



Great Falls CONNECTION

Dancers from Studio of Classical Ballet in Great Falls strike their final pose for the Snow Scene, Act I of the studio's 2015 performance of the Nutcracker. Fifty-five dancers will be performing in the show on Sunday, Nov. 26, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at McLean High School.

HOLIDAY
CALENDAR
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PHOTO BY JESSICA DE SORIA DALTON

NOVEMBER 23-29, 2016

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Celebration of Lights

Sunday, December 4

4:00pm to 6:30pm

Great Falls Village Centre Hill

Join us for our Celebration of Lights! Watch Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree. Enjoy the petting zoo, pony rides, fire pit, hot cider, hot chocolate and popcorn. And don't miss the beautiful, live nativity scene.



4:00pm ~ Petting Zoo, Pony Rides and Bonfire begin

4:15pm - King's Kids Preschool

4:30pm - Village Green Day School

4:45pm ~ St. Francis Creche Preschool

5:00pm ~ Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive to light the Tree

5:15pm ~ Forestville Elementary School Ensembles

5:30pm ~ Great Falls Elementary School Chorus

5:45pm ~ Colvin Run Elementary School Sing Along

6:00pm ~ Live Nativity Scene

(Pony rides and Petting Zoo close at 6pm)

**Holiday Decorating Contest for
Great Falls Businesses, Homes &
Organizations**

Nominate your favorite holiday
display on-line by December 22!

www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org

All activities are FREE to the public.



Celebrate Great Falls Foundation



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Presenting Partners

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House Fire Early Sunday Morning Completely Destroys Home

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

While driving down Route 7 in the early hours of Sunday morning, a passerby noticed flames billowing out from a two-story house at 1065 Northfalls Court in Great Falls. This person called 9-1-1 and rushed to knock on the door of the house across the street to warn neighbors.

This is according to neighbor Robert Marro, who lives just two doors down.

"We got up at 3 a.m. and there were six or seven vehicles surrounding the house," he says. "It took about 15 or 20 minutes for the fire brigade to put it out. The roof is gone and the inside is totally gutted."

Firefighters had to attack the fire from the exterior of the home due to the large volume of fire, according to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

Marro's neighbors started a phone chain to warn each other about the fire. "Everyone was so nervous that it would spread because of the high winds," he says.

"It was a total shock," he says. "The house is totally destroyed."

The family just moved into the house a couple months ago, according to Marro. "Apparently, they were on vacation," he says. "We were concerned that they were inside."

The fire department confirms that there



PHOTO BY ROBERT MARRO

Fairfax County firefighters respond to a house fire at 1065 Northfalls Court in Great Falls at 2:33 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20.

were no occupants home when the fire occurred. There were also no firefighter or civilian injuries during the firefight.

An investigation into the fire has determined that it started in a second-floor bedroom, but the exact cause is still un-

der investigation.

Damages were estimated to be \$726,250, the total value of the home.

Route 7 Under Construction For 6 Years

The main challenge of the project: Maintaining the traffic while VDOT widens the road.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Department of Transportation plans to spend \$234 million on improvements to nearly seven miles of Route 7, which include widening it from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive.

The project will be awarded to a contractor by January 2018 with construction starting by March 2019 and finishing in late 2025—a total of six years.

"The design builder has opportunities for innovation in order to make things faster, save money, be less impactful for the property owners, but the broad strokes of the project ... will be written into the contract that they will have to follow," says Angel Tao, deputy project manager with VDOT.

These broad strokes include: widening to six lanes, improving intersections and adding 10-foot shared-use paths on both sides of the road for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The project will also relocate the inter-

section at Lewinsville Road, replace the bridge over Difficult Run stream and will add a partial interchange to the intersection at Baron Cameron Avenue.

Drivers will be able to access the existing infrastructure while the new structures are being built, which means detours will not be required, according to VDOT spokespeople.

THE MAIN CHALLENGE of the project will be maintaining the traffic while VDOT widens the road.

"There's quite a bit of traffic that travels on Route 7 and we're going to be doing extensive improvements, so that's going to be one of the main challenges that we have," says Terry Yates, assistant land use manager with VDOT.

Fortunately for drivers, VDOT will keep all lanes open during rush hours, says Lee Ann Hall, location and design engineer with VDOT.

"Whenever we're doing a roadway project, we want to minimize impacts to the

traveling public as much as possible," Hall says. "If we could reduce the number of lanes for a longer period of time, that would certainly help us finish a project sooner, but that's just not what happens in Northern Virginia."

Conversations about the project with residents living along the corridor that will be impacted began in 2012. VDOT also formed a working group to keep the residents informed during the design process.

"We received a good bit of interest from the community regarding noise laws," says Hall. "Where feasible we made modifications to reduce impacts to the homes."

But the times of construction will be determined by the contractor that is awarded the work. Hall imagines around the clock operations.

"At night, the contractor may want to take advantage of closing some lanes to maximize their work," Hall says.

"[The contractors] will be cognizant that it is a residential area and will try not to make a lot of noise," says Tao.

THE GREAT FALLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION Transportation Committee submitted this statement to The Connection

regarding the planned work:

"Members of the Route 7 Working Group who represent Great Falls feel that the current design is as basically agreed. We also feel that the collaborative effort of VDOT/FCDOT, the community, supervisors offices, and others has resulted in a better design that is more sensitive to community needs. However, there are still a number of unresolved issues, including those related to sound walls and stormwater management ponds. The design could also change based on feedback from the November Design Public Hearing.

Should a design-build approach be adopted by VDOT, we are concerned about possible changes to the plans since the general contractor would have leeway to make modifications in the design in order to expedite the work and/or reduce costs. At this point it is not clear what incentives might be given to the contractor for executing the final agreed-upon design that the Working Group and community has strived to ensure, as well as the group's role in reviewing proposed changes going forward. We look forward to continuing the practice of open communications between the design team, Working Group, and the public."

