

Jennifer Falcone of Jennifer's Pastries of Great Falls sets out a tray of pastries for her patrons at the Great Falls Farmer's Market last Saturday.

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

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Three Amendments Approved

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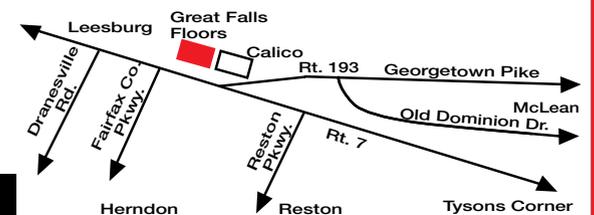
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Farmer's Market Closes for Season

Chronicle of Great Falls Farmer's Market: Year One.

BY KATHLEEN J. MURPHY
GFC

Robb Watters, founding father of the Great Falls Organic Farmers Market, first announced the upcoming market at the Buy Local meeting last year. He had assembled a small group of handpicked local farmers to participate in this small, quaint market, to be held in one of the most affluent communities in the nation. Opening day on Saturday, May 1, was a joyful day to participate in and see. The Board of Directors of St. Francis Episcopal Church approved of the market as a way to raise funds to donate to a mission their church was sponsoring in Africa. All of the proceeds of the fees charged for participating were earmarked for that purpose.

The market opened to resounding interest on the part of the community. There were traffic jams on Georgetown Pike, as people sought to enter or exit the Farmers' Market. Hosted in the warm embrace of the St. Francis community, citizens of Great Falls experienced the church's teamwork, hospitality, its outreach with information about how to join their church and brochures about what they stand for. The struggles to handle the parking were sweet as the fledgling expression of the wishes of the Great Falls community for 2020 — that there be a local farmers' market (shared by 63 percent of the 2020 vision respondents) — was being brought to fruition. Watters and his team worked out disciplined traffic patterns by the third week in May, thanks to support by the St. Francis Youth Group.

SOME VISITED the farmers market, shopped once, and found the prices to be high. Some came and became instantaneous loyal customers. Some tried to work a visit in between local sports commitments and work obligations. By the first of July, a precipitous drop in attendance could be seen. Watters announced that the farmers market would be closing for the summer on July 16. From July 4 through July 16, he negotiated with Mike Kearney for the Brogue Charities to take over the market in the center of town — which would make it much more convenient to those already out and about on a shopping trip. With only one weekend lost, the farmers' market resumed in the center of town.

The market enjoyed an immediate improvement in foot-traffic that lasted well

SEE FAREWELL, PAGE 7



Jared Serr and Dave Heiss of Toigo Orchards work out of their truck on Saturday. The scale battery was so cold by opening time that it would not measure weights. Jared and Dave moved the scale into the cab of the produce truck for the morning market.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ THE CONNECTION



Conrad and Betsy Marshall talk apples with Gary Riggelman at the Bigg Rigg's produce stand at the Great Falls Farmer's Market last Saturday.

Democracy at Work

This year, nearly 4,000 new voters registered in the 34th District.

BY MARGERET VANDERHYE
STATE DELEGATE (D-34)

While the country has been captivated and engaged by our historic political campaigns and the evolving financial crisis, my colleagues and I have been working at the state level to address Virginia's budget shortfalls and the impact they will have on our legislative agendas. The General Assembly will convene Jan. 14 and is scheduled to adjourn *sine die* on Feb. 28. This is the "short session" when adjustments are made to the biennial budget and we have considerable adjusting to do.

VANDERHYE
REPORT



PHOTO BY TOM NASH

The estimated Virginia budget shortfall is \$3 billion and there are indications that it may be growing worse. Cuts in spending are being proposed across the board and core government services like education and public safety will not be exempt. It is cold comfort to note that Virginia is not alone in this crisis. States across the country, particularly in the rust belt and California, are feeling the double hit of declining revenues at the state level compounded by the effects of the national financial meltdown.

Del. Margaret Margi Vanderhye (D-34)

MUCH OF THE WORK of the 2009 legislative session will focus on our finances and the tough choices we will have to make to balance our budget — a requirement of Virginia's Constitution. In the coming weeks I will share with you my own legislative proposals on energy efficiency, environmental protection, access to health care and transportation, and I will report on the fate of studies and proposals left unresolved at the end of the 2008 session.

Right now I welcome thoughts and

SEE VANDERHYE, PAGE 9

Holiday Season Kick Off

Great Falls Center kicks off a holiday season on Sunday, Nov. 30, 1-3 p.m. at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road. The event offers browsing through local stores; refreshments; selection of unique gifts.

The planned activities include free old-fashioned horse-drawn carriage rides with Santa around the parking lot as well as free 5X7 inches pet portraits by professional photographer with a possibility of purchasing extra photos.

The public is invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy to Long & Foster Realtors by Monday, Dec. 15 to cheer a needy child and send a message of hope on Christmas.

Community Center Idea Considered

Great Falls has a long history of forgoing the idea of a community center on the argument that it will bring traffic and density. However, Great Falls has been growing and changing as a community and this nomination is proposing that a community center is now a necessary part of fully developing the talents and abilities of our citizens.

While the nomination does not speak specifically about what the community center should look like or contain, it will provide an overview of the character of the population in Great Falls, emerging trends, and indicators of a need for a community center that forms a centerpiece for this community. While a full-scale needs assessment may be appropriate as a first step to designing such a center, the Great Falls Grange currently is being rented to interested parties throughout Fairfax County and the rental rates are prohibitive for use by Great Falls citizens for "amateur" uses. The Great Falls Golf and Tennis and the Great Falls Swim and Tennis facilities are of limited capacity and are restricted in use with 5-year waiting lists to join.

This nomination will be presented at the Great Falls Library Meeting Room at 7 p.m. on Dec. 2. All are welcome to attend.

— KATHLEEN J. MURPHY

Share Collects For Holiday Store

Share Inc., the charitable organization that serves the needy in McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills, will soon be taking up donations for its annual holiday store, which will be held Saturday, Dec. 13. Holiday store clients receive a grocery card to help them buy a holiday meal and a gift or two from their wish lists before they "shop" for free for a few more items.

All gifts are donated by the community, and residents are invited to drop off donations between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11 and Friday, Dec. 12 at Share's headquarters in McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road.

Share is asking for new, unwrapped items such as toys, games, house wares, small appliances, clothing ranging in size from infant to extra-large adult, and gift cards. Popular gift cards include Sears, Target, Best Buy, Footlocker, The Sports Authority, JC Penny, Marshalls and Visa. Cards in \$25 increments are especially helpful.

To donate more personal gifts, e-mail bonniewithshare@gmail.com. To volunteer at the holiday store, e-mail rebecca@ayresmchenry.com.

With the faltering economy, Share is expecting more clients than usual this year.

To learn more about the organization, visit www.shareofmclean.org.

Lions Club Holds Citrus Sale

The Great Falls Lions Club will be holding its semi-annual citrus sale Thursday, Dec. 4 through Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department parking lot.

Navel and Hamlin oranges, tangelos, red and white grapefruit will be on sale at \$25 per box or \$13 per half box. All profits from the sale go to support various local and national Lions charities.

NEWS

Three Amendments Approved

APR Task Force forwards plan amendments on power lines, pervious surfaces.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Doug Cobb had nominated an amendment to the county's Comprehensive Plan requesting the burial of utility wires in Great Falls, but he said he knew the county had no control over the location of power and telephone lines. "Crying to the county about overhead lines is silly. It's a waste of time," he told the Dranesville Area Plan Review (APR) Task Force. Nonetheless, he said he wanted to make the statement that it was a priority in the area.

County staff had advised against all three proposed nominations that were up for review at the task force's meeting last Tuesday, Nov. 18, but the group voted that they all be recommended to the Planning Commission, although not all retained their original form. Last week's was the first of three APR Task Force meetings focusing on Great Falls. County planner Clara Quintero Johnson, who is leading the team of county staff that is working with the task force, said adding such language to the part of the plan addressing Great Falls could lead the public to think the county regulated public facilities. Also, she said, the Comprehensive Plan is only consulted when a property is being considered for rezoning and it already contains language expressing a preference for underground wires in those cases.

