

Great Falls Lights Christmas Tree

From left, Kara Henderson, 9, Maddy Thring, 10 and Ashley Baradari, 11 stand next to the fire truck that brought Santa to the Great Falls Village Centre.

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Waiting for
'Some Snow'

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Special Gifts at
Holiday Art Sale

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From left, Murtaugh Thinnes, 16, Will Marvin, 15, Rosie Mahoney, 15, Adele Gibson, 15, Riley Cosgrove, 16, Peter Mahoney, 14, Will Crooks, 15 and Adrian Salas, 15 stand in front of the tree at the Great Falls Village Centre.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Lights Christmas Tree

Tree lighting features singers, live nativity scene and petting zoo.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Just after the tree was lit at the Great Falls Village Centre Friday night; Santa was walking around the tree greeting the gathered children. As he approached one of them, Lilly Wilte, 5, shouted, "My friend says you aren't real!"

Santa stopped in his tracks, and took a minute or two to explain that he was real, which is why he was escorted to the Great Falls Village Centre on a fire engine and used his magic to light the tree.

Wilte seemed convinced, and none of the hundreds of children who Santa took pictures with throughout the evening thought to question his integrity again.

Groups from across the Great Falls Community turned out for the annual ceremony, which featured a performance from the Langley High School madrigals, a petting zoo, donkey rides and a live Christmas pageant which told the story of Christ's birth.

"This was our gift to the community," said Margaret Johnson, who has worked on the pageant at the tree lighting for the past 18 years. "Hopefully this will help the community get a spiritual beginning to their Christmas season."

Molly Maher, 10, played the angel who visited the Virgin Mary to tell her of Jesus' birth.



Lilly Wilte, 5, tells Santa that her friend told her Santa isn't real, and Santa assures her that he is.



From right, Blaire McGavin, 9, Eliza Young, 7, and Joey Gatt, 5, pet a rabbit at the petting zoo.

"I saw [the pageant] last year and they said they were always looking for people to fill the parts," Maher said. "I liked playing an angel; I think it's always important to remember Jesus."

Children entered the petting zoo in groups with their parents to spend some quality time with

ducks, sheep, goats, rabbits or other animals.

"It was kind of a one-stop shop for holiday spirit," said Abby Lambert of Vienna. "We saw the big tree light up, the kids met Santa and got to play with some animals, it was a great way to get excited for Christmas."



Santa and Mrs. Claus use their magic to light up the tree at the Great Falls Village Centre Friday night.



Gabrielle Ngan helps her niece Kylie Hazan, 5, pet a goat.

Waiting for 'Some Snow'

Holiday at the Falls Hardware in Great Falls.

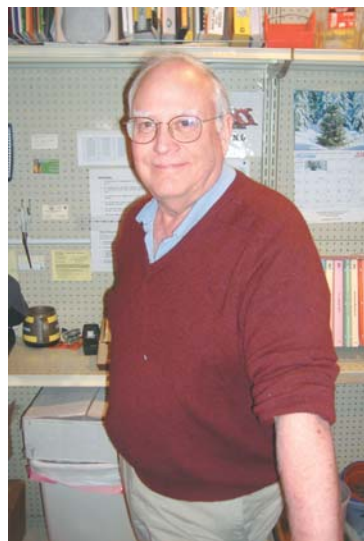
BY SEAN MCCALLEY
THE CONNECTION

Thinking about buying new lights for the tree? Or about replacing that shovel that broke under the strain of moving hundreds of pounds of snow last year? If so, Great Falls has a local hardware store that can help.

Falls Hardware has been running for 22 years and is an example of a local business that has grown into its community.

"We cater to the people in the area," said Scott Hommel. "Although we carry some things that every hardware store has to, we stock the shelves only with things people ask for."

Bedecked in holiday spirit and stocked with bags of ice melt, Falls Hardware has an atmosphere



The Falls Hardware owner Scott Hommel says his store stocks the shelves 'only with things people ask for.'

markedly different from the chain store. Overlooking pottery and woodwork made by local artists (all available for purchase) is a small TV showing college football. Right next to the door is Hommel

"Small business is the character of the town."
— Falls Hardware owner Scott Hommel

at the register, greeting customers as they walk inside.

"It's nice to see the same people every day," says Hommel.

By devoting its shelf space to customer orders and requests, Falls Hardware grows and adapts with the neighborhood it serves. The store is also involved with community events.

"It's a nice place to spend my time," said Hommel. "We have roots here."

Although Hommel is involved the community, Falls Hardware is suffering from the effects of the slow economy. Dependent upon the support and patronage of the families in Great Falls, Falls Hardware mirrors the struggles many small businesses have in competing with chain and retail giants.

"Small business is the character of the town," says Hommel. "It



Robert Lawrence (right) rings up Great Falls resident Les Heinz.

reflects how people use the town and care about the town."

This is certainly true for this hardware store. Joking around with his customers and employing local high school students, the spirit of the place is firmly tied to Great Falls.

"I've learned a lot," said Robert Lawrence, a student at Langley High School and an employee. "I came here because I had friends working here. But you make

friends when you work here, too."

What does the storeowner want most for Christmas this year? It is probably some snow; people tend to notice things to fix when they are stuck inside their house all day long.

"A snowy winter helps the hardware business. But we don't need another mega-snow. It does me no good when people can't even walk down the driveway," laughed Hommel.

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Happy Holidays!

NEWS



PHOTOS BY AL REITAN

Painter Jill Banks, photographed here in her studio, will offer oil paintings at the Holiday Show. Banks is a past winner of a Strauss Fellowship, awarded by Fairfax County to leading artists in the area. Her work exemplifies the quality of art produced in Great Falls.



Great Falls potter David Cowdrill is one of 21 artists displaying locally created artworks at the Holiday Art Show and Sale in Great Falls.

Holiday Art Sale To Offer Variety of Special Gifts

Annual event features creations by 21 Great Falls artists.

Gifts created by 21 artists in Great Falls will go on sale Dec. 11 and 12 at the Holiday Art Show and Sale at the Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road. The free event has become an annual rite of the holiday season in Great Falls and a special place to purchase Christmas presents by hometown artists.

The show and sale is sponsored by Great Falls Studios, a network of artists based in Great Falls. This year, it will include paintings, pottery, photographs, jewelry, drawings, art quilts, weaving, lithographs and woodcarving, plus artful holiday ornaments and cards. Musical entertainment featuring a dulcimer will add to the festivities.

"Many people are looking for just the right holi-

day gift, and the idea of discovering artistic gems created locally is really appealing," said Linda Jones, a watercolor painter who organized the show. "You can find everything from high-end crafts to exquisite fine art in a variety of price ranges."

The show will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. The Village Green Day School, located on Walker Road just south of the intersection with Georgetown Pike, is a new venue for the event this year. A portion of sales will be used to purchase playground equipment for the school.

