

OPINION 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 20 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 17

PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

# One-of-a-Kind Experience

GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 14

Where 'Angels'  
Come for  
Christmas

NEWS, PAGE 3

A Bittersweet  
Farewell

NEWS, PAGE 8

Molly (left) and Rosemary (right) love helping mom, Cathy Moran, owner of Cathy's Corner, at the Great Falls gift shop.

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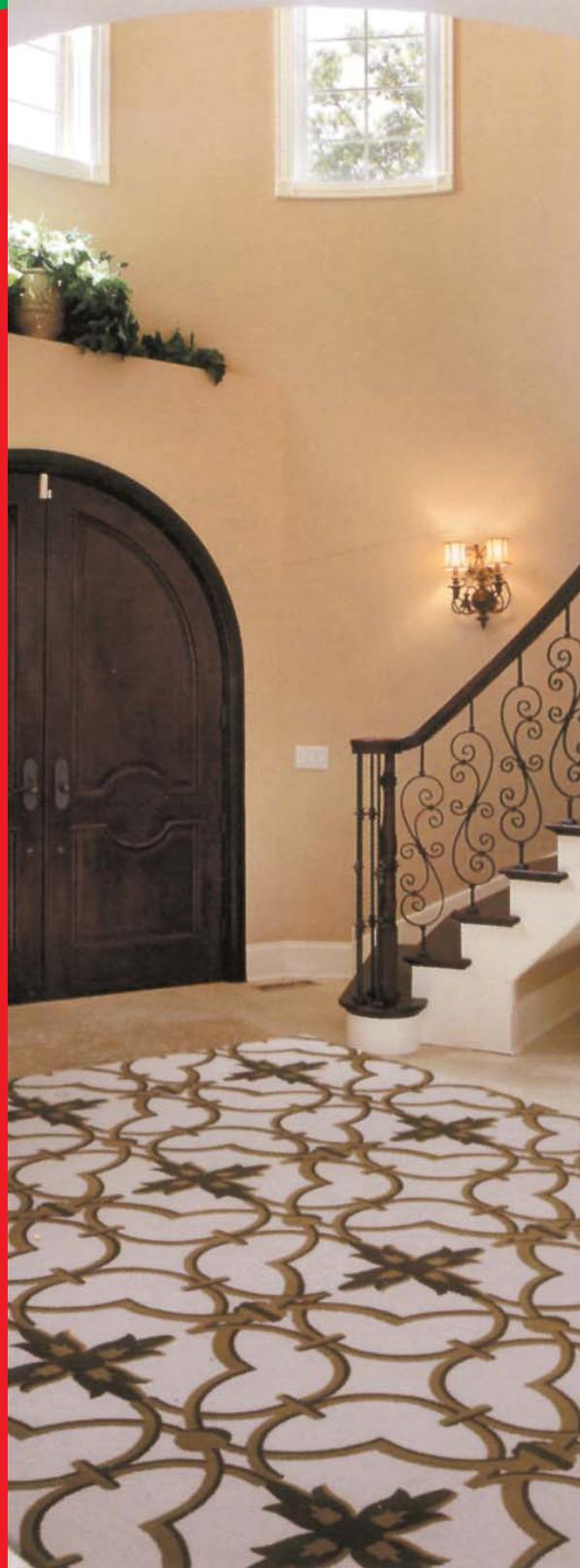
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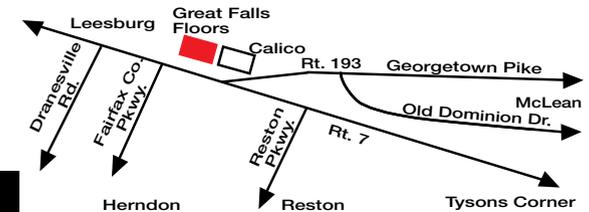
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**Wish List elves, from left: Amanda Mahon, Jessica Fastabend, Nia Casso, Gabby Van Volkenberg and Meagan Hubbell.**



CONTRIBUTED

## Where 'Angels' Come for Christmas

**Great Falls woman makes Christmas dreams come true.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

In many ways, David is just like every other student at Old Dominion University in Richmond. The 19-year-old college freshman graduated from Thomas Edison High School in Alexandria last year, where he was on the honor roll and volunteered at the Children's Christian Ministry. In addition to a full course load at college, he works part-time. His hobby is boxing, which he practices nearly every day to relieve stress and stay in shape.

But unlike most of ODU's students, David grew up in a series of foster homes in Fairfax County because he was abused and neglected as a child. David is one of Fairfax County's 370 foster children.

His only wish this Christmas? An adult bike, to help him get to his job and classes around the sprawling campus.

Enter Ginger Mahon, a Great Falls mother of two daughters, who has helped more than 1,000 people like David get their Christmas wishes for the past 11 years. In 2000, Mahon founded the Wish List Project, a community outreach program that provides gifts to local homeless families and foster teens by matching them with donors.

"We think of the suburbs around D.C. as affluent, and in many ways they are. But there are still people struggling, people who are homeless, foster children who need something extra, and I feel privileged that I can help in some way," Mahon said.

**MAHON**, who said she feels blessed to have a home and healthy, supportive family, started the Wish List as a way of "paying it forward." The former Forestville Elementary School PTA president admits that once she has an idea, she will do everything in her power to make it happen.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Ginger Mahon is decorating with angels this year, to thank the many "angels" who have helped make holiday wishes come true.**

### Drop-Off Party, Dec. 11

This year's Wish List Project Drop-Off Party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 1-4 p.m. at the Mahon family home, 11900 Holly Spring Drive in Great Falls. The event will include refreshments, music, and a visit from Santa. If you would like to donate to the Wish List Project, contact Ginger Mahon at 703.404.8483 or email her at [gingermahon@aol.com](mailto:gingermahon@aol.com)

In fact, the Wish List project began when she went to lunch with a girlfriend in D.C. "My girlfriend showed me these 'Dear Santa' letters written by underprivileged children in D.C., and it started me thinking about local people who might need help..." As her friends know, Mahon listens, and then she acts.

"When I have an idea, I have to do it or I would not be true to myself," she said.

When she got home from that lunch, she started

SEE WISH LIST, PAGE 19



PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**From left, Aaraj Vij, 9, James Chen, 10, Vishnu Murthy, 9, Andrew Liao, 9, Anvitha Metpally and Siona Prasad, 9, make up the Team Sciborg Stars, who just took first place in the First Lego League regional tournament Nov. 20 and 21.**

## Building Blocks For Success

**First Lego League Team tackles Alzheimer's Disease, takes first place at regional competition.**

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

When most elementary school students play with Legos, they're usually re-enacting their favorite scene from "Star Wars" or building vehicles that could never exist. The six members of the Great Falls-based Team Sciborg Stars are using those blocks to examine causes and treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

The team, made up of nine and 10-year olds, recently took home the Grand Champion's

Award at the Virginia/D.C. First Lego League regional tournament Nov. 20 and 21. Their next stop is this weekend in Harrisonburg, where they will compete for a state title.

This year's Lego League theme was biomedical engineering, and teams had to choose a body part and a problem to solve with that part. The team chose Alzheimer's Disease after attending the Memory Walk in Reston in September.

"We learned a lot at the Memory Walk," said Siona

SEE LEGO, PAGE 22



**From left, James Chen, 10, Vishnu Murthy, 9, Siona Prasad, 9 and Anvitha Metpally, 10, set up the missions for their robot, "Bubbles" to navigate.**

## GIFT GUIDE



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The general store at Colvin Run Mill will be hosting a children's shopping event this weekend, where children can shop for everyone on the list, and will get help picking and wrapping their presents.

# Shopping Mill

## Colvin Run Mill holds annual children's shopping event.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls is aiming to help children find gifts for everyone on their lists at their annual children's shopping event Dec. 4 and 5. Children can come to the mill's country store with a budget and shopping list, and volunteers will help them buy and wrap their presents all on the premises.

"We've been doing this for at least 12 years, since I've been here, and it gets bigger and better every year," said Mason Maddox, Colvin Run's resident miller. "We try to stock gifts for men, women, children, grandparents, anyone who might be on the list."

The country store features a variety of items produced on the property itself, including whole wheat flour, cornmeal and honey from the park's apiary.

**THE STORE** carries all sorts of items, from children and adult books on the history of local towns and the Civil War, to figurines, stuffed animals and other souvenirs.

In addition to the honey and flour produced onsite, the store also features fresh maple syrup, preserves, candies and other crafts.

"It's a fun experience, we did it for the first time last year," said Cherie Wallace of Vienna. "The kids were able to do all their Christmas shopping in one place, get it wrapped and all taken care of, without the hassle of fighting the crowds at a mall."

Though the event will allow shoppers to stay away from the modern malls, Maddox says that in the past, mills like Colvin Run were the first kind of shopping mall.



A selection of history books and other memorabilia is just one kind of gift that is available at the Colvin Run Mill general store.

"These were kind of the first malls, you had the mill, the blacksmith and the general store, which grew to become a post office as well," he said. "It was where you'd come to get a lot done in one place."

**THE CHILDREN'S SHOPPING EVENT** will take place at Colvin Run Mill Park, 10017 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 4 and noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 5.

## A Taste of Holidays

### Celebrate December with Holiday Cooking Classes at L'Auberge Chez Francois.

Chef Jacques Haeringer at the L'Auberge Chez Francois is conducting a series of entertaining cooking demonstrations. He will share his passion for classic and contemporary French cuisine and teach expert cooking techniques and tricks of the trade followed by fine food and wine.

Each event, hosted at L'Auberge Chez Francois, includes a cooking demonstration hosted by Chef Haeringer, followed by a five-course luncheon, paired with three wines, and recipes for the home chef. A vintner will be on hand to present and discuss each wine pairing, and patrons will have an opportunity to purchase the paired wines at a special price.

In December, Chef Haeringer will prepare holiday feasts for end-of-year celebrations.



**Chef Jacques Haeringer**

Prices include the demonstration, lunch or dinner with wines, written recipes for the home chef, and all taxes and gratuities. As always, Chef Haeringer and the staff at L'Auberge Chez Francois will accommodate any dietary restrictions and concerns with advance notice.

To reserve spaces for Dec. 4 and 17, go to [www.ChefJacques.com](http://www.ChefJacques.com) or call the restaurant, 703-759-3800.

Chef Haeringer is the author of "Two for Tonight," a collection of recipes that inspire romance through food and togetherness, and the "Chez Francois Cookbook," the bible of classic Alsatian cuisine featuring some of the restaurant's most popular recipes. He lives in Northern Virginia and is currently working on a new cookbook and television show.

