

There's nothing like roasting marshmallows over an open fire ... particularly on a cold night. Vienna Business Association estimates 3,500 to 4,000 partygoers took part in first annual town New Year's Eve block party.

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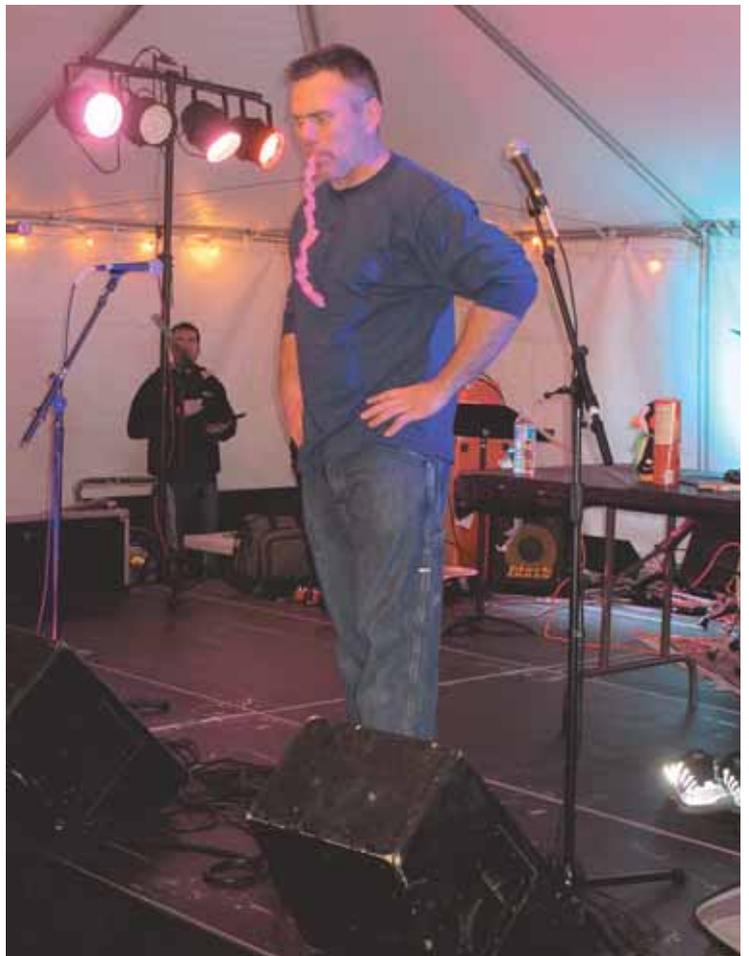
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PHOTO BY MIKE GEER FOR THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of children squeezed in the main tent to watch the Great Zucchini perform his magic, sitting - of course - crisscross applesauce.



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

The Great Zucchini presents the kind of magic that brings laughter and shrieks to kids.

First Night Celebrated in Vienna

VBA estimates 3,500 to 4,000 party-goers took part in first annual town New Year's Eve block party.

Between 3,500 and 4,000 local families and friends celebrated the last night of 2013 at the First Night Vienna block-party presented by the Vienna Business Association [VBA] and the Town of Vienna.

Church Street closed down for five hours between Mill and Center streets as families strolled the road, stopping at fire pits to roast marshmallows, sample free hot chocolate and popcorn, and listen to the music presented at four venues. The kids' tent, providing family-focused music and entertainment, offered face-painting, party hats and glow-sticks. Even on a

cold night, the moonbounce had lines.

At 9 p.m., the kids there welcomed the New Year ... then, the party shifted to teens and adults, all alcohol-free.

"The inaugural First Night Vienna was, by any and all measure, a huge success," said First Night Vienna chair, Michael Amouri, owner of Caffe Amouri. "In the First Night Committee planning and with the VBA, we estimated that we would have about 2,000 folks attend - we hoped ... Everyone seemed to have a great time with the mix of indoor and outdoor venues, food

trucks, fire pits, etc. ... It was a tremendous evening," Amouri said.

Even prior to the official kick-off at 7 p.m., crowds had already begun filling the main tent next to the caboose. Luminaria lined Church Street, and the caboose, dressed in seasonal greenery, stood sentry at the W & OD trail. In addition to the live entertainment in the main tent in the caboose parking lots, three other venues presented live music for listening and dancing - Caffe Amouri, the original chapel of the Vienna Presbyterian Church and the Masonic Concorde lodge. Throughout the evening, grown-ups waited at food trucks for their orders.

"It's wonderful they're doing something like this for New Year's Eve," said Vienna mom, Andrea Geer, in the main tent with her husband and two young children. "I especially like the first part, for kids, with the kids' entertainment and moonbounce.

"It's a beautiful night; I'm glad the town did this."

At midnight, Mayor M. Jane Seeman counted down to the New Year. The pre-recorded audio clip of a train approaching, with a loud train whistle at midnight, malfunctioned. Mayor Seeman, Amouri said, improvised and "performed her duties flawlessly."

VBA will get together before the end of January for what Amouri called a "post-mortem" of the



PHOTO BY MIKE GEER FOR THE CONNECTION

The Newell kids, Asher, 8, Olivia, 15, and Jillian, 14, roast marshmallows on a stick. The firepits were supervised by Town of Vienna personnel.



Six-year-old Sophia Gaffney and her bedazzling, sparkling mom Stephany, leave Freeman Store at First Night Vienna. Sophia said she liked the kids' tent most of all.

event.

"Are there areas we can improve upon?" Amouri asked. "You bet. Are we happy with the way it went for our first time out of the chute? You bet again."

