

Cascades CONNECTION

Countryside ❖ Potomac Falls ❖ Lowes Island ❖ Sterling

In the Spirit

E, PAGE 8



One of Sterling resident Rhoda Matts' many Christmas trees she decorated in different themes.

Open Range

NEWS, PAGE 3

Holiday in the Park

OUT & ABOUT, PAGE 4

Immediate
Need

NEWS, PAGE 3

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FAITH

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church will be celebrating Advent and Christmas with several worship services. Advent services will be held, Wednesdays, **Dec. 10 and 17**, at 7:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve** services include a 5 p.m. family Christmas service, a 7 p.m. carols and candlelight service, a 9 p.m. carols, candlelight and praise service and an 11 p.m. candlelight and communion service. There will also be a service on **Christmas Day** at 11 a.m. OSWLC is located at the intersection of Waxpool Road and Claiborne Parkway. Visit www.oswlc.org.

www.oswlc.org.

The 10:30 a.m. service, Sunday, **Dec. 14**, at the **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** is "Humanism and Theism." Led by the Rev. Anya Sammler-Michael, this service reflects on two diverse belief systems that co-exist in Unitarian Universalist congregations as well as in the faith's history. UUS meets every Sunday, at 10:30 a.m., at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center at 22135 Davis Drive. Call 703-406-3068 or visit uusterling.org.

Congregation Sha'are Shalom, 19357 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, will hold its annual Hanukkah party Sunday, **Dec. 14**, 11:30 a.m. Tickets: \$7 per person; \$25 per family. Call 703-737-6500 or visit www.sha-areshalom.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

LEAP MEETING. 7:30 p.m., at the LCPS Administration Building, 12000 Education Court, Ashburn. The Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents is holding its monthly meeting; topic is Your Opinion Counts: How to Express Your Opinion Properly and Effectively. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

BOOK CLUB. 10 a.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. For adults; discuss "Secrets on 26th Street," by Elizabeth McDavid Jones. Call 703-430-9500.

ORIGAMI BOOK CLUB. 4 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Discuss "The Gift of the Magi and Other Stories," by O. Henry. For ages 8 and up. Registration required, call 703-444-3228.

FLU SHOT CLINIC. 4-8 p.m., Inova Loudoun

Hospital, front entrance, 44045 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne, onboard the Mobile Unit. Children ages 4 and above and adults can be vaccinated. Cost for the flu shot is \$25 per person, no charge for seniors with a valid Medicare card with Part B. Pneumonia shot for seniors and those with chronic diseases, \$45. Call the Mobile Health Services hotline at 703-771-2907.

BOOK CLUB. 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Middle-school book club discusses "Peak" by Roland Smith.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

FLU SHOT CLINIC. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Dulles Town Center, 2110 Dulles Town Center, Dulles, inside near front entrance. Only adults can be vaccinated. Cost for the flu shot is \$25 per person, no charge for seniors with a valid Medicare card with Part B. Pneumonia shot for seniors and those with chronic diseases, \$45. Call the Mobile Health Services hotline at 703-771-2907.

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Providing Basic Needs

LINK seeks help to meet demand for Dec. 20 distribution.

BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC
THE CONNECTION

A few weeks ago the volunteers at LINK, an emergency support organization of faith communities in Herndon and Sterling, received a phone call from a woman seeking food assistance for her family. As they do 52 weeks per year, each year since 1972, the volunteers paid a visit and delivered some food.

"They literally had one box of crackers and one can of soup," Betty Eidemiller, Herndon resident and LINK president, said. Eidemiller said the family in question had applied for other assistance, but LINK volunteers provided necessary relief at the time. "We put something in the pantry," Eidemiller said. "It's a very immediate need and it's a basic need."

The need is on the rise. LINK volunteers distributed 35,000 pounds of food and 1,150 used coats and sweaters to almost 3,000 people during the annual Thanksgiving food and coat distribution event Nov. 22. A record number of 84 walk-in families, those that did not register for the event but heard about it, were also served. The event almost wiped clean the shelves in the organization's food pantries, with only some boxed dry pasta and cereal remaining. "We pretty much gave away all the food that we had," Eidemiller said. Now the organization is asking local governments, businesses, churches, schools and citizens to contribute to its Christmas food and toy distribution Dec. 20.

"NORMALLY WE GET enough food at Thanksgiving to carry over for Christmas," Lisa Lombardozi, a Herndon resident who



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

LINK distributed more than 35,000 pounds of food during its Thanksgiving food and coat distribution event Nov. 22 to almost 3,000 people in need.

Thanksgiving Food and Coat Distribution

- ❖ LINK served 640 needy families during the Thanksgiving food and coat distribution event Nov. 22.
- ❖ Of the 2,980 people served, 1,361 were adults and 1,619 were children.
- ❖ The number includes 84 walk-in families, those who came to the sites by word of mouth.
- ❖ Of the 459 people served as walk-ins, 198 were adults and 261 were children.
- ❖ Guests received five days worth of nonperishable groceries and each family received a grocery gift certificate, which totaled \$12,425.
- ❖ More than 35,000 pounds of food was distributed.
- ❖ 1,150 used coats and sweaters were distributed to 250 families.

runs the LINK Holiday program, said. "We know the need is great," Lombardozi said, judging by the phone calls the volunteers receive on daily basis from people seeking assistance.

"This is a big jump," said Mark Gunderman, a Sterling resident and LINK spokesman, about the demand for assis-

tance this year. He said that the demand had leveled off in the past few years, but that the 2008 Thanksgiving event saw a big increase in demand. In previous years, he said, LINK served about 25 walk-in families during the Thanksgiving distribution compared to this year's 84. "This isn't cava
SEE DONATIONS, PAGE 11

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



Mike Morel, a range officer at the Silver Eagle Group Training Facility gun range in Ashburn instructs visitors on how to use the fully automated gun range at the newly opened facility

Silver Eagle On Target

Massive shooting range and training facility started in late July hits tight target dates for opening.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

It was hard to believe the Silver Eagle Group training facility in Ashburn, a vast, empty hulk of a building last Thursday, would be furnished and ready for its grand opening that weekend. Then

again, most of the \$22 million worth of work to outfit what is being billed as "the most complete indoor shooting ranges and training facility in the country" had been done in just four months.

In the three shooting ranges, the "air walls," designed to blow smoke and lead dust away from range users with a smooth, laminar air flow were in place and opera

SEE SILVER, PAGE 7

Area Muslims Celebrate Hajj

Thousands attend prayer and festivities in downtown Washington.

The area's Muslim community celebrated the close of Hajj, the obligatory pilgrimage to Mecca for Muslims, and marked the beginning of the three-day Eid ul-Adha holiday with prayer services and a multicultural bazaar at the Washington Convention Center Monday, Dec. 8. The holiday, which translates to "festival of the sacrifice" commemorates Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son at God's command.