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NEWS

Tree-Lighting Celebrated at Tysons Corner Center

A Tree-Lighting Ceremony featuring “American Idol’s” Kris Allen and WASH-FM’s Loo Katz and Chilli Amar was held on Friday, Nov. 18 at Tysons Corner Center’s Plaza area near the ice skating rink. Allen, who won Season Eight of “American Idol,” performed from his new Christmas Album “Somethin’ About Christmas.” Meteorologist Doug Hill also did a live broadcast during the event. The Fairfax Choral Society’s Youth Choir sang holiday songs and Santa was there to take photos with the crowd.

— STEVE HIBBARD

Santa posed for photo with the crowd in front of the Christmas Tree lighting at The Plaza in Tysons Corner Center.

STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION



2016 Holiday Card Contest

Join us in spreading
Holiday Cheer,
by helping us design
our Amazing Holiday
card this year.

We want you to help us
design our Holiday cards!

Simply create a card that is
in the Holiday spirit.

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- ♦ 3 Submissions will be selected for our printed holiday cards!
- ♦ Contest open to those 12 years of age and under
- ♦ Card design must be a Holiday theme
- ♦ Drawing must be completed on 8.5"x11" paper, may be landscape or portrait
- ♦ Entry form must be submitted with artwork
- ♦ All submitted artwork becomes property of Jan, Dan & Dianne
- ♦ Drawings may be altered for use on the card
- ♦ Drawings may be dropped at the Long & Foster Office at 9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Virginia
- ♦ Limit 1 entry per individual
- ♦ Questions? sold@longandfoster.com

Entry Form

Entry Deadline: November 30, 2016 by 5:00 pm

Name of Artist: _____ Age: _____

Contact Phone & Email: _____

Artist's Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Required: Parental/Guardian Consent Form

Parental/Guardian Consent: I give permission for my child or dependent's artwork, name & age to be published in a 2016 Jan, Dan & Dianne, Great Falls Great Homes Holiday Card.

Signature: _____

How you would like to the child's name to be printed on the card: _____

Great Falls Historical Society To Host Holiday Gathering

The Great Falls Historical Society is inviting the community to join their Holiday Gathering, a neighborly celebration and potluck dinner, on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange Hall at 9818 Georgetown Pike.

In the spirit of the season that recalls a time in which "there was no room in the inn," local children read scriptures that reveal the timeless principles of good neighborliness.

Celebrating the healing spirit of hospitality, each guest brings a dish to share, making combined gifts a delightful feast for all to share.

Children play musical instruments, heralding the coming of Light that overcomes darkness, as we approach the darkest night of the year that marks the start of winter. It is through good neighborliness that all of our light continue to shine through any darkness.

This is a free family event. Please reserve a seat at www.gfhs.org to make sure there is sufficient seating, as space is limited.

The Great Falls Historical Society was established in 1977 to encourage community spirit by bringing the past into the future.

Call for Nominations for the Jean Tibbetts History Award

The Jean Tibbetts History Award honors outstanding contributors to the research, articulation, dissemination and preservation of the history of life along the Potomac River corridor from McLean to west of Dranesville and south through Herndon. Candidates for the Jean Tibbetts History Award are selected from annual nominations to the Great Falls Historical Society and the award carries a stipend of \$200. The awardee's name is placed on the Great Falls Historians plaque, displayed in the Great Falls Library. Nominations should include a brief resume of the nominee; a listing of significant achievements, such as leading publications, noteworthy accomplishments; and a summary of the significance of the nominee's overall record of contributions. Deadline for submission for the 2017 award is Dec. 15, 2016. Mail nominations, with complete documentation to GFHS History Award Committee, P.O. Box 56, Great Falls, VA 22066 or by email to Greg Haymans, Chair, Tibbetts History Award Selection Committee, ghaymans@gmail.com. Jean Tibbetts herself was a writer of Great Falls history, who recognized and displayed excellence in historical research. The Great Falls Historical Society is proud to commemorate her memory with this award and appreciates community support. Donations may be made to: Great Falls Historical Society, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 56, Great Falls, VA 22066.



Santa Picture Day

**Saturday December 3, 2016
8 AM to 2PM**

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Be Part of Children's Connection 2016

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and

chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade.

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

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent

through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite

activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

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

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

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

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

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

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

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

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

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

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

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to the paper closest to you:
McLean@connectionnewspapers.com
Vienna@connectionnewspapers.com
GreatFalls@connectionnewspapers.com
Reston@connectionnewspapers.com
Herndon@connectionnewspapers.com
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This holiday season could be the best time for your family to discuss concerns about a senior you all love

For care tips during the holidays and when they're over,
please call **The Kensington Team**, who is always ready to help

The holiday season is a great time to share the joys of togetherness and tradition. But for families whose aging relatives are showing signs of decline, the holidays can also be stressful and even, sad.

If you notice that a senior family member seems more overwhelmed than overjoyed during the holidays, then use this opportunity to pay close attention to signs of concern, such as depression or confusion. While family is all together, talk among yourselves to consider the benefits of assisted living at The Kensington, such as:

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- Housekeeping and maintenance to provide relief from homeowner demands
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For more information about care and lifestyle options, call and tell us about your family's needs.



