	....	Detached	....	1.72	.....	PROSPECT HILL	.....	10/30/13
6 9696 MILL RIDGE LN	5	..	5	..	2	.....	GREAT FALLS	..	\$2,400,000	....	Detached	....	1.72	.....	LANE AT FOUR STAIRS	.....	10/15/13
7 6004 WOODLEY RD	6	..	5	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,355,000	....	Detached	....	0.34	.....	CHESTERBROOK WOODS	....	10/01/13
8 1193 WINDROCK DR	5	..	5	..	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,190,000	....	Detached	....	1.72	.....	CHEQUERS	.....	10/18/13
9 1127 BELVIEW RD	5	..	4	..	1	MCLEAN	\$2,000,000	Detached	5.02	TUSCANY OF MCLEAN	10/18/13

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Holiday Décor: Make it Sparkle

Local designers offer suggestions for decorating your home.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Tis the season for decking the halls. Whether your style is traditional and colorful, muted and demure or metallic and glittery, three local designers offer distinct holiday decorating ideas to spark your creativity.

Victoria Sanchez, who opened Victoria at Home, a home furnishings boutique and interior design studio on King Street in Old Town Alexandria earlier this month, said the décor begins with an aroma.

"Holiday scented candles immediately say 'holiday,'" said Sanchez. "Fresh greens tucked behind artwork and intertwined into tablescapes add a wonderful scent."

She recommends filling bowls with colorful holiday ornaments and displaying holiday cards to add a touch of nostalgia. "What I love most about the holidays is [that] each ornament and every tradition evokes memories of family, friends and childhood," said Sanchez.

Designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman in Potomac, said Christmas is no time for minimalism. "The Christmas season is the perfect time to go all out decorating the main areas of your home," she said. "I love the smell of fresh pine, so fill your home with it. Starting at the front entrance, hang a pine wreath on the door."

Kleinman recommends purchasing fresh wreaths. "Many local nurseries like American Plant and Benke's make some really beautiful ones," she said. "Local florists are also a good source."

There are a multitude of uses for fresh winter foliage. "Place pine boughs, candles of varying heights and decorative accessories such as painted wooden toys [like] trains, toy soldiers, blocks or colored balls among the pine branches," added Kleinman.

Another idea, says Kleinman, is to wrap small boxes in colorful paper, top them with brightly colored bows and place them on the mantel. "Decorative stockings hung on the mantel are traditional and a must in my book," she said. "Stair rails can be wrapped in pine boughs, ribbon and/or tinsel."

To add splashes of festive Christmas red to a home, Kleinman recommends "Placing pots of poinset-

tias throughout the house. Personalize your Christmas tree with homemade ornaments, sentimental items, colored bows and lots of tinsel."

When it comes to holiday tablescapes, Kelley Proxmire and Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design suggest adding a touch of shimmer. "Try breaking out of a set color scheme of red, white and green," said Wallace. "Try popular metallic finishes that could be used in fabric for pillows, gold accessories for the table [like] tiny vases [or] salt and pepper shakers and napkin rings with 'bling' metallic finishes."

Mix decorative objects with foliage to create a warm and inviting table. "Incorporate 'organic' items of the season, like greens from pine trees, magnolias, pine cones, and some fruit," said Proxmire.

Unconventional items can be used as vessels for a wintery, holiday centerpiece. Wallace and Proxmire found a "tortoise shell-like urn ... for next to nothing at a consignment store" and used it to hold a centerpiece. "You could buy a new vase or container, but it certainly could also be a vintage find and not necessarily brand new," said Proxmire.

"Use lots of little LED lights in votive holders, either clear votives or ones with a metallic tone finish," said Wallace. "This is a case where more is better."

"What I love most about the holidays is [that] each ornament and every tradition evokes memories of family, friends and childhood".

— Victoria Sanchez, Victoria at Home



This holiday sideboard, designed by Emily Wallace of Kelley Interior Design, breaks from traditional red and green décor by making use of a metallic color palette.