"It is a day to remember God and sacrifice and striving to do good deeds and help fellow man," Shirin Elkoshairi, an Ashburn resident and vice president of ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Soci-

ety), said. "It's really meant to be a celebration," Elkoshairi said of the holiday. "Families get together and eat together. It is a really nice time for us," he said.

Worldwide, said Elkoshairi, Muslims sacrifice an animal for the holiday, usually a sheep, and then distribute the meat to the poor. "In tougher places in the world meat is a rarity," Elkoshairi said.

Sterling-based ADAMS serves about 5,000 families in Northern Virginia and has satellite locations for Friday prayers in Herndon, Reston, Great Falls, Tysons Corner, Fairfax, Ashburn and South Riding.

— MIRZA KURSPAHIC

"It is a day to remember God and sacrifice and striving to do good deeds and help fellow man."

— Shirin Elkoshairi, ADAMS vice president

Advocacy Center Opens

The new Loudoun Child Advocacy Center (CAC) will support a one-interview process for child victims of abuse, ages 2-17. After child abuse and/or neglect is reported to authorities, the child will be interviewed within the CAC's child-friendly environment to recount what happened. The CAC will also assist in the coordination and communication among the agencies involved in the process. The CAC will hold an open house, Friday, Dec. 12, 9-11 a.m., at Inova Loudoun Hospital-Leesburg Campus, 224-D Cornwall St., Community Meeting Room, first floor, Leesburg.

Meeting Changes

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has canceled its public input session scheduled for Monday, Dec. 15, and its business meeting Tuesday, Dec. 16.

The board will hold its first public input session of 2009 on Monday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m. The first business meeting of 2009 is scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 6, 9 a.m. Both meetings will be held in the Board Room of the Loudoun County Government Center, 1 Harrison St. S.E. in Leesburg.

Surplus Store Open

The Loudoun County Surplus Store will begin operating on its winter schedule Friday, Dec. 19. The store will be open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the first, second and third Friday of the month, and beginning in January, the last Saturday of the month. The store will not be open on the last Saturday of December 2008 because of the holidays. The store is located at 14 Cardinal Park Drive, Suite 106, Leesburg.

Library Closings

All Loudoun County Public Libraries will be closed for the holidays on the following dates: Wednesday, Dec. 24, 12 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 25; Friday, Dec. 26; Wednesday, Dec. 31, 5 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 1 and Friday, Jan. 2.

Unregistered Sex Offender Found

A Loudoun Sheriff's Office checking detail in Sterling has led to the arrest of wanted sex offender who had failed to re-register with authorities. Members of the Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit were conducting a checkpoint in the area of Davis Drive and Glenn Drive as well as Fillmore Avenue and Silverleaf Drive. The driver was later identified as a 43-year-old male of Prince William County. He was wanted by Virginia State Police for failure to re-register as a sex offender.

New Neighborhood Watch Programs

In the past two months the Loudoun Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit has successfully initiated 15 new Neighborhood Watch programs in Sterling Park. The 15 new watches, in addition to the previously established watch programs, now cover more than 98 percent of the zoned residential areas in Sterling.

There are now more than 50 Neighborhood Watch Programs throughout Loudoun County. Anyone interested in finding or starting a Neighborhood Watch Program, contact Deputy Specialist Nathan Payne at 703-777-0477 or Deputy Specialist James Spurlock at 703-771-5749 of the Loudoun Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit or by e-mail at nathaniel.payne@loudoun.gov or james.spurlock@loudoun.gov.

Man Arrested for Carjacking

A 27-year-old man of Brethour Court in Sterling, turned himself in at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center Dec. 4 on one count of carjacking. He is reported to have carjacked a 52-year-old Reston woman Sept. 27 near the intersection of Dranesville Road and Leesburg Pike. The car was later discovered abandoned in Washington D.C.

OUT & ABOUT



PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Hayrides were booked solid.

Celebrate the Season

Holiday in the Park brings crowds, hayrides, marshmallows.

Scores of area residents of all ages turned out for Claude Moore Park's Holiday in the Park last Saturday evening. Park goers roasted marshmallows and took hayrides around the park.

Santa Clause was on hand in the park's Frogshackle Nature Center to take children's requests, as the first snowfall of the season fell outside.

— MIKE DICICCO



From left, Blythe Shippie, Matthew Dorsey, Grange Newton and Nathan Parsons roast marshmallows at Claude Moore Park's Holiday in the Park.



In Frogshackle Nature Center, Neil Zaragoza of Lansdowne tries to get Santa's attention as he talks to Neil's sister, Raquel.

Sheltering the Animals

Economics causing more surrenders at the animal shelter.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI
THE CONNECTION

Recently Animal Control Officer Angela Chan responded to a call from a management company for a cat that was abandoned by the evicted renters. When she arrived she found the cat emaciated, weak, soaked in urine and its eyes swollen shut.

On the wall remained only one photograph. It was of the cat in happier days and inscribed on the frame was the saying, "A cat makes a house a home."

"It was heartbreaking that someone who loved their animal so much had come to that," Chan said. Unfortunately, the cat was so sick, it had to be euthanized.

The economic downturn effects everyone, including animals big and small.

While at the moment, the Animal Shelter isn't seeing an overall increase in animals being brought in, however, the reasons for animals being surrendered are changing.

Laura Rizer, Department of Animal Care and Control spokesperson, said she has seen a 26 percent increase in owners citing financial reasons for giving up their pets such as moving, foreclosure or simply not being able to afford the animal anymore. Rizer also said the shelter is seeing animals staying longer before getting adopted, including traditional favorites.

"We have a joke that small dogs' feet don't even hit the floor here," Rizer said. "But even smaller dogs are staying longer and so are kittens."

DOGS AND KITTENS aren't the only ones coming to the shelter. Last Friday there were rabbits, ferrets, birds, guinea pigs, gerbils and even a mouse. The shelter has also seen an increase in larger animals.

"We've had a half dozen horses this year. There's been stray horses or a horse gets loose. We've had four or five surrendered," Inga Fricke, shelter manager, said. Rizer said it is normal to see some sort of livestock abandoned.

Chan said the Animal Control personnel are seeing more cases of horses with low body weight or in need of veterinary care. Chan also said there have been reports of people shooting their horses when they can no longer care for them.

The problems aren't limited to people with larger animals. Chan recently assisted a woman from South Riding who feared having to choose between paying her rent or getting the unexpected veterinary care her cat needed.

Chan said there are programs, such as the county's



PHOTO BY JENNIFER LESINSKI/THE CONNECTION

Kiisa is looking for a new family.

C.A.R.E. (Companion Animal Resource Effort) program, which can temporarily help owners, who qualify, care for their pets, whether its helping with an unplanned veterinary bill or needing some pet food. The goal of the program is to help owners keep their pets rather than having them surrendered to the shelter.

Fricke believes the shelter is just starting to see the economic impacts on animals and the shelter itself.

