

Great Falls CONNECTION

Celebration Of Lights

PAGE 3

Children from Great Falls United Methodist Preschool wearing Santa hats sing in front of the Christmas tree on Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Celebration of Lights organized by Celebrate Great Falls Foundation.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'Gravediggers' At Langley

PAGE 4

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Sold

\$2,100,000 - Great Falls

1023 Millwood Ln: 5BR, 4FB, 2HB

Secured Home Inspection and other contingencies in a market where few buyers were getting contingencies.



For Sale

\$3,400,000 - Great Falls

510 Arnon Meadow: 7BR, 6FB

To be built - 8,400 square foot home in the heart of Great Falls.



Sold

\$1,525,000 - Great Falls

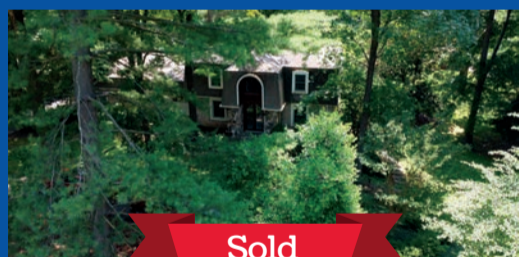
714 Goldman Ln: 4BR, 3FB, 1HB

Sold for \$225,000 above asking price!

Wounded Warrior Family Christmas Gift Wish List Program

WE ARE WORKING WITH THE ELIZABETH DOLE FOUNDATION TO IDENTIFY FAMILIES OF OUR WOUNDED AND FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS IN NEED OF HELP THIS YEAR.

VISIT BOBN.US/XMAS22 OR CALL US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR 13TH YEAR MAKING THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE BETTER FOR THOSE WHO NEED EXTRA CHEER THIS YEAR.



Sold

\$1,100,000 - Great Falls

10423 Deerfoot Dr: 5BR, 2FB, 1 HB

Sold quickly before it went on the market



Sold

\$875,000 - Ashburn

43351 Hay Rd: 4BR, 3FB, 1HB

We negotiated on behalf of our buyer client in a multiple offer scenario and received full closing costs from the seller.



Sold

\$978,000 - Reston

2012 Lakebreeze Way: 4BR, 3FB, 1HB

Won the contract in a multiple offer situation without the highest priced offer.

Congratulations Bob Sr. for being the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors® 2022 Good Neighbor Award Recipient!

Join us at the Old Brogue at one or all of our next events! Call/email for more info.

- 2/13/23 - CIA Officers Memorial Foundation
- 3/14/23 - Our Community Salutes
- 4/17/23 - Operation Second Chance
- 5/15/23 - Our Military Kids
- 6/12/23 - PAWS for Purple Hearts



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Live Nativity scene



Children from Great Falls United Methodist Preschool wearing Santa hats sing in front of the Christmas tree on Sunday, Dec. 4, at the Celebration of Lights organized by Celebrate Great Falls Foundation.



The Whitson family of Great Falls. From left, Melissa, Elizabeth, 7, William, 14, Mary, 5, Katherine, 12, Thomas, 10; and Stewart.

Celebration of Lights: Live Nativity Scene

Ho, Ho, Ho, Who Wouldn't Go?

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Celebrate Great Falls Foundation produced the annual Celebration of Lights on Sunday, Dec. 3, at the Great Falls Village Field. The free community event offered hot cocoa and cookies and performances by local school choirs.

A petting zoo and pony rides kept the children delighted before Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived with the support of Fairfax County

Fire & Rescue Station #12 Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department. After making their way through the crowd, Santa called out the countdown for the Christmas tree lighting.

The Celebration of Lights would not be complete without the dazzling lit star atop the Live Nativity scene. Against the backdrop of Great Falls' night sky, actors in costumes reenacted the 2,022-year-old scene.

Thank you those who responded to our request for photos for this story, Krista Gatt, Colin Malone, Leslie Smith, Ginger Singh, Piper Ryan, Melissa Whitson, Bill Canis, the Burkholder family, and the folks at Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Station No. 12 Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department.



Elle Whitson, 7, of Great Falls



Patrick Dulany, 1, with his grandma, Heidi Dulany of Great Falls



"Frosty the Snowman was a jolly happy soul...."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Shepherds Wynne Malpass and Coco Burkholder rest on the hay bales.



The Nativity scene brings to life the meaning of Christmas.



Santa and Mrs. Claus wave to the children.

