

Great Falls  
**CONNECTION**

Home LifeStyle

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Holiday  
Entertainment  
& Gift Guide 2014

# Great Falls Celebrates Lights

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Santa and Mrs. Claus greet the growing crowd on their way to light the Christmas tree and kick off the night's festivities at the 24th Annual Celebration of Lights last Saturday in Great Falls.

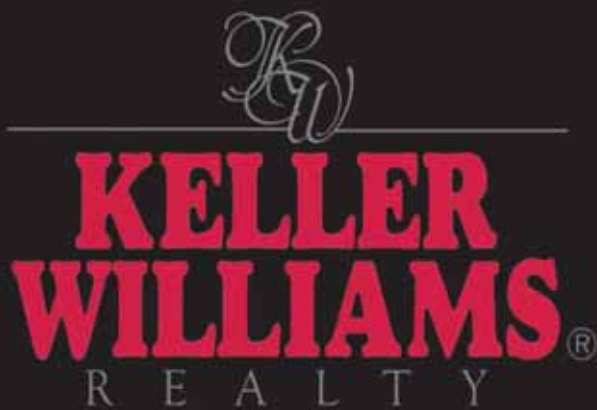
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PHOTO BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

DECEMBER 10-16, 2014

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FX8328766 - \$1,250,000 - Vienna  
10514 Dunn Meadow Rd, 5 Bedrooms, 5 Full-  
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LO8274054 - \$855,000 - Sterling  
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43453 Blair Park Sq.,  
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bath 3 level end-TH, HW flrs  
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LO8329961 - \$355,000 -  
Ashburn  
43483 Blacksmith Sq,  
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LO8280390 - \$455,000  
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312 Samantha Dr, 4BR, 2.5BA,  
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Join us Monday January 12th at our  
**Military Appreciation Monday (MAM)**

event at The Old Brogue in Great Falls.

We will be hosting **Navy SEAL Foundation**

The Old Brogue is located at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road in Great Falls.

Call (703) 759-3309 to reserve your table at either the 5:30 or the 7:30 seating.

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The celebration closed with a live nativity scene, hosted by the Equestrian Community of Great Falls. (From left) Rachael Fields as an angel, Mikaela Barton as Mary, and Sarah Kirk, owner of the Saddlery, as Joseph.



Great Falls resident Jackson Whitt, 3, visits with Santa at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Lights.

PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION



Santa greets all the children in the crowd as he rounds the tree, making his way toward the picture tent.



Santa and Mrs. Claus lit the Great Falls Christmas tree this year at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Lights.

## Great Falls Kicks Off the Season with Celebration of Lights

BY NIKKI CHESHIRE  
THE CONNECTION

**D**espite the constant rain throughout the day, dozens of Great Falls residents braved the weather and headed out to the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration of Lights. The free event kicked off with Santa and Mrs. Claus arriving on their sleigh, an antique fire truck with reindeer perched on the hood. After many exchanges of “Merry Christmas” with the crowd on their way to the tree, Santa and Mrs. Claus shared a hug as the tree lit up for the first time this season. Afterward, they made their way around the tree, shaking hands, wishing everyone a merry

Christmas, and even participating in the occasional selfie taken by some residents.

Visits with Santa were available throughout the night, as were refreshments, including popcorn and hot apple cider, which were provided by community sponsors. Throughout the festival, there were performances from Village Green Day School, Great Falls Elementary and Forestville Elementary students, who sang Christmas carols in front of the tree. Pony rides were offered as well, and there was a fire so people could try to stay warm. The evening closed with a live nativity scene presented by Margaret Johnson and several stables in the Equestrian Community of Great Falls.



Mrs. Claus makes her way around the tree, shaking hands and wishing the crowd a Merry Christmas.



The celebration closed with a live nativity scene hosted by the Equestrian Community of Great Falls.



# Fighting for Common Sense

Colleagues say Kathleen Murphy is compassionate and dedicated.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

*First of the two candidates' profiles.*

**A**ccording to her friends and colleagues, Kathleen Murphy is dedication and compassion personified.

The cancer survivor and former military child is turning her experiences into action by running for a second time for the state House of Delegates 34th district - this time with more wisdom.

"She's a voice for common sense," said Director of Federal Regulations for the American Council on Education Steven Bloom.

Murphy's background in politics goes as far back as her childhood, with her grandmother, Emma, door-to-door campaigning for politicians and watching conventions on the black and white television.

The next most impactful event leading to her interest in becoming a politician was seeing how her delegate - U.S. Congresswoman-elect Del. Barbara Comstock - voted while the General Assembly was in session.

"What energized me was that we had a delegate who talked to us one way and voted against us in Richmond," said Murphy.

Murphy said her views on gun laws are influenced by her brother, whose life was taken during a robbery. She said her experience in life has helped her gain supporters while knocking on doors.

"There was a woman who lost her husband last year," she said. "I knocked on her door again this year."

Murphy said that sharing her experience with losing her brother helped the woman go about her daily life again, moving on from the tragedy.

"That was a really special moment," she said.

**HER EXPERIENCE** from her last election, where she knocked on 10,000 doors to get support, led to a close race where she lost only by several hundred votes.

"I think the first thing I learned is that your opponent won't always tell the truth," she said.

During the time in between those two experiences, however, she had the opportunity to work on the Hill, both as a Congressman's wife and a U.S. Department of Commerce senior adviser. She also served as an aide to Congressman Charlie Wilson.

Murphy also spent a lot of time volunteering in committees representing McLean.

"Kathleen is very strongly and deeply rooted in McLean and the eastern Loudoun County area," said Del. Scott Surovell, who has known Murphy for three years. "She has put a lot of time into the community."

He noted that her background in policy will give her an advantage if elected.

"Kathleen is someone who isn't shy or



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION  
**Kathleen Murphy during her kickoff grassroots campaign in McLean.**

## Q&A: Get to Know Kathleen Murphy

### What are your top three accomplishments?

Kathleen Murphy: My top accomplishment, to me, is raising wonderful children who have good loving hearts. I am very proud of the work I've done over the years on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and getting funding to go towards a cure for this disease. I'm really, really proud of the work that I did for Charlie Wilson and learning the defense community and the needs of military families.

### What would be your top three priorities as delegate?

Murphy: My top three priorities are education - to go down there and increase the state funding for schools. Secondly, I lost my brother to gun violence. He was murdered by robbers and I really like the bill on requiring background checks at gun shows. And at this stage of the game, economic development, making sure we are growing our economy by concentrating on laying the groundwork by supporting education and transportation so businesses can grow here and make our community more successful and a better place to live.

### Why should our readers vote for you?

Murphy: I am committed to the issues and priorities and values of the people who have lived here. I lived here for almost 25 years. I know this community. I worked in this commu-



**McLean resident Kathleen Murphy stated that she plans to fight for education funding and veteran's health.**

nity and I am very committed to working hard to make sure that we have strong representation in the House of Delegates - and I will be that voice.

### Tell us something people would find surprising about you?

Murphy: I'm a baseball nut. I go to the Nats games with my sister and we sit and hoot and holler. I like football, too.

### How do you relax off the campaign trail.

Murphy: There is no off the campaign trail. I have kids. I have dogs. There's no time in your life not to interact with your family. I have a huge family. I have six brothers and sisters. I have 26 nephews and nieces. I have six grandchildren and one more on the way in January. That is how I relax - I have family.

—REENA SINGH

## Bio

**Current Position:** President of Johnson Murphy Associates

**Residence:** McLean

**Spouse:** William Sudow

**Children:** Mark, Emily, Elizabeth, Amanda, Elyse and Aly

**Education:** American University, bachelor's degree in political science and psychology

scared to fight," he said.

He is not the only person who stated that. Both Supervisor John Foust and neighbor Pamela Danner echoed those sentiments. Danner once ran for the same seat Murphy is running for today.

"What I like is that she would stand out," Danner said. "She couldn't just sit in the back row."

Danner said Murphy's community experience is what Northern Virginia needs as its voice to Richmond.

Foust also noted that "she is extremely conscientious and responsible. If she says she is going to do it, then she is going to do it."

He has seen her work in various county committees, including the health care task force.

Combining her background in policy and her friendliness is what the area needs, according to Bloom.

