



# Heartbreaker in State Final

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Marissa Roy and the Madison volleyball  
team finished state runner-up in 2014.

## What Are You Thankful for This Thanksgiving?

VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 3

## Friendships Still Flying High After 50 Years

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WEEK IN VIENNA  
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.

# Thanksgiving Schedule, Craft Fair

The Vienna Community Center will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, for Thanksgiving, but will be open Friday, Nov.

28, through Sunday, Nov. 30, from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. During this time, no classes or drop-in programs will be held; but the Vienna Community Center will host the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Arts and Craft Show on Friday-Saturday, Nov. 28-29, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 30, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, go to [www.nvhg.org](http://www.nvhg.org).

# Patronize Vienna Businesses

Vienna Business Saturday is Nov. 29 and, on this day and throughout the year, Vienna residents are encouraged to patronize Vienna businesses. It's to demonstrate their support and appreciation for the contributions Vienna businesses make to the community. Likewise, businesses are

SEE WEEK, PAGE 5

**BLACK FRIDAY SPECIAL!**

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# 'Audience Will Root for the Characters'

## Oakton High presents the drama, "Radium Girls."

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**ased on true events, Oakton High's upcoming play, "Radium Girls," is a compelling drama illustrating a tragic time in American history. Show times are Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 4, 5 and 6, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

The story takes place from 1917 through the 1920s in a New Jersey factory and centers around three young women who work there. "They're painting watch dials with glow-in-the-dark paint for the U.S. soldiers away at war," said senior Neil Totten, directing the show with classmate David Fish.

The paint contains radium and, as they work, the women lick their brushes to make a finer point. "This was before people knew radium was poisonous and could cause cancer," said Fish. "One girl suddenly collapses at work, very ill, and the other girls get suspicious that the company hasn't told them everything about what they're doing. There's a lawsuit, with one lawyer representing the company and another representing the workers."

There's a cast and crew of 30 and a multi-level set with a clock in the middle. The scenes take place at the factory, the owner's office, a home, the street and a doctor's office. Totten said things are going well and the actors "pick up direction quickly. They're all very talented, especially our two leads, Veronica Silva and Rob Condas."

Totten's directing his third Oakton show and Fish said he learned a lot from him, including "how to morph the actors' performances into the vision Neil and I have for the show." Totten enjoyed working with Fish, since they're real-life friends; and since it's such a character-driven show, Totten was pleased to see the actors carry out his instructions.

**PLAYING** Arthur Roeder, the head of the factory, the Radium Corp., is senior Rob Condas. "He's climbed to the top of the corporate ladder and is struggling to be the best businessman he can be," said Condas. "But in doing so, he's turning away from the things that really matter to him, especially his wife, employees and friends. He's a kind man at heart, but chooses not to believe his company could be at fault. If he did, he'd have to admit to the crimes he's done – and doing that would destroy him."

Condas says it's the toughest character he's ever played because "I'm primarily a comedic actor and he's a morally ambiguous, serious character with a sad story arc. But it's my favorite role because it has some meat to it and, when I see the other people on stage, I see them as their actual characters."

The audience will like this play, said Condas, because "the characters normally played as stereotypes – the mean businessman, the ditz, crazy person, newlyweds, etc. – are delved into more deeply. And that makes the story a three-dimensional, tragic tale."

Senior Veronica Silva portrays dial-painter Grace Fryer. "She's a shy, quiet, obedient girl who loves her friends," said Silva. "After two of her friends get sick, she works with a lawyer on a lawsuit against the company."



(From left) are Grant Seastream, Gunnar Michael, Rob Condas, Lawrence Yang and Spencer Jones as the "company men."



Veronica Silva portrays Grace Fryer.

"I love this character because she's similar to me; she's friendly and sees the good in people," continued Silva. "This role helped me get a better grasp on how to delve deeper and get inside a character's mind, and I think she's fighting for a great cause."

Believing the audience will feel "emotionally connected" to the show, Silva said, "They'll find the story's suspense appealing and really fall in love with the characters."

Playing Dr. Von Sochocky is senior Grant Seastream, a Ukrainian chemist who invented the radium paint in his kitchen. "He's excited about his work, founded the Radium Corp. and knew many of the girls there," said Seastream. "He suspects that something's wrong with radium, but really doesn't know."

**ENJOYING HIS ROLE**, he said it's "fun doing a Ukrainian accent and I have high energy in my scenes. I also get to flirt with one of the plant managers, so one of the challenges is trying to show what's really important to this man." Overall, said Seastream, "The audience will like the show's ambiguous morals and will sympathize with and root for the characters as the play goes on."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HUNTER CARICO

## What Are You Thankful for This Thanksgiving?

— DONNA MANZ

### Peggy James, The Artful Gift Shop:

"I am thankful for the unbelievably wonderful friends I have made in Vienna since I opened my shop five years ago this month. I am thankful that I have a business I love, that supports local artists as well as animal rescue. I am most thankful for my wonderful father, who is always there for me, no matter what."



### Pat Britz, Vienna Woman's Club:

"I am very grateful to be able to retire at this time in my life and go on my dream vacation to Costa Rica. I am especially thankful to be so healthy and fit as to hike up to and go across eight hanging bridges with my new friends over the rainforest and witness such beautiful landscapes."



### Shirley Buford, vocational chairman for the Vienna Rotary Club, Vienna:

"I am thankful to all of the Vienna Rotarians who participated in presentations of Webster's Student Dictionaries to 1,400 third graders in 12 elementary schools in the Vienna area. The third graders love having their own personal dictionaries, enjoy learning how to use them, learn about service to the community through the Rotary Club, and that we give back to the community through our sponsorship of ViVa! Vienna!"



