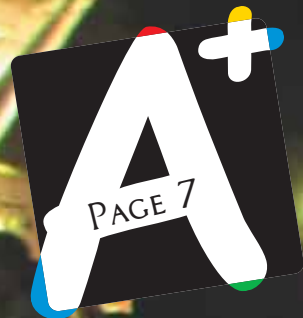


The Church Street Holiday Stroll – officially – kicks off Vienna's December fun events and activities. Roasting marshmallows on an open fire, visiting with Santa and petting farm animals highlight this annual festive event.



Inside  
**Holiday  
Entertainment  
& Gift Guide 2014**

# Vienna Gets Festive

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PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

December 5-6, 2014  
**SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE**

More than a Weekend, an Alexandria Tradition

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**Deck the Halls With Santa**  
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**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

**Holiday Designer Tour of Homes**  
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## 'We Need to Keep Our Children Fed'

**Vienna CROP Walk  
raises more than  
\$30,000.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**M**any of those participating in Vienna's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk had done so for several years. Others, like resident Martha Nichols, were walking in it for the first time.

But everyone knew exactly why they were there.

"The idea of people going without food in this county is awful, and we need to keep our children fed," said Nichols. "So this walk is something we should do."

The event was Sunday afternoon, Nov. 9, and was sponsored by Church World Service. This organization responds to human needs worldwide, both in crisis and everyday situations, providing food, clothing, medical supplies and access to clean drinking water to those needing it most.

Some 75 percent of the proceeds – raised by participants' registration fees, plus generous donations – go to Church World Service for disaster relief in the U.S. and in 80 different countries. The funds help people raise animals and crops for food, thereby fighting hunger and the root causes of poverty.

The other 25 percent benefits the Community for Helping Others (CHO), an all-volunteer group that helps the needy in Vienna, Oakton, Dunn Loring and Merrifield. It provides emergency financial assistance and food, plus clothes, furniture, transportation and the Meals on Wheels program.

"When many of us in this area think of hunger, we think of other countries or, at least, other areas of the United States," said Vienna Councilwoman Linda Colbert. "But we have hungry people and families in our community. There are children here who go without two meals a day and adults who rely on Meals on Wheels for food."

Betty Rahal of Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC) started the walk, a decade ago, and her church has organized it ever since. After the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia, Rahal asked Church World Service how she could help and was told that CROP Walks are a major source of its fundraising.

"I called them in January and we had our first CROP Walk in November 2005," she said. "I'm committed to this because the work Church World Service and CHO do is so helpful and so important."

About 150 people participated in Vienna's walk, and Rahal couldn't have been happier. "This was a good turnout today," she said. "I'm always thrilled with this walk." (As of Sunday night, it had raised \$30,500,



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Two sets of twins from Thoreau Middle help at the walk. (From left) are Lianna Williams, Hannah Rupy, Noah Rupy and Miller Williams.**



**(From left) are Madison High sophomore Katherine Holmes with her parents, Barbara and Ed Holmes, before the walk.**



**Betty Rahal (on left) introduces Linda Colbert.**



**From left — Madison High senior Leanna Covell and Marshall High freshman Robert Purnell perform with VPC's Youth Praise Band.**

but more pledges were still coming in).

Town residents, including members of six local churches – VPC, Holy Cross Episco-

pal, Epiphany United Methodist, Emmaus United Church of Christ, Emmanuel Lutheran and Lewinsville Presbyterian –

gathered on the Vienna Town Green before the event to register and snack on refreshments donated by Cenans Bakery and De Paul Urban Farm.

They also chatted with their friends and neighbors, listened to VPC's Youth Praise Band perform and got raffle tickets for prizes and gift certificates donated by local merchants. And a contingent of eighth-graders from Thoreau Middle School manned the water station and later gave out door prizes while obtaining service hours for civics class.

Student Lianna Williams said the event was important because "it's helping the town of Vienna." Classmate Hannah Rupy said everyone's efforts "can help stop hunger," and her twin brother Noah said they were all having "fun while helping people."

Before the participants departed for their 3-mile walk, which started and ended on the green, Rahal addressed the crowd. She thanked the volunteers, sponsors and community businesses and explained how CROP walks help people all over the world. She also told how CHO helps locally by providing food to children "whose only meal of the day may be their school lunch" and to adults who, likewise, might not eat if not for Meals on Wheels.

She then introduced Colbert, who said Vienna's event was one of 26 CROP Walks happening in Virginia. Colbert also expressed how proud she was of the community, Vienna Presbyterian and Rahal for "committing to fighting hunger."