Visitors on Saturday can win one of three door-prize drawings for "Art Bucks" that can be used to purchase art or crafts at the show.

Great Falls Studios was founded in 2003 and has since become a force in Great Falls for supporting the arts. The community is now a center for high-quality art in Fairfax County and a "go-to place" for people interested in acquiring artworks made by local artisans and artists.

The group is also sponsoring an all-member art exhibition at the Great Falls Library through December and is open during normal library hours.

Langley High Orchestra to Perform at Oakcrest School

The Langley High School Orchestra concert takes place on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road in McLean. The public is invited to Rule Britannia, a celebration of all things British. Langley's three orchestras will perform a variety of compositions from the British Isles including Handel's Water Music and selections by Purcell, Holst, and the Beatles. Special guests will include NoVA Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band, baroque trumpeter Josh Cohen of the Washington

Bach Consort, and drama teacher Phyliss Jaffe who will read Shakespeare poetry.

Admission to the concert is free. Before the concert and during intermission, the orchestra will have its first annual silent auction, to benefit the orchestra. Silent auction items include: Georgetown Learning Centers SAT training (\$699 value), four tickets to a Capitals vs. Canadiens Hockey Game (\$540 value), Bach 2 Rock private music lessons (\$165 value), Eclips Hair Salon gift card (\$158 value), Turner Framing (\$100 value), and many gifts and restaurant gift cer-

tificates from local businesses. The orchestra is grateful for the support of the community and its local businesses.

The orchestra would like to congratulate the following members who were selected to perform with the 2011 District 12 Orchestra:

Cindy Lee (concertmaster), Iris Lim, Anat Gilboa, Haruka Konishi, Gene Kim, Brandon Tran, Chris Quion, Grace Posey, Sydney Kee (alt) Alex Quion, Audrey McNicholas, Claire Lee, Constance Chiu, Skye Toor, Harrison Nam (alt).

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Snow Information meeting on Dec. 14

The snow information meeting for the Great Falls area, co-sponsored by the Great Falls Citizens Association, will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. with the snow presentation at 8:15 to 8:30, at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust and staff from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) organized these meetings in the Dranesville district to explain the updated processes and policies implemented by VDOT since the last snow season, and snow removal plans for the coming season.

After the record-breaking snow events of last winter the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and VDOT worked together to identify and address major problems with VDOT's snow clearing process. Some of the planned changes in that process expected to be discussed at the meetings are:

Increased and more accurate communication with residents; increased communication with plowers including electronic monitoring of snow removal vehicles allowing more accurate status reporting to residents; increased number of plows for neighborhoods; earlier mobilization of plows based on weather forecast, not number of inches on ground; updated "snow maps" (plows' assigned routes) with more accurate markings of "hot spots" (particularly difficult or previously neglected sections of road).

For more information contact Julie Ide in Supervisor Foust's office at 703-356-0551 or by email at julie.ide@fairfaxcounty.gov.

White House Christmas Ornaments on Sale

Doris Leadbetter, Associate Broker with Keller Williams Realty, has announced that Doris Leadbetter & Associates has the 2010 White House Christmas Ornament for sale, with all proceeds going to charity. This year's charity will be Celebrate Great Falls.

The 2010 White House ornament honors the twenty-fifth president of the United States, William McKinley and celebrates the role of music in the tradition of the White House. The ornament is \$20. The White House Historical Association is also offering its limited commemorative stone ornament for sale for \$20. Visit www.livinggreatfalls.com for ornament pictures or www.whitehousehistory.org for the historical essay on this year's ornament.

Doris Leadbetter & Associates and The Studio have both ornaments available for purchase at their locations: Keller Williams Realty, 11700 Plaza America Drive in Reston, Monday - Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. or at The Studio, 10123B Colvin Run Road any day of the week, but please call ahead. Call Doris Leadbetter, 703-517-1194, or The Studio, 703-757-2330 for more information and to order/reserve your ornaments.



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Salvation Army Needs Local Residents' Help

Annual red-kettle campaign underway.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Year after year, the Salvation Army provides help for people in need in the local area. This year, though, more than ever, it needs the public's help.

That's because three factors are converging on it at the same time: More families are in need, fewer contributions are coming in and Giant Foods has drastically cut the group's red-kettle, solicitation hours.

"Right now, we're concentrating on our Christmas and winter-relief efforts," said Major Earl Fitzgerald, commanding officer of the Salvation Army's Fairfax Corps. "Our red-kettle program helps fund that."

Since 1960, the Salvation Army has served Fairfax County residents with utility and rent assistance, food, clothing and furniture on an emergency basis, all year long. During the Christmas holidays, it also gives them toys and bicycles.

Potential recipients apply for aid in October and November; then the organization screens them to verify the need. Last year at this time, the Salvation Army brightened the holidays for 1,100 local families containing 1,500 children. "This year, we're assisting 2,590 children in 1,250 families," said Fitzgerald. "Because of the economy, people are out of work and struggling financially."

"We're also getting less donations because of the economy," he continued. "So we're putting an appeal out to the public for assistance."

LAST HOLIDAY SEASON, said Fitzgerald, Salvation Army bell ringers stood outside 21 Giant Foods stores in Fairfax County, at least seven hours a day, Monday through Saturday. "It was a major source of fund-raising for us," he said.

The Salvation Army is more visible at Christmastime and people donated generously at the kettles outside Giant, explained Fitzgerald, because "people are in the spirit of giving in the holiday season and they respect the work of the Salvation Army."

Now, though, Giant has reduced the number of hours the organization can solicit there. "They've only given us one week in Novem-



Salvation Army employee Melvin Bruce Gomer of Centreville rings the bell, Saturday morning, outside the Fair Lakes Wal-Mart, for the red-kettle campaign.

ber and one week in December, four hours at a time," said Fitzgerald. "Because of the Giant decision, between Nov. 12 and Dec. 24, we'll lose \$150,000 in fund-raising."

He's not faulting the decision, however, just stating a fact. "Giant's new, company policy regarding soliciting is so that more organizations can raise funds there, too — also on a limited basis," he said. "And we do appreciate the time they've given us."

But, added Fitzgerald, the change was announced "two weeks before we began our Christmas fund-raising campaign, so we weren't prepared for it. And it's affecting our fund-raising in both the Fairfax County and Washington Metropolitan areas. "D.C. Metropolitan-wise, we're projecting we'll lose \$700,000," he said. "That's a lot of money and help."

So, with nearly 1,100 more children to provide for, this year, Fitzgerald hopes the public's holiday spirit of giving will continue as Christmas draws closer. Meanwhile, he said, "We're scrambling with our fund-raising since donations are down and the need is up."

HE'S CURRENTLY writing letters to local businesses, asking for

their support. "But unless we find a lot of people in the community who make some decent contributions, it'll be tough making up that deficit," said Fitzgerald. "My biggest concern is that we use the funds raised in the Christmas and winter-relief campaign to help support families in January and February."