"Next year, we hope to add a venue or two, perhaps another food truck, maybe a bigger tent," said Amouri. "We will definitely be

seeking to make it a better event for our town.

"The Town deserves a top notch New Year's Eve celebration. We feel like we gave them one this year and will work hard to make it better and better.

"Wonder if Bruce Springsteen is busy next December 31..."

— DONNA MANZ

Town Offices to Observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Town of Vienna offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20, in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The Vienna Community Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; no classes, drop-in programs or activities will be held. Refuse collection will be collected as normal on Monday, Jan. 20. Public safety services will not be impacted.

Dining Skills and Etiquette Course for Teens

A dining skills and etiquette class will be held Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 12 at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE. Participants will learn table manners, silverware use, American and Continental eating styles, hosting/guest duties and other dos and don'ts.

The cost is \$40 for Town of Vienna residents and \$50 for out-of-town participants. A \$5 materials fee is due at the beginning of class. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at (703) 255-6360 or view page 9 of the Winter Parks and Recreation brochure online at www.viennava.gov.

2014 Dog Licenses Due Jan. 31

All dogs over four months old residing within the Town of Vienna must be licensed by Friday, Jan. 31. Dog licenses may be purchased in the Finance Department at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S. The license fee for each dog is \$10. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be shown if the rabies vaccination expires by Jan. 31, or for any dog new to town.

Dogs trained and serving as guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf, and service dogs for the mobility impaired must be licensed but are exempt from the license tax.

Dog tags are also available by mail. Call 703-255-6323 for more information or visit www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=185.

Arabic Courses Offered

Learn Arabic - for work, travel, to enjoy Arab restaurants, or just to amaze your friends. Native speaker has 20 years' experience as a teacher. The introductory course will meet once a week for 75 minutes. Suggested donation is \$50. The instructor will provide the class materials. You'll learn the sounds and some practical basic vocabulary to familiarize you with the language. At the end of the course, you will be able to order from an Arabic menu and get around when traveling abroad. Every Monday, 7 p.m. beginning Jan. 20. An advanced class will be offered on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. beginning on Jan. 17. Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Rd, Vienna. For more information or to register call 703-281-1694.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 8

Vienna Photographic Society Meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Oakton Elementary School, 3000 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. Corey Hilz will speak at this meeting. He is a professional photographer specializing in nature and travel photography. He finds that the diversity in nature and cultures around the world offer boundless opportunities for new images. www.vpsva.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 12

Introduction to Healing Touch - Get and Give a Healing! 2-4 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton. A gentle, complementary

energy-based approach to health and healing.

The goal is to restore harmony and balance to the human energy system through a heart-centered caring relationship and the use of contact/non-contact touch. This can greatly assist the body and mind in its natural ability to heal. <http://www.unityoffairfax.org/introduction-healing-touch-1>

TUESDAY/JAN. 14

NARFE (National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees) Chapter 1116 Meeting. 1:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. The guest speaker is Virginia Imglese, Founder, Therapist, Total Health Concepts, Vienna, VA Senior wellness. Start out the new year with some good advice about proper Nutrition for healthy living. Free. 703-938-9757.

NEWS

Town of Vienna Poised for a Robust 2014

Town leaves 2013 on strong footing.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

By all appropriate measurements – Moody's, Standard and Poor, the Vienna Town Council and Town Manager – Vienna's way-of-life and financial footing remain in the exceptionally healthy zone.

Vienna Town Manager Mercury Payton called 2013 a "successful year as typical for the town," referring to the town's financial position as strong and robust.

"Our budget was reasonably put together with a goal in mind that the services residents expect be provided at the same excellent, prudent level that we've always had," said Payton.

THE TOWN closed the fiscal books in 2013 [June 30] in a "positive" position, which has been the trend of the town for many years, Payton said. "We bring in more money than we spend.

"We, typically, take an amount of money above expenditures, take a portion of that, and put it in the town's general fund reserve which is the town's saving account," said Payton. What's left goes for projects not met.

Payton said that department directors do an "excellent" job managing their budget. They let the Town Council know what they need to run their departments. For the most part, he said, department directors spent under budgeted amounts. "That's a testament to their stewardship of funds," said Payton.

Payton alluded to Vienna's recognition as the third-best small town in America to live in. Fiscal responsibility was noted since it impacts the quality of life around Vienna, from safety to recreational opportunities to special events and programs.

"When people think of wonderful places to live, we think of safety, a strong education system, recreational opportunities, a vital economy," said Payton. "Vienna is strategically placed within the national capital region." There are substantial professional opportunities for Vienna residents in the



When people think of wonderful places to live, they think of safety, a strong education system, recreational opportunities, a vital economy, Town Manager Mercury Payton says. Vienna earned its spot as the third-best small town in America to live in.

area, and the housing market in Vienna is stable and robust. The Town of Vienna had 110 rebuilds in 2013, where houses on a lot are razed and new ones built in their places.

An abundance of family-focused activities, festivals, and youth sports programs helps maintain the small-town feel, he said.

The town put in place its first participation under the Public-Private Education Act which allows for a streamlined allocation process to enhance and improve a town's infrastructure. The Church Street parking garage, which fell through, came under PPEA.

Going forward in 2014, the Town of Vienna has capital improvement projects that address infrastructure needs. The most visible to the public will be phase I of the renovation of the Vienna Community Center. The gym is in need of repair and the thrust of phase I addresses its renovation.

