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and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

Holiday Stroll Brings Magic To Church Street

NEWS, PAGE 3

Santa rides on a 1946 Vienna firetruck while participating in the Church Street Holiday Stroll Monday evening, Nov. 26.

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ENTERTAINMENT**
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**Shopping Locally
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'Taming of the Shrew'**
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Natalie Moore of Vienna takes a picture of her son, James, 5, of Marshall Road Elementary, with Santa.



PHOTOS BY LISA FAY/THE CONNECTION

Santa talks to the children in the crowd with the Mayor.

Holiday Stroll Brings Magic to Church Street

BY LISA FAY
THE CONNECTION

The Church Street Holiday Stroll is like a Hallmark movie come to life: the mayor welcomes the big red jolly man who rides on a 1946 firetruck, carolers sing as you roast s'mores and sip hot cider. Animals stand at attention in their petting zoo, local goods are sold in decorated stores, instruments ring out holiday tunes, and Santa hears the hopes and dreams of hundreds of children who come to sit on his lap on the Freeman Store's porch.

The 22nd annual Church Street Holiday Stroll kicked off as Mayor Laurie DiRocco counted down with Santa to light the town's Christmas tree that sits in front of Vienna Presbyterian Church. Children eagerly await the arrival of Santa so that they could whisper in his ear what they wished for most this Christmas while enjoying a candy cane.

"This is typical Vienna," said Mike Cheselka, Master of Ceremonies for the past five years. "Everybody is here, it's like a gathering of friends and family to me, it

really is cool. I think it's one of the many wonderful things the Town of Vienna does for the citizens."

Thanks to the Ayr Hill Garden Club and Historic Vienna Inc, the Freeman Store and Museum was decked from top to bottom and was brimming with new holiday items. Caroler groups such as the Vienna-Falls Chorus of Sweet Adelines lined Church Street singing Christmas tunes as shoppers enjoyed the festive stores.

Bards Alley took home first place this year as the best decorated storefront with its rendition of the Polar Express. Cycle Chi won for the most community interactive display. Caffè Amouri came in third, and Trousseau second. As the night went on, people enjoyed a petting zoo paid for by the Town and Historic Vienna Inc. Across the way Vienna Presbyterian Church opened its doors for residents to enjoy holiday songs and readings.

"Twenty-two years ago, due to restoration of the brick sidewalks, Church Street merchants were angry that they were losing business," states Historic Vienna Inc Vice President, Nancy Moats. "After it was done,



Declan Corbin, 7, and Ryan Corbin, 4, of Wolf Trap Elementary, meet Santa on the Freeman Store's porch.



Brian, Debbie, and Amanda Choate of Vienna pose with the Polar Express outside of Bards Alley.

the people at Posh wanted to attract residents to this street so they had a carriage trot up and down Church Street allowing the residents to view the vendors."

More than two decades later, as the sights

and sounds of the holiday's waft over the town, people are still strolling on Church Street enjoying the local shops and each other's company in preparation for the Christmas holiday.



The entire Moore family of Vienna poses with Santa.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Wolf Trap Elementary students, William Feuchter, Tommy and Bryson Beauer, and Xavier Dudley roast s'mores on Church Street.

OPINION

Call for Submissions to Children's Edition 2018

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

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

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good friend?

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

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

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

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

EDITORIAL

Bringing People in from the Cold

This year 36 churches will be host sites for the hypothermia program.

BY JOE FAY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FACETS

Fifteen years ago, two Fairfax men froze to death during the fall. At the time, FACETS was a nonprofit that was primarily serving meals to the county's homeless in partnership with several churches. FACETS' leaders knew that feeding people only to send them back into the extreme cold was not a great answer for the growing number of people who were homeless in the community.

That winter FACETS responded by offering temporary shelter in conjunction with its partner churches, the Lamb Center, and Salvation Army to get people in from the cold. The first year, these hypothermia shelters rotated to several different churches and only opened when the temperatures dropped below freezing. Soon the centers were serving up to 60 people on cold nights.