He said the Salvation Army will "probably" be able to meet its toy and clothing demands at Christmastime, thanks in great part to the Angel Trees in various businesses around the county. Each contains tags with a child's first name and the gift wanted. Angel Tree locations include BJ's and Wal-Mart in Fair Lakes, Wal-Mart in Burke and shops in the

"Funds raised [now] help support families in January and February."

— Major Earl Fitzgerald, commanding officer, Salvation Army's Fairfax Corps

Tysons Corner Mall.

The organization also runs an Adopt-A-Family program whereby people can volunteer to buy gifts for an entire family. It's run through the Salvation Army's social-service office and may be reached at 703-385-8700, ext. 23.

"We can only help as the finances are provided," said Fitzgerald. "We're also looking for at least 100 volunteers, in addition to our paid employees, to man our kettle locations. I'm trying to cover all 21 Giant stores in my service area. This includes Fairfax, Chantilly, Centreville, Herndon, Reston, Vienna, Great Falls, McLean, Burke, Falls Church and Fairfax Station."

The Salvation Army also needs volunteers for its donation kettles outside other Wal-Marts, Safeways, Magruder's in Vienna, K-Mart in Chantilly and Herndon, the Lotte store in Chantilly and the Super H Market in Fairfax.

To volunteer, call 703-385-8700, ext. 11, and ask for Stacey Burke. Tax-deductible checks, payable to Salvation Army, may be sent to it at 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. In addition, people may text the word, "give," to 85944 to make a \$10 donation from their phones.

"I'd like to thank the community for their past support and for what they're doing this holiday season to support the Salvation Army's efforts," said Fitzgerald. "We just hope our donations will pick up so we can better meet the needs of those less fortunate in Fairfax County."

Loebig Chiropractic Offers Services for Food

Loudoun Interfaith is reaching record lows in canned good supplies. Food Bank Director Bonnie Inman is teaming up with Dr. Glenn Loebig of Loebig Chiropractic and Rehab of Great Falls, 754 Walker Road, to help raise food supply levels. The clinic is urging the community to donate food items in exchange for healthcare services through Dec. 17.

Dr. Loebig says, "With the increased shortage of food and number

of hungry families rising this year, our practice is more than delighted to donate our services to help food banks collect food for the needy."

Loebig Chiropractic is encouraging new patients to call today to schedule as space is limited; new patients will receive up to a \$220 worth of health care for a food donation of 20 or more non-perishable food items.

Loebig Chiropractic and Rehab at 703-757-5817.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Great Falls Lions Club Citrus Sale. 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Adjacent to the Wachovia Bank building in the Great Falls Village Center. A variety of oranges and grapefruits. All profits support local and national Lions charities. Sale continues through Saturday, Dec. 11. 703-880-5445.

VTRCC Holiday Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. The Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1700, Vienna. \$40 members, \$50 non-members. Register at www.vtrcc.org or 703-281-1333.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Brinker Toastmasters. 9:30 a.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Meets second and fourth Saturday of the month. brinker.wordpress.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 13

Annual Meeting of the Oakton Mill Estates Home Owners Association. 7 p.m. at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. jwhipp@cnref.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 14

Tysons Corner Kiwanis Club Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, Room 124, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Meeting is public and Individuals looking to volunteer in their community welcome. www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org.

Snow Information Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, with Fairfax County Supervisor John W. Foust and staff from VDOT. dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 15

The Advisory Board of the Northwest Center for Mental Health Services. 7-9 p.m. at Northwest Center for Community Mental Health, 1850 Cameron Glen, Reston. Volunteers are needed to serve and act as advocates for women's shelters, homeless shelters, etc. The Board meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Contact Cleveland at 703-435-0868 or leaderwilliams@gmx.com.

JSSA Parent Support Group for Young Adults Across the Autism Spectrum. 7 p.m. at JSSA, 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. A monthly support group to discuss participants' interests and concerns. Identifying community resources, building a support network and balancing one's own needs with that of an adult son or daughter. Register at 703-204-9100.

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group. 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Practicing the Twelve Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revku@cox.net.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia Weekend Food for Kids Program. 9:30 a.m. at Hoop Magic, 14810 Murdock St., Chantilly. Assemble food packages to distribute to schools in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Volunteer at 703-591-2312 or alnorthernva@yahoo.com.

OPINION

Tough Road Ahead

State and local coffers will continue to shrink in 2011; transportation improvements unlikely.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance quotes Gov. Bob McDonnell's remarks to the Dulles Area Transportation Association earlier this week. "I can't emphasize how important it is to get started now," McDonnell said, to take advantage of favorable infrastructure pricing [due to the recession] by starting to invest more in transportation.

But the Alliance, which advocates for spending on roads and highways, points out that McDonnell "provided few details as to new funding sources, but promised that specifics would surface in the weeks ahead."

Last January was the "now" to get started to take advantage of "favorable infrastructure pricing."

McDonnell has been in office a year now, and won in Northern Virginia largely because of his vigorous campaigning on transportation issues. But he allowed the first year of his tenure, including the first year's session of the General Assembly, to pass without a serious proposal on how to fund transportation im-

provements in Northern Virginia or elsewhere in the state.

Instead, McDonnell has spent the last months talking up a liquor privatization proposal as a solution to transportation. In fact, that proposal would possibly pay for one intersection or overpass improvement project in Northern Virginia before moving on to cost state funding for education, public safety and social services tens of millions of dollars a year by turning over the revenues for private companies' profit.

EDITORIAL

Meanwhile, localities in Northern Virginia received essentially zero dollars from the state for transportation improvements in past year.

More on the outlook ahead for public services from Deputy County Executive Ed Long as he prepared the budget forecast for the coming year:

❖ While home values are up for the first time in five years, the county still faces a multimillion dollar shortfall and the future of the local economy is uncertain.

❖ Government contracts are a major component of the Northern Virginia economy. In

Fairfax County alone in 2008, federal procurement contracts totaled \$17 billion. Since this is such a large component of the local economy, the discussion of cutbacks in federal contracts is a major concern.

❖ The Fairfax County budget gets less than 20 cents back from Richmond of every tax dollar it sends to the state.

❖ There are 30,000 unemployed people in Fairfax County, with the current unemployment rate approximately 4.9 percent, or close to half the national rate. Still, 30,000 people is a huge number of unemployed.

Share Your New Year's Resolutions

It's early and much of the holiday eating season is still in front of us. But most of us will engage in some soul searching and resolution making around the New Year. In the first issue of 2011, the Connection will share the New Year's resolutions of individuals and offices. Send us your resolutions, plus your tips on keeping resolutions. Feel free to offer resolutions for local officials as well.

Please include a photo with your resolutions.

E-mail to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

VIEWPOINTS

What makes the December holidays special to you?