Other capital improvement projects are water and sewer, sidewalk construction, storm drainage and new power generators for Town Hall and the Northside Property Yard.

Vienna has a long-term capital improvement plan on the agenda through 2030 that embraces infrastructure.

A municipal bond was issued in the fall of 2013. "We have a bud-

get that allows us to continue having the annual debt payment covered by the meals tax," said Payton. "People who don't live in Vienna but buy meals here support payment of Vienna's debt." Real estate taxes are not used for capital improvement projects, such as the community center renovation.

"We have a great staff, wonderful leadership of the directors, and our Town Council is appreciative of the work Town employees do each day. We're all very much attuned to the needs of our residents."

PAYTON IS ACTIVE in the community outside his workday. He comes to community functions, helps the Optimists sell Christmas trees. When he coaches Little League baseball, he runs into parents who tell him they support local life in Vienna. It's a synergy of government and community making Vienna a great place to live. Town employees and the Town Council recognize the confidence residents place in them.

"Because of the emphasis on the Vienna 'way,' we treat people who come in here with the greatest of respect.

"We're continuing the tradition of those before us who established the foundation that makes Vienna the great place to live in that it is," said Payton.

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Family Science Night at Colvin Run Elementary

Colvin Run Elementary School (CRES) hosted its second annual Family Science Night on Dec. 6, with hands-on experiments from the Children's Science Center's Museum Without Walls Mobile Labs. Museum Without Walls Mobile Labs provided experiments, which included Animal Adaptations, Getting to the Heart of Your Heart, Investigating Density, and Forensic Science, to name a few. The two-hour evening program combined science learning and family bonding. Hands-on activities demonstrate a variety of scientific principles and make S.T.E.A.M. learning fun and accessible to today's students.

Students had the opportunity to watch science-themed movies projected above on a dome theater screen. The dome theater is a mobile planetarium that featured innovative shows such as The Dinosaur Prophecy, Earth's Wild Ride, Future Moon, Force Five, and Into the Deep.

Colvin Run Elementary School students presented their science projects to Family Science Night attendees. Student science

projects included a simple water purifier, a vehicle propulsion system, and DNA theory and genetics. Students presented their methodology and their experimental results from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The CRES PTO funded a new Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (S.T.E.A.M.) Lab. Located in a dedicated space and administered by CRES teacher, Susan Blackwell, the lab features state-of-the-art technology that allows CRES students the opportunity to take part in fun, engaging activities that build upon aspects of their current curriculum. Blackwell stated, "The students are very excited about Family Science Night. I have heard them talking enthusiastically about the evening. The event is a great extension to the work we are doing in the S.T.E.A.M. Lab and across the school. It ties together a fun family event to what we are doing in the classroom."

Colvin Run Elementary School (CRES) opened in 2003 and is located at 1400 Trap Road in Vienna. Ken Junge is the Principal and the Assistant Principal is Mary Lou Carmack.

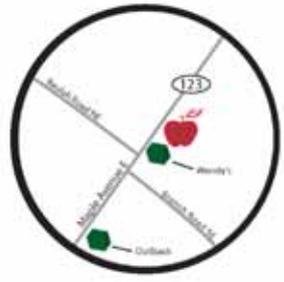
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Broken Promises

Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services.

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Last month the disAbility Law Center (dLCV) is sued a report on the condition of mental health services in Virginia. It is an eye-opening report: Broken Promises, the Failure of Mental Health Services in Virginia. Its findings are direct: "Despite the promises of reform to the mental health service system in the last decade, Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services."

According to dLCV, there are more than 40,000 Virginians living with serious mental illness and thousands more with less serious emotional disorders that require treatment including an estimated 130,658 children between the ages of nine and eighteen who need treatment. The dLCV which

advocates for all people with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect, and discrimination considers the problem in part to be a misallocation of resources. As its report points out, on any given month about ten percent of residents of state hospitals continue to be hospitalized even though their treating professionals have found that they no longer need to be hospitalized. Thirty-one of the 133 individuals in such hospital placements in November, 2013, had been waiting for discharge for more than a year. The problem is that there are inadequate or non-existent facilities or programs in the community to continue services to these persons. At the same time, there were an estimated 26,990 inmates confined in local and regional jails of whom nearly



25 percent were known or suspected to be mentally ill. More than 3,500 persons in jails were diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

The dLCV maintains that funding is misdirected towards unnecessary hospitalization when funding is needed desperately for community-based crisis response services and housing options for people with mental health needs. Their position is not without controversy. Others maintain that both more hospital spaces and more community-based facilities are needed.

The tragic event surrounding the family of Senator Creigh Deeds has brought the need to the public's attention.

Outgoing Governor Bob McDonnell has proposed a more than \$50 million increase in the

budget for mental health services and has established a commission to develop a plan for mental health services in the Commonwealth. There is bipartisan support to address the issue in terms of additional funding as well as to amend existing statutes to permit persons who are a danger to themselves and to others to be held for a longer period of time until appropriate treatment is available to them.

We are past the time when we should have met the promises for reform to persons with mental health problems and their families. The 2014 session of the General Assembly must respond. You can view my interview with Colleen Miller, Executive Director of disAbility Law Center of Virginia and another interview with George Braunstein, Director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, both on the topic of mental health reform at <http://vimeo.com/album/1650266>.

