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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.

Santa HQ Opens at

Tysons

By Fallon Forbush
The Connection

ervice 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 in-

vited 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.

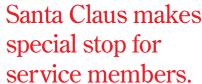
"It's the most festive way we could think of to say thank you for their tireless sacrifice for our country," says Willcox.

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 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



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.



(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.





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

their photo did not print correctly. Like magic, Santa had the bracelet for her when 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.

Week in Vienna

Santa Claus is Coming to Freeman Store

Historic Vienna, Inc. has announced that good old St. Nick will visit the Freeman Store on Sunday, Dec. 4, and again on Sunday, Dec. 11, from noon to 2 p.m. each day. Bring your children and bring your camera to capture the moment.

Used Book Sale, Kids' Shopping Day at Freeman Store

Just in time for your holiday shopping the Freeman Store, open noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Dec. 3, 10, and 17; the ongoing used book sale will be open in the basement whenever the store is open.

Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon will be Kids' Shopping Day at the Freeman Store. Bring your kids to the store and Santa's helpers will assist them with their holiday shopping while parents (and grandparents) enjoy holiday refreshments upstairs. The Freeman Store and Museum storekeepers recommend parents decide in advance on a dollar limit for the kids. When they are done the store will

be open so everyone can get in their holiday shopping. Call 703-938-5187 or historicviennainc.org for additional information about any HVI

Freeman Store to Host British Holiday tea

Historic Vienna, Inc. (the Free-

man Store and Museum, 131 Church Street NE, Vienna) has announced the area residents will have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional British Holiday tea in the parlor of the Freeman Store and Museum on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 3 to 5 p.m.; tea, finger sandwiches and desserts will be served. Space is very limited, advance reservations are required, tickets are \$35 per person. Call 703-938-5187 to make your reservation.

A Breakfast Buffet at American Legion Post 180

A Breakfast Buffet will be offered Sunday, Nov. 20 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc. For more information call 703-938-6580

'Enchanted Forest' Returns to Tysons

unior League of North ern 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, handson 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.

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hat happens when one half of a couple needs care but the other does not? Or when one half of a couple needs assisted living support and the other needs memory care?

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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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Information Center: 1212 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com



Deer Feeding Ban Is In Effect

any 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.

This does not restrict bona fide agronomic plantings (including wildlife food plots), bona fide distribution of food to livestock or wildlife management activities conducted or authorized by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF).

If anyone sees or suspects someone of illegally feeding deer during this time period, or observes any wildlife 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.







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News





Blood Donation Drive at Madison High

On Oct. 31, Madison HS held its semi-annual blood drive in conjunction with INOVA. The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club helped to organize and run the eight hour event, turning the school's multi-purpose room into a clinic for the day. Both faculty and students were invited to donate blood and the school collected blood from more than 140 donors that day. Students ages 16 and older were permitted to donate, with the permission of a parent. A total of 119 blood products were collected to include 12 gallons of whole blood, as well as 6 units of Plasma and 2 Units of Platelets.

New Town of Vienna Police Officer Graduates from Academy

n Oct. 28, Of ficer Rachel E. Rohr graduated from the 67th Session of the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. The graduation ceremony was held at the Grace Covenant Church. Her graduation marks the culmination of a six month training session in which newly hired police recruits receive training in all aspects of police procedures. The six month basic recruit session is a non-residential training program consisting of more than 920 hours of instruction. The curriculum includes, but is not limited to, 320 hours of academic studies including crisis intervention, assisting indi-

viduals with mental illness, de-es- Instructor (FTI). training; 94 hours of firearms training; 84 hours of emergency vehicle operation; 110 hours of physical training and 130 hours of defensive tactics training. For the next twelve weeks Officer Rohr will be assigned a Field Training



From left — Lieutenant Thomas Taylor, Officer Rachel Rohr, Chief James Morris and Captain Daniel Janickey.

will observe and guide Officer Rohr's performance in the areas of officer safety, traffic enforcement, interaction with citizens, report writing, investigation of vehicle crashes and many other aspects of her law enforcement duties. Of-

ficer Rohr is working towards an calation techniques and first aid During those twelve weeks the FTI associate degree, with intentions of getting a bachelor's degree. She enjoys physical fitness and exer-

> Due to her local Vienna roots, she is an avid fan of Washington sports teams including the Nationals, Capitals and Redskins.