"She combines both a deep sense of commitment to public service as well as her volunteer service and great compassion. "She has the ability to understand how complex policy affects personal lives."

**ANOTHER ISSUE** she hopes to fight for as a delegate is helping the area get its "fair share" of education funding. As a mother of six children who are the product of Fairfax County Public Schools, she wants every child to have the best education they can get.

"Kathleen shares many of the same values that I have," said Greg Brandon, chairman of the Dranesville District Democratic Committee. "With respect to pre-K through plus-16 public education, not only does she support it, but she will go the necessary step forward by actually advocating for restoring higher levels of state funding for all levels of public education. Unfortunately for the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Republicans in the General Assembly have painted themselves into a fiscal corner that is resulting in a downward spiral of state expenditures for education."

He has both written letters to the editors of various newspapers and contributed money to her campaign, because he believes in what she stands for.

"The Republicans are seemingly hellbent on removing the 'Common' from Commonwealth and keeping the 'wealth' to themselves and their cronies," he said.

For more information on Murphy, visit her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KathleenMurphyforDelegate>.

The special election between Murphy and Republican candidate Craig Parisot is from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 6, 2015. For up-to-the-minute information on voting, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>.



# FAITH

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

**"Blue Christmas" Worship Service** for those struggling with loss or sadness this holiday season. 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Everyone welcome. 703-938-2119 or [www.elcvienna.org](http://www.elcvienna.org).

**A Festival of Lessons and Carols.** 9 and 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

**Once Upon a Holy Night,** 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21 at Charity Baptist Church, 1328 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Celebrating music and drama.

**Great Falls United Methodist Church,** 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, will host a Live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 21. There will be three showings: 5, 5:20 and 5:40 p.m. Live animals, refreshments and singing! 703-759-3705.

**Christmas Eve Service.** 4, 7 and 10 p.m. on Dec. 24 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

**Christmas Day Service.** 10 a.m. on Dec. 25 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

**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).

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org).

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

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

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

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

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




## Holiday Art Show & Sale



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**WHEN:** Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> (Rain/Snow Date 12/14)

Session 1\* - 12:00 - 1:30pm (U9 and U11 players)

Session 2\* - 1:45 - 3:15pm (U13 and U15 players)

\*Limited to a maximum of 40 players per session (must be registered to play Spring 2015 GFLA)

**WHERE:** Nike 4 Turf field (behind Forestville ES)

**WHO:** any U9 - U15 player registered to play for Great Falls Lacrosse during the Spring 2015 season

**Jersey Days!** Show your spirit and wear your GFLA jersey to school on Friday 12/5 and 12/12!



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## SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com) by Friday.

Each year, the **Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation** (NWFCU Foundation) awards a total of \$100,000 in college scholarships – \$5,000 each – to 20 students who have demonstrated qualities of leadership, dedication and commitment in school, at home and in the community.

"These students have displayed the qualities that will make them future leaders in our community," said Chris McDonald, Chairman of the NWFCU Foundation and President/CEO of Northwest Federal Credit Union. "We are pleased to make an investment in their future – and our community's future – by helping them pay for college."

Winners of the 2014 Ben DeFelice Scholarships from our area include:  
• Alexandra Cramer, graduate of Langley High School. She will attend the College of William & Mary.  
• Jamie Joeyen-Waldorf, graduate of Langley High School. She will attend Northwestern University.

• Jennifer Prosser, graduate of Oakton High School. She will attend the University of Notre Dame.

• Sydney Sampson, graduate of James Madison High School. She will attend the University of Virginia.

**Twenty-five students** from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) have been named 2015 National Achievement Scholarship program semifinalists in an academic competition for Black American high school students conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The students represent 12 high schools in FCPS.

The semifinalists are:

• Annandale High School: Yonatan Ayele.

• Edison High School: Maxine Morgan and Shalom Yiblet.

• Fairfax High School: William Sampong.

• Hayfield Secondary School: Camryn Bishop, Reese Cloud, and Dominique Edwards.

• Lake Braddock Secondary School: Leul Berhane-Meskel and Kinaya Hassane.

• Langley High School: Leah Yirga.

• Madison High School: Rachel Bostick, Jesse Ernest, and Benjamin Jackson.

• Marshall High School: Natascha Whyte.

• South County High School: Maya Armstrong and Olivia Jones.

• Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST): Azeez Abdikarim, Arielle Ampeh, Rebecca Clark-Callender, Theodore Richardson, Hannah Wied, and Rollin Woodford.

• West Potomac High School: Zoe Smith.

• Woodson High School: Robert Cuyjet and Daniel Pryce.

The semifinalists will compete for more than 800 Achievement Scholarship awards, worth \$2.5 million, to be awarded next spring.

The awards will be supported by corporations, professional organizations, foundations, and funds from the NMSC. To be considered for a scholarship, semifinalists must advance to the finalist level by fulfilling additional requirements.

**Andrew Hwang, of Great Falls,**

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 7

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## SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 6

was named to the Dean's list for academic excellence for the spring 2014 semester at Johns Hopkins University.

**Kristen Ashley Wolaver**, daughter of John and Barbara Wolaver of Great Falls, and graduate of Langley High School Class of 2013, completed her freshman year at the University of Pittsburgh, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences.

Kristen has accepted membership in The National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

**Whitney Elizabeth Wolaver**,

daughter of John and Barbara Wolaver of Great Falls, and graduate of Langley High School Class of 2010, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree Cum Laude in Neuroscience with a minor in Chemistry and a Certificate of Conceptual Foundations of Medicine during the spring commencement exercises in April 2014 at the University of Pittsburgh, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences. Whitney will begin the Graduate Program in Anatomical and Translational Sciences at George Washington University in August 2014.

**William Gralley**, son of Craig and Janet Gralley of Great Falls, earned a

Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice during the spring commencement exercises at Radford University.

**Grayson Smith, of Great Falls**, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in accounting, cum laude, during the spring commencement exercises at Auburn University. He is currently enrolled in Auburn's Master's of Accounting Program.

**Courtney Cross, of Great Falls**, graduated from Bishop O'Connell high school. She is a sophomore at Villanova University and was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2013.

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PHOTOS BY CHI PHAM

At the finale of "An Evening in Vienna," the Concert Orchestra and Langley HS Orchestra Directors Elizabeth Leung and Scott McCormick acknowledge applause.

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## 'An Evening in Vienna' at Langley High

BY KATHERINE CASSIDY  
SENIOR/LANGLEY HIGH

The Langley High School Orchestra performed its first concert of the year on Thursday, Nov. 20, in the Langley HS Auditorium. The "Evening in Vienna" themed concert was the perfect combination of presenting music and welcoming freshmen as new members of the orchestra family. Directed by Dr. Scott McCormick and Elizabeth Leung, Langley Orchestra enthralled the audience with music written by famous composers of Vienna, receiving a standing ovation from the full house. Ms. Leung made her debut as co-director of Langley Orchestra on Thursday, and students are excited to welcome her into the orchestra family.

Prior to the commencement of the concert, Langley students gathered together for a Viennese banquet, where students enjoyed authentic Viennese food catered by Café Mozart, famous for their plum cake. To supplement the ex-

perience, an accordion player performed Viennese music during the banquet. Orchestra parent Julie Hohl organized the banquet.

"The accordion player was fantastic and added a lot of ambience and energy to our Viennese banquet, where we could also bond with other members of the orchestra," said Rachel Wu, senior cellist.

The concert opened with pianist Theron Masters performing "Rondo from Piano Concerto No. 3" by Ludwig van Beethoven accompanied by the Symphonic Orchestra, followed by the "Egmont Overture," also by Beethoven. The Philharmonic Orchestra performed "Morning, Noon, and Night in Vienna" by Franz von Suppé where principal cellists Hailey Lee and Alex Lim performed complicated and beautiful solos. The students were excited to perform music from the infamous "Symphony No. 5" by Beethoven, especially since professional band musicians playing in the orchestra gave students

SEE CONCERT, PAGE 9

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Piano soloist Theron Masters opens the concert, accompanied by the Symphonic Orchestra. Masters, a junior at Langley HS, performed the Rondo from Piano Concerto No. 3, by Beethoven.



