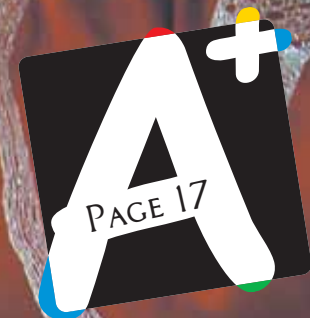


HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



McLean CONNECTION



Comstock Wins 10th District Race

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Henry Pruitt, 6-months-old, meets Santa Claus for the first time while his parents, Army Sgt. James Pruitt and Jackie Pruitt, watch.

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PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

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NEWS



From right — Army Infantryman Robert Murafsky, Saylor Murafsky, 5, Finley Murafsky, 3, and Alison Murafsky take a family portrait with Santa Claus.



(From left) Isabella Bengtson, 18-months-old, was nervous to meet Santa Claus for the first time so her photo had to be taken while photographers sang Wheels on the Bus. Mother Kellie Bengtson and father Ivan Bengtson, a soldier with the Army Special Forces, were thankful to Santa's helpers for cooperating.

Santa HQ Opens at Tysons

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Service members and their families were the first to see Santa Claus at his new workshop in McLean.

Tysons Corner Center's Santa HQ, by television station HGTV, opened in the mall on Veterans Day. As a thank you to military families, service members were invited to bring their kids to see Santa at a private event the night before it opened.

"What better way to say thank you to those who have served and our military families than to bring them Santa Claus?" says Becca Willcox, spokeswoman for Tysons Corner Center. "We're lucky to have him here so early."

Photo packages with Santa Claus start at \$34.99, but military families received complimentary photographs during the two-hour event.

"It's the most festive way we could think of to say thank you for their tireless sacrifice for our country," says Willcox.

Families from all over northern Virginia came to see the big guy.

"Santa HQ reached out to us and donated this time slot free for our families," says Joseph Alotto, a spokesman for the Wounded Warrior Project, a national nonprofit organization that provides programs, services and events for wounded veterans of the military.

"We try and reach out to not only veterans, but also family members," says Alotto. "We're about bringing the family together, especially around Veterans Day."

Army Staff Sgt. Amie McClintic and her daughter Faith McClintic, 7, were one of the first people in line to see Santa.

"I try and look for family-oriented events

Santa Claus makes special stop for service members.

so Faith can interact with other military kids," says McClintic. Between her and her two brothers, they have been deployed six times to Kuwait and Iraq.

While Faith was on Santa's lap, she asked him for a bracelet. She was very specific in asking for a Grace's Bracelet for Girls by American Girl.

Little did she know that her wish would come true so soon.

She and her mother had to come back through the line when they realized that their photo did not print correctly. Like magic, Santa had the bracelet for her when



Marine Corps Sgt. Zach Cooke takes an "ELFIE" while holding his son Zachary, Jr.



Althea Miedzinski, 9 (left), and her sister Zaira Miedzinski, 7 (right), show Santa Claus their wish list.

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



Army Sgt. David Fernandez holds his son Michael Fernandez, 4, who is next in line to see Santa Claus.

she came back to retake the photo.

Santa HQ features interactive technology that is integrated into the experience. Children are "scanned" as they arrive to determine if they've been "naughty or nice" and enter an observatory where they can use touch-screen tablet computers to view hidden elements of Santa's magical world and take "ELFIES," an elf selfie.

Participants were encouraged to bring unwrapped and unopened toys to donate to Homestretch, a nonprofit in Falls Church that works with housing insecure families that are at risk of homelessness. The toy drive is part of Tysons Corner Center's Help Through Holiday Giving campaign, which has a goal of gathering and distributing 1,000 toys for needy families.

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 unflinching 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."



PHOTO BY DON HUTZEL

Churchill Road alumni Oscar Tidd and Daniel Lian, along with parents Sarah Collett and K.J.Lian, volunteered their time to clean up the Churchill Road school grounds on Saturday, Oct. 30.

Scouts, Alumni Help Clean Up School Grounds

On Saturday, Oct. 30 members of Cub Scout Pack 665 turned out in force to support an environmental stewardship service project at Churchill Road Elementary School in McLean. The Scouts helped Don Hutzel, Churchill Road Principal, tackle some grounds keeping tasks and fall clean up on the school grounds. More than 15 families across all Pack 665 Dens lent their labor to the service project. Eighth graders and Scouts and their families helped weed flower beds, rake leaves, tackle the mountain of mulch by moving it from the lot to the beds, and making the labyrinth beautiful again.

Churchill Road alumni Daniel Lian and Oscar Tidd, now eighth graders at Longfellow Middle School, also helped with environmental stewardship activities. Along with parents K.J. Lian and Sarah Collett (who is also the chair of the PTA Fix It Committee), the students were able to make lots of progress cleaning the beds near the playground.



Cub Scout Pack 665 members, and Churchill Road students Magnus Avondolio, Aden Clarke-Mace, Max Avondolio, Ragu Rana, Justin Grant and Ryan Meyers weeded one of the landscaped walkways by the modular classrooms.

