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**A woman fills out her paper ballot at the Great Falls Library in the Hickory precinct. The Virginia General Assembly voted in 2007 to phase out electronic voting machines in all of its localities.**

# Thousands Cast Ballots At Great Falls Library

ELECTIONS 2016, PAGE 3

**Who did you vote for and why?**  
NEWS, PAGE 3

**Eagle Scouts Honor Troops for Veterans Day**  
NEWS, PAGE 2

PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

## PEOPLE

**Joshua and Caleb O’Cain: Joshua is leading a crew building the boxes that will be placed at local businesses — The Brogue, Starbucks and Safeway. Great Falls Elementary and Kilmer Middle Schools have agreed to host WRNNMC donation boxes from 6-19 Nov 2016.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**From left — Joshua O’Cain, Alex Marjanovich, Jonluke O’Cain and Caleb O’Cain.**

# Eagle Scouts Honor Troops for Veterans Day

**E**agle Scout Candidate Joshua O’Cain of Boy Scout Troop 673 is giving thanks and honoring military service members in two ways this Veterans Day. As his Eagle project, he along with friends constructed wooden boxes to collect hundreds of books ranging from preschool level to high school for the children of wounded warriors, active duty and veterans being served at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNNMC) Pediatrics Department. It houses 13 clinics to include Cardiology, Rheumatology, Hematology-Oncology, Pulmonary and Asthma Management. Children being seen either have books read to them or read books in the lobby as they wait for their treatment. They can take the book home with them to keep or finish. As such, the bookshelves need to be refilled often and the Pediatrics Department relies on donations to supply books to their young patients. The

WRNNMC Pediatrics Book Donation Drive will be held Nov. 6 - 19, 2016, and Joshua will be accepting books in gently used to good or new condition.

There will be a wooden box where you can drop off your book donations at The Brogue, Starbucks, and Safeway in Great Falls. If you have a larger quantity and would like to request pickup service contact Joshua at [cbocain2@hotmail.com](mailto:cbocain2@hotmail.com). In addition to the military focused Eagle project, Joshua and his family are supporting a service organization called Military Operation Kindness. Operation Kindness combines military thank you letters with donations of snacks, toiletries, socks, sports equipment and coffee to make care packages for deployed troops throughout the year. The O’Cain family have written over 600 thank you military letters this year to soldiers deployed away from their families for the upcoming holiday season. And, more than 500 letters last year.

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# Thousands Cast Ballots at Great Falls Library

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County expected thousands of voters to cast their ballot at the Great Falls Library off Georgetown Pike yesterday. The library was the polling location for the Hickory precinct in Great Falls where approximately 400 absentee ballots were cast before voting began, according to Candace Bovee, the poll's election chief.

There are a total of 3,461 voters registered in the precinct, so the county's Office of Elections expected nearly 3,000 voters to pass through its doors by the time it closed at 7 p.m.

"I think it's a little busier today," says Bovee. "We've gone through a lot of ballots and we've been pretty steady."

She has volunteered as the election chief for the polling location for the last three elections and has been an election officer three times before that.

There were 15 people in line when the poll opened at 6 a.m., which grew to 73 people by 7 a.m. By 8:30 a.m., there were 527 voters, including three provisional voters, who cast a ballot.

The county had 243 poll locations open

to accommodate the 682,990 residents who were registered to vote in time for the election.

While the presidential candidates vied for all of America's support, Great Falls voters' ballots included a U.S. House of Representatives race between LuAnn Bennett (D) and Barbara Comstock (R); two proposed state constitutional amendments; a meals tax referendum and three bond referendums.



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



Voters cast their ballot in a meeting room at the Great Falls Library.

**Family Affair: Mother Fegegta Workie (far right) brings her children, (right to left) Abaineh Haile, Naomi Haile and Helina Haile to the poll with her to watch her cast her vote for the first female presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. They ran into their "auntie," Essey Workie, who was also voting (far left).**

## VIEWPOINTS

### Who did you vote for and why?

PHOTOS BY  
FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION



**John Donahue, Democrat, Hillary Clinton**

"Oh geez, she's the best candidate. She is very smart and I was glad to see a woman on the ballot. That should have happened years ago. I don't want to have anything to do with that awful man [Donald Trump]."



**Bill Matz, Republican, Donald Trump**

"I think he's the type of leadership we need right now. Even though he's a little bombastic, he's not an untrustworthy person. It's who we need right now. I like his immigration policies and the fact that he is a proponent of our Constitution. He's anti-establishment and not a politician."



**Roman Voytko Barrosse, Independent Voter, Hillary Clinton**

"I think that she's the most qualified candidate. She has the temperament to lead a country. Despite scandals that may have broken, she has the most experience. She knows how to lead. She's the least crazy."



**Lou Toohey, Republican, Donald Trump**

"I was a lifelong Democrat, but I switched to Republican because he stands for us and she stands for herself and her own special interests. She thinks she deserves to be in the White House because she's a Clinton."



**Karen Sahebzadah, Democrat, Hillary Clinton**

"We need a first woman president. It's way overdue. She is qualified without question."



**Anita Srivastaka, Democrat, Hillary Clinton**

"First of all, she's a woman. Second, I agree with all of her ideas and policies. She's a strong woman who has a lot of experience, unlike Trump. He has more qualities of a dictator."



**Fegegta Workie, Democrat, Hillary Clinton**

"I think she has a lot of experience and she thinks through things and Donald does not. He is way too divisive. He cares only about himself. Hillary will unify the country."

## WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

### Military Appreciation Mondays Helps “Stop Soldier Suicide”

Military Appreciation Mondays (MAM) will host a dinner on Monday, Nov. 14 in support of the organization “Stop Soldier Suicide.” For anyone not aware, SSS was co-founded by former Great Falls resident and Langley High School graduate Nick Black. Go to [www.stopsoldiersuicide.org](http://www.stopsoldiersuicide.org) to learn more about the organization and what it has been doing to support veterans.

