

# McLean CONNECTION

McLean resident Karen Ingulli with her sons, twins Michael and Thomas, 6 and a half years old, who attend Spring Hill Elementary. They represented cub scout pack 1144 den 9 at the ninth annual Winterfest parade in McLean on Sunday, Dec. 3.

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# Police To Add Body Cameras

In other business, board hires new county executive and updates environmental priorities.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County police officers from the Mount Vernon and Mason district stations will soon wear body cameras in a three-month pilot program designed to determine if all Fairfax County police officers will wear the cameras in the future.

"We see this as a really wonderful opportunity to better connect our officers on the ground and our folks on the street and make sure that everybody has an opportunity to work together and see how that work goes," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck.

The Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission recommended in 2015 that officers be equipped with the cameras, and the Board of Supervisors approved the pilot program at its board meeting on Nov. 21. It will take another few months to get the three-to-six month pilot program up and running.

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, chairman of the board's public safety committee, expressed concerns about upcoming constraints on the public safety budget. "We are going to have some tough decisions in public safety and we need good data," said Cook.

Fairfax County Police Department will partner with American University to initiate an academic study, which could be extended from 90 days to six months.

"Community advocates will be at the table to help us monitor the deployment of the cameras and how the policy is working," said Col. Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Chief of Police.

"The pilot body worn program is designed to provide the department with the opportunity to review police-community member encounters as they occur, as well as provide an additional degree of safety for our officers as they patrol the streets," according to the Fairfax County Police Department. The cost of the pilot program is \$684,000.

Storck asked if all officers from the Mount Vernon station could use the cameras.

"When it comes to evaluating the impacts of body worn cameras, we are still, as a field, in the early days," said Brad Bartholomew, professor at American University.

For studies to be effective, "we must ensure that a group of officers receives the camera and another group does not," he said. "The more you can control, the more you can model, the more believable your results may be."

The study analysis is expected to cover statistics and community member feedback to assess the impacts prior to, during and following the pilot program.

"Officers will be expected to activate the



**Bryan Hill, new county executive**



**Stella Koch**



**Col. Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Chief of Police**



**John Cook, Braddock Supervisor**

camera during any law enforcement-public encounter related to a call for service, law enforcement action, subject stop, traffic stop, search or police service," according to the police department.

Police and a variety of civic groups worked together on a proposed pilot body-worn camera policy to address personal privacy rights, transparency and accountability in police-community member contacts. The policy can be modified as needed based on the pilot.

Read the draft policy at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/boardcommittees/meetings/2017/oct10-public-safety-body-worn-cameras-draft-policy.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/boardcommittees/meetings/2017/oct10-public-safety-body-worn-cameras-draft-policy.pdf)

## TWO BOARDS, ONE FAIRFAX

The Board of Supervisors and School Board adopted a joint social and racial equity policy called One Fairfax.

The Board of Supervisors joined the School Board by adopting the policy on Tuesday, Nov. 21, one day after the School Board.

"I dare say we've spent thousands of hours on this policy and I think it's reached a point when it is time to approve it," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, adding that he judges this his most important action in the 10 years he has served on the board.

"This goes across all that we do," said Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins.

The policy identifies 17 areas of focus including housing, education, community and economic development, environment and transportation.

"What we are doing here is not guaranteeing that everybody is going to be successful because that really goes to the individual, but what we can do is ensure that this board and Fairfax County ensure ... that everybody in Fairfax County has an opportunity to succeed," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"I believe philosophically at our core, we believe in equity and our community reflects that, and our community wants that," said McKay.

"Far too often, I have found that some people in my community aren't at the table,

but they rely on us to be there at the table for them. And they rely on us to make sure their county government represents them as individuals."

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity had concerns how to measure the efforts or define success.

"From the very beginning of this policy discussion, I've asked several simple questions that I haven't been able to receive an answer for," Herrity said. "I support every one of our residents having equal opportunities to succeed and I believe our county and staff are committed to that as am I. But I can't support a new government bureaucracy for a problem that no one can quantify and for which there are too few definitions or measures of success or impact."

Read the resolution at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2016/one-fairfax-resolution.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2016/one-fairfax-resolution.pdf).

## ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

While addressing deer management and a lack of predators in Fairfax County, Stella Koch said, "They've changed the ecology in Yellowstone [National Park], but I don't think that it is an option here."

The Environment Quality Advisory Council advocates for a full-time wildlife specialist position in Fairfax County to support the deer management program as well as the Canada Geese Management Program.

"That position has been needed for a long time," said Koch. "We have one person doing a significant amount of yeoman's work."

On Nov. 21, Koch presented the environmental quality annual report, highlighting major priorities for 2018, including the need to conduct a countywide survey on the public's view of the "cultural carrying capacity, how people are thinking about deer in this county."

The advisory council also says the Board of Supervisors needs to update its 2003 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and needs to implement a lighting work group. "Since 2003 there have been a lot of changes in technology and also an increase in density in this county," said Koch.

"The increasing density of development

in Fairfax County will invariably lead to more instances of 'light trespass,' where lights on one property affect another property," according to the environmental report.

Koch also advocated for increasing the Stormwater Service District rate by one-quarter penny, from a rate of 3 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 3.25 cents per \$100.

"As you know, there is an endless backlog of infrastructure that needs replacements," she said. "We're making great progress and it's slow and steady, but we definitely need more funding."

"I use this as a model for how we can track major issues," said Bulova, praising the structure and quality of the EQAC report.

"When you open the annual report, the first thing [you see] is the recommendations. We think that is important, it is what this annual report basically drives us toward," said Koch.

Other priorities include funding of \$263,000 required for the Fairfax County Park Authority's natural resource mapping efforts and additional technology.

The public will have an opportunity to give both EQAC and the Board of Supervisors feedback in a public hearing scheduled for Jan. 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway.

