

Great Falls CONNECTION

The cast takes a break during rehearsal in the black box for the fall production of "The Dining Room" at Langley High School. The play runs Nov. 16-18.

Langley High Presents 'The Dining Room'

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Fairfax County Leads Blue Wave

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Great Falls Scouts Collect Food to End Hunger

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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PHOTO BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

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NOVEMBER 15-21, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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774A Walker Road Great Falls, VA 22066



Sold

FX9859062 - \$650,000 - Great Falls
11430 Seneca View Way: 2.4 Acre Lot
Lot located in Great Falls w/ Prior Approval for
5BR Home. Price to Sell Prior Perc Test Had
Been for 5BR Home.



Under Contract

FX9853078 - \$7,000,000 - Great Falls
Utterback Store Rd: Approximately 68 Acres of
Vacant Land w/ 2 Acre Zoning Located in
Great Falls. Breathtaking Views of Tysons Corner,
Bethesda, & the Washington Monument.



Under Contract

FX10080790 - \$795,000 - Great Falls
1092 Loran Ct: 4 BR, 2.5 BA
Nicest Home in Great Falls at this Price! Spacious
& Light Filled Gourmet Kitchn w/ Skylight. Large
MB w/ Large Walk-In Closet adjoins a MBA.



Sold

FX9962498 - \$1,269,000 - Vienna
1284 Cobble Pond Way: 5 BR, 6B, 20B
Captivating Details Abound in this Updated/Renovated Home.
Master Suite Offers a Sitting Room w/ Fireplace, Spa Bathroom,
& Walk-in Closet. Minutes to Tyson's, Reston, & the Metro.



For Sale

FX9997116 - \$299,900 - Reston
1505 North Point Dr #1: 2 BR, 2 BA
Meticulously Maintained Condo near Reston Town Center.
Brand New HVAC Installed Prior to Listing. Kitchen includes
Granite Counters & SS Appliances. Walk-out Patio w/ View
of Private Wooded Area.



For Sale

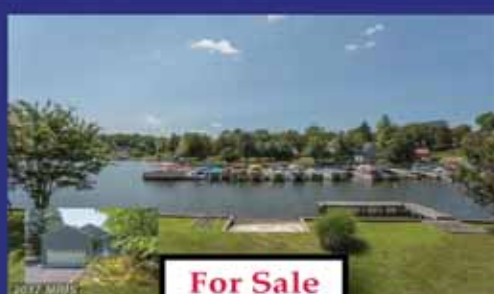
FX10001560 - \$950,000 - Great Falls
748 Kentland Dr: 5 Acre Parcel of Land with Eas Access
to Route 7. Soil Eval Test in 1992 Showed Percolation
for a 3 BR Home. Must See Opportunity for Anyone
Looking to Build a Home in Great Falls.



Sold

LO9932796 - \$2,125,000 - Round Hill
35336 Appalachian Trail Rd: 3 BR, 1.5 BA
Nearly 280 Acres in 3 Parcels Farm House & Barns
Sited at the Base of Short Hill Mountains. Property
is Approx 85% Open w/ Fenced Pastures & Crop Lands.

Thinking about that second home or downsizing? Call me to discuss several possibilities!



For Sale

OR9932277 - \$625,000 - Lake of the Woods
248 Washington St: 5 BR, 3 BA
Fantastic Water Views Just the Beginning. You'll
Enjoy Sailing, Swimming, or Floating from a Private
Dock. Open Floor Plan Home is Immaculate!



Sold

OR9958296 - \$1,250,000 - Lake of the Woods
120 Lee Cir: 5 BR, 4.5 BA
Brand New Unique & Elegant Waterfront Property
Bright & Open Interior Flows to Deck for Lakeside
Entertainment & Private Dock. Oversized Garage.



For Sale

OR10035701 - \$675,000 - Lake of the Woods
542 Harrison Cir: 3 BR, 3.5 BA
Stunning Architecture Boasts 115' of Shoreline that's
Located in a Serene Area of the Lake w/ Gourmet
Kitchen & an Incredible Outdoor Living Space.

Wounded Warrior Christmas Gift Wish List

*Please Call or Email me for more information
on this year's program to support the families
of Wounded Service Members.*

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Fairfax County Leads Blue Wave

Democrats sweep statewide races, come close to taking over House of Delegates.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Democrats swept all three statewide seats last week and picked up so many seats in the House of Delegates that control of the chamber is now in doubt. A week later, three seats are too close to call, awaiting possible recounts.

Voters rejected Republican arguments about sanctuary cities and Confederate memorials, divisive issues that had moderate Republicans trying to win over extreme elements of President Donald Trump's coalition. It didn't work, and it may have signaled a new era in how Democrats can take on Republicans and win at the ballot box.

"The new Democratic Party is back," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez during a raucous Election Night party at George Mason University. "And we're back with a bang."

Democrat Ralph Northam won 54 percent of the vote against Republican Ed Gillespie, whose performance slipped a bit from his 2014 nail-biter against Democrat Mark Warner for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Back in 2014, Gillespie won 48 percent of the vote. This year he was only able to get 45 percent.

"The doctor is in," declared Northam, a pediatric neurologist, after Gillespie concede the race.

Voters in Fairfax County helped Democrats run up the numbers across Virginia and turn the blue wave into something Democratic House Leader David Toscano



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION
Democrat Ralph Northam declares victory in the hotly contested race for governor at George Mason University.



Northam



Fairfax



Herring

calls a "tsunami." Northam took 80 percent of the vote in Arlington, 78 percent of the vote in Alexandria and 68 percent of the vote in Fairfax County. He also received about 40,000 more votes than Gov. Terry McAuliffe did four years ago.

Now Republicans say they are ready to

mount their own resistance.

"Our grassroots are now primed to hold Northam accountable during his time as governor, and we plan to do just that," said Americans for Prosperity-Virginia State Director J.C. Hernandez. "If the Northam administration tries to advance policies that

grow government and make life more costly, we stand ready, willing, and able to educate our neighbors on the issues."

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP was not on the ballot in Virginia this year, but he loomed over every part of this campaign. The election cycle started when many Democrats were still in shock that the real-estate developer turned reality TV star was elected president. A historic women's march after Trump's inauguration led to an unprecedented number of female candidates taking on entrenched Republican elected officials this year, mostly men. The gamble paid off, and many of those defeated male incumbents are now preparing to leave office.

"Women are leading the resistance," said Emily's List president Stephanie Schriock. "A record number of women ran for office in Virginia, and now a record number of women will serve in the Virginia House of Delegates, fighting for improved public education, investment in infrastructure, economic growth, and access to health care."

Voters in key swing jurisdictions voted for Northam; he won 61 percent in Prince William County, 60 percent in Loudoun County, 60 percent in Henrico County and 52 percent in Virginia Beach. And although Gillespie performed well in traditional Republican strongholds like Rockingham and Pittsylvania, he struggled in the Richmond suburb of Chesterfield. Party leaders on both sides of the aisle say voters were reacting to Trump and sending a message.