If you can attend, call the Old Brogue in Great Falls at 703-759-3309 to make a reservation for either the 5:30 or 7:30 seating.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### FRIDAY/NOV. 18

**Citrus Sales** begin at American Legion Post 270. Freshly picked Florida grapefruit, oranges, and tangerines will arrive at the Post Home (1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean) and can be on your table the third weekend of every month from November 2016 through March 2017. Proceeds from these sales are used to support veteran needs, youth programs, the local community, and patriotic activities. For additional information or to place your citrus order in advance, call 703-356-8259. To get on the American Legion citrus mailing list email: [McLeanPost270@yahoo.com](mailto:McLeanPost270@yahoo.com).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7

**Decluttering Seminar.** The Retiree Real Estate Education Association announces free public service seminar

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](mailto:connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

for December, 2016, on Decluttering (McLean High School, 7 p.m.). The seminar is a part of a series of 8 free seminars on real estate issues unique to retirees. Seminars are free, in the evenings at County public schools. For more information and seminar registration go to [Retiree-RealEstate.org](http://Retiree-RealEstate.org).

### TUESDAY/DEC. 13

**Aging in Place Seminars.** The Retiree Real Estate Education Association announces free public service seminar for December, 2016, on Aging in Place (Falls Church H.S., 7 p.m.). The seminar is a part of a series of 8 free seminars on real estate issues unique to retirees. Seminars are free, in the evenings at County public schools. For more information and semi-

registration go to [Retiree-RealEstate.org](http://Retiree-RealEstate.org).

### ONGOING

**Passages Divorce Care.** Tuesdays 6:45 to 9:00 p.m. beginning September 13th. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna, Virginia. Cost to cover materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938-9050, [www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org), or send an email to [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).

The **Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean** needs a **Certified Arthritis Exercise Instructor**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Evening Mass of Remembrance - Remember the Departed** will be held in the Sanctuary of the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd, Vienna, on Thursday, Nov. 3, 7-8 p.m. to celebrate the lives of our departed loved ones as we enter into the coming holiday season. Light refreshment will be served following the Eucharist. For more information, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

**Healing Eucharist** on Sunday, Nov. 6, 5-6 p.m. Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd, Vienna, offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing. The service occurs on the first Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel. The Healing Ministry includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. For more information, contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at [vhayes@holycomforter.com](mailto:vhayes@holycomforter.com) or the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

**Compline Service**, Sunday, Nov. 20, 8-9 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel of the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd, Vienna. Compline is the final service in the cycle of the Daily Office, and has been observed in Christian communities for centuries. The sung form of the liturgy includes no spoken text whatsoever—the service is led by a small group of singers called a schola, and all of the prayers and readings are sung. The service emphasizes spiritual peace at the close of the day, and features lush greenery, incense, candles, and icons. For more information, contact David Kelley at [dkelley@holycomforter.com](mailto:dkelley@holycomforter.com) or the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

**Taizé Contemplative Worship**, Sunday, Nov. 27, 5-6 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel of the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd, Vienna. Holy Comforter's Music Ministry sponsors evening services in a contemplative style, offering a unique opportunity to decompress and prepare for the week ahead. The service occurs on the last Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. Taizé contemplative worship is a powerful and moving combination of song and scripture featuring lush greenery, incense, candles, icons, and considerable time spent in silent meditation. For more information, contact David Kelley at [dkelley@holycomforter.com](mailto:dkelley@holycomforter.com) the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

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

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Bringing New Trees to Great Falls**

The Great Falls Citizens Association, in conjunction with Fairfax ReLeaf, organized a tree sapling program this fall. On Saturday Oct. 29 and Sunday Oct. 30, local residents picked up about 400 free tree saplings they had ordered earlier through GFCA's website. ReLeaf and GFCA volunteers disperse some of many native species that will enhance the community for many years, including white and red oak, elderberry, dogwood and loblolly pine. ReLeaf is a private non-profit organization of volunteers formed in 1992 to plant and protect trees in and around Fairfax County, preserve native habitat and educate the public about the benefits of trees. ReLeaf has supplied and planted thousands of trees throughout the County.

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# OPINION

## Coming: Children's Connection 2016

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

**D**uring the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be?

### Editor's Note

Eight of the 15 Connection Newspapers go to press during the day on Tuesdays, including earlier this week on Election Day. Reporters visited polling places and filed photos and short stories during the day on Election Day, election results were not yet available when this paper went to press. See next week's papers for more insight.  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

— MARY KIMM

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

What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.
- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.
- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD or flash drive to: Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 2. The Children's Connection will publish the last week of 2016.

You can see last year's editions by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to the paper closest to you:

[McLean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:McLean@connectionnewspapers.com)

[Vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:Vienna@connectionnewspapers.com)

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## After the Elections

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



**A**s I write this column the final votes of this election year will not have been cast and hence not tallied. The winners and

losers are not yet known. Whether voters in my district took the recommendations in my *Voter Guide 2016* or made different judgments will only be known as the final votes are counted the day before this column appears in print.

Regardless of who the new president is and who controls the Congress there is much work to be done. Suddenly the realities of significant issues become clearer than the simplistic slogans of campaigns might suggest. There are no easy answers to ever-increasing tensions in many parts of the world, to the rising cost of health care and its lack of availability to too many people, to major inequities in wealth and opportunity among the people of our country and among the nations of the world, to crumbling infrastruc-

### COMMENTARY

ture—to name just a few!

The greatest challenge of all may be the sharp division of opinion apparent during the election season on the role government should play in responding to these

needs. Complicating any reasonable discussion of the differences of opinion is the lack of trust of governmental institutions and politicians felt even more strongly after the rough and tumble of this election season.

