

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Donovan D'Souza of Reston with daughter Sonja and their dog Winston at the Puppy Nativity at the Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) Church in Vienna.

Puppy Nativity in Vienna

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VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from Nov. 30 – Dec. 6, 2018.

INCIDENTS

Vehicle Tampering — 400 Block Knoll Street, NW Between Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. and Nov. 30 at 12 p.m. A resident reported that an unknown person entered both of her unlocked vehicles and rummaged through them. Nothing appeared to have been taken.

Vandalism — 300 Block Tapawingo Road, SE Between Nov. 30 at 9 p.m. and Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. A resident reported damage to a small window over his garage.

Arrest – Driving While Intoxicated — Nutley Street and Marshall Road, SW Dec. 1, 2:07 a.m. Sgt. Ruddy observed a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit and initiated a traffic stop. Upon the officer's interaction with the driver, she detected signs of impairment. The driver failed a series of field sobriety tests and Sgt. Ruddy placed him under arrest. Sgt. Ruddy transported the 34-year-old man from Owens Way in Prince George, Virginia to the Vienna Police Station where he was offered the opportunity to provide a sample of his breath for analysis. The driver was then transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Driving While Intoxicated.

Arrest – Narcotics Violation — Nutley

Street and Mendon Lane, SW Dec. 1, 9:46 p.m. Ofc. Nesbitt observed a vehicle with improper equipment and initiated a traffic stop. Upon the officer's interaction with the driver, he detected the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. The driver was found to be in possession of a measurable amount of marijuana. Ofc. Nesbitt issued a summons to the driver, a 26-year-old man from Pelham Street in Alexandria, Va. charging Possession of Marijuana. He was released on his signature.

Arrest – Driving While Intoxicated — Church Street and Lawyers Road, NW Dec. 2, 1:42 a.m. Sgt. Ruddy observed a vehicle commit a traffic offense and initiated a traffic stop. Upon the officer's interaction with the driver, she detected

signs of impairment. The driver failed a series of field sobriety tests, and he was placed under arrest. Sgt. Ruddy transported the 32-year-old man from Olympia Avenue in Beltsville, Md. to the Vienna Police Station where he was offered the opportunity to provide a sample of his breath for analysis which he refused. He was then transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Refusal.

Suspicious Event — 500 Block Woodland Court, NW Dec. 3, 10:36 p.m. A resident received a suspicious letter from an unknown person.

Possession of Marijuana / Juvenile Case — Cedar Lane School 101 Cedar Lane, SW Dec. 4, 9:12 a.m. School ad-

ministration reported a student who was in school under the influence of marijuana. One of the school's security officers found the juvenile to be in possession of a measurable amount of marijuana. The marijuana was turned over to the police department for destruction. The school administrators advised they would handle the disciplinary action rather than placing criminal charges.

Domestic Dispute — Cedar Lane, SE Dec. 4, 10:35 p.m. Officers responded to a verbal dispute between a husband and wife.

Domestic Dispute — Old Courthouse Road, NE Dec. 5, 6:26 p.m. A resident reported that she and her husband were having a verbal dispute when he began destroying property in the house. When officers arrived on the scene, the husband was preparing to leave the residence to stay with his parents for the night to allow both parties time to calm down. The wife agreed to that arrangement.

Assault — 100 Block Patrick Street, SE Dec. 5, 10:59 p.m. A resident advised that when he told his tenant to leave the apartment the tenant became aggressive. He stated the tenant attempted to attack him with a vacuum cleaner and threw a glass at him. The tenant advised his landlord was the aggressor and that it was the landlord who attacked him with the vacuum. No injuries were sustained, and both parties were advised of the warrant process should they wish to pursue charges.

CRASHES

136 Maple Avenue, West — Nov. 25 Between 12 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Vehicle-2 was legally parked in the parking lot when a Driver-1 (an unknown driver) struck Vehicle-2 and left the scene without providing their information.