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Workshop Performance of Student-Written Play

Saxon Stage After Hours presents a workshop performance of a brand new, student-written play, "Gravediggers." "Gravediggers" is an original dark comedy play following six inhabitants of a run-down historic estate in rural Montana and the secrets they bury down deep in the ground.

On one side of the Boothe Estate lies a graveyard, garden, gift shop, and mansion, home to aging property owner, Boothe, and lonely gravedigger employee, Pete. On the other side stands a small church and clergy house, now a part-time chapel, run by Reverend Margot, and a funeral home, run by her sister-in-law, Audrey, and Audrey's teenage niece, Joyce.

When new groundskeeper Nellie arrives at the Boothe Estate, plants suddenly die, invasive insects take over, and a new romance rewrites tombstones, leaving secrets scrawled out across the overgrown lawn. The Boothe Estate's odd occupants and even odder staff members must learn to let their skeletons out of the closet in a story of love, destruction and obsessions with death.

"Gravediggers" is produced by Saxon Stage After Hours, Langley High School's student-run production group. A short excerpt of "Gravediggers" was originally performed in November 2022 at Closing Time, a night



of staged script readings written and performed by the students of Saxon Stage After Hours. This December 2022 performance of Gravediggers will feature the full, two-act script, performed in a bare-bones workshop-style setting.

Cast includes Sarah Hilton as Nellie, Atlas Zecca as Pete, Lily Bowers as Joyce, Conor Farah as Boothe, Ava Carter as Audrey, and Lorna Evans as Margot.

Crew includes writer/director Tess Jannery-Barney, stage managers Jenny Mears and Izzy Steenburgh, set design by Killian Korchnak, and lighting design by Cassie Keating.

"Gravediggers" performs on Saturday, December 10th at 3 pm & 6:30 pm in the Langley High School Black Box Theater at 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101. Tickets \$5 at the door. www.saxonstage.com

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAY/DEC. 13

Travel with a Dementia Patient – How to Guide Families. Virtual event. 2-3:15 p.m. Featuring Jennifer L. FitzPatrick MSW, LCSW-C, CSP of Jenerations Health Education. Panelist: Kiersten Parsons; Moderator: Ni'Asia Griffin. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.jenerationshealth.com/inglesideagust>

MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER SEEKS AMBASSADORS

To assist in fulfilling its mission to provide programs of interest to area teens, the McLean Community Center (MCC) is launching a new initiative, MCC Youth Ambassadors. The purpose of the new initiative is to empower teens to collect and share their classmates' ideas and feedback with the MCC Governing Board. McLean and Langley high school students enrolled in 9th-12th grades who reside in Dranesville Small District 1A are eligible to apply for the volunteer positions. The deadline to apply is Friday, Dec. 9. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

Youth Ambassadors will serve as liaisons between community youth and the two youth members of the MCC Governing Board, Sarah Tran (Langley High boundary area) and Charlotte Loving (McLean High boundary area). The ambassadors

will promote MCC activities via their social media platforms and through resources at their respective schools. They will also assist in planning events and activities targeted to the youth of McLean in support of acquiring their growing participation in MCC programs. Ambassadors will meet monthly at MCC or the Old Firehouse Center to discuss public feedback and plan future activities.

MCC Youth Ambassador Applications are posted on the MCC website, www.mcleancenter.org. Completed applications should be emailed to MCC General Programs Director Michael Fisher at michael.fisher@fairfaxcounty.gov no later than Friday, Dec. 9.

For more information, students may contact MCC Governing Board member Sarah Tran (McLean High School Boundary Area) at sarah.tran2@fairfaxcounty.gov or Charlotte Loving (Langley High School Boundary Area) at charlotte.loving@fairfaxcounty.gov.

DULLES TOLL ROAD RATES WILL RISE IN 2023

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority board of directors voted last week to increase rates for two-axle vehicles on the Dulles Toll Road from the current \$3.25 to \$4.00 at the main toll plaza and from \$1.50 to \$2.00 on ramps. The increase becomes effective January 1, 2023. Rates on the Dulles Toll Road have not increased since January 1, 2019. Toll revenue follows a long-standing plan of finance to fund highway operating and maintenance costs plus a portion of construction costs for Metrorail's

Silver Line, which began service to Dulles International Airport on November 15. Funding of the Metrorail project is governed by an agreement between the Airports Authority and partners in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government.

FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATING IN TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will be participating in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments' 2022 Toys for Tots Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to "bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children." Stations will accept donations now through Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Collection boxes will be placed outside the front door of each fire and rescue station every morning. Residents will be able to drop off toys until 8 p.m., each evening.

Please help us to help those less fortunate this holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, FCFRD was able to provide the Marines with approximately 25,000 toys last year! Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new, unwrapped toys. Toys used as 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.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

MCC Governing Board

December Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public.

DEC 7

Sponsored by The Alden

Light Up McLean Holiday House Decorating Contest

Home Decorators Register by Friday, Dec. 9

Contest Voting Runs Dec. 19-Jan. 1

DEC 9



OFC 5th and 6th Grader Party

Ugly Sweater Party
Friday, Dec. 9, 7-9:30 p.m.

\$35/\$25 MCC district residents.

DEC 9

Presented by The Alden

Virginia Chamber Orchestra
Sunday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m.

\$25/\$15 MCC district residents/
\$20 seniors and students

DEC 18

Old Firehouse Winter Break Trips

Summit Ropes & Movie
Monday, Dec. 19, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

\$75/\$65 MCC district residents

DEC 19

Presented by The Alden

The Barter Players: "Frosty"
Monday, Dec. 19, 4 p.m.

\$15/\$10 MCC district residents/
\$12 seniors and students

DEC 19



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of The Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123

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CALENDAR

ONGOING

Town of Vienna Holiday Decorating Contest. Ring in the holiday season by participating in the 2022 Town of Vienna Holiday Decorating Contest. This year's theme is "Shine Bright, Vienna!" As in past years, the contest is open to residents and businesses located in the Town of Vienna who are encouraged to create a festive, holiday display that will draw visitors to the town. Displays will be judged by the Town Business Liaison Committee (TBLC) judging panel and voted on by community members. The TBLC judging panel will select business winners on Dec. 8. Community members will also have an opportunity to vote online for the resident and business "People's Choice Award" through Dec. 9 at 12 p.m., and winners will be announced at the regular Town Council meeting at Town Hall on Dec. 9 beginning at 8 p.m., and via social media and the Town website.

NOW THRU DEC. 11

"The Rainmaker." At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. "The Rainmaker," written by N. Richard Nash and directed by Deidra La-Wan Starnes. Not only is the Curry family farm being paralyzed by a devastating drought, but Lizzie Curry, to the chagrin of her father and brothers, is unmarried with no viable prospects. A charming, confident trickster named Starbuck

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

Great Falls CONNECTION

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

comes to town and promises to bring rain in exchange for \$100, setting off a series of events that enable Lizzie to see herself in a new light. Show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

DEC. 9-11

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. The Winter Capital Art & Craft Festival will feature art in more than a dozen mediums including glass, jewelry, leather, paintings, prints, photography, pottery, wearable art and wood. Show times: Friday, Dec. 9: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 10: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 11: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Senior discount available; children under 12 free. Ticket information: www.CapitalArtAnd-CraftFestivals.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Santa's Ride. Vienna residents who wish to support Santa's Ride can drop off new, unwrapped toys, games, books, and gifts at the Vienna Police Department, 301 Center St. S; the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE; or Vienna Town Hall during normal business hours. All items must be dropped off by 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022. Police officers on motorcycle from multiple jurisdictions will escort Santa to local schools and government buildings to pick up the donated items and deliver them to hospitals and to community children in need. Santa's Ride 2022 is supported by the Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, City of Fairfax Police Department, Falls Church Sheriff's Office, Herndon Police Department, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Vienna Police Department and Virginia State Police.

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

Ugly Sweater Party. 7–9:30 p.m. At 1440 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean. The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Parties are themed and decorated accordingly. Partygoers can enjoy catered food and beverages, a DJ spinning the latest tunes, an open dance floor and a variety of other attractions and activities.

HUNTERS WOODS AT RAILS EDGE

WINTER EVENTS

Wednesday evenings from 4-6 p.m.
Dec. 7 -- Holiday Shopping: Local Craft Market
Dec. 21 -- Welcome Party (New residents) and Karaoke
Dec. 28 -- Cooking Demo with Chef
RSVP required. RSVP to HWTEMarketing@IntegraCare.com or call 703-429-1130.



The Winter Lantern Festival will be held Dec. 16 Thru Feb. 12, 2023 in Tysons Corner.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Traditional Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Jody Marshall's Holiday Celebration: One of the top hammered dulcimer players in America, Jody Marshall has been performing for more than a quarter century. She is accompanied by Jim Queen on fiddle, banjo and vocals, Susan Queen on bass guitar and vocals, and Paul Nahay on piano, bringing us holiday favorites old and new. Visit jodymarshall.net.

