

Inside
Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2014

State Gardens to Host Holiday Open House

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT
& GIFT GUIDE,
PAGE 10

Laura Murray, State Gardens co-owner,
said the ornaments are some of the
best selling holiday items in the shop.

Residents Get Update on Toxic Plume

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PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION



MIDDLEBURG
REAL ESTATE
ATOKA PROPERTIES



CL8447613 \$10,900,000
BERRYVILLE - Majestically positioned on the Blue Ridge Mtns, 472 acre (9 parcels) Cassique Farm backs up to Appalachian Trail. 4 bdrm, 4.5 bath home w/ spectacular views, entertainment barn w/ 8 stalls, 2 wash bays, 8 pastures, 8 run-in barns, 6 wells, 4 septic, and 2 ponds.
Peter Pejacevich 540.270.3835 Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399



FQ8470391 \$4,300,000
UPPERVILLE - Brick colonial on 50+ gorgeous acres in Greystone. 9000+ sq ft of spectacular living space, 3 finished levels. Heated pool, tennis court & brilliant gardens overlook picturesque pond w/ fabulous mtn views. Private & secluded.
Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 Peter Pejacevich 540.270.3835



FQ8451130 \$2,300,000
BOXWOOD HILL FARM - Exquisite family compound has it all: lovely 1812 farmhouse, HW flrs, pool/pool house, five fireplaces, 9+ ceilings, high-speed internet, unique barn, mtn views, idyllic setting, pond, tennis, skeet. Fenced w/creek.
Walter Woodson 703-499-4961 Alex Woodson 703-608-1776



LO8441685 \$2,297,000
STONEBROOK FARM - c.1750 house w/ Stone Addition c.1733 & recent total renovation w/ all of the charm of period home coupled w/ modern amenities. 3 additional guest houses, fantastic horse facilities, riding arena, 8+ stall barn/living space.
Peter Pejacevich 540.270.3835 Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399



LO8371530 \$1,899,000
Spring Grove - 1820 stone home on 46 acres (2 lots). House features beautiful moldings, 6 FP, HW floors, formal living & dining room, 4 bdrm, 4.5 baths. Bank Barn, 3 ponds, pool & pool house, apt over 3 bay garage. Private location.
Jane Hensley 571-550-2728



LO8175796 \$1,765,000
ROBIN CIRCLE, LEESBURG - Stone, brick and cedar estate on 3.54 acres. Heated indoor pool, a sports pub, racquetball court w/ hoop, audio/video system, roof top pavilion. 2, 2-Car garages & caretaker apartment.
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LO8412399 \$1,495,000
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CAN'T DO IT ALL IN ONE DAY?
CHECK OUT SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, 11/29.

Residents Get Update on Toxic Plume

Only one of the three requested pumps to be installed.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Residents got an update about the methyl tert-butyl ether [MTBE] plume below the Georgetown Pike and Walker Road intersection last week.

Officials from Kleinfelder and the Department of Environmental Quality talked about the removal of the toxic plume so far, assuring residents that their well water will remain clean throughout the cleanup efforts during a Great Falls Citizens Association Town Hall meeting on Nov. 11.

"We have a zero tolerance policy for any petroleum constituents in well water," DEQ Senior geologist Randy Chapman said. If there is one thing in there, other things may not be far behind."

The reason for the meeting was that the citizen's association requested representatives from Kleinfelder and Fairfax Petroleum Company for an alternate plan to accom-

modate for the side of the plume reaching Oliver Estates to be presented. The letter asked for several additional extraction pumps to speed up the removal process.

According to Kleinfelder Geologist Nathan Stevens there is one pump that was recently installed that will be working soon. Adding another pump, however, may draw water away from wells.

What could not be promised was that the site would be completely clean when Kleinfelder was eventually done pumping MTBE out of the ground. MBTE eventually degrades into Tert-Butyl Alcohol, of which the effects are unknown.

The reason many of these residents came to the town hall meeting is because about 80 percent of homes in Great Falls run on a well-water system. The plume that originated from the former Exxon gas station on Georgetown Pike has begun heading towards a group of homes known as Oliver Estates.

"Our skepticism comes from the concern for our drinking water," said GFCA Groundwater Contamination co-chair Glen Sjoblom.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION
Citizens showed up to the GFCA meeting on Nov. 11 to find out whether Kleinfelder was going to add more extraction pumps to clear the gas plume more quickly.

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust came to the meeting to show his support.

"I thought the meeting went very well," he said. "I thought the consultants and the DEQ made a very good presentation."

He said that although he liked what he heard from the consultants about the rate they will be pumping MTBE out of the ground, there were still some questions as to how exactly that was going to be done and that remediation issues still need to be addressed.



GFCA Groundwater Contamination co-chair Glen Sjoblom talks while Kleinfelder Geologist Nathan Stevens looks on at the town hall meeting on Nov. 11.

GFCA president Eric Knudsen noted he recently found that his well water had trace amounts of MTBE. The DEQ's "no tolerance" policy starts if there is one part per billion of MTBE in the water. Any less of it is considered a trace amount and could possibly be a fluke.

Kleinfelder Program Manager Mark Steele said that MTBE was officially phased out of gasoline in 2006, so there was no risk of the particle being found in the current Exxon station, adding to the plume that is currently forcing its way through rock fissures in its journey towards Oliver Estates.

Parisot Wins Republican Primary

More than 1,400 area Republicans show up to vote.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

With Barbara Comstock filling in the 10th Congressional district's seat, two candidates are closing in on her current position.

Democrat Kathleen Murphy and Republican Craig Parisot, both now officially endorsed by their parties, are vying for the 34th House of Delegates seat via special election to be held Jan. 6, 2015.