—DONNA MANZ

Angeline Shonka, Clifton

"Family and my faith. It's everyone coming together and enjoying the festivities of the season."



Jackie Callaghan, McLean

"Getting together with family and friends, all the spirit of the season. Just being together makes it all special."

Beverly Levesque, Vienna

"The reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ."



Mayor M. Jane Seeman, Town of Vienna

"First of all, Christmas means being together with family and watching everyone open their presents. Secondly, it is the Christmas music in churches, on the radio and from the Town Band. My favorite of the whole season is driving down Church Street and Maple Avenue at night and seeing the holiday decorations on the lamp posts and on the Town Green. That is such a magical feeling."

Linda Disselkamp, Vienna

"We celebrate both Chanukah and Christmas. I prefer it when the holidays don't overlap. This year, Chanukah started on Dec. 1. It's a combination of getting together with friends and family. Baking, my kids like to do that with me. Particularly, as a Girl Scout leader, I see the kids don't realize how good they've got it in this area."

There's many opportunities to give back here."

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of
Great Falls

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

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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SCHOOLS

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

Madeleine Gunter, of Great Falls, has been named a recipient of a Hamilton College Class of 1979 Student Travel Award. The award offers financial assistance to certain outstanding Hamilton students who wish to pursue extensive research projects in different parts of the world. Gunter will travel to Sacramento, Ca. and present research at the Society for American Archaeology. Gunter, a graduate of Langley High School, is a senior majoring in anthropology/archaeology and geoscience. She is the daughter of David and Pattie Gunter.

More than 30 student-operated businesses will be selling goods at the 5-Star Market at Marshall Academy from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 9, and Friday, Dec. 10, in the cafeteria at Marshall High School. Entrepreneurship students from Marshall Academy, one of six high school academies in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), will operate the market. The 5-Star Market is open to the community for purchases. Visitors are asked to sign in at the main office.

Items will include earrings, necklaces and bracelets, scarves, multiple varieties of winter hats, sunglasses, cell phone and media cases, a selection of brand name perfumes, gloves, earmuffs, and body products. Entrepreneurship students traveled to the New York City wholesale district in November to purchase products that they planned to sell as business owners at the 5-Star Market. Through funding provided by the FATE Foundation, students worked in partnerships to conduct market research, identify a market, negotiate with wholesalers, purchase inventory, create promotions, price products, and prepare financial records.

The 5-Star Market simulation is a curriculum-based project that students use to demonstrate their proficiency in multiple Entrepreneurship curriculum units.

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 an 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.

Kailyn Hornbeck and **Kathryn Hornbeck** of Madison High School earned silver medals in Life Event Planning at the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Ill. Participants apply skills learned in Family and Consumer Sciences courses to manage the costs of an event.

Lily Goodson a sophomore from Great Falls, majoring in business management in the Pamplin College of Business is now serving as a Hokie Ambassador for Virginia Tech. Hokie Ambassadors primarily provide tours for prospective undergraduates. The Hokie Ambassadors exemplify what it means to be a Hokie through dedication and service.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

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.

Alex Dezen and Courtney Kaiser. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Great Falls Lions Club Citrus Sale. 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Adjacent to the Wachovia Bank building in the Great Falls Village Center. A variety of oranges and grapefruits. All profits support local and national Lions charities. Sale continues through Saturday, Dec. 11. 703-880-5445.

FRIDAY/DEC. 10

Old Firehouse Teen Center Dance. 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Friday night dance for 7-8th graders. www.mcleancenter.org.

Waverly Consort's "A Christmas Story." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In the spirit of the medieval church dramas and mystery plays, eight singers and five instrumentalists play reproductions of medieval instruments. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 8 p.m. at 1st Stage,



Artist Meredith Murray presents a collection of contemporary artwork titled "The Spirit of Australia" on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. at East Meets West Yoga, 144 Church St. N.W., Vienna. meredith@mairiart.com.

1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststagetysons.org/mousetrap or 703-854-1856.

Concert and Christmas Market. 6-9 p.m. Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring a Living Nativity, a Christmas Market and a concert at 7:30 featuring a bell choir, three vocal choirs and the Student Symphonic Orchestra. 703-356-3346.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Synergy Brass Quintet: "Christmas in Brass." 8 p.m. at George Mason

University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Brass arrangements of Bach's choral works, Handel's triumphant "Messiah" and a selection of classic Christmas carols. \$22-\$44, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Lopez Studios, Inc. Annual Christmas Concert. 2:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Great Falls Studios Annual Holiday Art Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Paintings, pottery, photographs, jewelry, art quilts, weaving, lithographs, woodcarving and more by Great Falls artists. A portion of the sale proceeds go to the school. Free admission. 703-442-9251.

Girls Lacrosse Team Mattress Sale Fundraiser. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Name brands, all sizes, bed frames, full manufacturer warranties, delivery available. Children's corner. sandrafederick@cox.net.

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.

Candlelight Tours. 5-8 p.m. at Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. View high Victorian holiday decorations and period vignettes in each room, enjoy caroling and refreshments. Adults \$6, age 12 and under \$2. 703-248-5171.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststagetysons.org/mousetrap or 703-854-1856.

Wheels to Africa Bicycle Collection. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Wheels to Africa is a nonprofit that collects bicycles for Africa and needy American communities. \$10 donation requested with each bicycle to help cover shipping costs. www.wheels-to-africa.org.

Voice Chamber Singers: Home for Christmas. 7:30 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Christmas carols, classical and contemporary holiday music. \$23 adults, \$18 seniors, \$8 for age 24 and under. Tickets at the door an additional \$2. Purchase at www.voice.org/tickets or 703-277-7772.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 12



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10:30 a.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist

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(2) Great Falls student Caroline Wildman rouses the audience with a boisterous performance as a Russian maiden.

Conservatory Ballet Presents 'Nutcracker Ballet'

Herndon-based Conservatory Ballet presents the "Nutcracker Ballet" performances at Reston Center Stage at 2310 Colts Neck Road in Reston from Wednesday, Dec. 8 to Sunday, Dec. 12, featuring young area dancers. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$17 for children 12 and under. For Sunday's 11 a.m. shortened performance, aimed at captivating young audience, tickets are \$20 and \$15. Call 703-476-4500 ext 3; Visit: www.ConservatoryBallet.com.



Great Falls Elementary School student Lily Wildman twirls across the stage as a dancing Snow Flurry in the Conservatory Ballet's production of 'The Nutcracker.'

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Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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Winter Break Camps and Trips

Monday, Dec. 27, through Wednesday, Dec. 29.

Your child can have a wonderful time on their school's winter break. Sign them up for one to three full or half-days of MCC's Winter Break Camp. In addition, 5th through 8th graders can join the Old Firehouse Teen Center for fun-filled trips to Shadowland, Sportrock and Kettler Capitals Iceplex.