The program has evolved as the region's population has grown. In 2006, FACETS worked on policies and procedures with the county and formally began managing central Fairfax's Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program. This year 36 churches will be host sites for the program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

These faith community partners rotate when opening their doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to welcome people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and preparing the space. Other volunteers are planning menus. Unique partnerships have formed as a result of the program as Christians, Muslims, Jews, and more join together to help the homeless and in the process learn about each other.

The effort also matured beyond just providing safe haven. Guests now receive life-changing

location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2018.

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

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

For Arlington, Potomac, CentreView, Chantilly, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, email to Steven Mauren, smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

ing case management. By interacting with guests at the shelters, FACETS' case managers are able to address their needs in a very personal way by gaining their trust and connecting them with housing solutions and critical services. They also receive a variety of services from the county.

Last year 283 guests were given shelter from the biting cold. More than 3,800 people volunteered 33,000 hours last season to care for these guests who are homeless. By the end of season, 41 of these people had left homelessness behind and were housed.

This year's Hypothermia Response and Prevention Program began the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and runs seven nights a week through April 1. With the projected cold and forecasts of a very snowy winter season, demand is expected to grow.

To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit us at www.FACETSCares.org.

FACETS is a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting Our Diversity

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for publishing the article about the Fairfax For All coalition's recent activities ("Advocating for Immigrant Protection").

As the daughter of two immigrants, immigration policy has always

been important to me — especially as the debate over deportation and ICE has escalated. My parents were fortunate enough to be able to immigrate legally, and have been citizens for about 10 years, but in examining the data I've come to see that that's most likely to do with the fact that they are white and had college degrees. Our town is so beautifully diverse,

and I believe that we're losing an important part of our culture when immigrants are scared to participate in the community for fear of deportation.

If what Fairfax For All says is true, then there is an entire group of people in our town who are being excluded from important decisions, prevented from seeking medical attention, and afraid to participate

in the community — all out of fear. I'm learning just how important these relationships to the community, or social ties, are. They allow individuals a sense of purpose and help them to feel assimilated into this community that we like to profess as being so diverse.

Emma Steinhobel
Herndon

Vienna & Oakton
CONNECTION

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News

Vienna Church to Host Annual Puppy Nativity Dec. 8

Area residents are invited to bring their puppies and dogs to take part in the Third Annual Puppy Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 8 at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) in Vienna. The community event will be held at the church at 2351 Hunter Mill Road from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"The original nativity had many animals around the manger, so bringing our pets is a wonderful way to celebrate the season," said The Rev. Eric Song, who started the creative new tradition in 2016 in his first year as Good Shepherd's pastor. "Animals are a big part of our families, and we want all to be included. So bring your pets to pose at our nativity."

Costumes and treats will be provided for pets, and photos will be taken. "These photos make great Christmas cards, too," Song said.

Hot chocolate will be served, and the church's youth group will be on hand to accept donations to provide Christmas gift cards to families through Britepaths (<https://britepaths.org>), a nonprofit providing help and hope to struggling residents in the Fairfax County area. Additionally, the "Peace Like a River" exhibit of mixed media paintings by artist Alice Nodine will be open in The Gallery at the church.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Third Annual Puppy Nativity will be held Dec. 8 at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) in Vienna. Pastor Eric Song, shown with his family and their dog, started the event as a creative way to involve the community in celebrating the Christmas season.

The Church of the Good Shepherd celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. For more information about Advent worship services, visit the church website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com or at www.Facebook.com/GoodShepherdVienna.

Fairfax Water

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2019, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,150 to \$4,260¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$13,420 to \$15,285.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,260 to \$1,300¹.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.94 to \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge for meters larger than a standard 5/8" residential meter¹.
6. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$45 to \$48.
7. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
8. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$36 to \$38.

¹Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$183.2 million budget for calendar year 2019¹. Revenues are expected to be \$183.2 million in 2019. Water sales are expected to provide \$158.3 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	— \$1,000s —	
	2018	2019
Personal Services and Employee Benefits	\$ 55,934	\$ 57,584
Power and Utilities	10,755	11,102
Chemicals	6,958	7,532
Purchased Water	7,810	7,155
Supplies and Materials	5,261	5,444
Insurance	955	1,075
Fuel	700	728
Postage	603	612
Contractual Services	12,481	12,974
Professional Services	1,001	1,065
Other	2,428	2,505
Sub-Total	104,886	107,776
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,248)	(10,380)
Total	\$ 94,638	\$ 97,396

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,988,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,337,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

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

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

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

Join us for an upcoming online info session!

