

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION



Santa Comes To Freeman Store

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Leaving on a High Note
— A Joy Ride of 31 Years

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Merry Christmas

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Shay, 2, and Devin Aggerwal, 4, tell Santa what they want for Christmas during Santa's visit to the Freeman Store and Museum.

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Retiring members of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: John Cook, Cathy Hudgins, Sharon Bulova and Linda Smyth at the Dec. 3, 2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting.



SCREENSHOT DEC. 3, 2019, FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Leaving on a High Note: 31 Year Joy Ride

Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, retires.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At the end of December 2019, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Sharon S. Bulova ends 31 years of service to the County, 21 years as the Braddock District Supervisor and 10 years as Chairman of the Board. During her last month in service, Chairman Bulova continued to lead the locality of 1.1 million people and also shared her heartfelt thanks to constituents, staff and others.

"It has been a great ride," Bulova said on Dec. 3, when she chaired her last Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meeting. "I have loved the relationships that we have had among my colleagues on the Board and our county staff. ... We are all in the trenches together, making things happen together. We don't always agree on things, and yet we are able to come together and work things out. ... Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you and previous boards."

Bulova presided over the meeting that began at 9:34 a.m. that day and adjourned, eleven hours later at 8:41 p.m. "I love local government, even on days like this. You have to love people, love human nature. We manage change, which is not easy. Things can be emotional, but it is people coming together and participating in the process of governing (that) is so critical. I think we do that well in Fairfax County," she said.

Highlights of Board actions taken at the Dec. 3 meeting under the gavel of Chairman Bulova:

- ❖ Adopted the 2020 Legislative Program for the Virginia General Assembly, Approval of the County's 116th Congress Federal Legislative Strategy and Principals;
- ❖ Received reports from various councils including the Racial Equity Stakeholder Council and a presentation by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council;
- ❖ Approved projects submitted for the FY 2026 Regional Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Federal Funding Through the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority;
- ❖ Approved a Construction Administration Agreement between Fairfax County and the Town of Herndon for the Herndon Metrorail Station Access

Management Study Project (Dranesville District).

Nearing the end of the meeting, Bulova thanked her staff over the years, her current staff and staff that served her since she was first elected as the Annandale District Supervisor, which later was named the Braddock district. Bulova recognized the services of the outgoing Board of Supervisor members, Braddock Supervisor John Cook (R), Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth (D) and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D).

During Chairman Bulova's last days in service, the tables turned. Supervisors, as well as members of the Virginia General Assembly and leaders of neighboring jurisdictions in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region set about to recognize and thank Bulova for her distinguished and extraordinary service, at the Dec. 3 Board of Supervisors meeting and Bulova's Dec. 9 retirement reception held at the Fairfax County Government Center.

On behalf of the Board, Mason Supervisor Penelope A. Gross (D) presented a Resolution for the Chairman at the Dec. 3 meeting. The resolution recognized Bulova's service representing Fairfax County on multiple fronts including the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; as founding member, "I would say, godmother," Gross said, of the Virginia Railway Express; founder of several community groups such as Faith Communities in Action and Communities of Trust; and sponsor for groups on key County initiatives such as the Diversion First, Stakeholders Group, the Fairfax County Private Sector Energy Task Force, the Governing Board for the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and more.

"She will be remembered for distinguished public service and achievement, love for history and the arts, and excellent doodling skills," said Gross. "Be it resolved the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on behalf of all residents does hereby thank Sharon for her extraordinary service on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors," said Gross. The motion carried unanimously.

As the meeting was about to adjourn, Bulova forecast what is on the horizon for Fairfax County. "I think we're (heading) toward a beautiful future," she said referencing the new 2020 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to be led by current Lee District Supervisor and Chair-elect, Jeff McKay.

VIEWPOINTS

'She's Always Been a Gold Standard'

Community leaders on Sharon Bulova.

Phyllis J. Randall

Phyllis J. Randall, Chair of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors: "I want to thank Chairman Bulova for her many years of service, but also more personally being a guide and mentor to me during my first term as Chair of Loudoun County. She passed the baton to me, and it's my intention to make her proud."



Bryan Hill

Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive: "I wish her all the best in retirement, and she should be happy never to receive another phone call from me with bad news as it will always be good news going forward. And thank you for the opportunity to run Fairfax County."



Gregory Scott

Gregory Scott, director of Information Technologies Fairfax County: "I'd like to thank her for all the support she's given Information Technologies over the years and helping us to continue to be innovative in the way we deliver services to constituents in Fairfax County."



Jay Dorsey

Jay Dorsey: "Simply put, she's one of a kind. I've seen my share of elected officials who exert leadership and display of power that comes with their position. I have not seen an individual with her responsibilities that treats every single resident of Fairfax County like she does."



Cathy Hudgins

Retiring Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins: "I think she had the ability to have a calming approach to dealing with some of the most difficult issues as if there is none. She has a very even personality."



SEE VIEWPOINT, PAGE 6

OPINION

Merry Christmas

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The pages of the Connection (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) have been full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving. Help for the needy, holiday parades, Santa and more Santa; tree lightings, stories of giving, the Nutcracker.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.”

Matthew 25:35-40:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or

needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

SO SHARE the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and

on earth peace, good will toward men.

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Editor's Note

About the Rest of 2019

This is our last regular edition of 2019. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children's Issue, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. You'll be able to find this online while you wait for the print edition at www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ Scroll down to Children's.

