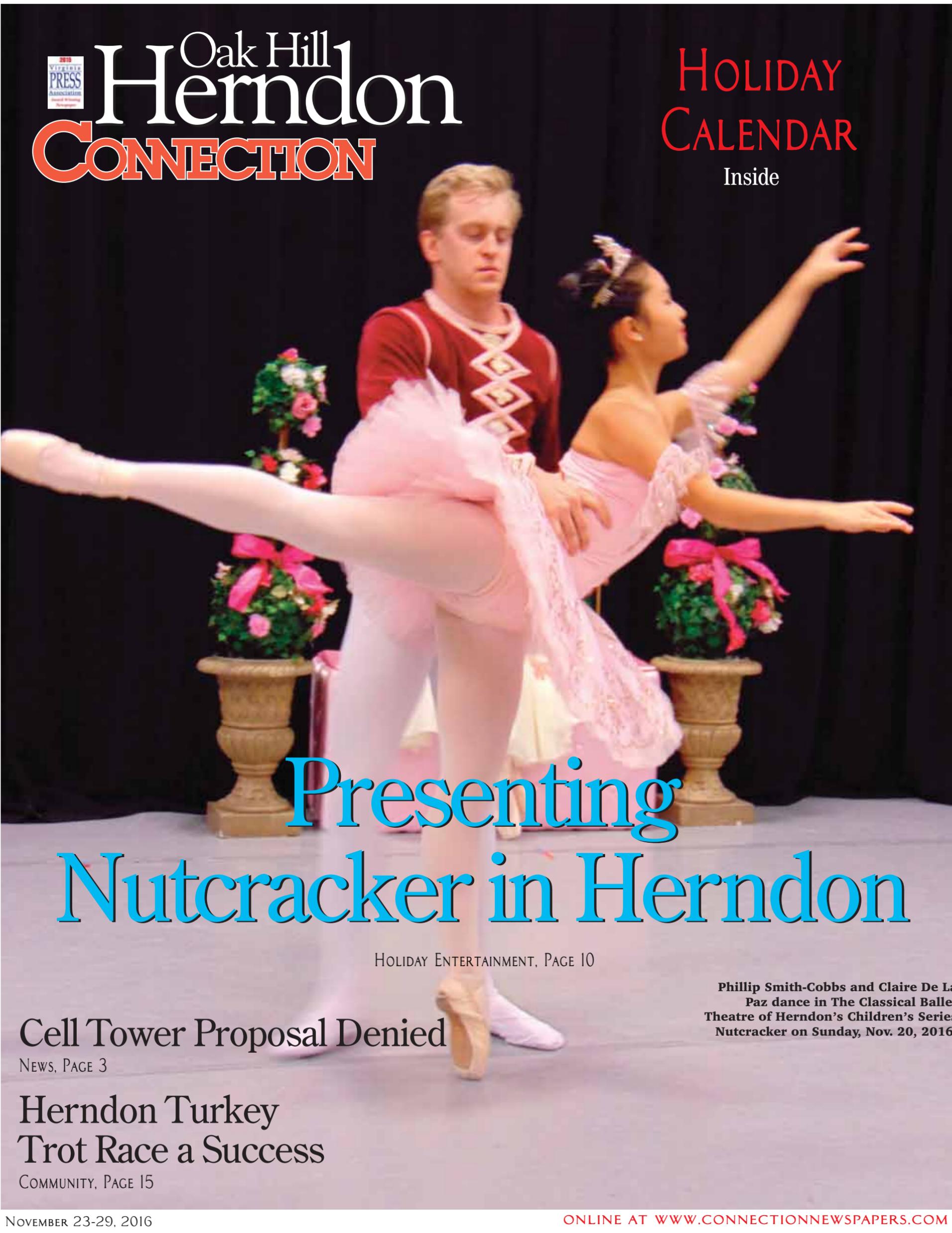


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**CONNECTION**

**HOLIDAY  
CALENDAR**

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**Phillip Smith-Cobbs and Claire De La  
Paz dance in The Classical Ballet  
Theatre of Herndon's Children's Series  
Nutcracker on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2016.**

NOVEMBER 23-29, 2016

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## NEWS

# Be Part of Children's Connection 2016

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

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 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/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition.

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

[McLean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:McLean@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[Vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:Vienna@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[GreatFalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:GreatFalls@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[Reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:Reston@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[Herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:Herndon@connectionnewspapers.com)



## Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

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BBQ Lunch served 11-2pm  
[www.saintandrewlc.org](http://www.saintandrewlc.org)

# Committee Denies Cell Tower Application

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Tuesday, Nov. 15, the Hunter Mill District Land Use Committee voted 3-2 to deny an application to build a cellphone tower on Crossfield Elementary School property on Fox Mill Road in Herndon.

The committee, which provides guidance on all land use applications in the district, denied the application by Reston's Milestone Communications because the proposed site was too close to the school's playground. The 138-foot tower would have been located 150 feet away, according to the application.

However, a group of organized and concerned parents have argued that the actual location is closer to 60 feet away from the play area.

Ellice Stern of Reston, John Mansfield of Vienna and Steve Cerny of Reston, who is also the committee's chairman, voted to deny the application.

