

McLean
CONNECTION

Chesterbrook Woods,
Not Meadows
NEWS, PAGE 7

HomeLifeStyle
PAGE 15

Santa Comes to Town for McLean's WinterFest Parade

NEWS, PAGE 3

Santa was the last to make an appearance in the McLean's
seventh annual WinterFest parade on Sunday, Dec. 6.

McLean Violinist
with 'a Special Gift'
NEWS, PAGE 10

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

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DECEMBER 9-15, 2015

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McLean High School's Marching Band was one of the most talked-about featured groups of the parade.



Old Chain Bridge Road was closed down for the parade, allowing guests to enjoy the musical performances and food trucks.

Santa Comes to Town for McLean's WinterFest Parade

BY CAROLINE WATKINS
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE WATKINS/THE CONNECTION

There were many drivers perplexed this Sunday afternoon when they realized Old Chain Bridge road was blocked off by police...that is, until they saw the sea of green and red that pooled into the heart of town for McLean's seventh annual WinterFest parade.

Musical performances, food trucks and Santa hats galore! Families and children of all ages convened for the pre-parade at 2:30 p.m. at the Langley Shopping Center for the festivities. Visitors were greeted with jazzy renditions of classic holiday tunes provided by Bob Rosenbaum on keyboard and the smell of hot chocolate wafting through the air. In addition to the hot chocolate donated by The McLean Baptist Church, the church displayed a Nativity scene complete with enthusias-

tic actors and live animals that entertained the children.

Those looking for something to pair with their free hot chocolate, after admiring the biblical scene and bahh-ing goats, flocked to the three food trucks located in the center of the shopping center: Mama's Donut Bites, Crepe Love, and California Sliders. Nutella crepes and sugary apple cider donuts managed to fill many bellies on the crisp Sunday afternoon.

With the exception of a few holiday scrooges, almost everyone's toes were tapping to the musical performances by some of McLean's most spirited singers. The choirs of Westgate, Spring Hill, Kent Gardens and Franklin Sherman elementary schools played festive tunes like "Jingle Bells" and "Santa Fever" for families on the crowded street. Over the sea of reindeer headbands and Santa hats, children could be seen swaying back and forth on the main stage, occasionally

snapping in rhythm or giggling between verses.

At 3:30, Peggy Fox from WUSA Channel 9 greeted the audience on the main stage as she introduced the members of the parade. Local dancers, martial artists and the Girl and Boy Scouts accented Old Chain Bridge Road in colorful uniforms and costumes. Even local and state officials participated in the fun, waving to the crowds while cloaked in holiday colors.

One of youngsters' favorite members of the parade was Mrs. McLean, a "real life princess!" according to the transfixed girls who crowded the street curbs to catch a glimpse at the town's "royalty." Santa's cameo on a giant red fire truck signaled the end of McLean's 2015 WinterFest. Missed out on all of the holiday fun? It's never too late to do some Christmas caroling or break out the eggnog...the holiday season has only begun in 22101.



Bob Rosenbaum played festive tunes on the piano before the parade began.



Claire Guion, Allison Kelley, James August and Justin Kelley dressed up for McLean Baptist Church's live Nativity scene, complete with actors and live farm animals.



Franklin Sherman Elementary's Chorus.



Noor Amin, Cameron Carroll, Ellie Kline, Ella Heilbraun and Erin Bennett of Kent Gardens Elementary's fifth and sixth grade chorus.



The whole community is invited to attend the Annual Living Nativity and Christmas Concert at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in McLean on Dec. 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Shawna Tunnell, of McLean, and her son Jordan at the Redeemer Lutheran Church's Living Nativity and Christmas Concert.

Redeemer Lutheran Church to Host Annual Living Nativity and Christmas Concert

All are welcome and invited to enjoy the sounds of the season and the joy of the manger on Friday, Dec. 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. There is no charge to attend, and it is open to the

entire community, so bring your whole family, neighbors, and friends to get into the Christmas spirit.

Children are invited to put on angel or shepherd costumes, and visit the live animals, maybe pet a bunny or baby lamb.

At 7:30 p.m., everyone is invited inside to experience a concert of many choirs - adult, children and bell choirs.

The concert can be enjoyed by music lovers of all ages, children are welcome.

You can also sing along with favorite

Christmas Carols.

After the wonder of the starry night warm up inside with complimentary hot chocolate, a treat from the Bake Sale, and the music of Mouries Violin Trio playing holiday selections.

Quiet Riot: 'C'mon Feel the Noise'

County passes new noise ordinance, will revisit effectiveness in 18 months.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The Board of Supervisors is at peace with the county's new Noise Ordinance.

"Believe it or not, that passes," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

On the Nov. 17 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the board adopted a new Noise Ordinance. The new ordinance becomes effective on Feb. 17, 2016.

"There were times during this process that I thought we would never get to this point. Let me tell you, there are competing needs, issues all over the place as to what is too noisy, what is not noisy, about what is needed and what is not," she said.

In June, the board had deferred action on the proposed changes to the county's noise ordinance in June until Nov. 17, 2015.

"It was a very productive evolution through five cycles of revisions," said Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust. "We negotiated this thing for so long."

"We're not totally where I want to be, but this is a significantly improved product and something I can vote for," he said.

Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey spearheaded the board's efforts and thanked

county staff. "They've managed to grasp the things we were trying to codify," said Frey.

The board delayed the effective date of implementation of the new ordinance to February in order to provide time for staff training, to update county websites, and to assist staff in understanding the new regulations, according to county documents.

The board will revisit the impact of the noise ordinance and its effectiveness in 18 months to determine what might need to be tweaked for the long run.

"I'm not happy with everything that is in here, but at this point I'm prepared to support it, but appreciate that we can revisit it," said Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay says the outcome makes the ordinance much easier to enforce.

"This turned into something entirely different from where it started. I also agree that this wasn't intended to address every noise issue," said McKay, "but at the end of the day it makes for better enforcement and makes it a lot more clear which made the noise ordinance difficult to enforce."

OVERALL GOALS of the proposed Noise Ordinance is to recognize that there will always be certain levels of noise that occur

in the normal course of daily living; to allow certain levels of daytime noise so that people can live, work and play during the day; and to minimize noise at night so residents have an appropriate quiet environment in their homes at night.

More than 30 speakers testified at a public hearing last May on the noise ordinance.

"When babies cannot sleep, when the elderly cannot rest, when a voice teacher cannot instruct, when a family cannot share a meal together on their patio, when a homeowner has to close her windows and move to another part of the house just to make a telephone call, when a cancer patient cannot recuperate and rest in her yard because music is amplified in the neighborhood at intrusive levels, then we know something is not right with life in Fairfax County," said Joyce Harris of McLean.

Sheila Casey, of Reston, said she can hear mowers on a nearby golf course before dawn with maintenance crews sometimes using headlights on lawnmowers before 5 a.m. "All I know is when those lawn mowers are running, I can turn on my air conditioning, I can put in my earplugs, and I still hear the noise," she said.

Other speakers included: Greg Budnik who discussed helicopter noise from training runs at Fort Belvoir; Mark Grove of Fairfax whose wife was recuperating from cancer treatment and had to contend with music from a supermarket across the street that had permits to play music until 11 p.m.; Keith Elgin, worship director of Vine Church

in Dunn Loring, who wants to create events such as outdoor movies and concerts during the summer months; to neighbors in Reston who say they can not get relief from noise of nearby dog parks; to those who take their dogs to dog parks to spare neighbors from noise.

AMPLIFIED MUSIC from loudspeakers at schools during athletic practices and pre-game festivities took center stage.

Fairfax County Public Schools will replace loudspeakers at McLean High School with regulators to ensure that they are properly calibrated.

The school system is finalizing regulatory guidelines so athletic directors know exactly what needs to be done to keep harmony with neighborhoods in proximity with the schools.

"That's a big deal, and let's make sure when that agreement is formally adopted that we keep it with our noise ordinance," said Bulova.

Other topics of major concern addressed dog parks, trash pickups from commercial shopping centers next to neighborhoods, and lawn maintenance.

Fairfax and other Virginia governments had to rewrite their noise ordinance as a result of a Virginia Supreme Court decision overturning the ordinance in Virginia Beach, according to county documents.

For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/noiseordinance/>



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- Stephanie S.
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See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Stephanie's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

Safety Net for Holiday Celebrations

It's an opportunity to talk about responsibility, alcohol and planning ahead.

The holiday party season is here, and we will almost all be celebrating in some way. Some ways will involve celebrations that include alcohol.

It's up to you to make a plan to get home safely.

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

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

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

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 11, 2015, and continuing until Thursday, Jan. 1, 2016 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During these times, area residents 21 and over, 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. Callers will be responsible for fare amounts

over \$30.

WRAP also offers free cab rides for other holidays, including Halloween, Independence Day, Cinco de Mayo, and more.

Concerns about consequences of driving under the influence are well founded.