To read the report, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2017/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2017/).

## THE \$250,000 MAN

Bryan Hill will be Fairfax County's next county executive, effective Jan. 2, 2018.

"Selecting a county executive is the most important hire the Board of Supervisors undertakes," said Penny Gross, vice chairman and Mason District supervisor. "Mr. Hill brings impressive leadership, management, communications and budget experience to Fairfax County."

"I believe this is the fifth county executive for me and the fourth search," said Gross.

Hill, currently the James City County, Va. administrator and clerk to its Board of Supervisors, will replace Fairfax County Executive Edward L. Long, who retired in September.

"While [James City County] is a smaller jurisdiction, many of the issues are the same," said Bulova. "We are very, very excited to welcome Bryan Hill to Team Fairfax."

Hill will earn \$250,000 per year.

Hill has been the James City County administrator since 2014, and previously served seven years as the deputy county administrator with Beaufort County, S.C. Pre-

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Children dance in the ninth annual Winterfest parade in McLean on Sunday.



McLean cub scouts march in the ninth annual Winterfest parade in McLean on Sunday, Dec. 3.

PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

# McLean Holds 2017 Winterfest Parade

BY COLIN STOECKER  
THE CONNECTION

The ninth annual Winterfest in McLean closed down a section of Old Chain Bridge Road and Elm Street in downtown McLean on Sunday for a massive street parade. Hundreds of people lined the streets to see the fire department, police department, McLean High School's Highlander marching band, cub and girl scouts, and other community groups rode cars, floats and other vehicles down the street in holiday celebration.

Food trucks lined the edge of Langley Plaza. The parade has been going on longer than nine years, but since being rebranded as Winterfest it has attracted more participants and sponsors than ever.

Top sponsors were The McLean Community Foundation, State Farm Insurance and the McLean Revitalization Corporation.

Caitlin Gillett, a Fairfax resident, said that

the sense of community was why she attended the parade with her daughter to represent the group, College Nannies. "We've been here building stronger families in the area, and it's great to get out and find more families to help babysit and tutor," said Gillett.

The volunteer fire department in McLean was helping to register vehicles and groups who were marching or driving in the parade. Laine D'augustine, a physician assistant and member of the McLean volunteer fire department was working at the table. "I've driven an ambulance in this parade before. It's a really nice event for the whole community to participate in and to celebrate the holidays," said D'augustine.

The Community Emergency Response Team volunteers were standing along the parade route and most street corners in McLean to make sure that drivers knew where to park and that everyone was safe. CERT is meant to be active in the event of a disasters, where first responders would be

overwhelmed with other duties.

"McLean Winterfest encourages local participation and a community feeling. My girl scouts have been marching for a few years. They like waving and sharing the holiday spirit," said Jennifer Ruscio, a McLean resident who works in finance.

"This is the ninth annual Winterfest, and it's homegrown, with local businesses, girl scouts, and the community to say, 'hey we're here!' and Santa is our gift to everybody," said Clyde Clark, a Vienna resident, the former McLean Volunteer Fire Department chief, and a member of the Winterfest steering committee.

Janet Tysse, president of the McLean Community Foundation and a McLean resident was excited to have the opportunity to sponsor the parade. "It's awesome for McLean to be able to have these community events. We are happy to have the local banks, realtors, and insurance companies sponsor the parade for everyone's benefit," she said.



Members of the Fairfax Honor guard marched with the American Flag, Virginia State Flag, and their guns to start off the ninth annual Winterfest parade in McLean on Sunday.



Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48) and his wife Beth Sullivan ride in Bob Coates's Ford Mustang in the ninth annual Winterfest parade in McLean on Sunday, Dec. 3.



Caitlin Gillett, a Fairfax resident with College Nannies, pictured with her daughter Gabriella, 3, at the ninth annual Winterfest parade in McLean on Sunday.



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## Give Locally in Fairfax County

Holidays are for giving; many choices to help.

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.

**EDITORIAL** Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encoun-

tering 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 the holidays.

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.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### GIVE LOCALLY

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org). Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. 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](http://www.shareofmclean.org) for more info about Share.
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105, [herndonrestonfish.org](http://herndonrestonfish.org). Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and 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](mailto:holiday@linkagainsthunger.org). 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org).
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, [www.cho-va.com](http://www.cho-va.com)
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. 571-748-2500, [www.nvfs.org](http://www.nvfs.org), Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 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](http://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](http://www.scov.org).
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. [www.touchingheart.com](http://www.touchingheart.com), 703-901-7355.
- ❖ **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](http://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](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org) or [www.facetscares.org](http://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](http://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](http://fairfaxfish.org).
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, day center for homeless, Fairfax. 703-691-3178, [www.thelambcenter.org](http://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](mailto:info@foodforothers.org) or [www.foodforothers.org](http://www.foodforothers.org). Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO). 703-569-9160, [www.foodforothers.org](http://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/](http://lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/). Volunteers

are needed for these events as well. Register online at [lortonaction.org](http://lortonaction.org) or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140 or email [Linda@LortonAction.org](mailto: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](mailto:alnorthernva@gmail.com) or visit [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).
- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 373, Arlington, VA 22201. 703-591-4968, [cause-usa.org](http://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/](http://www.shelterhouse.org/)
- ❖ **Mount Vernon At Home**, 703-303-4060, [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org). From practical help to social, wellness, educational and cultural activities, Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of the community. Neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support is the power of Mount Vernon At Home. Mount Vernon At Home is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working hard to meet the needs of older members. They fundraise all year to make this possible and count on the generosity of the community.
- ❖ **United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306, 703-768-7106, [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org), 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. 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](http://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](mailto:jhenderson@homestretchva.org); 703-237-2035 x125; [homestretchva.org/](http://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. 703-876-0390, [info@pathwayhomes.org](mailto:info@pathwayhomes.org), [www.pathwayhomes.org](http://www.pathwayhomes.org), [www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/](http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/).

