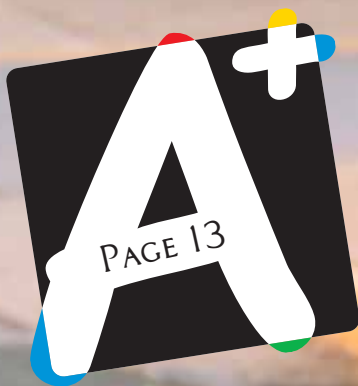


HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION



Isabella Back, 17, warms up for the race by jogging back and forth. A senior at Herndon High School, Back received a four-year scholarship to join the Navy ROTC when she graduates. She hopes to attend Yale University. She finished the Veterans Day 5K race in Reston in 26 minutes and 37 seconds.

Region Races For 'Team Red, White & Blue'

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Comstock Wins 10th District Race

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Holidays Are for Giving

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PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Volunteering on Election Night

Election night volunteer Jennifer Kyle Herd of Herndon pulls a precinct chief's kit to the check-in table while Office of Elections information technology technician Alexander Russell logs poll pads into inventory around 10:15 p.m. Nov. 8 at the loading dock of the Fairfax County Government Center as another chief pulls up in a car to unload. Herd is a parent of Boy Scout Troop 1530 of Pender United Methodist Church, which lent 25 scouts — including her son Steven — to help with the hard work of heavy lifting performed behind the scenes after the polls have closed.

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Herndon Honors Veterans

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

David Kirby, Commander, American Legion Wayne M. Kidwell Post 184, stands behind the podium at the Veterans Memorial, Town Green, in Herndon, Virginia. "It's now the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month," he says to the gathered crowd. "We will now observe our full two minutes of silence, a pittance of time, to reflect on those serving, those who have served and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country."

Following the moment of silence, HHS Junior Naval ROTC Color Guard post the colors and South Lakes High School Senior, violinist Joseph Letteri, plays his rendition of the National Anthem. Kirby said Letteri is applying to the Naval Academy.

First Commander Bob Thompson of the American Legion Wayne M. Kidwell Post 184 gives the Invocation. He prays for veterans to feel honored, "Not just today but every day," adding: "We give special recognition to our wounded warriors. We realize that many of our heroes are dealing with physical and emotional wounds that occurred as a result of their time in service to this country. We ask that they be given the best treatment available."

Following the Invocation, Kirby introduces Guest Speaker, Colonel H.C. "Barney" Barnum, Jr. USMC (retired), listing his numerous personal medals and decorations. Kirby said that Barnum was the fourth Marine to be awarded the nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor for valor in Vietnam.

Barnum said, "It is the veteran, not the preacher, who gives us freedom of religion. It is the veteran, not the reporter, who gives us freedom of the press. It is the veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It is the veteran, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble. It is the veteran, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to fair trial. It is the veteran, not the politician, who has given us the right to vote. It is the veteran who



Col. Harvey C. Barnum, United States Marine Corps, Retired, recipient of the Medal of Honor-Navy, was guest speaker at the American Legion Wayne M. Kidwell Post 184 Herndon/Reston Veterans Day Observance held Friday, Nov. 11, at the Veterans Memorial, Town Green, Herndon.



Del. Jennifer B. Boysko (D-86), folds one of the 64 Casket Flags flown at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon, during the Veterans Day Avenue of Flags.

Veterans Day Observance held at the 'Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month' at Herndon's Chestnut Grove Cemetery.



Violinist Joseph Letteri, South Lakes High School Senior, plays the National Anthem while Bob Thompson, 1st Vice Commander, American Legion Post 184, Herndon/Reston, renders a salute.

salutes that flag." Pausing, he adds: "It is the veteran who serves under that flag".

BARNUM AND KIRBY, each then lay a wreath at the base on the Veterans Memorial at the Town Green. Following the Laying of the Wreaths, Thompson, in his Benediction, asks that God watch over the veterans, bless them, comfort their hearts and grant them peace.

Kirby said, "We are flying our Avenue of Flags until dusk at the Chestnut Grove Cemetery. We now have 64 Casket Flags of deceased veterans who make up this inspiring tribute to those area veterans who have passed."

Town Council Member-Elect Bill McKenna said, "I lost two uncles in World War II. Veterans Day means a lot in my family".

Town Council Member Sheila Olem attended the Observance with her mother, Gracie Olem, visiting from Alabama, who talked about her family members who had served and the impact their service had on her family's life. She commented, "Several uncles, first-cousins, my brother and my husband served in WWII. So we had a lot

of our family who gave to this country which we are so thankful that we have today."

Art Anselene, Town Manager of Herndon, said, "I had family members who served. My father was in the military in WWII and he never liked to talk about it. Over the years, he always went to his army reunions, with his battalions and all, and to him it was vacation. He would talk with them, but he would never talk about the war (with us) or want to write about it".

AFTER THE OBSERVANCE, Del. Jennifer B. Boysko (D-86), said, "Seeing our people in the community, who have given their time and treasure, it's so important we give back to them and let them know how important their service has been. We are not doing enough."

Following the Observance, the Herndon Woman's Club served refreshments in the lobby of the Municipal Center. Kathy Herbert, President of Herndon Woman's Club, said, "This event is very important to our club and to me personally because of my family and their service throughout the years."

Chimney Fire Displaces 4

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Achimney fire last weekend displaced four Herndon residents from their home on the 13400 block of Lake Shore Drive in Herndon last weekend.

There were no injuries reported, but damages to the home were estimated to total \$46,875.

On Sunday, Nov. 6, at approximately 5:26 p.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department firefighters arrived and saw fire from the rear of the two-story,

single family home. They were able to bring the fire under control after approximately 12 minutes.

But the damage had been done. Red Cross assistance was offered to the home's occupants, but they declined the help.

An investigation revealed that the fire originated in the chimney that was in use and was caused by radiant heat that ignited combustible materials from its fire box.

Firefighters were able to bring the fire under control 12 minutes after arrival.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Comstock Wins 10th District Race

Hotly-contested seat targeted as a 'flip' for Democrats.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

From the outset, the race for Virginia's 10th Congressional seat attracted national attention as a possible "flip" for Democrats in their bid to gain the 30 seats they needed to win back control of the House. Democrats poured money into the race, which many pollsters considered a bellwether race in a battleground state.

But in the end, freshman Republican Barbara Comstock swiftly and handily won her first reelection bid, defeating Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett by seven percentage points Tuesday night.

Just as Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump defied the predictions of pollsters and pundits to make Virginia a narrow victory for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, Comstock defied the "swing district" predictions and comfortably defeated Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett to hold the 10th Congressional District seat.

WITH 99 PERCENT of precincts reporting by 11 p.m., Comstock had 203,995 votes (53 percent), while Bennett had 181,999 votes (47 percent).

Bolstered by the Presidential election, voter turnout greatly exceeded the roughly 223,000 votes cast when Comstock won the seat in the 2014 midterm elections.

"This win is your win," Comstock declared at a victory party in Ashburn Tuesday night to a crowd of about 200 supporters.

Ed Gillespie, a longtime Comstock sup-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Barbara Comstock spoke to hundreds of supporters in Ashburn Tuesday night after her resounding victory over Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett.

porter favored to win the GOP nomination for Virginia Governor in 2017, said Comstock won the race because no one could "outwork or outsmart" her. Comstock is known as an unflagging campaigner, who typically attends or hosts a dozen district events and meetings each week.

Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), another longtime Comstock supporter who attended Tuesday's victory party, said Comstock is committed to her constituents in a hands-on way. "They know her, and they know they can count on her," Herrity said. "She shows up. She even attended my town hall forums on heroin abuse because she knows it matters to her constituents."

But Democrats also knew that voters in the 10th Congressional District were, by and large, affluent, well-educated and likely to reject Trump. They were counting on polls

that showed educated suburban women voting against Trump and, by association, any down-ballot Republicans. In 2008 the district went blue for President Barack Obama, and – four years later – Republican candidate Mitt Romney narrowly carried the 10th.

Although Clinton defeated Trump by more than eight percentage points on Election Day in Virginia, Bennett was not able to ride her coattails to victory, indicating that many in the district split their votes between the major parties - voting for Clinton for President but for the Republican Comstock for Congress.

"I commend LuAnn Bennett and her team for a truly hard-fought race in Virginia's 10th Congressional District," said Susan Swecker, the chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA), in a statement after the race was called for Comstock.

Unofficial Election Results

Source: <http://results.elections.virginia.gov/>

PRESIDENT

Virginia Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	1,968,213	49.63%
Donald J. Trump (R)	1,765,599	44.53%
Gary Johnson (L)	118,464	2.99%
Evan McMullin (I)	53,877	1.36%
Jill Stein (G)	27,572	0.70%

Fairfax County Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	355,052	64.41%
Donald J. Trump (R)	157,820	28.63%
Gary Johnson (L)	15,654	2.84%
Evan McMullin (I)	10,383	1.88%
Jill Stein (G)	4,475	0.83%

U.S. CONGRESS

Member House of Representatives (08)

Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D)	245,480	68.3%
Charles A. Hernick (R)	98,211	27.33%
Julio Gracia (I)	14,636	4.07%

Member House of Representatives (10)

Barbara Jean Comstock (R)	210,619	52.69%
LuAnn L. Bennett (D)	187,532	46.92%

Member House of Representatives (11)

G. E. "Gerry" Connolly (D)	247,586	87.89%
Write-in	34,103	12.11%
Unopposed		

Fairfax County Meals Tax

No	291,082	53.84%
Yes	249,604	46.16%

"LuAnn brought everything to the table: a penchant for public service, a strong business record, and pragmatic solutions to the problems that face Northern Virginia. I am confident that her role as a community leader won't stop here, and I know she will continue to fight for working families in whatever she pursues next."

BENNETT told supporters in Falls Church Tuesday night that, although the results of the election were "not what we hoped," she was "so proud of the campaign we've run, and vision we've put forward for... our country."

Herndon Has High Turnout; Mayor Wins Re-Election

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel won re-election last week from an engaged town of voters.

"The election was a great experience," says Merkel. "Seeing so many people out and excited to cast their ballots ... the atmosphere was very positive and neighborly at each of the three precincts I visited."

In May 2014, Merkel won her election by 247 votes with only a 21 percent turnout of registered voters in Herndon. Last week's election was the town's first that was held in Novem-

ber.

The turnout was much better. Merkel received 5,928 votes (nearly 68 percent) while her challenger, Town Councilmember Jasbinder Singh, received 2,786 votes (nearly 32 percent). There were also 37 write-ins, according to the Virginia Board of Elections.

The town of Herndon had 12,846 registered voters as of Nov. 1, according to the Virginia Board of Elections. That means 68 percent of the voters cast a ballot for mayor.

ON ELECTION DAY, William "Bill" McKenna arrived at the Herndon No. 1 precinct's polling location at the Herndon Elemen-

tary School on Dranesville Road at 5 a.m. and didn't leave until 7 p.m.

He said about 400 people were standing and waiting in line to vote when the poll opened at 6 a.m. He earned the votes of more than 4,700 voters to win a seat on the town council's next session.

"I was flabbergasted about how many votes I got," he says. "It's humbling and flattering all at the same time."

He says he thinks that many people took the local elections seriously and that the presidential election helped encourage people to come out because turnout had been low in previous years when the council elections were in the spring.

"Still, I had someone literally tell me, 'I'm not voting for anyone on council because I don't know anything about it,'" he says.

However, those who won, he says, did make an effort to tell people.

"The people that won, we went door-to-door," he says. "In years' past, you could go to certain houses and knock on their door because you knew that they would come out and vote. Now because [the fall election for town council] was a complete unknown, we had to canvas the entire town."

From walking around town, he said people began to recognize him. He knocked on more than 2,000 houses and said that he even

lost weight because of the amount of canvassing he did in order to win his seat on the council.

"It's going to be harder to win elections because you have to get a plurality of people, but since it's harder to win, it's also going to be a more rewarding position," he says.

Merkel, who also canvassed, says that people were happy to see her at their doors and to talk with her about the direction the council was taking the town, including re-development plans that have been long in the making.

"We are excited to see our SEE TOWN COUNCIL. PAGE 5

Town Council Elections Held

FROM PAGE 4

downtown plan come to life, and I'm pleased that my positive campaign resonated with so many," says Merkel.

The 4.6-acre, town-owned downtown redevelopment site has been planned and zoned for mixed-use development with multi-family, retail, restaurant and office, public and private parking and an arts center, but plans have been unable to get official approval for years.

Now that Merkel has another two years, she would "really like to get downtown off the ground," she says. The current council shared the "same big-picture goals," but the new council will need to vote and move forward with one of the plans that have been proposed and debated.

Conversations about the redevelopment began in 2000— before Merkel was elected to any position with the town.

"I think that it will move forward," says McKenna. "You have a council that is very pro-business. I don't think anything will change on that."

Town Council Election Results

The six town council-members elected for the 2017-2018 term, according to the Virginia Board of Elections, are:

- ❖ Jennifer Baker with 5,650 votes;
- ❖ Jeffrey Davidson 4,616 votes;
- ❖ Signe Friedrichs with 3,959 votes;
- ❖ William "Bill" McKenna with 4,764 votes;
- ❖ Sheila Olem with 4,850; and
- ❖ Grace Han Wolf with 4,977 votes.

Baker, Olem and Wolf currently serve on the 2014-2016 town council, while Councilmember Stevie Mitchell did not run for re-election. The incumbents who lost re-election are:

- ❖ Connie Hutchinson with 3,918 votes;
- ❖ David "Dave" Kirby with votes 3,377; and
- ❖ Ronald Taylor with 2,486 votes.

There were also 681 write-ins, according to the Virginia Board of Elections.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING on other developments.

Herndon's new Washington Metro Area Transit Authority metro station is expected to be operational by 2020.

While the station is visibly rising from the ground, the town will also need to implement a redevelopment plan for roughly 38 acres immediately north of the station.

In the meantime, Merkel says her election opponent graciously congratulated her.

"I appreciate his service to the

town," she says.

Although town tradition is such that the council-member with the highest number of votes is named vice mayor, that will ultimately be the decision by vote of the new council, so there is no official vice mayor designation at this point, says Anne Curtis, the town's chief communications officer.

The 2017-2018 mayor and town council—including new council-members Davidson, Friedrichs and McKenna— will assume office on Jan. 1, 2017.