Our next regular edition will publish Jan. 8, 2020, with deadline for content and advertising of Jan. 3 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can email the editors at editors@connectionnewspapers.com. You can reach sales/marketing/advertising at sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

Digital replica editions of the most recent week's papers are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

Past issues of the Connection back to 2008 are available at connectionarchives.com/PDF/ Sign up for a free digital subscription at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/subscribe

Give Locally

Many local nonprofits are reporting a significant drop in contributions this year. To some, the decrease constitutes an existential threat. Not only will they be unable to meet their goals for helping others, but some might not be able to keep their doors open.

This comes as the need is increasing, as the White House cuts food stamps, as more people go hungry.

This is a perfect time to give, give a little more than you have in the past.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks.

There are people going hungry here, people who need help, organizations that will help, but can only help with the resources they have.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season, for humans in need, for animals in need, for an environment in need. Here are a few ideas.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

For tens of thousands of families in our area, uncertainty and need; nonprofits face drop in contributions.

Where to Give Locally

- ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact nfo@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org
- ❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore, Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, and Chantilly, focusing on character and academic success. <https://www.bgcgw.org/club-page/fairfax-county-region-our-impact/>
- ❖ **Britepaths** Britepaths is working to assist 500 Fairfax County area families who might otherwise go without holiday meals and gifts for their children. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Britepaths.org <https://britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program>

- ❖ **Centreville Immigration Forum**, a safe, organized center where residents and contractors can negotiate work arrangements with day laborers. Centreville Square Shopping Center, 5944 Centreville Crest Ln, Centreville, VA 20121. Phone: (703) 543-6272 website: www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org and email contact@theCIFva.org
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Coming up, holiday bike drive. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com
- ❖ **Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in our region. Your gift helps us make grants in our focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists www.cfnova.org/for-donors/donate-now
- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.

SEE GIVE FOR LOCAL IMPACT. PAGE 10

Vienna & Oakton
CONNECTION

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NEWS

Vienna Student in Math Championship Finals

Vienna resident Alex Chung, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, is one of 13 contestants who has qualified to compete for \$10,000 in the 2020 Who Wants to Be a Mathematician Championship featuring top math students from the US, Canada, and the UK. This is the second year in a row that Alex has qualified for the championship.

The contest will be held as part of the Joint Mathematics Meetings — the largest annual gathering of mathematicians worldwide — in Denver, Colo. on Jan. 18 and will be webcast live at noon Eastern at <https://livestream.com/psav/wwtbam2020>.

Alex is a leading member and captain of his three-time state championship tennis team, and says he “cannot live without playing sports, watching sports, and reading books about sports.”

He’s a four-time USA Mathematical Olympiad/Junior Mathematical Olympiad qualifier and former Virginia MATHCOUNTS champ.

Alex Chung was one of the top scorers on the 2020 Who Wants to Be a Mathematician Championship online qualifying test with questions on algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and probability, which was administered by high school math teachers in the US, Canada, and the UK using Möbius, a product of DigitalEd.



Alex Chung

This is the ten-year anniversary of the Who Wants to Be a Mathematician Championship contest and the third international version. The AMS has been doing regional contests at universities and science centers from Boston to Hawaii since 2001. In the contest’s history, nearly 1,000 students have won over \$600,000 in cash and prizes and have been cheered on by over 20,000 classmates and mathematicians.

The top prize in the contest is \$5,000 for the winner and \$5,000 for the math department of the winner’s school.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

WEEK IN VIENNA

Discussion on Women Entrepreneurs

The Vienna Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a speaker event Saturday, Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. — Women Entrepreneurs: Creating a Sense of Community with Jen Morrow of Bard’s Alley

Books. Doors open at 1:30. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The public is invited. Free. Co-sponsored by Patrick Henry Library.

AAUW is the nation’s leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Founded in 1881, AAUW members examine and take positions on the fundamental issues of the day—educational, social, economic, and political. For more information: <https://vienna-va.aauw.net/>

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUNDAY/JAN. 5

Road to Richmond Legislative Brunch. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. You’re invited to join the annual Road to Richmond Legislative Brunch where the General Assembly leadership will discuss the upcoming legislative session. This time will be especially significant because Democrats will be in the majority.

MONDAY/JAN. 6

Stormwater Options Presentation. 7:30 p.m. At Great Falls Library, 9830 VA-193, Great Falls. The Great Falls Citizens Association’s Environment and Parks Committee will sponsor a presentation by Randy Bartlett, Director of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and

Environmental Services, concerning options for the County in dealing with the increasing rainfall that Fairfax County is receiving. Bartlett recently made a similar presentation to the Environmental Committee of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Bartlett will also provide an update on some of the discussions the County leadership has had concerning these stormwater issues. For details, email Karen Keegan at environment@gfca.org

JAN. 7 AND JAN. 9

Students and Volunteers Wanted. 7 to 8:30 p.m. At St. Mark’s Catholic Church, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Students and volunteers are needed for the St. Mark’s Catholic Church English as a Second Language (ESL) Ministry. Seeking Students and Volunteers to participate in the upcoming Winter 2020 Term, Jan. 14-Mar. 12. The goal is to “Welcome Everyone” and provide a program where adults from all ethnic and religious backgrounds can come and learn

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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'I Enjoy Serving the Community'

**Q&A with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Chairman Sharon Bulova two weeks before she retires.**

Q: What action taken during the Dec. 3 Board Meeting was most meaningful to you, and why?

A: Recognizing my outgoing colleagues. I have worked closely with Supervisor Cook, Supervisor Hudgins, and Supervisor Smyth, and I can speak to their dedication and commitment to both their districts and Fairfax County at-large. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with them over these many years and am happy to see them recognized for their service.

