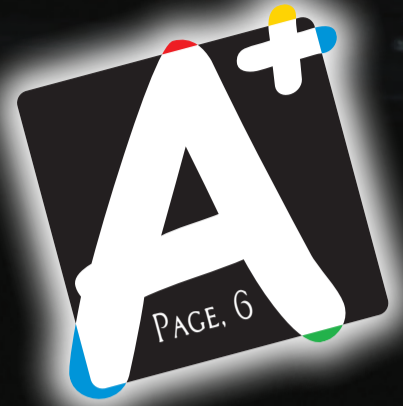


Great Falls CONNECTION



Hannah Cameron-Cadenazzi (Juliet) and Cole Sitalides (Romeo). Romeo and Juliet's first meeting in the middle of the dance at the Get Out the Youth Vote Party in Langley High's production of 'Romeo & Juliet.'

'Romeo & Juliet' At Langley High

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9

Krop's Crops in Great Falls Gears Up for Holiday Season

NEWS, PAGE 3

Give Locally

EDITORIAL, PAGE 4

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PHOTO BY RACHEL LESAN/LANGLEY HIGH SENIOR OPINION, PAGE 4 ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

NOVEMBER 20-26, 2019

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2020, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,260 to \$4,320¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$15,285 to \$18,030.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,300 to \$1,370¹.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$39 to \$40.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$12.20 to \$14.40¹.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.07 to \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.80 to \$3.85.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$48 to \$49.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 105% to 104% and the Overhead Charge for Materials from 16% to 13%.
11. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$38 to \$39.

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

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$192.5 million budget for calendar year 2020¹. Water sales are expected to provide \$166.2 million and the remaining \$26.3 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2019	2020
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 56,839	\$ 60,020
Power and Utilities	10,890	11,060
Chemicals	7,241	7,878
Purchased Water	7,510	7,812
Supplies and Materials	5,418	5,713
Insurance	991	1,165
Fuel	685	730
Postage	612	622
Contractual Services	12,635	13,103
Professional Services	829	1,290
Other	2,353	2,562
Sub-Total	106,003	111,955
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,380)	(10,313)
Total	\$ 95,623	\$ 101,642

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$43,000,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$36,099,000

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

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029. 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 11, 2019** to be included in the record of the public hearing.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

Foster Beyers, JMU Director of Orchestras, was astounded by the hospitality of the Langley Orchestra and commented that it was like family.

Langley High and JMU Orchestras Share the Spotlight

Side by Side concert presented at Langley auditorium.

BY ELENA STODDARD
LANGLEY SENIOR

The Langley High School Orchestra was joined by the James Madison University Orchestra during their performance on Wednesday, Nov. 13 in the Langley auditorium. The Side by Side concert presented music that was played by the JMU Orchestra, the Langley High Orchestra, and pieces that were performed by combinations of both orchestras. The students were directed by the JMU Director of Orchestras, Foster Beyers, the Langley Orchestra Director, Dr. Scott McCormick, the Lan-



The Langley Orchestra Director, Dr. Scott McCormick, conducts the Concert Orchestra as they play "The Speckled Hen Overture" along with JMU students.

SEE CONCERT, PAGE 7



The Langley High Assistant Director, Adam Willett, conducts the Langley Symphonic Orchestra and members of the JMU Orchestra during Richard Meyer's "Of Glorious Plumage."



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA ANELLO/THE CONNECTION

Locally grown fall produce is ready for sale at Krop's Crops in Great Falls.

Krop's Crops in Great Falls Gears Up for Holiday Season

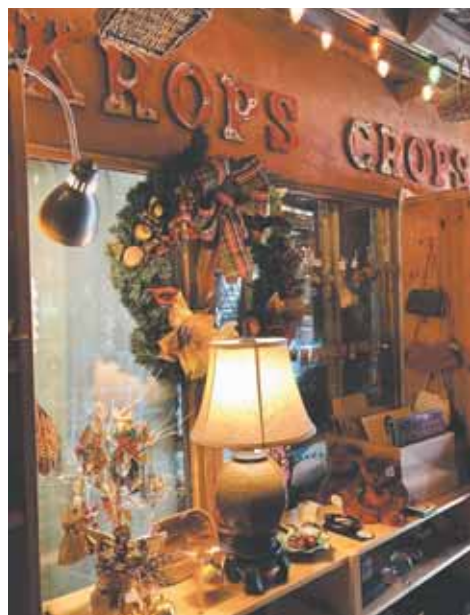
BY OLIVIA ANELLO
THE CONNECTION

Tucked off the Georgetown Pike is a seasonal farm known as Krop's Crops. Upon first steps up the driveway, visitors are greeted with hay bails, bright pumpkins, and rustic, farm-style signs and lettering to welcome you to the marketplace. Owner and manager, Larry Krop, was outside arranging pumpkins to decorate the entrance, and bookkeeper, Donna Sanson, gave a friendly wave from across the driveway.

Krop's Crops is in the thick of kicking off the holiday season. Sanson shared that "the biggest draw of the season are for Larry's pumpkins. We'll have a line out the door just for the pumpkins." Coming up next for the holiday season at Krop's Crops, will be the sale of wreaths and Christmas trees. Behind the marketplace is an enormous, sprawling field of Christmas trees that wait to be brought home by a family for the holidays. Krop pointed out some rows of Christmas trees that reached about knee-height, and shared that they are in their very early phases of growing. Krop shared that he and his team "planted around 1,000 Christmas trees last year" over the 20-acre stretch of land Krop owns.