Parisot won the Republican Firehouse Primary on Saturday at Colvin Run Elementary. Voters lined up outside the school between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in their coats to decide on the Republican candidate for office.

"We are very pleased with the enthusiastic response of the republican party voters," said assistant chief election officer George Koklanaris during the first hour of the primary. "We know whichever candidate wins, we're going to have a good representative in the election against the democrats."

At the end of the primary, Parisot won against Al Johnson 821-594.

"Congratulations to the voters for a great turnout Saturday," said Johnson in an email.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION
Al Johnson, who lost the Republican primary on Saturday, talking to voters outside the polls.

"We are so thankful for your support and to be part of this community. And thank you to those who came out to volunteer on our behalf over the last week at the polls, knock on doors and make phone calls for our campaign. I am incredibly humbled by your outpouring of support."

Parisot did not comment about the election after the results were announced.

"We stand fully behind Craig and his campaign to succeed Barbara Comstock, and we

are confident that he will run an aggressive and effective campaign, resulting in victory on January 6, 2015," said Fairfax County Republican Committee executive director Joshua Baumgartner.

Merridy Menna and her husband Bob were among the hundreds that showed up to vote in the primary.

"I think I'd like someone who is a reliable, long-term resident who believes in what I do - individual liberty," said Merridy,



Craig Parisot, Republican candidate for delegate, talks to voters outside Colvin Run Elementary on Saturday.

Great Falls. "I've known Johnson for a long time. Johnson's a traditionalist."

David Bryant, Sterling, said the biggest issues for him include homeschooling as an option and beating Murphy in the election.

"I always vote," he said. "I'm going with Al Johnson."

Tom Milton, Vienna, said he still was not dead set on a candidate as he waited out in the cold to vote Saturday morning.

"I came to vote, because I always vote," he said. "I never miss an election. I'm pretty surprised with the turnout here."

PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In 2001, Anne Lindvay was single and working and living in Northern Virginia.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob Havlovick was living in Northern Virginia too, sharing a house with friends and throwing parties in hopes of meeting a great girl.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

William was 2 years old and living with his biological family.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

When Anne and Rob met at one of Rob's parties, they had an instant connection and began dating.

How Three Become One

November is National Adoption Month. Here's the story of how adoption created one family in Chantilly. To learn more about adopting through foster care in the D.C. Metro area, email the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments at: picme@mwkog.org.

— JOAN BRADY



PHOTO © PHIL DOMENICI

In 2004, on a hot summer day, they tied the knot.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

William, now 5, was still living with his biological family.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

By the time Anne and Rob were thinking about adoption, William was 13 and had been in foster care for about four years. He had lived in three foster homes. He liked taking pictures, drawing, ultimate frisbee and dogs.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob was more comfortable with the idea of adopting an older child and they both liked the idea of adopting a local child out of foster care.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Beverly Howard of Fairfax Families4Kids, which does mentoring for foster children, with William, Anne and Rob. Anne says that when they met William, things just clicked. She and Rob both fell in love with William immediately. As for William, he had just one question: Did they have a dog?



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

When William moved in with the Havlovicks in June 2013, there definitely were rules, including things like: brushing teeth, no cell phones in the bedroom and being respectful of others. But more important to them than the rules, Anne and Rob wanted a household filled with unconditional love.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

"Anne was meant to be a mother. Her passion for life and the enthusiasm she brings to everything she does keeps love and laughter to our house every day," said Rob.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Anne says that "while Rob has always been a kind and gentle person, parenting has brought out the best in him."



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

June 2014, William's adoption, attended by family and friends, was finalized.



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Surrounded by the love of his two parents, today, William has just two wishes for his future: He would love to downhill ski in Colorado and he still really, really wants a dog.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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NEWS



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

Theresa and Gary Coetzee toss a rugby ball in the field behind Great Falls Library.

Promoting Rugby in Great Falls

Proceeds from the weekend tournament will support MedStar National Hospital's spinal cord injury program.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

About a year ago, Gary Coetzee nearly died out on the rugby field behind the Great Falls Library. A freak accident left the former professional rugby player quadriplegic on the grass during a game.

On Saturday, Nov. 22, he is hosting the inaugural Great Falls Rugby Tournament to celebrate how far he has come a year after the accident and raise money for MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital's spinal cord injury program.

Nearly 100 children from Virginia, D.C. and Maryland have signed up for this year's tournament and to see Coach Coetzee - as he is known to some of the local rugby teams - be able to walk again.

"We want to try to give back to the hospital and the therapist who helped me," he said. "I want to promote the rugby side of it, too, and get kids to recruit."

He and his wife, Theresa, organized the tournament over the course of a month after Gary brought up the idea on his birthday.

"When the accident happened, I was dumbfounded," said Theresa. "One of the first things he said to me when I saw him was, 'This is going to be bad for recruiting.'"

She said he bruised his spinal cord rather than severing it. If the disk went through rather than downward, he would not have gotten off the field a year ago.

Gary initially spent months in an Atlanta hospital, where he learned to stand up again. This past January, he came back home and focused on the lifestyle change that comes with his new disability and the fact that he will never be able to play rugby again.



Gary Coetzee out on the rugby field behind the Great Falls Library. He is organizing a Rugby Tournament Saturday.

"You need to maintain your muscles," he said. "If you stop, you'll just go to waste."

With the lifestyle change came learning how to be dependent on another person. Theresa said that, as a former professional athlete, it was hard for him.

"It leaves you feeling vulnerable," she said. "He's generally a private guy and suddenly, you have to hang it all out there."

