

**We Need Your Help!**  
 Save One Of America's Oldest  
 Local Newspapers on GoFundMe

**THE CONNECTION**  
 Newspapers & Online

And affiliated newspapers  
 Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette  
 Potomac ALMANAC CENTRE VIEW

Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-americas-oldest-newspaper>

Marika Tsombikos prepares a gift bag of items found in her newly opened shop, Vivid Chill, located at 752 Walker Road, Suite C in the Great Falls Village Centre.

# Great Falls CONNECTION

## Vivid Chill Opens In Great Falls

NEWS, PAGE 5

## Local Hospitals Rollout First COVID-19 Vaccines

NEWS, PAGE 3

## General Assembly Delegation to Hold Public Hearing

NEWS, PAGE 3

## WELLBEING

PAGE 6

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
 TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.  
 REQUESTED IN HOME 1-7-21

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
 ECR WSS

PRSRT STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 EASTON, MD  
 PERMIT #322



COSTA  
DENTISTRY

**\$1,000 OFF**  
— VENEERS —

(703) 757-0833 | DECEMBER 1-31, 2020 | COSTASMILES.COM

10135 COLVIN RUN RD, SUITE 230, GREAT FALLS, VA 22066

minimum of four veneers to qualify for offer | some exclusions apply

# NEWS

## Local Hospitals Rollout First COVID-19 Vaccines

Communities keep lights up for healthcare heroes.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

December 2020 held the darkest days yet during the pandemic but also lights of hope. COVID-19 case counts climbed, and the economic undertow of the worst health emergency in a century pulled small businesses down. Days stumbled onto the threshold of 2021 with Senate Republicans blocking a final request to get the chamber to take up the House-passed bill to increase the \$600 stimulus checks to Americans to \$2,000.

Good news came in the vials of hope offered by the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine. Todd McGovern, a spokesperson for Reston Hospital Center, said, "We started vaccinating doctors, nurses and care team members on Wednesday, Dec. 16." Inova Fairfax Hospital also received their initial distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and began their immunization of frontline team members providing care and support to patients. According to its website, "Inova will be a core site for public administration of the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to the local community."

LIFE across the state and in the local region continued under additional restrictions announced by Gov. Northam and implemented Dec. 14. In Reston Town Center, masked skaters moved over the ice gracefully and not so gracefully under a canopy of twinkling lights. The holidays came and went.

On Dec. 30, the Virginia Department of Health held a Tele-Press Conference on Virginia's Vaccine Rollout and Response Efforts. Christy Gray, VDH's Director of the Division of Immunization, said a successful vaccine rollout across the Commonwealth was critical to flattening the curve and stopping the spread of COVID-19. "As of this morning, Dec. 30, Virginia has received approximately 285,000 vaccine doses from two manufacturers. And has administered 54,295 doses



A home in McLean keeps its lights up in January.



A home in the Town of Herndon's Historic District keeps its lights up in January.

to people in the Commonwealth... Eighteen Virginia hospitals received the initial shipment of the Pfizer vaccine the week of Dec. 18 and began dispersing those shipments of 72,125 doses to our front line healthcare workers... I also wanted to update you on our vaccine dashboard that went live last week. There are two tabs. One is a vaccine summary, and one is a vaccine demographic. This new information will keep the public informed about the number of COVID-19 vaccines distributed and administered in Virginia," Gray said.

**THE WEEKEND** after New Year's, homes in McLean, Great Falls, Vienna, Reston, Herndon, and beyond appeared to have kept their holiday lights up. "We want healthcare heroes...to see the support and gratitude from our communities and our colleagues. As they drive to or from their shift, the holiday lights will express



Christine Knoell, RN (left), vaccinates Dr. Kathleen Sachse (right) during the first days of the Reston Hospital Center Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine effort for healthcare providers.

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
RESTON HOSPITAL CENTER

## Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation to Hold Public Hearing

The Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly will hold a public hearing on the 2021 session on Saturday, Jan. 9, from 9 a.m. to noon. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the hearing will be held virtually. County residents may provide testimony by phone or video submission. Fairfax County is assisting with logistics for the delegation's event.

County residents who want to speak at the hearing can register beginning Monday, Jan. 4 through the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors page under Related Resources, or contact the Department of Clerk Services at 703-324-3151, TTY 711, by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 6.

There will be no sign ups on the day of the event. Speakers will be limited to 70 and must be Fairfax County residents. Assistance will be provided to speakers as needed.

Additional guidelines are as follows:

Each speaker will be given up to two minutes to address the delegation.