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

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ♦ DECEMBER 8-14, 2010 ♦ 11

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 11

Winter Break Camps

Dec. 27-29

Half-Day Camp
9 a.m.-Noon
For ages 4-6.
\$40 per day/\$30
McLean district residents

Full-Day Camp
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
For ages 5-9.
\$60 per day/\$50
McLean district residents

Children enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, music and special events.

Children must bring a lunch and a drink each day. A morning snack will be provided. Tennis shoes and casual clothes recommended. Parents must fill out camper information forms before the child can attend camp.

Forms are available at MCC and the Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC). An adult must sign the child in and out of camp each day.



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

Colonial Wassail. 1-4 p.m. at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Gather in the Farm's orchard to wassail with singing, dancing and chants. Enjoy hot spiced cider, sugar cakes, a roaring bonfire and 18th century games. Adults \$3. children and senior citizens \$2. 703-442-7557 or www.1771.org.

Art Exhibit. 7 p.m. at East Meets West Yoga, 144 Church St. N.W., Vienna. Meredith Murray and "The Spirit of Australia". meredith@maitriart.com.

Cool Yule. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Live music by Hot Club of San Francisco. \$23-\$28. Free wine and cheese reception. sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Handel's Messiah Sing. 4 p.m. Saint Luke Parish, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. With organist Paul Skevington, the Amadeus chamber orchestra, harpsichord, soloists and choir. Sing along or simply listen. Tickets \$15. 703-356-0670 or www.musicinmclean.org.

Xyra and Mystic Angels. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Great Falls Studios Annual Holiday Art Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Paintings, pottery, photographs, jewelry, art quilts, weaving, lithographs, woodcarving and more by Great Falls artists. A portion of the sale proceeds go to the school. Free

admission. 703-442-9251.
Handbell Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. at Chesterbrook United Methodist Church, 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Featuring the St. Matthew's UMC Carol Ringers. 703-356-7100 or chesterbrookumc@gmail.com.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap". 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1ststage tysons.org/mousetrap or 703-854-1856.

The Holidays at Mason: Believe in Miracles. 7 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Mason Symphony Orchestra, University Chorale and University Singers perform selections composed by Alan Silvestri, Glen Ballard and John Rutter. Audience-sing-along. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. Limited number of free tickets for students with a valid Mason ID. Charge tickets at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

McLean Youth Orchestra Winter Concert. 3 p.m. Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Featuring Oakton High School senior Dominic Favia on trumpet and works by Torelli, Reed, Holst, and Hovhanness. Admission free, donations accepted. 703-628-9363 or www.mclean-orchestra.com.

McLean Symphony: Deck the Halls. 3 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Seasonal selections for orchestra and chorus and an audience participation singalong. Featuring pianist Carlos Alberto Ibay and the Symphony Festival Chorus. \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$15 students, age 12 and under free.

www.mclean-symphony.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 13

Bert Jansch and Pegi Young. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 15

Jesse Malin & The St. Marks Social, Marah "It Came Upon a Midnight Beer" Rock & Roll Christmas Show, Richard Bacchus and more. 8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

McLean High School Orchestras Winter Concert. 7 p.m. in the Auditorium at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The concert will feature Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite and other holiday and classical favorites. elizabeth@tlstrategies.com.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

Decenbersongs with Dan Navarro, Amy Speace, Sally Barris and Jon Vezner. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Winter Break Trips

Dec. 27-29

For 5th-8th graders

During the Fairfax County Public School's Winter Break, 5th-8th graders can join in on one of these fun-filled trips! Registration is required.

The Old Firehouse Teen Center will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for trip participants.

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Sportrock

Tuesday, Dec. 28
10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
\$40/\$35 McLean district residents
Activity No. 8108.210

Ice Skating at the Kettler Capitals Iceplex

Wednesday, Dec. 29
10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
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I believe the
future is only
the past again,
entered through
another gate.

**-Arthur Wing
Pinero**

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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South Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22075. AT&T is publish-
ing 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 "Country Club Towers" will
consist of the collocation of antennas on existing mounds and
equipment on the roof. Parties interested in submitting com-
ments or questions regarding any potential effects of the pro-
posed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by
contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive,
Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o
theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203. AT&T is pub-
lishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation
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800. The project referenced as "AWE Chatham" will consist of
the collocation of antennas on existing mounds and equipment
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tions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T c/o Bechtel Communications Inc. intends to file an appli-
cation to modify/upgrade existing cellular telecommunications
equipment at 6404 Williamsburg Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia
22207. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Fed-
eral regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmen-
tal Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Berkshire" will consist
of the replacement three existing antennas with three LTE an-
tennas. In addition, two TE43 support cabinets for RXAIT and
one rectifier will be installed. Twenty feet of one inch conduit
will be installed from the Purcell to the Lucent Cabinet. Parties
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may do so in writing by contacting Carol Blitz, AT&T, at 7150
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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cation to modify/upgrade existing cellular telecommunications
equipment at 1425 South Eads Street, Arlington, Virginia
22202. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Fed-
eral regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmen-
tal Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Pentagon City Mall"
will consist of the installation of antennas on the building roof-
top. In addition, LTE equipment frame will be installed inside
the shelter. Parties interested in submitting comments or ques-
tions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on
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Blitz, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076
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Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia 22102. AT&T is publish-
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800. The project referenced as "Lewinsville WT" will consist of
the collocation of antennas on the top of the water tower and
equipment inside an existing equipment shelter next to the wa-
ter tower. Parties interested in submitting comments or ques-
tions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on
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"Bank Error in My Favor"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I received a \$25 check in the mail today. It was sent to me by my bank, the bank with whom I've had a long-standing (through their name-changing) relationship. A bank however, with whom I've had minimal interaction, other than maintaining a checking account and being the recipient of any number of direct mail solicitations. I have no savings account, no money market account, no IRA account, no home equity and/or second trust and no personal loans; I may have a credit card (that I don't use) but it serves as a back-up/overdraft account which I most definitely have. Although, with the passage – and implementation recently of the new banking legislation, I'm not exactly sure what it is I still have, and/or what it is I'll be charged the next time a check presents itself without proper support. So you can imagine my surprise (or perhaps you can't), when I received a plain white business envelope from my bank which contained this mystery money and a brief explanation for its being sent – to me: some refund of a fee I don't remember paying and/or even caring about.

My reaction was to say aloud something like: "The bank made an error in my favor? Wow! That never happens." As soon as I said that 'bank error' line, I was transported – figuratively speaking, since I wasn't in a hot tub at the time, back some 45 years to those youthful days of playing board games, "Monopoly," specifically, on our back porch on Athelstane Road in Newton Centre, Ma., where my brother and I would play for hours on end (I always chose the dog, he chose the iron) until one player had all the money and/or all the property and the other player was unable to pay for landing on their Hotel/Utility/Railroad.

