



McLean CONNECTION

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

Tree-Lighting Celebrated at Tysons

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McLean Holiday Homes
Tour Set for Dec. 1

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'Fancy Nancy'
Arriving to Alden

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HOLIDAY
CALENDAR
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NOVEMBER 23-29, 2016

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NEWS

NDWC past presidents Mary Ann Miller, Jennifer Salopek, Carol Brunner and Lisa Vogt with NDWC president Desi Woltman.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION



McLEAN CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
703-778-9414 OR MCLEAN@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



(From left: Paige Farrington-Himes, VP Resource Allocation with NDWC; Jackie Cho, Board Member with the Safe Community Coalition; and NDWC President Desi Woltman.

Cocktails for a Crowd in McLean

New Dominion Women's Club hosts fundraiser pairing drinks with hors d'oeuvres.

The New Dominion Women's Club of McLean held its annual Cocktails for a Crowd fundraising event on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016, at the Party Room in the McLean House in McLean to help kick off the holiday season. Cocktails paired with heavy hors d'oeuvres were set up at different stations around the room where people could sample drinks like Manhattans, Bellinis, Grape Fruitinis and Garden Gimlets. Some of the hors d'oeuvres included jerk chicken, beef sliders, ham biscuits and chicken and waffles.

"The idea was to sample small amounts of many different types of cocktails and take home recipes," said Mary Ann Miller, Vice President of Programs for the New Dominion Women's Club. "We hope to continue building our support for the McLean community through fun social events."

"My involvement with NDWC has been life-changing; I really enjoy this diverse group of ladies where we have so much fun while raising money to support our community," said Paige Farrington-Himes, VP Resource Allocation with NDWC.

Guests paid \$60 to attend the fundraiser, which benefits local McLean charities. Some of the charities the club has helped in the past include: SHARE, Inc. of McLean, Claude Moore Farm, McLean Project for the Arts, and the Safe Community Coalition.

The Cocktails for a Crowd event was co-chaired by Monica Gibson Roncskevitz, Mary Ann Miller, and Christy Murry, and assisted by Karen Martins, Sherri Hiele and Carrie Salaway.

For more information on the club, visit www.ndwc.org.

— STEVE HIBBARD



(From left): Nadia Smith, Stacey Ramey, Scott Keough, and Lesley Forde.

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 intersection 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."

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:
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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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News



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMEE BURGOYNE

Dining to Support Community Causes

McLean Community Foundation Trustees Winnie Pizzano (second from right) and Leo Jardot (right) join Lizzy Conroy (second from left) and Andy Briscoe (left) to greet diners at Pulcinella's in McLean on Nov. 15. The foundation was the beneficiary of this month's fundraiser, sponsored by the HBC Group Keller Williams, and received more than \$1,080 from dinners purchased that night. MCF grants support nonprofit projects that benefit the residents of McLean. Recent grantees include the McLean Volunteer Fire Department, SHARE of McLean, Historic Pleasant Grove and Phoenix House Drug Treatment. MCF is supported by donations from the McLean community.

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McLean Holiday Homes on Display

McLean Woman's Club 50th Holiday Homes Tour set for Dec. 1

BY LAURA SHERIDAN

This year's 50th annual Holiday Homes Tour, on Thursday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will focus on five homes, from a historic Colonial four large, unique houses on the north side of McLean. All five houses will be served by free shuttle buses leaving at 15-minute intervals from Trinity United Methodist Church, at 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. and stopping for 15 minutes at each house. The church will also host a free MarketPlace fair from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., that will feature holiday items, unusual gifts, jewelry, home-made delicacies, lunch, vendors, tour tickets and a silent auction. There will be free admission and parking at the church. The events will be sponsored by the McLean Woman's Club.

Tour tickets will cost \$25 until Dec. 1, when they will be \$30. The tickets can be purchased at Mesmeralda's Gifts of McLean, 1339 Chain Bridge Road; Karin's Florist, 527 Maple Ave. East, Vienna; Great Dogs of Great Falls, 9859 Georgetown Pike; and at three locations in Arlington: Two the Moon, in the Williamsburg Center, 6501 North 29th Street; the Pink Palm, at 2871 Clarendon Blvd., and Covet, at 5140 Wilson Blvd. Tickets can also be bought at the MarketPlace on Dec. 1.

All proceeds of the events will be donated to local charities and nonprofits, including Alternative House, Fisher House, the Wounded Warrior program, Capital Caring, Share Inc., the McLean Project for the Arts and the McLean Volunteer Fire Department, as well as used for scholarships and education. Top sponsors of the tour and MarketPlace are Eagle Bank, Wydler Brothers Real Estate and Karen Duval.

Tour Houses

Each house is an elegant, spacious modern home on a half- to two-acre lot.