L'Auberge Chez Francois is located at 332 Springvale Road in Great Falls, 703-759-3800. [www.LAubergeChezFrancois.com](http://www.LAubergeChezFrancois.com) [www.ChefJacques.com](http://www.ChefJacques.com)

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 4

A Champagne Celebration, 11 a.m.  
Oysters with Horseradish Sauce  
Duck Breast Salad  
Champagne Sorbet  
Mousseline of Crab Marie-Antoinette  
Hazelnut Soufflé  
\$ 110.00 Plus Tax and gratuity  
Total: \$135.00

#### FRIDAY/DEC. 17

A Holiday Feast, 11 a.m.  
Nantucket Bay Scallops  
Roquefort Salad  
Christmas Sorbet  
Beef Wellington, Truffle Sauce  
Baked Alaska  
\$ 96.00 Plus tax and Gratuity  
Total: \$110.00

### SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Lily Goodson** a sophomore from Great Falls, majoring in business management in the Pamplin College of Business is now a central part of the university's community, serving as a Hokie Ambassador for Virginia Tech.

Hokie Ambassadors dedicate themselves to helping others. Primarily, they provide the tours for prospective undergraduate students. The Hokie Ambassadors exemplify what it means to be a Hokie through their strong sense of dedication, service, and community. They are committed to highlighting the best qualities of Virginia Tech and exciting future university hopefuls. Most tours last an hour, so each ambassador has a short amount of time to open the eyes of every prospect about how spectacular Virginia Tech is. They show them around the university grounds, tell them about the top campus food in the nation and describe the feeling of when "Enter Sandman" plays at a home football game.

**The Marshall High class of 2013** will host a holiday shopping and community expo on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Twenty-six upscale exhib-

its and vendors will be available along with entertainment, demonstrations, food, and pictures with Santa. Attendees are asked to donate nonperishable food items that will be distributed to local food banks and shelters. Proceeds benefit the sophomore class. Contact Tiffany Santana at 703-714-5400 or [tdsantana@fcps.edu](mailto:tdsantana@fcps.edu).

**Martin Brown** of McLean was inducted into Ithaca College's Oracle Honor Society. The fall ceremony honors students who have completed their first semester ranked in the top five percent of their academic schools. Brown is a exploratory major in the college's School of Humanities & Sciences.

**Alanna Meehan** and **Alec Ostapovicz** of Madison High School earned gold medals in Food Innovations at the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Ill. Participants demonstrate knowledge of the basic concepts of food product development by creating an original prototype formula, testing the product through focus groups, and developing a marketing strategy.

# NEWS

## Midnight Madness at the Mall

Tysons Corner Center hosts events, sales for Black Friday.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Just before midnight on Thanksgiving, while most people were in the midst of a turkey-induced coma, Jodi Lyndley, 16, and her friends were hopping up and down, rubbing their hands together and trying to stay warm in the crisp night air. The McLean teenagers were outside of Tysons Corner Center, counting down the minutes until they could enter the mall to bask in heated air and hotter deals at midnight.

"We were in American Eagle Outfitters the other week, and they mentioned they would be opening at midnight for Black Friday, and we thought it would be a fun thing to do," Lyndley said. "They said there would be fun stuff going on throughout the mall, not just god sales."

There was plenty going on at the mall, which celebrated Black Friday "Midnight Madness" for the second year in a row. This year, almost every retailer—with the exception of the department stores and the jewelry stores—was open.

"I'll probably look for some presents for my family, but I have a feeling most of the shopping bags will be for me," Lyndley said with a laugh.

**THE OPEN SPACE** in front of Macy's was turned into a pseudo-nightclub, with a DJ spinning tunes and a break-dancing trio giving an hour-long performance that attracted a crowd of more than 100 people.

"It's really sort of a social event, my kids were all making plans with their friends to meet up here, it was the hot place to be," said Sheila Nicholas of Vienna, who said Black Friday shopping has been a family tradition for years. "It works for me. I'll get some shopping done, they'll get to hang out, or do whatever it is they do, and then we won't have to get up early tomorrow."

Other shoppers said that coming out to the midnight opening of the mall would let them have a more leisurely day Friday, with their shopping already out of the way.

"In years past it was always 'eat early, bed early, wake up early'



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Shoppers crowd onto one of the escalators at Tysons Corner Center Friday morning, as part of the mall's Midnight Madness Black Friday.**

which sort of made Thanksgiving feel rushed," said Blair Woodson of McLean. "This year we relaxed a little more, and tomorrow will be more of a day off. I'm sure we'll do some shopping tomorrow, but at our own pace."

Clothing stores seemed to be the most popular Friday morning, with stores like Levi's and American Eagle Outfitters having lines coming out the door, while the bigger stores like H&M and Gap had lines snaking throughout the entire store, mixing with the shoppers.

The retailers themselves said they were excited to participate in the event.

"We don't really do crazy openings like these, so we had no idea what to expect, but it's been exciting," said Metropark manager Sam Page.

Buffy Luckman, manager of Cusp, a clothing store, said "this is the second year we've been a part of Midnight madness, and we've been steady and busy most of the night."

The Sony store was another location where customers were lined

up for hundreds of feet outside the store. Their selection of laptops, cameras and other digital devices proved to be a popular draw.

"I'm kind of a Sony guy, so I came to see what was new as far as TVs, Blu-Ray players, that sort of thing," said Sean Hellmuth of Falls Church, as he loaded bags into his car. "But I also got some good information about their digital cameras, my wife has been asking about them, so now I know what to look for."

**WITH WINTER** rapidly approaching, Page said that warm clothes figure to be one of the more popular items for sale this year.

"Jackets, especially in leather and twill are big right now," he said. "Hoodies are another popular thing, anything with layers."

Luckman says that accessories have been a big seller at Cusp.

"Handbags, scarves, hats, lots of sweaters, that's what we've been selling most," she said. "We have also been selling a lot of holiday dresses, people come in looking for outfits for holiday occasions."

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## Holiday Safety Net for Celebrating with Alcohol

**Plan ahead, have a designated driver and carry the SoberRide number.**

### Safely Home

Washington Regional Alcohol Program's 2010 Holiday SoberRide program will begin at 10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17, 2010, and run through 6 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011. To receive a free cab ride home up to a \$30 fare, call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older. WRAP needs sponsors and contributions to continue to offer this service. See [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org) to contribute.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence. This year, with increased awareness about so-called "distracted driving," it's worth noting that both driving after drinking at a party and using your cell phone while you drive are behaviors you can control.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend, but the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents provide a chilling reminder.

William Cameron Schlifke, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after he was rear-ended in Newport News. He was 22. Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, 20 at the time and also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and was convicted of manslaughter.

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In

fall 2008, a different young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in the death of one of his friends in the car and permanent injury for another. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home.

Such tragedies, if they do not touch us personally, often seem remote. Perhaps in these tough economic times, it's also worth adding up some the financial cost of an arrest for driving under the influence. In Fairfax County, there were more than 3,100 arrests for driving under the influence in 2008. In Arlington, 677 arrests. In Alexandria, 515 arrests. In the City of Fairfax, 181 arrests. Such an arrest is likely to cost as much as \$20,000 or more in legal fees. A conviction results in long term increases in insurances costs of \$1,500 a year or more. A conviction could result in losing a job. And once convicted you'll have to answer "yes" on any job application that asks if you have been convicted of a crime.

**DON'T TAKE THE RISK.** Plan ahead, leave your car at home, take public transportation, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own this holiday season, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults (must be 21 or over) in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. The program gave more than 500 people a safe ride home on Halloween weekend this year.

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

WRAP's 2010 Holiday SoberRide program is available beginning from 10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17 to 6 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older. (Callers are responsible for anything over \$30.)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Pointless Traffic Jam

To the Editor:

It's my understanding that the Fairfax police department leaves these bridges single-lane to regulate traffic speed ["Stampede on the Bridge," Great Falls Connection, Nov. 24-30]. To me, this is a 19th century remedy to a non-existent problem. Perhaps, when Great Falls was a small, sleepy suburb of D.C., this made sense. Now, these bottlenecks are an incredible, pointless traffic jam.

Often, when I'm idling in the line, the cars will appear on the

other side just often enough to ensure that I continue to idle while they slip through on their merry way to an on-time appointment.

I too have clocked this bridge on Springvale Road. Three cars can pass in the time it takes one to pass ... plus two seconds. So, let's break out some common sense: three cars at a time. If a fourth jumps in, let's practice that "good neighbor" attitude that Mr. Kingdom requests and give them a wave instead of a scowl or a "hand sign."

Maybe they're just in a hurry to get back to Maryland.

**Randall Baughman**  
Great Falls

#### Good Neighbors Not Doing Us Good

To the Editor:

The good neighbors who warn us of speed traps as we approach Great Falls by blinking their lights are not doing us any favors.

Traffic blowing through the intersection of Walker Road and Georgetown Pike at 40 mph is dangerous and makes it much harder to access local businesses; if traffic flowed at 25 mph, we might be able to get out of the post office parking lot in less than five minutes.

If speed traps are what it takes to remind us all - and not just those passing through - to follow laws that protect us, then please, bring on more speed traps. I'd like to see them on the Springvale Speedway as well, and maybe even on Beach Mill, the "outer loop" of Georgetown Pike for commuters.

A speed trap only works as long as the cop is sitting there; a speeding ticket lingers in the memory forever.

And a really good neighbor won't thwart the police as they try to enforce the laws.

**Lynn Peterson Mobley**  
Great Falls

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

#### MONDAY/DEC. 6

**A Representative of Congressman Frank Wolf at the McLean Community Center.** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1234 McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. First Monday of every month. Citizens are invited to express opinions on issues before Congress, or seek assistance with federal problems. 703-709-5800.

#### TUESDAY/DEC. 7

**McLean Branch of the American**

#### Association of University Women Holiday Luncheon.

11:30 a.m. at the Riverbend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. With speaker Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, the new Head of School at Madeira. \$30. Nonperishable food items, paper goods and toiletries will be collected to donate to Share, Inc. 703-356-0529 or visit [www.mcleanaauw.org](http://www.mcleanaauw.org).

#### Town Hall on Proposed Government Contracting Cuts.

7 p.m. at Tyson's Corner. With Del. Barbara Comstock, (R-34) and former congressman Tom Davis. 703-209-3787 or [bcomstock@delegategomstock.com](mailto:bcomstock@delegategomstock.com).

**NEWS**



The project consisted of relocating approximately 75 yards of the Potomac Heritage Trail, just south of Chain Bridge along the Potomac River.