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Home LifeStyle

Come Home to a Luxury Bedroom

Local designers unveil inviting spaces that are perfect for dreaming of sugarplums.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Bedrooms are no longer just for sleeping, at least according to some local designers. They're for relaxing and watching television, but they're also for reading and for eating a lazy weekend breakfast. In fact, some modern bedrooms are probably larger than their owners' first apartments. Three local tastemakers unveil master bedrooms that are so opulent and amenity-filled that it's surprising their owners ever want to leave.

Lavish textiles and luxury characterize a bedroom in Old Town Alexandria that was designed by Sydnye Pettengill of Sydnye Pettengill ASID Interior Design, Inc. in Alexandria. "The owner enjoys luxury and finer things," said Pettengill. "She wants to surround herself with that luxury in her home and private spaces. When I think of this bedroom, I think of Marie Antoinette and traditional French style."

Pettengill created an opulent but cozy bedroom with a custom-made headboard featuring an iron panel, custom-painted to coordinate with the pale green and rich gold hues in the bedroom.

"There is an abundance of custom-designed pillows and a cozy reading space," said Pettengill. "We did a custom shelf in the alcove behind the headboard that provides additional storage for books and tea. A chair is on the other side of the room and a beautiful piece of art."

The room is decorated with luxurious fabrics and trims. "The pillows are silks," said Pettengill.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUN DESIGN, INC.

This Great Falls bathroom by Sun Design, Inc. is furnished with cabinetry made from alder wood, Caesarstone counter tops and porcelain tile walls.

"We have sheer drapery that filters soft light, creating a romantic hideaway."

Visitors to one Potomac home take an elevator to the bedroom suite and emerge in its foyer. "You then walk into a set of double doors that is the beginning of their master suite," said Carole Lindenberg of Potomac Designs. "This bedroom was my inspiration and I called in Natelli Homes to build it."

The suite comes complete with a kitchen that holds a sitting area and breakfast table that allows for a leisurely morning of newspapers and brunch. "The suite also includes a library with a replica of President Lincoln's desk," said Lindenberg.

The library leads to the bedroom, which has a Louis VX-style fireplace and a sitting area with two Bergere chairs with matching ottomans, which are accented

with French-inspired drum tables. Over the fireplace sits a flat screen television. "Years ago we used to put a mirror above them. Now we put TVs above them," said Lindenberg.

"There is a window wall with three dormer windows," she continued. "And there is an entrance on either side of the fireplace."

The expansive bathroom has two showers and a freestanding tub. "There is marble on the floor of the bathroom and matching marble on the walls," said Lindenberg. "The bedrooms are carpeted, the library has hardwood flooring with rugs, as does the foyer."

A master suite in a Great Falls home was reconfigured recently to include a bathroom with his and her vanities, a large walk-in shower and an enlarged walk-in closet.

"People want more space for



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLE LINDBERG

This Potomac master suite, by interior designer Carole Lindenberg of Potomac Designs, has a sitting room with a fireplace.

"When I think of this bedroom, I think of Marie Antoinette and traditional French style."

— Sydnye Pettengill of Sydnye Pettengill ASID Interior Design, Inc.

their clothing, shoes [and] jewelry, where their beds are typically only display pieces during the day and then used for sleeping at night," said Beth Walters, the director of communications at Sun Design, Inc., which has offices in McLean and Burke.

Walters says the bathroom cabinetry is made from alder wood

in a Blackstone finish, the counter tops are Caesarstone in a Yukon Blanco finish and the floor is Timber Glen Contemporary tiling in a Thatch finish, while the walls are Time Levigato Rettificato porcelain tiling in white with river glass and stone mosaic tile accents.

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SPORTS



PHOTO BY Ed Lull

Marshall senior Mackenzie Haight will compete at Foot Locker nationals on Dec. 14 in San Diego.