PHOTO BY KRISTI WEST

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Kirby Road Sidewalk in Three Years

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Two preliminary designs for new sidewalk on Kirby Road connecting pedestrians to Chesterbrook Elementary School were presented to the community on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at a public meeting in the school's cafeteria.

The final design will be completed in 2017, land required for the projects will be acquired in 2018 and construction will start and finish in 2019.

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation's projects will construct new curb, gutter, sidewalks and drainage improvements along two blocks on the south side of Kirby Road. The walkways would stretch from the elementary school to Halsey Road and from Halsey Road to Franklin Avenue.

While the projects will take three more years, residents have already been asking for sidewalks for years because it isn't safe for students to walk to school without them.

"We are so excited for the sidewalks," says Karen Caruth, mother of Cleary Caruth who is in the first grade at the elementary school. "It's too dangerous now. People drive too fast and there's a big ditch."

John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor, who attended the meeting, agrees that the "pedestrian situation is dangerous."

Some children do walk, but they're usually with parents, says Bob Fuqua, who has been the principal of the Chesterbrook Elementary School for the last 18 years. "Every child has a bus route, not everyone takes the bust but they have one to ride."

Once there are sidewalks, Fuqua says he will reconsider the bus routes. But that won't be for several more years.

"If sidewalks were easy, it would have been done a long time ago," says Foust.

The Virginia legislature passed a transportation funding bill in 2013, which created more funding, says Foust. "We did a six-year planning process for how to spend and prioritize the funding and these sidewalks came up to high priority."

The challenge now for these projects is that space is tight and the walkways will run off of the county's right-of-ways and into residential property that will require easements and land acquisition from homeowners.

"The county's right-of-way is inadequate in some areas," says Latesa Turner, project manager and engineer for the FCDDT. "We will work with property owners to come up with an amenable agreement."

Since space is so limited, one of FCDDT's preliminary plans would stray from its standard walkway design that requires five-foot wide sidewalks and 4-foot wide grass buffers, says Turner.

Instead, the sidewalks would be six-foot wide with no buffers.

"We will pursue [this option], unless VDOT deems it unjustifiable," says Turner.

The county also has a second preliminary design that uses typical sidewalk standards.

"We removed the buffer in order to remove impact to adjacent properties," says Turner. "We would need a waiver from typical design from the Virginia Department of Transportation."



Latesa Turner, project manager and engineer for the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, explains one of the preliminary project designs to Bob Fuqua, the principal of the Chesterbrook Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



(From right) Karen Caruth, mother of first-grader Cleary Caruth, thanks Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust, and Bob Fuqua, the school's principal, for making progress on the sidewalk projects. Foust told Cleary to email him photos of her riding her bike on the sidewalks once they are finished.



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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW REID

Abby Covington and Anthony Salazar in TheatreMcLean's production of 'Don't Drink the Water.'

TheatreMcLean Presents 'Don't Drink the Water'

McLean High School's award-winning theatre company, TheatreMcLean, presents Woody Allen's hilarious slapstick comedy "Don't Drink the Water." Playing for one weekend only, Nov. 18-20, at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean.

Greetings from behind the Iron Curtain. Travel back to 1960s Communist Europe as the incompetent Axel Magee tries to run the United States Embassy in his mother's absence. After a family of Jersey tourists, the Hollanders, are cornered for illegal photography

and chased down by the Communist police, they find refuge in Axel's outpost. The Hollanders have the privilege of meeting a temperamental chef, a crazy nun, and several other characters they could have gone without. Can the Hollanders safely escape before Magee finds a way to run the embassy into the ground? Come see TheatreMcLean's laugh-riot production of "Don't Drink the Water" by Woody Allen.

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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

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LETTERS

Let Students Observe Veterans Day

To the Editor:

As my Fairfax County High School student was heading off to class on Nov. 11, I realized that Fairfax County Public Schools DO NOT observe Veterans Day as a National Holiday nor have they for quite some time.

As a product of the Fairfax County School system myself, I recall as a child heading down to Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day with my father (A WWII vet alive today at 103 years old) as we would spend a few hours meandering around Arlington National Cemetery stopping and reading the headstones of those great Americans who served this country proudly. One year, I watched President Ford lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the front row. This "tradition" became our "tradition" for years. I am not professing that Fairfax residents establish the traditions that my father and I had, but because our children must attend school on this hallowed day, a tradition such as I stated above never stands a chance of happening when our children are in school and we, as a nation, are honoring our Nation's Veterans.

The "Education Experts" of Fairfax County will probably say that they cannot afford to give students Veterans Day off because, "we need to save days-off during the year to account for inclement weather school closings."

Well, I visited the Fairfax County Public School website (so eloquently decorated and proudly displaying the American Flag mind

you) to look at the 2016-2017 Academic Year Calendar and I counted six student holidays not affiliated with any national observance that I am aware.