## NEWS

Prior to “An Evening in Vienna,” Silvia Eberly sang and played Austrian songs on the accordion. Pictured with Lady Silvia, from left: Freshman orchestra students — violinist Kelsey Gilchrist, violist Ally Black, cellist Megan Carlon, and cellist Angel Oh.



PHOTOS BY CHI PHAM

# Concert at Langley High

FROM PAGE 8

the ability to do the epic symphony justice. The Langley Orchestra Society and Langley PTSA partnered to make the side-by-side format of professional mentors and students possible.

“Playing with a full orchestra was great because it enhanced our sound and allowed us to achieve a fuller effect in our music,” said Kitty Ascrizzi, junior 2nd violinist.

Lyric Yu, who recently won a state competition for piano, performed an interesting rendition of “Sonata in D Major” by Franz Joseph Haydn. The concert orchestra concluded the concert with a fantastic performance of “Allegro moderato from

Symphony No. 29” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, “Scherzo from Symphony No. 9” by Beethoven, and “Danube Waves” by Johann Strauss. Even though orchestra is an elective class, Langley orchestra students truly came together on Thursday and bonded as an orchestra family. Sara Zahir, President of the orchestra’s honor society, was “unbelievably happy to see students from all grades intermingling and really coming together as the family we call ourselves. As the first concert of the year, [she] can happily say that the family is even stronger than in years past.”

Langley Orchestra’s next concert will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at Oakcrest School.



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# OPINION

## Make a Plan, Talk About It

Here is help in keeping impaired drivers off the roads.

The holiday party season is upon us, and with it an increase in drinking and driving. It's up to you to make a plan to get home safely.

Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you can spend the night. Plan to abstain.

And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

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

More than 10,000 people died in drunk driving related accidents in 2012, including more than 200 in Virginia and 160 in Maryland. Tens of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas and New Year season in particular.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 12, 2014, and continuing until Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during



# 469

days since a still-unnamed Fairfax County police officer shot unarmed John Geer standing in the doorway of Geer's home in Springfield, then let him bleed to death on Aug. 29, 2013. No information has been released about the incident, officers involved not named, no explanation, no grand jury, no charges. (as of Dec. 10, 2014)

this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

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

### Safe Ride Home

WRAP's 2014 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Dec. 12, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). See SoberRide.com information listed below for important details concerning this program.

Callers will be responsible for fare amounts over \$30.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 61,000 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

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

SoberRide is not available for underage drinkers, but parents still should talk to their children about their plans, and tell them out loud that you expect them not to drive impaired and not to get into a car with an impaired driver. Tell them to call you, and you'll come get them if necessary. The news has been full of teachable moments about the consequences and vulnerabilities of drinking to excess, drinking and driving and beyond. Don't let the opportunity to talk about it pass you by.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Story My Grandma Told Me

To the Editor:

This summer, I visited Bangladesh, the country where my parents grew up, for the first time in six years. When we visited the small village where my father grew up and my grandparents still live, my grandmother told us stories about the immense poverty in which most of her neighbors were living, including the story of one man whose wife was very ill. My grandmother vividly described how she could often hear the man's children crying from their house because of how hungry they were and how sick their mother was. Even though my grandmother had given the man money multiple times so he could feed his children and take his wife to a doctor, the wife eventually succumbed to her illness and died.

The story that my grandmother told me is not specific to Bangladesh. In a recent New York Times piece, Nicholas Kristof re-

calls an encounter he had in Myanmar with a 20-year-old woman named Sajan who dropped out of school at age 10 and was married off by her family for the bridal price of one cow. There are millions of people around the world who still face great inequality, and the characteristic that many of these people have in common is that they are female. Sheryl WuDunn, the award-winning journalist and co-author of Half the Sky, asserted that "the central moral challenge of this century is gender inequity." In Half the Sky, WuDunn and Nicholas Kristof state that there are currently between 60 million to 100 million missing females in the world. In India, girls die at a 50 percent higher mortality rate than boys from ages one to five. As WuDunn stated in her TED talk, "these women have three strikes against them – they are poor, they are rural and they are female."

We've all heard the saying that when you educate a girl, you educate a nation. But what does that really mean? Well, when you dismiss the moral and ethical reasons for gender equality and look at the

issue from a purely practical standpoint, the best way to combat global poverty is to invest in the education of girls. As Lawrence Summers said in 1992, investing in "girls' education may well be the highest return investment available in the developing world."

After my trip to Bangladesh, I began thinking about the millions of women all over the world who have the same – if not greater – talent, drive, and ambition as I do. Yet, here I am, sitting in my heated room and preparing for my future, while there are girls around the world who are struggling to survive. While many factors have gotten me to where I am today, one of the main reasons why I am able to go to school and lead a healthy life is the lottery of birth. I am so lucky to have been born and raised in a country that has given me the opportunity to follow my dreams, and with that opportunity comes great responsibility to help improve the lives of girls and boys around the world who are not as fortunate as I am. I know that I cannot completely eradicate global inequality and injustice, but if I can even only help one child fol-

low his or her dreams, that will be enough for me.

Celia Islam  
Vienna

## Two Ideas to Address Rape

To the Editor:

As many of us recoil from the recent UVA sexual assault article in Rolling Stone, tremendous accusations are being thrown at the university and others like it across the country. While UVA is not innocent and its infamous privileged "party culture" is partly to blame, there are two clear pieces of the story that no one seems to be addressing.

One, in this country rape is treated as a female problem. From early ages, we tell our young girls to not walk alone at night or to be aware of men they do not know. Businesses have picked up on this, now girls can buy rape whistles or date rape nails all in the name of protection.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Fairfax County** is offering a free Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. Join us for this open discussion. This telephone support group may be just what you need! Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. The one-hour free sessions are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. Find out more and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/) and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

**Fairfax County** needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs 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.

**Volunteers, fluent in American Sign Language**, are needed in Reston, Herndon and Vienna. 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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**The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean** needs instructors for the following classes: Certified Arthritis Exercise, Ballroom Dance, Square Dance, Knitting/Crocheting, Bridge and American Mah Jongg. 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 Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program**

needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Find more information on the program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ltc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ltc).

**The Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center** in Annandale needs a licensed hair stylist to wash, cut and style hair for participants once or twice a month and Spanish-speaking social companions Monday-Friday. 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, 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.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

But those being critically left out of the sexual assault discussion are men. Very few (if any) public campaigns exist with men as the focus of rape. A surprising fact, considering men commit rape much more often than women. We must install a culture where rape is not tolerated nor accepted by men.

Two, now more than ever it is

time to turn this country's ridiculous drinking age back to 18. Because the drinking age is 21, the best place for underage university drinkers to get alcohol is an unregulated, unmonitored frat party. There is no alternative. If the drinking age were moved back, young people would have the option of attending a bar or club. While not perfectly safe either, it is significantly more so than a college party. The idea young people

won't drink because the legal age is 21 is ridiculous. Change it back.

These two ideas are among those being discussed, however they offer a different, fresh approach rather than a muddled, ineffective university one.

**Timothy White**  
Fairfax

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## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION



Founding member and co-owner of Artists on the Green Gail Péan sets up her canvas for the oil painting lesson taught by artist Trisha Adams.



Jinny Beyer Studio is filled with dozens of personalized gift ideas, including patterns for quilts, purses and even ornaments.

## Great Falls Village Centre Hosts Open House

BY NIKKI CHESHIRE  
THE CONNECTION

In the midst of a hectic month of holiday shopping, Great Falls offered a quiet solace for people searching for the perfect gift. The Great Falls Shopping Center Open House took place this past Saturday, and promoted shopping from lo-

cal businesses in a calm and relaxing environment, according to Celebrate Great Falls.

The local businesses in town are home to many original and personal gift ideas. At Artists on the Green, a co-op art studio founded by five resident artists, a vast selection of oil paintings covered the walls. "We encourage people to buy local," said founding member and artist Gail Péan.

"These are future heirloom paintings that make very affordable and unique gifts."