In Fairfax County in 2014 there were 740 alcohol-related crashes, which included 12 alcohol related fatalities and 476 alcohol related injuries. (Overall in Fairfax County in 2014, there were 13,680 total crashes including 32 fatalities and 7,649 injuries.)

In 2014, there were no fatal vehicular accidents in the City of Alexandria. But of the 1,777 total crashes, 99 were alcohol-related; and of the 757 injuries in crashes, 60 were alcohol-related.

In Arlington in 2014, there were 235 alcohol related crashes, with two alcohol-related fatalities and 78 alcohol related injuries. (Overall in Arlington in 2014, there were 2,469 with five fatalities and 1,094 injuries.)

In 2013, 10,076 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third of all traffic-related deaths in the United States, according to the CDC. Tens of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas through New Year season in particular.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Climate Scientists Warnings Go Unheeded in Congress

To the Editor:

In this vituperative political age of partisanship, it is no wonder that 86 percent of voters disapprove of Congress, a body in which the national good seems to be trumped by political ideology, grandstanding, name-calling, pandering, and distortion of the truth—all of which gets in the way of common-sense governance.

Some of this elbowing justifiably begins with legitimate differences of opinion. How big should the government be? How much should the government regulate? What should be our national position on social issues such as abortion, gay marriage or gun regulation? What trade-offs are we willing to accept to protect ourselves from terrorists? How do we respond to the income gap between rich and poor? How do we stimulate job growth and deal with compensation for work? How robust should our military be? How should our health care system be structured? Answers to these and multiple other complex questions often start with our values, our history, and our notions of fairness.

Like most of us, I have strong feelings about how best to proceed

on many of these issues. At the same time, I recognize that others have very different but equally impassioned views. Our political process is supposed to be about sorting out differences like these. The majority of us presumably hope we could marshal at least some civility as we struggle to find a way forward that is in our national best interest. The goal for most of us, it would seem based on the record of Congressional approval, is for Congress to give us outcomes that work.

Sometimes, however, an issue comes along that so defies common sense and incontrovertible fact that it should make open-minded people wonder if Congress can resolve anything. Who would imagine that despite dire warnings from virtually every climate scientist in the world, a majority of members of the House of Representatives would vote to embarrass the United States during the world's most important conference on climate change by voting to limit the Environmental Protection Agency on its rules to lower power plant emissions? The evidence that our world's climate is rapidly changing in ways that will lower

the life-expectancy of our children is overwhelming. And yet the majority of our elected representatives in the House, driven apparently by narrow party ideology, has actually impeded solutions. Do campaign contributions from carbon industries and other special interests have anything to do with it?

Those members of Congress (including, regrettably, our own representative in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia) who vote to trivialize or combat this issue, are putting their credibility and judgment on the line for dealing with almost any issue and

Safe Ride Home

WRAP's 2015 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Dec. 11, 2015 to Jan. 1, 2016. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294 (TAXI). You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. See www.SoberRide.com.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 63,000 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 consequences and vulnerabilities of drinking to excess are significant, more so for underage drinkers and young adults, even beyond drinking and driving. Don't let the opportunity to talk about it pass you by.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

thus, I would hazard, are risking their endorsement from us, the voters, to hold their seats. Their incomprehensible votes on climate change help to explain why we think so little of Congress and particularly so little of the House of Representatives. Climate change is an issue in which the stakes are so clear-cut and the facts so convincing that there should be no hesitation about moving forward with the enthusiastic backing of our elected representatives in both parties.

Jonathan Fisher
Great Falls

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com

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Chesterbrook Woods, Not Meadows

McLean neighborhood petitions for stronger protection of trees from infill development.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

More than 225 people in McLean's Chesterbrook Woods have signed its citizens association's Tree Canopy Petition, demanding that Fairfax County enforce the county's Tree Ordinance.

"As a resident of the Chesterbrook Woods community, I highly value our beautiful trees and I believe that all reasonable efforts should be made to preserve our tree canopy. It has taken nature many decades to provide us with our tree canopy but it takes a builder only a few hours to destroy it," according to the petition, organized by Neil Ende, chairman of the Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association's Environmental Committee.

"I am greatly disturbed by the increase in infill development projects where houses are razed and most if not all of the trees are removed from a property, particularly where it is clear that some of the trees are being removed merely for the convenience

of the builder and could be saved."

Ende made the petition available online in October.

More than 200 people have signed the petition online, sparing the use of paper in the process.

"It is essential that the public be made aware of what is occurring," he said.

Many Chesterbrook Woods residents say their community was named so for a reason.

"Keep our canopy. It is one of the most unique things about this neighborhood," wrote Richard B. Harris, of McLean, who signed the petition.

Rachel Deutsch also signed. "When we were looking at houses to buy in 2002 we were sold on our Chesterbrook Woods home by the beauty of the neighborhood with tree lined streets," she wrote. "Please save our trees and save the personality of our neighborhood."

"We live in a beautiful neighborhood that has many beautiful trees that are being taken down by developers when they build new homes. It would be so easy to work around the old trees that are so necessary

for healthy living," wrote Nancy Stansberry.

Hope R. Hsu asked what the neighborhood would look like if this happened to each and every house.

"What if all the houses in McLean were torn down, trees bulldozed, and new 7,000-plus square-foot homes went up?" she wrote. "What if there were no trees, and each huge house was spitting distance from the other? Would you want to live in a town like that?" she asked.

THE PETITION CONTINUES.

"I understand that the Chesterbrook Woods Citizens Association's Environmental Committee does not believe that Fairfax County is enforcing applicable tree conservation ordinances and the absence of enforcement is resulting in a substantial and unnecessary loss of our historic tree canopy," according to the petition. "I support the efforts of the CWCA Environmental Committee, in coordination with other local homeowners associations, to ensure that all applicable tree conservation ordinances are fully enforced by the County and to work for legislation giving the County greater authority to protect the tree canopy."

"People live in this neighborhood because they appreciate the beauty of the trees," said Ende. "People are expressing extreme concerns about this. There are environmental

The Petition

See <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/petition-to-save-mclean-tree-canopy>

Why This Matters

Most new development in established neighborhoods in McLean and Great Falls will proceed as "infill" development. McLean Citizens Association and Great Falls Citizens Association will monitor new development and its impact on the environment and quality of life.

Great Falls Citizens Association
www.gfca.org

McLean Citizens Association
www.mcleancitizens.org

quality issues and there are frankly issues about abiding by the law."

Local authorities have limited authority in Virginia, a Dillon Rule state, where localities have only the power specifically given to them by the General Assembly.

Although Virginia adopted a Tree Preservation Ordinance in 2008, the authority Fairfax County has is "very limited."

Mary Jane Gallagher wrote that she moved to Chesterbrook Woods 18 years ago "for the beautiful, tall trees."

"We plan to be here another 20 years and believe it is up to our county and state governments to protect our environment," she said.

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FAITH

Area Pastors Return to Their Pulpits After Walk Across Spain

"It really is sort of an otherworldly experience." That's how the Reverend Aaron Fulp-Eickstaedt described his family's 50-day, 500-mile walk across Spain on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail.

Pastor Fulp-Eickstaedt and his spouse, the Reverend Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt, are now back in their respective pulpits at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean and Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington, sharing their insights and adventures with their congregations.

Pastor Aaron said their sabbatical walk "helped me to think outside the box by engaging our imaginations along the way. Good literature does it. So does good religion. And even, at least occasionally, does a good long walk." At a joint welcome home dinner at Trinity Church, Pastor Judith described the experience as a unique opportunity to rest, recuperate and reflect.

Surprises along the trail: Most Spanish breakfasts, lunches and dinners for Camino walkers included servings of ham (Pastor Aaron: "Is it strange to dream about vegetables?"). Some of the family's lasting memories are of the fellow pilgrims they met as they walked: A French customs officer; a Danish professor and his high school teacher wife; and a man they called "John the Bear Chaser" whose occupation at Yosemite National Park was to induce bears to stay away from areas also frequented by humans in the park.

Pastor Aaron says "people can feel a pretty quick and deep bond with each other when they go through something like this. It's the empathy and easy laughter that do it, I think. That and the conversations about meaningful things."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Reverend Aaron Fulp-Eickstaedt and his his family during their 50-day, 500-mile walk across Spain on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail.

For the Fulp-Eickstaedts' two daughters, Rebecca and Martha, the Camino walk offered a chance for quality time and deep conversations with their parents, both of whom have demanding work schedules. Their father describes the time away from work responsibilities as "an opportunity to nourish my spirituality."

The Immanuel Presbyterian and Trinity Presbyterian Churches are two of only 140 congregations nationwide to have received Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs grants for pastoral sabbaticals this year.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax** will hold "From Newtown to New Hope: An Interfaith Memorial Service" on Monday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Clergy and community leaders from Fairfax County and beyond will gather to honor the 90,000 victims of gun violence and to call for people of faith to renew their commitment to ending gun violence at an Interfaith Memorial Service. 703-281-4230.

