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Santa's Back To Town

NEWS, PAGE 3

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

Four Homes Invite Visitors

GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 16

Postman's Route Almost Complete

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NEWS

Second Teen Convicted of Assault

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Following a two-day felony trial in the Fairfax County Circuit Court, the 15-year-old victim approached the 17-year-old who knocked his three front teeth out on a McLean street last Christmas Eve and extended his hand.

Moments before, a jury found Anthony Nelli, of Falls Church, not guilty of the felony charge that carries a sentence of 20 years to life in prison. The jury, instead, convicted Nelli, 16 at the time of the assault, of misdemeanor assault and battery.

Nelli, who wears braces, gave the 15-year-old, who will require future surgeries to repair his teeth and jaw, a big smile as they shook hands.

“No hard feelings?” Nelli said.

Outside the courtroom, Nelli wouldn’t shake the hands of his two attorneys, T. Scott Brisendine and Jeffrey Overand.

“I have to give you two guys a hug,” Nelli said. “You two saved my life.”

Because he was convicted of a misdemeanor, and not a felony, Nelli faces up to 30 days in the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center when Judge R. Terrence Ney sentences him in January.

A conviction of aggravated malicious wounding carries a sentence of 20 years to life in prison.

LAST CHRISTMAS EVE, about 4 p.m., the victim, then 14, and his friends were walking past Longfellow Middle School on their way to skateboard

at Haycock Elementary when James Clarke, Anthony Nelli and two other teenagers approached them from a car.

James Clarke was convicted of misdemeanor assault in August, and was sentenced to 20 days in the juvenile detention center on Oct. 31.

The attackers met at Burger King after drinking a few beers and were on their way home, according to testimony during Nelli’s trial. They didn’t know the teenagers they targeted.

Witnesses who testified at the two trials generally agreed that Clarke threw the first punch, a blow to the back of the 14-year-old’s head, and that Nelli, then 16, punched the victim in the mouth, knocking one of his top front teeth immediately to the sidewalk.

“One of the boys said, ‘Dude, I think you knocked his teeth out,’ and they ran to the car,” the victim testified.

CLARKE’S DEFENSE ATTORNEYS successfully argued during his trial that the facts of the case didn’t warrant an aggravated malicious wounding charge. Such a charge means that he was accused of aiding in or encouraging the commission of an attack that was intended to maim, kill or permanently disfigure

**“No hard feelings?”
— Anthony Nelli, defendant**

SEE RESTITUTION. PAGE 7

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– Washington Post

“Market Plunge is Hitting Localities”
– Richmond Times-Dispatch

“Transportation Revenue Continues to Plummet”
– Virginia Municipal League

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www.americandreamcoalition.org or email us at ed@americandreamcoalition.org.



PHOTO BY ESTA GLADSTONE

From left, Del. Tom Rust (R-86) and Del. Ken Plum (D-36) applaud U.S. Rep. Tom Davis's (R-11) Leadership Award, along with Dulles Corridor Rail Association President Patty Nicoson.



Tysons Task Force Chairman Clark Tyler addresses the crowd.

DCRA Recognizes Davis, Tysons Task Force

At annual meeting, Dulles Corridor Rail Association celebrates year's progress.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Barry Mark, senior director of corporate real estate for Capital One, remembered when U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11) was slated to speak after a Little League opening day parade. With much of the audience restless and fidgeting, Davis had been told to keep his remarks brief. "He walked up to the podium, said, 'Play ball,' turned around and sat down," Mark recalled, adding that the par-

ents in attendance had responded wildly. At the Dulles Corridor Rail Association's (DCRA) annual meeting at the Capital One building last Wednesday, Nov. 19, Mark compared the retiring congressman's "speech" at the parade to his time in Congress, saying both were short but effective.

DAVIS was receiving the rail association's leadership award for his support for the Rail to Dulles project.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) said Davis had "vigorously supported the project going forward

when it looked like it was in trouble."

When he was presented with the award and an opportunity to speak, Davis was only slightly more verbose than he'd been at the Little League parade of Mark's recollection, taking a moment to credit the area's other lawmakers whom he had worked with to support the project. "Thank you to my friends on both sides of the aisle," he said. "This shows what we can get done when we work together."

"The progress that's been made on the project this year wouldn't be possible without the people in this room," Jim Bennett, president and CEO of

the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) told the crowd members, as they sipped wine and nibbled on hors d'oeuvres. When federal funding for the rail was in jeopardy at the beginning of the year, Bennett said, the DCRA had done much lobbying to get it back on track.