Speaking slots will be numbered based on a first come, first served basis.

County residents may register to speak as an individual or on behalf of an organization serving county residents.

Organizations are encouraged to limit their presentation to one speaker.

Requests for ADA accommodations should be made as soon as possible but no later

than 48 hours before the public hearing.

The Chair reserves the right to modify the guidelines on site for the smooth operation of the public forum.

The hearing will be televised live on Fairfax County Television Channel 16 (Channel 1016 in HD on Cox; Channel 16 on Verizon or Comcast), and can also be viewed on-line through the Channel 16 live stream.

Phone Testimony: If providing phone testimony, callers will receive a phone call, originating from 703-324-1000, just before their turn. For the best connection into the meeting, use a landline or, if using a cell phone, do not use the speaker function while testifying.

Video Testimony: Video testimony is subject to the same two-minute time limit as phone testimony and must be uploaded to, and playable from, YouTube.

Speakers may only testify once during the public hearing; speakers may not testify via video and phone.

Further information on the public hearing is available from members of the Fairfax County legislative delegation. Contact information for individual delegation members is available on the Virginia General Assembly web page.

For questions or requests for ADA accommodations contact Arielle McAloon, 703-324-2649, or Rebecca Chenette, 703-324-2683.

## Oh, What A Night! in McLean Neighborhood

BY: ELIZABETH ENDE

Saturday evening, Dec. 19, Chesterbrook Woods was set ablaze with lights, music and happiness. The idea behind the illumination event, "Light Up Chesterbrook Woods," was to join together to say Happy Diwali, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Welcome Winter, and GOODBYE 2020! That evening, more than 260 households decorated their yards, walkways, and driveways with 8,000 luminarias (votive candles in paper bags). With the backdrop of recently fallen snow and traditional holiday decorations, Chesterbrook Woods was transformed into a beautiful winter wonderland. Whether neighbors chose to enjoy the lights through the comfort of a car ride or as a household walking around, fun was had by people of every age.

The event was brought to life by four neighbors, Amanda Majkowski, Kara Stoll, Lori Boerner and Carla Post. Carla pitched the concept to her friends and they enthusiastically agreed it was a great idea. Carla managed ordering, payment processing and charitable donations for the team. She reported, "It was clear our annual caroling event, like so many traditional holiday mainstays, would not be possible, so we created 'Light Up Chesterbrook Woods' -- both to honor all that has been lost and to celebrate the joy of the season and community. We were blown away by the enthusiasm and participation which raised \$6,000 split between local food pantry, Share of McLean, and Get Us PPE, a non-profit which provides no cost PPE to frontline workers and under-resourced communities, and \$200 for the McLean Fire Department.

Behind the scenes, it took a village to bring "Light Up Chesterbrook Woods" to life. Over the course of a few weeks and many, many hours of work, the Luminaria Team advertised their idea on the neighborhood listserv, negotiated with vendors, took and placed orders, and assembled and delivered the kits to neighbors. The event was so popular it spilled over into nearby neighborhoods. Amanda Majkowski, who was in charge of organizing and delivering the luminaria to 240+ households, put out a plea to neighbors for large paper bags for transporting the kits and was rewarded with enough donated bags within a matter of 48 hours.



Whether neighbors chose to enjoy the lights through the comfort of a car ride or as a household walking around, fun was had by people of every age.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE JOSS



Light Up Chesterbrook Woods Team of four, from front to back Amanda Majkowski, Kara Stoll, Lori Boerner and Carla Post.

PHOTO BY PETE WALBY



The musical Juneau family played Carols by their bonfire.

PHOTO BY LORI BOERNER



The Guertin Family Trombone Concert.

There was also music to enhance the outdoor experience! Kara Stoll, who helped promote the event to the neighborhood, also helped manage luminaria kit assembly and was in charge of entertainment. Five households publicized ahead of time that they would provide outdoor music, including: music broadcast on a big screen, caroling, a trombone concert and beautiful music performed by professional musicians, Lynn Veronneau and Ken Avis of Veronneau. One household showed the Christmas Classic, "Home Alone," on an outdoor screen.

Lori Boerner, who is well known in Chesterbrook Woods for her community spirit, organized the order taking, photo taking and promotion of the event. She created one of her trademark google maps so that neighbors could find participating houses on the route. She also created a google photo album so neighbors could upload photos to document the beauty and wonder of the night.

