

and Oakton
Vienna
CONNECTION

Inside
Holiday
Entertainment
& Gift Guide 2014

Pakistani Ambassador Keynotes Interfaith Event

NEWS, PAGE 3

People of all faiths and ethnicities turned out for the Reach Out International [ROI] fundraiser at the Vienna Presbyterian Church. ROI is an interfaith nonprofit that focuses on the Christian segment of Pakistan, but seeks to promote religious harmony and human cooperation throughout the world.

Last-minute Gift Ideas Make the Season Bright

GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 10

Get to Know Kathleen Murphy

NEWS, PAGE 4

Home LifeStyle

PAGE 15



GETTING FIT IS EASIER THAN EVER.

GET A FREE 3-DAY PASS

Restrictions apply.

24HOURFITNESS.COM/FAIRFAX

FAIRFAX SUPER-SPORT CLUB **OPENING DEC. 13 12300 PRICE CLUB PLAZA**

Our NEW Super-Sport club offers the best in amenities from a lap pool to our Kids' Club and TRX® Suspension Training®—all available 24/7 to help you succeed in fitness.



STAY CONNECTED WITH OVER 400 CLUBS NATIONWIDE



Download our
My24® app



© 2014 24 Hour Fitness USA, Inc.



From left — Rizwan Jaka, chairman of the board of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society and a co-sponsor of the event, Sam Mall, founder and director of Reach Out International [ROI], and Rev. Richard Lord, pastor of The Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna. All three spoke during the fundraiser for ROI.



Jalil Abbas Jilani, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States was the keynote speaker at the fundraising dinner for Reach Out International. The interfaith organization supports missions to improve the conditions and outlook for Christians in Pakistan. The ambassador was pleased to make a personal donation with his embassy staff for the work being done by ROI.

Pakistani Ambassador Keynotes Interfaith Event

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Local organization seeks to promote religious harmony and cooperation throughout the world.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

A Hindu, a Presbyterian and a non-denominational Christian were sitting at a table listening to a speech by Pakistan's ambassador to the United States... The occasion was a fundraiser for Reach Out International (ROI), a nonprofit interfaith organization founded by Restonian Sam Mall. Mall was born in West Punjab, just a few years before the region transferred from Indian to Pakistani rule. Mall and his wife, both professionals in Pakistani society, "could not see a good future for our children there. I saw the country losing its original character of democratic freedom and non-fundamentalist structures," he said. The Malls emigrated in the '80s and became U.S. citizens. But this son of an Anglican priest could not just sit by and ignore what was happening in his native land. He spent many years involved in numerous human rights activities until he "felt the call" to aim his works toward the place where he had come from.

Ten years ago he started ROI. The primary focus of ROI is ministering to the needs of Christians in Pakistan, where their overwhelming minority often makes life difficult for them. As Mall puts it, by "addressing the root cause of the problems, ROI seeks to better the lives of this disenfranchised group and promote interfaith reconciliation and communal harmony for peaceful coexistence." Mall believes that it re-



People of all faiths and ethnicities turned out for the Reach Out International [ROI] fundraiser at the Vienna Presbyterian Church. ROI is an interfaith nonprofit that focuses on the Christian segment of Pakistan, but seeks to promote religious harmony and human cooperation throughout the world.

quires people of all faiths to join together at the basic human level in order to achieve that goal, and ultimately make the whole world a better and safer place.

He is achieving the goal of bringing an interfaith community together to discuss serious world affairs and human rights issues. The fundraiser was held in the Hall at the Vienna Presbyterian Church. The All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS), which helped raise money to rebuild the Christian churches destroyed by suicide bomb attacks in Peshawar in Pakistan in 2013, and the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Federation International co-sponsored the event. The pastor of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna, Reverend Richard A. Lord was an honored guest and speaker, befitting his longtime involvement with Mall and ROI. And, of course, there was that table with the Hindu, non-denominational Christian and the Presbyterian...and they were surrounded by tables that mixed Christian, Muslim, Jew, and one self-described "believer in some-

thing out there." Together they listened to a series of speakers and watched a video presentation of Mall's most recent trip to Pakistan where he met with numerous religious and political leaders, as well as average citizens, seeking to encourage what he calls "People-to-People Diplomacy" to build trust and cooperation among different faiths.

The evening's keynote speaker, Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, stressed his government's commitment to seek out and punish extremists who commit atrocities such as the church bombings, but he cautioned, "Governments can only do so much to a point. It requires everyone to do something to make the change." He praised the work being done by ROI and its fellow interfaith communities, and ended his speech by making "a humble personal donation from myself and from the staff at the Embassy to further these good works."

While Mall, ROI, and others such as ADAMS believe that it is imperative to open



Mikkeel Jaka is the son of Rizwan Jaka, the chairman of board of ADAMS and a co-sponsor of the event. Mikkeel feels "it's important to do things for other people and to listen to everyone."

dialogue and keep it flowing, they also know it takes more to improve the circumstances of the Christian minority in Pakistan. "The needs are many," admitted Mall. Thus, the fundraising aspect of the event. Money raised will fund ROI's help in bringing training, job skills, and immediate assistance to those in need, and developing grass-root programs and opportunities for future young leaders on the ground. "This next generation needs encouragement and assistance, help in finding and using their voice," said Mall. "Christian leadership is foundering there, and without support, they cannot take their place in building the solutions."

Reach Out International is always seeking financial support for its efforts, but also hopes to recruit more persons from a variety of faiths to join in the dialogue, as volunteers, and even to serve as members of an Advisory Board. Their website is currently under re-construction, but more information is available on their Facebook page (search Reach Out), or by contacting Mall at reachoutintl@comcast.net.

Fighting for Common Sense

Colleagues say Kathleen Murphy is compassionate and dedicated.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

First of the two candidates' profiles.

According 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. 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.

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

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

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

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

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

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

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

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




Holiday Art Show & Sale



"Art Meets Architecture"

Dec 13-14 2014, 10am - 5pm

The Center for Education
at Wolf Trap
1645 Trap Road, Vienna VA








SUN DESIGN

Design. Remodel. Relationships.



Scaling the Mountain

YOU'RE INVITED TO REACH THE TOP

Let The Wise Investor Group's expert insight into financial planning, investments and the economy help you reach your own financial summit!

Saturday, January 24, 2015
Fairview Park Marriott
8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
3111 Fairview Park Drive
Falls Church, Virginia

A continental breakfast will be served.

R.S.V.P. by contacting Baird Corporate Events at 888-331-1907. If you are unable to join us in person, we encourage you to sign up for a recorded version of the seminar.