IN ADDITION to making a statement, Cobb said he wanted to raise awareness of the issues surrounding burying the lines, which he said lay in the hands of the State Corporation Commission (SCC). "It's interesting to me that we are so ignorant of the SCC in our life," he said.

Cobb said the commission would never mandate the burial of all utility wires unless it was convinced that the cost of such an expensive project would be justified. He cited several numbers from SCC documents regarding the matter, saying he thought the costs were being overstated. "The numbers are really screwy. They are not honest numbers the State Corporation Commission is looking at," Cobb said.

The only hopes for change, he said, would be a class action lawsuit against Dominion Virginia Power for property damage or state legislators convincing the commission to revisit the numbers it used.

Cobb said he wanted something in the Comprehensive Plan to make it known that Great Falls felt strongly about the matter, "even if it's in the wrong place. Somebody might stumble on it."

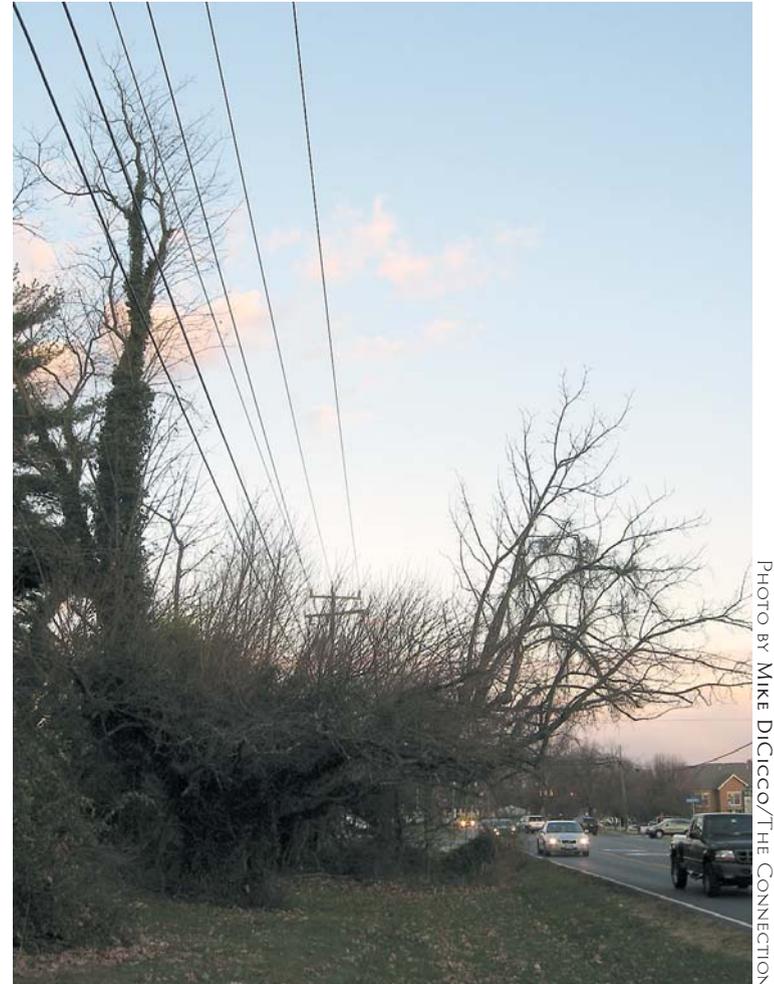


PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Scenes like this one on Georgetown Pike are common in Great Falls, where the abundant trees and overhead utility lines don't always get along. The APR Task Force lent its approval to a Comprehensive Plan amendment encouraging the burial of utility lines.

Task force member Kathleen Murphy agreed, saying she thought the point of area plan reviews was "to take a read on the pulse of the community" and find out what residents wanted for their area. She noted that 85 percent of respondents to the Great Falls Citizens Association's (GFCA) recent 2020 Vision Survey had expressed a desire to have the lines buried, making it a top priority.

"Here we are, one of the wealthiest areas in this county and we've got this blight," task force member Darren Ewing agreed.

After some debate, the group approved an altered version of the proposed amendment, with two dissenting votes. The re-

worded amendment "strongly encouraged" that all newly developed or redeveloped properties bury all utility lines to prevent trees from being damaged when they are cut back to protect the wires, as well as for safety and quality-of-life reasons.

GREAT FALLS TRAILBLAZERS PRESIDENT Eleanor Weck had proposed an amendment expressing a preference for trails with permeable surfaces and staff had recommended against it, saying the preference was already laid out in the trails plan and that surfaces should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

"Staff's position is that the best choice of surface material should be based on the site," Quintero Johnson said.

Weck agreed, but said developers should have to

SEE TASK FORCE, PAGE 5

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Task Force Moves Forward

FROM PAGE 4

ask for a waiver to build concrete sidewalks, except within a mile of a commercial area or elementary school. Currently, she said, the county does not support permeable trails in the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) right of way along roads because VDOT won't maintain them. At the same time, developers are often required to build walkways along those roads, forcing the construction of paved sidewalks where residents would rather see stone dust trails.

"Here we are, one of the wealthiest areas in this county, and we've got this blight."

— Darren Ewing

Weck's proposal suggested stone dust or natural surface trails, but task force member Jack Wilbern proposed that the amendment simply request "permeable surface."

"Permeable surface works for me. That's all you have to say," Weck said.

The amendment passed unanimously.

Before passing Eleanor Anderson's proposal that the use of pervious and semipervious materials be encouraged for paved areas, the task force actually strengthened the amendment.

COUNTY OBJECTION was again that the en-

couragement was already part of the countywide plan. However, Anderson said the current plan only suggested that impervious surfaces be minimized or recommended pervious material for things like low-use parking areas and she wasn't seeing anyone in the area using pervious material. "I don't think the language that is in this one place in the plan has any impact on developers or anyone else looking at what they can do in their area," she said.

Task force member Jody Bennett suggested that the wording be changed to discourage pervious pavement.

Wilbern agreed, calling it "useless" for the county to encourage pervious pavement while including pervious surfaces in lot coverage calculations.

The amendment was unanimously approved and also led to discussion about how the Comprehensive Plan should be implemented.

As task force members discussed local instances of overpaving, Quintero Johnson pointed out that the plan is not consulted for by-right development. Task force chairman John Ulfelder suggested that maybe it should be.

Rich Bliss of the task force agreed. "I've heard three or four times tonight, 'You can't get there from here,'" he said. "You've got this wonderful plan and nobody's got to pay any attention to it."

The group decided to work that into its final report.

All task force recommendations will be vetted by the Planning Commission before being forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.



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Katie Parent, Natalie Duncan and Grace Barnes volunteered to check in guests at the door for the first annual GFFFTA gala last Friday evening.

Foundation Gala Attracts Arts Lovers

Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, Inc. (GFFFTA) held its inaugural annual Gala Friday, Nov. 21. The event brought together area artists, friends, and aficionados who share the passion for the arts. All proceeds from the event will be supporting the new Great Falls School of Art, whose immediate needs are to locate, equip and manage a teaching facility in Great Falls.

More than 50 local and regional artists have donated a collection of original art, photography, jewelry, pottery, quilts and more for the event's silent art auction.

Great Falls School of Art is one of three programs of GFFFTA and was established in 2008. GFFFTA was founded by the artists of Great Falls Studios, an organization of more than 75 artists who live or work in Great Falls.

Great Falls Studios founder Laura Nichols thanks all of those who participated in the annual studio tour and presents a check of the proceeds from the tour to the Foundation.



Brenda Drake, chair of the evening's event, receives a bouquet of roses in appreciation.



Peggy and Tom Styer talk with David and Mary Orr as the bidding is closed on the last silent auction area.



Michael and Mollie Vardell, board chair of the GFFFTA.