Afterwards, many Chesterbrook Woods residents expressed their thanks to Carla, Lori, Amanda and Kara for creating such a heartwarming event. Patty Freeman perfectly captured the neighborhood sentiment when she wrote, "Thank you to the organizers, and to all those that helped put it together and deliver the bags. It was such a beautiful evening all around. The weather was perfect for strolling thru the 'Hood to see all the lights, listen to wonderful music, and view the scenes on the movie screens. We truly have a special neighborhood."

There have been a lot of requests by neighbors to make this an annual event!

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT: greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Mercia Hobson Community Reporter mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore Contributing Writer kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Salome Howard-Gaibler Display Advertising 703-415-5394 salome@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk Display Advertising/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

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

CIRCULATION circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



# Vivid Chill Opens in Great Falls

Shopping handcrafted, ethically produced, nontoxic products.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

It all started with the local artisan's handbags, the love of little boutique shops that featured brands with morals and values, and telling her mom that more than anything else, she wanted to open a store in the Great Falls Village Centre with a showroom for those bags and other ethically and sustainably produced items. Sadly, mom Kathleen Murphy passed away before seeing her daughter's vision come to life.

Nearly one year later, Murphy's daughter Marika Tsombikos is in her newly opened shop, Vivid Chill, located at 752 Walker Road, Suite C in the Great Falls Village Centre. Despite the economic impact of COVID-19 crushing many small businesses, Tsombikos forged ahead, committing to sustainable products.

Asked what moment or occurrence triggered her decision to "jump all in," Tsombikos, founder and CEO of Vivid Chill, said, "Thinking about how it would feel if I didn't do this ... It's so important, now more than ever, to support and encourage these smaller businesses and talented makers to make sure they're still around when all this is over."

According to Tsombikos, she closed on the retail space in August but had her second baby in October. "I opened in the middle of December... It was my dream to get all these amazing brands together and offer them in one place where you can shop a bit more thoughtfully," she said. Vivid Chill offers eco-friendly home décor and skincare products, jewelry, clothing, and accessories. The company's online statement reads in part: "We believe quality is the basis of sustainability-quality of goods, but also quality in relationships with producers, customers, and the planet. And that's our bottom-line."

Shopper Kim Abod said Vivid Chill is a welcome addition to Great Falls. "When we first walked in the store, my daughter Carah exclaimed, 'I feel like I am walking into my own Pinterest board, except in real life.'" There's no shopper's guilt. Every item is ethically produced, so even the most conscious consumer can feel great about their purchase. "Marika has carefully vetted every product, and part of the charm is hearing



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Offering choice, sustainably produced clothing, jewelry, accessories, skincare, and home decor products, newly opened boutique shop Vivid Chill in the Great Falls Village Centre has it all.

the excitement in her voice as she shares the touching stories behind each product, each maker," Abod said.

Fellow shopper Sarah Vogel of Great Falls agreed. "Vivid Chill is the store we've all been waiting for in Great Falls. I'm a local girl, born and raised, and can attest to the need this town has always had for a store with this level of quality, relevant and attractive products. When you shop at Vivid Chill, you are not only supporting a local mama and her family, but you are choosing better products and supporting the small businesses that created them. I prefer to support small businesses when I shop for myself and others, and Vivid Chill has been the answer for me. Every time I pop in for a gift for someone else, I can't help but snag something for myself as well. Thank you to Marika and her family for opening the doors to this one-of-a-kind shop in the heart of Great Falls."

Vivid Chill at 752 Walker Road, STE C is located in the heart of Great Falls at the Great Falls Village Centre, with the shop's entrance facing the grassy village green. It is open Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with online shopping available 24/7. Free returns or exchanges provided within 30 days of purchase—call (571) 407-7093 or email info@vividchill.com for more information.

Edward Jones®  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Worried you will  
outlive your  
retirement savings?

Let's Talk

(703) 810-9006



April DuBois  
Financial Advisor

@ april.dubois@edwardjones.com

facebook.com/ejfaaprildubois

edwardjones.com/april-dubois

Member SIPC

Let us know about an upcoming event

www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar



Sign up for

FREE DIGITAL  
SUBSCRIPTION

to any or all of our 15 papers

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE



# Gentle and Subtle Resolutions for 2021

Try small, simple and achievable goals.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

For 2021, local mental health professionals advise being gentle with yourself when creating the daily schedules and resolutions that often come with the beginning of the New Year. As many are feeling drained and defeated after a tumultuous 2020, making tiny, downsized resolutions can offer reassurance and hope as we embark on a new year.