Jennifer Chamberlain of Emmaus UCC has done this walk for years with about a dozen people. "Our church has a whole weekend of hunger-fighting events – we call it Mission Possible," she said. "We gather food for local food pantries and do this walk. And [on Nov. 8], we packed 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now."

Vienna's Laurie Forbes participated "because I love the cause and it's a beautiful day. And all ages can take part." VPC's Barbara Holmes was pleased that "a lot of the funds raised go back to the community. We've been involved in this a number of years and have had many CROP Walks with the Sunday School class."

"As the holidays approach, people take for granted all they have," added VPC's Catherine Straley. "But this is a way to get nutritional meals on the table so others will be blessed, this holiday season."

Susan Kenney, also of VPC, is a co-founder of Vienna's walk, along with Rahal. "This walk went well, and we always have high amounts raised per walker," said Kenney. "And we're always looking for more churches and people to participate."

Last year, she said, "We raised almost \$34,000 with only 200 walkers. It's just a great cause, and it's nice to see the same families and churches come out, year after year. My oldest son, Patrick, was 4 when he first started participating. He's now 13 and in eighth grade at Thoreau, and he's still doing it."

# Intriguing Play to Make People Think

## Oakton High School presents "Fahrenheit 451."

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 35, Oakton High presents the thought-provoking drama, "Fahrenheit 451." The curtain rises Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 20, 21 and 22, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door only.

It's directed by juniors Emily Dhue and Dana Bachman and is set in a futuristic 1950 when society is repressed. The government closely regulates everyone and everything, and books and reading are illegal.

"The show centers around a fireman whose job it is to burn books; it shows his transformation as he discovers reading," said Dhue. "When he meets a young woman named Clarisse, she makes him wonder about what he doesn't know."

**IN THIS SOCIETY**, said Bachman, "People know how to read, but have never experienced the emotions books can bring them." As for directing, she said, "It's cool to project our own vision onto this play. I didn't realize how hard it would be communicating my ideas to the actors, but this helped me improve."

Dhue enjoyed directing more than she expected to; she initially worried about working with people older than her. "But I love the play and the whole concept; and I'm glad I've had a hand in making it all happen and bringing a script to life."

Senior Nic Hill portrays the main character, Montag, a fireman who burns books. "At first, he's devoted to his job and loves the beauty, warmth and freedom that fire provides," explained Hill. "But he also thinks for himself and is interesting because he still follows the rules. He's unhappy at home and loathes his wife Mildred, but he knows she's his responsibility. Yet he's intrigued by Clarisse because she's so different from Mildred and is high-energy and engaging."

Hill's enjoys his role because "I see qualities of myself in him – rebellious and wanting to know how and why things are the way they are. And he eventually transforms and wants to understand books." Hill said the audience will enjoy this show because "the characters are so well-developed. They believe they're free-thinking, but they're not. And I hope people will take a step back, see themselves and want to change, because that's what we're in danger of becoming. Despite the show's heavy topic, it's fast-paced, conversational and feels real – and that's what also makes it so terrifying."

Playing Clarisse is senior Savannah Hard. "She's 18 and lives with her uncle, father and grandfather," said Hard. "Unlike the other houses, hers isn't fireproof and doesn't have a wall of televisions. She doesn't like technology, but prefers nature and is obser-



Posing in costume are (from left) Mahea Kaloi, Jordan Loria and Sarah Woolf.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HUNTER CARRICO



Michael Williamson as Fire Chief Beatty.



Savannah Hard plays Clarisse in the Oakton High production of "Fahrenheit 451."



Stavros Voudouris, Michael Williamson, Nic Hill and Eric Petrides portray the firemen.

vant and curious. She thinks about things, but doesn't tell anyone what she's thinking about. She's odd and quirky, so the Citizens Committee – which watches everyone – makes her see an analyst every week."

Hard says Clarisse brings some light-hearted moments to the show. "It's an intriguing story with characters whose back story is really cool to watch come out," she said. "And the characters develop more as the show goes on."

Junior Michael Williamson portrays Fire Chief Beatty. "He's a complex character with a complicated past," said Williamson. "He once was an avid reader and loved books because they helped him escape from his troubles. But eventually, he grew to hate books because they ceased to provide him the comfort he'd grown to expect from them. He's intelligent and also understands the danger that can come from reading – not dealing with your own problems by getting involved in other people's lives."

**"The show centers around a fireman whose job it is to burn books; it shows his transformation as he discovers reading."**

— Oakton High junior Emily Dhue

Williamson describes Beatty as an authority figure, "always in command, but with a touch of crazy. He's obviously a tormented person because some part of him thinks he isn't doing the right thing. He thinks for himself, instead of blindly following others. It's a dark show, but it's relevant to now because people still ban books they think will offend one group or another."