Q: What motivated you to serve as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; over time, did your reasons to serve change as you sought reelection?

A: My reason for serving as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Braddock District Supervisor before that has always been the same: I enjoy serving our community. Through ups and downs, I get great satisfaction working on constituents' concerns and issues.



Sharon Bulova

that touched your heart most deeply and why it did.

A: I regularly attend the Sheriff's Department Back-to-School "Shop with the Sheriff" event at the Target Store in Burke. Through the generosity of local business and the Sheriff's Department, elementary school-aged children residing in homeless shelters are treated to a shopping spree at Target. I always give welcoming remarks outside of Target to the children, who have been paired up

with Sheriff Deputies. After this event in 2010, I received a handwritten letter from the mother of one of the children. She described how excited she was when "a big yellow school bus" pulled up to the shelter where she was residing. A smiling Sheriff's deputy escorted her daughter, Angelica, to the bus to have lunch and to go shopping. The daughter returned ecstatic with new clothes, shoes, and school supplies. The mother thanked Fairfax County and me for caring so much and for "making her day." It is a wonderful letter. I have kept it and take it out to read every once in a while. I am looking at it now.

Fairfax County— Looking Back

Q: Describe a challenging time and how you guided others toward a solution. How did you re-access the situation and modify plans, acts, or approaches going forward?

A: The most challenging time of my Chairmanship was the police shooting of John B. Geer in 2015. It was an awful event that severely impacted trust in our local government. To develop changes in our response to critical incidents, I created the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and Diversion First, two of the most meaningful initiatives of my career. The Police adopted new policies, with a focus on "the sanctity of life," de-escalation, and transparency when responding to critical incidents. I hope these initiatives continue to promote community trust, transparency and safety well into the future.

Q: Your most memorable experience as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

A: There really are too many to describe. Establishing the VRE Commuter Rail system and helping it develop into a popular, successful service; the creation of Faith Communities in Action, where houses of worship work in partnership with our local government to address community challenges; the extension of the Silver Line Metrorail into Tysons and Reston; navigating the Great Recession in a way that brought the community to the table to help identify strategies for adjusting to vastly reduced revenues.

I consider One Fairfax to be the most impactful initiative our Board has adopted during my time as Chairman. It is a joint social and racial equity policy that commits the County to intentionally consider equity when making policies. When the County is making policy decisions, we must make sure that all our residents have access to opportunities that will help them to succeed. I am extremely proud of this initiative and look forward to seeing its positive effects throughout the years to come.

Q: Name the one item you received over the years,

Fairfax County— Looking Forward

Q: What skills and leadership style did you bring to the role of Chairman, and do you see such present in the incoming Supervisors and Chairman-elect Jeff McKay?

A: As Chairman, I believe it is essential to listen and to be open to collaboration. Jeff McKay has demonstrated those skills as Lee District Supervisor and as Chair of the County's Budget Committee.

Q: About traffic: How would you like to see the new Board mitigate the concern or replace the current solution?

A: The ultimate answer to traffic congestion lies in better land use planning and development. Transit-oriented, compact and walkable new development takes the pressure off congested roads and highways. Unfortunately, I won't be in office to see the completion of Phase II of the Silver Line to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County, but I look forward to seeing the new Board bring this transformational project to fruition.

Q: If the County received a \$1 million grant to use any way it wanted, what would you like to see done with the money?

A: Early childhood education.

Retirement

Q: The first day you are no longer Chairman (after you sleep in), what are you going to do that morning? What about the weeks and months that follow?

A: The first day I am no longer Chairman, I will go for a jog as I always do before spending a relaxing day with my husband. In the following months, I plan to visit with my grandchildren on the west coast and to spend some time in France with my sisters and daughter.

After that, I have always wanted to write the history of the VRE. It is a great story, full of funny stories and interesting characters. I will finally have time to do that.

Community Leaders on Bulova

Gerry W. Hyland

Former Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry W. Hyland (D): "Our Chairman has been a loving leader of all, our consistent, loving leader of the Board of Supervisors. Her presence has been an inspiration. Sharon has left her fingerprints, footprints and heart print all over the landscape of Fairfax County. We are so much better because of her efforts."



State Sen. Chap Peterson (D-34)

State Senator Chap Peterson (D-34), presenting the Virginia State Senate Proclamation: "She's always been a gold standard in terms of service. What I admire most is her self-effacing personality."



Del. Mark Keam (D-35)

Del. Mark Keam (D-35), presenting the Virginia House of Delegates Proclamation: "She's always put the community ahead of herself."



Lisa Sales

Chairman Fairfax County Commission for Women & VAratifyERA Leadership Team Lisa Sales: "Chairman Bulova has led with a steady hand, kind heart, and always with a focus on strengthening community, which everyone knows. What she might not know is how she has impacted girls and women in the County and how we look to her for examples of leadership for what is good and what is right; we watch her and look to emulate her class."



Shyamali Roy Hauth

Shyamali Roy Hauth, EVP, Outreach Virginia Equal Rights Coalition: "I admire Sharon Bulova's compassion in leadership. Her contributions to Fairfax County will live on."



NEWS

'Becoming Jane' at National Geographic

Tysons-based Jane Goodall Institute opens new exhibit at National Geographic Museum.

An immersive virtual-reality 3D theatre.



PHOTO BY REBECCA HALE/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

BY DENISE LEW
THE CONNECTION

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) in Tysons Corner in partnership with the National Geographic Museum in Washington D.C., recently premiered "Becoming Jane: The Evolution of Dr. Jane Goodall." It is an inspiring exhibition celebrating the legacy of world-renowned chimpanzee expert, Dr. Jane Goodall.