I did notice that Feb. 6, 2017 is a student holiday though. Is Feb. 6, 2017 a Student Holiday because the Super Bowl is the day before on Feb. 5, 2017?? Coincidental? I hope so. If not, that is shameful and disrespectful to the Veterans of this great Republic.

Let's get our priorities straight and allow the children of Fairfax County to acknowledge, observe, and learn about our veteran's service by observing this day as a National Holiday. I can think of no greater education.

Joseph F. Sartiano, Jr
Colonel, United States Army (Retired)
Great Falls

Write

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

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
north@connectionnewspapers.com

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Speaker:
Meagan Adamson, NP
Fairfax, VA
Denise Bruen, NP
Charlottesville, VA

Event Code: TR392074 (1345981)

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- 1-866-703-6293
- MSRSVP@ahmdirect.com

*Registration is limited to two people per RSVP. Photo ID may be requested at event entrance.

Complimentary parking or valet available.
A light meal or snack may be provided.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

ONGOING

CHO Food, New Toy, and Bike Drive Nov. 1-Dec. 31 at various locations around Vienna. Dish soap, canned fruit, chili, canned beef stew, diapers and wipes, canned salmon, Spam, tuna, tomato sauce, and laundry detergent are in particular need. CHO requests that no food be expired.

Drop-off boxes are available at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S; Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E; Bikes @ Vienna, 128 Church Street NW; Caffe Amouri, 107 Church Street NE; Doctors Covel, Stack, and Henon, 120 Beulah Road NE; Evolution Fitness, 216 Dominion Road NE; Rexall Drug Store, 150 Maple Avenue W; Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant Street NE.

Gently-used bikes are accepted on Nov. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at two locations: Vienna Presbyterian Church - Mill Street parking lot - and Antioch Christian Church at 1860 Beulah Road. Bicycles will be renewed as a courtesy by local bike shops.

Bring new unwrapped toys to Vienna Presbyterian Church, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, on Dec. 9 for distribution by CHO from 9:30 till noon. Gift cards from Target delight teens.

Christmas Craft Show Thursday Nov. 17 and 18, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This three-day event features a variety of handmade creations and craft supplies as well as a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Oakton church of the Brethren is located at 10025 Courthouse Road, near Rt. 123 in Oakton. www.oaktonbrethren.org or call 703-281-4411.

Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens open every day beginning on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, through Jan. 8, 2017. Open Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, too. The walk of lights runs daily from 5:30 - 10 p.m. Last tickets sold at 9:30 p.m. This family-friendly six-week winter wonderland of spectacle is only a few years old but has garnered a loyal following from throughout the Northern Virginia area, particularly Vienna and its environs. To buy timed tickets online: <https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>

SATURDAY/ NOV. 19

Benefit Thanksgiving Car and Bike Show at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) parking lot, 2351 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by the church and Mopar Club, the show benefits Family Pass Fairfax. Free for spectators, who are asked to bring canned food for the hungry. Entry fee for those who wish to show car or bike is \$20 (or \$15 plus five canned goods). Registration opens at 10 a.m.; judging at 12:30 p.m. www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 20

Vienna Turkey Trot - 5K, 10K, and Fun Run 8 a.m. Kids Fun Run; 8:30 a.m. 5K/10K. The James Madison High School Band hosts the 14th Annual Vienna Turkey Trot 5K/10K and Fun Run. Starts/ends at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S. All proceeds benefit the JMHS band and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. The 5k/10k Course is USATF Certified. Race fee includes a technical T shirt. 5k - \$35; 10k - \$40; Kids Fun Run - \$20. To register, go to <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/21497>. turkeytrot@jmhsband.org

TUESDAY/NOV. 22

The 18th Annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Clergy will lead the service with prayers for peace and thanksgiving. Local choirs will join together under one roof to provide an evening of inspirational music. An offering will be collected to support those in need this holiday season. Bring family or friends — this is a joyous way to begin celebrating the holidays.

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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 26

The Nutcracker 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Classical Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker includes stunning costumes, dancing, and enchantment, and it celebrates some of the most beautiful choreography and professional talent in the Washington Metropolitan Area. www.virginiaballetcompany.org/performances/

SUNDAY/NOV. 27

Young Soloists Recital at The Alden 3 p.m. This free classical music series, features professional musicians who have won international recognition. The series also includes Young Soloists Recitals that showcase the talents of local school-age musicians. Cosponsored by the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library and The Alden. www.mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre

MONDAY/NOV. 28, 2016

Church Street Holiday Stroll. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Freeman House and Store, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Enjoy fun family-friendly activities including a visit from Santa, petting zoo, free hot chocolate and roasting marshmallows at supervised bonfires. Visit www.viennava.gov.