"The year 2020 really highlighted that we can't control what happens, but we can control how we respond," said therapist Marla Zometsky, manager of the Wellness, Health Promotion for Fairfax County. "We are resilient and we can learn how to adjust based on the changes that are presented to us. It is okay to grieve things that did not turn out how we wanted, we can grieve and move forward."

Create a routine by making a small change to one's day, advises Karina Guzman, Director of Wellness, Prevention and Education at Marymount University. "It might be helpful to create a simple daily routine or make uncomplicated new year resolutions focused on being present," she said. "Meditating, practicing gratitude and staying connected with our support networks like friends and family are some quick and free activities to incorporate. They can be done at your own pace and are easy to include into a daily routine long-term."

Simple daily routines are great for producing structure. "Most people thrive on having structure in their daily lives and find that it makes them feel more productive, which then helps their mood and feeling good about themselves," said Bethesda therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW. "A great way to add structure is to think about what your goals and responsibilities for yourself are daily. Then make a plan for your day that includes these goals. Make sure the goals are small and specific."

Some have created broad and generalized goals like getting fit in 2021, but Zometsky suggests starting with a purposeful, meaningful and achievable goal.

"Instead of focusing on a resolution, which is something that typically focuses on what is lacking, in 2021, perhaps set an intention," she said. "An intention helps us to focus and it is mindful that we are on a journey."

"2020 may have been the most challenging year many of us have experienced," said "As we plan for this brand new year, perhaps the best resolutions won't

generate additional stress, but help us focus on positive self-care, reducing stressors and nurturing human connections," said therapist Tara Wooldridge, LCSW of Arlington County Government. "Routines and rituals can provide comfort. Scheduled physical exercise, mindfulness, meditation, quiet, reflective moments, support groups, and sharing with others are all ways to foster well-being. Choose what feels right for you and follow through. Our mental and physical health must remain priorities as we battle the ongoing global pandemic."

What do you aim to do more of this year? Intentions can give you a sense of purpose, and focuses on what is motivating you. Maybe your intention is to slow down or to continue to form deeper and meaningful relationships? Maybe your intention is to be more present in certain situations, or be more holistic in your health and wellbeing. Setting an intention will help you...identify your actions and navigate your response when faced with adversity."

For those who've created broad and generalized goals like getting fit in 2021, Zometsky suggests replacing those with purposeful, meaningful and achievable goals. "Instead of focusing on a resolution, which is something that typically focuses on what is lacking, in 2021, perhaps set an intention," she said. "An intention helps us to focus and it is mindful

that we are on a journey. What do you aim to do more of this year? Intentions can give you a sense of purpose, and focuses on what is motivating you. Maybe your intention is to slow down or to continue to form deeper and meaningful relationships? Maybe your intention is to be more present in certain situations, or be more

holistic in your health and wellbeing. Setting an intention will help you...identify your actions and navigate your response when faced with adversity."

Practical resolutions might feel comforting in this year of uncertainty, says psychologist Jerome Short, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. "Try small changes, evaluate, adjust, and praise yourself for improvements, he said. "It may help to have a daily schedule, usual healthy meals and exercises, and specific times alone and with others."

Paring down ambitious resolutions to those that are practical can feel satisfying this year, suggests Short. "Declutter your house, wear a basic wardrobe, and eat simple meals. Share work and household tasks with others," he said. "Evaluate when you work most efficiently and what energizes you. Make sure you have time for breaks and enjoy your five senses with favorite sights, sounds, foods, and hugs".

**"Instead of focusing on a resolution, which is something that typically focuses on what is lacking, in 2021, perhaps set an intention."**

— Marla Zometsky,  
Wellness, Health Team for Fairfax County

**"Meditating, practicing gratitude and staying connected with our support networks like friends and family are quick and free activities."**

— Karina Guzman, Director of  
Wellness, Prevention and Education at Marymount University

## Here's What's Happening at MCC!

### MLK Day Celebration Virtual Book Discussion



"The Sound of Freedom: Marian Anderson, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Concert That Awakened America" by Raymond Arsenault  
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.  
Free; registration required by 1/12

### MLK Day Celebration Podcast Discussion Group



"Seeing White"—Season Two of "Scene on Radio"  
Thursdays Jan. 14-Feb. 18, 7 p.m.  
Free; registration required by 5 p.m. the day before each session.

### MLK Day Celebration Community Service Project

"Our Beloved Community: Uniting Through Stories"  
Free. Preregistration required by 2/5.