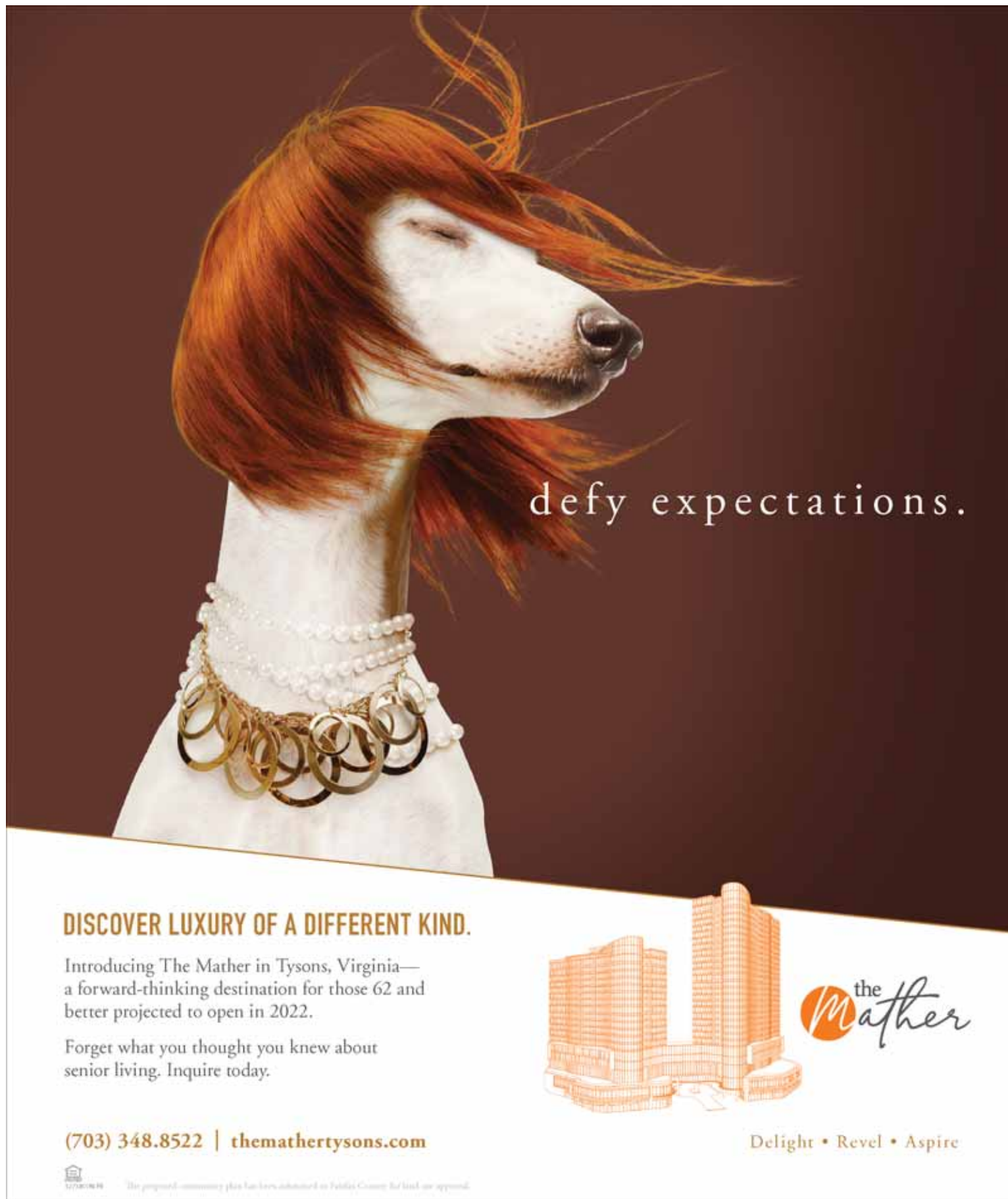
300 Block Nutley Street, NW — Nov. 30, 9:32 p.m. A vehicle was legally parked northbound on Nutley Street when an unknown driver struck the vehicle and left without providing their information.

Park Street and Cherry Street, SE — Dec. 1, 1:10 p.m. Vehicle-2 was stopped at an angle in the northbound lane of traffic as the driver was attempting to back into a driveway. Vehicle-1 was attempting to pass Vehicle-2 on the right and was struck when Vehicle-2 began backing up. Maple Avenue and Glyndon Street, NE — Dec. 1, 4:30 p.m. Vehicle-2 was stopped with the red traffic signal on Maple Avenue at Park Street. Vehicle-1 was stopped behind Vehicle-2. Driver-1's foot slipped off the brake and Vehicle-1 rolled into Vehicle-2 causing minor damage.

Church Street and Mill Street, NE — Dec. 2, 7:12 p.m. Vehicle-1 was traveling westbound on Church Street, stopped for the stop sign at Mill Street. Vehicle-2 was traveling northbound on Mill Street, stopped at the stop sign for Church Street. Both drivers entered the intersection at the same time and collided.

100 Block Park Street, NE — Dec. 3, 3:43 p.m. A vehicle was legally parked in a parking lot when it was struck by an unknown vehicle.

Tapawingo Road and Glyndon Street, SE — Dec. 3, 7:38 p.m. Vehicle-1 was traveling northbound on Glyndon Street approaching Tapawingo Road. Vehicle-2 was traveling eastbound on Tapawingo Road approaching Glyndon Street. Driver-1 ran the stop sign. Driver-2 attempted to turn left to avoid a collision but struck Vehicle-1. Vehicle-2 was forced into a front yard on Glyndon Street, causing minor damage to the grass. Both drivers were transported to area hospitals for minor injuries. Driver-1 was issued a summons charging Failure to Obey a Stop Sign.



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Sharon Bulova
with the Board
of Supervisors.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Sharon Bulova Announces She Will Not Seek Re-election

On Thursday, Dec. 6, Chairman Sharon Bulova of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced that she will not be seeking re-election in 2019.

"It has been an honor to serve the Fairfax County community," Chairman Bulova said. "During these past 30 years, I have been privileged to work alongside dedicated elected officials at every level of government, with talented, caring county staff and a county full of enthusiastic community volunteers. While I will not be running for re-election in 2019 I sure do have a lot to look back on with great satisfaction."

Bulova served as the Braddock District Supervisor on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1988 - 2009, and was elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in a special election in 2009. She was re-elected Chairman in 2011 and again in 2015. The year 2019 will mark her 10th year as Chairman and her 31st year as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

During her career, Chairman Bulova is proud of her role in founding the VRE commuter rail system, piloting Metro's Silver Line Phase 1 over the finish line, navigating through the Great Recession and federal sequestration while retaining Fairfax County's

triple A Bond rating, founding Faith Communities in Action, initiating Communities of Trust, convening the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, helping launch Diversion First, facilitating the new vision and plan for Tysons, and spearheading numerous environmental, historical and cultural initiatives on behalf of the residents of Fairfax County.

"There is still much to do and contribute," Chairman Bulova said. "My term does not end until the end of next year. I look forward to working with you during these months ahead and thank you for your engagement, support and participation in your community."