Jared Wilcox of Reston and Douglas Noble, a Vienna councilmember, voted to approve the application as is.

Thomas Wyland, Jr. of Oak Hill recused himself from the vote since his employer is a parent company of Verizon, which is involved in the project.

"Usually in these situations, we look for a compromise," Stern said during the public hearing. "We were told that the playground could not be moved, which would have been a compromise."

Stern was also concerned about ice forming on the tower.

"If you get a 20-mile-per-hour wind and it blows that nice big piece of ice towards the playground, then where are we?" she said. "It's not worth it."

"We understand that there's sensitivity to the location of the tower and the proximity to the playground after hearing from both the community as well as the land use committee members and we take these comments to heart," says Len Forkas, Jr., the president of Milestone Communications.

He says the problem for more cellphone infrastructure is not going away and that his company will be successful at finding an alternative location on the school's property.

**MILESTONE** has built over 20 towers on the county's school property, according to Forkas.

"Sometimes the first place we



**Ellice Stern of Reston makes a motion to deny the application, which carried.**



**President of Milestone Communications Len Forkas, Jr. watches in the front row as the committee denies his application.**

select is not the best location," he says. "Our goal is to always find a solution."

While the committee voted to deny the application, it also recommended that Milestone make a formal application to locate the tower on adjacent Park Authority property within the Fred Crabtree District Park.

Milestone has argued that it tried to apply through the Park Authority years ago, which prompted the Park Authority to re-

spond.

"The Park Authority has no record of an application being made to site a tower at the adjoining Fred Crabtree District Park location," said a letter written to the committee from William Bouie, chairman of the Park Authority.

But Forkas thinks it is a moot point.

"Where the lines that define the ownership of the real estate is less important than understanding the nature of the concern of moving



**Randall Griffin, a parent and vehement opponent of the cellphone tower, speaks before the committee.**

the tower," he says. "In the end, the message I'm hearing is that people are concerned about its proximity to the play area. If that's the understanding, we're within a very short distance of the park boundary and still would be proximate to the play area. The issue would be the same. It's irrelevant to who owns the real estate."

Randall Griffin, a vocal opponent to the application, has also criticized Milestone and the county school board of not follow-

ing school policy, which requires community meetings to allow for public comment on all proposed telecommunications projects.

"We know how to do this and we've followed the procedures in this application," says Forkas. "We're good at this. The accusation that we didn't follow procedure, we don't concur with that accusation."

Milestone's towers on county school properties has generated more than \$13 million of income over the last 20 years for the school system, says Forkas. The proposed tower would generate approximately \$40,000 of revenue a year for the school system once at least three carriers agree to use the tower, he says.

"This is about money, not anything else," says Griffin, who is a father of a fourth grader who attends the elementary school.

**A STATEMENT** released by the organized group of concerned parents said the Fairfax County School Board has ignored the outcry from the community to withdraw the application. "It is disturbing to the community that FCPS is allowing this to continue and has put the tower company ahead of its students," the statement read.

Thomas Wilson, the Sully District representative to the county school board attended the public hearing on Tuesday. However, Pat Hynes, the Hunter Mill District representative to the county school board was not present.

Morgan Lewis, who is the mother of a 10-year-old daughter who attends the elementary school, said during the hearing that it was "fascinating" that Hynes had not attended any of the public meetings about the issue or engaged the concerned parents in any conversation.

Though the committee denied the application, it is ultimately the Fairfax County Planning Commission's decision.

"Frank [Frank de la Fe, the Hunter Mill District commissioner on the Fairfax County Planning Commission] wants to know what our recommendation is," says Cerny, the chairman of the committee who also represents Reston.

Ninety-eight percent of the time, Cerny says, the Planning Commission agrees with his committee's decisions.

The Planning Commission, which had a public hearing the following evening—Wednesday, Nov. 16—decided to postpone its decision on the application indefinitely.

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

## News

# Herndon NJROTC Cadets Visit Marine Corps Recruit Depot

Cadets from Herndon High School NJROTC unit traveled to Parris Island S.C., “Where Marines are Made”, as the sign says when you enter the base. Shortly after arriving, the Cadets met their “temporary” Drill Instructor, or DI. He showed them the barracks they would be staying in and told them he would be back at 5:15 a.m. to “escort them to breakfast”. The next day started early with a quick indoctrination by the DI as to what it is like for new recruits at MCRD Parris Island. Cadets marched to the Chow Hall and ate a quick breakfast before undergoing some high tempo exercise with the DI. Following a quick shower, they next marched over 8 miles around the base, visiting historic and significant sites on the recruit depot. They saw the DI memorial statue, the “Yellow Footsteps” where all new Marines begin their time at Parris Island, the Iwo Jima replica monument and they even had a chance to run the Marine Corps Obstacle Course. Finally, they were shown a part of the Marine Corps Crucible course that Marines are re-



Cadets standing with their Drill Instructor SSGT Hang to say farewell.

PHOTO BY DAVID ADLER

quired to run before they are presented the coveted Anchor and Globe and welcomed as a United States Marine.