West Springfield senior Caroline Alcorta, seen during the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15, finished first at Foot Locker Cross Country South Regionals on Nov. 30, earning a trip to nationals.

Five Harriers to Compete at XC Nationals

Marshall senior Mackenzie Haight is one of five local harriers who will compete at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships national finals on Dec. 14 in San Diego.

Haight earned the trip to nationals by finishing in the top 10 in the south regional race on Nov. 30 in Charlotte. Haight placed fifth with a time of 14:51.

Nationals will take place at Morley Field in Balboa Park.

Edison's Louis Colson will also compete at nationals after placing fourth at regionals with a time of 14:50.

In the girls' race, West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta and Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen and Katy Kunc will also compete at nationals.

Oakton Boys', Girls' Basketball Teams Start 3-0

The Oakton boys' and girls' basketball teams each won their first three games of the season, including a season-opening wins against Vienna rival Madison.

The boys' team beat Madison 46-29 on Dec. 3. The Warhawks defeated McLean 41-38 on Dec. 6 and Lee 43-32 on Dec. 7.

The girls' team defeated Madison 66-53 on Dec. 3. Two nights later, Oakton beat Stafford 59-32. On Dec. 7, the Cougars beat Loudoun County 75-59.

Led by head coach Fried Priester, Oakton won the AAA state championship in 2012 with a 31-0 record. Last season, the Cougars fell one win shy of reaching the state tournament, losing to South Lakes 48-46 in the regional semifinals. Centreville snapped Oakton's run of eight consecutive

district championships.

Oakton's game against Lee on Monday was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Cougars were scheduled to face Yorktown on Dec. 10 and Wakefield on Dec. 11. Oakton will travel to face Lake Braddock on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

The Oakton boys' team was scheduled to face Yorktown on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Cougars will host Osbourn Park on Dec. 14.

Madison Girls' Basketball Struggling Early

The Madison girls' basketball team dropped its first three games of the season while facing some of the region's top teams.

Madison lost to Oakton, Centreville and West Springfield to open the year at 0-3. Oakton, the 2012 AAA state champ and a region semifinalist last season, beat Madison 66-53 on Dec. 3. Centreville, a region semifinalist last season, beat the Warhawks 59-55 on Dec. 6. West Springfield, a perennial contender to reach the state tournament, beat Madison 63-50 on Dec. 7.

Madison was scheduled to face defending region champion Edison on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Warhawks will host Stone Bridge on Dec. 13.

Langley Girls' Basketball Opens with Win

The Langley girls' basketball team opened the 2013-14 season with a 61-24 win over Herndon on Dec. 6.

The Saxons will host rival McLean at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13.

Langley Boys' Basketball Loses Two

The Langley boys' basketball team lost to Stuart (60-56, Dec. 6) and Falls Church (70-61, Dec. 7) during the Stuart Tipoff Tournament. The Saxons will return to action at home against Potomac School at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Herndon Boys' Basketball Wins Two

The Herndon boys' basketball team opened the season with victories against Woodson (73-65, Dec. 3) and Patriot (79-49, Dec. 6).

The Hornets were scheduled to face Washington-Lee on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Herndon will compete in the Gonzaga holiday tournament Dec. 13-15.

South Lakes Girls' Basketball Posts 3 Lopsided Wins

The South Lakes girls' basketball team started the season victories against Stone Bridge, Western (Baltimore) and Potomac Falls, winning each game by at least 18 points.

The Seahawks opened with a 57-18 win against Stone Bridge on Dec. 3. Abby Rendle finished with 15 points, nine rebounds, five steals and three blocks.

South Lakes beat Western 58-40 on Dec. 6. Rendle had 15 points, 10 rebounds, nine blocks, five assists and two steals. Caitlin Jensen finished with 11 points.

The Seahawks beat Potomac Falls 63-25 on Dec. 7.

South Lakes was scheduled to face Woodson on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will travel to face Marshall on Friday, Dec. 13.

