Vienna ONNECTION

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

of Mark Keam

PHOTO COURTE

Vienna Celebrates Holidays Small-town Style

News, Page 3

Winter Walk of Lights Brings Holiday Magic to Life NEWS, PAGE 4

Shepherd's Center Volunteer Receives National Honor News, Page 13 Children swarm Santa as he alights from his perch on the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire truck at the annual Church Street Holiday Stroll.

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Vienna/Oakton Connection Editor Kemal Kurspahic 703-778-9414 or vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

News



Photo courtesy of Mark Keam

Mayor Laurie DiRocco, State Senator Chap Petersen, and Del. Mark Keam welcome Santa as they kick off the annual Church Street Holiday Stroll, hosted by the Town of Vienna, Historic Vienna, Inc., and the merchants of Church Street.

Vienna Celebrates Holidays Small-town Style

Church Street Holiday Stroll lights up with Santa, music, fun; draws hundreds of families.

> By Donna Manz The Connection

ot much beats a 50-degree post-Thanksgiving evening to bring the community together outdoors in a festive event. The annual Church Street Holiday Stroll on Nov. 28 drew together hundreds of families, teens, adults, and leashed dogs to celebrate the holiday season small-town style.

Church Street closed down between Mill and Center streets, creating a pedestrian thoroughfare brightened by live music on a stage, open fire pits for roasting marshmallows, the welcoming open caboose, a complimentary spaghetti elf dinner at Vienna Presbyterian Church, and, the main-man, Santa Claus himself holding court on the front porch of Freeman House where he listened to Christmas lists for three hours.

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire truck carried Santa along Center Street and onto Church Street, its siren blaring as it made its way to the Christmas tree at the corner of Church and Mill streets. Santa, Mayor Laurie DiRocco, State Senator Chap Petersen, and Del. Mark Keam joined together to light the tree as milling guests applauded.

Inside Freeman Store, families were buying old-time gifts and choosing candy from the glass-enclosed candy selection. The Town Green, with its decorative lighting, enticed children to run around, making the noises of childhood fun.

Merchants along Church Street stayed open, many offering special discounts or treats to kids. A bounce house on the caboose lawn had a long line of kids waiting to get in. Even a fake head on remotelyoperated wheels attracted kids to it. The line for Santa amassed immediately after he climbed off the fire truck, but Santa stayed his post until the last child left. Until next year ...

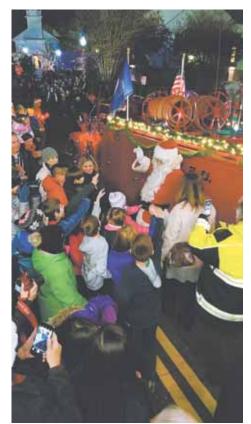


Photo courtesy of Mark Keam Children swarm Santa as he alights from his perch on the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire truck at the annual Church Street Holiday Stroll.



The Fairfax Jubil-Aires sang acappella from the stage with powerful, harmonious voices.





RESTORATIO

The open-fire pit mesmerized the children as they roasted marshmallows over the swirling – and smokey – flames.

Seven-year-old John Stephens made sure Santa knew what he wanted for Christmas. Each child received an old-fashioned candystick from an elf standing by.



Vienna's iconic caboose, maintained and hosted by the Optimists of Greater Vienna, opened its doors to kids who climbed up the berths and examined obsolete paraphernalia in glass cases. The "engineer" even tooted the horn occasionally.



Rudolph, guided by volunteers from the Vienna teen center, mingled among the smiling crowd during the Church Street Holiday Stroll.

News

Skaters waltz on an imaginary iced pond; some slip and fall.



Winter Walk of Lights Brings Holiday Magic to Life

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens decorates its 100-plus acres with lighted scenes and woodland fantasies.



he weather has certainly cooperated with the operation of Meadowlark Gardens' Winter Walk of Lights. No frigid cold or hammering rain has affected the crowds that strolled through the wonderland of sparkling colorful lights that opened on Nov. 18. But don't count on this pleasantly-tolerable weather to last for the next six weeks. Get your timed tickets soon and get yourself into the holiday mood.

A half-a-million colored and crystal LED lights glow and shimmer in night, creating storybook vignettes and woodland surrealism.

The Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens off Beulah Road in Vienna runs to Jan. 8. First timed entry is at 5:30 p.m.; the last is 9:30 p.m. Buy your tickets online at

Buy your tickets online at www.winterwalkoflights.com. To get a per person \$1 discount, good Monday through Thursday, use mailer16 when purchasing tickets. Photos by Donna Manz/The Connection



An animated deer and her fawn "watch" as garden guests stroll by.



A gingerbread house and gingerbread people at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.



Families can finish off their stroll through the magicallyilluminated gardens with an open-pit marshmallow roast.

Victorian carolers take up a spot on the hill.





Some scenes of the Winter Walk of Lights come across as a blast of artistic Impressionism.

4 ♦ Vienna/Oakton Connection ♦ November 30 - December 6, 2016

Connolly to Hold Open Season Workshop for Federal Employees/Retirees

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) will hold his eighth annual Federal Open Season Workshop on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Fairfax County Government Center to assist federal employees and retirees in navigating through the many changes in the 2017 Federal Employees Health Benefits Plans (FEHBP), dental and vision insurance programs.

The federal government's Open Season for federal employees and retirees to change their health plans runs from Nov. 14 through Dec. 12, 2016.

Connolly's Open Season Workshop will take place at the Fairfax County Government Center on Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Government Center is located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

This year's event will once again feature FEHBP expert Walt Francis, author of CHECKBOOKS's Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees as well as a representative of the Office of Personnel Management. Representatives from the various FEHB plans and Medicare will be available to answer questions and discuss their programs with participants.

"Most FEHB plans have benefit and rate changes for 2017 so it is important that federal employees and retirees know the details on how their current plans are changing and whether or not there is another option that better suits their needs," Connolly said. "With these possible changes, it is important that every federal employee and retiree review the status of their current coverage."