The studio also hosts oil painting lessons, and recently had a workshop led by artist Trisha Adams, who has taught lessons around the world. Next weekend, 36 artists of Great Falls Studios will be participating in the "Art Meets Architecture" art show at Wolf Trap from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Just around the corner from Artists on the Green sits Jinny Beyer Studio, which specializes in quilting. "Jinny designs all of the fabrics in the shop," said manager Dana Sherwood. She went on to say that Beyer offers classes at the studio as well, and teaches her technique of hand quilting –

SEE OPEN HOUSE, PAGE 13

JAY BYRD AS EARLENE HOOPLE IN  
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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

## Open House at Village Centre

FROM PAGE 12

that is, quilting without using a sewing machine. "She's known for her colors," Sherwood said.

"There are a lot of gift ideas in the shop. We have everything from stocking patterns and Santa doorstops to table runners," Sherwood said. "Everything is very personalized because you make it yourself." Other items in the shop include pieces from local artisans, such as ornate inlaid wooden boxes.

Down the street on the slightly busier side of Great Falls is a store that recently celebrated its sixth birthday, Great Dogs of Great Falls, a competitively priced shop that specializes in by-product free items for the four-legged members of the family, was a dream come true for owner Linda Waitkus. "I wanted to open my own store and I love dogs, so this was combining two things I love more than anything into one," Waitkus said.

"We supply everything a dog needs," Waitkus continued, listing many of their top sellers including microfiber mats that can be used both as a doormat or in the back of a car, grooming supplies from brushes to dog hair dryers, and a plethora of toys and specialty freeze-dried raw diet treats. "We literally have everything in here!" she said.

Great Falls resident Sara Keenan says she



PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

**A colorful pastel sign marks the entry to Jinny Beyer Studio on the Village Green.**

buys her dog food here. "But sometimes I'll buy treats and special bones for Christmas," Keenan said.

Between the dog treats and the counter, however, was a little something for the people. Great Dogs is the headquarters for selling the White House Christmas ornaments, and all the proceeds go to the Artemis House, charity for women and children fleeing domestic violence. The venture is sponsored by Great Falls Friends and Neighbors.

When searching for the perfect place to do quiet, uninterrupted holiday shopping, look no further than the local businesses that make up the heart of Great Falls.



**The storefront for Great Dogs gets festive for the holiday season.**



**The iconic gazebo in the center of the Green is lit up and decorated for the holiday season.**

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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### Old Firehouse Teen Center Breakfast for Dinner with the Unruly Theatre Improv Group

Friday, Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m.

Dinner must be purchased. Show is free.

### Take a Day Away! Holiday in Baltimore

Saturday, Dec. 13, 8:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.

\$87 per person/\$82 MCC district residents

### @The Alden Free Family Movie "Frozen" (2013)

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2 p.m.

### A KODACHROME *Christmas*

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### "A Kodachrome Christmas"

Friday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 20,  
8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m.

\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

### Old Firehouse Teen Center Winter Break Trips

#### G-Force Gokarts

Monday, Dec. 29, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$75/\$65 MCC district residents

### Ice Skating plus Hibachi Lunch

Tuesday, Dec. 30, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

\$55/\$45 MCC district residents

### King Pinz Bowling plus a movie

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$55/\$45 MCC district residents

### Closing Notice

The Center will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday,  
Dec. 24, and remain closed through Friday,  
Dec. 26 for the Christmas holiday.

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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



Sales associ-  
ate Gail  
Rezenders -  
with The  
Saddlery's  
mascot RJ - in  
front of the  
holiday items  
in the shop.

PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

## Saddling Up to the Holidays

The Saddlery has gifts for  
all, equestrian or not.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**ucked inside of a Walker Road shopping center is a local equestrian's holiday secret.

The Saddlery, a shop that specializes in equestrian gear and clothing for women, is brimming with hostess gifts, stocking stuffers and presents for nearly all women.

"It is an equestrian store, but a lot of the casual clothing we sell is universal," said Louise Cobbett, sales associate.

Cobbett has been working with the shop for two years and said many of the clothing, whether it is the outdoorsy gear or more casual wear, is both good quality and stylish.

According to sales associate Gail Rezenders, who has worked at the store for a year but is a long time customer, the horse treats, some of the ornaments and the advent calenders are hot ticket items that are sure to sell out every year.

The shop carries Dubarry of Ireland boots and handbags, high quality items that cannot be found at the mall. Cobbett said the closest shop that sells the brand is a boutique in Georgetown.

"It's the best leather boot you can get," she said. "It's made in Ireland, and it's just fantastic."

For the girl who is asking for a pony, The Saddlery carries Breyer toy horses. A group of boxed figurines are stacked high near the cash register.

Cobbett grabbed a set of napkin rings shaped like a horse's bit, commenting about the Hermes-like quality about them - for less.

"The equestrian theme is very in vogue right now," she said. "You don't have to be a horse person to find gifts here," she said.

That includes hostess gifts as well. While there are a plethora of horse themes items - from makeup bags with horseshoes emblazoned on them to snow globe ornaments with show horses, Cobbett said Elaine's Toffee is a "game changer" and makes a great gift for anyone.

The shop sells local jewelry by Patricia Barta and customers can also get items embroidered by a local



Sales Associate Louise Cobbett rings up a customer in the shop.

embroiderer.

The store usually has a 10 percent off sale somewhere in the shop, but for those who love to shop after the holidays, The Saddlery has a big inventory sale after Christmas.

"You'll save loads," said Corbett.

The shop sponsors local events and civic engagements, so every penny goes back into the community.

"I love our community of Great Falls, and the very reason I purchased the shop in 2007 was to keep the tradition of a local tack shop here in our town," said owner Sarah Kirk.

The sales associates agree, stating that it is important to buy from local business owners during the holiday season.

"Shop local," said Rezenders. "You don't get to meet your friends and neighbors if you shop online."

The Saddlery is located at 731 Walker Rd. and is opened from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, visit <http://www.thesaddleryinc.com> or call 703-759-3500.



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# Cheery and Cheeky Humor Coming to the Alden

**“A Kodachrome Christmas”  
at the Alden Theatre,  
Dec. 19-21.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**ake a sleigh ride of speeding fun with the “Queen of Rural Media” this holiday season as “A Kodachrome Christmas” barrels into the Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center. “Kodachrome” is written by Pat Hazell who wooed audiences last year with his “The Wonder Bread Years.”

“We booked ‘A Kodachrome Christmas’ by request, actually,” said Sarah Schallern, performing arts director at The Alden. Last season after the performance of “The Wonder Bread Years” audiences asked what other shows from Pat Hazell we could bring. “Audiences loved him so much,” we are producing ‘Kodachrome’ for a three-performance run, something that’s very rare for us. We think it is just what people want this season.”

So, enter the quite colorful world of an endearing, comic cable access TV hostess named Earlene Hoople. She is taping her annual one-woman Christmas Special; you are her live audience. It is her first Holiday Season since she became recently widowed. She is feeling very nostalgic, but still goes on with the show in her always bantering manner. There are outrageous comments, kodachrome-infused family slide shows, letters to Mrs. Claus, fresh-baked cookies, visits from local celebrities as well as audience participation. There are also “commercials” aimed to bring laughter.

Oh and one other thing, Earlene has a secret. Shhh, don’t tell anyone. But think of Hoople as a very heartfelt Tootsie-like auntie character as the talented comic actor Jay Byrd stars in the role of the good-natured woman. Byrd as Hoople may also be expected to delight patrons in versions of the current vogue for ugly holiday sweaters; never know. The set will be homey and comfy just right for a winter’s night.

In a recent interview with Pat Hazell, a former Seinfeld writer, the caring sense of how he developed the character of Earlene Hoople was clear. Hazell described his creation of Earlene Hoople, as “nutty but real, and all in the spirit of the Holidays.” The show is aimed to capture audience’s heart with its folksie sweetness and “irreverent but wholesome humor done with plenty of winks.” It is a follow-up to his audience celebrated “The Wonder Bread Years” a salute to the Baby Boomer Generation.