Jorge Adeler, of Adeler Jewelers in Great Falls, successfully completed the Advanced Course on Philippine Golden South Sea Pearl Production in Taytay, Palawan, Philippines.

Adeler recently returned from a trip to the Philippines where he completed a seminar held at the Jeweler International Corporation Pearl Farms. This seminar focused on the art and science of Golden South Sea pearl farming.

Adeler enrolled in this seminar as part of a 15 day trip to Asia which took him to the Akoya pearl farms of Mikimoto Island in Japan, to Shuji China for the production of fresh water pearls and to world renowned auction of Robert Wang in Hong Kong for Tahitian black pearls.

Adeler is the owner and master jewelry designer of Adeler Jewelers in Great Falls. Adeler Jewelers is an American Gem Society title holder that specializes in custom designed jewelry featuring exotic gems and pearls, diamonds and ancient coins all crafted in one of kind designs in platinum, 18k and 14k gold.

For more information on Jorge Adeler accreditation and trip visit www.AdelerJewelers.com or call (703) 759-4076.

A newly developed organic skin cream is providing relief to U.S. troops stationed in Iraq and is now available online at Studio Organics in Vienna. **Sara Damelio**, an organic beauty specialist and licensed esthetician created the Combat-Ready Balm and continues to donate dozens of care packages containing the product to US troops.

"I'm delighted that my product is useful to our servicemen and women. It was intended to provide skin relief to different people with varying skin conditions without the use of harsh chemicals and preservatives," Damelio said.

Damelio created a line of earth friendly skin care products as an alternative to the standard chemically-laden products that have saturated the market in recent years. Damelio makes all of her skincando products to order by hand.

For more information about Combat-Ready Balm, contact Victoria Michael at 202 215 8991 or skincando@aol.com

Studio Organics is located at 123 Church St. NW Vienna, VA 22180 571-214-8689 www.pilarskincarestudio.com



Jorge Adeler



Sara Damelio shows her Combat-Ready Balm.

Farewell, Until Spring

FROM PAGE 3

into October. This was another aspect of how we would like to see Great Falls in the year 2020 — pedestrians enjoying a vibrant, dynamic semi-rural village center. Artists, jewelry vendors, peanut brittle, pies and cheese cakes competed head to head with the amazing heirloom tomatoes, sweet peppers, all kinds of potatoes and leafy greens and cabbages, etc.

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) enjoyed a rash of more than 400-500 new members and collected close to 2,000 signatures on the “Safe the Pike” petition at the market. Whether you met with Sue or I — or Ralph, Annie, Eric, Joe, David and his sons, Marta, Jack, Dave, or Jim, it was our pleasure to make ourselves available to the community to inform you all about the fact that we are only a zip code — not a town. The only way that we are able to advocate on behalf of the community of Great Falls is through our Citizens Association. It is our goal to invite every citizen of Great Falls to become an active member. You gave us such joy when you decided it was time to join or time to renew. We heard your concerns, we listened to your ideas, we took many of your suggestions, we shared your thoughts, we benefited from knowing the pulse of the community that you so kindly shared with us. Many stepped forward and volunteered. We may or may not have gotten back to you to take you up on your offer —

we built a new membership database and some tasks ran away from us there for a while. But know that you are always welcome to come give us a hand on any committee at any time.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? Our marketers are going into a deep winter sleep for about four months. On or about April 1, they will all be here again to share the bounty of their labor with us. Know that local merchants and farmers are welcome to sign up. James Madison (of Brogue fame) is the market manager. See him over the winter if you would like to set up a table.

Through the dedicated efforts of our local farmers and their understanding that when you plant something — whether a string bean, a tomato or a farmers market, you’ve got to give it time before it takes hold and starts to grow. Their dedication to the small market of Great Falls is immensely appreciated. It is our hope that the memory of our first farmers’ market will warm all of our hearts this Thanksgiving. As we kindle the thought of our very own farmers’ market as we sit by the fire this winter, let’s savor the magical notion that in one aspect, for one brief shining spring, summer and autumn 2008, we successfully turned our “zip code” community into the “vibrant semi-rural village” of our dreams.

The writer is chair of the GFCA Long-Range Planning and Development.



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OPINION

Shop Locally

Local shops help define community, and this year, they need local support.

The economic situation is daunting, and it's probably true that most families, even families who feel financially secure, will be more frugal in this holiday season than in the past.

But we're pretty sure that almost all of us will be doing some significant holiday shopping in the next month. While you're at it, be sure to spend a portion of your shopping dollars close to home.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of the shopping in some of the area's locally

owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Small retail shops are part of what defines any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. The costs of being in business have grown tremendously while revenues are not.

Competition from Big Box stores, expanded shopping malls and the Internet make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. In this area, almost everyone will do some shopping via the Internet.

But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

Give Locally

EDITORIALS

Local charities seeing unprecedented demand from struggling families for food and other help.

Putting food on the table for the family. It's such a basic activity and most of us are lucky enough to make choices of what we'll buy at the grocery store, whether this is a carry-out night or an eat-out night one or more days a week.

Meanwhile local charities and food banks are finding it hard to gather enough food to keep up with the demand from people who are suddenly unable to afford enough food to put on the table for their families.

Housing costs, the foreclosure crisis, spiking energy and food costs over the past year and other economic woes have put a tremendous strain on working poor families in Northern Virginia.

Included in The Connection over the past few weeks and in coming weeks are stories and listings of local organizations that help local families in need and especially nonprofit groups that provide help to families during the holiday season. These organizations report that

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www.shareofmclean.org, 703-284-2179
- ♦ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**,
Vienna, 703-281-7614
- ♦ **Northern Virginia Family Service**,
Oakton, 703-385-3267

while demand is up dramatically, contributions are down. They need your help to respond to increasingly needy families.

Here is a partial listing of local organizations that help the needy, every one is facing intense and increasing demand for services. Read more at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Virginia's Sheltered Life

PERSPECTIVES

Are we building a permanent poorhouse system instead of solving the tragedy of homelessness.

BY JOHN HOREJSI
SALT

When I purchased my first computer I was delighted to discover that its software package contained "spellcheck." It was amazing to me that in connection with my SALT advocacy leadership work every time I typed in the word "homelessness" the spellcheck would reject it as "no such word." How times have changed. Already we have seen an evolution of a new vocabulary. In the homeless jargon, homeless shelters are of several different kinds: Housing First, Tier I, transitional, soup kitchens, day programs. Hypothermia only shelters, etc. The tragedy is that we run the risk of accepting these as a solution to our affordable housing problems.

Shelters must remain a necessary first response to the requirements for those living on our streets. However, when shelters become the low-income housing of the 2000s, this is not acceptable. Shelters were envisioned to be temporary pending "real" housing solutions. The question is: are we building a permanent poorhouse system instead of solving the tragedy of homelessness?

The fact is, shelters are becoming the low-income housing of the 2000s. So much so, that they represent one of the few growth areas in housing for poor people. The other area of growth is prisons; we're building lots of them in Virginia at an enormous cost — that far exceeds the cost of any other housing approach.

Substituting shelters for meaningful affordable housing has serious consequences. It means that we are well on our way to building a permanent poorhouse system. In short, shelters cannot substitute for real housing for low-income families and poor individuals.

Biblically speaking, God's vision for human beings is that "they shall build houses and inhabit them" (Isaiah 65:21). Housing is understood as a means to preserve and protect all of us.

We are reminded, that our church offers an alternative view, in that the church has traditionally viewed housing not as a commodity, but as a basic human right. Housing is being seriously neglected as a priority of local, state and national concern of governmental action and investment. For example federal housing programs were cut 80 percent in the '80s and those cuts were never restored.

We must always remember that none of us

are immune to homelessness. When persons are unable to secure decent housing their humanness is diminished. The lack of available affordable housing leads to economic hardship, community instability and a sense of hopelessness among families and individuals.