DEC. 16 THRU FEB. 12

Winter Lantern Festival will debut a spectacular holiday light adventure at the Lerner Town Square, 8025 Galleria Drive in Tysons starting December 16 through February 12th. Created by Kaleido Arts & Entertainment Group, Winter Lantern Festival will feature a total of over 10,000 of LED Chinese-inspired artisan lanterns, along with live performances and on-site food vendors. Guests will wander through a wonderland of light that includes Chinese myths, legends, and zodiacs. In addition, they will view handmade lanterns encompassing a world of ice, including displays of mammoths, polar bears, and penguins. There will also be interactive light swings, see-saws, and tunnels. Be prepared to indulge your friends, family, and yourself in photo opportunities! Hours are Fridays to Sundays from 5-10 p.m. Visit www.winterlanternfestival.com.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com

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Mount Vernon Gazette
POTOMAC ALMANAC
CENTRE VIEW

Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

Please, help save these historical papers. All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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"IN THE GRASP"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(Recent emails have prompted this column.) "In the grasp" is a football expression most often associated with quarterbacks being "sacked," (a defensive player having a secure hold of the quarterback). This basically means that the play is over/"the play is dead." It could also characterize an online scam. (I should know.) It occurs when you are speaking with someone at the end of an 800 number who is asking for remote control of your computer to install, upgrade, download, upload, and/or fix whatever computer problem precipitated this call. You're asking/need help and consequently, you might be putting yourself at risk.

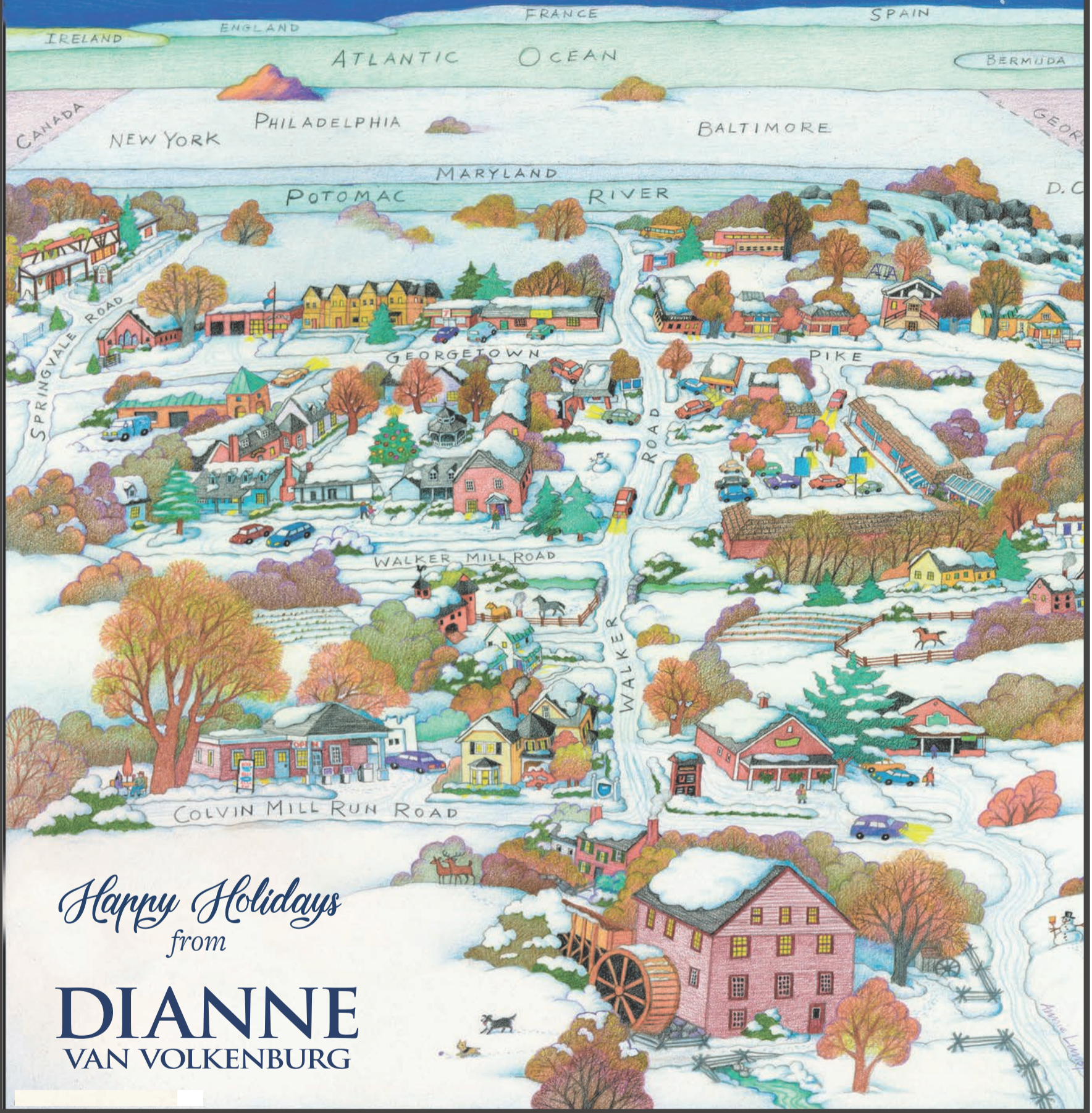
I experienced this circumstance one time and it nearly cost me \$3,000. I responded to an online solicitation that seemed to offer a reward/payout for something. It seemed harmless enough, so I made the call. Given how our consuming patterns have evolved with the internet, responding to emails from mostly familiar brands and buying some of what they're selling, "cyber-Monday" comes to mind, is how much of our consuming is done these days. And of course, you pay with a credit card to complete the transaction. However, sometimes the solicitations/sites are not what they purport to be. It's difficult to discern, occasionally, whether "it's live or if its Memorex." Sometimes, it's hard to tell fact from fiction/ to know what's real or what's not (dangerous). (Beginning in the 70s, Memorex advertised Ella Fitzgerald "scatting" into a microphone, live, and showing a glass breaking from her sound. Then they played their recording from the performance and again the wine glass shattered. And then the voice-over asked: "Is it live or Memorex?")