"It will take a while, animals don't start out on the tip of the wave," she said, "they're usually in the middle to the end of the wave."

Besides dealing with owners who are struggling financially, Chan said Animal Control has seen an upswing of people using animals as a way to generate extra money.

"We're starting to see people breeding animals as a revenue source," Chan said. "And it's not breed specific."

Fricke said the best thing people can do is have their pet spayed or neutered rather than breeding potentially unwanted pets.

"There are 4 million to 6 million dogs and cats in shelters in this country," Fricke said. "Just because we don't have puppies, doesn't mean we don't have an overpopulation of unwanted animals."

RIZER SAID it is important for those who might be having economic problems and are not sure what to do with their pets to know the shelter is there to help. The shelter or Animal Control can help through the C.A.R.E. program or recommend other organizations that may be able to offer assistance, such as temporary shelter or food.

"There aren't consequences for seeking help," Chan said.

But because of the sinking economy, the shelter is also in need of some help. As a county agency, the shelter cannot solicit donations directly, however, it is in need of volunteers and supplies, which are tax deductible. The shelter is helping the Community Holiday Coalition by hosting a Pet Pantry to provide donated pet food and supplies to families in need during the holiday.

For More

To see what animals are available for adoption, how you can volunteer or what resources are available to pet owners, such as the C.A.R.E. program, visit www.loudoun.gov/animals.

"There aren't consequences for seeking help."
— Angela Chan,
Animal Control officer

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Planning for Holiday Party Season

Many ways to avoid drinking and driving.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide enough of a cautionary tale.

William Cameron Schlifke, 22, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, less than three days after his Volkswagen Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News. Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol and later with involuntary manslaughter.

Earlier this fall, a young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007, that resulted in

Get Involved

Join the Northern Virginia chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for 14th Annual MADD Red Ribbon Run 5K on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at George Mason University in Fairfax. The run begins at 4 p.m., with many activities for families. See www.maddnova.org or call 703-379-1135.

Safe Ride Home

From Dec. 12 through New Year's Day, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., the Washington Regional Alcohol Program offers a free cab ride home (up to \$50) to local callers who are 21 or over. Call 800-200-8294.

unspeakable tragedy for three families. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to live for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

DON'T TAKE THE RISK. Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home of your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out and be sure any young adults in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-

metropolitan area.

WRAP's 2008 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., each night from Dec. 12 to Jan. 1, 2009. To receive a free cab ride home up to a \$50 fare, call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided more than 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see www.wrap.org

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Can't Afford to Wait

To the Editor:

When the 2008 election between Judy Feder and Congressman Frank Wolf began early this year, we never could have imagined that it would finish with the stakes for Virginians laid out so starkly for the victor. In that short amount of time we saw the impacts of global warming accelerate. We watched our addiction to oil bring the economy to its knees and the financial system crumble under the weight of corruption.

Now Congressman Wolf's job is clear: Regardless of party affiliation, our Northern Virginia leaders need to work together to solve our national crisis. Our leaders have a real opportunity to work with President Obama, to kick our dependence on oil, stimulate the economy and protect the climate for our children by transitioning us from fossil fuels to clean energy like wind and solar, capping pollution and rejoining the international climate negotiation process. Today it is clear that we literally can't afford to wait.

Ashley Cash
Sterling

County Needs Stimulus Package

To the Editor:

Loudoun's economic development team has been working closely with the Washington Redskins to develop a joint marketing plan focused on Redskins Park in Ashburn. One of the primary goals is to establish a Redskins Hall of Fame in Loudoun County. I was disappointed to learn that the Board of Supervisors voted to not move forward with expending state-mandated Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) funds on this once-in-a-lifetime tourism-related opportunity. Not only would this type of partnership be an economic and promotional goldmine for the county, but may lead to other opportunities with our beloved Redskins such as mentoring with area schools, raising funds for Loudoun's many nonprofits serving the needy and scheduling community outreach events that will funnel tourism and travel to the county.

During this time of recession and economic hardship, Loudoun County would greatly benefit from the use of these TOT funds for this purpose. Your reconsideration of

the vote to move this project forward is appreciated and needed to give our citizens and local economy a boost.

Christine Corrado Windle
Purcellville

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

E-mail:
loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com

VOLUNTEERING

Send announcements to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Fridays.

The registration deadline for the Loudoun County Master Gardener Volunteer training program has been extended until **Dec. 31**. The Master Gardener program is offered through the Loudoun Extension Office to train volunteers to assist the urban horticulturist in providing service and educational programs for Loudoun residents. Application packets can be downloaded at www.loudouncountymastergardeners.org or call 703-771-5150.

The Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn, is looking for **teen reading buddy** volunteers to read to young children ages 3-6, Mondays at 4:30 p.m., in November and December. Phone 703-737-8100.

Snapshot

Phillip Allen Crain, 17, member of Boy Scout Troop 572 chartered by Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in BSA. He is the son of Mark and Diane Crain and a senior at Potomac Falls High School.



Silver Eagle Opens like Speeding Bullet

FROM PAGE 3

tional. Silver Eagle Group president Scott Marquez said the three air handling units, each with a rooftop component the size of a semitruck, were the most expensive and important equipment in the place. He noted that they had necessitated major reinforcements to the roof.

At the other end of the ranges, wet traps, designed to send ammunition rounds hydroplaning into cylindrical deceleration chambers, were already coating their gently sloping bottom plates with a sheen of water. Most commercial ranges do not use wet bullet traps, Marquez said.

“It’s kind of like an erector set. A very complicated erector set.”

— Scott Marquez, Silver Eagle Group president

A series of filtration systems were ready to clean lead dust and other contaminants from the air. “When we recycle the air in here, it comes out cleaner than the air in your house,” Marquez said.

Target systems, including lateral “running man” targets in the tactical range, were also ready to go.

Vaults made of nine-gauge expanded metal had been installed, one to hold Silver Eagle’s weaponry and another for members’ guns. “Some people just shoot for sport. They don’t take a firearm home for self-defense,” Marquez explained. Not only would members be able to make lane reservations in advance, he said, but they could also request, “Hey, I want my Glock 17 ready. Make sure it’s cleaned and ready.”

FOR FOUNDER-LEVEL members, this was to be a high-service facility, where clients could even have their shirts and cars washed, he said, adding that there would be “a pretty vast difference in prices” for different memberships. Mid-level annual memberships would be “no more expensive than shooting at Blue Ridge Arsenal.” Day passes would also be available.

But the facility’s biggest clients would be law enforcement and military organizations, as well as military contractors. “Quite frankly, a lot of them are sick of having to travel for range time,” Marquez said of the contractors. He said the Loudoun Sheriff’s Office had expressed excitement over the tactical range, the classroom and the scenario room.