"Becoming Jane" marks the 60th anniversary (in July of 2020) of Dr. Goodall's arrival in Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania to observe and research wild chimpanzees. It also celebrates the acclaimed scientist's 85th birthday, who through her groundbreaking work over the years has paved the way for female trailblazers in science.

"Jane and JGI have had a long and fruitful near 60 year relationship with the National Geographic Society supporting Dr. Goodall's research in Gombe National Park with the wild chimpanzees there. It is a great opportunity to highlight our partnership and the impact of Dr. Goodall's legacy together," said Shawn Sweeney, JGI's Senior Director of Community Engagement.

Arlington resident, Alan Parente, is vice president and creative director at National Geographic, said: "I encourage my neighbors in NoVa and throughout the DMV to experience the exhibition. The show is a fun, informative, and inspiring story of one woman's dedication to understanding and conserving animal life and habitats," said Parente.

"Becoming Jane" features state-of-the-art technology and transports visitors through an evolution of Goodall's life: from her earliest childhood in war-torn Europe as she developed a love for animals, to fulfilling her dreams of living amongst and studying wild chimpanzees in Africa, and ultimately a passionate conservationist.

First, a multi-screened short film introduces Dr. Goodall's work along with virtually-rendered chimpanzees. Exhibits with memorabilia depict her early childhood and family, and a thirst for learning about animals and exploring nature. One can explore a replica of her research tent and participate in hands-on activities. Visitors can then sit back and listen to Dr. Goodall, as a fascinating life-sized hologram projection, share memories of her years with wild chimpanzees.

Perhaps one of the most innovative exhibits is an immersive virtual-reality 3D theatre depicting the vast jungles of Gombe in Tanzania.

"With a sophisticated 3D/8k camera I hiked to Jane's favorite places... My goal was to transport people to the world of the chimpanzees and experi-



PHOTO BY DENISE LEW/THE CONNECTION

Jubilee, Dr. Goodall's favorite childhood treasure.

ence the world in which Jane has lived for so many years," said Bill Willauer, JGI's research videographer and filmmaker.

Interactive augmented reality (AR) stations allow people to mimic the diverse vocalizations of a chimpanzee, or explore the jungles of Gombe through virtual reality.

Visitors may learn about current facts on Gombe, Africa's chimpanzee range, and the work of conservationists and scientists "following in Dr. Goodall's footsteps," according to the JGI.

As the exhibition draws to a close, Dr. Goodall urges visitors to "ensure a more sustainable future" with JGI and National Geographic. An innovative pledge station projects each supporter's name onto a graphic of a tree in support of the mission.

"Becoming Jane" leaves visitors inspired and willing to join Dr. Goodall's call to action. In her own words, "I have to work with young people today so that we try and raise new generations to look after this poor old planet better than we have, before it's too late."

"Becoming Jane" will be at the National Geographic Museum through Labor Day in 2020. For more information, visit www.janegoodall.org and <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/events/exhibition/becoming-jane>

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1/8/2020.....	Wellbeing
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1/22/2020.....	A+ Camps & Schools
1/29/2020	Senior Living
FEBRUARY	
2/5/2020.....	Wellbeing
- National Children's Dental Health Month	
2/5/2020.....	Valentine's Dining & Gifts
2/12/2020.....	HomeLifeStyle
2/19/2020.....	A+ Camps & Schools
2/26/2020.....	Senior Living /
Connection Families - Pet Connection	

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- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Henderson Connection
- Potomac/Arlington
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Dulles Connection

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

“Airness” by Chelsea Marcantel. Now thru Dec. 25. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. When Nina enters her first air guitar competition, she thinks winning will be easy. But as she befriends a group of charismatic nerds all committed to becoming the next champion, she discovers that there's more to this art form than playing pretend; it's about finding yourself and performing with raw joy. Directed by Christina Coakley. A YES Pass is available for high school students to see a season of shows for free. To obtain a pass, email Deidra Starnes at deidrastarnes@1ststage.org or visit the website: www.1stStage.org.

Candy Cane Lane. Now thru Jan. 4. At Oak Marr Mini-Golf, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Oak Marr's Mini-Golf Course is being transformed into Candy Cane Lane. Stop by and enjoy the wonderful lights and displays set up to delight visitors of all ages. Walk through and enjoy the display for \$2 per person. Play a round of mini golf as you enjoy the display for \$7 per person. Call 703-281-6501 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/oak-marr/minigolf>.

2019 White House Ornaments. The 2019 White House Ornaments are available from the Assistance League of Northern Virginia. White House Ornaments are wonderful for gift giving. This year's White House Ornament is a “whirlybird” honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States. To purchase, contact Cindy Burgess at burgessgl@verizon.net. Cost per ornament is \$22. Proceeds support ALNV's local children's programs. Visit the website: www.alnv.org.

Mah Jongg Cards. Order cards through Jan. 15, 2020, from Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St. 2020 Mah Jongg cards are \$8 for small cards and \$9 for large cards. Official cards and will be sent directly from the National Mah Jongg League in late March/early April 2020. Go to bit.ly/mahjonggcards2020 or email iva.gresko@gmail.com to order.