Celebrate Advent and Christmas at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Weekly worship is Sundays at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays at noon. Holiday events include:

Sunday, Dec. 13, Children's Musical, 10:30 a.m. service.

Sunday, Dec. 20, Lessons and Carols, 10:30 a.m. service.

Thursday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. family service; 8 p.m., Candlelight and Communion; 11 a.m., Candlelight and Communion. www.imtrinity.org.

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.

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.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at noon. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

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NEWS

Tysons Gets New Name, Post Office

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), working with Tysons Partnership and the U.S. Postal Service, secured the formal rebranding of the U.S. Post Office building on Spring Hill Road in Tysons. Previously labeled as "West McLean Post Office," the building at 1533 Spring Hill Road is now officially named, "Tysons / West McLean, Tysons VA 22102. New signage will be installed immediately.

The news was announced Dec. 2, at the annual shareholders meeting of Tysons Partnership, held at Convene Conference Center in central Tysons. "One hundred sixty five years ago, Tysons was known as 'Peach Grove, Va.,' and had a post office at the intersection of Route 123 and Route 7," said Barry Mark, vice-chairman of Tysons Partnership and vice president of Capital One. "We now have a modern post office named after our emerging new city; a great testament to the work we are doing to build a vibrant community."

"Tysons is a Boom Town," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and a speaker at the Partner-

ship meeting. "It is very gratifying to see the Comprehensive Plan for Tysons develop in this positive manner. I salute the Tysons Partnership for its leadership."

The United States Census Bureau last month officially proclaimed that the name of Tysons is "Tysons, VA." The word "Corner" is officially dropped and will no longer be used. Census public-facing geographic products will reflect the change beginning in summer 2016, and the Census will work with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names [BGN] at the U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] to update their databases so that all federal mapping agencies reflect the new name. Finally, other data users, including mapping companies such as Google, Bing, Apple, MapQuest, TomTom, etc. will update their systems over the next several months, based on the Census action.

Tysons is a Census Designated Place ["CDP"] encompassing 2,100 acres bounded on the north by the Dulles Toll Road [Rt 267] and the Capital Beltway [I-495]; bounded on the southeastern side by Magarity Road, and on the southwestern side by Gallows and Old Courthouse roads.

Fairfax County Companies Designated as Best Workplaces for Commuters

Ten companies in Fairfax County were honored as Best Workplaces for Commuters. "Promoting alternate ways to work, and policies such as teleworking and flex time, help make Fairfax County a better place to live and work by reducing congestion on our roadways," said Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny. "We are pleased that Fairfax County is leading the nation in "Best Workplace" designations and are committed to continuing to expand this programs in years to come."

This year's recipients are:
Horizon Industries Limited (8245 Boone Blvd., Vienna)
Prosperity Metro Plaza (2675 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax)
FUTREND (8605 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna)
U. S. Geological Survey (12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston)
Kimley-Horn (11400 Commerce Park Drive, Reston)
Freddie Mac (multiple locations in Tysons and Herndon)
Synaptex Corporation (1818 Library St., Reston)
National Student Clearinghouse

(2300 Dulles Station Blvd., Herndon)

FOX Architects LLC (8484 Westpark Drive, McLean)

Pyramid Systems Inc. (2677 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax)

The BWC designation acknowledges employers who have excelled in implementing green commuter programs such as ridesharing, transit benefits, biking and walking, teleworking, alternate work schedules and other strategies.

Since 2010, Fairfax County has partnered with the National Center for Transit Research on the Best Workplaces for Commuters program to designate 57 local organizations with this elite, national recognition. Follow #FairfaxBWC on Twitter for more information on program updates and events here in Fairfax County.

For more information on Fairfax County's commuter programs and resources, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/news/trytransit.htm or contact Fairfax County Department of Transportation at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.

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Transportation Strategy Update Launched

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority launches work on a six-year TransAction program.

By ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Members of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) chose an appropriate location to announce the launch of the organization's TransAction update efforts last week. NVTA chairman Martin Nohe, a supervisor on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, and Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and a member of the NVTA, met with other transportation agency representatives and members of the media in a gravel-filled construction staging area alongside the interchange between Route 7 and the Dulles Toll Road. In the months to come, the ground they stood on will be transformed into a major component of a roadway expansion and improvement project in the heavily trafficked area.

IN AUGUST, NVTA began a major update to TransAction 2040, the plans developed to address transportation in Northern Virginia through the year 2040. It is the first update to the plan since the passage of HB 2313 by the Virginia Legislature in 2013, the bill that provided the region with a sustainable, dedicated revenue stream of more than \$300 million annually with which to tackle the transpor-



From left: Martin Nohe, chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, launches the update of the organization's TransAction transportation plans for the region with Authority member and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova. Dr. Dee Allsop, CEO of Heart+Mind Strategies, was available for questions regarding the survey his company conducted for NVTA as part of the update process.

tion problems of the nine jurisdictions that are covered by the NVTA.

Many residents in those jurisdictions don't know that NVTA has a comprehensive, long-range transportation strategy. A recently completed survey, commissioned by the NVTA as part of the update, revealed that only 8 percent of Northern Virginians were aware of the existence of TransAction. "In fact," said Nohe, "the number may be even lower," since he believes that some respondents may have answered that they were aware of the plan "without really knowing what it's all about." Some might not even know about the NVTA itself. These are two omissions of knowledge that Nohe and the NVTA have plans to remedy.

A new, interactive website is step one of the NVTA's endeavor to educate the public and will include a

number of "avenues to participate" in the process. Both the NVTA's web site, www.thenovaauthority.org, and the new site, www.NVTATransaction.org provide easy-to-read documents that describe and track the organization's many projects, either completed, in progress, or on the books.

Next will be a major outreach campaign. NVTA staff will be heading out, armed with tablets, to "the places where people live, work, and play," said Nohe, educating, but more importantly, gathering input from constituents. The NVTA can speak with one voice on behalf of Northern Virginians, but Nohe and Bulova acknowledged that transportation problems and potential solutions were not necessarily "one-size fits all" across Planning District Eight, from rural portions of Loudoun County to the congestion faced by residents of

Arlington, or from Metrorail users to drivers on the choked major arteries connecting the region. Input from all areas is essential to the success of any plans and critical to meeting the authority's mandate.

THE UPDATE process is expected to last about two years, targeted for completion in late summer/early fall of 2017. When adopted, the final version of the update will be known simply as TransAction and it will guide the NVTA's Six Year Program, covering FY2018-2023, and allocating over \$1 billion to multi-modal transportation improvements during that period. Bulova urged citizens to visit both websites, to review the findings of the survey and to provide feedback. "It's my core belief," she said, "that a well-informed and educated community is a well-served community."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HORMAN VIOLIN STUDIO
Masato Chang, 13, recently won the Music teachers National Association Competition for his age category on the violin. He is preparing Bach, Concerto No. 2 in E major, Allegro; Saint-Saens, Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso; and Tchaikovsky, Melodie for the MTNA January 2016 competition set to take place in Florida.

A Violinist with 'a Special Gift'

Masato Chang of McLean advances in the Music Teachers National Association Competition.

By MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

Thirteen-year-old Masato Chang from McLean recently won the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Competition for his category on the violin, in Virginia. This makes him one of the highest-scoring string players for his category.

While he was introduced to the violin at age five, he did not become serious about it until a few years later.

"He was very inspired by his cousin," said his mother, Michi Chang. "His cousin went to James Madison University on a full scholarship for his violin playing. That really inspired my son and he really wanted to be just like him."

For the past year and a half, Chang has been a student at the Horman Violin Studio, run by violinist Amy Beth Horman. "He is an absolute marvel on the violin having started at only eight or nine, which, by violin standards, is fairly late," said Amy Beth Horman. "This recent win ranks him as the highest scoring string player in Virginia in his age group and he will now

go to the next round, which means traveling with our pianist to compete in January to Florida."

He previously performed at Carnegie Hall when he was 12, after placing second at the American Protégé Competition.

"He does things on his own that aren't even taught," explained Brad Clark, who has accompanied hundreds of young musicians on the piano, including Chang. "The way he connects with people when he is playing is very unusual. He has a special gift."

During this past summer, Chang traveled to Tuscany, Italy for the Interharmony International Music Festival, where he studied with Julliard professor, Shirley Givens.

"[He] received great training," said his mother. However the environment was demanding. Orchestra rehearsals ran as late as midnight or 1 a.m. "He had solos, private lessons, trio classes and chamber classes. The majority of kids in this camp are college students," she continued.

Chang practices for roughly

SEE VIOLINIST, PAGE 13

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

DECEMBER

12/23/2015.....Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays

12/30/2015.....Children's Connection

JANUARY

1/6/2016.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/13/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18

1/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

1/27/2016.....Community Guide

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Adding a Home Elevator: Luxury or Necessity?