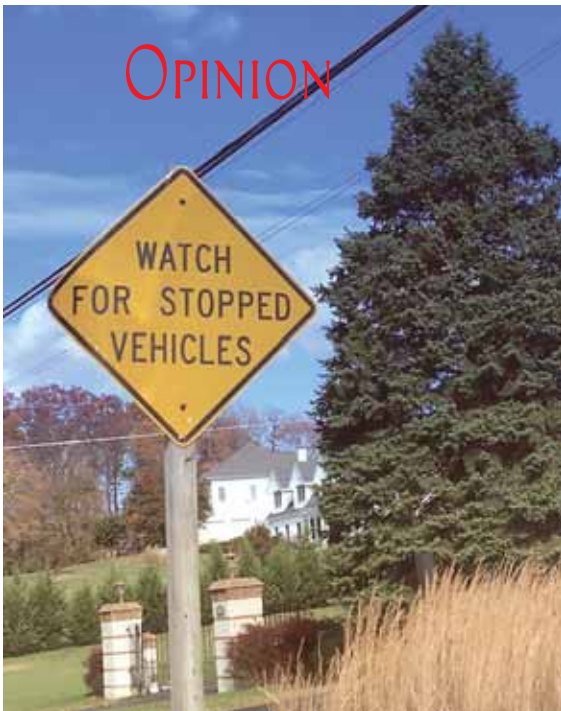
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Information Center: 1212 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com





OPINION



PHOTOS BY BARBARA KIRKWOOD

Safety signs along Great Falls Roads

Next Door Great Falls: Yellow Ribbon for Safe Driving

BY BARBARA KIRKWOOD

We've all been talking about the poor driving going on in our lovely community: speeding, cars over the yellow line especially around curves, zooming around a car going the speed limit, passing stopped school buses. Some of the bad driving is the result of the lovely, curving, country style roads in

our community. We have been lulled into letting speed creep up, and are not bothering to slow down and turn the car enough to remain on the right side of the road.

We've heard our friends and neighbors comparing narrow escapes from collisions, and way too many of us have had our own incidents because someone

SEE PAGE 11

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OPINION

Celebrate, Shop, Dine Locally

Every day can be
“small business day.”

There is a joy to participating in community traditions and celebrations during the holidays, from walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to shopping in local stores, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 26.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will shop online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to do some celebrating, shopping and dining locally. We promise it brings more joy.

Be sure to go to some of the hometown Christmas events coming up. Visit our holiday calendars to find more.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Go Local

Attend some hometown holiday events

❖ VIENNA: Santa Claus is Coming to Freeman Store Historic Vienna. 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 own camera to

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.

❖ **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,

capture the moment.

❖ **VIENNA**: Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. From mid-November until just after New Year's Day, the 100-acre site is transformed into an animated lighted fairylane 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 through Jan. 8, 2017, 5:30-10 p.m. Open Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, too. To buy timed tickets online, go to www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walkof-lights

❖ **VIENNA**: 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.

❖ **MCLEAN**: On Sunday, Dec. 4, the eighth annual WinterFest parade in McLean will welcome in the

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

❖ **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.

holidays as fun and fancy participants proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road. Pre-parade entertainment begins at 2:30 p.m. The parade steps off promptly at 3:30 p.m.

❖ **GREAT FALLS**: Celebration of Lights, Great Falls Village Centre Hill, Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 - 6:30 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of the season with our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Drink hot cider or cocoa next to the fire as you listen to local children's choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep the children busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck. <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/celebration-of-lights/>

❖ **RESTON**: Friday, Nov. 25, 26th Annual Reston Holiday Parade. 11 a.m. with Macy's-style balloons, musicians, dancers, antique cars, characters, community groups, dignitaries, special guest emcees, more. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Reston Holiday Parade on Market Street, tree lighting at Fountain Square. Rain or shine. <https://www.restontowncenter.com/> Visits and photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. next to Skate Shop. Donations for a 5 x 7 portrait benefit South Lakes High School Chorus. Mini-Train Rides 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. Departures on Market Street next to Talbots. Donations benefit Cornerstones. Conservatory Ballet Performance 5 p.m. Fountain Square Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. The Nutcracker's Land of the Snow dance will be

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Great Falls CONNECTION

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OPINION

One of Fairfax County's Greatest Assets Is Our Diversity

We welcome and celebrate one another's differences and cultural backgrounds.

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

One of Fairfax County's greatest assets is our diversity. We are and will continue to be a County that exemplifies values of respect and acceptance, where we welcome and celebrate one another's differences and cultural backgrounds. Our diversity makes our community strong and vibrant, and I am proud of what every resident has to offer.

Immigration is a federal matter. Fairfax County partners with federal authorities on immigration issues when required. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office piloted the Secure Communities program under a partnership with U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) in 2009, and has continued this partnership through the Priority Enforcement Program, where individuals who commit serious crimes and are in this country illegally are turned over to the Department of Homeland Security for deportation. Just being here without documentation is not considered a serious crime by DHS.

Fairfax County fully complies with federal and state laws requiring the County to ensure that people benefiting from public services are here legally. These federal and state laws are very clear about benefits that can only be provided to residents who are in this country legally. Such benefits include voting in elections, welfare, food stamps, and affordable housing. Many nonprofit and faith-based charitable organizations do serve Fairfax County residents who are in need regardless of their immigration status.

Lastly, Fairfax County complies with the federally mandated requirement that we educate all children, despite immigration status. The United States Supreme Court

ruled in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits denying a free public education to immigrant children based on their or their parents' legal status.

Our local police officers work hard every day to keep our residents safe and build trust with the community. We believe in community policing where residents are not afraid to call law enforcement if their safety is at risk or to report information critical to resolving an investigation. We do not ask, nor do we have the resources for, our police officers to become immigration officials. Any immigration efforts on the local level above and beyond our current cooperation with ICE would compete with police officers' responsibility for community policing and law enforcement.

Additional immigration efforts would also compete with fiscal resources against other county programs. While we always support maintaining safe communities, we will also not risk our core values of respect for all people and community policing.

Fairfax County has spent the past two years developing and implementing very thoughtful recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission to increase police transparency, modify use of force policies, and improve communication between our police department and the residents they serve. The Fairfax County Communities of Trust Committee has also been hard at work for two years encouraging community dialogue and building relationships between public safety and residents.