SHARE Celebrates Holiday

SHARE, Inc., local community relief organization, hosted its annual Holiday Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the McLean Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

More than 150 Share client families, supported by about 50 Share volunteers, participated in this festive celebration. Clients snacked on homemade baked goods and sandwiches served by Share staff while listening to live holiday music by Bob Rosenberg. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus made their appearance again this year, providing photo opportunities for



More than 150 Share client families, supported by about 50 Share volunteers, participated in the festive celebration.

children and their families as they posed with the white-bearded spirit of Christmas. Smiling, happy faces of youngsters and adults alike confirmed everyone enjoyed the festivities and warm fellowship of the season with friends, family and volunteers.

Share clients who registered for this event during October completed a "Wish List" of an item that they needed and would enhance their celebrations of holiday season.

Donors from the local community fulfilled one wish for each person and each family received a grocery gift card.

Each family also had the opportunity to select one gift from an assortment of brand-new linens and hand-knitted blankets, small household appliances, holiday décor items, clothing and accessories and some toys. Babies and toddlers received diapers, wipes and a pair of pajamas, and every child under the age of 10 received a

Santa toy. Clients were also provided a reusable grocery bag with a jug of laundry detergent and personal care items.

By the end of December, SHARE provided gifts and grocery cards to over 220 client families. Every gift, gift card and item given to the community's neighbors in need is donated to SHARE by the people from the McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills area. It is their generosity that makes this holiday relief possible.

LETTERS Grateful to the Community

To the Editor:

To the McLean, Vienna and Great Falls communities: The Woman's Club of McLean would like to express its gratitude for supporting the club's 47th annual Holiday Homes Tour and MarketPlace. Preliminary estimates show that the two events successfully met our goals of providing essential support to local charities and nonprofits. The proceeds will be especially meaningful in this time of general need, which is felt most strongly in the holiday season.

Thank you again for your generous support. Best wishes to all for the holidays and a fulfilling new year.

Mildred Thompson, President
Woman's Club of McLean

What an Inspiration!

To the Editor:

I just finished reading the McLean Connection, Children's Connection 2013.

I am so impressed by the children, what an inspiration they are!

Thank you and the children for this special gift.

Doris Pennington
McLean

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vienna Brick Builders

Vienna Brick Builders Win First-place Award

A team of sixth grade Louise Archer students won the first-place award for Strategy and Innovation in Division 1 at the 2013 VA/DC First Lego League Robotics tournament. The Vienna Brick Builders team is composed of Mike Duncan, Justin Hu, Corey Lee, Sareena Miley, Neha Shirolkar and Aidan Wiktorowicz. According to First Lego League, the Strategy and Innovation award “recognizes a team that uses solid engineering practices and a well-developed strategy

to design and build an innovative, high performing robot.” This tournament is the world’s largest robotics tournament.

With the bad weather over the weekend, the entire team left before knowing they won an award. The team only learned of the award when the tournament results were posted online (<http://www.vadcfll.org/2013awards.html>).

Not only are the students all from Vienna, but they also visited with the Vienna Fire department as part of their research.

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BY MICHAEL BAILEY/COURTESY OF AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER

Desdemona and Othello: Stephanie Holladay Earl as Desdemona and Fernando Lamberty as Othello.

Shakespeare Comes to Alden

American Shakespeare Center performs a double-bill of the Bard celebrating his 450th birthday.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

In such a Shakespeare-rich area, “no one does it like the American Shakespeare Center...Shakespeare is so alive in their hands,” said Sarah N. Schallern, Performing Arts Director, the Alden at the McLean Community Center. “They have quite a fan base, and to be able to host them in our beautiful, intimate Alden Theatre is a joy and an honor.”

The Virginia-based American Shakespeare Center (ASC) will be performing two Shakespearean works on one Saturday; the comedy “The Merry Wives of Windsor” and the tragedy “Othello.”

Schallern indicated that there will also be a free “Brush Up on Your Shakespeare” several

nights before the ASC performances. At the “Brush Up” event Shakespeare experts from the Folger Library, the Shakespeare Theatre and others will discuss the history, performances practices and meanings of the Bard’s texts in an interactive format. “This is an event that has received great interest when we have done it previously,”

said Schallern.

“Touring has always been at the heart of what we do,” says ASC Artistic Director Jim Warren. “Part of our mission is to show how accessible, meaningful, and fun Shakespeare can be.” This is ASC’s 25th year touring.

The ASC traveling tour is called the “World’s Mine Oyster” tour. The phrase comes from a line in the “Merry Wives of Windsor”: “Why then, the world’s mine oyster, which I with sword will open.”

“We want to bring people the plays they know and those that they may be less familiar with or more rarely done,” said Glenn Schukel, ASC Tour Troupe Manager. He noted that ASC does performances in a unique manner; with the audience not sitting in the dark. “Shakespeare’s actors could see their audience; ASC actors can see you. When actors can see an audience, they can engage with an audience.”

“The Merry Wives of Windsor” is a comedy about jealousy, disguises, love and ridiculous situations. “Othello” is the well-known tale about an intense outsider who is doomed by his own jealousy. “O, beware, my lord, of jealousy; It is the green-eyed monster, which doth mock the meat it feeds on.”

“More than making Shakespeare accessible, we want to provide a strong sense of what his words mean, his intentions and objectives,” said Schukel. “Have a good time, don’t be scared of the language even if at first some words seem unknown. You will quickly be within the moment of the play.”



Rick Blunt as Iago and Fernando Lamberty as Othello.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 10
Atlantic Brass Quintet The Discovery Series. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Tickets: 35. wolftap.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12
The Gizmo Guys. 2 p.m. The Alden in McLean, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A comedy-juggling duo entertaining all ages. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for McLean tax district residents. www.mcleancenter.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 11
The Teas of Nepal. 1-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Nepal produces some exquisite hand crafted, limited production teas: whites, greens, oolongs, as well as distinctive blacks. An opportunity to experience these gems, along with some tea infused treats, along with some tea infused treats. Advance reservations and payment (\$30 each) required through the Mill at 703-759-2771.