Adding an elevator to your home may sound extremely luxurious, but as a large amount of satisfied homeowners can testify, it may simply be a bare necessity for the elderly or disabled. The old advice of 'just' relocating to a home without stairs once they become troublesome, simply no longer holds value. This advice also underestimates the emotional effects that come with having to move out of your home.

Installing an elevator isn't necessarily as expensive or difficult as you might think. And home elevators can often fit in something the size of a closet, so they don't need a lot of room. In addition to the mobility advantages it may provide for you, having an elevator can also positively increase your home's value. A properly maintained elevator will retain its value almost for a lifetime.

It is important that your home is checked for the suitability of installing an elevator. At that point the various options for your particular situation can be explored.



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Fairfax Water

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY NEEDED

We are seeking expressions of interest from owners of industrial-zoned property located in Fairfax County between the City of Falls Church and the City of Fairfax, or within either City, who are or may be interested in selling their property. The desired property must have several specific attributes and features to meet Fairfax Water's needs. At a minimum, however, any property must meet at least the following criteria:

- 1) Have I-5 or I-6 zoning in Fairfax County or the equivalent zoning in the City of Fairfax or Falls Church
- 2) Be at least 3 to 4 acres in size. If the parcel(s) have split zoning, at least 3 to 4 contiguous acres, must be zoned I-5 or I-6 or an equivalent zoning.

Fairfax Water will consider expressions of interest from multiple owners of contiguous properties meeting these criteria and totaling at least 3 to 4 acres, however all owners must express interest in selling.

If you are an owner of property meeting these criteria, please send the following information to Fairfax Water, to the attention of Ms. Jamie Hedges, Director, Planning and Engineering by **December 29, 2015**.

Information for submitting an expression of interest:

- Name(s) of property owner(s)
- Contact information for property owner(s)
- Signed statement of interest of property owner(s)
- Parcel identification number(s)
- Street address of property(ies)
- Jurisdiction (Fairfax County, City of Falls Church, or City of Fairfax) in which the property is located
- Current zoning and parcel size
- Identification of any existing land use restrictions (e.g. special exceptions, proffers, utility easements, floodplain, etc.)

PLEASE SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST BY DECEMBER 29, 2015, TO:

Jamie Bain Hedges, P.E.
Director, Planning and Engineering
Fairfax Water
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

Or email to: jhedges@fairfaxwater.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

WWW.FAIRFAXWATER.ORG/ABOUT_US/PROPERTY.HTM

McLean Woman's Club Kicks Off 49th Annual Holiday Homes Tour

A ribbon-cutting ceremony kicked off the McLean Woman's Club's 49th annual Holiday Homes Tour on Dec. 3 at historic Pleasant Grove Church in McLean, the location of a special boutique that was part of the tour. Homes Tour chairman Carol Bonney cut the symbolic ribbon. Pictured from left are Woman's Club president Joan Morton, Tour chairman Carol Bonney, Boutique chairman Carol Danzeisen, McLean Chamber of Commerce chairman Marcia Twomey, Homes Tour co-chairman Doris Hoehn and Honorary Homes Tour host Bill DuBose. All indications were that the tour was one of the club's most successful.



—LAURA SHERIDAN

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/ DEC. 9-13

Conservatory Ballet's "The Nutcracker." Check for times. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. More than 85 area students make holiday magic come to life performing in Conservatory Ballet's 43rd annual production of The Nutcracker. www.restoncommunitycenter.com. 703-476-4500.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Face Painting. 5:30-9 p.m. Meadowlark, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Children will enjoy festive snowflakes, snowmen and other holiday face painting images. Free. http://winterwalkoflights.com. 703-255-3631.

My First Book Club. 4:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Each month we will read a book and participate in activities and crafts related to the story. You do not need to read the title in advance to participate. Grades Kindergarten-2. 703-356-0770.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Traditional Holiday Tale, "A Christmas Carol." 1 and 4 p.m. The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Perhaps the best loved holiday story of all time, Theatre IV's adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic is particularly suited to children. \$10, \$15. http://mcleancenter.org/aldentheatre. 703-790-0123.

CHO Christmas Store. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, NE, Vienna. Last year because of the generosity of the community and churches, we were able to make Christmas a very special time for 450 children in this area at our annual Christmas Store. We are collecting gently used jackets and bikes, new toys, gift cards for teens, and food gift cards for the Store. Volunteers are also needed to help clients shop. For more information, call CHO at 703-861-7614 and leave a message in box #1. Any overall questions, contact at edjporter@gmail.com.

Model Railroad Open House. 1-5 p.m. Vienna Railroad Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. Celebrate the holidays seeing and hearing model trolleys and trains including Thomas and some of his friends and the Polar Express on display and in operation. Great family fun and activity for the young and young at heart. www.nvmr.org. 703-938-5157.

Pancake Breakfast and Santa



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sophia Beneski, a Madeira School senior and Northern Virginia native, enchants audiences with her performance as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Conservatory Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker."

Conservatory Ballet's "The Nutcracker" Spreading Holiday Cheer

More than 85 area students make holiday magic come to life performing in Conservatory Ballet's 43rd annual production of "The Nutcracker." Performances run Wednesday, Dec. 9 through Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Reston Community Center located in the Hunters Woods Village Center. In addition to six full-length perfor-

mances, there are two shortened toddler matinees that run 1 hour 30 minutes. Tickets can be purchased online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com; by phone at 703-476-4500, press 3; and in person at the box office on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 4-9 p.m., Saturday: 1-5 p.m., and two hours prior to curtain time.

Arrival. 8 a.m.-noon. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., South, Vienna. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Santa Claus will make his arrival at 10:30am to greet all. There will also be tours of the fire equipment available. Free-\$8. joanie@vvfd.org.

Vienna Jammers Show. 1:30-3 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Get ready to get your foot tappin' and head boppin' as you take a musical journey with Vienna's very own youth percussion ensemble. The members of the ensemble use a combination of traditional and non-traditional instruments. http://jamminjava.com/event/988317. 703-255-1566.

Community Irish Ceili and Set Dance. 6:30-10 p.m. Frying Pan Park Visitors Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Call for directions, 703-437-9101. Wear flat,

comfortable shoes and lightweight clothing. Holiday headgear for a chance at an extra door prize ticket. \$15. 703-631-9179.

Troop 55 Open House. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Boy Scouts of Troop 55 would like to warmly extend an invitation to all WEBELO 2 Cub Scouts, 5th, and 6th grade boys to attend an open house. RSVP to Raymond Merrill at raymond.merrill@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

"Welcome to Our World." 10 a.m. Great Falls Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. a musical for Christmas written by Claire Cloninger and Robert Sterling. The musical includes traditional carols, newer praise songs and, of course, original material. There's something for everyone in the family.

ONGOING

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

"Harvey." Check for show times. Nov. 12-Dec. 20. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this beloved classic is a treat for the whole family. Veta Simmons and her daughter Myrtle Mae have just moved back into town and are making quite a splash on the social scene. Gatherings and engagements abound as Myrtle Mae peruses for a viable suitor. \$15-\$30. www.1ststagetysos.org. 703-854-1856.

Meadowlark Gardens' Winter Walk of Lights. Nov. 14-Jan. 4. A half-a-million colorful LED lights span the lakeside and gardens of Meadowlark Botanical Gardens off Beulah Road in nostalgic and fairytale scenes of the holiday season. http://winterwalkoflights.com/.

53rd Annual James A. Bland Contest. Through Monday, Feb. 15. Vienna Lions Club invites elementary and high school vocalist and instrumentalists to present a song or piece for cash prizes. For information and application, contact Susan Stiles at sandes89@yahoo.com or 703-938-1142.

Vienna Lions Club Christmas Tree Sales. Weekdays noon-8 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Through Dec. 17. Walgreen's lot, 225 Maple Ave East, Vienna. Help the Lions help the youth, vision- and hearing-impaired of our community. Fresh, live, beautiful Christmas trees, wreaths, roping, Virginia peanuts, extra-large coloring books all for sale at the best prices in Town.

Dennis Crayon and Susan La Mont Exhibit. Through Dec. 20. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. View the works of two accomplished artists while attending a performance of "Harvey." www.1ststagetysos.org. 703-854-1856.

Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Dec. 12 and 19. The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Delight in a contemporary twist on the beloved holiday classic by the South Riding Dance School while you enjoy afternoon tea, petite sandwiches and pastries. All children will go home with a nutcracker doll. \$79 per person. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons. 703-748-4068.

Enchanted Forest Tea. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Dec. 13, 20. The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Watch a dazzling performance by the South Riding Dance School as the Snow Fairy strives to save the woodland ballerinas from the Icicle King, whom is trying to freeze over the forest. Enjoy afternoon tea, petite sandwiches and pastries. \$79 per person. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons. 703-748-4068.