Admission is \$45 for clients, \$65 for non-clients. All proceeds to go to Hopecam, a nonprofit connecting hospitalized and homebound children undergoing treatment for cancer with loved ones and support networks.



©2014 Robert W. Baird & Co. 800-RW-BAIRD, rwbaird.com, Member SIPC, MC-43208.

Excellence in Orthodontics for Children and Adults



Call us to set up your
complimentary consultation for braces

Dr. Ashkan Ghaffari

703.281.0466

**100 Church Street, NE
Vienna, Virginia 22180**

DrGhaffari@ViennaBraces.com

WWW.VIENNABRACES.COM



Adopt/Donate/Volunteer
www.lostdogandcatrescue.org



Pictured at pre-event reception are, from left, Jude and Richard Duesterhouse, SCOV Board Chair; Mark Eaton, Capitol Steps; William Kirby, SCOV Board Vice Chair and Nina & Don Kissenger, Homewatch CareGivers of Falls Church, Silver sponsor.

Capitol Steps Performs At Shepherd's Center

The sold-out audience was rolling in the aisles when nationally recognized comedy troupe, Capitol Steps, appeared at the 2014 benefit performance for the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV). SCOV serves older adults in Oakton, Vienna, Merrifield, Dunn Loring and portions of Fairfax and Reston.

Founded in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna is a volunteer-based non-profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for adults (50+) to seek rewarding lives and to live independently in their homes for as long as possible. Last year SCOV's services, personal enrichment and volunteer opportunities reached more than 3,000 older adults (50+) in the region.

In 2014 the agency was recognized by the National Volunteer Caregiving Network with their Program of the Year award. In 2012 SCOV was voted the Best Nonprofit of the Year by the Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Each year more than 200 volunteers at SCOV serve as medical drivers, companion drivers, friendly callers and visitors, health and wellness counselors, fundraisers, and grant writers. These volunteers run programs such as Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and caregivers' support

groups.

Services and programs are available to anyone age 50+ who lives in Oakton, Vienna, Merrifield, Dunn Loring and portions of Fairfax and Reston.

The 2014's SCOV Capitol Steps event received additional support from Ready Hands Home Care, Presenting Sponsor and Navy Federal Credit Union, Platinum Sponsor. Additional Sponsorship support was provided by the Estate Planning & Elder Law Firm, P.C.; VLP Financial Advisors; The Law Office of Michele H. Wright, P.L.C.; Booze/Allen/Hamilton; Arden Courts; Ashby Ponds; Heavenly Paws; Home Care Assistance; Homewatch Caregivers of Falls Church; Money & King; Sunrise Senior Living; A First-Class Move; Heavenly Paws; Tall Oaks Assisted Living; Greenspring; The Balch Family; Goodwin House; Fisher Group, LLC; Advent Funeral Home; Arbor Terrace of Herndon; Doc Talker; Garai Orthodontists; Great Falls Assisted Living; Hale, Ball, Carlson, Baumgartner, Murphy, PLC; Title One Settlement Group; The Woodlands; Westminster at Lake Ridge; Vienna Manor and Comfort Keepers.

To learn more about SCOV and how you can support their mission, visit their website at www.scov.org or call Michelle Scott, Executive Director at 703 281-5088, director@scov.org.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Vienna Police in 'Santa's Ride for Children'

The Vienna Police Department will participate in the 2014 "Santa's Ride for Children" on Tuesday, Dec. 16. "Santa's Ride for Children" benefits children who

are hospitalized or in need during the holidays. Vienna residents may support this program by bringing in donations of new unwrapped toys, games, books and other gifts to the Vienna Police Department, 215 Center St. S., by Sunday, Dec. 14. Santa is scheduled to arrive in Vienna, escorted by his squad of motorcycle elves, on Dec. 16.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**It's like
retirement,
only better.**



Imagine your perfect retirement: a serene home in the country, yet near the excitement of a world-class city. Westminster at Lake Ridge is a place where family can gather and immediately feel a part of the community. This is a community defined by small town charm, a place to enjoy nature, visit a nearby quaint historic village or experience the excitement and culture of our nation's capital.

*Westminster at Lake Ridge is accepting wait list
reservations! Call (703) 496-5156 today to schedule
your personal tour!*

Westminster
at Lake Ridge

Northern Virginia's best kept secret in retirement living

www.wlrv.org • (703) 496-5156
12191 Clipper Drive, Lake Ridge, VA



FROM PAGE 6

Vienna Town Offices Closed for Holidays

Town offices will close at noon on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and will remain closed through Friday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday. Offices also will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, 2014 for the New Year holiday.

Refuse will be collected as normal on Dec. 24; however, refuse

will not be collected on Dec. 25. Trash and recycling for Dec. 25 and 26 will be collected on Dec. 26. Also, refuse will not be collected on Jan. 1. Trash and recycling for Jan. 1 and 2 routes will be collected on Jan. 2, 2015.

Refuse is collected on most Town-observed holidays, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

When your collection day falls on one of these three holidays, Town crews will double-up the next business day and collect both the missed collection route and the

regularly scheduled route. Residents whose collection falls on a double-up day should hold their brush, yard waste and bulk items until their next regular collection day as crews will focus on collecting trash and recycling and will not pick up bulk, yard waste and brush material.

Vienna's Community Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, and from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Dec. 31. It will be closed on Dec. 25, 26, and Jan. 1.

Public safety services will not be affected.

Formerly Le Canard • Family Owned & Operated

Maplewood Grill

Serving Our Neighbors and Friends for Over 30 Years

Join Us for a Fabulous
New Year's Eve!
With Live Entertainment
8:00 pm into the New Year.
See Web Site for Menu.

Brunch
Every
Sunday

703-281-0070

132 Branch Road, S.E. • Vienna, VA
Visit www.maplewoodgrill.com for Specials

Biggest Discount Ever!¹

BUY 1
WINDOW



GET 1
WINDOW



50%
OFF

Renewal
by Andersen. 
WINDOW REPLACEMENT an Andersen Company

Because our window's Fibrex material is **twice as strong as vinyl**, our window will help make your home **safer, stronger and more comfortable**. And right now, buy one of our windows—**ANY SIZE**—and your next window is **50% OFF!**¹

EVERY double hung window
EVERY casement window
EVERY gliding window
EVERY specialty window

BUY 1 WINDOW
GET 1 WINDOW
50%
OFF¹

WITH

\$0 0 0%
MONEY DOWN PAYMENTS INTEREST
FOR 1 YEAR¹

Offer only available as part of our Instant Product Rewards Plan.