Be assured, I will be vigilant to any future policy changes that could negatively affect our community and all the progress we have made. Our diversity makes our community great. We will continue to be a community that is inclusive and respectful to all people, because that is the lifeblood of Fairfax County.

EDITORIAL

FROM PAGE 8

performed by Conservatory Ballet Repertoire des Etoiles in front of the huge Christmas tree. Tree Lighting and Sing-Along 6 p.m., Fountain Square Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. See Santa and Mrs. Claus light up the Christmas tree, followed by a holiday sing-along with The Reston Chorale. Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides, 6:30 - 10 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. Departures on Market Street next to Talbots. \$5 per person, children 5 and under ride free. All proceeds benefit Volunteer Fairfax.

❖ **RESTON:** Jingle on Lake Anne will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3. Santa arrives by boat. Music. Market. Activities. <http://lakeanneplaza.com/event/jingle-on-lake-anne/>

❖ **HERNDON:** The Herndon Community Center at 814 Ferndale Avenue will be the scene of a number of holiday happenings, including a large Arts and Crafts Fair and a Holiday Storybook

Holiday Celebration Sunday Dec. 4 from 10 - 4 p.m. Storybook Holiday Celebration Saturday Dec. 17 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$9 per child and includes craft projects, a visit with Santa and a reading of a holiday story by a special guest.

❖ **HERNDON:** Holiday Homes Tour, a time-honored tradition that kicks off the holiday season and allows the public the opportunity to visit local homes decorated for the holidays. Homes on the tour are selected for their historic, architectural or community interest. The 2016 tour will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. www.facebook.com/holidayhometour.

❖ **CENTREVILLE:** Bull Run Festival of Lights and Holiday Village Nov. 23, 2016 - Jan. 8, 2017 7700 Bull Run Dr. Centreville. A 2.5 mile stretch will be illuminated by holiday light displays. The cost of driving through the light show is Monday - Thursday, \$15 per car; Friday - Sunday & Holidays, \$20 per car.



RESTON TOWN CENTER
HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

8 AM
Gingerbread Man Mile for Kids
Shops, restaurants, and ice skating open early

11 AM
26th Annual **RESTON HOLIDAY PARADE**

12:30 - 4:30 PM
Visits and Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus
Mini-Train Rides

5 PM
Conservatory Ballet Performance

6 PM
Tree Lighting and Sing Along

6:30 - 10:00 PM
Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

WEEKENDS

SUNDAYS 12 - 4 PM November 27, December 4, 11, 18
Mini-Train Rides

SATURDAYS 4 - 9 PM December 3, 10, and 17
Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER
Holiday Performances and Strolling Carolers

NOVEMBER UNTIL MARCH
Ice Skating Pavilion - Open Daily

RESTON TOWN CENTER

11900 MARKET STREET, RESTON, VA 20190
RESTONTOWNCENTER.COM

SHOP!

- Allen Edmonds
- Ann Taylor
- Appalachian Spring
- Artinsights Animation & Film Art Gallery
- at&t Wireless
- bluemercury
- Bow Tie Cinemas
- Charles Schwab
- Chico's
- Cigar Town
- Crunch Fitness
- Davelle Clothiers
- Eyewear Gallery
- Francesca's Collections
- Greater Reston Arts Center
- Hyatt Regency Reston
- Ice Skating Pavilion (seasonal)
- Jos. A. Banks Clothiers
- Jouvence Aveda
- Kendra Scott
- L'Occitane
- Lou Lou
- Madewell
- Mayflowers
- Midtown Jewelers
- Origins
- PNC Bank
- Potomac River Running
- Pottery Barn
- PR at Partners
- PR Barbers
- Prime Cleaners
- South Moon Under
- Talbots
- Victoria's Secret
- Wells Fargo
- White House Black Market
- Williams-Sonoma
- The Wise Investor Group

DINE!

- American Tap Room
- Ben & Jerry's
- Big Bowl
- BRB: Be Right Burger
- Busara Thai Restaurant
- Chipotle Mexican Grill
- The Counter
- Edibles Incredible!
- El Fomalo
- M&S Grill
- Neyla
- Obi Sushi
- Potbelly Sandwich Works
- Tasting Room Wine Bar & Shop
- Tavern64
- Ted's Bulletin
- Uncle Julio's
- World of Beer

...and much more!

SELECT NIGHTS | 5PM - 9PM
NOV. 16 - JAN. 1
 ROERS ZOO FARI - VIENNA, VA
 (Formerly the Reston Zoo)

CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL
 中國彩燈節

"The Wild"

A UNIQUE EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
 Chinese Crafts & Market • Live Stage Performances



PURCHASE TICKETS NOW! \$25 Adults/\$15 Children
ChineseLanternFestival.com

WORLDLY MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS

A Special Holiday Message from Fairfax County's Wastewater Management Program



Save your cash. Put grease in the trash.
Never down the drain!

This greasy criminal is wanted for clogging drains on Thanksgiving. Protect your pipes by putting grease in the trash or by recycling your used cooking oil at the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton or the I-66 transfer station in Fairfax.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/preventing_backups.htm

To obtain this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-5033, TTY 711.

NEWS



THE N.F. BRADFORD, SR. COLLECTION, COPYRIGHT, GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 1890s Baseball Team: Front row — Neal Johnson, Tom Dickey, Walter Follin, Page Sanders, and Sidney Follin Sr., Back row — Albert Cornwell, Howard Cunningham, Joe Money, George Gunnell, and Harvey B. Cornwell.

Playing Baseball in the 1890s Great Falls

Bringing a local player to life through history.

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY
 PRESIDENT, GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At this time of year when family and relatives unite for that uniquely American holiday, Thanksgiving, it is not unusual to dig into the past to see how we all looked and felt and thought in the old days!