SEE GIVE LOCALLY. PAGE 15

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## Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concession Payment Projects

### Public Hearing

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018  
Open house at 6 p.m.; hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office  
4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

If cancelled for inclement weather, the alternate date will be **Friday, Jan. 5, 2018.**

The **Commonwealth Transportation Board** invites you to comment on projects to be funded by a concession fee to the Commonwealth as part of the financial agreement with Express Mobility Partners for the I-66 Express Lanes Outside the Beltway project. At a future meeting, the CTB will vote to amend these projects in the Commonwealth's Six-Year Improvement Program.

Information related to the following projects will be available:

- Rt. 234/Balls Ford Road interchange and relocation in Prince William
- Virginia Railway Express Manassas Line upgrade - Phase I
- Balls Ford Road widening from Groveton Road to Route 234 Business (Sudley Road) in Prince William
- I-66 median widening at Route 29 for WMATA in Fairfax
- Commuter parking garage at Fairfax Corner
- George Synder Trail in Fairfax City
- Widen Jermantown Road bridge to four lanes over I-66 in Fairfax
- Western bus maintenance facility in Prince William
- East Falls Church Metro Bus bay expansion in Arlington
- Monument Drive bridge pedestrian improvements in Fairfax
- Rt. 50/Waples Mill Road intersection improvements in Fairfax
- Construct Poplar Tree Road bridge to four lanes over Route 28 in Fairfax
- Lee Highway pedestrian improvements in Fairfax
- Nutley Street SW multi-use trail to Metro in Vienna

If you cannot attend the hearing, email comments to [meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov) and reference "I-66 Concession Projects" in the subject line, or mail them to Maria Sinner at VDOT's District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 through **Jan. 8, 2018.**

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

## NEWS

Aymen Omara, Jack Kelly, and Jack Wire showed up dressed and prepared for their interview.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Interviewing for Dream Job at Cooper Middle School

Everyone has a dream job. Cooper Middle School gave eighth grade students a project in which they could research for it. On Nov. 28, Cooper held interviews for all eighth graders so that they could get interviewed by professionals that hold their dream jobs.

"I definitely liked the research aspect and although it was nerve wracking, I really liked the audition," said eighth grader Amanda Mullins who was interviewed by an actress.

Eighth grader Sam Murad had explained how he liked the project because students got to dress up nicely and he thought it was a good preparation for the future.

Shannon Mahoney is one of the teachers who started this interview project a few years ago. She wanted a project that would be authentic to students and a way to follow their dreams.



**Eighth graders prepared and practiced their interview skills before being interviewed by professionals.**

— NIKHITA RASTOGI

## Helping Hurricane Victims



Stephanie Sun, BASIS Independent McLean (BIM) seventh grader collects donations for the school's Puerto Rico Relief Fund bake sale. Students raised \$972.96 for Save the Children's Hurricane Maria Children's Relief Fund from the bake sale and a talent/art expo show. Seventh graders, Mason Huiss and Leo Saraf led the hurricane relief fundraising efforts, after presenting the idea to BASIS Independent McLean administration.

## WELLBEING



Charitable activities, such as this toy drive by Interfaith Works, can improve one's overall well-being.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERFAITH WORKS

# Season of Giving, Healing

Acts of kindness can boost wellbeing.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As Terrance Puller surveys boxes wrapped in holiday paper and filled with tubes of toothpaste, sticks of deodorant and other self-care toiletries, he says he can feel his heart well up with gratitude. The packages were part of a donation drive to benefit So Others Might Eat (SOME), a local nonprofit organization with a mission to provide services to the poor and homeless. Puller, who is now both a SOME employee and volunteer, reminisces about a period in his life when he was a recipient of such generosity.

Five years ago, Puller says he was alone, homeless and deep in an alcohol and crack cocaine-induced haze. He would later recall that he was so staggeringly intoxicated one holiday season that he would miss an opportunity to say goodbye to his dying mother. What he did receive that year however, was life changing.

"I was able to come into the shelter and get treatment, food and eventually a job," said Puller. "I volunteer my time because ... being here reminds me of my story and makes me grateful. It keeps me uplifted, less depressed and clean and sober."

Mounting research validates Puller's assertion. "Giving of our talents and time is an important way to improve our well-being," said Carolyn Lorente, professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "What many of my colleagues are looking into is the connection between volunteerism and sense of self. It turns out that when we give to others, it not only helps those we are assisting but also boosts our sense of agency, gives us a sense of purpose and belonging and informs our sense of identity."

During the holidays, which are often emotionally charged, a focus on helping others can lead to feelings of gratitude and happiness, says psychologist Jerome Short, Ph.D. In fact, he points to a 2010 study published in the journal *Clinical Psychology Review*, which shows a link between benevolence and contentment.

## For More Information

Interfaith Works – [www.iworksmc.org](http://www.iworksmc.org)  
SOME – [some.org](http://some.org)  
HOPE Pregnancy Care Center – 703-536-2020

"Kind acts increase personal happiness because we naturally empathize with others and take pride in our ability to make others smile and feel good," he said.

Even for those who haven't experienced levels of need such as Puller's, acts of altruism can have a positive effect on one's mood. An example is Jennifer Carter, a senior at Marymount University in Arlington, who spent last weekend in the center of a crowded auditorium on the university's campus frantically tying strips of fleece cloth. Along with nearly 300 other volunteers, she was making blankets for newborn babies for an organization called HOPE, a nondenominational crisis pregnancy center in Fairfax County.