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On Braddock Rd, next to Stone Middle School

Holiday Craft Fair & Bazaar
Saturday Dec 3, 2016

9am to 2pm Free Admission!
Hand-Made Crafts, Baked Goods,
Holiday Items, Art, Merchants and Jewelry!
BBQ Lunch served 11-2pm
www.saintandrewlc.org



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Herndon Community Center

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OPINION

Holidays Are for Giving

Give thanks and share locally; tens of thousands of families in Fairfax County are in need.

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

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

More than 52,000 children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's 28 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools. (Nearly 7 percent of students in FCPS live below the poverty line, a harrowing \$24,000 for a family of four.)

All of these are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

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

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Where to Give Locally

❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.

Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Sign up by Nov. 17 for Gifts for Kids, Alacia Earley at 571-323-9568 or alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org.

“Moving Beyond Homelessness”

Housewarming Baskets: Last year Cornerstones helped 52 families and 84 individuals leave the Embry Rucker Shelter and homelessness. A housewarming basket is a welcome gift for a family moving beyond homelessness as they settle into their new home. Baskets can be delivered to the Cornerstones administrative office during business hours.

Include any of these new items in a laundry basket or large box to help our neighbors on their path to stability: Inflatable air mattress with pump; twin size, and double size “bed in a bag;” pillows; laundry basket; hangers; bathroom towels; vacuum; broom/dust pan; pot/pan kitchen starter set; silverware, cooking utensils, and glasses/cups;

kitchen towels; dishes; cookbook; can opener; toilet paper; paper towels; cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, toilet brush and cleaner, disinfecting spray); tool kit; fire extinguisher; First Aid kit; standing floor lamps; light bulbs; gift cards (Grocery store, Target, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Home Depot, gas station, etc.) For more information, contact Nate King at 571-323-9569 or Nate.King@cornerstonesva.org.

Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet

distributed over 5,500 winter coats and jackets last winter, plus over 4,000 hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to individuals and families in need of winter gear. Bring coat donations to the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190 through Feb. 16, 2017, 24 hours a day.

The Closet is accepting donations of new and clean, gently used coats and jackets, as well as new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Deliver any time to the 24-hour drop box at the Community Room of the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190.

❖ **SHARE** of McLean operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families (630-plus people) this year. Each family will receive a grocery gift card in November along with a bag filled with pantry staples and traditional items. In December, our families will be welcomed to a festive party, served a light meal, and Santa will travel all the way from the North Pole to take photographs with the children. Each person will receive a “wish” gift and families will be given a grocery gift card, a bag filled with toiletries, and a jug of laundry detergent. Help us help our neighbors in need by fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Contact Chris Wilbur at ShareWishes@gmail.com for more information. Visit www.shareofmclean.org for more info about Share.

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and much more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.

❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, and needs volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.

❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate online or via check payable to “NVFS” with “Operation Turkey” on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family

Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Gifting for Families was able to bring some extra holiday cheer to more than 2,000 children in Northern Virginia last year. Monetary contributions and online donations help the most at www.nvfs.org. www.nvfs.org/holidayprograms. Or donate toys. New toys for children of all ages are needed to stock our Toy Closet. (If possible, shop for infants/toddlers or teens, as these age groups can be overlooked.) Drop off on Monday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 13939 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. Alternative House provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent. www.thealternativehouse.org.

❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.

❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Join Britepaths at Wine & Wonderment, Nov. 30, at 2941 Restaurant britepaths.org

❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.

❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. www.foodforothers.org

❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families during this holiday season. Consider making a basket or “adopting” Christmas wishes this year to help a neighbor. More information about LCAC's holiday program can be found at <http://lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/>. Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at <http://lortonaction.org> or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William

SEE GIVE LOCALLY. PAGE 16

Oak Hill & Herndon
CONNECTION

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**Published by
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com**

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

Fallon Forbush
Reporter
fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com

Ryan Dunn
Contributing Writer
[@rdunnmedia](https://twitter.com/rdunnmedia)

Kyle Kincaid
Editorial Assistant
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

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

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

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
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
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

From left: Herndon HS senior Allie Kassraie with Herndon's new drama director Raphael Schklowsky, and HHS senior Raleigh Hampson. The fall drama production will be the classical comedy, "The Inspector General" by Gogol.

Herndon Drama Produces 'The Inspector General'

End of year productions in Herndon.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

"The Inspector General" by Nikolai Gogol will be produced at Herndon High School. The classic, comedic satire will be the first Herndon production for new drama director, Raphael Schklowsky. Schklowsky has more than 20 years of acting experience and high quality arts instruction, and a Master's degree from The City College of New York in Educational Theatre. "I am really excited to share the work we have been doing," said Schklowsky.

The production has a cast of 40 students, not including the tech crew. "My goal was to be as inclusive as possible, and this is material I know very well," said Schklowsky. As the new school drama teacher, Schklowsky has been impressed by the support and resources available, as well as the community diversity in Herndon. Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Schklowsky took the opportunity to study at Moscow Art Theater, where Chekhov's classic plays were staged.

In the play, corrupt officials of a small Russian town, headed by the Mayor, react with terror to news that an incognito inspector will arrive to investigate them. Playing the Mayor is HHS senior Allie Kassraie.

Holiday Events at Herndon High

Herndon HS will host a 3rd annual holiday vendor sale Saturday, Nov. 19, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Herndon HS Cafeteria. Tuesday, Dec. 6, HHS will host its Winter Choir Concert, 7:30 - 10 p.m. at the HHS Auditorium. Members of HHS Band will be at the annual Herndon Tree Lighting on Saturday, Dec. 3, 3:30-5:30 p.m. The HHS Band Winter Concert is scheduled on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

"This is a lot different from other past productions, I've never done a classical Russian play before," said Kassraie.

There is a report that a suspicious person has arrived from Saint Petersburg. That person is not an inspector; it is Khlestakov, a civil servant with a wild imagination.

Playing Khlestakov is senior Raleigh Hampson. "This is a lot different from other past productions," said Hampson. He describes new drama director Schklowsky as being very professional, but ready to connect with the students on a personal basis. Herndon High School is a four-year, fully accredited public school that serves approximately 2,200 students from the Herndon, Reston and Great Falls area. For more information on Herndon Drama and productions, visit www.herndon drama.org.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

ONGOING

Thanksgiving Food Drive with Reston Community Center
Friday, November 4 - Tuesday, November 22 In support of the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive for local families and individuals served by Cornerstones, Reston Town Center is collecting donations of non-perishable food in building lobby boxes. To find a donation site near you check out the Bulletin listing in the Reston or Herndon Edition of the Connection Newspapers or visit: restoncommunitycenter.com

Food Drive with Drop Off Locations for Non-perishable and other Food Items November 1 - 21

Reston Community Center once again joins the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Cornerstones to help families in need. Patrons, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food and other items from November 1 - 21 at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods and Lake Anne facilities, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, as well as a variety of other drop-off points throughout the community.

Through the Eye of the Needle Quilt Show Oct. 31 - Nov. 28. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Plaza, 2609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. The Cotting Quilters, an active Reston group who focuses on traditional and modern designs, presents its first quilt show. The exhibition, with no hard and fast rules, features full sized quilts, art quilts, wall hanging, table runners and other fabric art. A reception will take place on Sunday November 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Email ablowsen@gmail.com for more information.

