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Great Falls Artists Show in Six Local Exhibitions

News, Page G

NECTION

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PAGE 16

The Langley High Madrigal Singers performed the Madrigal Feaste last weekend at the Capital Church in Vienna. The Minstrels pictured include: Stephanie Anderson, Nicole Kang, Hillary Benjamin, Donya Mossadeghi, Lauren Fernandez, Caitie Simpson, Allison Fleegal, Rachel Street, Jennifer George, Abby Thompson, Isabel Hefner, Sonya Zell, Anna Jaeger, Alina Zufall, Padideh Jalili-Shirazi and Patricia Lindholm. The Jesters are: Cherubil Bechter-Goetz, Lucy Gunter, Margot Koppier, Caitlyn Purdy and

Ramsey Sitta posed in the front row with the Minstrels.

Розта Сизтомек ЕСR W/S Аттеитіон Розтмазтек: Тіме sensitive матекна. Кеquested ін номе I2-I7-09

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December 16-22, 2009 & Volume XXIII, Number 50

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2 Screat Falls Connection Screember 16-22, 2009

News

Langley High Choral Director Dr. Mac Lambert runs the Madrigal Singers through a few of the concert selections before the start of the Feaste.

> Photos B Louise Krafft,

> > Connectio⁻



Celebrating in Renaissance Style

Langley High presents Sounds of Season, Madrigal Feaste.

eeping with its tradition every December, the Langley High School Choral Depart ment staged an elaborate Madrigal Feaste last weekend at the Capital Church, 10233 Leesburg Pike in Vienna, inviting guests to celebrate the ancient holiday traditions of Merrie Olde England in authentic styles. In total, about 115 costumed performers, all Langley choral department students, participate in the Madrigal Feaste. The Women's Chamber Choir, also costumed in Renaissance-style dresses, greets guests at the door with carols and serenades tables during dinner. Other students are dressed as serving wenches and fellows, jesters and pages.

On Thursday, Dec.17, the Langley High School Choral Department presents sounds of the season at its Winter Concert. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the LHS Auditorium and is open to the public. The concert features the LHS Madrigals, who will perform selections of Renaissance holiday music in period costumes. In addition, all of the LHS choirs will perform selections. Admission to the concert is free to all.



The 2009-10 Langley High Madrigal Singers include: Cameran Alavi, Paulina Drucker, Kelly Hubbell, Matt Anderson, Caroline Dunigan, Ben Koppier, Nate Bremer, Paul Goldberg, Virginia Lee, Rachael Bumsted, Ariana Gover-Chamlou, Justin McKay, Becky Card, Matt Goudreau, Linsey Park, Adam Check, Zack Gray, Katie Scalia, Jackie Dinarte, Sasha Guerin, Chelsea Raitor and Arianna Zell.

<image>



The Madeira Madrigal Selects sing a few holiday songs a cappella. From left are Margaret Berkowitz, Sara Stribling, Jen Dussault, Kelsi Allison, Kristen Bishof and Charlotte Fuss.

Making Wishes Come True

Great Falls resident's Wish List Project celebrates 10 years.

By Mike DiCicco The Connection

eople and presents filled Ginger Mahon's Great Falls home on Saturday, Dec. 12. It wasn't a family gathering, although it resembled one — a huge one — as adults gathered and socialized over food in the kitchen, and children played ball in the front yard and took over the playground out back. Santa Claus dropped by, as did the Langley High School Madrigals and the Madeira Madrigal Selects. Hundreds of presents, including three bicycles, filled the basement and the garage, and some people were still busily wrapping more. The presents would go to needy families across the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Years ago, Mahon heard of the Embry Rucker Community Shelter in Reston and thought she could work with families at Forestville Elementary, where her children went to school, to get some gifts together for the holidays. "It was a real fly-bythe-seat-of-my-pants kind of thing," she said. "I was overwhelmed by the generosity of the donors."

ON SATURDAY, the Wish List in to visit the children.

Project celebrated its 10th anniversary.

"It's grown and grown through the years," Mahon said, noting that more than 100 families were making donations this year, and more than 300 families would be served. The project now delivers to four shelters and this year added local charity Share Inc., as well as 75 Fairfax County teens in foster care, to its list of recipients.

She pointed out the stack of gift cards on the kitchen counter that would also go to the shel

See Wish List, Page 12



Molly Maher chats with Santa Claus, who dropped in to visit the children.

Shirley Straley, grandmother of concert choir member Justin Young, assembles her family before entering the hall for the Renaissance Feaste on Saturday evening.





Christmas in the Field

While waiting for the bus one morning, Jack Buckley, 10, a fifth grader at Colvin Run Elementary School, saw the lone tree in the field at Carol and Ellsworth streets and thought it would be fun to add holiday spirit to the neighborhood by decorating it for the holidays. So he did.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

A nne and Kenny Collins of Sterling announce the birth of their son, Kenneth Leo Collins IV, born Aug. 27, 2009, at 10:10 a.m. at Fair Oaks Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 20.5 inches

long. He has a 3-year-old sister Lucy. The maternal grandparents are Joanne Warner of Great Falls and Ronald Hunter of Herndon. The paternal grandparents are Cathy and Ken Collins of Herndon.



BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 14

You and Your Aging Parents **Support Group.** 7 p.m. at the Jewish Social Services Agency, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. Explore the aging process and share experiences as a caregiver. Discussion topics can include coping with illness, balancing multiple demands, managing difficult emotions, identifying appropriate resources and developing a care plan. Group meets on the second Thursday of every month. Register at 703-896-7910.