The scenario room was the one area that would not be operational in time for the grand opening, due to a “hiccup” in the delivery of construction materials, Marquez said. Now a dimly lit, 15,000-square-foot cavern housing only a pickup truck, some paint buckets and a few other materials, the finished room would have 22,000 square feet of floor space after two-story structures were added, with interiors replicating a single-family home, a school, an office and a night club. Atop the single-family home would be a rappelling station.

All of this was to be completed in the next two weeks. “It’s kind of like an erector set,” Marquez said of the scenario area’s construction. “A very complicated erector set.”

The interiors would be hyper-realistic, from a real dishwasher and wallpaper in the home’s kitchen to real phones and computers in the



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of people from around the region visit the newly opened Silver Eagle Group Training Facility and Private Club gun range in Ashburn for a chance to use the new facility and to browse its features including; three gun ranges, a gourmet deli and coffee shop, work out area, locker rooms, a scenario room, gun shop and much more.

office to actual chalkboards and lockers in the school. Asked where he did his shopping, Marquez said he had taken advantage of the bulk nature of the purchases. “We were crafty,” he said. “It’s not every day you’re buying hundreds of school desks.” Locating sources for the furniture had taken months, he said. Now it was all waiting in a storage area across the street.

THE SCENARIO area was also to include a section with moveable walls, so that the space could be rearranged. “If a person takes a smoothie break, they could come back and it could be completely unrecognizable,” Marquez said.

The hypothetical smoothie break would happen in the café, which Marquez said would be “kind of like a Starbucks-Panera,” with food brought in by a caterer and coffee and smoothies made on-site.

Not all of the place was to be combat-oriented. It would also have a sort of country-club feel, but without the typical “green carpet and big, brown chairs,” Marquez said, noting that he had brought in a designer from New York City to create the look of the café and lounge. A vintage, 1970s-style pool table lay under a plastic drop cloth, like most other objects in the recreational area. Marquez said he had found dartboards to match. “And there’s a large fireplace over here for the lounging,” he pointed out. A pro shop would sell gun accessories as well as “fun stuff like Silver Eagle polo shirts,” he said.

Not everyone would get access to all of the 6,500-square-foot facility, depending on membership, and much of it would be accessible only by keycard. “Security is a high priority,” Marquez said. “We like to know who comes and goes.”

It was to be a facility catering to a broad spectrum of clientele. And, sure enough, at the grand opening two days later, the small, scattered bands of construction workers that had populated the place Thursday gave way to throngs of gun aficionados from across Northern Virginia and beyond.

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From Trash to Christmas Treasures

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Sterling woman displays a lifetime of nostalgic Christmas crafts in her open house tour.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

To say that Rhoda Matts absolutely loves Christmas is an understatement. The Sterling resident has spent 40 years making decorations for her 100 or so Christmas trees — each striking nostalgic chords. There are 43, 6-foot trees, one live tree and about 50 smaller trees in her home on Markwood Drive — each with a different theme.

FOR 20 YEARS, people have been touring her home's Christmas trees, scenes and decorations.

"I do every craft," said Matts, who lives with husband Kenneth, three collies, two cats and a bird. Her children Kathryn, 21, and Jason, 25, are out of the house. "I just love to do things with my hands."

She has every single nook of the house — including the bathrooms and porch — decorated with items she either painted, crocheted, sawed, glued or pieced together.

"You'd think this cost a lot of money, but it probably only cost \$100," because all of the trees come from yard sales and the materials are made from trash, she said.

Matts studied interior design and art at George Mason University and attended the National Academy of Art in Washington. For her career, she worked as a "stodgy mortgage banker" for 30 years.

"This is the best hidden secret in Sterling," said Kathy Chrisman, advanced marketing teacher at Potomac Falls High who lost her mother to ALS. "She loves Christmas and she's devoted her whole life to making ornaments and helping people. She just loves the feeling she gives to others when they see it."

Chrisman has 12 DECA students giving tours at the Winter Wonderland Holiday Open House Tour this weekend. "I have somebody stationed in each room greeting and making people feel welcome," she said. Overall, 50 marketing students are baking cookies and brownies, creating posters for publicity and helping promote it.

Hours are Friday, Dec. 12, from 3-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, from 2-9 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14, from 2-6 p.m. The tour is free with donations given to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Poinsettias will be given away to each family in attendance and there's a raffle to win a gold pinecone tree and crystal ornament.

But her home is not only trees.

Matts has a selection of Cracker Box ornaments with names like "Chandelier," "Queen Victoria" and "Out of Africa" made out of rhinestones and Austrian crystals that go from \$40 to \$200. "There's nothing in the world like these," she says of the



Rhoda Matts shows her Jerusalem Village she made out of trash.

To Go

WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE TOUR

When: Friday, Dec. 12, from 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 13, from 2-9 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 14, from 2-6 p.m.

Coordinated by the Matts family and Potomac Falls DECA. All tours are free, but donations will be given the ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) Association. Enter the raffle to win a holiday pinecone tree. Poinsettias will be given away to each family.

Address: 234 Markwood Drive off of Triple Seven in Calvert's Glen behind Regal Cinema, Sterling. Coming Route 7 towards the east, turn left on Palisades Parkway, take first left on Triple Seven, take second right on Glade Drive, take first right on Markwood Drive. The house is a white colonial on the corner of Glade and Markwood. For a free private tour, call Rhoda Matts at 703-786-7054.

Styrofoam ornaments designed by a Pennsylvania company. She pays for the parts and executes the designs — all 450 that she displays on moving ornament trees.

Her hobby's roots started in 1954 when her aunt Hilda ordered her a craft magazine called "Ideals," which had an ad for \$3 ornaments that you could make. She handmade four ornaments and "it just grew and grew," she said.

THE BASEMENT contains a huge replica of the City of Jerusalem made completely out of trash. It has a Jewish wedding scene and a temple with pillars made of candles. The tile is a series of paint washes in browns, blacks and terra cotta. The building's roof is really McDonald's straws. She ad-libs using toilet paper rolls, tampon cartridges, cat food can — you name it.

"I went to the library and did research. I really tried to authenticate a Jewish village," said Matts. "It took me four years to make it."

Adds Chrisman, "She's extremely creative and resourceful in the thing she makes. She'll come up with some idea and turn it into something beautiful." Junior Coty Campos, 17, of Cascades, is promoting the house for her state DECA project this year.

Tree Highlights

Here's a few highlights of the tour.

The nativity tree in her living room is considered the home's main tree with a manger and grotto. She worked with a Minnesota woman to create its one-of-a-kind handmade ornaments.

For her Teacup Tree, she matched the maroon teacup colors perfectly with her dining room drapes. "I got the idea from a magazine 10 years ago," she said.

One of her favorite trees is the Victorian wall tree, which she started decorating in the 1960s. "They're definitely unique. I love it. It's one of my favorite things in the house," said Matts.

Off the kitchen is a Kitchen Christmas tree with mixing bowls, spoons, gingerbreads, baking dishes — anything related to the kitchen. "It's cute and happy and makes you smile," said Matts.