### Community Events



Live & Virtual: Be Fit McLean  
Saturday, Jan. 23, 4 p.m.  
Free admission; registration is required.

### The Old Firehouse



Virtual Family Fun Trivia Night  
Friday, Jan. 29, 7-9 p.m.  
\$5 per family (per Zoom invite).  
Registration is required.

### Closing Notice



Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Monday, Jan. 18  
Inauguration Day  
Wednesday, Jan. 20



The McLean  
Community Center  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)  
Home of The Alden Theatre  
[www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org)

1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101



@mcleanvcenter



@mcleancenterva

## Learn About Advertising in the Connection and Digital Options!

Advertising in the Connection  
and upcoming special sections:

[CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING](http://CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING)

or call 703.778.9431

# REAL ESTATE

## McLean & Great Falls Quarterly Market Analysis of Home Sales (Based on List Price):

2020 Sales Compared to 2019 and 2010						
2020 Total Sales: 1,249						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	25	58	189	78	152	14
22102	8	24	74	36	36	229
22066	9	27	116	75	84	15
	<b>Total: 42</b>	<b>Total: 109</b>	<b>Total: 379</b>	<b>Total: 189</b>	<b>Total: 272</b>	<b>Total: 258</b>
	Combined Total Upper Brackets: 530		Combined Total Lower Brackets: 719			
2019 Total Sales: 1,219						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	15	47	140	82	167	45
22102	13	17	54	51	48	260
22066	6	11	77	61	92	33
	<b>Total: 34</b>	<b>Total: 75</b>	<b>Total: 271</b>	<b>Total: 194</b>	<b>Total: 307</b>	<b>Total: 338</b>
	Combined Total Upper Brackets: 380		Combined Total Lower Brackets: 839			
2010 Total Sales: 896						
Zip Code	>\$3 Mil	\$2-3 Mil	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$1-\$1.25 Mil	\$750k-\$1 Mil	<\$750k
22101	8	10	55	52	102	150
22102	7	17	27	22	43	186
22066	2	10	69	42	58	36
	<b>Total: 17</b>	<b>Total: 37</b>	<b>Total: 151</b>	<b>Total: 116</b>	<b>Total: 203</b>	<b>Total: 372</b>
	Combined Total Upper Brackets: 205		Combined Total Lower Brackets: 691			

## Home Sales Up in McLean, Great Falls

Marginal improvement in a year  
and much higher in a decade

BY KAREN BRISCOE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
Karen Briscoe

The ball has dropped on 2020 and the calendar has flipped over to the new year of 2021. It is time for the McLean and Great Falls real estate market annual year in review. Year over year, there has been marginal improvement in the number of home sales with a total count of 1,249 in 2020 compared to 1,219 in 2019. Compared to one decade ago in 2010, there is significantly better news as sales are up 39 percent over that time frame.

There are buyers ready, willing and able to purchase a home in Northern Virginia and in 2020 have found that there is considerably less supply than in previous years. This is most likely attributed to the stay-at-home orders due to the global pandemic from March through June, which is the traditional spring selling season. During that time frame, homes were not going on the market at

the pace of a typical selling season. It was mostly vacant properties and sellers who were really motivated who listed their homes for sale. In conclusion the number of sales could have been significantly higher had there been more available homes for buyers to select from.

The greatest impact in 2020 occurred in the upper brackets, for this market that is homes priced over \$1.25 million. There were 530 total sales in the year compared to previous year of 380, that's an improvement of almost 40 percent. Upper bracket homes and properties commonly include estate type properties which offer the advantages of more physical space for interior living as well as outdoor areas. Homes in good show condition and priced correctly for the market are in low supply. With strong demand and lower supply, many segments are

SEE HOME SALES, PAGE 8

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



## YOU BELONG HERE!

We are excited to announce that we have expanded our residency requirements. In addition to military officers and their families, our Independent Living community is now open to GS-14 level employees from ALL federal agencies.

Schedule a virtual appointment or an in-person tour to discover what Vinson Hall Retirement Community has to offer! And check our website for upcoming events!

Call us today!