**Eagle Project to Protect the Trail**

On Saturday, Nov. 27, members and supporters of Boy Scout Troop 1130 in McLean helped Jake Ahlgrimm, a junior at McLean High School, complete his Eagle project. The project consisted of relocating approximately 75 yards of the Potomac Heritage Trail, just south of Chain Bridge along the Potomac River. Because the old trail was susceptible to being flooded and not passable during high water conditions, the Boy Scouts moved the trail to higher terrain. The

work consisted of cutting the new trail; removing weeds, vines, and small trees; and moving rocks and boulders to make the trail smooth. Approximately 150 community service hours went into the project from over 30 volunteers. Boy Scout Troop 1130 ([www.troop1130.com](http://www.troop1130.com)) is sponsored by Charles Wesley United Methodist Church in McLean. More information on the Potomac Heritage Trail, can be found at <http://www.potomactrail.org/>.



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Past and present members of the Great Falls Fire Department watch from the temporary station as the old building is demolished Monday to make room for a new one.

## A Bittersweet Farewell

Old Great Falls Fire Station demolished after more than 50 years of service.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION



A backhoe takes apart the front section of the old Great Falls Fire Station Monday. The old building is being demolished to make room for a new, modern facility.

Great Falls said farewell to a longtime resident Monday morning, as the old fire station was demolished to make room for the new one. For Capt. Rick Smith of the Fairfax County Fire Department, it was saying goodbye to a building that he has known his whole life.

"I grew up in this building," said Capt. Rick Smith of the Fairfax Fire Department. His father was fire chief when he was younger, and his brother also served at the station as a firefighter. "It's bittersweet, I know the guys need a new facility, but nostalgia wise, it's hard to see it go."

The station was demolished after more than 50 years of use to make room for a new station, one that will have enough room for the specialized rescue equipment used by the Great Falls Fire Department.

A backhoe began the demolition just after 9 a.m., and many firefighters past and present watched their old station reduced to piles of brick, wood, steel and stone.

"It was a neat building, there are a lot of good memories there," said Capt. Mark Guditus, who started in June of 1982, and the Great Falls Fire Station was his first assignment. "I'll remember the heated floors it had, which was a novelty back then. It was nice to have a warm floor to step on when you got up in the middle of the night."

**HOMER JOHNS**, who has served as captain and president of the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, said he can remember "people used to sleep on the floor, it was so warm and comfortable."

As he watched the demolition from the steps of the construction trailer, he remembered always hitting his head on the attic girders.

"I would always hit my head on those rafters, they were only about five feet up in the air, so if you were taller than that, you had trouble," Johns said. "The way that backhoe is bending them, they sure didn't bend that way when your head hit them."

The veteran fire fighters remember when the fire station used to be a community gathering place, where groups would hold events and meetings, such as barbecues, dances and carnivals.

"This fire house was the focal point of this community," Smith said.

Johns recalled how residents would often flock to the ramp in front of the station to have a front-row seat for the annual Fourth of July fireworks.

"People would sit on that ramp and watch the fireworks shot off, when they were fired from the empty lot where the post office is now," he said. "It's right across the street, so you'd get a great view."

**THE PROCESS** to get a new station began around 2001, when Johns and other members of the fire department wanted to update the facility. The old station didn't have any proper women's facilities, instead they just had a converted meeting room.

"Career firefighters will spend two-thirds of their lives at their fire station, and we wanted to make sure they had a decent place," he said.

The Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department was unable to raise the necessary funds for a new station, so Fairfax County stepped in. Once completed, the station will be run by the county, but still have a volunteer component, said station captain Mark Feaster.

The new facility is expected to be completed by January 2012.

## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls** will host "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, Dec. 4, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted at the event to benefit children associated with either of two non-profit organizations: the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington and Transitional Housing Corporation. The Breakfast with Santa event will include a visit and photo with Santa, face painting, holiday craft activities, breakfast treats, and hot chocolate courtesy of Katie's Coffee House of Great Falls.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church** will celebrate the Advent season with a performance of Camille Saint-Saens' Christmas Oratorio on Sunday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. The event will feature the church's adult choir, directed by Virginia Sircy and accompanied by organ, strings, and harp. A reception will follow the performance. The event is free and open to the public. St. Francis Episcopal Church is located at 9220

Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. For more information, visit [www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org](http://www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org) or [www.facebook.com/stfrancisgf](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisgf), or call the church at 703-759-2082.

**The Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive NE, Vienna, will be having the annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. - to 3 p.m. There will be a Silent Auction, and available for purchase will be crafts, wreaths, centerpieces, poinsettias, See's Candy, and baked goods. Lunch will be available.

**Antioch Christian Church**, 1860 Beulah Road of Vienna, will host its annual "Homecoming Sunday" on Sunday, Dec. 5. All former participants and members are encouraged to attend this day of celebration. Worship will be at 11 a.m. with the theme "Understanding Our Heritage." A Pot-luck fellowship dinner will follow at 12 p.m. 703-938-6753 or [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org).

**Chesterbrook United Methodist Church**, 1711 Kirby Road in McLean, will offer Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion worship at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24. 703-356-7100 or [chesterbrookumc@gmail.com](mailto:chesterbrookumc@gmail.com).



## Collecting Food for Homeless

Great Falls resident Ella Sullivan, a sixth grader at The Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., is one of seven members of the Holy Child Middle School Student Council who organized a Thanksgiving food drive for the McKenna Center in Washington, D.C., a homeless shelter. The food drive produced over 50 huge bags of food for Thanksgiving dinners for more than 30 families.

# NEWS

## McLean Orchestra Receives Donation, Performs 'Twas the Night'

The McLean Orchestra has received a \$5,000 donation from the American Legion Post 270 of McLean. This donation is earmarked for the McLean Youth Orchestra and will be used to offer scholarships and private instruction to MYO students. There are also plans to use some of the funds to purchase much needed percussion equipment for the McLean Youth Orchestra.

"The McLean Youth Orchestra is a vital component of the McLean Orchestra," said McLean Orchestra Executive Director John Huling. "It is a primary mission of ours to train the next generation of classical musicians and provide an opportunity for every qualified student who wishes to be part of the McLean Youth Orchestra family. This generous donation from the American Legion Post 270 will greatly help support this mission."

The McLean Orchestra will perform two holiday concerts titled "Twas the Night" on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 5 at 3 p.m., conducted by Maestro Ernest Green. These concerts will feature fun holiday music, performances with the Oakcrest School Girls Chorus, guest soprano soloist Jill Woodward performing "O Holy Night" and traditional audience sing-along. As usual, the audience is invited to a post-concert cake and champagne reception immediately following the concert. Visit the McLean Orchestra website at [www.mclean-orchestra.org](http://www.mclean-orchestra.org) for ticket information.

On Sunday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. the McLean Youth Orchestra will open its season with a classical holiday concert of its own. Admission is free for this concert. All McLean Orchestra and MYO concerts are at Oakcrest School in McLean.

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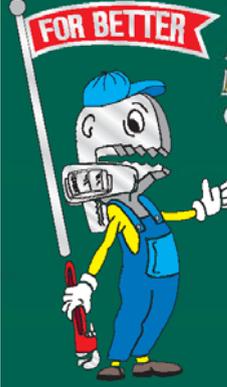
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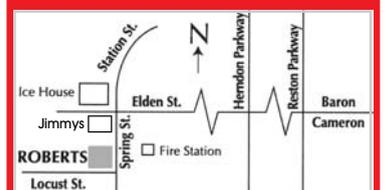
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## GIFT GUIDE

# Wine Gifts for the Holidays

BY MIKE POTASHNIK AND DON WINKLER  
INTERNATIONAL WINE REVIEW

**W**hy not give wine for the Holidays? Wine makes a great gift. Both the casual wine drinker and the seasoned wine enthusiast will be excited to receive a gift of wine.

Local wine shops are a great place to browse for that special wine gift. One of the many benefits of living in Northern Virginia and Maryland is the abundance of choices of wines from all over the world and at every price level.

Make your gifts exotic by choosing wines from lesser known countries and producers. Some countries like Argentina and Chile are well known for their wines, whereas Austria and Portugal are relatively new international producers.

Of course, which wine you buy as a gift depends on both your pocketbook and the person you're giving to. We usually think of wine-drinkers as falling into three categories: The Casual Wine Drinker, who may not know the difference between Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio. Serious Wine Drinkers, who know what they like but pretty much limit themselves to the popular brands. And the Semi-Pro who knows wine and probably has more than a few bottles stashed in a wine cooler, closet or cellar.

Let's consider which wines each of these might like to receive for the Holidays. We've limited our choices to wines that should be available in most good wine stores. All prices are retail prices recommended by the winery or importer; the shelf price is often lower.

**THE CASUAL WINE DRINKER.** While you might not be spending lots of money on the casual wine drinker, you can still give a bottle that will give a lot of pleasure. Stick with the well-known varietals, but find a new producer or new region. Argentine Malbec would fit the bill. Ask your purveyor for a mid-priced Malbec from a producer like Andeluna, Salentein, or Doña Paula. We recently tasted the 2009 Doña Paula Los Cardos Malbec and especially like it. Best of all, it costs just \$10 a bottle.

Everyone these days loves Pinot Noir, and a good one for the casual drinker has been produced by Carneros winemaker, Sean Minor. His 2009 4 Bears Pinot Noir (\$17) is ripe, flavorful and fleshy and is unbeatable for the price.

A good, sparkling wine is another option. One that all casual wine drinkers would love is the Roederer Estate (\$18) from California's Anderson Valley.

If your friend prefers white wines, try a cool coastal Chardonnay from California. When we visited the Santa Lucia Highlands last year we enjoyed the 2008 Mer Soleil Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (\$19). While a little more pricey than the other wines recommended here, it's a sure thing.

**THE SERIOUS WINE DRINKER.** The Serious Wine Drinker is likely to be a little more open than the Casual Wine Drinker to trying something new. Here we recommend you find something that will stretch his or her wine knowledge just a bit. Our first choice might be a different varietal from a reliable producer. One such bottle we tasted this past year is Montes Alpha Carmenere (\$19) from Chile. It's a reasonably priced, delicious, full-bodied red wine from a very good Chilean winery. (We also offer many suggestions on pairing Carmenere and food on our website [www.i-wineview.com](http://www.i-wineview.com).) Among white wines, we'd recommend an Austrian Grüner Veltliner such as Anton Bauer's 2009 Rosenberg Reserve (\$24) or other Anton Bauer cuvees. They com-



**Mike Patashnik and Don Winkler of International Wine Review offer tips for the gift of wine this holiday season.**

bine flavor, acidity, and minerality that is hard to find in one bottle.