### Laurie DiRocco, mayor, Town of Vienna:

"I am thankful for my family, my friends and my health. I am grateful to celebrate Thanksgiving with my entire family at my sister's house. I am also thankful for the Vienna community and its many volunteers who make Vienna a special place to live."



### Howard "Happy" Svigals, rotarian of Greater Vienna, formerly of Vienna

"I am thankful for all your wonderful Facebook postings."



### Cindy Williams, PetMAC, Reston

"Friends and family aside, I'd have to say I'm thankful that my parents raised me to be the person I am. In hard times, I have the strength to power through and come out the other side. In good times, I have the openness to invite others to share in my good fortune. Both my parents have passed away, but the lessons they taught me live on and I wouldn't have traded either one of them for anything in the world."



### Niall Leogue, Caddie Tours, Vienna

"I think it's important to remember what the holidays are about, since it usually gets overshadowed by Black Friday, cooking way too much food, and chatting with family members. I am exceptionally thankful for a strong and supportive family, a network of amazing friends, a job I love, good health, a mind full of goals and aspirations that are starting to fall in place. Happy Thanksgiving."



### Cindy Stewart, Hunter Mill District representative to Fairfax County Animal Shelter Advisory Commission

"I am most thankful for my family and for the privilege of living in a town and community that is caring and generous to its less-fortunate residents."





# Vienna Teen Acting in 'A Christmas Carol'

**Holiday classic offers dinner and a play.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A holiday classic comes to life in an intimate, dinner-theater setting when the City of Fairfax Theatre Co. and Truro Anglican Church present "A Christmas Carol."

Guided by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, Ebenezer Scrooge will take a journey leading to his transformation and redemption. And a Vienna teen is among the cast members.

Show times are Thursday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m., with 6:30 p.m. dinner; Saturday, Dec. 6, at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. with 6:30 p.m. dinner (limited availability); and Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, adults; \$5, students, via [www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org](http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org), and \$15 and \$10, respectively, at the door. Dinner shows are \$25/ticket, either way. (A special, \$20 family package is offered for the Dec. 6 show at 10 a.m.). Truro is at 10520 Main St. in Fairfax.

The cast and crew of 30 have been rehearsing since September and the actors are ages 8-85. "What's unique about this play is that the whole room is part of the set,"



**Vienna's Melissa Handel plays Martha Cratchit.**

said Director Kirsten Boyd. "The actors will be performing in the aisles and onstage, so the audience will feel like they're part of the story. We'll have an old-fashioned lamp-

post in the center of the room, and the audience will sing Christmas carols with the cast throughout the show."

Portraying Scrooge is Truro church member Kevin Gilroy. "He's deeply flawed and figures out all his faults during the play," said Gilroy. "He learns who he is and what he wants in life. He's grumpy and crotchety and has a hard time connecting with people. He's not receptive to changing until toward the end."

Gilroy said the role's draining because "I go through a lot of emotions, but it's fun to process those feelings. And I'm excited to be the lead because I get to connect with everyone in the audience, all at once. People will enjoy the show because it's about the true meaning of Christmas, the production is energetic and they'll have fun singing Christmas carols."

Vienna's Melissa Handel, an eighth-grader at Kilmer Middle School, plays Bob Cratchit's eldest daughter, Martha. "She's 21 and still trying to find herself," said Handel. "But she's also very responsible and helps her mom look after the other children."

Handel said the hardest part of her role

is the language, speaking in old English, but she's enjoying herself. "I like acting with the other family members," she said. "Usually, I play a younger person, but this time I get to play someone older. I wear a long, full-length skirt and a button-down, long-sleeved shirt."

Although she's young, Handel has performed in community theater before. She was in the Vienna Theatre Co.'s production of "Willy Wonka" last April and also acts with Lopez Studios in Reston.

"I like acting because it's an important part of life and teaches you things," explained Handel. "I especially like doing shows where people learn lessons. I enjoy history a lot, and I learn about other eras when I perform in shows taking place in different time periods, such as when I did 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' for Lopez Studios."

In "A Christmas Carol," she said, "The audience will like how we interact with them. We walk around and talk with people, not just with the other characters on stage. Everybody in the cast is very talented, and I think we interpret our characters a bit differently than the audience would expect."

Handel said the audience will also appreciate the message of the story: "Don't take advantage of people, don't be greedy and don't waste life judging others."

Instead, be kind to them and make the best of your life."



**U10 Girls Spirit Academy players and their coaches go all out PINK to support "Give Cancer the Boot."**



**U9 Boys Team - Funky Bananas stand tough in support of "Give Cancer the Boot."**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIENNA YOUTH SOCCER

## Vienna Youth Soccer Completes 'Give Cancer the Boot' Campaign

Vienna Youth Soccer's (VYS) fields were a sea of pink in October as players and their families participated in the third annual "Give Cancer the Boot" campaign by wearing pink during games and practices.

VYS players, coaches and fans had been asked to wear pink to raise awareness on the risks of breast cancer and ben-

efits of early detection. Players and their families could be seen all over Vienna and surrounding fields sporting their "Give Cancer the Boot" t-shirts and pink gear. Boys, girls, men and women participated - showing that pink has truly become a statement of support.

Over the past three years, VYS' Give Cancer the Boot campaign has donated over \$3700 to Life

with Cancer, a local, community-funded organization whose mission is to enhance the quality of life of those affected by cancer by providing information, education and support. This year's donation included profits from VYS' specially-designed shirts and a donation from the U14B Raptors Academy which donated a portion of its fundraising efforts from its Raptor Tag Booster Drive.