Connolly urged every federal employee and

retiree, as well as survivor and former spouse annuitants to make sure they review their FEHB plan coverage and other benefits before Open Season ends on Dec. 12, 2016. "Federal employees, retirees, and annuitants who have questions or want to make sure that they have the coverage they need are welcome to attend my Open Season Workshop on Dec. 3," he said.

Congressman Connolly's Open Season workshop will feature: 10 – 11 a.m.

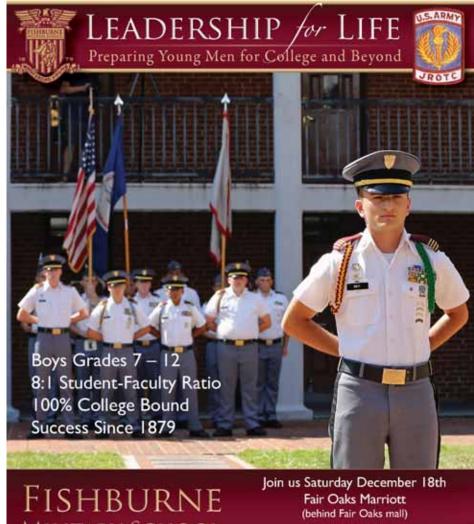
Panel Discussion featuring experts on FEHB programs and available health plan options, including FEHBP expert Walt Francis, author of CHECKBOOKS's Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees and a representative from OPM

Hosted in the Government Center **Board Room** 11:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Representatives of various FEHB health plans and Medicare will be available to provide information and answer questions concerning plan offerings for 2017 — Hosted in

adjoining conference rooms Federal employees seeking further information about FEHB plans can visit OPM's Open Season website at: http:// www.opm.gov/insure/openseason/.

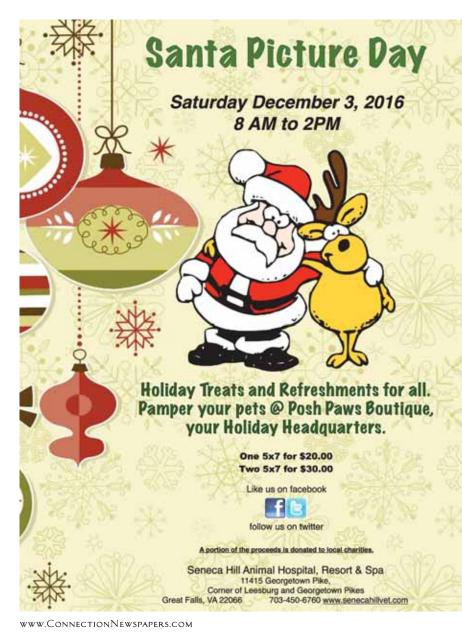
Federal employees, retirees, or annuitants seeking more information about the Open Season workshop can call Connolly's District Office at 703-256-3071.



MILITARY SCHOOL FISHBURNE.ORG

9 am until | pm 11787 Lee Jackson Hwy, Fairfax, VA

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Vienna/Oakton Connection November 30 - December 6, 2016

OPINION **Opioid Epidemic in Virginia**

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

hen my friend August Wallmeyer wrote his book, "The Extremes of Virginia, Southwest, Southside and the Eastern Shore: Two Separated and Unequal Commonwealths. Rural, Poor and Largely Unknown" (Dementi Books, 2016), he included a chapter on illegal drug use

for obvious reasons—In 2014 for the first time on record fatal drug overdoses became the most common cause of accidental death in the Commonwealth, according to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. As the Secretary of Health and Human Resources reported to Mr. Wallmeyer, "In 2015 we lost more than a thousand Virginians to opioid or heroin overdoses. More Virginians now die from drug overdoses than from car accidents." For another reason, the rate of fatal drug/poison overdoses in the poorest areas of the state are 47 percent higher than those in Virginia as a whole. The picture has been getting worse.

Last week the state health commissioner Dr. Marissa J. Levine declared opioid addiction to

Letters to the Editor

Helping Neighbors to Have a 'Normal Holiday' around them.

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to the editorial by Mary Kimm, titled "Holidays Are for Giving" (Connection, November 17-23, 2016). This hits particularly close to home because for the past six years my mother and I have been volunteering with Fairfax County's Adopt-A-Family Holiday Program. The purpose of this program is to purchase gifts and food items for a struggling family in Fairfax County around the Holidays so that these families are able to have a "normal" holiday.

There was one time when my mother and I were delivering the gifts to a young mother of three and after we loaded them into her car she began to cry and hug us. She repeatedly thanked us and told us that if it was not for our generosity, she would not have been able to give her children presents. Later that night I began to reflect on this situation and look at it from this woman's eyes. It made me realize that not everyone is as fortunate as myself or my family, and that if you have the means, support those less fortunate. Helping this family reminded me that the holidays are not about



COMMENTARY

be a public health emergency in Virginia. She said the Commonwealth has seen a 77 percent increase in opioid deaths from 2012 to 2016. So great is the concern about this epidemic that Commissioner Levine issued a standing order that allows all Virginians to obtain the drug Naloxone without a specific prescription. Naloxone

is used to treat narcotic overdoses in emergency situations. Persons who know someone who is struggling with opioid addiction are advised to visit a local pharmacy to obtain Naloxone and keep it on hand for possible overdose emergencies. For more information on Naloxone, go to http:// www.getnaloxonenow.org. Another website of Virginia government offers resources on how to best discuss addiction with someone, http:// /vaaware.com/treatment-recovery/.

Attorney General Mark Herring is extremely active in combating drug abuse problems in Virginia. A documentary he produced on the heroin and prescription drug epidemic in Virginia is available to individuals and organizations for their use. Preview it at http:// www.hardesthitva.com. The Attorney General has led the effort to distribute 80,000 drug disposal kits to individuals through the Department of Health and to hospitals, law enforcement and nonprofits. These kits will allow for the safe disposal of prescriptions that could be abused by others. There is a strong link between misuse of prescription drugs, opioid addiction, and the use of heroin when prescription drugs become too expensive or are no longer available. Some studies found that half of young people who use heroin got started abusing prescription opioids. The Attorney General reported that more than 500 people went to a Virginia emergency room from a heroin overdose in the first four months of 2016, a 250 percent increase over 2015.