"Voters turned out in droves in a direct rebuke of state Republicans and the Trump administration," said Jessica Post, executive director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. "Americans from coast to coast sent a clear message that when faced with adversity, we will step up and defend our values, safeguard the progress we have

SEE BLUE WAVE, PAGE 15

Unofficial Election Results 11-8-17

SOURCE: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS, RESULTS.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV
* Incumbent

GOVERNOR

Ralph S. Northam (D) 1,409,086, 53.90%
Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R) 1,175,698, 44.97%
Clifford D. Hyra (L) 27,987, 1.07%
In Fairfax County, Northam received 67.87%
In Arlington, Northam received 80.00%
In City of Alexandria, Northam received 78.36%

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Justin E. Fairfax (D) 1,368,179, 52.72%
Jill H. Vogel (R) 1,224,481, 47.18%

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mark R. Herring (D)* 1,385,304, 53.34%
John D. Adams (R) 1,209,303, 46.56%

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

34th District
Kathleen Murphy (D)* 20,522, 60.92%
Cheryl Buford (R) 13,146, 39.02%
35th District
Mark Keam (D)* unopposed 22,566, 93.04%
36th District
Ken Plum (D)* unopposed 21,107, 93.01%
37th District
David Bulova (D)* unopposed 18,856, 93.56%
38th District
Kay Kory (D)* 16,023, 73.51%
Paul Haring (R) 5,723, 26.26%
39th District
Vivian Watts (D)* unopposed 21,392, 92.62%

40th District

Donte Tanner (D) 15,004, 49.74%
Tim Hugo (R)* 15,110, 50.10%

41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D)* unopposed 22,959, 90.84%

42nd District

Kathy Tran (D) 18,761, 60.97%
Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R) 11,967, 38.89%

43rd District

Mark Sickles (D)* unopposed 22,084, 93.34%

44th District

Paul Krizek (D)* unopposed 18,330, 92.81%

45th District

Mark Levine (D)* unopposed 31,360, 95.09%

46th District

Charniele Herring (D)* unopposed 18,919, 96.40%

47th District

Patrick Hope (D)* unopposed 29,672, 96.20%

48th District

Rip Sullivan (D)* unopposed 27,625, 94.61%

49th District

Alfonso Lopez (D)* 19,308, 81.30%
Adam Roosevelt (R) 4,391, 18.49%

53rd District

Marcus Simon (D)* 19,235, 74.28%
Mike Casey (I) 6,362, 24.57%

67th District

Karrie Delaney (D) 17,036, 57.86%
Jim LeMunyon (R)* 12,365, 42.00%

86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D)* 16865, 68.52%
Linda Schulz (R) 7,707, 31.31%

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOND,

\$315 MILLION
YES 262,442, 73.35%
NO 95,346, 26.65%

Sex Trafficking Talk in McLean

Great Falls Rotary and Airline Ambassadors International present speakers on topic.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Although somewhat hidden and obscure, human sex trafficking is a major problem in Fairfax County. Over the course of four years, there have been some 536 known victims – both male and female – of human trafficking in Northern Virginia alone, making it the second-fastest growing crime behind drugs.

At a meeting of about 50 people co-sponsored by the Great Falls Rotary and the Airline Ambassadors International at The Madeira School on Thursday, Nov. 9, human trafficking awareness leaders came forward to discuss the problem, which rakes in \$150 billion a year worldwide.

The evening featured survivor Alicia Kozakeiwicz, 29, from Pittsburgh, Pa., who was kidnapped to Herndon at age 13 and forced into being a sex slave.

“Young people are especially vulnerable. We like to believe that it only happens to people who come from broken homes. It can happen to anybody. It’s all about vulnerability. Who can they exploit,” said Kozakeiwicz.

HER SAGA began while she was in a chat room in 2002 when somebody messaged her and they started talking; and they chatted online for eight months afterwards. “What I didn’t know was he immediately began to groom me; what a groomer will do is make you feel beautiful, important, special and unique,” she said. She agreed to meet the person, who then abducted her and drove her to Herndon.

“On the first night, he removed all of my clothing; I was raped, beaten, tortured in the basement dungeon,” she said, adding that he live-streamed her on the internet. After a couple of days, “He left for work, and I was terrified and I sat quietly and prayed and cried.”

She was rescued by the FBI when someone saw the live feed. At the age of 14, she began telling her story and speaking about internet safety. “I went into schools and started sharing my story. I have been doing it for 15 years and it has been an amazing journey,” she said.

She also works with Airline Ambassadors



Sex trafficking panelists (from left): Nancy Rivard, Alicia Kozakeiwicz, Bill Woolf, and Barbara Amaya.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



Skye Jannery-Barney, 17, of Great Falls



U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10)



Nancy Rivard, president of the Airline Ambassadors International

International to train airport personnel to recognize and report the signs of human trafficking so that if something is going on during their flight or on the ground, they can report it, which could lead to the apprehension of the offender as quickly as possible.

“There are bad people out there. We have to shine a light in this darkness. This isn’t something we can push under the rug. This is real life. These are the kids who are in your neighborhood. That monster was from here. You have to be careful. You have to teach your kids how to stay safe online.” For more on Alicia’s story, go to www.aliciakozak.com.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) said that the problem is happening at hotels right here, and it’s important to make this education effort omnipresent.

“Part of the psychology is how they prey upon young women and groom them at an

average age of 12-13 years old,” she said. “They date them, they groom them, they make them think they are a girlfriend. Before they know it, they become involved in it. Gangs like the MS-13 were getting involved more in human trafficking; it was a higher money-maker than trafficking drugs,” she said.

She added, “This is something that can happen to anyone just because how devils the criminals are preying upon the children. Criminals find new ways to get around and do things in different ways.”

Nancy Rivard, president of the Airline Ambassadors International, said with 21.3 million victims globally, that human trafficking is the second largest industry, behind drug trafficking, which is first. The group (www.airlineamb.org) uses airline contacts to provide for vulnerable children worldwide. Members volunteer as medical escorts, deliver humanitarian aid to orphan-

ages, and educate and advocate for child protection and human trafficking awareness globally.

She said she realized sex trafficking was happening on the airlines, that traffickers use all forms of transportation to keep their victims powerless, and that education was needed.

“We knew from personal experience that traffickers use commercial air travel. The airline industry can play a key role... We made sure our training was consistent and our work has led to actual legislation in the U.S.”

ANOTHER SPEAKER, Barbara Amaya, originally from Fairfax, said she ran away from home at age 12 and ended up under the control of human traffickers for a decade in New York City. “I was so traumatized... It’s all about traffickers turning a human being into a commodity,” she said.

The author of two books, including “Nobody’s Girl,” Amaya now speaks all over the country on human sex trafficking.