**PLAYING** Mildred Montag is senior Jordan Loria. "She's empty and gives a sense of how everyone else is in this society – without original thoughts," said Loria. "Mildred's obsessed with a pre-recorded TV show that has no meaning; but to her, it's all that matters."

Loria loves her role because "I consider myself decently intelligent and she's the opposite of me, and so shallow. She wants things shiny and happy; but that's what makes it so fake – because it's not reality, so she forms her own."

Loria said this show is going to make the audience think. "It's really going to open their eyes to the fact that we're slowly dying as a culture," she explained. "What we think is technologically advancing just might be bringing us backwards. I think people are going to love it."

## Vienna Mayor's Walking Group

Vienna residents are welcome to join Mayor Laurie DiRocco's walking group. It meets every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. The walks are about 2.5 to 3 miles, with a different route every Friday. The next walk is Nov. 21.

## Roads Closed Nov. 23 and 27

Several roads will be closed Sunday, Nov. 23, from

8-9:30 a.m., for Vienna's annual Turkey Trot. They are: Cottage Street SW from Locust Street to Patrick Street SW, Center Street S from Locust Street to Moore Street, Locust Street from Cottage Street to Center Street, Moore Street from Cottage Street to Center Street, and a portion of Cherry Street near the fire station. Then on Thursday, Nov. 27, from about 8-10 a.m., several roads will be closed to accommodate the 2014 Wounded Warrior 5K. They include: Ayr Hill Avenue NW from Mill Street NE to Center Street N, and Center Street N from Ayr Hill Avenue NW to Mill Street NE. However, most of this race will occur along the W&OD Trail between Ayr Hill Avenue and Hunter Mill Road. Trail users will experience higher-than-normal usage during this time.



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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 ambiance 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 trans-

### 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.

**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 [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org).

**Herndon Towne Square Singers.** Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814

form 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 rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

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

Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual holiday concert with cider, cookies and sing-along carols. \$12. 703-435-6800.

**2014 Annual Reston Holiday Book Sale.** Friday, Dec. 5, 7:30-9 p.m. 10 a.m. - 5p.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.

**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](http://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.

ety of places.

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

The Connection is participating in Shop Small 2014, email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) to find out more.

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### COMMENTARY

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

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned its regular session in early March this year and immediately went into special session that while still continuing has become the longest special session ever. The special session was needed to complete work on the biennial budget and to fill judicial vacancies. While technically in special session, we actually only meet as an assembled body a few days every couple of months. We passed a budget but have had to revise it because of declining state revenue. We considered expansion of Medicaid services in what some termed a "sham" session as the majority party had indicated its no-compromise opposition to closing the coverage gap. We filled a number of judicial positions although the drawn-out political process of selecting

## Protracted Legislative Session

judges has made the flaws of the current method painfully apparent. Since the legislature is in session, albeit a special session, the Governor is prevented from making judicial appointments. As at the federal level, there is gridlock as Republicans fight among themselves as to who should be appointed to the bench.

The necessity of revising a budget soon after its passage reflects what a report from *Stateline* terms "volatility" in income tax revenue that is disproportionately affected by economic booms and busts. The problem that Virginia and other states are having is trying to predict revenues with stock market fluctuations and other cyclical events that are having a larger impact on incomes especially for the wealthy causing income taxes and capital gains taxes to vary widely from

year to year. A report from Standard and Poor's Rating Services found that overall revenues in the top most income-tax-dependent states like Virginia have grown only 5.25 percent since 2009 compared to 9.32 percent in 1980-1989 and 5.7 percent in 1990-1999.

Virginia's effort to balance its budget is made more difficult by what the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis terms "willful ignorance" to recognize the positive impact expanding Medicaid would have on the state's budget. At a recent State-wide Policy Summit I attended that the Institute sponsored, a report "RX for an Ailing Virginia: Budget Savings in Expansion States Can Happen in Virginia" was released. The report contends that 27 states and Washington, D.C. have freed up precious resources for critical needs

like education by closing their health coverage gaps and saving money on medical care and that savings in Virginia could amount to \$161 million. While proponents of Medicaid expansion have contended that the program would save states money, the evidence is now available from its first year of implementation—Kentucky has saved \$80 million, Arkansas \$89 million and Michigan \$100 million. Virginia would save money by using federal money to replace state-funded healthcare programs.