THURSDAY/JAN. 16
International Guitar Night. 8 p.m. Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. THE INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT (IGN) is the world’s premier touring guitar festival, each show bringing together the most interesting and innovative acoustic guitarists to exchange musical ideas in a public concert setting. Tickets: \$25-27.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17
International Guitar Night. 8 p.m. Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. THE INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT (IGN) is the world’s premier touring guitar festival, each show bringing together the most interesting and innovative acoustic guitarists to exchange musical ideas in a public concert setting. Tickets: \$25-27.

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

The Gizmo Guys, a comedy-juggling duo, will perform at the Alden in McLean on Jan. 12.



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.

Tickets: \$10. <https://jammijava.com/events/gustafer-yellowgold>

SUNDAY/JAN. 26
McLean Chocolate Festival. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. McLean Community Center. Wide variety of chocolate vendors. Plenty of parking. Children’s game room with chocolate-themed games. Admission fee is \$2, with \$1 going toward the purchase of chocolate. Kids under 6 get in free. McLean Rotary uses proceeds to fund local charitable organizations. www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19
Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. 330 Center Street, N., Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3. 703-938-1379.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 24 & 25
THIS. 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. *THIS* is a bright, tart, and melancholy comedy that captures the uncertain steps of a circle of friends entering the choppy waters of middle age. <http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/>

SATURDAY/JAN. 25
Gustafer Yellowgold’s Show. 10:30 a.m. Jammijava, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Groovy Gustafer Yellowgold is a small, yellow, cone-headed fellow, who came to Earth from the Sun and has a knack for finding himself neck-deep in absurd situations as he explores his new life in the Minnesota woods. Equal parts pop rock concert and animated storybook, Gustafer Yellowgold concerts are a truly different multimedia experience that entrances children and adults alike.



Visitors enjoy a chocolate fountain from Capitol Chocolate Fountains at the 2012 McLean Chocolate Festival. This year’s festival will be Sunday, Jan. 26 at McLean Community Center.

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For a complete listing of classes, tours, performances and events, visit our Website at: www.mcleancenter.org—and register online.

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

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Friday, Jan. 17
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Activity no. 4504.314

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5 11115 Sweetwood Lane, Oakton — \$1,770,000



6 2450 Fairhunt Court, Oakton — \$1,705,000

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1 1631 ADMIRALS HILL CT	7	7	2	VIENNA	\$2,140,584	Detached	1.74	22182	BACHMAN PROPERTY	09/19/13
2 2562 YONDER HILLS WAY	5	5	2	OAKTON	\$1,960,000	Detached	2.03	22124	BRIDGES OF OAKTON	06/24/13
3 8499 WEDDERBURN STATION DR	6	5	1	VIENNA	\$1,950,000	Detached	0.20	22180	WEDDERBURN ESTATES	11/29/13
4 3702 WAPLES CREST CT	6	7	2	OAKTON	\$1,800,000	Detached	2.54	22124	WAPLES CREST	06/20/13
5 11115 SWEETWOOD LN	5	6	1	OAKTON	\$1,770,000	Detached	2.87	22124	FOX LAKE	08/12/13
6 2450 FAIRHUNT CT	6	5	1	OAKTON	\$1,705,000	Detached	5.00	22124	FAIRHUNT ESTATES	07/11/13
7 11990 MARKET ST #2002	3	3	0	RESTON	\$1,655,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		20190	MIDTOWN RESTON TOWN	05/24/13
8 10605 HANNAH FARM RD	7	5	3	OAKTON	\$1,650,000	Detached	0.93	22124	HANNAH HILLS	07/31/13
9 11990 MARKET ST #1812	3	3	0	RESTON	\$1,558,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		20190	MIDTOWN RESTON TOWN	06/10/13
10 12205 THOROUGHbred RD	6	8	2	HERNDON	\$1,550,000	Detached	4.94	20171	VALE VALLEY FARMS	07/31/13

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Top Designs of 2013

Local builders look back on their most impressive spaces.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From outdoor patios with the comforts of indoor family rooms to a stark white bathroom replete with Carrara marble flooring, local designers said they've created some spectacular living spaces in 2013. Their personal favorites may be surprising, and include a lot of kitchens and bathrooms.

GUY SEMMES, of Hopkins & Porter Construction, Inc. in Potomac, named a whole house renovation that resulted in a clean, modern space as one of his company's top jobs. The remodel included a white kitchen with stainless steel appliances. "It used to be a galley kitchen and we added an 8-by-10-foot addition to make it larger," said Semmes. "The owner wanted to make things accessible with open shelves, rather than hiding them with cabinetry."

The master bathroom, also white, has Carrara marble tile floors, his and her sinks and a renovated claw foot tub that was reglazed and painted black.

"Everything [else] about the project is white," said Semmes. "That is an influence of the owner. She picked a lot of the tiles and fixtures."

The house also has a children's bathroom that features a playful, colored tile shower stall, a floating vanity and walk-in closet. "The architect, Kai Tong, has a modern flavor, which tied in well with the homeowner's style," said Semmes.

Semmes says remodeling a 1960s Bethesda home is also among his company's top projects for 2013. "The fireplace was in the living room and the kitchen was half the size it is now," he said. "We gutted the house. We opened up the wall going into the den and added a first floor powder room."