She gave her talk with Bill Woolf, president of “Just Ask” trafficking prevention program which started in 2013. “We know trafficking is going on here. I have seen it first-hand in our community. Let’s prevent it. It starts with education and awareness,” said Woolf.

The average life expectancy for someone who gets involved in this lifestyle is seven years, said Woolf. “We have this problem where people get stuck in these situations; they don’t recognize what’s going on. There’s a lot of self blame that goes on.”

He added, “Traffickers are looking for young people on social media. Once they find a target, they are looking for any vulnerability that they can exploit. They begin the manipulation process. Sometimes they are taken to another state,” he said.

Another speaker, Madeira senior Skye Jannery-Barney, 17, of Great Falls was named Miss Teen Virginia 2016. Her pageant platform was on the eradication of human trafficking. “I go to an all-girls school so the issue’s really big in our area of Northern Virginia, and I’ve been working really hard over the past two years now to help combat it and work with young girls as well,” she said.

John Foust, Dranesville District supervisor, added: “What we heard tonight is something I think every parent should hear; and every child and teenager should hear. Human trafficking happens to anyone and everyone and so we should all make sure we protect ourselves and our families from it.”

FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday at noon.

Blue Christmas Service - a non-traditional service of remembrance and hope - will be held at Katie's Coffee House 760 Walker Road, Great Falls on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:30 p.m. brought to you by Great Falls Area Ministries. For more information call Carol Wright 703-582-1640.

For those struggling physically or spiritually, on the first Sunday of each month, **Christ the King Lutheran Church** offers a rite of healing as part of worship; the opportunity to be anointed with oil and prayed over. During the healing rite, the pastor or another person says a short prayer while two people lay hands on the recipient. Then the pastor or helper anoints them with oil as a sign of God's healing and forgiveness. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call 703-759-6068 or visit www.gflutheran.org.


Wesley United Methodist Church located at 711 Spring St., SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180, at the corner of Spring Street and Moore Avenue. 10:30 a.m. fellowship time in the fellowship hall; 11 a.m. traditional family worship in sanctuary. If you are seeking a church home which encourages: caring and supportive fellowship, an active and devoted prayer life and study of scripture, support for local and world missions, an open, responsive awareness to the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit.

Youth Activities at Wesley United Methodist Church. Activities are open to all 6th-12th graders. Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the upper room. Youth Bible Study will meet every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. off-site. Following bible study, ride together to the church for youth group. Email the Youth Ministry Staff for the address. The Anchor meets every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and diving deeper into the Word. During the summer, Youth Sunday School meets most Sundays at 9 a.m. in the upper room.

To receive the newsletter or for more information contact youth@wesleyvienna.org.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook roads in McLean, 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. 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. Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holycorforter.com.



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Valid through 1/7/18 at participating HoneyBaked Ham retail locations (not valid online). Offer may not be combined with other offers nor applied to the purchase of any item other than the item that is specified on the coupon. Limit one per customer, per visit. While supplies last. Must present coupon at time of purchase.

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OPINION

Give Locally in Fairfax County

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger for tens of thousands of poor children in our area.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest

areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Fairfax County, more than 52,000 (28 percent) of FCPS students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals.

The median family income in Fairfax County rose to \$129,800. But among families with children, 6 percent have income below the poverty level. That's \$20,420 for a family of three. That's about \$1,700 a month. Median rent in Fairfax County is \$1,747, meaning the cost for half the rentals is more than that.

These are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who

may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger — a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again after Thanksgiving, so please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

WHERE TO GIVE LOCALLY

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Gifts will be collected at Cornerstones main office, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, VA 20190 on Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. – noon. Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.
- ❖ **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. Help neighbors in need by donating money, fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Share's Furniture Program is in major need of drivers and helpers. Visit the Furniture Program page. The Food Pantry is in major need of supplies; visit the Food Pantry page and check Facebook to see how to help the Food Pantry. Visit www.shareofmclean.org for more info about Share.
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105, herndonrestonfish.org. Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and 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. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate at give.nvfs.org/holidaydonation or via check payable to "NVFS" with "Operation Turkey" on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards.

Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124.

- ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182. 703-506-9191, second-story.org. Second Story (formerly 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.
- ❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000+ mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.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.
- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153.
- ❖ **HomeAid** builds and renovates facilities that house the homeless, and partners with many local organizations to do so. 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly, VA 20151. www.homeaidnova.org.
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251, volunteer@facetscares.org or www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.
- ❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. britepaths.org.
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880, fairfaxfish.org.
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, day center for homeless, Fairfax. 703-691-3178, www.thelambcenter.org.
- ❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173, info@foodforothers.org or www.foodforothers.org. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO). 703-569-9160, www.foodforothers.org. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low

income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year.

- ❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families More information at lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/. Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at lortonaction.org or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140 or email Linda@LortonAction.org. Mailing address: LCAC, P.O. Box 154, Lorton, VA 22199-0154.
 - ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, email alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.
 - ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 373, Arlington, VA 22201. 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org.
 - ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. www.shelterhouse.org/
 - ❖ **United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. For the holidays, donations of nearly 10,000 toys, books, games, clothing, and other gifts ensured a joy-filled holiday for more than 1,200 children in 600 families. 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org
- Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.
- ❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia. 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org.
 - ❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email jhenderson@homestretchva.org; 703-237-2035 x125; homestretchva.org/.
 - ❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-

SEE GIVE LOCALLY. PAGE 14

Great Falls CONNECTION

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NEWS

Teaming Up To Benefit Toys For Tots

For the past 13 years Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has been a partner with the United States Marines Toys for Tots Program. This year, G&C Express Tire and Auto Service at 14008 Willard Road in Chantilly will serve as a hub for businesses that want to help collect toys. G&C will also serve as a toy drop off site. Representatives of businesses that want to be a collection site may stop by G&C for a box and poster. The fire stations in Fairfax County will start collecting Toys for Tots on Friday, Nov. 24.

**U.S. Marines and
Battalion Chief
Willie Bailey
flank G&C owners
Gregg and
Christina
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HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



FILE PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH

Great Falls Elementary School students sing in the light of the Christmas tree during Great Falls' 2016 holiday celebration and tree lighting.

NOV. 16-18

Christmas Craft Show. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Oakton Church of the Brethren's 24th Annual Christmas Craft Show is a three-day event featuring a wide variety of handmade creations and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Visit www.oaktonbrethren.org for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 17

Tree Lighting in Tysons. 6-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Join Tysons Corner Center and 97.1-WASH-FM's Chili & Sabrina Conte, Chief Meteorologist Bill Kelly, and Tysons very own Santa Claus as they light the tree, followed by anacoustic duo performance by American Idol David Cook. After the concert, enjoy a ballet performance by the The Kintz-Mejia Academy of Ballet. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 18-19

The Enchanted Forest. Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The Junior League of Northern Virginia's 17th Annual The Enchanted Forest will feature live entertainment, Kids in the Kitchen holiday activities, visits from Santa, a model train display, kids' crafts, gifts for purchase, premium events for adults and kids, and a silent auction of more than 80 decorated themed trees and wreaths. Admission: \$10 adults, \$15 child (includes two crafts), under 2 free. Premium events: \$25-\$40. Visit www.jlrv.org/tef/.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Turkey Trot. 8 a.m. Start and finish at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept., 400 Center St. S., Vienna. Visit www.viennaturkeytrot.org/ for more.