No longer is the problem of opioid abuse one that is primarily in the poorer, "extremes" of the state. It can be found in all areas of the state affecting people of all income levels and backgrounds. The strong response to the need by the Attorney General and the State Health Commissioner are very important. Coordination among agencies and work at the local level to end root causes are critical. Fortunately they are underway to end this epidemic.

material items, they are about giving thanks and spending time with people you love. People tend to forget this because everyone gets so wrapped up in their own world, and forget about the people

> Jen Kirk Springfield

Tremendously **Inspiring Story** To the Editor:

The article about the retired police officer, Randy Sales, receiving the Environmental Excellence Award ("Face of Integrity," Connection, November 3-9, 2016) really caught my attention. Though it was not explicitly stated by Sayles or by the author of the article, it is clear that he has been a victim countless times of unfair treatment by the law in Fairfax County, as well as Denver, because he is African American. His story was tremendously inspiring and I think many people would benefit from hearing more stories like his in order to sympathize with specific situations, and therefore better understand this problem as a whole.

Not only are his efforts to keep the county clean impressive, but his reaction to the prejudice he's faced from many police officers is really moving. It is evident that much of the law enforcement system is biased due to the lack of respect he was shown — even in situations where he was doing nothing wrong. He was actually

benefiting the county by spending hours cleaning trash that would otherwise be left on the side of the road. Sayles' reactions to these situations, like the one where a female officer automatically accused and yelled at him for having a weapon, are very powerful and inspiring.

He remains calm and humble about his history with law enforcement, and uses the resulting anger and disappointment to feed his hunger to help the county and the environment.

This article was moving — and after hearing Sayles' story, it is refreshing to see that he is finally getting the appreciation and acknowledgement he deserves.

> **Anna Hellwege-Bales** Fairfax Station

Children's Connection Deadline Approaches

During the last week of each year, The Connec- text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed tion devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich

or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have the first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 2.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to north@connectionnewspapers.com.



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Area Roundups

Fairfax County Fire And Rescue Participating In Toys for Tots Campaign

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will again be participating in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments' 2016 Toys for Tots Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to "bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children."

Last year, thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, the Fire and Rescue Department collected more than 13,000 toys.

Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new unwrapped toys and you can drop them off at any of our Fire and Rescue Stations. Toys used as weapons or considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to Toys for Tots.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Friday, Dec. 16, 2016.

Public Meetings on Draft Action Plans

Fairfax County has developed Draft Action Plans for the Chesapeake Bay, Sediment, Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB), and Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that have assigned wasteload allocations (WLAs) to the county's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The draft plans will be presented at two public meetings:

◆ Public meeting to present the County's Draft Sediment, PCB, and Bacteria TMDL Action Plans: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 6 to 8 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Conference Rooms !X

◆ Public meeting to present the County's Draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plans: Thursday, December 15, 6 to 8 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Conference Rooms 2/3

The meetings will mark the beginning of public comment periods on all four Draft TMDL Action Plans that will run through Monday, January 23, 2017. Please contact the Stormwater Planning Division at SWPDMail@FairfaxCounty.gov or 703-324-5500, TTY 711, with any questions regarding the public meetings. Learn as if you were to live forever; live as if you were going to die tomorrow. —John Wooden

"I Thought I Would Never Live Without Knee Pain...But Then I Found This FREE REPORT:"

"Local Doctor Gets Fed Up with All the Myths About Knee Pain and Finally Exposes His Knee Pain Relief Secret to the General Public in this Unabashed FREE Report!"

<u>Available Only by Going to the Web Address Below.</u> (Warning: This Report May be Alarming if You've Ever Been Diagnosed with Knee Pain.)

Get the FREE REPORT instantly by going here: www.KneePainVA.com Exclusions apply for Medicare, Personal Injury and Federal Employees.



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Meet the Team Reception at The Kensington Falls Church Thursday, December 8, 2016 from 5:00-7:30pm Festive Happy Hour + Hors d'Oeuvres + Door Prizes RSVP to 703-992-9868 or ConciergeFS@KensingtonSL.com

ur Team at The Kensington Falls Church wakes up every day looking forward to the chance to provide assistance to seniors and their families. The residents we seek to serve have spent a lifetime giving of themselves to their spouses, their children, their professions, their communities and sometimes, their country. It is our privilege to honor them and the marks they've made by indulging them

and taking care of them, with respect, enthusiasm and skill.

Join us at our Information Center at 1212 West Broad Street in Falls Church. Enjoy festive beverages and hors d'oeuvres while you meet and mingle with our Team, who can't wait to hear about the senior you love.



FALLS CHURCH

Information Center: 1212 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com

Fairfax Water

PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATES AND PROPOSED 2017 BUDGET

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2016, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges and the 2017 Annual Budget. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2017, include the following:

- 1. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$10,240 to \$16,020.
- 2. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,150 to \$1,240 f.
- 3. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$10.10 to \$12.207. 4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.68 to \$2.81 per 1,000
- gallons of water.
- 5. A decrease in the Turn-Off / Turn-On Charge from \$52 to \$44. 6. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include
- the increase in the Commodity Charge.
- 7. An increase in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 104% to 105%.
- 8. A decrease in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$46 to \$35.

Revenues are expected to be \$171.3 million in 2017. Water sales are expected to provide \$149.2 million. Approximately \$22.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

	- \$1,000s -				
Category	2016	2017			
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 53,877	\$ 55,808			
Power and Utilities	10,417	10,572			
Chemicals	6.342	7,566			
Purchased Water	4,512	5,576			
Supplies and Materials	5,173	5,248			
Insurance	1,176	1,201			
Fuel	567	625			
Postage	632	654			
Contractual Services	10,473	10,671			
Professional Services	748	910			
Other -	2,305	2.484			
Subtotal	96,222	101.315			
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,616)	(9.305)			
Total	\$ \$6,606	\$ 92,010			

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows: \$41,129,000 \$11,000,000 \$25,733,000 Debt Paymen provement Fund

General Fund

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at www.fairfax water.org/rates. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

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

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Colorful elves strike a pose in Encore's Christmas show.