College Night Skate, Rock N Skate, Cartoon Skate at the Ice Skating Pavilion

Every Thursday, 6 - 9 p.m. - Every Friday, 8 - 10 p.m.

Skate Shop, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston Town Center. 11900 Market Street. Receive \$2 off admission with valid college ID. Live DJ & music, games & prizes; skating continues until 11 pm. Share the ice with Scooby-Doo, Cat in the Hat and more. 703-709-6300 skating@restontowncenter.com restontowncenter.com/skating

Ice Skating in the Pavilion 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. open daily, November until March

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

Turkey Trot 5k Race. Registration 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Herndon



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins rode an antique fire truck in the 2014 Reston Holiday Parade at Reston Town Center. This year's Reston Holiday Parade begins Friday Nov. 25 at 11 a.m. There will be Macy's-style balloons, musicians, dancers, antique cars, characters, community groups, dignitaries, special guest emcees, and more. The celebration takes place at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Reston Holiday Parade on Market Street, tree lighting at Fountain Square. Rain or shine.

Community Center Gym 814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon, VA 20170. Race begins at 4 p.m. Runners and walkers get ready for a 5K trail

course at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. www.herndon-va.gov/recreation

Meet the Author: Aaron Roy Even



The Herndon Community Center at 814 Ferndale Avenue will be the scene of a number of holiday happenings, including a large Arts and Crafts Fair and a Holiday Storybook Holiday Celebration. The Arts and Crafts Fair takes place Sunday Dec. 4 from 10 - 4 p.m. Admission is free. the Storybook Holiday Celebration will be held on Saturday Dec. 17 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$9 per child and includes craft projects, a visit with Santa and a reading of a holiday story by a special guest.

at 2:00 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Join the author as he discusses his new book, "He Comes In Fire," a gripping crime thriller set in a small Virginia community. Books available for sale and signing.

Reservations: 703-925-8250 opentable.com/tavern-64

THURSDAY/NOV. 24

Seasonal Thanksgiving Buffet at Tavern64 11 - 6 p.m. They will be serving their full seasonal Thanksgiving buffet spread. \$54 per person, \$27 children 12 and under.

FRIDAY/NOV. 25, 2016

26th Annual Reston Holiday Parade. 11 a.m. with Macy's-style balloons, musicians, dancers, antique cars, characters, community groups, dignitaries, special guest emcees, and much more. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Reston Holiday Parade on Market Street, tree lighting at Fountain Square. Rain or shine. <https://>



Roberta Thole's show includes paintings from her four decades as a professional artist.

Roberta Thole Presents 'Then and Now' at Reston Art Gallery & Studios

Roberta Thole presents "Then and Now" on exhibit now through Dec. 1. All are welcome to visit the working studio to see the display during weekend gallery hours, or by appointment, or by chance at Reston Art Gallery & Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston.

Along with new works, Thole says this show will include paintings from her four decades as a professional artist. For more information call RAGS at 703-481-8156, find it on Facebook, and visit RestonArtGallery.com.

Roberta Thole's contemporary and abstract works visually contain times past and present, with imagery and ideas of Greco-Roman antiquity. Known for her use of copper and fresco, her canvases are richly textured with geometric and architectural elements resembling ancient walls and ruins, resulting in a range of timeless, complex works. Her strong interest in classical symbolism was developed in her collegiate teaching

background in art history, humanities, and drawing. Find more information about Roberta Thole on RestonArtGallery.com.

Upcoming at Reston Art Gallery & Studios

The November show at RAGS will be followed by "Holiday Sparkle." Reception: Saturday, Dec. 10, 2—4 p.m. Exhibit: Dec. 2 through Jan. 19. The annual show of seasonal works by all nine of the artists of RAGS runs Dec. 2

www.restontowncenter.com/

Visits & Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus

12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. next to Skate Shop. Donations for a 5 x 7 portrait benefit South Lakes High School Chorus.

Mini-Train Rides 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. Departures on Market Street next to Talbots. Donations benefit Cornerstones. <https://www.restontowncenter.com/>

Conservatory Ballet Performance 5 p.m. Fountain Square Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. The Nutcracker's Land of the Snow dance will be performed by Conservatory Ballet Repertoire des Etoiles in front of the huge Christmas tree.

Tree Lighting & Sing-Along 6 pm, Fountain Square Reston Town Center 11900 Market St.

See Santa and Mrs. Claus magically light up the Christmas tree, followed by a holiday sing-along with The Reston Chorus.

Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride, 6:30 - 10 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. Departures on Market Street next to Talbots. \$5 per person, children 5 and under ride free. All proceeds benefit Volunteer Fairfax.

Gingerbread Village at the Hyatt Regency Reston Reston Town Center, 1800 Presidents St, Reston. A holiday tradition since 1990, on display all season in the main lobby.

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. Handcrafted items and fine art will be on sale. Including wreaths, quilts, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, photography and stained glass. www.herndon-va.gov.

Book Sale 1 p.m. Reston Regional Library 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston, VA 20190. Start your shopping early. Come browse and buy - we have lots of gift-quality books. Call 703-689-2700 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rr/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 17.

A Storybook Holiday Celebration. 10-11:30 a.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue, Herndon. Bring your child to enjoy some holiday fun. Cost includes craft projects, a visit with Santa and a reading of a holiday story by a special guest. \$9/child.

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR.
PAGE 10

through Jan. 19. All are welcome to the Dec. 10 reception to enjoy complimentary refreshments, meet the artists, and enjoy the exhibit of fine art and hand-made jewelry, all available for purchase.

Reston Art Gallery & Studios (RAGS) is located at 11400 Washington Plaza, Reston.

General Hours: Saturdays, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.; Sundays, 12 until 5 p.m. Weekdays, by chance or appointment. Children's Art Workshops - free, themed art classes for children, ages 3 - 11 years Saturdays, 10 a.m. until noon.

For more information call RAGS at 703-481-8156, find it on Facebook, and visit RestonArtGallery.com
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY TONY DE LA PAZ

Classical Ballet Theatre to Present Classic Nutcracker

Experience the magic of Classical Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker. Performed at the 520-seat Ernst Theater, this holiday classic includes all of the stunning costumes, dancing, and enchantment necessary to bring Clara's dream to life. Join Clara for a mischievously fun family holiday party, an epic battle between the Mouse King and Nutcracker, and a captivating journey with her Nutcracker Prince.

Saturday, Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. at Ernst Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. More Information: <http://www.cbtnva.org/nutcracker>



PHOTO BY KATIE DE LA PAZ

Children enjoy being photographed with dancers.

Introducing Children to Nutcracker

Introduce your young child to the performing arts with Children's Series Nutcracker. Launched in 2010-2011 as part of Classical Ballet Theatre's mission to bring art into community, our Children's Series Nutcracker is a condensed version of the popular holiday classic. This production with stunning costumes and beautiful choreography is perfect for toddlers and preschoolers as well as their families. Children delight in the

approximately 40-minute performance followed by a short question and answer session and memorable photographs with dancers. Invite your friends and bring your camera for after the show.

Performances Saturday, Nov. 19 and Sunday, Nov. 20 at noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. at

Classical Ballet Theatre, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. More Information: <http://www.cbtnva.org/childrensseries>

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November 23, 2016, at 7:30 PM

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NEWS

Opportunity Neighborhood Launches in Reston

Event signifies community commitment to making opportunity a reality for children, youth and families.