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

Charity Citrus Fruit Sale. Seedless Grapefruit, Navel Oranges, Sunburst Tangerines, and Holiday Gift Boxes fresh from Florida via American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Fruit available 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., (also on Saturday, Dec. 19, 8 a.m. to 12 noon). Proceeds support local community youth, patriotic activities, and veteran needs. Pure Maple Syrup will also be available. Call 703-356-8259 for additional details.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. restonbell7@gmail.com.

See Bulliten, Page 9



National Aquarium in Baltimore Monday, Dec. 28 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Ajax Amusements Tuesday, Dec. 29 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shadowland Wednesday, Dec. 30 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. \$35/\$30 McLean district residents

The McLean Community Center

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101

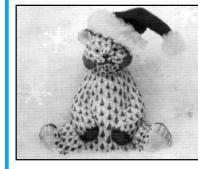
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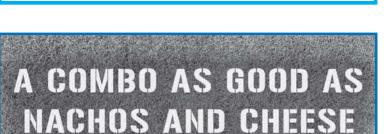
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Great Falls Connection & December 16-22, 2009 & 5





Searching for insparational gift ideas?

Hair

Laser Hair Removal





A contemporary quilt, 'Snails in the Garden,' by fiber artist Cindy Grisdela is part of an exhibit by Grisdela at Katie's Coffee at the Old Brogue. The coffeehouse features a different Great Falls artist each month.

Great Falls Artists Show In Six Local Exhibitions

New art displays open for holidays.

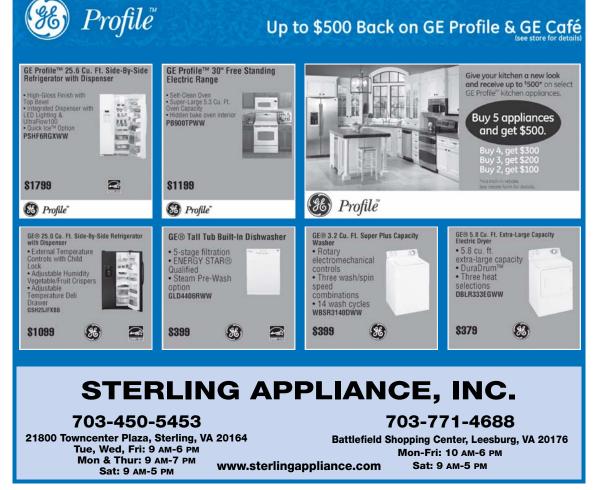
S ix exhibitions of works by more than 50 Great Falls artists have opened across Great Falls to celebrate the holiday season and the new year. All contributors are members of Great

ix exhibitions of works by more than 50 Great Falls artists have opened across Talls Studios, a network of artists who live or work in Great Falls. "These shows expand the reach

of local artists and give us the op

See Holiday, Page 13

exquisite kitchens extraordinary savings





6 ♦ Great Falls Connection ♦ December 16-22, 2009



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

OPINION Clearing the Air

New rules on smoking are flawed and fail to protect many workers, but still great step in right direction.

on-smokers and families looking to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke got an early and unlikely Christmas present from Gov. Tim Kaine and Virginia General Assembly on Dec. 1, when substantial restrictions on smoking in restaurants and bars went into effect.

Restaurants and bars in the Commonwealth are required to go smoke free. But many es-

Letters to the Editor \$1 Billion Question

Open Letter to the Board of Supervisors in Fairfax County:

To the Editor:

I have a question for you. If someone gave Fairfax County \$1 billion, would you spend some of that money on the parks? The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) was created nearly 60 vears ago and since then has acquired 22,600 acres of parkland in 417 park sites, which include nine RECenters, eight golf courses, five nature centers and numerous historic sites. As one of the largest, most diverse park systems in the nation, the FCPA is a National Gold Medal Award winner. This may explain why 79 percent of the households in the county are park users.

So, you would think, with \$1 billion, you would find it beneficial to support our fabulous parks. Why then didn't you do it? Between 2002 and 2010, the Fairfax County budget skyrocketed up \$1 billion, a 44 percent increase, and not 1 cent went to the parks. In fact, the FCPA budget in 2010 is 2 percent less than it was in 2002 and less than 1 cent of each tax dollar supports operation of the parks. Every other subcategory in the county budget received part of that \$1 billion to see an increase from 4 percent to 86 percent. Not the parks.

This leads to my second question. If someone made you to give them \$315 million from the county budget, would you seek any of that money from the parks? As the most underfunded agency tablishments will still be able to offer a smoking area.

If the business has the space and the financial ability, it is allowed to construct a separate smoking area, if it is completely walled off and has its own ventilation

system. Editorial This exception is unfortunate for several reasons.

First it is unfair to the businesses that do not have the space or wherewithal to add smoking rooms.

Other jurisdictions, like the District or Montgomery County, Md. have passed true smoking bans, leaving a level playing field for businesses. And overall, in Montgomery County and many other places, receipts at restaurants increased after the smoking ban went into effect.

in the Fairfax County system, it

wouldn't make sense, assuming

you value the park operations. It

would be like kicking the unloved

son and sending a public message

that parks are not one of the nec-

essary pillars of a civilized society.