Getting into Holiday Spirit with Encore

Oakton High student is in 'Christmas Undercover.'

> By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

ust the thing to put people into the holiday spirit is "Christmas Under cover," Encore Theatrical Arts Project's song-and-dance extravaganza. It bursts upon the stage Dec. 9-18 at NOVA's Annandale campus, and an Oakton High student has one of the lead roles.

"It's a really cute plot with a detective feel to it, plus Santa Claus," said Director Raynor van der Merwe. "There's a strong storyline that sets up beautiful vocal and dance numbers that further tell the story. It's a very entertaining show for the whole family. For two hours, the youngest to the oldest will be transported to a different world."

In New York City, Northern Postal Service workers are actually undercover elves. While delivering packages throughout the city, they check on all the children and scan them to measure their level of Christmas spirit. Then they can determine whether to put them on Santa's naughty or nice list.

Marzipan, a young female elf, is on her first assignment and measures a girl named Noel with 0 percent Christmas spirit. And when Marzipan and the other elves return to the North Pole, they inadvertently bring Noel with them. But her presence causes havoc with the energy there. So the North Pole historian must figure out how to make things right.

"We have a beautiful, new, North Pole set

To Go

Show times are: Friday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10, at noon, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 11, at noon and 3:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 17, at noon, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 18, at noon and 3:30 p.m. Performances are in NOVA's Richard Ernst Theater,

8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Tickets are \$19-26 at the door or via www.Encoretap.org. For more information, call 703-222-

that's gorgeous and breathtaking - including a revolving library," said van der Merwe. "Tabitha Dees has done an amazing job designing it. We have a 32-person cast, including three guest adults, and I'm so excited about the wonderful progress I've seen in my dancers this year. They've stepped it up to a whole, new level and inspire, challenge and reward me as a teacher."

Oakton High freshman Maya Tischler plays Marzipan the elf. "She's an eccentric character who can get dejected when things aren't looking up," said Tischler. "But when someone says they can help her, she immediately perks up and becomes excited. And she has an easy time making friends."

Tischler's enjoying her role because "I can sometimes relate to Marzipan in real life, and I like her personality and how she enjoys talking to new people." Her favorite song is "Be a Santa" because "It's fun to dance and, in the storyline, Marzipan is trying out to become an undercover Santa and do new things.

She said the audience will love everything about this show. "The creativity, set, props, character development, colors and costumes all bring the story to life," said Tischler. "And people will especially like all the dance numbers."

Calendar

Send announcements to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

- CHO Food, New Toy, and Bike Drive Nov. 1-Dec. 31 at various locations around Vienna. Dish soap, canned fruit, chili, canned beef stew, diapers and wipes, canned salmon, Spam, tuna, tomato sauce, and laundry detergent are in particular need. CHO requests that no food be expired.
- The Lights, Camera, Save! Video Contest is a competition that encourages teens to write and produce a 90-second video to explore the value of saving and use their creativity to inspire others to become lifelong savers. This program inspires students to take an active role in being smart money managers and ties in well with new state financial literacy requirements.
- The Contest is open to students age 13 18 years old and is free and easy to enter. Students can win up to \$5000 in the national competition. Burke & Herbert Bank is awarding \$350 \$100, and \$50 to the top three local winners. The entry deadline is December 1.
- save@burkeandherbertbank.com Drop-off boxes are available at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S; Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E; Bikes @ Vienna, 128 Church Street NW; Caffe Amouri, 107 Church Street NE; Doctors Covel, Stack, and Henon, 120 Beulah Road NE: Evolution Fitness, 216 Dominion Road NE; Rexall Drug Store, 150 Maple Avenue W; Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant Street NE.
- Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens open every day beginning on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, through Jan. 8, 2017. Open Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, too. The walk of lights runs daily from 5:30 - 10 p.m. Last tickets sold at 9:30 p.m. This family friendly six-week winter wonderland of spectacle is only a few years old but has garnered a loyal following from throughout the Northern Virginia area, particularly Vienna and its environs. To buy timed tickets online: https://www.novaparks.com/ events/winter-walk-of-lights
- The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon - 4 p.m. 131 Church Street NE Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons historicviennainc.org
- Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary Free admission.
- Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/ bingo.html.
- Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org 571-213-3192

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

Coffee with BASIS Independent McLean's Head of School 8 a.m.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



The Church of the Good Shepherd in Vienna will host the Live Puppy Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Vienna Church to Host Live Puppy Nativity Dec. 17

Bring your puppies and dogs to take part in the Live Puppy Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 17 at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) in Vienna. The community event will be held in the parking lot of the church at 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"With Christmas right around the corner, we are having Vienna's first 'Live Puppy Nativity,' inviting locals to bring their dogs and dress them up to be part of our nativity," said The Rev. Eric Song, in his first year as Good Shepherd's pastor. "Of course all pets and other animals are invited. This will be fun for the community and will make great holiday pictures too."

Costumes and treats will be provided for pets, and photos will be taken, Song said, adding that he hopes the community will see "there are many creative ways to celebrate Christmas."

Hot chocolate will be served, and the church's youth group will be on hand to accept community donations for the Britepaths Holiday Program to help needy families (https://britepaths.org/ our-programs/holiday-program).

The Church of the Good Shepherd will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2017. For more information about Advent worship services, visit the church website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com or at www.Facebook.com/GoodShepherdVienna or follow at www.twitter.com/goodshepherdva.