Sanson takes a lot of pride in being a part of the Krop's Crops team and admires how conscientious Krop is of the Great Falls community and beyond. "He is so generous with his space and his time. You know, he could very well sell this place and do something bigger, but this is what he wants to do. He stays because he enjoys it that much."

A natural craftsman, Krop often repurposes material for any building or repairing projects needed at the marketplace.



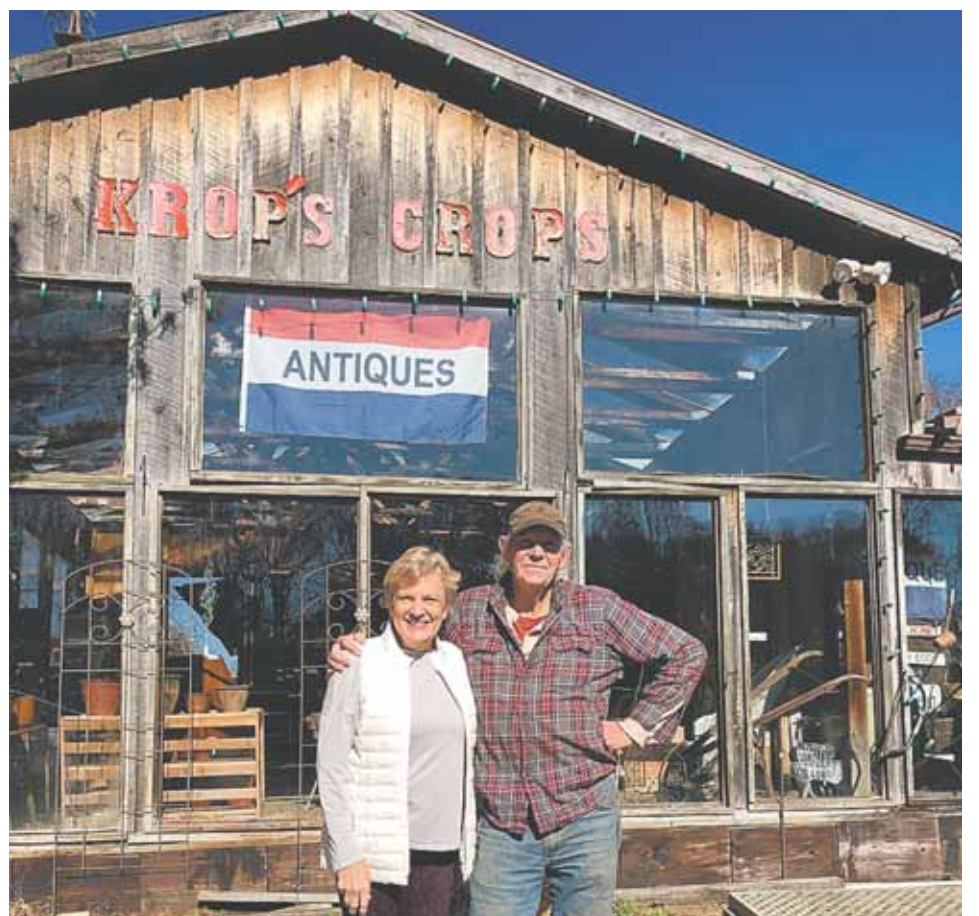
One of the many holiday wreaths that will soon fill the antiques barn at Krop's Crops.



A friendly goat hopes to be given a treat.



Donna Sanson clocks in for work at Krop's Crops, early Saturday morning.



Donna Sanson and owner, Larry Krop, are ready to kick this holiday season off with the Northern Virginia community.



Thousands of Christmas trees grow in the massive field behind Krop's Crops.

Krop knocked on the side of a recent extension to the marketplace that houses a number of antique vendors' goods and said "I built this a little while back. We needed the space and I knew where to get the supplies, so I figured why not do it myself?"

With sustainable goods and produce from local partners, to seasonal fruits, veggies, and trees nurtured on-site, to the recycled roof visitors stand under, Krop's Crops gives a new name to homegrown. To keep up with the seasonal festivities available at Krop's Crops this year, follow their Instagram under the handle, @kropsvintagemarketplace. Photos of produce, antiques, and other gifts blanket the feed, with captions that help followers find ingredients for a fall recipe, great gifts for a hostess, or intricate glassware for a holiday party.

OPINION

Give Locally

For tens of thousands of families in our area, uncertainty and need are distant from the celebrations and plenty that so many of us associate with this holiday period.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 54,000 students (29 percent) are poor enough to receive subsidized meals.