Really old pictures stir up some interesting feelings: They seem really familiar as they may seem more connected with “nature,” but also really unfamiliar, as the dress and facial expressions may seem different than what we are used to. (Did you ever wonder when people discovered that they needed to smile or “say cheese” when they had their picture taken?)

Take a look at the local 1890 Baseball Team, for example. The team was lined up in front of a fence that may have held their horses while they played. Four guys had bats, one or two guys had gloves, most seemed to be wearing riding boots. At least five were wearing the same type of baseball cap, apparently to show they were on the same team. (1890s Baseball Team, The N.F. Bradford, Sr. Collection, copyright Great Falls Historical Society).

WHO WERE THESE GUYS? Many have last names that we still recognize today. The 1890s Baseball Team included, from left to

right, (front row) Neal Johnson, Tom Dickey, Walter Follin, Page Sanders, and Sidney Follin Sr., and (back row) Albert Cornwell, Howard Cunningham, Joe Money, George Gunnell, and Harvey B. Cornwell. They came from families that owned farms in the area that we now know as Great Falls that may have ranged from 10 acres to over 1,100 acres. The automobile had not arrived yet, so they needed to get together by horse or by foot.

Here is our invitation and our challenge to you: Please pick one player that you would like to know more about. (You can look up the 1860s historical map that is overlaid over today’s map to find out which team member might have lived on the land where you live today.) Let us know which player’s research team you would like to be on – or form your own team.

Here is the research challenge: Can you make that 1890s player come alive through research? Where did the baseball player live? Who were the members of his family? What did his family do for a living? What was his life like in a typical week? What kind of education did he have? How did he travel to meet his friends for a game of baseball?

GFHS will introduce you to others who are interested in working on the same research with you, if you would like. Or you can join a team of others with the same interest. Your team can meet once a week to report on progress and share what you have found, or you can set up your own schedule.

Each team is invited to share the results of your research in an engaging manner:

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 19

OPINION

Yellow Ribbon

FROM PAGE 7

else wasn't paying attention. Though we have a lot of traffic from people living outside of Great Falls, much of our everyday issues involve people from our own community. Over the summer we had two fatalities. Our local rescue teams report several incidents every day.

Driving safely requires people to be aware of how they drive: noticing when their speed has crept above the limit and how often they carelessly go around curves without staying on their side of the yellow line. These are areas of recklessness that can be improved by awareness and intentionally following the laws.

Rather than just complain about the inconsiderate driving, I thought we might actually be able to make a difference by at least getting our own residents to improve. The idea of the yellow ribbon came from the two fatalities in the last 6 months and the caution tape that is used around police investigation sites. People who put a yellow ribbon around their

mirror, grill, door handle, or whatever is best on their car are indicating they will pay attention to their driving and abide by the laws. The yellow ribbon is a visible signal to the driver as well as others to look down at their speed at that moment, and a reminder to be aware of their driving. My first yellow ribbon came from my gift wrapping box. Since then, I have purchased a big roll of Caution tape that I have been giving away to others. Pots and Plants on the Pike have agreed to keep a supply of yellow ribbon for anyone who would like to stop by and take one.

Yellow ribbons on many cars may actually have an effect on the driving safety in our community. If you do not wish to put a ribbon on your car, at least tie a small ribbon on the inside of your car as a reminder to the driver. I believe most people will be surprised at how often they will become aware of small infractions in their driving. And awareness is the key to a safer community. We will all be safer if we notice our driving habits and strive to be better drivers.

We bring great days, and nights, to families.

Assisted Living

Social isolation is a concern of the past, replaced by friends, family and a full calendar of tailored programs addressing all dimensions of wellness.

Everyone's *quality of life is enhanced* by specially designed amenity and gathering spaces, apartment homes, gardens and outdoor recreational areas.



Wellspring Village®, a specially designed neighborhood for people living with dementia

"I'm passionate about serving people living with dementia and their families. I did my homework before joining the Brightview team and *Wellspring Village® is the finest program of its type in the area*. If someone you care about is living with dementia, please give me a call." – Cindy Eggleston, Regional Health Services Director

Families tell us everyone benefits because the outstanding care and support we provide reduces worry and stress.



BRIGHTVIEW
GREAT FALLS
ASSISTED LIVING

Please call Carolyn at 703-759-2513

10200 Colvin Run Road • Great Falls, VA 22066



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Our Lady of Good Counsel presents...

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A CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE

Saturday, Dec. 3, 10-5
Sunday, Dec. 4, 9-3



Home Décor & Christmas Gifts
Fine Stationery, Jewelry, Ornaments
Childrens' Books & Accessories
Gifts for Baby... and much more!

Our Lady of Good Counsel Church
8601 Wolftrap Rd, Vienna, VA 22182
703.896.7424 • communications@olgcv.org

CALENDAR

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

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.

Great Falls Farmers Market will be closed Saturday, Nov. 26 for Thanksgiving weekend, but will reopen on Dec. 3 in the parking lot at 778 Walker Road, Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The farmers market moves indoors into the historic Great Falls Grange Hall, 9818 Georgetown Pike on Saturday, Dec. 10 for the winter. We wish you a happy Thanksgiving.

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; Caffè Amouri, 107 Church Street NE; Doctors Covell, 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



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

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

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>

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road Great Falls. greatfallsfarmersmarket.org

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental

(2hr max). Valid driver's license required. Our rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for persons 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Great Falls Studios Virtual Gallery Open online 24/7 at <http://www.greatfallsstudios.com/copy-of-virtual-gallery> for the month of October. The gallery features the member artists participating in the Great Falls Studios 2016 Art Tour. During the month of October, in the

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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.