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Shopping Locally In Vienna

Small Business Saturday inspires
decorating contest among Vienna stores.

Many local shops in Vienna celebrated Small Business Saturday by offering gift cards or discounts off their items and services. Stores in Vienna that participated included: Bards Alley, Elements Massage, Savvy Rest Natural Bedroom, Bikes @ Vienna, Aesthetic Medical Center, Colleen's Creations LLC, Foster's Grille, Generation Code, Potomac River Running, Pure Barre Vienna, Skintelligence, the Freeman Store and Museum, John Edwards Hair Design, Massage Envy, and Vienna Tech Help. As stores got ready for the busy shopping weekend, storekeepers began decorating their windows for the Vienna storefront decorating contest. Bards Alley participated by bringing the Polar Express to life right outside their store with classic Christmas reads hanging off of the structure. Karin's Florist set up fashion forward floral dresses that looked like they were ready for the Saks Fifth

Avenue windows in New York City. The Freeman Store and Museum continued with their tradition of decorating the exterior of the store with real pine garland and homemade red bows. At Caffè Amouri, it looked like Santa and his elves stopped off for a cup of joe before heading back to the North Pole. The holiday spirit has certainly landed in Vienna and it reminds residents to shop local; shop Vienna. Small Business Saturday was created by American Express credit card company on Nov. 27, 2010. The idea behind the now annual holiday tradition was to help shape the way consumers shopped within their communities during the holiday season. Last year - 2017 - was the highest grossing year for Small Business Saturday: customers spent an estimated \$12.9 billion in their communities.

—LISA FAY

Editor's note: Of course, every day is Small Business Day at the Connection.



The Freeman Store and Museum decorates for the Christmas holiday.



Santa and his elves enjoy a cup of coffee at Caffè Amouri.

PHOTOS BY LISA FAY/THE CONNECTION

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Cocoa Vienna gets festive by putting out Santa’s sleigh on their porch.



New items at the Freeman Store and Museum include Votes for Women ornaments.



Diamond Spa decorates their store front for the Vienna storefront decoration competition.

PHOTOS BY LISA FAY/THE CONNECTION



Karin's Florists' windows were inspired by floral fashion.

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RGW is pleased to announce that Dr. Joshua D. Levinson has joined the practice and is seeing patients in the Fairfax and Alexandria offices. It was his research on improving the safety of intravitreal injections for Macular Degeneration, Retinal Vein Occlusions and complications from Diabetes that is credited with making more sterile techniques common practice at clinics throughout the country. Dr. Levinson cares for patients suffering from Diabetic Retinopathy and Age-Related Macular Degeneration, and performs surgical procedures for retinal detachments and macular holes among many other eye-related problems.

We hope our patients will have the opportunity to meet and be treated by Dr. Levinson sometime soon. They can be certain their eyes are in excellent hands.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28

“Rock To Resist By” Benefit Show.

7-10 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Join “resistance rock” band M4TR, Innovation Station Music, 350 Fairfax, Climate Reality Project NoVA, Network NoVA, Our Revolution Northern Virginia and many more non-profits and activist groups to celebrate civic action in the age of the Resistance. This event is part concert, part album release party, part civic action rally, part networking event. Tickets are \$15 at the door or by in advance on Ticketfly at www.ticketfly.com/event/1778042-m4trs-rock-resist-by-vienna/.

NOV. 28-DEC. 23

Art Exhibit: 500. Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists’ Association (TFAA) presents 500, a mixed-media show featuring the work of 13 TFAA member artists, from framed oil paintings to photography. Art is priced \$500 and under. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV. 29-30

Tiny Tots Concerts. Thursday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. (“jammy-friendly show”); Friday, 10 a.m. at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The JMHS Band Program presents a concert celebration featuring a wide spectrum of seasonal music. Costumed performers include old friends and surprise guests. Sing, clap and dance along with the band. Advance purchase is highly recommended. \$9 per person at james-madison-band.ticketleap.com/tinytots2018/. Admission is free for babies in arms (under 1). If available, tickets may be purchased in the lobby 30 minutes prior to the show for \$10. Email tinytots@jmhsband.org.