More recently, Gary has been able to get back out on the field again - this time to just coach others on the game of rugby. He worries that his accident will deter some parents from allowing their children to sign up, but he still is passionate about the game.

"We're still looking for players and coaches for the spring and summer," he said.

December 5-6, 2014

SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

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Friday, Dec 5 from 9 am - 5 pm, Saturday, Dec 6 from 9 am - 4 pm

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Friday, Dec 5 from 1 - 3 pm

The Taste of Scotland

Friday, Dec 5 from 6:30 - 11 pm

Holiday Marketplace

Saturday, Dec 6 from 10 am - 4 pm

The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade

Saturday, Dec 6 begins at 11 am

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Saturday, Dec 6 from 11 am - 4 pm

For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 549-0111.



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John Kelly to Speak In Great Falls

Washington Post columnist John Kelly will be the featured guest at the Great Falls Speaker's Series (GFSS) monthly gathering on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m., at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike.

(A brief reception will begin at 7 p.m.) Kelly will be on hand to discuss a variety of wide-ranging topics, from the challenges of writing a fast-paced, en-

tertaining newspaper column to the dynamic process of how he searches for material by observing the smallest details of daily life. Kelly, a graduate of University of Maryland, has studied as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University and as a senior visiting Fellow at Oxford University.

The event is free and open to the public. Seating is first-come, first-serve. Reservations will not be taken. Because a capacity crowd is expected, early arrival is recommended. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. For further information, contact the Great Falls Library at 703-757-8560.



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Saturday, Nov. 22, 2014 | 10am-3pm

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OPINION

Why Shop Small? Shop Large Locally

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

There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to participating in community traditions and celebrations, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 29.

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

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and res-

Celebrate Locally

Reston Holiday Parade. Friday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Come for a full day of community, charity and cheer including the Gingerbread Man Mile & Tot Trot, Santa, tree lighting, sing along and horse-drawn carriage rides.

The Thanksgiving Story. Friday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2309 West Ox Road, Herndon. Bring the family and holiday guests to this lively and interactive retelling of the Thanksgiving Story. After the show, stroll the park and visit our animals or take a ride on our carousel or wagon rides. Admission: \$5 per person.

Shop Small, Saturday, Nov. 29, Small Business Saturday

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights. Now through Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015, 5:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Garden, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A winter wonderland, including a flowing stream of softly glowing lights, a two-story animated fountain and a Gingerbread Village. Admission: \$13 adults, \$8 children ages 3-12; children under 3 are free. <http://winterwalkoflights.com/>

32nd Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. Friday-Sunday/Dec. 5 - 7, Friday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Admission: Adults, \$3; \$1, ages 13 and under. Good all 3 days.

Holiday Sing-A-Long. Saturday, Dec. 6, 4 p.m. Wolf Trap's Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. No tickets are required, but patrons are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy donation for Toys for Tots. For more information, visit wolfftrap.org.

Herndon Towne Square Singers. Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-

cue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping

435-6800.

2014 Annual Reston Holiday Book Sale. Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Center, Reston. Books, gifts, and surprises to delight readers of all ages.

Celebration of Lights, Great Falls Village Centre Hill. Saturday, Dec. 6, 5:30-8 p.m. 5:30 Refreshments available, 6 Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive to light the Christmas Tree, 6:15 Village Green Day School Chorus, the petting zoo and pony rides begin, 7:15 Sing-a-Long, 7:30 Live Nativity Scene.

Reston Jingle on Lake Anne. Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Community organizers and plaza retailers will host a variety of festive activities ranging from a special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, music, wine tastings, merchant specials, children's crafts, cookie and ornament decorating, holiday arts and crafts market, holiday entertainment and more.

Herndon Towne Square Singers. Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

Herndon Holiday Homes Tour. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Tour five different homes that are decorated for the holidays. \$15-\$20. <http://www.herndon-va.gov/>

McLean WinterFest Parade. Sunday, Dec. 7, 3:30 p.m. Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Groups interested in participating in the parade should go to www.mcleanwinterfest.org to complete the registration information and submit it to parade officials. Each entrant will receive confirmation of their registration with this year's parade rules.

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

The Connection is participating in Shop Small 2014, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com to find out more.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Refreshing, Conscientious Election Coverage

To the Editor:

In an area like ours, where national news usually stands at the forefront and many readers turn to national news outlets for the bulk of their election coverage, it is a source of great pride and inspiration to see the Great Falls Connection provide such outstanding coverage. From day one of this colorful, controversial campaign season up to the actual Election Day results, The Connection provided stories that were timely, tightly-written and exhaustively researched.

That we have a local, weekly publication of such consistently high quality is a blessing to the entire community, and a rarity

needed — especially as newspapers large and small continue their struggle to remain alive and relevant in this ever-evolving "e-reader" world.

Sure, national news outlets are still very important. But local news outlets such as the Connection provide coverage in a uniquely customized, community-focused way that is refreshing, conscientious and in a very real way, even comforting. Gratitude to The Connection for cutting through the campaign clutter so consistently, and giving us the facts. Just the facts.

Kristin Clark Taylor
Great Falls

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. We hope you can help. Visit our website at www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in Alexandria needs a Van Driver to take participants on outings and an ESL Teacher. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs driv-

ers in Chantilly, Clifton, McLean and Falls Church on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs a Chair Exercise Instructor, Spanish-speaking interpreters, an Experienced Canasta Player to teach participants, and certified instructors for classes in Ballroom Dance and Pilates. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Great Falls CONNECTION

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Great Falls, VA 22066

A Colorful and Crazy Holiday Ride

“A Kodachrome Christmas” lands on The Alden stage Dec. 19-21.