There I was, "Taking a 'Chance' on 'Community's Chest' (as I always intentionally mispronounced them) to see what fortune – or misfortune – would befall me: "Advance Token to Boardwalk," "Take a Ride on the Reading," "Elected Chairman of the Board, Pay Each Player \$50," "Pay School Tax of \$150," "You Have Won Second Prize in a Beauty Contest, Collect \$10," and of course, "Bank Error in your Favor, Collect \$200;" that was as much "found money" as there was in "Monopoly." Granted, the check I received in the mail was only for \$25, but collecting money out of the blue like that, when you're not expecting any – and having done nothing to deserve it, made that \$25 feel like \$200. It was as if "Community's Chest" had advised me to "Advance To Go" and "Collect \$200," or even better, I had landed on "Free Parking" and collected the "kitty," as we called the money paid to the game/placed in the center of the board.

As much as anything though, receiving that \$25 check and remembering "Monopoly" and the simpler, much less complicated days of my board game-playing youth, brought a smile to my face and a slew of wonderful memories to my mind. I had a happy childhood and it all came rushing back to me when I read the explanation for the check: "Bank error," a refund of a fee or overcharge, or something to that effect. It was a warm and fuzzy moment, that's for sure; one which always included milk and cookies because if my brother and I were in the house playing a game like that, there was always milk and cookies; my mother saw to that.

She (I can still hear my father admonishing my brother and I: "Don't call your mother 'she'") was determined to make sure my brother and I drank our eight glasses of milk every day; the medical prescription in the 50s and 60s to guarantee children consumed enough calcium in order to develop strong bones. And to make sure we drank our milk, we needed to eat something for it to wash down and cookies were the obvious choice: Oreos (before there was "Double Stuff"), Chips Ahoy or some other kind of chocolate chip cookie and Keebler's Fudge Town or Fudge Stripes; these were the most popular, there were others. And though it was a board game we were playing, we weren't bored. We were "Monopolized." It made us happy and it made our parents happy. No wonder it's a fond memory, everybody was happy and the living was good, so far as we knew.

Ah, the innocence of youth. There's no recapturing it, but it was sure nice remembering it.

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

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HOLIDAY GUIDE



Waverly Consort

The Waverly Consort performs "A Christmas Story" on Friday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In the spirit of the medieval church dramas and mystery plays, eight singers and five instrumentalists play reproductions of medieval instruments and recount the events of the Biblical Christmas story. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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

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.

FRIDAY/DEC. 10

Waverly Consort's "A Christmas Story." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In the spirit of the medieval church dramas and mystery plays, eight singers and five instrumentalists play reproductions of medieval instruments. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Synergy Brass Quintet: "Christmas in Brass." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Brass arrangements of Bach's choral works, Handel's triumphant "Messiah" and a selection of classic Christmas carols. \$22-\$44, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Lopez Studios, Inc. Annual Christmas Concert. 2:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Great Falls Studios Annual Holiday Art Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Paintings, pottery, photographs, jewelry, art quilts, weaving, lithographs, woodcarving and more by Great Falls artists. A portion of the sale proceeds go to the school. Free admission. 703-442-9251.

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.

Candlelight Tours. 5-8 p.m. at Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. View high Victorian holiday decorations and period vignettes in each room, enjoy caroling

and refreshments. Adults \$6, age 12 and under \$2. 703-248-5171.

Voce Chamber Singers: Home for Christmas. 7:30 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Christmas carols, classical and contemporary holiday music. \$23 adults, \$18 seniors, \$8 for age 24 and under. Tickets at the door an additional \$2. Purchase at www.voce.org/tickets or 703-277-7772.

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Handel's Messiah Sing. 4 p.m. Saint Luke Parish, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. With organist Paul Skevington, the Amadeus chamber orchestra, harpsichord, soloists and choir. Sing along or simply listen. Tickets \$15. 703-356-0670 or www.musicinmcleon.org.

Great Falls Studios Annual Holiday Art Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Paintings, pottery, photographs, jewelry, art quilts, weaving, lithographs, woodcarving and more by Great Falls artists. A portion of the sale proceeds go to the school. Free admission. 703-442-9251.

Handbell Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. at Chesterbrook United Methodist Church, 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Featuring the St. Matthew's UMC Carol Ringers. 703-356-7100 or chesterbrookumc@gmail.com.

The Holidays at Mason: Believe in Miracles. 7 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Mason Symphony Orchestra, University Chorale and University Singers perform selections composed by Alan Silvestri, Glen Ballard and John Rutter. Audience-sing-along. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. Limited number of free tickets for students with a valid Mason ID. Charge tickets at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 15

Jesse Malin & The St. Marks Social, Marah "It Came Upon a Midnight Beer" Rock & Roll Christmas Show, Richard Bacchus and more. 8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk Holiday Show. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

NEWS



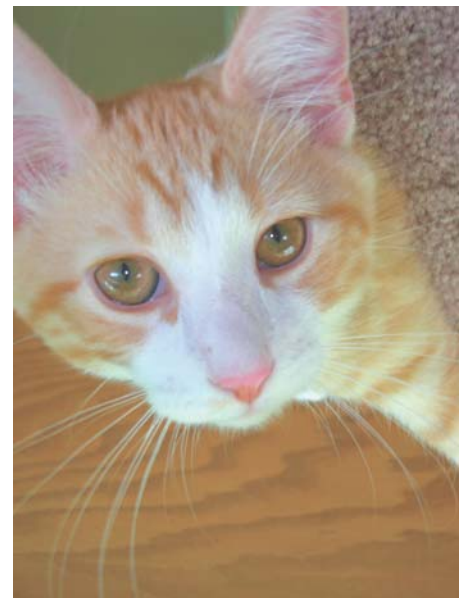
'One Knows When' by Great Falls painter Claudia Samper is mixed media on canvas.

Art Exhibition Opens At Great Falls Library

Show highlights diversity and talent of local artists.

A new art exhibition featuring the work of members of the art group Great Falls Studios opened at the Great Falls Community Library Dec. 1 and will continue through the month. The show displays more than 40 artworks by Great Falls artists, including paintings, wood reliefs, pottery, photographs, quilts and jewelry.

"This all-member exhibit showcases the diversity of talent among artists in Great Falls," said quilter Cindy Grisdela, who organized the event for Great Falls Studios. "Our community is increasingly known as a place where quality art and high-end crafts are created."



This photograph by Don Fowler of Great Falls is called 'Orange Eyes.'

Great Falls Studios is a network of more than 90 artists who live or work in Great Falls. The group hangs art at restaurants and businesses throughout the area and works to promote the professional advancement of its members. It also functions as a community service organization to serve Great Falls and organizes an annual studio tour in October that has become a major art event in the Metro area.

The library show includes works by more than 25 artists. Most of the pieces are offered for sale, and 10 percent of any sales will go to the Friends of the Great Falls Library to help support the library.

