

Ashburn CONNECTION

Brambleton ❖ Broadlands ❖ Lansdowne

Lee High defenders try to bring down Marcus Harris of Stone Bridge during last Friday's Div. 5 Northern Region championship football game in Ashburn. The Bulldogs won the title contest, 21-10, their third straight region crown. Harris led the way with all three of his team's touchdowns. Next up for Stone Bridge is Massaponax High (Fredericksburg), which will visit Bulldog Stadium for a State AAA semifinals game this Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

Bulldogs Won't Let Go

SPORTS, PAGE 8

Serving Neighbors In Need

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Saving Christmas

NEWS, PAGE 3

Mims 'Comes Home'

NEWS, PAGE 3

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CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ❖ HOME SALES, PAGE 6 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 9

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Supervisors Act to 'Save Christmas'

Board overrules advisory committee's prohibition on seasonal displays at courthouse.

BY MARTIN CASEY
THE CONNECTION

Loudoun County supervisors voted Tuesday, Dec. 1, to essentially "save Christmas," several said, by voting to reverse action by its Courthouse Facilities and Grounds Committee last week to simply deny all requests for seasonal display space on the Leesburg courthouse grounds.

The Board of Supervisors voted 7-1-1 to direct the committee "to re-implement its original grounds policy." Supervisors also acted to assure that the committee does not unilaterally amend its rules without prior approval of the board.

Leesburg Supervisor Kelly Burk made the motion, seconded by Sterling Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio, and

Blue Ridge Supervisor Jim Burton was the lone "no" vote, noting that "free speech issues are complex" and that such an issue had earlier cost the county \$1 million. Board Chairman Scott York was not present for the vote.

Delgaudio had pushed the issue hard, launching an e-mail attack against the "Sneak Attack on Christmas" and urging his constituents and other Loudoun County residents to demand reversal of the decision at Monday night's regular public hearing, and numerous citizens did so.

Traditionally, a manger scene has been set up at the corner of King and Market streets in Leesburg just inside the courthouse grounds. The scene has become controversial in some years, and a Menorah has also been allowed on the property. Throughout the year, the committee has approved, and

sometimes denied, requests to promote various causes with gatherings on the courthouse grounds. For example, a parade on Martin Luther King Day normally begins on the courthouse grounds and marches east on Market Street to the Douglass Community Center.

But last week, Ben Lawrence, chairman of the courthouse committee, said that requests to place things on the courthouse grounds were simply becoming too numerous, noting the difficulty of choosing between applications for available space.

The Rotary Club of Leesburg has a long tradition of placing a Christmas tree on the courthouse grounds, and club members were chagrined to learn last week that all displays on the courthouse grounds, holiday related or not, were now prohibited.

"I do not understand the rationale for this decision but I do know it flies in the face of any holiday or Christmas spirit," said one club member who has led the placing of the

tree on the courthouse grounds the past five years. "We are a traditional county and town founded on the freedoms that include freedom of religion," he commented.

The heretofore traditional nativity creche permit was also rejected by the courthouse committee, along with all others.

Delgaudio noted that a petition had been posted online last Saturday and that more than 465 people signed it within the first 24 hours.

"Pro-Christmas Americans are taking time from family Thanksgiving events and errands to sign the petition condemning the wrongful act of a Board of Supervisors Advisory Committee action taken last week against a group seeking to continue a 50-year tradition of placing a Nativity, a Menorah or a Christmas Tree at the Leesburg Courthouse," wrote Delgaudio.

The petition, entitled "Keep Leesburg Courthouse Nativity Scene" was posted by Barbara Curtis, at www.ipetitions.com/petition/leesburgnativity.



Sterling United Methodist youth gather to sort winter coats for the Nov. 21 distribution.

Serving Neighbors in Need

More donations, volunteers welcome at LINK.

BY MARTIN CASEY
THE CONNECTION

LINK, the distribution arm of Good Shepherd Alliance which distributes food and warm coats to families in need through eastern Loudoun County and Herndon, again fielded a small army of volunteers Nov. 21 at Christ the Redeemer Roman Catholic Church in Sterling, and at Trinity Pres-

byterian Church in Dranesville, to provide food for Thanksgiving to 672 families in area neighborhoods, comprising about 3,500 individuals, about 2,000 of them children. Included were some \$14,760 in gift certificates.

Meanwhile, more than 1,075 good, used, warm winter coats were distributed at Sterling United Methodist Church in Sterling Park.

The annual activities will be repeated for Christmas on Dec. 19, when toys will be distributed for children, as well as food. LINK has issued a new call for more volunteers and contributions to

SEE SERVING, PAGE 11

Mims 'Comes Home'

But he's staying in Richmond.

BY MARTIN CASEY
THE CONNECTION

Virginia Attorney General Bill Mims told the Loudoun Crime Commission on Friday, Nov. 20, that he felt like he was "coming home" when he made the drive here from Richmond.

Mims went to Richmond in 1992 representing Sterling and Ashburn voters in the 32nd House of Delegates District. He was elected to the Virginia Senate from Loudoun's 33rd District in 1998, where he served until resigning in December of 2005

to become assistant attorney general to then newly elected Attorney General Bob McDonnell. When McDonnell resigned earlier this year to campaign for governor, Mims became Attorney General, where he serves until recently-elected Ken Cuccinelli takes office in January.

Mims practiced law for many years in Loudoun County; he and his family lived in CountrySide for many years; his children graduated from Potomac Falls High School.

So it's understandable that Mims felt like he was coming home, and his visit drew many first-time attendees to crime commission meetings, a non-profit organization formed four years ago.

Mims, a Republican, naturally drew many

SEE MIMS, PAGE 9

New Smoking Law in Effect

Local reaction to restaurants going smoke free.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Like a party on New Year's Eve, patrons at O'Faolains Irish Pub and Grill in Sterling counted down the last new seconds of Nov. 30.

When the clock struck midnight, the crowd cheered (and booed) as the restaurant's operations manager Kevin Kahoe climbed

on top of a counter top to stick the official "No Smoking" sign above the bar.