Now, he said, the Dulles Toll Road had recently been transferred to MWAA so that it could use tolls to finance the project. Also, utility relocations to accommodate the rail were underway and would soon be intensifying in the Tysons Corner area in preparation for

"This shows what we can get done when we work together."

— U.S. Rep Tom Davis (R-11)

SEE FOCUS, PAGE 19



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

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.

Santa's Back to Town



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.

Postman's Route Almost Complete

After 35 years of delivering to McLean, Nedorolik leaves for W.Va.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

After working with Charlie "Scoot" Nedorolik for 28 years, Scott Reeves can remember only one occasion when he saw his co-worker angry. "What'd you get mad for that one time, Scoot?" he asked.

Nedorolik thought for a minute. "I can't remember. It was a long time ago."

"He's always been the same person since I've been here," said Kevin Thorpe, who has worked with Nedorolik at the West McLean Post Office for 20 years. "I've never really seen him come in here upset." Thorpe also said his colleague knew an impressive repertoire of songs, which the two used to sing together at work.

Reeves said he would miss working with Nedorolik, who will retire on Dec. 31, after 35 years of delivering mail in McLean. "He's a fun guy to work with," Reeves said. "He's worked hard his whole life." He refers to Nedorolik as "the General." "You know, all short guys are generals."

But his original nickname came from his decade of foot delivery when he was working from the post office on Elm Street, at which time, he said, he was "pretty fast." He recalled those days, "going door to door, dogs chasing you, stepping over hoses, the elements."

HE IMITATED crunching laboriously through the snow.

For the last 25 years, though, he has delivered mail by truck to the Woodside Park, Woodhaven and Springhaven Estates neighborhoods, as well as part of Woodside Estates. His route begins on Brook Road at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church and ends with Providence Baptist Church across the street.

He used to deliver to the Greenway Heights neighborhood, but when Windrock Drive and its accompanying cul-de-sacs were built on his route, the Kimberwicke Road area was given to another letter carrier. And that's not the only construction he's seen on his route. "All the old, little houses, they tear those down and the builders go and build those million-dollar homes."

Having traveled the same route for so long, he said, he remembers "little kids running around in diapers in the yard. Now, they're starting quarterback for Maryland." Nedorolik said he would miss the people who live along his route, as well as his co-workers. "The best part of my day is when I hit the street," he said.

Bob Kelly got to know Nedorolik about 17 years ago when he retired and started spending more time working on his yard. "He's always very pleasant," Kelly said, adding that the two have often discussed the



After delivering to McLean for 35 years, Charlie Nedorolik will soon be leaving his Post Office cubicle.

"The best part of my day is when I hit the street."

— Charlie Nedorolik

plantings in Kelly's yard, Nedorolik's decision to retire and the house the postman is having built in West Virginia. "He's a fine gentleman and we're going to miss him," he said.

Kelly said Nedorolik was also a consummate postman. "You can set your clock by him," he said, noting that Nedorolik always showed up around noon. And even though the Post Office has a rule that mail cannot be held for more than 30 days, when Kelly and his wife leave town for the winter, "with him, it's never been a problem."

ACROSS FLOR LANE, John Dillon said he and Nedorolik occasionally talked about fishing. "He's very reliable and very pleasant — always pleasant," he said.

Is there a difference in mail delivery when Nedorolik is on vacation? "You know it. A

lot," Dillon said. "When he's delivering the mail, we get the mail early." However, he said he wasn't sure whether substitute letter carriers might be running their own routes before Nedorolik's.

"He's one of the nicest people I've ever met," said René Plater, who met Nedorolik before she started working at the West McLean Post Office because her father had worked there. "Anything I needed to know as a new person, I could ask him and he would help me."

Nedorolik said he was looking forward to moving to his new house in the town of Grafton, W.Va. He said his wife has family out there, "and it's away from the Northern Virginia rat race."

A one-time McLean resident, Nedorolik moved to Manassas shortly after beginning his present route, and he said his rush-hour commute now took about two hours each way. "That's one reason I'm retiring," he said.

In his next home, he said, "I'll live a mile from the golf course and a mile from the lake."

WEEK IN MCLEAN

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.