According to Faith Boettger, Give Cancer the Boot Chair, "Give Cancer the Boot gives our players and their families a wonderful opportunity to actively participate in breast cancer awareness month and make a difference all year long through our partnership with Life with Cancer." "Life with cancer cannot exist without the generous support of our community. Without fundraising efforts like VYS'

Give Cancer the Boot, we would not be able to provide counseling, education, programs and navigation services to the children, adults and loved ones in our communities at no cost. We now service Fairfax, Loudoun, Alexandria and Mount Vernon and Fair Oaks communities," said Sage Bolte, PhD, LCSW, OSW-C, Director, Life with Cancer.



## WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 2

encouraged to participate by offering special sales and giveaways to shoppers on Nov. 29. The event's organized by the Town/Business Liaison Committee and the Vienna Business Assn. and provides people with a small-town, shopping experience for the holidays.

### Holiday Bike Drive Saturday

On Saturday, Nov. 29, volunteers will be in the parking lot next to Bikes@Vienna (128-A Church St. NW) and at Antioch Christian Church (1860 Beulah Road) collecting gently used bikes for holiday distribution to local families. The program is being sponsored by Committee for Helping Others.

### Church Street Holiday Stroll

The annual Holiday Stroll on Vienna's historic Church Street will be held Monday, Dec. 1, from 6-9 p.m. From about 5:45 p.m.-10 p.m. or so, Church Street will be closed between Lawyers Road and Mill Street, Center Street from Church to Wilmar Drive, Dominion Road from Ayr Hill Avenue to Church, and Mill from Church to Maple Avenue.

Visitors are invited to stroll amid the sights and sounds of the holiday season and visit merchants along the way. Entertainment will include local musical groups, a petting zoo, free hot chocolate, marshmallows for roasting at supervised "bonfires" and other festivities. People are encouraged to bring canned foods and place them in boxes on the Freeman Store porch. For more information, go to [www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=985](http://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=985) or call 707-938-5187.

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# OPINION

## Holidays Are About Giving

Give thanks and share; tens of thousands of families around us are in need.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Surrounded by the bounty in so many neighborhoods in Northern Virginia, many of us see little signs of the massive unmet needs here. But in Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 52,000 of the students are poor enough to re-

ceive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty.

In Arlington more than 32 percent of the students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals; that's 7,452 students at last count.

In Alexandria, 8,582 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals. That's 60 percent of the 14,222 students enrolled.

These are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical

bills, car repair, heat and food. These are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school. School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again during the holiday, so let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### Where to Give Locally

In no particular order:

- ❖ **Our Daily Bread** — has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. The Holiday Program helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for their children, making last year's holiday season brighter for approximately 3,000 families. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to [www.odbfairfax.com/holiday](http://www.odbfairfax.com/holiday)
- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org). Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or

- [volunteer@facetscares.org](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org). [www.facetscares.org](http://www.facetscares.org). 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ **The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic**, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. [jsfreeclinic.org](http://jsfreeclinic.org).
- ❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. [www.thealternativehouse.org](http://www.thealternativehouse.org).
- ❖ **SHARE** of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. [www.SHAREofMcLean.org](http://www.SHAREofMcLean.org)
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. 703-437-1776

- [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org)
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. 14th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road. Vienna 703-281-7614 <http://www.cho-va.com>
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**, 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124 703-385-3267 <http://www.nvfs.org/>
- ❖ **12 Ways of Giving**: Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships "12 Ways of Giving" campaign is an annual event that showcases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. [www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org](http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org)

## Nurturing Happy Memories

For some, memories of just a few happy moments provide arsenal for enduring.

By JOAN BRADY

"It's my few happy memories that keep me going," a young woman who had grown up in foster care told me a few months ago.

To be honest, today I'm a little foggy on exactly what her happy memories even were. They weren't monumental experiences or achievements. They were simply moments in time when she felt happy.

One was about being near the water. Another, a meal eaten at a particular restaurant. And another, a time when she felt like she was being heard. A small arsenal of moments that she could dip into, as needed.

I haven't been able to stop thinking about that conversation. I grew up with two loving parents. While no childhood is perfect, I'd say mine was pretty close. What I keep



The importance of happy memories: Joan Brady in a selfie with her siblings, the first photo of just the four of them since childhood.

stored away are my few unhappy memories. Images I trot out when I want to wallow in a little self-pity.

But what if I could hang on to just a few good memories. And they had to be enough to keep me moving forward, from making bad choices, even from killing myself. What would they be?

Well there was my nursery school graduation. Every kid had

to stand up and perform in front of the group of proud parents. Painfully shy and paralyzed by the very idea, I distinctly remember my mother telling me that she had spoken with my teacher and I would be exempt from this particular torture. This one I'd keep as a reminder that I have a mother who had my back then and continues to now.

There was that beautiful spring

day that I walked with her down the streets of New York City, proud to be a recent college grad and excited to be going on job interviews and looking for an apartment. It would be good to hang on to a reminder to appreciate accomplishments and to embrace the next set of goals with enthusiasm.

There was the time a few years ago that my sister and brothers and I took a selfie. It was the first image of just the four of us since we were kids. There was something about that moment, enjoying each other's company and recognizing, that no matter what, these people could be counted on. Yup, definitely a memory worth hanging on to.

And maybe, one would be the moment when I recognized how lucky I am to have a treasure trove of happy memories as deep and as long as my life.