Redskins Personal Appearance 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Ruth's Chris Steak House in Tysons Corner 8521 Leesburg Pike, Suite 150, Vienna. Join Ruth's Chris Steak House as we host our "Redskins Meet & Greet" for the 2016-17 NFL Season. Admission: \$15 gmtysons@ruthschris.com 703-848-4290 www.ruthschris.com/restaurant-locations/tysons-corner

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,



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE WATKINS/THE CONNECTION

Old Chain Bridge Road was closed down for the parade, allowing guests to enjoy the musical performances and food trucks during 2015 WinterFest Parade in McLean.

McLean Holiday Parade Set for Dec. 4

On Sunday, Dec. 4, McLean residents will welcome in the holidays as fun and fancy entries proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road for the eighth annual WinterFest parade. The stage will be set in the Langley Shopping Center, with Peggy Fox from WUSA Channel 9, again calling the parade. Parade entries will begin at Fleetwood Road and proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road to Elm Street if in a vehicle, or turn up Curran Street if marching. Old Chain Bridge Road will be closed to all traffic from 2:15 to 5:30 p.m. on the day of the parade. Langley Shopping Center parking lot, as well as all other business lots and shopping centers on the parade route, will be closed to all traffic as of 2 p.m. until the conclusion of the parade. The Safeway parking lot will be accessible only from Chain Bridge Road.

Pre-parade entertainment begins at 2:30 p.m. and will be introduced by local business leader, Bill

DuBose. It will include performances by students from Westgate, Spring Hill and Kent Gardens Elementary Schools. Food vendors will be available in the Langley Shopping Center parking lot and will include Mama's Donut Bites, Crepe Love and Doug the Food Dude.

As in years past, parade observers are asked to bring a gift card for food or merchandise that will be passed along to Share of McLean. There will be a giant holiday stocking in the front of the stage for gift cards or cash donations to Share.

The parade steps off promptly at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4. This year's WinterFest parade will be bigger and better than ever. Go to www.mcleanwinterfest.org to see the local businesses that have donated to WinterFest to help make it a success. You can also find additional parade information such as parking options, the parade route and road closure points.

Santa was the last to make an appearance in McLean's seventh annual WinterFest parade on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

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/>

Jill's House Event to Support Special Needs 7:30 p.m. at McLean Bible Church 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. The program is "A Star is Born, An Evening in December" with Ellie Lofaro, international speaker, and singing group, Point of Grace. This is an all women event. A quilt silent auction of 13 quilts will be featured in the church's Main Lobby with proceeds also going to Jill's House. The quilts have been generously donated by local quilting guilds including the Reston Quilters Unlimited and friends. www.jillshouse.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

"Fancy Nancy Splendidferous Christmas" at 1 & 4 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. For ages 4+. What could be fancier than Christmas? This year, Nancy is especially excited. She has enough money to buy a brand-new sparkly Christmas-tree topper. But when things don't turn out the way Nancy

planned, will Christmas still be splendiferous? Admission: \$15/\$10 MCC tax district residents/ <http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre>

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

A Holiday to Remember Concert 8 p.m. Oakcrest School- 850 Balls Hill Rd, McLean. This concert will be a family friendly one hour matinee featuring holiday favorites like Trepak from Nutcracker and Caribbean Sleigh Ride. Parking will be available at the Chesterbrook School, 1753 Kirby Rd. <http://mclean-orchestra.org/our-season/>

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

A Holiday to Remember Concert 3 p.m. Vinson Hall- 1735 Kirby Rd. McLean. This concert will be a family friendly one hour matinee featuring holiday favorites like "Trepak" from "The Nutcracker" and "Caribbean Sleigh Ride." <http://mclean-orchestra.org/our-season/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

"John Eaton's Holiday Songbook" 2 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Jazz pianist and musicologist John Eaton's first-ever holiday concert last year was such a hit that we're bringing it back! Hear your Great American Songbook favorites with a yuletide twist. Admission: \$35/\$20 MCC tax district residents. <http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre>

SEE HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12

The Washington Balalaika Society presents

Love and Laughter

featuring renowned bass vocalist **Mikhail Svetlov**

conductor **Svetlana Nikonova**
balalaika virtuoso **Andrei Saveliev**
and the WBS Orchestra



8:00 pm, Sat., Nov. 19
F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre
603 Edmonston Drive
Rockville, Maryland
Tickets: www.balalaika.org
or call 240-314-8690

3:00 pm, Sun., Nov. 20
Kenmore Middle School
200 South Carlin Springs Rd.
Arlington, Virginia
Tickets: www.balalaika.org
or check to WBS, 4910 Gadsden Drive, Fairfax VA 22032

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Information and group sales: 703-536-5785

www.balalaika.org

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

John Eaton

'John Eaton's Holiday Songbook' Comes to The Alden Dec. 17

For the second year in a row, John Eaton, Washington, D.C.'s beloved musicologist, humorist and jazz pianist will perform a special holiday concert at The Alden in McLean. The show will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17. Tickets are \$35 for the general public, \$20 for McLean tax district residents. The theatre is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., inside the McLean Community Center.