While the only state level elections this year were special elections to fill vacancies, the tenor and outcomes of federal elections are likely to have an impact on how business is conducted in the 2017 session of the General Assembly beginning in January. If the extreme right is successful in this year's elections, those that are in the General Assembly may feel emboldened to continue to oppose taking federal health care monies, to adopt additional restrictions on abortions, and to pass laws that discriminate against LGBTQ citi-

## Regardless of who the new president is and who controls the Congress there is much work to be done.

zens. While Governor McAuliffe will still be around to wield his veto pen, there could be many protracted debates on social issues.

On the other hand, if Democrats are successful in capturing the presidency and one or both houses of Congress, moderate Republicans in Virginia may feel less need to insist on hard lines on many issues as we have seen in the past. After all, Virginia will elect a new governor and House of Delegates in 2017, and both parties will want to side with the prevailing political winds.

It is essential that all political leaders learn from this election

cycle and do what we can to help mend divisions in our state and in the nation. One thing we can do is listen. Senator Janet Howell and I will have our annual public meeting to talk with voters on Monday, Dec. 19, 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne Plaza. Come and tell us what is on your mind and offer your suggestions as to what we should do in the upcoming General Assembly session. Also, my constituent survey is on my website, [www.kenplum.com](http://www.kenplum.com), and I encourage you to complete it. After all, the elections are over: time to get back to work.

### VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**30th Annual Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium Caregivers Conference, Friday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** The conference "Gems: A Treasure Chest of Ideas" will have speakers and resources on topics important to caregivers. The \$30 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials, and certificate of attendance. First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. Find out more at [www.-fairfaxcounty.gov/](http://www.-fairfaxcounty.gov/)

[www.-fairfaxcounty.gov/](http://www.-fairfaxcounty.gov/)-olderadults and click on Caregivers Conference.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, Nov. 16, at noon** at the Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm). Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

## Great Falls CONNECTION

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://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

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
[greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Fallon Forbush**  
Reporter  
[fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kyle Kincaid**  
Editorial Assistant  
[greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

ADVERTISING:  
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**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
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CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427  
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# NEWS

## Making Blankets for Children's Hospital

In honor of Universal Children's Day on Nov. 20, The Brookfield School, a Montessori school in McLean, wanted to create a sense of community by kids helping kids. Brookfield worked with students, parents and community members to create no-sew fleece blankets for INOVA Fairfax Children's Hospital. After a friend of Brookfield spent the summer battling Leukemia, the school couldn't think of a better project or recipient than the blankets for the Children's Hospital.

Students from Langley and McLean high schools, Longfellow Middle School, Chesterbrook Elementary, Haycock Elementary, Franklin Sherman Elementary, and Kent Garden Elementary, came out to help the Kindergarteners and Preschoolers make blankets. The no-sew fleece blankets are a community team-building project and provide comfort to each child. It is INOVA's goal to have a blanket on each bed when a patient is admitted. It makes it seem less like a hospital room and more like a bedroom. Parents report to INOVA how their child cherishes the blanket even years later.



Alli Dunk from Langley High School, Meredith Lee from Chesterbrook Elementary, Gabriela Kohlmayer from McLean High School, and Kendall Looney from Brookfield.

PHOTOS BY ALEXIS ADKINS



Amelia Hsu from Longfellow Middle School and Erwin Parada from Brookfield.



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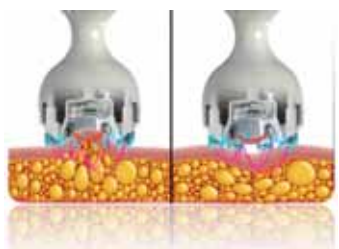
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# HomeLifeStyle

Originally a circa 1935 Great Falls dairy barn, Bill and Brenda Bosch began converting the structure into their personal residence in 2007.



PHOTOS BY DIMITRI GANAS

## A Design Solution as Big as a Barn Door

### Master bath renovation explores themes from Great Falls' bucolic past.

BY JOHN BYRD

Talk about rustic charm.

In 2007, Bill and Brenda Bosch purchased what boutique remodelers sometimes refer to as a “barn conversion” — specifically, a spacious modern home which, five years earlier, had been constructed inside the exterior of a 1935 dairy barn.

With its metal roof, stucco siding and silo, the 5,800-sq-ft., five-bedroom Great Falls residence exuded nostalgic references to the community's bucolic past.

Getting the house to owner requirements, however, entailed a commitment.

For starters, the second level primary living area (formerly, a hay loft) was too dark and poorly finished, and offered only limited views of the splendid setting through re-purposed skylights. An early renovation effort focused on “gutting” the kitchen, dining room and family room, and introducing a more appropriate glazing solution that included dormer

windows in key locations.

More recently, as the children moved on to college, Bill and Brenda Bosch began to see the house from an empty-nester's perspective.

The first level master bathroom was plainly still unacceptable. With its circa 1990s white ceramic tile, tiny vanity and walk-in shower stall, the design was like something out of a builder-grade starter home.

Moreover, at 90 sq. ft., it was cramped and pinched, offering no opportunities for such upscale necessities as built-ins for toiletries and towels, a showering option for every whim, unhurried zones to dry-off and re-acclimate, and (especially) a breathtaking view of classic Virginia countryside.

Views, in particular, ranked high on the couple's wish list.

“We wanted to see our beautiful surroundings from the bed, but this wasn't feasible,” Bosch said.

The problem: the southwest corner of the house where the master suite was located was wrapped around 80-year old post-and-beam supports that held up the second floor. Given the critical structural consideration, the original master bedroom had been configured into an L-shape (sleeping quarters with a sitting room addenda). Moreover, under the existing plan, one entered the bathroom through an equally-size sitting room, an arrangement which

SEE HOMELIFESTYLE. PAGE 11



To make room for the larger master suite, Chris Arnold at Foster Remodeling Solutions devised a way to eliminate an obstructive bearing wall by installing an 8" x 17' steel beam attached to concealed vertical supports. To reinforce the rustic design theme, the exposed beam is wrapped in reclaimed barn board. The floors are also old barn wood milled to specification.