## VINSON HALL RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

6251 Old Dominion Drive  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-506-4240  
www.vinsonhall.org

Same Company, Same Employees,  
Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

## TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
Since 1999



Free Estimates **703-999-2928**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level  
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)

## GFSC to Host Amelia Earhart Story Event

Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) will begin this year with a program on Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. via Zoom. GFSC will welcome back Mary Ann Jung's interactive shows. This award-winning actress and Smithsonian scholar has been recreating history's most fascinating women for more than 32 years. Jung researches and writes her own script and performs in authentic costumes, accents and attitudes for her characters' eras. The selection for this zoom event was a woman

who worked as a nurse during the Spanish Flu in 1918 and contracted it herself. She was also a photographer, truck driver, avid student and teacher, social worker and even a clothes designer. Whatever she did, she did with passion, commitment and a relaxed sense of humor that endeared her to the American public. This woman's nicknames were "Meelie," "Lady Lindy" and "Queen of the Air." She also was the first female to receive the Air Force Distinguished Flying

Cross. Her awards are numerous and created many records in female aviation and was a leading voice for promoting women pilots. In 1937, during an attempt to make a circumnavigational flight of the globe, she disappeared over the Pacific near Howland Island and was never seen again. There are numerous theories about her disappearance but it still remains a mystery. Amelia Earhart once said, "The most effective way to do it is to do it." And that "Adventure is

worthwhile in itself."

GFSC invites you to welcome Mary Ann Jung and "Amelia Earhart," the most famous female pilot in aviation history who not only inspired a generation of female aviators but served as a motivation for women to excel in their chosen profession. If you would like a link to the Tuesday, Jan. 19 event at 11 a.m via Zoom, contact Mary Jo Fox, by Jan. 15, at [mjwfx1491@gmail.com](mailto:mjwfx1491@gmail.com). The link will be sent two days before the Event.

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

### PLAY TO SPAY SCAVENGER HUNT

Fancy Cats & Dogs Rescue Team will present their inaugural Play to Spay Scavenger Hunt now thru Jan. 23, 2021. This scavenger hunt will be "social distance friendly" by allowing players from all over the area to submit photographs via Facebook. Players will be eligible to win a large variety of prizes, including a grand prize of \$100 cash. To be entered into a drawing to win prizes players must submit 5 out of 10 requested photographs, with bonus entries for submitting more photographs, participating in special bonus challenges, and patronizing local cat lounges such as Patriot Pawsabilities and Mount Purnon Cat Cafe + Wine Bar. Proceeds will go directly into the spay and neuter fund for animals

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

## Home Sales

FROM PAGE 7

experiencing price appreciation for the first time in over a dozen years. These market conditions are advantageous for sellers considering a move.

The real estate community continues to serve customers and clients safely by following CDC guidelines. More than ever during the pandemic, people have sought the security of home as a safe haven. To meet this need, agents continue to list houses for sale, show houses to buyers, write contracts and settle on transactions. Technology is cutting edge in the real estate arena offering virtual tours, Zoom meetings, secure digital document execution as well as online notary cam and drive through closings. Traditional in person meetings are available following safety protocols.

Looking forward to the first quarter 2021 if the weather remains mild, the traditional spring selling season is likely to begin in January. There is still considerable pent-up buyer demand in many segments of McLean and Great Falls. Even more so now, home represents the place where people live, work, play, educate their children, as well as enjoy physical activity and entertainment. As our nation and world navigate the impact of COVID-19, people still find themselves in situations where they have a need to make a move!

Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with HBC Group at Keller Williams are active and experienced Realtors® in the Northern Virginia marketplace. Along with the team, they work with sellers, buyers, investors and builders in all price ranges. They are available to assist with your real estate needs. [www.HBCGroupKW.com](http://www.HBCGroupKW.com), 703-734-0192, [Homes@HBC-GroupKW.com](mailto:Homes@HBC-GroupKW.com).

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Save One Of America's Oldest Local Newspapers on GoFundMe

Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-americas-oldest-newspaper>



And affiliated newspapers



Pictured: One of the several historical buildings that has housed the Alexandria Gazette Packet since its 1784 founding.

The pandemic has crushed many newspapers across the country, and one of America's oldest newspapers and its affiliated Connection Newspapers, websites and digital media is at risk. The Northern Virginia, DC, and MD area's best read and most trusted source for community news, which includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region. The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyperlocal news to residents. Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years - countless residents have grown up with this local paper covering significant moments in the life of your family and children, news, sporting events,

school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cars. Internet news and large national newspapers do not provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers provide.

Help save these historical papers. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of a local community newspaper.

Thank you for helping to keep your community dialogue alive throughout Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md. All funds will be used to continue providing vital community dialogue and meeting obligations to our loyal and patient employees, contractors and suppliers due to continuing loss of advertising.



Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-americas-oldest-newspaper>

Connection Newspapers.... Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac  
1606 King Street • Alexandria, VA • 703-778-9431





PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHEPHERD'S CENTER

Erin O'Reilly, Volunteer Manager, Shepherd's Center; Café Renaissance owners Saeed and Soraya Abtahi; Jayne Young, Interim Executive Director, Shepherd's Center.

## Holiday Meals Bring Cheer for Lonely Seniors

While this time of year may be festive for many, during these difficult days of COVID restrictions, the Shepherd's Center Serving Oakton-Vienna-Reston-Herndon (SC) wanted to reach out to their often lonely and isolated senior clients. This past Christmas week, SC was able to share holiday meals with local isolated senior clients. SC's Holiday dinner delivery initiative was welcomed by their clients. The following are three testimonials provided by these seniors:

One of SC's volunteer drivers, Lyn Black, showed kindness and the spirit of the season when delivering to two of Shepherd's Center clients in Reston. Ms. Black showed up for her deliveries wearing a red jacket with a jaunty Christmas hat on. She decided to dress up very festively with the cute hat, jingle bells necklace and bracelet. On her first delivery, one of SC's Reston clients noticed her jingle bell bracelet and said she really liked it, so Lyn gave it to her. The senior was jingling her newly acquired bracelet saying, "you

know, an angel gets its wings every time you hear a bell ring". The very next Reston meal recipient admired her cute little red hat. So, Lyn gave that to her as well.

The holiday dinners were prepared by Café Renaissance and Skorpios Maggio's Greek Family Restaurant. Hand-made greeting cards were provided to each client by the elementary school students at The Newton School in Sterling, under the leadership of Nicola Magley, Administrative Assistant.

This event was funded by Northrop Grumman and United Bank. Meal deliveries were made by board members Rich Deusterhaus, Patti Vaughn, Bill Farrell, Scott Schroth, Leigh Banducci and Scott Honiberg. In addition, volunteer delivery drivers included Matthew Humphrey, Executive VP, Head of Wealth & Investment Management, United Bank; Lyn Black, Matt Banducci and Claire Banducci.

To volunteer, donate or learn more about how you can help, or how we can help you, visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org) or, contact the office at 703-281-0538, [office@scov.org](mailto:office@scov.org).

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

rescued by FCDRT. Visit the link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/play-to-spay-virtual-scamper-hunt-tickets-132726794415> Or visit [www.fancycats.org](http://www.fancycats.org).

#### JAN. 3-24, 2021

Money Vibe! 12:30-1:45 p.m. Online.

If you've ever struggled with money or want to do better with money, this class is for you. Money Vibe is a groundbreaking approach to financial mastery. (Four online classes on Sundays, from January 3 - January 24.) Cost is \$60 for four weeks. Visit the website: <https://www.connectionnewspapers.com>

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

[money-vibe-2021-01.eventbrite.com/?aff=cnxnews](https://www.eventbrite.com/?aff=cnxnews)

#### NOVEC ACCEPTS USED XMAS TREES

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative will accept used cut Christmas trees, garland, and holly and ivy sprigs that decked the halls, at its technical center at 5399 Wellington Branch Road in Gainesville, near I-66 and Route 29. Consumers should leave greens -- free of all decorations, ornament hooks, wire, and light strings -- in the parking lot area designated by orange safety cones from Dec. 26 to Jan. 10, 2021.

## You Can Make a Difference

Cats benefit from being in a foster home. We need long- and short-term fosters for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own.

**Consider Fostering** visit our website, click on Participate

Adopt/Donate/Volunteer at [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org)

## State Farm Insurance

### G. STEPHEN DULANEY

IN GREAT FALLS

**State Farm**  
AUTO • HOME • LIFE  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Like A Good Neighbor, State Farm Is There.®

Open Saturdays  
Complementary Insurance and Financial Review

Visit [www.gstephendulaney.com](http://www.gstephendulaney.com)

**703-759-4155**

731-C WALKER RD. · GREAT FALLS, VA  
State Farm Insurance Companies  
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois  
Proud Supporter of Military Appreciation Mondays

### 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](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

Past issues of

## THE CONNECTION

NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008 are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

## Announcements

**Leaf Filter**  
GUTTER PROTECTION

✓ INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS

BEFORE LeafFilter AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA ACCREDITED BUSINESS LIFETIME WARRANTY A COMPANY OF LHS

**15% OFF** YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\*

AND! **10% OFF** SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

+ **5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!\*\*

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\* Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFFNW822J License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

## Announcements

*American Standard*  
Walk-In Tubs

**WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500**

AS SEEN ON TV

- ✓ **EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST!**  
Only American Standard has OVER 140 years of experience and offers the Liberation Walk-In Bathtub.
- ✓ **SUPERIOR DESIGN!**  
Ultra low easy entry and exit design, wide door, built-in safety bar and textured floor provides a safer bathing experience.
- ✓ **PATENTED QUICK-DRAIN® TECHNOLOGY**
- ✓ **LIFETIME WARRANTY!**  
The ONLY Lifetime Warranty on the bath AND installation, INCLUDING labor backed by American Standard.
- ✓ **44 HYDROTHERAPY JETS!**  
More than any other tub we've seen.