8000 Jones Branch Road, McLean. Learn more about our school's philosophy and program offerings, and meet the Head of School. Free

TUESDAY/NOV. 29 - DEC. 3 2016 Bitar Cosmetics PSA

Women's Professional Squash Tournament Qualifying rounds begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday. The event will be held at The McLean Racquet & Health Club 1472 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA. Watch top local players and US Girls # 1 Marina Stefanoni vie for 4 spots in the main draw. To purchase tickets please contact

Jay Naseem @ jay@Jahangirsquash.com or call 703-691-5916 http:// www.jahangirsquash.com/category/ tor/

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ DEC. 2-4 McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11

a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. This highly regarded, juried show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics, pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, fashion, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, sculpture, paintings and more. Cost: Adults \$5, children free. Visit http:// www.mcleancenter.org/

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

McLean WinterFest parade & celebration 2016 Begins at 2:45 p.m. on Old Chain Bridge Road The star of the parade, Santa, will be riding on top of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire engine. Visit: http:// www.mcleanvfd.org/2015winterfest-parade/

Jill's House Event to Support **Special Needs** 7:30 p.m. at Mclean Bible Church 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. The program is "A Star is Born, An Evening in December" with Ellie Lofaro, international speaker, and singing group, Point of Grace. This is an all women event. A quilt silent auction of 13 quilts will be featured in the church's Main Lobby with proceeds also going to Jill's House. The quilts have been generously donated by local quilting guilds including the Reston Quilters Unlimited and friends. www.jillshouse.org

SATURDAY/DEC.10

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Pancake Breakfast 8 noon Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. South, Vienna, Va. Santa Claus will make his arrival at 10:30 a.m. to greet all. The Sheriff's office will be there to provide you with a free photo of your child and a set of his or her fingerprints - using clean, inkless technology. Photo ID with fingerprints gives authorities vital information to help locate a missing child. There will also be tours of the fire equipment available. All proceeds go to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department to assist in purchasing life saving fire equipment. Come have a delicious breakfast, spend time with the members of the VVFD and the community and visit with Santa. Joanie@vvfd.org

See Calendar, Page 10



Vienna/Oakton Connection 🔹 November 30 - December 6, 2016 🔹 9

Inside or out...



... Tech Painting's got you covered!



CALENDAR

From Page 9

BASIS Independent McLean's Open House 10 a.m. 8000 Jones Branch Road, McLean.Grades 1 - 10: At our Open House, a representation of our teaching staff will be available for a "Meet & Greet" and to share their vision of the classroom

Wish List Project Drop Off Event 10 – 1:00 p.m. The Perez Family

Home at 10440 Down Patrick Lane. Great Falls. Directly help families in need in area shelters, local elementary schools, alternative housing and children in foster care. New this year — The Wish List Project has partnered with Buzz Aldrin, Herndon and Hutchison Elementary schools for students who qualify for the free/reduced meal program. Your generosity and

support will perpetuate the essence of the holiday season. It is important that ALL DONATIONS be received no later than the 10th as school counselors, social workers and shelter directors will be picking up the following day. If you have a conflict with the 10th, a time for drop-off can be arranged the See Calendar, Page II

Great Falls Studios to host Holiday Fest Art Market

All ye friends and neighbors lean vour ears this way! Tell everyone what I am going to say:

The Great Falls Studios Holiday Fest Art Market is coming soon.

Saturday, Dec. 3 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 4 (10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) @The Great Falls Grange Hall and old Forestville School, 9818/ 9812 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Unique art, cards and gifts perfect for Secret Santas, special someones and serious collectors.

Greet fiber artists, jewelry makers, painters, photographers, potters and sculptors.

Halls decked in holiday cheer. Greenery and arrangements for the

season from Pots and Plants on the Pike to enjoy and for purchase.

from the Creamery.

Wrap up the weekend on Sunday at 4:30 p.m.



The Great Falls Studios Holiday Fest Art Market will be held Saturday, Dec. 3 and Sunday, Dec. 4

with the Celebration of Lights on Great Falls Village Centre Hill sponsored by Celebrate Great Falls. Yummy treats, savory and sweet, to carry home Free and family friendly.

> More details and information at www.GreatFallsStudios.com



Home for the Holidays Saturday, December 3 4:00 and 7:00 pm **Reston Community Center** Hunters Woods, Reston

Guest Artists: Washington Symphonic Brass



Reston Sings! Handel's Messiah Tuesday, December 6 7:30 pm Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, Reston

Guest Artists:

Crossley Hawn, Soprano Barbara Hollinshead, Mezzo C.J. David, Tenor Richard Giarusso, Bass



10 VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION * NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 6, 2016

CONECTION 2016

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.



Publishing **December** 28 Advertising & Materials Due: December 16

Call 703.778.9431

Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The edition has won many awards.

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

To submit material, identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to vienna@connection newspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 For More Information: King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 16.

Gazette Packet CENTRE VIEW CONNECTION Hount Dernon Gazette ALMANAC www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

CALENDAR

From Page 10

week prior. Gift receipts are encouraged to be included with the presents you purchase. Please contact Christie Shumadine at 703-405-8561 or cshumadine1@gmail.com with any questions. All gifts are tax deductible and forms will be

Plan Ahead Vienna

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

- "John Eaton's Holiday Songbook" 2 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Jazz pianist and musicologist John Eaton's first-ever holiday concert last year was such a hit that we're bringing it back! Hear your Great American Songbook favorites with a yuletide twist. Admission: \$35/\$20 MCC tax district residents. http://mcleancenter.org/ alden-theatre
- Pet Adoption Event. Wolf Trap Animal Rescue hosts an adoption event from noon to 4 p.m. at the Tysons Corner PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. There will be puppies and kittens waiting for their "forever homes." Make this holiday season the beginning of their "forevers" in your home.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

- **McLean Symphony Family Holiday** Concert. 3 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Features Antonio Vivaldi's Winter from "The Seasons" and highlights from Gian-Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Admission: \$25/adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/students.
- **Great Falls United Methodist Church** Living Nativity 5 - 6 p.m. Three 20 minute, one act plays will kick off the event. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. www.greatfallsumc.org

available at the driveway during drop off.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11 **"Fancy Nancy Splendiferous** Christmas" at 1 & 4 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. For ages 4+. What could be fancier than