A motivated audience of Reston-area residents, nonprofits, schools, county programs, businesses, faith organizations and elected officials gathered at South Lakes High School to launch the Reston Opportunity Neighborhood (“RestON”) movement.

RestON is a commitment by community partners to work together in a focused and strategic way to improve outcomes for children, youth and families. Whether it is in areas of health, or being ready and prepared for school, feeling safe in our home and community, or having a plan for graduation and beyond—Opportunity Neighborhood helps our community identify the priorities and work together toward that change.

“Opportunity Neighborhood is a framework adopted by Fairfax County to enable communities like ours to look at the concerns, data, performance and assets, decide what is most important to us, and to bring together the people and institutions that can change that picture. This helps our community identify the priorities and work together toward that change. No single organization, business or person can accomplish the task of long-term social change for youth and families on its own. We all do better when we all do better,” said Supervisor Hudgins.

♦ Andy Sigle, South Lakes High School PTSA President (event emcee)

♦ Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill District (planning partner)

♦ Douglas Tyson, Assistant Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools (planning partner)

♦ Greg White, Chief Operating Officer, Cornerstones (partner and facilitator)

♦ Leila Gordon, Executive Director, Reston Community Center (planning partner and launch sponsor)

Greg White, COO at Cornerstones, shared with the crowd, “This collaboration provides the opportunity to understand what is happening in our community, see where we are not measuring up—or where there is unequal access to opportunity, and then set goals together to help change that picture for all children and youth. I know personally and professionally the importance of community in reaching young people and offering them chances and choice in their lives. If it hadn’t been for mentors in my life—I was headed down a path that others had prescribed for me. Now, we want to do the same in our community.”

Fairfax County established the “Opportunity Neighborhood” initiative to encourage neighborhoods to get involved in building and sustaining a thriving community. RestON is one of two active “Opportunity Neighborhood” communities in Fairfax County to date. By bringing communities together to address goals for all children, the initiative coordinates existing efforts to maximize their impact, helps build a strong academic foundation for every child, enhances family resilience and involves families and the larger community in a culture of engagement, connectedness and success.

Information about RestON: An Opportunity Neighborhood can be found at www.cornerstonesva.org/rest-on, or by emailing ON@cornerstonesva.org or calling 571.323.9555. For information about the Fairfax County Opportunity Neighborhood Initiative, see http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/prevention/opportunity_neighborhoods.htm

Deer Feeding Ban Is In Effect

Many residents enjoy seeing white-tailed deer up close and may feel they are contributing to the animal’s welfare by providing supplemental food. Unfortunately, feeding deer can have unintended negative consequences and often does more harm than good. Feeding deer can lead to nutritional problems, increased habitat damage where high density herds are concentrated, dangerous encounters when animals lose their natural fear of humans and feeding can facilitate the spread of diseases among wildlife that congregate in feeding areas. Not only do wildlife officials recommend against feeding deer, it is against the law to feed deer in Fairfax County for the majority of the year — according to FCPD Bureau of Public Affairs.

Feeding deer for any reason is illegal statewide within Virginia from Sept. 1 to the first Saturday in January (4VAC15-40-285). Further, it is illegal to feed deer in any city, town, or county during any deer or elk hunting season. Effectively,

this means it is illegal to feed deer in Fairfax County from Sept. 1 through the last Sunday in April to coincide with the deer hunting season. The feeding ban applies to both public lands and private properties within the Commonwealth.

The feeding ban restricts the placement or distribution of any food, salt, mineral or similar substances for any purpose if the placement of these materials results in the attraction of and/or feeding of deer.

If anyone suspects someone of illegally feeding deer during this time period, or observes any violations, they are asked to please report it to DGIF’s Wildlife Crime Line at 1-800-237-5712 or email WildCrime@dgif.virginia.gov.

For additional information on managing wildlife interactions and resolving human-wildlife conflicts, the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline is available toll-free at 855-571-9003, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This helpline is a collaborative effort between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services.

PEOPLE

Lily Siegel Appointed Executive Director and Curator of the GRACE

The Board of Directors for the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) announced the appointment of Lily Siegel as the Center’s Executive Director and Curator. She will start on Dec. 5. The appointment comes at an important time in the Center’s history, as it builds out its Destination GRACE vision of becoming an even more robust cultural institution in the DC metropolitan region, coinciding with the arrival of the Metrorail’s Silver Line.

“GRACE is a strong regional voice well poised for national impact. Together with the terrific Board of Directors and staff, I will promote that development through a robust exhibition program that includes local and international artists shown side-by-side,” Siegel said. “We will expand the scope of educational programing, both in regional schools and in the gallery, by emphasizing the promotion of art to enrich community. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival will continue to grow by broadening the opportunities for artists and the public to get involved.”

Siegel received her BA (Visual Arts: History and Criticism) from the University of California San Diego and her MA (Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism) from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). She began her career as a curatorial assistant at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, followed by tenures as the Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the High Museum in Atlanta and then as the Associate Curator at The Contemporary Jewish Museum (The CJM) in San Francisco. Since moving to Washington, D.C., just over a year ago, she has continued her relationship with The CJM as a guest curator for the exhibition From Gen-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Lily Siegel

a Curatorial Fellowship from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

“Lily has already achieved a great deal in her young career, which speaks to her special talents,” said Robert Goudie, GRACE Board Chair. “She brings outstanding academic achievement, a passion for contemporary art, a demonstrated ability to raise money for and manage significant projects, and a national perspective, relationships, and experiences. She’s exactly the right person to lead us forward in our determination to become an even more impactful presence in the metropolitan area’s visual arts landscape. We could not be more excited to have her assuming the leadership of the organization.”

“I am honored by this opportunity and look forward to getting to work. The chance to lead this dynamic period of growth and extend GRACE’s already well-established reputation for quality is a compelling combination for me,” said Siegel. “GRACE has a rich history in the community. As the community grows—with the coming of Metrorail and extension of the DC metro area—so will GRACE.”

David Clark poses for a photo after being recognized as a member of the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band. Only 125 high school marching band members among the millions in the United States are selected.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



David Clark Recognized As a Member of the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl presented by American Family Insurance Selection Tour visited South Lakes High School to recognize David Clark as a member of the 2017 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band, honoring this student before his fellow band members, classmates, friends and family during a special recognition event.

The U.S. Army All-American Marching Band performs each year at halftime of the nation-

ally-broadcasted U.S. Army All-American Bowl. By becoming a U.S. Army All-American, Clark is joining an elite group. Only 125 high school marching band members among the millions in the United States are selected. Band members are chosen not just because they excel musically, but because they are mentally and physically agile, they know the importance of teamwork, and they are able to adapt to challenging situations, similar to U.S. Army Soldiers.

COMMUNITY

Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race to Be Held Saturday, Nov. 19

Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon.

Runners and walkers will face a fun 5K trail course, which winds around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Packet pick-up and race day registration run from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Long-sleeved Sport Tek T-shirts guaranteed to the first 900 pre-registered runners. Shirts must be picked up the day of the race. Shirts will not be available after race day. Refreshments, entertainment and door prizes will be available after the race to all runners.

Preregistration ends on Friday, Nov. 18 at noon. Race day registration is from 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. in the Herndon Community Center Gym. Strollers, bikes and dogs are not permitted to participate in the race. Runners of all ages are welcome to compete and prizes will be awarded to winners male and female in the following age groups: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 & over. Overall male and female winners will be given a Thanksgiving turkey with all the trimmings. Registration is currently available at the Herndon Community Center and online at <http://herndon-va/events> and www.active.com.