PHOTOS BY KENNETH GALL/COURTESY OF PAT HAZELL  
**“A Kodachrome Christmas” with Jay Byrd  
as Earlene Hoople.**



## Where and When

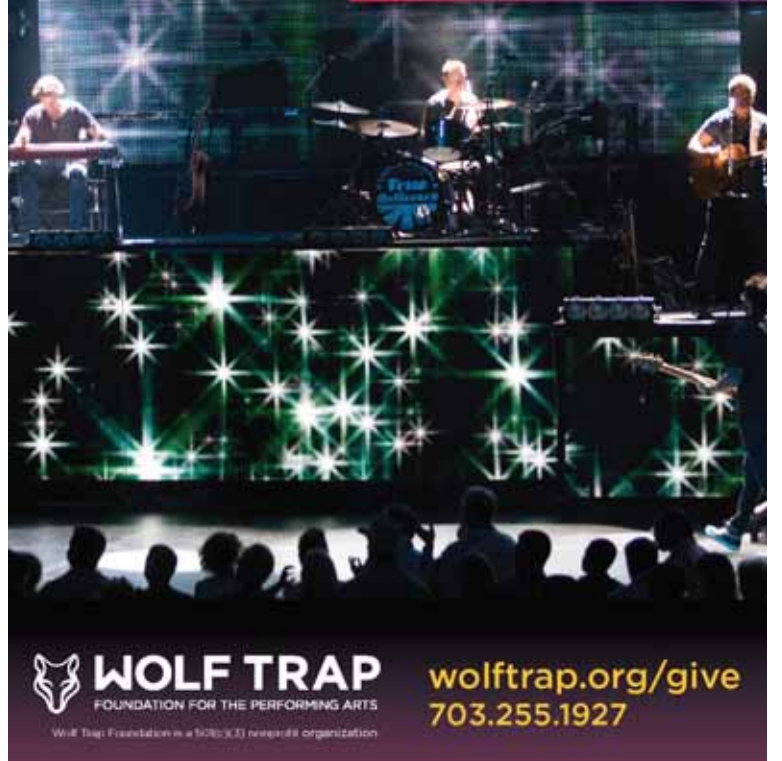
McLean Community Center presents “A Kodachrome Christmas” by Pat Hazell at the Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Performances: Friday and Saturday, Dec. 19 and 20, 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20-\$30. Group rates available. Call 703-790-0123 or visit: [www.mcleancenter.org/](http://www.mcleancenter.org/) Note: For audiences

Time travel into another place and times as the Alden brings an arms full of Holiday cheer and mistletoe. All the world can be a sunny and bright even in the depths of a cold blustery day with “A Kodachrome Christmas.”

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# SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday.

## DECEMBER

Publishing

Wellbeing.....12/3/14

HomeLifeStyle: Home for the Holidays... 12/10/14

Hanukkah begins December 16.

★Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II..12/16/14

A+ Camps & Schools.....12/16/14

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION.....12/24/14

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- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Join in the holiday festivities by listening to the McLean Woman's Club Chorale Holiday Concert, on Dec. 13, from 2-4 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The 35-member chorale and soloists will sing a wide variety of traditional and modern songs of the season.

Send announcements to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### THROUGH 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.

### 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.

### THROUGH WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11, 2015

**Ice Skating at Tysons Corner Center**. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Tysons Corner Outdoor Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons. Adults, \$10; Child/Senior/Military, \$9; Skate Rental, \$6; Group of 10+, \$12 and includes skates

### THURSDAY/DEC. 11

**Caroling on the Vienna Town Green**. 7 p.m. Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Sing some of your favorite traditional carols led by Cunningham Park's Bridges program. The free event will feature hot chocolate, bonfires and roasting marshmallows. For more information, call 703-255-6360.

**Reading Buddies**. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers and teens practice reading together.

**Holiday Gingerbread House**. 6:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Families work together decorating a pre-assembled gingerbread house. Cost includes one preassembled gingerbread house, decorating supplies and candies. Note: Products may contain dairy, eggs, wheat, gluten, corn, and peanuts. \$45/house.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 12-14

**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.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 12

**Annual Holiday Reception**. 4-6 p.m. Vienna Town Hall, 127 Cedar Street S., Vienna. Mayor Laurie DiRocco and the Town Council invite the public to celebrate the holidays at the annual Holiday Reception. Enjoy the sounds of the holiday season with the James Madison High School Madrigals from 4:30 to 5 p.m. and the Vienna Choral Society from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided by the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary. No cost and no RSVP required. For more information, contact the Mayor's office at 703-255-6311 or [mayor@viennava.gov](mailto:mayor@viennava.gov).

**Playdate Café**. 11:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and play space for children, coffee and conversation for grown-ups.

**Drop-in Chess and Backgammon**. 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All skill levels welcome.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 13

**"Frozen" the Movie**. 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Come watch this family-friendly movie that all will enjoy. Free.

**Santa at the Mill**. 3-6 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Enjoy old-fashioned family holiday fun at Colvin Run Mill. Visit Santa in the mill and see the Christmas tree trimmed with Victorian decorations. Join the costumed 49th Virginia Volunteer Infantry caroling around a bonfire. Roast marshmallows and make a family craft. \$5/person.

**Pancake Breakfast**. 8 a.m. - noon. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street, Vienna. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Adults \$8, seniors 65+ \$7, children under 12 \$6, children under 4 are free. Santa Claus will make his arrival at 10:30

a.m. to greet all. The Sheriff's office will be there to provide you with a free photo of your child and a set of his or her fingerprints - using clean, inkless technology. Photo ID with fingerprints gives authorities vital information to help locate a missing child. There will also be tours of the fire equipment available. All proceeds go to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department to assist in purchasing life saving fire equipment.

### McLean Woman's Club Chorale

**Holiday Concert**. 2-4 p.m. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Benefits the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. The 35-member Chorale and soloists will sing a wide variety of traditional and modern songs of the season. Free and open to the public. [www.mcleanwc.org](http://www.mcleanwc.org). 703-556-0197.

**Saturday Storytime**. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Join us for stories, songs, and activities. Ages 2 & up with adult.

**Lego Club**. 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play with LEGOs! Ages 3 & up.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 13-14

**Great Falls Studios Holiday Show and Sale**. Wolf Trap Center for Education, 1645 Trap Rd., Vienna. Great Falls Studios presents Great Falls Annual Holiday Art Show and Sale. This annual show includes paintings, pottery, traditional and digital photographs, jewelry, drawings, art quilts, and hand pulled lithographic prints, plus artful gifts and cards. All of the artwork is created by Great Falls artists. Free admission.

**Visit from Santa**. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Santa Claus will be visiting the Freeman Store. Seated in his special chair next to Historic Vienna's beautifully decorated Christmas tree - courtesy of the Optimist Club and the Ayr Hill Garden Club - he will meet his young visitors and hear their Christmas wishes. Parents (and grandparents) are encouraged to bring their cameras to capture the looks of joy and wonder as the little ones talk to the Man In Red. For information call 703-938-5187 or visit [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 14

**Claude Moore Colonial Farm Wassail**. 1 - 4p.m. Claude Moore

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Gather in the Farm's orchard to Wassail! ("wish good health to") the apple trees with singing, dancing, and chants to ensure a "howling crop" next year. Enjoy spiced cider, ginger biscuits, a bonfire and 18th century games. Regular admission fee. 703-442-7557.

**Holiday Joy Concert.** 3 p.m. McLean Community Theater, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The program include Rosaro's "Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra," performed by Rebecca Kite; Rossini/Respighi, "La Boutique Fantasque", Favorite Holiday selections for Orchestra, and the annual carol sing-along, led by the Symphony Festival Singers, Felicia Kessel Crawley. A concert for all ages. Adults: \$25; Seniors: \$20, Youth with student ID: \$15, Children 12 and under: Free. <http://mcleansymphony.org/index.php>.

## MONDAY/DEC. 15

**Preschool Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Join us for stories, songs, and activities. Ages 2-5 with adult.

**Kids Book Club.** 5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick.

## MONDAY/DEC. 15

**Free Tiny Tot Storytime.** 10:30. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Age 13-23 months with adult caregiver join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime with rhymes and songs.

**Star Language Learners All Ages.** 1:30p.m. Dolley Madison Library,

1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Join a fun foreign language storytime in Mandarin, Spanish, French, or Arabic. No foreign language skills needed.