Some surprising facts, in Virginia — the 10th most wealthy state — are: that more and more families in the commonwealth are forced to spend more than 30 percent of their incomes on housing. In Northern Virginia this includes even two income households. Nationally 37.5 million households spent an excess of 30 percent of their income on housing. Also, did you know that 19,550 households in Virginia lack complete indoor plumbing? Additionally, the problem is made worse by Virginia's income distribution among the 50 states — the gap between rich and the poor families — Virginia ranks 43rd (1=best, 50=worst).

Some time ago, SALT & Partners arranged for NOVA legislators to visit a homeless shelter. All, were struck by the fact that there were no homeless residents to be found. It turns out that all were away from the shelter at their jobs, working. So what's going on here? Why

Vanderhuy Report

FROM PAGE 3

ideas about how to address our budget shortfall: what programs should be protected and what can be postponed or eliminated? On Saturday, Jan. 3, Sen. Janet Howell, Del. Jim Scott and I will host a town hall meeting, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the McLean Community Center to share our ideas and listen to yours. I will also attend the countywide legislative hearings at the Fairfax County Government Center, Saturday, Jan. 10. I hope to see many members of our communities at one or both of these sessions.

In this season of thanksgiving and holiday preparations we are grateful for a vibrant democracy and an engaged electorate. Whether your candidates won or lost, the good news is that concerns about voter apathy, especially among our younger citizens, have been laid to rest.

THIS YEAR, nearly 4,000 new voters reg-

istered in the 34th District. On both sides of the aisle, people who had never volunteered for a political campaign signed up in droves to knock on doors, make phone calls and drive voters to the polls. Here in the 34th District, where we consistently turn out to vote in higher than average numbers, nearly 10,000 people cast absentee ballots, either by mail or in person. I personally greeted hundreds of people who waited daily in long lines at the McLean Government Center to vote early in the weeks before election day. In total, more than 78 percent of the 55,492 registered voters in the 34th District cast ballots in the election.

Our nation's 232-year experiment in democracy is clearly alive and well. It is an honor and a privilege to represent people who care so much and I look forward to seeing many of you at our January meetings and/or hearing from you at my district office in McLean or at my office in Richmond once the General Assembly convenes.

Student Connection Deadline, Dec. 5

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Connection turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

As with previous years' issues, we will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any

media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to submit are also encouraged.

Mail, e-mail or deliver submissions to the Connection by Dec. 5. Our address is 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. E-mail to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com, or call 703-917-6428 with questions.

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All Grades:	\$35/hr	\$45/hr	(Regular \$60/hr)
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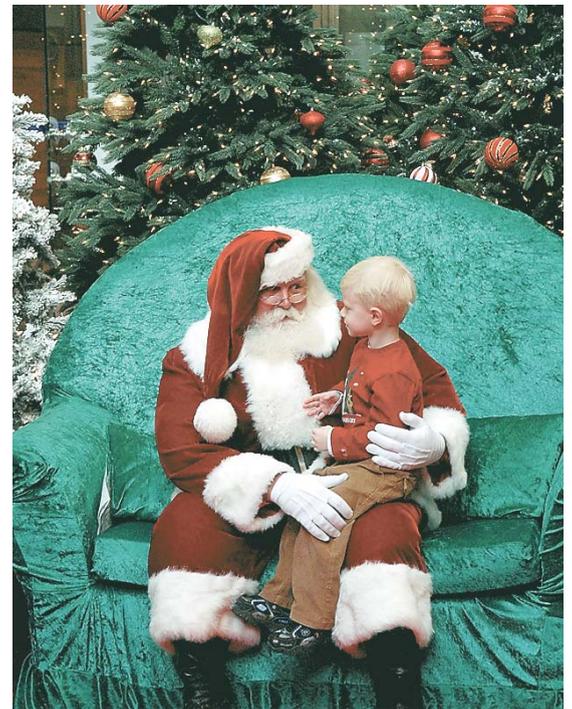
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

Santa Mike Graham, poses with a child on his first day back for the holiday season last Saturday at the Tysons Corner Center after a brief contract extension uncertainty.

Santa's Back to Town



Tyson's Corner Center was busy with shoppers last Saturday as Santa, Mike Graham, sits within a grove of holiday trees.



Dane Rambler describes to Santa his wishes for the holidays last Saturday at the Tysons Corner Center. The mall's Santa for many years, Mike Graham, went through challenges of his contract extension before coming back for another joyful holiday season.

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Move-Ins Begin at Reserve at Tysons

The Reserve at Tysons Corner, a brand-new luxury apartment community in Tysons Corner, has opened an onsite Welcome Center just off of Gallows Road at Science Applications Court, where prospective residents can obtain leasing information and begin their personal tours. The community is now leasing Phase I of its 574 new one- and two-bedroom apartment homes with monthly rental rates beginning at \$1,599.



The Reserve at Tysons Corner is now leasing Phase I apartments.

Located just one mile south of Tysons Galleria, The Reserve at Tysons Corner provides easy access to Tysons Corner Center and The Galleria as well as the Dunn Loring Metro station, employment centers, and the Capital Beltway.

Phase I amenities at The Reserve at Tysons Corner include a hotel-style lobby with contemporary seating areas; a resident lounge with a plasma screen television, fitness lounge, and free Wi-Fi; and controlled-access entry along with garage parking. Outdoor amenities include a pool with sundeck, garden courtyard with intimate

seating, and a children's "fun park."

Residents can choose from a variety of granite and cabinet finishes to customize their new homes. Each apartment features high-tech wiring, two-tone paint, custom plantation blinds, wide-planked hardwood flooring, crown molding, chair rails, and upgraded contemporary lighting. State-of-the-art kitchens feature granite

countertops, stainless steel GE appliances, gas cooking, and side-by-side refrigerators with programmable icemakers and water dispensers. Sumptuous bathrooms include wood cabinets and granite countertops, imported ceramic tile floors and tub/shower surrounds, deep soaking tubs, and contemporary fixtures.

For more information, visit www.renttysons.com.



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CALENDAR

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

The Feast: Bo Jankans, Sleepy Hollow, Blackbox Entertainment and Trekot. Hip-hop. 9 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

The Grandsons. 8 p.m. Roots rock at The Barns. Tickets \$16. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Thanksgiving Arts and Crafts Showcase, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Admission \$3. A wide range of unique art and craft items. Visit www.nvhg.org.

Fastball, Shane Hines and the Trance and MHR. Pop/rock. 7:30 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Friday/Nov. 28

Warrenton Author Susan Crites will be reading and signing her children's book "I Love You More Than Rainbows," 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Tyson's Corner Borders, 8027 Leesburg Pike Suite 100, Vienna. 703-556-7766 or www.susancrites.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m. Classic songs at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts,



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

The Haddad Youth Ballet presents **The Nutcracker** with international guest artists on Saturday and Sunday at Madeira School, Georgetown Pike, McLean.

1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Enter the Haggis. Celtic rock. 8 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Thanksgiving Arts and Crafts Showcase, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

The Haddad Youth Ballet presents **The Nutcracker** with international guest artists at Madeira School, Georgetown Pike McLean, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are: Adult \$23, Seniors/Students \$20, Child \$16. Tickets & Info 703 759 3366.

advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Jody Marshall, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Reservations required. \$15. Call 703-759-3309.

The Haddad Youth Ballet presents **The Nutcracker** with international guest artists at Madeira School, Georgetown Pike McLean, 4 p.m. Tickets are: Adult \$23, Seniors/Students \$20, Child \$16. Tickets & Info 703 759 3366.

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Thanksgiving Arts and Crafts Showcase, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

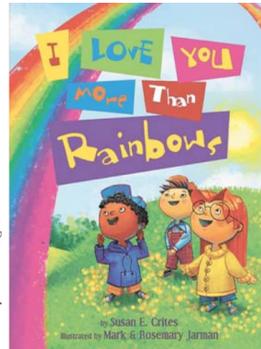
Rosie Thomas and Friends present "A Very Rosie Christmas" with Sheila Saputo and Cheyenne. Indie/folk. 8 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Annual Church Street Holiday Stroll, co-sponsored by the Town of Vienna, Historic Vienna and the merchants of Church Street. Church Street is closed to vehicular traffic between Lawyers Road and Mill Street, and visitors are invited to stroll along the street amid the sights and sounds of the holiday season. Santa Claus greets children at the Freeman House.