PLUS

IT'S THE
BIGGEST
DISCOUNT
WE'VE EVER
HAD!¹

CALL FOR YOUR FREE WINDOW DIAGNOSIS:

703-775-2256

¹Restrictions and conditions apply; see your local representative for details. Cannot be combined with prior purchases, other offers, or coupons. No adjustments to previous orders. Offer not available in all areas. 50% discount applied by retailer representative at time of contract execution and applies to minimum purchase of 6 or more windows. Discount applied to lowest priced window products in purchase. Offer does not include bay/bow windows or any upgrades considered non-standard options. Buy one get one 50% off offer is the largest discount ever given to first-time customers. Offer only available as part of our Instant Product Rewards Plan. As part of the Instant Product Rewards Plan, all homeowners must be present and must purchase during the initial visit to qualify. To qualify for discount offer, initial contact for a free Window Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 12/31/14 with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. 0% APR for 12 months available to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. Not all customers may qualify. Higher rates apply for customers with lower credit ratings. Financing not valid with other offers or prior purchases. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Renewal by Andersen retailers are independently owned and operated retailers, and are neither brokers nor lenders. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only and all financing is provided by third-party lenders unaffiliated with Renewal by Andersen retailers, under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender, all subject to credit requirements. Renewal by Andersen retailers do not assist with, counsel or negotiate financing, other than providing customers an introduction to lenders interested in financing. This Renewal by Andersen location is an independently owned and operated retailer. VA Lic. #2701030764A, DC Lic. #420212000031. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. ©2014 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2014 Lead Surge, LLC. All rights reserved.

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.

EDITORIAL 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 9

Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9438
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Donna Manz
Contributing Writer
dmanz@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Don Park
Display Advertising
703-778-9420
donpark@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

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 alter-

native. 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

Health Fair on Dec. 13

Antioch Christian Church and Everest College Nursing Students will host a fun filled carol sing-a-long and informative Health Fair on Dec. 13. This health fair will be a four-hour Open House event held on Saturday at Antioch Christian Church located at 1860 Beulah Road in 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 four 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. Consider participating in one of these service areas when you visit the fair.

Ready to learn
more **about** **MS?**
relapsing

You and your loved one are invited to an **MS LIVING EVENT**. Hear from MS experts and others who are living with MS. Plus, get some answers about dealing with MS and information on an oral treatment.

Ristorante Bonaroti, 428 East Maple Avenue, Vienna, VA 22180
Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 6:00 PM Eastern

EXPERT SPEAKERS

James Simsarian, MD
Neurology Center of Fairfax

FYI

A meal will be provided.
Free parking or valet available.

PLEASE RSVP AT
mslivingevents.com or call **1-866-703-6293**.
Register today. Space is limited.

Event ID: TR277971 (1189736)

US.MS.MSX.14.03.017

garai
ORTHODONTIC
SPECIALISTS
BracesVIP.com



Dr. Allen S. Garai

- Specialist in Orthodontics
- Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics (Board Certified)
- Premier Preferred Invisalign Provider 2012, 2013 and 2014
- Attending Faculty— Orthodontic Department Children's/Washington Hospital

"BEST ORTHODONTIST"
Washingtonian Magazine
Families Magazine
"TOP ORTHODONTISTS"
Northern Virginia Magazine
Virginia Living
Health & Beauty Magazine

invisalign, invisalign teen and AcceleDent
At our iBracesVIP Center



Commitment to Excellence

- Our Promise to treat your teen with braces at **No Additional Cost** if invisalign does not satisfy our orthodontic standards
- **Latest Technology**
- **ITERO** laser scanner - No more messy impressions
- **AcceleDent** - up to 50% shorter treatment
- A **Board-Certified Orthodontic Specialist** to diagnose and treatment plan every case

Vienna
427 Maple Ave, West
Vienna, VA 22180
703-281-4868



Great Falls
9912D Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066
703-281-4868

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Last-minute Gift Ideas Make the Season Bright

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas ... and Chanukah and New Year's Eve Here are ideas to wrap up your gift-giving opportunity for the season, from gifts under the tree to hostess gifts. Gifts of food are always welcomed so we've included sweets and savories, as well, for parties or "thank-you" acknowledgements. There's a plethora of community restaurants, as well as Culinary Cooking School, that offer gift certificates, so, start dropping hints now.

Chanukah begins the evening of Dec. 16, and ends on Dec. 24, in 2014. Lighting a menorah candle daily and reciting traditional prayers is a ritual in many Jewish families.

The first candle of the menorah is lit at nightfall of the first day, Dec. 16.

Treasures Judaica Shop at Temple Rodef Shalom; 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, features a diversity of Chanukah necessities, from dreidels to menorahs. Even if you do not celebrate Chanukah personally, the pieces that Temple Rodef

Shalom sells make treasured gifts for families that do.

Olivia Riegel designed the menorahs photographed. The "Devorah" menorah, cast pewter in antique brass finish with sapphire glass gems, clear Swarovski crystals, faux pearls, and dark blue hand-enameling sells for \$150. The "Cami" menorah, at \$239, holds topaz Swarovski crystals in an antique brass metal finish. The "Nikki" menorah features an old-world design in antique bronze finish with gemstones, dangling Swarovski crystals and hand-painted enamel and sells for \$150.

Treasures Judaica Shop holds special



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Chanukah Bazaar hours on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 5p.m. Temple Rodef Shalom is located at 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Phone 703-532-2217 for merchandise information or email treasures@templerodefshalom.org.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Karin's Florist is so festively-decorated in a seasonal manner of "snow" and sparkles that even Ebenezer Scrooge's heart would have softened. A five-foot snowman, nutcracker and Santa Express railroad crossing sign (all for sale) anchor the shelves of distinctive ornaments, sweets, and floral arrangements. The staff at this Vienna icon,

family-owned for 55 years, is knowledgeable and friendly.

LED-backlit framed scenes, \$45 each, are reminders of the serenity of the season.

Karin's Florist is located at 527 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Call 703-592-0952 for orders or visit www.karinsflorist.com/.

Because man does not live on sweets alone, there's the **Pure Pasty Co.** selling traditional and not-so-traditional Cornish pasties, those hand-held meals of meats or vegetables – or dessert ingredients –



wrapped in a rich pastry dough that British expats and locals-alike enjoy for lunch, dinner and parties.

What makes the Pure Pasty Company so unique is owner Mike Burgess's mission of using organic ingredients and grass-fed beef.