**Preschool Music Lesson: Rock n' Roll.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Preschoolers with care givers learn to use age-appropriate instruments, such as shakers and hand-bells, to enjoy sensory enriched singing and dancing.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 16

**Holiday Luau with Ukulele Phil and the Hula Kids.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Sing and dance along with Ukulele Phil and the Hula Kids! All ages.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

**Pokémon League.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come play Pokémon with your friends! Ages 5-15.

**Storytime With Furry Puppet Friends.** 10:30a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Ages 2-5 with caregiver. Join puppets and games guides on a journey through the life of a mammal. Real mamal fur and skulls help you learn about how they adapted and survived. Call and make arrangements for sign language interpreters, listening systems or real-time captioning.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 18

**Winter Concert.** 7 p.m. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. The Oakton High School Orchestra will be performing a winter concert. Free.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 19

**Art & Acoustic Bluegrass.** 7-9 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. Bring your acoustic stringed instrument, your voice, your love of original art and join with the jam. Plenty of parking, chairs and a wooden floor to carry the sound. Free.

**Playdate Café.** 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls Toys and play for children. Coffee and Conversation for grown-ups.

**Drop-in Chess & Backgammon.** 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All skill levels welcome.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 19-21

**"A Kodachrome Christmas."** 2 & 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. From the creator of "The Wonder Bread Years" and a writer for "Seinfeld" comes a one-woman, cable-access holiday special. Enter the colorful world of Earlene Hoople as she entertains with participatory bell ringing, cookie baking, a family slide show, some outrageous advice for surviving the holidays with relatives... and a whole lot more.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 21

**Living Nativity.** 5 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A Live Nativity outside. There will also be a Blue Christmas Worship at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. 703-759-3705 or [office@greatfallsumc.org](mailto:office@greatfallsumc.org).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 30

**Winter Science Workshop for Kids.** 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Children will learn hands-on in this iSchool workshop. Registration required for this event. Ages 8-12.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

**New Year's Eve in Entyse Wine Bar & Lounge.** 9 p.m. to Midnight. The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Celebrate the New Year with live musical entertainment provided by The Christopher Linman Jazz Ensemble and culinary delights. As the clock strikes midnight, welcome 2015 with a complimentary champagne toast. \$100 minimum food & beverage purchase per person.

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# Local REAL ESTATE

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## October, 2014 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean



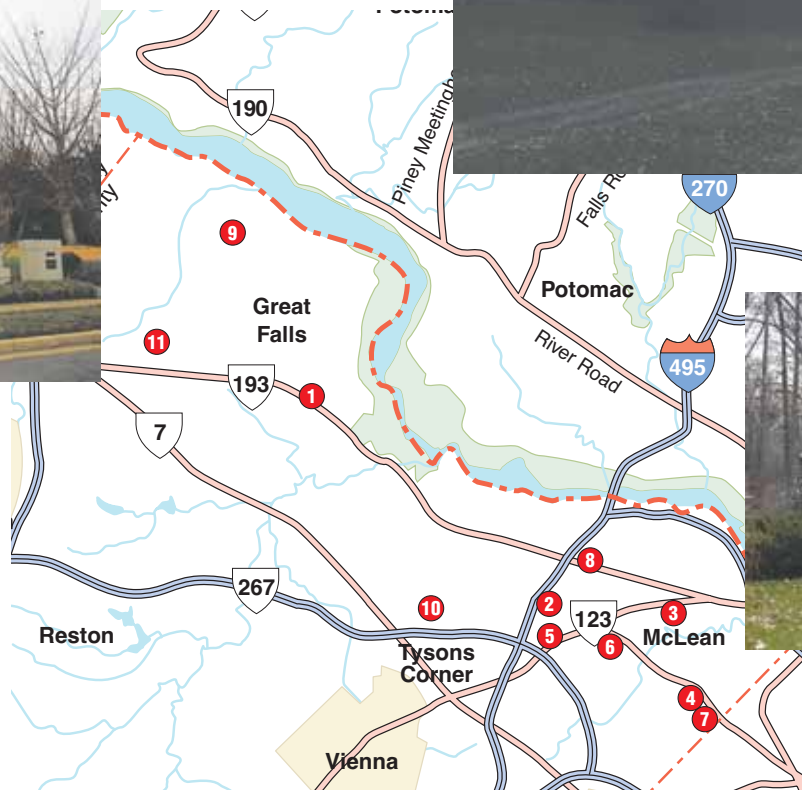
**1** 9414 Georgetown Pike,  
Great Falls — \$3,500,000



**2** 1200 Corbin Court, McLean —  
\$2,200,000



**3** 1234 Meyer Court, McLean — \$2,140,000



**4** 6235 Park Road, McLean —  
\$1,990,000



**9** 10104 Harewood Court,  
Great Falls — \$1,600,000



**11** 10906 Lake Windermere Drive,  
Great Falls — \$1,500,000

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2 1200 CORBIN CT .....	5	..	5	..	1 ... MCLEAN .....	\$2,200,000 ....	Detached ....	0.86 .....	22101 .....	ELMWOOD ESTATES .....	10/31/14
3 1234 MEYER CT .....	4	..	7	..	1 ..... MCLEAN .....	\$2,140,000 ....	Detached ....	0.58 .....	22101 .....	EVERMAY .....	10/24/14
4 6235 PARK RD .....	5	..	4	..	2 ..... MCLEAN .....	\$1,990,000 ....	Detached ....	0.70 .....	22101 .....	FRANKLIN PARK .....	10/31/14
5 7428 OLD MAPLE SQ .....	5	..	4	..	1 ..... MCLEAN .....	\$1,820,000 ....	Detached ....	0.21 .....	22102 .....	MAPLEWOOD .....	10/22/14
6 1463 BUENA VISTA AVE .....	5	..	5	..	1 ..... MCLEAN .....	\$1,789,000 ....	Detached ....	0.14 .....	22101 .....	WEST MC LEAN .....	10/27/14
7 1937 VALLEYWOOD RD .....	6	..	4	..	1 ..... MCLEAN .....	\$1,635,000 ....	Detached ....	1.02 .....	22101 .....	FRANKLIN PARK .....	10/30/14
8 907 COUNTRYSIDE CT .....	4	..	4	..	1 ..... MCLEAN .....	\$1,600,000 ....	Detached ....	0.95 .....	22101 .....	COUNTRYSIDE .....	10/23/14
9 10104 HAREWOOD CT .....	6	..	6	..	2 ..... GREAT FALLS ..	\$1,600,000 ....	Detached ....	1.72 .....	22066 .....	FALCON RIDGE .....	10/03/14
10 1302 DAVISWOOD DR .....	5	..	4	..	1 ..... MCLEAN .....	\$1,594,000 ....	Detached ....	0.84 .....	22102 .....	SUMMERWOOD .....	10/31/14
11 10906 LAKE WINDERMERE DR .....	6	..	6	..	2 ..... GREAT FALLS ..	\$1,500,000 ....	Detached ....	2.37 .....	22066 .....	LAKE WINDERMERE .....	10/17/14

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## 2015 New Year Remodeling Resolutions

BY JOSHUA BAKER  
BOWA



After all the holiday festivities have passed and the ball has dropped to ring in the New Year, many homeowners are inspired to tackle resolutions that relate to their living space. 2015 may be the year you want to remodel your home to allow for the changes occurring in your life. Perhaps you want to build out an office which will allow you to work from home? Maybe 2015 is the year you want to avoid climbing stairs, so moving the master suite to the first floor may be on your resolution list?

One thing is certain in life — family needs are always evolving. As kids come and go, aging parents move in, greener technology becomes available, and we look for more creature comforts in our homes, individuals and families need and want to update living spaces.

So, if you're thinking 2015 is the year to make changes to your home to better suit your changing lifestyle needs, I would encourage you to review some of the following top home remodeling resolutions.

### TIP #1: Planning For My Long-Term Home Needs

Given the fact that a home remodeling project can be a significant investment of both time and money, I would strongly recommend that your family has thought through all elements of the remodeling job to make sure it will work for family's long-term living needs. You want the work done on your home to both improve your day-to-day life and add to the future value of your home, so ensuring the decision makers in your family are all on the same page is critical.

Also, as your family plans to remodel your home, we recommend considering the best times for your home to be under construction. We find that since families tend to travel more during the summer months, that is a good time for a remodeling project as the process may be less disruptive and the work can move quicker.