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4People, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her at [joan@joanbradyphotography.com](mailto:joan@joanbradyphotography.com)

## Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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## WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 5

### Pet Valu Opens in Oakton

Pet Valu recently opened a new store in Oakton and the Grand Opening Celebration will be on Saturday, Dec. 6. Pet parents are invited to bring along their animals for refreshments, raffle prizes, and great savings. The festivities begin at 9 a.m. and the first 50 customers to make a purchase will receive a complimentary gift bag.

Make sure to check out Pet Valu's self washing stations designed for you to conveniently wash your pet and leave the mess behind - for only \$10. Pet Parents come in, tie on an apron, wash their pet, dry them and walk out. Pet Valu provides the shampoo, towels, professional grade dryers, and aprons for both children and adults... you provide the pet!

The new Pet Valu store is located at Oakton Shopping Center, 2914 Chainbridge Road, Oakton. All pets are welcome at our stores, but must be leashed. For more information, visit [us.petvalu.com/](http://us.petvalu.com/) home or call 703-255-7241.



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From left — Lois Gordon is an original member of Shillelaghs Travel Club having been among the first to join up in 1964. Gordon attended the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with her daughter Risa Gordon, who follows in her mother's footsteps as a member and traveler.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From 1964 until 1986, the Travel Club used it's own planes for many of their adventures – complete with their own crew. From left — Mary Alice Holmes and Anne Marshall were two of the flight attendants who made the traveling experience so special for the members. The ladies were given special acknowledgment at the club's anniversary event.



Planes and cruise ships aren't the only mode of transportation these travelers employ. The club offers plenty of short and long distance deluxe coach trips, as well, many with Mickey Lynn in the driver's seat. Lynn has been taking the members all around the country for more than 17 years. "He's a special one," says club Executive Director Carolyn McKenna. "He takes great care of us. Everybody loves a trip with Mickey!"

# Friendships Still Flying High After 50 Years

## Shillelaghs Travel Club of Vienna celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Shillelaghs Travel Club of Vienna celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a gala luncheon at The Westwood Country Club that was attended by more than 175 members, vendors and guests.

The atmosphere was "family reunion." While there was plenty of catching up going on around the room, a majority of these folks stay in touch, and many still see each other regularly on one or more travel adventures or social events throughout the year.

Executive Director Carolyn McKenna explained that it all began when four Virginia businessmen decided to buy a plane. Licensed small-craft pilots, they wanted access to easy, long-weekend travel, and knew of a DC 7 4-engine prop plane being retired and offered for sale. Unfortunately, none of the owners could fly this type of craft. And they didn't quite know how to make a 79-passenger plane financially viable. "So they said 'Let's start a travel club!,'" laughed McKenna. "And they did." Shillelaghs was incorporated in 1964 under the name of Emerald Shillelagh Chowder and Marching Society. (You'll have to ask McKenna more about that name choice). "If you can believe it," she says, "they painted that name on the side of the plane...until they ran out of room!" As the first official travel club in the country, the founders of Shillelaghs started their organization basing their bylaws on those of swimming pool clubs, and eventually wound up assisting the FAA in writing the regulations to govern this new type of travel.

**Shillelaghs Travel Club Executive Director Carolyn McKenna raises her glass and calls for a toast in honor of Capt. Bob Hurt at the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon. Hurt, who piloted the club's privately owned airplane from 1964 until 1986, was remembered with smiles and tears, having passed away in 2013 at the age of 92.**



"Those were some crazy times," McKenna reminisced. "In order to be on a flight, you had to be crew or member. The FAA made

us all practice emergency drills. We even had to demonstrate a nighttime evacuation in front of FAA inspectors."



From left — Club Secretary Sandy Sincavitz takes a moment to chat with travel writer Ruth Hill, a long-time friend of the club. Sincavitz, a member since 1968, has long since earned the requirements for entry in the Travelers' Century Club having visited some 130 countries and territories.

**THE CLUB** started with short weekend and holiday trips, mainly to the Caribbean Islands and Mexico, then venturing farther afield into Central and South America, although McKenna's first trip, that she took with her cousin in 1968, was to Toronto "for the amazing cost of \$39," she recalls. "I was hooked. Aside from the price and the ease of the travel, the other members were just so fun and welcoming."

For 22 years after its inception, Shillelaghs made good use of that plane, enough so that they were able to employ their own crew. "Captain Bob Hurt (a retired Naval Commander) was an absolute delight, as were

the wonderful flight attendants," said club Secretary Sandy Sincavitz. "Professional to the core, but lots of fun. One of our trips began with the wedding of the co-pilot and one of the attendants. They got married – and then it was 'wheels up' and on our way."

McKenna became more and more involved with the club, including in the role of Trip Director on numerous outings – something she still does today. After years of working on various committees, McKenna eventually served as President. Then came the retirement of "Capt. Bob," which coincided with the deregulation of the airline industry. Commercial flying became more affordable, and it was time to sell the planes and take the

next step. In 1984, McKenna took the reins as Executive Director and was determined not to let the club fade away as long as there was interest.

"A lot of the travel clubs that had sprouted up afterwards didn't make the transition well," noted attendee Ruth Hill, a travel writer and long-time associate of the club. It is certainly a point of pride with the members that Shillelaghs was the first and now is the last surviving travel club.

And they have no plans to hang up their wings or store away their cruise ship outfits. There are more than 40 trips already on the books for 2015, from cruises to Alaska, the Amazon, the Rhine and the Danube, treks to China, Ireland, and Spain, with coach trips to Savannah, Kentucky and New Mexico thrown in for good measure. Working with travel partners, Shillelaghs will even arrange individual cruise or tour travel.