Dessert pasties, typically, sell for \$3.29 each. Pumpkin is popular right now. "Regular" pasties are priced at \$6.99 each, and "special" pasties sell for \$7.99 each. The traditional beef pasty includes potato and carrot. The winter veggie pasty holds potatoes, parsnips, butternut

squash, carrots and onion. Buy 10, get one free. Pure Pasty bakes Moroccan lamb, chicken masala and beef bourguignone pasties, among the restaurant's inspirations.

Pure Pasty sells unbaked pasties, as well.

Vienna chef Nicola Willis-Jones heads the in-view kitchen. She's on-hand to answer questions, too.

The shop sells jars of foodstuffs imported from

the U.K. ... including Vegemite.

The Pure Pasty Co. is located at 128-C Church Street NW, next to Bikes@Vienna, in that little alleyway that connects Maple Avenue and Church Street. To order in advance, call 703-255-7147. Visit the shop's website at www.purepasty.com

Sweet City Desserts makes the kind of hostess desserts that make people want to be a hostess.



Mini-cakes, a single dessert portion, start at \$3.50. Some of the more popular mini-cakes are the pumpkin-spice cheesecake, chocolate cake with chocolate mousse or peanut butter mousse, and the chocolate passion cake.

The special occasion cakes are beautifully-extravagant. The shop sells gelato, too.

Sweet City Desserts is at 131-A Maple Avenue W., next door to the Pure Pasty Company. Phone number is 703-938-8188 and website is www.sweetcitydesserts.com.



which means that the beans come from a specific farm.

Caffe Amouri serves machine coffees and hand-pours. Try a cup before you buy a bag. The café is like a "Toys R Us" for coffee drinkers.

"Dutchess," the most popular espresso blend, is named after Michael Amouri's previous dog, Dutchess, now gone. Like Dutchess the beloved pet, "Dutchess" the coffee is "sweet and smooth."

Caffe Amouri is located in the Savia Building, 107 Church Street, NE. Visit the shop's website at www.CaffeAmouri.com.

Holiday Gift Ideas

HOLIDAY GIFT SPECIAL

TWO Great Holiday Gifts for ONE Fantastic Price

ICE SKATING LESSONS and YOUR OWN ICE SKATES

Selection 1 BEGINNER CLASS
Lessons for the Beginner
★ 7 one-half hour lessons
★ 7 practice sessions

Plus... Riedell Ice Skates Model 14
Only \$195.00*
\$220.00 Regular Value

Selection 2 NOVICE CLASS
Lessons for the Novice
★ 8 one-half hour lessons
★ 8 practice sessions

Plus... Riedell Ice Skates Model 14
Only \$203.00*
\$228.00 Regular Value
*not available singly higher

ADULT SIZES, add \$80.00 • OFFER EXPIRES 1/5/2015

CALL OR VISIT TODAY!
FAIRFAX ICE ARENA
3779 PICKETT ROAD • FAIRFAX, VA • 703-323-1132
www.fairfaxicearena.com • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Your Home...Your Neighborhood...
Your Newspaper

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

www.connectionnewspapers.com

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

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more information.



THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Burke Connection
- Centre View
- Chantilly Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

Visit These Houses of Worship

To Highlight Your Faith Community,
call Karen at 703-917-6468

Welcoming, Diverse, Progressive

ST. ANNE'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH • Reston



8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service

Nursery care provided at 10:00 a.m. service

The Rev. James Papile, Rector
The Rev. Laura Cochran, Assoc. Rector

703-437-6530
www.stannes-reston.org
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

450 ORCHARD STREET, NW
VIENNA, VA 22180
703-938-8525
fbcvoffice@verizon.net
www.fbcv.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 11:00 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM-10:30AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

Enjoy Our Holiday Specials!



New Specials:

- European Hair Color
- High Lights or Perm
- Shampoo, Haircut & Blow Dry

Gift Certificates Available

\$10 OFF
\$5 OFF
\$3 OFF
for women
for men
Expires 1/31/15

Walk-ins Welcome, or Call for an Appointment.

Hair Pair Salon
703-938-0007

338 Maple Avenue, West, Vienna, VA

THIS WEEKEND!

SUGARLOAF CRAFTS FESTIVAL
DEC. 12, 13, 14, 2014
Dulles Expo Center
CHANTILLY, VA • RT 28 AT WILLARD RD
Tickets \$8 online, \$10 at door - good all 3 days
Children under 12 and parking free

FRI 10-6
SAT 10-6
SUN 10-5

TICKETS - www.SugarloafCrafts.com

Open a World of New Possibilities!
Register Now for

Winter Classes

at the
McLean Community Center



- Parent & Child Workshops
- Technology & Science
- CPR, Babysitting & Safety
- Fencing & Soccer
- Dance & Fitness
- Music & Art
- Writing & Theater
- Lifetime Learning

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



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



**McLean
Community
Center**
The Center of It All



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.



@The Alden Pat Hazell's

"A Kodachrome Christmas"

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

\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

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.

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to
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.

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.

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.

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.mcleanwcc.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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

NOW OPEN In the Heart of Vienna!



Birdwatchers
Seed and Supply Co.

396 Maple Avenue East

Vienna, Virginia 22180

703-242-4565

www.birdwatchersvienna.com

Birdbaths • Feeders • Nest Boxes
Binoculars and more!
Great selection, Great prices!

Hours of Operation:
Mon.-Sat.: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Sunday: 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

For a free digital
subscription
to one or all
of the 15
Connection
Newspapers,
go to
www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Be the first to
know - get your
paper before it
hits the press.

Complete digital
replica of the
print edition,
including photos
and ads, delivered
weekly
to your e-mail
box.

Questions?
E-mail:
goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com



THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

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

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.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

Holiday Joy Concert. 3 p.m. McLean Community Theater, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The program include Rosaura'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://mclean-symphony.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.

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.



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.

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 mammal 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.

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.

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.

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-

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve in Entyze 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.

First Night Vienna. 7 p.m. - midnight. Town of Vienna, Church Street. A family-friendly New Year's Eve Celebration. Featuring music, food, kids entertainment, and more. Four free music venues, a dance party, glitter tattoos, face painting, arts & crafts, balloon twisting, fire pits, corn hole, s'mores, popcorn popping, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, party hats, and much much more.

This year, give a gift they'll remember forever...

The Wolf Trap Experience!

Memberships & gift certificates make the perfect holiday gift!

WOLF TRAP
FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
Wolf Trap Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

wolftrap.org/give
703.255.1927

JAY BYRD AS EARLENE HOOPLE IN
"A KODACHROME CHRISTMAS"
FRI. & SAT, DEC. 19 & 20 AT 8 P.M., SUN., DEC. 21 AT 2 P.M.

facebook.com/thealden
twitter.com/@thealden
703-790-0123
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101

ALDEN SMALL STAGE. BIG TALENT.