The upcoming election for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will take place on Nov. 5, 2019, and the new Board will begin its work on Jan. 1, 2020.



Chairman Sharon
Bulova

IN OTHER NEWS, more change is coming to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) has announced he will not seek re-election in 2019. Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) has also announced that she will not seek re-election in 2019. Supervisor Jeff McKay (D) has announced that he will run for Chairman in 2019, vacating his Lee District seat.

REACTIONS

Ensuring Prosperity, Quality of Life

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA):

"As former mayor to a city of 200,000 people, I have enormous respect for Sharon Bulova's leadership of a county of 1.1 million. Over the past 30 years, Fairfax County's population has grown by nearly half, and Sharon's service during that time has played a major role in ensuring the prosperity and quality of life accompanying that growth. Congratulations, Sharon, on a job well done."

A True Community Treasure

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:

"I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Sharon Bulova for more than 20 years and she is a true community treasure. Under her leadership, she turned the idea of the Virginia Railway Express into a reality. As Chairman, she guided the County through the worst of the Great Recession, while still maintaining the critical investments and services that Fairfax residents have come to expect. And over her years of public service, she has helped transform our community into one that is envied by all others."

"Sharon's time on the Board will be remembered for her decency and commitment to collegiality, her willingness to listen to her constituents and bring people together, and her drive to leave Fairfax a better place for future generations. I want to thank my dear friend for her lifetime of service and the undeniable mark she has left on our community."

Gold Standard

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

"I first met Sharon Bulova in 1996 when I was a young

lawyer entering the political world. She was (and is) the gold standard by which local officials can be measured. Her retirement marks the end of an era in Fairfax County which history will remember as one of prosperity and good will."

A Strong Proponent of Economic Growth

Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority:

"Chairman Bulova has been a strong and effective proponent of economic growth and the Economic Development Authority and me personally for many years. The effects of her leadership will be felt throughout the county for generations to come. Her support of our global outreach marketing has been particularly forward-looking and effective over the years."



Silver Line Phase 1 Opening Day.

Bulova Reflects on Getting Started

In her own words:

Memory is funny. If you asked me what I did last Tuesday I would be hard pressed to fill in the details. Some things, however, remain frozen in time, down to seemingly insignificant details.

Lunch at Hunan West on Jan. 11, 1987 is one of those memories. I was working as an Aide to Annandale District Supervisor Audrey Moore. She had pretty much made up her mind to run for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors against incumbent Jack Herrity. My co-workers, Florence, Carolyn and Janet, and I had escaped the office for lunch in the Kings Park Shopping Center.

We began discussing Audrey's plans, then the subject shifted to who would run for the open Annandale District seat. "Sharon Bulova," announced Florence Naeve. I looked up from my Sweet and Sour Pork laughing, thinking that she was joking. To my horror, my friends' expressions were elec-

trified. They excitedly began listing all the reasons why this was a good idea. I countered with a list of my shortcomings, why I couldn't possibly run for office, starting with a phobia about speaking in public. Carolyn smiled broadly and exclaimed, "And see! You're so modest and organized!"

Sometimes routine events like lunch with friends can prove pivotal. Despite all my doubts and misgivings, I did, indeed run for office, and went on to serve as Annandale - later renamed Braddock - District Supervisor for the next twenty years. When then-Chairman Gerry Connolly was elected to Congress in 2008, I ran for his open seat in a special election on February 3, 2009. This coming February will mark ten years since I have served as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Local government is an awe-

SEE BULOVA, PAGE 5

OPINION

Holidays Speed By

Every year is Election Year in Virginia; sometimes every month ...

Our last live newspapers of 2018 will come out next Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 18 and Dec. 19. Editors are already working on hundreds of submissions for our Children's Connections, which will come out in the days between Christmas and New Year's. Our first regular newspapers will come out in the first week of January, 2019.

Don't miss our holiday calendars in these weeks, with so many local things to do.

Among things to do is to watch for a Special Election Day on Tuesday, Jan. 8, to fill the unexpired term of the 33rd District seat in the

Virginia State Senate, as Jennifer Wexton vacates that seat to head to U.S. Congress in Virginia's 10th District.

On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. Joe T. May (R) faces Jennifer B. Boysko (D). If Boysko should win, another Special Election will be scheduled to fill her seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming

And later in 2019, every seat on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, every seat on the School Board, every seat in the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate, and more are

up for election. We already know that there will be significant turnover, with many new candidates to get to know. Primaries will likely be in June.

The 2019 session of Virginia's General Assembly begins Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

For families, we can point you back to holiday happenings; breathe and enjoy some hot chocolate with your children and neighbors.

Letters to the editor go to <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/> or editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Welcoming Amazon

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Amazon.

Welcome to Northern Virginia! As the timeframe for your decision on HQ2 drew closer, those of us who already call this region home began to think about how we'd welcome you to our community.

Community foundations have a more than 100-year history as community conveners and conversation brokers who work tirelessly to preserve, enhance and protect the quality of life for our neighbors. This role often places us directly in the middle of our community's most important decisions, most pressing issues, and most promising opportunities. Many in our community believe that your decision to locate HQ2 in Northern Virginia is the most impactful event to happen in each of these categories in a generation.

Your arrival will bring jobs, critical advancements in the quality of our public transportation, investments in technology education, and opportunities for small businesses that will serve you and the workers you attract — among many other things. Like you, we want our neighborhoods to be diverse and vibrant places to live and work. We want our economic development to be a rising tide that lifts all boats. Companies and community foundations have worked in tandem to address local issues for over a century. It is therefore our deepest hope that in partnership, we can reimagine solutions to workforce development, affordable housing and other social problems, perhaps driven by imaginative technology-dependent solutions not yet seen that we invent together.