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The interior to the new master bath is a study in textural and tonal contrasts. Porcelain tile flooring. Mirrors framed in polished nickel. Plantation shutters. The door to the commode is reclaimed barn door mounted on antique rollers.

## A Design Solution as Big as a Barn Door

FROM PAGE 10

PHOTOS BY DIMITRI GANAS

Bosch saw as wasted space.

“We wanted to reconfigure the rear corner quadrant of the house to improve both the space plan and the view fields,” Bosch said, “I just wasn’t sure how to do it.”

Enter Chris Arnold of Foster Remodeling Solutions, the firm that had successfully renovated several aspects of a friend’s home over a 10-year period.

As Arnold recalled: “We were asked for ideas for a sweeping interior makeover, but nothing could happen without implementing a significant structural change.”

Arnold’s plan: shift second floor loads to an 8” x 17’ steel beam attached to vertical supports concealed behind interior walls. The move would widen available bedroom floor space by 50 square feet and add another 20 square feet for an upgraded master bathroom.

To reinforce the emerging design statement, the exposed steel beam is to be wrapped in reclaimed barn board. The new bedroom flooring is, likewise, made from old barn wood that’s been milled to specification. As a final grace note, one enters the commode via a reclaimed barn door mounted on antique rollers.

With the additional floorspace, the couple’s new king-sized bed is now positioned on a wider interior wall that features a spot-on view of rolling paddocks and grazing horses.

Though augmented by a comparatively modest increase in square footage, the new master bath is, likewise, far more comfortable.

“Brenda and I can occupy the new bathroom at the same time,” Bosch said, “which was difficult before.”

Meanwhile, at 21 square feet, the “curbless” walk-in shower — fitted out with a bench and personal cubbies — boasts many cutting-edge amenities, including a programmable control that remembers each user’s preferred water temperature.

Consistent with the broader design goals, the shower now features a window with an adjustable screen that affords a panoramic view of wooded back acreage.



The “curbless” walk-in shower boasts many cutting-edge amenities, including a programmable control that remembers each user’s preferred water temperature. The porcelain floors are heated.

The interior itself is a study in textural and tonal contrasts that reinforces a softly relaxed ambiance.

The porcelain tile flooring — which Arnold found after careful research — is an exact match for natural blue stone. As an added nod to personal comfort, the flooring is heated via electrical coil integrated into the underside of the tile itself.

Other design details, explore themes from the 1930s and earlier. Period cabinetry provides drawers and shelving for towels and personal toiletries. Quartz counter surfaces and mirrors framed in polished nickel help to balance the light and dark contrasts. The scones are early-electric Edison-style replica with an exposed filament.

“The project has allowed us to express our creativity,” Bill Bosch said. “That’s what really makes a home special.”

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. For Information call 703/550-1371, or [www.fosterremodeling.com](http://www.fosterremodeling.com).

John Byrd ([byrdmatx@gmail.com](mailto:byrdmatx@gmail.com) or [www.HomeFrontsNews.com](http://www.HomeFrontsNews.com)) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

## The Children's CONNECTION 2016

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

### Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The edition has won many awards.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens, or other creative efforts.

To submit material, identify each piece of writing or art, including the student’s full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children’s Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 16.



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**December 28**

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## SCHOOL NOTES

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

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) student journalists have been recognized by two national student journalism organizations for their outstanding work.

News publications from McLean High School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) have been named Crown Award finalists by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA). They are The Highlander (High School News), McLean High School, Lindsay Benedict, adviser; and *tjToday* and *tjtoday.org* (High School News Hybrid for print and online), TJHSST, Erinn Harris, adviser. Both publications

will receive either a Silver or Gold Crown at the CSPA award ceremony in March 2017. Five FCPS students have been named finalists in individual contests by the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA). These students are among just 10 finalists in their respective categories and were chosen from entries submitted nationwide.

NSPA finalists are:  
 ♦ Sports Story: John Corvari, The Highlander newsmagazine, McLean High School.  
 ♦ Sports Action Photo: Maggie Laird, The Clan yearbook, McLean High School.  
 ♦ Newspaper Page One Design: Susie Hyland, Jodie Lee, The Hawk Talk, Madison High School.  
 ♦ Illustration: Sam Willett, The Watchdog, Westfield High School.

**Emma Leiken**, a 2012 McLean High School graduate, earned Fulbright grant. She graduated from Oberlin College in May 2016.

**Brandon Bast**, of Great Falls, graduated from The University of Tampa on May 7. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in sport management and a minor in marketing.

**Savannah Kathleen McBride** was awarded an \$8,000 four-year Fraternal College Scholarship in a national competition by Modern Woodmen of America. She is the daughter of Stephen and Lezlie McBride, McLean. She plans to attend Reed College in Portland, Ore.

**Brendan Mullen**, Langley HS Class of 2011, was awarded a prestigious

summer Research Fellowship by the Drexel University College of Medicine to study the effects of concussion on mice. Brendan will present his results at the College of Medicine's annual research event, Discovery Day, in October 2016. Former Langley ice hockey goalie, continues his support of children's special hockey by volunteering for the Philadelphia Flyer's youth special hockey team.

**Dov Cohen, of Vienna**, received a bachelor of arts degree from The College of Wooster during commencement exercises in May 2016.

**Neal Daniel Dawson**, of Vienna, graduated from Averett University in May 2016 with a master of business administration degree.

**Courtney Laine Vereide**, of Vienna, graduated magna cum laude from Elon University on May 21, 2016, with a Bachelors degree in English and a Classical Studies minor.