Maple cabinetry in a light, natural finish now hangs in the new kitchen. "There are also marble countertops in grey and tan with a little bit of color like red and green for interest," he said.

MCLEAN-BASED Joshua E.
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Baker, founder and cochairman of BOWA Builders, Inc. names two condominium projects as his company's best.

"As some of our clients are moving in closer to the city and sizing down, they're looking to bring with them the luxury and residential feel of their single family homes," said Baker. "Projects range from pull-and-replace kitchens to remodeled master suites to whole-unit renovations."

For example, the kitchen of an Arlington condominium includes a custom-designed range hood that was built on site, and a space in Chevy Chase, Md., features intricate woodwork. Baker says these rank among his company's chicest spaces.

"The [Chevy Chase] project really shows how a simple, boring condo hallway can be transformed into a beautiful, customized gallery," said Baker. "Custom woodwork in the walls and built-ins ... in the hallways maximize space."

KEN NIES, owner and cofounder

of Two Poor Teachers in Reston, says an Arlington bathroom remodel ranks as his company's top project. His crew installed, "floor-to-ceiling glass tile that went from dark to lighter, and incorporated 'wood tile' (tile that resembles hardwood) for a rustic feel," Nies explained. "[The space] was modernized with LED lights. The shower is a steam unit that was enclosed with a frameless glass pivot door. A Jacuzzi tub and pendant lighting spruced it up even further."

JOE STARKEY, of Old Town Kitchen and Bath in Alexandria, also gives an Arlington space the top honor. "We had many projects throughout 2013, but the one that comes to mind was a kitchen on Washington Boulevard in Arlington," he said. "By expanding slightly into an adjacent area, we managed to turn a dated, awkward kitchen and miniature powder room into fully functional, comfortable, useable, family-friendly area."



PHOTO BY PAIRED IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

This master bathroom, by Hopkins & Porter Construction, Inc. in Potomac, has Carrara marble tile floors, his and her sinks and a renovated claw foot tub that was reglazed and painted black.

Starkey said that the homeowners have children and trying to prepare meals had become difficult. "By completing the redesign, we were able to make a genuine improvement to someone's life," he said. "That makes for a memorable job."

BILL MILLHOLLAND, executive vice president of Case Design/Remodeling, with offices in Bethesda and Falls Church, said there are three projects that he considers among his company's best work of 2013.

He gives a nod to a McLean renovation by Allie Mann and Steve Scholl: "This project in-

involved the total renovation of a kitchen, including opening it to the family room and breakfast room, as well as creating a mudroom," he said. "The scale of the kitchen as well as its crisp, all-white, transitional look and high-end finishes make it a standout project."

Also noteworthy, said Millholland, is a Falls Church project by Jim Wrenn. The owners wanted to improve their home's layout and add amenities such as a wine cellar. "This project involved several additions, including digging out a basement to add a wine room [with] a staircase up to a new exercise area, screened

SEE TOP DESIGNS, PAGE 15

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Oakton girls' basketball coach Fred Priester speaks to the Cougars in a game during the 2012-13 season.

Oakton Girls' Basketball Starts 11-0

The Oakton girls' basketball team went undefeated during the 2013 portion of its schedule, capped by winning the Cassel's Cougar Classic.

On Jan. 4, Oakton's winning ways carried into the New Year.

Oakton defeated Yorktown 85-41 to improve to 11-0. The Cougars have won each game by at least 13 points and defeated seven opponents by at least 39.

"The biggest key to our start has been the team mentality," Oakton head coach Fred Priester wrote in an email. "We have a great group of players and they have worked hard to improve their skills and they are committed to playing together— sharing the ball – and making any contribution that they can for the success of the team."

Oakton's most experienced players are: junior guard Karlie Cronin ("[she] does everything on the floor and creates great energy and excitement," Priester wrote), se-

nior guard Jazmine Carter ("[she] works her heart out on defense wherever she is asked to play"), junior guard Lindsey Abed ("[she] plays with great understanding") and sophomore guard Alex Marquis ("[she] is directing our offense and attacking the basket"). Freshman Alisha Sheppard "is providing offensive pop as she increases her understanding of the game."

During the Cougar Classic, Oakton defeated Stone Ridge (Maryland) 79-26, Gar-Field 72-29 and Loudoun County 87-41.

"We played very well in the holiday tournament," Priester wrote. "... Conference play looms ahead with tighter games and greater competition so we must continue to work on execution in order to be successful. I know that our effort level will remain high. That is a given. These kids play hard."

Cronin, Marquis and Sheppard made the all-tournament team.

Each is averaging double figures in scoring and Cronin leads the team in steals and assists. Abed is averaging 9.3 points per game.

Oakton had its streak of eight consecutive district championships snapped last year by Centreville. The Cougars finished district runner-up before losing to South Lakes in the region semifinals, falling one win shy of the state tournament.

Oakton will open conference play on Jan. 10 at Westfield.

"Centreville is the defending champ of the Concorde and returns everyone and so [it] is definitely the favorite and Chantilly, Westfield and Robinson all have strong squads," Priester wrote. "We will need to continue to work hard in order to be successful in the second half of the season. I have confidence in our team's work ethic and effort – so I am hopeful that we can build on our strong start."

Heavily Depleted Langley Ice Hockey Team Falls to Oakton

The Langley Saxon Icers fell for the first time this season to Oakton in the late game on Jan. 3 at Skatequest.