Instead, you would look for the

money in the subcategories that

received the \$1 billion or, if that is

not possible, try to find new rev-

Unfortunately, it is the parks that

are asked once again to make up

an impossible difference in a bud-

get deficit year. With a \$315 mil-

lion deficit, the county has asked

the parks and libraries to find a

way to support 15 percent reduc-

tions in their budgets, while the

other agencies are asked for 3 per-

cent reductions. I ask you, what

are you trying to tell us about what

you think of the parks? The num-

The Connection welcomes

The deadline for all material

views on any public issue.

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.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor

The Connection

1606 King St.

Alexandria VA 22314

Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail:

info@connectionnewspapers.com

Serena Wilson

Riverbend Park

President, Friends of

bers will speak the truth.

Write

enue.

Second, such restrictions fail to protect work-

Faith

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

Old Fashioned Christmas Carol **Sing,** on Saturday, Dec. 19, 1-3 p.m. at Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. Singing Christmas Carols with musicians from the Antioch Christian Church, sharing of the Christmas story and gifts for all children in 703-938-6753 attendance. or www.antiochdoc.org.

Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, is hosting a Live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. There are three acts that will begin every 20 minutes. 703-759-5949.

Vienna Baptist Living Nativity. 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, S.W., Vienna. Angels, kings, shepherds, the Holy Family, live farm animals and more. Stay for hot drinks and cookies in the Fellowship Hall. 703-281-4400 or www.vbc-va.org.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, will hold three Christmas Eve services on Thursday, Dec. 24. Contact 703-281-3987 or www.GoodShepherdVA.com. 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy,

for children and families. ✤ 7:30 p.m. Service of Music and the Word. Sharing the story of Christ's birth, hymns and carols.

11 p.m. Candlelight Communion service.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, will have several holiday season services. From Dec. 20-March 28, Sunday services will be at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The adult forum and Sunday School will be at 9 a.m. Contact 703-759-2082 or www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org.

Sunday/Dec. 20, 10 a.n. School Christmas Pageant during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. Following the pageant, crafts from the Holy Land will be available for sale.

Sunday/Dec. 20. 5 p.m. Zion Rise! Words and Music for a Winter's Night. Celebrating Advent, Christmas, and the Winter Solstice. Free and open to the public.

ers from the serious detrimental health effects of second-hand smoke, one of the key objectives of smoking restrictions. Especially in the current job market, restaurant workers are more likely to feel compelled to continue to work in conditions that are hazardous to their health. A full ban on smoking in restaurants and bars would protect more workers.

Third, even with a separate ventilation system, many smoking rooms will continue to leach smoke into non-smoking areas every time the door is opened and closed. Those who want a truly smoke-free dining environment will still have to do a little research.

But even with all its flaws, the successful implementation of smoking restrictions in Virginia remains a bit of a miracle, and a blessing.

— Mary Kimm, MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

> Thursday/Dec. 24. 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Abbreviated Eucharists with carols and a brief homily, suitable for children. Thursday/Dec. 24. 8 p.m. Christmas Eve service with the St. Francis

adult choir. * Thursday/Dec. 24. 11 p.m. Midnight Mass of the Nativity with the St. Francis adult choir and a professional

string quartet. Friday/Dec. 25. 11 a.m. Worship service with Eucharist and carols.

✤ Sunday/Dec. 27. 10 a.m. Christmastide baptism with carols.

♦ Wednesday/Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols service.

St. John's Episcopal Church at 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, will hold Christmas worship services. Con-703-356-4902 tact www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Sunday, Dec. 20. 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Lessons will be read by parishioners and seasonal anthems sung by the choirs. Thursday, Dec. 24. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 4 p.m., following Christmas music at 3:30, for families with young children. At 7 p.m. a traditional service of Holy Eucharist includes carols led by the St. John's Quartet. At 10 p.m., Holy Eucharist follows Christmas music at 9:30 p.m. The Senior Choir with organ and woodwind accompaniment will lead the congregation in singing carols.

Friday, Dec. 25. 10 a.m. Christmas morning Holy Eucharist.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. Contact Gary Axelrod, 301-610-8309 or gaxelrod@jssa.org, or www.jssa.org.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed, strength is gained, and friendships are formed. Mondays 9:15 a.m. and Fridays 9:45 a.m. Childcare is free for registered students. E-mail bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org for more information.



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of Great Falls

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Bulletin Board

From Page 5 **MONDAY/JAN. 4**

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia. 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group is planning an event, for June 26 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of McLean. 703-356-8223.

School Notes

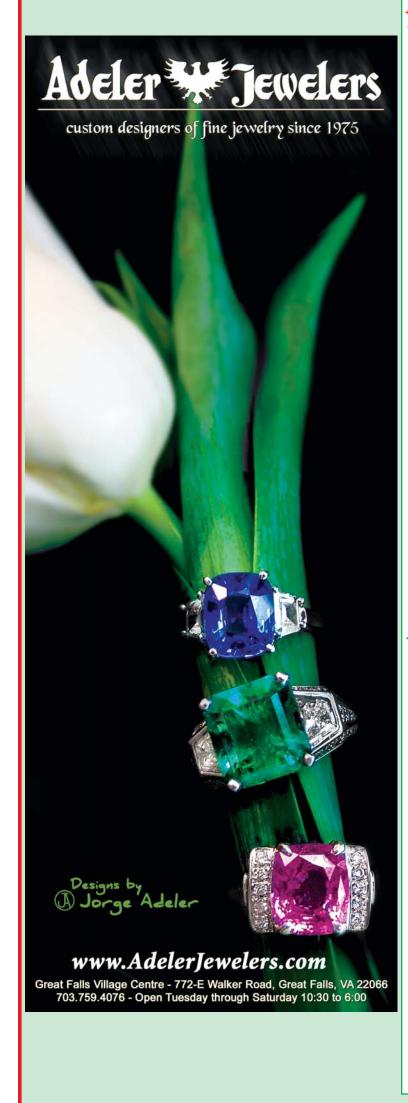
Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Great Falls Elementary PTA invites the public to help their fund rising effort for school programs by visiting the Barnes and Noble in Reston. While doing holiday shopping, use their book fair code (560680) at the register. The number will also be available at the store. This code works at any Barnes and Noble all over the country.