Staples Support Neediest Kids

Neediest Kids, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides children with the basic resources needed to

succeed in school and life, announced it has received a \$15,000 grant from Staples Foundation for Learning (SFFL), a private foundation created by Staples, Inc. Funding from SFFL will support Bridge to Success, a program that provides low-income youth from Washington, DC school districts with much-needed supplies to excel in school.

"This Staples Foundation for Learning grant allows Neediest Kids to give direct assistance to children in need through their respective schools and ensures that they are fully equipped for their path to success,"

said Jane Cohen, president of Neediest Kids.

"Staples Foundation for Learning is supporting Neediest Kids and the positive impact their school supply program is having on disadvantaged students throughout Washington DC's Metropolitan Area," said Joy Errico, director of community relations for Staples, Inc.

FAITH

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

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 Stewardship 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.

The Women of St. Dunstan's Annual Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Sunday, Dec. 7 at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean, VA 22101. The Fair will be in the Parish Hall from 9:15 am to 12:30 pm. Local artisans will display and sell their goods, such as pottery, needlework, and photography. A children's craft table and refreshments will be provided. Come and start your holiday shopping at St. Dunstan's! Contact office@stdunstans.net or call 703-356-7533 for more information.

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@wfcmvva.org.

Vienna Assemblies of God Motion for Missions Banquet, following services on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. 100 Ayr Hill Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-938-7736.



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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

To Help

- ♦ **SHARE of McLean**, 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

SEE CALL, PAGE 19

THE CONNECTION

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Restitution Request Expected

FROM PAGE 7
the victim.

Judge Stanley P. Klein reduced the charges against Clarke after the prosecution presented its evidence against him. The judge ruled that a single punch with a bare fist does not, by itself, constitute aggravated malicious wounding.

Judge R. Terrence Ney did not reduce Nelli's charge.

A jury could have found Nelli guilty of aggravated malicious wounding, or lesser charges of malicious wounding or unlawful wounding.

The jury deliberated approximately 80 minutes before clearing Nelli of possible felonies, and convicting him of the misdemeanor.

BUT CONSEQUENCES from the two punches thrown by two teenagers will be long lasting for all parties involved.

The victim lost three of his front teeth and will face multiple surgeries in upcoming years.

Clarke will remain on probation until he is 18, and will be required to attend victim impact and other classes. His motion to have his

record expunged in the future, if he remains on good behavior while on probation, was rejected. He was also kicked out of his home school in McLean and currently attends alternative school.

Nelli will find out his sentence in January. He currently remains free on bond, although he has already served time in the juvenile

detention center and on home confinement.

The victim's parents were prepared to seek \$169,000 in restitution, according to testimony during Clarke's sentencing hearing in October. Judge Klein suggested that the parties resolve that portion of the case through civil remedies.



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Arts Center's multipurpose design includes rehearsal areas for the band, rooms for art classes and a lobby/café space for meetings.

Arts Center Opens at Langley School

On Thursday, Nov. 6, The Langley School held a dedication ceremony for its Jeffery J. Sherman Arts Center, a new 20,000-square-foot building that includes a state-of-the-art auditorium, and it was put to good use quickly. With performances by The Langley School Symphonic Band and Ashleigh Rabbitt Sekoski, an opera singer and alumna, it was the perfect event to ring in what was a highly anticipated opening.

The addition of this new center served as an occasion to honor a leader and friend to the Langley community: the center is named after the late Jeffery J. Sherman, a Langley parent and head of the board of trustees, who was essential in the development and planning of the arts center. The night included several remarks and tributes to Sherman, observing his vision, legacy and knowledgeable insight.

Packed with students, parents, faculty and contributors to the construction of the new center, the building's excellent acoustics and fabulous stage were immediately put on display for the audience through the musical performances and designated speeches. Speakers expressed gratitude to everyone involved in the process, including those within the Langley family and the architects and looked forward to its future as a welcoming place for students and parents to enjoy concerts, plays, and assemblies. "Our students now have a professional venue in which to create, rehearse and perform, further enhancing their proficiency in and love for the arts," said Doris Cottam, head of the school.

The Jeffery J. Sherman Arts Center provides more than just an auditorium for Langley students. Its multipurpose design includes rehearsal areas for the band, rooms

Dedication Ceremony

The ceremony celebrated the completion of this facility and honored the late Jeff Sherman, former McLean resident, Langley parent and board chair, whose vision and leadership were instrumental in making the building a reality. Attendees at the dedication were treated to musical performances by Langley's Symphonic Band and Ashleigh Rabbitt Sekoski, a 1990 graduate of the school who has traveled the world as a professional opera singer.