SUNDAY/NOV. 30

Great Falls Center kicks off a holiday season, 1-3 p.m. at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road. The event promises a fun-filled day for the whole family, including browsing through fine local stores; refreshments; selection of unique gifts; free old-fashioned horse-drawn carriage rides with Santa around the parking lot, as well as free 5x7 inches pet portraits by professional photographer with a possibility of purchasing extra photos. The public is invited to bring new, unwrapped toys to Long & Foster Realtors by Monday, Dec. 15 to cheer a needy child and send a message of hope on Christmas.

Songwriters Circle featuring **Anthony Fiacco, Shane Hines and Todd Wright.** 7 p.m. \$10 in



Warrenton Author Susan Crites will be reading and signing her new children's book "I Love You More Than Rainbows" on Friday, Nov. 28, at the Tyson's Corner Borders Bookstore.

American Association of University Women Annual Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at Monterey Bay Fish Grotto, 1800 Tysons Blvd., Tysons Corner. Linda Jewell will talk about life in the Foreign Service, and her efforts to promote equal treatment of women. Cost \$29. Nonperishable food, paper goods and toiletries will be collected for Share, Inc. 703-356-0529 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

Great Falls Friends Annual Holiday Breakfast, 8 a.m. at the Great Falls Library. Light breakfast, networking and conversation. Call Candace 703-759-0375.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

Mothers First of Great Falls, 10 a.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-827-5922 or www.mothersfirst.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

Melissa Ferrick. Folk rock. 7:30 p.m. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Loretto Desjardins and Lee Gigliotti colonial-style home was recently completely renovated.

Four Homes Invite Visitors

Holiday Homes Tour promises "viewing pleasures."

The 42nd Annual Holiday Homes Tour and Marketplace, sponsored by the Woman's Club of McLean, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit service organization, will be held Thursday, Dec. 11, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 beginning Dec. 8 and may be purchased at Mesmeralda's Gifts of McLean, Karin's Florist of Vienna, Cathy's Corner of Great Falls, New to You of Falls Church and on the club Web-site, mcleanwc.org.

As usual, four of McLean's prestigious homes will be decorated for the holidays for the community's viewing pleasure.

THE COLONIAL-STYLE HOME of Loretto Desjardins and Lee Gigliotti was recently completely renovated featuring oak floors

Marketplace

The Marketplace, located at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Lane, offers a boutique featuring Spaeder Designs, Southern Living Home, Two Laughing Ladies, 4-J's Solutions and Woman's Club Crafts plus Grandma's Attic, Sweet Delights homemade goodies, and beverages, sandwiches and snacks.

throughout, custom woodwork and triple-crown molding. Inside, the brightly lit foyer features marble floors and a huge Venetian glass chandelier and the winding staircase is graced with a large painting of the Wailing Wall. This house features many interesting appointments: sunken great room with floor to ceiling palladium windows, a Jack and Jill bath, a

SEE HOMES OPEN, PAGE 18

38th ANNUAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

Thursday, Dec. 4 – Saturday, Dec. 6

A Christmas Marketplace
Thursday, Dec. 4-Saturday, Dec. 6

Taste of Scotland
Friday, Dec. 5th at 8:00 pm-10:30 pm

Scottish Walk Parade
Saturday, Dec. 6th at 11:00 a.m.

Designer Tour of Homes
Saturday, Dec. 6th 11:00 am-4:00 pm

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The entire Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend—including the Scottish Walk Parade—is hosted by The Campagna Center. All of the weekend proceeds benefit The Campagna Center's programs, helping children in Alexandria arrive at school ready to learn and ensuring their academic success. We rely on gifts from individuals and businesses to continue providing these outstanding services. For more information on how you can contribute to The Campagna Center's efforts, please visit www.campagnacenter.org or call (703) 549-0111.

For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 548-0111.
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OPEN HOUSES

Saturday/Sunday November 29 & 30

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Vienna					
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9509 Francis Young Ln	\$1,459,320	12/7 12-4 & 12/14	Lillian Jorgenson Long & Foster		703-790-1990

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact:
In Great Falls, call Salome, 703-917-6467
In Vienna, call Don, 703-917-6466, or
In McLean, call Lauri, 703-917-6460

Habitat Transplanted

Great Falls Elementary's wildlife habitat dismantled for renovation, dispersed through county.

By MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

Over the course of this month, Elaine Tholen has coordinated the dismantling of the Great Falls Elementary School wildlife habitat she helped to create nine years ago. Renovations on the school are about to begin, and a utility building will go where the garden was.

Tholen said undoing her work was "a little bit" frustrating, but she was glad to have found homes for all the plants, which are being replanted at seven schools around the county, including Forestville and Colvin Run elementary schools.

A MEMBER of the Great Falls Citizens Association's Environment Committee, Tholen had worked to have the garden built in the fall of 1999, when she had children at the school. It was a group effort. "The community and kids planted everything in there," she said.



Sixth graders Jordan Parent, Anthony Perotti, Saim Rizvi, Sepanta Khoshnoud, Haley Powers and Dylan Appleby help Marjorie Yaro, a parent from Thomas Jefferson High School, remove stones from the Great Falls Elementary wildlife habitat. Thomas Jefferson was one of seven county schools that received plants from the elementary school.

When she heard about the upcoming renovations, she contacted the school's administration. "I sort of put my citizens association hat on and decided to help them figure out what to do," she said.

SEE PLANTS PRESERVED, PAGE 16

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Plants Preserved

FROM PAGE 15

Like its construction, the habitat's demolition has been carried out by students and the community, including three landscaping companies — Sab Lawn and Landscape, Fine Landscapes, and CLS Lawn and Landscape, which had helped to create the garden. Last week, the landscapers pulled out the red bud trees and the viburnums and other large shrubs.

Until the beginning of November, the habitat covered an area of about 40 by 50 feet with a largely native variety of plants, including Virginia sweetspire, inkberry shrubs, summersweet and many others. All had been carefully chosen to provide habitats for birds, butterflies and other insects, Tholen said. "It housed a remarkable number of birds. The bird houses were always full."

She said classes had used the garden for science projects, but it also provided a quiet place to eat lunch or for counselors to work with students.

"It was a nice place to be, obviously," said Great Falls Elementary Principal Ernest Leighty. He said classes had collected butterflies for their butterfly unit there and used the habitat for other nature lessons.

Leighty said the renovated school would have another wildlife habitat, perhaps in the courtyard. "We want it to be at least what this one was, if not more," he said.

Tholen said planning for the next garden would be coordinated with the team renovating the school while renovations were going on. She said she was sure schools that had received plants from Great Falls Elementary would be glad to donate plants to its next wildlife habitat. The school has also given plants to a number of schools as they started their own habitats. Spring Hill Elementary in McLean had already sent



Elaine Tholen, left, and Thomas Jefferson High School parent Brenda Lin weld their shovels.

Great Falls Elementary a video of its students putting the plants they had received into the ground and thanking the school in chorus.

MATT HARRIS, principal at Forestville Elementary, said Tholen had brought two plants from the habitat, as well as two red hibiscuses she had picked up elsewhere, and planted them in the school's garden the weekend before last. "She helped us start our habitat in the atrium, so that's where she planted them," Harris said.

He said the plants from the Great Falls Elementary habitat were a fothergilla shrub and a meadow rue, both of which serve as hosts to the caterpillars of the black swallowtail butterfly.

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SCHOOLS

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Starshine Theater of Great Falls is now enrolling student actors ages 4 through 12 for the play, "Peter Pan." Each student receives a dramatic character role, as well as singing and dance/action opportunities. Rehearsals begin Saturday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. at The School of Theatrical Dance in Great Falls.