The Langley High School Wind Symphony will participate in the Music for All national festival in Indianapolis in March 2010. Music for All is an educational event for American high school bands, enabling them to perform for a knowledgeable audience, receive input from leaders in the performing arts, and take part in clinics.











Treat Falls Business and Professional Assoc	iation Home About Us Retail Professiona	I Services Non-Profit Membership Contact Us	Com
	an As	reat Falls Business d Professional sociation	• A a • (
What We Do Advocacy Community Networking Programs Sponsorship	Welcome Founded in 1985, The Great Falls Business and Professional Association (GFBPA) is a volum- teer organization within the Great Falls community, recou- nized by businesses, non-profit organizations, government and the community as the leading voice of local commerce. The GFBPA is the primary resource for establishing, grow- ing, retaining, promoting, and facilitating the success of Great Falls as a destination of choice for businesses and their customers.	News and Events • Wednesday December 2, 2009 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Holiday Party • Monday January 12, 2009 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Breakfast Mixer • Thursday January 22, 2009 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM 2010 Elections	• N • A 0 • N

10 & Great Falls Connection & December 16-22, 2009

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News Wish List Celebrates Anniversary

From Page 3

ters, as well as a few checks for the Wounded Warrior Project, and said, "People are just so generous."

"The last couple of years, with the bad economy, people have given more than they ever have before," said her husband, Bill.

Jack and Maggie Nutter said they got involved this year after reading about Mahon's program in the newspaper last month. "It's local. You know these kids are going to get what you bring," Jack Nutter said. He said the couple had selected two girls and been given their names and wish lists.

"They're very modest," said his wife, noting that one girl had asked for a pair of pajamas. She said she liked the fact that donors could choose who they gave to and how much.

Sister Mary Bader of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, Md. said Mahon had contacted her several years ago seeking wish lists. "I don't know how she found us, but she did," Bader said. She said about 40 teenage girls and infants in her shelter receive gifts through the Wish List



In full costume, the Langley High School Madrigals give a performance at the Wish List Project drop-off and party.

Project each year. "She is the world's most generous angel," she said of Mahon. "The nice thing is that she involves so many people and she gives them the opportunity to be generous as well."

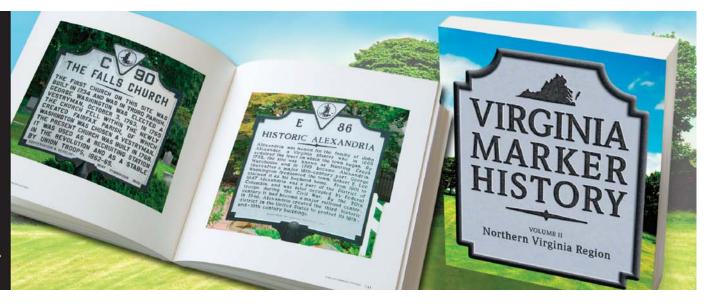
Beth Milner of Leesburg said her social group, known as "the 14 Friends" — they published a book together — was referred to the Wish List Project seven or eight years ago when one of the women asked the Embry Rucker Shelter how the friends could help out during the holidays. She said they were giving gifts to eight single women and 20 single men living in shelters this year. "We've been giving to the single women and men for a number of years now because, you know, everyone likes to give to children," she said.

MAHON said she contacted the directors of the homeless shelters in October requesting wish lists, "and we fulfill them and then some."

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Holiday with Arts

From Page 6

portunity not only to display our work to our neighbors but also to attract art lovers to Great Falls," said Walt Lawrence, a photographer who serves as co-chairman of the Exhibition Committee of Great Falls Studios. "They also provide a last-minute, hassle-free opportunity for residents to buy unique holiday gifts created in Great Falls."

The shows are:

✤ Great Falls Studios All-Member Show. More than 40 pieces are on display through the end of December at the large conference room at the Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. Sales support the artist community, but 10 percent also goes to Friends of Great Falls Library, which works to enhance the library.

✤ Insects at the Library. Mary Ellen Kirkpatrick, a chef and beekeeper as well as a photographer, is showing photos though the end of February of bees and other insects at the small conference room of the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike.

Small Works Show. Forty hanging pieces, from prints to paintings, are on display at the GFFFTA Gallery, 1144 Walker Road, Suite G. The show, featuring more than 30 artists, is administered by the Great Falls Foundation for the Arts. It is open through the end of January, Saturdays from 12 noon to 4 p.m., or by appointment. Call Jennifer Duncan, 571 214 6784.

✤ Quilts at Katie's Coffee. Quilter Cindy Grisdela is this month's featured artist at Katie's Coffee at the Old Broque Irish Pub, 760 Walker Road. Each month the coffeehouse displays work from a different juried artist from Great Falls Studios.