WWW.ALDENTHEATRE.ORG

Bathroom Remodel Special \$6,850

Celebrating 15 Years in Business!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



Free Estimates
703-999-2928



Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Select your products from our Mobile Showroom and Design Center

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed
Est. 1999



Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

October, 2014 Top Sales in Vienna and Oakton

IN OCTOBER 2014, 80 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,812,500 - \$ 218,500 IN THE VIENNA AND OAKTON AREA.



1 10412 Hunters Valley Road, Vienna — \$1,812,500



2 10809 Tradewind Drive, Oakton — \$1,450,000



4 1411 Patrick Circle, SW, Vienna — \$1,280,490



6 1653 White Pine Drive, Vienna — \$1,250,000



7 620 Givson Drive SW, Vienna — \$1,225,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal City ...	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold						
1 10412 HUNTERS VALLEY RD ..	6	..	6	..	3	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,812,500	Detached	2.84	.....	22181	.....	HUNTERS VALLEY	.....	10/03/14
2 10809 TRADEWIND DR	5	..	4	..	2	.....	OAKTON	....	\$1,450,000	Detached	0.90	.....	22124	.....	WILLOW CREEK ESTATES	....	10/31/14
3 204 MARIAN CIR SW	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,350,000	Detached	0.28	.....	22180	.....	VIENNA WOODS	.....	10/28/14
4 1411 PATRICK CIRCLE, SW	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,280,490	Detached	0.38	.....	22180	.....	VIENNA WOODS	.....	10/16/14
5 10727 VALE RD	5	..	4	..	2	.....	OAKTON	....	\$1,275,000	Detached	2.11	.....	22124	.....	VALE HEIGHTS	.....	10/01/14
6 1653 WHITE PINE DR	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.86	.....	22182	.....	SYMPHONY MEADOWS	.....	10/17/14
7 620 GIBSON DR SW	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,225,000	Detached	0.25	.....	22180	.....	VIENNA WOODS	.....	10/10/14
8 11391 FOX VALE GLEN CT	4	..	4	..	1	.....	OAKTON	....	\$1,220,000	Detached	0.83	.....	22124	.....	FOX VALE GLEN	.....	10/24/14
9 909 SYMPHONY CIR SW	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,199,000	Detached	0.23	.....	22180	.....	VIENNA WOODS	.....	10/15/14
10 302 BLAIR CT NW	6	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,185,000	Detached	0.53	.....	22180	.....	VANDERVATE ESTATES	.....	10/20/14

Copyright 2014 RealEstate Business Intelligence. Source: MRIS as of November 18, 2014.

COPYRIGHT 2014 REAL ESTATE BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE. SOURCE: MRIS AS OF NOVEMBER 18, 2014.



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 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
Holiday Remodeled Home Tour!

Saturday, December 13th, 2014 10-4pm
1795 Brookside Lane, Vienna, VA 22182

Great Falls Studios
Artists serving the community

Featured artwork from Great Falls Studios artists will also be on display!

SUN DESIGN

design/build | additions | kitchens | baths | basements | outdoor spaces
703.425.5588 SunDesignInc.com info@sundesigninc.com

Free Estimates
Now's A Great Time for Your Landscape Project!

Patios, Walkways, Retaining Walls, Landscaping & so much more!

Tree Clearance Sale
30% OFF
All Trees 2013 & Prior

Rare, Hardy Bonsai
Kingsville Boxwood 25% OFF

Just Arrived!
Christmas Trees, Greens and Poinsettias

60-75% Off Pottery
Lowest Prices Since 2008!

Fragrant, blooming Citrus Plants 10% Off

FREE Fill! Playground Chips & Organic Compost \$29.99 cu. yd.

Bagged, Shredded Hardwood Mulch \$3.49

Bulk Mulch \$24.99 cu. yd.

Cravens Nursery & Pottery

9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia
2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50.
1 mile from I-66 (Vienna Metro)

703-573-5025
Open 7 days a week
Visit our new Web site:
www.cravensnursery.com

Follow us:

Colvin Run 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."



Great Falls gymnast Naomi Heit, second from the right, earned spot on the National Talent Opportunity Program's development team. Heit attends Colvin Run Elementary School in Vienna.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

South Lakes Swim, Dive Splits with TJ at Season Opener

The South Lakes swim and dive teams started the season with a split when they faced Thomas Jefferson on Friday, Dec. 5, at the Herndon Community Center.

The South Lakes girls won, 195-119, while the TJ boys defeated the Seahawks, 184.5-127.5. The South Lakes girls dominated the pool, winning all but three events. The 200-yard medley relay team of Natalie Obando, Sabrina Groves, Emily Landeryou, and Madeleine Daum started the evening with a first-place finish, followed by a sweep of the 200-yard freestyle event by sophomores Landeryou (first), Megan Carney (second), and Paige Sogandares (third). Other highlights for the girls included a one-two finish for Grace Obando (first) and Juhi Sharma in the 200-yard individual medley, a one-two finish for Landeryou (first) and Emi Redican in the 100-yard backstroke, and first-place finishes for Natalie Obando in the 500-yard freestyle, Emma Bulger in diving, Groves in the 100-yard butterfly, Caitlyn King in the 100-yard freestyle, and Sogandares in 500-yard freestyle. While the South Lakes boys' team didn't fare as well against the Colonials, there were some stand-out performances. Mac Sogandares finished first in the 200-yard freestyle event; Tyler Ellis took first place in the 100-yard butterfly; and Benjamin Gryski earned first in the 100-yard breaststroke.

The relay team of Sogandares, Dylan Hawley, Ellis, and Gianmichel D'Allesandro concluded the meet with a first-place finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

South Lakes will return to the pool at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, against Fairfax High School at Audrey Moore RECenter.



Malina Stassinis helps the South Lakes relay team of Lee, Stassinis, Landeryou and Groves to a second place finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay at the Seahawks' season opener against Thomas Jefferson.

PHOTO BY DAVID CORDTS



Mac Sogandares leads the SLHS relay team of Sogandares, Hawley, Ellis and D'Allesandro to a first place finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

PHOTO BY MARK MAJORS

Oakton Girls' Basketball Beats Madison

The Oakton girls' basketball team won three of its first four games this season, including a 59-57 season-opening victory over Vienna foe Madison on Dec. 2.