The library is located at 9830 Georgetown Pike. The exhibit is in the main conference room.



Mixed Fruit on Lace. Mary Jane Cogan's collection of small watercolors is on display in the Great Falls library. The paintings can be seen in the conference room until Dec. 31.

Fairfax High will, once again, be hosting the annual early season Northern Virginia Wrestling Classic this Friday and Saturday.



PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

For Wrestling Enthusiasts, It's a Classic

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

One of the yearly highlights of the early high school winter sports season is the annual Northern Virginia (NOVA) Wrestling Classic, the large showcase extravaganza that is hosted by Fairfax High School and includes most of the public schools from across the Northern Region as well as other public and private schools from the metropolitan area and further out.

The Classic has been one of the most successful and longest-running booster-sponsored events in the region. This year's Classic, the unofficial starting point of the local prep school wrestling season, is believed to be in its 23rd straight year, although that fact is a little fuzzy to event coordinators.

"We were trying to do a countdown and we think this is the 23rd year," said Tim Gordan, Fairfax High's Director of Student Activities, in a recent e-mail regarding the event. "But our memories are fading!"

Whatever the Classic's official year start-up, the tournament is a monitor for local coaches to get a sense of where their respective teams are at the early stages of the mat season.

THE CLASSIC will be held this Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11 at Fairfax High. The action will begin at 10 a.m. on both days.

Thirty-one teams are expected to participate in this year's Classic, including McLean High, under head coach Kenneth Jackson, and surrounding local schools such as Annandale, Fairfax, Madison, Marshall, Lake Braddock, Paul VI, South County, West Springfield and W.T. Woodson. Langley High will not be participating in the Classic, but will instead compete in a meet up the east coast in Attica, N.Y. called the Sgt. Richard Romesser Duals.

The other participating schools at the NOVA Classic will be: Bishop Ireton of Alexandria, Bishop O'Connell of Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Edison, Fauquier, George Mason (Falls Church), Herndon, Jefferson, Mountain View (Stafford), Oakton, Potomac Falls, South Lakes, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School of Alexandria, Tallwood (Virginia Beach), T.C. Williams, Wakefield, Washington-Lee, Westfield and Yorktown.

Last year's top five team finishers at the 2009 NOVA Classic were champion Westfield, second place

NOVA Classic wrestling meet set for this weekend at Fairfax.

Fairfax, third place Woodbridge, fourth place Annandale and fifth place Potomac Falls of the Dulles District.

Robinson Secondary won the team title in 2008 and Westfield took the crown in 2007. (Robinson is participating at another tournament this weekend in Annapolis).

LANGLEY HIGH will compete in New York this weekend. The following weekend (Dec. 17-18) will see the Saxons in Portsmouth, Va. at the Jack Mounie event. Then after Christmas, Langley will take part in the Battle at the Bridge event in Woodbridge Dec. 29-30. So it will be an especially busy upcoming three weeks for Langley.

"It is very important to get off to a good start for many of our guys, and going to New York should be a great experience for many of them," said Langley head coach Jeff Mye. "We have a pretty young team this year and have some great senior leadership. When we go to Portsmouth, the goal is to see some of the southern Virginia teams that we would not normally get to see throughout the year."

Last weekend, the Langley varsity split up with part of its squad competing at the Varsity Duals at Herndon High and the other part at the Ray Oliver meet at McDonogh High in Maryland. At the Herndon Duals, the Saxons went 1-2 as a team. The Saxons lost to Washington-Lee, 49-30, defeated Herndon, 54-30, and fell to South Lakes, 54-28. At the Ray Oliver meet, Langley finished 10th overall among 21 teams.

Top Langley wrestlers in Maryland were: Griffin Dulany (2nd place at 171 weight class); Tate Dulany (3rd at heavyweight); Matt Wilson (5th at 152); Mark Wilson (6th at 145); and Jay Ives (6th at 136).

The team champion was Arch Bishop Spalding. Langley was the lone Northern Region team, other than Centreville High (16th place), to compete at the Ray Oliver event.

McLean High, after participating at the NOVA Classic, will compete at the Warhawk Duals Dec. 22-23 at Madison High School. After Christmas, the Highlanders will take part in the Cavalier Classic Dec. 29 at W.T. Woodson High School.



Langley goaltender Brendan Mullen was outstanding in the net during the Saxons' ice hockey victory over McLean.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

LANGLEY HIGH, in recent high school club ice hockey action, handled McLean, 6-1. Langley received stellar net play from senior goalie Brendan Mullen.

Langley opened the game's scoring with a goal from Peter Nam, off an assist by Logan Pontell, in the first period. McLean tied the contest later in the period before Langley, in second period play, got goals by Grant Grieco (assist from Ian Schneider), Evan Sterling, and Nam to take control of the game.

Langley fans, in the game played at Reston Skatequest, were so exuberant that the boards became loosened between the second and third periods and the rink was unsafe for further play. The contest was concluded at another venue.

In the final period, Matt Barnett scored his first goal of the season, assisted by Sterling, and Nam scored his third goal of the game, off an assist by Logan Pontell during a penalty kill, to earn a hat trick (3 goals). Langley, with the win, improved to 2-1 and bounced back from a previous week's loss to Forest Park High (Prince William County).

Langley sponsored a food drive that took place at the McLean game. The food collected was donated to Reston Interfaith.

TRYOUTS for McLean Premier Soccer's (MPS) U10 Boys Spring 2011 team are now taking place. Players must be born on or after Aug. 1, 2000. The MPS program is dedicated to developing strong technical skills, good sportsmanship and a fun experience for young soccer players who share a passion for playing the sport. The pro-

gram provides excellent year-round training, including competition in NCSL or ODSL, indoor soccer leagues, competitive tournaments, as well as high quality training and summer/winter camps. Please contact Coach Lucas Cook at 571-277-1554 or email mcscook@gmail.com to register for tryouts. To obtain more information about MPS please see mcleansoccer.org.

THE MADEIRA VARSITY SWIM AND DIVE TEAM opened its new season last Friday, Dec. 3 with a private school meet versus Georgetown Visitation. Madeira, coached by Rod Montrie, lost a close 93-87 decision to its local opponent.

"We started the season with a strong meet against a very good team," said coach Montrie. "Our swimmers really stepped up but we fell a little short because of Visitation's good depth."

Madeira won the 200-medley relay with a team of senior Christa Ann Saunders, juniors Ann Griffin and Brittney Jansen, and sophomore Maddie Alagia. Madeira also won the 400-freestyle relay with Saunders, Jansen, Alagia, and sophomore Grace Johnson.

Double winners for Madeira were: Alagia (200 and 500-freestyles); Saunders (100-butterfly and 100 backstroke); and Jansen (50 and 100-freestyle).

Other solid meets came from sophomore Melanie Brown, a first-year team member who earned a second place finish in the 500-freestyle; freshman Michaela Saunders; and diver Briaun Isreal.