* Animals and Nature at Seneca Hill. Three Great Falls artists are featured starting this month at the Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort and Spa, 11415 Georgetown Pike, with paintings and photographs emphasizing animals and nature. The exhibit runs through March 1.

♦ Photography and Wine. Photographer Robin Kent, who specializes in shooting Washington, D.C. monuments with unusual lighting, has opened a one-man show, Dec. 15, at Maison du Vin, a wine store at 756 Walker Road, though Feb. 15. Visitors can also sample specialized wines. Maison du Vin is the latest Great Falls business to open its walls to local artists.

Internet users also can find all Great Falls artists at the group's Web site: www.GreatFallsStudios.com.



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SATURDAY/DEC. 26

- Hotspur. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/ \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
- The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

SUNDAY/DEC. 27

- Dana Wells CD Release and Dream Dirt (Justin and Mark from Jonasay). 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
- The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

MONDAY/DEC. 28

- Bliss FM and DJ M.A.F. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
- Game On Afternoon Edition. 3:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Test your prowess at Wii Mario Kart or Super Smashbros. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

TUESDAY/DEC. 29

- Harlem Globetrotters. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center. Tickets are \$22-\$26.50, available through all Ticketmaster outlets including the venue box offices, online at www.ticketmaster.com and via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com
- **Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance.** 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10. www.colvinrun.org.
- Poor Man's Lobster and The Arctic Groove. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 30

- Line Dancing Classes for Active Seniors. 11 a.m. at the Vinson Dominion Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Join a new community program designed for age 55 and over. Free. Wear low heels and comfortable shoes. Registration required. 703-442-9075, TTY 711. Treasured Threes to Fives. 10:30 a m Patrick Henry Library 101
- a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Stories and songs. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-938-0405.

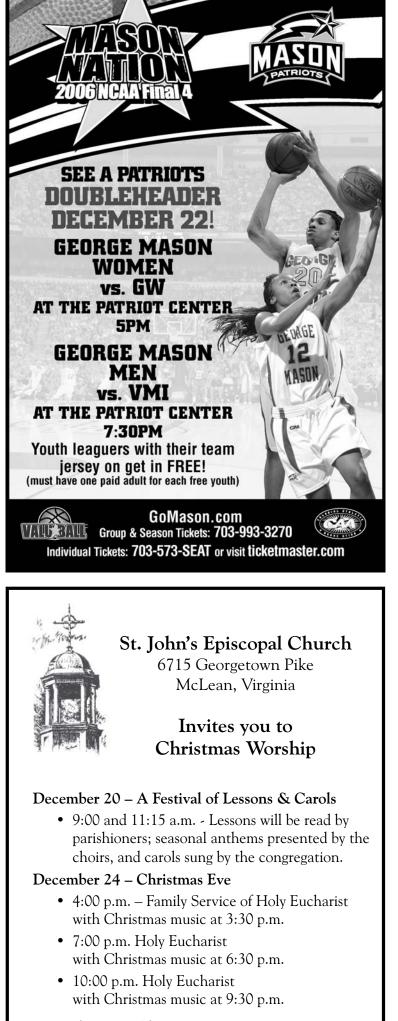
THURSDAY DEC. 31

- New Year's Eve Capital Hospice Benefit. 8:30 p.m. at The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Food, open bar, live entertainment and a silent auction. \$110 per person. All proceeds benefit nonprofit Capital Hospice. Reserve at 703-531-6209 or www.capitalhospice.org.
- Robbie-noceros New Years Eve Party for Kids. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 for everyone over one and older. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

New Years Eve Party with Shane Hines, The Blackjacks, Crash Boom Bang and Billy Woodward and the Senders. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave.

E., Vienna. \$30. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.



December 25 – Christmas Day

• 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

For information about St. John's Church, call: 703-356-4902, or visit our website: www.stjohnsmclean.org



McLean Community Center The Center of It All

Here's What's Happening at MCC

Open a World of New Possibilities! Winter Session Registration Begins Monday, Dec. 7, for district residents; Monday, Dec. 14, for all others

Plan to sign up now for our new winter session! We have a wide variety of classes, day trips and activities to warm the winter months.



Yosi and the Super Dads Rockin' Hanukkah Concert Saturday, Dec. 19, 2 p.m. \$14/\$10 McLean district residents

You've never heard classic Hanukkah songs done quite this way! An interactive family concert filled with Klezmer, Rock, Ska, Jazz and, of course, rockin' Hanukkah tunes!



Winter Break Camps & Trips

Monday, Dec. 28–Wednesday, Dec. 30

Parents, sign your children up now for our day camp, or for a fun day trip, and rest assured that they will have a wonderful time on their school break.

The Capitol Steps

Fri., Jan. 15, & Sat., Jan. 16, 8 p.m. \$45/ \$40 district residents

McLean just can't get enough of these political jokesters. Always a sell-out, so get your tickets early!

The McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101 703-790-0123/TTY: 711 www.mcleancenter.org

Great Falls Connection & December 16-22, 2009 & 15

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Sports

Madeira Swim Team Opens Season With Pair of Wins

Sports Notes: Private school girls' team defeats both Visitation and Connelly School.