NOV. 22-JAN. 7

Bull Run Festival of Lights.

Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m., \$15 per car; Fridays-Sundays and holidays, 5:30-10 p.m., \$20 per car. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Bull Run Festival of Lights is more than just a light show. After enjoying two and a half miles of light displays, stop at the Holiday Village, complete with bonfires, s'mores, holiday merchandise and free activities, the Holiday Village is fun for the whole family. Have a photo taken with Santa. Call 703-631-0550 or visit www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights.

NOV. 24-26

Thanksgiving Weekend Show.

Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Spring Hill ReCenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Approximately 80 juried artisans offering original, handmade arts and crafts, including decorative painting, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking handweaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional textiles, jewelry and much more. All of the artists and artisans will be on hand to answer questions and talk about their work. \$5, Free for children 12 and under. Email anneclark01@comcast.net or call 703-391-5611.

NOV. 25-26

Fairfax Ballet Company's

Nutcracker. Nov. 25, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Nov. 26, 2 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Ana Victoria Smith of Clifton, dances the role of Clara. Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427 for more.

Mrs. Claus greets children and parents as they wait in line to get a word in with Santa Claus at Great Falls' 2016 holiday celebration and tree lighting.

MONDAY/NOV. 27

Tree Lighting in Vienna.

6-9 p.m. Ring in the holiday season at this annual event along Church Street. After his arrival at 6:15 p.m. on a fire truck, Santa will greet children at the historic Freeman Store and Museum and help the mayor light the holiday tree at 6:20 p.m. Various local musical groups perform throughout the evening. Marshmallow-roasting stations and hot chocolate add to the festive atmosphere. Call Historic Vienna Inc. at 703-938-5187.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Festival of Lights and Carols.

2-7 p.m. at 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Children ages 12 and under can enjoy lunch with Santa at Sherwood Community Center. Lunch seatings will be offered at 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., must pre-register. Listen to live holiday music and enjoy s'mores and hot cider at Old Town Square from 2-7 p.m. Enjoy caroling and lighting of the Christmas Tree at Old Town Square at 6 p.m. Visit fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Breakfast with Santa. 8-10 a.m. at Tysons Corner Center, Upper Level Food Court by AMC. Guests are encouraged to participate in Help Through Holiday Giving by bringing an unwrapped toy to Santa Breakfast to be donated to Second Story. Santa will be leaving promptly at 10am and the line will be closed accordingly. Breakfast begins at 8 a.m. and is first come first serve while supplies last. Guests are permitted to take 1 photo per person/group. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events.

McLean WinterFest Parade. Pre-parade entertainment begins at 2:30 p.m. and the parade will step off at 3:30 p.m. sharp. The parade route will be the same as previous years: Old Chain Bridge Road from

Fleetwood Road to Elm Street. WinterFest 2017 will have food trucks again this year in the Langley Shopping Center. Visit www.mcleanwinterfest.org.

Home for the Holidays Concert. 4-6 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. Main Street Community Band plays a mix of seasonal favorites. Visit www.fairfaxband.org.

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

DEC. 8-9

Christmas Store Help Needed.

Friday night for set up and Saturday to escort shoppers at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE. Call 703-938-7213 for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Lunch with Santa. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Children ages 10 and under can enjoy lunch with Santa. \$6. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit restontowncenter.com for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

Handel's "Messiah." 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Enjoy a free performance of Handel's "Messiah" by the choir of Unity of Fairfax and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events.

Mini-Train Rides. noon-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit

restontowncenter.com for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 23

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Visit restontowncenter.com for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 24

Christmas Eve Celebrations.

Celebrate Christmas in a positive, welcoming and inclusive spiritual community. Meditation service at 9 a.m., family-oriented service at 11 a.m.; candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, Oakton. Free. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events.

THROUGH DEC. 24

Santa's Flight Academy. Various times at at Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Santa surrounded by a space motif. Visit www.santaexpresslane.com for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 31

Burning Bowl Ceremony. 9 and 11 a.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Experience this ritual of releasing what no longer serves you and envisioning the year ahead. Free. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events.

New Year's Eve Scramble. 10 a.m. at Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Shotgun start. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, range balls and prizes. \$60 per player. Call 703-471-5769 or visit www.herndongolf.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 1

New Year's Labyrinth. noon-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Set your intentions for 2018 while walking Unity's indoor labyrinth. Free. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events.

THROUGH EARLY JANUARY

Winter Walk of Lights. At Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. During the Winter Walk of Lights, the garden is transformed into a half-mile, walk of lights. Revisit perennial favorites such as the animated Lakeside Lights, the Fountain of Lights, and the Holiday Nature Walk – and look for new displays each year. Round out a visit roasting marshmallows and sipping on hot beverages, available for purchase. Visit www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Broadway Exhibit. Through Nov. 18, various times at Broadway Galleries, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Local photographer, Silvia Gonzalez Roman with a variety of work. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net for more.

Vienna-Wide Food Drive. Through Dec. 31, bring food contributions to Vienna Town Hall - 127 Center St. S; Vienna Arts Society-115 Pleasant St. NW; Bikes@Vienna-128-A Church St. NW; Caffe Amouri-107 Church St., NE; Evolution Fitness- 216 Dominion Road, NE; Rexall Drug Store-150 Maple Ave. W; Drs. Covell, Stack and Henon- 120 Beulah Road, NE; Patrick Henry Library (co-sponsored by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins) and the Vienna Community Center. Girl Scout Troop 2684 will be helping NEVCA by picking up the food. Sponsored by Committee for Helping Others. Call 703-281-7614 for more.

Textures Exhibit. Through Jan. 7, various times at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org for more.

McLean Farmers Market, Fridays, through Nov. 17, 2017; 8 a.m. to noon, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Master Gardener Plant Clinic on site to answer questions about plants in your landscape

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 15

Meet the Silhouette Artist. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Barston's Childs Play, 1382 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Third Generation Silhouette Artist Karl Johnson will be on hand to create hand cut silhouettes. Call 703-448-3444 for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Model Train Show. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroad open house with model trains and trolleys running to get the holiday season started. Visit www.nvmr.org for more.

NOV. 16-18

Christmas Craft Show. Thursday and



Tyson's McLean Orchestra

On Saturday, Dec. 2, Thomas Pandolfi, a local concert pianist and recording artist, performs with the Tyson's McLean Orchestra. 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Community Building of Vinson Hall, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. Visit www.tysonsmcleanorchestra.org or call 703-893-8646.

Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Oakton Church of the Brethren's 24th Annual Christmas Craft Show is a three-day event featuring a wide variety of handmade creations and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Visit www.oaktonbrethren.org for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 17

Meet the Artist. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, rooms 1 and 2, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Rachel Collins, a local watercolor artist and member of the National Watercolor Society, will be the presenter. Collins teaches classes at the Art League School in Alexandria, Va. and the

Yellow Barn Studio in Glen Echo, Md. Call 703 653-9519 for more.

Movie Double Feature. 3:30-10 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. Trip to AMC Tysons for two movies and dinner at the food court. \$35/\$25 McLean Community Center members. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

Smart Driver Class. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna is sponsoring a refresher two-day driver course geared for drivers age 50 and older. \$15 for AARP members (bring AARP membership card) \$20 for AARP non-members. Call 703-281-0538 for more.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12



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From left: Ren Wallace, a sophomore, and Taylor Itkin, a senior, help to assemble the set for the fall production of “The Dining Room” at Langley High School.



Maddy Rubin, a sophomore from McLean, paints one of the set pieces for the fall production of “The Dining Room” at Langley High School.



Caroline Burnham, a senior from Great Falls is in charge of the publicity for the fall production of “The Dining Room” at Langley High.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Langley High Presents ‘The Dining Room’

**The play runs
Nov. 16-18.**

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Students at Langley High School are busy building the set and rehearsing for the fall theatre production of A.R. Gurney’s “The Dining Room.”

The play revolves around the dining room table, where families shared experiences in the traditional setting of their homes and how this has changed since the great depression.

“People don’t like to spend time in the dining room anymore, we don’t have time for those traditions,” said Valerie Karasek, in her fifth year as the Theatre Director at Langley High School.

The students are also entirely in charge of building the set themselves, making it portable so that the theatre space can be shared with other student groups at the school.

Technology director, Leo Mahdessian, a senior from Great Falls, was in charge of supervising the set design. “I operate all the set construction, lighting, and make sure everything is going smoothly. The learning experience is the best part, because mistakes really help us to improve,” he said.



Leo Mahdessian, technology director and senior at Langley High School, and his mother Nancy on the set of the fall production of “The Dining Room” at Langley High School.

The play offers a variety of opportunities for actors to play multiple roles. “The biggest reason I picked this play was that it was a simple set to give as many actors roles as possible,” said Karasek. The 18-member cast each play three separate roles.

Will Baruch, a senior at Langley High School from McLean, was excited about the versatility of the roles that he gets to play. “I think it’s fun how I get to play different characters with different motives, goals, and objectives. It’s also kind of funny because I can change costumes and characters so

quickly,” he said. Baruch will play three separate roles in the play, Ted, Paul, and Dick.

Caroline Burnham, a senior from Great Falls, is in charge of the publicity surrounding the play, including dealing with the media. “It’s stressful because there’s a lot of balls in the air, but in a good way,” she said.

The multimedia department led by students will make a video trailer for the play as well as conduct interviews with the actors.

“It’s a fun show, I’m related to Gurney, he

is my aunt’s father-in-law. My mom’s step-sister married his son,” said Burnham. “My mom would always say ‘let’s invite A.R. over.’”

Langley High School’s spring play is “Evita,” by Andrew Lloyd Webber, the same playwright who masterminded productions for Broadway such as “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Cats.”

“The Dining Room” will run at Langley High from Nov. 16 to 18. Tickets and more information can be found at Saxon-stage.com.



Taylor Itkin, a senior at Langley High School, helps to assemble the set for the fall production of “The Dining Room” at Langley High.

Great Falls Scouts Collect Food to End Hunger

BY COLIN STOECKER
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Boy Scout Troop 55 and Cub Scout Pack 55 are feeding the hungry in the area this holiday season with a food drive. Saturday, members of Boy Scout troop 55 were loading a moving van full of canned foods, non-perishable items, toilet paper and paper towels.

Community service coordinator and assistant scoutmaster Jeff Ye was supervising the project in the Safeway parking lot Saturday morning. "Last year we gathered anywhere from 1,800 lbs. to 2,000 lbs. of food for this event, and this year will probably be the same amount," he said.

The event is co-sponsored by the Committee for Helping Others as well as other local area sponsors like the Capital Area Foodbank, The Boy Scouts of America, WTOP, WUSA 9, and the Safeway Foundation. In the Washington D.C. area, volunteers are targeting 1 million pounds of food and non-perishable goods to assist families in need in the area.

"It's a lot of scouts and cub scouts over these last two weekends," said Ye, whose son Thomas Ye was helping to sort canned goods on the truck. "It's a little cold so we aren't wearing our uniforms," he said.

The Boy Scouts also left plastic grocery bags for the event on the door handles of neighborhood houses, and returned the next weekend to collect the donations left by those families. They also set up a table in the Safeway parking lot to raise awareness for the food drive in the community.

Candice Holt, a stay at home mom and Great Falls resident arrived with

her SUV filled to the brim with grocery bags of food. Her son, Ned Holt is a Cub Scout in Pack 55.

Azure Briguglio, 7, of Great Falls was also helping out with the effort. "We are feeding the poor," he said.

The list of items that the food drive is accepting include: vegetable oil, white sugar, white flour, canned fruit, canned beans, 100 percent juice, ground coffee, tea bags, toilet paper, paper towels.

More information on Boy Scout Troop 55 can be found at BAS55.com.



Great Falls Boy Scout Troop 55 takes a break from loading a moving truck with canned goods and non-perishable items for the food drive Saturday.



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

Candice Holt, a stay at home mom and Great Falls resident and her son, Ned Holt, 7, a Cub Scout in Pack 55 arrived with her SUV filled to the brim with grocery bags of food for the food drive Saturday in Great Falls.



Thomas Ye, 10, a Great Falls resident and Cub Scout in Pack 55 helped to sort food for the food drive in Great Falls on Saturday.



Azure Briguglio, 7, of Great Falls helps to load canned goods onto a moving truck for the food drive in Great Falls Saturday.

Rugby Tournament Returns to Great Falls

Great Falls Village is once again going to be a busy place on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. On Nov. 19, Great Falls Youth Rugby is hosting its fourth annual tournament to benefit the spinal cord injury research and recovery programs at MedStar National Rehabilitation Network. The President of Great Falls Rugby is himself a spinal cord injury survivor.

Great Falls Rugby is hosting a 7-a-side tournament for all age groups U7 through high school. A number of top D.C., Maryland and Virginia youth, middle school and high school teams are registered. Games begin at 9 a.m. and run all day, with middle school and high school tackle teams playing at both Leo Santabella Park and the Grange. Youth, "tag" rugby matches will be played be-

hind the post-office.

Great Falls Youth Rugby is grateful for the continued support of the community, including sponsors Cuisine Solutions, Indigo IT, Ayoba-Yo foods and Kiwi pies. A portion of the proceeds from all participating teams and vendors will be donated to MedStar's Adaptive Sports Programs.