"When these new mothers leave the hospitals it's usually with a thin cotton blanket," she said. "A lot of times, the things that they're missing are warm blankets for the babies. It feels good to be able to give these mothers something that many people take for granted. It makes you realize how fortunate you are."

Short points to a 2016 study from the University of California at Riverside which shows that volunteerism can lead to gratitude and happiness. "Grateful people pay more attention to the cost, effort, and value of helping acts than the average person does," he said. "They are better at coping with life stress because they trust others to help them and then reach out and accept help."

Christabel Sampson experienced this metamorphosis first hand when she relocated to the Washington, D.C. area and was unable to find a job. She had mounting bills, but no income. Her financial outlook spiraled further downward and she became homeless. She moved into a shelter run by Interfaith Works, a nonprofit organization in Montgomery County Maryland that works to meet the needs of the poor. Through the organization's job training program, she was able to gain skills training, clothing and shelter. As a result of the services she received, Sampson says she found a job. Now she volunteers her time to helping others at Interfaith Works and has even become a member of the organization's board of directors.

"The experience of being homeless and now helping other women definitely made me stronger," said Sampson. "Sometimes even a spoken word can be said to help someone to a better place. I have empathy because I have been there."

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**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.

**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](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**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](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org).

**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

**Free Tai Chi.** Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit [www.FreeTaiChi.org](http://www.FreeTaiChi.org).

**The Freeman Store & Museum** Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. [Historicviennainc.org](http://Historicviennainc.org)

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

**Bingo Night.** Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. [www.vvfd.org/bingo.html](http://www.vvfd.org/bingo.html).

**Gemstone Yoga.** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. [www.edimprovement.org](http://www.edimprovement.org). 571-213-3192.

**Fishing Rod Rentals** 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/)



## Live Music

**On Friday, Feb. 3, its Lera Lynn in Concert 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E., Vienna. Call 703-255-1566 or visit [www.leralynn.com](http://www.leralynn.com) for more.**

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

**Fundamentals of Watercolors.** Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit [www.greatfallsart.org](http://www.greatfallsart.org).

**Evening Painting.** Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/clothed figure from a live model. Visit [www.greatfallsart.org](http://www.greatfallsart.org).

## THROUGH DEC. 10

**Toys for Tots Drive.** Various times at Sheehy Infinito of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Sheehy Auto Stores throughout Washington, D.C.; Richmond, Virginia; and Baltimore, Maryland areas 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 now through December 10. Visit [www.sheehyinfinitoftysons.com/](http://www.sheehyinfinitoftysons.com/).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 7

**The MarketPlace Fair.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Will feature over a dozen vendors, a silent auction of goods and services, gifts, jewelry, baked delicacies, drinks and a lunch café. Parking and admission are free. Call 703-556-0197 or visit [www.mcleanwomansclub.org](http://www.mcleanwomansclub.org).

**51<sup>st</sup> annual Holiday Homes Tour and Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tour four large, decorated homes in the McLean neighborhoods of Franklin Park, central McLean, Spring Hill Farm and Woodlea Mill, all with ample street parking. Cost: \$25 before Dec. 7 at Mesmeralda's of McLean, Karin's Florist in Vienna and Great Dogs of Great Falls or \$30 on Dec. 7 at the tour houses and at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Call 703-556-0197 or visit [www.mcleanwomansclub.org](http://www.mcleanwomansclub.org).

**Ice Skating Social at Tysons.** 7 p.m.

at Tysons Corner, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. McLean Racquet and Health Club is sponsoring, all ages and levels welcome. Visit [www.mcleanrhclub.com](http://www.mcleanrhclub.com) or email [mrhcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:mrhcinfo@gmail.com).

## 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](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

## 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](http://nevca.wordpress.com).

**Cooking Demonstration and Luncheon.** 11 a.m. at L'Auberge Chez François, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Chef Jacques will demonstrate how to cook French dishes. Call 703-759-3800.

**Old Firehouse Family Movie Night.** 7-9 p.m.-noon at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. \$3. Gather the whole family and bring blankets, pillows and camp chairs for an indoor, picnic-style family movie night. Participants will enjoy unlimited free popcorn with the movie, which will be shown on a large projection screen. Call 703-790-0123 or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 9

**Gift Wrapping Service and Christmas Bazaar.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Women, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Shop for hand-crafted holiday gifts, gorgeous fine art jewelry, nature photography, watercolors, homemade sweet treats. Gift wrapping is free. Visit [www.andrewchapelumc.org](http://www.andrewchapelumc.org).

**Holiday Open House.** 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place. Friends of the Oakton Library are sponsoring a holiday open house with a holiday-themed book sale. Call 703-242-4020.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 10

**Live Music.** 11 a.m. at L'Auberge Chez François, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Guitarist Alexander Barnett plays a variety of acoustic music. Call

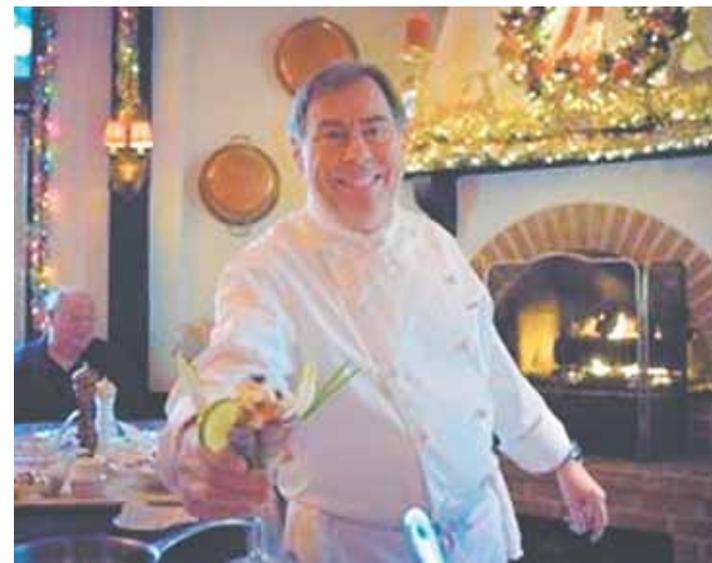


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Chef Jacques will demonstrate how to cook French dishes during the Holiday in Paris Cooking Demonstration and Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 8, at 11 a.m.**

## Special Holiday Events at L'Auberge Chez Francois

Holiday season is in full swing at L'Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls: Traditionally one of the best decorated businesses in the area, the restaurant hosts a series of special holiday events. Last Sunday, Dec. 3, they kicked off the season with second annual Sing Along and Dinner with local favorite, Difficult Run String Band performing holiday classics.