'It's the Most Wonderful Time'

Holiday fun abounds around the area, including Carriage Rides at Reston Town Center's Market Street.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MYERS PUBLIC RELATIONS



Your arrival in Northern Virginia gives us all a chance to create a more regional, collaborative approach to local philanthropy that brings to bear the full capacity and weight of our nonprofit partners, our collective community knowledge, and our shared impulse to help build community through philanthropy. We look forward to working with you, problem solving with you, and advancing our community's best interests, together.

Heather Peeler
President & CEO, ACT for Alexandria

Jennifer Owens
President & CEO, Arlington Community Foundation

Amy Owen
President, Community Foundation for Loudoun & Northern Fauquier Counties

Eileen Ellsworth
President & CEO, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

Bruce McNamer
President & CEO, Northern Virginia Greater Washington Community Foundation

Time is Running Out to Save the Farm

To the Editor:

With only days left, I am writing to urge you and your readers to help save The Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run in McLean. The National Park Service intends to "terminate" (their word) the Farm on Dec. 21, 2018. For over forty years, this special place has been a very important part of my life and so many others. Its loss would be huge for the community at large.

While it began as a National Park, the Farm was turned over to the Friends of Claude Moore Colonial Farm in 1981 and has been a successful, private endeavor ever since. The Farm portrays the life of a lower-class, homesteading Virginia family during the late Colonial period. It offers a unique historical perspective and opportunities to engage in colonial living experiences.

As a Fairfax County Public

School teacher, for years I took my fourth grade classes to the Farm to live three days and two nights in the year 1771. It truly was "living history." This program continues to this day as schools from Virginia, Maryland and D.C. bring students to participate in colonial encampments. As a mom, I was one of many who took their children there to learn about colonial life at Market Fairs and through many other farm events.

To date, more than 12,480 people have signed the Save the Farm petition. Information on how to help can be found on the Farm's website— <http://1771.org/savethefarm> While legislation has moved to the floor in the House of Representatives, no legislation has even been introduced in the Senate by the Virginia Senators. Legislation must pass the Senate by Dec. 14. Time is running out.

The historical learning experiences offered by the Farm are so worth saving.

May Ohman
Arlington

Vienna & Oakton
CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Don Park
Display Advertising
703-778-9431
donpark@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



NEWS

Sharon Bulova - second from right - with (from left): Del. Mark Keam (D-35), State Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill).



Bulova

FROM PAGE 3

some place to be. It's the level of government closest to the people you represent. It's the place where you can truly make a tangible difference, touch lives, and engage with the community in a personal, positive way. Deciding when to stop is just as hard as making the decision to start down the road of elective office. For me, however, that time has come.

When questioned by Tony Olivo of the Washington Post about my plans for running, I told him I was going to use the Thanksgiving holiday to think about it, and to talk to my family and friends. On Thanksgiving Day my son David arrived for dinner equipped with a large flip chart and colored stickies for voting. He titled the Chart "Family Decision Making Matrix" and separated it into "Pros" and "Cons." It was a fun, light-hearted

after dinner activity. Many of the items listed on the "Pro" side of the chart were some of the reasons that had already persuaded me to not seek another four-year term. More time with family and grandchildren, time for travel, to entertain, to smell the roses.

It has been an honor to serve the Fairfax County community on the Board of Supervisors. During these past thirty years, I have been privileged to work alongside dedicated elected officials at every level of government, with talented, caring county staff and a county full of enthusiastic community volunteers. While I will not be running for re-election in 2019 I sure do have a lot to look back on with satisfaction.

My term does not end until the end of next year. Between now and then there is still much to do and to contribute. I look forward to working with you during these months ahead and thank you for your engagement and participation in your community.



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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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PHOTO BY HOME ON CAMERON

Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria suggests adding a decorative mirrors for a quick bathroom update.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

Potomac designer Anne Walker used Thibaut wallpaper to make the room a "fabulous, joyful place to visit," she said.

Preparing for Holiday Guests

Sprucing-up a bathroom without a renovation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Amid the tree-trimming, wreath hanging and stocking stuffing in an effort to deck the halls in anticipation of holiday guests, there's one space that can be forgotten: the humble bathroom. While not as festive as hanging garland, a few simple tweaks can transform a bathroom from glum to guest ready.

"Hands-down, the easiest way to spruce up a bathroom with little or no expense is to de-clutter," said Anne M. Walker of Anne Walker Design. "You'll be amazed how beautiful your bathroom looks if you clear away all of the items sitting on the countertop and around the room."

To help with that effort, Walker suggests investing organizational items such as Lucite or bamboo trays and drawer inserts so that personal items can be kept out of sight.

For those with a budget and time to allow for it, Walker suggests a fresh coat of paint or new wallpaper. "That can make a huge visual impact in a bathroom," she said. "Since the space is so small, and it's a room where you don't spend long periods of time, you can have fun with interesting colors and patterns."

Also think about painting just one wall as an accent or the ceiling," said Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria. "[Add a new] mirror, such as a decorative or colorfully framed mirror or one that runs from floor to ceiling, for a fresh look."

He also suggests updating a bathroom's lighting to make the space feel bright and airy.

Another practical tip that Walker offers is a good, old-fashioned scrub-down. "Clean like you've never cleaned before, she said. "Use a surface cleaner with bleach, like Krud Kutter, which is my personal favorite, a strong brush, and your elbow grease to remove dust, grime and dirt from tile grout, caulk, and cor-

ners of the room."