As of Dec. 1, Virginia's new smoking restrictions took effect and several restaurants, including O'Faolains, are abolishing indoor smoking altogether.

The new smoking regulations fall short of an outright ban and the Virginia General Assembly left more room for restaurants and bar to accommodate indoor smoking than Maryland or Washington D.C. currently allows.

Though nearly restaurants and bars must offer a non-smoking section and non-smoking entrance, they are also allowed to build

SEE REACTIONS, PAGE 9

Where Research and Donations Make a Difference

Cure rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia keeps improving.

BY BARBARA E. BOLAND
THE CONNECTION

For the participants in the annual Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night" walk, there are often painful, but ultimately triumphant personal stories motivating them to donate their time and money to this cause.

Five years ago, Bill and Karen Hughes were preparing to celebrate the Christmas holiday. They had noticed that their youngest son, Andrew, was lethargic and complaining of leg pain, but as the mother of three young children, Karen didn't think it was too serious until visiting relatives suggested that perhaps they should take him to the hospital. They took him on Christmas Eve, and on the day after Christmas, they were told the results of the blood tests: three-and-a-half-year-old Andrew was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

In the 1960s, the cure rate for this type of cancer was 4 percent. Leukemia sufferers of previous decades would endure months locked inside hospitals suffering through rounds and rounds of treatments, isolated from their classmates and friends. If the leukemia patients were in the tiny minority lucky enough to survive these treatments, they would return to school overweight and without hair, behind their



Bill Hughes is the head coach of Ashburn Xtreme and his son Andrew is in the middle with the blue "Survivor" shirt. The team created its own "sub-team" for fund-raising purposes and then supported October's "Light the Night" walk in person.

peers in classes by at least a year, adding social ostracization to their already untold suffering. When Bill and Karen Hughes heard that their son had leukemia, they braced themselves for the worst.

Like many families in the metro D.C. area, the Hughes did not have close family nearby to lean on for support. Instead they turned to the supportive community of Ashburn, where they live. Neighbors rallied around the family and were eager to do everything they could to support them. A year after Andrew's diagnosis, Bill Hughes began speaking for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and participating in the fund-raising walks. The community helped, starting their own team and raising \$100,000 in five years.

AT THE TIME of Andrew's diagnosis, the cure rate for acute lymphoblastic leukemia was at 80 percent. Andrew would spend the next three years and two months going to

chemotherapy treatments and enduring eight to 10 spinal taps. Unlike in the past where patients were hospitalized, today's children go for chemo treatments once a week at first, and then once a month. In between treatments they take daily medicines, allowing them to remain in school most days right alongside their peers. This makes the transition of high-energy child to a sick one less obvious to outsiders and keeps classmates, teachers, and the community actively involved in the patient's outcome.

Today Andrew is a happy and healthy little boy who loves sports and participates in the AA travel hockey team with his coach dad. According to Bill Hughes, Andrew's hockey team was astonished when they heard his story and were delighted to help raise money for the Leukemia Society.

Because of the advances in treatment for leukemia, most people know a child who

has had it, and like Andrew's hockey team, they are unaware of the little survivor in their midst. No cause is dearer to Bill Hughes' heart because, as he puts it, "it's hard to imagine a cause more worthy devoting time and money to." His firm, MorganFranklin, also started a team taking this year's total donations from teams Bill was involved in to \$24,000.

**"It's hard to imagine a cause more worthy devoting time and money to."
— Bill Hughes**

THE SOCIETY is still accepting donations at www.lightthenight.org/nca and is also gearing up for "Team in Training," a spring campaign for beginner to seasoned athletes. Like the "Light the Night" walks, these teams raise money for leukemia while also helping participants achieve their best at marathons, half marathons, triathlons and 100-mile bike rides. More information is available at www.teamintraining.org/nca.

For those looking for a cause to devote money and time to, this is one way to make a major difference in the lives of children since leukemia is the number one cancer in children. "There are so many charities, and if it's not near and dear to your heart, you can't feel passionate about it. Many years ago this used to be a death sentence," Karen Hughes said. The scientific advances made in recent years show the direct impact one's donation of time and money can make. In five years the cure rate of leukemia has gone up 10 percent. Thanks to all the northern Virginia area teams' hard work, they raised \$412,000 of the \$450,000 the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's goal.

CRIME REPORT

Joggers Kissed

The Sheriff's Office announced Wednesday, Nov. 25, that deputies had located a 71-year-old man who had kissed the hands of female joggers along Whitewater Drive near Lowes Island Elementary School.

The women each reported that an unknown man had extended his hand to them as though he wanted to shake hands, and then kissed their hands. The separate incidents were reported on Nov. 20, 23 and 24. Each occurred between 8:45 and 9:15 a.m. Authorities added that the man "is suffering from an ailment" and that did "not appear to be any criminal intent." None of the women wished to pursue charges in the case, according to authorities. The man's name was not released because no charges are pending. At least four women reported being kissed, according to a Sheriff's spokesman.

Soccer Victims

Sheriff's deputies arrested two D.C. men Wednesday,

Nov. 25, for stealing items from soccer players participating in a game in Claude Moore Park in Sterling.

They were charged with grand larceny and three counts of petit larceny, as well as providing authorities at first with a false name. Authorities said the stolen items were all returned to their owners.

Arrest in Sterling Theft

Sheriff's Deputies arrested a 23-year-old man for larceny, obstruction of justice and assault Nov. 22 after responding to an afternoon theft report at the Target store in Potomac Run Plaza on Route 7 across from NOVA Community College. The suspect, found hiding near a trailer, was caught after a foot chase.

SUV Driven into Lake

A 16-year-old Ashburn female crashed into a lake along Ashburn Village Boulevard near Cheltenham Circle about 4:30 p.m. Nov. 22, a Sheriff's spokesman reported.

"The SUV appears to have been intentionally driven off of Cheltenham Circle by jumping a curb. The vehicle then was driven through a fence and eventually landed in the lake," he said. "There were no signs of attempts to break or attempt to steer clear of the lake."