Also enrolling: "Starshine Little Dancers" Workshop for ages 3 through 5 (pre-ballet & creative dance), and "Music 'n Motion for Mommy 'n Me" for ages 1 through 4 (singing, dance/action activities and dramatics).

Contact: Patricia Budwig, Creative Director, 703.790.9050, (email: StarshineTheater@aol.com)

Oakton High School Dance Team Clinic, Dec. 15-18, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. Open to students in grades 7-12. Pre-clinic registration \$90, registration at the door \$100. Contact Missy Isakowitz at isakowitz5@gmail.com or Coach Rowley at Karen.Rowley@fcps.edu.

Two students from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology have been named Regional Finalists in the 2008 Siemens Competition for Math, Science, and Technology, and seven TJHSST students were named 2008 Siemens Semifinalists. The two finalists, who placed in the top 30 in the nation, are **Varun Bansal** of Great Falls and **Alexander Kim** of Fairfax.

The seven semifinalists, who placed in the top 300 in the nation, are **Sudha Guttikonda** of Herndon, **David Kim** of McLean, **Joy Lee** of Haymarket, **Manchali Madduri** of Springfield,

Sumit Malik of Great Falls, **Christopher Olund** of Springfield, and **Aditya Palepu** of Oakton.

Regional Finalists will compete at one of six regional competitions held over three consecutive weekends in November. The winner will be named on December 8. Awards range from \$1,000 for semifinalists to \$100,000 for the winner of the national competition.

Four McLean seniors, **Nabeel Bakhsh**, majoring in information technology, **Rania Beydoun**, majoring in biology, **Sandra Fard**, majoring in psychology, and **Adam Holoubek**, majoring in fashion merchandising, are among the Marymount University stu-

dents who have been named to the 2008 "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities."

Alyssa Marie Mesich, daughter of Sandy and Gary Mesich of Vienna, was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma at James Madison University. Mesich is majoring in business administration.

Tyler Jerrell of McLean is part of the 474-member Marching Royal Dukes, representing James Madison University in the 82nd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Nov. 27 in New York City. With its largest membership in JMU history, the marching band is one of 10 bands performing in the Thanksgiving tradition.



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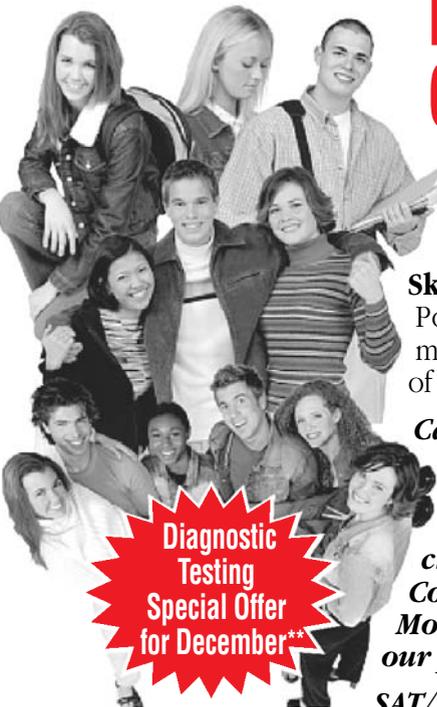
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Homes Open for Viewing

FROM PAGE 14

study with a spectacular collection of leather-bound classics, a hand-carved marble fireplace imported from China, a cheery red rooster country kitchen, a collection of Herrend, Lalique and Limoge and many sculptures by Robert Kuhn.

Built in 2002, the Jeff and Lisa Milloy six-bedroom, seven-and-one-half-baths farmhouse-style colonial, designed by Butz Wilbern, features a blue slate walk leading to the Honduran mahogany and water glass custom-made door. Patterned hardwood floors with Brazilian cherry trimmed doorways and cabinetry abound. A custom designed media center was built as an attractive addition between the family room and front door. A Lauren Klose antique painted wall adorns the first-floor powder room. The cherry library cabinetry was designed by the owner. The wall behind the professional stove is decorated by a trompe l'oeil of brick and plaster also designed by Lauren Klose. The master bedroom of travertine and marble boasts a two-person Jacuzzi.

The home of Farzaneh and Ali Saadat is a very modern house, referred to as "New Modern Architecture" designed by Faro Farahi of Third Space. This home displays an array of design factors and uniqueness that is rarely seen. Glass and mirrors are the main elements that make the house so unique and mystical. They have been put to use in areas such as walls, stair railings and some flooring. The works of art are all original pieces done by the architect. At the far end of the house, one can enjoy the atrium and indoor garden. The kitchen is made of wood that has been glazed over by a special lacquer that gives it an unblemished look. All the flooring on the first floor is cement that has been given an interesting finish. The stairs to the upper level are wood-framed with thick glass. This is an extremely imaginative home.

THE LAST HOUSE, owned by George P. Sigalos, is a one-of-a-kind New England contemporary spanning traditional architectural elements from the colonial design period and merging them with the contemporary lines of today. High vaulted ceilings and beams provide a unique interior including numerous skylights. An expanse of windows on the rear of the home provides a pristine view of the forested area. A split-level wrap-around deck on the back provides a peaceful retreat and offers ample space for entertaining. The three-story dwelling consists of four bedrooms, three and a half baths and an indoor heated swimming pool. Sigalos is an avid collector of movie and political memorabilia as well as antiques and unique pieces from around the world.



Jeff and Lisa Milloy six-bedroom, seven-and-one-half-baths farmhouse-style colonial.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The home of Farzaneh and Ali Saadat is a modern house, referred to as "New Modern Architecture."



A home owned by George P. Sigalos, is a one-of-a-kind New England contemporary.

There are many paintings to be enjoyed with many done by the owner. Some of the rooms feature Hollywood stars and the "Gone With the Wind" collection is a must see. Club members refer to the home as

"The Hollywood House."

Profit from the tour and Marketplace will benefit the McLean and surrounding communities.

OBITUARY

Karim F. Kawmy, 58, Dies

Karim F. Kawmy, 58, a director of sales operations of PepsiCo International, died Nov. 15 of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma while at his home in Great Falls. Kawmy worked for PepsiCo International for the past 21 years and at the time of his death was director of sales and operations for Central Saudi Arabia. Over 32 years he worked in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt and Dubai, with frequent trips to the U.S. to visit family. In 1999 he was a PepsiCo President's Ring of Honor recipient for top sales performance.

He was born April 14, 1950, in Tripoli, Lebanon, moved to Danville, Ill., in 1968, and became a U.S. citizen in 1976. He held an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management and a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Susan Kawmy of Great Falls and four children: Jumana M. of Chicago, Ill.; Rashad F. of Arlington; Marya M., attending Roanoke College in Salem; and Elie W., attending Langley High School in McLean.

The family is congregants of St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, where a memorial service was held, Friday, Nov. 21, at 11 a.m. Suggested recipient of tributes in lieu of flowers is The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society: www.leukemia-lymphoma.org; P.O. Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

HEALTH NOTES

Health notes are for support groups, exercise classes, blood drives and similar events open to the public at no or minimal cost. Send information to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Northern Virginia Stuttering Support Group, a support group for people who stutter meets the **third Tuesday** of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, at 7:30 p.m. Call 703-319-8382 or e-mail virginia.nsa@earthlink.net.

The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region of the **American Red Cross** is **seeking volunteers** to assist its blood collections staff at blood drives and blood donor centers. This position is offered to people who are 14 years of age or older. Training is provided. To register for training, call the American Red Cross Volunteer Office at 1-800-272-0094, ext. 1, or e-mail karloff@usa.redcross.org.

Great Falls Parkinson's Disease Support Group meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike. The Parkinson Foundation welcomes PD patients and family members. They are dedicated to mutual self-help and the enhancement of coping skills for those with Parkinson's Disease. There is no fee. Call Glenn Lawrence at 703-406-2732.