Virginia taxpayers are the losers for the state not recognizing and dealing with its systemic budget challenges and for its bull-headedness in not expanding its Medicaid program. Responsible leadership on the part of legislators, not a protracted year-long legislative session, is needed for the Commonwealth.

Vienna & Oakton  
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# An Exceptional Education

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**M**aureen 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

SEE SCHOOLS FAIR, PAGE 13



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE

## Vienna Gets Festive

DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

The Vienna area, from James Madison High School to Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, offers a diversity of holiday fun for all ages. Some are free; most are not.

While there has not been an official announcement regarding Town Green caroling, for the past two years spirited local residents have come together on the Town Green to spread holiday cheer. Look for an announcement in December's papers.

### WINTER WALK OF LIGHTS FESTIVAL

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, facing Beulah Road, turns into a magical winter wonderland of festive lights for seven weeks, from Nov. 14, 2014 to Jan. 4, 2015. Owned by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Meadowlark is more than 100 acres of plants, flowers, lakes and green grass. Dozens of displays and scenes – made up of more than a half a million LED lights – light up the parkland during the evening.

There's a gingerbread house, sleigh, carolers, whimsical animations, and an animated light show featuring 40,000 lights at the lake set to holiday songs. Hot beverages are for sale, and, in the Snowflake Shoppe are ornaments. Timed admission tickets are required. Adult prices are \$13 each; children, 3 to 12, pay \$8 each. Coupons that offer \$1 off are valid Monday through Thursday only. Choose your start time and stay as long as you like; the park closes at 10 p.m.

Meadowlark Gardens suggest printing tickets at home and presenting them to the Visitor Center staff for admissions to the garden. The 8:30 or 9:15 ticket times have fewer crowds.

Dress seasonally and understand that this is a walking show. The path is 0.6 miles long.

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens is located at 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, off Beulah Road, Vienna.

To buy tickets, go to <http://winterwalkoflights.com/>

### CHURCH STREET HOLIDAY STROLL

Santa arrives at the historic Freeman Store via an antique fire truck on Monday, Dec. 1. At 6 p.m., sirens blare along closed historic



A toy soldier escorts Frosty the Snowman into the auditorium of James Madison High School during the band's annual Tiny Tots holiday concert.

Church Street. The mayor of Vienna and Santa light the town's holiday tree outside Freeman Store and Santa then takes up position on the front porch to listen to kids' Christmas wishlists.

Live music is presented throughout the evening and Church Street merchants stay open late. The petting zoo and marshmallow firepits are popular past times for children.

The festive event is free, including the hot chocolate, and is sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc. and the Town of Vienna.

Church Street, from Park Street to Center Street, is closed to traffic during the event, 6-9 p.m.

For information, call Historic Vienna, Inc. at 703-938-5187 or visit [historicvienna.org](http://historicvienna.org).

### 35TH ANNUAL TINY TOTS HOLIDAY CONCERT

This lively, energetic concert, presented by the James Madison High School Band, is a perennial hit with the pre-school set, particularly. Popular holiday tunes anchor the program that also features "surprise" visits from special (cos-

tumed) guests. Toy soldiers greet guests, and the finale, a robust version of "Sleigh Ride," thrills the kids as snow falls from the ceiling. Show times are 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, and 10 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 5. The Thursday evening production is pajama-friendly.

New in 2014, tickets must be purchased online for groups less than 10. Follow link <http://jamesmadison-band.ticketleap.com/tiny-tots> for online reservations. Groups of 10 or more have the option of preordering tickets by mail. Admission is free for babies under 1 in parent's arms. Requests for reserved seating must be received by November 24. Walk-ins are welcome for all shows and tickets can be purchased in the lobby by check, cash or credit card 30 min. before the show.

Ticket prices are \$8 per person. James Madison High School, is located at 2500 James Madison Drive, a block off Rt. 123. For information on program content and on buying tickets, to [www.jmhsband.org/](http://www.jmhsband.org/)



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, off Beulah Road, features more than 500,000 LED lights in its spectacular Winter Walk of Lights Festival. The walking tour of the light displays and scenes opened on Nov. 14 and runs through Jan. 4, 2015.

[index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=482&catid=54&Itemid=404%20](http://index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=482&catid=54&Itemid=404%20)

### WOLF TRAP HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG

This is one of those events that sparkles with holiday spirit. "The President's Own," the U.S. Marine Corps Band, takes over the stage at Filene Center on Saturday, Dec. 6, 4 p.m. Local choirs participate in the musical presentation, as well. Free admission.

The Toys for Tots tradition carries on at the center, and Marines collect unwrapped toys.