The upcoming holiday events at L'Auberge Chez Francois include:

- ❖ Holiday in Paris Cooking Demonstration and Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 8, at 11 a.m. Chef Jacques will demonstrate how to cook French dishes. This festive event will feature the cuisine and wines from France.
- ❖ Holiday Wine Festival and

Luncheon, Saturday, Dec. 9: Come between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. for a walk-around tasting of international wines followed by a luncheon from a four-course menu paired with another glass of wine.

- ❖ Sounds of the Season Brunch with guitarist Alexander Barnett, Sunday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.

- ❖ Gonet-Medeville Premier Cru Champagne and Bordeaux Wine Dinner, Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

- ❖ Champagne Celebration Cooking Demonstration and Luncheon, Saturday, Dec. 16, 11 a.m.

To learn more about L'Auberge Chez Francois email [chezlauberge@aol.com](mailto:chezlauberge@aol.com), call 703-759-3800, or visit [www.laubergechezfrancois.com](http://www.laubergechezfrancois.com)

703-759-3800.

**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](http://www.tysonsmcleanorchestra.org) or call 703-893-8646.

**Christmas Concert.** 4 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna. A Cathedral Brass Christmas, music from Monteverdi to Gordon Goodwin. Call 703-438-0718.

**Christmas Youth Concert.** 4 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The youth choir leads with Christmas hymns, followed by reception. Call 703-356-4902 or visit [stjohnsmclean.org](http://stjohnsmclean.org).

## MONDAY/DEC. 11

**Santa's Ride for Children.** Donate

new and unwrapped toys, games, books and gifts to be distributed to children at Fairfax Hospital, Georgetown Lombardi Cancer Center. Email [Ruth.Rohr@viennava.gov](mailto:Ruth.Rohr@viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6324.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 12

**Meteor Classes.** 7:30 p.m. at Turner Farm is located at 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. This class will cover what meteors are, their origins and the best time to view them. An optional outdoor visual observing session will be held after class, weather permitting. Bring a lawn chair and a warm cover or sleeping bag. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm/).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 16

**Breakfast With Santa.** 8 a.m.-noon at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Visit [www.vvfd.org](http://www.vvfd.org).

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Night In Bethlehem Performance.** 5-7 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Nativity scene with live animals. Visit [www.andrewchapelumc.org](http://www.andrewchapelumc.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 17

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

**Christmas Caroling Sing-Along.** 3-5 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Songs followed by cookies and hot cider, at this historic site. Visit [www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org](http://www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org).

**Christmas Concert.** 4 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. Glorious Sounds of Christmas, a Christmas celebration for the whole family led by the Vienna Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir, the Cathedral Brass, organ, piano, and noted soloists. Call 703-438-0718.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 20

**Timeline Arcade and Ice Cream.** 8 a.m.-6 p.m.-noon at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Play old-school video games and then eat ice cream. \$55/45 for McLean Community Center district residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 21

**Bowling and Movie.** 8 a.m.-6 p.m.-

noon at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$65/55 for McLean residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 27

**Dave and Buster's arcade.** 8 a.m.-6 p.m.-noon at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lunch and a \$25 game card with unlimited arcade game play are included. \$70/60 for McLean residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 28

**Tubing/Ice Skating Trip.** 8 a.m.-6 p.m.-noon at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Chill out racing down hills on the tubes or gliding on skates. During the day, there is a pizza party. Admission for tubing or ice skating and lunch are included in the fee. \$55/45 for McLean residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 29

**Movie Double Feature.** 8 a.m.-6 p.m.-noon at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Road trip to AMC for two movies. Movie tickets and lunch are included in the fee. \$55/45 for McLean residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 3

**Lera Lynn in Concert.** 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Call 703-255-1566 or visit [www.leralynn.com](http://www.leralynn.com).

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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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**Speaker:**  
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Megan Adamson, NP  
Fairfax, VA

Event Code: TR447922 (1437488)

**PLEASE RSVP\*:**

- [RelapsingMultipleSclerosisEvents.com](http://RelapsingMultipleSclerosisEvents.com)
- 1-866-703-6293
- [MSRSVP@ahmdirect.com](mailto:MSRSVP@ahmdirect.com)

\*Registration is limited to two people per RSVP. Photo ID may be requested at event entrance.

**Complimentary parking or valet available.**  
**A light meal or snack may be provided.**

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**Adrian Steel of McLean explains the workings of the Civilian Review Panel while Police Chief Edwin Roessler and Independent Police Auditor Richard Schott look on at a Mount Vernon meeting in November.**



## Forum on Police Oversight

**Two new forms of independent oversight of police are now in place.**

Last year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors acted on recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and established the first independent oversight of law enforcement. Now both the Civilian Review Panel and the Office of the Independent Police Auditor are up and running.

A forum on Dec. 12 in Reston will give people a chance to find out more and how they can make use of these new resources.