Holidays

NOW THRU DEC. 22

Holiday Art Market. Noon to 6 p.m. At 101 Church Street, NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society presents hundreds of original artworks as well as hand-crafted gift items; to include jewelry, silk scarves, pottery, fused glass and more. Free. Market hours are Thursdays - Sundays from noon - 6 p.m. In addition, doors will open during the annual Vienna Church Street Stroll, 5- 9 p.m., Monday, Dec. 2, when the street fills with hundreds celebrating Santa's arrival in town. Visit the website: www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

NOW THRU DEC. 24

HGTV's Santa HQ. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Kids can explore the wonder of Santa in the digital age with HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center! This holiday, check out the interactive Elf Academy at Santa HQ. You can try on the latest elf looks with Santa's Magic Mirror, create your very own Elf-ID Card and scan yourself on the Naughty or Nice O'Meter. Plus, new this year, spend less time in line and more time on holiday fun with a Fast Pass. Prices and times vary. Visit the website: www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ

NOW THRU DEC. 24

ACS Gift Wrapping. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The American Cancer Society volunteers will be offering holiday gift wrapping, located next to Santa Claus Headquarters in the mall, Fashion Court, Level 1. Donations to help fight cancer are welcome. Free. All donations for the gift wrapping go to fight cancer from all angles with the American Cancer Society. Email: shiri.rozenberg@cancer.org or visit the website: www.cancer.org.

NOW THRU DEC. 23

MBC Christmas Drive-Through Light Show.

8 ❖ VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ❖ DECEMBER 18-24, 2019



PHOTO BY CAMERON WHITMAN PHOTOGRAPHY.

Billie Krishawn in “Airness” at 1st Stage/Keegan Theatre. The show runs Dec. 5-29 in Tysons.

“Airness” runs now thru Dec. 29

Dec. 5-25. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. When Nina enters her first air guitar competition, she thinks winning will be easy. But as she befriends a group of charismatic nerds all committed to becoming the next champion, she discovers that there's more to this art form than playing pretend; it's about finding yourself and performing with raw joy. Directed by Christina Coakley. A YES Pass is available for high school students to see a season of shows for free. To obtain a pass, email Deidra Starnes at deidrastarnes@1ststage.org or visit the website: www.1stStage.org.



The Vienna Arts Society presents its Holiday Art Market now through Dec. 22.

Holiday Art Market

Now thru Dec. 22, Noon to 6 p.m. At 101 Church Street, NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society presents hundreds of original artworks as well as hand-crafted gift items; to include jewelry, silk scarves, pottery, fused glass and more. Free. Market hours are Thursdays - Sundays from noon - 6 p.m. In addition, doors will open during the annual Vienna Church Street Stroll, 5- 9 p.m., Monday, Dec. 2, when the street fills with hundreds celebrating Santa's arrival in town. Visit the website: www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

7:15-9:30 p.m. At McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. The public is invited to drive through the spectacular Drive-Through Light Show set up around the McLean Bible Church Tysons building. Experience the story of Christmas with your family from the comfort of your vehicle. Free Visit the website: mcleanbible.org/christmas

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Carnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town,

Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Carnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit firstnightalexandria.org.

Calendar

THURSDAY/DEC. 19

Acoustic Autumn Live Music. 6:30-9 p.m. At

Blend 111, 111 Church Street, NW, Vienna. Laissez Foure is an acoustic swing quartet playing classics from the '30s and '40s. The group consists of acoustic bass, swing rhythm guitar, saxophone/clarinet, and trumpet. In the tradition of New Orleans jazz, the quartet emphasizes an acoustic sound when feasible and plays charts by Armstrong, Ellington, Count Basie and others from the era.

SUNDAY/DEC. 22

Hanukkah Contata. 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Acclaimed contemporary composer David Ludwig's emotionally charged “Hanukkah Cantata” will be performed. Laura Weiss, director of music and arts, will lead the 65-voice Community Chorale and professional orchestra at both the 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. Everyone is invited to attend. Written in eight movements to commemorate the ancient tradition of Hanukkah, the composition premiered in 2007 at Rodeph Shalom for Choral Arts Philadelphia with funding by the Philadelphia Music Project. The composer integrated Hanukkah songs in their original Hebrew with the narrative taken from scripture and translated into English. Tenor Benjamin Whelan-Morin and Baritone Mark Wanich will be featured soloists. Visit www.uucf.org.

Hot Cocoa Party. 3 to 5 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Join a park naturalist for an outdoor walk through nature's winter wonderland and then head inside to treat yourself to a cup of hot cocoa. Jazz up your cocoa with goodies, listen to some heartwarming winter stories, and make a wintry craft to take home. Cost is \$15 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Winter Walk of Lights. 5:30 p.m. At Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Part of the Aging Rainbows group activities. Purchase your tickets at <https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights> and RSVP for the Aging Rainbows Group via Eventbrite! We will meet those who have a pre purchased ticket and have RSVP'ed in the main lobby at 5:30 p.m. No tickets sold at the door.

MONDAY/DEC. 23

Old Firehouse Winter Break Trip. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Trip departs from and returns to The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Teens can watch the latest space battles and character adventures set “a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away” on this trip to see the latest Star Wars franchise: “The Rise of Skywalker.” Prior to the film, they will start their Jedi training at an indoor trampoline/ninja warrior training facility and enjoy lunch at a nearby hibachi restaurant. Movie tickets, admission and lunch included in the fee. Cost is \$60/\$50 MCC district residents. Call the Center at 703-790-0123.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Christmas Eve Services. 4:30-11 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join Lewinsville Presbyterian Church for one of its three services of worship to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The 4:30 p.m. service is designed for families with life-size puppets telling the story of the nativity. Candlelight Communion Services will be at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. with choirs and handbells. Enjoy music of the season and messages of hope and peace. Call 703-356-7200 or visit <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/christmas-eve-services/>

THURSDAY/DEC. 26

Old Firehouse Winter Break Trip. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Trip departs from and returns to The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Participants can eat, drink and play games at Dave & Buster's! Buffet lunch and a \$25 game card with unlimited arcade game play are included in the fee. Cost is \$70/\$60 MCC district residents. Call the Center at 703-790-0123.