Many are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Christmas

and the holiday season.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the region need your help to provide holiday meals around Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season, for humans in need, for animals in need, for an environment in need. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

predominantly in Centreville and Chantilly.
www.ourneighborschild.org/

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

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

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

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

Main Message Center: (703) 229-1414
info@shareofmclean.org
Mail: Share, Inc. P.O. Box 210 McLean, VA 22101
Food and Clothing Room: McLean Baptist Church 1367 Chain Bridge Road McLean, VA 22101
www.shareofmclean.org

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

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

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

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

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

Where to Give Locally

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact nfo@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

❖ **Britepaths** Britepaths is working to assist 500 Fairfax County area families who might otherwise go without holiday meals and gifts for their children. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Britepaths.org https://britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program

❖ **Centreville Labor Resource Center** (CLRC), a safe, organized center where residents and contractors can negotiate work arrangements with day laborers. Centreville Square Shopping Center, 5944 Centreville Crest Ln, Centreville, VA 20121. Phone: (703) 543-6272 Email: Contact@CentrevilleLRC.org www.centreville-lrc.org/

❖ **Closet Of The Greater Herndon Area** is a nonprofit thrift shop in the heart of historic downtown Herndon. When you donate, volunteer and shop at The Closet, you help us give to the local community. The Closet recently awarded over \$20,000 in grants to seven local non-profit organizations: Cornerstones, Fellowship Square, Herndon-Reston FISH, Meridians Recovery, Mobile Hope of Loudoun, South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry, and Herndon Woman's Club in support of Wreaths Across America. We continue to be a source of low-cost clothing and household necessities for families and individuals on a tight budget. We also give away clothing at no cost to truly needy individuals. 845 Station Street Herndon, VA 20170 (703) 437-7652. Email TheClosetInc@verizon.net Web: theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/

❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Coming up, holiday bike drive. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com

❖ **Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in our region. Your gift helps us make grants in our focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists www.cfnova.org/for-donors/donate-now

❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.

Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. For families in need, often there isn't enough money to spend on gifts. To register for the Gifts for Kids drive, visit https://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/gifts-for-kids/.

We will be accepting personalized wish list donations for the 2019 Gifts for Kids Drive at our main office, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, VA 20190, on the following schedule: Thursday and Friday, Dec. 5-6: 9 AM to 6 PM Saturday, Dec. 7: 9 AM to 12 noon Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.

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

Please donate a basket of non-perishable food and a \$25 grocery store gift card

(so the recipient may purchase the perishable items needed to complete their meal). Please drop off your donations of Thanksgiving food baskets and gift cards by Friday, Nov. 22. Donations will be accepted at FACETS' main office (10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax VA 22030) between 9am – 5pm.

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

❖ **Food for Others** Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org. Food for Others distributes food to more than 1,800 local families in need each week. Drop off food at our Merrifield Warehouse, 2938 Prosperity Ave, Fairfax, VA 22031. Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 5pm. The best time is between 2pm and 5pm. Park in a space, walk up to loading dock #2 and let one of the warehouse staff members know you have a donation. Holiday wish list: stuffing, gravy packets, instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, pie, canned cranberries, canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef, turkey) peanut butter, canned tomato products (chopped, diced, peeled), canned pumpkin, soup, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce; cereal, cans of beans, mac & cheese. www.foodforothers.org

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

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. 703-437-0600.

❖ **Homestretch**, to empower homeless

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

❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.

❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. On Dec, 14th we will provide clients with food and new toys for children newborn through 16 years of age. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide holiday assistance to hundreds of families. There is still time to help for Thanksgiving, Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for children and teens will help low-income families. See website for warm coat donation details and volunteer needs. https://lortonaction.org/2019-thanksgiving-outrreach/

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

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

❖ **Our Neighbor's Child** (ONC) volunteers are preparing for delivery of holiday gifts for children from financially struggling families in western Fairfax County –

OBITUARY

Archimandrite Joseph Francavilla

Archimandrite Joseph Francavilla, a faithful shepherd and spiritual father to many, fell asleep in the Lord Nov. 13, 2019, surrounded by fellow priests and parishioners who loved him. He was 76 years old.

Fr. Joseph served as pastor at Holly Transfiguration Greek Catholic Church in McLean since 1971, just two years after his ordination as priest of the Melkite Eparchy of Newton.

Since then, he fully poured out himself in selfless service to his congregation setting an example of genuine Christian love. He has baptized many Christians, crowned hundreds of couples in Holy Matrimony and inspired numerous ordinations.

Fr. Joseph perfected the gift of hospitality believing in the importance of relationships. Holy Transfiguration is known in community for its annual Middle Eastern Food Festival. Which was important to Fr. Joseph in sharing the beauty of the Eastern Church with the community.

His family, friends and congregation grieve his loss



CONNECTION ARCHIVE PHOTO

Father Joseph Francavilla pictured at Holy Transfiguration annual Middle Eastern Food Festival in September 2017.

and are committed to follow his example in all that their beloved priest taught them.

Born Jan. 16, 1943, he grew up in Buffalo, N.Y. and is survived by three brothers: Thomas, 80, Charles, 77, and Paul Francavilla, 65. He joins his father, Joseph Vincent Francavilla, and mother, Mary Boncore Francavilla in eternal rest.

After battling pancreatic cancer for two years, he faced death with unshakable courage and deep faith and with the kind of humility, grace and class that characterized his whole life.

He will be remembered as a holy priest, a loyal friend and a spiritual father to many. "That is about as successful a life as anyone can have," said his brother Charles Francavilla.

Services were held at Holy Transfiguration Greek Melkite Church, 8501 Lewinsville Rd., McLean on Monday, Nov. 18, with burial on Tuesday, Nov. 19 at Andrew Chapel Cemetery in Vienna.