The next morning the cadets mustered outside of the chow hall, bade farewell to their DI and boarded the bus once again to travel the long trip home to Herndon.

SELECT NIGHTS | 5PM - 9PM  
**NOV. 16 - JAN. 1**  
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 (Formerly the Reston Zoo)

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WEEKLY 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/preventing_backups.htm)

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

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# First Application for 'Metro' Area Redevelopment

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**S**tanley Martin Homes wants to build 64 new townhomes at 625 Herndon Parkway.

This is the first redevelopment requested for the Herndon Transit-Oriented Core, roughly 38 acres of land immediately north of the new metrorail station that is being constructed in Herndon on the Silver line.

Stanley Martin Homes applied to build its project with the town's Architectural Review Board, which reviewed the application and told Soledad Portilla, a senior engineering manager with the real estate developer, that her application needs more work.

"It's the first application we've had in the metro area in that zoning district in that proximity to the metro, so the ARB wants to get it right," says Lisa Gilleran, the town of Herndon's director of community development. "They want the information augmented and they want to see some changes to it."

The town's staff report critiquing the application included comments on the proposed building materials, colors, treatments and other details in the design of the townhomes which did not conform to the expectations for the quality and urban design for the area.

These expectations are expressed in design guidelines for the HTOC's public spaces, buildings and private access ways that the city council approved in 2012.

"The town staff is also reviewing the proposed site plan, and that's going to take several months," Gilleran says.

The reason for the strict guidelines and careful review is because the zoned area has eight property owners, Gilleran says. And it will be a challenge to unify all the owners to develop in a way that results in a "transit-oriented place where people want to be, where they want to work, where they want to live, where they want to dine, where they want to spend their life," she says.

The process is further complicated because the metro area in Herndon has already been developed.

"It's all office park at this point," she says. "That means somebody has to redevelop those parcels, which takes more investment than [land that has not been developed]."

The zoning ordinance for the area is meant to encourage high-density, urban redevelopment.

While the three-story townhomes proposed in Portilla's application are smaller scale structures than what the zoning envisions near the metro station, the town will allow it.

This is because the parcel is what Gilleran calls a transition area. The parcel of land sits between single family homes and what the town hopes will be buildings that are 20 stories high.

While the metrorail station rises from the ground, the Fairfax County Departments of Transportation and Public Works and Environmental Services will host a groundbreaking ceremony to kick-

off the construction of the new Herndon station's parking garage on Wednesday, Nov. 30.

The 2,007-space parking facility is designed to help reduce congestion on roadways by creating additional opportunities for ridesharing and the use of public transit, according to VDOT spokesperson Anna Nissinen.

The key features of the facility include a pedestrian bridge to the metro station that is currently under construction; vehicular and pedestrian connections to the existing 1,745-space Herndon-Monroe parking garage; and secure bicycle storage facilities.

The \$44.5 million project is estimated to be completed in the spring of 2019, while the station on the Silver line will be operational by 2020.

Gilleran does not anticipate too many property owners will want to redevelop before the metrorail stations start operation, which means this is still the beginning of a very long process to create the most urban area in Herndon's history.

## FAITH NOTES

*Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.*

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. during the summer. Nursery and childcare are provided starting at 8 a.m. until the end of the service. 703-437-5500 or [www.trinityherndon.org](http://www.trinityherndon.org).

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7:30-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12 or \$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. 202-986-2257 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**St. Anne's Episcopal Church**, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. during the summer. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. 703-437-6530 or [www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org).

**Washington Plaza Baptist Church** will hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.



**Herndon  
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**Sunday 4 10<sup>AM</sup> - 4<sup>PM</sup>**  
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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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ShareWishes@gmail.com) for more information. Visit [www.shareofmclean.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://holiday@linkagainsthunger.org). 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.thealternativehouse.org).

❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. [www.touchingheart.com](http://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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## Oak Hill & Herndon 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 6

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](http://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**

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- Hyatt Regency Reston
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- Jouvence Aveda
- Kendra Scott
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- 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!
- Il Forno
- 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!

Left to right: First graders Justin Dubon, Mason Hernandez and Monte Alexander scooted over to make room for Herndon Police Department Lt. Michael Berg.



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

# A Thanksgiving Tradition Continues Strong at Herndon Elementary

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

Herndon Elementary School fed a traditional Thanksgiving meal to over 1,200 people who walked through its cafeteria doors on Thursday, Nov. 17, during its annual Thanksgiving Luncheon—a longstanding fall tradition for the school.

Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans were served to its 850 students, 100 staff members and nearly 300 immediate family members of the students who were invited for the special occasion.

The Herndon Police Department and other community dignitaries were invited to join the parents, teachers and students, including Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

Decorated tables were set off to the side for the special guests, but the police officers opted to mingle with students and sit with those whose family members couldn't attend. "The police are very supportive of the school and community as a whole," says Nancy Cassidy, an office assistant in the main office of the elementary school. "I think they're very good at community outreach."

She says police officers come every Friday to help pack bags for the school's Week-end Backpack Program, a program that provides children in need with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food at times when school resources are unavailable, such as weekends and during school vacations.

"The kids love seeing them," Cassidy says.