Steven Gellman

Steven Gellman to Release Holiday Album at Jammin Java

inger/songwriter Steven an acoustic concert for the en-Gellman celebrates the holiday season at Jammin Java on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m. with the "Hearth & Home" album release concert. Jammin Java, named one of the best music venues in the country by Paste Magazine, is located at 227 Maple Ave East, Vienna.

Tickets for this all-ages show are available for \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

With a voice reminiscent of John Denver and songs lauded by Billboard Magazine as "intensely sensitive and impressively intelligent at the same time," Steven Gellman has performed to audiences across the United States since the mid-90s. Now, for the release of his eighth album, Gellman returns to Jammin Java for a concert full of holiday cheer. "Hearth & Home" is a collection of original songs and holiday favorites that span the season - from Thanksgiving Day to New Year's Eve. Celebrate the holidays with

tire family!

"Hearth & Home," Gellman's second holiday release, was recorded in one take in front of a live audience at the historic Hill Chapel in New Market, Md. The fully acoustic concert features Gellman on lead vocals and guitar, Margaret Wolfe on vocals, percussions, and harmonica, and Doug Poplin on cello and vocals. "Hearth & Home" is a holiday album in the folk tradition of the Peter, Paul & Mary's A Holiday Celebration featuring songs of Christmas and Hanukkah as well as Gellman's original songs adapted for the holiday season.

Gellman emerged on the folk music scene in 1997 garnering critical acclaim for Photobook with a sound that Billboard Magazine compared to the Indigo Girls.

Since then, he has continued his hallmark approach of capturing story in song through a growing catalog of indie releases. Gellman is frequent nominee for Best Contemporary Folk Vocalist in the Washington Area Music Awards.

- Faith Notes -

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send

vienna@connection newspapers.com.Deadline is Friday at noon.

Compline Service, Sunday, Nov. 20, 8–9 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel of the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd, Vienna. Compline is the final service in the cycle of the Daily Office, and has been observed in Christian communities for centuries. The sung form of the liturgy includes no spoken text whatsoever—the service is led by a schola, and all of the prayers and readings are sung. The service emphasizes spiritual peace at the close of the day, and features lush greenery, incense, candles, and icons. For more information, contact David

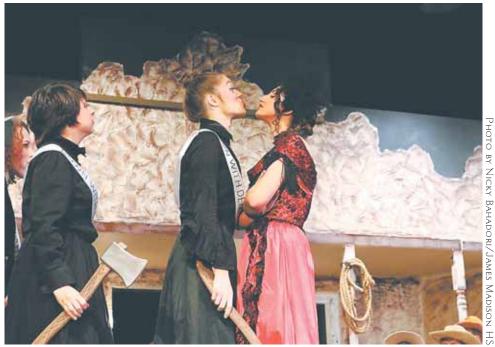
dkelley@holycomforter.com or the Church Office at 703-938-6521

Taizé Contemplative Wor**ship**, Sunday, Nov. 27, 5–6 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel of the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd. Vienna. Holy Comforter's Music Ministry sponsors evening services in a contemplative style, offering a unique opportunity to decompress and prepare for the week ahead. The service occurs on the last Sunday of each month at 5 p.m.

Taizé contemplative worship is a powerful and moving combination of song and scripture reaturing lush greenery, incense, candles, icons, and considerable time spent in silent meditation.

For more information, contact David Kelley dkelley@holycomforter.com the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

CAPPIES REVIEW



From left: Allie Lambson, Hunter Slingbaum, Kelly Brents and Kristiana Qerosi in Madison High's production of 'Deadwood Dick.'

A True Adventure

James Madison High School's production of 'Deadwood Dick' engages the audience.

By Lydia Gompper George Mason High School

op on your horses and gallop on over to James Madison High School, because a night of cowboys, card games, true love, and lively fun awaits at their production of "Deadwood Dick."

Based on a popular series of nineteenth century dime novels by Edward L. Wheeler, "Deadwood Dick" follows the tradition of old Western melodrama, filled with mustached villains, dashing heroes, and lovely, woe-ridden heroines. The play follows the adventures and, of course, ultimate triumph of the pistol-wielding, horseback-riding heroes Wild Bill (Carson Casper) and Ned Harris (Henro Kriel) as they fight to save the beautiful sisters Lily and Rose Blossom (Justice Allen and Maille-Rose Smith, respectively) from the diabolical clutches of the evil Blackman Redburn (Ryaan Farhadi).

The students of James Madison High School succeeded in creating a performance that was dynamic and fantastically engaging. In the classic Western style, the show was an interactive experience, with audience members shouting warnings to the gallant heroes, boo-ing the evil-doings of the villains, and even chucking handfuls of popcorn onto the stage during moments of particular passion.