Red table wine from Portugal would also be different. We recommend the 2008 Quinta Vale Meão Meandro (\$20), the 2008 Quinta do Vallado Tinto (\$29), or the Herdade do Esporão Reserva (\$21) all wines which have abundant red and black fruit, spice, and complex flavors.

**THE SEMI-PRO.** The Semi-Pro is the most difficult to buy for. If you have lots to spend, you can pick a top end wine that is certain not to disappoint. The 2008 Phelps Insignia (\$185) is one such wine – expensive but worth it, and the person receiving it will recognize both its quality and value. If your pocket

SEE WINE, PAGE 11

## Where to Shop

**Balducci's**  
6655 Old Dominion Drive  
McLean VA 22101  
703-448-3828  
[www.balduccis.com](http://www.balduccis.com)

**Ceciles Finewine**  
1351 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean  
703-356-6500  
[www.finewine.com](http://www.finewine.com)

**The Vineyard of Virginia**  
1445 Laughlin Avenue  
McLean  
703-288-2970  
[www.thevineyardva.com](http://www.thevineyardva.com)

**Total Wine & More**  
[www.totalwine.com](http://www.totalwine.com)  
McLean Shopping Center  
1451 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101  
703.749.0011

**Maison Du Vin**  
756 Walker Road #C  
Great Falls  
703-759-9880

**Church St. Cellars**  
111 Church Street, Suite 103  
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703-255-0550  
[churchstcellars.wordpress.com](http://churchstcellars.wordpress.com)

**Vienna Vintner**  
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703-242-9463

**Norm's Beer & Wine**  
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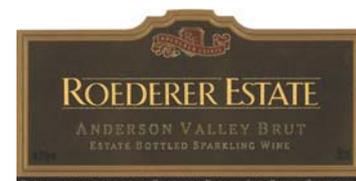
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**Wine makes a great holiday gift.**

# GIFT GUIDE

## Wine Makes a Great Gift

FROM PAGE 10

book is looking for something a little lower in price, there are many options. Everyone loves a good Oregon Pinot Noir, and Cristom produces some of the best. The 2007 Cristom Marjorie Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$50) is exceptionally good, but so are Cristom's other bottlings, (reviews at [www.iwinereview.com](http://www.iwinereview.com)).

Another option is a rich, full-bodied Ribera del Duero wine like the 2006 Bodegas Condado de Haza Crianza (\$30) or the 2006 Cyclo (\$51). If these spe-

cific bottlings are not available in your local store, ask for something similar from Ribera del Duero.

Another terrific wine gift is an introductory subscription to the International Wine Review, just \$25 for six months. Purchase on-line at [www.iwinereview.com](http://www.iwinereview.com).

*Mike Potashnik and Don Winkler have for the past twenty years traveled the globe and tasted thousands of wines in search of the best wines and innovative winemakers to recommend to consumers and wine professionals. They have published the International Wine Review, based in McLean, since 2005.*

### Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Great Falls Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com), or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 1, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

## THURSDAY/DEC. 2

**Cartoon Johnny Holiday CD Release Show & It's First Dubstep & DnB Banger, Grime Syndicate and Amerkat vs Mathews** at 10 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**44th Annual McLean Holiday Homes Tour.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Holyhood Drive and Countryside Court. Five traditional homes elaborately decorated for the holidays. A sixth house will contain jewelry, art and clothing vendors. Admission \$25-\$30. Proceeds benefit local charities. Tickets available at Mesmeraldis in McLean, Karin's Florist in Vienna, Great Dogs of Great Falls or the Woman's Club at [www.mcleanwc.org](http://www.mcleanwc.org). Kay Burnell at 703-821-9144 or Laura Sheridan at 703-556-0197.

**MPA Exhibition Opening and Reception.** 7-9 p.m. Open Dec. 2-Jan. 8. Emerson Gallery: Figuration Today: The Surrealist Influence; Atrium Gallery: Amalgamate-Paintings by Cindy Neuschwander; Ramp Gallery: Fleeting Images-Monoprints by Stephanie George. Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 703-790-1953.

**Art and Law.** 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-993-8898.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 3

**Great Falls Village Centre's 20th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting.**



**Great Falls Village Centre's 20th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be celebrated on Friday, Dec. 3, 6-8 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 6:30; pony rides and a petting zoo open at 7 p.m.; presentation of Christ's birth at 8:45 p.m.; with Christmas music sung by The Langley High Madrigal Singers. From 10 a.m.-6 p.m. the Great Falls Village Centre stores will host annual Holiday Shopping Open House.**

6-8 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 6:30; pony rides and a petting zoo open at 7 p.m.; presentation of Christ's birth at 8:45 p.m.; with Christmas music sung by The Langley High Madrigal Singers. From 10 a.m.-6 p.m. the Great Falls Village Centre stores will host annual Holiday Shopping Open House.

**The Virginia Opera: Mozart's "Così fan Tutte."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts

Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

**Old Firehouse Teen Center Dance.** 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Friday night dance for 7th-8th graders. Design wearable spray art, customize a t-shirt. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Atomic Tom** at 7 p.m. and **Super Bob, Uncrowned and Rebel Inc** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**"Amahl and the Night Visitors."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gian Carlo Menotti's classic story. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**28th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Over 80 artists with pottery, ceramics, jewelry and glass, items for children, gourmet foods, paintings, drawings, photography and more. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 age 13 and younger, good all three days, Dec. 3-5.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 4

**GMCC Reindog Pageant.** At Langley Shopping Center, 1366 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. [www.mcleanwinterfest.org](http://www.mcleanwinterfest.org) or [lynn.gulick@cardinalbank.com](mailto:lynn.gulick@cardinalbank.com).

**Make a Holiday Wreath.** 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. \$40, includes instruction and everything needed to make a holiday wreath. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

**Turtle Island String Quartet.** 8 p.m.

George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut and mandolinist Mike Marshall. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Holiday Shopping and Community Expo.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Pictures with Santa, hand-crafted items, raffle, live

entertainment and more. [tdsantana@fcp.edu](mailto:tdsantana@fcp.edu) or 703-424-8364.

**Ballyhoo and Mojo.** 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Christmas Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Jewelry, photography, artwork, preserves, floral arrangements, music CDs, books and more. 15% of the proceeds benefit Unity of Fairfax Church and Unity Church of Chantilly. [www.unityoffairfax.org](http://www.unityoffairfax.org).

**"The Nutcracker."** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Performed by the Kintz-Mejia Academy of Ballet of McLean. \$25. [www.northernvirginiaballet.com](http://www.northernvirginiaballet.com) or 703-893-0404 ext. 217.

**Alternative Gift Fair.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, N.E., Vienna. Purchase handcrafts or donate livestock, mosquito nets or micro-loans through Heifer International, Episcopal Relief and Development and 5 Talents International. Secret Santa Shop for children. St. Nicholas Festival from 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. 703-255-1411 or [www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com).

**"Amahl and the Night Visitors."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gian Carlo Menotti's classic story. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Open House.** 1-5 p.m. Elite Piano Academy, 8230 Boone Blvd., Suite 100A, Vienna. [www.hyun-michung.net](http://www.hyun-michung.net).

**28th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Over 80

artists with pottery, ceramics, jewelry and glass, items for children, gourmet foods, paintings, drawings, photography and more. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 age 13 and younger, good all three days, Dec. 3-5.

**McLean Orchestra Holiday Concerts: 'Twas the Night.'** 8 p.m. Oakerest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Conductor Ernest Green and the Oakerest Girls' Chorus. Adults \$30, seniors \$25, age 16 and under \$15.

**Holiday Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Flint Hill Elementary School, 2444 Flint Hill Road, Vienna. Professional crafters, photos with Santa, a book sale, and a "Secret Santa" shop for children. Free gift wrapping of purchases. Holiday Cafe and Bake Sale. 703-242-6100.

**Artist's Reception.** 4-8 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road N.E., Vienna. "Celebrate With Color," watercolors by Alex Wisniewski. Show will run through Dec. 18. 703-281-2350.

**Holly & Ivy Christmas MarketPlace.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, De Sales Hall, 8601 Wolfltrap Road, Vienna. Gifts, handmade crafts, used book sale, photos with Santa and more. 703-896-7424 or [www.olgdevelopment.org/HollyIvy.html](http://www.olgdevelopment.org/HollyIvy.html).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 5

**The Virginia Opera: Mozart's "Così fan Tutte."** 2:30 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

**McLean WinterFest Parade.** 4 p.m. from Fleetwood Road down Chain Bridge Road to Browner St. The

Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce will hold its traditional tree lighting on Holiday Island immediately following the parade. This year's parade has a longer route, a variety of free refreshments, and scheduled entertainment prior to the parade start. [www.mcleanwinterfest.org](http://www.mcleanwinterfest.org) or [lynn.gulick@cardinalbank.com](mailto:lynn.gulick@cardinalbank.com).

**Lloyd Dobler Effect Holiday Unplugged Show & CD Release.** Elizabeth Coyle and Albert Ketter & Chris Brooks. 3 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Our Daily Bread Presents Dave LaMotte.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread's Holiday program, matching individuals, businesses and community groups with needy families throughout the Fairfax County area. [www.our-daily-bread.org](http://www.our-daily-bread.org) or [jamminjava.com](mailto:jamminjava.com).

**"The Nutcracker."** 2 p.m. at George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Performed by the Kintz-Mejia Academy of Ballet of McLean. \$25. [www.northernvirginiaballet.com](http://www.northernvirginiaballet.com) or 703-893-0404 ext. 217.

**Alternative Gift Fair.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1411 or [www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com).

**Santa Claus at the Freeman House.** 1-3 p.m. Freeman House, 131 Church St., Vienna. In the house's parlor, decorated for the holidays with greens and period arrangements. 703-938-5187 or [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org).

**28th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Over 80 artists with pottery, ceramics, jewelry

and glass, items for children, gourmet foods, paintings, drawings, photography and more. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 age 13 and younger, good all three days, Dec. 3-5.

**McLean Orchestra Holiday Concerts: 'Twas the Night.'** 3 p.m. Oakerest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Conductor Ernest Green and the Oakerest Girls' Chorus. Adults \$30, seniors \$25, age 16 and under \$15.

**Jody Marshall Yule Concert.** 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Accompanied by Andrea Hoag on fiddle, Paul Nahay on piano, and singer Carey Creed. \$15. Reserve at 703-759-3309.