Cassidy has been working at the school for 26 years. Before that, she regularly volunteered with the school for five years. She recalls that the school has been serving the Thanksgiving lunch ever since she could remember. While she won't take any credit for organizing the luncheon, Tiffany Bryant, a counselor with the school, says she deserves it all. "All credit goes to Nancy," says Bryant. "She makes it special, from scheduling, decorating to invitations."



A table of first graders pay close attention to every word Herndon Police Department Senior Police Officer Ismael Narvaez (center) says.



Sixth-grader Nafisa Saad-Allah, 11 (left), sits down to talk to Herndon Police Department Senior Police Officer Denise Randles (right).



Lunch Line: Herndon Elementary School served over 1,200 lunches to its staff, students, their family members and invited guests during its annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 17.

## VIEWPOINTS

### What are you thankful for?



Mother Christine McDuffy with son Danial McDuffy, 7-year-old second grader, and daughter Kalissidy, 2. "I'm going through a couple things right now and my family is there to help me out."

**F**irst Grade Teacher Melissa Keebaugh  
"Family, friends and students. They make me happy."



**S**ixth-Grader Nafisa Saad-Allah, 11  
"Family is the most important thing to me."



**S**chool Counselor Tiffany Bryant  
"Herndon community, families and students. Look around. We have a unique combination of cultures and classes, but we all have a common goal of doing what's best for our kids."



Mother Valerie Inman, With sixth-grade daughter Calla Inman, 11. "Family. I love them."



Father Ellie Sevilla with Aleighna, Ellie, Caleb and student Jhayden Sevilla. "I'm thankful for my family's health and that we're all together."



Father Zach Bestwick and his fifth-grade son Gavin Bestwick, 10. "Family and health. It would be rude not to be thankful for that, right?"



Fourth-grader Jairitza Guerrero, 9, with her dad Gerson Guerrero. "Food. There are people who don't have it."



Grandfather Mo Taherie with fourth-grader Lillian Taherie, 9. "Family. It's nice to live close to my grandchildren, who are healthy. I'm enjoying a nice lunch with my granddaughter and it's bringing a lot of memories. I came to these lunches with my own kids who went here years ago."

PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

## 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	5,376
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](http://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](mailto: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.

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Dancers from The Classical Ballet Theatre of Herndon perform in the Children's Series Nutcracker.**

PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD/  
THE CONNECTION



# The Nutcracker Ballet in Herndon

The Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon presents its condensed Children's Series Nutcracker.

The Classical Ballet Theatre in Herndon presented its Children's Series Nutcracker, a condensed version of the popular holiday classic, last weekend, Nov. 19 and 20, 2016, as part of its mission to bring art into the community. The ballet is based on E.T.A. Hoffman's story, "The Nutcracker and the House King."

Next weekend, the Classical Ballet Theatre will perform Saturday, Nov. 26 and Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, at the Ernst Community Cultural Center at the NVCC Annandale Campus, located at 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The run time is two hours, including a 20-minute intermission. Showtimes are Saturday, Nov. 26, 2016, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, 2 p.m. The show is choreographed by Nell Hacker and Cynthia Donavin.

The company has its studio at 320 Victory Drive in Herndon. Visit the website at <http://www.cbntva.org>. Or call 703-471-0750.

—STEVE HIBBARD



**Dancers from The Classical Ballet Theatre of Herndon perform in the Children's Series Nutcracker.**



**Anna Aryal performs as the Marzipan in The Nutcracker.**



**Sonia Boroday dances as the Dew Drop in The Nutcracker.**



**Claire De La Paz performs in The Nutcracker.**

## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Send announcements to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

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

**Mini-Train Rides** 12 - 4 p.m. November 27 through December 18. Departures on Market Street next to Talbots 11900 Market Street, Reston Town Center. Enjoy train rides through Reston Town Center every Sunday through December 18. Donations accepted - all proceeds benefit local charities. [restontowncenter.com/holidays](http://restontowncenter.com/holidays)

**Exercise for Parkinson's** Every Monday, 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. [parkinsonsfoundation.org](http://parkinsonsfoundation.org). [ckacenga@sportandhealth.com](mailto:ckacenga@sportandhealth.com) 703-621-4148.

**Teen and Adult Art Classes ArtSpace Herndon** Every Monday from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. Drawing and Mixed Media with Melanie Stanley - During Fall and Winter of 2016. Cost: \$45/class. The class will use a variety of techniques for drawing, painting, mark making, and collage using fine arts tools and materials. Students will be taken down a creative path to learn to use drawing tools and brushes more effectively. Register by emailing Melanie, and she will send you the supply list and payment options/information: [ridingfree2@gmail.com](mailto:ridingfree2@gmail.com). 703-956-9560. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com)

**Manganelli Solos at PenFed Realty** October and November 2016 at the office of PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Dr., Reston. The exhibit is free and the office is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. [leagueofrestonartists.org](http://leagueofrestonartists.org)

**Unforgettable Photography Exhibit Artspace Herndon** Featuring the photography of Marti Belcher November 2 - December 4. 750 Center Street, Herndon. Life is a journey, a continuum of everyday events and ordinary people, all of which make for an extraordinary lifetime of experiences. 703-956-9560. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com)