The upcoming holidays will be made brighter this year by the hilarious, one-person show, “A Kodachrome Christmas,” at The Alden in McLean Dec. 19 through 21.

Pat Hazell, a writer for NBC’s “Seinfeld” and the creator of “The Wonder Bread Years,” is the comedic force behind this irreverent and hysterical holiday celebration. Audience members will enter the colorful world of cable-access television hostess Earlene Hoople, played by actor, Jay Byrd. The self-proclaimed “Queen of Rural Media,” Hoople is busy taping her Christmas special in front of a live audience. Letters to Mrs. Claus, an outrageous family slide show, fresh-baked snickerdoodles and a visit from the church handbell choir, all set the stage for a picture-perfect, laugh-out-loud evening of theatre. The audience is in for a fun ride because Earlene is dangerously close to “crafting” her way out of her mind and into their hearts this holiday season.

The show has a limited run Dec. 19-21. Show times are 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19, and Saturday, Dec. 20, with a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. Tickets are \$30 for the general public, \$20 for McLean tax district residents. The Alden is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., inside the McLean Community Center.



PHOTO BY KENNETHCALL

Television hostess Earlene Hoople, played by actor, Jay Byrd, in ‘A Kodachrome Christmas’ to be presented on The Alden stage Dec. 19-21.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

December at the McLean Community Center

The McLean Community Center is offering the following activities in December. Residents of the Center’s tax district, Small District One-A Dranesville, are eligible for discounts on fees. Unless otherwise indicated, all activities will be held at the Center, which is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

❖ **32nd Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show:** Friday-Sunday, Dec. 5-7; Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: Adults, \$3; \$1, ages 13 and under (Take \$1 off with this ad). Good all 3 days.

Old Firehouse Teen Center will host

❖ **Ugly Sweater Party:** Friday, Dec. 5, 7-10 p.m.; \$10/\$5 OFTC member. For 7th-9th graders/Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

The Alden, Midday Movies
❖ **“The Others” (2001):** Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m. Free. Reservations are not required.

❖ **Holiday Gingerbread House Workshop:** Thursday, Dec. 11, 6:30-8 p.m.; \$45 per house/\$35 MCC district residents. Activity No. 1272.214 Old Firehouse Teen Center Family Events

❖ **Breakfast for Dinner with the Unruly Theatre Improv Group:** Friday, Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m. \$5 OFTC members/\$10 all others. Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

McLean Traveler Day Trip

❖ **Holiday in Baltimore:** Saturday, Dec. 13, 8:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. \$87 per person/\$82 MCC district residents. Activity No. 7001.214

The Alden, Family Movies

❖ **“Frozen” (2013):** Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m. Free. Reservations are not required.

The Alden, Professional Performance Series
❖ **Pat Hazell’s “A Kodachrome Christmas”:** Friday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m. \$30/\$20 MCC district residents

Winter Break Trip

❖ **G-Force Gokarts:** Monday, Dec. 29, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$75/\$65 MCC district residents.

Activity No. 8405.214 Trip departs from and returns to OFTC, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

Winter Break Trip

❖ **Ice Skating plus Hibachi Lunch:** Tuesday, Dec. 30, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. \$55/\$45 MCC district residents. Activity No. 8406.214. Trip departs from and returns to OFTC, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

Winter Break Trip

❖ **King Pinz Bowling plus a Movie:** Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$55/\$45 MCC district residents. Activity No. 8407.214. Trip departs from and returns to OFTC, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

❖ **Closing Notice:** The McLean Community Center and the Old Firehouse Teen Center will be closed a half-day on Wednesday, Dec. 24; and all day on Thursday, Dec. 25, for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays.

For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org. For OFTC activities, call 703-448-8336. For the Alden Theatre Box Office, call 703-790-9223.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE

State Gardens to Host Holiday Open House

Great Falls business will have Christmas trees, themed wreaths and ornaments.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

State Gardens is more than hundreds of giftables for any occasion, particularly the holidays.

The shop is home to a wide variety of giftables for any occasion, particularly the holidays. “We’re expecting the Christmas season to be a big hit,” said Murray. “You’re guaranteed to find a one of a kind piece.”

Both Murray and her fiancé, Ian McKeown, run the former garden center together.

The shop is already being decorated with holiday-themed trimmings, from ornaments to local jams, honey and cider.

The ornaments, which are collected from barn and estate sales from all over the state, are among the most popular items from the shop. With all the holiday parties quickly approaching, Murray said

they are perfect items for hostess gifts.

“We sold quite a few ornaments already,” she said. “We also have some really cute burlap sacks to dress gifts up.”

The store also stocks jewelry and scarves year around.

The shop is country chic, as Trina Ocasio, shop designer, says. The inside is a reflection of the village’s rural lifestyle.

As one of the decorators, she helps find the ornaments and other holiday knick knacks to sell.

“We’ve been trying to change up the store as often as we can,” she said. “The ongoing challenge is to keep finding things that are good quality but will also be a good bargain for the customer.”

Another shop designer, Tammy Nisbitt, brings in refurbished and antique furniture.

“It’s a gift shop where people can get all of their holiday items,” she



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

Laura Murray, State Gardens co-owner, poses with a snowman cookie jar for sale during the holiday season.

said. “I love that locals keep us in mind for home decor as well as their garden.”

Because the shop is new, many people in the village still do not know about all the things sold inside.

“A lot of people don’t realize we have the store here,” Murray said. “In the spring, we have the flowers out, so a lot of people think of it as a garden center.”

Her plan to get people in the door, however, are the events held in the next several weeks,



State Gardens also sells local food items, such as pancake mixes, salsa and local honey.