Great Falls Rugby, founded in 2011, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and has seen registrations surge since the sport's appearance in the 2016 summer Olympics. Registration and playing opportunities exist year round and the Eagles are always looking for opportunities to promote the club throughout the Herndon, Great Falls, Reston, McLean and Sterling areas. For more information visit www.greatfallsrugby.com or email Gary Coetzee at gary@greatfallsrugby.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

On Nov. 19, Great Falls Youth Rugby is hosting its fourth annual tournament.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Benefit Car and Bike Show on Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road. Rev your engines, bring some canned goods and come on out to the Thanksgiving Car and Bike Show. Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com for more.

FROM PAGE 9

NOV. 17-19

Big Sale, Small Works. Various times at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. A variety of art available. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

Benefit Car and Bike Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road. Rev your engines, bring some canned goods and come on out to the Thanksgiving Car and Bike Show. Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate. 2 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Live production with a pirate named Peggy. Free. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Community Labyrinth Walk. 5-7 p.m. at Charles Wesley UMC - The Hunger Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. A spiritual walk in contemplation, in search of guidance, in remembrance, in grief, in thanksgiving, to work on balance, or simply to try something new. Call 703-356-6336 for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Turkey Trot. 8 a.m. Start and finish at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept., 400 Center St. S. Visit www.viennaturkeytrot.org/ for more.

American Legion Breakfast. 8 a.m.-noon at Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Buffet includes omelets, blueberry pancakes, sausage, bacon and more. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580 for more.

Meet the Writer. 11 a.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Meet David Baldacci just days after the release of "End Game." \$35 for general admission and book; \$6 general admission only. Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate. 2 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Live production with a pirate named Peggy. Free. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org for more.

Emerging Artist Concert. 4 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Oscar Paz-Suaznabar, age 12, on the piano,

and Julia Angelov, from Alexandria, play orchestra favorites. Visit www.amadeusconcerts.com.

NOV. 20-DEC. 10

Toy Collection. Sheehy Infiniti of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, will collect new and unwrapped toys as part of the company's annual Sheehy Cares Toy Collection to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

TUESDAY/NOV. 21

Female Re-Enactors of Distinction. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Re-enactment, dramatic readings and various other educational programs in Civil War period clothing transport you back in time to share their stories. Email karen.emami@globalinfotek.com or call 703-938-6471 for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 24

Wagon Ride at Dusk. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Sunset trip through the park. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/ for more.

NOV. 24-26

Thanksgiving Weekend Show. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Spring Hill ReCenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Approximately 80 juried artisans offering original, handmade arts and crafts, including decorative painting, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking handweaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional textiles, jewelry and much more. All of the artists and artisans will be on hand to answer questions and talk about their work. \$5, free for children 12 and under. Email anneclark01@comcast.net or call 703-391-5611.

MONDAY/NOV. 27

Explore the Moon by Telescope. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925

Springvale Road, Great Falls. Explore the lunar surface is marked by craters and lava flows billions of years old. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Tysons McLean Orchestra. 6:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Community Building of Vinson Hall, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. Wine and dinner with piano program performed by Thomas Pandolfi, a local concert pianist and recording artist. Visit www.tysonsmcleanorchestra.org or call 703-893-8646.

Home for the Holidays Musical. 7:30 at The Falls Church Episcopal 115 E. Fairfax St., Falls Church. Tysons McLean Orchestra performs with Melissa Mino. Call 703-893-8646 for more.

STARTING DEC. 8

Watercolor Workshops with Joe Phillips. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Class each Friday until Jan. 1. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

FRIDAY/DEC. 8

Gift Collection. 9:30 a.m.-noon at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. Collecting new, unwrapped gifts and gift cards for children and teens. The North East Vienna Citizens Association is sponsoring the event with help from Girl Scout Troop 2684. Visit nevca.wordpress.com for more.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10

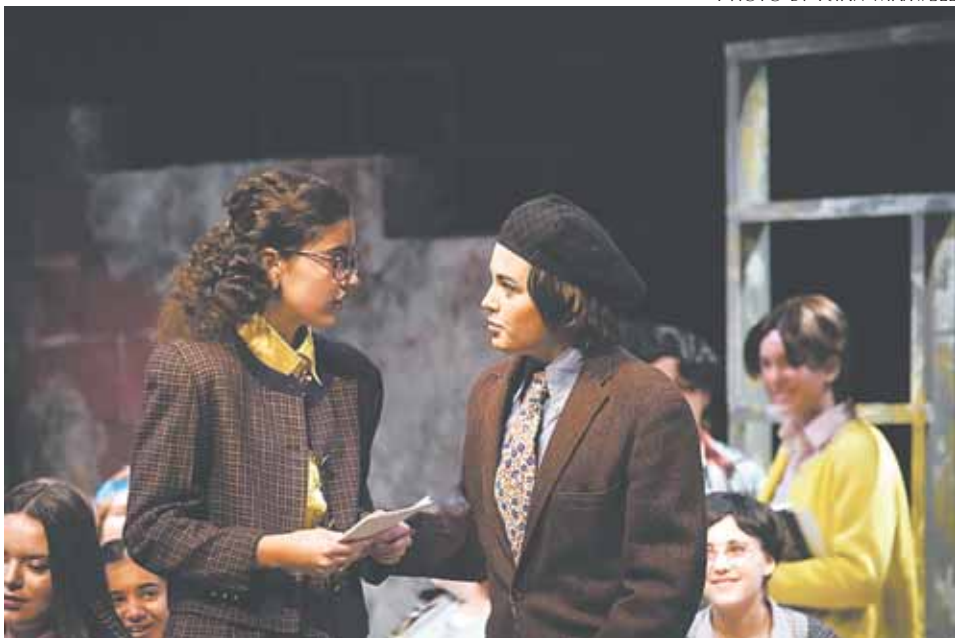
Blue Christmas Service. 3:30 p.m. at Katie's Coffee House 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. A non-traditional service of remembrance and hope, brought to you by Great Falls Area Ministries. Call Carol Wright 703-582-1640.

McLean Youth Orchestra. 4 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Community Building of Vinson Hall, 1735 Kirby Road, McLean. Visit www.tysonsmcleanorchestra.org or call 703-893-8646.

CAPPIES REVIEW

PHOTO BY RYAN MAXWELL

From left:
Alex Raposo
as Sylvia
Barrett,
Mallie Moore
as Paul
Barringer;
background
from left:
Caroline
Potter, Neha
Sinha, Anna
Blackmon,
Alika
Mattheisen in
the Madeira
School pro-
duction of
"Up the Down
Staircase."



Heartwarming Reminder About Caring for Others

**Madeira School presents
"Up the Down Staircase."**

BY KATHERINE KELLY
MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

Behind the cracked windows of an inner city school house, a teacher pushes to discover how to scale the insurmountable walls of her students. The Madeira School artfully captured the power of perseverance and the danger of first impressions in their compelling performance of "Up the Down Staircase."