**Reston Photographic Society Meetings** from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston. Takes place the third Monday of each month through Nov. 31. The meeting date is changed if the third Monday falls on a holiday. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to share info and enjoy guest speakers, workshops and group critiques. Nonmembers welcome. [www.leagueofrestonartists.org](http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org)

**Mr. Knick Knack.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays through October. Reston Town Center Pavilion. Unique, heart-centered music for kids and their grown-ups. Free. [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com). 703-579-6720

**All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running.** Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. For more information, call 703-689-0999 <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

**Herndon Regional Wind Ensemble Practice.** Every Tuesday 7-9 p.m. through May. Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St., Herndon. For advanced high school students, college students, and adults who play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. 703-904-4800 [HerndonRegionalWindEnsemble@gmail.com](mailto:HerndonRegionalWindEnsemble@gmail.com) Cost: Free

**Through the Eye of the Needle Quilt Show** Oct. 31 - Nov. 28. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Plaza, 2609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. The Cotting Quilters, an active Reston group who focuses on traditional and modern designs, presents its first quilt show. The exhibition, with no hard and

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR, PAGE 12



**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 Storybook Holiday Celebration. The Arts and Crafts Fair takes place Sunday Dec. 4 from 10 - 4 p.m. Admission is free. The Storybook Holiday Celebration will be held on Saturday Dec. 17 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Admission is \$9 per child and includes craft projects, a visit with Santa and a reading of a holiday story by a special guest.**

## Plan Ahead Reston & Herndon

### TUESDAY/DEC. 6

**Cookies with Santa** 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Please register for a 30 minute increment. Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave. Reston. \$12 RA Members, \$16 non-members. Be here when Santa makes his first stop to Reston. Bring the little ones for a personal visit with Santa and a photo. Warm up with hot chocolate and cookies, and kick off the holiday season with festive crafts, activities and a take home treat. Registration is required. Must cancel 72 hours in advance to receive a refund. Contact Kelsey at 703-435-7995 or Kelsey@reston.org

**Reston Chorale's annual Messiah Sing-Along** 7:30 pm at St. John Neumann Catholic Church (Chapel), 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. This treasured holiday tradition also benefits Cornerstones' Coat Closet. Bring a new or gently used coat - or new hat, gloves, socks or scarf - and receive \$5 off the price of admission. Tickets and information at [www.RestonChorale.org](http://www.RestonChorale.org).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 9

**Free Holiday Choral Concert United Christian Parish** 11508 N Shore Drive, Reston. The program, conducted by David Lang, will feature holiday and seasonal pieces including, And the Glory of the Lord, Irving Berlin's Christmas, Shepherds Pipe Carol, and others. <http://encorecreativity.org>, 301-261-5747 or email [info@encorecreativity.org](mailto:info@encorecreativity.org).

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EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH • Reston**



**7:45 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
**9:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Sunday School: preschool - grade 2  
Music: grades 3 - 7  
**10:25 a.m.** Sunday School Grades 3 to 6  
Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
**11:15 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
**5:00 p.m.** Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service  
Nursery care provided at 9:00 a.m. service  
The Rev. John C. N. Hall, Rector  
The Rev. Laura Cochran  
**703-437-6530**  
[www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org)  
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

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## FAITH NOTES

*Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.*

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. during the summer. Nursery and childcare are provided starting at 8 a.m. until the end of the service. 703-437-5500 or [www.trinityherndon.org](http://www.trinityherndon.org).

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7:30-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12 or \$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. 202-986-2257 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**St. Anne's Episcopal Church**, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. during the summer. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. 703-437-6530 or [www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org).

**Washington Plaza Baptist Church** will hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly

basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute** offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha're Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

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Thursday, December 1st - Flu Clinic - 8 AM - 4 PM

Saturday, December 3rd - Pancake Breakfast & Tours - 8-10 AM

Wednesday, December 21st - Holiday Open House - 1-3 PM

To learn more, contact us today at **703.994.4561**  
or make plans to attend one of our upcoming programs or open houses.



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## 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 [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@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**



**For More Information:**  
Call 703.778.9431

Alexandria Gazette Packet CENTRE VIEW CONNECTION Mount Vernon Gazette ALMANAC

## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

fast rules, features full sized quilts, art quilts, wall hanging, table runners and other fabric art. A reception will take place on Sunday November 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Email [ablown@gmail.com](mailto:ablown@gmail.com) for more information.

### Senior Tea ARTSPACE Herndon

10:30 - 12 p.m. Every month seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea on the second Friday of the month, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. All teas are free and open to the public. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/events-2/senior-tea/>

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

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

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

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

### THURSDAY/NOV. 24

**Seasonal Thanksgiving Buffet at Tavern64** 11 - 6 p.m. They will be serving their full seasonal Thanksgiving buffet spread. \$54 per person, \$27 children 12 and under. Reservations: 703-925-8250 [opentable.com/tavern-64](http://opentable.com/tavern-64)

### FRIDAY/NOV. 25, 2016

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

**Gingerbread Man Mile Race for Kids** 8 a.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. Children's fun-run to benefit a children's charity. Presented by Potomac River Running. Register at [praces.com/gingerbread](http://praces.com/gingerbread)

**Visits & Photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus** 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. Reston Town Center 11900 Market St. next to Skate Shop. Donations for a 5 x 7 portrait benefit South Lakes High School Chorus.