THURSDAY/NOV29-SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Neil Simon’s “Biloxi Blues.” At Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Saxon Stage Theatre begins its 2018-2019 season with a production of “Biloxi Blues,” a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story by Neil Simon packed with wit and charm promised to please all ages. Visit www.Saxon-Stage.com.

THURSDAY/NOV.29-SUNDAY/DEC. 2

BalletNova presents The

Nutcracker. Thursday-Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 and 5 p.m.; Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. at George Mason High School Theatre, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. BalletNova’s Nutcracker has become a holiday tradition. BalletNova presents a brand-new production of the holiday classic with new costumes, new characters and new choreography. The Sugar Plum Fairy is being danced by Willa Frantz, of Fairfax.\$18-42. Call 703-778-3008 or visit www.BalletNova.org.

THURSDAY/NOV29-SUNDAY/DEC. 23

A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration.

Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. It’s 1864 and Washington, D.C. is settling down to the coldest Christmas Eve in years in this pageant of carols by Paula Vogel. Stories of many intertwining lives—spanning from the battlegrounds of Northern Virginia to the halls of the White House— demonstrate that the gladness of one’s heart is the best gift of all. Visit www.1stStage.org for the schedule of Community Conversations, captioned and audio described performances. Tickets: general admission, \$39; senior (65+), \$36; student and military, \$15 at www.1ststage.org or at 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Nighttime Walk on the Wildlife Side. 5-7 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Wrap up the month of November with a wildlife walk after dark at Riverbend Park. Participants age 3-adult will take a nighttime walk with a naturalist to search for wildlife and see what’s happening at Riverbend after the sun sets. After the hike, it’s time to gather around a campfire and enjoy s’mores. Register for the “Night Hike Campfire” program. \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Opening Reception: 500. 5-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists’ Association (TFAA) presents 500, a mixed-media show featuring the work of 13 TFAA member artists, from framed oil paintings to photography, all of the art is priced \$500 and under. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30-SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Tyson’s Library Book Sale. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at



Pastor Eric Song, shown with his family and their dog, started the annual Puppy Nativity as a creative way to involve the community in celebrating the Christmas season.

Puppy Nativity

Celebrate the holiday season with third annual Puppy Nativity, where dogs play dress up as part of the nativity (costumes provided). The church’s youth group will be on hand to accept donations for Britepaths (britepaths.org). The “Peace Like a River” art exhibit also will be open in The Gallery at the church during the event. Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Free. Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Tyson’s-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Half price/\$10 per bag on Sunday. Email tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or call 703-790-4031 or 703-338-3307.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Holiday Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m. at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Marine Band, led by Assistant Director Capt. Ryan Nowlin, will perform at Wolf Trap’s Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long. Free, no tickets required. Free parking is available.

Visit www.marineband.marines.mil.
60th Service Birthday and Christmas Party. 6 p.m. at The Vienna Moose Lodge, 9616 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The Vienna Moose Lodge welcomes the public to celebrate their 60th Service Birthday and Christmas Party. The band will be a local favorite the Deja Blue band. There will be food and refreshments available for a nominal price. Admission is free. Visit www.ViennaMoose.org or call 703-599-3929.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 1-2

The Enchanted Forest. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 8-11 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Sheraton Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. 18th Annual The Enchanted Forest featuring live entertainment, Junior Leagues’ Kids in the Kitchen activities, a visit from Santa, crafts, premium events for all, and a silent auction of over 80 themed trees and wreaths. \$10 general admission for adults, \$15 child general admission. Visit www.jlnv.org/tef/.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Holiday Gift Shopping. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Judy’s Place, a Temple Rodef Shalom tradition for 20 years, provides a non-denominational and convenient shopping experience for children ages 2-13 that lets your child, with the help of volunteers, choose from among over 100 gift items ranging in price from \$1 to \$15 to surprise

parents, siblings, grandparents and pets. Contact Jackie Rockman at jackie.rockman@gmail.com.