Among the more mundane tasks is to visually inspect the bathroom's grout to check for cracks and stubborn, unsightly mold. Re-grouting might be necessary, says Chuck Khriel, vice president of Fred Home Improvement. "When making a repair, it is very important to remove all of the cracked grout in the joint so that the full edge of the tile is exposed," he said. "The new grout can then bond to the full thickness of the tile edge. Simply smearing a thin layer of new grout over old grout will not work."

Once the room is sparkling clean and totally decluttered, Walker suggests adding display on a countertop or in a shower niche. "A vase full of bamboo, pretty soaps in a rattan basket or a Lucite tray filled with beautiful guest towels are just a few suggestions for fresh objects that will lend an air of tranquility to your bathroom."

For guests who might cringe at the thought of shared guests towels, Martz suggests adding a tray of disposable hand towels. He also encourages engaging one's sense of smell by, "adding some scented candles like those by Rigaud's Cypres and Cythere."

Another simple fix is to buy fresh new bath linens, says Walker. "No matter how hard you try, towels and shower curtains get dingy over time," she said. "There are so many places to buy lovely linens, and many of them are very low cost."

With the right accessories, even the most modest spaces can be made to feel like a spa, suggests Walker, recalling a bathroom in which she added added a Turkish towel, striped shower curtain which became transformative. "Even though the bathroom, itself, is modest, the beautiful shower curtain makes it feel like a resort," she said. "By adding just a couple of colorful accessories on the countertop, it pulls the whole room together."

Installing new fixtures such as a shower head can quickly transform a bathroom from outdated to updated. "There are many types of shower heads on the market these days," said "Some offer a variety of water streams and different features, [and] most manufacturers make it so that changing a shower head is fairly simply."

The Children's CONNECTION 2018

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: "Peace Like a River."

Through Dec. 16, 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.

Art Exhibit: 500. Through Dec. 23, 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, all of the art is priced \$500 and under. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com.

A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration.

Through Dec. 23, 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, the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of *Indecent*. 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.

Art Exhibit: Fleurs et Fruits.

Through Jan. 4, bank hours at TD Bank, 9901 Walker Road, Great Falls Village. Jan Heginbotham presents "Les Fleurs et les Fruits," still life paintings in oil and gouache. Portraits of fresh flowers and handsome fruits and veggies. Free. Email the_sculptor@hotmail.com or visit www.JanHeginbotham.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 12

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Holiday Luncheon.

11:30 a.m. at Brio Tuscan Grill, 7854L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. The cost of the luncheon is \$34 per person. To attend, pay at squareup.com/market/mclean-newcomers-club. Prospective members are invited. Make reservations no later than Friday, Dec. 7. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org.

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. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 13-16

A Christmas Carol. Through 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.



Santa HQ

Santa is all about the experience and this year Tysons Corner Center is again partnering with HGTV to present the incomparable, immersive "Santa HQ." Families are invited to explore the wonder of Santa in the digital age. Interactive technology transforms and customizes the experience. Guests can make reservations to spend less time in line. Shoppers are invited to bring an unwrapped toy and participate in our 'Help Through Holiday Giving' toy drive benefiting Second Story (formerly Alternative House). Visit Santa through Dec. 24 at Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. HGTV's Santa HQ is located in Fashion Court near Nordstrom on the Lower Level. Visit www.santa-hq.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Holiday Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.-noon at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., South, Vienna. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Santa Claus will be greeting all from 9:30-11 a.m. There will be tours of the fire equipment available. Free child photo ID and fingerprint cards will be available from Fairfax County Sheriff's office. Adults \$8, adults; \$7, seniors (65+); \$6, children ages 5-12, children 4 and under free. Email Joanie@vvfd.org or visit vvfd.org.

Parents' Day Out. 9 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Annual Parents' Day Out event for children in Kindergarten through Grade 6. Sponsored by the Lewinsville Youth Ministry, children will spend time watching Christmas movies, making crafts, decorating Christmas cookies, and playing games while parents prepare for the holidays. Free and open to the public. Sign up at www.lewinsville.org/event-items/parents-day-out/ or email Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom at agroenenboom@lewinsville.org.

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. What would the holidays be without trains? The NVMR open house has model trains and trolley activities that realistically depict an actual railroad that existed in North Carolina in the 1950s, the Western North Carolina (WNC). Locomotive, rail car, and towns industry in this layout is modeled after those places and things as they looked in that era. Thomas and Friends are here too. Free. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

Studio Bleu's The Nutcracker. 2 and 7 p.m. at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn. Ashleigh Watkinson, of Great Falls, dances the role of Clara in Studio Bleu Dance Center's in the 2 p.m. performance. Studio Bleu is owned by Kimberly Rishi, a resident of Reston. Visit www.tututix.com/client/studiobleu2018/ for tickets.

Christmas Carol Sing-along. 3-5 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Historic Pleasant Grove is holding its annual

Christmas Carol Sing, followed by cookies and hot cider, at their quaint historic site. Free. Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

Night in Bethlehem. 5-7 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Wander through the outdoor city marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Interact with this live nativity including Mary, Joseph and a tame camel, donkey and sheep – and hear the story of Jesus' birth. Free. Visit www.andrewchapelumc.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 15-16

Christmas with Voce. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m. at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Voce celebrates the festive season with Ottorino Respighi's glittering *Lauda per la Natività del Signore* (Laud to the Nativity). Written in 1930, Respighi's seasonal cantata is an exquisite, neo-Baroque treatment of the Christmas story scored for chorus, soloists, and chamber ensemble. \$25 general admission; \$20 age 62+; \$10 student (18+); children under 18 free. Visit www.voce.org or call 703-277-7772.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Vienna. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$4. Call 703-938-6580.