By Rich Sanders The Connection

he Madeira School girls' swim and dive team, under coach Rod Montrie, opened the new season with a 98-87 meet win over Georgetown Visitation on Dec. 3. Double winners for Madeira were junior Christa Ann Saunders (100 butterfly, 100 backstroke), sophomore Brittney Jansen (200-freestyle, 100-free) and freshman Maddy Alagia (200individual medley, 500-free). Madeira won all three relays. Saunders, sophomore Ann Griffin, freshman Grace Johnson and Alagia swam in the winning 200medley relay; Griffin, senior Megan Basel, Jansen and junior Rachel Tang swam in the winning 200-free relay; and Saunders, Jansen, Johnson and Alagia swam in the winning 400-free relay.

Notable performances were turned in by senior Tessa Newland, who placed second in the diving competition; sophomore Ann Griffin, who placed second in both the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke events; freshman Grace Johnson, who placed second in both the 50free and 100-fly races; and senior Hanna Bartram, who placed second in the 500-free.

"This was a great season opener with an outstanding team effort," coach Montrie said. "Visitation gave us a terrific meet, keeping it close right to the end. I was delighted with the performance of our new swimmers. We are a young team this year and all our rookies rose to the occasion."

More recently, Madeira bested Connelly School of the Holy Child, 108-78, on Dec. 8. With the team win, Madeira improved to 2-0. Event winners for Madeira were senior Megan Basel (100 backstroke); senior Renee Mattox (50 freestyle); junior Christa Ann Saunders (200 freestyle); sophomore Ann Griffin (100 breaststroke); sophomore Brittney Jansen (100 butterfly); and freshman Maddie Alagia (200 individual medley).

Madeira won two of the three relays. Saunders, Griffin, Jansen and Alagia swam in the winning 200-medley relay; and Mattox, ger, Bryan Kres and Colin Saunders, Jansen and Alagia swam in the winning 200freestyle relay. Notable performances were turned in by junior Rachel Tang, who placed sec-16 & Great Falls Connection & December 16-22, 2009



The McLean Strikers defeated Chantilly at the recent State Cup finals.

sophomore Kat Pfleeger, who placed fourth in the 200 freestyle and third in the 100 freestyle. Seniors Tessa Newland and Jen Dussault placed second and third, respectively, in the diving competition.

"We were able to take a good look at some of our freshmen by putting them in tougher events and they did a great job," Montrie said. "Our rookie divers continue to improve. Freshman Grace Callander dived her first meet today and did very well."

Madeira's next meet is Friday, Jan. 8 against Maret School, at home.

The McLean High girls' swim and dive team kicked off the new season with a recent 205-95 home win over Marshall. Fourevent winners for McLean were Margaret Harlow, Eva Green and Katie Yensen. Double winners were Adrianne Harlow and Ellie Springstein.

On the boys' side, McLean also prevailed, defeating the Statesmen, 194-103. Charlie Putnam was a quadruple winner for the Highlanders, while Ed Lee won three events. McLean double winners were Josh Cason, Kevin Gei-Fitzgibbon.

The McLean Premier Soc**cer** (MPS) Strikers U16 girls were crowned champions on Nov. 8 at ond in the 100 butterfly, and the Virginia Youth Soccer Associa-

tion (VYSA) 2009-10 State Cup Tournament finals, in Richmond. In a rematch of last year's State Cup final, the Strikers prevailed over the Chantilly Burn, the threetime state cup champion and current Region 1 Champion. McLean won the title game, 2-1. The Strikers had advanced to the finals by defeating the FCV Cardinals, 3-2, the previous weekend.

Against Chantilly in the championship game, McLean tallied one goal in the first half and another early in the second half to take a 2-0 advantage. Chantilly, showing the speed and tenacity that helped make them a three-time defending champion, answered

quickly by scoring off of a set play from the kickoff that followed the Strikers' second goal.

McLean's defense withstood strong challenges in the waning moments of the match as Chantilly sought desperately to draw even. At the final whistle, the Strikers were thrilled to bring home the State Cup championship. The victory over their respected rival was particularly rewarding as Chantilly had ousted the Strikers in State Cup play both of the preceding two years. The title game win for the Strikers also capped off a State Cup run that saw them outscore their opponents by a total of 19 goals to three.

Coached by Clyde Watson and German Peri, the Strikers will represent Virginia in the Region 1 Championships this July in West

Virginia.

The McLean High girls' basketball team beat Falls Church, 51-29, in a recent non-district contest. The McLean team built a 24-14 halftime lead on way to the win. The Highlanders, throughout the game, played hard, intense defense, making it difficult for the Jaguars to find offensive success.

McLean displayed a balanced offensive attack with both Caitlin Baker and Andie Romness scoring eight points, and Lauren Sutherland adding seven. The Highlanders also received scoring contributions from Patricia Pascoe (5 points), Shellie Kaniut (5), Kristina Bettner (4), Cassidy Kelty (4), Melissa Wilson (3), Megan Gavigan (3), Caroline Gray (2) and Meghan Wheeler (2).

Westfield High will once again be hosting the Eighth Annual Bulldog Bash Holiday Basketball Tournament Dec. 28-30. Both a boys and a girls tournament will be offered.

Along with teams from Northern Virginia, teams from Roanoke and Pennsylvania will compete.

The boys' field of teams will include Langley, Centreville, Flint Hill, Woodbridge, West Potomac, Freedom (Loudoun County), Patrick Henry (Roanoke) and defending tournament champion Westfield.