Audience members were not passive observers of the onstage action; rather, they were an integral part of a wildly fun theatrical event. The actors, meanwhile, did not let the audience participation faze them. Instead, they seemed to feed on the energy they received from the crowd. One performer - Ryaan Farhadi, who portrayed the malevolent Blackman Redburn - even managed to catch a piece of popcorn in his mouth and swallow it, executing a fantas-

tic moment that encompassed what was perhaps the greatest strength of the show: the true connection between the actors and their audience.

Of course, Farhadi's assets were not limited to his popcorn-catching skills. In his role as the show's black-clad villain, he was wonderfully creepy, while still charming and charismatic - the character the audience loves to hate. Other standouts among the lead cast included Justice Allen as the pure, fragile Lily Blossom and Liv Wisnewski as the brass, morally gray saloon owner Calamity Jane. Allen not only committed wonderfully to her character's blindness, never allowing her eyes to quite focus, but she also impeccably executed the stock character of the sweet, comely damsel-in-distress. Wisnewski, meanwhile, was a commanding presence. Her character - an unpredictable woman who received both boos and cheers over the course of the show - was delightfully intriguing.

The excellence of this production was certainly a group effort. The supporting cast and ensemble were lively and devoted, with certain key characters, such as the adorable Russian cook Vassili (Michelle Uchitel) and the raging Temperance Crusader Teetotal Tessie (Kelly Brents), making lasting impressions. Meanwhile, set designers Faith Carlson and William Kegley found great success in their remarkable detailing of the Man-Trap Saloon, while costumers Bailey Bane and Claire Ashby created terrific stage pictures through their use of bright colors and era-appropriate styling.

James Madison High School's production of "Deadwood Dick" was magnetic. By actively engaging with their audience and inviting them into their Western world, the cast and crew built a show that was more than a performance - it was a true adventure.



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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.

he 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.
- 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
- 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

CONFECTION Vienna & Oakton

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LETTER

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 Veter-

ans. 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

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MOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



Photo by Donna Manz/The Connection

hoto by Cheryl Young

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens becomes ablaze with a half-a-million colorful sparkling lights in its annual Winter Walk of Lights.

Runners from all over the region converge on Vienna for the annual Turkey Trot.

Holiday Season Kicks Off

Events in Vienna-Oakton serve children and adults, welcome the spirit of giving.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

he festive season, of sparkling lights and aromatic baked sweets, of craft bazaars and sea sonal holiday music, of goodwill and selfless spirit, is upon us.

With the temporary closure of the Vienna Community Center, event organizers have had to cancel or relocate many of the fall events. Nevertheless, there remain activities and events for all ages, all interests. Many nonprofits reach out for support on behalf of less-privileged neighbors.

Here are several traditional events hosted in the Vienna-Oakton zip codes.

CHO Food, New toy, and Bike drive

The Committee for Helping Others (CHO) needs help restocking its empty food shelves. Food and family staples will be accepted from 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,



A youngster greets Rudolph at the Church Street Holiday Stroll.

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.



One of the most engaging elements of the Church Street Holiday Stroll is the firepits for roasting marshmallows.

Thanksgiving Luncheon for Mature Adults

The Town of Vienna, in partnership with the Shepherd's Center of Vienna-Oakton and First Class Move, host a Thanksgiving meal for the over-55 set. A Bountiful Harvest runs from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18.

The traditional meal service is provided and served by Davis Center students from George C. Marshall High School.

The luncheon takes place in the Flame

Room at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street S. Pre-payment of \$10 per person was due by Nov. 9, but, call the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538 for seating availability. The James Madison chamber orchestra provides entertainment after lunch. To register, call the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538.

Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

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.

From mid-November until just after New Year's Day, the 100-acre site is transformed into an animated lighted fairyland of scenes and vignettes. Roasting marshmallows, hot chocolate, and a snowflake shop round out the spectacle.

The Winter Walk of Lights is 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 to 10 p.m. Last tickets sold at 9:30 p.m.

To buy timed tickets online, go to https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights

Christmas Craft Show

23rd Annual Oakton Church of the Brethren's Christmas Craft Show, Nov. 17 and 18, 10 a.m. to 7p.m.; Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This three-day event features a

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

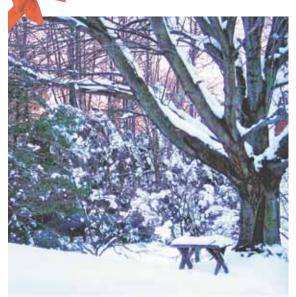


Photo courtesy of Vienna Arts Society

Margaret Raymond's "Day is Done" is one of the many artworks available for sale at the Vienna Arts Center on Pleasant Street, Nov. 18—20.