Langley middle-schoolers presented "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," the first main-stage production held in the new building, during a three-night run Nov. 13-15, which attracted record audiences from the school community and throughout greater McLean.

for art classes and a lobby/café space for meetings.

New Arts Center has placed itself as a central gathering location for the Langley community.

— ANDREW JOHNSON

Democracy at Work

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

VANDERHYE REPORT



PHOTO BY TOM NASH

Del. Margaret Margi Vanderhye (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.

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.

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 ideas about how to address our budget shortfall: what programs should be pro-

tected 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 registered 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.

Guessing Game Winner

Chain Bridge Bank recently held a contest to have children guess the amount of money in a full piggy bank. The winner was then awarded the entire sum of the contents of the bank, which was placed into a Chain Bridge Bank Kid's Savings account. Of the 69 contestants that entered, the winner was Katie Jolly of Franklin Sherman Elementary School. She was awarded the \$64.58 that was in piggy's belly. She is pictured with Senior Vice President John Vogt.



CONTRIBUTED



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.

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

hop. 9 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

Turkey Trot. 10:30 a.m. Age 2-5 with adult. Stories and activities. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Reggae Night with The Iternals and The One Band. 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.

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

The Feast: Bo Jankans, Sleepy Hollow, Blackbox Entertainment and Trekot. Hip-

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

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

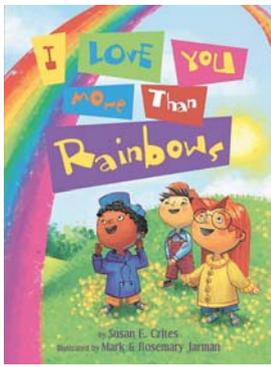
Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

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.nvvhg.org.



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.

Tickets & Info 703 759 3366.

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

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.

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 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.

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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.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

Personalized Internet Training. 2:30 p.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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For more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com or phone (703) 548-0111. Weekend events are Metro-accessible.

FROM PAGE II

Falls Church. 703-790-8088.
Mothers First of Great Falls, 10 a.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-827-5922 or www.mothersfirst.org.
Mothers First of McLean/Vienna, 10:15 a.m. at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. 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.
Gingerbread Time. 10:30 p.m. Gingerbread stories and cookie decorating. Age 2-5 with adult. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.
The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women Annual Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at Monterrey 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.
Preschool Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. Stories and activities. Ages 3-5 with adult. 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.
Great Falls Friends Annual Holiday Breakfast, 8 a.m. at the Great Falls Library. Light breakfast, networking and conversation. Call Candace 703-759-0375.



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SCHOOL NOTES

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

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

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.

Lauren Allison and **Kristopher Pourzal**, both of Falls Church, are 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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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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COMMUNITY



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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

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

Four Homes Invite Visitors

The 42nd Annual Holiday Homes Tour and Marketplace, sponsored by the Woman's Club of McLean, a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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 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

Holiday Homes Tour promises "viewing pleasures."

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 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

SEE HOMES, PAGE 15

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St Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276
St. Charles Catholic Church...703-527-5500

Church of Christ
Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535

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St Johns Episcopal Church...703-671-6834
St Mary Episcopal Church...703-527-6800

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St Paul Episcopal Church...703-820-2625
St Peter's Episcopal Church...703-536-6606
St Thomas Episcopal Church...703-442-0330
Trinity Episcopal Church...703-920-7077

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Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010
Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283
German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952
Resurrection Lutheran Church...703-532-5991

Churches Lutheran(Missouri, Synod)
Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846

Churches-Nazarene
Arlington First Church of
the Nazarene...703-525-2516

Church- Brethren
Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100

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Arlington Baptist Church...703-979-7344
Cherrydale Baptist Church...703-525-8210
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Bloss Memorial Free Will
Baptist Church...703-527-7040

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Arlington Presbyterian Church...703-920-5660
Church of Covenant ...703-524-4115
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703-538-5230
Trinity Presbyterian Church...703-536-5600
Westminster Presbyterian ...703-549-4766

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington
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Churches-United Methodist
Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185
Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621
Chesterbrook United Methodist
...703-356-7100

Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574
Community United Methodist...703-527-1085
Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934
Churches-United Methodist
Trinity United Methodist...703-356-3312
Walker Chapel United Methodist
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Bethel United Church of Christ
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Arlington Metaphysical Chapel
...703-276-8738

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Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM
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CORINTHIANS 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a childish. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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Put on your running shoes before putting on your party shoes

A Great New Year's Eve Family Event

When: Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at 4:00 PM
Where: George Mason University - Fairfax Campus (Concert Hall) - 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030
Park in the Visitor Parking Deck by the pond. Check-in will be in front of the Concert Hall (Bldg. 60 on Mason Pond Drive). Further details will be posted at www.racepacket.com.
What: USATF certified 5k race - course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
Registration: \$20 on or before Wednesday, December 17th, 2008; \$25 after December 17th and on race day
Packet Pick-up: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Metro Run & Walk from 6:00-8:00 PM (7516 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA)
Race Day Registration: GMU Concert Hall, Wednesday, December 31st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM
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Register online at www.racepacket.com

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Homes Open for Viewing

FROM PAGE 14

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-

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.

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. 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.



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

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



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

Work alone does not suffice—the effort must be intelligent.

—Charles B. Rogers

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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.

Josh Huson, a McLean High School graduate, nailed six extra-point kicks for the Gettysburg College football team in its 54-21 Centennial Conference win over Franklin & Marshall last Saturday afternoon. The game was played in rainy conditions at Gettysburg's Shirk Field in Musselman Stadium. With the regular season finale win, the Bullets, who were celebrating Senior Day, finished the season 5-5. Huson, a senior kicker, finished his career with 203 points, which ranks second on both the Gettysburg and Centennial Conference charts for kick scoring.

At McLean, Huson was an All-District football player and a team captain for the Highlanders. He was also an infielder for the McLean baseball team. John's cousin, Jeff Huson, played major league baseball from 1988 through 2000.

The **Reston Triathlon Association** has decided on a date of registration for the 2009 Reston Triathlon, which will take place Sunday, Sept. 13. Triathletes can only register on-line for this event 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 goalkeeper 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. For information or to arrange tryout, contact manager, Karen Shaban at sshaban@aol.com or at 703-901-7232.

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.