Artist Reception and Talk. After 10:15 a.m. worship at The Gallery at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Road, Vienna. Featuring “Peace Like a River” art exhibit by Alice Nodine of mixed media paintings. The exhibit will be open during church office hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Sunday mornings from 9-noon. The exhibit also will be open during the church’s Puppy Nativity event on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Nodine, a member of Good Shepherd, also will offer her paintings for sale at the conclusion of the exhibit. She will donate a portion of the proceeds to Columbus County Disaster Response, for flood recovery efforts in North Carolina, where she grew up. Visit GoodShepherdVA.com.

WinterFest Holiday Parade.

Pre-parade entertainment, 2:30 p.m.; parade, 3:30 p.m. on Old Chain Bridge Road, from Fleetwood to Elm Street in McLean. This will be the 10th year for WinterFest. The viewing stand will be at Langley Shopping Center with a variety of food trucks. To be an entry in the parade, one must register at www.mcleanwinterfest.org. Questions about registration or sponsorships can be directed to Trish Butler at sagecommunications@earthlink.net.
Celebration of Lights. 4-6:30 p.m. at Great Falls Village Field. Celebrate the beginning of the season with Great Falls’ Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Drink hot cider or cocoa next to the fire while listening to local children’s choral groups sing seasonal music (starting 3:45). The petting zoo and pony rides will keep children busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck. Held rain or shine. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights.

DEC. 2-16

Art Exhibit: “Peace Like a River.”

Gallery hours at The Gallery at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Exhibit of mixed media paintings by Alice Nodine, of Centreville. For exhibit hours and information, visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

52nd annual Holiday Homes Tour.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tour four large, festively decorated homes in the McLean neighborhoods of Langley Forest, River Oaks, Odrick’s Corner and McLean Hamlet. Jewelry and holiday boutique and high-end raffle at house in River Oaks. \$30 before Dec. 6 at Mesmeralda’s in McLean, Karin’s Florist in Vienna, and Great Dogs of Great Falls. \$35 at the tour houses on Dec. 6. Call 703-556-0197 or visit www.mcleanwomansclub.org.

The Logic of Hindu Thought. 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E., Vienna. Meet author Dr. Vilas D. Nene, as he discusses Hindu thought, and its history. The ancient Hindu thinkers used the scientific approach of going from the known to the unknown and also introduced the idea of the universe as a projection of the ultimate reality of Brahman (God). Books available for sale and signing. Free. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4203999.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

“Dining with Dorothy.” 12:30 p.m. at Tysons Corner Sakura Japanese Steak House, 8369 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Join with friends or make

HOLIDAY

new ones. Newcomers are welcome. Reserve space at dflood1706@gmail.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 7-8

Annual Renaissance Feaste. 7 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Langley High School's choirs are busy rehearsing for the 16th annual Renaissance Feaste, which takes place in the school's "Langley Halle." Choir students in full medieval attire – dressed as jesters, minstrels, and musicians – will serenade guests with holiday carols, entertaining them with performances straight out of Merrie Olde England. Guests will dine on authentic medieval English fare. For tickets, available through Nov. 30, visit www.brownpapertickets.com, and search for "feaste" (with "e" at the end).

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 7-16

A Christmas Carol. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2:30 p.m. at James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. In 1933, an unemployed Shakespearean actor and his manager run out of gas, and the townsfolk agree to supply them with some if they tell them the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim. This depression-era adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic truly brings this story to life. \$17. Tickets and more information at www.providenceplayers.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa. 1-3 p.m. at Vienna Pediatric Dentistry, 301 Maple Ave. West, Suite 400, Vienna. Cookie decorating (gluten free options available), cocoa, Christmas music and most importantly, Santa. Free, all are welcome. Consider bringing a small, unwrapped gift to donate to Toys for Tots. Call 703-938-6600 or visit viennapediatricdentistry.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9

Christmas Market. Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Shop for holiday hand-crafted gifts, fine art jewelry, nature photography, watercolors and homemade baked goods and sweets. The United Methodist Women will be providing Christmas gift wrapping services (morning drop-offs welcomed). Visit with Santa from 11-3 on Saturday. Free admission. Call 703-759-3509 or visit www.andrewchapelumc.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 10

Film Screening: Straws. 7-9 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Sierra Club will show Straws, a film about how plastic straws pollute beaches and oceans, litter streets, and wind up in landfills due to being non-recyclable. Discussion follows film. Free. Email s.weltz@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Arts Society Holiday Party. 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 243 Church St., NW, suite 100, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the community through the arts. All are invited. www.JanHeginbotham.com.