Considered one of the foremost interpreters of American music, Eaton offers a combination of ultra-tasteful jazz, fascinating observations and humorous commentary. In a typical concert, he performs

music from the vast treasure trove of American popular song and jazz. Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Fats Waller, Hoagy Carmichael, Duke Ellington and Harold Arlen are just a few of the great American composers he highlights.

A graduate of Yale University and a student of renowned classical teacher Alexander Lipsky, Eaton has been performing professionally for decades and was named to the Steinway Concert Artist roster in 1988.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

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.

Great Falls United Methodist Church Living Nativity 5 - 6 p.m. Three 20 minute, one act plays will kick off the event. Come listen to the

story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. www.greatfallsumc.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 7

The Capitol Steps at The Alden 8 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. To recover from this off-the-wall election cycle, remain calm and walk, do not run, to The Alden and shelter-in-place with these master political satirists. \$50/\$35 MCC tax district residents. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org.



From left — Stan Shulman and Noah Schaefer in "Broadway Bound" at 1st Stage..

PHOTOS BY DOUG WILDER/ COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

Joy, Tears and Laughter

"Broadway Bound" from Neil Simon at 1st Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, "Broadway Bound" is a treasure from the fertile mind of Tony Award winning playwright Neil Simon. Under the fine, perceptive direction of Shirley Serotsky, "Broadway Bound" is a remarkable production full of family love and pain with plenty of humor.

The play focuses on two brothers who want to make it as professional comedy writers. In their 20s, they still live at home with their parents and their grandfather. The time is right after WW II, the location New York City's Brighton Beach.

While setting their sights on show business the two brothers are also grappling with their parents' unstable marriage. Their parents are taking stock of their lives. Trust is not easy to come by, joy a tough commodity to find.

Needless to say, the brothers write comic sketches that are successful. Leaving home, however, is no easy undertaking.

Serotsky's casting is divine. As the concerned younger brother Eugene, Noah Schaefer is a droll presence. He has a quick, snappy delivery especially with pithy rejoinders playing off other characters. His sensitive manner in the show's dramatic moments are to be savored.

Older brother Stanley played by Scott Ward Abernethy is an anxious, self-centered character. He speaks and moves about the stage in interactions with family members with a sense of aggressive restlessness.

The father is given a performance full of regret and need by Andy Brownstein. He is a man who wants to experience life before his time runs out. Stan Shulman is a comic hoot as the grandfather. He is a man with a warm center even when roaring. As newly rich daughter, Kathleen Akerley gives depth and wisdom as a woman caught between her working-class background and her new status.



Teresa Castracane and Noah Schaefer in "Broadway Bound" at 1st Stage.

Where and when

"Broadway Bound," performed at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances through Dec. 18, 2016. Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets \$30 (adults.), \$27 (seniors) and \$15 students and military). Call 703-654-1856 or visit www.1stStage.org

Then there is the mother. In a marvelous performance by Teresa Castracane, any scene she appears in becomes hers. Castracane is impressively touching and authentic. Whether angry or wistful she holds the audience's attention.

The 1st Stage technical design artisans is a theatrical joy. A gorgeous, fabricated two-story home designed by Jonathan Dahm Robertson greets the wide-eyed audience. It is full of detailed props from Kay Rzaas and Deb Creire. Robert Croghan's costumes are spot-on late 1940s.

"Broadway Bound" has a deep core that will especially touch Baby Boomers with a New York state of mind. They may well remember their own family lives full of joy, tears and laughter.

'Enchanted Forest' Returns to Tysons

Junior League of Northern Virginia (JLNV) will host the 16th annual "The Enchanted Forest," a weekend-long holiday festival featuring a variety of affordable events for the entire family on Nov. 19 and 20 at the Westin in Tysons Corner, located at 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. "The Enchanted Forest" is the JLNV's largest fundraiser and features a beautiful "forest" of more than 100 theme-decorated holiday trees for silent auction throughout the weekend, live entertainment, a model train display, hands-on activities for children, a festival holiday marketplace and An Enchanted Affair evening event for adults.

Proceeds from "The Enchanted Forest" directly support the Junior League of Northern Virginia's community initiatives, which are focused on empowering families to make healthy eating and active living a priority, and support the development of women who will build better communities for years to come. Purchase your tickets today at <http://tinyurl.com/TEF2016> or visit online at www.jlnv.org/TEF for more information.

Great Falls Church Announces Children's Christmas Program

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, announces a free event on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m., open to the community, featuring the Christmas story told through narration, scripture and Christmas carols. The cast of children bring the Nativity scene to life with Mary, Joseph, animals, angels and shepherds. A potluck supper follows the program at 6 p.m.

The Christ the King Lutheran Church Children's Christmas Program features the church's Sunday School program students as lecturers, chorus and actors and the program's high school students will help with stage management.

With its mission to welcome all and equip Christian disciples to share God's love and grace through worship, prayer, relationship, learning, giving, and serving, Christ the King Lutheran Church aspires to be a vibrant community of Jesus' disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring God's grace into the world. It is an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

IT IS A GOOD THING TO GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD —Psalm 92

Thanksgiving Day Service Thursday, Nov. 24, 10:30 A.M.