The girls' bracket will include James Madison, Potomac, Flint Hill, Centreville, Freedom (Loudoun County), St. Hubert's (Philadelphia), and last year's champion McDowell High of from Erie, Pa.

Admission for the Bulldog Bash is \$6 per day. A three-day tournament pass will be available for \$15. Free admission will be granted to children under age six, adults over 60 and any travel or house youth basketball players wearing their uniform tops who are accompanied by a paying adult.

For more information on the tournament, check out the tourna-Web ment site at www.bulldogbashtournament.com.

The Northern Virginia Football Officials Association (NVFOA) is seeking new members for who can become on-field game officials and electronic clock operators for games at the youth, middle school, and high school levels throughout the Metropolitan area. NVFOA is the sole supplier of football officials to all high schools in the Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, and Fauquier. It also supplies officials to numerous private schools in Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. For those who have the time to commit, NVFOA has the resources to teach and develop football officials. NVFOA seeks men and women who have reached the age of 18 and who have a desire to be a part of the most exciting and popular scholastic game in America. Information and application forms are available by contacting commissioner Dennis Hall by phone at 540-837-1316 or by e-mail at commissioner@nvfoa.com.

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

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Schools

Fairfax Considers **Closing Alternative High School**

The Fairfax County School Board could shutter one of its three alternative high schools if it is forced to make large cuts to the Fairfax County Public Schools budget next year.

Schools Superintendent Jack Dale has said that closing Pimmit Hills High School, located off Route 7 in Falls Church, could save the school system approximately \$1 million in operating expenses during 2010-2011 school year. The county could also divert approximately \$6 million currently earmarked for a capital project at Pimmit Hills to other school building projects if the alternative high school closed.

Pimmit Hills serves nontraditional high school students including those who do not speak English as their first language, are pregnant, are teenage parents and older students who may not feel comfortable in a normal high school setting. The alternative high school operates year round and offers classes from early in the morning to late in the evening, accommodating students who might need more flexibility for jobs or other issues.

Bryant Alternative High School in the Mount Vernon area and Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville offer similar programs. Woodson Adult High School, located at Woodson Secondary School in Fairfax, also offers high school diploma programs specifically for adults.

If Pimmit Hills closed, the school system said the county's other adult and alternative high schools would absorb its 276 students. The school system would also move Pimmit Hills' "alternative learning center" - which provides classes to students in the sixth through 10th grades that have been involved in serious disciplinary matters - to a building in the Dunn Loring area.

Fairfax County Public Schools would then use the Falls Church site for bus driver training, which currently takes place at Marshall High School. The school system's chief operating officer Dean Tistadt would also like to open a fourth maintenance office at the Pimmit Hills location.

Tistadt said Fairfax County Public Schools expects to lose 29 maintenance positions as a result of budget cuts next year and the new office would mean those maintenance men who remain would spent less time driving to schools and more time fixing problems.

At-large school board member Tina Hone said she was concerned that students who attend Pimmit Hills would have a difficult time reaching Bryant or Mountain View.

Pimmit Hills is near a major bus route and convenient for people who live in central Fairfax County. Residents who live inside the Capital Beltway would have a difficult time reaching Bryant in the Mount Vernon area or Mountain View in Centreville, said Hone at a meeting Dec. 7.

— Julia O'Donoghue



Two positions open at our "Washingtonian Best" perio practice. Must be a motivated team player w/great communication skills & attention to detail. Dental Asst--x-ray cert & chairside exp needed. Admin Asst-computer (Excel, Word) & insurance Offices in McLean & Burke, exp. must have reliable transportation. benefits. Email resume to: sandy@novaperioimplant.com

Business Manager

Manage team of business analyst & data analysts; Own and drive pric-ing strategy agenda; optimize yield of the portfolio. Master's Degree in Engineering Req. Knowledge of risk analysis, replacement models, alternative investment models, model building, simulation modeling & analysis techniques with application to production, logistics, service & other systems. Capital One Services, Inc. Job Location: McLean, VA. You can apply for this position by going to <u>www.capitalone.com/careers</u> and clicking on the "United States" button under Join Our Team, then under the Job Search column, search for keyword Business Manager. Please indicate your source as Newspaper/ McLean Connection.

703-917-6464 ZONE 6 AD DEADLINE: TUESDAY 11 A.M.

CHURCH SECRETARY

Providence Baptist Church, McLean is looking for an experienced church secretary. Microsoft Office Suite exp. necessary with knowledge of Microsoft Publisher & Power Point a must. Light bookkeeping duties and organizational skills necessary as well as desire to serve in a Christian environment. Salary \$34K plus benefits. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 9:30 - 4:30. Interested candidates should submit resume to Sheila Farthing at sfarthing@providencetoday.org or fax to 703.893.0950.

CHESS TEACHERS

PT Independent Contractor Chess Teachers Needed for Elementary Schools! Teaching and chess playing experience are required as is the reliability to work 1-4 days a week in after-school chess programs in Fairfax and Loudoun counties, January - June. Pay is \$25 per hr. + mileage. Paid training and all teaching supplies are provided. Serious inquiries only, you must have reliable transportation. Please email resume with relevant experience to peter@snowschessacademy.com or mail hard copy to Snow's Chess Academy, P.O. Box 489, Herndon, VA 20172

Sr. Business Analyst

Analyze data & business variables to drive business strategy. Design market tests, market segmentation criteria, product offerings, identify value propositions & business cases for marketing campaigns. Master's degree or equiv.* in Economics Req. Exp. in data warehouse applications, languages, marketing analytics, EXCEL, SAS, SQL, Teradata & applied statistics. Capital One Services, Inc. Job Location: McLean, VA. You can apply for this position by going towww.capitalone.com/careers and clicking on the "United States" button under Join Our Team, then under the Job Search column, search for keyword Sr. Business Analyst. Please indicate your source Newspaper/ as McLean Connection.