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Friday, Jan. 4, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
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SPORTS

Westfield Defeats Madison in Regional Final

BY WILL PALENSCAR

The Westfield Bulldogs (12-0) hosted and won the Virginia 6D Regional Final in Chantilly against Madison Warhawks (10-2) on Nov. 24. The two teams played earlier in the year in a conference matchup in which Westfield prevailed 17-15. Heavy rains and freezing temperatures would have an impact on the game.

After deferring the opening kickoff to Westfield, Westfield's Saadiq Hinton bobbled the opening kickoff, which was recovered by Madison deep inside Westfield territory. Moments later Brandon Walker rushed in for the game's opening points on a 22-yard run. After a successful extra point by David Loudon, Madison led 7-0.

In the second quarter both teams fought the adverse weather conditions and were unable to put any points on the board. Westfield did have a possession in the final minute of the half, but Westfield Coach Kyle Simmons elected to take a knee and regroup in the locker room for the second half.

Just prior to Westfield kicking off to Madison, Westfield's Joe Clancy shouted out to teammates on the sideline, "8 points wins this. Madison will not score this half."

Madison received the second half kick. Moments later during Westfield's next possession, Taylor Morin was inserted in the Wildcat formation, which seemed to ignite the Bulldogs, with Eugene Asante and Morin running the ball. But it was Asante, the defensive player of the year in the Concorde District, who burst towards the end zone before being stopped inside the 5-yard line. Asante would then rush in from 4 yards out, giving Westfield their first score with 9:50 to play in the third quarter. A successful extra point by Riley Nugent deadlocked the score at 7-



Madison's Brandon Walker #28 bursts by Ryan Moses #26 and the Westfield defense for an early Madison first quarter touchdown.



John Finney II #13 runs with ball in game against Westfield.

7. Later in the third quarter, Madison was able to stop a Bulldogs drive resulting in Westfield senior Riley Nugent's 21-yard field goal to give the Bulldogs a 10-7 advantage under deteriorating conditions.

Then in the fourth quarter, Asante again came up big running in from 1 yard out, essentially closing the door on any Madison late game heroics. Asante finished the game with 114 yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries. Riley Nugent was again successful on

the extra point, giving Westfield a 17-7 victory.

Westfield improved to (13-0) and their 37th consecutive win. They advance to play in the state semifinal game on Dec. 1 at 1 p.m., against Freedom-Woodbridge (12-1), who were winners over WT Woodson (11-2). Madison's (10-3) effort came up just short.

Clancy was correct about holding Madison scoreless in the second half but may have underestimated his team would score 17 second half points.

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BULLETIN

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

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Food for Fines. Through Nov. 30. Fairfax County Public Library will be hosting a food drive called "Food for Fines." Canned goods and other non-perishable items collected during the drive will be donated to Food for Others, a not-for-profit food pantry and food rescue operation that serves Fairfax County. Each item donated will erase \$1 from a patron's overdue fines up to a maximum of \$15. Customers may donate even if there are no fines accrued. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/food-fines

Blanket and Coat Drive. Through Dec. 8. Organized by NOVA Relief Center, blankets and coats will be sent to refugees in three camps in Jordan this winter. Blankets and coats should be new or gently worn. Monetary donations are also needed and may be made to NOVA Relief Center online and at some drop-off locations. For drop-off sites or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit novareliefcenr.org.

Volunteers Needed: CHO Christmas Store & Bike Program. Friday, Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.-noon (set up); Saturday, Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m.-noon (shop) at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna.