Holiday Events at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, Nov. 24 - 10 a.m.
Please bring an offering of canned food.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Saturday, Dec. 24 - 5, 7 and 11 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, Dec. 25
Lessons and Carols – 10 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Sunday, Jan. 1
Lessons and Carols – 10 a.m.

Holiday Fest Art Market

December 3 - 4, 2016



The Great Falls Grange Hall and Forestville School
9818 and 9812 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066

The Great Falls Studios Holiday Fest Art Market will be held Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4

All ye friends and neighbors lean your ears this way! Tell everyone what I am going to say:

The Great Falls Studios Holiday Fest Art Market is coming soon.

Saturday, Dec. 3 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 4 (10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) @The Great Falls Grange Hall and old Forestville School, 9818/9812 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Unique art, cards and gifts perfect for Secret Santas, special someones and serious collectors.

Greet fiber artists, jewelry makers, painters, photographers, potters and sculptors.

Halls decked in holiday cheer. Greenery and arrangements for the season from Pots and Plants on the Pike to enjoy and for purchase.

Yummy treats, savory and sweet, to carry home from the Creamery.

Wrap up the weekend on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. with the Celebration of Lights on Great Falls Village Centre Hill sponsored by Celebrate Great Falls. Free and family friendly.

More details and information at www.GreatFallsStudios.com

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Large Meeting room at the Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, GF, member artists participating in the Art Tour are on display. The exhibit will be open during regular library hours.

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

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Winter Hours: January & February, 11am-4pm, last tour 3pm. Admission to park is FREE except for some special events.

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

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

Holiday Decorating Contest We encourage all Great Falls businesses, organizations and neighborhoods to light up the night this December. The winner will receive \$200 and will be featured in an ad in the Great Falls Connection.

THURSDAY/NOV. 24

Thanksgiving Day Dinner Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls 10 a.m. 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Please bring an offering of canned food. <http://www.gflutheran.org/>

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

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Fairfax Water

PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATES AND PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges and the 2017 Annual Budget. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2017, include the following:

1. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$10,240 to \$16,020.
2. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,150 to \$1,240†.
3. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$10.10 to \$12.20†.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.68 to \$2.81 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. A decrease in the Turn-Off / Turn-On Charge from \$52 to \$44.
6. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
7. An increase in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 104% to 105%.
8. A decrease in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$46 to \$35.

Revenues are expected to be \$171.3 million in 2017. Water sales are expected to provide \$149.2 million. Approximately \$22.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2016	2017
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 53,877	\$ 55,808
Power and Utilities	10,417	10,572
Chemicals	6,342	7,566
Purchased Water	4,512	5,576
Supplies and Materials	5,173	5,248
Insurance	1,176	1,201
Fuel	567	625
Postage	632	654
Contractual Services	10,473	10,671
Professional Services	748	910
Other	2,305	2,484
Subtotal	96,222	101,315
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,616)	(9,305)
Total	\$ 86,606	\$ 92,010

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$41,129,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$25,733,000

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

The Children's CONNECTION 2016

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

Be Part of the Children's Connection

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

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

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

**Publishing
December 28**

**Advertising &
Materials Due:
December 16**



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

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

TUESDAY/NOV. 29 - DEC. 3

2016 Bitar Cosmetics PSA

Women's Professional Squash Tournament Qualifying rounds begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday. The event will be held at The McLean Racquet & Health Club 1472 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA. Watch top local players and US Girls # 1 Marina Stefanoni vie for 4 spots in the main draw. To purchase tickets please contact Jay Naseem @ jay@Jahangirsquash.com or call 703-691-5916 <http://www.jahangirsquash.com/category/tor/>

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ DEC. 2-4

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Celebration of Lights 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Hill Celebrate the beginning of the season with our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Drink hot cider or cocoa next to the fire and listen to our local children's choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep kids busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck.

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/>



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Living Nativity at Great Falls United Methodist Church

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



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens becomes ablaze with a half-a-million colorful sparkling lights in its annual Winter Walk of Lights, beginning on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, through Jan. 8, 2017.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

'Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas' Arriving to Alden

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

New Holiday musical entertainment for children and families is on its way to the Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center. It is an energetic, colorful production with original music based upon the NY Times best-selling book "Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas" by award-winning author Jane O'Connor with illustrations by Robin Preiss Glasser.

"It is so easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and fall into the same routine," said Danielle Van Hook, director, Youth Theatre Programs, McLean Community Center. "This year, the Alden has scheduled a new production from New York's Vital Theatre that "is full of catchy music and an exciting reminder to all of us about what Christmas is all about—family!"

With a talented five-member cast, "Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas" takes "the beloved literary characters out of the book and places them in a larger than life set in front of the audiences eyes," added Van Hook,

The musical's book was developed by Carol Lustik and Matthew Hardy, with original music by multiple Emmy Award-winning Randy Klein, lyrics by Matthew Hardy. The catchy tunes are full of swing and pop music with plenty of charming kid and adult-friendly lyrics.

For those less familiar with the book "Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas," it takes a young girl, Nancy

Where and When

McLean Community Center presents "Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas" performed by Vital Theatre at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performance: Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016 at 1 p.m. Tickets: \$15/\$10 for MCC tax district residents. Call: 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancommunitycenter.com. Note: Length of performance is approximately 60 minutes. Best for children 4+

on a journey of discovery, learning and fun. She is very excited; she finally has enough money to buy a brand-new glittering Christmas-tree topper. You see, Nancy wants to make this the most fabulous Christmas tree ever. Alas, things don't go as she hoped and dreamed, at least to start.

Will Christmas still be splendiferous? For adults, please think of that O. Henry short story "Gift of the Magi" to know that things will work out for Nancy at the end. Christmas will not be ruined.