Optimist Club Christmas Tree Sales. Through Dec. 19. Weekdays 2-9 p.m.; Saturdays & Sundays 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Maple Avenue West at Branch Road. Fill your holidays with the sight and scent of fresh Fraser Fir trees and wreaths, and pine garlands. Trees range in size from cute and cozy 4-feet tall to towering 12-footers. All sales benefit the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna Youth Fund. Any questions, contact at info@optimistclubofgreatervienna.org.

Trail and Ales with Caboose Brewing and Grass Roots Fitness. Mondays through Jan. 31. Caboose Brewing Company, 520 Mill Street, NE Vienna. Come Run with us every Monday night. \$1 Off All Pints! All paces welcome. We will run between 3-5 miles with options to go shorter or longer. You can walk or run. Dog and stroller friendly. Contact Joann Meginley at joannandfrancine@grassrootsfitness.org.

www.greatfallsumc.org. 703-759-3705.

Christmas Festival. 6-7:30 p.m. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The church choirs will be joined by a string ensemble as they prepare for Christmas with a program entitled "Dance and Sing! Christ is Born!" The music includes those carols written with the rhythms of dance of many styles as well as songs about dance, including the final movement of the Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 5. The program will be followed by dessert in St. Andrews Hall. Free. www.lewinsville.org.

Colonial Wassail. 1-4 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. In the dead of winter the Claude Moore Colonial Farm's apple trees need encouragement to bear well in the coming year. Gather in the Farm's orchard to wassail the trees with singing, dancing and chants to ensure

a "howling crop." Enjoy hot spiced cider, sugar cakes, a roaring bonfire and 18th-century games. Adults, \$3. 3-12 years, \$2. Under 3, free. Weather permitting. www.1771.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 14

"From Newtown to New Hope: An Interfaith Memorial Service." 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Clergy and community leaders from Fairfax County and beyond will gather to honor the 90,000 victims of gun violence and to call for people of faith to renew their commitment to ending gun violence at an Interfaith Memorial Service. 703-281-4230.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Walk, Waddle and Wiggle. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Animals move in many different ways. Walk like a turtle, waddle like a penguin and wiggle like a worm as we explore the world of animal movement through music, activities and stories. Presented by Riverbend Park and sponsored by the Friends of the Dolley Madison Library. Ages 3-5. 703-356-0770.

NVTC Titans Series. 7-9:15 a.m. The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. John Chen, executive chairman and CEO of BlackBerry, will headline the organization's upcoming Titans series. During a fireside chat with the Consumer Technology Association's Gary Shapiro, Chen will discuss the ups and downs of innovation, share his experiences turning around momentum-based technology companies, and provide insights into BlackBerry's corporate strategy and focus on security. 703-904-7878, x207. www.nvtc.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Holiday Crafts for Children. 5:30-9 p.m. Meadowlark, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Visit the craft table and make a free craft to decorate for the holidays. <http://winterwalkoflights.com>. 703-255-3631.

Caroling on the Town Green. 6:30 p.m. 144 Maple Ave., Vienna. All ages are welcome to participate in traditional caroling and to enjoy the marshmallow-roasting stations. Weather permitting. 703-255-6360.

Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia. 7 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Learn more about investing following an investment club model. New visitors welcome. 703-356-0770.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

John Eaton "Holiday Spectacular." 2 p.m. The Alden, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Musicologist, humorist and jazz pianist will share the history and harmonies of some favorite seasonal songs from the American Songbook at a special "Holiday Spectacular." www.aldentheatre.org. 703-790-0123.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

Filene Center Backstage Tour. 2 p.m. Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Stand on a world-class stage, learn how a theater runs, and get a sneak peek at where the stars get ready. Tours are limited to 30 participants. 703-255-1827 to RSVP or for additional information.

McLean Symphony Concert. 3-4:45 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. My Favorite Things: Holiday Celebration. Featuring Tanya Anisimova, Cello. Celebrate the season with holiday favorites, and sing along with carols, children's songs, and a Hanukah medley. \$Free, \$15, \$20, \$25. www.mclean-symphony.org. 703-991-7197.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 30

Funny Photo Night. 5:30-9 p.m. Meadowlark, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Provide your camera and smiles, and we will provide the props and staff to take your photo. <http://winterwalkoflights.com>. 703-255-3631.



"A Christmas Carol" with a kid-friendly twist comes to The Alden in McLean for a two-show performance on Saturday, Dec. 12.



From left, Tonya Beckman, and Kelsey Meiklejohn in "Harvey" at 1st Stage. The show runs through Dec. 20 in Tysons Corner. Photo by Teresa Castracane.

Violinist

FROM PAGE 11

three hours a day and makes up for any missed time during the weekends, and while he competes as a soloist, he also plays with his school orchestra at Longfellow Middle School.

"He always offers to help others (his section, especially) and gives out suggestions for the good of the ensemble," said the school's orchestra director, Bomin Collins. "His solo/personal accomplishments are as-

tonishing, but his willingness to blend in and work with others to produce an exceptional ensemble is also another achievement that he has been sculpting/achieving in class."

For the next stage of the MTNA Competition, Masato will travel to Tampa, Fla. where he will compete at the University of Southern Florida. If he wins, he will compete at the national level in San Antonio, Texas.

"We are so proud of him," said Horman.



McLean Community Center

The Center of It All



Here's What's Happening at MCC

**Old Firehouse Teen Center
Friday Field Trip
ICE! at Gaylord Hotel
National Harbor**

Friday, Dec. 11, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$50/\$40 OFTC members



**Onstage @ The Alden
Theatre IV: "A Christmas Carol"**

Saturday, Dec. 12, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.
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Monday, Dec. 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Old Firehouse Teen Center
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\$65/\$55 MCC district residents

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Tuesday, Dec. 29, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents

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Wednesday, Dec. 30, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
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Director Scott McCormick conducts the Philharmonic orchestra.



Concert Orchestra, conducted by Ms. Elizabeth Leung, opened the concert with a piece featuring soloists Brooke Baird, Madeline Yu and Christopher Fox.

Langley Orchestra Kicks Off the Season

BY ANANYA HEGDE
SENIOR/LANGLEY HIGH

Langley High School's Orchestra kicked off the year on Dec. 1 at South Lakes High School. Continuing the tradition of themes director Dr. Scott McCormick and Ms. Elizabeth Leung are known to use for their concerts, the music, food, and even the MC was British. Senior Maria McQuade explains, "I've always loved the themed concerts that we've had because it makes it an entire experience rather than a bunch of random music."

Guidance counselor Julie McGreevy donated her time to the Langley Orchestra in order to bring the British spirit to life with

her endearing accent. Ms. McGreevy utilized her British heritage to introduce and detail each piece. Senior Jacob Baker raves, "Ms. McGreevy did a great job introducing every piece and had hilarious facts before each song."

The Concert Orchestra composed of freshmen and sophomores opened the concerts with Percy E. Fletcher's lively tune "Folk Time and Fiddle Dance" and G. F. Handel's "Allegro" from Concerto Grosso Opus 6, No. 1. To segue between Concert and Sinfonietta Orchestra, the talented junior Sophia Wugang performed "Toccata" by Henry Purcell, leaving the audience in awe. The Sinfonietta Orchestra took the stage with the eclectic "En-

glish Folk Song Suite" composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams followed by "Dashing Away" from Suite for Strings composed by John Rutter, which proved to be a crowd favorite. The Symphonic Orchestra comprising primarily juniors then performed alongside band students Sandra Ng and Wendy Tang as well as harp student Mary Duplantier to perform "Fantasia on Greensleeves," another piece composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Orchestra students then performed "Capriol Suite" composed of four movements by Peter Warlock. To end the night, the Philharmonic Orchestra performed "A-Roving," another piece from Suite for Strings and "St. Paul Suite" composed by Gustav Holst.

For a festive fundraiser, the Tri-M Honor Society collaborated with the Langley Orchestra Society to have a silent auction to auction off a variety of items, coupons, baskets, etc. The winners were announced at the end of the concert, helping save a currently at-risk music department. An announcement was made during the concert to inform the audience of the potential budget cuts of elementary programs, which would inevitably decrease the level and intensity of high school orchestras. Senior and Tri-M president Swetha Ramesh thought that "events like these are so important to high schoolers because they allow music to become a part of our lives. That's something that really can't be taught from a textbook."

At the tasting, local whiskey connoisseur, Joe Nelson, carefully selected unique spirits and talked about their crafting.



Tasting Whiskey for a Cause

The New Dominion Women's Club hosted the "Second Annual Whiskey Tasting" to support local charity organizations. The event was held at a beautiful new home in the River Oaks neighborhood provided by Capital City Builders. At this tasting, local whiskey connoisseur, Joe Nelson, carefully selected unique spirits to savor and talked about their crafting. Hors d'oeuvres were served to complement the tasting. It was an en-

joyable and educational event.