### TIP #2: Research What You Like

One of the best things you can do to prepare for sitting down with a professional remodeler is to find

pictures of aspects of homes that you like. Being able to show examples of your preferences is extremely helpful to ensure your tastes are understood and incorporated into the design, and often, the materials selected for your remodeling project.

Websites like Houzz.com or Pinterest.com offer thousands of ideas that you can explore and print out to help you define the

look and feel you desire to achieve with your new finished space. You can also save them in an online account that can be viewed by your potential remodel company.

### TIP #3: Do Your Homework on the Best Remodeling Company

As with any significant investment, make sure you do due diligence before signing on with a design-build firm. Remodeling remains one of the most reported industries, so be sure to talk with the firm's client references and visit recent projects they have completed to get a sense for their craftsmanship. You may also want to ask about employee tenure and which professionals will be working with you through the remodeling process. It is important to know who will be your single point of accountability.

With a single point of accountability for the entire design and construction process, you can work alongside your architectural team and other specialists to ensure reliable materials are specified, drawings are clear, and challenges are addressed to lay the groundwork for a smooth production process. Most importantly, this team approach ensures that the project that is being designed aligns with your budget goals, and finds areas of efficiencies and appropriate cost savings wherever possible.

These three tips will help you to achieve the best approach and find a design-build team that will take accountability and manage the entire process while looking after your best interests. Remodeling professionals become part of your family during the process, so it's important to be extremely comfortable with the firm you choose.

*Josh Baker is the founder and co-chairman of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction company specializing in luxury renovations, remodels and additions in the greater Washington, D.C. area. BOWA has more than 25 years of experience and has been honored with 170 local and national awards. Visit [www.bowa.com](http://www.bowa.com) or call 703-734-9050.*

## Saving Historic Homes

Residents could live virtually rent-free in exchange for repairing and maintaining homes.

Fairfax County might soon breathe life into historic homes that have fallen into disrepair. If an ordinance adopted by the County Board of Supervisors last month becomes law, the county will be one step closer to establishing a resident curator program.

The program, which would be the first in the Commonwealth of Virginia, allows indi-

viduals or groups to occupy publicly owned historic properties rent-free in for exchange repairs and maintenance.

"It allows us to preserve historic resources and limits our liability because some of the properties are empty and therefore invitations to vandalism," said Judy Pedersen, a spokeswoman for the Fairfax County Park Authority. She added that the program would also trans-

fer financial responsibility to the curator, saving taxpayers money.

Earlier this year, the county commissioned a study to explore the idea, taking in to consideration factors such as the types of properties that would be eligible, whether to allow commercial use and criteria for selecting curators.

Pedersen said the county needs \$241,000 and a project manager in order to start the program "But we're on track and things are moving forward," she said.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

Join Us For Our Annual  
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# SPORTS

## Langley Boys' Basketball to Face Rival McLean

The Langley boys' basketball team will take on rival McLean at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12 at McLean High School.

Langley lost to Herndon 67-58 on Dec. 5, dropping its record to 0-2. The Saxons lost their season opener against Osbourn, 66-53, on Dec. 3.

McLean started 2-1, with wins over Stuart and Oakton and a loss to South County. The Highlanders faced West Springfield on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

**Blake Mintz and the Langley boys' basketball team lost to Herndon on Dec. 5.**



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Great Falls gymnast Naomi Heit, second from the right, earned spot on the National Talent Opportunity Program's development team.**

## Great Falls Gymnast Selected to National Team

Great Falls resident Naomi Heit, 10, was one of four gymnasts from Loudoun Gymnastics Center selected to the National Talent Opportunity Program's development team. The girls attended a camp at Karolyi Ranch in Huntsville, Texas, this month.

Heit is a fourth-grader at Colvin Run Elementary School in Vienna.

Heit earned a spot on the development team by participating in strength, ability and skill tests, competing

against 1,800 other gymnasts across the nation.

Heit spends between 24 and 30 hours per week training with at the Loudoun Gymnastics Center.

"Sometimes it's difficult to balance the demands of school, training and friends," Heit said in a press release. "I leave school early four days a week for training, but I always tell myself that hard work given time will defeat talent. And so far that's proving to be true."



**Members of the Great Falls Cheetahs, pictured from left: (front row) Haley Richardson, Lorin Costley, Maggie Lyons, Hannah Richardson, Sophie Luraschi, (middle row) Anna Shepherd, Sam Brascia, Reece Herberg, Courtney Brandt, Kendall Treco, Molly Buckler, (back row) Mari Gardiner, Olivia Garner, Clara Nickles, Victoria Stark, Allie Brascia, and Audrey Kim.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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**The 11U Great Falls Nationals won their last five games of the season.**

## 11U Great Falls Nationals Win End-of-Season Tournament

The 11U Great Falls Nationals finished the season with five-game winning streak and won the silver division of the Northern Virginia Travel Baseball League Fall Tournament.

In the tournament, the Nationals had victories over the South County Outlaws (20-5), Shenandoah Sluggers (15-9), Manassas Bulldogs (7-4) and Alexandria Aces (6-3)

before beating the Stafford Bulldogs (11-7) in the championship game.

The Nationals players are Luke Buroker, Brian Cerretani, Michael Cuomo, Jackson Emery, Grant Exley, Michael Gasparis, Steven Jungers, Owen Mead, Riley Mead, Chris Seitz, Jack Thomas and Austin Zeiller and are coached by Coaches Fran Exley, Bobby Zeiller and Paul Cuomo.

## Great Falls Cheetahs Capture ODSL Championship

The Great Falls Cheetahs, a U14 girls' travel soccer team, recently capped off an unbeaten fall season by winning the 2014 Old Dominion Soccer League championship. The Cheetahs went 7-0-2 (6-0-2 in league play), scoring 17 goals while only giving up four. The Cheetahs are composed almost equally of U13 and U14 players, and only began playing travel soccer in the fall of 2013. Since the beginning of the win-

ter 2013 indoor soccer season, the Cheetahs have posted a combined record of 16-3-5.

The Cheetahs are also two-time winners of the Randy Rawls Sportsmanship Award, given to the ODSL team that exhibits the best sportsmanship and sense of fair play. The Cheetahs are led by head coach Philip Nickles, assistant coach Bill Luraschi, assistant coach Bill Lyons and team manager Tiffany Kim.





Great Falls Citizen Association Vice President Bill Canis speaks at the Basheer and Edgemoore rezoning discussion.



Residents listen to Basheer and Edgemoore talk about their development plan for the former Brooks property.

# Residents Speak Out Against Cluster Development

Basheer and Edgemoore representatives meet with residents for discussion.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

More than 150 residents showed up on a Wednesday night to speak against cluster development proposal seeking rezoning.

The Citizens for the Heart of Great Falls, among other area residents, left unsatisfied with Basheer and Edgemoore's answers on Dec. 3 at Forestville Elementary about their development proposal, many stating they would prefer to have the zoning kept to 5 acre lots rather than splitting them.

More than 1,450 citizens have also signed in-person and online petitions to stop the proposal.

"It's really a vote for conservative development of the many other pockets of natu-

ral spaces in Great Falls," said resident Rob Cox. "At 50 acres, this is one of the largest, but there are many other smaller parcels around town that also need protection, for lack of a better word."

Since 1979, the Brooks property - the land Basheer and Edgemoore bought - has been zoned as Rural Agricultural (RA), meaning one lot is 5 acres. Basheer and Edgemoore are proposing to rezone the area as Residential Estate (RE) to reduce the acreage to 2 acres. The developers hope to build more than 20 homes on the lot.

**THE PROPOSAL** would have to pass before the Board of Supervisors next year in order to become effective.

"We are not asking for a special exception," said Basheer and Edgemoore attorney. "Let's be clear about that."

He said he would not have all the answers to every question that night, but encouraged citizens to call his office, saying that Basheer and Edgemoore representatives would be willing to meet in residents' living rooms to work out any issues they may have.

He noted that the zoning for the former Brooks Farm property matches that of the surrounding neighborhoods.

The increase in traffic was not the only concern. Resident Melonie Sullivan, Walker Lake, said the increase of homes would create a problem with the lake's ecosystem.

"If this proposal passes, how long will it be before this stream looks like Captain Hickory?" she asked. "These streams overflow during heavy storms and cause damage to our homes, wash away bridges and sometimes people. Increases in runoff from more development just exacerbates the problem."