An underwater recovery unit responded to the scene to assure that no other victims were in the SUV. The individual, whom authorities did not identify due to her age, was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Arrests in Ashburn Burglary

Four Maryland men have been charged in connection with an overnight burglary of an Ashburn home.

Sheriff's deputies responded to a report of a burglary in progress about 1:30 a.m. Nov. 20 on Atherton Street near Broadlands Village Center.

Deputies arrived in time to find signs of the burglary, including removal of two large-screen television sets and a video game system. Residents were away at the time.

SEE CRIME REPORT, PAGE 5

Economic Development Director Resigns

Loudoun County Economic Development Director Larry Rosenstrauch announced last week that he is resigning effective Friday, Dec. 4. Rosenstrauch has guided the department the past 13 years, during a period of significant commercial development.

He came to Loudoun County in 1996, from Charlotte, N.C., where he had served eight years as director of economic development for the City of Charlotte.

In Loudoun County, his department has worked with private sector partners to encourage continuing business investment and development throughout the county. During his tenure, the department tapped talent and expertise from

local businesses and created several advisory panels, including the CEO Cabinet, Design Cabinet, and Science and Technology Cabinet. Rosenstrauch also was instrumental in the Economic Development Commission, which brought together business leaders throughout the county to learn more about the county's developmental details and informally advised Rosenstrauch, his department and through them the county's Board of Supervisors.

Rosenstrauch, 61, chose to resign the workday prior to the arrival of Tim Hemstreet, 44, Loudoun County's new county executive. Hemstreet's selection was announced in October following a six-month nationwide search.

Rosenstrauch said Hemstreet needed "a fresh start" with a new

economic director, and added that he looked forward to his next opportunity.

Interim County Administrator Linda A. Neri, who has served as acting county manager since the departure of Kirby Bowers last spring, will provide economic departmental leadership until Hemstreet selects a successor to Rosenstrauch.

— MARTIN CASEY

A LOOK AHEAD

The **Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Service** offers both seasonal and H1N1 flu shots on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 6-9 p.m., at the main entrance to its medical center in Leesburg, 224 Cornwall St. The clinic is open to the public; children aged 6 months and older are eligible to receive a flu shot. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Seniors with valid Medicare card can also receive a flu shot. Cost is \$25 per person (check or cash).

The **quarterly meetings of the Sheriff's Office** with eastern Loudoun residents is set for Tuesday, Dec. 8, starting at 6 p.m., in the Cascades Library on Whitfield Place. The meeting will report to residents on the status of public safety in Sterling communities.

The next **Board of Supervisors and School Board public hearings on the FY11 budget** will be Tuesday, Dec. 8, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the County Government Center, 1 Harrison St., SE, Leesburg. Another session is set for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Loudoun County Public Schools administration building in Ashburn on Education Court off Broadlands Boulevard. Sign up to speak by calling 703-777-0200, or sign the register at the

meeting.

Board of Supervisors public hearings on the proposed County Energy Plan begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14, in the County Government Center, 1 Harrison St., Leesburg. Sign up to speak by calling 703-777-0200, or sign the register at the meeting. A copy of the draft strategy is available online at www.loudoun.gov/energy.

The **Sterling Park Seahawks Swim Team sponsors Breakfast with Santa**, 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 19, at the Sterling Golf, Swim and Tennis Club at 333 S. Sterling Blvd. in Sterling Park. Parents may call 703-430-1400, ext. 1, to make reservations. Breakfast will be served between 9 and 11 a.m.; Santa arrives at 10 a.m. Children 2 and under, free; ages 3-11, \$4.95; ages 12 and up \$6.95. Bring your camera. Children under 12 will receive a small gift. Menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, toast and coffee for adults.

The **County Landfill** on Evergreen Road will be closed beginning at noon on Dec. 24, and all day Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. It will be open otherwise.

— MARTIN CASEY

CRIME REPORT

FROM PAGE 4

Deputies canvassed the area, locating a suspicious vehicle near Waxpool Road and Loudoun County Parkway, authorities re-

ported. The four occupants of the vehicle were arrested.

The four were being held in the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center. — MARTIN CASEY



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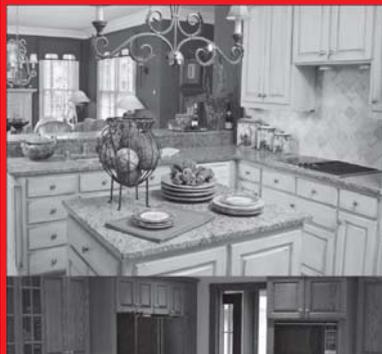
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ASHBURN

21325 Clancy Terr.....\$388,500.....Sun 1-4.....Robert Scherbarth.....Century 21 NM.....703-477-1043
 23089 Pecos Ln SE.....\$749,900.....Sun 1-4.....Walter Sobie.....Long & Foster.....703-989-4705
 22835 Quante Sq.....\$573,995.....Sat/Sun 11-6.....Carla Brown.....Toll Bros RE.....703-283-1045
 22831 Quante Sq.....\$553,995.....Sat/Sun 11-6.....Carla Brown.....Toll Bros RE.....703-283-1045
 42907 Nokes Corner Terr.....\$541,042.....Sat/Sun 11-6.....Carla Brown.....Toll Bros RE.....703-283-1045
 22833 Quante Sq.....\$539,995.....Sat/Sun 11-6.....Carla Brown.....Toll Bros RE.....703-283-1045