Peer support group for survivors of clergy abuse and others affected by the abuse, on the **last Wednesday** of every month at 7 p.m., in the downstairs meeting room at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Road, McLean. Meetings are sponsored by Voice of the Faithful-Northern Virginia affiliate. Contact Ellen Radday at 703-538-6128.

FAITH

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

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries is looking for volunteers to provide food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Western Fairfax Ministries will provide information about a family in need, and the volunteer will deliver the basket(s) directly to the sponsored family. Contact Pam Ryan at 703-988-9656 or volunteer@wfcma.org.

Epiphany United Methodist Church Annual Christmas Bazaar, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6. Silent auction, crafts, Poinsettias, wreaths and centerpieces for sale; baked goods and lunch also available. Located at 1014 Country Club Drive N.E., Vienna. 703-938-3494.

Faith and Public Policy Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 8:30 a.m., Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. "Green Architecture - Environmental Stew-

ardship in our Churches and Homes," with speakers Joe Volk, Executive Director of Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Mark Turner, Founder and CEO of Green Spur. 703-356-7200.

Jone Johnson Lewis discusses what people mean by "spiritual but not religious," at the Northern Virginia Ethical Society, 11:00 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Free admission. Address: 225 Nutley St., NW, Vienna. 703-437-3161 or www.esnv.org.

White House Christmas Ornaments on Sale

Doris Leadbetter, Associate Broker of RE/MAX Gateway in Great Falls, has announced that RE/MAX Gateway Great Falls has the 2008 White House Christmas Ornament on sale in the office. Leadbetter continues to offer the White House Historical Association's ornament for sale with all proceeds going to charity. This year's charity will be the Great Falls Optimist Club. The 2008 White House Ornament featuring the White House Christmas Tree is \$18.00. For a picture of the ornament and more information visit www.livingingreatfalls.com. The White House Historical Association is also presenting



The 2008 White House Ornament featuring the White House Christmas Tree is \$18.00.

its limited commemorative stone ornament for a price of \$20.00. RE/MAX Gateway Great Falls has both ornaments available for purchase at their location at 10135 Colvin Run Rd, Suite 101, Great Falls, VA 22066. The office also hosts many pieces of art for sale from the Great Falls Studios and is home to the pink Christmas tree with mini-bags and high heel shoes that will be up mid November. Stop by anytime. The office hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Call the office for more information and/or to order/reserve your ornaments. 703-757-5760

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SPORTS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton High quarterback Chris Coyer, bursting through Chantilly tacklers, ran for three touchdowns and passed for two more in the Cougars' dominant 52-14 win over the Chargers in last Saturday afternoon's Northern Region Div. 6 championship game at Oakton High School. The Cougars will host Chesapeake's Oscar Smith High in a state playoff game this Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

ROUNDUPS

Great Falls resident Alison Weckstein, a member of the Mary Washington University women's field hockey team this past fall season, was recently named to the All-Capital Athletic Conference Second Team. Weckstein, a senior at the Fredericksburg school, scored 10 goals and had two assists this season. She connected on five game-winning goals, and is a repeat selection to the all-CAC squad.

The Eagles finished 13-6 and advanced to the Capital Athletic Conference semifinals.

The Reston Triathlon Association has decided on a date of registration for the 2009 Reston Triathlon, which will take place on Sunday, Sept. 13. Triathletes can only register on line for this event on Monday, Dec. 1 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Go to the web site at restontriathlon.org for full information. Cost is \$125 for USAT members and \$135 for registration and one day USAT membership. The race is a 1 mile swim in Lake Audubon, 22.3 mile bike ride on rolling Reston roads and a 10K run on shaded Reston Pathways. The race starts at the Lake Audubon boat ramp and ends at the South Lakes High School stadium.

The U14 Great Falls Fire girls soccer team is looking to add several players, including a goal keeper to its roster. The team competes under the club umbrella of Great Falls in WAGS and tournament play. Its focus is foot skills, player development and higher level team play; winter training indoors/outdoors. The team's coach is Krisztian Mikoczi (Va. ODP/HP Soccer). For information

or to arrange tryout, contact manager, Karen Shaban at sshaban@aol.com or at 703-901-7232.

The Marshall High Boosters will be selling Christmas Trees once again this holiday season. Every year the Booster Club runs a tree lot to raise much-needed capital to keep the Statesmen's sports and activities programs funded. All the monies raised will go right back to the school's athletic/activities programs. So when looking for a Christmas tree over the weeks ahead, keep Marshall Statesmen athletics in mind.

CYA Phoenix, an elite U14 girls soccer team competing in WAGS, is looking to add a goalkeeper and a few impact players. Interested players are encouraged to attend the upcoming training sessions. For more information contact Coach Cristian Linte at linte@verizon.net or at 703-894-7390.

The Northern Virginia Softball Umpires Association (NVSUA) is seeking new umpires for the 2009 season. The association is responsible for umpiring softball (fast-pitch and slow-pitch) recreation league games, VHSL-sanctioned high school games and tournaments in the Northern Virginia area. Umpires can earn \$23-plus an hour. Schedules are flexible based on ability and availability during the week and weekends. NVSUA uses a web-based scheduling program. In-depth training is provided and begins in January. Contact Judy Cole at JudyUIC@cox.net or at 571-236-5744.

Langley High Athletes Move On

Three students signed athletic scholarships.

MAGGIE KOVACS, a senior at Langley High School, has signed a scholarship to play lacrosse at the University of Oregon. As a junior, Kovacs was first team all-district and all-regional, despite being injured for a substantial portion of the season. Furthermore, she earned Honorable Mention All-American and Academic All-American. Kovacs also stands out on the field hockey field, where she has earned all-district honors while captaining the team. She also has maintained a 4.0 grade point average. She is also active in Science Honor Society, Key Club, and National Honor Society.



Maggie Kovacs is pictured with her coach, Richard DeSomma.



Logan Sebastian is pictured with her coach Sue Shifflett, and her parents, Sharon and Jay Sebastian.

LOGAN SEBASTIAN, a senior at Langley High School, has signed a full scholarship to play volleyball at The University of Delaware. Sebastian led Langley's team this year in aces with 78 and kills with 340. She also ended the season as Langley's career leader in kills with 790. Sebastian's club team is the Virginia Elite, which has played in the National Junior Olympics the past three years. Sebastian is a member of DECA, and plans to major in business at Delaware.

DAVID HELMER, a senior at Langley High School, has accepted a scholarship to wrestle at Northwestern University. Helmer has a three-year record of 111-15 entering into his senior year. He is a three-time district and regional champion, winning the Outstanding Wrestler Award in the Northern Regional tournament twice. He has also placed in the state tournament the past three years, winning the state championship last year. He is currently the fourth ranked wrestler in the country in his weight class according to Wrestling USA Magazine. Helmer is coached by John Belyea who has won an unprecedented eight consecutive district titles and one regional title.

Helmer also carries a 3.3 GPA.



David Helmer with his coach John Belyea.

Filled With Anticipation



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It may just be me, but I doubt it. And what it is that I don't doubt, is, my renewed enthusiasm about buying gasoline. To say I'm excited at the prospect would be a bit of an exaggeration. To say that I am positive about the former negative would definitely be more accurate. And though \$2 per gallon savings (give or take), equating to approximately \$30 savings per week per driver/car, is not going to fund my retirement, it does, however, represent a nearly 50 percent reduction in our weekly gasoline/commuting allowance.

Sometimes the dollar amount saved sounds better than the percentage discounted, and vice versa. With respect to the declining cost of a gallon of gasoline recently, the latter is more impressive than the former. Still, a \$2 price reduction per gallon is significant no matter the percentage amount discounted.

And that's money you can take to the bank, literally and/or figuratively. And who doesn't want to "go" to the bank? It's "coming" from the bank, after having had to withdraw money that's the problem. As is \$4 per gallon, gasoline a problem, for me anyway. No matter the trip — or distance — behind the wheel, be it business, pleasure, errands, gasoline, etc., I can't stop looking at my gas gauge and/or my car's how-many-miles-left-in-the-tank indicator, and prepare, mentally and fiscally, for the next much-sooner-than-preferred, gasoline purchase. Combining trips certainly stems the emotional and financial tide, as does using public transportation but as a percentage, the dollars saved by utilizing these strategic alternatives seems hardly worth mentioning, so I won't.