On Saturday, Nov. 22 and Dec. 1 from 5 to 7 p.m., the shop will hold an open house where guests can enjoy hot Rinker cider and s’mores over the fire pit and receive 10 percent off home decor items. Visitors will also get to see the trees and creative themed wreaths on sale.

Locals can also participate in the second annual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest for a chance to win \$300. Participants need to call the shop by Dec. 1 to be a part of the contest.

The Artisans Ready for Holiday Season

Shop supports national and local artists.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Shannon Denny Price has seen her shop, The Artisans, move three times in the last 25 years.

As a veteran of the holiday season, the shop co-owner has already begun filling the store with holiday decor as well as gifts and stocking stuffers of all price points. Christmas trees, themed wreaths and ornaments will all be available for purchase.

“Jewelry is probably one of the top selling items for the holidays,” Denny Price said.

In addition to the ornaments, jewelry and hand lotions, among many other items, the shop also has a “man corner” where presents and stocking stuffers, like a moose wine stopper or decorative socks, can be found.

“We know that men can be hard to shop for,” said Denny Price.

The shop is so packed with high quality, curated items from both



The Artisans co-owner, Shannon Denny Price, hangs up some of the new felt ornaments in the shop.

local and national artists and artisans that it is impossible to see everything just on the first lap around the store. Whether a customer looks low or high, everything from bug brooches to screenprinted eyeglasses holders can be found.

“We also do really well selling our scarves,” she said.

Some of the scarves and mittens are made from recycled sweaters, bringing some personality and a story to every piece.

Sales associate Ramita Upreti said she loves working in the shop



Sales associate Ramita Upreti models a Holly Yashi necklace and earring set on sale at The Artisans.

as much as she loves to buy items from it. She has been working at The Artisans for eight years.

“I love this store,” she said. “I buy so much here.”

She said the nicer, more expensive jewelry and silk scarves always sell fast during the holidays.

Denny Price was beginning to hang the ornaments in the shop last week - some of which included hedgehogs and mermaids. Additionally, an array of Hanukkah items, like silver menorahs, necklaces and even a challah bread

mold for the gluten intolerant, are available. One jeweled menorah, she said, already has been sold recently.

Many of her items, she said, are found during large craft fairs and online wholesale shops year around.

“I personally don’t like buying online, though, because I like to touch and feel things,” she said. “It’s really nice to be able to talk to the artist and ask them how they make things.”

Just like previous years, The Ar-

PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

VIENNA ART & CRAFT SHOW

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

FRI & SAT, 10AM - 5PM
SUN, 11AM - 4PM

VIENNA COMMUNITY CENTER
120 CHERRY ST. SE, VIENNA, VA

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When
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 3:30 P.M.**

Where
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**Bring a gift card for
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 to help your neighbors
 in need.**

www.mcleanwinterfest.org



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

THROUGH SUNDAY/JAN. 4, 2015

Meadowlark's Winter Walk of Lights. 5:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Garden, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A winter wonderland, including a flowing stream of softly glowing lights, a two story animated fountain and a Gingerbread Village. Admission: \$13 adults, \$8 children ages 3-12; children under 3 are free.

THURSDAY/NOV. 20

James Cotton. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Widely regarded as one of the best harmonica players of all time, this instrumentalist and blues legend has made his mark on music history. Tickets: \$25. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

GF Rotary Club. 7:30-8:30 a.m. River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road Great Falls. Great Falls Rotary Club Weekly Speaker Series. Download a membership form on their website. Open to anyone who has a personal connection to Great Falls and is interested in furthering Rotary's mission of Service Above Self.

Artists Meet for Coffee. 8:30-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local artists meet for coffee. All are welcome to drop in.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

GFL Drop-In Chess. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop in chess at the Great Falls Library Meeting Room. All ages are welcome.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Learn and play. Ages 5-18.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21 - SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Chris Smither & The Motivators. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Tickets: \$30-\$35. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

Semi-annual Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Friends of the Great Falls Library are holding their semi-annual book sale. Browse books from many different genres.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Andes Manta in Concert. 8 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Live @ The Alden. \$20/\$15 MCC district residents. www.mcleancenter.org.

Cars & Coffee. 7-9 p.m. 760 Walker Road Great Falls. Gathering of cars at Katie's Coffeehouse. Antique, custom, hotrod, exotic, sports, etc.

CR Dance for Everyone. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$12 per person includes lesson dance, soda and snacks. Contact Ed Cottrell at 703-435-5620 or EdCottrell@MACP.org for more information.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Village Centre, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Pre-Thanksgiving market.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Concerts at The Alden. 3 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Live @ The Alden. Free. www.mcleancenter.org.

"Autumn Splendor." 3-5 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community



Don't miss out on the 45th Annual Treasury of Art Juried Show and Sale Nov. 21-23 at the Vienna Community Center. Hundreds of original works in all media by artists from Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and beyond will be for sale. This image is "River Rapids," watercolor by Vienna's Artist of the Year Helen Dilley Barsalou.