Other traditions stand fast, as well. Guests are invited to bring bells to jingle-along with "Jingle Bells," and candles for the "Silent Night" exit procession.

Keep in mind that Filene Center is an outdoor venue. And it's December.

Parking at Wolf Trap is free.

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

There's excitement in the Flame Room of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department station in mid-December. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department [VVF] Auxiliary hosts its annual All-You-Can-Eat Holiday Pancake Breakfast at the VVF, 400 Center Street S on Saturday, Dec. 13, 8 a.m. to noon. The price includes all the pancakes you can eat, sausage, bacon, juice, and coffee. Santa Claus arrives at 10:30

a.m. to greet the children. Tours of the fire equipment are offered, as well. Fire and rescue personnel, in uniform, are on-hand. Price of the holiday pancake breakfast is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for children under 12 years old, and free for children under 4.

### LUNCH WITH SANTA

Town of Vienna welcomes Santa Claus to the Vienna Community Center at the town's annual Santa luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Elves prepare hot dogs, chips, juice and cookies. KayDee Puppets performs a holiday-themed puppet show after lunch.

Cost per person is \$5, under one year old is free. A maximum of six tickets may be purchased per family. At least one parent must accompany children and a ticket must be purchased for each parent and child.

Tickets are on sale for Town of Vienna residents from Saturday, Nov. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., and for out-of-town residents beginning Nov. 17 if tickets remain. Tickets can be purchased at the Vienna Community Center front desk.

Parks and Recreation asks that guests bring a new, unwrapped toy when tickets are purchased for the Vienna Police Department's Santa Ride. 703-255-6360; [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov)

Holiday activities abound in December.



First Night Vienna 2013 was such a huge success that First Night Vienna 2014 has an expanded footprint and new entertainment throughout the family-friendly New Year's Eve event. The main tent features a DJ and at 9 p.m., children toast the new year with a train whistle. The party runs from 6 p.m. to midnight.

### HOLIDAY WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

Ayr Hill Garden Club members present a single-workshop instruction on holiday wreath-making on Friday, Dec. 5, 9:30-11 a.m. A wide range of materials will be available for your choosing. All materials are provided in the cost of the workshop. Space is limited. Tea, coffee and treats will be provided.

Register at Vienna Community Center or online at [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov). Program number is 340074-A1 and cost is \$25.

### WINTER WONDERLAND PARTY

Vienna Parks and Recreation does not forget about the area's "twens." Club Phoenix, the free afternoon program for kids in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, is hosting a holiday party for them on Friday, Dec. 12, 3:30-10 p.m.

Club Phoenix provides treats, sweets and activities. Parks and Recreation asks that guests bring a new wrapped gift for participation in the White Elephant Party Game Exchange.

### VIENNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SANTA RUNS

Accompanied by elves dressed much like VVFD emergency responders, Santa Claus stands aboard a 1946 Maxim fire engine, traversing Vienna's neighborhoods, waving to young kids and senior

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE

# The Best Holiday Gifts in the Vienna Area

Holiday gift guide features locally-owned businesses with high-quality merchandise and friendly customer service

DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hy, yes, you can shop online or at the mall for holiday gifts .... or, you can get personalized, friendly service and distinctive, high-quality goods by supporting your Vienna-Oakton small businesses, typically owned by local people who give back to the community. Most of the owners know the background of their products, some of which are made by local artisans, and have pride in what they sell, from birdhouses to hand-crafted ornaments and the diversity of merchandise in between.

Since many of the world's Christmas traditions originated in Germany, it's fitting to buy – and use – a German-made Advent calendar filled with German chocolates to count down the days to Christmas. You can find these colorful, whimsical Christmas countdown calendars at drug stores, grocery stores, and gift shops. They range in price [depending on the glitter quotient] from \$2 to \$5.

The Connection features two holiday gift guides, so, if your favorite local business is not included in the first one, perhaps, you'll see it featured in the December guide.

**VIENNA BIRDWATCHERS SEED AND SUPPLY**, 396 Maple Avenue E; Maple Avenue and Beulah Road intersection.

This year-old shop sells more than bird seed — although it does sell seed to attract birds of pretty-

**THE ARTFUL GIFT SHOP**, 145 Church Street, NW, lower level.

Here's the mission of The Artful Gift Shop: the products for sale must be handcrafted. Unique, one-of-a-kind pieces are the specialty of this little shop, from birdhouses crafted by local crafter Howard Lewis to natural soaps, jewelry, art pieces, and, one of the area's most distinctive finds – handknitted hats and scarves.