Herndon Swimming Falls to Westfield

The Herndon girls' and boys' swim and dive teams each lost to Westfield on Dec. 6, the Hornets posted multiple region-qualifying times and one state-qualifying time.

Freshman Emily Meilus posted a state-qualifying time of 5:07.84 in the 500 free. She also set a new school record. The 500 free was the oldest record on the record board, set by Nancy Reed in 1977 (5:10.11).

First-place finishers for the Herndon girls were: Meilus (200 free (RQ)), 500 free (SQ)), Elizabeth McNulty (200 IM, 100 breast) and Kara Joyce (dive).

The 200 medley relay (Meilus, McNulty, Ryan Murphy and Jenna Krynicki) and 400 free relay (Murphy, Krynicki, Karly Ginieczki, Meilus) also took first with region-qualifying times.

First-place winners for the Herndon boys were: Christian Ginieczki (100 fly, 100 back), Dylan Cudahy (200 free, 500 free) and Justin Bradley (dive).

South Lakes Looking for Girls' Lax Coaches

South Lakes High School is looking for girls' lacrosse coaches — varsity head coach and assistants. Interested applicants should contact Linda Jones, director of student activities at: lljones1@fcps.edu or call 703-715-4518.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Senior Co-Captain Casey Howard performs her floor routine while the Marshall team looks on.

Lady Statesmen Gymnasts Win Third Place in Season Opener

The George C. Marshall Lady Statesmen Gymnastics team kicked off their 2013-14 season with a third place finish in a six-team contest at Washington & Lee High School in Arlington. The Marshall team had their strongest-ever season opener, scoring 128.7 points to finish ahead of JEB Stuart, Wakefield, and Hayfield and behind runner-up McLean and winner W&L. Marshall junior Morgan Stahl won the Floor Exercise event with a score of 9.45. The Statesmen's total score included contributions from several promising freshmen: Kiran Sullivan, Lindsey Price, and Alessandra Iannetti. Head Coach Charlotte Perpall and the Lady Statesmen look forward to a great season; their next meet is Saturday, Dec. 14 at Fairfax High School.

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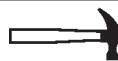
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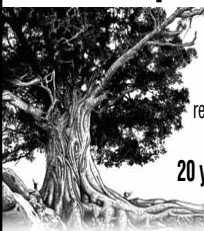
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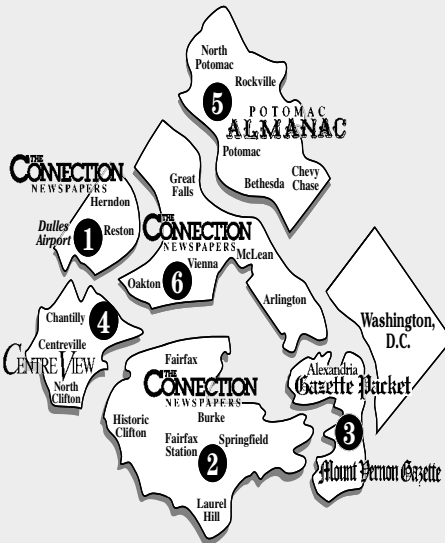
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A "Scancer" Update



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since you asked, or rather indulged me the past few weeks by wading through my two "Scanticipation" columns anticipating a result, I am happy to finally share that result with you: "Stable and better." These are the exact words e-mailed to me by my oncologist in response to my post-Thanksgiving inquiry about my CT Scan completed on the 27th. Then, as you most recent Kenny-column readers may recall, I had my regularly scheduled post-scan appointment this past Friday, December 6th to discuss those results, and of course have my oncologist examine and question me about any facts, feelings or failings, concerning the previous three months since my last appointment (and four months since my last scan) as a terminal cancer patient. He's not exactly Hubert H. Humphrey, but nevertheless, he was "pleased as punch." And if there's one dominant recollection I'll take home with me from my appointment, it was my oncologist's ear-to-ear smile when sharing his assessment of all things concerning Kenny-with-cancer.