Gifts for Good Market. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.W., Annual Gifts for Good Haiti Christmas Market featuring handmade Haitian artwork, including metal art, jewelry and Christmas ornaments. Proceeds benefit Vienna Presbyterian mission partner Community Coalition for Haiti (www.cchaiti.org). For more email wevn@verizon.net.

The Glorious Sounds of Christmas. 4-5:30 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. Sanctuary Choir, Cathedral Brass, Youth Choir, Friendship Chimes. Childcare is available. Call 703-938-9050 or visit viennapres.org.

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December 16, 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols

Worship every Wednesday, 12 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
Blue Christmas: A Service of Remembrance

Monday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve worship at 5, 8 & 10 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church
1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101 | umtrinity.org

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www.mcleancenter.org

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

What Do Furry Friends Do in Winter. 10-11 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. People wear coats to stay warm and dine in cozy kitchens when they get hungry in winter, but what do animals do when the cold settles in? Register for "Our Furry Friends" to find out. Through fun activities, children age 2-5 will explore the lives of squirrels, deer and other mammals at Riverbend Park. They will learn how critters stay warm and find food during the cold winter months. \$8 per child. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

Holiday Animal Winter Festival. 10 a.m.-noon at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Sip hot chocolate and celebrate the season by learning about wintering animals. Make holiday ornaments of the animals, too. \$12 per person. Designed for participants 3-adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.
Klondike Campfire Cookout. 3:30-5 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Expand cooking skills at the "Klondike Campfire Cookout."

Prepare a winter meal with using colonial and indigenous cooking techniques around the campfire. Food and drink are provided. Bring a flashlight and warm clothes. Space is limited. Designed for participants 3-adult. \$15 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 2

Coffee with The McLean Newcomers and Neighbors. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The McLean Newcomers and Neighbors will host a coffee for members and

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PHOTO BY BARB HOPKINS

Andrew Chapel youth dressed as shepherds pet the cow and camel at the live nativity scene.

Night in Bethlehem

Wander through the outdoor city marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Create unique keepsakes and interact with this live nativity including Mary, Joseph and a tame camel, donkey and sheep – and hear the story of Jesus' birth. Saturday, Dec. 15, 5-7 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Free. Visit www.andrewchapelumc.org.

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FRIDAY/JAN. 4

Meet the Artist: Fleurs et Fruits. 6-7 p.m. at TD Bank, 9901 Walker Road, Great Falls Village. Jan Heginbotham presents "Les Fleurs et les Fruits," still life paintings in oil and gouache. Portraits of fresh flowers and handsome fruits and veggies. Free. Email the_sculptor@hotmail.com or visit www.JanHeginbotham.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 12

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

AAUW Presents Dr. Dwandalyn Reece. 2 pm. (doors open at 1:30) at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Dr. Dwandalyn Reece is Curator of Music and Performing Arts at National Museum of African American Culture and History. Reece created the museum's award-winning inaugural exhibition, Musical Crossroads, and co-curated the grand opening music festival, Freedom Sounds: A Community Celebration. The public is invited. Free. Visit vienna-va.aauw.net/.

TUESDAY/JAN. 15

Mah Jongg Card Order Deadline. This effort supports various Temple Rodef Shalom programs and charitable giving through a rebate program from the National Mah Jongg League. Last year more than 620 cards sold to raise over \$1,300. These are official cards and will be sent directly from the National Mah Jongg League in late March/early

SUNDAY/JAN. 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration: "Liner Notes." 2 p.m. at The Alden 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For all ages. Collide with music's past and present through jazz standards, hip-hop samples and actual liner notes from musicians of the civil rights movement in this multimedia concert experience (video). \$25/\$15 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.


SUNDAY/JAN. 27

McLean Chocolate Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Wide variety of chocolate vendors. Demonstration of pre-revolutionary chocolate-making. Children's game room with chocolate-themed games and live performances. Plenty of free parking. Admission, \$2; under 3, free. McLean Rotary uses proceeds to fund local charitable organizations. Visit mcleanchocolatefestival.org.


SUNDAY/FEB. 10

All Night Grad Party Fundraiser. 7 p.m. in the Langley High School auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Capitol Steps use song parodies and skits to bring bipartisan levity to major issues of the day. Audience members will need to be well-versed in current events to keep up with the humor, as it's fast, fresh, and funny. Proceeds from the show will help to pay for Langley's Class of 2019 All Night Grad Party. Open to the general public. Tickets are \$35 each at ptsalangley.org/all-night-grad-party, under the ANGP Capitol Steps banner, or at lhl19capitolstepsfundraiser.bpt.com.

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News

A rain garden is located along the back edge of the parking lot behind Town Hall, at 127 Center Street S.



PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Town of Vienna Completes 'Rain Garden' Project

Employing an innovative stormwater management strategy, the Town of Vienna has completed installation of a rain garden along the back edge of the parking lot behind Town Hall, located at 127 Center Street S.

"Rain garden" is a term for an alternative system of curbs, gutters, and storm sewers that traditionally handle rain and stormwater. Instead of pipes and concrete, special kinds of plants, soils, and mulches are combined in low-lying areas. This combination works as a filter for the stormwater washing off impervious surfaces such as roads and parking lots.