Although McKenna will be gradually stepping back from her Executive Director duties, she assures members that there are already plans in place to keep moving forward.

"We cater to an older group, of course. Especially since so many have been with us practically from day one, but there is something for everyone," declared McKenna, "and our members now include a lot of the next generation."

**THE MEMBERS** of Shillelaghs Travel Club have enough stories collected from their years of travel to fill several editions, but if you want to hear – and experience – more, best to go straight to the source. Their office is located at 100 East Street, SE, Suite 202 in Vienna. They can be reached at 703-242-2204 or via their website [www.shillelaghtravelclub.com](http://www.shillelaghtravelclub.com).

December 5–6, 2014

## SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

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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**  
Saturday, Dec 6 from 11 am - 4 pm

For more information visit [www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com](http://www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com) or phone (703) 549-0111.

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## CALENDAR

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.

### 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

**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-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



**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.**

about their work. Admission: \$3.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 28 - WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

**Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center.** 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. Visit Santa's Magical Workshop & Observatory, presented by HGTV - for photos and family activities, located in Fashion Court on level one between Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's - beginning November 14th. Reserve your space online to see Santa. Ongoing event.

### 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](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**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 confections, hot spiced cider and hot cocoa.

**John Eaton.** 8 p.m. The Barns Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Renowned pianist, vocalist, musicologist, and humorist delivers renditions of cherished American songs. \$25-27. 703-255-1900. <http://www.wolftrap.org/Barns.aspx>.

### 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

**Vienna 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,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

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).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 4

**35th Annual Tiny Tots Holiday Concert 2014.** 10 a.m. & 7 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The James Madison High School Wind Symphony and Color Guard present an exciting concert celebrating the spectrum of seasonal music. Purchase tickets at: <http://james-madison-band.ticketleap.com/tiny-tots>

**Civil Twilight** with Special Guest Baby Bee. 8 p.m. The Barns Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Stirring alt-rock with impassioned vocals and atmospheric melodies. \$22. 703-255-1900. <http://www.wolftrap.org/Barns.aspx>.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 5

**35th Annual Tiny Tots Holiday Concert 2014.** 10 a.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The James Madison High School Wind Symphony and Color Guard present an exciting concert celebrating the spectrum of seasonal music. Purchase tickets at: <http://james-madison-band.ticketleap.com/tiny-tots>

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 5 - 6

**Renaissance Feaste.** 7 p.m. Capital Church, 10233 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Langley High School's choirs, including the Madrigals and the Women's Chamber Choir, present Renaissance-style dining and musical event. The holiday celebration features costumed servers, jesters, minstrels, and musicians in a festive "Greate Hall" environment. Fashioned after a 16th-century gathering of landed gentry, the event offers entertainment and traditional Madrigal songs such as "Masters of This Hall," "Gloucestershire Wassail," and "Deck the Halls." Tickets adults \$30; student \$20. For more information on the Langley choirs and tickets for the Renaissance Feaste, visit [www.langleychorus.com](http://www.langleychorus.com).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5-14

**Christmas Market & Winterfest.** Friday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tysons Corner Center Outdoor Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. Festival will include 30 vendors selling German holiday goods. Plus, mulled wine, German beer, German fare, hot chocolate and coffee. Enjoy the spectacular Christmas tree, entertainment, beer garden and other festive activities. Ongoing event.

## 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](http://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.

**Authentic Darjeeling Teas.** 1-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. From India's Himalayan foothills, the "Champagne of Teas" has recently been granted Protected Origin Status. Taste and compare the unique qualities from the four seasonal flushes and learn why tea garden location can impact the final flavor of Darjeeling teas. Tea infused treats included. Advance reservations and payment (\$30 per person) required through the Mill at 703-759-2771.

## 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](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. Registrations will be accepted until Nov. 18.

**The Princess Tea.** 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Delight your young princesses with a magical theatrical production, featuring treasured Disney Princesses and complemented by treats. All children will leave with a holiday gift bag and photo with the featured Princesses. \$79 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity.

**Matinee Holiday Aca-Extravaganza w/ Pitches Be Crazy + Handsome Reward + Impitched + Kaila Mullady.** 1:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Acappella returns to Jammin Java to host the first "Holiday Aca-Extravaganza" featuring local DC contemporary, a cappella group, Impitched, and the barbershop harmony pros, Handsome Reward and highlighting a very special appearance of Kaila Mullady, the 2013 Beatsrhyme Champion and top ranked beatbox sensation from New York City. Admission: \$10-\$13,

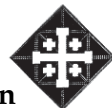
## THURSDAY/DEC. 11

**Holiday, Gingerbread House Workshop.** 6:30-8 p.m. \$45 per house/\$35 MCC district residents. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.

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## Here's What's Happening at MCC



### 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 7th-9th grader Ugly Sweater Party

**Friday, Dec. 5, 7-10 p.m.**  
\$10/\$5 OFTC member

### Midday Movies "The Others" (2001)

**Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m.**  
Free admission

### OFTC Family Events Breakfast for Dinner with the Unruly Theatre Improv Group

**Friday, Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m.**  
Registration is not required.

### Day Trip Holiday in Baltimore

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 8:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.**  
\$87 per person/\$82 MCC district residents

### Bring the Kids "Frozen" (2013)

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.**  
Free. Reservations are not required.