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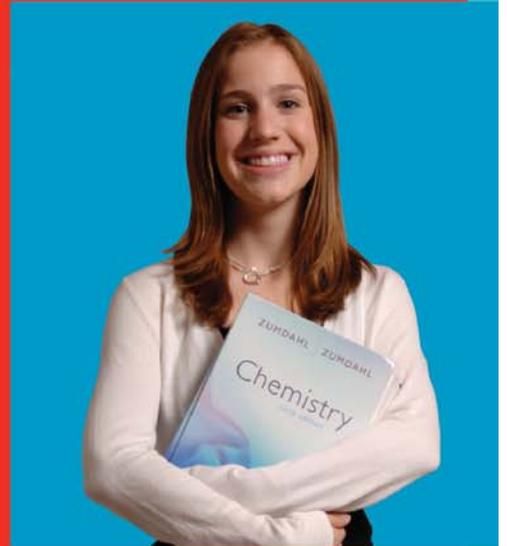
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15451 OLD DORY LN	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$1,077,000	Detached	25.54	ROCKHILL FARM PARTNERSHP		
19859 ANNENBERG DR	6	4	1	ASHBURN	\$1,039,000	Detached	0.57	BELMONT COUNTRY CLUB		
21968 CRESTED QUAIL DR	5	4	1	ASHBURN	\$825,000	Detached	0.54	QUAIL POND ESTATES		
18213 GLEN ABBEY CT	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$818,000	Detached	0.26	RIVER CREEK LAND BAY		
22655 HILLSIDE CIR	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$800,000	Detached	3.00	BARCLAY RIDGE		
17625 WHITE GATE PL	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$780,000	Detached	3.12	SHENSTONE		
40694 FARM MARKET RD	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$780,000	Detached	5.49	PAEONIAN SPRINGS		
20223 KIAWAH ISLAND DR	4	4	1	ASHBURN	\$755,000	Detached	0.31	BELMONT LAND BAY		
21592 BURNT HICKORY CT	5	4	1	BROADLANDS	\$741,392	Detached	0.86	BROADLND		
19238 MILL SITE PL	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$740,000	Detached	0.18	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC		
19226 MILL SITE PL	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$720,000	Detached	0.23	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC		
43320 CRYSTAL LAKE ST	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$715,000	Detached	0.28	RIVER CREEK PH II		
43403 PRINCEVILLE CT	4	4	1	ASHBURN	\$700,000	Detached	0.37	BELMONT COUNTRY CLUB		
41172 BLACK BRANCH PKWY	5	5	1	LEESBURG	\$696,000	Detached	0.41	GREEN MILL PRESERVE		
43233 AUGUSTINE PL	5	4	1	ASHBURN	\$687,000	Detached	0.21	BELMONT COUNTRY CLUB		
20577 MYERS PL	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$660,000	Detached	0.68	RED CEDAR WEST		
39361 CROOKED BRIDGE RD	5	2	1	LEESBURG	\$655,000	Detached	6.56	GREENLEA		
19216 CREEK FIELD CIR	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$650,000	Detached	0.28	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC		
18990 ROCKY CREEK DR	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$640,000	Detached	0.18	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC		
42780 HERMITAGE CT	5	4	1	ASHBURN	\$630,000	Detached	0.30	BRAMBLETON LAND BAY		
43628 CATHER CT	5	4	1	ASHBURN	\$625,000	Detached	0.26	FARMWELL HUNT		
43871 KITTIWAKE DR	5	4	2	LEESBURG	\$625,000	Detached	0.26	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC		
43798 MICHENER DR	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$615,000	Detached	0.28	FARMWELL HUNT		
43610 MILLAY CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$606,250	Detached	0.29	FARMWELL HUNT		
18705 FORESTGROVE RD	4	2	1	LEESBURG	\$600,000	Detached	15.03	LELAND HEIGHTS		
19048 KIPHEART DR	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$595,000	Detached	0.23	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC		
20242 HIDDEN CREEK CT	5	3	1	ASHBURN	\$590,000	Detached	0.23	BELMONT LAND BAY		
43277 KRISTIN MARIE CT	4	4	1	ASHBURN	\$586,500	Detached	0.29	CEDAR RIDGE		
42814 MEANDER CROSSING CT	5	3	1	ASHBURN	\$585,000	Detached	0.23	BROADLANDS		
1228 BRADFIELD DR SW	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$585,000	Detached	0.33	WOODLEA MANOR		
311 GAINES CT SW	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$565,000	Detached	0.26	WOODLEA MANOR		
18424 MILL RUN CT	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$560,000	Detached	0.28	NORTHLAKE		
18321 BUCCANEER TER	4	4	1	LEESBURG	\$560,000	Townhouse	0.10	RIVER CREEK LAND BAY		
43235 LECROY CIR	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$558,000	Detached	0.26	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC		
43178 PARKERS RIDGE DR	4	3	1	LEESBURG	\$550,000	Detached	0.19	POTOMAC STATION		
42554 RINGNECK PL	4	4	1	ASHBURN	\$545,169	Detached	0.13	BRAMBLETON		
513 FORTRESS CIR SE	5	2	1	LEESBURG	\$540,000	Detached	0.48	BEAUREGARD ESTATES		
43623 MERCHANT MILL TER	5	3	1	LEESBURG	\$540,000	Townhouse	0.14	LANSDOWNE ON THE POTOMAC		
22803 VICKERY PARK DR	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$537,750	Detached	0.15	BRAMBLETON LAND BAY		
201 GREENHOW CT SE	5	4	1	LEESBURG	\$535,000	Detached	0.46	TURNER-WILSON		
20404 PECKHAM ST	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$530,000	Double Wide	0.23	BELMONT GREENE		
18478 LANIER ISLAND SQ	3	3	1	LEESBURG	\$530,000	Patio Home	0.09	RIVER CREEK		
43374 MALIN CT	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$528,000	Detached	0.22	RYANS RIDGE		
21110 RAINTREE CT #33A	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$527,500	Detached	0.27	ASHBURN FARM		
23053 MINERVA DR	4	3	1	ASHBURN	\$526,000	Detached	0.20	BRAMBLETON		

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks prior to event; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Show and Sale. 6-9 p.m. Art students at the Loudoun Academy of the Arts will display their work at Gallery 222's Holiday Show and Sale. Artwork will include watercolor, pastel and oil paintings, drawings and sculpture. Visit www.loudounacademy.org or www.gallery222.com or call 703-777-5498.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Breakfast With Santa. 8:30 a.m. to noon. Hosted by the Arcola-Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department. At Arcola United Methodist Church, 24757 Evergreen Mills Road, Sterling. Call 703-542-6839.