Madison ended Oakton's 2013-14 season with an 80-51 win in the region quarterfinals.

Oakton faced Yorktown on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Cougars will host Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

Madison faced Edison on Tuesday and will compete in a tournament Dec. 11-13. The Warhawks will return home for a game against Marshall on Dec. 19.

Madison Boys' Basketball Splits First 2 Games

The Madison boys' basketball team opened the season with a 60-49 win over Oakton on Dec. 2.

Three nights later, the Warhawks lost to Bishop O'Connell, a private school in Arlington, 70-41 on Dec. 5.

Madison faced Edison on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Warhawks will host Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12.

Oakton will travel to face Lake Braddock on Dec. 16.

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.

Herndon Boys' Basketball Earns 2nd Win

The Herndon boys' basketball team defeated Langley 67-58 on Dec. 5, improving its record to 2-1. The Hornets opened the season with a 77-72 win over Osbourn on Dec. 1. The following night, Herndon lost to two-time defending region champion Woodson, 63-60.

Herndon finished the 2013-14 season with a 23-3 record. The Hornets reached the region semifinals, where they suffered a one-point loss to Woodson. Herndon graduated nine seniors from that team, including standout guard Dorian Johnson and 6-foot-5 Brandon Alston, who now plays at Lehigh University.

Herndon faced Washington-Lee on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Hornets will travel to face Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15.

Fairfax County Facing More Budget Strain

County Executive and FCPS Superintendent present adverse forecasts.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Days before the traditional loosening of belts for Thanksgiving, Fairfax County officials discussed the need for tightening theirs.

The Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County School Board met jointly Nov. 25 to talk about budget forecasts, prior to Governor Terry McAuliffe's (D) state budget proposal expected in mid-December.

County Executive Ed Long delivered the grim estimate of a just over \$100 million shortfall for fiscal year 2016. That's versus the estimate in the FY2015 adopted budget of around \$37 million.

Long cited lingering effects of the recession, including slow job growth, at 0.4 percent in Northern Virginia versus 2.4 percent before the downturn, as well as 10.8 percent drop year-to-date in home sales. Federal procurement spending has been trending down, and Long is expecting a 3-4 percent decline for FY 2014.

Residential and non-residential real estate values have also been decreasing, 3.3 percent since 2008 and 5.2 percent since 2009, respectively, accounting for tens of millions of dollars of lost revenue for the county.

Even with a projected \$84 million in new funds from revenues, it doesn't cover the expected increases in disbursements of about \$185 million over the previous year. Those include county employee pay increases and benefits, public safety and hu-

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza speaks Nov. 25 at a joint meeting of the FCPS School Board and Board of Supervisors.

PHOTO BY
TIM PETERSON/
THE CONNECTION



man services, and for schools a 3 percent operating increase, capital support, debt service and Full-Day Mondays support.

"There are a lot of challenges going forward to the spring," Long said. "Uncertainty remains in the economy, we don't know what's going to happen with the Sequester."

Since FY2009, the county has cut around \$269 million by cutting positions and programs, but it just isn't keeping up.

"Looking back, there's nothing easy left to cut," said Long. "We're down to the meat of county programs. Cuts are going to be hard, there's no two ways about it."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova commented that additional county reserve funds shouldn't be looked to as a resource to cover the shortfall.

"Our reserves are too low for comfort," Bulova said, "and compared to other juris-

dictions, we're dangerously low."

FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza followed Long to further explain the challenges facing the vast school system regarded as one of the top in the country.

"Sometimes our challenges get masked by looking at the overall percentage of our size," said Garza. "Forty-nine schools have 50 percent free or reduced lunch or higher. There are some parts of our county where that population and the needs of our students are certainly growing."

Garza referenced growths of 2-3,000 students in the system over the last several years, as well as jumps in the percentage of students who take English for Speakers of Other Languages and or are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Total enrollment is now over 186,000 students.

"The real cost of growth exceeds \$190 million," Garza said. "And of the cuts over

the last six years, one-quarter were just the last year. There are 2,175 fewer people, but at the same time we grew by 20,000 students. That's significant for our system."

Echoing Long, Garza said the cuts are not allowing schools in the county to keep up with needs and in particular for schools, the needs of teachers.

"We're very concerned with competitive compensation," said Garza. "Our bread and butter is the quality of teachers in classrooms, employed throughout our school system. We're losing our competitive edge and I'm very concerned with where we stack up compared to our surrounding jurisdictions."

She showed starting teachers' salaries hovering around the middle of surrounding jurisdictions, above only Loudoun and Manassas Park City for 10 years experience and a master's degree, and just above Prince George's Maryland for maximum salary.

Even with \$53.1 million in a transfer from the county, Garza is still projecting a \$63.9 million deficit for FY2016, something she and the supervisors agree should garner some attention from the state.

"We recognize and believe the state has to do something more to help us," said Garza. Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay weighed in as well. "We're funding 70.6 percent of the FCPS budget, which is significantly higher than almost everywhere else in the state," he said. "If we received adequate funding from the state, we wouldn't be having this conversation. It's a huge emphasis moving forward. If we're not looking at the long-term, these issues will continue to compound."

Garza and Long will spend the next few months finalizing their budget plans. Garza's proposal for FY2016 should be released Jan. 8, 2015 and Long's plan for FY2016-2017 should come up at the Feb. 17, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Board of Supervisors Signs On for \$403 Million Loan

Low-interest federal loan will help finance Phase 2 of Silver Line.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Phase two of the Silver Line construction got a boost towards its 2018 estimated completion date. After nearly a year of discussion, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to authorize a federal loan agreement to the tune of \$403 million.

The low-interest allowance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) would be good for almost half of the estimated \$915 million Fairfax County is on board to contribute to the massive rail project.

"The Silver Line is vital to the economic growth of Fairfax County, the re-

gion and the Commonwealth," said Chairman Sharon Bulova in a statement, "and I am proud of the work we've done to make it a reality."

Prior to the vote, Bulova added, "there's been lot of discussion about this over the last year or so. It's pretty thoroughly vetted and it's a really important step we're taking."

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) supported the measure, but was quick with a reminder that the funds aren't exactly free money. "It's a loan, money that's got to be paid back, and it's going to be paid by the toll payers," he said. "So eventually the tolls will rise, but we forestalled that for a period of time, which is good news for the corridor."

Herrity was referring to Dulles Toll Road,



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Local, state and national officials at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Silver Line July 26 this year. Low-interest federal loan will help finance Phase 2 of Silver Line.

where drivers escaped immediate hikes but will eventually see higher tolls to assist as the county begins to repay the loan, anti-

pated for the year 2023.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) played up the importance of seizing the loan opportunity.