Cost: Pre-Registration: \$30 for Adults (Age 19 & Up) + Can of food; \$20 for Youth (Age 18 & Under) + Can of food. Pre-registration ends at noon on Nov. 18.

Race Day Registration: \$35 for Adults (Age 19 & Up) + Can of food; \$20 for Youth (Age 18 & Under) + Can of food. Race day registration is limited and will end at 3:30 p.m. All food will be donated to LINK.



Runners and walkers will face a fun 5K trail course, which winds around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Registrations are currently being accepted for the Herndon Turkey Trot.



2016

Gifts for KIDS

Drive

Request a child's wish list by Nov. 18th!

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Financial hardship and homelessness are hard on children and the holiday season can be especially difficult. For families in need, often there isn't enough money to spend on gifts. With your support, our youngest neighbors can have a fulfilling and memorable holiday.

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PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

The 1K Fun Runners gather at the starting line and wait for their 8:05 a.m. start, five minutes after the 5K race began.



Julian Jackson, 6, of Fairfax nears the finish line. He was the first to finish the 1K Fun Run. He, his mother Maia McCuiston and his brother Daniel Jackson, 9, ran in memory of his grandfather, Frederick McCuiston, Jr., who was a veteran of the Air Force.

Region Races For 'Team Red, White & Blue'

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

More than 600 people from all over the greater Washington area braved 30-degree weather on Sunday morning to salute veterans and members of the military by running in Dominion Consulting's Third Annual Veterans Day 5K.

The Reston organization partnered with Potomac River Running to host the race at the Fairfax Corner shopping center.

Keith Freeburn, 42, of Centreville was the first male to finish the 3.1-mile race in 17 minutes and 50 seconds, while Eryn Caton, 34, of Falls Church crossed the finish line in 19 minutes and 12 seconds, according to Commonwealth Race Management.

A smaller crowd also ran or walked in the event's 1K Fun Run.

Julian Jackson, 6, of Fairfax was the first to finish. He, his mother Maia McCuiston

and his brother Daniel Jackson, 9, ran in memory of his grandfather, Frederick McCuiston, Jr., who was a veteran of the Air Force.

"We have a few causes that we support, one being veterans," says Scott Gold, a senior manager for Dominion Consulting, Inc.

His organization regularly supports the Fisher House Foundation, a network of homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving medical treatment, and Our Military Kids, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides grants to children of service members. The children of parents who were wounded or killed while serving in any branch of the military and children who have parents who are deployed National Guardsman or reservists in the Army Reserve are eligible for the grants, which fund activities that help kids cope with the associated stress and anxiety.

Sunday's race was all about helping a



Isabella Back, 17, warms up for the race by jogging back and forth. A senior at Herndon High School, Back received a four-year scholarship to join the Navy ROTC when she graduates. She hopes to attend Yale University. She finished the race in 26 minutes and 37 seconds.



Eryn Caton, 34, of Falls Church breaks the finish line tape with a 19-minute-and-12-second-finish. She was the fastest female of the race.



Christopher Scalia, 40, of Fairfax stretches before the race. He ran for his brother who serves in the Army and finished in 20 minutes and 46 seconds.

third organization that also provides distraction therapy. Donations from participants and proceeds from registration fees will benefit Team Red, White & Blue.

Team RWB's official mission is to enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity. This is because the national organization's founders noticed that service members tended to stick to themselves when they returned from deployment, according to Michael Lynch, running coordinator for Team RWB's D.C. chapter.

Members of Team RWB's D.C. chapter regularly rock climb, volunteer and plan

activities that get its military and civilian members to mingle and be physically active.

"Just by getting vets out who have issues [post-traumatic stress disorder] gets them involved and gives them two hours or so to not think about those things," says Lynch, who is a veteran of the Air Force.

More than 50 of Team RWB's D.C. members ran in the race, while more than 30 volunteered to help make the event happen.

"I personally prefer helping small organizations because they need all the help they can get," says Gold, who worked at a small nonprofit organization in Atlanta, Georgia, before he started working for his technology and management consulting firm. "You really know that you're really helping."

Decking the halls, stuffing bellies

Local cooking schools offer crash courses in holiday dishes.

Ever since Bernadette Lott can remember, she's had a sweet tooth as big as a sugarcane field. Describing herself as a hard and fast confection lover of the extreme type, she thinks her predilection for all things candy-coated probably started with her grandmother, who pretended not to notice when she devoured spoonfuls of sugar while the two were baking.

"I must have been three or four, standing on a stool in the kitchen, craning my neck to see," said Lott.

In fact, baking was a hobby she honed at her grandmother's hand, which later became a practical skill. She learned that in order to satisfy her ravenous sugar cravings, be they for shiny glazed lemon tarts or gooey chocolate trifles moistened with rum, she needed to learn to bake.

"I think my first word was cake," Lott said. "I love to bake, but I also do my fair share of tasting."

It's no wonder that for Lott and other foodies, the holidays offer a chance to legitimize an obsession with baking marathons that, if done at any other time of the year, might appear to be chocolate-covered-insanity.

In response, dozens of local chefs and culinary enthusiasts are rolling out a slew of holiday cooking classes this season. Want to make your own lemon rugelach? Considering letting your children take over the gingerbread baking? Interested in assembling a buche noel? From the informal classes that Lott runs out of her Alexandria kitchen to formal cooking schools with classes taught by professional chefs, there's instruction for students at both ends of the skills spectrum.

"These cooking classes help people get into the holiday spirit," said Toni Lipe of Culinary Cooking School in Vienna, Virginia. "They learn to make things that they can wrap in paper and ribbon and give as gifts."

"The classes are filled with laughter and chatter. It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."

— Toni Lipe of Culinary Cooking School in Vienna, Virginia

Students at Culinary enter a holiday cookie paradise of softened butter, vanilla and coconut, and spend hours cutting, rolling and decorating, emerging at the end of class with boxes of rugelach, almond macaroons and other confections.

"The classes are filled with laughter and chatter," said Lipe. "It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."

In Lott's lessons, which she runs informally out of her home – students discover her through word of mouth – she demonstrates tooth-achingly rich buche de noel and fudge-filled, whiskey-soaked chocolate bundt cake recipes.

A limited class size allows her to guide students through the process, from melting chocolate over simmering water to adding a good dousing of liqueur to the mixture



Friends Terri Carr and Elaine Agran have a decades-long tradition of baking holiday cookies for friends and family.

and beating it into a fluffy batter before sliding it into the oven.

"Some of my best holiday childhood memories were baking with my family," said Lott. "I love being able to share that love with other people so that they can create their own memories."

During her lessons, students rummage through a treasure trove of cookie cutters in shapes ranging from angels and wreaths to starfish and rosebuds. After mixing flour and nutmeg with lemon zest and vanilla extract, then chilling, rolling and cutting the dough, their effort bursts forth in the form of highly spiced citrus, ginger cookies.

"I still like nibbling the cookie dough as much as I did when I was a little kid," said Claudia Yost, a recent student.