CHO's 2018 Christmas Store is an annual event that invites our less fortunate neighbors to "shop" for gifts for their families and provides holiday extras that many take for granted. CHO (Committee for Helping Others) will be accepting donations of new unwrapped gifts for young children, gift cards for teens, as well as food gift certificates from Giant and Safeway. It also will be accepting new or like new jackets and coats.

Clothing and other donations can be dropped at the CHO Clothes Closet at Vienna Court Condos, 133 Park St. NE, across from the Vienna Presbyterian Church, any Monday morning or by appointment. Call 703-281-7614; leave a message in Box # 1. The "bike distribution program," will be collecting bikes on Saturday, Nov. 24, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna Presbyterian parking lot and at Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road.

Toys for Tots Drive. Through Dec. 10. Area Sheehy Auto Stores will collect new and unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Sheehy's Toys for Tots drop-off locations include:

- ❖ Sheehy INFINITI of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna
- ❖ Patriot Harley-Davidson, 9739 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax

Toy Drive. Through Friday, Dec. 14 at local Weichert, Realtors offices. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. To find your local office, go to www.weichert.com/offices/.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28

Fairfax Commission on Aging Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at the Hunter Mill District Office, Community Room A, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Medicare Enrollment Event. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dar Al-Hijrah, 3159 Row St., Falls Church. Learn the facts about health insurance for older adults. Registration required, call 703-531-2905, TTY 711. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Insurance Counseling-VICAP.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Dyslexia Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Join the FCPS Office of Special Education Instruction and the Parent Resource Center for the 4th Annual Dyslexia Open House. Meet Carrie Leestma, FCPS dyslexia specialist, browse exhibit tables, and learn about next steps for FCPS students with dyslexia. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center

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Mow, Mow, Mow Your Grass ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... Not gently by the stream, and not by yours truly, either. Yet another task that seems beyond this homeowner's ability.

Which is fine by me because the older I get, it seems the less capable I become, and the less inclined I am to risk life and limb in the pursuit of that which that doesn't make me happy. Throw in a lung cancer diagnosis and the last thing my re-wired (figuratively speaking) brain will allow me to do is anything which doesn't put a smile on my face and a bounce in my step. And avoiding yard work ranks up there with most household tasks that a typical able-bodied homeowner takes pride in doing him or herself.

It's not so much that I take pride in avoiding it, it's just that I know my limitations, unlike Hal Holbrook in "Magnum Force."

Sharp objects, mechanical objects and/or electrical/spinning/rotating objects, objects with multiple doohickies (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), objects which require assembly/reading instructions are all challenging for me. Moreover, none of it fascinates me in the least.

What fascinates me more is the level of interest and passion with which so many of my brethren are engaged in the process; from start to finish.

I just don't get it. Nor have I ever gotten it, and neither do I expect to get it in the future.

Perhaps this total lack of interest comes from the experience of being a life-long renter. Never during my pre-college daze was my family ever responsible for yard work, home repairs (inside or out), or had much of a need for tools, other than the most rudimentary: hammer, screwdriver, pliers, etc.

No power tools. Nothing electrical that required a plug/proximity to an outlet. No plumbing, and of course, nothing like a chainsaw.

My parents were children of the Depression and all they had time for was school, play and some work; yes, even as children. And living in tenement/multi-level housing hardly lent itself to anything but doing what was necessary to survive.

But as my parents so often said: everyone else they knew was experiencing similar hardships so they didn't really realize what they were missing. Tools? Repairs? Amenities? Conveniences? Hardly. Toilet paper was a Sears catalogue cut into squares and hung on a nail in the bathroom down the hall – outside of their apartment.

They didn't have money or time for any of it. What money they earned was for food, rent, utilities and clothes; the most basic of basics.

It is through these experiences that my parents passed on their instincts and priorities to the their two Baby Boomer-era sons. There was ample love, affection and importance of family but not so much time and/or energy for interior and exterior home repairs, yard work, tools and what to do with them/how to use them as well as a variety of other homeowner-type tasks.

As a family of renters, it was never our responsibility. I suppose that was a match made in Depression-era heaven because very little in our family's past prepared us for this new future.

When my father returned from his service in World War II (working in Washington, D.C., actually), he had, unlike Liam Neeson, no unique set of skills. He had to find some vocation/avocation that would provide for his family – which he did, as a salesman.