Memorial contributions may be mailed to Holy Transfiguration Church in McLean.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meetings in 2019

12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035
Nov. 26 Committee Meetings
❖ 9:30 a.m. - Economic Advisory Commission
❖ 11 a.m. - Personnel Committee
❖ 1:30 p.m. - Legislative Committee
❖ 3 p.m. - Budget Committee
❖ 5 p.m. - Audit Committee
Dec. 3, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting
Dec. 10 Committee Meetings
❖ 9:30 a.m. - Health, Housing and Human Services Committee
❖ 11 a.m. - Development Process Committee
❖ 1:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
❖ 3 p.m. - General Assembly Annual Reception and Work Session

NOW THRU DEC. 18

Active Aging Wellness Exercise Class. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. An eight week exercise class to improve strength, balance and

mobility for older adults sponsored by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Cost is \$40 for 8 week session - payable to Sun Fitness LLC. To register, contact Casey Tarr, eileentarr1@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

AAUW Speaker. 7 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. The Vienna Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host Briana Sewell of the Virginia Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy, who will summarize current Virginia law and proposed legislation on family leave. Free. Co-sponsored by Patrick Henry Library. AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Founded in 1881, AAUW members examine and take positions on the fundamental issues of the day - educational, social, economic, and political. Visit the website: <https://vienna-va.aauw.net/>

SATURDAY/NOV 23

Smart Money Retirement Expo. At Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. WMAL 105.9 FM is presenting The Smart Money Retirement Expo which features 26 seminars on retirement topics. Experts in retirement planning and public policy will show how to make smart retirement decisions. The event is being sponsored by the non-profit Funding Our Future Coalition and Edelman Financial Engines, a financial planning and investment management firm in the region. Cost is \$10. Visit smartmoneyretirementexpo.com.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

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Cooking with Children this Thanksgiving

Holiday meal prep can help create life-long memories.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Mashing sweet potatoes for a soufflé and drizzling spoonfuls of olive oil over carrots for roasting are Sarah Pardo's earliest memories of cooking with her mother and younger sister during the holidays.

"Some of the things I made then became a family tradition," said Pardo, who is now a nutritionist in Falls Church. "I still make sweet potato soufflé every Thanksgiving."

From establishing tradition and making memories to building confidence and expanding one's palate, the holidays are a perfect time to include children in holiday meal preparation, says Pardo and other culinary aficionados. Bringing children into the kitchen using kid-friendly tools and recipes gets little ones excited about the feast, creates a sense of independence and offers an opportunity to learn about nutrition.

"Thanksgiving is all about tradition and family," said culinary instructor Terri Carr of Terri's Table in Potomac. "I started cooking with my son Nick when he was four or five. I bought him a Cookie Monster apron and we would bake and decorate cookies and give them to friends. We created a lot of special memories."

Allowing children to help with meal planning helps them to feel invested, especially if their favorite fare is included. Enticing children into trying new dishes that they claim to dislike might be made easier if they had a hand in the preparation. "You can also encourage them to try something new or introduce the food groups that make up a balanced meal," said Pardo. "Take them shopping with you and let them help you find the ingredients."

Advanced planning might be necessary for parents who tend to find preparing for a holiday meal stressful. "When you're in a frenzy to get the meal cooked before guests arrive, it might seem easier to do it yourself than have your kids trying to help," said Jessica Bernard, a personal chef in Alexandria. "You can include them in the prep work, even the



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI'S TABLE

Baking holiday cookies with her son when he was four, became a family tradition that continues today.

day before. They can wash vegetables or measure ingredients

"Kids particularly would love making mashed potatoes," added Carr. "When parents do the prep work, kids can put the dish together."

Cooking is not the only task involved in a holiday meal. Creating a centerpiece or the table or choosing decorative items to display will help them to feel included in the festivities. "Kids can set the table so that they realize that it's a special day," said Carr. "Get them involved in decorating. You can set the table a day or two in advance and kids can make crafts to incorporate in the table setting. Decorating the house ahead of time gets everyone in the mood for the holiday."

Winter Fest Parade

McLean's Only Community Parade

When
Sunday, December 1st

Where
Old Chain Bridge Road

Bring a gift card for **Share of McLean** to help your neighbors in need.

Go to www.mcleanwinterfest.org for road closure times and parade details

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NEWS

Concert

FROM PAGE 2

gley High Assistant Director, Adam Willett, and a JMU graduate assistant, Colton Henry.

"I really enjoyed my experience here at Langley; it was really great to play with them and be more involved in the Fairfax County Schools" said JMU senior violinist Abby Bolcansek.

The concert opened with the JMU Orchestra performing the "Rákóczi March" by Hector Berlioz. This was followed by Rebecca Clarke's "Sonata for Viola and Orchestra," which is Clarke's best-known work. Dr. Diane Phoenix-Neal from JMU was featured as the viola soloist.

"I really enjoyed listening to the James Madison Orchestra - they were really put together and it encouraged me to continue with my musical career," said Langley High senior violinist Briton Boiardi.

Next, the Langley Concert Orchestra combined with JMU string musicians played "The Speckled Hen Overture" by William Hofeldt.

Unlike most musical compositions about birds, Richard Meyer conveyed images of birds at flight and at rest in his "Of Glorious Plumage" which was performed by the Langley Symphonic Orchestra joined by JMU students.

Camille Saint-Saëns' famous "Carnival of the Animals" was played by the Langley

Philharmonic Orchestra, displaying three movements including "Fossiles." In "Fossiles," the distinctive rhythms of the xylophone represented the movement of fossils.