They will be decorated for the season in accordance with the owners' wishes, and Woman's Club members will serve as hostesses. For tour purposes, the homes are designated Houses 1 through 5.

House 1 (on Turkey Run Road, north off Georgetown Pike). Built in 2012, this two-story house has a beautiful brick-and-stone façade that is symmetrical overall but has varied gable heights and attractive flared eaves. Inside, a striking two-story foyer leads to a formal but comfortable living room and an office on the left and to a formal dining room on the right. Beyond are a window-lined family room, and a kitchen with built-in appliances and custom cabinetry. The house has five bedrooms and five baths (plus three half-baths). Downstairs are a covered porch, a patio and sitting areas in the back and a three-car garage. The basement houses a recreation area and a guest bedroom with full bath.

House 2 (on Mackall Avenue, north off Georgetown Pike). This two-story home reflects Colonial Revival architecture. In the front center is a pediment roof above a recessed entry porch with columns on each side. The symmetry continues to the roof, with dormers, a central cupola and matching chimneys on each end of the house. The rear façade has similarities to the front, and numerous large windows bring the landscape into the home. Colonial Revival de-

sign is also suggested through a center-hall plan with long, central hallways and a grand staircase. The house has five bedrooms, five baths, three half-baths, a family/great room, a dining room, a kitchen, a library, a full basement, and a large screened porch with a fireplace.

House 3 (on Swinks Mill Court, off Swinks Mill Road, south off Georgetown Pike). This impressive home welcomes the visitor with a wide slate walkway bordered by shrubs and leading to the custom front door. Inside, a bright, two-story foyer leads via a curved stairway to a balconied second floor. To the right, a living room with a generous fireplace provides a warm welcome. Directly across the hallway is a formal dining room. To the left is a huge kitchen space, with a breakfast area overlooking a rear garden. Built in 2001, House 3 has six bedrooms (plus three more in the basement), five baths (plus three half-baths), eight fireplaces, two garages with living space above (attached to the house with a breezeway), a two-story family room, a sunroom, a home theater, a garden, a party room, a steam room, sauna and weight room and a 900-square-foot swimming pool.

House 4 (on Calder Road, off Kurtz Road in central McLean). With its center-hall style, this home presents as a traditional Colonial but inside is a blend of Italian and French Renaissance and American architecture. It was built in 1951 and expanded in 1980. The previous owners maintained the original layout when they added a wing to enlarge the kitchen, created a great room and added more bedrooms. As you enter the house, on the right is a formal living room and on the left a small sitting room. Past the staircase is the great room, to the right the nautically themed Nantucket Room and to the left a small formal dining room. Behind is a large Italian kitchen with a breakfast bar and dining area. On the second level are bedrooms and baths for two, a large guest room and a master bedroom overlooking a beautifully landscaped yard. On the third level is a suite for the family's oldest daughter. The lower level is a recreation area.

House 5 (on Turkey Run Road, north off Georgetown Pike)

This 15,000-square-foot, custom-designed mansion is French Provincial in style. It is surrounded by national forest and was built three years ago with careful attention to every detail. The "grand portico" stone entry is composed of warm-toned masonry repeated around the fountain and paved courtyard. The iron scrollwork on the balconies recalls Parisian balcony design. The rear loggia, outdoor room with kitchen, stone pool and fountain contribute to the California flavor the owners envisioned.

The harmony in color and materials continues inside, and fine craftsmanship can be seen throughout. On entering, the formal living room on the left and formal dining room on the right are visible from the foyer. The limestone fireplaces face each other in symmetry. The elaborate plaster patterns in the ceiling and cornices depict acanthus leaves and classical details. The kitchen and family room are large, warm spaces with careful attention paid to the surface finishes. Fireplaces add to the cozy feeling. Six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, four half-baths, an artist's studio, a gym, a lower-level family room, a game room, a library, home offices, a billiard room and a wine cellar and tasking kitchen complete the facilities.

For more information on the tour and MarketPlace, call 703-556-0197 or visit www.mcleanwomensclub.org.

—LAURA SHERIDAN



PHOTOS BY LAURA SHERIDAN

House 1 on McLean 50th Annual Holiday Homes Tour.



House 2 on McLean 50th Annual Holiday Homes Tour.



House 3 on Mclean 50th Holiday Homes Tour.



House 4 on Mclean 50th Holiday Homes Tour.



House 5 on Mclean 50th Holiday Homes Tour.

PEOPLE

McLean Student Among YoungArts Competition Winners

McLean resident and high school senior at Saint Andrew's Episcopal School (Potomac, Md.), Benjamin Hunter Wang '17, is one of the 2017 merit winners of the YoungArts competition in architecture/design. According to a press release, "Selected through a blind adjudication process conducted by an independent panel of highly accomplished artists, the 691 winners represent the top 8.67 percent of applications." As a winner chosen from almost 7,970 participants, he is eligible to participate in a full-week all-expense paid YoungArts' regional program in NYC, Miami or Los Angeles.