Owner Peggy James, like many other Vienna shop owners, is more than a proprietor. James is one of the most active members and supporters of the Vienna Business Association, volunteering in VBA's myriad community events, from the Halloween Parade to Oktoberfest. She's everywhere in the community but makes the time to run her shop and fundraise on behalf of Homeless Animal Rescue Team.

James knows the history, background and producer of everything she sells. If Mayberry had a shopkeeper, Peggy James would have been it.

Artists collaborate with James to set prices. Elegantly handpainted handbags sell for \$25 and up. Vienna crafter Howard Lewis designs and builds fan-



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Vienna Birdwatchers Seed and Supply's selection of American-made birdfeeders.**

much any feather. It sells birdfeeders of all varieties, including the accoutrements – baffles - that make squirrel pilferage difficult, but there are “houses,” too. Houses with see-through walls for humans to peek through, and houses for bats, owls and squirrels, as well. The owners, Cindy and Jeff DeMeglio, are knowledgeable and passionate, and their prices are reasonable-enough to inspire your recipient to start a new hobby. The pocket guides make great stocking-stuffers.

The price for window-nest birdhouses with a see-through plastic wall for viewing are \$25. Decorative birdfeeders start at under \$30. The ornithologically-correct birdhouses are built by Coveside Conservation of Maine. There's a bat “mansion” that holds up to 150 bats selling for \$70.

You can buy an owl house at Vienna Birdwatchers and squirrel feeders. The store sells little bags and huge bags of birdseed, as well as fold-out bird and wildlife guides that make identification easier for the novice birdwatcher. It would be hard to find a stocking-stuffer more unique than that.

Call 703-242-4565 for store hours or go to [www.birdwatchersvienna.com](http://www.birdwatchersvienna.com).



**Kari Cannistraro handpaints handbags; the bags start at \$25.**

ciful birdhouses that begin at \$70. Handknit scarves and hats run from \$18 each to about \$32 for the combination hat/scarf.

For holiday hours and information, call 703-242-1220 or see [www.artfulgiftshop.com](http://www.artfulgiftshop.com)

SEE GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 11

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE

FROM PAGE 10

## FREEMAN STORE AND MUSEUM, 131 Church Street, NE.

Known around Vienna as “Freeman House,” the white clapboard building in the historic Church Street district houses an upstairs museum and exhibit room, as well as an old-fashioned country store on the main level. Step into Freeman Store and you’ve stepped back in time.

In line with the history of the store – the building goes back to 1849 when it was called Lydecker Store – the ambiance and tenor reflects a bygone era of penny candy, pot-bellied stove and old-time toys and games. The store maintains a selection of Virginia-made food products the year-round.

Every year, Historic Vienna, Inc., administrator of Freeman House which is owned by the Town of Vienna, contracts artist Rachael Peden to design and handpaint holiday ornaments representing a Vienna icon. The individual ornaments sell for \$19.50 each. The 2014 design depicts “Once Upon a Time,” the iconic little upscale toy shop that was housed in one of Church Street’s early 20<sup>th</sup>-century houses, now torn down.

Among the tried-and-true sale merchandise is Vienna-logo pottery made by a small Pennsylvania business. Pieces include mugs, storage containers, and serving pieces and prices start at under \$10.

For information on stock, call 703-938-5187 or go to [www.Historicviennainc.org](http://www.Historicviennainc.org). Or just stop by this nostalgic store that is unlike



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Freeman Store stocks an assortment of Vienna-logo merchandise, from pottery crafted in Pennsylvania to linens. The store features Virginia-made items, as well.**

most of which consumers see nowadays.

## TOY CORNER – Oakton Shopping Center, Suite # 106

When kids think of the December holidays, they think of cookies and gingerbread houses, evergreen trees, parties, and gifts and toys. Mostly toys.

Toy Corner, a staple of the Oakton Shopping Center at the corner of Chain Bridge and Hunter Mill roads, offers classic toys and dolls and games, but, more than that, they offer personalized customer service. Walk through the door and an employee greets you and asks if you need help. Here’s what separates Toy Corner from mega-stores: the employees know their products

well and understand what is age-appropriate. They take the time to walk around the store with their customers, answering questions from them.

And their science activity kit selection is without peer in the area. There are microscopes with low magnification for very young children and microscopes with high-quality magnification for older kids (sells for \$90). Some of the smaller science “experiments” start at about \$4.

A hot item for curious kids are the collection of Snap Circuits, a build-it-yourself electronic kit. Single-design kits start at \$25.

Got a kid who loves Playmobil or Legos? They’re here. Corolle dolls? Yes, they’re here. Brain teasers, crafts, books and puzzles share space with classic toys.