"Any time you can get a low interest federal loan to support infrastructure, that allows you to maximize your dollars and potentially reduce the cost of the overall project by millions," said McKay. "It was a great opportunity for us; very few jurisdictions under the TIFIA regulations could qualify for this, so we would be foolish to have not taken advantage of it."

The loan to Fairfax County comes in conjunction with federal Department of Transportation loans to Silver Line partners Loudoun County and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, as the trio works to finance the entire \$5.6 billion project.

"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.

ZONE 6: • ARLINGTON • GREAT FALLS
• MCLEAN • VIENNA/OAKTON

HOME & GARDEN

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CONTRACTORS.com

703-778-9411

ZONE 6 AD DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON

ELECTRICAL

ELECTRICAL

K & D ELECTRIC

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated

Recessed Lighting
Ceiling Fans
Phone/CATV
Computer Network Cabling
Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc...

Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522
lektrkman28@gmail.com

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

The HANDYMAN

A DIVISION OF NURSE CONSTRUCTION

BATHROOM REMODELING, DRYWALL,
PAINTING, CERAMIC TILE, CARPENTRY,
POWER WASHING & MUCH MORE

You have tried the rest - NOW CALL THE BEST!!
Proudly serving Northern VA - 46 yrs. exp.

Licensed
Insured
We Accept VISA/MC
703-441-8811

FIREWOOD

CHARLES TREE SERVICE

Seasoned firewood
well seasoned
ready to burn

Lic. • Bonded • Insured
703-830-2654

HAULING

ANGEL'S HAULING

Junk Trash Removal,
Yard/Construction
Debris, Garage/Base-
ment Clean Out,
Furniture & Appl.

703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

LANDSCAPING

JUNK HAULING

Junk, Rubbish,
Homes, Offices,
Commercial,
Yard/Construction
Debris, Lot Clear
out, 24 hrs day,
General Hom Work.

703-520-3205 N-VA

TREE SERVICE

ANGEL'S TREE REMOVAL

Brush & Yard Debris
Trimming & Topping
Gutters & Hauling

Angeltreeslandscaping-hauling.com
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

GUTTER

GUTTER

GUTTER CLEANING

Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned
Small Repairs • Gutter Guards

PINNACLE SERVICES

lic/ins 703-802-0483 free est.
email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com
web: lawnsandgutters.com
Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

R.N. CONTRACTORS, INC.

Remodeling Homes, Flooring,
Kitchen & Bath, Windows,
Siding, Roofing, Additions &
Patios, Custom Deck, Painting

We Accept All Major Credit Cards

Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic

Phone: 703-887-3827 Fax: 703-830-3849

E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com

www.rncontractors.com



R&N Carpentry

♦BASEMENTS ♦BATHS ♦KITCHENS
Foreclosure specialist/Power washing
♦Exterior Wood Rot More!
Deck & Fence repair, Screen Porches
No jobs too large or small
Free est. 37 yrs exp. Licensed, Insured
703-987-5096

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

CRESCENT HOME SERVICES

703-953-7309

Fall Special!
10% off

For a limited time, Connection readers can take 20% off labor costs on any home maintenance or improvement project when they mention this ad.

Your Home Handyman since 1999!

Call or email us today for a fast, free estimate on any home maintenance or improvement project. **No job too small—we do it all!**

- Gutter cleaning & repairs
- Kitchen/Bath remodeling
- Exterior/Interior painting
- Rotten wood replacement
- And way too much to list here!

crescenthomeservices@gmail.com

www.crescenthomehandyman.com

FAST, RELIABLE & AFFORDABLE.

Call Crescent today! Your "friend in the business," we're owner-operated, licensed and insured.

We're on Angie's List! ID# 8088426

www.facebook.com/crescenthomeservices

LAWN SERVICE

LAWN SERVICE

PINNACLE SERVICES, INC.

LAWN SERVICE

MOWING, TRIMMING, EDGING,
MULCHING & TRIM HEDGES

Friendly Service for a Friendly Price

703-802-0483

Leaf Cleanup Services

\$45.00 per man per hour
Disposal extra

info@perfectlandscapes.com

703-433-2739

MASONRY

MASONRY

BRICK AND STONE

Custom Masonry

703-768-3900

www.custommasonry.info

Patios, Walkways, Stoops, Steps, Driveways

Repairs & New Installs • All Work Guaranteed

PAVING

PAVING

GOLDY BRICK CONSTRUCTION

Walkways, Patios, Driveways,
Flagstone, Concrete
FREE ESTIMATES

Licensed, Insured, Bonded

703-250-6231

TREE SERVICE

TREE SERVICE

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured

Leaf Removal
Gutter Cleaning

25 years of experience
Free estimates

703-868-5358

24 Hour Emergency Tree Service

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping

Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.

Fall Cleanup...

Tree removal, topping & pruning,
shrubbery trimming, mulching,
leaf removal, planting, hauling,
gutter cleaning, retaining walls,
drainage problems, etc.

25 years of experience – Free estimates
703-868-5358

24 Hour Emergency
Tree Service

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

- ♦ **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



Peter Barris

- ♦ **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. 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.

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.

THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

CLASSIFIED

For Local...

- Employment
- Employees
- Services
- Entertainment
- Announcements
- Real Estate
- Cars
- Trucks
- Vans
- RV's
- Boats
- Pets
- Yard Sales
- Crafts
- Hobbies
- And More!

For All
Your
Advertising
Needs...

It Works.
Week
After Week.

703
917-6400

Place
Your
Ad
Today!

THE CONNECTION
to your community

3 RE for Rent

Rent to buy homes available. No qualifying necessary. Downpayment required. Go to www.RentToBuyNOVA.com for full details.

26 Antiques

We pay top \$ for antique furniture and mid-century Danish/modern teak furniture, STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, jewelry and costume jewelry, paintings/art glass/clocks. Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790. Email: theschefer@cox.net

For a free digital subscription to one or all of the 15 Connection Newspapers, go to www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Complete digital replica of the print edition, including photos and ads, delivered weekly to your e-mail box.

Questions? E-mail: goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

34 Pets

Leave your four legged friends at home!
Pet walking, sitting, overnights, Local refs avail.
703-729-9224 Nora



26 Antiques

26 Antiques

FALLS CHURCH ANTIQUES

Best Kept Secret of The Metro Area!

Unique collection of antiques and collectibles, including furniture, jewelry, glassware, pottery, sterling silver, paintings, prints and more! Fun home and gift ideas!