**Brandon D. Kendrick**, of Vienna, is on the spring 2016 deans list at Hampden-Sydney College.

**Robert P. Buttarazzi**, of Vienna, is on the spring 2016 deans list at Hampden-Sydney College.

**Megan L. Graves**, of Vienna, has been named to the president's list for the 2016 spring semester at Elon University.

**Christie Sweet**, of Vienna, majoring in health and exercise science, graduated cum laude from Bridgewater College in May 2016.

**Lindsay B. Benedict**, a teacher at McLean High School, has achieved Certified Journalism Educator status from the Journalism Education Association (JEA). JEA is a nonprofit that encourages professional standards for journalism programs and student publications.

**Christie Sweet** of Vienna is on the Dean's List at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Va. for the fall 2015 semester. She is majoring in health and exercise science.

**Vitale Alexander Christy**, of Great Falls, graduated from the University of Tampa in Florida on Jan. 19 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and a minor in Writing.

**Graham P. Lobel**, the son of Doug and Betsy Lobel of McLean, received a Bachelor of Science degree cum laude, from Haverford College, in Haverford, Pa., at the school's 177th Commencement on Sunday, May 17. Lobel graduated with High Honors in Chemistry. At Commencement, Lobel also received The George Peirce Prize in Chemistry, for excellence in undergraduate research. Lobel graduated from the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in 2011.

Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Va. announced Cadet Second Lieutenant **Chase Dixon** from Vienna as Officer of the Month for October. Dixon is a senior and the son of Mr. Michael Filan and Mrs. Elizabeth McElroy-Filan. Cadet Dixon is the Executive Officer of Alpha Company and is a member of the Key Club.

**Masato Chang**, of Vienna, an eighth-grader at Longfellow Middle School was awarded first prize at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) for the State of Virginia. He will travel to Florida in January 2016 to represent the State of Virginia for the next round.

**George Mahaney-Walter**, son of Mary Claire Mahaney and Herbert Walter of McLean, was awarded the degree of Master of Business Administration in recent commencement exercises at the Simon School of Business of the University of Rochester.

**Gabrielle Greco, of Vienna**, daughter of Drs. Stephen and Judith Greco, was named to the Dean's List at the College of William and Mary for the Spring Semester.

**Kathryn Seymore Hahne** of Vienna, was named to the Dean's List at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy for the spring semester of 2015. The University of Virginia established the Batten School in 2007 as part of its strategic plan and as an expression of its Jeffersonian heritage.



### The HEART Of The Great Falls Community & Proud Location Of The Following Events:

- Easter Egg Hunt**
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- Celebration of Lights**
- Cars and Coffee**
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Photos by Walt Lawrence

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

For their work and successful fundraising, the Underdogs received Humane Hero Awards.

## Underdogs Team Supports Underdogs

A Vienna-based Robotics team, Underdogs, has been supporting homeless animals for the past 4 months. The Underdogs include: Max Golub, Christina Lockett, David Pan, Zoe Lu, and Sasha Pasmanik. They held a baked-goods fundraiser that raised \$100 for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Also, the Underdogs team crafted and donated hand-made toys for the cats and dogs of that shelter. For their work and successful fundraising, the Underdogs received Humane Hero Awards.

Also, the Underdogs collected and donated blankets, towels, pet

foods, and other supplies to the Humane Society of Fairfax to benefit homeless animals.

In addition, the Underdogs shared their robotics research and First LEGO League (FLL) opportunities with third and fourth graders in the School-age Childcare (SACC) Program from Mosby Woods and Marshall Road Elementary Schools at the Providence Community Center.



All Underdogs hail from the Vienna and Great Falls areas. They will be participating in the upcoming First LEGO League Regional Tournament to be held in Woodbridge.



The Underdogs held a baked-goods fundraiser that raised \$100 for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.



All Underdogs team members hail from the Vienna and Great Falls areas.

  
**Learn as if you were to live forever; live as if you were going to die tomorrow.**  
*—John Wooden*  





**Day Trip to NYC for Christmas Show, Dec. 1**.....\$185  
 Includes Motorcoach transportation from Vienna, McLean Metro & Grosvenor Metro Orchestra/First Mezz. Seat for Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

**Bahama Cruise from Baltimore, Feb. 4-13**.....\$351  
 Includes 9-nights cruise on RCCL's Grandeur of the Seas with all meals & entertainment. Transfers to pier from Vienna or Grosvenor Metro available.

**Savannah, GA for St. Patrick's Day, March 15-18**.....\$1135  
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# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road Great Falls. [greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](http://greatfallsfarmersmarket.org)

**Fishing Rod Rentals** 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2hr max). Valid driver's license required. Our rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for persons 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/)

**Great Falls Studios Virtual Gallery** Open online 24/7 at <http://www.greatfallsstudios.com/copy-of-virtual-gallery> for the month of October. The gallery features the member artists participating in the Great Falls Studios 2016 Art Tour. During the month of October, in the Large Meeting room at the Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, GF, member artists participating in the Art Tour are on display. The exhibit will be open during regular library hours.

**Betty Ganley Watercolor Exhibit** in the meeting room of the Great Falls library, Nov.1 thru Nov 30, 2016. This exhibit of 30 paintings reflects her love of nautical scenes with their undulating reflections, moody skies, and overhead seagulls, along with an equal desire to capture the color, depth and shadows offered by our local gardens.

**Colvin Run Mill** open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children

**The lighting of the Christmas Tree during the 25th Annual Celebration of Lights and Great Falls Holiday Fest on Dec. 6, 2015 at the Great Falls Village Center in Great Falls. This year's celebration takes place on Dec. 4 at the village Center in the heart of Great Falls 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. rain or shine.**



STEVE HIBBARD/  
THE CONNECTION

& seniors. Winter Hours: January & February, 11am-4pm, last tour 3pm. Admission to park is FREE except for some special events.