"Up the Down Staircase" was originally a novel by Bel Kaufman, published in 1964. The book was made up entirely of documents, such as letters, suggestion box cards, and school memos. It was adapted into a movie in 1967, then into a play by Christopher Sergel, preserving pieces of the book's epistolary format. Taking place in the '90s, the story follows Sylvia Barrett, a new teacher eager to inspire her students at Calvin Coolidge High.

Alex Raposo, playing Sylvia, skillfully executed the poise demanded for her mature character, employing a great range of emotional dexterity. Partnering Sylvia was her friend and mentor, the long time teacher Bea Schachter, played by Morgan Taylor. Taylor's consistent characterization and clear maturity aided her relationship with Sylvia, as she created a mother figure for the frazzled young teacher. This believable relationship added dimension to both characters, with their conversations allowing them to accentuate the differences between a new and old teacher's perception of the school.

The dedicated ensemble playing Sylvia's class captured Calvin Coolidge High's complex student body

with ease. Each cast member remained committed to their role, expressing their character's differentiating personalities while maintaining the feeling of a unified classroom.

Among the students, Melissa Handel, playing Alice Blake, delivered the most heart-wrenching story. Handel delicately followed Alice's struggles against her insecurities and wishes, unraveling herself more with each scene and building her character with clear direction. Olivia Lewis, playing the student Jose Rodriguez, was also emotionally compelling, creating an aura of quiet defeat amidst the raucous classroom. Bringing comedic relief was Sydney Marenberg, playing Lennie Neumark. Marenberg embodied her male character with gusto, and from the moment she sauntered onto stage, appeared flawlessly rowdy and ludicrous, eliciting peals of laughter.

The strong technical elements of the production added another level of intricacy. The set portrayed a simple school classroom, with platforms of increasing height behind it. This alluded to a staircase in reference to the play's title, as well as allowing height disparity to make blocking more unique. Complex sound and lighting effects also worked both efficiently and symbolically, changing to reflect moods or situations and making the show more immersive. Time period appropriate makeup and efficient stage management helped the show go off without a hitch, tying together the performance.

As Sylvia navigates a maze of mental illness, poverty, violence, and other issues plaguing her students, she discovers how much more there is to Calvin Coolidge High than what meets the eye. In their meaningful performance of "Up the Down Staircase," The Madeira School sends a heartwarming reminder of every situation's complexity and the importance of caring for others, no matter what it entails.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Vocal musicians from 14 Fairfax County public schools have been named to the Virginia Honors Choir for 2017. Thirty-four Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students were selected for the choir, and five students were named as alternates.

This select choir is open to the top 125 singers from around the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is the highest honor a choir student can attain during his or her high school career. FCPS students named to the 2017 Virginia Honors Choir include: **Sophia Song,**

Caroline Galbreath, Audry Monserrate, Cori Trosch, Sean Lewis, and Bryan Bedell from Langley High School; and **Holly Waters, Tulsi Mehta, Sloane Kelly, and Adi Wineland** from Marshall High School.



**McLean
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Center**

The Center of It All



Here's What's Happening at MCC

**The Alden Fall Production
"Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate"
by D. M. Larson
(Freedrama.net)**

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 18 & 19, at 2 p.m.

Free admission

The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.



**The Old Firehouse Family Event
Unruly Theatre Project**

Friday Dec. 1, 7-9 p.m.

The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.

Free admission

The area's hottest professional teen improv company brings you a hilarious night of comedy, and more!

**McLean Traveler Day Trip
Celebrating the Holidays
in Lewes, Del.**

Saturday Dec. 2,
6:45 a.m.-8 p.m.

\$153/\$138 MCC
district residents



**Presented by The Alden
HOME ALONE
Quote-Along Movie**

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m.

The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Admission and popcorn are free.
Prop bags are \$5 each.

**Old Firehouse Family Movie Night
"Captain Underpants: The
First Epic Movie" (PG)**

Friday, Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m.

The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$3 per person. Free popcorn!

Preregistration is
recommended.



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr.
McLean, VA 22101
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GIVE LOCALLY

FROM PAGE 6

0390, info@pathwayhomes.org,
www.pathwayhomes.org,
www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/.

❖ **Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**, 8305-17B Richmond Highway, PO Box 15096, Alexandria, VA, 22309. 703-768-9419, www.goodhousing.org/. The mission of Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) is to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency. GSH housing manages more than 70 housing units.

❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. www.bgcgw.org/fairfax.

❖ **Christian Relief Services**, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, 703-317-9690, christianrelief.org/

❖ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure,

supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/

❖ **Wright to Read** 703-299-9854, www.wrighttoread.org. Provides volunteer-based, one-to-one tutoring and mentoring to City of Alexandria public elementary school children in need. Funds are needed to provide field trips and enrichment activities, books and other resources. For more information about Wright to Read and becoming a "Tutor/Mentor" see website.

❖ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia** transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at www.habitatnova.org.

❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp)

aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity nor heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. Alice's Kids helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area through small acts of kindness.

❖ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** has launched its Permanent Fund campaign, a community endowment which is a forever source to provide critical support for those in need in the Northern Virginia region; Consider leaving a legacy through a current or planned gift to the Permanent Fund at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. www.cfnova.org/permanentfund.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 15

Health Seminars. 6-7 p.m. at Rose Wellness, 2944 Hunter Mill Road, Ste. 101, Oakton. Learn more about homeopathic flu prevention with Dr. Michael Liss and male hormone replacement therapy options with Dr. Alex Leon. Free. Space is limited, call to reserve a spot 571-529-6699, option 3. Visit www.rosewellness.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 227 Meeting. 7 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Gregory D. Foster, West Point graduate and Vietnam War veteran, will discuss senior U.S. military constitutional command responsibility. Visit www.vva227.org.
Police-Public Forum. 7-9 p.m. Heritage Human Resources Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The forums will provide information on the panel as well as the Independent Police Auditor, the scope of their responsibilities, how complaints can be submitted, and how complaints will be investigated and processed. Another forum will be held Dec. 12. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police..

MONDAY/NOV. 20

Job Hunt Seminar. 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road (at Route 7), Vienna. Ajilon executive recruiter Ann Montgomery will discuss the current job market, what recruiters are looking for, how to read it in a job ad and gear your resume to it, how to make an agency work for you, why LinkedIn is vital and interview tips. Email derce@cox.net for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Future Quest. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at GMU's Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. College and career conference for area middle and high school students with disabilities, as well as their parents, teachers and other professionals. Featuring more than 40 workshops and exhibits

related to successful life after high school. Free. There is free parking in Lot K, or in the Mason Pond Parking Garage for \$8. Visit www.futurequestgmu.org to register or email futurequestnova@gmail.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 11

FCPS Community Conversations. 6:30-8 p.m. at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, Cafeteria (Region 2). Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will host Community Conversations to hear what students, parents, employees, and members of the community are thinking about and what issues are important to them. Brabrand welcomes citizens to attend and take part in any of the upcoming sessions that are convenient for them. Citizens needing a translator can make a request for services online. Visit www.fcps.edu/news/superintendent-brabrand-schedules-five-community-conversations-fall.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Are You A Caregiver? Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group takes place first & third Thursday of each month. February 2nd and 16th, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 jtarr5@verizon.net.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.
Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30 - 3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited

to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmafc.org. The Center's website is www.scmafc.org.
Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: prsinc.org/careering-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

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. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/. 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 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. 703-324-7577 or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

News Blue Wave

FROM PAGE 3

made, and push onward.”