For the finale, the JMU Orchestra and Langley Philharmonic Orchestra shared the stage as they played Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* ("An Episode in the Life of an Artist"), Opus 14. This dynamic piece describes a dream that Berlioz had which involved love and death. The combined orchestras performed movement two, "A Ball," and movement four, "March to the Scaffold," together. Movement five, "Dream of a Witches' Sabbath," was played by the JMU Orchestra only.

Addressing the audience, the JMU Director of Orchestras articulated how impressed he was regarding his involvement with the Langley High School Orchestra and was grateful for the opportunity to be able to perform a side by side concert.

The JMU Orchestra was on tour in Virginia, but Langley was the only location where high school students had the opportunity to rehearse and perform with the JMU students.

"I really enjoyed working with the Langley High Philharmonic," said JMU sophomore Timone Imimes, "they were really impressive."



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The Reston Chorale Presents: Holiday Classics and Musical Treats for the Entire Family



The Reston Chorale

<p>The Wonder of the Season featuring Vivaldi's <i>Gloria</i> Plus Holiday Favorites Saturday, December 7 4:30 and 7:30 pm Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, Reston</p> <p>Special Guests: Meagan Sill, <i>Soprano</i> And surprise holiday visitors!</p>	<p>Handel's <i>Messiah</i> Sing-Along Tuesday, December 17 7:00 pm Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, Reston</p> <p>Guest Artists: Meagan Sill, <i>Soprano</i> P. Lucy McVeigh, <i>Mezzo</i> Allan Palacios Chan, <i>Tenor</i> Joshua Hong, <i>Bass</i></p>
---	--

Warm someone's heart: Donate a new or gently used coat to Cornerstones Coat Closet and receive a special discount.

Tickets and Information: www.RestonChorale.org
Military and Youth Admitted Free (Youth with Adult or Senior)

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Photo: Mike Olson

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Students' Art Work on Display. At Great Falls Starbucks, 9863 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Falls Studios in collaboration with Great Falls Starbucks presents "Still Life in the Style of American Realism," the work of 10 young artists ages 7-13 years who studied under Michela Mansuino, artist and Fellow at Studio Incamminati/Philadelphia in summer camp at the Arts of Great Falls. The exhibit space in the Starbucks conference room rotates the work of local students from the Arts of Great Falls, Colvin Run Elementary, Forestville Elementary and Great Falls Elementary schools. Visit www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Year-round, Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls.

Oakton Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market Visit community-foodworks.org.



The cast of McLean High School's production of "You Can't Take It With You."

Christmas and Holidays

NOW THRU DEC. 24

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

NOV. 23-24

Christmas Market/Santa. Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. At Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Come shop hand-crafted holiday gifts, fine art jewelry, nature photography, paintings, wreaths (Sunday only), candles, bake sale and gift wrapping. Take your own photos with Santa Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.andrewchapelumc.org/upcoming-events/>

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Reston Holiday Parade. 10 a.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. The 29th annual Reston Holiday Parade – one of USA Today's 10 Best – plus tree lighting, sing-along, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more all day. Rain or shine. Schedule: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Visits and photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus; 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.: Mini-train rides on Market Street; 5 p.m.: Dance Performance at Fountain Square; 6– 6:30 p.m.: Tree Lighting & Sing Along; 6:30– 10 p.m.: Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

NOV. 29 THRU DEC. 24

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

2019 Celebration of Lights. 3:45-6:30 p.m. At the Village Field in Great Falls (behind the Post Office). Celebrate the beginning of the season with the 29th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies next to the fire as you listen to local children's choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep your kids busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck to light the tree. The timeline is as follows:
3:45 p.m. - Great Falls United Methodist Preschool
4:00 p.m. - Village Green Day School
Pony Rides and Petting Zoo begin
4:15 p.m. - King's Kids Preschool

"You Can't Take It With You" at McLean High School

NOV. 21-24

"You Can't Take It With You." Show times are Thursdays thru Sundays at 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinee at 1:30 p.m. At McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Meet the Sycamores, the family that is the very definition of eccentric itself. Directed by Phillip Reid and Assistant Directed by Annalise Kirby, the cast is led by Graham Cole, Benjamin Cudmore, John Godwin, Wyatt Lahr, Will Chapman, and Michael Aten. The rest of the show is double cast, with Amanda Mulet, Easton McCollough, Jackie Stoll, Nate Fimbres, Rebecca Blacksten, Georgia Titus, Sheridan Dalier, Kiera Murphy, Tess Mellinger, Kylee Majkowski, Sanjna Kaul, Owen Stevens, Becca Sullivan, and Clarre A'Hearn leading the Fulton Cast, and Erica Bass, Sophie Camus, Kara Murri, Connor Mulhall, Avery Versaw, Erin Sharpe, Lyssa Bass, Emilia Ermanoski, Celine Jelinski, Chris Tillotson, Skye Bailey, Laura Connors, and Jack Abba leading the Dwayne Cast. Tickets are \$12 online, \$15 at the door, and \$8 for students, and can be purchased at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/15599>.



PHOTO BY BILL ARTICOLA/THE CONNECTION

IONA will play at The Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 5 and 7 p.m.