For her wooden ornament tree, she used a scroll saw to cut the ornaments and then painted them. The "Bingle Jells" or Santa's Mistake is a Victorian house that has carolers. "I even cut these cookies on the plate," she said.

The 1950s tree has saddle shoes, old 45s, Chevy cars, cardboard malt milk shakes with Tide detergent for the shake, all wrapped in a pink poodle tree skirt.

A cherry cottage tree has cherries and rocking chairs, bird houses and straw hats. "It's basically a country cottage tree that goes back to the old-fashioned cottage," she said.

For the Grinch Stole Christmas tree, she curved over the top and found lime-green and red ornaments that match the colors in the Dr. Seuss book.

The gingerbread tree has gingerbread men made out of felt and Styrofoam balls for gum drops.

A spice tree has real bread, cardboard hearts and real cinnamon sticks.

The horse tree has painted ponies, painted horse ornaments and stained glass.

Winter wonderland tree in baby blue and white is a marvel of felt, toilet paper rolls and paper towel rolls. Her daughter's tree is made out of Victorian baby dolls' heads.

A nutcracker tree is made of Pringles cans for the nutcrackers.

For her catch-all tree, Matts took found objects, including an old dish drainer and added them to a branch found on the side of the road.

The bear nativity as store-bought bears with handmade outfits, and grape vine and juniper branches. She used cat food cans for the drums and match sticks.

An upside down Star Trek tree has Spock and Capt. Kirk, as well as space ships. It's upside down because she says the ships hang better than right-side up.

The Victorian carousel tree has flower swags, carousel horses and pink Santas because back in Victorian times, everything was pink, she says.

A circus tree has popcorn bags and an egg tree is made with Styrofoam eggs and Styrofoam disks.

FOOD & DRINK

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, Leesburg, is holding a champagne and hors d'oeuvres holiday mixer, **Dec. 13**. Call 703-777-8161 or visit www.willowcroftwine.com.

A Taste of Loudoun Holiday Wine and Cookie Pairing Tour will be held Sunday, **Dec. 14**. The tour includes transportation with tour hosts, wine tastings at Tarara and Notaviva wineries and a visit to Stone Manor Bed and Breakfast. Cost: \$99 per person; visit www.vawineadventures.org or www.goodtastetours.com to register.

THE ARTS

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

The **Master Singers of Virginia** announce its 14th season, opening with Benjamin Britten's "A Boy Was Born," **Dec. 13 and 14**. Cost: season tickets are \$38 for adults and \$30 for seniors or students; individual ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors or students in advance; \$2 more at the door. Call 703-655-7809 or visit www.msva.org.

The Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College will host an exhibit of digital photographs by **Mark Worthington**, through **Dec. 12**, in Waddell Art Gallery, 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway in Sterling. The gallery is open 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Mondays-Fridays.

The **Sterling Playmakers** are holding auditions for "Puss in Boots," Friday, **Dec. 12**, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, **Dec. 13**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Cascades Senior Center, 21060 Whitfield place, Sterling. The director will be casting children and adults, males and females, for a variety of roles. Children must be 7 years old by Dec. 12. Auditions consist of cold reading, simple movement exercises and singing a song from a provided list. Performances are weekends in February and March. Call 703-437-6117 or visit www.sterlingplaymakers.com.

Art on Exhibit throughout **December** at local libraries include pastels by Christina Maggio at Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn; and photography by Kim Coughlin at Cascade Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls.

Alfred McAdams' exhibit, "D.C. Metro," is on display at the George Washington Virginia Campus First Floor Gallery through **Dec. 30**. The First Floor Gallery is located in Building 2 on the GW Virginia Campus, 44983 Knoll Square, Ashburn. Free and open to the public. Call 703-726-3650.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Send events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

LUNCH WITH SANTA. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Douglass Community Center, 405 E. Market St., Leesburg. All ages. Have lunch with Santa and create holiday art. Bring a camera. Cost: \$5. Advance registration required, call 703-771-5913.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

HOLIDAY CAROLS CONCERT. 8 p.m., Our Saviors Way Lutheran Church, Broadlands. Pickwick Players present "Christmas Chocolate Carols," a holiday concert of music and scenes from stage and film musicals, enjoyed by candlelight as a dessert buffet is served. Tickets available online via PayPal at thepickwickplayers.org; cost: adults \$12, children/seniors \$10, \$1 discount Pickwick members. Tickets must be purchased or reserved by Dec. 8.

WINTER WONDERLAND. 3-9 p.m., 234 Markwood Drive, Potomac Falls. Tour a colonial home decked out in holiday décor. More than 70 themed trees are in the house. Donations will be given the ALS Association.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT. 7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 605 W. Market St., Leesburg. Bobby Jasinski and Friends will play carols and classical and jazz music. Cost: \$10 in nonperishable food items. Call Dawn Dumas at 703-443-2481.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

ALDERSGATE CHOIR. 7 p.m., Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 E. Church Road, Sterling. The Aldersgate Choir is holding its annual Christmas Music Event. The choir will perform John Rutter's Lessons and Carols with a live orchestra. Tickets not required. Call 703-430-6455 or visit www.sterlingumc.org.

TOY FOR TOTS CONCERT. 7:30 p.m., Stone Hill Middle School, 23415 Evergreen Ridge Drive, Ashburn. The Loudoun Symphonic Winds will celebrate the season with a holiday concert benefiting the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Program highlights include popular holiday tunes, a carols sing-along and a special introduction of the LSW just for children. Admission is a new, unwrapped toy. Visit www.LCbandinc.org or phone 703-777-7985.

MAKE IT AND TAKE IT Holiday Crafts. 2 p.m., Rust Library, 34D Catocin Circle, Leesburg. Make amazing holiday crafts, materials will be provided. For ages 7-10. Register online at <http://library.loudoun.gov> or phone 703-777-0323.

HOLIDAY FESTIVAL CONCERT. 8 p.m., at Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn. Loudoun Symphony's holiday festival concert features guest soloist, soprano Courtney Ross. Saturday only: free preconcert performance at 7:30 p.m., by the string workshop. Cost: adult tickets are \$18 at the door and \$15 in advance, senior tickets are \$15 at the door and \$12 in advance, admission is free for youth 18 and under. Visit www.loudounsymphony.org, call 703-771-8287 or e-mail info@loudounsymphony.org.

SANTA PARADE. 5 p.m., Ashburn. Annual Ashburn Volunteer Fire &

Rescue Department Santa parade through Ashburn. To see the exact route Santa will take, visit www.ashburnfirerescue.org.

HOLIDAY CAROLS CONCERT. 8 p.m., Our Saviors Way Lutheran Church, Broadlands. See Dec. 12 item for details.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES. 9-10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 1-2:30 p.m., Mills Center, 44025 Courtland Drive, Ashburn. Children can decorate gingerbread houses for the holidays. Sponsored by Word of Truth Ministries International. Visit www.wotmi.org.