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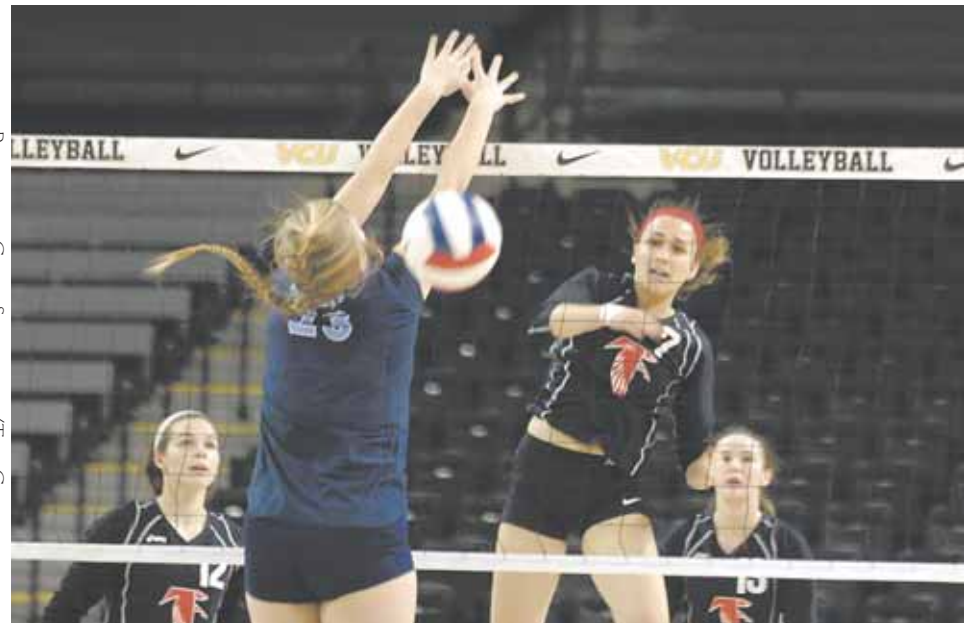




## SPORTS



Madison outside hitter Natale Zanellato had 28 kills against First Colonial in the 6A state volleyball final on Nov. 21 at VCU's Siegel Center in Richmond.



Madison outside hitter Jayne Carter (7) had 17 kills against First Colonial.

# Madison Volleyball Drops Heartbreaker in State Final

## Warhawks lose to First Colonial in epic five-set match.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**F**our Madison volleyball players and head coach Carrie Hall sat in the media room at VCU's Siegel Center and answered questions following the VHSL 6A state championship match.

Junior outside hitter Natale Zanellato described the challenge presented by Friday's opponent, First Colonial of Virginia Beach. Senior outside hitter Marissa Roy talked about the Warhawks overcoming a slow start.

Junior outside hitter Jayne Carter admitted she was emotional.

Senior libero Virginia Moore said the result of Friday's match wouldn't sink in until she was ready to head back to Vienna.

"This whole season has felt unreal, so the end of it kind of feels unreal, too," said Moore, a first-team all-region selection. "I think when I sit down on the bus, it's going to hit me. I might not be happy, but ... I'm

proud of this whole season. ... We did accomplish something that's never been done before that no one can take away from us."

The Madison volleyball team, making its first state final appearance in program history, had seven chances to put the perfect ending on its historic season of domination.

Seven times the Warhawks had a match-point serve against First Colonial.

**SEVEN TIMES** Madison had the opportunity to finish the 2014 campaign undefeated and walk away with a state championship.

But every time the Warhawks were on the cusp of closing out First Colonial, the Patriots found a way to answer. And after the teams had exchanged clutch play after clutch play, First Colonial outside hitter Catie Espinoza ended the epic five-set match with her 17th kill.

First Colonial captured its third state title in program history with a 3-2 (25-17, 12-25, 18-25, 25-23, 25-23) victory over Madison on Nov. 21 in Richmond. The Patriots overcame a late deficit to win the fourth set before saving seven match points in the fifth to take home the title.

"It was [a] good [match]," Hall said, "we just came out on the wrong side of it."

Madison entered the state final having lost only five sets all season. The Warhawks had swept 12 consecutive opponents and

hadn't dropped a set since beating Langley in four on Oct. 16. Madison finished the season with a 33-1 record, a Conference 5 championship and a 6A North region title.

"It's incredible," Hall said about the Warhawks' accomplishments in 2014. "I'm in the state final for goodness sake. I think we all would say that. I know it's not what we wanted now, but when they were freshmen, did you (Madison players) think we would get to the state final when you're seniors? .... This is a great accomplishment. We've done so much for the school and the community. They were all behind us on this one. We had so much electricity in the air all week long in our school."

"I think it was great what we accomplished."

Madison trailed 14-12 in the fifth set of Friday's state final, but a kill by Zanellato, a First Colonial error and a kill block from Carter gave the Warhawks their first of seven match points at 15-14. Carter produced three more pressure-packed kills, including one that gave Madison its final match point at 23-22, but First Colonial responded with three consecutive points for the victory.

"At that point," said Roy, the 6A North region Player of the Year, "it's really just whatever is supposed to happen, whichever team is supposed to win this epic [match]

does, because it's so back and forth."

Undefeated and rarely tested during the season, Madison received a quick reality check as First Colonial won the opening set, 25-17. "It was a really good wake-up call," Roy said. "We hadn't been challenged much at all. ... We weren't used to the atmosphere, so we were adjusting."

**THE WARHAWKS**, however, were unfazed, winning the second set, 25-12, and the third set, 25-18.

Madison led 21-20 in the fourth set, but First Colonial battled back to win, 25-23, forcing a fifth set.