I think this is what happened to me when "I was in the grasp" after multiple hours on the phone. My innocent inquiry into the "real" offer lead me down more than just a garden path. Instead, it led very nearly to my bank – to pay the piper. It all started innocently enough (so I thought) with me giving control of my computer to this voice on the other end of the phone to process the purchase/payment due me. The payment was made to my bank, and I was told to go online and check my account. When I looked, I noticed a \$3,000 (not \$30) deposit. They made a mistake or so it seemed. Still on the phone with this far-away person, he admitted they made a mistake and to receive my real reward, I needed to repay them the \$3,000. I suggested that they simply retrieve the money the same way they deposited it. He said they couldn't do that - for whatever reason, and that I needed to repay them, this time said with a bit more urgency. I began to sense that I was being manipulated and slowed my roll accordingly.

Unfortunately, they sped up their roll and said if I didn't repay them, blah, blah, blah. I didn't agree and then their grip/manipulation got tighter. Having control of my computer, he deleted all my icons. I couldn't quite figure out what they were doing. Then when I asked for the icons to be returned, the scam took a nastier turn. He said, he was going to "lock" my computer unless I repaid the \$3,000. Being into the second hour of this negotiation, I began to get nervous – and flustered, realizing that unless I paid this ransom, my computer and all its memories would be gone, and since my computer is my business (and I have minimal computer skills/knowledge), I acquiesced and asked how what I should do to resolve this matter. He said I need to go to my bank and get a certified check (payable to whom I don't remember) and then go to a local Western Union office near me home and wire them the money. Now I officially realized that I was in trouble/at risk of losing this \$3,000. With no alternatives, so far as I knew (which wasn't very far), I went outside and got into my car and started driving to my bank, while still on the cell phone with this "solicitor." About halfway there, I decided I didn't want to be a victim and so I told the man I was not going to pay him. He got mad and said he "was going to lock my computer," (I determined that the \$3,000 payment would be more harmful to me than the computer lock). I turned the car around and returned home to find out if I had suffered any consequences for not paying. Sure enough, when I got home, I tried to turn on the computer, but I found it impossible to do so. Apparently, this man was indeed a man of his word, as far as locking my computer is concerned anyway. Now, whenever I receive emails from unfamiliar sites, they remain unseen. I learned my lesson, very nearly the hard way (unlocking the computer simply required a trip to Best Buy, computer in hand and to pay a fee for unlocking services rendered). I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer but thankfully I'm not the dullest, either.

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

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