WINTER WONDERLAND. 2-9 p.m., 234 Markwood Drive, Potomac Falls. See Dec. 12 item for more details.

GINGERBREAD WORKSHOP. 10:30-11:15 a.m., Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. Broad Run High School presents a "Gingerbread Workshop." Fees apply; call 703-729-8400, Ext. 2107 to register.

LUNCH WITH SANTA. 11:30-2 p.m., Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. Loudoun High School presents a "Lunch with Santa." Fees apply; call 703-729-8400, Ext. 2107 to register.

HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES. 5-6 p.m., Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. Heritage High School presents a performance in the resort's main lobby. Free.

SUNDAY/DEC. 14

NATURE CRAFTS. 2-3:30 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestals Gap Road, Sterling. All ages. Make holiday nature crafts as gifts or decorations. Limit three crafts per person. Adult must accompany children. Cost: \$4. Call 571-258-3700 to register.

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CALENDAR

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THURSDAY/DEC. 11

CASINO TRIP. The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Charles Town, W.Va. Includes slots and simulcast horse racing; lunch on own. Cost: \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, includes transportation and \$5 cash back, subject to change. Minimum walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

A BEAR? WHERE? 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-6. Discover the life of different bears and explore a "bear cave." Cost: \$10.50 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

BIRD WALKS FOR BEGINNERS. 8-9 a.m., at the Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg. Learn about bird watching. For adults and older children. Free. Call 703-737-0021 or visit www.audubonnaturalist.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

FURRY FRIDAY. 5-7 p.m., Sterling Community Center, 20 Enterprise St., Sterling. Once a month, animals from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter will be at the Sterling Community. Bring the whole family for a real "happy hour" with animals looking for new homes. Visit www.loudoun.gov/animals.

TEEN CENTER. 7-10 p.m., After-Hours Teen Center, Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Features winter wonderland dance. All teens attending the teen center must have a permission slip, signed by a parent or guardian, on file. Download the permission slip at <http://library.loudoun.gov> to Teen Scene, Events, Hanging Out Rocks. For high-schoolers.

TODDLER ONE AND TWO. 11 a.m., Rust Library, 34D Catocin Circle, Leesburg. Stories, rhymes and movement for ages 12-24 months with a parent or caregiver. Sign up online at library.loudoun.gov or phone 703-777-0323.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT. 6-9 p.m., Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 E. Church Road, Sterling. Potty-trained children 3-grade five take part in arts and crafts, cookie decorating and watch a movie. Cost: \$15 per one child; \$10 each additional child. Call 703-430-6455 or visit www.sterlingumc.org.

NATURE BUDDIES. 9:15-10 a.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Age 2. Toddlers explore nature with an adult. Discover the trees, birds and ponds of the park relating to animals in winter. No unregistered siblings. Cost: \$5.25 per child. Children must be accompanied by and adult. Call 571-258-3700.

NATURE EXPLORERS. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-5. Discover the outdoors with a grown-up friend. Look for tracks, listen for birdcalls, look under logs and more, while focusing on animals in winter. Cost: \$7. Children must be accompanied by and adult. Call 571-258-3700.

WINTER BIRDS: Stay or Go? 3:30-5 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 6-10. What "tells" a bird to migrate for the winter? Explore the features scientists are discovering that send these intuitive creatures to a new scene. Cost: \$10.50 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



LINK distributed 1,150 coats and sweaters to 250 families during the Thanksgiving food and coat distribution event, Nov. 22, at the Sterling United Methodist Church.

Donations, Volunteers Needed

lier, they want food,” Gunderman said. Last year LINK volunteers distributed 510 coats compared to this year’s 1,150.

Lombardozi said individual generosity could go a long way to provide enough non-perishable food items — rice, cereal, canned goods, etc. — to help feed the area’s needy families for Christmas. Although the economic situation is tough for many people, Lombardozi said the donations have not lacked so far this year. “The donations have actually been about the same,” Lombardozi said. The organization had received more coats than it could give out Nov. 22, so it passed 300 coats on to the Good Shepherd Alliance Thrift Store in Sterling. Lombardozi said a low-income housing project, whose residents are usually served by LINK, contributed with a food drive.

“It’s a very immediate need and it’s a basic need.”

— Betty Eidemiller, LINK president and Herndon resident

Thrift Store in Sterling. Lombardozi said a low-income housing project, whose residents are usually served by LINK, contributed with a food drive.

IN ADDITION TO seeking food donations to replenish supplies before the December Christmas distribution event, LINK is seeking mon-

etary donations for grocery gift cards, toy donations to distribute to 1,640 children registered for the event and volunteers to help sort and distribute the goods. Eidemiller said that the all-volunteer organization relies on its neighbors and a network of people to help them meet the demand for assistance. “We really are dependent on the good will of people to meet the community’s basic needs,” she said.

“There’s always a need,” Gunderman said. “There will always be poor among us.” While poverty may not be eradicated, he said, it is important to continue to do the sort of work LINK does on daily basis, especially in a growing community. “We have to have this kind of compassion to foster hope and good will,” Gunderman said.

The Christmas event will provide families with about a week’s worth of food and gift cards to grocery stores to buy food that cannot be distributed, such as milk and meats. Lombardozi said LINK provided about \$13,000 in gift cards during the November event and would like to try to give the same amount Dec. 20.

LINK is also asking for donations of 3,000 new and unwrapped toys with a goal of providing most of the 1,640 children, 17 and under, with two toys each. Volunteers are also sought to help sort the donations and then to distribute the food and toys.

For more information about the Dec. 20 event, e-mail HolidayFoodBasket@LINKAgainstHunger.org.

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103 FREDERICK DR	3	5	0	STERLING	\$265,000	Detached	STERLING PARK
808 CONCORD CT	3	1	1	STERLING	\$108,000	Townhouse	STERLING PK SO TH
329 SILVER RIDGE DR	5	3	0	STERLING	\$349,000	Detached	SENECA RIDGE
130 COTTAGE RD N	3	2	1	STERLING	\$240,000	Townhouse	SUGARLAND RUN
107 LAURA ANNE DR	5	3	0	STERLING	\$280,000	Detached	SPRING GROVE FARM
700 DOGWOOD ST	3	1	1	STERLING	\$185,000	Detached	STERLING PARK
1004 BRETHOUR CT #212	2	2	1	STERLING	\$82,000	Townhouse	HUNINGTON RIDGE
37 ALDEN CT	2	1	0	STERLING	\$136,500	Townhouse	COUNTRYSIDE
46622 DRYSDALE TER #201	2	2	0	STERLING	\$215,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	RIVERBEND AT CASCADES
1203 BRANDON AVE	3	2	0	STERLING	\$218,000	Detached	STERLING PARK
46899 RABBITRUN TER	3	2	2	STERLING	\$250,000	Townhouse	FOX CREEK
21735 LEATHERLEAF CIR	3	3	1	STERLING	\$250,000	Townhouse	FOX CREEK
211 SAINT JOHNS SQ #211	2	1	0	STERLING	\$159,900	Townhouse	PROVIDENCE VILLAGE
1040 TEMPLE CT #127	4	3	1	STERLING	\$220,000	Townhouse	NEWBERRY
20977 SANDSTONE SQ	4	2	1	STERLING	\$321,000	Townhouse	POTOMAC LAKES
20639 CUTWATER PL	5	3	1	STERLING	\$567,000	Detached	POTOMAC LAKES
47333 BLACKWATER FALLS TER	3	2	1	STERLING	\$380,500	Townhouse	GREAT FALLS CHASE
3 EXETER CT	4	3	1	STERLING	\$450,000	Detached	COUNTRYSIDE
46158 CHESTER TER	3	2	2	STERLING	\$363,000	Townhouse	CASCADES
45597 LIVINGSTONE STATION ST3	3	3	1	STERLING	\$324,900	Detached	PEACE PLANTATION
45801 COLONNADE TER	3	2	1	STERLING	\$380,000	Townhouse	COLONNADE AT DULLES TECH