IONA to Perform

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Traditional Celtic Music. 5 and 7 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Since 1986, the East Coast's premier pan Celtic group IONA has transported audiences to Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Mann, Brittany, Asturias and Galicia, and explores the Celtic cultures of the New World. Founder and lead singer, bouzouki and bodhrán player, Barbara Ryan, and co-founder Bernard Argent on wooden flute, whistles, vocals and percussion, are joined by Air Force Band veteran, Jim Queen, fiddle, banjo and vocals, and dancer Joe Duffey, regular Riverdance and Lord of the Dance performer. The Old Brogue is a fully licensed restaurant, with a masterful selection of ales and world and Irish cuisine. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com - \$18 general admission/\$12 children. Call 703-759-3309.

4:30 p.m. - Siena Academy
4:45 p.m. - St Francis Creche Preschool
5:00 p.m. - Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive light the tree
5:15 p.m. - Forestville ES Ensembles
5:30 p.m. - Great Falls ES
5:45 p.m. - Colvin Run ES Singalong
6:00 p.m. - Live Nativity (pony rides and petting zoo close)
Volunteers are needed between 4-6 p.m. Contact info@celebrategreatfalls.org if you are available. After Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree, they will meet all children who wish to share their holiday wishes.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

53rd Annual McLean Holiday Homes Tour. Hours of tour: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tour four large, festively decorated homes in McLean's Ballantrae Farm and Langley Forest. Lunch, jewelry and holiday boutique, baked goods at Trinity United Methodist Church, McLean. Cost: \$30 before Dec. 5th and \$35 after at Mesmeralda's, in McLean; Karin's Florist, in Vienna, and Great Dogs of Great Falls; also on website, www.mcleanwomensclub.org and at church. Call 703-556-0197.

DEC. 5 AND 6

Tiny Tots Concerts. Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. ("Jammy Friendly"); and Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. At James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The James Madison High School Band Program presents an exciting concert celebration featuring a wide spectrum of seasonal music. Costumed performers include old friends and some very special surprise guests. Sing, clap and dance along with the band as you are introduced to the wonderful world of music and symphonic instruments. Advance purchase is recommended to ensure admission. Tickets are \$9 per person and may be purchased online at <https://www.jmhsband.org/>. Note that there is an additional processing charge for online orders. Admission is free for babies in arms (under age 1). Walk-in tickets may be purchased in the lobby 30 minutes prior to the show for \$10 per person if the concert has not sold out. www.jmhsband.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Breakfast With Santa. 8:30-10:30 a.m. At St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Make memories with a picture with Santa and avoid the malls. Free community event to benefit Housing Up and Samaritan Ministry. Suggested donation is a new, unwrapped toy. Free. Annabeebacon@gmail.com or call 571-235-6349.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Santa Visits. 12 - 2 p.m. At Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. Presented by the Historic Vienna, Inc., The jolly ol' elf will listen to children's holiday wishes in the decorated parlor next to the Christmas tree. Free admission; no reservations necessary. Questions? Call 703-938-5187, email historicviennava@gmail.com, or visit historicviennainc.org.

Christmas Concert. 6 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. "Waiting for the Messiah" – a blend of the Christmas Section of Handel's Messiah with Advent and Christmastime favorites. Also features Artists: Lewinsville's vocal and bell choirs, featuring orchestra. Visit <https://www.lewinsville.org/concerts/> or call the church office during business hours 703-356-7200.

EVENTS IN ALEXANDRIA

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. Through your support of the events of The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, you provide vital support to Campagna Center programs that serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. Visit the website: <https://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend>

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Boat Parade of Lights. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)
❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

ENTERTAINMENT

Marcus Alvarez (Ensemble), Lily Calderwood (Ensemble), Meghan Klumpp (Ensemble), and Leland Hao (Benvolio). After the first major brawl between Benvolio and Tybalt, the media has arrived at the scene and a reporter (Meghan Klumpp) is seen asking Benvolio about what has just happened.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL LESAN/LANGLEY HIGH SENIOR

'Romeo & Juliet' at Langley High

Langley's modern twist on a classical masterpiece.

BY VALERIE KARASEK

Saxon Stage presents "Romeo & Juliet," William Shakespeare's classic tale of romance and rivalry set in Washington, D.C. in the late summer of 2020 amidst the heated political climate of an upcoming election. Lady Montague, a single mom and Democratic Congresswoman, matches wits against a well-established Republican Senator Capulet as they attempt to become the next President of the United States. As they strategize how to achieve their partisan goals, their campaign supporters stand passionately behind them, ready to fight against any challenger or opposing viewpoint. However, their teenage children, Romeo and Juliet, have grown weary of the polarized campaign frenzy. They long for the love and attention of their parents, as well as a soulmate willing to make them the center of their universe.

Shakespeare's poetic text reveals an uncanny relevance to the tribal nature of today's political environment. Word-for-word, the text rings true and the narrative is as powerful today as it was more than 400 years ago. In Saxon Stage's production, the title roles will be played by Cole Sitilides, 2019 Cappie winner for Best Actor in Biloxi Blues, and Hannah Cadenazzi, Sophie in last spring's Mamma Mia. Samuel Buroker as Mercutio, Leland Hao as Benvolio, Chris Morgan as Tybalt, Peter Fox as Friar Lawrence, Samantha Brunjes as the Nurse, Lily Spiller as Lady Montague, and Gunnar Peacock and Hannah Toronto as the Capulets, along with an active ensemble of 35, round out the stellar cast. The technical design team will further support our artistic vision of the show with the use of projections and music to help set the location and mood.