JUSTIN FAIRFAX beat state Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27). Some Democrats feared that Vogel might end up being the lone Republican to win a statewide seat, potentially yielding a key tie-breaking vote in the state Senate on issues like immigration or reproductive rights. But Fairfax, former federal prosecutor, sailed to victory with 53 percent.

“As just the second African-American to ever win statewide office in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Justin Fairfax has already made history just by winning this seat,” said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America. “For Democrats, he’s also made history by showing doubters in Richmond and Washington that progressives dedicated to an inclusive populist political agenda can win big in Virginia.”

Democrat Mark Herring was the only part of the statewide ticket running for reelection, so his campaign was largely a referendum on his time in office. On the campaign trail, Herring talked about his work tackling the opioid crisis and taking on the gun lobby. Voters agreed, and gave him 53 percent of the vote against lawyer John Adams.

“Attorney General Mark Herring came under attack from the gun lobby for doing exactly what he was elected to do: prioritizing the safety of Virginia families over gun lobby profits,” said former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in a written statement. “I am proud to stand by Attorney General Herring as a true champion for safer communities, and I am thrilled to see Virginia voters stand by him as well.”

THE NEXT YEAR in Virginia politics is likely to be one of the most tumultuous periods since Reconstruction. With Democrats poised to take some measure of control of the House, the composition of committees and their chairmen is bound to change. Those details have yet to be worked out, a week after the election. But one thing is clear: When members of the House of Delegates elect a new speaker of the House in January, they will be setting the stage for a session that will have more liberal members than ever before.

“Voters in Virginia soundly rejected the politics of division and bigotry and instead converted hate into political power,” said Julio Lainez, director of America’s Voice Virginia in a written statement. “This, however, is a first step, and it sends a clear message to candidates running in 2018: The Trump/Corey Stewart Political Playbook leads to political oblivion.”

FAITH NOTES

Blue Christmas Service - a non-traditional service of remembrance and hope - will be held at Katie’s Coffee House 760 Walker Road, Great Falls on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:30 p.m. brought to you by Great Falls Area Ministries. For more information call Carol Wright 703-582-1640.

Wesley United Methodist Church located at 711 Spring St., SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180, at the corner of Spring Street and Moore Avenue. 10:30 a.m. fellowship time in the fellowship hall; 11 a.m. traditional family worship in sanctuary.

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Not About Me, Mostly



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, as in a few weeks ago, Mindy, who none of you regular readers know, died of lung cancer. She was my decade’s long best friend’s wife. And she was my friend too, going back almost 40 years. Married to my oldest friend (starting in 10th grade), Cary, for over 35 years, Mindy was originally classified as stage I five years ago. Cary didn’t tell me for a year or so after because he didn’t want to burden me with another piece of bad news, and Mindy being diagnosed with lung cancer would most definitely have been bad news. She had a lobectomy (part of the lung is surgically removed), back then and that’s pretty much all I know about the beginning stages. After the surgery however, she was told she was cancer free.

Unfortunately, I wasn’t able to attend Mindy’s funeral. I had my own post-scan appointment on the Monday morning following the Sunday funeral and night-time shiva and the logistics of traveling back and forth from Washington, D.C., to Boston and back were unworkable. Two weeks later, last weekend in fact, I flew up to Boston and spent four days with Cary, just him and me in the house – without Mindy, of course. We shared an awful lot about Mindy and life, reminiscing backward and contemplating forward. One afternoon, along with Mindy’s first cousin, Julie, Cary and I visited Mindy’s grave, about 20 minutes from the house, where I was able to pay my respects and say a few words in private. After standing alongside the grave site for a few minutes, Cary took out his smart phone, bent over toward the ground and played “their” song, sniffling and wiping away tears in the process. A very touching moment. Another afternoon, I sat with Cary at their kitchen table and read through all the condolence cards with Cary explaining all the relationships to Mindy. One night, Cary and I went to dinner with his two sons, Jonathan and Jordon (along with Jon’s girlfriend, Coleen and Jordy’s wife, Lauren). At dinner, I shared two jokes with the boys that Mindy had told years ago, that to this day, I keep in my repertoire; they had not heard them before. One involved an elephant, another had to do with Jesus Christ becoming a bell ringer. Cary’s third - and oldest son, Jeffrey, was not present as he had flown back to California on Tuesday where, after spending three weeks at home with his father and brothers watching his mother struggle to survive, he returned a few days after the funeral.

As for me, I teared up throughout the weekend. Over the years, especially after my parents moved to Florida, I didn’t see Cary and Mindy as regularly as I had while my parents were still living in Massachusetts (four times a year, generally). From 1989 on, maybe we visited one another a dozen times in person: high school reunions, bar mitzvahs, a couple of Celtic’s games and the odd occasion where the timing/opportunity presented itself. All the while, going on 45 years now, we spoke/speak every couple of weeks, picking up in conversation without ever missing a beat.

What was particularly/uniquely difficult for me – and I don’t think it is as difficult as losing one’s “soul mate,” as Cary described Mindy, just as they were beginning to embark on their final journey together: retirement – was that I too have lung cancer. As such, it was a peculiar position in which I found myself. Not only was I grieving the loss of a close friend: Mindy, way too young; she was younger than me by a couple of years, and the effect it had on my best friend, Cary, I was also witnessing first hand, up close and extremely personally, the ravages and devastating impact of a lung cancer diagnosis, a diagnosis with which I am all too familiar. Of course, I felt bad for Cary losing his beautiful wife. Of course, I felt bad for the boys losing a fabulous, devoted mother. But there was a part of me that felt bad for me. As a cancer survivor, it’s easy to pretend that this disease isn’t killing you until you attend a funeral/spend time with the family of someone who has succumbed to this terrible disease. Then it hits home, with a vengeance. “Cancer sucks,” as so many of us know, but life must go on, as difficult as it sometimes is.

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

~2017~

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(Entry Deadline is November 30, 2016 by 5:00 pm)

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Age: _____ Contact Phone & Email: _____

Artist's Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Required: Parental/Guardian Consent Form

Parental/Guardian Consent: I give permission for my child or dependent's artwork,
name & age to be published in a 2017 Dianne, Jan & Dan, GreatFallsGreatHomes.com
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Signature: _____

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

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- Card design must be a Holiday theme
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- Entry form must be submitted with artwork
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