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

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

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

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

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

**Gingerbread Village at the Hyatt Regency** Reston Reston Town Center, 1800 Presidents St, Reston. A holiday tradition since 1990, on



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

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

display all season in the main lobby.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 26

**Bluegrass Concert Holy Cross Lutheran Church** 7:30 p.m. 1090 Sterling Road (one block off Elden Street) Herndon. Two of the legendary players of bluegrass music together as a duo. Jimmy is a world class mandolin player and Orrin is an award winning guitar flat-picker. Both can sing and their vocal blend is something to behold. Great comics too so if you're not clapping you're laughing. Admission: \$15 children 12 and younger admitted free.

**The Nutcracker** 7:30 pm at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Annandale. Classical Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker includes all of the stunning costumes, dancing, and enchantment necessary to bring Clara's dream to life, and it celebrates some of the most beautiful choreography and professional and pre-professional talent in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Tickets: \$ 25 <http://www.northernvirginiamag.com/nutcracker/>

### SAT/NOV. 26 SUN/NOV. 27

**Movies and Mimosas - The Wizard of Oz** Reston Town Center 11 am, Bow Tie Cinemas. See the classics how they were meant to be seen - on the big screen. Tickets: \$5.50 (\$1 off to loyalty members). 703.318.1801 [bowtietcinemas.com](http://bowtietcinemas.com)

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

**An Evening with Mark Twain** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. To celebrate Mark Twain's birthday the historical re-enactor Mike Hall will bring Twain to life comparing his time with life today. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). Adults, teens, older children.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 3

**Jingle On Lake Anne** Warm merriment and holiday cheer will set the stage when Lake Anne hosts their annual family friendly holiday event. 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 PM Farmers & Craft Market 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 PM Gifts from the Heart: Shopping Event and Reception 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 PM Cookie Decorating/Crafts/Beer Garden/Mulled Wine/Plaza Activities 12:00 p.m. - Santa Arrives - by Barge. Noon - 2:00 PM Pictures with Santa 6:30 p.m. Tree Lighting and Caroling

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 2-3

**Reston Lions Club Annual Citrus Sale.** Friday, 2-5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza, 11401 North Shore Drive, Reston. Fresh navel oranges, pink grapefruit, tangelos, and mandarins will be available. All proceeds benefit sight and hearing programs and other club charities. Eyeglasses and hearing aids accepted at sales site for recycling. Kathy Gold, 703-282-4078.

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The gift-shopping event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## Gifts from the HeART to Benefit Cornerstones

Reston Community Center invites the public to the 18th Annual Gifts from the HeART Exhibit and Holiday Gift Shopping Event. The gift-shopping event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The event is presented in conjunction with the Gifts from the HeART exhibit on display at RCC Lake Anne through Dec. 31, 2016; the 3D exhibit will remain on display through Feb. 21. Artist entry fees and 10 percent of all sales will be donated to Cornerstones. The exhibit showcases original works of art in a variety of media – including oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, stained glass, ceramic, sculpture and mixed media – at various price points. The event coincides with Jingle on Lake Anne from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the same day. That event features children's crafts, cookie decorating,

a farmer's and craft market, beer garden, carolers, tree lighting and Santa's arrival by barge at noon. "Our Gifts from the HeART exhibit brings artists and community members together for a wonderful cause," said Cheri Danaher, RCC's Arts Education Director. "Through this event, everyone involved can enjoy fantastic works of art, celebrate the holidays and support those in need in our area." Proceeds will help Cornerstones continue the important work of the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, the Laurel Learning Center and their Community Services Outreach, which includes job counseling, emergency food and youth programs. Since the annual exhibit was first held in 1999, Gifts from the HeART has raised approximately \$11,000 for Cornerstones.

For more information visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com)

## Thematic Show at GRACE

Greater Reston Arts Center is presenting a thematic show of extraordinary works by six visual artists who are exploring spirituality, modern life, and ecological concerns through a variety of delicate and precisely crafted paper-cut pieces. The exhibition will provide a rich example of the endless possibilities derived from a medium as versatile as paper and will feature site-specific installations, quirky mix-media collages, humorous animations, scientific illustrations, and transformative sculpture. Featured artists are Ed Bisese, Maëlle Doliveux, Bhavna Mehta, Beverly Riss, Leslie Shellow, and Eric Standley.

CUT is the final exhibition in a trilogy of shows organized by the Greater Reston Arts Center examining labor-intensive, hand-manipulated, contemporary artworks made from humble materials traditionally associated with domestic craft. The exhibit runs from Dec. 9 through Feb. 18, 2017. The 2014 exhibition STITCH presented surprising manifestations of needlework in combination with painting, sculpture, photography, and video. The 2015 exhibition BEAD featured works ranging from jewelry that mimics natural forms or incorporated live

ammunition, to sculptural assemblages created from materials including hand-blown glass, animal skulls, and re-purposed mops, to two- and three-dimensional works exploring heady themes including identity, gender, race, and nature. CUT will link the long history of paper cutting as an art form connecting various customs that have evolved uniquely all over the world reflecting the traditions, folklore, and practices of society. Professional contemporary artists working with cut paper or stencils sometimes deliberately engage the history of their medium, but often, as will be reflected in this exhibition, they employ new techniques with scissors, x-acto knives, and laser-cutting machines to generate line, form, texture, and movement.