Alina LeMay, NDWC president, announced new beneficiaries will be the Falls Church/McLean Children's Center, McLean Project for the Arts, Safe Community Coalition, and SHARE. The club will host additional fundraising events to support these organizations until June 2016.

Monica Gibson was the chair of "Second Annual Whiskey Tasting" event committee. Other members on the planning committee included Kimberly Coer,



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Having a good time for a good cause.

MaryAnn Miller, Karen Martins, Joan Murray, Stacie Steinke and Roxanne Nunes.

New Dominion Women's Club is a civic organization established in 1968 to help local charities and promote fellowship among women. The mission of the club is to support and cultivate the civic, cultural, educational and environmental welfare of the community through volunteer service and / or financial support. NDWC is actively involved with coordinating the Children's

Art Walk for the McLean Project for the Arts, Reading is Fundamental at the Falls Church/McLean Children's Center, Adopt-a-Highway on Westmoreland Street, and SHARE through helping less fortunate clients who participate in the food pantry, holiday event and backpack for school children's programs. Monthly meetings provide the opportunity to share ideas and establish friendships with a diverse group of women. For more information, visit www.ndwc.org.



Designers at Merrifield Garden Center spend almost one year creating holiday displays.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

This rustic holiday space incorporates branches and animals.

Ideas for Decking the Halls Local designers create opulent holiday designs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From traditional to glamorous, fresh to faux and high-end to old school, local tastemakers tell how they create holiday dazzling holiday design extravaganzas.

Karen Velehoski and the rest of the design team at Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks spend nearly a year planning and building the holiday displays that overtake each store during the Yuletide season.

In creating the holiday wonderlands, the designers assemble each space around a theme, maintaining consistency in style, color and texture. Their goal is to dream up design concepts that will inspire.

"We hope that people will get ideas for their own homes, but the first step is to focus on color," said Velehoski. "You can incorporate family heirlooms or decorations that you've had for years if you coordinate the colors. You can really use ribbons to tie the colors together easily."

For example, they designed a rustic space that draws inspiration from a snow-covered forest. "It's decorated with things like branches, berries, birds and other outdoor

animals," said Velehoski. "And we used red, plaid ribbon to keep the outdoorsy feel."

There's another winter scene that sparkles with décor in hues of gold, copper and platinum, and a classic display that pays homage to time-honored traditions. "It appeals to people who like greens, reds and poinsettias," said Velehoski. "This year we incorporated a little bit of black with that red, white and green which is pretty."

There's even inspiration for those with a penchant for pastels. "It has an icy look," said Velehoski. "It has an icy, frozen winter wonderland feel with snowflakes and icicles. We used a lot of pale blue, pink and a touch of silver."

Simple, clean and fresh are words that Gretchen Fuss, an interior designer with Tchoupitoulas Furnishings in Alexandria, uses to characterize her holiday design aesthetic.

"I don't like to over do it when it comes to holiday design," she said. "I love the mood and ambiance of white lights. It changes the feel of a room. I

like candlelit rooms."

Fuss says she uses a minimalist approach to incorporating family heirlooms with new acquisitions. "I do little vignettes where I'll have a piece, for example, that my mother once used to store ornaments in, and I'll use that to display fresh greenery."

The designer has even created holiday adornments of her own. "I've made holiday sculptures," said Fuss. "I even made little flower-shaped sculptures that I put together to make a six-foot tall Christmas tree."

Fuss adds white back-lighting, which shines through each flower petal, illuminating the tree.

Candles, ribbons and bows hanging on a mantle, swags of greenery and garlands draped over wall art and mirrors are what visitors who enter the spaces created by the designers of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria will see.

"... A string of lights combined with ornaments might flow down the center of a table, or shine inside a cloche combined

with a winter wonderland theme," said designer Amanda Mertins.

For an exterior space, Mertins advises using a twinkling wreath or a lit arrangement in an urn to greet guests at the front door.

Maintaining thematic consistency is a precept that designer Jenne Whitlaw, of GTM Architects in Bethesda, Md., recommends when conceiving ideas for holiday spaces. "Pick a central focal point, and echo the sentiment around the space, for both indoor and outdoor," she said. "This allows the eye to bounce around your holiday canvas, experiencing asymmetrical visual harmony and balance."

For those who prefer holiday decor in muted hues, Whitlaw suggests, "neutrals [like] winter white and pale greys, when paired with light, reflective metallics and sparkle add elegance and a sense of timeless wonder to every room."

For a touch of whimsy, Whitlaw recommends adding decorations to unexpected places. "For a surprising embellishment, how about placing ornaments around the vanity in your powder room?" asks Whitlaw. "Chandeliers are also a perfect theatre in the round for cascading trinkets and greenery."

**"I love the mood and
ambiance of white lights."**

— Gretchen Fuss,
Tchoupitoulas Furnishings

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SPORTS

Five-foot-5 Madison guard Daniel Ungerleider knocked down five 3-pointers and scored 18 points during a 64-51 victory over Robinson on Dec. 4.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

Ungerleider Leads Undersized Madison

Warhawks win two games at 'Readers are Leaders Tip Off.'

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Following Friday's "Readers are Leaders Tip Off" contest against Robinson, Madison senior guard Daniel Ungerleider was asked about his listed height of 5 feet, 8 inches. "That's not accurate," he said.

Ungerleider, a team leader playing in his third varsity season, is actually 5 feet 5, which is fitting for the vertically-challenged Warhawks, whose tallest players are listed at 6-3. But while Ungerleider's roster height is off by a few inches, the accuracy of his perimeter shooting helped the Madison boys' basketball team earn its second victory in as many nights.

Ungerleider made five 3-pointers and scored a team-high 18 points as Madison defeated Robinson 64-51 on Dec. 4 at South Lakes High School. The Warhawks won both of their games at the two-day event, including a 43-40 victory over Archbishop Carroll on Dec. 3.

Madison opened the season with a 62-47 loss against Vienna rival Oakton on Dec. 1.

"I think it was a huge confidence builder," Ungerleider said about the Warhawks' performance at the "Readers are Leaders Tip Off." "We were all pretty disappointed after the first loss and we were talking together about [how] we've got to come focused each game. Even yesterday, we didn't play as well as we thought we should have, so it was great to come out today [with] the entire team ready to

play and the entire team contributing ..."

Madison built a 38-26 halftime lead against Robinson. Ungerleider opened second-half scoring with his fourth 3-pointer, and added his fifth in the final quarter. He averaged 12.3 points during the Warhawks first three contests and knocked down 10 3-pointers.

"He doesn't back down," third-year Madison head coach Kevin Roller said about Ungerleider. "He competes. Some friends of mine call him 'The Bulldog.' We joke sometimes because I'm 6-3 and he's not, but when you dribble the ball this far off the ground, you become a one-man press break. When he's focused, he controls a high school basketball game. That simplifies everything offensively: get him the ball and he's going to control what happens — and then he can shoot the ball a bit."

Roller also praised junior forward Nick Conforti, who finished with 14 points against the Rams.

"He's my 5-foot-10 4-man right now," Roller said. "I thought he was exceptional tonight."

Junior guard Johnny Corish scored 11 points for the Warhawks. Senior guard Taiga Walker finished with nine points and senior guard Brett Wellde had eight.

Senior center Dillon Most and sophomore forward Johnny Hecht are Madison's tallest players, both listed at 6-3. How do the Warhawks compensate for their lack of height?

"All five guys have to box out," Roller said. "For a high school team, we're not perfect, but we box out about as well as any high school team I've ever coached."

Madison faced Trinity Christian School on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Warhawks will host Marshall at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11 and will open Conference 6 play at home against Hayfield on Dec. 15.

Connection's deadline. Oakton will travel to face Broad Run at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Oakton Boys' Basketball Beats Madison

The Oakton boys' basketball team opened the 2015-16 season with a 62-47 victory over Madison on Dec. 1.

The Cougars faced McLean on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Oakton will host Broad Run at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Paige Galiani, seen last season, and the Langley girls' basketball team started 2-0 this year.

Langley Girls' Basketball Starts 2-0

After winning 21 games last season, the success of the Langley girls' basketball team has carried into the 2015-16 campaign.

The Saxons won their season opener against Osbourn, 48-43, on Dec. 1 and defeated Edison 51-43 on Dec. 3.

"We have competed hard in each game," head coach Amanda Baker wrote in an email, "and have played well as a team."

The Edison program has won three consecutive region championships.

"The Edison game was a great opportunity to see how we measured up against a top team early in the season," Baker wrote. "It's great to be 2-0, but we understand it's only December and we will need to continue to improve as we prepare to face more quality opponents each week."

Paige Galiani led Langley with 17 points against Osbourn. Lizzy Shamloo finished with a team-high 15 points against Edison.

Langley faced Robinson on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Saxons will travel to face HD Woodson at St. John's College High School at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11.