Zanellato and Carter carried the load offensively for Madison. Zanellato finished with a match-high 28 kills, and Carter tallied 17. The duo combined for 12 kills in the fifth set.

Madison's Emily Davine finished with nine kills, and Emily Calhoun and Roy each had seven. Junior setter Kendal Hall totaled 63 assists and 16 digs. Senior libero Moore tallied a team-high 26 digs, Roy finished with 19 and Carter had 15.

Rowan Ennis led the First Colonial with 19 kills.

The Warhawks will graduate five players, including Roy, the region Player of the Year, and Moore, a first-team all-region selection at libero.



The Madison volleyball team reached the state final for the first time in program history.



Madison volleyball players and coaches share a laugh while head coach Carrie Hall, right, holds the state tournament Sportsmanship Award.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHLEEN COXE

Kara Coxe (on far right) and her team of presenters, Nils Janson, Anthony Moschella, Sarah Steffens and Julian Landeros.

## Girl Scout Presents 'The Backyard History of Vienna'

Last week on Tuesday and Thursday nights, Nov. 11 and 13, Kara Coxe, a junior at James Madison High School, presented her Girl Scout Gold Award Project, "The Backyard History of Vienna" to the adult students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program at the Vienna Presbyterian Church.

The goal of her project was to educate the students about the history-rich area of Vienna and from this foundation of understanding to develop a sense of excitement and interest in the students about becoming an active member of the community.

From her research at Vienna's Patrick Henry Library, the Historic Freeman House, and current periodicals, Kara's project told the story of four distinct pe-

riods of Vienna's history. Events from the Civil War, Reconstruction, The Great Depression, World War II, Expansion/Population Growth, and Modern Day were verbally presented as well as captured on presentation boards with photographs that described how the town was shaped into the Vienna of today.

One of the challenges of the presentation was to make it understandable to all the many levels of student's language comprehension. To accomplish this, Kara crafted different levels of scripts for the presentation that matched the different comprehension levels of the audience. Kara will be donating her project to the ESOL program at Vienna Presbyterian Church so that the "Backyard History of Vienna" will be made available to ESOL students in the future.



ESOL students surround the presentation boards to get a closer look at the photos.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Dream Team Vienna, from left: Max Golub, Shaurya Saran, Gwen Setia, Christina Luckett, Christopher Gardner and David Pan.

## Dream Team Vienna Wins Robotics Championship

A Vienna team of sixth graders captured the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Grand Champions Trophy for overall excellence and the 1<sup>st</sup> place Robot Performance Award at the recent First LEGO League Robotics Regional Qualifying Tournament at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (PTO), Alexandria.

Dream Team Vienna members are: Shaurya Saran, Christina Luckett, Max Golub, Christopher Gardner, David Pan and Gwen Setia. They won the 1<sup>st</sup>-Place Grand Champions Trophy for excelling in all of the judged categories: Robot Design,

Robot Game, Research Project and Core Values Teamwork. Also, Dream Team won the 1<sup>st</sup>-place Robot Performance Award because they were the top-scoring Division 1 team at the PTO Regional Tournament. Dream Team's score of 225 was the highest Division 1 score at the tournament. Now, Dream Team advances to the FLL VA/DC Championship Tournament to be held at James Madison University in December. Dream Team coaches are Ms. Shalini Saran, Ms. Elena Strukova Golub and Ms. Beverly Jurenko.

## 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](http://www.scov.org) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email [volunteer@scov.org](mailto: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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Meals on Wheels** needs drivers 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](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Fairfax County** needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs; urgent need in Reston area. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center** in Annandale needs Spanish-speaking social companions and a licensed hair stylist to wash, cut and style hair for participants. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** in Alexandria needs a DJ to provide a wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing, a Ballroom Dance Instructor and a volunteer with basic carpentry skills to build a "Little Free Library," for people to donate and borrow books from. Center will provide plans and materials. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Sully Senior Center** in Centreville needs a certified personal trainer twice a week, preferably with experience working with older adults. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Korean Meals on Wheels** needs Korean-speaking volunteers to deliver meals Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Centreville, Reston and Annandale. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Gum Springs Senior Center** in Alexandria needs a Spanish teacher for a beginner's class. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.



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## “Shrinkage”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not exactly “like a frightened turtle” as “smiled” on a long-ago Seinfeld episode by Jerry himself; this shrinkage is the good kind, the kind you hope a radiological oncologist characterizes when viewing your CT Scan (computed tomography). Specifically, the exact kind of scan I get every three months to assess and evaluate the tumors, and fluid, in my stage IV, non-small cell cancer-affected lungs. The actual scanning itself takes about 30 seconds of “breathe in,” “hold it,” and “breathe out” to determine if my life is on hold – in a good way – or in jeopardy (not a belated reference back to last week’s column). The week-long wait until we have our face-to-face appointment with my oncologist to learn the results is not as interminable as you might think. Over time, we have gotten used to the experience. After all, living with cancer means living, not dying, and adapting and compartmentalizing cancer’s effects – mentally, physically and spiritually; all keys to surviving and enduring the good, bad and ugly that daily can traumatize those of us “characterized as terminal” who frequent the Infusion Centers hoping for a miracle cure.