Christmas? This year. Nancy is especially excited. She has enough money to buy a brand-new sparkly Christmas-tree topper. But when things don't turn out the way Nancy planned, will Christmas still be splendiferous? Admission: \$15/\$10 MCC tax district residents/ http:// mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre



Photo courtesy of McLean Community Center

'Fancy Nancy' at Alden Theatre

"Fancy Nancy's Splendiferous Christmas" cast. The **McLean Community Center presents "Fancy Nancy's** Splendiferous Christmas" performed by Vital Theatre at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performance: Sunday, Dec. 11, 2016 at 1 p.m. Tickets: \$15/\$10 for MCC tax district residents. Call: 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancommunitycenter.com Note: Length of performance is approximately 60 minutes. Best for children 4+

'John Eaton's Holiday Songbook' Comes to The Alden Dec. 17

For the second year in a row, John Eaton, Washington, D.C.'s beloved musicologist, humorist and jazz pianist will perform a special holiday concert at The Alden in McLean. The show will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 17. Tickets are \$35 for the general public, \$20 for McLean tax district residents. The theatre is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., inside the McLean Community Center.

Considered one of the foremost interpreters of American music, Eaton offers a combination of ultra-tasteful jazz, fascinating observations and humorous commentary. In a typical concert, he performs music from the vast treasure

trove of American popular song and jazz. Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Fats Waller, Hoagy Carmichael, Duke Ellington and Harold Arlen are just a few of the great American composers he highlights.

A graduate of Yale University and a student of renowned classical teacher Alexander Lipsky, Eaton has been performing professionally for decades and was named to the Steinway Concert Artist roster in 1988.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703 790-0123, TTY: 711.



John Eaton



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Here's What's Happening at MCC

Give A Gift That Keeps on Giving MCC Gift Certificates

Purchase a gift certificate for a class, workshop, event or performance for your loved ones this year. A new experience can start them on a lifelong adventure.

We Wait All Year, It's Finally Here! McLean Holiday **Crafts Show**

Friday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Adult: \$5 Admission price good for all 3 days! Children: Free (12 years or younger)

Winter-Spring Session **Registration Begins**

Monday, Dec. 12, for MCC district residents Monday, Dec. 19, for all others Look for a copy of the Winter-Spring Program Guide

in your mailbox this week.





Onstage @ The Alden **John Eaton's Holiday Songbook** Saturday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m. \$35/\$20 MCC district residents



Vienna/Oakton Connection 🔹 November 30 - December 6, 2016 🔹 II

News

Fabulous Offers at Earls Kitchen + Bar

Meet young chef Ryan Spicknell.

By Alexandra Greeley The Connection

f you are among the Northern Virginians who have not indulged in the fabulous food at Earls Kitchen + Bar located in Tysons Corner Center then you have totally missed out on some of the area's best cooking. That's all thanks to the energy and dedication of its young chef, Ryan Spicknell, a native of Canada.

Of course, the parent company is Canadian, so picking this fellow as its executive chef makes sense. Besides, Spicknell has been a foodie his entire life. As he noted, his mother was always in the kitchen preparing family meals, and as a youngster, he sat in the kitchen, either watching her cooking techniques or doing his homework.

As luck would have it, Spicknell had dinner at the Vancouver location of the Earls group, and learned that management was looking for summer help. So he jumped at the chance, and from dishwasher to kitchen help, the youngster, perhaps unintentionally, launched his culinary career. After attending a twoyear culinary program at the age of 20, he earned the Red Seal of Accreditation—a Canadian trades designation—and started working fulltime with Earls.

Now in Virginia, Spicknell adheres to the

company's standard recipes—all of which are topnotch—but also tweaks dishes to appeal to the Virginian palate. "My cooking is so diverse," he said. "It is really interesting to see what people want, and seeing how it has changed. There is still a lot of demand for Asian cuisine, like my sushi and bibimbap, and also for Latino flavors, like the chimichurri skirt steak," adding he works with many different providers so that even the seafood, from scallops and salmon to codfish, is ultra-fresh.

As he reflects on this past year in Earls Kitchen he noted that he has really loved working with such great ingredients—and with figuring out American culinary preferences. "It has been great working with such excellent ingredients," he said. "There are things I have had to change, such as portion sizes, and listening to what patrons are asking for." And to date, he lists as the most asked-for recipes the Dynamite Mango Sushi Roll appetizer, the chimichurri skirt steak entrée with the house-made chimichurri sauce, and the sticky toffee pudding with warm molten toffee sauce poured over the chocolate cake for dessert.

Delighted with his Northern Virginian life and working scene, Spicknell said he loves meeting new people every day, being welcomed by the community, seeing how the staff has come into its own, and on his days off, hiking. And, of course, heading into DC to explore the culinary scene there. "And the weather? I cannot complain much," he said.

Earls Kitchen + Bar, Tysons Corner Center, 7902 Tysons One Pl, Tysons. Phone: 703-847-1870. Hours: Lunch & Dinner daily, Brunch weekends.



Ryan Spicknell

Photo contributed

Holiday Fest Art Market December 3, 2016 10:00 am - 5:00 pm December 4, 2016 10:00 am - 4:30 pm



The Great Falls Grange Hall and Old Forestville Schoolhouse 9818 and 9812 Georgetown Pike Great Falls, VA 22066

News

Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna Receives National Leadership Award

Julius Hankin, with the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna was chosen as the recipient of the 2016 Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award. The Donald Owen Smith National Volunteer Leadership Award recognizes top volunteers with the Shepherd's Centers of America network for their service in helping older adults live safely and independently in their own homes. This is the only national volunteer award recognizing the service of seniors for seniors.

'Julius is an exceptional volunteer leader with a remarkable 19 years sustained commitment to the mission," says one reviewer on the national committee. As a founding member of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, Julius is a true champion for a new image of aging in America. "Julius is one of the hardest working volunteers for our Shepherd's Center," says Michelle Scott, executive director of Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. "He is an ambassador not only in our community, but also in surrounding communities that would benefit from a Shepherd's Center."