Call 703-255-3232 for hours and questions regarding stock or see [www.toycornerva.com/](http://www.toycornerva.com/)

## ABC LIQUOR STORES OF VIENNA AND OAKTON

Vienna store: 436 Maple Ave E; 703-938-2476

Oakton store: Oakton Shopping Center, 2930 Chain Bridge Road, Suites 109-110; 703-242-2627

Big kids – over 21 years old – might appreciate the seasonal offerings of the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control store system. In addition to the ABC’s regular stock of fine domestic and imported spirits, local ABCs are selling holiday-inspired liqueurs and egg-nogs, from candy cane flavored



**Snap Circuits are a fun way for kids – and their parents – to learn about electricity and physics.**

vodka to pumpkin spice cream-based libation. Egg-nogs are made by several U.S. companies and are “spirited.” Prices for the seasonal liquors start at under \$10 and usually sell out.



**Liquor stores run by the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control offer a seasonal selection of premiere spirits and festive liqueurs and egg-nogs. Price start at under \$10 per bottle.**

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# Oakton Girls' XC Repeats as State Champs

**Cougars mistakenly think they finished runner-up.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**O**akton cross country coach Alisa Byers felt a sense of pride in the way her girls' team handled its second-place finish at the VHSL state meet, with harriers holding their heads high as they walked onto the podium at Great Meadow to receive recognition.

As it turned out, Oakton actually did one better than a runner-up finish.

The defending state champion Cougars mistakenly thought the top three teams would be recognized following the race, when in actuality, it was only the first- and second-place finishers. After Lake Braddock was honored at the podium, Oakton was called up.

"We thought that they [recognize] three teams on the podium," Oakton senior Allie Klimkiewicz said. "We were the second to go up there and they handed us the first-place trophy and we were just very confused."

It took a moment or two for it to sink in, but the Cougars eventually realized the truth: they were, once again, state champions.

The Oakton girls' cross country team won



**The Oakton girls' cross country team won its second consecutive 6A state championship on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow.**

its second consecutive 6A state title with a score of 44 on a Saturday afternoon, Nov. 15, at Great Meadow. The Cougars held off Lake Braddock, which finished runner-up with a score of 58. Each team's top five harriers finished in the top 20.

"I'm really ecstatic about [winning back-to-back state titles]," Klimkiewicz said. "I'm really proud of my team. It was a really close race. We came in knowing that there would be at least three teams right with us, so I was really happy to find out that we won."

The Cougars didn't "find out" they had won until they were up on the podium.

"They had no idea," Byers said. "That's why they were so confused up on the podium. ... They went up there, still, with

poise. I was very proud of that moment because a lot of times when people get second, they hold their heads down. They were still just proud to make it back on the podium." Klimkiewicz placed third with a time of 18 minutes, 12 seconds. Teammate Casey Kendall, a sophomore, finished fourth with a time of 18:17.

"Casey is the most versatile runner I've ever met," Klimkiewicz said. "She has a fantastic kick. Both of us were able to pass a lot of girls in the last 1,000 meters or so, and it was great to have her right there with me at the end."

Oakton sophomore Leya Salis finished 11th with a time of 18:30. Freshman Kira Buttrey placed 15th (18:45), and junior Jill

Bracaglia was 16th (18:49).

Oakton will graduate only two of its top seven runners — Klimkiewicz and senior Kara Kendall, who finished 66th with a time of 20:21.

Oakton was at its best late in the season, winning championships at the Conference 5, 6A North region, and state levels.

"I think a lot of people, if they would have looked at our midseason performances, they weren't very impressive," Byers said. "A lot of people started to count us out and there were moments where even some of the girls started to count themselves out. Once we got to postseason, we changed gears and just kind of went after it."

Patriot sophomore Rachel McArthur won the individual title with a time of 17:43. Lake Braddock sophomore Kate Murphy finished runner-up (17:54).

The Madison girls' team finished third with a score of 83. Warhawk harriers Devon Williams (18:22), Amanda Swaak (18:30), and Morgan Wittrock (18:33) earned all-state honors, placing sixth, 10th, and 13th, respectively.

In the 6A boys' race, Oakton finished fourth with a score of 124. Lake Braddock won the team title with a score of 41, followed by West Springfield (92) and Chantilly (105).

Oakton senior Simon Iyob earned all-state with a 12th-place finish (15:58).

Lake Braddock senior Alex Corbett won the individual championship with a time of 15:08, and Bruin teammate Kevin Monogue placed second (15:19).