The rain garden not only focuses on quantity issues related to rainwater runoff, it also addresses

water quality issues. The garden "treats" urban water runoff by cleansing the water of materials, such as phosphorus, sediment, or anything else the water may collect on its way to the garden. As a result, the water that continues to flow through the stormwater system and out into the streams and Chesapeake Bay is cleaner than the water going into the garden.

"The best stormwater management practices are highly effective forms of taking care of infrastructure while also treating the Town's water supply with care," says Town Water Quality Engineer Christine Horner. "We are always looking for improvements, and we can't wait to do more."

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Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Sponsored by The Alden

DEC.
14

Unruly Theatre Project
Friday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free admission.

The Old Firehouse

WINTER BREAK TRIPS

Trips depart from and return to The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.

DEC.
26

Dave & Buster's
Wednesday, Dec. 26, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
\$70/\$60 MCC district residents

DEC.
27

Indoor Go Karting
Thursday, Dec. 27, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
\$80/\$70 MCC district residents

DEC.
28

Zavazone & Movie
Friday, Dec. 28, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents

JAN.
2

Snow Tubing & Ice Skating
Wednesday, Jan. 2, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

JAN.
3

Laser Tag & Indoor Paintball
Thursday, Jan. 3, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

JAN.
4

Upscale Bowling & Movie
Friday, Jan. 4, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents

Closing Notice

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

MCC and The Old Firehouse will be closed Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25, and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 26.



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

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- Potomac/Annandale
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Daleton Connection

NEWS

**Ally Paruti and Chrissie
Baaklini, both 13 and of
Vienna, visit with Santa
(aka Jason Bruno), Fairfax
County Park Authority staff,
at the Starlight Express at
Lake Fairfax in Reston.**

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION



Board Starlight Express At Lake Fairfax

**It's a magical winter light
show and more.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Park Authority presented its new magical winter light show, "Starlight Express at Lake Fairfax," Saturday evening, Dec. 7. Families got in the holiday spirit as they climbed aboard tractor-driven wagons. Riding in comfort, they viewed a section of the park decked out with illuminated stars, original handcrafted wooden forms such as the colorful tall toy soldiers created through a Park Authority-wide effort and inflatables. Holiday-themed characters greeted viewers.

"My parents, (Cindy and Chip Paris) are in town from Ohio," said attendee April Schroeder of Springfield as her husband Shane held daughter, Harper, 2.

"Fairfax County has so many activities. It was hard narrowing down which park event to go to tonight." Wiggling in dad's arms, Harper stretched her arms out toward the tractor illuminated in strings of green lights and called out, "I'm ready to go on the tractor."

The Park Authority offered additional holiday cheer at the light show beyond the much-anticipated wagon ride. Dan and Joanna Drake of Reston helped their children, Elliott, 2, and Nolan, 3, prepare s'mores. They showed their children how to rotate the skewered marshmallows over the campfire fire, slow and low. The couple let the cubes of gooey mess catch on fire for a crispy outside, followed by a quick blow and placement between graham crackers bedded with a chocolate bar.

After wiping off sticky fingers, Joanna Drake explained why she picked the light show at Lake Fairfax. "We saw the event online, and it seemed like fun. There are marshmallows and tractors too... The boys love both. It was a win-win," said Drake.

While families gathered at the campfire and awaited the return of the wagons that arrived back every 20 minutes or so that would take them through the winter wonderland of lights, they warmed up with hot cocoa and took time to visit with Santa who sat near the campfire.



**Santa's elf, (Imani O'Neal, a Fairfax
County Park Authority employee) holds
her lantern shining a light on one of the
wooden elves created through a Park
Authority-wide effort for the winter light
show, Starlight Express at Lake Fairfax.**

With no long lines like at the mall, parents overheard real conversations between their children and the man from the North Pole. Even teens settled in beside Santa. Vienna friends Ally Paruti, 13, and Chrissie Baaklini, 13, sat beside Santa for a chat. Ally's, dad Mike captured the moment in a photo.

Park Manager Dan Grulke looked over the setting. Asked about the event and being out in the woods under the starlit sky Grulke said, "The staff at Lake Fairfax Park always enjoys putting on festive events for the public of all ages."

Santa agreed. "I love being at the "Starlight Express at Lake Fairfax."

The event recurs weekly on Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 15 from 5-8:40 p.m., 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Space is limited; register in advance at Fairfax County Partakes or call 703-222-4664 or 703-471-5415 x 0.

BULLETIN

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Free Sober Rides. 8 p.m.-4 a.m. daily, Dec. 14-Jan. 1. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home (limited quantities available). WRAP's Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at www.SoberRide.com.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

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/.

Holiday Sponsors. Through Dec. 14, Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths is seeking help from community members to sponsor Fairfax County area families in need for the December holidays or donate funds or gift cards to assist families who are not sponsored. Families Britepaths are assisting are referred by Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools social workers. Visit britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program.

WEBINAR

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Learn about Citizenship. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Library, 7415 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church. Learn about the process of becoming a U.S. citizen at this free information session. After the presentation a USCIS representative will answer your questions. U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner will make opening remarks. Free. Email libtj@fairfaxcounty.gov, call 703-573-1060 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4476399 for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Simbang Gabi (Filipino for "Night Mass"). 7 p.m. at Our lady of Good Counsel, 8601 Wolftrap Road SE, Vienna. Join the Filipino-American community for Simbang Gabi. The Vigil Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Thomas Ferguson, Vicar General of the Diocese of Arlington. A "salu-salo" (dinner reception) will follow immediately in DeSales Hall. The "Panuluyan", a depiction of the search for an inn which culminates in a manger, will be presented as a play during the reception by the children of the Fil/Am Community Ministry based at OLG. To RSVP to attend reception email filminolgc@gmail.com or call Chiqui 571-499-8277, Verna 703-408-0652, or Zeny 202-390-3037.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Christmas Worship. 9 and 11:15 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Visit www.stjohnsmclean.org or call 703-356-4902.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Vienna Woman's Club Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Vienna Woman's Club invites prospective members to its open membership meeting with a guest speaker on a common interest subject. Visit www.ViennaWomansClub.org for more.