Winter Coffeehouse. 2 p.m. An afternoon of live family-friendly music, holiday sing-alongs and a magic show for kids presented by the Sterling Library Teen Advisory Board. At the Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise Street, Sterling.

Preventing Diabetes. 10 a.m. to noon. Type 2 diabetes can be delayed and prevented with healthier habits during the pre-diabetes stage. In these two-hour classes, certified diabetes educators will provide information on physical activity, an improved diet and other positive lifestyle changes that can stall or prevent type 2 diabetes. \$50 registration. At the Diabetes Center, Inova Loudoun Hospital, 44045 Riverside Parkway, Leesburg. Call 703-750-8800 or go to www.inova.org/healthclasses.

Make Holiday Cards. 10 a.m. to noon. Nature and art come together in this workshop where children will create holiday-themed, original artwork and cards for sending to family and friends. At the Loudoun Academy of the Arts, 222 South King Street in Historic Leesburg. Cost is \$20 plus \$10 supply fee. For ages 5-10. Register on-line at www.loudounacademy.org or call 703-777-8043.

Cedar Lane Winter Festival and Holiday Shop. Free. Vendors include Silpada, Pampered Chef, Scentimental Scents and Mary Kay. At Cedar Lane Elementary School, 43700 Tolamac Drive, Ashburn.

DEC. 5-6

A Collection of Holiday Carols. \$10 admission; \$8/seniors; and \$5/youth. Presented by the Loudoun Chorale. Joining the Chorale will be the Sycolin Creek Elementary School 5th Grade Chorus. On Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at St. David's Episcopal Church, 43600 Russell Branch Parkway, Ashburn; On Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 605 West Market Street, Leesburg. Call 571-236-5734 or visit www.loudounchorale.org.

Treasures for Life Rummage Sale. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale features furniture, household items, clothing, office equipment, books, artwork, electronics, outdoor equipment, toys, and many other items for sale. Sponsored by the IYS Corporation to Support Mothers Against Drunk Driving. At 23465 Rock Haven Way, Suite 125, Dulles. Anyone wishing to arrange for a donation and free pickup of items for the sale may call 703-779-7534. Visit: <http://www.TreasuresforLife.net>

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Nutcracker Tea Party. 1 p.m. Loudoun Ballet Company performs The Nutcracker Tea Party at River Creek Country Club, 43404 Westchester Square, Leesburg. Children ages 3-12 is \$25; adults 13 and up is \$35.



Carole McNeil, vocalist

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Loudoun Symphony Concert. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$18/door, \$15/advance. Featuring jazz, pops, Broadway, Sousa March, ballet, classical and seasonal favorites. Featured soloists are Carole McNeil, vocalist, and Jason Greco, pianist. Pre-concert lecture by Maestro Mark Allen McCoy at 7:15 p.m. At Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn. Visit www.loudounsymphony.org or call 703-771-8287.

Performances will be at Park View High School, 400 W. Laurel Ave., Sterling, on Saturday, Dec. 12 and 19, at 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13 and 20 at 2:30 p.m. Call 703-771-8074. Go to www.loudounballet.org/teapartytickets.

Concert. 3 p.m. Ensemble a la Carte, featuring bassoonist Robin Gelman. The group will perform Serenade, opus 14, for seven winds by Julius Roentgen and the Sextet, opus 271, by Carl Reinecke. At Congregation Sha'are Shalom, 19357 Evergreen Mills Road, Leesburg, across from Heritage High School. Call 703-737-6500 or visit www.sha-areshalom.org.

Birding Hotspots in Loudoun. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join Joe Coleman and Laura Weidner of Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on a daylong search for sparrows, hawks, waterfowl, and other seasonal birds at some of Loudoun County's richest birding destinations. The group will meet at the Audubon Naturalist Society's Rust Nature Sanctuary in Leesburg. Registration required. Members (ANS & LWC): \$30; Non-members: \$42. To register contact ANS at 301-652-9188 x16.

TUESDAY/DEC. 8

Holiday Open House. 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also collecting non-perishable food for Loudoun Interfaith Relief. At the Visit Loudoun Office, 112-G South Street, SE, Market Station, Leesburg. Snow Date: Monday, Dec. 14.

Holiday Party and Toy Drive. 3-5 p.m. The east and west chapters of the MOMS Club of Sterling will host a joint annual Holiday Party and Monthly Meeting. At the Stone House in Cascades at 20670 Fernbank Court, Sterling. Visit www.momsclubofsterlingva.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. Author Sharon K. Solomon will read from her bilingual book, A Walk with Grandpa — Un Paseo con Abuelo. At Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn.

Winter Meet and Greet. 10 a.m. With the MOMS Club of Ashburn Farm. Get information about the club and meet new members at the Ashburn Library. They'll be collecting mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for the Loudoun County Holiday Coalition. Call Jenny Morrill at 703-338-2732, email membership_mcaf@yahoo.com or visit www.momsclubofashburnfarm.webs.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

ServSafe Food Sanitation Course. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Loudoun Extension Office in Leesburg. Cost is \$150, includes text, examination and certification. Call 703-777-0373.

FRIDAY/DEC. 11

Battle of the Bands. 6:30 p.m. \$3. The Loudoun County Youth Advisory Council and Loudoun Youth Inc. will host the second in a series of Battle of the Band events. All bands that want to play at YouthFest 2010 must compete in a Battle of the Bands event. To be held at AV-COM Visual Arts, 45965 Nokes Blvd. in Sterling. Visit <http://www.loudounteens.org> or call 703-737-8335.

DEC. 11, 12, 13

DECA Holiday House. Potomac Falls High School DECA students will give tours of the home of Rhoda Matts who decorates 70-plus trees and every room for the holidays. This ALS fundraiser will take place Friday, Dec. 11 from 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 12 from 1-9 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 1-6 p.m. House located at 234 Markwood Drive, Sterling.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

TubaChristmas Concert. 6 p.m. With the Loudoun Valley High School Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble. At Franklin Park Arts Center. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.franklinparkartscenter.org. Call 540-338-7973.