'Julius is an outstanding example of the joy and fulfillment that comes from volunteering with Shepherd's Centers," says Sarah Cheney, director of SCA. "His efforts are changing lives."

Founded in 1997, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for adults (50+) to seek rewarding lives and to live independently in their homes for as long as possible. The unique approach employed by the agency also allows for mature adults to volunteer their time providing vital services to the more vulnerable seniors needing assistance. Each year more than 250 volunteers at SCOV serve as medical drivers, companion drivers, friendly callers and visitors, health and wellness edu-



Photo courtesy of SCOV Pictured during a recent Shepherd's Center of America national conference held in Kansas City are (from left) Michelle Scott, **Executive Director of the Shepherd's** Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV); Julius Hankin recently of McLean (formerly long time resident of Falls Church) recipient of the 2016 Donald Owen Smith National **Volunteer Leadership Award and Sarah** Cheney, Director of Shepherd's Center of America. This award given biannually by the Shepherd's Centers of America recognizes excellence in volunteerism and commitment to the mission of Shepherd's Centers that empower older adults to live healthy and happy lives.

cators, office assistants, fundraisers, and grant writers. Volunteers also run programs such as SCOV's Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and the caregivers' support group. Please 'Like' them on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/scov.org

To volunteer, donate or learn more about how you can help, visit www.scov.org or contact the office at 703-281-0538, office@scov.org.

Week in Vienna

Long & Foster's Vienna-Oakton Office Designated as a Toys for **Tots Collection Site**

Long & Foster Real Estate, the No. 1 privately owned residential real estate company in the United States, has announced that its Vienna/Oakton office is supporting the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in its Toys for Tots campaign this year. The office launched its toy drive for Toys for Tots on Nov. 14. Toys may be dropped off at the Vienna/Oakton office, located at 309 Maple Avenue West, Vienna. Call the office at 703-938-4200 for office hours. All donations must be made before Dec. 11.

"The Toys for Tots initiative is always a fun, important cause and we're excited to once again take part while providing our

neighbors a convenient location to drop off donations," said Fetneh Schacht, manager of the Vienna/Oakton office. "It's great to know that by collecting toys throughout the holiday season, we can help make sure children who are less fortunate in our area have a more cheerful holiday.

Long & Foster offices throughout the Mid-Atlantic region are participating in the Toys for Tots donation drive. This year marks the company's 26th year participating in the holiday collection campaign. Between now and mid-December, each of Long & Foster's more than 200 offices throughout seven states and the District of Columbia will accept toy donations. Long & Foster employees at the company's home office in Chantilly will also participate in the annual holiday campaign.

For information on this year's Toys for Tots Campaign, call the Vienna/Oakton office at 703-938-4200 or visit www.toysfortots.org.







703-938-8525 email: fbcvoffice@fbcv.org www.fbcv.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM CHRISTIAN LEARNING ACADEMY (SUN.) 9:00AM-9:45AM **MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM**

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Vienna/Oakton Connection * November 30 - December 6, 2016 * 13

Not Hardly, I Knew You

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not about me, at first. My oncology nurse of almost seven years, a person with whom I had much in common and who, quite frankly, probably saved my life back in August of '13 when I showed up at my regularly scheduled chemotherapy infusion with an oxygen level of 85. This ultimately led to a week-long stay in Holy Cross Hospital to solve the problem which was that 4.7 litters of fluid had accumulated in my lungs, a not uncommon occurrence for lung cancer patients. It became quite clear after our first few infusions together that we were well suited. To say that I would be looking forward to my infusions because of Ron's hands-on care and concern — and depth of our relationship might be a bit naïve (let's face it, I didn't want to be there at all; certainly not as a patient, although I'd be happy to visit/support a friend, family member of fellow cancer patient). But I will admit to this: I never dreaded it because invariably Ron lifted my spirits through his schtick and excellent intentions

When I walked into the Infusion Center two Fridays ago and walked over to my barcolounger, I didn't see Ron so I joked aloud 'where's Ron? Maybe I'll get some decent service today?" Another nurse (all of whom I know) quickly responded and said "Ron's not here." "Oh," I said, thinking nothing of it. "You mean because it's Veteran's Day?" "No," she said. "He's gone. He took early retirement." "Wow," I said. "Is he OKAY? Is his family OKAY?" I stammered. What few additional inquiries I made to the other nurses about when he left, his last day, what he's doing now, if he's moving, etc., were all met with a sincere "I don't know."

As I waited for my chemotherapy to be mixed/prepared (as you may or may not know, chemotherapy is not exactly off the shelf. Oh, sure, it's on a shelf but not ready for prime time until the patient actually arrives and his vitals are taken and then, presumably along with one's pre-chemotherapy lab work results, communicated to the patient's oncologist for assessment and if satisfactory on to the on-site pharmacy for the actual preparation), I thought about the effect Ron's departure would have on his patients. I imagine, they were similar to many of the ones I was having

When I mentioned this likely effect to another of the oncology nurses, (and you get to know and are treated by all of the nurses staffing the Center, but generally there is one nurse to whom you are assigned), she explained/understood how caring for oncology patients in an Infusion Center is much different than caring for a patient in a hospital where you might see the patient for a few days and then never again. In an Infusion Center, you might see the same patient for years (for me, it will be eight years, come March 2017), she said. As such, she added, you develop relationships, friendships, much more so than a typical patient/acquaintance you have in a hospital experience.