First Church of Christ, Scientist
1683 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

All are warmly welcomed and child care is available



Thanksgiving Art & Craft Show
Spring Hill RECenter
1239 Spring Hill Rd., McLean, VA 22102

Thanksgiving Weekend
Fri & Sat 10 - 5
Sun 11 - 4

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Formerly Vienna Art & Craft Show

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Free Parking

 NVHG
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Please call us at 703-992-9868 to learn more about our lifestyle options for couples. Or, visit our Information Center at 1212 West Broad Street, any day of the week from 9am-6pm.



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

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PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER

Holiday guest preparation should include organizing and making extra space in closets, such as this one by interior designer Anne Walker.



PHOTO BY FRED/CASE

Ensuring that major appliances are in proper working order should be on a guest-readiness checklist, advises Chuck Khiel of FRED Home Improvement.

Guest-Ready Home for the Holidays

From organizing to decorating, a guide for getting a house ready for visitors.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Ready or not, the holidays are coming. For many, this means a flurry of overnight guests. With three weeks before Thanksgiving, many to-do lists are more involved than choosing turkeys and decking the halls.

Some homeowners will be sent into states of cleaning frenzy by spotting crumbled Cheerios lost in the corners of dining chairs or guestrooms piled high with papers and boxes. From the reality of cleaning and tending to repairs to the frivolity of fanciful holiday decorating, local experts offer suggestions for getting organized and ready to welcome company.

"For my out-of-town guests, I love to make them feel special and welcome," said interior designer Gretchen Fuss, of Gretchen Fuss Works of Art and Interior Design. "The whole house will be clean and sparkling."

Consider dispersing flowers, candles and greenery throughout the home in all public areas, including bathrooms and guest bedrooms, suggests Katie

McCarthy, senior designer and project manager at Marika Meyer Interiors. "Adding lush throws and cable knit pillows can give the family space that cozy feeling we all look for during the holidays."

Clear the clutter before purchasing holiday decorations and before guests arrive. "Clear out any clutter that's accumulated in your main living areas,"

said Anne M. Walker, Anne Walker Design LLC in Potomac, Md. "If your dining room is host to a pile of papers, make sure those get filed away or thrown away soon. A clean, organized home makes a perfect palette for any holiday décor."

The kitchen is often the central hub of a household, especially during the holidays. Make sure the pantry and refrigerator are well stocked and consider leaving out a bowl of fresh fruit guests can help themselves to, advises Fuss. "Breakfast is always a meal that seems to make everyone

happy," she said. "My husband starts the bacon and everyone finds his or her way to the kitchen table. I feel it is important to have both comfort food and healthy choices for everyone."

"The bottom line is that an organized, clean home, a stocked bar and kitchen, and happy, relaxed hosts will undoubtedly result in happy holiday guests."

— Anne M. Walker,
Anne Walker Design LLC

SEE GUEST READY, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

34th Annual
McLean Holiday CRAFTS SHOW
A Juried Arts and Crafts Show Since 1982





Friday-Sunday
December 2-4

Friday: 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Admission:
\$5 adults, children 12 and younger free.
Good all three days!

This highly regarded juried show features stylish home decor, pottery, glass, mixed media, gourmet foods, fashion accessories, unique children's gifts, jewelry, organic and botanical body care, photography and more!

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

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

Guest-Ready

FROM PAGE 14

Cleaning out the pantry and cabinets will help ensure there is plenty of room for the additional supplies and food necessary for Thanksgiving and other holiday meals.

When preparing that holiday dinner, the last thing that a person with a house full of guests wants is to realize that their oven is broken. "Inspect your appliances to be sure they are all in working order," said Chuck Khiel, vice president, FRED Home Improvement. "If the refrigerator or oven has been acting up, get them repaired or replaced before guests arrive. ... Check the garbage disposal, too, to be sure it's working efficiently so it doesn't back up during dinner prep."

Another high priority — the highest, according to Fuss — is the guest bedroom. This means "fresh bed linens adorning a 'photo shoot-ready,' beautifully made bed" and bath towels wrapped with ribbon and sage," she said. "Put a luggage rack out and make space in the closet for hanging clothes."

Place fresh flowers on the dresser and, "if time allows, frame a picture of your guests and hang it on the wall in the guest room," said Fuss. "Everyone really gets a kick out of this one."

From soft lights for reading to a small mirror for applying make-up, practical touches can go a long way toward comfort. "These touches, although they may seem small, can make all the difference," said McCarthy. "Small bud vases on bedside tables, plush bathrobes and towels, and fresh, white bedding can give guest spaces a very inviting feeling."

Guest bathrooms should be stocked with extra towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste. "If your guest bathroom has a vent fan with a nightlight, make sure it is working," said Khiel. "If not, repair or replace it. If the fan does not have this feature, install a plugin nightlight. There's nothing worse than guests stumbling in the dark trying to find the bathroom light."