The opening reception for CUT will be held on Friday, Dec. 9, 6 – 8 p.m. Greater Reston Arts Center will be open for visitors Tuesday – Saturday from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Dec. 9, 2016 through Feb. 18, 2017. Except Dec. 23 – Jan. 2, 2017.

For more information visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org) or contact [info@restonarts.org](mailto:info@restonarts.org) or 703-471-9242.



## Celebrate the Season with The Reston Chorale

**Home for the Holidays**  
**Saturday, December 3**  
**4:00 and 7:00 pm**  
**Reston Community Center**  
**Hunters Woods, Reston**

**Guest Artists:**  
**Washington Symphonic Brass**



**Reston Sings!**  
**Handel's Messiah**  
**Tuesday, December 6**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Saint John Neumann**  
**Catholic Church, Reston**

**Guest Artists:**  
**Crossley Hawn, Soprano**  
**Barbara Hollinshead, Mezzo**  
**C.J. David, Tenor**  
**Richard Giarusso, Bass**

**Tickets and Information: [RestonChorale.org](http://RestonChorale.org)**

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## TFTT: Turkey For the Turkey



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Thanksgiving might be my most favorite day of the year. It is a day when I can eat/feel most normal. (Cancer issues notwithstanding.) To assure that this day would indeed satiate my savage beast, I changed/rearranged my chemotherapy infusion interval so the feast would not occur on the first Thursday following my previous Friday infusion but rather 13 days hence — on the second Thursday. This will, if my most recent pattern follows — going on for nearly two years now, enable me to eat/have no eating issues (other than the many non-cancer related ones I've had/maintained my entire life) whatsoever relating to my chemotherapy and enjoy the day — and night without any challenges other than buckling my belt.

Not that I look the least bit undernourished, but I don't eat like a normal adult either. Heck, I don't eat like a normal child and I'm not referring to whether I eat using silverware — which I do, or hold silverware more like an "entrenching tool" ("Firesign Theatre") which I don't. If I had my druthers, I'd order off the children's menu. That's not to say I'd be properly-mannered sitting at a Downton Abbey dinner, but at least I'd know enough to select my silverware from the outside-in and likely not embarrass myself in the process; that is until I return every portion back to the kitchen untouched. And therein lies my problem.

I don't like anything. I eat the same things over and over and over again. I don't view this as a problem, more like a continuing opportunity. To say, as I often do, that I eat 10 things, might be hard to digest, but not for me. In addition to not eating much variety, I won't try anything, and if I am compelled to do so, won't do so in front of anybody, that's for sure. If I don't like the food's appearance, texture, color, smell, description, lineage, heritage, place of origin, birthplace, where it's been, with whom it's been, even its name and general unfamiliarity, I won't touch it "with a 10-foot Pole. Stretch Polansky, tallest Pole I ever saw," (to quote Hawkeye Pierce from a long-ago M\*A\*S\*H episode).

Not that this juvenile behavior has stunted my girth. Hardly. But it has narrowed my "confinement beam" ("Star Trek") so to speak. I eat a lot of very little. Thanksgiving however, is the lot of which I eat. Not so much the deserts, which are usually a variety of pies and such which generally don't interest me (and besides, unlike the turkey, I'm stuffed after the meal) but the main course: white meat turkey, potatoes, "stuffing/filling/dressing", gravy (nowadays), vegetables, hot rolls and even cranberry sauce. If there's anything I'm leaving off my plate, it's probably not on my short list. And when it comes to my eating habits/choices, as you've presumably come to read, it's an extremely short list.

Fortunately, for me and my peculiarities, we have almost always spent Thanksgiving at family or friends; all of whom are extraordinarily capable in the kitchen and given our close association over the years, well-acquainted with and somewhat amused by my food issues. Never more so than when my wife, Dina's cousin, Gary makes a big production of pouring himself a glass of milk at the table. Nevertheless, I've always felt a welcome addition and never uncomfortable (although sometimes I've eaten at the children's table).

I wouldn't say I'm counting the days until Thanksgiving; I already did that weeks ago when I made the decision to change my pre-Thanksgiving infusion date to Nov. 11th from Nov. 18th, but I'm certainly monitoring the calendar very closely. My oncologist regularly encourages me to find quality in my life. Thanksgiving is quality — and quantity — I value in my life, and I'm damn lucky to still have it.

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

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Runners at the start of The Herndon Turkey Trot 5K race at the Herndon Community Center on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The first-place winner was James Luehrs, 23, of Reston, who finished with a time of 16:16.

## Herndon Turkey Trot Race a Success

Some 858 runners participate in pre-Thanksgiving tradition at Herndon Community Center.