Christmas Shop Now Open!

Falls Church Antique Co.

250W. Broad St. Falls Church, Va • 703-2419642

101 Computers

101 Computers

HDI COMPUTER SOLUTIONS

JENNIFER SMITH ♦ Serving the Area Since 1995

- Speed up Slow Computers
- Troubleshooting
- Virus Removal
- Computer Setup

(571) 265-2038

jennifer@HDIComputerSolutions.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LIFETIME METAL ROOFING

by VaCarolina Buildings, INC

**100% Financing
Free Estimate
Free Roof Inspection**

1.800.893.1242
metalroofover.com

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE

A great opportunity to

WORK AT HOME!

NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER

No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!

301-333-1900

☎ Weekdays 9-4 ☎

BUSINESS OPP

TELEPHONE

A great opportunity to

WORK AT HOME!

NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER

No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!

301-333-1900

☎ Weekdays 9-4 ☎

Educational Internships

Unusual opportunity to learn many aspects of the newspaper business. Internships available in reporting, photography, research, graphics. Opportunities for students, and for adults considering change of career. Unpaid. E-mail internship@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Dental Front Desk

Position in quality cosmetic-oriented practice in Burke, VA.
Great staff & salary
Experience preferred
Call 703-978-5660

Tell Teens ‘Things Will Get Better’

Fairfax High hosts meeting about youth suicide.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In light of recent suicides by students from Fairfax, Woodson and Langley high schools, Fairfax High hosted a meeting Nov. 19 to discuss the problem and search for solutions. The idea was to begin an ongoing exchange between parents, students, staff, community members and mental-health professionals.

“Now in my sixth year as principal, I’m focused on finding ways to foster a culture where people look out for one another,” said Fairfax High’s leader, Dave Goldfarb. “We want this school to be a place where people ask for help and build resiliency. For me, hosting a community dialogue on mental health and wellness is a big part of this work.”

He said that, over the years, he’s become aware of many students struggling with mental distress. And he’s realized that mental health is an issue that significantly impacts the students and school.

Therefore, said Goldfarb, “We have to work together to make it visible. The inner pains our adolescents feel often limit them more than any physical injuries. We have to talk together to make it an open topic for discussion. Anxiety, depression, feeling out of control, suicide – we have to understand that these are all part of our teenagers’ world, and we have to talk openly about them if we want to connect with and support [our children].”

He also stressed that the meeting was just a first step. “Beyond tonight, we need to make brave choices as students, parents and educators to speak out and put our young people’s wellbeing first, over everything else,” said Goldfarb. “Success cannot come at the expense of happiness. We must summon the courage in our hearts to put balance, happiness and inner peace above GPAs, popularity and instant gratification.”

Then Fairfax High’s director of student services, Laura Rotella, and school counselor Tracy Hartley shared some results from the FCPS 2013 Youth Survey on mental health. On average, in the last three years, 29.6 percent of FCPS students in grades eight, 10 and 12 reported feeling sad during the year. In the Fairfax High Pyramid, it was 32.1 percent.

THE PERCENT WHO CONSIDERED SUICIDE during the past year was 17 percent countywide and 19.1 in the Fairfax Pyramid. “In 2013, 22.3 percent of females and 11.2 percent of males in FCPS considered suicide,” said Hartley. “But the social stigma attached to it makes it under-reported.”

Those same figures for students in the Fairfax Pyramid were 25 percent of females and 12.3 percent of males. “It peaks in 10th grade,” said Hartley. “And females report



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Applied psychologist Heather Tedesco points to a chart on the overhead screen.

“Success cannot come at the expense of happiness.”

— Dave Goldfarb, principal, Fairfax High

considering suicide twice as much as males, across all grade levels, but males tend to under-report.”

She and Rotella also discussed the “Three to Succeed” concept. Analysis of the Youth Survey revealed that having just three assets dramatically reduces teens’ risk behaviors and promotes thriving youth. Assets are strengths in young people, their families, friends, schools and communities that benefit them emotionally. The more assets a person has, the fewer risk behaviors they report – and every asset makes a difference.

Assets are: Possessing high personal integrity, performing community service, hav-

ing teachers recognize good work, having trusted adults to talk to, participating in extracurricular activities and having parents available for help.

“When a student said they had none of those, 50 percent of males have considered suicide and 80 percent of females,” said Rotella. “Having four or more assets reduces

suicidal attempts from upwards of 10 percent to nearly zero.”

“Female adolescents are twice as likely to commit suicide as boys are,” added Hartley. “But boys tend to use more lethal means, such as guns and gas.”

Another finding of the survey was that, by age 13, more than twice as many girls as boys are depressed – and this ratio continues into adulthood. And it also exists regardless of racial or ethnic background.

Applied psychologist Heather Tedesco also spoke. She’s in private practice in McLean and helps parents address their concerns about their teenagers. At the meeting, she discussed the burdens teens face today and how parents can help them deal with these things.

“Course loads in school are far more rigorous than in previous generations, and teens are involved in more extracurricular activities,” she said. “And because of social media, teens are always aware of what other teens are doing, and vice versa. So it puts more pressure on them and they have less face-to-face interaction.”

AS A RESULT, said Tedesco, “We need to de-stigmatize stress and talk about what we can do about it. We need to send healthy messages about failure and realize that teens need free time and psychological space to develop a strong sense of self.”

“We want our kids to have positive coping methods that they’ve practiced so, when they’re under stress, they can use them,” she explained. “And we must help them recognize and express their emotions.”

To thrive, said Tedesco, teens must be resilient and able to handle challenges. “Tell them that bouncing back is more important than not messing up,” she said. “Give them a message of hope that things will get better, and tell them failure can be an opportunity for growth.”

She said parents should examine their own attitudes about failure. “Parents must provide an unconditionally loving bond,” said Tedesco. “It’s a critical, protective factor in their mental health. And ask open-ended questions about their goals and values, and listen to their answers.”

Teenagers should be given increasing freedoms and responsibilities, she said, but they should also be responsible for their own successes and failures. “Avoid micro-managing and over-parenting, and encourage identity development,” said Tedesco. “Parents need to value psychological health as much as academic and extracurricular achievement. We really have to ask ourselves what really matters to us for our kids’ long-term happiness and success.”

She also told parents to “teach kids there are multiple paths to a successful adulthood. Character traits related to happiness and success include resilience, self-control, curiosity, enthusiasm, zest, self-efficacy and gratitude.” Bottom line, said Tedesco, “It’s not what your teen accomplishes that matters, but who they are.”



Goldfarb