"Make the powder room fun and festive by updating the towel rack and toilet paper holder, mirror and light fixture," said Khiel. "Think about replacing the kitchen or bathroom faucet to a new, more efficient model or one with a water filter. And get any leaky faucets fixed."

A slow-burning fire is another way to create a sense of comfort and warmth. "Inspect your fireplace to be sure it's in working order and no debris is blocking the flue," said Khiel. "Consider building or adding a storage box for wood next to fireplace for easy access or add a permanent and decorative accent box nearby for the remote if a gas fireplace.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER/MARIKA MEYER

Small bud vases on bedside tables and fresh bedding can give guest spaces a very inviting feeling, advises designer Katie McCarthy of Marika Meyer Interiors.

"Check that the dryer vent is clear, adding guests may mean more laundry," he added. "Make sure the heat vents are not obstructed. Since guests often stay in rooms that are not frequently used, make sure stored items are not in the way of airflow."

Electrical outlets that are infrequently used are often forgotten until guests arrive. "Fix nonworking electrical outlets that you might need with more people in the house. Everyone will have electronics to plug in," said Khiel. He said this is also a good time to take care of other simple projects like painting or putting in a new backsplash.

"Oil those squeaky interior and exterior doors so they don't wake up guests during the night," said Khiel. "Think about replacing broken or worn door knobs and locks."

The outside of a home should not be overlooked when preparing for guests, either. "Fall is a great time to tackle outdoor projects," said Walker. "If your shutters needs a fresh coat of paint, now's the time to do it. Have your windows professionally cleaned so that your holiday decorations will be seen on a pristine backdrop."

Power-washing your porches, walkways and patios offers guests a pristine first impression of your home. Inspect all walkways, especially flagstone and brick walkways and repair loose stones, advises Khiel. "Check exterior light fixtures to be sure they are in working order and that the bulbs are good. If exterior lights operate off a motion sensor, make sure it is adjusted properly."

"The bottom line," said Walker, "is that an organized, clean home, a stocked bar and kitchen, and happy, relaxed hosts will undoubtedly result in happy holiday guests."



McLean
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Here's What's Happening at MCC



Silent Movie with Live Music
"Chicago" (1927)
Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.
\$12/\$8 MCC district residents

Family Events @ The Old Firehouse

Unruly Theatre Project Improv & Comedy Show

Friday, Nov. 18, 7-9 p.m.
Free admission

Dallas Children's Theater

"Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters"

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents



Closing Notice

Happy Thanksgiving!

MCC and The Old Firehouse will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, for the Thanksgiving Day holidays.



McLean Holiday Crafts Show

Friday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Adult: \$5 Admission price good for all 3 days!
Children: Free (12 years or younger)



John Eaton's Holiday Songbook
Saturday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m.
\$35/\$20 MCC district residents.

The McLean Community Center
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EDITORIAL

Give Locally

FROM PAGE 8

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/index.html?tab=volunteer-opportunity&ID=2144>

❖ **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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pictured, from left, are: Ethan Addington, Ona Sinani, Kian Ambrose, Spencer Paulsen, Collin Togher, Ryan Duenkel, Alex Mavris, Boden Gentile, Jeffrey Stark, Aidan Connolly, Danny McGaughey and Coach Keith Osborne (missing Ryan Shiner, Eric Bellino and Max Alexander).

Great Falls U13 Blue Win Virginia President's Cup

The GFSC U13 Blue, a travel soccer team based in Great Falls, recently capped off a fall 2016 season by winning the U13 Vir-

ginia Cup title with a 5-0 win over Virginia Beach. The U13 Blue will be representing Virginia in the national playoffs starting June 2017.

Potomac School's Nardini to Play Tennis at University of Richmond

Joe Nardini, a senior at The Potomac School, has signed his national letter of intent to play Division I tennis for the University of Richmond.

Nardini is a four-year member of Potomac's varsity team and served as a team captain last year. In both his sophomore and junior years, he was named to the All-State First Team and received Washington Post All-Met honorable mentions in the sport. During his freshman year, Nardini was selected for the All-State Second Team. He has received All-MAC honors for the past three years and looks forward to his senior season at Potomac this spring.

Nardini cites Richmond coach Ben Johnson as positively influencing his decision to attend the university. He notes, "I am interested in majoring in business, and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Joe Nardini

Richmond has great programs in that area. Plus, when I visited the campus and met the tennis team, I saw that they are super dedicated, great guys. I feel like I will be part of a family there."

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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."

Students at Culinary enter a holiday cookie paradise of softened butter, vanilla and coconut, and spend hours cutting, rolling and decorating, emerging at the



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI CARR

Terri Carr bakes, decorates and packages holiday cookies, which she sends to friends and family.

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 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 can-

"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

dies. 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 participate 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 sugar-plum 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.