If I were to calculate how many times I've seen Ron at The Infusion Center over the past seven-plus years, I would guess upwards of 90. And we talked plenty during those 90 visits, and not always about cancer. In fact, it was almost always about life. It was never morbid. it was always merrier. He was a humorous breath of fresh air in an environment/set of circumstances where the breath - so to speak, can occasionally be stale and hard to take. I don't want to say/want to think: what about me? But if I were to allow it for one minute, one column, I would say what my ner, Richard often says after he hears a good report from my oncologist about me: "If he's happy, then I'm happy." Well, If Ron's happy then I suppose I'm happy, believe it or

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



♦ Vienna/Oakton Connection ♦ November 30 - December 6, 2016





703-778-9411 Zone 6 Ad Deadline: Monday Noon



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

for an information packet & Details

Bulletin Board

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ . The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

WED/NOV. 30 & THURS. DEC. 1

- Additional I-395 Express Lanes Public Meetings 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. with a presentation at 7 p.m. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, will host two public meetings on the I-395 Express Lanes Northern Extension project. The project involves extending the I-395 Northern Express Lanes for eight miles from Turkeycock Run near Edsall Road to Eads Street near the Pentagon.
- The project's draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which will be presented at the meetings, is available on the VDOT website: www.virginiadot.org/395expresslanes, —and at the following locations:

VDOT Permitting Office

4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

Arlington Central Library (Virginia Room) 1015 N Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22201

Arlington County Government Center 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201

Beatley Central Library 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22304

To provide comments on the design plans or draft EA at the public meetings, or until close of business on Monday, December 12, 2016. Email: 395expresslanes@VDOT.Virginia.gov or mail to Ms. Amanda Baxter, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please reference "I-395 Express Lanes Northern Extension" in the subject line.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7

Decluttering Seminar. The Retiree Real Estate Education Association announces free public service seminar for December, 2016, on Decluttering (McLean High School, 7 p.m.). The seminar is a part of a series of 8 free seminars on real estate issues unique to retirees. Seminars are free, in the evenings at County public schools. For more information and seminar registration go to Retiree- RealEstate.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Bring New Unwrapped Toys to Vienna Presbyterian Church 9:30 - noon, for distribution by CHO. Please also if possible bring gift cards from Target for teens.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

- Wish List Project Drop Off Event 10 1:00 p.m. The Perez Family Home at 10440 Down Patrick Lane, Great Falls. Directly help families in need in area shelters, local elementary schools, alternative housing and children in foster care. New this year — The Wish List Project has partnered with Buzz Aldrin, Herndon and Hutchison Elementary schools for students who qualify for the free/reduced meal program. Your generosity and support will perpetuate the essence of the holiday season. It is important that ALL DONATIONS be received no later than the 10th as school counselors, social workers and shelter directors will be picking up the following day. If you have a conflict with the 10th, a time for drop-
- If you have a conflict with the 10th, a time for dropoff can be arranged the week prior. Gift receipts are encouraged to be included with the presents you purchase.
- Please contact Christie Shumadine at 703-405-8561 or cshumadine1@gmail.com with any questions. All gifts are tax deductible and forms will be available at the driveway during drop off.

TUESDAY/DEC. 13

Aging in Place Seminars. The Retiree Real Estate Education Association announces free public service seminar for December, 2016, on Aging in Place (Falls Church H.S., 7 p.m.). The seminar is a part of a series of 8 free seminars on real estate issues unique to retirees. Seminars are free, in the evenings at County public schools. For more information and semi- nar registration go to Retiree- RealEstate.org.

HOME SALES in the Vienna and Oakton and This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,700,000-\$302,000 range.

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229 FOXVALE DR										
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Faith Notes

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday at noon.

Compline Service, Sunday, Nov. 20, 8-9 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel of the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd, Vienna. Compline is the final service in the cycle of the Daily Office, and has been observed in Christian communities for centuries. The sung form of the liturgy includes no spoken text whatsoeverthe service is led by a small group of singers called a schola, and all of the prayers and readings are sung. The service emphasizes spiritual peace at the close of the day, and features lush greenery, incense, candles, and icons. For more information, contact David Kelley at dkelley@holycomforter.com or the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Taizé Contemplative Wor**ship**, Sunday, Nov. 27, 5–6 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel of the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Rd, Vienna. Holy Comforter's Music Ministry sponsors evening services in a contemplative style, offering a unique opportunity to decompress and prepare for the week ahead. The service occurs on the last Sunday of each month at 5 p.m. Taizé contemplative worship is a powerful and moving combination of song and scripture featuring lush greenery, incense, candles, icons, and considerable time spent in silent meditation. For more information, contact David Kelley at dkelley@holycomforter.com the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Great Falls United Methodist Church will be holding its annual Living Nativity on Dec.18. Three 20 minute, one act plays of this glorious event will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle your joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike Great Falls www.greatfallsumc.org Questions? Call 703-759-3705.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook Roads in McLean, just a mile west of Tysons, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Look for our Pumpkin Patch this October, and check

www.stthomasmcleanva.org for Spe-

cial Events and Services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330

Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel.. The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Questions? Please contact the Valerie Rev. Haves at vhayes@holycomforter.com.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap if you have them. Questions? Please contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Mom's Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna.

Please join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care available during the summer. 703-759-2082.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 www.havenofnova.org

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Great Falls U7 Wins Rugby Tournament

Great Falls Village was a busy place on Sunday, Nov. 20, as Great Falls Youth Rugby hosted its third, annual tournament to benefit the spinal cord injury research and recovery programs at MedStar National Rehabilitation Network. The President of Great Falls Rugby is himself a spinal cord injury survivor.

Sunday's tournament was a youth 7-a-side tournament for all age groups U7 through high school. A number of D.C., Maryland and Virginia youth, middle school and high school teams registered. The fun started at 9 a.m. and went all day. Great Falls U7 won their age group.

Great Falls Youth Rugby thanks the community for coming out to support players, as well as sponsors and vendors: Cuisine Solutions, Strang Orthodontics, Glory Days, Kiwi pies and Buenda'dillas. Great Falls Rugby, founded in 2011, is a 501c3 nonprofit organization and has seen registrations surge

after the sports appearance in the 2016 summer Olympics.

Sunday's tournament signifies the end of the 2016 rugby season. But, there will be indoor clinics during the winter and the club is looking forward to the 2016 season. Registration and playing opportunities exist year round and the Eagles are always looking for opportunities to promote the club throughout the Herndon, Great Falls, Reston, McLean and Sterling areas. For more information visit www.greatfallsrugby.com – or email Gary at gary@greatfallsrugby.com



Great Falls U7 winners on a freezing morning.