Last year, Ben won the Scholastic Art and Writing Award Honorable Mention in architecture, representing .6 percent of the applicants. Ben has had this interest since middle school and pursued the study of the arts during the weekends and summers because he couldn't fit art into his daily class schedule.



Benjamin Hunter Wang

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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CRAFTMARK HOMES

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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McLean
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

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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/holidayhomestour.

❖ **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.

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 42nd Street Singers performs Christmas Carols inside Tysons Corner Center Mall.

PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION



Musicologist, humorist and jazz pianist John Eaton will share the history and harmonies of some favorite seasonal songs from the American Songbook at a special “Holiday Spectacular” on Saturday, Dec. 17 at The Alden.

Plan Ahead McLean

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

“Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas” at 1 & 4 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. For ages 4+. What could be fancier than Christmas? This year, Nancy is especially excited. She has enough money to buy a brand-new sparkly Christmas-tree topper. But when things don’t turn out the way Nancy planned, will Christmas still be splendiferous? Admission: \$15/\$10 MCC tax district residents/ <http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre>

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

McLean Symphony Family Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Features Antonio Vivaldi’s Winter from “The Seasons” and highlights from Gian-Carlo Menotti’s “Amahl and the Night Visitors.” Admission: \$25/adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/students.

Great Falls United Methodist Church Living Nativity 5 - 6 p.m. Three 20 minute, one act plays will kick off the event. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. www.greatfallsumc.org

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

ONGOING

Cheerleaders for Charity Fridays 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. Sept. 16 - Dec. 9 No lesson on 11/11, 11/25 & 12/2. McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Introduces students to cheers, motion techniques, jumps, and more. Come build flexibility, physical conditioning and self-esteem. Cheerleaders for Charity performs at a charity event each semester. This class requires a cheer uniform fee of \$70. Instructor: Miss Raven, USA Gymnastics Certified Instructor. mcleancenter.org

CHO Food, New Toy, and Bike Drive Nov. 1-Dec. 31 at various locations around Vienna. Dish soap,

canned fruit, chili, canned beef stew, diapers and wipes, canned salmon, Spam, tuna, tomato sauce, and laundry detergent are in particular need. CHO requests that no food be expired.

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

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR.
PAGE 12

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

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Tysons Corner Center on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016.



The Fairfax Choral Society’s Youth Choir (ages 5-9) sings holiday songs by the Christmas tree before the lighting.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

McLean Holiday Parade Set for Dec. 4

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

Pre-parade entertainment begins at 2:30 p.m. and will be introduced by local business leader, Bill DuBose. It will include performances by students from Westgate, Spring Hill and Kent Gardens Elementary Schools. Food vendors will be available in the Langley Shopping Center parking lot and will include Mama's Donut Bites, Crepe Love and Doug the Food Dude.

As in years past, parade observers are asked to bring a gift card for food or merchandise that will be



PHOTO BY CAROLINE WATKINS/THE CONNECTION

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

passed along to Share of McLean. There will be a giant holiday stocking in the front of the stage for gift cards or cash donations to Share.

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

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1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy

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Saturday, 8:30 AM

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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 mclean@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.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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Center, 115 Pleasant Street NE. Gently-used bikes are accepted on Nov. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at two locations: Vienna Presbyterian Church – Mill Street parking lot - and Antioch Christian Church at 1860 Beulah Road. Bicycles will be renewed as a courtesy by local bike shops.

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

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

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

Aerobic Dance Workout Mondays 9:15 - 10:10 a.m. Sept. 19 through Dec. 12 No lesson on 10/10. McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Choreographed routines provide heart-healthy benefits, while sculpting and mat work offer strengthening and stretching. Please bring aerobic shoes, light weights, tubing and a mat. Instructor: BodyMoves Fitness, LLC. Cost: \$168/\$144 MCC district residents. mcleancenter.org

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

Tai Chi Beginners' Practice. Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. FreeTaiChi.org. 703-759-9141.

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

TUESDAY/NOV. 22

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

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/>

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

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

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

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. www.mcleanvfd.org

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NEWS

'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

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+

Splendiferous Christmas," it takes a young girl, Nancy 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.



FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to mclean@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 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.stthomasmcleanva.org for Special Events and Services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel). The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Questions? Please contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holycorforter.com.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap if you have them. Questions? Please contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Mom's Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna.

Please join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

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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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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.



Girl Power: The strong women of 'Little Women the Musical'. From left: Kayla Johnson (narrator), Maddie Miller (Beth), Holly Waters (Jo), Sonali Doshi (Marmee), Carolyn Nee (Meg), Samantha Feldman (Amy), and Itzel Trejoh (Aunt March)



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