The production will be energetic, with a colorful set and costumes according to Van Hook. "Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas" is suited for children and, of course, parents and grandparents,

Awakening the imagination of a child is one of the missions of the Off-Broadway and touring Vital Theatre Company. The theatre troupe has received awards for its work. For its commitment to excellence, the company received recognition from the American Theatre Wing which produces the annual Tony Awards.

Be inspired and cheered by "Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas" to catch the bright spirit of the Holidays.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

'Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas' cast.



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PHOTO BY KATIE MURPHY

A rehearsal of the studio's contemporary ballet pieces, a new addition to the studio.



PHOTO BY JESSICA DE SORIA DALTON

Taylor Shenk, 17, a senior at Langley High School exits the stage during the 2015 Nutcracker performance. She has been dancing with the studio for over 10 years and will be dancing the principal role of Clara in next week's show, her final performance with the studio.

Great Falls Classical Ballet Performs Revamped Nutcracker This Weekend

Fifty-five dancers will be performing in the show on Sunday, Nov. 26, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at McLean High School.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet in Great Falls has performed the Nutcracker ballet for decades. Though the studio's founder —Margaret Haddad— retired last year, her 50-year legacy of teaching classical ballet in the community will continue through one of her students: Casey Jones.

Jones started dancing under Margaret Haddad's instruction in 1994. By 2001, Haddad inducted her into the studio's teacher training program.

"When I was [her student], she made a very strong impression on me," Jones says. Jones began teaching classes at the studio in the Great Falls Village Center while she was in high school and college. She attended Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where she studied fine art and Marymount University in Arlington where she studied communications.

"I took as many dance classes that I could get my hands on while I was in school," she says. These classes introduced her to different styles of dance outside classical ballet.

She continued teaching occasional classes for Haddad when she graduated. It wasn't until 2010, when she was teaching part time at another studio, when she realized she wanted more.

Jones' dream came true last year, 22 years after she began dancing with Haddad. At

age 26, she is now the new owner and director of the studio where she grew up dancing.

To this day, Jones' closest friends are the ones she made at the dance studio as a child. A lot of the teenagers she is teaching now were the first students she ever taught while in Haddad's teacher training program. These relationships are what helped Jones decide to buy the studio to carry on Haddad's legacy.

"What drives me is the girls," Jones says. "The reason I came home was the girls."

She has not wasted any time making changes during her first year at the helm, including using her marketing skills to modernize the studio.

Jones renamed the studio the Great Falls Classical Ballet and rebranded it to include a new home online: www.greatfallsclassicalballet.com.

THE STUDIO also received a fresh coat of paint, new floors and video monitoring technology that allows parents to watch classes from the studio.

"Before, it was a closed-door policy, very old-fashioned," Jones says. "The door was closed and you couldn't see anything that was going on."

While both male and female dancers are accepted, the studio currently teaches 70 female students that range in age from three to 18.

Under Haddad, the studio strictly taught Russian classical ballet. For the first time in the studio's history, Jones has incorporated



PHOTO BY KATIE MURPHY

Sabrina Luz, 14, a student of Potomac Falls High School, stretches during a rehearsal.



PHOTO BY KATIE MURPHY

Monique Cummings, 14, who is homeschooled, puts on her pointe shoes for rehearsal. She will be performing the role of Snow Queen in this weekend's Nutcracker performance.

a blend of different dance styles into the studio's repertoire.

"The girls really enjoy it," she says. "It's a great chance for them to be more expressive while still studying a classical art like ballet."

Jones describes Haddad's style as "very old-fashioned" because she studied dance in London under Nadine Nicolava Legat, a prolific Russian classical ballet dancer.

"She followed the rules to a T ... and had a very matter-of-fact way about her," Jones says. "She loved her students very much. She was very dedicated to them, but she was very harsh and strict and all about the rules."

The required uniform for students for all practices and rehearsals was a long-sleeved,

burgundy leotard with a pink headband.

"That is a fond memory that all the alumni have," she says. "We think of it fondly, but it was not the most flattering of uniforms."

Students now wear a black leotard, which Jones says is the standard of the dance world.

Though Jones describes her methods as modernized, she still holds onto certain aspects of traditional Russian classical ballet.

"Being Russian and being classical makes us our own little community, our own little world," she says. "It's what we are."

"[Haddad] was known to put on these fantastic productions and giving girls a great

SEE NUTCRACKER, PAGE 17

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Nutcracker at McLean High

FROM PAGE 16

dance education, but she was also known as being a bit overly strict in some people's eyes," says Jones. "I'm not quite as strict as her, but she's made a tremendous impact on my career and I try to model my teaching after hers, taking the best parts of it and blending it with some newer things."

In the spring, the studio performed a recital instead of a full-length ballet for the very first time. It was based on selections from the *Sleeping Beauty* by Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

According to Jones, this allowed her to be more creative because the performance wasn't limited to certain characters or costumes.

But some things will never change.

The studio's final performance of the year will be the same ballet it has always performed in the fall.

"Every year, Mrs. Haddad would keep the same steps to the Nutcracker, so as you grew up you would watch the older girls and you would learn the steps," says Katie Warner, 17, who is a junior at Duke Ellington School for the Arts in the District. "You would hope one day that you would get the part that you had seen for years and years."

She has been dancing at the studio for 13 years, since she was just 4 years old. The part that she would closely watch was the part of the mirliton doll. One of her fondest memories was finally being selected for the part.

"Once you've done a show 13 times, you know it back to front and when you finally get to do the dance that you love, it's very exciting," she says.

THIS WEEKEND, she will be dancing the parts of Countess Drosselmier, a departure from the ballet's traditional male role of Count Drosselmier. She will also play a snowflake, a Spanish doll and a flower in the *Waltz of the Flowers*.