Even the youngest gourmands can add calorie-laden

joy to the world this season. Diminutive cooks-in-training use seasonal bounty to create child-friendly versions of traditional Thanksgiving fare at Tiny Chefs cooking school. They use yeast, flour and sweet potatoes to create warm, fluffy doughnuts, encased in sugar that crunch slightly to the bite.

"Cooking during the holidays, and at any time, builds memories and gives them skills that they can use when they're responsible for preparing dinners later on down the road," said Katie Raguindin of Tiny Chefs.

In the gingerbread house-making class, instructors support children's imaginations, encouraging the wackiest, most creative designs, propelled by a rainbow of colored icing and decorative candies.

There's even a gift class where they fill

mason jars with ingredients for cookie dough. The project becomes present-ready when topped with shiny bows.

"We're giving them a nice way to partici-

pate with the holiday cooking," said Raguindin.

"It's a good family activity, and they can remember for years to come that they got to cook with Mom and Dad for Christmas dinner."

Even as adults, life-long friends can relive their childhood sugarplum fantasies. At the start of the holiday season, Terri Carr and Elaine Agran gather in Carr's Potomac, Maryland, kitchen to preserve a baking tradition that spans more than three decades. For four days and four nights, the two friends lose themselves in a shrine of softened butter, flour and sugar, emerging with several thousand sugar cookies that they package and ship to friends, family and colleagues.

"We take turns. One of us sleeps while the other one bakes," said Carr, of Terri's Table, a cooking school she runs out of her home.

This year, Carr's holiday classes are focused on Thanksgiving, teaching students to make both main and side dishes, and ending with a crunchy and deeply nutty pecan pie.

At the end of her classes, Carr sets a festive table around which her apprentices gather and nosh on the fruits of their holiday labor until the last crumb is devoured.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI CARR

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Feeling a Little Better



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Just as last week's column attempted to describe the loss a surviving cancer patient feels when a fellow cancer patient succumbs to his disease, this week's column will attempt the opposite: describe the feeling a surviving cancer patient feels when a new lung cancer patients joins the club. Specifically, an individual (who I met this week, coincidentally) who exudes the kind of confidence and positive attitude necessary to endure the bumpy road ahead. Unfortunately, one doesn't always have the luxury to avoid the road/not join the club; to quote Groucho Marx: "I don't want to belong to a club that will accept me as a member." If only it were that funny - and simple.

With respect to lung cancer patients, typically a late-stage diagnosis: stage IV (there is no stage V), is heard early on the initial appointment with one's oncologist. Given that there is at present, no agreed-upon approach to screen for lung cancer and in many cases, patients are often symptom-free or experiencing discomfort not in the lungs; nor having any difficulty breathing, coughing or coughing up blood, among other symptoms, especially so for non-smokers who now represent upwards of 25 percent of new lung cancer patients, this is not uncommon. For multiple reasons then, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in this country, projected at 158,000 in 2016, as well the leading cause of new cases of cancer reported every year, projected at 225,000, "more than colon, breast and prostate cancer combined," according to cancer.org. One percent live beyond two years, according to cancer.net

Generally speaking then, one can say, with a reasonable amount of confidence, that receiving a diagnosis of lung cancer is devastating news and for a few days anyway, knocks the wind completely out of your sails, even if you don't own a sailboat. It's almost impossible, eight years post-diagnosis, to articulate exactly how I felt when a doctor (an oncologist) whom I had never met told me I had stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer and advised me I had "13 months to two years" to live (I was 54 and a half at the time and a life-long non-smoker). Out of the blue doesn't even begin to describe my reaction. Surreal, which was my general sense of what I had just heard is also a very common description, as I have likewise heard and read from other newly diagnosed cancer patients.

So you need to find help anywhere you can get it. For me, the most valuable help was/is emotional: people being supportive, encouraging, funny, unafraid to face my reality and most importantly, positive - about the negative. Don't tell me anything that I'm doing is bad. Tell me everything I'm doing is good. Minimize the negative and maximize the positive. Don't be overconfident but do be underwhelmed. Take my circumstances in stride. Don't walk quietly and don't carry a big stick. Treat me normally - in spite of my cancer, as you would had I not been so diagnosed. If I am treated in these ways, I will - and think I have become, a welcome addition to the club. Because this is a club that needs individuals to step up and fight not only for themselves but for to others as well. And if in fact what goes around comes around, I will be similarly embraced and moreover, cared for and about; and it's the strength in these numbers that will empower me to be the best cancer patient I can. And when I meet a fellow cancer patient, this how I will roll: concerned but emotionally available, serious but funny, respectful but disarming, realistic but hopeful and always positive about their negative. If I am turn treated in a similar way and the patient expresses the kind of good-in-the-locker-room type of attitude necessary for the long journey ahead, I will feel stronger and more hopeful for my own circumstances than I would have had I not met this new patient.

Cancer shouldn't be a singular pursuit. I need your help, and I'm willing to offer mine. If we help other, we'll both be better served because of it. This is not meant to be selfish, it is meant to be selfless. There is no "I" in cancer.

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

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News

Catch of the Day

Cole Loveman, 16, caught this 7 pounder on a gorgeous fall Sunday morning from a pontoon boat on Lake Anne close to the dam by Wiehle Avenue.



PHOTO BY
FRAN LOVAAIS

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ by noon on Friday.

Food Drive with Drop Off Locations for Non-perishable and other Food Items
November 1 - 21

Reston Community Center once again joins the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and Cornerstones to help families in need. Patrons, businesses, and organizations are encouraged to drop off non-perishable food and other items from November 1 – 21 at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods and Lake Anne facilities, the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, as well as a variety of other drop-off points throughout the community.

Current Drop-off Locations:

Reston Community Center HW	2310 Colts Neck Rd Reston, VA
Reston Community Center LA	1 6 0 9 A Washington Plaza Reston, VA
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce	1866 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230 Reston, VA
Access National Bank	1800 Robert Fulton Drive, Suite 105 Reston, VA
Appalachian Spring	11877 Market Street Reston, VA
Generations Family Practice	1 2 0 4 0 South Lakes Dr. #207 Reston, VA
Hunter Mill District Office	1801 Cameron Glen Drive Reston, VA
JBG/Arboretum	12700 Sunrise Valley Dr Reston, VA
JBG Wiehle	1831 1831 Wiehle Ave Reston, VA
JBG Wiehle	1861 1861 Wiehle Ave Reston, VA
JBG/RTC West	12100 Sunset Hills Road Reston, VA
JBG/The Summit	2000 Edmund Halley Drive Suite LL100 Reston, VA
LePort Montessori	1 3 2 5 1 Herndon Woodland Park Road Herndon, VA
Long & Foster Realtors	1831 1831 Wiehle Ave Reston, VA
Reston Association - HQ	12001 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA
Reston Association-CSF	12250 Sunset Hills Road Reston, VA
Reston Association-WNH	11450 Glade Drive Reston, VA
Smile Wonders	11790 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 105, Reston, VA
State Farm Insurance	11868 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 200 Reston, VA
Tall Oaks Assisted Living	12052 North Shore Drive Reston, VA
Washington Hilton Dulles	13869 Park Ctr Rd Herndon, VA
YMCA Fairfax County	12196 Sunset Hills Road Reston, VA

Items needed:

- % Heavy Duty Clear Plastic Bins (approx. size of file boxes)
- % Toilet Paper, Baby Wipes
- % Canned Fruit, Canned Meats, Condi-

ments, Cooking Oil, Canned Beans
% Peanut Butter & Jelly
% Soups, Chili, Ramen & Cup-o-Noodles
% Macaroni & Cheese, Boxed Potatoes, Bagged & Boxed Rice & Quinoa
% Coffee, Tea, etc.
% Dry Beans, Flour, Sugar, etc.
% Hygiene Items
% Milk (evaporated, condensed, dry, soy, etc.)
% Oatmeal, Pancake Mixes, Other Breakfast Items
- See more at: <http://restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/event-detail/2016/11/02/default-calendar/thanksgiving-food-drive-2016#sthash.oH0G7ZLV.dpuf>

Toy Drive in Collaboration with Nonprofit FISH Through Dec. 16

Stop by 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive any weekday from 9-4 and drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon/Reston children via the non-profit Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. Toys should be for the ages of Newborn to 16. The last day for donations is December 16. Call 703-860-4600 for more information.