FRIDAY/DEC. 27

Old Firehouse Winter Break Trip. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Trip departs from and returns to The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Participants can eat, drink and play games at Dave & Buster's! Buffet lunch and a \$25 game card with unlimited arcade game play are included in the fee. Cost is \$70/\$60 MCC district residents. Call the Center at 703-790-0123.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Teens will explore all that the one-of-a-kind St. James Entertainment Center facility has to offer: bounce on trampolines, dive into the VR gaming world, test their skills on their ninja warrior and ropes course and enter into the Nerf battle zone. Lunch and admission are included in the fee. Cost is \$50/\$40 MCC district residents. Call the Center at 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/DEC. 28

Christmas Praise Benefit Concert.

3 p.m. At Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. The Morehead family will present a concert of Christmas music at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The concert includes classical works as well as more contemporary songs in addition to Christmas carols that all will sing. The concert is free. An offering will be taken to benefit FACETS.

MONDAY/DEC. 30

Old Firehouse Winter Break Trip.

8 a.m.-6 p.m. Trip departs from and returns to The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Speed lovers will experience a thrill like no other at this state-of-the-art indoor go-karting facility. Lunch and races are included in the fee. Cost is \$80/\$70 MCC district residents. Call the Center at 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/JAN. 4

The Capitol Steps. 7 p.m. At The Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. No one is safe from these political satirists, their up-to-the-minute musical spoofs and (in)famous "Lirly Dies." Running time: 120 minutes. Tickets are \$50/\$45 student and senior/\$35 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org or call 703-790-9223.

FRIDAY/JAN. 10

Free Children's Workshop. 10-11 a.m. At Green Hedges School, 415 Windover Avenue, NW, Vienna. Green Hedges School, in collaboration with Wolf Trap Foundation's Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, will host a free interactive program, "Ask Mr. Bear," on the School's campus. Space is limited. Register at www.greenhedges.org/wolftrap.

SATURDAY/JAN. 11

Bridge Tournament. Noon to 5 p.m. At Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.



The 25th Anniversary First Night in Old Town Alexandria takes place Tuesday, Dec. 31.

First Night in Alexandria

Tuesday/Dec. 31, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Carnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit firstnightalexandria.org.

The Rotary Club of Great Falls will host a bridge tournament. This fundraiser will enable girls living in extreme poverty in the slums of India and Nepal to achieve financial independence through customized quality education, vocational training, and college scholarships. Partners and single players are both welcome. The cost is \$50 and all proceeds go to fund the education of girls through edugirls.org. To register, visit www.rotarygreatfallsva.org. Registration is open through January 7, 2020.

Ancient to Modern: Oolong Teas.

1-3 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. This category of semi-oxidized teas is ever expanding with new styles being developed all over the globe. Sample a variety of oolongs from old style to new, from traditional tea producing countries to countries with recently established high quality tea gardens. Tea infused treats and a take home tea sampler included. Cost is \$35. Use ID Code AE1.439C. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-222-4664.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 15

McLean Newcomers and

Neighbors Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. At Mylo's Grill, 6238 Old Dominion Dr, McLean. The cost of the luncheon is \$30 per person. Clare Cushman of the Supreme Court Historical Society will discuss Supreme Court food traditions and recipes. To attend, pay at <https://squareup.com/market/mclean-newcomers-club>. Prospective members are invited. No reservations will be accepted after Friday, Jan. 10. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org.

JAN. 17-26, 2020

Joshua's Hands Quilting Event.

Location TBA in Purcellville. Joshua's Hands is a non-profit in Loudoun County that hosts free quilting events to support wounded servicepeople. Joshua's Hands will host 10 days of quilting fun to make handmade quilts for servicemen and women wounded while serving our country. All are welcome. No sewing experience or registration needed. All materials are provided but donations are appreciated. Come for an hour or the day. Monday-Saturdays 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays 1-9 p.m. Purcellville. Check website for exact location. Info@JoshuasHands.org, or call 540-454-7827, or visit www.JoshuasHands.org.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

The Old Firehouse WINTER BREAK TRIPS

DEC 23

Star Wars Day (Trampoline/Lunch/Movie)
Monday, Dec. 23, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Activity No: 8301.219
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

DEC 26

Dave & Buster's
Thursday, Dec. 26, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Activity No: 8302.219
\$70/\$60 MCC district residents

DEC 27

St. James Entertainment Center
Friday, Dec. 27, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Activity No: 8303.219
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents

DEC 30

Indoor Go Karting
Monday, Dec. 30, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Activity No: 8304.219
\$80/\$70 MCC district residents

JAN 2

Snow Tubing & Ice Skating
Thursday, Jan. 2, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Activity No: 8305.219
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

JAN 3

Laser Quest & Movie
Friday, Jan. 3, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Activity No: 8306.219
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents

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

Holiday Closing Notice

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Closing at 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 25: Closed
Thursday, Dec. 26: Closing at 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 31: Closing at 5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 1: Closed



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101



@mcleanvacenter



@mcleancentervva

CALENDAR

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Celebrate Christmas at Trinity

Worship every Sunday, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship every Wednesday, 12 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.
Blue Christmas: A Service of Remembrance

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

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. | McLean, VA 22101 | umtrinity.org

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- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Annapolis
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

Where to Give for Local impact

FROM PAGE 4

Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. www.cornerstonesva.org. Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.

❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of donations and volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities.

Donations will be accepted at FACETS' main office (10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax VA 22030) between 9am – 5pm.

Contact Haylee Davis at hdavis@facetscares.org.

703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.** Each year, nearly 5,000 pets, including cats, dogs, small mammals, reptiles and livestock, come to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter funds important needs throughout the Shelter such as behavioral training and dental or medical care beyond what the shelter's budget can provide. generalinfo@ffcas.org 571-212-9858 www.ffcas.org/

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

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

❖ **Homestretch**, to empower homeless parents with children to attain permanent housing and self-sufficiency by giving them the skills, knowledge and hope they need to become productive participants in the community. Since 1990 Homestretch has helped over 2,000 families achieve permanent housing and self-sufficiency. 303 South Maple Ave, Suite 400, Falls Church, VA 22046 Phone: 703-237-2035 homestretchva.org

❖ **NAMI Northern Virginia** (National Alliance on Mental Illness) works to raise awareness and provide education, advocacy, and support programs for people living with mental illness, families, students, educators, law enforcement, and the public throughout our neighborhoods. Many excellent programs. NAMI Northern Virginia serves Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, and Loudoun www.nami-northernvirginia.org/ **HelpLine: (571)458.7310, Email: info@nami-nova.org**

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, (571) 482-4770 . www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ **Neighborhood Health**, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. The organization partners

with its patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. It has 10 clinics throughout Arlington and Fairfax counties. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org

❖ **New Hope Housing**, ends homelessness in Northern Virginia by providing housing, offering hope, and building community. We currently offer various Housing Programs, and Support Services. 8407E Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309 www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service.** The organization provides the essential building blocks for financial, emotional and physical well-being, serving as leaders and innovators for the Northern Virginia community. Every year, it empowers 35,000 individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. www.nvfs.org Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. 571-748-2500

❖ **OAR** rebuilds lives and breaks the cycle of crime with opportunities, alternatives, and resources for offenders and their families to create a safer community. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 250, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-246-3033. OAR needs volunteers and financial donations. oarnova.org/donate

❖ **Our Neighbor's Child (ONC)** volunteers are preparing for delivery of holiday gifts for children from financially struggling families in western Fairfax County – predominantly in Centreville and Chantilly. www.ourneighborschild.org/

❖ **Pathway Homes** providing non-time-limited housing and supportive services to adults with serious mental illness and co-occurring disabilities in Northern Virginia. Founded in 1980, Pathways currently serves more than 400 adults in community-based homes in Northern Virginia. www.pathwayhomes.org

❖ **Potomac Riverkeeper Network** works to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams; to stop pollution to promote safe drinking water; to protect healthy river habitats; and to enhance public use and enjoyment. 3070 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. (202) 888-2037 www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org

❖ **Potomac River Conservancy**, 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 805, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301.608.1188 potomac.org, seeks to improve the Potomac River's water quality by building an impassioned base of river advocates to impart change at the local level.

❖ **PRS, Inc.** is a non profit providing mental health, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Seeking to change and save lives in our community by empowering hope, safety, recovery, wellness, independence and community integration.. PRS also provides crisis counseling and connection to supports CRISISLINK When crisis calls, we answer 24/7 Call: 800-273-TALK [8255] Text: "CONNECT" to 85511

❖ **Rebuilding Together Arlington/Fairfax/Falls Church (Rebuilding Together-AFF)** is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that makes critical repairs at no charge for low-income homeowners and nonprofit organizations. Our volunteers make homes safe and healthy, and they help seniors age in place. Since 1988 we have repaired 2,273 homes and non-profit residential facilities in our area and mobilized 69,081 volunteers to do the work. We believe in safe homes and communities for everyone. 10723 Main Street, #135, Fairfax, VA

22030; Phone: 703-528-1999 https://rebuildingtogether-aff.org/

❖ **Second Story** — Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. second-story.org.

❖ **SHARE** of McLean, celebrating its 50th anniversary, is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. We are supported by donations from local religious congregations, community organizations and individuals. Our food and clothing room is housed in space donated by the McLean Baptist Church. Our year round and seasonal programs include family emergency financial assistance, food pantry, used clothing room, recycled furniture, back-to-school supplies and refurbished laptop computers. During the holidays, we also provide our neighbors in need with grocery cards and gifts.

Main Message Center: (703) 229-1414 info@shareofmclean.org

Mail: Share, Inc. P.O. Box 210 McLean, VA 22101

Food and Clothing Room: McLean Baptist Church 1367 Chain Bridge Road McLean, VA 22101 www.shareofmclean.org

❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. It is our mission to get families back into stable housing in order to provide them the opportunity to continue their journey to self-sufficiency. www.shelterhouse.org

❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000-plus mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org

❖ **Tahirih Justice Center**, 703-575-0070, www.tahirih.org, Legal services, public policy advocacy, and education for immigrant women and girls.

❖ **TAPS, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors**, 3033 Wilson Blvd., Third Floor, Arlington, VA 22201, Call 24/7 800-959-TAPS (8277) The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors offers compassionate care and resources to all those grieving the loss of a military loved one. Make a donation to support surviving military families and loved ones. You can also make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. www.taps.org/donate

❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization focused on how to enlighten, excite, and educate children about how they can experience the true joy that comes from helping those in need. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.

❖ **United Community**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UC provides housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center. Make a Financial Contribution to support the Holiday Gift Room 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org

Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.

❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA 20151 in Chantilly. email Assistant Food Pantry Manager/Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Culbertson at dculbertson@wfcma.org and put Holiday Food in the subject line. wfcma.org/

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 5

English and acclimate better to life in the U.S. No experience is necessary to Volunteer. All classes take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at St. Mark Christian Formation Center. Call Monica at 703-980-9380, Bob at 703-242-7449, email stmarksesl@gmail.com, or see the Web site at www.stmarksesl.org.

COMMUNITY HELP NEEDED

Recycling Project. At Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The church has a new project lined up for its January 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Morning of Service and is asking community residents to begin now to collect plastic caps and lids. The special recycling effort already has engaged the church's membership in starting to bring plastic caps and lids to fill "Chomper," a fun, child-friendly recycling container in the main entrance to the church. A second special recycling bin for easy drop-off is located just inside the church's office entrance. For details of what plastic caps/lids are suitable, see www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group takes place first and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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Catharsis



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having re-read what I wrote in last week's column: "Still Processing," I can't say it made me feel a whole lot better than when I wrote it. Granted, it was a column that had to be written given my self-indulgent tendencies (that I fight against constantly) and the possible crossroads that I may be entering. Nevertheless, if part of the underlying reason why I take up this space every week is to vent and share, as a means, hopefully not to a premature end, I suppose there was stress released there. But the subject matter was so third-rail-ish that even though I've tried to avoid it, I feel adversely affected by the experience.

The subject to which I so ambiguously refer is my own death. Aside from not wanting it to happen, if I don't plan in advance for it having happened, the chaos that will ensue and envelop my wife, Dina, is both unfair and inconsiderate. You see, in our relationship, she's been the social director and I've been the business manager. To quote my late father: "and neither the twain shall meet except on the twack." If I were indeed to predecease my wife, a fairly distinct possibility, not only would there be no twain, there would be no "twack" as well. There would only be trouble, and that's 'trouble' with a capital "T."

It's not so much that there are complications lurking, so far as I understand them: there are no children, no blended family, no special needs situations, no multi-layered business entanglements, no offshore anything (heck, there's very little onshore), our home and bank accounts are jointly owned, no financial thresholds exceeded, no delinquencies and few liabilities; really not much out of the ordinary. However, I get that ordinary is in the eye of the surviving beholder, which is likely not to be me. Therefore, if I want to contribute to my wife's quality of life after I've departed dearly (and to her peace of mind now, quite frankly), apparently a road map of sorts is in the offing. (And believe me, none of this is about control; it's more about initiative.)

I guess there's something in me that feels I need to get it out on paper so that I might act on it in person. Maybe writing about such a grim task minimizes its grimness, sort of like dipping your toe in the water before you jump? Maybe thinking and writing about the anxiety I'm feeling concerning what my wife will have to do after I've died is kind of a mental ice breaker. Not that I'm getting into any details here, it's more of a broad brush," to once again quote my brother, Richard, about the need for consideration and fairness. The underlying problem is that getting into all this after I'm-dead stuff seems and feels incredibly negative. And I try to ignore negativity. In fact, it may very well have been my positivity which has kept me alive all these live-long days.

I'm sure I'm rationalizing (maybe more like "irrationalizing"), as an excuse for not doing what needs to be done, but I've always been good at that. In addition, I keep coming back to it's my life; I'm the one with "the cancer," to quote "Forrest, Forrest Gump," describing his mother's cause of death, as a means of justifying my stubbornness/unwillingness to make certain arrangements. I mean, when you think of it, having cancer is a heck of an excuse. And though I've rarely used it as one, I've always felt it. And with respect to planning for a future I don't have, I have to blame the cancer. It makes you do and think things you might not otherwise do and think. It's not as if anyone is ever prepared for a cancer/serious health diagnosis. Quite the opposite in fact. As such, you either learn to roll with the punches or get knocked down by them.

This recent/current experience hasn't knocked me down or out exactly, but it has made me a little wobbly emotionally, and reminded me just how insidious cancer can be. Once again, and for the first time in years, I seem to be at greater risk than ever. I suppose with risk comes opportunities. Having my tumors "typed" and in turn treated with specific/targeted medicine seems to be present just such an opportunity; exactly what the doctor ordered, literally.

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



Bradley, 2, and Addison York, 4, show some big smiles with Santa.



Calla, 5, and Leidaton Standiford, 3, show off their winter creations.

Santa Comes to Freeman Store

With Christmas fast approaching, Santa made time to come and visit the children of Vienna at the Freeman Store and Museum. As families waited in line outside the Store, Santa listened to the wants and wishes of children upstairs in the vintage parlor. Jon Vrana, board member of HVI, dressed up as Abram Lydecker, the owner and founder of the Freeman House, presented the history of the store to visi-

tors. Across the way, the Little Library was open to the public. Inside, children enjoyed snowman themed arts and crafts. The Store was full of people enjoying the holiday spirit and enjoying holiday themed merchandise. Visitors only have a few more weeks left to enjoy the historic site as the Freeman Store and Museum will be closed January and February to switch out the exhibit upstairs to "Vienna in the 1960s." They will reopen on March 3, 2020.



Santa, Brad Swanson and wife Anne Stuntz, and granddaughter Maria Christina Swanson, 2, pose with Santa.



Shay, 2, and Devin Aggerwal, 4, tell Santa what they want for Christmas.



Families wait outside in line to see Santa.

Jon Vrana, a Historic Vienna Inc board member, dresses up as Abram Lydecker, the first proprietor of the Freeman House.



PHOTOS BY
LISA FAY
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