Although Friday was part of Langley's holiday break and the Saxons were missing all three goalies and several skaters, the league refused to reschedule the game. Oakton was able to dress their full squad and goalie.

Chris Lane stepped up to the challenge for Langley, donned the goalie gear and admirably stood between the pipes. Langley notched the first three goals of the game with tallies from Drew Schneider, Kal Fernlund and Michael Cox, but a late penalty in the period allowed Oakton to capitalize and they added two more to close the opening frame tied at 3.

Each team potted two goals in the second with Lane stopping 10 of the shots he faced in the period and Oakton's goalie stopping none. Langley's grinder players: Charlie Eisner, Hannah Hanuschak, Sam Leighton and Owen Westerheim saw significant ice time and were key to keeping Langley in the game as they skated into the third.

After giving up a goal to fall behind in the third period, Faisal Alsaif completed his hat trick to tie the game and Schneider scored his second to put Langley ahead where they remained until the 4-minute mark.

The Saxons ran out of steam and allowed a flurry of late goals much to the joy of the Oakton Hecklers Gallery, who repeatedly chanted "Conor, Conor, Conor" to the amusement of the entire Langley squad.

Apparently the heckler gallery mistakenly thought Conor Maddry was between the pipes even though he has been out with an injury all season.

The Saxons will face Westfield/Heritage on Jan. 10 at Skatequest at 7:55 p.m.

Langley, McLean Ice Hockey Skate to 6-All Tie.

The Langley Saxons remained unbeaten with a 6-6 tie against rival McLean on Dec. 6.

Although the Saxons outshot McLean 25-15 and scored in the first 20 seconds, they were unable to hold onto a slim lead in the third. McLean went ahead after two quick goals, but Langley knotted the game at 6 where it remained for the final 5 minutes of the tilt.

The game got physical early with big hits by assistant captain Will Clemson and Shane Clayton.

Saxon captain Drew Schneider continued his strong performance with another hat-trick followed by two goals from Lafuria and a single from Guidi.

The first place Saxons kept their bench tight due to the closeness of the score, but Coach Little ensured ice time to all the skaters. First year icers Hanuschak, Westerheim, Eisner and Leighton continued to show their mettle for the team.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

South Lakes Wins 2 at Holiday Tournament

The South Lakes boys' basketball team wrapped up 2013 with a 64-48 win over Annandale on the final day of Wakefield's holiday tournament on Dec. 28.

South Lakes opened the tournament with a 61-48 loss to Centreville before losing to Wakefield 71-48. The Seahawks bounced back with the win over Annandale, improving their record to 4-5. South Lakes has won four of six since starting 0-3.

"[I'm] very happy with the way several players played and competed – Brandon [Kamga], Dre Puryear and Tyler Liboro," South Lakes head coach Andrew Duggan

wrote in an email. "Team responded well after the Wakefield loss [by beating] Annandale. Good effort at the defensive end of the floor; good job with 50/50 balls and hustle plays."

Kamga leads South Lakes in scoring at 19 points per game. Puryear is averaging 11 points per contest.

South Lakes will host Madison at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 10. "I like the way we have played most of the time," Duggan wrote. "I believe we have prepared our kids with the schedule we have faced (and will face) as we approach conference play and the end-of-the-season conference tournament. While we have struggled at times, it has provided good lessons for all of us. Improvement – we must be able to finish plays and become a better defensive team if we plan on having success in the post season – we have gotten

better, but we still have room for improvement."

Adult Softball Teams Wanted

Registration is now open for Fairfax Adult Softball. Deadline to register is March 3 with play beginning as early as April 4.

Men's, women's, coed, corporate coed, elite and free agent leagues available. For further information, please call 703-815-9007 or email office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com. The registration process is conducted online via the FAS website at www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

FAITH NOTES

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

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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Living With My Decisions



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

On multiple occasions throughout my nearly five years of being treated for stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, my oncologist has given me opportunities to stop and/or take a break from my treatment, or to consider alternatives to the normal protocols – for the expressed (literally) purpose of sustaining/enhancing the unexpected, above-average quality of life I have mostly experienced during my nearly non-stop, every three-week chemotherapy infusions which began in early March, 2009. The goal being to enable me to enjoy my life and not be subjected to/beaten down by the ravaging and debilitating effects of chemotherapy.

As many of you probably know, chemotherapy is hardly a cure for what cancer ails you; in many cases, it is the last line of a faltering defense against the indefensible: a terminal prognosis. When your oncologist characterizes you as “terminal,” and gives you “13 months to two years” to live, the presumptions, the logic, the understanding is that whatever treatment you endure is not likely to save your life. Stage IV means inoperable, incurable (though “treatable”); words which are not used indiscriminately. They are used, as is the “stage,” to define a set of medical conditions that are extremely serious and based on the most current and best-known medical knowledge available at the time, and are not likely to result in a happy ending. As I’ve said previously, “being called ‘terminal’ is all it’s cracked up to be.”

In spite of everything – all the discouraging words, all the chemotherapy, all the varying lab work (good and bad) and miscellaneous results from CT Scans, MRIs and the occasional bone scan and X-Ray – I have managed to outlive the original prognosis offered by my oncologist. My body has held up to the rigors of chemotherapy (I’ve never been a candidate for radiation as my tumors are too numerous and too spread out for the targeting strategy to benefit me, if I understand the process clearly) amazingly well. Still, there are limits of effectiveness. Your body can only take so much before it begins to work against you.