**42nd Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long.** 4 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Led by the United States Marine and a 400-member choir. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted at the entrance for Toys for Tots, but are not required. Free admission. 703-255-1917 or [grahamb@wolfltrap.org](mailto:grahamb@wolfltrap.org).

**Holly & Ivy Christmas MarketPlace.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, De Sales Hall, 8601 Wolfltrap Road, Vienna. Gifts, handmade crafts, used book sale, photos with Santa and more. 703-896-7424 or [www.olgdevelopment.org/HollyIvy.html](http://www.olgdevelopment.org/HollyIvy.html).

## MONDAY/DEC. 6

**Make a Holiday Wreath.** 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. \$40, includes instruction and everything needed to make a holiday wreath. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

## Santa Picture Day

**Saturday, December 4, 2010**  
8 A.M. to 2 P.M.

One 5x7 for \$20.00  
Two 5x7 for \$30.00

A portion of the proceeds is donated to local charities.

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We look forward to seeing you.

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Open for Dinner  
Tuesday-Friday: 5 P.M.-9 P.M. • Saturday: 4:30 P.M.-9:30 P.M.  
Sunday: 12:00 P.M.-7:30 P.M. • Monday: Closed

Available for weddings, corporate and private parties

## GIFT GUIDE

# One-of-a-Kind Experience

Personal service, free gift-wrapping and unusual gifts are hallmarks of Cathy's Corner.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**lack Friday is over, cyber Monday is history and you've eaten the last of the turkey leftovers. Put your fork down now, and stop avoiding the inevitable. It's time to begin the annual quest to find that thoughtful, one-of-a-kind gift for everyone on your holiday shopping list - from finicky Aunt Mona to your fussy four-year-old niece.

You may think you're taking the easy way out by going to the mall or one of the big-box stores. After all, who on your list can resist yet another giant mug stuffed with two packs of crusty hot-chocolate merrily wrapped in red cellophane? (Bonus: it's chock full of real dried marshmallows.)

Before you begin that desperate mall walk - or wake up at midnight to camp outside the big box store - there is another option.

Shop locally: you can feel good about supporting your local business community, and you may even start to enjoy holiday shopping again.

**CATHY'S CORNER** in Great Falls Village Center is one local business that also supports several Great Falls artisans by featuring their hand-crafted items

## Cathy's Corner

Cathy's Corner is located in the Village Centre in Great Falls at 766-C Walker Road (the parking area closest to the shop is near the Georgetown Pike entrance by the Post Office, behind The Old Brogue). Business hours are Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. You can also call for special hours at 703-759-4975. Or visit the Web site at [www.cathyscornergreatfalls.com](http://www.cathyscornergreatfalls.com)

Coming up: MONOGRAM IT NOW at Cathy's Corner. Buy merchandise or bring something that you need monogrammed to Cathy's Corner from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9. Monograms are done while you shop and ready to take home with you.

in the store. Personal service, free gift-wrapping and unusual gifts are hallmarks of Cathy's Corner.

"I like to think that we're a one-of-a-kind gift store, because I do feature local craftspeople and artisans from Great Falls who create some extraordinary items. I also try to stand out from the crowd by offering exceptional personal service," said Cathy Moran, a former marketing executive and mother of four, who opened her gift store six years ago. "I always chat with my customers, and, if they want, I love to help them find that special gift."

Patricia Paterno, a Great Falls mom and corporate



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Laurie Bell, who does educational tea tastings, displays her special tea blends at Cathy's Corner.

SEE PAMPERED, PAGE 16



*Church of the  
Holy Comforter*  
(Episcopal)

The Rev. Richard A. Lord, Rector

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**

11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche  
4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche  
7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist  
10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

**CHRISTMAS MORNING:**

10:30 a.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist

543 Beulah Road, Vienna, VA 22180, [www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com), 703-938-6521



## Specialists in Natural Pet Foods and Supplies

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1306 E. Gude Drive • Rockville, MD 20850 • 301.217.0432

Online shopping at [www.wholepetcentral.com](http://www.wholepetcentral.com)  

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[www.staybridge.com/mcleanva](http://www.staybridge.com/mcleanva)

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Or E-mail: [monikastepp@granddukehotels.com](mailto:monikastepp@granddukehotels.com)

## GIFT GUIDE

# Pampered at Cathy's Corner

FROM PAGE 14

event planner, has been a loyal Cathy's Corner customer for several years. "I didn't go near the mall this year. It's just too stressful and loud," Paterno said.

"What all Cathy's customers love is that she always gives great advice," Paterno added. "She keeps files on her regular customers, so that she knows what they like and what to suggest. This year, I went in, gave her my list of people to buy for and she started selecting items. Then I went to the Old Brogue for lunch. When I came back, all my items were beautifully gift-wrapped, and I'm done. Now I can enjoy the season with my family."

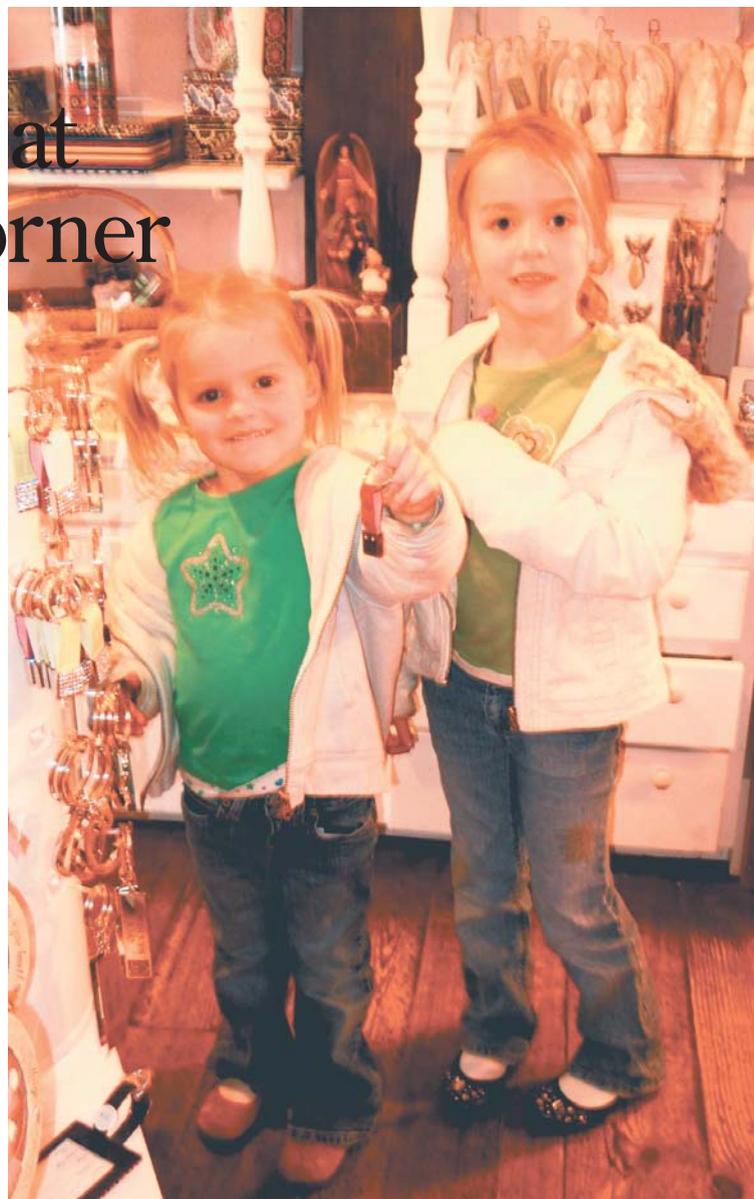
In addition to personal service, Cathy's Corner specializes in personalized and monogrammed items, such as stationery, luggage, pillows and blankets. She also features hand-embroidered, monogrammed tea towels by local artist Wendy Hunter. "The perfect hostess gift," Moran said.

Jewelry for moms, tweens, teens and men are also hot items at her store this season. "I like to offer items at a range of prices, so that a teen can afford to get her mom or friend a personalized charm bracelet or necklace." Local jewelry designers featured at her store include Elicia Pierno of Bella Designs, Jean Forman of Sea Glass Treasures, and Twee Ramos of Silverwater Panache.

Professional chef, educator and Great Falls resident Laurie Bell, who owns Great Falls Tea Garden, also offers her premium loose leaf and artisan flowering teas at the store. "Cathy is very supportive of her vendors. She lets you flourish, and we've had a lot of success selling our teas here," said Bell.

**MORAN'S LATEST** local "find" is Jean Quigley, who designs and creates custom-made greeting cards. "I used to do a lot of scrapbooking," said Quigley, "but a few years ago I started collecting stamps, and now I use the stamps to create greeting cards." Quigley, who is known as Card Queen Jean, has a collection of more than 2,000 stamps that she uses to personalize greeting cards. She currently has a line of Christmas cards and gift tags at Cathy's Corner.

Another feature of Cathy's Corner is her curbside pick-up service. "I have been doing curbside service since I opened. It came about mostly from the demand of my



**Alexis, 4, and Adrienne, 6, who came from Ohio to visit their grandmother in Great Falls, have fun shopping for a personalized key chain at Cathy's Corner.**

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



**"Card Queen" Jean Quigley creates customized greeting cards at Cathy's Corner.**

busy mom customers, who may have several children napping in their car seats. They know what they want, so they just call me up, give me their credit card, and I pull it all together for them, including the gift-wrapping. When they pull up, I take it out to their car and they are set to go," Moran said.

Moran even makes it easy for the man in your life to find the right gift.

"I encourage my customers to

make wish lists, so that dads, husband or significant others can pick something that she really wants. And honestly, on Christmas Eve, it's all men in the store" Moran said, laughing. "For men, holiday shopping is a mission. They want to find something and get out as soon as possible. I make it as easy as possible for them."

"Cathy makes you feel pampered," Paterno said. "She really is a hidden gem."

## DC's HOLIDAY WINE MALL

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**December 4 & 5**  
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**TASTE 250 Wines & ENJOY Culinary Seminars** while you **SHOP** for everyone on your holiday list!

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28th Annual  
**McLean Holiday CRAFTS SHOW**  
A Juried Art and Craft Show Since 1982



**80 fine American artisans** convene for this highly regarded and much-anticipated juried show. Featuring fiber arts, wood, pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and more!

**Friday-Sunday December 3-5**

**Admission: \$2 adults \$1 age 13 and younger**  
*Good all three days!*

**Friday:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.;  
**Saturday:** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; **Sunday:** 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fresh Food Service Provided by Sweetleaf of McLean.