Loudoun Symphonic Winds Concert. 7:30 p.m. The program will include selections from Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker," "Silver Bells," and "Greensleeves". Admission is a new, unwrapped toy to be delivered to Toys for Tots. At Dominion High School, 21326 Augusta Drive in Sterling. Visit the Loudoun Symphonic Winds web site at www.lcbandinc.org or call 703-777-7985.

Birding Banshee. 8 a.m. Join the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks at the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve for a monthly bird walk. Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudounwildlife.org.

Ashburn Classics Christmas Luncheon. 11 a.m. The Ashburn Classics is a social club for seniors age 50 and over in the Ashburn area. At the Holiday Inn, Leesburg. Reservations are required and entertainment will be provided. Call 703-858-1313.

Master Singers of Virginia. 8 p.m. (7:15 p.m. lecture). Holiday performance from chant to carol. A 34-member a cappella ensemble under the direction of Dr. Erik Jones. Tickets are \$18/adults and \$15/students/seniors (65+) in advance. Go to www.msva.org or call 703-655-7809. At Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, 43115 Waxpool Road, Ashburn.

Loudoun Symphony Performs. 8 p.m. "Celebrate the Season" features Christmas, Hanukkah and winter music. At Stone Bridge High School, Claibourne Parkway and Hay Road in Ashburn. For tickets, call 703-771-8287 or visit www.loudounsymphony.org.

Pet Pictures with Santa. 1-3 p.m. Ashburn Village Animal Hospital is hosting pet pictures with Santa. At 44110 Ashburn Shopping Plaza, Ashburn, in the Giant Shopping Center across from the Ashburn Village Sports Pavilion. To schedule an appointment, call 703-729-0700.

Holiday Open House. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dodona Manor is decorated for the holidays as it was during George C. Marshall's life there in the 1950s. At 217 Edwards Ferry Road Leesburg. Call 703-777-1880.

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Bulldogs Capture Another Region Football Crown

Stone Bridge defeats Lee in finals; next stop, the state playoffs.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Two years ago, Mickey Thompson's Stone Bridge High football team dominated opponents on way to capturing the program's first-ever state AAA title. Last year, the Bulldogs were nearly as dominant, with a roster made up of numerous college scholarship-bound players who led the Ashburn team to another Northern Region title and a trip to states.

This year's squad, with a different look as a result of key graduation losses, was not supposed to reach the same heights. Nevertheless, Stone Bridge has proven to be, once again, the region's best Div. 5 team. That became official last Friday afternoon when the Bulldogs overwhelmed Springfield's Robert E. Lee High, 21-10, in the Div. 5 title game played at Bulldog Stadium in Ashburn.

"No one expected us to go this far," said Stone Bridge senior skill



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Abdul Shaban, Stone Bridge's senior kicker, converted three extra points in the Bulldogs' region title football game win over visiting Lee last Friday afternoon.

Lancers' own 37 yard line, was intercepted by senior linebacker Connor Calderwood with three minutes left. The pass, thrown to the right, was intended for Augustus.

"He's their go-to guy, their playmaker," said Calderwood. "I read the quarterback the whole way. He threw it and I stepped right in front of [Augustus]."

LEE, WHICH utilizes an option attack out of the shotgun, mishandled the ball throughout the game. Poor snaps from center and misplays on pitched balls out of the option resulted in numerous fumbles, one of which was loss. On its first possession of the game, the Lancers lost 23 yards as a result of a high snap on a third down play from their own 26 yard line. Lee had to punt the ball from its own three. Stone Bridge, as a result, began its first possession of the afternoon from the Lee 40 yard line. From there, the Bulldogs needed just six plays to score, the touchdown coming on a 14-yard run by Harris on a fourth-and-one play.

Lee answered with a scoring march that resulted in a field goal to putt the Lancers within 7-3.

But Stone Bridge, on its second possession of the game, marched 70 yards over 13 plays for another touchdown early in the second quarter. The score came on a fourth-and-11 play from the Lancers' 29. Rody dropped back to pass and fired a hard pass which Harris, with outreached arms, caught at the 10 before running into the end zone. Shaban's point after kick made it 14-3.

Although Lee would answer with a touchdown drive on its ensuing possession, the Lancers would not score again thereafter over the remaining 30-plus minutes of the game.

Stone Bridge, once again, was the region champion when the final whistle blew.

"I'm glad we could keep the Stone Bridge tradition alive," said Calderwood, who along with his late game interception also recovered a fumble in the championship game win. "We had a great team effort. The offense controlled the ball great and everyone did their job."

This year's Stone Bridge team, young overall and less experienced than recent Bulldog squads, has come a long way.

"This year we've had a bunch of young guys who have stepped up and kept the winning tradition going," said Rogers.

position standout Kyle Gouveia. "But we practiced hard [all season] and stayed with our game plan."

The region championship game victory was the third straight for the Bulldogs and advanced them to the state AAA playoffs where they will host Massaponax High (Fredericksburg) of the Northwest Region in a semifinals contest this Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

Since a week seven Liberty District road loss at Madison, 28-14, Stone Bridge (12-1) has reeled off six consecutive wins, including a convincing 27-8 home triumph over Madison at the region semifinals. Of those six wins, the only game that was close was a 17-14 regular season win over district foe Langley on Oct. 23. Since then, Stone Bridge's smallest margin of victory was Saturday's game against the Lancers.

Indeed, Stone Bridge has rounded into top form at the most important time of the season. The Bulldogs certainly controlled the action in the win over Lee, outgaining the Patriot District team, 268 to 201, and leading from the first quarter onward. Stone Bridge ran 70 offensive plays to Lee's 51. In the second half, the Bulldogs dominated in time of possession (16 minutes to the Lancers' eight). Stone Bridge's defensive unit was pleased with the offensive effort.

"We basically had our offense out there the whole game," said Stone Bridge junior cornerback Dexter Rogers.

THE BULLDOGS were able to move the first down chains so effectively as a result of both the stirring play up front from its offensive line as well as the hard, straight ahead running of star running back Marcus Harris, Stone Bridge's all-time leading career rusher who finished with 139 yards on 33 carries against the Lancers. Harris, a senior, scored all three of his team's touchdowns in the win, two on running plays (14 and two yards out) and one on a

29-yard catch from quarterback Brian Rody.