**Art Walk in the Village: First Fridays** beginning Sept. 9, 6 - 9 p.m. through Dec.31 at 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Admission free and open to the public. [greatfallsart.org/artwalk/](http://greatfallsart.org/artwalk/)

**The Lights, Camera, Save! Video Contest** is a competition that encourages teens to write and produce a 90-second video to explore the value of saving and use their creativity to inspire others to become lifelong savers. This program inspires students to take an active role in being smart money managers and ties in well with new state financial literacy requirements. The

Contest is open to students age 13 - 18 years old and is free and easy to enter. Students can win up to \$5000 in the national competition. Burke & Herbert Bank is awarding \$350, \$100,

and \$50 to the top three local winners. The entry deadline is December 1. [save@burkeandherbertbank.com](mailto:save@burkeandherbertbank.com)

## TUESDAY/NOV. 8, 2016

**Election Day.** General election. Visit: [sbe.virginia.gov/](http://sbe.virginia.gov/) and [fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm)

## FRIDAY/NOV. 11

**Everything Christmas Sale** Preview Sale: 4 - 7 p.m. Main Sale is 9 a.m.- noon on Saturday. At The First Baptist Church of Herndon 681 Elden St. There will be holiday decorations and a variety of gift options. The proceeds benefit The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, which supports the Herndon-Reston community through grants to local nonprofits and college scholarships to local students.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 12

**Everything Christmas Sale** 9 a.m.- noon At The First Baptist Church of Herndon 681 Elden St. There will be holiday decorations and a variety of gift options. The proceeds benefit The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, which supports the Herndon-Reston community through grants to local nonprofits and college scholarships to local students.

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Fall Bazaar and Craft Show** 10 - 4 p.m. held in

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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PHOTO BY DEE LEGGETT

**'Monument Valley, Classic Western Country' captures the infamous rock formations seen in westerns and many movies over the past 75 years in Arizona. This photo will be on display at the Great Falls Library Nov. 1-30, 2016.**

## 'Breathtaking Navajo Lands and Beyond' Photography Exhibit by Dee Leggett at the Great Falls Library

Honoring the native peoples and lands of the great American west, "Breathtaking Navajo Lands and Beyond" is an exhibit of photography capturing the beauty of the natural formations and historical sites on the Navajo lands in Arizona as well as some of the State Parks in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada taken during Great Falls photographer and author Dee Leggett's tour to the area with her husband in May. The exhibit is open at the Great Falls Library, Nov. 1-30, 2016. Leggett is a member of Great Falls Stu-

dios and has been exhibiting her photography for more than 10 years. This exhibit includes a photo by her husband also.

"Visions of Great Falls," Leggett's photo journal book of scenes and history of Great Falls, the National Park in our own backyard. Books are available. To see more of Leggett's work contact her at 703-861-3335 or [DeeLeggett@aol.com](mailto:DeeLeggett@aol.com)

Visit her website at <http://deeleggettphotography.vpweb.com>

# CALENDAR

## Living Nativity at Great Falls United Methodist Church

FROM PAGE 12

the Flame Room at the fire department, located at 400 Center Street, South. The craft show features crafts and home based businesses. Admission: Free. Proceeds from the rental of the table spaces and raffles benefit the fire department in their effort to raise funds for lifesaving fire and rescue equipment. To reserve a space call Carol at 703-309-3468 or email Dancers1023@aol.com.

**Model Trains and Thomas Open House.** 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends. layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Free. nvmr.org. 703-938-5157.

**Parents Night Out Charles Wesley United Methodist Church** 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. 6 - 9 p.m. Need an evening without the kids? Drop them off to enjoy games, arts & crafts and a movie while you enjoy your time or have a date night. Includes pizza, snacks and drinks as well as games, crafts, movie and popcorn. Registration is required - no walk-ins. To register please go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0845aca829a31-registration> Register Now! Space is Limited! Payment: Payment will be collected at the door - cash or check payable to "Troop 2325". Cost: \$10 per sibling; \$40 max per family. clourenco71@gmail.com 571-251-1895

### SUNDAY/NOV. 13

**"A Rainbow of Romantics" Piano Concert** 4 p.m. Oakton Church of the Brethren 10025 Courthouse Rd, Vienna. Dr. Raffi Kasparian will perform. This program will include pieces by composers Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Debussy, and more; as well as world premiere performances of Dr. Kasparian's own compositions. Free and open to the public. Donations support community outreach efforts. Oaktonbrethren.org

### MONDAY/NOV. 14

**Help "Stop Soldier Suicide" Military Appreciation Mondays Dinner**

MAM dinner in support of the organization "Stop Soldier Suicide". Please consider making it out to get involved in helping those who have served you. For anyone not aware, SSS was co-founded by former Great Falls resident and Langley High School graduate Nick Black. I encourage you to go to [www.stopsoldiersuicide.org](http://www.stopsoldiersuicide.org) to learn more about the organization and what it has been doing to support our veterans. Please call the Old Brogue in Great Falls at (703) 759-3309 to make a reservation for either the 5:30 or 7:30 seating.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 16

**Silent Movie with Live Music "Chicago" (1927)** McLean Center 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. This silent film produced by Cecile B. DeMille predates the musical by 50 years. "Chicago" tells the story of the deliciously sinful murderess Roxie Hart and is based on a real-life "crime of the century." \$12/\$8 MCC tax district residents

**Brendan James Hannah Gill & The Hours** 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java 227 Maple Ave. East They've received accolades from NPR to The Guardian. Hannah is 18 and her talent is mind blowing. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com)

**Great Falls United Methodist Church will be holding its annual Living Nativity on Dec. 18. Three 20 minute, one act plays of this glorious event will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle your joy for Christmas! 10100 Georgetown Pike Great Falls [www.greatfallsumc.org](http://www.greatfallsumc.org)**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Plan Ahead Great Falls

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 25-27

**Thanksgiving Art and Craft Show** presented by The Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild (NVHG) at the recently renovated Spring Hill RECenter, 1239 Spring Hill Rd., McLean. The show will feature the original handmade craft and artwork of approximately 80 juried artists and artisans offering original jewelry, woodworking, photography, painting, fiber art, pottery, fused and stained glass, and much more. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults (free for children 12 and under) and includes free return and free parking. For more information, visit [www.nvhg.org](http://www.nvhg.org).