Internships Available

Unusual opportunity to learn many aspects of the newspaper business. Internships available in reporting, photography, research, graphics. Opportunities for students, and for adults considering change of career. Unpaid. Email internship@connec tionnewspapers.com



"Serve-Us" **Contracts?**



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Can someone please explain to me the pros and cons of these after market, service contracts, available for purchase after your car dealer's/manufacturer's warranty/warranties have expired? Their solicitations on television, radio and print are almost replacing the credit card companies in their vigorous pursuit of American consumers. Just yesterday, I received in the mail, what looked like a very official, certified-type, for your-eyes-only directive, aimed very specifically at yours truly, owner of an expiring automobile warranty. When I tore the four perforated sections and opened the remaining fold, what I found was yet another "If your car is not more than 15 years old and has less than 200,000 miles on it" offer of automobile repair and maintenance relief.

However, since I wasn't born yesterday (or even the day before), I can't help being cautious and concerned about the "relief" offered. Moreover, I can't help thinking that there's likely so much fine print, finely printed, that I won't be able to read or, won't likely understand, that as a car owner with future repair bills ahead, what I'll likely be relieved of is my money, not my worry about those future bills. But what do I know? As has been proven in this space many times before, not much.

My instincts, as a former Life & Health insurance broker, is to be concerned – and to plan for - worst case scenarios and pre-existing conditions (meaning exclusions). With respect to life and health insurance, I am well aware of the issues and conditions under which medical and lifestyle-type, pre-existing conditions/considerations might adversely affect one's coverage. However, I don't have near that same level of experience and instinct when it involves car repairs and maintenance. What little I can say is, with absolute certainty, that the longer a car is driven/owned and the more miles it accumulates, the more likely repairs will be needed. And if I may presume a little bit more, the more expensive and involved those repairs likely will be.

That presumption being logical and agreed to, in theory; why would companies take on that unfunded - and likely undocumented by the car's owner - commitment, to assume liability of future repair bills likely to be "major:" engine, transmission, struts, gaskets, etc., as listed in the company's advertisements? Further presuming that these companies are not in business to lose money and are not advertising (putting their money where their marketing mouths are) because they are stupid, I'm left with no other conclusion than to paraphrase one of my recently deceased father's favorite expressions: the idea must have merit.

Still, I can't get past the "If it sounds too good to be true..." feel of these promo-tions/assurances. Are these companies regulated in some way like Life and Health, and Property and Casualty insurance companies are? Must these service-contract companies have a certain amount of cash reserves on hand to to pay for their future - and as yet undetermined - liabilities? Have they been vetted/investigated/ researched and/or evaluated by consumer groups, consumer magazines or even Consumer Agencies? Has the Better Business Bureau done any due diligence?

I understand the coverage is not free. However, if I am to believe – and ultimately buy in to – all that I hear, read and see about these reassuring offers, I'd have to be crazy to not to want to learn more and see if I really can elimi nate the worry I will admit to having, about these inevitable future car repairs. But I'm hesitating. I must be crazy, right? (Maybe that's a side effect of the oral chemotherapy?)

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



18 Screat Falls Connection Screember 16-22, 2009



Artist Linda Rosen working on her jewelry, made of her own silver.

News

Art Show and Sale at Colvin Run Schoolhouse

Great Falls Studios, a network of local artists, gathered last weekend for their annual holiday sale. The sale took place at the historic Colvin Run Schoolhouse.

Everything from photographs to ornaments, paintings to quilting could be found for sale, each made in the artist's particular style.

Some of the artists in the show made ornaments for the holiday season. Other events at the sale included musical performances by Mike McDermott and Jody Marshall.

For more information, visit www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Quilter Cindy

process of

sewing another piece.

Grisdela in the

Рнотоѕ ву

STEPHANIE KNAPP/

The Connection

— Stephanie Knapp



Chairman Linda Jones stands next to the Christmas tree full of ornaments made by some of the artists in the group.





Think Locally, Act Locally and Shop Great Falls Shop any Great Falls business displaying this emblem between November 16th and December 24th and ask about special limited-time SHOP GREAT FALLS opportunities. Enter to win one of three Great Falls Gift Baskets (valued at hundreds of dollars each) to be given away in December. Fill out the form below or download it from www.greatfallsbpa.com, and bring it to any participating business to enter.



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Something for Everyone!

During your holiday season, act locally at a fun gift shop with a little something for everyone on your list: From original jewelry designed by local artists, monogramming and one of kind special items; such as trendy, unique Be Tops, to fragrant teas.



We are proud to sell the Great Falls ornaments and blankets. 100% of the proceeds benefit the Great Falls Lion Club.

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Enter to win one of three Great Falls Gift Baskets, valued at hundreds of dollars each. Fill out this form, download it from www.greatfallsbpa.com or www.gfca.org. Enter as often as you like but you must bring your entry in person to a participating Great Falls business to enter. Entries accepted through December 24, 2009.



Your Name

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20 Great Falls Connection December 16-22, 2009

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