NOTEWORTHY NOVEMBER EVENTS

Special family-friendly events going on this month that will put you in the holiday spirit.

womenscouncilofsjb@gmail.com.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 20-22

21st Annual Christmas Craft Show. Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Rd., Vienna. Come browse around and find unique presents and stocking stuffers; cards and gift bags; seasonal décor; kitchen accessories; baby and children's items; scarves, hats and other attire; jewelry; pillows and linens; ceramics; fresh baked pies and cakes and much more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21 - SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Vienna's 45th Annual Treasury of Art Juried Show and Sale. Sales hours are Friday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday, noon - 4 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Vienna's largest art exhibition of the year. Hundreds of original works in all media by artists from Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and beyond will be for sale. Meet the artists, enjoy light refreshments and music by the Serenada String Quartet at the Awards Reception, Friday Nov. 21, 7 - 9 p.m. Free and open to the public. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

Quote-Along Film: "A Christmas Story." 7:30 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Yell along to your all-time holiday favorite. Free.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

35th Annual Christmas Bazaar. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. St. John's Academy gym at 6422 Linway Terrace, McLean. Vendors from across Northern Virginia, entertainment, local art and the chance to purchase jewelry, food and gifts. Free admission. For more information contact Jennifer at

Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sunday Soiree Series Dance. \$15 per couple, \$8 single. www.mcleancenter.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 24

GFL Read to the Dog. 4:30-5:30

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 28- NOV. 30

Vienna Arts & Crafts Show. Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Handmade arts and crafts, including decorative painting, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking handweaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional textiles, jewelry and much more. All of the artists and artisans will be on hand to answer questions and talk about their work. Admission: \$3.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Vienna Turkey Trot: 10K, 5K and Fun Run. 8 a.m. All proceeds benefit the James Madison High School Band and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. This year's Marching Band has proudly accepted an invitation to perform at the BOA Grand Nationals in Indianapolis. Come out and show your support by participating in one of the largest races in the area. Registration is now open and currently offering sponsorship opportunities. More information including registration fees and schedule can be found at www.viennaturkeytrot.com

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Annual Gingerbread House. 4 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Kick-off the holidays with The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, as the life-sized Gingerbread House is unveiled. Located on the 3rd floor, arrival lobby level of the hotel, the culinary work of art is large enough for guests to walk around inside and explore the sugary construction created by our talented Pastry Team. Opening day festivities will include holiday confectiosns, hot spiced cider and hot cocoa.

p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers can practice reading to a furry friend. Call branch at 703-757-8560 to sign up.

Learn to Draw Cartoons. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

32nd Annual
McLean Holiday CRAFTS SHOW
A Juried Arts and Crafts Show Since 1982

**Friday-Sunday
 December 5-7**

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

Admission: \$3 adults, \$1 age 13 and younger.
Good all three days!

Featuring 70 fine artisans from across the country!

- Fiber Arts • Wood • Pottery • Jewelry
- Glass • Holiday Decor • Gourmet Foods
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- Silhouette Cuttings • Paintings and more!

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

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12
Pike, Great Falls. Learn to draw cartoons with artist Bud Little. Ages 6 and up. Please register for this program.

Rock-a-bye-Baby. 11:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime, featuring rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-12 months with adult.

TUESDAY/NOV. 25

The 16th Annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. 7:30 p.m. Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road SW, Vienna. Clergy and choirs from participating churches will lead the service with prayers for peace and thanksgiving. Offerings will go to support the local food banks run by Our Daily Bread and Committee for Helping Others (CHO). For additional information or transportation needs, please call the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

GFL Pokemon League. 4:30- 6 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come play Pokemon with your friends. School ages 5 to 15.

Treasured Threes to Fives. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Join us for stories and songs. Ages 3-5 with adult.

Toddler Tales. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and activities for you and your toddler. Age 2-3 with adult.

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

Thanksgiving Day Brunch. Seatings from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons

Boulevard, McLean. Enjoy a special Thanksgiving Day brunch, featuring all your favorite brunch items and delicious Thanksgiving fixings. Enjoy live musical entertainment and special activities for our youngest brunch guests. \$125 per adult, \$40 per child, ages 4 to 12, exclusive of tax and gratuity.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

John Eaton. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Renowned pianist, vocalist, musicologist, and humorist delivers renditions of cherished American songs. Tickets: \$25-\$27. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

GFL Drop-In Chess. 4:30-6:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop in chess at the Great Falls Library Meeting Room. All ages are welcome.

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Stephen Kellogg. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. This lively performer and talented everyman combines soulful songwriting and passionate guitar for a classic rock 'n' roll sound. Tickets: \$25. For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

Cars & Coffee. 7-9 p.m. 760 Walker Road Great Falls. Gathering of cars at Katie's Coffeehouse. Antique, custom, hotrod, exotic, sports, etc.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

Annual Church Street Holiday Stroll. 6-9 p.m. Church Street will be closed between Lawyers Road and Mill Street, and visitors are invited to stroll amid the sights and sounds of the holiday season and visit

merchants along the way. Historic structures open during the event include the Freeman Store and Museum, the Little Library, the train station, the red caboose, the Knights of Columbus (former First Baptist Church), and the Vienna Presbyterian "old chapel." Santa Claus will arrive at the Freeman Store at 6:15 p.m. and help Mayor Laurie DiRocco light the holiday tree. Afterwards, Santa will visit with children on the front porch of the Freeman Store. The Holiday Stroll will feature entertainment by local musical groups, a petting zoo, free hot chocolate, marshmallows for roasting at supervised "bon fires" and other festivities. Visitors are encouraged to bring canned foods and place them in boxes on the Freeman Store porch.

Model Trains Plus Thomas, Too! 6-9 p.m. Historic Vienna Railroad Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. Celebrate the holidays during the Vienna Holiday Stroll seeing and hearing model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends and the Polar Express on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young at heart. Free admission. www.nvmr.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

Ugly Sweater Party. 7-10 p.m. Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. For 7th-9th graders. \$10/\$5 OFTC member.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5 - 7

32nd Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. Friday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Santa and Mrs. Claus lit the holiday Christmas tree at the Great Falls Celebration of Lights, Dec. 7, 2013. This year's Celebration of Lights at Great Falls Village Centre Hill is on Saturday, Dec. 6, 5:30-8 p.m.