Despite the chilly and blustery weather, some 858 runners participated in The Turkey Trot 5K Race sponsored by the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday, Nov. 19 at the Herndon Community Center. The race wound around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course.

"This is a traditional family-friendly, community race. We're happy to organize this race with the help of our sponsors in the

community for a wonderful pre-Thanksgiving tradition," said Cynthia Hoftiezer, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation with the Town of Herndon.

The first-place male winner was James Luehrs, 23, of Reston, who finished with a time of 16:16. He is Herndon High School's cross country and distance track coach. The first-place female was Julie Hayden with a time of 21:52. The first-place winners, both male and female, won a turkey for each age group. The second-place winners won pumpkin pies. The overall winners, male and female, won a turkey, pumpkin pie, all the fixings, and a gift certificate for running shoes. Participants donated cans of food to benefit the food bank charity LINK. The following age groups participated: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70 & over.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Runners race along the path of The Herndon Turkey Trot 5K in front of the Herndon Community Center and the Herndon Centennial Golf Course on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### ONGOING

**Passages Divorce Care.** Tuesdays 6:45 to 9:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 13 through Jan. 7. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna, Virginia. Cost to cover materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938-9050, [www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org), or send an email to [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).

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

Toy Drive in Collaboration with Nonprofit FISH Through Dec. 16

Stop by 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive any weekday from 9-4 and drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon/Reston children via the non-profit

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. Toys should be for the ages of Newborn to 16. The last day for donations is December 16. Call 703-860-4600 for more information.

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

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

**Respite Care** volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels** urgently

needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

**Habitat Heroes Project.** The fourth Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. - noon. Join the Habitat Heroes in protecting Reston's forests from aggressive plants and restoring them to their natural state.

Wear long sleeves, long pants, and if possible, gardening gloves to protect from insects and dangerous plants. R.A. will provide tools, gloves, snacks, and water.

To volunteer and find more information, contact [habrock@reston.org](mailto:habrock@reston.org) or 703-435-7986.

**ARTSPACE HERNDON** - ArtSpace Herndon needs volunteer docents to greet guests, answer the phone and complete sales during normal gallery hours. Volunteers are also needed a few hours each month to assist with exhibit installation and special performing arts events. Training is provided.

Flexible shifts are available. For additional information see our website [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com). Or contact us at 703-956-9560, [volunteer@artspaceherndon.com](mailto:volunteer@artspaceherndon.com). ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon, VA.

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Dinosaur lanterns are also on display at the festival.

# 'Wild' Chinese Lantern Festival Illuminates NoVa

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

Over 800 hand-made lanterns have been shipped from southern China to northern Virginia for the Chinese Lantern Festival at Roer's Zoofari, the old Reston Zoo, in Vienna.

All the lanterns in the festival are life-sized or oversized animals that stand at heights as tall as 55 feet, says George Zhao, spokesperson for the festival.

His favorite part of the festival, which is themed "The Wild," are the cheetahs.

"I really like the emotion on their faces and the details that our artists have paid attention to," he says.

In total, 50 artists put the lanterns together over the course of a month before they were shipped and assembled by a team of 18 people on site, Zhao says.

While there are 12 main steps in the entire design process—like assembling the three-dimensional shapes out of wire, stringing the light bulbs and stretching various colors of satin fabric over the framework—he says the most important part of the lantern design process is when the chief artist paints on the finishing details, like the animal's eyes and face.

Viewers can expect anything but the traditional lantern.

While most are made of satin, there are a few mixed-material lanterns that are unordinary. For example, there is one exhibit that features elephants

made of ceramic plates, wine cups, spoons and rice bowls.

"The elephants also spray water out of their trunks," Zhao says.

There is also a peacock exhibit near the safari's goat pens that has lanterns that are made of thousands of glass bottles that are filled with dyed liquids.

The Chinese Lantern Festival is traditionally held on Jan. 15 where people celebrate by eating sweet rice dumplings, watch performances and create arts and crafts, says Zhao.

Starting this week, the festival will provide two 30-minute martial art performances and demonstrations of Thai Chi.

"After the performances, we're going to bring onto the stage some kids who are interested in learning and teach them how to practice kung fu in groups," Zhao says. "The performers will teach them how to do the movements and set the poses."

There will also be food trucks on site from nearby restaurants selling various types of cuisine.

Zhao immigrated to Canada from China in 1999 to work on cultural exchange programs. Now his company travels throughout the United States bringing the Chinese Lantern Festival to different venues.

"I hope people can get a better understanding of the Chinese Lantern culture," he says.

The festival will be open weekly Wednesday through Sunday from 5 to 7 p.m. in November and daily in December until its last evening on New Year's Day.



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

A floating exhibit of sea life, including giant jellyfish, glow from the center of the pond in the middle of the zoofari.



Panda lanterns frolic amidst glowing bamboo.



Oak View Elementary School Student Hannah Surridge, 7, of Fairfax walks into an exhibit with life-size Crane lanterns.

Father Tim Greten pulls his son Zac, 1(left), daughter Ana, 3 (right) and their preschool friend Melanie Wall, 3 (middle) through the Zoofari in a wagon. Moms Erin Greten and Megan Wall were also enjoying the lanterns.