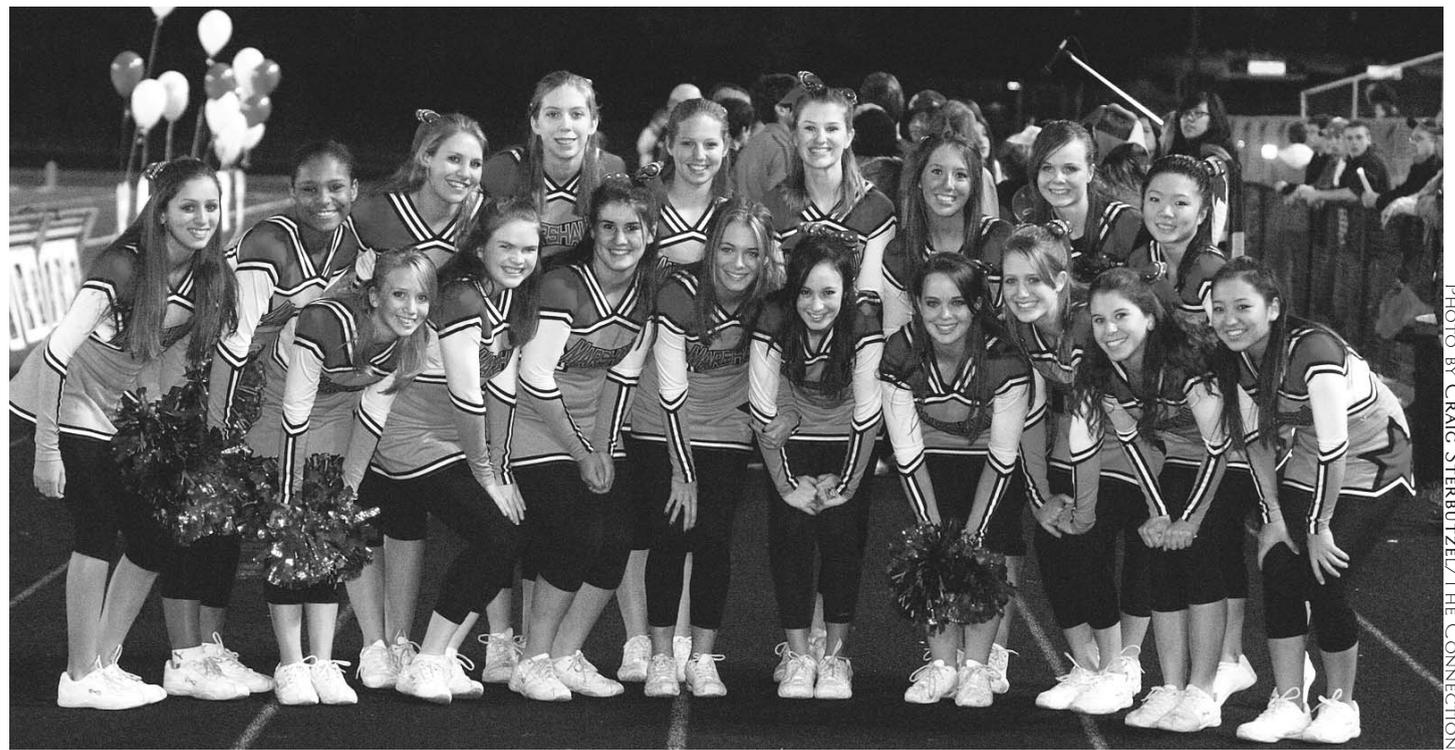


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Marshall High cheer team was in full force for the Statesmen's football game against visiting Madison Oct. 31. Throughout the recently completed fall sports season, the cheerleaders supported and encouraged all of the Marshall athletic teams.

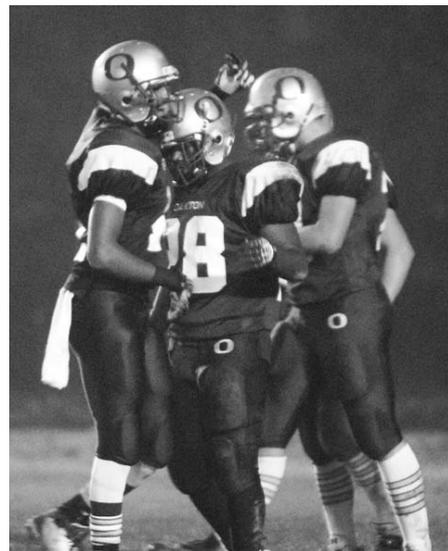


PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Oakton High football player Trey Watts (28) and the Cougars captured the Division 6 Northern Region title with a 52-14 home win over Chantilly last Saturday afternoon. The Cougars host Oscar Smith High of Chesapeake in a state playoff game this Saturday afternoon.

Curl-Burke Swimmers participated at the Harvest Moon Invitational, held at the Herndon Community Center Oct. 11-12. The meet was for 9- through 12-year-old girls and boys. Swimmers competed in six events for the Full Moon award or the Half Moon award.

Results from the meets were as follows: Grant DeWitt, second place 9 year olds; Benjamin Caprio, fourth place, 9 year olds; Sarah Saunders, second place, 9 year olds; Sean Bergmann, sixth place, 10 year olds; Francesca King, second place, 10 year olds; Rachel Tao, ninth place, 10 year olds; Celia Gieser, 15th place, 10 year olds; Natalie Schultz, 20th place, 10 year olds; William Lin, third place, 11 year olds; Justin Touve, seventh place, 11 year old; Kyle Sanok, 10th

place, 11 year olds; Andi Mack, third place, 11 year olds; Julia Capobianco, sixth place, 11 year olds; Julia Ruttenberg, 18th place, 11 year olds; Brandon Harvey, first place, 12 year olds; Dante Webster, fourth place, 12 year olds; Janet Hu, first place, 12 year olds; Courtney Cantrick, seventh place, 12 year olds; Audrey Caprio, eighth place, 12 year olds; Malachy McGann, second place, 9 year olds; Alyssa Coon, second place, 9 year olds; Dennis Lai, first place, 10 year olds; Palmer Lloyd, fourth place; Jacob Auerbach, sixth place; Helena Wang, first place, 10 year olds; Katelyn Leidy, third place, 10 year olds; Heather Stone, fourth place, 10 year olds; John Shebat 11-year olds; Nathan Pawlowicz, third place, 11 year olds; Lucas Lin, fourth place, 11 year olds; Alexander Wendt, 11th place, 11 year olds; Kiri Harvey, third place, 11 year olds; Claire Collins, fourth place, 11 year olds; Tess Kulikowski, 13th place, 11 year olds; Andrew Seliskar, first place, 12 year olds; Denny Nguyen, third place, 12 year olds; Alexander Strait, fifth place, 12 year olds; Alex Li, sixth place, 12 year olds; Will Kemmerer, 11th place, 12 year olds; Annika Kollevoll, sixth place, 12 year olds; Katie Dingman, seventh place, 12 year olds; Lizzie Abeles, 10th place, 12 year olds.