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FROM PAGE 13

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Admission: Adults, \$3; \$1, ages 13 and under. Good all 3 days.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Holiday Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m. Wolf Trap's Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. No tickets are required, but patrons are encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy donation for Toys for Tots. For more information, visit wolftrap.org.

Great Falls Celebration of Lights. 5:30 - 8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre. Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree. Afterwards, Santa will be in his house to meet all children who wish to share their holiday wishes. For the children, there will be a petting zoo and pony ride that will begin immediately after the tree lighting ceremony. <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/Christmas.html>

The Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Delight in a contemporary twist on the beloved holiday classic while you enjoy afternoon tea, petite sandwiches and pastries. All children will go home with a nutcracker doll and pictures to remember their day. \$79 per person. Event also takes place on Dec. 13 and 20.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 6-7

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Learn to make your own sugary home at a Gingerbread House Decorating Class, taught by The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner's Pastry Team. The class includes all the ingredients to construct a beautiful gingerbread house as well as a special souvenir. \$75 per child, ages 3 to 12, inclusive of tax and gratuity. Event also takes place on Dec. 13, 14, 20 and 21.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

McLean WinterFest Parade. 3:30 p.m. Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Groups interested in participating in the parade should go to www.mcleanwinterfest.org to complete the registration information and submit it to parade officials. Each entrant will receive confirmation of their registration with this year's parade rules. Registrations will be accepted until Nov. 18.

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Tara Nappi and Josh Gwilliam of Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria, share information with parents at The Exceptional Schools Fair.



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

An Exceptional Education

Exceptional Schools Fair offers parents a chance to learn more about schools for their children with special needs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Maureen Kleinman wandered from booth to booth, speaking with representatives from schools that cater to students who have special needs. She asked questions about each school's resources and environment.

"I have been home schooling my daughter for 5 years," said Kleinman, an Arlington mother. Her daughter is 11 years old and her son is 9. "I want to find a school where my daughter's educational needs

will be met, but also where her social and emotional needs will be met."

Kleinman was one of hundreds of local parents who attended the eighth annual Exceptional Schools Fair. The event is considered a clearinghouse for the region, a place where parents of children think and learn differently (regardless of their disability) can come and find the schools that are right for their children.

More than 30 schools from the mid-Atlantic region sent representatives to show what their schools have

SEE SCHOOLS FAIR, PAGE 17

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Katie Robinson with Langley Women's Head Coach Ashley Leake.

Langley High's Katie Robinson To Row at University of Miami

Langley High School's Katie Robinson '15 signed a National Letter of Intent to row for the University of Miami Crew team next year. As a member of the Langley High School Crew team, Katie has excelled at rowing, including stroking the team's top Women's boat to Virginia state championship wins in 2013 & 2014, and a silver medal at the 2014 SRAA National Championship regatta. Last year, Katie was honored by her team by receiving

the Women's team MVP award, and this year she is a team captain.

In addition to rowing with the Langley Crew team, Katie also rowed with the Resilient Rowing Club during the summer and fall seasons, resulting in several successful races in both local and national regattas.

Katie looks forward to incorporating her passion for Crew into her college life by rowing with the University of Miami team while majoring in business.

McLean Harriers Howley, Vaccaro Compete at States

McLean harriers Kathryn Howley, a junior, and Michelle Vaccaro, a senior, competed at the VHSL state meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

Howley finished 29th in the girls' 6A race with a time of 19 minutes, 16 seconds. Vaccaro finished 34th, crossing the finish line in 19:23.

Patriot sophomore Rachel McArthur won the individual championship with a time of 17:43, followed by Lake Braddock sophomore Kate Murphy (17:54) and Oakton senior Allie Klimkiewicz (18:12).

Oakton repeated as state champion, posting a score of 44. Lake Braddock finished runner-up (58), followed by Madison (83) and Patriot (96).



McLean's Kathryn Howley finished 29th in the 6A girls' race at the state cross country meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.

Langley Football Loses to Westfield in Playoffs

The Langley football team closed the regular season with four straight victories and made the playoffs. On Friday, the No. 15 seed Saxons' season concluded with a 47-20 loss at No. 2 Westfield in the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs at Westfield High School.

Langley finished the season with a 6-5 record. Westfield (10-1) will host No. 10 Chantilly in the quarterfinals.

Charity Basketball Tournament Registration Opens

Registration is now open for the McLean Youth Basketball Fifth Annual "Nothing But Nets" 3 on 3 Charity Tournament. The tournament is open to all McLean Youth Basketball "house league," boys and girls, grades 4-8. Teams of up to four players will

compete on Sunday, Nov. 30 from noon to 6 p.m. at Longfellow Middle School in McLean. Teams can register via email at MYBnothingbutnets@gmail.com for a registration fee of \$30, which supports the global anti-malaria programs of the United Nations Fund. All games are 15 minutes with simultaneous running clock and trophies will be awarded to each bracket for first and second places. One hundred percent of your donation goes to "Nothing But Nets," where only \$10 delivers a lifesaving insecticide-treated mosquito net to unprotected families in Africa via the UN Foundation.

And even if you don't play basketball, you can still help by making a donation online at <http://www.globalproblemsglobalsolutions.org/goto/MYBnothingbutnets>.

Over the past four years, the McLean Youth Basketball Nothing But Nets Tournaments funded the purchase of approximately 3,700 nets by raising more than \$37,000.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Tyler West, seen against McLean on Nov. 7, and the Langley football team lost to Westfield in the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs.

A Shopping Extravaganza at Holy Child!