"The panel and the Independent Police Auditor were established by the Board of Supervisors to enhance police legitimacy and to build and maintain trust between the police, the Board of Supervisors and the public," said Adrian Steel, who is chairman of the Civilian Review Panel for its first year. "Civilian oversight will also help ensure transparency and accountability as to FCPD activities." Steel also served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission on both the independent oversight and use of force subcommittees, before being appointed to the review panel.

Richard Schott, a 27-year veteran of the FBI, began as independent auditor on April 17, reporting directly to the Board of Supervisors.

Schott has several Fairfax County issues on his plate already, including the officer-involved shooting death of a Herndon resident in January, the violent arrest of a man at the Annandale Parade Oct. 28; and racial disparities in use of force by Fairfax County Police.

The Civilian Review Panel recently received a request to review a case that has already been investigated by the Fairfax County Police. The Police Civilian Review Panel would review the investigation for accuracy, completeness, thoroughness, objectivity and impartiality. The panel procedure would be to hear from the complainant and walk through with members of the community how the investigation was conducted, including findings of fact, evidence collected and witness statements, according to the CRP website.

The Civilian Review Panel will hear concerns and complaints relating to FCPD abuses of authority or



**Independent Police Auditor Richard Schott talks about reviewing completed police investigations at a meeting in November. Adrian Steel, chairman of the Civilian Review Panel, sits at left.**

### Public Forum in Reston

Learn about the Police Civilian Review Panel and Independent Police Auditor in Fairfax County  
Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m.  
Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston

More about the Civilian Review Panel:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel)  
More about the Independent Police Auditor:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/policeauditor](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/policeauditor)

serious misconduct, Steel said. "Examples would include the use of abusive racial, ethnic or sexual language, harassment or discrimination, unnecessary rude, angry or threatening conduct, and reckless endangerment of a detainee."

The auditor handles cases of police use of force that result in serious injury and death, and complaints about police use of force.

A public forum in Reston will allow people meet members of the review panel and Steel and Schott, and to learn more about the Police Civilian Review Panel and Independent Police Auditor in Fairfax County; Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Call 703-324-3459 for more.

— MARY KIMM

### NEWS BRIEFS

## 'My Name Is Asher Lev' Extended Until Dec. 23

1st Stage, Tysons Corner's award-winning professional theater company, announces the extension of their critically-acclaimed production of "My Name is Asher Lev," written by Aaron Posner, adapted from the novel by Chaim Potok, and directed by Nick Olcott.

"My Name is Asher Lev" will now run at 1st Stage through Dec. 23 with show times as follows: Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. 1st Stage will offer an additional performance on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$33. Senior (65+) tickets are \$30. Student and military tickets are \$15. Subscriptions and flex passes are available for savings of up to 40 percent off regular price tickets. Tickets, subscriptions, and flex passes can be purchased online at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

## McLean High School Wins Pacemaker Award

The Highlander, McLean High School's newsmagazine, was honored with a Pacemaker award at the National Scholastic Press Association-Journalism Education Association convention held recently in Dallas.

The Highlander is one of just 26 high school newspapers or newsmagazines nationwide to win the Pacemaker this year and the only one from Virginia. Winning publications can be found online.

McLean High students also earned top honors in the organization's Story of the Year contest. For their article "Beyond Gender," Sri Medicherla and Melanie Pincus received fourth place in the nation in the feature story category. For their "Finding Refuge" article, Helen Bloom, Carlyn Kranking, Sanskriti Neupane, and Aisha Singh received fourth place in the nation in the diversity series category.

## Vienna Rotary, Marshall High Hold Annual Ethics Day

Last week, the Rotary Club of Vienna participated in Ethics Day for the 19th consecutive year with George C. Marshall High School held at Westin Hotel in Tysons Corner. The event was sponsored by the Vienna Rotary Club and the Vienna Optimist Club.

The entire 500 student senior class of Marshall High School was in attendance, participating in four modules to cover different ethical topics: a Mock Trial, the Bad Samaritan, CyberEthics and Designer Babies. Along with the assistance of volunteer moderators and table leaders, the students were led through various real-life scenarios, had an open dialogue and asked to reach decisions on topics that made students think critically about responsibility, accountability and morals.

Matt Brennan, the Bad Samaritan moderator explained the importance of Ethics Day, saying, "This is a great program that should be at every high school. I stay involved every year because it gets kids to think about morals and responsibility in a way that would otherwise not have exposure to."

Stephen Schatz, table leader and Marshall High School class of 2014, who participated in Ethics Day during his senior year of high school said, "The event opens your eyes because you already know the situation. Now it makes me reassess the situation. I ended up asking myself more questions than I did the first time."

Schatz later went on to say, "My favorite part about this experience was learning about the other kids and realizing our own unconscious bias."

Shellie Abel, another table leader for the event, explains why she volunteers annually for Ethics Day: "It makes me quite optimistic about the future of this country at the end of each Ethics Day. I realize that our kids are smart, involved and engaged in today's world."

The Rotary Club of Vienna has been the primary financial and staffing entity for Marshall High School's Ethics Day from its inception through today. Details about the club can be found at [www.viennarotary.org](http://www.viennarotary.org)

# NEWS

## Redeemer Lutheran Church to Host Annual Living Nativity and Christmas Concert

All are welcome and invited to enjoy the sounds of the season and the excitement of live animals in the creche on Friday, Dec. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Children are invited to put on angel or shepherd costumes, and visit the live animals, maybe pet a bunny or baby lamb.

At 7:30 everyone is invited inside to experience a concert of many choirs with the adult, children and

bell choirs. The concert can be enjoyed by music lovers of all ages, children are welcome. Visitors can also sing along with favorite Christmas carols.

After the wonder of the starry night warm up inside with complimentary hot chocolate and a treat from the bake sale. There is no charge to attend, and it is open to the entire community. All are invited, so come one, come all, and help share the spirit of Christmas.