## Madison Volleyball Wins First Region Championship

**Warhawks carried undefeated record into state tournament.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**M**embers of the Madison volleyball team looked up at the banner listing the program's historical achievements and envisioned an alteration.

With a dominant performance against Osbourn Park in the region final Saturday night, the Warhawks earned their place in Madison history, and acknowledgment on the wall of their high school gymnasium.

Madison won its first region championship, capturing the 6A North title with a 3-0 (25-11, 25-6, 25-10) victory against the Osbourn Park Yellow Jackets on Nov. 15 at Madison High School. The Warhawks improved their record to 32-0 with yet another postseason sweep,



**The Madison volleyball team on Nov. 15 won the first region championship in program history.**

and secured a home match in the state semifinals.

"We were standing there while [the Yellow Jackets] were [being recognized as region runners-up]," Madison outside hitter Natale Zanellato said, "and we were looking up at the [banner] and we're like, what's

it going to look like with '2014' up there?"

Many of the Warhawks entered Saturday's match with the memory of last year's season-ending loss to the Yellow Jackets in the region semifinals. Madison was 29-2 before Osbourn Park swept the Warhawks, leaving Madison one win shy of states for the second straight season. "We had a great year going last year and then they came in in the semifinals and they beat me in three," Madison head coach Carrie Hall said. "We were all kind of in shock, to be honest." It was the Yellow Jackets who appeared in shock Saturday night as the Warhawks took control early in the first set and never let up. With the teams tied at 6 in the opener, Madison scored 19 of the next 24 points, including 12 of the final 14. Senior setter Kendal Hall helped spark the run with a pair of powerful jump-serve aces.

Zanellato, a junior transfer from Lake Braddock who did not play high school volleyball last season, had six kills in the opener, including the set-winner.

Madison built leads of 11-2 and 16-4 in the second set before closing with nine straight points. Junior outside hitter Jayne Carter had four kills and an ace in the set.

The Warhawks jumped out to a 12-2 ad-

vantage in the third set and closed with seven straight points, including a match-winning kill by Zanellato. "We wanted to come out strong," Kendal Hall said. "Last year, with them beating us in the semis, we wanted to get revenge. We just had our mind set to win." Zanellato finished with a team-high 13 kills. Senior outside hitter Marissa Roy, the 6A North region Player of the Year, finished with eight kills, and Carter had six.

Senior libero Virginia Moore, a first-team all-region selection, had four aces.

The sweep was Madison's 11th in a row, including regional tournament victories against Robinson, Battlefield and Westfield. The Warhawks dropped just five sets in their first 32 matches.

"I really feel like we played incredible all week long," Carrie Hall said. "... All week, we've beaten everybody in three. We've been playing incredible volleyball."

Madison hosted 6A South region runner-up Ocean Lakes in the state semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The state final is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 21 at VCU's Siegel Center in Richmond.

# A Education Learning Fun Schools Fair

FROM PAGE 7

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 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.



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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.

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT AND GIFT GUIDE

Send announcements to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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.



**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.**

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**"Autumn Splendor."** 3-5 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sunday Soiree Series Dance. \$15 per couple, \$8 single. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## MONDAY/NOV. 24

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

## NOTEWORTHY NOVEMBER EVENTS

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

information contact Jennifer at [womenscouncilofsjb@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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

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.

## 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](http://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. Opening day festivities will include holiday confections, hot spiced cider and hot cocoa.

Renowned pianist, vocalist, musicologist, and humorist delivers renditions of cherished American songs. Tickets: \$25-\$27. For more information, visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://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](http://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

**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](http://www.nvmr.org).

**Merrifield GARDEN CENTER**

**Get Ready for the Holidays**  
We have everything you need for a beautiful Christmas!

Join us for **LADIES NIGHT OUT**  
Thursday, Nov. 20, 6-9 pm  
at all three locations  
Enjoy our enchanting Christmas shops as we pamper you with tasty appetizers, wine tasting and holiday music

Available at Ladies Night Out!  
A new book about Bob Warhurst's inspirational rise from poverty to become one of the co-founders of Merrifield Garden Center. A must read!

**FREE SEMINARS**  
Sat., Nov. 22 at 10 am  
Fair Oaks: Christmas Decorating Tips  
Gainesville: How to Create a Festive Container Garden

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**  
November 28-30

MERRIFIELD 703-560-6222  
FAIR OAKS 703-968-9600  
GAINESVILLE 703-368-1919

Holiday hours begin November 20: Daily 8 am - 9 pm  
[merrifieldgardencenter.com](http://merrifieldgardencenter.com)