Since March, 2009, I’ve been treated with nearly non-stop chemotherapy, infused mostly, except for 12 months or so when I was able to take a targeted therapy pill at home and only had to show up at the Center for scans and doctor’s appointments. Six years ago almost, this process began; I can’t say it seems like yesterday, because there are yesterdays – due to the effect of chemotherapy – that I simply don’t remember (“chemo brain” is the accepted condition/characterization), but time flies when you’re having fun or rather, you’re still alive against all odds. And so it seems as if I still have a few tomorrows. Tomorrows that were hardly promised to me back at the original Team Lourie meeting in late February, 2009. Somehow, through a variety of fits and starts, I have survived: my DNA, my family history, my attitude, my pills, my supplements, my alkaline water, my diet and lifestyle changes, my above-average luck, whatever, however, I am still present and accounted for. And though “stable” is a radiologist’s/ oncologist’s description I have come to hope and pray for and embrace over these past six years, “shrinkage” is a description “most welcome” as Hercule Poirot might say and one I rarely anticipated hearing – considering my stage IV circumstances.

But I can take it. Though I’m not cancer-free and certainly not in remission, I am doing reasonably well. I am, as a good friend says: “in pretty good shape for the shape I’m in.” The scan results are results with which I can live (Duh!) and so I intend to – until three months hence when we do this scan dance all over again. Granted, this cycle of gloom and doom and results-not-soon-enough is hardly ideal, but it is a living and a living I was not “prognosed” to have (“13 months to two years” was the original prognosis) when first diagnosed. I’m nowhere near home free; I’m still in for the fight of my life – for my life, but for the moment, at least, for this quarter, due to the shrinkage, I can take a bit of a break, which if you want to know the truth, I can certainly use.

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

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### 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.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

- ESL Conversation Group.** 2 p.m. Practice English in this casual conversation group. Adults.
- One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East Vienna. Work with a volunteer tutor to learn about the Internet, setting up an email account and using basic software. Adults.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

- Human Rights Defenders: Relevant International Law and Strategies.** 7:15-9 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A presentation by David Padilla, international human rights consultant. How lawyers and other activists try to defend victims of human rights violations around the world. www.uucf.org .

### ONGOING

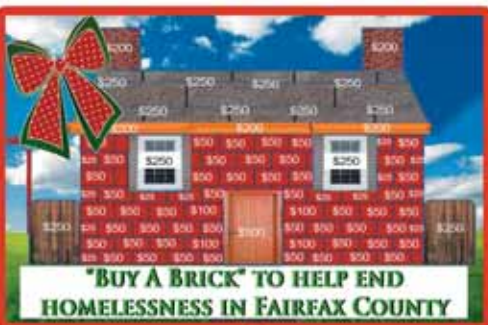
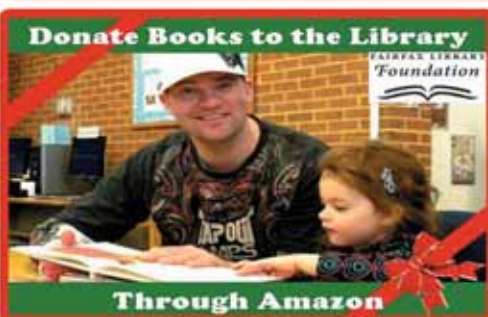
- Vienna Toastmasters.** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center on the 2nd floor room opposite the elevator, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. A friendly place to get comfortable with public speaking and impromptu speaking for new and experienced speakers. Open to the public.
- Run With the Doctor.** Every other Saturday at 7 a.m. 8230 Boone Blvd, Tysons Corner. The Center for Orthopedics and Sports Medicine offers its services in a convenient format to runners at this running event. Free. facebook.com/runwiththedoctor.
- Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles. \$10. 703-667-9800.
- Coffee/Tea Poetry Group.** Poets and poetry lovers seek to form a group to meet once a month at a local coffee/tea shop to enjoy each other’s creations. 703-819-1690.
- Virginia Sheriff’s Institute Scholarship Program.** Those enrolled in a Virginia college or university who are pursuing a degree in the field of criminal justice are eligible for the Virginia Sheriff’s Institute Scholarship Program; recommendation letter needed. 703-246-3251, shf-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov or http://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/.
- Everest College Free GED Test Preparation.** Tysons Corner, Vienna. Free GED test preparation and credential completion program, GED Advantage, open to the public. 1-888-201-6547.
- Weekly TIPS Lunch.** 12:15-1:30 p.m., at Shula’s, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Tyson’s Regional Chamber of Commerce does lunch. 703-862-4895.
- New Neighbors League Club of Northern Virginia.** For women, the club includes Bridge, mah jong, gardening, quilting and many other activities. www.newneighborsvirginia.com.
- Volunteers for Change.** A program for adults which offers more than 50 weekend and evening volunteer opportunities per month. www.volunteerfairfax.org.
- Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group.** 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.
- The Advisory Board of the Northwest Center for Mental Health Services.** 7-9 p.m. Looking for volunteers who are dedicated to improving mental health services. 703-435-0868.





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## CRIME

### Crime Solvers Seeks Public's Help

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is seeking the public's help in identifying the person(s) responsible for firing a handgun outside in Oakton, resulting in one bullet penetrating a home.

Police were called to the residence in the 9000 block of Oleaner Avenue, the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 21, after the homeowners awoke and discovered a bullet had apparently been shot through their window. The bullet struck a framed photo hanging on the wall of a bedroom, shattering the glass.

A woman was asleep in that room at the time of the incident. Detectives believe the shot was fired around 1:30 a.m. Police say the suspect(s) were apparently on Oakton High's football field shooting at the scoreboard. One of their bullets missed the target and entered the home behind it on Oleaner. No one was injured.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637. A \$100 to \$1,000 cash reward will be paid for information leading to an arrest and indictment. As always, callers never have to give their names or appear in court.

### FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

**The Antioch Christian Church** offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org)

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

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