PHOTO BY MARK ROSS

Patty Pleasant (left) helps her daughter Emily (middle) during a quick-change backstage during a performance. Patty has been a part of the studio since its inception. Her father constructed the building, her oldest daughter Katie was the first student at the studio and Patty has helped backstage at every single performance since then. Her youngest daughter Emily Pleasant, 18, a senior at Oakton High School, will be dancing the role of the Rat Queen and the Russian Doll in this weekend's Nutcracker performance.

"A lot of the dances have elements of Haddad's choreography, but 90 percent is new," she says. "It's good to have things that you know, but it's also nice to learn new things and new costumes."

Fifty-five dancers will be performing in the show on Sunday, Nov. 26, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at McLean High School. It will be the culmination of the first year without Haddad, which was a tremendous adjustment because of the enormous role she played, says Jones.

"The girls have worked very hard on this, especially the older dancers," Jones says. "We rehearse almost every weekend for hours and hours."

Though Haddad, in her 70s, retired and moved to Florida, she still stops by the studio from time to time and attends performances.

"She loved her job so much, I think she would have kept doing it for the rest of her life if her body would have allowed it," Jones says. "I know she misses the studio very much and there is a part of her that wishes she didn't have to retire, but I do think she seems to think very positively of [my changes]."

Even in retirement, her legacy will carry on. As of this fall, Haddad's young granddaughter enrolled in classes.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.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 small group of singers called a schola, and all of the prayers and readings are sung. The service emphasizes spiritual peace at the close of the day, and features lush greenery, incense, candles, and icons. For more information, contact David Kelley at dkelley@holycorforter.com or the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

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

Great Falls United Methodist Church will be holding its annual Living Nativity on Dec. 18. Three 20 minute, one act plays of this glorious event will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle your joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike Great Falls www.greatfallsumc.org Questions? Call 703-759-3705.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook Roads in McLean, just a mile west of Tysons, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Look for our Pumpkin Patch this October, and check www.stthomasmcneanva.org for Special Events and Services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

Underdogs Win Robotics Trophy at Tournament

The Underdogs, a Robotics team of eighth graders Max Golub, Christina Luckett, David Pan, Sasha Pasmanik, and Zoe Lu, won the First Lego League (FLL) Core Values Teamwork Trophy at the recent FLL Regional Tournament held in Woodbridge. That award honor is given to the team that best exhibits FLL's ethos of Gracious Professionalism that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community.

Also, Underdogs displayed the FLL hallmark quality of Coopertition, which emphasizes kindness and respect in the face of fierce competition. The Underdogs understand that competition and mutual gain are not separate notions.

Since the Underdogs also did the FLL Challenge exercise in record time, they were awarded the FLL Core Values Teamwork Trophy.

FLL is an organization that fosters Science, Technology, and Engineering (STEM) skills in students. FLL is unique in that it also gives emphasis on the "real-world" skills of teamwork and collaboration. All Underdogs hail from the Vienna and Great Falls areas.

From left — Sasha Pasmanik, David Pan, Max Golub, Christina Luckett and Zoe Lu.



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The cast of 'Little Women the Musical' appearing at George C. Marshall High School's Black Box theater Nov. 29 - Dec. 2. From left: Filipe Mourao (Laurie), Kayla Johnson (narrator), Jackson Gurdak (Mr. Laurence), Maddie Miller (Beth), Holly Waters (Jo), Carolyn Nee (Meg), Samantha Feldman (Amy), Sonali Doshi (Marmee), Itzel Trejoh (Aunt March), Sam Bock (Professor Baehr), and Will Hemmingson (John Brooke)

Marshall High Presents 'Little Women'

After you've polished off the last of the turkey this Thanksgiving and before you head into the holiday rush, bring the family to experience Marshall High School's rendition of a beloved classic, "Little Women, the Musical" which opens on Tuesday, Nov. 29.

The show continues Marshall Theatre's season of celebrating strong women. "Little Women" tells the story of the four March sisters growing up in Concord, Mass. during the Civil War. With their father off at war and their mother struggling to raise them at home, the sisters face both hardships and rivalries but also celebrate their love and friendships. The play features the strong-willed second daughter, Jo March. A feminist before her time, Jo is a plucky and passionate budding author, who struggles to balance society's expectations while striving to provide for her struggling family. She brings life to the play through her stories within the story that are filled with romance, adventure, and melodrama. Each sister pursues a different path as the play proceeds,

with twists and turns that challenge the girls and their bonds of sisterhood.

"Little Women" will be performed in Marshall's "Black Box," a smaller and more intimate space rather than the school's auditorium to offer audiences a greater connection with the story, the music, and the characters.

"Our intent is to draw the audience into the play," said Director Jason Tamborini. "Through our minimalist set, small cast, and close seating, the audience will feel they know these characters and can share in the same joys and heartaches. These timeless characters remain inspiring role models for girls and boys even today."

Show dates for "Little Women, The Musical" are Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1, 2, and 3 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the box office and are \$8 for teachers, students, and seniors and \$12 for adults. The George C. Marshall High School Statesmen Theatre, is located at 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

Contact: Priya Doshi, 703-403-2435
priyaldoshi@yahoo.com for more information.

Baseball

FROM PAGE 10

An engaging video? A re-enactment? A compelling display?

The deadline for submission of the final work on each of the ten 1890s Baseball Players is Monday, Feb.15. The results will be presented at our March Program on Wednesday, March 9. Participants will also be invited to present the results of their research work and presentation to entire community at Great Falls Day in early May, 2017.

Prizes will be awarded to the team that

does the most thorough research on their players and who does the best job of making the 1890s baseball player come alive through an engaging presentation.

TO JOIN or form a research team focusing on one of the players, please let us know about your interest by emailing The 1890s Baseball Team Committee at www.gfhsva22066@outlook.com or by calling Sondra Taylor at 703-759-6204.

We are looking forward to learning about these baseball players who are part of our local past.



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