The Oakton High boys and girls **lacrosse program** hosted the 10th annual Turkey Shoot-Out Tournament, Nov. 16, at Oakton High School. The day-long event is a premier, varsity-level 7-versus-7 tournament, featuring some of the best lacrosse players from around the Northern Region. A total of 32 teams, 16 boys and 16 girls, were scheduled to compete in the games.

Gate proceeds from the event benefit the Alternative House, an emergency shelter for homeless teens in Vienna. Last year, more than \$900 was donated to the community resource as a result of the tournament. The Alternative House's Emergency Shelter is a

voluntary two-week crisis intervention program for young people 13 to 17 years

old. More than 175 young people who faced a personal crisis, homelessness or abuse last year sought refuge at the Alternative House and were provided professional counseling and safe shelter.

The Turkey Shoot-Out was an opportunity for area lacrosse fans to watch close-up some of the best talent in the region, including the boys and girls state champions — Chantilly and Oakton, respectively — in a fast-paced environment.

"The Turkey Shoot-Out is a great tradition at Oakton High School," said Jean Counts, the Oakton High girls' lacrosse coach. "Area lacrosse fans can watch exciting action up close all day long, and we are able to help out our friends at the Alternative House. It's a win-win situation."

Lacrosse gear vendors were scheduled to have tents around both fields and raffle items were being donated by event sponsors Velocity Sports, Explosive Performance, Sports Her Way, Potomac Lacrosse and MadLax.

Teams competing in the boys' tournament were: Annandale High, Briar Woods, Broad Run, Chantilly, Dominion, Herndon, Heritage (Leesburg), Highland School (Monterey, Va.), Marshall, Oakton (two teams), Osbourn (Manassas), South Lakes, T.C. Williams, Walt Whitman (Md.) and West Springfield.

Competing teams in the girls' division were Chantilly High, Team Cobra, Falls Church, Hylton (Woodbridge), Langley, Madison, Paul IV, Richmond Lacrosse Club, Robinson, Team Super Nova, T.C. Williams, Norfolk Collegiate School, Westfield, West Springfield, Woodson and host Oakton.

The Turkey Shoot-Out is supported by area businesses, including the Giant Food Stores in Franklin Farm, Fox Mill and Oakton, the Starbucks Coffee Companies in Fox Mill and Franklin Farm and KSB Bagels in Fox Mill.

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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-Dean Acheson

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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34 Pets

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21 Announcements

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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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Conference Room 9, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-3104.

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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.
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.
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.
Small Business Commission Meeting, 7-9 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center,

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

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.

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.
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.

Focus on Rail Funding

FROM PAGE 3

work had resulted in "what most people and we recognize as an outstanding report and recommendation." In her president's report, DCRA President Patty Nicoson recalled how the rail association "sprang into action" when the federal grant for the project to the secretary of transportation and the Office of Management and Budget in the coming days, Bennett said, adding that the federal government would issue the grant in late February if all went as planned. This would make March 2 the start date for construction.

the tunnel under the intersection of routes 7 and 123.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) was expected to send a referral for a federal grant for the project to the secretary of transportation and the Office of Management and Budget in the coming days, Bennett said, adding that the federal government would issue the grant in late February if all went as planned. This would make March 2 the start date for construction.

THE RAIL ASSOCIATION also recognized the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force for the work it had done in coming up with a design for a future, high-density Tysons Corner around four Metrorail stops. Plum said the task force's three years of

work had resulted in "what most people and we recognize as an outstanding report and recommendation." In her president's report, DCRA President Patty Nicoson recalled how the rail association "sprang into action" when the federal grant for the project to the secretary of transportation and the Office of Management and Budget in the coming days, Bennett said, adding that the federal government would issue the grant in late February if all went as planned. This would make March 2 the start date for construction.

Call to End Homelessness

FROM PAGE 6

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.

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.

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

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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