ONGOING

Passages Divorce Care. Tuesdays 6:45 to 9:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 13 through Jan. 7. 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, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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OBITUARY

Mrs. Nancy Gilpin Robertson, 88, passed away quietly at her home in Reston, Virginia on Monday, November 7, 2016. She was born Nancy Arthington Gilpin on August 17, 1928 in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Her husband of 49 years, Rolfe Robertson, Jr., preceded her in death in 1999.

Nancy completed her secondary education at the Shipley school in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1945. She received a bachelor of arts degree in child psychology from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York in 1949. She lived in Fairfax, Virginia for 38 years where she raised her six children.

For the last 15 years Nancy resided at Stratford House condominiums in Reston, Virginia where she met many new and beloved friends who joined her in her love of bridge, opera, entertaining and current events. A woman of many talents and a sharp wit, Nancy was a voracious reader and lover of crossword puzzles. One of Nancy's favorite places to be was sitting oceanside on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

She often said she was lucky to be born in the greatest generation where she was fortunate enough to go from the model T to man on the moon to using the World Wide Web.

Nancy or "Baba" took tremendous pride in her family and is survived by her six children: Caroline Cross (Jack) of Manassas Virginia, Peyton Procaccini (Joe) of Easton, Maryland, Rolfe Robertson, III of Saint George Utah, Nancy Mcnerney (Marty) of McLean, Virginia, Charlotte Kettler (Bob) of McLean, Virginia and Wyndham Robertson (Buffy) of Oakton, Virginia, 21 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. A memorial service for Nancy Robertson will take place at 11 AM on Friday, November 11, 2016, at Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church, 3401 Nebraska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20016.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the charity of your choice in Nancys name.

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FROM PAGE 6

counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit <http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org>

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. <http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/>

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: jhenderson@homestretchva.org; 703-237-2035 x125; <http://homestretchva.org/volunteer/>

❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390 info@pathwayhomes.org <http://www.pathwayhomes.org> <http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/>

Volunteer Locally Through Volunteer Fairfax

❖ **Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread):** Sponsor individuals and families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area for Thanksgiving meals, December holiday meals and/or gifts for children in December. Britepaths will send you information on a person/family who meets your criteria, and you will contact them and arrange to deliver food and/or gifts. You may also donate funds to help us assist those who are not sponsored. To sponsor a family or make a donation, visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

The Holiday Project: Share the spirit of the season with The Holiday Project, a non-profit organization that organizes visits to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities during the holiday season. Bring the spirit of a holiday to those who might not otherwise have a celebration. Visits occur throughout the metropolitan area. Dates and times of visits vary by location; for more information visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Cornerstones: Volunteer to accept gifts from donors and get them ready for distribution to local families, or assist families that are picking up gifts with getting items to their car. Several shifts are available. Good for adults, families and corporate groups. Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17. Times vary. To sign-up or learn more please contact us at <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

New Hope Housing: Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday, New Hope Housing provides nearly 200 food baskets to clients living in our community housing programs. Volunteers ensure that families are able to have a special and memorable holiday. Volunteers can sign up to help by hosting a Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive, donating a food basket for a single adult or family, donating grocery store gift cards for clients to purchase turkeys (grocery stores along Route 1 are best), signing up to drop off Christmas dinner at one of our Permanent Supportive Housing sites.

<http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Sign up to help ensure that children in those families receive holiday gifts this year. You can volunteer to help by adopting a child and fulfilling his or her holiday wish list. Wish lists are available now. Donating gift cards for parents to purchase their children new clothing. Stores along Route 1 are best. Hosting a special program for the children, such as holiday card and gift making for their parents.

To sign up, fill out the following form and a member of the New Hope Housing team will respond as soon as possible <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Richard Byrd Library: Semi-annual Holiday used book sale at Richard Byrd Library in Springfield. Pre-Sale: (Nov. 28 - 30) volunteers will set up tables, organize sale area, post signs, lift/move crates of books, sort books. During Sale: (Dec. 1 - 4) volunteers will assist shoppers; restock sale items, clear sale area as

News

LINK coat drive sorting volunteers pause for a group photo.



LINK Accepts Donations to Annual Coat Drive

New and gently used winter coats will be distributed to those in need on Nov. 19.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY AMY THOMAS

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Those in need in the communities of Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn will not go without a coat if Amy Thomas has anything to do with it.

"I have no pride," she says. "I'll beg from anyone."

As coat drive coordinator for LINK, Inc., a non-profit that provides emergency food and financial assistance to people in need, Thomas is leading the organization's sixth annual Thanksgiving coat drive.

Every year, LINK's Holiday Program aims to provide all of its needy families with a week's worth of non-perishable food and a winter coat in November and a week's worth of non-perishable food and a toy for each child in December.

LINK is now collecting new and gently used winter coats. They will be distributed to those in need on Nov. 19 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church at 651 Dranesville Road in Herndon, and the Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church at 46833 Harry Byrd Highway in Sterling.

Those wishing to donate can deliver coats to the Sterling United Methodist Church at 304 E. Church Road from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. until Friday, Nov. 18.

"When my kids started elementary school, I started noticing," Thomas says. "It broke my heart to see kids who couldn't help themselves, and had no winter clothing."

Last year, the coat drive provided 2,900 used winter coats, gloves and mittens to 400 families.

Anyone within the LINK service area of Herndon, Sterling and Ashburn are eligible to call and request an appointment.

"We make every effort to get a coat to everyone who needs one," Thomas says. "We also take walk-ins after 1 p.m. on the day of the drive."



LINK's coat drive allows those in need to browse for a gently-used coat of their choice.

It brightens her day and makes her feel good to see kids come in and pick out their own coat and gloves, she says.

"There weren't as many hats and gloves when we started," she says.

She recalls having to limit gloves. "Parents would have the impossible task of picking which kids went without," she says. "Now I can give out gloves with all of our coats."

Thomas isn't sure how many families will show up this year, but her personal goal is to reach out to as many places she can to spread the word.

Thomas contacts local schools each year to ask for help collecting coats and winter apparel, including Herndon High School. Often, she says, the schools will come back to her and tell her that they may have students in need.

"It's always worked out where we have enough," she says.

She recalls one year when they were almost out of kids coats. "A lady from the Rainbow Station at Haymarket daycare center [in Gainesville] showed up last minute with more donations," she says.

"Maybe one school brought one box, but it leads to bigger results," she says. "If everyone does a little, it makes a huge difference."