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ DEC. 2-4

**McLean Holiday Crafts Show.** 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. This highly regarded, juried show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics, pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, fashion, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, sculpture, paintings and more. Cost: Adults \$5, children free. Visit <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**McLean Winterfest parade & celebration** 2016 Begins at 2:45 p.m. on Old Chain Bridge Road The star of the parade, Santa, will be riding on top of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire engine. Visit: <http://www.mcleanvfd.org/2015-winterfest-parade/>

**Great Falls Celebration of Lights** 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. rain or shine. at the village Center in the heart of Great Falls. Celebrate the season with our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Hot cider and cocoa will be served next to the fire. Seasonal music will be performed by the local children's choral groups. The petting zoo and pony rides will be open for kids until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck. [www.celebrategreatfalls.org/celebration-of-lights](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/celebration-of-lights)

### SUNDAY/DEC. 11

**Blue Christmas Service.** A non-traditional service of remembrance and hope for those who are stressed, lonely or grieving. 3:30 p.m. at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Rd, Great Falls. Sponsored by the Great Falls Area Ministries. For more information contact Carol Blackwell, [lovriver@aol.com](mailto:lovriver@aol.com).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 18

**Living Nativity at Great Falls United Methodist Church.** Three 20 minute, one act plays of this glorious event will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle your joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike Great Falls, [www.greatfallsumc.org](http://www.greatfallsumc.org). Questions? Call 703-759-3705.

**McLean Symphony Family Holiday Concert.** 3 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Features Antonio Vivaldi's Winter from "The Seasons" and highlights from Gian-Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Admission: \$25/adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/students.

### FRIDAY/ NOV. 18

**McLean Art Society Meeting** 10 - noon McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Amy Shawlen, a practicing artist, will demonstrate the Golden Products Acrylics System. Ms. Shawlen will be using the materials and showing how they can be utilized with other media. Guests are welcome and refreshments are served.

**Big Sale-small works Art Exhibition** at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna Nov. 18 6 - 8 p.m. Nov. 19 11 - 8 p.m. Nov. 20 noon - 5 p.m. Just in time for holiday giving: the Vienna Arts Society presents hundreds of small original artworks in all media, ready to hang, all costing \$99 or less.

**Theatre McLean's November Play DON'T DRINK THE WATER**

Friday Nov. 18 7 p.m., Saturday Nov. 19 2 p.m. & 7 p.m., Nov. 20 2 p.m. Travel back to 1960s Communist Europe in TheatreMcLean's laugh-riot production of the political comedy by Woody Allen. Admission: \$12 [www.theatremclean.org](http://www.theatremclean.org)

### SATURDAY/ NOV. 19

**Dallas Children's Theater "Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters"** 2 p.m. The Alden 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. When a great African king desires a wife, only the most perfect maidens in the land are invited to meet him. Mufaro's pride and joy, his two daughters of very different dispositions, embark on the long journey to be presented to the king. \$15/\$10 MCC tax district residents. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

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**ABC LICENSE**  
K. Rob Krupicka, Jr. trading as Sugar Shack Donuts, 1014 S. Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22204. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. K. Rob Krupicka, Jr., Managing Member  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Pupuseria Mana, Inc trading as Pupuseria Mana, 7236 Arlington Blvd. Falls Church, VA 22042. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises-Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. K. Doris L. Maldonado, Owner  
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**THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS**

## Feeling a Little Low



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In spite of mostly-successfully not being preoccupied with my condition/circumstances/disease, when a lung cancer survivor dies, even one with whom I've had minimal contact; one whom I could barely call an acquaintance, the link in the chain that makes all of us lung cancer patients/survivors stronger is most definitely effected.

Not that every lung cancer patient's diagnosis is identical; be it the staging (1-4), the type (non-small, small, etc.), the molecular profiling (ALK, EGFR, KRAS, HER2, etc.), the treatment or whether they were smokers or not, one cancer survivor's death is not necessarily related to another's. Like most things in life, more information is needed.

Nevertheless, it doesn't minimize the loss. When one survivor dies, we all die, a little bit. Recently, a prominent figure in the lung cancer world, Jerome Sorkin, a nine-plus year lung cancer survivor died. I did not know him, though I knew of him. I passed him once while walking in a hallway at The Key Bridge Marriott after attending the annual LUNGevity Foundation conference held every year in late April. We were both leaving but heading in opposite directions. He saw me and said "Love your column." I replied "Thanks," and that was the extent of our interaction.

In general, and in the lung cancer world in particular, typically one wants to hear positive news/be around positive people. Otherwise, maintaining your emotional equilibrium and your living/dying existence is simply too damn difficult. The razor thin line on which all of us lung cancer survivors teeter-totter cannot tolerate too much interference. Who knows exactly what news — personally or publicly, will cause one's cancer do what it so often does: inflict more damage followed by an inevitable decline.

This does not imply/encourage that cancer patients should or could quite frankly, live in an emotional bubble where only positive feedback and life-affirming words are allowed in. As my deceased father would have said: "The idea has merit." The reality is however, that such an option is impractical and unrealistic (except on Seinfeld; see "Bubble Boy"). Still, it doesn't diminish the fact that cancer survivors need to be "infused with positivity," as I like to say. Moreover, anecdotal evidence suggest that a good attitude and a positive environment affects a cancer patient's prognosis and enhances their lives.