"Romeo & Juliet" opens on Thursday, Dec. 5 and will run through Sunday, Dec. 8. All performances will begin at 7 p.m. except for the Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. Cappies performance is on **Friday, Dec.**



Hannah Cameron-Cadenazzi (Juliet) and Cole Sitilides (Romeo). Romeo and Juliet's first meeting in the middle of the dance at the Get Out the Youth Vote Party.



Hannah Toronto (Lady Capulet) and Gus Hamburg (Makeup crew). Gus is getting Hannah ready for her big campaign debut shots.

6. This is the date when all the theatre critics will be invited. Additional information, including how to purchase tickets, is available on Saxon Stage website: saxon-stage.com.

VALERIE KARASEK IS THEATRE DIRECTOR, SAXON STAGE, LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trip



Double Feature
Friday, Nov. 22, 4 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



Simon and Garfunkel [Revisited]:
Live in Central Park
Recreated by Lee Lessack
and Johnny Rodgers
Friday, Nov. 22, 7 p.m.
\$40/\$35 seniors & students
\$30 MCC district residents

Closing Notice

Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Thursday, Nov. 28-Friday, Nov. 29

It's Back & Better Than Ever!



The McLean Holiday Crafts Show
Friday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Admission: \$7; good for all three days of the show

5th and 6th Grader Party



The Yule Ball
Friday, Dec. 6, 7-9 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents

The
Yule ⚡ Ball



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

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101



@mcleanvacenter



@mcleancenterva

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 20

Holy Happy Hour. 6:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Rock music from the 1969 Woodstock event featuring Lewinsville's pipe organ with guitars, bass, drums, and vocals. Artists: Bruce Deatley, drums; Joe Koenig, guitar; Clay McConnell, bass & vocals; John Nothaft, organ. For more information, visit <https://www.lewinsville.org/concerts/> or call the church office during business hours 703-356-7200.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Book Club Meeting. 10:30 a.m. to noon. At the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The November Book Club Meeting will be focused on "Tony's Wife" by Adriana Trigiani. Open to all. Join a group of your friends and neighbors at this book discussion club meeting. Call 703-790-0123.

"Racketeers for Life." 7:30 p.m. At St. John the Beloved Catholic Church, 6420 Linway Terrace, McLean. The topic is "Racketeers for Life: Fighting the Culture of Death from the Sidewalk to the Supreme Court" by Joe and Ann Scheidler of the Pro-Life Action League. Don't miss this opportunity to meet pro-life warriors, Joe and Ann Scheidler. The husband and wife team have worked on the issue since the Supreme Court allowed abortion in 1973.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 21-23

Christmas Craft Sale. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Rd., Vienna. This big annual fundraising craft sale features a variety of handmade items, craft supplies, holiday decor, baked goods, a soup-and-salad lunch, and more. Free admission. Hours are 10-7 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10-4 p.m. Saturday. Visit the website: www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Book Sale. At Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Friends of the Great Falls Library hold their semi-annual book sale in the branch in time for the Christmas season. Donations for the sale will be accepted for as long as we have the space! Dates and times: Thursday, Nov. 21, Members Pre-Sale (join at the door, \$15) 6-8 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 22, Book Sale open to public 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 23, Book Sale open to public 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 23, 4-5 p.m. Books \$5/bag. For details, contact the Library at 703-757-8560, or friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com.

NOV. 21-24

"You Can't Take It With You." Show times are Thursday thru

Meeting Santa at HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center.



NOW THRU DEC. 24

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

Sunday at 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday matinee at 1:30 p.m. At McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Tickets are \$12 online, \$15 at the door, and \$8 for students, and can be purchased at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/v/15599>.

FRIDAY/NOV. 22

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. to noon. At The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Gale Pean, a proponent of palette knife painting, will be the featured artist. She will be doing a demonstration of techniques. Guests are welcome. Call 703-790-0123.

"Simon and Garfunkel [Revisited] Live in Central Park." 7 p.m. At The Alden Theater, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Recreated by Lee Lessack and Johnny Rodgers. Cost is \$40/\$35 senior/\$30 MCC district residents. "Simon and Garfunkel [Revisited] Live in Central Park" uses visual media, a terrific band and vocalists' beautiful voices to bring to life an accurate and honest recreation of the concert's original 21-song set list, including two songs not included on the 1982 concert album. The recreation pays homage to the folk-rock legends with Lee Lessack's and Johnny Rodgers' own voices and musicianship rather than impersonations or "tribute band" antics. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: www.aldentheatre.org.

NOV. 22-23

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Books, DVDs, audio books, Christmas books galore. Cost is 25 cents to \$2. All genres of materials. \$5 bag sale takes place at 4 p.m. Saturday. Pre-sale for members on Nov. 21 from 6-8 p.m.;

no scanners, join \$15 at door. Email: friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com. Call 703-304-6561.

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

The Path to Academic Success. 7 p.m. At Oakcrest School, 1619 Crowell Road, Vienna. Oakcrest School will hold an event for parents entitled "The Path to Academic Success." Faculty will share Oakcrest's vision of academic success, and parents will leave with a renewed vision of their role in their daughter's academic flourishing. The panel is part of Oakcrest's Adventures in Parenting series. Head of School Dr. Mary T. Ortiz; Dean of Faculty & Curriculum Elizabeth Black; history teacher Virginia Boles; Dean of Students Meghan Hadley ('06); and science teacher Dr. Kat Hussmann. Registration is now open at oakcrest.org.