— JON ROETMAN

Newman Enters Third Season as Langley Boys' Coach

After a pair of sub-.500 seasons, third-year Langley boys' basketball coach Scott Newman thinks this is the year the Saxons turn things around.

"I feel like we're ready to turn the corner as a program," said Newman, a Saxon assistant before taking over as head coach in 2013. "We had a great run when I was [Travis Hess'] assistant and it's taken us a little time to reboot things, but ... this is my favorite team since I've been the head coach at Langley."

Why does Newman think so highly of this group? It starts with seniors Nate Shafer, a 6-foot-5 forward, and Tavon Tarpley, a 6-foot-3 guard.

"We have a strong senior class, led in particular by a really dynamic duo of Nate Shafer and Tavon Tarpley," Newman said. "Those two kids are really, really tough players. Nate, to me, is the best 5 man in the region. People can say what they want about the kid over at West Springfield or [Lake Braddock's] James Butler; those kids might have more of a D-I prospect ... but if you talk about who do I want on my team right now, there's no one in the region I'd rather have than Nate. He, to me, is a D-I player at a D-III height."

Forwards John Rau (6-7) and Finn Gundersen (6-4), and guard Chris Miner (6-4) are also members of the senior class.

Junior point guard Chas Battaglia, sophomore combo guard Colter Carton and junior guard Grant Hughes are expected to be primary contributors.

Langley dropped its season opener to Osbourn, 51-50, on Dec. 1. The Saxons faced Robinson on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Langley will play three games in the Bahamas Dec. 10-12 and will return to face South Lakes on the road on Dec. 15.

BY JON ROETMAN

BASKETBALL ROUNDUPS

Oakton Girls' Basketball Starts 3-0

The defending 6A North region champion Oakton girls' basketball team started the 2015-16 season with a pair of road victories.

The Cougars defeated Madison 57-42 on Dec. 1 and beat South County 44-32 on Dec. 3.

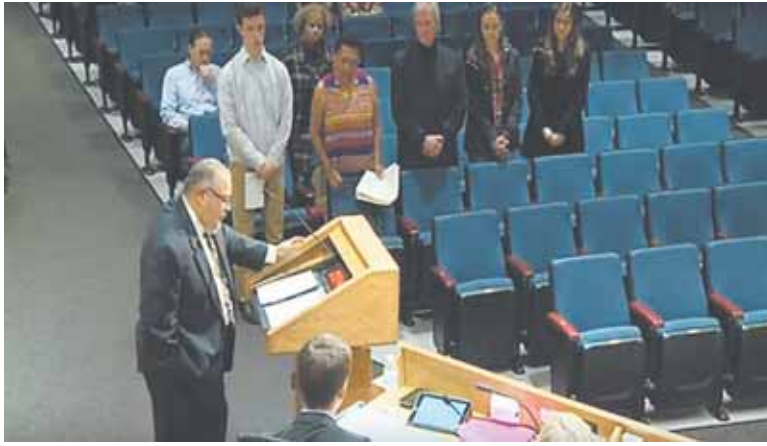
Oakton beat Stafford in its home opener on Saturday.

The Cougars faced McLean on Tuesday, after The

NEWS

Edwin Henderson, a retired Fairfax County Public Schools U.S. history teacher and president of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, voices his support for changing the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School to Thurgood Marshall.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Citizen Speakers Turn Out for Stuart Name Change

School Board to take action Dec. 17.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

J.E.B. Stuart High School senior Whitten Rutledge is proud of his school, mostly.

"The culture around the school is a wonderful one," he said, addressing the Fairfax County School Board on Dec. 3, "we believe the name should reflect the culture we have."

Rutledge was speaking on behalf of Students for Change, a group at the Falls Church school that's upset with the institution being named after a Civil War cavalry leader for the Confederate army.

"Change is necessary," Rutledge continued. "In order for our school to embrace its own culture, we need a symbol that accurately represents who we are, not a confederate general who stood adamantly for the segregation of society."

Stuart seniors Anna Rowan, Cassie Marcotty, Marley Finley, Abby Conde and Lidia Amanuel founded Students for Change and were recognized by the Fairfax County NAACP for their work to have the school's name changed to honor Thurgood Marshall.

"The momentum we need for change is happening everywhere," Rutledge said, referencing over 34,000 signatures his group has obtained in support of changing the name.

Under the current policy (8170.5), new names for schools are only allowed at new buildings or buildings that have been repurposed. Since being adopted first in 1987, the policy has only been corrected or revised three times.

As part of its new business on Dec. 3, the School Board scheduled a decision for changing the policy. On Dec. 17, the Board will vote on adding the sentence "The School Board may also consider a change in the name of a school or facility where some other



Whitten Rutledge, a senior at Stuart, explains why he and the group Students for Change believe his high school's name should be changed from J.E.B. Stuart.

compelling need exists," to the naming guidelines, which would essentially open the door for a formal pitch to change Stuart's name.

Edwin Henderson, a retired Fairfax County Public Schools U.S. history teacher and president of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, spoke after Rutledge, adding his support.

"I believe the time to do the right thing is now," said Henderson. "Renaming the school for a giant of American jurisprudence, who lived in this very community, championed Brown v. Board of Education and began a policy to dismantle segregation and open this country up to equality. If you truly honor diversity, the choice couldn't be clearer: Rename J.E.B. Stuart High School to Thurgood Marshall High School."

Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright spoke next,

comparing Stuart the man to abolitionist John Brown, who fought to free slaves and was sentenced to death by hanging.

"One is considered a hero, the other considered a traitor," she said.

"As an African American," Ginwright continued, "it is painful to be constantly reminded of the trials and tribulations of our forefathers and what they had to endure. It is hard to have our children faced with the same pain in feeling there's nothing they can do about it because of policies and institutionalized behaviors that have been supported by racism and discrimination. It is time for us as a community to correct the wrongs that have been imposed by those who have previously held these positions. It is not a matter of rewriting history, but telling history as it happened, all of the history."

The Board is scheduled to vote on the policy change at its Dec. 17 meeting, at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road in Falls Church. For more information about participating at meetings, visit www.fcps.edu/schlbd/meetings/requestspeak.shtml.

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

SCHOOL NOTES

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is participating in **Speak Up**, a national online survey about the use of technology in schools. The information collected will help policy makers at the local, state, and national levels, as well as the business community contribute to the national dialogue about science, technology, and preparing students for the 21st century workforce.

FCPS will be participating in the sur-

vey through **Dec. 18**. The online survey is open to students, parents, educators and the community. Survey is voluntary and take 20 minutes to complete.

To take the survey, please visit <http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2015/>. Students will be asked for a secret word (password) when they take the survey. The secret word for students is **fcps**. Aggregate survey results for FCPS will be available in

February 2015.

Speak Up is an annual research project conducted by Project Tomorrow, a national education nonprofit organization that collects and reports the views of students in K-12, teachers, administrators and parents on 21st century education and technology. For more information about Project Tomorrow, please visit <http://www.tomorrow.org/speakup>.

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I Beg Your Indulgence

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Even after seven years as a patient in the cancer whirled, I still find it emotionally difficult to promptly return a well-meaning phone call or a likewise intended e-mail when the message/content is clearly having to do with my health and welfare. Not that I don't appreciate, and on many levels, most likely need these kinds of communications; nevertheless, the challenge of summoning up the intestinal fortitude to discuss, detail, outline, rehash, speculate, articulate, wonder, hope, fear, introspect, extrovert, try to make light of and not be made heavy by, in addition to all the other miscellaneous anxieties a cancer patient experiences 24/7, is often too much. And as regularly as we are left alone with our own thoughts, sometimes, the emotional road less traveled is the one fraught with fewer bumps and bruises.

Not that I want to get stupid and live in a "cone of silence," where I can't be heard and others can't hear me; that wouldn't be smart. Still, as often as not, the effort to respond in kind is not respectfully honored. It's an odd reaction to be sure. Receiving inquiries is one thing, a helpful thing, almost like "Thing" from "The Addams family," but not responding is quite another thing. It's not exactly akin to trudging through the snow – uphill, in winter, as our parents all claimed they did, but the emotional weight of it is something that I'm probably having difficulty explaining – as much as I'm trying.

Maybe this is all just an excuse to obfuscate my ill-mannered and disrespectful negligence. How poorly was I raised that I don't know enough to provide a common courtesy? People ask, you answer. When one is sick or "diseased," and friends, family and co-workers reach out, one is not supposed to pull back, right? I should appreciate their support and absorb whatever positive energy/good vibrations they're sending. Let's face it, as I do most days; living with cancer is not exactly a solitary pursuit. Although it may seem like it, at home, alone, especially at night when tossing and turning and not sleeping becomes an Olympic sport, the cancer experience is not a meal best served cold, if you know what I mean.

Regular interaction with humans, and I don't mean radio, television or Internet, is the next best thing to being there/reaching out and actually touching someone or being touched (which is likely another benefit). Moreover, being made to feel alive and well – and dare I say, normal (not diagnosed with cancer), is the goal, but the figurative elephant in our world is not just in one room, one time; it's in every room all the time; it's herd but not seen. But difficult to ignore nonetheless.