## County News Roundup

FROM PAGE 3

viously, he was the vice chancellor for Finance and Operations at the University of South Carolina's Beaufort/Bluffton Campus and was director of finance for the University of Maryland's Office of Information and Technology.

He earned his master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California and his bachelor's in public administration from Alfred University.

Bulova thanked Kirk Kincannon, who was the acting county executive since Long's retirement in September.

### COUNTY'S FIRST TENANT RESIDENT CURATOR

The county extended its first lease through the Resident Curator program to a Coast Guard officer.

The county's Resident Curator Program is designed to preserve historic properties by offering long-term leases to qualified tenants who will rehabilitate and maintain the historic houses. A curator can be a private citizen, a nonprofit entity, or a for-profit entity, according to county documents.

"It is really a wonderful opportunity and a great pleasure to be the first of what I think will be a number of properties in Fairfax County ..." said Storck, "to bring back to life housing which is old and historic and meaningful to all of us."

The Board of Supervisors approved the lease of the historic Stempson House at 7520 Furnace Road

in Lorton to Steven J. McCullough for eight years and eight months to renovate the historic home.

"This is the first time we are doing this, you are our first tenant," said Bulova said to McCullough.

The Stempson House gets its historic significance from its association with the Occoquan Workhouse and Reformatory and the Women's Suffrage movement of the early 1900s, according to Resident Curator Program documents.

The United States purchased the land in 1910 to construct the prison. "In 1937, amongst the Lorton Reformatory orchard trees, prisoners constructed a residence for a prison officer. It is likely that prisoners constructed the house, under the direction of prison engineers, using bricks manufactured at the prison brick kiln. Ultimately, the residence was converted for use by the prison security office."

The 1,500 square-foot-house is described as a "vernacular style residence with Colonial Revival style elements."

Other applications are pending for the Turner Farm House, 10609 Georgetown Pike, in Great Falls and the Ellmore Farmhouse on West Ox Road in Herndon. The county intends to continue its programs at the Ash Grove in Tysons, Lahey Lost Valley in Vienna, and Hannah P. Clark (Enyedi) House in Lorton.

See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir141-16.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir141-16.htm)

Learn more about the Resident Curator program and other properties at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rcp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rcp).

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar).

#### THURSDAY/DEC. 7

**Caregivers Support Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill

Road, Oakton. Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna Caregivers Support Group is held the first and third Thursdays of every month, year round. Call 703-821-6838 or email [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net) for more.

#### 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. Visit [www.fcps.edu/news/superintendent-brabrand-schedules-five-community-conversations-fall](http://www.fcps.edu/news/superintendent-brabrand-schedules-five-community-conversations-fall).

### Saint Ann Catholic Church

<p><b>SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:</b>                  Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM                  Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM                  1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy</p>	<p><b>DAILY EUCHARIST:</b>                  Weekdays                  Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM                  Saturday, 8:30 AM</p>
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[www.stannchurch.org](http://www.stannchurch.org)

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**COMMUNITY**

**Great Falls Church Youth Serve D.C. Homeless**

Ten high-schoolers and three adult chaperones representing the youth group of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls, provided and distributed warm beverages, chili, water, blankets and more during a Salvation Army Grate Patrol ride-along in the District on Nov. 18. This marked the group's 10th year of participation in Grate Patrol.

Steve Wilson, a Christ the King senior high leader, said that the personal outreach Grate Patrol emphasizes is the essence of service.

"It's a great experience for suburban kids to step out of their comfort zone and see the homeless face-to-face — but to also see they're real people who are appreciative, responsive and grateful," said Wilson.

Kevin Magley, Christ the King's high school youth leader, remembers an interaction during a previous Grate Patrol, when a homeless man called the volunteers together and prayed over the group so they might help others that night.

"He didn't want any food or any blankets. He really just wanted somebody to talk to," said Magley. "That stuck out to me. He probably did need help, but he was focused on others."

Salvation Army van drivers follow the same route every night, with four to seven predetermined stops at locations like Union Station. One van driver, Nick Douglas, said he applied for his job simply because he needed employment. He has driven the van for 14 years.

"Now, it's no job," he said. Every night, he told us, he completes his route with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all of his blessings.

"We come here when there's snow on the ground, and people are here, waiting for food," Douglas said. "If you're not grateful for what you've got, something's really wrong."

Serving the hungry and homeless is a lesson in



**Serving the hungry and homeless is a lesson in perspective for Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls high schoolers.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**This marked the group's 10th year of participation in Grate Patrol.**

perspective for this group of high schoolers who may not otherwise witness the less fortunate side of D.C. As recipients walk away with chili and blankets, the young volunteers walk away with renewed thankfulness and an increased desire to serve.

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**Legals**

Doris Patricia Nolasco Portillo, the aunt of minor, Jessica Stefany Hernandez Nolasco, who is 16 years old, hereby gives notice to Maria Dolores Nolasco Portillo, the minor's biological mother, with regard to a legal action for third-party custody of the minor in Baltimore City Circuit Court, Maryland, United States, case #: 24-D-17-002909. Maria Dolores Nolasco Portillo should contact the attorney listed below by telephone, mail, or e-mail for further information:  
Mikhael H. Borgonos  
Catholic Charities of Baltimore  
430 S. Broadway  
Baltimore, Maryland 21231  
USA  
Phone: 667-600-2930  
E-mail: mborgono@cc-md.org

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
-Werner Heisenberg

# OPINION

FROM PAGE 6

- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **The Historic Pohick Church Foundation**, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, VA 22079, 703-339-6572. The Historic Pohick Church, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has played a central role in the history of our country, founded by George Washington, George Mason, and others. The Historic Pohick Church Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable corporation that was established in 1983 for the maintenance, upkeep, and preservation of the historic colonial-era Pohick Church building and the surrounding churchyard.
- ❖ **Rising Hope**, 8220 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22309, risinghopeumc.org. Supports poor and homeless people along the Route 1 Corridor. To volunteer, donate in-kind contributions or partner with Rising Hope in other ways, contact Kat Roman at kroman@risinghopeumc.org or 703-360-1976.
- ❖ **The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia**, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042, 703-237-0866, lcnv.org, teaches adults to speak, read, write and understand English at the most basic level. The organization has been around for 55 years, and serves Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the cities of Falls Church and Alexandria. Most of the students are immigrants, and they are mostly women, and low income.
- ❖ **Neighborhood Health Clinics**, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org, Improving health and advance health equity in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax by providing access to high quality care regardless of ability to pay.