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Still Scared to ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a follow up to last week's column: "Scared to ...," let me provide a bit more context for the fear and anxiety I wrote about; as well as some history for you readers to appreciate the emotional challenges some of us cancer patients experience.

It all began with the initial Team Lourie meeting on Feb. 27, 2009 when we met my oncologist for the first time.

After exchanging pleasantries, such as they could be, I was examined by my oncologist in an adjacent room. After he completed his exam, we all re-assembled in his office where he reviewed the results of my most recent medical history dating back to Jan. 1, 2010 when I first showed up at the Emergency Room complaining of shortness of breath.

Subsequently, there were two sets of X-Rays, one CT scan, one P.E.T. scan and then a surgical biopsy to confirm the previous findings. It was nearly eight weeks to the day that I learned my diagnosis: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. And so my oncologist began to talk. I'm semi-quoting, but clearly remembering the substance:

I can treat you, but I can't cure you. Your prognosis is 13 months to two years. The percentage of patients who live beyond two years is 2 percent. Could you be the one who lives beyond two years? Absolutely. This is extremely serious. You should begin chemotherapy as soon as possible. Next week if possible.

Then our questions began – after we gathered our composure that is. I mean, hearing these words directed at you is as surreal as it gets, and with limited knowledge on the subject and the circumstances, we had difficulty starting a conversation.

This is as much as I remember hearing that day. Could there have been more? I'm sure. Unfortunately, we were ill-prepared for the occasion.

Though there were three of us: my wife, Dina, my brother, Richard, and myself – collectively, what went in all of our ears went out in different directions.

What was said, what was heard, what was understood, what was remembered, was all a jumble. No one thought to take notes or bring in a recording device, two suggestions which have been subsequently made and that I now pass on to you.

My oncologist answered our questions about surgery, radiation, treatment, drugs, side effects, schedule, etc., all of which was difficult to absorb.

He then attempted to describe what my life would be like going forward, offering no guarantees of anything particularly hopeful, which now explains the reasons for these two columns: death and progression from dying/symptoms getting worse. He used a staircase as an example.

My health would steadily decline, as if walking down a flight of stairs. As my health deteriorated/symptoms manifested (down a couple of steps), he could stabilize me there by trying new treatment. But he could never bring my health back to its previous place. Then after a while the new treatment would become unsuccessful (down a few more steps), and again, he could stabilize me but he couldn't bring me back. And on and on until ... I think I can remember another visual he offered: playing with a yo-yo as I descended the stairs; down, down, down.

Amazingly, this has not happened to me despite a week's long hospitalization five-plus years ago.

HOWEVER, per my understanding of my condition (I wasn't diagnosed as "terminal" for nothing), I anticipate stepping down at some point. And any time – every time – I experience symptoms uncharacteristic of my semi-normal existence, I ALWAYS wonder if this is the beginning of my end.

And as much as I want to stay one step ahead, it's hard for me (practically impossible) to not think that when new symptoms occur, cancer is stepping up its attack.

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



Jonathan Tabbal, 11, of Vienna with Layla, a Jack Russell at the Puppy Nativity at the Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) Church in Vienna.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The McHugh Family of Herndon – Alison, Mike, James and Jackson with Lucky the dog.

Puppy Nativity in Vienna

Forty dogs and families create human nativity scene at Church of the Good Shepherd.

About 40 families and dogs posed for photos at the third-annual Puppy Nativity at the Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) Church on Hunter Mill Road in Vienna on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018. Dogs and their owners dressed up in costumes as part of the nativity and had their photos taken for holiday Christmas cards.

According to the Rev. Eric Song, pastor at the Church of the Good Shepherd, “Our Puppy Nativity is a creative outreach to the community where families bring in their pets who are also family and we pose them in front of the nativity for wonderful holiday cards. The original nativity had live animals as well so we’re kind of living that tradition, and it’s a fun way to celebrate Christmas.”

The families dressed up as Shepherds and

the dogs dressed as Shepherds or little angels posed against a backdrop of stars in a manager. “So, it’s a cute opportunity to involve the whole family,” said Song, who gave away dog treats. The church’s youth group was also on hand to accept donations for Britepaths (britepaths.org). They will buy holiday gifts for people who are trying to get back on their feet, said Song.

Also attending was the Rev. Elise Bell, pastor at Fairfax Circle Church in Fairfax, who added: “I think it’s important for churches to do anything that they can to be part of the community. And it’s obvious that this is what this church is doing – they’re not trying to make money. They’re just trying to do something fun for the community and I want to follow suit.”

— STEVE HIBBARD



The Rev. Elise Bell, pastor of Fairfax Circle Church in Fairfax, with Bandit her Yorkie at the Puppy Nativity at the Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) Church in Vienna.



Israel Negron and Gretchen Moss of Alexandria with their two dogs, Tazzy and Shoo Shoo.



Heather Weber, Terrian Jennings, Asher Song and Pastor Eric Song of Falls Church.



The Bair family of Reston: Mike and Michele with Christian, David, and Autumn with their dog Eva.