Nevertheless, when offered a respite from treatment and given an opportunity to live life to the fullest and enjoy what time I have remaining – not hooked up to an I.V. – I have always opted to continue treatment. Regardless of the oncologist’s motivation in suggesting these breaks (though they are discussions we have together; it’s hardly unilateral, one way or the other), it’s always felt to me as if I were giving up and/or giving in. Diagnosis-to-date/treatment-to-date, it’s never appealed to me. In retrospect, I imagine I was being naive to think that my overall very manageable quality of life as a lung cancer patient/survivor would/will continue, so why stop now when the worst-case scenario seems to be have been/is a bit overstated? I don’t know if that’s hubris on my part, stupidity or wishful thinking (certainly that), but my feeling is that if I think I’m going to die, I probably will (sooner rather than later is what I mean). And not that this whole strategy of mine has been about trying to out-think cancer by being positive and optimistic; hardly. But I will admit this: given my current alive-and-reasonably-well status, I wouldn’t say it’s worked against me.

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

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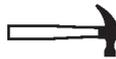
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PHOTO COURTESY OF SUN DESIGN, INC.

A Vienna home's outdoor room which includes a pizza oven is one of Sun Design Inc.'s most impressive projects of 2013.

Top Designers

FROM PAGE 11

porch and patio," said Millholland. "The renovations also include a reoriented staircase leading from the family room to the upper level bedrooms, including a new master suite."

A condominium renovation by Valery Tessier that included both a kitchen remodel and a new master bathroom is also among the most impressive spaces completed by Case in 2013 says Millholland. "The contrast of the rich espresso cabinet stain with the cool palette of the countertop, backsplash and walls is very soothing, but gives an edge to this kitchen," said Tessier. "The galley layout with the peninsula offers multiple work areas and the open shelves lighten up the corner."

BETH WALTERS, spokeswoman for Sun Design, Inc., which has offices in Fairfax County, listed projects in Vienna, Great Falls and Oak Hill as the company's best for 2013.

In Vienna, a construction project tied a home's indoor entertainment space with the outdoors. The new space includes a rear, screened porch with a pizza oven, lounge and dining areas. Tile flooring, recessed lighting, pendant lighting, a chandelier, a tray ceiling with handcrafted wood trim and an outdoor surround sound give this outdoor space the feel of a cozy family room.

In Oak Hill, a kitchen renovation created an open floor plan that allows the cook to move freely while guests relax at an expansive, triangular center island. The kitchen includes a coffered, wave accent tile featuring both Carrara mosaic tiling and black marble borders over the range, two full-sized refrigerators in the kitchen, one hidden behind cherry wood facing to match the cabinets. A Great Falls master bathroom is another project of which Sun Design is proud, said Walters. The new space, which includes his and her vanities, a large walk in shower and foot ledge for shaving, allows two people to use it simultaneously.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING, INC.

Bill Millholland, executive vice president of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. says this McLean kitchen renovation by Allie Mann and Steve Scholl of Case Design/Remodeling is one of his company's top 2013 projects. "The scale of the kitchen as well as its crisp, all-white, transitional look and high-end finishes make it a standout project."



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Families and children enjoyed seeing the annual December train display at Colvin Run Mill Park in Great Falls.

Toy Trains Displayed At Colvin Run Mill

Families enjoy annual train display.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

During the last weeks of December, the interior of Colvin Run Mill parks barn was filled with 250 feet of train track, nine trains and more than 500 miniature imitation trees for the 24th annual train display created by Jim and his wife Jo Anne Stapleton. “This is the only hobby I’ve ever had,” said Jim Stapleton, a resident of Purcellville in Loudoun County.

On Saturdays, Dec. 21 and 28 and Sundays, Dec. 22 and 29 the model trains were on display at Colvin Run Mill barn. No reservations were required to see the free event, which lasted from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. “It is a wonderful tradition as it brings families with young children and introduces families to the park. It also brings people to visit during what may be a more quiet time of the year,” said Ann Korzeniewski, employee at Colvin Run Mill park.

“My son is really into trains, so it is fun for him,” said Chris Keating, resident of Reston. “I tried to purchase an electric train set for

the holidays but was unable to. It is good a wholesome event.” Amongst the train decorations was a small sign that read, “Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional.” “This is my first year seeing this show at Colvin Run Mill,” said Paul Russell, a resident of Alexandria. “It is a beautiful exhibit and it makes good use of the space for the holiday time. My son was interested in the Thomas the Tank Engine.” Jim Stapleton and his wife Jo Anne were assisted by some volunteers to put together the train display. “It is pretty much the same as last year,” said Mrs. Stapleton. “I think it has been a good show.” Over a thousand visitors came to see the train display during the four days it was on display. The first train exhibit at

Colvin Run Mill was in 1990. “The Stapletons are really great people, there are not many people like that in the world,” said Jerry Bohlander, a resident of Maryland and member of The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society. Located near Virginia State Route 7, Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls is the sole surviving operational 19th-century water-powered mill in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Throughout the year, the mill hosts events for children, adults and families, from music to historical perspectives. In February, the mill will present maple syrup boil-downs to public. To learn more about Colvin Run Mill, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill/ or call 703-759-2771.

Paul Russell, resident of Alexandria, took the opportunity to bring his son to see the train display at Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls.

Jim Stapleton and a group of volunteers helped make the train display at Colvin Run Mill Park in Great Falls possible for 24 years.



Jim and his wife Jo Anne Stapleton successfully organized another train display at Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls.



The train display at Colvin Run Mill park entertained children of all ages. Over a thousand visitors came to see the train display during the four days it was on display.