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For more information on MRIS, visit www.mris.com.

To search for a home online, visit www.HomesDatabase.com.

“Exceptional Open Houses” December 13 & 14



*46514 Cedarhurst Dr., \$479,000, Sun 1-4, Annette Brennan, Long & Foster, 703-304-2305

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.

Leesburg

41168 Black Branch Pkwy	\$1,550,000	Sun 1-3	Pamela Yerks	Weichert	703-760-8880
21123 White Clay Pl.	\$2,199,000	Sun 1-4	Lynne Jones	Weichert	703-934-0400
18579 Woodburn Rd.	\$689,000	Sun 12-2	Katherine Forno	RE/MAX	703-771-2345

Sterling

*46514 Cedarhurst Dr.	\$479,000	Sun 1-4	Annette Brennan	Long & Foster	703-304-2305
47430 Courtney Ln.	\$594,000	Sun 1-4	Ritu Desai	Samson	703-378-8886
46342 Sheel Ter.	\$375,000	Sun 1-4	Heather Elias	Weichert	571-233-5491

Reston

1539 Chatham Colony	\$399,500	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Preusser	Remax	703-318-0067
2517 Freetown Ct.	\$449,997	Sun 1-4	Rhea Thomas	Weichert	703-938-6070
2279 Hunters Run	\$210,000	12/16 12-4	Richard Coogan	Weichert	703-893-1500

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Lauri Swift or Winslow Wacker

703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to Lauri@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

New Year’s Eve Fun Starts at 4 o’clock
14th annual

MADD 5k Red Ribbon Run

Benefiting Mothers Against Drunk Driving Northern Virginia

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 Concern Hall (Bldg. 80 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 17 th , 2008; \$25 after December 17 th 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 31 st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM
(& Packet Pick-up)	

Register online at www.racepacket.com

For info, see www.maddnova.org
or 703-379-1135

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NEWSPAPERS

Getting Back on Their Feet

Dominion team working hard to be competitive again in Dulles.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Last winter was a tough season for the Dominion High wrestling team, a two-time defending Dulles District champion, which experienced a last-place finish in 2008.

The Titans' title winning teams of 2006 and '07 were loaded with talented, experienced wrestlers who led coach Billy Young's program to its district success. But Dominion was in a different situation last year. Many of the program's top wrestlers from the previous two years had graduated and the Titans were much younger and less experienced across the board. Young said last year, which saw Do-

"He's probably our best shot at a district title."

— Billy Young, Dominion wrestling coach

minion win just one district dual meet, was difficult. The Titans had eight first-year team members on the varsity.

"It was tough, very humbling," Young said of going from district champions to last place.

But last year's rebuilding took hold and the Titans, despite the numerous team and individual losses on the mat, grew from the hardships of a losing campaign.

"They're looking a lot better, they've grown," Young said of this year's team. "[But] we're still young."

On top of having varsity wrestlers with more experience now, Young also said a strong group of freshmen have come into the program this winter, two of which are competing in the varsity lineup.

"I have a really good group of freshmen," said the coach.

Last Wednesday in a JV Jamboree at Heritage High in Leesburg, six young Titan wrestlers each won two matches to no defeats. So Dominion appears to have good talent among its younger members of the program.

THIS PAST SATURDAY, Dominion competed at the Battle at the Bend tournament, a nine-team, early season meet hosted by Riverbend High School in Fredericksburg. This upcoming weekend will see the Titans travel to Tuscurora High (Frederick, Md.) for another competition. And then the following weekend will see Dominion compete at the two-day Broadway High (Massanutten District) tournament in



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

District wrestling champs in 2006 and '07, Dominion fell to last place last year.

Broadway, Va.

And during the holidays, the team will travel to Alexandria and participate at the annual St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School Christmas Tournament Dec. 30. Dulles District neighbor, Park View, will also be at the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes event.

Some of the Dominion team's top wrestlers include junior Tom Dewar and seniors Don Tran (140), Torey Mazza (135) and Darren Littleton (189).

Dewar finished third at districts last year at 171. Young believes Dewar will be a district contender in a talented 171-weight class.

"He's probably our best shot at a district [title]," Young said of Dewar. "He's got experience and wrestled in middle school in

New York. He's real good on his feet and just a smart kid."

Tran finished fifth at 140 last year and Mazza was fifth at 125.

"Don is strong and a third-year wrestler," Young said of Tran. "He started wrestling as a sophomore and he's pretty athletic. Torey is real good on the mat and real good on top. He's crafty."

Young is hoping to see the return of sophomore heavyweight Alex Ward and senior Andrew Russell (152) to the lineup. Both suffered football injuries this past fall. Ward, recovering from a broken leg, actually competed in a match last week. Russell, who missed most of last year's season as a result of injuries, could be cleared to return soon.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Girls **winter volleyball clinic** for ages 14-17 with previous volleyball experience. Includes instruction, drills and scrimmages. Cost is \$60 per person. To take place at the Douglass Community Center in Leesburg every Tuesday night, from Jan. 13-March 24. Clinic times will be from 7:15-9:15 p.m. Space is limited. For more information or to register, contact the Douglass Community Center at 703-771-5913 or e-mail dcc@loudoun.gov.

Skills Plus Basketball Academy announces its fourth annual winter basketball clinic for girls. Skills Plus will offer the basketball skills clinic Monday, Dec. 29, at Douglass Community Center in Leesburg. The clinic time for girls ages 11-13 will be 10-11:30 a.m. The clinic time for girls ages 14-17 will be 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Turnout could dictate merging the time periods. Contact Michael Turner at 703-303-0808 or at michaelturner@aol.com for more information or to register.