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. For more information, visit oaktonbrethren.org or call 703-281-4411.

Vienna Arts Society Sale and Reception

Vienna Arts Society big-sale/small works, sale and reception, Nov. 18 to 20. Sale hours are 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 18; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 19; and noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 20. A wine and cheese reception and raffle will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 19. Hundreds of small original artworks in a variety of media, ready to hang, will be available for \$99 or less. The Vienna Arts Center is located at 115 Pleasant Street NW. For information, see ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

Holiday Bazaar

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax [UUCF] Holiday Bazaar, Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 4p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 20, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hand-made art and craft items, including pottery, glass plates, sculptures, jewelry, home-made jams, birdhouses, and more. Senior Girl Scout Troop will serve home-made soups and baked goods. 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton.

Vienna Turkey Trot

Vienna Turkey Trot – 5K, 10K, and Fun Run, Sunday, Nov. 20; Race Time: 8 a.m - Kids Fun Run; 8:30 a.m. - 5K/10K. Starts/ends at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S. The James Madison High School Band hosts the 14th Annual Vienna Turkey Trot 5K/10K and Fun Run. 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. For further information, e-mail turkeytrot@jmhsband.org.

Christmas Tree sales

Two of Vienna's prominent humanitarian service clubs – The Optimists of Greater Vienna and the Li-

ons' Club - sell Christmas trees to raise money for their community programs. Tree sales for both organizations begin Thanksgiving weekend. Sure, you can buy your tree from a commercial retailer or you can support a local service club that supports the community. The Optimists set up their tree and wreath sale next to PNC bank in the Giant Food shopping Center and the Lions hosts their sale in the Walgreen's parking lot.

Vienna Business Saturday

6th annual Vienna Business Saturday, Nov. 26. Shop local. Shop Vienna.

The Vienna Business Association (VBA) and Town/Business Liaison Committee (TBLC) encourage the community to keep it local and "shop Vienna." Strategically set between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Vienna Business Saturday promotes the myriad local shops and restaurants that are a vital, giving part of the community. On Vienna Business Saturday, many local businesses offer special promotions.

Church Street Holiday Stroll

Church Street Holiday Stroll, Monday, Nov. 28, 6 to 9 p.m. Historic Church Street closes down for the evening as the area between Vienna Presbyterian Church and Center Street is ablaze with sparkling lights, a visit from Santa, a petting zoo, firepits for marshmallow roasting, live entertainment, and shopping. Santa arrives at 6:15 p.m. on an antique fire engine; at 6:20 p.m., Santa and Mayor Laurie DiRocco light the tree. After the tree-lighting, Santa takes his seat to hear the wish-list of children who come to him. Local schools and choral groups sing seasonal music throughout the evening. The Vienna Community Band performs on the Showmobile Stage. Historic properties, including the train depot, Freeman Store, Little Library, and caboose, will be open. Church Street will be closed to vehicular traffic beginning at 5 p.m. For more information, contact Historic Vienna, Inc. at 703-938-5187.

Lunch with Santa

Lunch with Santa, Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S. Sponsored and hosted by the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation. Along with lunch, Santa, and Rudolph, children are invited to create a craft provided by Kiln & Co. Patrick Henry Library volunteers read stories.

Tickets to this event are limited and usually sell out. Tickets cost \$5 per person. Tickets may be purchased via WebTrac on the Town's website, viennava.gov, or in person at the Park and Recreation Department's temporary location at 262M Cedar Lane, upstairs in unit #4. A maximum of six tickets per family may be purchased; all guests need tickets.

Local Artists Home/Gift Show,

Local Artists Home/Gift Show, Friday, Dec. 9, 12 to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 11, 12 to 4 p.m. Fourteen local artists exhibit and sell their glass jewelry, plates, sculptures, pottery, painted floor mats, wall hangings, knitted items and more. Home made soups and baked goods available. The arts and craft show is at 317 Church St., Vienna. For more information, contact Mary Ellen Larkins, melarkins@verizon.net.