"That's what we try to do — keep possession on offense," said Gouveia. "On a few plays [over the game] they stopped us, but we just kept pushing."

Meanwhile, Stone Bridge's defense was able, for the most part, to contain standout Lee running back Idreis Augustus (80 yards on 17 carries). The senior ball carrier's biggest play came midway through the second quarter when he took a pitchout left from signal caller Greg Lopez and outraced the Stone Bridge defense down the left sideline for a 26-yard scoring play that got the Lancers within 14-10. That was the score at halftime.

But Stone Bridge made a huge statement when it took the second half kickoff and held on to the football for 19 plays and close to 10 minutes. Although the possession ended with a rare missed field goal by left-footed kicker Abdul Shaban (wide right on a 42-yard attempt), the long, non-scoring march ate up a ton of the second half clock.

On its next possession, which began in the final minute of the third quarter, the Bulldogs put together the lone scoring drive of the second half, moving the ball 51 yards over 14 plays and getting the touchdown on Harris' two-yard run up the middle with 7 minutes, 13 seconds left to play in the game. Shaban's third extra point kick of the game made the score 21-10 Bulldogs.

Lee never seriously threatened to score again and its final hopes all but faded when a Lopez pass, on a fourth-and-10 play from the

Athlete of the Week



Adrian Flemming, a senior wide receiver for the Broad Run High football team, runs with the ball during the Spartans' 36-13 Region II finals win over Sherando High last Saturday night in Ashburn. Flemming caught a second quarter touchdown pass in the championship game victory. To read about the state playoff-bound Spartans and their title game win, go to connectionnewspapers.com, then go to Ashburn.sports.

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Reacting to New Smoking Law

FROM PAGE 3

a smoking lounge, as long as it is separately ventilated and physically closed off from the nonsmoking areas.

IN ADDITION to O'Faolain's, Sweetwater Tavern in Sterling also opted to go entirely smoke free inside.

In the spring, Sweetwater may allow smoking at its outdoor bar area, which is currently closed for the winter season, said Dave Omar, one of the restaurant's managers. "We haven't made a decision on that yet," he said.

O'Faolains will allow people to smoke on their outdoor patio and plans to provide deck chairs and heat lamps in that area, said staff.

At least one local restaurant, Ned Devine's Irish Bar & Restaurant in Herndon, is considering accommodating smoking inside.

Residents in general expressed mixed feelings about the new restrictions.

Potomac Falls resident Patrick Michael O'Shea has never smoked but is uncomfortable with society deciding which vices are acceptable and which are not.

"When was the last time you worried about driving home late at night and someone crashing their car into you because they had too many cigarettes? Why is smoking bad and drinking not?" said O'Shea, who was enjoying at alcoholic beverage at the

Irish bar.

"For me, nonsmoking is great but that doesn't make it right," he added.

BUT KAHOE, for one, is delighted by the partial smoking ban. The Ashburn resident, who has worked at the bar for three and a half years, said a similar prohibition on smoking had a positive effect in Ireland.

"It improved business for the likes of restaurants and bars that were focused on food," said Kahoe, an Irish immigrant who lived in the country when the smoking ban went into effect.

Kahoe said he does not think the smoking ban will have a large impact on business at O'Faolain's or other local restaurants and bars as some people fear.

"I don't think a lot of people are going to go away and not come back. People in Ireland said that too and it didn't happen. Everyone got over it," said Kahoe.

Trina Medford, an Ashburn resident who tends bar at Ned Devine's, agrees with Kahoe.

"If it is a bar that a person goes to regularly, I don't think that is going to change much," she said.

Medford said she does not mind going out to smoke and is generally ambivalent about the new smoking restrictions.

"If I can't smoke in a bar, I will probably smoke less and that is good thing," she said.

Mims 'Comes Home' to Loudoun

FROM PAGE 3

of Loudoun's most visible Republican activists, including Patricia Phillips, who confirmed that she plans to again seek Mims' old senate seat. That seat is now held by Democrat Mark Herring, who defeated Phillips in the 2007 election. The senate race won't come before voters until 2011.

BUT MIMS WON'T be returning to Loudoun when he steps away from public office in January. He told well-wishers that he would go "from the state's third largest law firm" (the Attorney General's Office) "to the state's largest law firm," becoming a partner in the Richmond firm of Hunton & Williams. He will also serve as co-chairman of McDonnell's gubernatorial transition team.

Early in his remarks to the commission, Mims congratulated Republican Tag Greason of Ashburn on his November election to Mims' old delegate seat.

Mims explained in detail the work of the AG's office, describing the office as "the law firm for the Commonwealth" with attorneys "practicing in every jurisdiction." He noted the office handles all of the appeals from

prosecutions by local counties and cities, and handles prison system matters.

He stressed that another part of the job is not merely to defend the state in court.

"We defend the state, and if we see the state being sued and we feel the case may have merit, we pro-actively go to our client ... and say 'Let's do something about this'."

Mims, who served on the congressional staff of U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf early in his career, credited Wolf for his initiation in 1997 in forming a regional Gang Reduction and Interdiction Program (GRIP) in Northern Virginia that has raised awareness to the gang activities and unified the various jurisdictions into a concerted and continuing effort to combat gang violence.

Mims noted that young people aged 10 to 12 — "not just those 17 and 18" — are joining gangs, adding that it is important to deal with challenges from gangs "in the schools" and not just on the streets.

On another issue, Mims noted that Democrat Gov. Tim Kaine, "with McDonnell's support" from the AG's office, has moved to improve the state's laws on mental health and civil commitment, adding, "McDonnell has plans to go forward with that."

Section of New Homes in Brambleton To Open

The City Towns, Van Metre's first section of homes to open in Brambleton, will make their debut this Saturday, Dec. 5, during a grand opening from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Van Metre sales center at the Town Center. Refreshments will be available, and

the architect and sales representatives will be on hand to answer questions. Located in the Overlook neighborhood of Brambleton, these townhomes range from 2,000 to 2,200 square feet, and sell for pre-construction pricing from \$329,990.