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CONNELLY SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD

Education Learning Fun Schools Fair

FROM PAGE 15

to offer and answer questions from parents. The event was held at American University in D.C., November 16.

The fair was founded by Bekah Atkinson, director of admissions at the Sienna School, to provide a resource for parents whose lives literally changed overnight, or the moment they learned their children have a special need. The fair is a forum for parents to explore educational options for their children. Atkinson is clear, however, that it is not a forum for diagnosis or advice, but simply a helpful resource for parents who are facing an unknown future for their children, educationally, financially and emotionally.

“We have families coming from all over. They are looking for a place where their children feel safe.”

— **Tara Nappi, Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria**


“We have families coming from all over,” said Tara Nappi, director of teacher education and curriculum development at Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. “They are looking for a place where their children feel safe.”

EVENT ORGANIZERS described the fair as an empowering day for parents who may feel isolated by their child’s diagnosis.

“The Exceptional Schools Fair is a moment for families to see and learn that they have options; that they are not, in fact, isolated; that there are professional educators who are passionate about what they do in their school,” said Atkinson.

“Whether [the need] is academic or social, it’s so incredibly important that you work with professionals who understand your child and who are willing to collaborate with other professionals like speech therapists, occupational therapists and psychologists,” said Lois McCabe, head of school for the Diener School in Potomac, Md.

For more information on schools that were part of The Exceptional Schools Fair, visit www.exceptionalschoolsfair.com.



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And The "Scancer" Is...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Unknown at this date – Saturday, November 15. In fact, it will be six days from now until we'll know the results. As it is always scheduled, a week or so after my quarterly CT Scan, we will have our usual follow-up, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist. At this meeting, I am examined, and of course, the radiologist's report of the most recent scan is discussed, and plans for the future – stay the course and/or adjust or switch altogether – are considered.

However, this week there's been a blip. My chemotherapy infusion was delayed one week at least, maybe longer, because my creatinine levels were too high. Creatinine levels reflect kidney function, and when my level exceeds normal, given the potential for kidney failure – ultimately, and all the associated, interim complications/effects – treatment is stopped until additional lab work is completed. Now, in and of itself, this presents concerns; in conjunction with a potentially disappointing CT Scan, results of which will be learned on the 21st (even though I remain asymptomatic and feel as normal as a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor could possibly feel nearing year six, post-diagnosis), this presents worries exponentially more distressing.

Still, I'm not there yet and won't react as if the diagnosis is confirmed until it is. For the moment, I am simply enduring the typical ups and downs of living with an originally-diagnosed-as-terminal/inoperable form of lung cancer (are there any others?). There are good days and bad days to be sure, and many daze before, during and after. To be alive and facing this as yet unconfirmed complication is par for the course. To expect any different would be unrealistic. Most stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients don't survive as long as I have. Ergo, I would never complain about a situation that few of my fellow lung cancer patients have lived long enough to even consider. Heck, I'm the lucky one, considering I was originally given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis back in late February, 2009. I'm grateful to be in my shoes (any shoes, actually; sneakers mostly, because the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet is uncomfortable, a small price to pay relative to my original diagnosis/prognosis).

Initially, when I thought of this title, I was planning on channeling Alex Trebek by incorporating as many Jeopardy (the game show) touches as I could into this column: the questions, the answers, the categories, the "Daily Double," "Double Jeopardy," ("where the scores double and the game can really change"), "Final Jeopardy" (although working in its theme song would have been a challenge) and maybe even Merv Griffin would get a mention, all in an attempt to be funny.

But there's nothing very funny about the situation in which I find myself. I remain positive and upbeat, and after almost six years of experience living this emotional roller coaster, this week of waiting, even with the additional blip, is manageable, believe it or not. It's just not fun, whether you're asking or answering.

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

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THURSDAY/NOV. 20
Evening Book Group. 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title.
Oakton Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Come and join Oakton's book discussion group. We will discuss The Calligrapher's Daughter by Eugenia Kim. Adults.
Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Noah's Compass by Anne Tyler. Adults.
"Not Just for Teens" Adult Book Club. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. November's title is "The Reformed Vampire Support Group" by Catherine Jinks. Adults.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21
McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. - Noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Jamaliah Morais, a teacher and oriental brush painter who is a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, will be the featured presenter. Morais is a member of the Sum-e Society of America which supports the ancient Chinese and Japanese technique. She has exhibited at the Audubon Society, the University Club and the Embassy of Malaysia as well as the World Bank.
Friends of the Great Falls Library Book Sale. All day. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Used book sale.
English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22
McLean Child Safety Inspection. 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Lewinsville Center, 1609 Great Falls Street, McLean. The Mclean District Police Station holds child safety seat inspections once per month.
Be Fit McLean Saturday 55+ Lecture Series. 12 - 2 p.m. Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Transportation Options. \$7/\$5 MCC district residents. www.mcleancenter.org.
Friends of the Great Falls Library Book Sale. All day. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Used book sale.

MONDAY/NOV. 24
Adults Learning English. 11 a.m. Dolly Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Receive focussed help with reading, writing, speaking and listening.
Spanish Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice Spanish as a foreign language in this casual conversation group.
Evening ESL Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice speaking English in this informal conversation group.
English Conversation. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults.
Computer One-on-One. Noon. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Internet basics, email, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

TUESDAY/NOV. 25
Adult English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Dolly Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Enjoy practicing conversational English in a group setting.
Lego Club. 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop in and play with LEGOs! Ages 3 and up.
Computer One-on-One. Noon. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Internet basics, email, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint.
English Conversation One-on-One. 1:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for a non-native speaker with a library volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults.



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