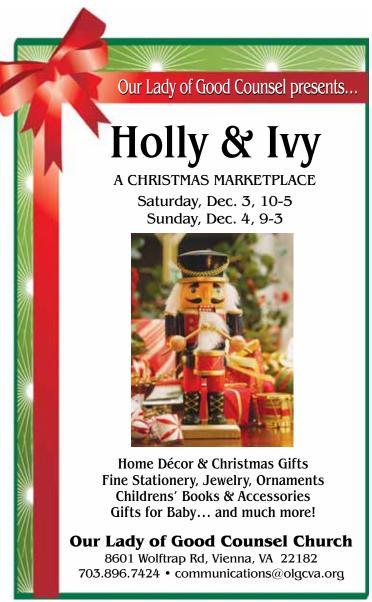


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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

Gifts from the Heart

From 'things' to experiences, gifts come in all kinds of packaging.

By Donna Manz The Connection

he Vienna-Oakton Connection offers its readers "part 1" of gift ideas, from small community businesses with personalized service to gifts that benefit the spirit of the heart.

Local elementary schools host their annual book fairs in November and December; children get to pick out their own favorite books while the schools benefit from the sales.

Don't forget ... both Patrick Henry and Oakton libraries, as well as the Freeman Store, sell used-books throughout the year. For out-of-print books, these used-book sales offer a cheaper alternative than usedbook stores. Plus, you are helping out financially these non-profits that give back to the community.

SEE GIFTS, PAGE 13

Photos by Donna Manz/The Connection





There is the spirit of the season and then there are the spirits of the season — not Dickens' spirits but those sold by Virginia ABCs. Think of friends or family when perusing through the shelves of Vienna-area liquor stores. There are gift packs with elegant glasses to collections of mini-bottles, as well as seasonal flavors of pumpkin and gingerbread.

Know someone who has moved away yet misses Vienna? Vienna logo pottery, made in Pennsylvania and sold at Freeman Store on Church Street, comes in many sizes and designs and calls upon the ceramicstyling of an earlier time.





Freeman Store sells an eclectic mix of vintage-style goods and contemporary products made in Virginia and the U.S. Treasure boxes and toys to handcrafted ornaments line the shelves. There is a penny-candy counter although the candy does not sell for a penny each, but, it's fun choosing from the selection.

Yes, you can ... and Culinaria Cooking School, staffed by professional chefs will show you how to make orangespiced shrimp and culinary masterpieces from around the world. Class fees start off at approximately \$75 per person. Don't miss the kids' classes building future chefs of America; these fill up quickly.

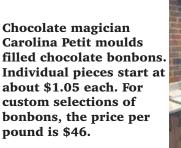




Love to eat? Love food that tastes as good as that in the best restaurants? Yep, **Culinaria Cooking School** has an app for that, so-tospeak. For the foodies in your life, a gift certificate for a cooking class may turn out to be a lifelong gift. Office Manager Sherry McCrary is in charge of registration; stop by her desk at Culinaria on Pleasant Street.



Cocoa Vienna, at 120 **Church Street, NE, creates** chocolate masterpieces by hand, using a highestquality blend of Central **American and Western** Africa cacao. Their seasonal pieces, from holiday trees to turkey interpretations, are works of art. The chocolate is tempered in the shop and all centers are made in-house, as well.







Gifts from the Heart

From Page 12

Not all gifts are material "things." You can give a pet a forever home and know you saved a life. You can donate to a charity in the name of someone you have lost. You can make a dream trip come true for someone who has been longing to travel. You can gift yourself with a visit to a nursing home, coming away more enriched.

Keep in mind the spirit of the holiday season while buying for family and friends.



Donna Manz/The Connection

In honor of a special person in your life recovering from a stroke, buy a "star" on the Caring Tree created at the Stroke Comeback Center on Park Street. For a \$20 donation, a "star" sparkles on the wall of the center, noted with the name of your recipient. The star is hung on the Caring Tree at the Stroke Comeback Center, and an acknowledgment card is sent to recipient. Each star supports the mission of the Stroke Comeback Center, to provide resources and support to stroke survivors, combat wounded veterans, and others with traumatic brain injuries.

Joyce Simmons had a stroke in 2008, and has been coming to the Stroke Comeback Center member since she began her recovery. Until she got her driver's license back after the stroke, it took Joyce two hours getting to the center from Woodbridge. Joyce's mother, Khadijah Aquil, purchased a "star" in her daughter's name.