1950s Sock Hop. 7-9 p.m. At the Auxiliary Gym at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Presented by the Historic Vienna, Inc. There will be a short dance lesson at 7 p.m. followed by DJ'd music. Light refreshments included. Admission \$5; 5 years old and younger free. Tickets at the door. Advance tickets at the Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Call 703-938-5187, historicviennava@gmail.com or www.historicviennainc.org.

The French Connection. 7:30 p.m. At The Falls Church Episcopal Church, 166 East Broad Street, Falls Church. The second concert of the Washington Sinfonietta's 2019-2020 season, Under the baton of Music Director Joel Lazar, program of French music. Advance tickets for the performance, \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, plus a small service fee, are available at <https://bit.ly/364vRqv>. www.washingtonsinfonietta.org.

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Announcements

Announcements

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Announcements

Announcements

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Announcements

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Employment

FROM PAGE 5

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. 6-7 p.m. At Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, Vienna. The 21st Annual Oakton/Vienna Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Service hosted by Church of the Holy Comforter. Following the service there will be a reception featuring savory and salty pies and coffee. Celebrate all that we are thankful for with inspiration readings, music and fellowship. All faiths are welcome.

TUESDAY/DEC. 3

Holiday Party. 4-7 p.m. At JR's Stockyards Inn, 8130 Watson Street, McLean. Hosted by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. Business Attire. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be provided. Reserve your space by Tuesday, Nov. 26 at www.cfnova.org/holiday or by contacting Tara Nadel at 703-879-7637 or tara.nadel@cfnova.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 10

Potluck Holiday Party. 12 noon. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Presented by NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) Chapter 1116. Includes an installation of officers by Dr. Constance Bails, President, Virginia Federation of NARFE (VFN) – Members and guests welcome. RSVP to 703-281-5123.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board's 12 appointed members establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. For agenda and more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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An Idiot Servant No More



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Given the extremely sad experience I shared with you all in last week's column: "Chino Lourie, Rest in Peace," this column will be an attempt to bounce back to my usual and customary reality, one oddly enough that has nothing to do with cancer (well, much, anyway). Instead it has to do with unexpected joy.

The joy to which I refer has to do with a subject which typically provides me little joy: I refer to our two automobiles, a 2000 Honda Accord and a 2018 Audi A4. The former inherited from my parents, payment-free but rarely hassle-free, the latter not free of payments, unfortunately, but free of hassle since its maintenance is covered by the warranty.

Nevertheless, for the past few years, off and mostly on, both cars have had an indication that all was not right. Each had illuminated dashboard warning lights (aka "idiot lights") constantly reminding the driver that attention to some detail was required. For the Honda, it was twofold, a "Main't Req" light and a "Brake" light "were dashing." For the Audi, it was "onefold," an icon which looks like an upside down horseshoe, sort of, which I learned, after thumbing through the owner's manual, meant low tire pressure, appeared directly under the speedometer. Since I felt no give or take with the Honda and saw no evidence of low tire anything with the Audi, I learned to take their reminders in stride and figured I'd wait until their respective next service calls to respond to them.

Those service calls have now occurred. And I am extremely glad - and relieved to say, that their necessary/underlying repairs have been made. Glad/relieved not so much because the repairs/obvious safety issues have been addressed. Rather, glad/relieved that in making those repairs, the dashboard warning lights are no longer illuminating their disdain with the idiot behind the wheel: me, neglecting them.

No more, after starting either car, will my initial focus be on the dashboard to see if miraculously the warning lights have disappeared and finally stopped their incessant, non-verbal badgering. No more will I be forced to ignore their illumination and attempt to compartmentalize their visual reminders that all is not well under the hood (so to speak). And finally, no more will I have to worry that one day - or night, the other mechanical shoe will drop and I or my wife, will be left stranded on the road somewhere waiting for a tow truck to drag us to our car-repair maker.

And though this dashboard-warning-light-turn-off is really a turn-on, I am still able to keep its effect in perspective. It's not a cure for cancer and neither it is a cure for my "stable" issue as written about multiple times recently ("Please Relief Me" and "Apparently, Not a Stable Genius"). However, as we say in sales: "I'll take a yes;" as they say on the high seas: "Any port in a storm;" and has been said for the last century: "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." For the official record, I am not horsing around in the least when I say how thrilled I am now that everytime I start our cars, I see no lights reminding me what an idiot I've been. As a cancer patient I don't need that kind (or any other kind, quite frankly) of negativity in my life, or in my car either. Eliminating it from my activities of daily living adds a bounce to my step and a joie to my vivre.

I realize I may be over stating the significance of this momentous occasion, but when cancer takes over your life, it does so emotionally before it does so physically. As such, finding relief is HUGE. Moreover, solving a problem however insignificant in the scheme of things it appears to be, provides the building blocks of success that, as a cancer patient, help strengthen your foundation as you navigate your daily routine. A routine which is already filled with enough challenges. So yes, I am going to make a mountain out of a molehill. And I am going to fill myself up with as much positivity, nonsensical or otherwise, as possible.

I need to be pulled forward, not dragged backward.

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

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