**FREE!**  
Savings Include an American Standard Right Height Toilet FREE! (\$500 Value)

Lifetime Warranty!  
Finance Options Available\*

Limited Time Offer! Call Today!  
**877-691-5591**  
Or visit: [www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa](http://www.walkintubinfo.com/vapa)

MADE IN USA  
CONSUMER ACCREDITED  
Easily transferable Ease of Use  
ACCREDITED BUSINESS  
A+ RATED

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

# NEWS

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Wish List Project Coordinator Christie Shumadine together with check in coordinator Avery Perez, received hundreds of gifts at the Buzz Aldrin drop-off location.



Wish List Project founder, Ginger Mahon, delivers gifts for Child #1 and Child #2, same as every year.

## Wish List Giving Reaches Highs in a Covid Year

Coordinators Lissa Perez and Christie Shumadine didn't know how this covid year would affect the annual Wish List Project, but found the giving in 2020 to be overwhelmingly generous. While 100 fewer individuals submitted a wish list because of coordination restrictions, the 247 individuals on the list from local shelters and nearby elementary schools were showered with an estimated \$43,000 in gifts and gift cards.

A record \$9,400 in general/emergency use gift cards were received from Wish List Angels. Up from the highest level in prior years of \$6,000. The recipients of the gift cards and an estimated \$33,600 in wrapped gifts were Artemis House Women's Shelter, Fairfax County Foster Teens, Embry Rucker Shelter, and families in need from Buzz Aldrin, Hutchinson and Herndon Elementary Schools.

Staying covid safe and social distancing was no problem, thanks to the long-time drop-off procedure. Wish List Angels drive up, then wrapped gifts and gift cards are taken from vehicles by a crew of 23 volunteer "elves." The venue changed from the Perez home in Great Falls to larger spaces in the elementary schools in Reston and Herndon receiving the gifts. Volunteer elves were kept fed through the generous support of Deli Italiano in Great Falls.

In its 21st year, the Wish List Project was created and run by Ginger Mahon until 2015 when Shumadine, Perez and their families took the reins. All these years, the process has remained the same- the Wish



Volunteer elves organize gifts on The Wish List. Front to back: Belia Maxwell, Samantha Phillip, Taylor Kelso, Erin Cliff.

List is posted in mid-November. Donors, called Wish List Angels, choose a person, two or a whole family to buy, wrap and drop off the gifts specifically wished for. The gifts are picked up by staff of the recipient organizations.

In addition to the Holiday Wish List Project, other drives have been added in recent years- Winter Coat Drive, Spring Break Food Drive, Toiletry Collection, Snack Food Drive and Thanksgiving Meal Baskets. See all about this giving group and sign up to help throughout the next year at [wishlistangels.org](http://wishlistangels.org).

## Announcements

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!  
**844-947-1479**

**FREE** 7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

Special Financing Available  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



GENERAC



Let us know about an upcoming event

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)





# DIANNE VAN VOLKENBURG

*Buy with Confidence. Sell with Success.*



Twee Ramos, Susan Canis, Joe Trippi and Justin Scango

## Work with the #1 Realtor

Dianne Van Volkenburg and her team of real estate agents and marketing specialists are unsurpassed in providing first-class service to buyers and sellers. In fact, Dianne and her team have one of the highest rates of repeat clients in all of Northern Virginia as former clients, families and friends trust them for their real estate needs.

# Over \$100 Million in Sales for 2020!



Great Falls \$1,499,000



Great Falls \$2,399,000



Potomac Falls \$750,000



Great Falls \$3,699,000



Great Falls \$1,585,000



Great Falls \$3,250,000



Great Falls \$1,499,000



Great Falls \$1,995,000



McLean \$1,250,000

# Inventory Is Low - Call Me Today

LONG & FOSTER | CHRISTIE'S  
REAL ESTATE | INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066  
703-759-9190 • GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

703-757-3222

sales@GreatFallsGreatHomes.com