Madeira was scheduled to compete in a home meet versus Connelly earlier this week on Tuesday.

NEWS

Elite Piano Academy Holds Open House

Hyun-Mi Chung, a classically trained pianist, performer and graduate of the Julliard School of Music, held an open house Saturday at her new Vienna studio, Elite Piano Academy, 8230 Boone Blvd. Suite 100A, Tel: 703-287-2000 or 202-674-0499. Chung, who has 20 years of teaching experience, recently released 11 CDs of Beethoven's 35 piano sonatas. She is the first female pianist to have recorded the entire canon of Beethoven's sonatas. "I love teaching, and I am very much looking forward to teaching piano students in this area. There are quite a lot of talented students here," Chung said. For more information about lessons, contact Chung at hmcplano@aol.com or visit www.hyun-michung.net

-VICTORIA ROSS



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

During Saturday's open house, Hyun-Mi Chung instructs Jonathan Trainer, 16, a junior at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax. Trainer, a Vienna resident, has been a piano student for two years.

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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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1511 Gingerwood Ct.....\$624,950...Sun 1-4....Eugene Curtin.....Weichert.....703-856-3416

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To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or salome@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

NEWS

Crandall Receives Elly Doyle Award

Park Authority honors volunteers, philanthropists, environmentalists.

The Fairfax County Park Authority presented awards to its top volunteers at the annual Elly Doyle Park Service Awards program held at the Waterford in Fairfax on Nov. 19.

The Park Authority Board also presented the 2010 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award to former Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jean Packard. The Fairfax County Park Foundation delivered Eakin Philanthropy Awards to Tara Mooney and Joseph Thelin, and the Claude Moore Foundation. Highlighting the festive evening's "Volunteers Rock!" theme was Jed Duvall's impersonation of Elvis Presley.

The recipients of the 2010 Elly Doyle Park Service Award were Frank Crandall, who has contributed to a diverse range of solutions on topics such as deer management, field lighting standards and



Park Authority Board Member Harry Glasgow presents Frank Crandall with an Elly Doyle Award.

sediment control; Ben and Margaret Peck, who have worked hand-in-hand to sustain a piece of Fairfax County's agrarian past by working to preserve Frying Pan Farm Park and the history of the Floris community; and Norma Hoffman, a longtime volunteer at Huntley Meadows, who championed the preservation of Historic Huntley and the creation of Huntley Meadows Park.

Three Special Recognition Awards for dedicated park volunteers were also announced. Recipients include Marilyn Schroeder, a

volunteer at Hidden Oaks Nature Center; Coletta Hein a volunteer at Green Spring Garden; and Greg Sykes, an Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteer. Beverly Dobrenz, a student at James Madison High School, won the Youth Recognition Award for her service as a volunteer with the Adapted Aquatics program at Audrey Moore RECenter.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award was established in 1988 in recognition of former Park Authority Board Member Ellamae Doyle's years of outstanding service.



Winter Concert at Langley High

The Langley High School Choral Department presents its Winter Concert on Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the LHS auditorium. The concert will feature Schubert's Mass in G with student soloists and accompanied by a professional string quartet. Another highlight of the concert will be the appearance of the Madrigal choir in elaborate Renaissance costumes shown here performing selected music from their recent Renaissance Feaste. These selections feature Renaissance period holiday music from England and other European countries sung in the traditional a capella style. All of the Langley choirs will perform holiday favorites that mix traditional and jazz arrangements. The concert is open to the public and admission is free.

'Tis the Season to be Green!

Here are some tips to add
Green to your Holidays:

GIVE YOUR HOME A TREE:

Fairfax County is in need of more trees planted on residential properties. This holiday season - before the ground freezes - plant a tree on your property. If you plan on purchasing a live Christmas Tree, you might also consider purchasing a tree - with the root ball intact - to plant after the holiday. Trees can provide many benefits to your home. For details on tree planting and benefits, contact the Fairfax County Urban Forester at 703-324-1770, TTY 711.

USE CARE WITH LIGHTING:

When using festive lighting arrangements, be sure to carefully inspect wires for fraying and other damage. Also, be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions when connecting lights in sequence, using power strips or connecting to outlet adapters - overloading a circuit can overheat wires and cause fires. Use caution when using open flames such as candles and food warmers.

CONSERVE ENERGY:

Using LED decorative lights and timing devices can save on energy usage during the holiday season. Never leave lights on overnight.

CAN THE GREASE:

You can prevent sewer backups and overflows by pouring grease into used cans, adding an absorbent (like kitty litter or a paper towel) and disposing of it in the trash when full.

RECYCLE PACKAGING AND GIFT WRAP:

Cardboard boxes and packaging, all gift wrap (with the exception of foil wrap) and holiday cards, can be recycled through your normal curbside paper recycling collection.

RECYCLE YOUR LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE:

All Christmas Trees less than 8 feet tall can be recycled at the curb in Fairfax County during the first two weeks in January at no additional cost. Please remove tree stands, ornaments, tinsel, lights and tree toppers. For larger trees, contact your trash collector for collection details.



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December 2010

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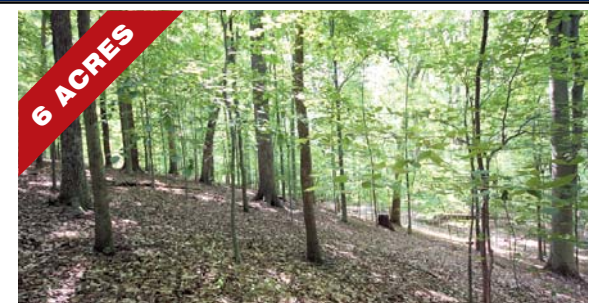
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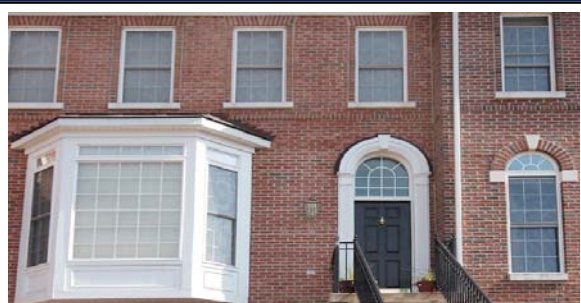
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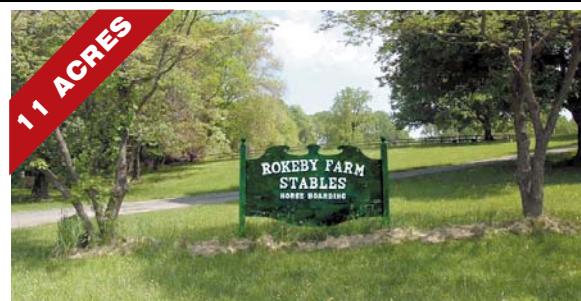
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