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

Take \$1 off adult admission with this ad

## CAPPIES REVIEW

# Langley High Drama Meets the Challenge

BY LAUREN SCHILD  
BRIAR WOODS HIGH SCHOOL

In the age of texting, messaging, and Facebook, you would think that classical pieces are dead, right? Well, Langley High School's pleasant production of William Shakespeare's ever charming and elegant piece, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" would prove you wrong.

The story begins in Athens, where the lovesick group Lysander (Brian Patterson), Hermia (Nicole Kang), Demetrius (Zack Gray), and Helena (Tess Higgins) flees into the woods in search of freedom from oppression and scorned love. Little do they know that they're being watched by the supernatural fairy king and queen Oberon and Titania, along with the King's mischievous "Puck", Robin Goodfellow (Louis Gaertner, Taylor Goodson, and Justin Cecil, respectively). After a quarrel, King Oberon sends Puck to fetch a flower with enchanted juice that makes anyone fall in love with the first thing they see. Puck comes across the mortal couples and uses the flower's magical liquid to create a series of unimaginable discord and chaos.

Langley High School's interpretation was driven by upbeat energy from each and every cast member. All actors thrust themselves into their character and seemed to have a fairly firm grasp of the text that encompasses a Shakespeare work.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Zack Gray as Demetrius, Tess Higgins as Helena, Brian Patterson as Lysander and Nicole Kang as Hermia battle the effects of a magic spell cast by mischievous fairies in Langley High production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

It was evident that Patterson and Gray had done their research for this show. Not only did they both seize attention when onstage with their striking use of facial expressions, but they also both spoke with such passion and conviction that almost

every line revealed some type of aspect about their character.

Several factors highlighted the performance throughout the course of the show, such as the winsome ensemble of fairies. They were constantly reacting to one another,

even when the spotlight wasn't on them, and added splashes of personality throughout the show. The choreography by Becca Allen and Natalie Bozorgzad, and music by Alex Lichenstein and Kevin Nejad, was simple, yet the dancing was in almost perfect unison and the music combined almost seamlessly into the show to assist in setting emotional tones. Although there was a bit of unneeded over acting from some of the cast and a few lines were missed due to a lack of pausing for laughter, the cast rose above these minor mishaps by using their creative ability to create strong character foils among one another.

The sets, designed by Charlie Weir, had admirable amounts of detail that added depth to the show. The contrast of colors and styles between the mythical forest and the stuffy duke's castle really helped set the tone for the scenes. Some costumes created confusion about the time period of the show, however this was overcome by the fairy costumes and makeup, which blended with the general feel of their characters and were beautiful to behold.

Love is a true force to be reckoned with, but Langley High School strove to meet the challenge. Although there was some rough patches, their rendition "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was a delight to see and displayed the form and dignity found in a respectable piece.



## Great Falls Village Centre's

# 20th Annual Tree Lighting Event

Friday,  
December 3rd 2010  
6PM - 8PM



Robert Moore, Gary Schmitz  
and Steve Newborg



Team Effort: Robert Moore mastermind of Tree Lighting Event, Gary Schmitz dug up the Tree and Steve Newborg balled/burlapped both trees in order to get them out.

Thank You!

**Event Founder:**  
Ms. Jackie Moore (deceased)

**Carried On By:**  
Mr. Robert Moore  
Mr. Gary Schmitz  
Mr. Steve Newborg

**Event Set Up:**  
Mr. Ed White, Mr. Al McDonald  
Mr. Bud Gettier, Mr. Carl Schmitz  
Mr. Glen Sjoblom

**Fire Truck:**  
Mr. Peter Garahan, Mr. Mike Kearney  
Mr. John Nugent

**Live Nativity:**  
Ms. Margaret Johnson

**Petting Zoo:**  
Mr. Gary Schmitz  
Ms. Patty Calpin, of Old Mine Ranch is donating the animals in honor of the late Jack Crippen

**Contributors:**  
Teel Construction  
Fresh Catch Seafood  
Mr. Al McDonald & Mr. Paul Sullivan  
Great Falls Charitable Foundation  
& Mr. Mike Kearney  
Ms. Lynne Simmons  
Mr. Eric Parte

Village Centre

Shops Restaurants Offices

Festivities will be held behind the Post Office, near the Big Christmas Tree!

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.:  
Holiday Shopping & Open House

6-7 p.m.:  
Langley High School Madrigal Singers

6:30 p.m.:  
Santa arrives with Mrs. Claus to Light the Tree

7:30 p.m.:  
Live presentation of Nativity Setting

Special Thanks to Mr. Robert Moore and the Village Centre Owners for hosting and sponsoring this special event!

# HOLIDAY GUIDE

Send announcements to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

## THURSDAY/DEC. 2

**44th Annual McLean Holiday Homes Tour.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Holyhood Drive and Countryside Court. Five traditional homes elaborately decorated for the holidays. A sixth house will contain jewelry, art and clothing vendors. Admission \$25-\$30. Proceeds benefit local charities. Tickets available at Mesmeralda's in McLean, Karin's Florist in Vienna, Great Dogs of Great Falls or the Woman's Club at [www.mcleanwc.org](http://www.mcleanwc.org). Kay Burnell at 703-821-9144 or Laura Sheridan at 703-556-0197.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 3

**Great Falls Village Centre's 20th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting.** 6-8 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive at 6:30; pony rides and a petting zoo open at 7 p.m.; presentation of Christ's birth at 8:45 p.m.; with Christmas music sung by The Langley High Madrigal Singers. From 10 a.m.-6 p.m. the Great Falls Village Centre stores will host annual Holiday Shopping Open House.

**"Amahl and the Night Visitors."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gian Carlo Menotti's classic story. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**28th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Over 80 artists with pottery, ceramics, jewelry and glass, items for children, gourmet foods, paintings, drawings, photography and more. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 age 13 and younger, good all three days, Dec. 3-5.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 4

**GMCC Reindog Pageant.** At Langley Shopping Center, 1366 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. [www.mcleanwinterfest.org](http://www.mcleanwinterfest.org) or [lynn.gulick@cardinalbank.com](mailto:lynn.gulick@cardinalbank.com).

**Make a Holiday Wreath.** 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. \$40, includes instruction and everything needed to make a holiday wreath. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

**Holiday Shopping and Community Expo.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Pictures with Santa, hand-crafted items, raffle, live entertainment and more. [tdsantana@fcps.edu](mailto:tdsantana@fcps.edu) or 703-424-8364.

**Christmas Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Jewelry, photography, artwork, preserves, floral arrangements, music CDs, books and more. 15% of the proceeds benefit Unity of Fairfax Church and Unity Church of Chantilly. [www.unityoffairfax.org](http://www.unityoffairfax.org).

**"The Nutcracker."** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at George Mason High School, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Performed by the Kintz-Mejia Academy of Ballet of McLean. \$25. [www.northernvirginiaballet.com](http://www.northernvirginiaballet.com) or 703-893-0404 ext. 217.

**Alternative Gift Fair.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, N.E., Vienna.

Purchase handcrafts or donate livestock, mosquito nets or micro-loans through Heifer International, Episcopal Relief and Development and 5 Talents International. Secret Santa Shop for children. St. Nicholas Festival from 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. 703-255-1411 or [www.holycomforter.com](http://www.holycomforter.com).

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## SUNDAY/DEC. 5

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This year's parade has a longer route, a variety of free refreshments, and scheduled entertainment prior to the parade start.

[www.mcleanwinterfest.org](http://www.mcleanwinterfest.org) or [lynn.gulick@cardinalbank.com](mailto:lynn.gulick@cardinalbank.com).

**Our Daily Bread Presents Dave LaMotte.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread's Holiday program, matching individuals, businesses and community groups with needy families throughout the Fairfax County area. [www.our-daily-bread.org](http://www.our-daily-bread.org) or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

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**28th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Over 80 artists with pottery, ceramics, jewelry and glass, items for children, gourmet foods, paintings, drawings, photography and more. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 age 13 and younger, good all three days, Dec. 3-5.

**McLean Orchestra Holiday Concerts: 'Twas the Night.** 3 p.m. Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Conductor Ernest Green and the Oakcrest Girls' Chorus. Adults \$30, seniors \$25, age 16 and under \$15.

**Jody Marshall Yule Concert.** 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls.

Accompanied by Andrea Hoag on fiddle, Paul Nahay on piano, and singer Carey Creed. \$15. Reserve at 703-759-3309.

**42nd Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long.** 4 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Led by the United States Marine and a 400-member choir. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted at the entrance for Toys for Tots, but are not required. Free admission. 703-255-1917 or [grahamb@wolftrap.org](mailto:grahamb@wolftrap.org).

**Holly & Ivy Christmas Marketplace.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, De Sales Hall, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Gifts, handmade crafts, used book sale, photos with Santa and more. 703-896-7424 or [www.olgdevelopment.org/HollyIvy.html](http://www.olgdevelopment.org/HollyIvy.html).

## MONDAY/DEC. 6

**Make a Holiday Wreath.** 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. \$40, includes instruction and everything needed to make a holiday wreath. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 9

**Holiday Gingerbread House.** 6:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

Families work together to decorate pre-assembled gingerbread houses. Supplies included in cost. \$45, \$35 McLean district residents. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

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## Insurance Assurance



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I once sold life and health insurance for a living – and still maintain my license by fulfilling Continuing Education requirements every two years, I am no longer in “the business.” As a result, I know much less about policies and procedures now than I once did. And what policies and procedures I did know about – then, I knew primarily about “individual” life and health insurance as opposed to Group/Business/Employer-provided insurance. Factor in recent White House-initiated and recently passed Health Insurance legislation, euphemistically – and often disparagingly – referred to as, “Obama care,” and what little I did know/remember has been overtaken by what I don’t know.

Throw into this vat of change and uncertainty, the fact that I am an active cancer patient – undergoing treatment still, chemotherapy (\$7,500 per session) every three weeks, covered by a Group Health insurance plan provided by my “small” employer at Connection Newspapers, whose annual health insurance renewal is up now, and perhaps you can guess the anxiety and worry I’ve been experiencing of late: What if the coverage is dropped? What if the coverage is maintained but the price and/or benefits are modified – for the worse, because of my treatment and the average age of our group? Alternatively, what if the company changes insurers and I have to change oncologists? And if there is new coverage, given the size of our group, will my pre-existing condition be excluded? Not covered for 90 days? Or prohibitively expensive?