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The Cancer Club



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

A club whose membership you don't want in. Heck, a club whose membership you don't ever want to be considered for. A club, though, that can make the ideal claim, as being truly indiscriminate. A club that will, in fact, not discriminate based on race, creed, color, ethnic or religious background or belief, country of origin, level of education (or lack thereof), sexual orientation or any other preference/persuasion one can imagine/create. However, it is a club that will not exactly invite you to join as much as it will tell you that you are a member. To sort of quote Groucho Marx, you might become a member regardless of whether you would refuse to join such a club simply because they invited you to join. In reality, you have no control, well, not total control. You're either in or you're out. And in my brief experience/membership, it is much better to be out than in.

Now that I'm in, though, it is indeed a club. One without walls and secret handshakes, but a club nonetheless. There aren't exactly meetings per se (although there are support groups) and there aren't exactly dues (although there are a lot of don'ts and shouldn't-anymores); nor are there membership drives or incentives to upgrade your membership. However, unlike many other clubs, once in, you're in for life; whether you're an active, under-treatment member or a formerly under treatment/inactive member. Moreover: membership, participation, attendance does not have its advantages. It's been my experience, diagnosis to date (nine months, approximately) that membership only offers disadvantages.

Sure, you meet wonderful, caring, nurturing, well-meaning health care professionals; as well as supportive, empathetic, similarly-struggling, cancer-diagnosed patients – some of whom you see regularly (depending on your infusion schedule). Others you see less frequently, sort of in passing (no pun intended), when scheduled appointments, scans, lab work, etc., cause you to be in the same place at the same time. And, of course, there is comfort in sharing, and knowing that you are not alone, and seeing familiar faces, even if they are faces you've seen when visiting (I use that term loosely) your oncologist or after receiving treatment, is soothing, sort of.

However, as important as feeling a part of something (that is so much bigger than you) and part of a group of similarly affected individuals is concerned, still, it's the being-alone time that can't be prevented. Being left with your own thoughts, in your own personal space – and time, is when the rubber really meets the road. Diversions and interactions with other cancer patients certainly help pass some of that time, and make that time less lonely and scary, but it's hard to hide from yourself (and you know where you live).

It's at the end of the day, literally and figuratively, when whatever you've gained or absorbed from these fellow club members needs to take root once again. Remembering what was said, what shared experience was recounted, what encouragement was expressed, what explanations and characterizations of treatments, protocols, procedures, etc. was discussed and most importantly, what appreciation of some of the pain and suffering you've endured, physically and mentally was understood, which is so helpful and so rewarding that, if I wasn't already a member, I'd try to form a club whose members were so likewise engaged.

Cancer is certainly not for everybody (thank God!), but for those of us already in the club, membership matters. I wouldn't say there are privileges, but there are possibilities.

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

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Serving Neighbors in Need

FROM PAGE 3

serve an expected larger number of families in need by Christmas time. In addition, LINK reports that it has a severe need for more Spanish-English translators to accompany needy families as they are being served at the churches involved. The need for translators includes fielding telephone calls as well as helping families on the day of distribution.

The food, coats and toys are collected through the generosity of community residents and the many churches of all faiths, who participate in the LINK program.

Volunteers also came from Lockheed Martin, among other companies that ask their employees to help LINK, and area girl and boy scouting troops.

On Saturday, some 30,000 pounds of food and about 1,000 coats and sweaters were distributed to the registered families, and then to walk-in residents as long as supplies lasted.

During the Dec. 19 Christmas distribution, toys will be distributed at Herndon United Methodist Church on Dranesville Road.

LINK issued an urgent call Nov. 29 to fill the organization's needs for 20,000 more pounds of non-perishable foods, such as hearty soups, spaghetti sauce, jelly, canned meats and cereal.

Volunteers and donations are also needed. In preparation for the Dec. 19 distribution, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church will be open for receiving and sorting contributions on Monday, Dec. 14, 9 a.m.-noon and 7-9 p.m. — also Thursday, Dec. 17, during the same times at the same churches. Sorting will be continued Friday, Dec. 18, until finished to be ready for distribution Dec. 19.

More volunteers will be needed on Saturday, Dec. 19, during distribution, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both churches. In addition, drivers will be needed that day to serve home-bound families and individuals through Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Toy donations distributed from Herndon United Methodist Church will also need volunteers: on Tuesday, Dec. 15 to sort toys contributions, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sorting continues during the same hours on Thursday, Dec. 17; and Friday, Dec. 18, until 7 p.m., with final sorting and serving recipients on Saturday, Dec. 19, starting at 8 a.m. and ending by 1 p.m.

To volunteer, call LINK at 703-973-4444. All donations should be received by early Saturday, Dec. 19.

Meanwhile, Ashburn Presbyterian Church raised \$13,268 to help support the Good Shepherd Alliance's homeless shelters by sponsoring a fund-raiser Oct. 24 including a dinner, silent auction and pie auction.

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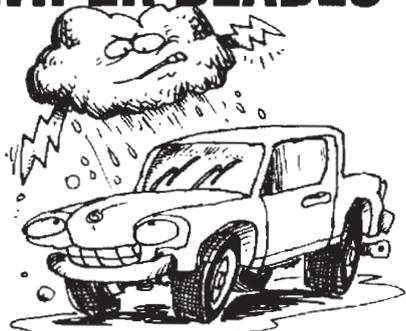
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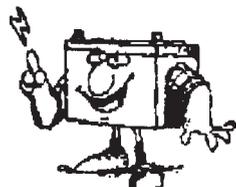


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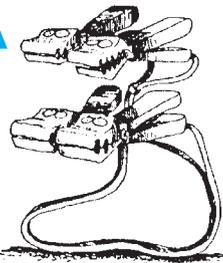


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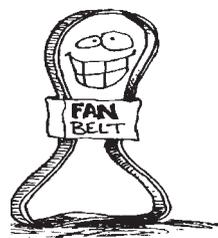
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