She said that silt accumulation can lead to a dried out lake and upstream development could lead to algae blooms.

"Who wants to buy a house on this lake," she said, pointing to a photo of a lake at

low level.

Even more, she said that 23 more septic fields could lead to groundwater contamination. The majority of residents in the village are on a well water system.

Resident Fredric Quinn proposed that the residents of the village buy back the property and turn it into a botanical gardens, allowing citizens to make the property what they want of it.

"It would be a gift to Great Falls and keep it rural," he said.

Quinn has gained support with his idea through a group on LinkedIn and plans to formalize the proposal to the Great Falls Citizens Association.

**SUPERVISOR** John Foust, who attended the meeting, said the Board of Supervisors will not make a vote on the proposal until late spring.

"The turnout was significant and impressive," he said. "It demonstrates a lot of concern on the community's part. The applicant has a lot of work to do."

## 'Artists on the Green' to Exhibit at Great Falls Library

Artists on the Green will display their creative painting talents at an exhibit and show in the large conference room at the Great Falls Public Library during December 2014. The library is located at 9830 Walker Road, Great Falls. An array of impressionistic, realistic and post-impressionistic work can be viewed in a number of different painting styles. While largely concentrating on landscapes and still life, subject matter varies from scenes from Italy and France to delightful fruit and flowers. Animals are also depicted.

Each artist has a different approach to his/her creative process. Gail Pean specializes in painting with a palette knife. Tom Stack is a post-impressionistic painter. Layla Gray, Connie Costello, Mary Nesbitt, Stephanie Pickens, Aliyah Pandolfi and Donna Moseley excel in impressionistic work while Coty Dickson is a realistic painter. Yoshiko Doherty specializes in still life while Leslie Anthony specializes in paintings of horse and dogs.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Artists on the Green show their work for the first time in a group exhibit outside their Great Falls studio.

This marks the first time this group has shown their work as a whole outside their studio and represents a new beginning for group studios within the Great Falls area. "Artists on the Green" was founded in May 2013 as an artist's studio and cooperative workplace. The charter agreement and lease were signed on a bench on the Great Falls Village Centre Green hence their name "Artists on the Green."

Friends of Artists on the Green and the public are invited to attend the opening reception to be held in the library's large conference room on Thursday, Dec. 11 from 6-8 p.m. to celebrate the opening of the art exhibit/show. Refreshments will be served.

Artists on the Green is located at 776B Walker Road, Great Falls. Contact Artists on the Green at their website for more information and studio hours at [www.artistsonthegreen.net](http://www.artistsonthegreen.net). The studio will be conducting special holiday hours and holiday sales listed on the website.



# "Quality of Life"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



If I've heard it once – from my oncologist – I've probably heard it a dozen times over the last nearly-six years. In fact, at the very first Team Lourie meeting with him on February 27, 2009, after the initial examination, followed by a review of my previous doctor's (emergency medicine, pulmonary and thoracic) appointments and diagnostic procedures completed (two X-Rays, one CT Scan and one P.E.T. Scan), he gave us my diagnosis: "stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer," and my prognosis: "13 months to two years." After the shock wore off, he told us in no uncertain terms that he could "treat me but he couldn't cure me," and he was hardly enthusiastic or encouraging about any of what he had said. However, he perked up slightly when he suggested to me that "perhaps you should take that trip you've always dreamed of;" his first attempt at helping me find some quality in my life. Considering the context in which it was said, the suggestion fell on deaf ears and I started chemotherapy the very next week.

This concern about my life, this awareness of my life-expectancy-challenged reality has been an ongoing and recurring theme during the regular discussions Team Lourie has had with my oncologist. Whether I was feeling bad during heavy-duty chemotherapy ("we can stop or take a break anytime if it's too much?" he would ask) or feeling good ("since you're feeling so good, maybe we should stop for a while; enjoy your good quality of life"), the quality of my life away from the Infusion Center has always been a consideration. And given what he knew and I didn't, perhaps I should have listened, but I didn't.

Not that I ever felt that he had, or was, giving up on me; or that he was imposing his perspective on me/us; it was more like he was fulfilling his legal/fiduciary-type responsibility/moral obligation to educate me about choices, realities even. These conversations about life/living and death were/are always the most difficult for me. The figurative weight of it all almost becomes literal. There's nothing really that prepares you for the process. I keep thinking that someone with more experience, who's lived longer and seen more of life than I have, should be advising me. Ultimately though, decisions concerning life and death, the most personal of all decisions, really fall to the patient.

Now whether taking control and being responsible for one's own cancer fight does keep the cancer at bay, no one really knows. But after being "diseased" at such an unexpected and early age, 54 and a half, it feels good sometimes to exert some control. At this point in my survival, living is likely more about quality than it is quantity – or so I've been told, repeatedly, in a good and honest way. Nevertheless, I'm not ready to give up on the latter while embracing the former.

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

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## NEWS

### Area Business Leaders Inducted into Washington Business Hall of Fame

The 2014 Washington Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held on Tues, Dec. 2 at the National Building Museum. This year's Hall of Fame inductees are:

- ♦ Sudhakar Kesavan, Chairman and CEO, ICF International based in Fairfax. Kesavan is an engineer with a MIT master's in technology and public policy, his firm consults on energy, environmental, and health matters. He also chairs the Northern Virginia Technology Council and leads ICF's many charity efforts.



**Sudhakar Kesavan**



**Debbie Kissire**



**Dennis Ratner**



**Peter Barris**

- ♦ Debbie Kissire, Vice Chair, Ernst & Young (now EY) – who lives in McLean, a would-be schoolteacher who discovered her affinity for business via a summer job at her hometown bank. She switched majors, went to work for the Big 8, and rose to be Vice Chair of EY, all the while developing and advancing women and dedicating herself to philanthropy.

- ♦ Dennis Ratner, Founder, CEO and Stylist, Ratner Companies based in Vienna. He started Hair Cuttery with \$5,000 and an idea for a unisex shop for all ages that would offer fashionable cuts for low prices. Today his company boasts 1,000 salons across 16 states, and Ratner's active in the philanthropy scene.

- ♦ Peter Barris, Managing General Partner/ Washington, DC, New Enterprise Associates. A Dartmouth MBA who worked under GE's Jack Welch, he led his boutique VC firm to help entrepreneurial companies such as Groupon, CareerBuilder and TiVo turn their

ideas into success. He also uses the venture-capital model to invest in local nonprofits.

The Washington Business Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding business leaders and their significant contributions to the quality of life in Greater Washington. The annual black-tie gala and awards ceremony brings together 1,200 business and civic leaders and raises over \$1 million annually to support Junior Achievement of Greater Washington's innovative financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship programs for K-12 students.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SATURDAY/DEC. 13

**Christmas Open House and Health Fair.** 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. The fair will have 26 different stations that provide a wide array of health information for women, men, teens, children and the elderly. Topics range from Heart Health Diabetes Disease, Ebola Awareness, Keeping jolly during the holidays to Stranger Danger. Participants will be able to gather health information, talk with the nursing students about their researched health projects and participate in demonstrations, blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. Participants will be able to obtain a freshly baked treat at the bake sale and participate in 4 Service projects: Food Collection for CHO, winter coat collection, Medical supplies collection for Brother's Brother, and an opportunity to select a toy or outfit to purchase for our Adopted Family Project for a family with 3 school-aged children. For more information call 703-938-6753 or visit [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org).

### MONDAY/DEC. 15

**Evening ESL Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice speaking English in this informal conversation group.

**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.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

**Morning Book Group.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for book title.

**ESL Conversation Group.** 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice English in this casual conversation group.

**English Conversation Group for Adults.** 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Come practise conversational English in a group setting.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 18

**New Voting Equipment Demonstration.** 4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Staff from the Fairfax County Office of Elections will provide an opportunity to see and try out the brand new voting machines as well as provide an opportunity for photo ID processing and voter registration.

**Reading Buddies.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers and teens practice reading together.

**Evening Book Group.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for Title.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 19

**New Voting Equipment Demonstration.** 11a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Do not miss this opportunity and come see for yourself! Fairfax County Office of Elections staff will process your photo ID and voter registration through the brand-new voting machine.

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