So you can imagine my relief when quite unexpectedly, I received my new health insurance identification card in the mail recently. It is from the same HMO/insurer whose oncologist has been treating me since Feb. 27, 2009, when my Internal Medicine doctor called to tell me the results of my week-previous biopsy, that the pain I had initially felt in my rib cage – two months prior (the time it took to be assessed and scanned by multiple doctors and machines to get to this current point), was unfortunately a malignant tumor. At that point, having health insurance mattered more to me than almost anything; my treatment could proceed without consideration of coverage and/or cost, and so it has.

Until possibly now. Or so I thought, given all the changes in the industry, and of course, the new legislation. But I tried not to think about it too much because it was mostly out of my control. And for cancer patients (maybe any terminal patient, or so I’ve been told), controlling what you can and letting go of what you can’t, is an adage to live by. Still, I was mindful of the calendar knowing that sometime in the fall, our policy renews/we shop carriers, and that change sometimes happens.

But since I’m scheduled for chemotherapy tomorrow, I can’t worry about it too much today. However, I haven’t been sleeping very well of late. Perhaps that was my insurance-coverage subconscious worried about its insured’s consciousness? No more. I have my new card. I have my new (same old) coverage. I don’t have to change doctors, change facilities, change how I buy my medication. The only thing I have to change is how much I co-pay, co-insure and premium-pay. Neither of which is an improvement/enhancement over my previous coverage. Nevertheless, it’s change I can live with, hopefully for a long time.

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

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**21 Announcements**



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**21 Announcements**

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 815 South 18th St., Arlington, VA. The new facility will consist of adding three panel antennas (one per sector) to existing rooftop mounts at 80 feet above ground level. Support equipment will be placed in an existing rooftop shelter. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61107047-KAB c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at 215-908-9207.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T Mobility is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on a building located at 1020 North Highland Street, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia. The modification will consist of flush mounting three antennas to the building's penthouse exterior wall at a centerline height of 124' above ground level. The proposed antennas will be painted to match existing conditions. Additionally, an equipment cabinet is proposed to be added to the existing steel platform on the building rooftop. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 61106818-LLM c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA, 17403, or via telephone at (717) 428-0401.

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T intends to file an application to modify an existing wireless communications facility at 1512 South Arlington Ridge Road, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22202. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Parliament House" will consist of the collocation of six antennas on the side of the building penthouse using existing mounts. In addition, equipment will be installed on the rooftop and in the basement. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carol Blitz, AT&T, at 12900 Park Plaza Drive, Cerritos, California 90703 or c/o [theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com](mailto:theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com)

**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T intends to file an application for the collocation of new antennas on the building located at 5055 South Chesterfield Road, Arlington, Virginia 22206. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Claremont" will consist of the collocation of antennas on the roof of the building. In addition, DC and fiber cable will be run from the antennas to the existing AT&T equipment shelter. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carol Blitz, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o [theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com](mailto:theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com)

**21 Announcements**

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**The Crippen Companies**

**Notice of Public Meeting**

**Stump Dump CDD Landfill (Permit No. 317)**

Pursuant to the requirements of 9 VAC 20-80-310 of the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations, 9 VAC 20-80-310A.5, The Crippen Companies will hold a public meeting to discuss the Proposal of Presumptive Remedy for the Stump Dump CDD landfill. The facility at which the meeting will be held, is located 820 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls, Virginia, 22066 - 1538.

As a result of apparently exceeding a Groundwater Protection Standard, the facility has conducted a Proposal of Presumptive Remedy. The purpose of the public meeting is to acquaint the public with the technical aspects of the proposed corrective measures, and how the facility plans to meet the standards and regulatory requirements. The meeting will identify issues of concern and facilitate communication between The Crippen Companies and the Public.

The public meeting will be held on December 9, 2010, at 1:00 PM, at the referenced location. Comments on the Proposal of Presumptive Remedy will be accepted until 5:00 PM on December 24, 2010.

The Public may view a copy the Proposal of Presumptive Remedy report at the Great Falls Public Library located at 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Virginia 22066. Comments from the Public are encouraged. All comments must be in writing and be delivered to Mr. Burwin Reed at 3730 Greentree Lane, Dumfries, Virginia 22026.

For further information, call Mr. Burwin Reed (703-690-6040).



**Mahon displays the stacks and stacks of donated gifts crowding her basement (donated photo)**

CONTRIBUTED

## Wish List Project Keeps Giving

FROM PAGE 3

searching the Internet for local shelters. She quickly found the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, a 70-bed residential shelter in Reston, and The Wish List Project was born.

During the first year of the Wish List Project, Mahon helped 49 families get their Christmas wishes. Last year, the project's 10th anniversary, she collected nearly \$20,000 in gifts and gift cards for 300 homeless families and foster children. Even though the economy is still unsteady - and discretionary giving is down - Mahon said she is determined to recruit new Wish List "angels." Her Wish List beneficiaries include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Shelter House in Falls Church, the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax, St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville and 75 Fairfax County foster teens. This year, she added Artemis House, another local organization that helps victims of domestic violence.

"The work Ginger and her fellow angels have done for the past ten years demonstrate how they can make a difference for people who are less fortunate. Currently, there are approximately 1,500 homeless people in Fairfax County and 36 percent are children under the age of 18," said Abby Kimble, Director of Communications and Outreach for Reston Interfaith, the umbrella organization that supports the Embry Rucker Community Shelter.

One of the shelter's key efforts during the winter season is preventing hypothermia by providing shelter, blankets and other items for its clients who, whether by choice or lack of shelter space, live outdoors or in cars.

"As the temperatures drop during the winter, our need for blankets, coats, and other items becomes critical. Through our Hypothermia Prevention Program, we never turn anyone away, and through the Wish List project, Ginger helps us provide everything from holiday gifts and cheer to our clients at the Embry Rucker Shelter to hygiene products. It's an important effort," Kimble said.

With the help of her husband, Bill, and two daughters, Amanda, 13 and Juliana, 16, Mahon starts an intense eight weeks of preparation for the project in October. She is constantly fielding calls, emailing updates to donors and organizations, and matching

"angels" with families in need, making sure that if there's a little girl whose wish is a Barbie doll, there is someone who will provide a Barbie doll.

**BY THANKSGIVING**, she and her family have cleared out the basement and garage in preparation for the hundreds of gifts that donors will drop off, including bikes, blankets, and gift bags filled with toys and other "wishes."

"We use every inch of space in this house for gifts, and I am so grateful to all of our repeat 'angels' who help us get ready for the drop-off party," Mahon said. One of those angels, whom she fondly nicknamed "The Bin Man," is neighbor Patrick Devlin. "I don't know what we'd do without The Bin Man," she said. "The first year, he asked us how we were going to transport all the gifts. We didn't know, so he offered to provide large green bins, and he's been providing us with more bins every year."

The projects' grand finale in December is - as one neighbor calls it - "the biggest holiday party ever!" Mahon's home is transformed into a glittering winter wonderland filled with lights, decorations, music, food and stacks of gifts for the annual Wish List Drop-Off Party.

"You will see angels," she promises. "Every year, I am overwhelmed by the generosity of people who want to give. I feel like a little miracle happens here every year. People have left here in tears because they can't believe how much we're helping. It's pretty amazing when you actually see all of the gifts," she said.

Her husband, Bill, said he thinks her grass-roots charity is so successful because "people can see there's a straight line between what's being asked, and where it goes."

What keeps Mahon going every year - as the project grows - are little things, like the letter she received last year from a homeless mom at the Embry Rucker Shelter.

"To those who made it possible: There are no words, no depths, and no boundaries known or seen that can express the sincerity of joy shown to me and my daughter on Christmas day. How can I thank you?"

"Every mother deserves to have her children happy on Christmas day," Mahon said. And she promises that there will be an "angel" to get David his new bike.

**Currently, there are approximately 1,500 homeless people in Fairfax County and 36 percent are children under the age of 18.**

**- Abby Kimble, Reston Interfaith**

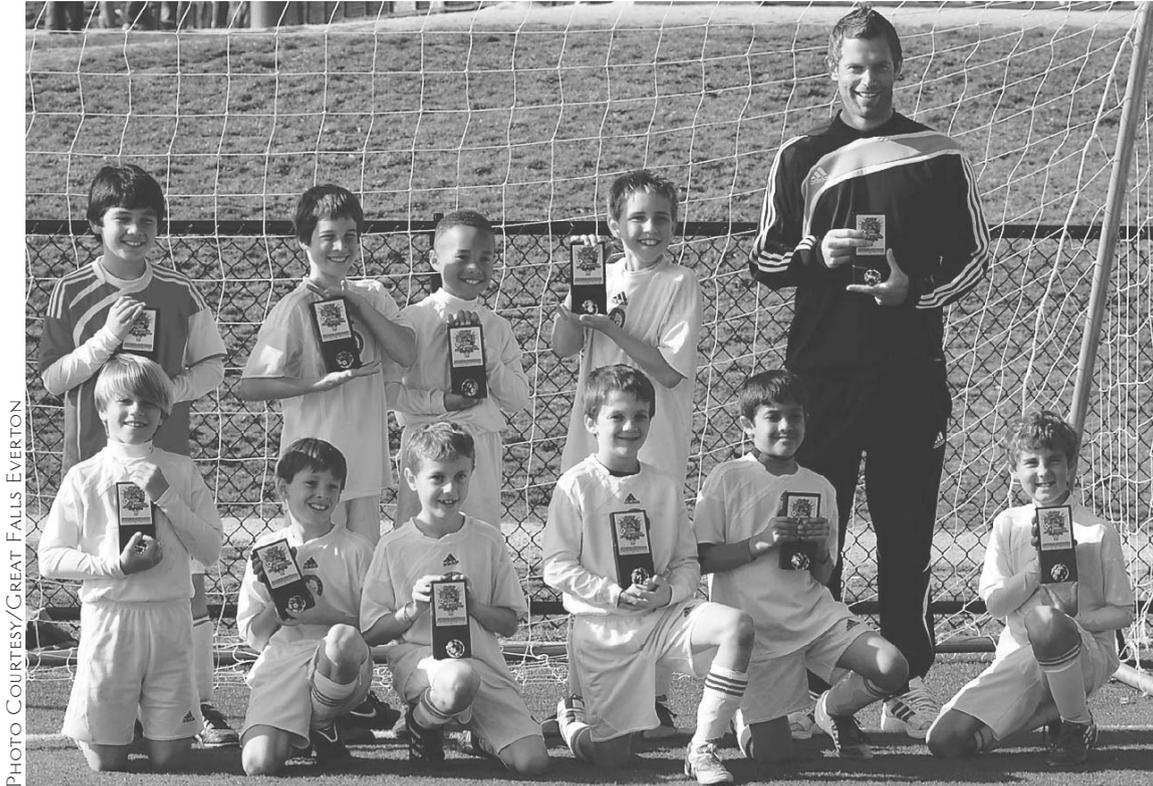


PHOTO COURTESY/GREAT FALLS EVERTON

**The Great Falls Everton, an U-10 boys' travel soccer team, won the Hunt Country Classic Soccer Tournament at Long Park Field in Haymarket.**

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**The Great Falls Everton**, a NCSL, under-10 boys' soccer team coached by John O'Hara of Hi Performance (HP) Soccer, competed in the 2010 Hunt Country Classic Soccer Tournament over the weekend at Long Park Field in Haymarket. The Everton competed in the Elite Bracket (top division) and brought home the championship trophy after a stellar outing on the pitch, going undefeated in four games and shutting down the competition by a 24-4 goal differential. It was a great way for the Everton to cap a highly successful fall soccer season in which they went 8-1 with a 58-10 goal differential.