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## Context of Having Written



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't want to self-indulge too much about last week's column but, sometimes in my unexpressed desire to fulfill my writing obligation/not let me cancer/cancer treatment affect my schedule, I write my column under less-than-ideal circumstances. Post chemotherapy (last week) – the immediate week after, is about as challenging as it gets for me. I'm a bit irritable. I'm a bit out of sync/unable to focus. I'm somewhat impatient. My hands are shaky. My eyes are "squinty." I'm hungry yet I can't eat. My self-editing skills are below average – more than usual. And finally, my reading comprehension is mostly lost in the toxic haze. Still, I'm determined to make my deadline.

Not that any of the preceding paragraph is an excuse. It's more of an explanation as to why a column written with the best of intentions may have missed the mark in tone and substance. Though I've not received any feedback as yet confirming my sense of what I had written last week; nevertheless, my feeling upon submitting it to editorial was that I had wavered a bit. Unfortunately, I didn't have the balance emotionally or the ability physically to assess its content. I apologize in arrears for attempting to maintain its regularity.

And to that point, specifically to that word, that's what my attitude as a cancer patient has been about: regularity. Doing the things that I regularly/normally/typically do without deviating from my norm. Because for me, deviating from my norm, living/doing outside of my box – within reason, would be – to me anyway, reinforcing the negative that is most definitely a cancer diagnosis. A diagnosis with which I have long ago made my peace, made my choices and moreover, made my it goal to face the present/future with a positive attitude infused with as much self-effacing good humor as possible. It's nothing I really did intentionally, it is simply who I am: my father's son, with inherited sensibilities to live my life thinking the glass is half full, until it's not.

And so far, nearly nine years into a "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I'm living proof that either whatever I'm doing is working (and there's a bit more to the story) or I'm an incredibly lucky act of kindness for which there's no quantifiable explanation. Regardless, I'm not the least bit inclined to look a gift horse in the mouth and/or deny the possibility that my tumors are necrotic (dead). I'm very happy to accept the inexplicable fact that, statistically speaking, I'm an official anomaly: a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor.

However, since I'm not one to presume facts not yet in evidence, I'm still infused every six weeks, scanned quarterly and seen by my oncologist every three months. I don't for a second believe that somehow, after being diagnosed with a "terminal disease" in late February 2009, that life goes merrily along without consequences. Not that I'm a fatalist – Rebecca, I'm merely evaluating/introspecting/compartamentalizing and allocating precious emotional resources so I can live my life as I'm accustomed to doing.

And what I'm most accustomed to doing, especially dating back to December 1997, is writing a weekly column for Connection Newspapers. Though the columns published previous to June '09 were not "cancer" columns, as we call them, they were nonetheless written with the same passion and nonsensical prose as my "cancer" columns are. So, generally speaking, I am able, as my brother Richard says, "to churn out the dribble."

Still, writing is not like reading. Though a similar commitment is needed, writing requires a bit more effort. And it's been an effort I've sustained before, after and during my lung cancer diagnosis. Some weeks are harder than others. Last week was difficult. This week not so much.

Perhaps you agree?

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



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Offered for... \$1,795,000

## 6805 Lumsden Street, McLean

**\*SPECTACULAR\* 6BR/5.5BA brand new home** in convenient McLean location! This home to be built in 2018 will feature kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances; hardwood floors; main level suite; master suite with double vanities, soaking tub and walk-in closets; 2-car garage; you can customize! McLean HS pyramid!



Offered for... \$899,000

## 6200 Nethercombe Court, McLean

**\*GREAT OPPORTUNITY\* in this 4BR/2.5BA colonial home** at the end of a cul-de-sac in desirable McLean location! This three level home features formal living and dining rooms; two fireplaces; full daylight lower level with rec room; 1-car garage; large, flat backyard with treed views; Chesterbrook, Longfellow, and Mclean schools!



Offered for... \$1,590,000

## 6636 Gordon Avenue, Falls Church

**\*BEAUTIFUL\* brand-new 5BR/5.5BA home** on 3 finished levels in desired location! This home features luxury gourmet kitchen; open floor-plan; bay windows; family room with coffered ceiling; large BRs; 2 car garage; huge lower level rec room, media room, bedroom and full bath! Wonderful designs and custom touches throughout!



**UNDER CONTRACT!**

704 Live Oak Drive  
 McLean, 22101  
 \$1,299,000



**UNDER CONTRACT!**

6428 Noble Drive  
 McLean, 22101  
 \$1,049,000



**SOLD!**

6005 Copely Lane  
 McLean, 22101  
 \$1,085,000



**UNDER CONTRACT!**

1619 Linway Park Dr.  
 McLean, 22101  
 \$1,125,000



**UNDER CONTRACT!**

424 W. Glebe Road  
 Alexandria, 22305  
 \$499,000

# BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2017



2522 Buckelew Drive  
 Falls Church, 22046  
 \$699,000

**RENTAL!**



2123 Reynolds Street  
 Falls Church, 22043  
 \$2,900/month

**Call Me Today for a Free Analysis of Your Home's Value!**