Not only do I joke about having cancer, I want to be around others who joke as well and who can go with my flow and not bring me back to my reality. I spend enough time there on my own; I don't need any help returning. Nor do I do well when I hear bad news; specifically, the death of a fellow lung cancer survivor. Intellectually, I understand that lung cancer survivors are all different, live different lives, have different motivations, etc. Nevertheless, I feel for Jerome Sorkin, I feel for his family and friends and I feel for LUNGevity where Mr. Sorkin was Vice Chairman of LUNGevity's Board of Directors. I don't want any lung cancer survivors to die before their presumptive time. I want lung cancer to, at the very least, become a chronic/treatable disease (like diabetes) where one can live their life to a relatively normal expectancy; and if I were to dream really big, I want lung cancer and all cancers of course, to be curable/reversible.

Until these days arrive, all of us patients live on the edge. Just as I am strengthened by stories of resolve, I am weakened by stories of fellow survivors succumbing to their disease. Right now I am weakened.

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

## NEWS

# 'MarketPlace' Fundraiser Set for Dec. 1 During Annual Homes Tour

On Thursday, Dec. 1, the Woman's Club of McLean will hold its annual MarketPlace fundraiser from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. (Route 123), in central McLean. The event will feature more than a dozen local vendors, a silent auction of goods and services from numerous local providers, a lunch facility and tickets for the McLean Holiday Homes Tour. (Tour tickets are also available at several local stores, including Mesmeralda's, in McLean, and cost \$25 before Dec. 1 and \$30 after.) The MarketPlace will also serve as the home base for free shuttle buses to the tour. Car parking will be available at the church.

Among the vendors will be Dave's Candy, Name Droppers (children's items), Juicy Jack Adventures (children's books), Two Laughing Ladies (women's ready-to-wear), women's wear from Peru, Beautycounter cosmetics (chemical-free), Oxford handbags (eco-friendly), Two the Moon (home accessories), Carole Herrick's books on local history, Ginny's Gems (jewelry, scarves and hats), Father Christmas figures, silk flower designs from local crafters, Claude Moore Farm delicacies and Woman's Club baked treats. The silent auction will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with winners announced at 3:30 p.m. It is requested that bidders be present at that time, if possible. Providers will include Ruth's Chris Steak House, Clyde's of Tysons, Clyde's Willow Creek Farm, Staybridge Suites, J. Gilbert of McLean, First Stage, Eclips Salon and Day Spa, McLean Racquet and Health Club, Masala Indian Cuisine, Lamps Unlimited, Figueroes Salon, Great Falls Organizers, Kim Johnson Designs and Fleming's Steak

House. All proceeds of the MarketPlace and the Homes Tour will be donated to local charities and nonprofits, such as Share, Inc., Capital Caring, the Wounded Warriors program, Alternative House, the McLean Project or the Arts, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, the McLean Volunteer Fire Department and Fisher House, as well as used for scholarships and education.

The top sponsors of the Homes Tour and the MarketPlace are Eagle Bank, Wylder Brothers Real Estate and Karen Duval.

For more information call 703-556-0197; [www.mcleanwomensclub.org](http://www.mcleanwomensclub.org).

—LAURA SHERIDAN

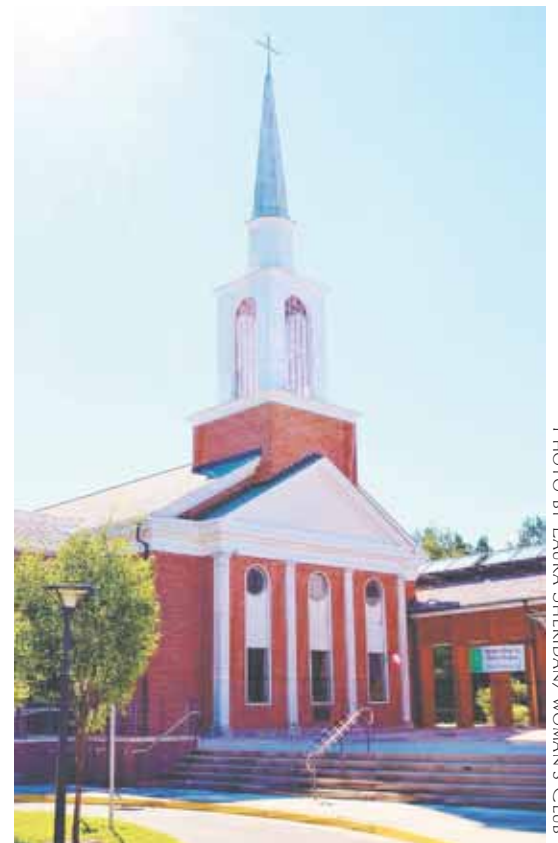


PHOTO BY LAURA SHERIDAN/WOMAN'S CLUB

**Trinity United Methodist Church, McLean, location of MarketPlace fair and base for Homes Tour buses.**

## The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner Named 'Best Hotel of the Year'

The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner was named the "Best Hotel of the Year" by Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA). The distinction was presented at VRLTA's inaugural Ordinary Awards Dinner, during which 15 individuals and organizations were recognized for their "outstanding work in the hospitality field and within their communities," according to the association. Engineering Coordinator Kristin Winderweedle was also named "Hotel Employee of the Year."

"What a remarkable honor it is to be recognized this way by such an esteemed group of our colleagues," said Raj

Khubchandani, general manager, The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner. "From the day-to-day operations and guest services to our dining, spa and private events programs and everything else in between, there's a lot of our passion and hard work that goes into where we are today. It wouldn't be possible without our terrific team of ladies and gentlemen and we look forward to delivering the very best service for years to come."

For more information about special events, offers and pricing at The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, become a fan of our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ritzcarltontysonscorner](http://www.facebook.com/ritzcarltontysonscorner).



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