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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 patient 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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OBITUARY



Nathalie Kuhlman Riordan

April 29, 1915 - November 11, 2016
Nathalie K. Riordan passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on November 11, 2016. She was born in Wausau, WI 101 years ago and is survived by her loving children, David Riordan (Catherine) of Centerville, VA, Sandra Bohnsack of Chicago, IL, Michael Riordan (Linda) of Rochester, NY, Patrice Keegan of Fairfax, VA, and Jerris Riordan of Vienna, VA as well as 10 adoring grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband, John B. Riordan and her son, John P. Riordan.
Nano balanced raising six children with her late husband, John, as his career took the family abroad to live in Egypt, Italy and South Vietnam. Upon John's death in 1969, Nano began her own career with the Central Intelligence Agency, which spanned 43 years and ended with her retirement in 2011 at the age of 96. She acted as President of her condominium association until her death. A loving, gracious, intelligent and compassionate woman, Nano, as she was known, was a person of boundless energy who fervently embraced the lives and interests her family of 51 as well as all those she met. She will be remembered for her open door, open mind and open heart.

A memorial service will be held on November 19 at 3:30 PM at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street NE, Vienna, VA, followed by a reception at the Fairfax Hunt Club, 1321 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be sent to the American Legion, Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, 330 North Center Street, Vienna, VA 22180 or the American Heart Association, 4301 Fairfax Drive #530, Arlington, VA 22203.

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring
Field Representatives/Field Supervisors
in your area. If you are customer focused, self-motivated and have excellent communication skills, please call 1-800-563-6499 for more information and to be scheduled for a testing near you.

The Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer and provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities.

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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette
Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

7TH ANNUAL FOOD FOR TREES EVENT
<http://foodfortrees.org> (The flyer is also attached)
Share and the McLean Rotary Club are collaborating to offer Christmas trees and wreaths at cost in exchange for a food donation to the Share food pantry. Not only do you get a lovely, fresh cut Fraser fir tree and/or wreath, but you also participate in the spirit of Christmas by helping needy individuals and families living in our area. The attached flyer lists the tree and wreath sizes and has an order form. This information can also be found at www.foodfortrees.org. You can order online using PayPal. Or, you can mail your order form with a check (payable to McLean Rotary Club) to McLean Rotary Club, P.O. Box 561, McLean, VA 22101.

Tree pickup will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, from noon to 4 p.m. in the McLean Baptist Church parking lot, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. Please bring \$35 worth of groceries, grocery gift cards or a donation in cash or check (checks payable to McLean Rotary Club).
Please share this information with your friends. The more trees and wreaths we sell, the more we help the needy in our community.
Volunteers Needed
We will need help Friday, Dec. 2 [time to be determined] when the trees are delivered from a farm in southern Virginia, and on tree pick-up day, Saturday, Dec. 3. Please let us know if you can help. Please feel free to call us with questions. Thanks very much for your continued support. jauerbach@cox.net iauerbach@cox.net 703-893-6953

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.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7
Decluttering Seminar. The Retiree Real Estate Education Association announces free public service seminar 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.

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 seminar registration go to 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, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.

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



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6505 Overbrook St., Falls Church \$749,900
STUNNING home with 3BR/2BA and gorgeous updates throughout. Kitchen with granite counters, SS appliances, eat-in dining area and walkout to the entertainer's patio. Addition added in 2007 with large family room, full bath and filled with windows and lots of natural daylight. Upper level has 3 bedrooms including the master suite. Lower level has a huge recreation room and plenty of storage space. Haycock, Longfellow, McLean!



1605 Maddux Lane, McLean \$1,549,000
STATELY AND ELEGANT 5BR/4.5 BA custom home in private cul-de-sac location! This spectacular home features gourmet chef's island kitchen with high-end stainless steel appliances, granite, & breakfast room; owner's suite with tray ceiling and fireplace plus luxury bath; 4 full baths updated in 2016! Upper level den & cupola w/ treetop views; LL w/ huge rec rm & media rm; wonderful location backing to nature preserve; **1 stoplight to DC!**



9118 Briarwood Farms Ct, Fairfax \$775,000
FANTASTIC 4BR/3.5 BA detached home in the heart of Fairfax! Sparkling hardwood floors; elegant formal living & dining rooms; island kitchen with breakfast bar seating & breakfast room; inviting family room off of the kitchen with fireplace; main level office/den; lovely owner's suite with walk-in closet & luxury bath with extra vanity space; bright, full daylight LL with large rec room, built-ins, wet bar & full updated bath; 2-car attached garage!

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2016



**1436 Laburnum Street
 McLean 22101
 \$1,509,000**



**1821 Westmoreland St.
 McLean 22101
 \$1,299,000**



**6005 Copely Lane
 McLean 22101
 \$1,199,000**



**2024 Madrillon Springs Ct.
 Vienna 22182
 \$689,000**



**1620 Forest Lane
 McLean 22101
 \$1,548,000**



**6212 Loch Raven Drive
 McLean 22101
 \$825,000**



**704 Live Oak Dr.
 McLean 22101
 \$1,495,000**

Over 70 homes sold so far this year!