The Everton started the Hunt Country tournament with a 7-0 win over FC Frederick Academy Grey. The match was a tune-up for the team's next game against the traditional powerhouse PWSI Soccer Club. Once again, the Everton played outstanding and recorded

their second win, 5-3, over PWSI Red '01. Early on Sunday morning, the Everton geared up to play the undefeated Vienna Youth Soccer (VYS) Raptors Red. VYS had earlier defeated both PWSI and FCF Academy Grey, 2-1 and 4-1, respectively. The Everton were eager for the challenge and it showed. After 60 minutes of soccer, the Everton beat VYS by a score of 7-1 and earned their way to the championship game.

With perfect weather, the Everton, in the finals, squared off against the same VYS Raptors team again - as a result of Vienna remaining the No. 2 ranked team in the bracket. The rematch was just as exciting as the first game as the Everton blanked the Raptors 5-0 to complete their sweep and earn the right to be called champions! Congratulations to all of the players for a job well done.

—KENNETH CUSHING



PHOTO COURTESY/EXTREME

**The Great Falls Extreme U17 girls' travel soccer team captured first place at the Fall Classic Tournament.**



PHOTO BY MELANIE LEGOLLON

**With 22 seconds left in the tenth and final round, Great Falls boxer Jimmy Lange lands a right hand that knocks out his opponent Joe Wyatt.**

## Lange Scores Knockout, Wins Title

**J**immy Lange, displaying his trademark heart, guts and determination, scored a dramatic 10th round knockout of Joe Wyatt with 22 seconds remaining in the final round to capture the North American Boxing Association's U.S. 154-pound title in the recent pro fight at the Patriot Center.

There was plenty of action in the early rounds with each fighter gaining an upper hand at times, but with neither taking total control of the fight. Lange, who resides in Great Falls, struck two minutes into the fifth round when he knocked Wyatt down after connecting with a flurry of combinations. However, Wyatt, who showed little ring rust despite fighting for the first time in more than three years, recovered to inflict his own damage, causing a cut above Lange's left eye. Jimmy Glenn, Lange's trainer and one of the top cut men in the business, did an outstanding job

controlling the gash during the fight.

By the seventh round, both fighters had drawn blood and continued to go toe-to-toe to the delight of the large and enthusiastic crowd. Then, like he has done many times before, Lange reached down deep inside to pull out the last-second win when he connected with a powerful right hand in the closing moments of the final round that sent Wyatt down for the count.

"We aren't in it for the money; we're in it for a world title," said manager/father Johnny Lange at the post-fight press conference. "If you think of boxers from the 1950's and 1960's Jimmy is a throwback. Show me any other fighter today that has as much heart as Jimmy Lange."

"I thought the fight was even heading into the 10th round," said Jimmy Lange.

Lange's career record with the win improved to 34-4-2. Wyatt is now 23-2.

# SPORTS

## Flag Football Blossoms in Great Falls

### League holds championship tournament, Jets triumph.

BY SEAN MCCALLEY  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Sunday, Nov. 28, the Great Falls Flag Football League held its season championship tournament. This year it was the Jets that left the fields at Great Falls Elementary feeling victorious and carrying the coveted blue and gold trophy.

Started by Ron Keefe eight years ago, the league has grown to 300 children from Northern Virginia. From Great Falls to McLean, the league has grown by word-of-mouth by enthusiastic parents, coaches and children.

"In a community of highly competitive sports, this is just fun for the kids," said league founder Ron Keefe.

While a highly competitive edge has its pros and cons, the league that Keefe founded focuses on the love of the sport and the opportunities it allows every player no matter what athletic level they display.



The Jets 'tackle' a Redskins runner.

"Oh, it's a blast... I'll be in a Safeway store and a first grader will grab my shirt and say 'Hey coach!'," Keefe said.

Keefe's league trains the young athletes by increments. Kindergartners to second grade all play on the Redskins team: these competitors are taught the basic skills of football and teamwork.

Third grade marks the beginning of individual teams. The league is sponsored by the National Football League, which allows the

league to use the uniforms and logos of the athletes' favorite teams.

From the Packers to the Chargers, the children are snake drafted onto teams by coaches in the Great Falls Library at the beginning of the season. If adjustments are needed to make the talent evenly distributed, they are made.

Keefe's son Jonathan oversees the refereeing of the season by coordinating their pay and schedules.

"I like working with the kids. What's great about it all is that the atmosphere is fun," he said.

Jonathan is a senior at Langley High School and has participated in the league for its entire eight-year history. Other league alumni participate in the refereeing as well, donating their seasoned experiences to the new blood of flag football.

"Now people will know what we do with our Saturdays," laughed J.J. Oleniacz as he described his efforts for the last four years.

Ron Keefe tries hard to maintain a community atmosphere both on and off the field. Since games are always held on the Great Falls Elementary field, all teams in the league can claim a home field advantage and forge lasting friendships (and rivalries) between parents and players.

"It's a great gathering of Great Falls families... The kids still compete hard against each other, but there's a lot of handshakes and good-natured ribbing at the end," said parent and spectator Greg Demarco.

Sportsmanship is an absolute priority. Chris Land and Daniel



Ron Keefe, the creator of the Great Falls Flag Football League, watches the championship game.

Salamone of the Packers were even forced by their coach to cancel an interview for Connection newspapers and shake hands and share kind words with their opponents of the previous game.

"My favorite part of the league? I like to play with and against my friends," said Salamone.

"It's fun to beat your friends and see them at school," said Land.

Keefe has taken the league participants to NFL-sponsored flag football tournaments and insured the league and its players for \$5 million dollars through the NFL. For the fourth and fifth graders there is a trophy that is taller than the players receiving it, recycled every year to the champion team like the Stanley Cup.

There is a little irony to the organization that stresses fun over competition: both Jim Zorn and Mark Brunell's sons have played in Great Falls Flag Football League.

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From left, Andrew Liao, 9, Aaraj Vij, 9, Siona Prasad, 9 and Anvitha Metpally, 10, watch the Team Sciborg Stars robot.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/ THE CONNECTION

## Lego Champions

FROM PAGE 3

Prasad, 9, who goes to Colvin Run Elementary. "It's hard for the patients and the caregivers, and there's a lack of public awareness about the disease."

**SEVERAL TEAM MEMBERS** also have relatives with the disease.

"My great-grandfather has the disease, and when we went to visit him, he kept asking the same questions, and he couldn't remember any of our names," said Aaraj Vij, 9, a student at Colvin Run Elementary.

Andrew Liao, 9, who also goes to Colvin Run, has a grandfather in China affected with Alzheimer's.

"He has a lot of troubles, people have to help him eat and get to the bathroom," Liao said. "When we visited, we had to help him exercise, because that helps his body and mind."

It was this emphasis on physical and mental exercise that led to the group's project entry. In addition to preparing a presentation about Alzheimer's, they designed a "smart cane" that is equipped with various devices to help people who use it.

As part of their research, the group visited researchers at the National Institute of Health and Johns Hopkins University.

"Going to Johns Hopkins University was interesting, we got to see how the disease affects neurons and DNA in rats," said Vishnu Murthy, 9, a student at Hunters Woods Elementary.

The trip to Johns Hopkins helped the group come up with their methods to attack the Alzheimer's problem.

"We got to interact with patients, and saw how they acted different than other elderly people," said James Chen, 10, who goes to Churchill Road Elementary. "We noticed there were lots of railings everywhere, because the patients are very prone to falling."

At the NIH, the group learned about smart carpet and smart floor—flooring that can detect a fall and notify medical professionals automatically—which they also factored into their designs.

"Learning about the smart carpet and smart floor taught us that falling is a major issue when it comes to patients, and that a lot of research is done on that subject," said Anvitha Metpally, 10.

Their smart cane comes with a GPS sensor, a flashlight activated by a light sensor, a remote patient monitoring connection, and an airbag-style device designed to help cushion a fall by the cane's user. The team has been in contact with a number of companies, including Toyota, Duracell and Canon about



Anvitha Metpally, 10, preps one of the missions for the team's robot "Bubbles."

designing various parts of the cane.

**THE STUDENTS** tested their cane by walking up and down stairs with their eyes covered.

In addition to the cane, the team designed "Bubbles," a robot that competed in various tasks as part of the competition. The team had 2.5 minutes to complete as many missions as they could. The missions consisted of various medicine-based tasks.

The teams competed in four different categories, project presentation, teamwork, robot performance and robot design.

"The most challenging part was making and programming the robot," Vij said. "It was pretty unique at the competition, ours was the only truly vertical one, most are either horizontal or tilted."

Though the team still can't agree on the gender of Bubbles—the boys think it's a boy, and the girls say it's a girl—the robot won them first place for robot performance.

The next step for the Team Sciborg Stars is the state tournament this weekend. The first-year team will face groups from all over the state at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

The group's website, with details on their project, can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/sciborgstars>.

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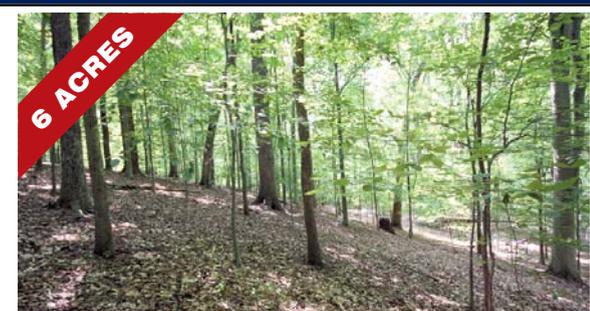
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