In fact, and in reality-check truth, if you've been characterized as "terminal" by your doctor, whether "diseased" by cancer or some other deadly condition, and you're still undergoing treatment, there's no better feeling – or hope, quite frankly, than seeing your doctor happy and encouraging when sharing/discussing your most recent diagnostic scan/lab work, urine specimen, etc. And considering that Team Lourie has seen my oncologist with less than positive news on previous occasions, hardly do I ever take it for granted when he's as upbeat and enthusiastic as he was during Friday's appointment.

Unfortunately, the process is ongoing and subject to change; after all, stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer is incurable/inoperable. But I am finding out that at least for me/for awhile, it is/can be treatable, albeit non-surgically. Moreover, as long as my body continues to tolerate the every-three-week chemotherapy infusions, I am good to go, or as described by my oncologist: on maintenance. Meaning, we can continue to do this for awhile. And though "awhile" is never defined or discussed, really, given the predictable/unpredictable nature of cancer – and its interactions with the diagnosee, I can live with the indeterminate sentence that I've been fortunate to receive. It certainly beats the alternative.

Originally, I was "prognosed" to live "13 months to two years" by my oncologist. As of November 27th, I have lived four years and 9 months, so I am accustomed to being life-expectancy challenged. And since I've surpassed my oncologist's initial prognosis by years, I don't see any reason to stop now, especially considering the results from my most recent scan and associated lab work. As my brother Richard has said: "If the oncologist is happy then I'm happy." Well, as of Friday, December 6th, I am very happy.

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

SCHOOLS



Ashley Nero

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Penn State Altoona swimming freshman Ashley Nero of Oakton was selected as the Women's Swimmer of the Week. Against Bethany, Nero helped the team nab a trio of first places. In the 200 Yard Medley Relay, she joined her teammates to post a time of 2:06.12 for first. Individually, Nero won the 50 Yard Freestyle (26.07) and the 100 Yard Breaststroke (1:13.69). At the Bradford Relays, Nero was a part of the squad that won the Mixed 200 Yard Freestyle Relay with a time of 1:40.41.

Aline Dolinh, 15, is a sophomore at Oakton High School in Vienna and has been appointed as the National Student Poet by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Dolinh will participate in readings and workshops at libraries, museums and schools in Virginia as well as create community service projects to expand their reach while increasing engagement in the literary arts.

Kate E. DeWeese, daughter of Randi and Steve DeWeese of Vienna, graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, and first-year student in the Bachelor of Arts Program, has been inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta honor society at Bucknell University.

On May 11, **Michael D'Onofrio** and **Jill Feroldi** of Oakton and **Charles Schoenthaler** of Vienna graduated from the College of Charleston.

Patrick Murphy of Vienna was placed on the president's list in recognition of academic excellence during the spring 2013 semester at New River Community College.

Vincent Anthony Williams Reese, a graduate of George C. Marshall high school, recently completed a coaching internship with coach Michael Clark of Bridgewater. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in business from Bridgewater College in 2010 and was the quarterback on the Bridgewater Eagles football team. He is working with the US Dept. of Interior at Wolftrap Farm Parks this summer and will be attending graduate school in the fall.

U.S. Navy Ensign **Christopher Michael Ceconi**, son of Bill and Joyce Ceconi of Vienna, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. on May 24 and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Ensign Ceconi completed his Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in political science. Following graduation, Ceconi has been assigned to Naval Air Station Pensacola, in Pensacola, Fla. where he will continue training in naval aviation.

Vanessa Parks of James Madison High School is one of 19 high school students from across the region who have accepted honors scholarships awarded by Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). Scholarship winners are enrolled in NOVA's Honors Program, and the scholarship covers the cost of the student earning one degree at the college.

Students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.2, attend classes full-time, become a leader in a student organization and represent the college's Honors Program as an ambassador to their high schools.



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