Stage IV lung cancer is like that. It's typical that when symptoms manifest themselves, the patient is already inoperable and tumors which gave the patient no indication that they even existed, have now metastasized (moved/grown). Ergo, the staging. There is no stage V, by the way. This is not to imply that it's ever too late. It's just hard to assimilate when the diagnosis comes out of the blue and previously you were feeling in the pink. In this context, the silence of it (meaning the lack of symptoms) was not golden; any more than my silence now in not responding to well-wishers is golden. It's not. It's self-indulgent and most times I readily acknowledge it. However, I feel powerless to affect it. Please don't take my lack of a timely response personally. I'm just trying to navigate as best I can. As George Costanza made famous on a long-ago "Seinfeld" episode: "It's not you. It's anybody, it's me...."

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

COMMUNITY

White House Ornaments Sale to Help Artemis House

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors continue the tradition of selling the White House Ornaments — available in the retail stores in Great Falls — that help their efforts each year to raise funds for the local Artemis House Shelter.

Artemis House shelters women and children that are victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

This year's ornament honors President Calvin Coolidge. President Coolidge actually started the tree lighting tradition on Dec. 24, 1923. The 60-ft tree came down from his native state of Vermont, and was replanted in the center of the Ellipse. The ornament symbols on the tree all represent objects of importance to President Coolidge, and the tree lights up to commemorate the

President's historic event.

There are two Great Falls Retail Stores helping sell ornaments this year:

Great Dogs of Great Falls, Great Falls Shopping Center, 9859 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 703-759-3601; and The Studio, 10123 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, 703-757-2330.

The ornaments sell for \$25 each.

Fairfax County Companies Designated As Best Workplaces for Commuters

Ten companies in Fairfax County were honored as Best Workplaces for Commuters. "Promoting alternate ways to work, and policies such as teleworking and flex time, help make Fairfax County a better place to live and work by reducing congestion on our roadways," said Fairfax County Department of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny. "We are pleased that Fairfax County is leading the nation in "Best Workplace" designations and are committed to continuing to expand these programs in years to come."

This year's recipients are:

Horizon Industries Limited (8245 Boone Blvd., Vienna)

Prosperity Metro Plaza (2675 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax)

FUTREND (8605 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna)

U. S. Geological Survey (12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston)

Kimley-Horn (11400 Commerce Park Drive, Reston)

Freddie Mac (multiple locations in Tysons and Herndon)

Synaptex Corporation (1818 Library St., Reston)

National Student Clearinghouse (2300 Dulles Station Blvd., Herndon)

FOX Architects LLC (8484 Westpark Drive, McLean)

Pyramid Systems Inc. (2677 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax)

The BWC designation acknowledges employers who have excelled in implement-

ing green commuter programs such as ridesharing, transit benefits, biking and walking, teleworking, alternate work schedules and other strategies.

Since 2010, Fairfax County has partnered with the National Center for Transit Research on the Best Workplaces for Commuters program to designate 57 local organizations with this elite, national recognition. Follow #FairfaxBWC on Twitter for more information on program updates and events here in Fairfax County.

For more information on Fairfax County's commuter programs and resources, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/news/trytransit.htm or contact Fairfax County Department of Transportation at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.

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.

THROUGH SATURDAY/DEC. 12.

Wish List Project. Take a look at the wish lists and take this opportunity to spread some cheer this December. Wish List Angels directly help families in area shelters, alternative housing and children in foster care. Make wishes come true by signing up to sponsor a child's wish. Find out how at <http://wishlistangels.com/>.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

Planning Commission. 8-10 p.m. Town Hall, 127 Center Street, South Vienna. 703-255-6341.

Youth and Education Committee Meeting. 9:30-10:30 a.m. LearningRx, 8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 130, Vienna. Join us each month to plan for the Job Shadow Program, Chamber Stars, and other educational programs. Registration required at <http://business.tysons-chamber.org/events/details/youth-education-committee-meeting-12-09-2015-2957>.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Town/Business Liaison Commission. 7 p.m. Town Hall, 127 Center Street, South, Vienna. 703-255-6341.

New and Prospective Member Orientation. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tysons Chamber of Commerce, 7925 Jones Branch Drive Suite LL210, Tysons. If you are a new Chamber member or are considering joining the Chamber, or have been a member and want to learn all the new and exciting things we're doing, this will be time well spent, guaranteed! Join for a catered lunch by Silver Spoon Catering as you learn more about the Chamber and how to make the most of your membership through the various events, committees, member to member benefits and marketing

opportunities. Registration required at <http://business.tysons-chamber.org/events/details/new-and-prospective-member-orientation-12-10-2015-2901>.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Understanding the Tax Code. 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Phil Gaudiano, CPA presents a program on tax updates that highlights any recent changes to the tax law. Covered topics will include the Affordable Care Act, repair & maintenance regulations, business expense deductions, and various credits. Adults/older adults are welcome. 703-356-0770.

MONDAY/DEC. 14

Town Council Meeting. 8-10:30 p.m. Town Council Chambers, 127 Center Street South, Vienna. All Town Council meetings are open to the public and individuals are invited to attend and provide their input. 703-255-6300.

TUESDAY/DEC. 15

Emerging Leaders Council Meeting. 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. 7925 Jones Branch Drive Conference Room, Tysons. Want to create instrumental partnerships, be viewed as a leader and become a voice in the boardroom? Join for the council meeting. Any question, contact at sbrown@tysons-chamber.org.

TUESDAYS/DEC. 15, 22

TIPS I: Lead Sharing & Networking at Fleming's. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar, 1960A Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free to join, \$16 for lunch. Contact Peter Himmelberger, Travel Cruise and Tour, 703-496-4125 or phimmelberger@travelcruiseandtour.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

Women's Leadership Council. 9:30-10:30 a.m. 7925 Jones Branch Drive Suite TBD, Tysons. join us for a one hour informational/planning

meeting about upcoming events sponsored by Women's Leadership Council. Any question, contact Carla Doyle at 443-909-8665.

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Community Enhancement Commission. 7:30 p.m. Town Hall, 127 Center Street, South Vienna. 703-255-6360.

MONDAY/DEC. 21

Alden Theatre Usher Event. 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Want to be a part of the arts? Learn how you can become an usher at The Alden. www.mcleancenter.org. 703-790-0123.

ONGOING

Food Drive for CHO. Places vary. Please help CHO to help others in our area. All food contributions greatly appreciated. CHO is making plans for the holidays. Please bring new unwrapped gifts for children and teens to Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna, on Dec. 11 between 9 a.m. and noon. Questions? Contact at cho@cho-va.com.

Langley Lacrosse Equipment Drive.

Through Dec. 12. Langley Girls Lacrosse is collecting used boys and girls lacrosse equipment to distribute at the clinic on Dec. 12. Their goal is to collect enough equipment that all kids in attendance at the clinic will be able to keep something. Drop off at Langley High School's Athletic Office, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean; or to the donation box at 9805 Arnon Chapel Road, Great Falls.

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna

has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. Visit www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.



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8009 Greenwich Woods Dr McLean \$2,699,000
RESORT-LIKE LIVING in this spectacular and inviting 8BR/9 full BA/2 half bath luxury home! Located on OVER an ACRE, this expansive property features in-ground pool, waterfall and gazebo. Beautiful main-level floorplan with great light and flow; main level owner's suite, plus 2 additional MBR suites upstairs and generously sized additional bedrooms; LL boasts over 3600 square feet of lavish space with separate entry; Langley school district!



1505 Brookhaven Drive McLean, VA \$2,049,950
MAGNIFICENT elegantly-styled Craftsman home! Featuring 7BR and 6.5 baths, this GORGEOUS property includes sparkling hardwood floors; state-of-the-art technology for light, heating & sound controls; perfect living & formal dining room spaces with plantation shutters; easy-flow open concept floorplan; DREAM gourmet island kitchen w/ granite/stainless steel plus breakfast area; walkout to outdoor deck; main level BR suite-great for au-pair or in-laws; fabulous owner's suite with breathtaking luxury bath; huge walkout lower level with media room, bedroom and full bath!



6610 Chesterfield Avenue McLean, VA \$1,675,000
ABSOLUTELY STUNNING 5BR/6 full and 2 half bath colonial home on 3 finished levels built in 2015! This GORGEOUS home features sparkling hardwood floors, incredible gourmet island kitchen with top-of-the-line GE Monogram appliances, granite, custom cabinets; large breakfast room off the kitchen; dramatic 2-story family room with wall of windows and gas fireplace; main level in-law/au pair suite; expansive owner's suite with sitting area, luxury bath and huge walk-in closet; upper level laundry room; finished LL rec room w/ guest room, 1.5 baths and media room!



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