After living in Dorchester, Mass. for their entire lives (since their parents immigrated to America in the early 20th century), in 1958, my parents moved the family to Newton Centre, Mass. – for the schools. We spent the next 15 years as renters and other than taking out the trash and the rubbish, I did very little to hone my homeowner-type skills.

I wouldn't say I've been stigmatized by this experience, but I learned very little that became useful in the maintenance and upkeep of the 275-year-old home, my wife Dina and I have occupied for the past 25+ years. Other than knowing how to ask for help that is.

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

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NEWS

The relationship between leads Alexa Schwartzman and Joseph Perrault (left) differs greatly from the relationship of leads Vivian Lemons and Liam Bloom.

PHOTOS BY C.J. GRECO/
THE CONNECTION



Oakton High Presents 'Taming of the Shrew'

BY C.J. GRECO
THE CONNECTION

Oakton High School's theater department finishes off its fall performance season this week with its production of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."

Having a robust group of young thespians, Oakton's Theatre Arts Director Vanessa Gelinis had to choose this year's productions carefully so as to use the student-capital as best they could. After some deliberation, "Peter and the Starcatcher" (performed earlier this month) and "Taming of the Shrew" were chosen.

A rather curious result of the show's casting constrictions: Oakton's production will be gender swapped. This turns what is possibly the play's most infamous and essential characteristic: its relationship dynamic, on its head.

"The show is known for being notoriously sexist," said student director senior Mena Dolinh. "It's about this man coming in and taming this woman who doesn't know how to act."

"And so," continued Dolinh, "the biggest thing was thinking about how we set it in a place where this makes sense, and, now that we flipped the genders, who is this character and what is this woman's role in the world now that she's a dominatrix."

Clearly, the show boasts some colorful themes. According to its cast though, this thematic foundation paves the way for hilarity.

"People don't realize how dirty Shakespeare gets until you really analyze it," said Dolinh.

"At the end of the show," said senior Joseph Perrault who plays Christiano, "I have a four-minute long monologue that's notorious as being one of the most sexist things."

IN THE ORIGINAL VERSION of the monologue, Perrault's (now female) character goes on a rant about how men provide for women, and because of that women have to be loyal and subservient to men. "It's *really* sexist," said Perrault. In this, perhaps more refreshing, take on the story, the monologue honors women, and the domineering female lead Petruchia is personified by senior Alexa Schwartzman.

"I'm relatively passive," said Schwartzman, "and this character doesn't let him eat or sleep, and won't have sex with him, and just yells at him so much and goes crazy. It's a really interesting dynamic that we have to forge with each other."

"It's really funny because she's one of the nicest people ever," said Perrault of Schwartzman, "we're good friends, and now it's flipped and she's being so mean to me in the show and I have to be this small guy!"

In addition to its gender roles being swapped, the story's setting has also changed in this production.



Oakton senior Alexa Schwartzman puts a feminine spin on what is usually a domineering male role, much to the dismay of senior Joseph Perrault's character.



Seniors Emma Szczesniak and Mena Dolinh are co-directors for the show.

Now set in the 1980s instead of Victorian England, much of the script's context had to be altered.

"There's a scene where [Petruchia] makes an entrance to her own wedding completely late," said Dolinh, "And she's dressed like Madonna in her 'Like a Virgin' music video and has got this ripped up, very short, wedding dress."

"One of her servants," continued Dolinh, "comes in and is trying to describe how she is coming to this wedding, but since it was written in Shakespearean times it's like 'her britches, etc.' and none of that applies, so we had to completely change it to apply to what [Alexa] is actually going to be wearing."

While a rehearsal for "Peter and the Starcatcher" went on in the background, Dolinh, Schwartzman, and Perrault concluded their eager descriptions of the show to come, one in which true creative passion from young minds will be surely on display. In addition to these three, Emma Szczesniak will be co-directing, and Vivian Lemons and Liam Bloom will round out the cast's lead.

OAKTON'S "The Taming of the Shrew" will be showing at 7 p.m. at Oakton High School on Nov. 29 and 30 and Dec. 1. Tickets can be found at taming.oaktondrama.org.

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