Lower Loudoun Little League is holding online registration for the spring 2009 season for all players between the ages of 5-18, as of April 30, 2009. Visit the league Web site at

llbaseball.com or call 703-430-6019 for details. Also,

walk-in registration will be held, from 9 a.m.-noon, at Diamond Sports Training, diamondsportstraining.com, on Dec. 13 and Feb. 14. Register prior to Jan. 1 and receive up to a 30 percent discount.

LoCo Ladies Basketball League will run spring and summer seasons in 2009. The league is open to women ages 18 and over of all skill levels. Officiated games will be played on Sunday evenings at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne. Individual players and established teams are welcome. Registration is now open. For more information, visit loudounbasketball.com/locoladies or call 703-444-8805, Ext. 112.

DMB Sports Camp will run multisport holiday camp programs on the following Loudoun County Public School holidays: Dec. 22-23, Dec. 29-31, Jan. 2, Jan. 20, Feb. 16, as well as spring break, April 6-10 and

SEE SPORTS ROUNDUPS. PAGE 15

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION

The Dominion High girls basketball team lost its non-district home game to Gar-Field Dec. 3. The contest was part of the Dominion Tip-off Classic.



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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE
Improved by the premises known as
2558 Banshire Drive, Herndon, Virginia
In execution of a Deed of Trust from Sridhar Subramanian and Shylashree K. Seshadri, dated October 21, 2005, and recorded October 24, 2005, in Deed Book 17882 at page 931 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on
Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 12:15 p.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:
Lot 12, Section 1, Wellesley, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 9979 at page 1848, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.
Commonly known as 2558 Banshire Drive, Herndon, Virginia 20171.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$35,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.125 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000



Ashby Ponds, Erickson's newest community in Loudoun County, seeks servers and other qualified applicants for our beautiful restaurant. Qualified high school student applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 with no failing grades and the availability to work at least 3 shifts a week after school and/or on weekends.

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• Receive new caregiver applicants' information/calls and arrange interviews.
• Weekly interviews for prospective Caregivers in our Reston office.
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117 Adoption

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Notice is hereby given that Temor Shah Amin T/A T & O's Sedan and Limousine, 1453 Parkvale Court, Herndon, VA 20170, has applied for authority to operate as a CONTRACT PASSENGER carrier, providing service from the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, Virginia; and the Counties of Arlington and Fairfax, Virginia to any point(s) in Virginia.

Any person who wishes to support or oppose the application, but does not wish to be a party to the matter, must send a written statement to DMV, MCS-CMU, P.O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001. The statement must be signed and contain the applicant's name and DMV case number(MC0800123DD)

Any person who wishes to protest the application and be a party to the matter must contact DMV at 804-367-6504 to receive information on filing a protest. The deadline for filing letters of support , opposition or protest is December 29, 2008.

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SPORTS ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 12

April 13. The sports camps are for youngsters ages 6-13. The camps will include various sports, including special programs, rock climbing and swimming. Daily camp hours will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with optional after care from 4-6 p.m. For more information, visit dmbmsportscamp.com or contact Meg at 703-444-8805, Ext. 104 or at mdudek@dmbmsports.com.

Volleyball clinic for girls ages 14-17 with previous volleyball experience. Instruction, drills and scrimmages included. Held at the Douglass Community Center in Leesburg. Meeting times are every Tuesday from Jan. 3-Feb. 24. Times are 7:15-9:15 p.m. Price is \$125 per person. Register early as space is limited. For more information, or to register, contact the Douglass Community Center at 703-771-5913 or e-mail dcc@loudoun.gov.

Cascades Flag Football is a youth league open to boys and girls in grades kindergarten-eighth. Registration for the spring 2009 is open online at www.youthflag.com/cascades. Early bird rates apply through Feb. 20. For more information on coaching or officiating, call 703-444-8805, Ext. 112, or e-mail cascades@youthflag.com.

Loudoun Field Hockey Association spring 2009 season is open for girls in grades three through 12 of all skill levels.

Pet of the Week

To adopt a featured animal or any other animal, visit the Loudoun County Animal Shelter on Route 9 at the intersection of Route 704 in Waterford. Animals can be viewed at the shelter Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 1-6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1-8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Business hours for the shelter are Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The shelter is closed Sundays. Call 703-777-0406 or 540-882-3211. View other animals at <http://www.loudoun.gov/animals/shelter.htm>.

PEOPLE NOTES

Send announcements to loudoun@connection-newspapers.com. Deadline is Friday; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Ten Loudoun County Sheriff's Office **correctional recruits** graduated Nov. 13 from the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. The agency's recruits took a majority of the class awards including the session's highest honor.

Recruit Stanley L. Jones received the Ricky L. Timbrook Award, named in honor of a fallen Winchester Police Officer. The award goes to the recruit who personifies the highest standards. Jones also served as the class president. Douglas W. Duhl Jr., received the top academic achievement award. Toby R. Pelt received the award for top skills achievement. Michelle L. Hand received awards for top overall achievement and female physical fitness. The members of the graduating class for Jail Officer Basic 139 (Middletown) are Duhl Jr., Timbrook, Pelt, Jaclyn K. Hamilton, Michelle L. Hand, Stanley L. Jones, Anna K. McGuiney, Thomas W. Robinson, Sean D. Sumeay, Vanessa M. Wick, and Donald L. Williams, Jr.

The new correctional deputies will begin a four-week in-house training program at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center.

Members of **Cub Scouts Pack 913, Dens 1**

Register online at www.loudounfieldhockey.org. Early bird rates apply through Feb. 20. Volunteer coaches and referees are needed. For more information, e-mail meg@loudounfieldhockey.org or call 703-444-1020, Ext. 104.

Adult field hockey within the Loudoun Field Hockey Association is open to players 21 and over of all skill levels. Games are played at NVCC-Loudoun. For more information, e-mail meg@loudounfieldhockey.org or call 703-444-1020, Ext. 104.

Learn how to live off the land, make your own tools, start a fire, track animals, and learn the sport of archery at the **Primitive Teachings Camp** for children ages 6-13. The camp is offered on April 13, at the National Conference Center in Lansdowne. For more information, go to www.dmbmsports.com, e-mail mdudek@dmbmsports.com or call 703-444-8805, Ext. 104.

Ever wanted to learn how to Scuba dive? Here is your chance at the PADI Seal Team **Scuba Camp**. This camp is available to kids ages 8-15 and will be held Dec. 29, at Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling. If interested, register at www.dmbmsportscamp.com or e-mail mdudek@dmbmsports.com.



CONTRIBUTED

Cleo is a 3-year-old female hound/rottweiler mix.



Girl Scout Troop 952 gave Christopher Kasuba's second-grade class at Horizon Elementary School 30 chair pockets to handle the overflow of books and binders in their desk.

and 7 from St Joseph's Parish, which includes Scouts from Sterling and Herndon, attended a driving tour at the Loudoun County landfill to see where their garbage goes, learn about landfill disposal and why it is important to recycle. The landfill is located at 21101 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, and is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

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