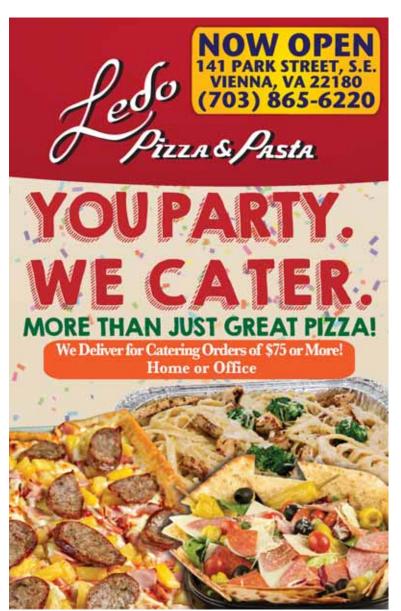




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SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Christian Learning Academy (SUN.) 9:00AM-9:45AM Midweek Services, Wed. 7:00 PM

■ Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

This year for the festive season, of sparkling lights and aromatic baked sweets, of craft bazaars and seasonal holiday music, of good-will and selfless spirit, is upon us. From food drives and coat drives to festive holiday events and activities, there is something for every age group living in the Vienna-Oakton area. Keep this calendar close by.

With the temporary closure of the Vienna Community Center, event organizers have had to cancel or relocate many of the fall events. Nevertheless, there remain activities and events for all ages, all interests. Many nonprofits reach out for support on behalf of less-privileged neighbors.

Thanksgiving Luncheon for Mature A dults

The Town of Vienna, in partnership with the Shepherd's Center of Vienna-Oakton and First Class Move, host a Thanksgiving meal for the over-55 set. A Bountiful Harvest runs from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18.

The traditional meal service is provided and served by Davis Center students from George C. Marshall High School.

The luncheon takes place in the Flame Room at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street S. Pre-payment of \$10 per person was due by Nov. 9, but, call the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538 for seating availability. The James Madison chamber orchestra provides entertainment after lunch. To register, call the Shepherd's Center at 703-281-0538.

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.

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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 7p.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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTE

Vienna's Church Street Holiday Stroll will be held on Monday, Nov. 30, from 6-9 p.m. This year's Church Street Holiday Stroll will be held on Monday Nov. 28 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Freeman House and Store, located at 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. www.viennava.gov.

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.

See Holiday Calendar, Page 15

Before the feast and football games, Bring your family and friends to a

THANKSGIVING CHURCH SERVICE

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Thursday, November 24 at 11 a.m. Christian Science Church

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Learn as if you were to live forever; live as if you were going to die tomorrow.

—John Wooden





MOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

From Page 14

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-

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ DEC. 2-4

McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. This highly regarded, juried show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics, pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, fashion, items for children, gournet 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 Splendiferous 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 "TheNutcracker" 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-

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.

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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.







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



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 selfsufficiency 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/indexedin=volunteeNOW&adin=viewOpportrij&&WD=21404

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 Virginia in fall 2016 season by winning the U13 Vir-June 2017.

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

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 contributei

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."



Decking the Halls, Stuffing Bellies

Local cooking schools offer crash courses in holiday dishes.

ver 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 Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna, Virginia. "They learn to make things that they can wrap in paper and ribbon and give as gifts.

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 Students at Culinaria enter a rummage through a treasure trove ing class, instructors support 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-makchildren'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 Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna,

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 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.



Holiday Happenings 2016



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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 Grouch 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 symptomfree 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

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 postdiagnosis, 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

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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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Nathalie Kuhlman Riordan

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 etirement 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 emembered for her open door, open mind and open

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

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements



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BULLETIN BOARD

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

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,

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-

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 semi- nar 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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Real Estate Broker Comparison Chart	RE/MEX	JONG &	Centuiy ₂₁	Weichert Realtors	KELLERVA LAPE	FEDERATED REALTY
Post on MLS Database	/	1	1	1	/	1
Listing on all Major Real Estate Websites including Trulia & Zillow	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dedicated Agent assigned to your property	1	/	/	/	/	1
Display Yard Sign	1	1	1	1	/	1
Provide a Lock Box	1	✓	1	1	/	1
Schedule Open Houses*	1	/	/	1	✓	1
Professional Team to Review Contracts	1	✓	✓	/	✓	1
Experienced Team to Conduct Negotiations	1	1	1	/	/	1
Fees Paid only at Closing	1	/	✓	/	/	1
\$1,000 Flat Fee for Selling Your Home						1
Available 7 days a week, 365 days a year						1
EXAMPLE:** \$500,000 Home	3% Commission \$15,000	\$1,000 Flat Fee				
*Only in Select Markets						\$14,000 SAVINGS !

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