But spending \$2 for a gallon of gasoline (of late) and getting 10 gallons for my meager \$20 purchase certainly seems worth it, and it seems like value I haven't received at the gas station in years. Moreover, given the present economic climate, value and/or the perception of value seems to have come and gone. Finding it again, two or three times a week (depending on the driving circumstances), at the gas station of all places, is like finding money on the street or winning at Black Jack: totally unexpected and greatly appreciated. However, since there's no shortage of places to spend your winnings (so to speak), the thrill is rather temporary. But given the likely fact that you're buying gasoline multiple times a week, the thrill is not gone (sorry, B.B.), it's recurring. In effect, for the time in which we're being, it's the gift that keeps on giving. And what used to be a nightmare (\$4 and up for a gallon of gasoline), and a recurring one at that, has now become a dream come true (spending 50 percent less for a gallon of gasoline than previously) and a dream that you're reminded of every time you gas up without paying up.

It's not exactly money for nothing, but it sure is a lot more for your money than nothing. It's something incredibly substantial: its peace of mind, it's extra money in your pocket, it's something given rather than taken. And as we all know — or have been told, repeatedly — it's better to give than to receive. However, when it concerns the price of a gallon of gasoline (or for a gallon of home heating oil), I'll take whatever they want to give.

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

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34 Pets

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21 Announcements

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IRS PUBLIC AUCTION

TIME: 2:30PM
DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2008
ADDRESS: 5811 11TH STREET N, ARLINGTON, VA 22205

Description of asset: Single Family 2 Bedroom Home and lot, 5811 11th Street, N. Arlington, VA 22205. Tax Parcel: 10037058

Minimum Bid: \$216,894.85

Department of the Treasury/Internal Revenue Service, Notice of Public Auction Sale, under the authority in Internal Revenue Code section 6331, the property described above has been seized for nonpayment of Internal Revenue taxes due from Wing C. Quan. The property will be sold at public auction as provided by Internal Revenue Code section 6335 and related regulations. Title offered: Only the right, title, and interest of Wing C. Quan in and to the property will be offered for sale. If requested, the Internal Revenue Service will furnish information about possible encumbrances, which may be useful in determining the interest of the property being sold. Property may be inspected at Drive by Viewing.

Payment terms: \$40,000.00 payment required upon acceptance of highest bid, Balance due 1/15/2009. Form of payment: All payments must be by cash, certified check, cashier's check or treasurer's check or by a United States Postal, bank, express, or telegraph money order. Make check or money order payable to the United States Treasury. For further information call J. Richard Andrews, Property Appraisal & Liquidation Specialist, at (910)279-3981 or access the Internet at www.irsauctions.gov.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$150.0 million budget for calendar year 2009.

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2009 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$150.0 million in 2009. Water sales are expected to provide \$125.1 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources. The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2008	2009
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$40,719	\$42,788
Power and Utilities	11,015	13,191
Chemicals	9,288	10,625
Fuel	989	1,028
Postage	419	449
Insurance	1,254	1,289
Supplies and Materials	3,492	3,694
Contractual Services	6,109	6,797
Professional Services	1,321	1,364
Other	1,964	1,981
Sub-Total	76,570	83,206
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(8,574)	(8,667)
Total	\$67,996	\$74,539

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$37,687,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$25,710,000

NOTICE OF WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2008, 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, 2009, include the following:

1. An increase in the availability charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$6,400 to \$7,600.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$800 to \$850†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$28 to \$29.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$6.25 to \$7.05†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$1.70 to \$1.83 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$2.65 to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off/Turn On Charge from \$40 to \$42.
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. An increase in the Sewer Use Meters Charge from \$36 to \$37
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$13 to \$14.

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

†Charges 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.

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ZONE 6 Ad DEADLINE:
MONDAY NOON

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Board of Equalization, 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 7 and 8, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-4891, TTY 703-222-7594.
Small Business Commission Meeting, 7-9 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-3104.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

Windover Heights Board of Review meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. For agenda information, call 703-255-6341

Annual Meeting of Members and Holiday Party for the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Boone & Sons Jewelers, 1320 Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Vote for the 2009 Board of Directors and Officers. Katharine Ryan, 703-356-5424 or kryan@mcleanchamber.org. www.mcleanchamber.org.

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting, 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-1280. **Advisory Social Services Board**, 7-9 p.m. at the Pennino Building, Room 505, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-7741, TTY 703-222-9452, FAX 703-222-9487

Animal Services Advisory Commission, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. 703-324-0206.

Community Action Advisory Board, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Conference Room 9/10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-7528, TTY 703-222-9452.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

University of Virginia Education Programs Information Night, 5-7:30 pm at 7054 Haycock Rd., Falls Church. Graduate degree and endorsement programs in reading, special education, school library media, ESL and more. 703-536-1105 or www.scps.virginia.edu/northern/infonight.

Planning Commission Land Use Process Review Committee, 7:15 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Board Conference Room, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-2865, TTY 703-324-7951.

Tree Commission Meetings, 7:15 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Room 8, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-1770.

Human Rights Commission, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9 & 10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-2953.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

Board of Equalization meeting, Fairfax County Government Center, Shared Room 123C, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-4891.

Trespass Towing Advisory Board, 7:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 8, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-5931.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Vienna Fall leaf collection: third of four passes through town. Begins on the north side of town. All leaves must be at the curbside prior to the first scheduled collection day for each pass through your area. Leaf collection crews may take several days to finish an area, but will only pass your address once during each collection period. Call the Public Works Department at 703-255-6381.

Vienna Town Council meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. For agenda information, call 703-255-6303.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

School Board meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7910 or www.fairfaxva.gov/School.

Board of Supervisors, Budget Committee: FY 2010 Lines of Business Review, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 9 and 10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-2531.

LTCCC Young Adult Services Committee, 10 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 7, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-2051.

Board of Supervisors Legislative Committee, 4:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 9 and 10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-2531.

Government & Community Relations Committee of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, 5:30 p.m. at the ADS Administrative Office, Suite 100, 3900 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. 703-324-7003, TTY 703-802-3015.

Alcohol & Drug Committee of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, 7 p.m. at the ADS Administrative Office, Suite 100, 3900 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. 703-934-2682.

Call to End Homelessness

FROM PAGE 8

are they in shelters anyway?
The sad fact is that they are stuck in shelters because they cannot afford area rents. This only aggravates the homeless problem because other needing shelter are turned away. Last year, 80,681 Virginians asked for shelter — 51,315 were turned away. Shelter programs are filled to overflowing. Most of the 29,366 people served had jobs — in Virginia that means a minimum wage worker would have to work 100 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

That is why SALT decided to successfully advocate for the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP). HIP prevents homelessness before it begins by creating a fund used to keep people in their own homes. This statewide HIP program kept more than 7,600 people from eviction to the streets and into homeless shelters. HIP usually runs out of funding after six to nine months each year. In response to the homeless crisis, SALT

along with the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH), has proposed a rental assistance program to assist working families to move off welfare and out of shelters and to make it possible for others to move into shelters and off the streets and out of the woods.

In our shelters, we serve those who are usually able-bodied working people, yet they cannot afford a roof over their heads. They are a vital part of our economic work force. The sad fact is that the lack of affordable housing will curb economic growth and damage a generation of homeless children unless Virginia makes continuing investment in its housing future.

Why should concerned people support SALT's "Home for the Holidays" letter writing campaigns? Because, as people of faith who care for others, we must join our voices with SALT and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness to urge our legislators to remember the needs of Virginia's ill housed, as they make the difficult decisions to balance the commonwealth's budget.

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*Thanks to Robert Moore, Margaret Johnson, Ashton Imaging.
Music will be provided by David Zee Duo*