

# Great Falls CONNECTION

## Remembering Matthew Shepard

The full cast of the Langley High production of The Laramie Project (first row, from left) director Lauren Stewart, Kathleen Welch, Madeleine Chalk, Rachel Mayman, theatre arts director Phyliss Jaffe, Vanessa Strahan, Alex Ward, Via Tovic, Katie Jones; second row, Tu-An Troung, Nicole Kang, Taylor Goodson, Michael Richardson, Alex Liechtenstein, Jay Mamana, Tess Higgins, Ryan Poyner, Jordan Moeller, Brian Patterson, Cyrus Kingdom; on the tree, Becca Allen, Zack Gray, Caroline Callahan.

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### Holiday Art On Display

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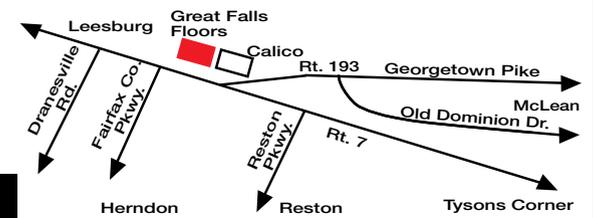
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## Remembering Matthew Shepard

Langley High School presents *The Laramie Project* on play's 10th anniversary.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Five weeks after Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay man, was lashed to a fencepost in Wyoming and left to die in 1998, playwright Moisés Kaufman and his colleagues at the Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie and conducted more than 200 interviews with community members. The result was *The Laramie Project*, a play chronicling the life of the town and those closest to Shepard.

In 2000, *The Laramie Project* debuted to critical and popular acclaim. Considered a bracing examination of the brutal murder of Shepard, and a thought-provoking inquiry of homophobia across the nation, the play is one of the most produced plays by theater students in the U.S.

On the play's 10th anniversary, Langley High School's Theatre Department presents its production of *The Laramie Project*, directed by senior Lauren Stewart. In the process of producing the play, the students have explored how the issues examined by Kaufman, such as tolerance and bigotry, apply to their own school and community.

"I think *The Laramie Project* is as relevant today as it was when it premiered," said Stewart. "I think its message of erasing hate is extremely important in high school communities today. Also the play promotes equality and acceptance, which is valuable for all ages to embrace."

**STEWART** said she hopes the play will spark discussion within the community, and help families talk openly about gay marriage and homosexual rights.

Senior Jay Mamana, who plays Shepard's father, Dennis, said he thinks the play is "definitely a unique production, and it's especially poignant now with what's happening in all areas of human rights. I don't think it's meant to be political, but this is about a basic human rights issue."

Much of the play is considered "found text," because the dialogue and monologues which make *The Laramie Project* are taken from interviews, news reports, courtroom transcripts, and journal entries.

"The show is incredibly powerful and the fact that the script is a compilation of quotes from actual people make it more real than any other show I have seen or script I have read," Stewart said.

Stewart, who carries herself with a poise and maturity beyond her years, is only the second Langley student to direct a full-length production.

"Lauren approached me about doing this play this summer, and I have every confidence in her ability to do this," said Phylliss Jaffe, Langley's theatre arts



PHOTO BY LANGLEY STUDENT CASEY MALONE

First row, from left, Katie Jones, Kathleen Welch, Rachel Mayman, Vanessa Strahan; second row, Cyrus Kingdom and Ryan Poyner.

### The Laramie Project at Langley High

Langley High School's Theatre Department will present *The Laramie Project* on Friday, Dec. 17 and Saturday Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Langley Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. All proceeds from the play will be donated to the Matthew Shepard Foundation, whose goal is to "replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance."

During opening night, Dr. Thomas Howard of the Matthew Shepard Foundation will conduct a Q&A with the audience following the performance.

In addition to the play, the Thespian Honor Society is hosting a Silent Auction on Dec. 17 to benefit the Matthew Shepard Foundation. "Many retailers, theaters, hair salons and parents have generously donated items and gift certificates for this event. Come prepared to bid and buy," said parent Susan Stewart, who organized the auction.

- Items include:
- ❖ Theater Tickets to many D.C. venues, including The Kennedy Center, Signature Theater, Roundhouse Theater and more
  - ❖ Gift Cards to Georgetown Cupcake, Nordstrom's and other retailers.
  - ❖ Dinner at L'Auberge Chez Francois Restaurant
  - ❖ Gift Items such as a Tiffany necklace and Under Armour gear
  - ❖ Professional services, such as two hours of SAT or ACT prep with a private college prep tutor
  - ❖ Tickets to sporting events, such as Washington Capitals and Washington Wizards games

chair and director. "She's been passionate about this play for a long time, and she's earned the respect of the other students with her diligence," Jaffe said.

Both Jaffe and Stewart credit principal Matt Ragone and assistant principal Tommy Meier with giving the green light to produce a play that deals with such sensitive issues.

"They both felt it was an important play, and they

SEE PLAY, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Photographer Walt Lawrence was one of several artists on display Saturday at the Great Falls Studios annual Holiday Art Show and Sale at Village Green Day School.

## Holiday Art on Display Great Falls Studios hosts annual Holiday Art Show and Sale.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Walt Lawrence has lived in Great Falls since 1977, but it wasn't until he retired in 2000 that he really started to take notice of the beauty around him. He bought a digital camera a few years later, and now spends his time searching for the perfect photograph in Great Falls.

"There's a lot to like in this community, and I'm on a mission to capture what's left before it all goes under a bulldozer," he said. "I'm amazed, I still come across a lot that I never knew was there."

Lawrence was one of many artists of Great Falls Studios who put on their annual holiday art show and sale Saturday at the Village Green Day School. Great Falls Studios is made up of more than 80 artists who work in a variety of mediums, all in Great Falls.

**FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER** Suzanne Gillen of Bethesda went to the annual Great Falls Studios tour in October and came back to check out what else the group had to offer.

"I thought it was such a cool group when I came to the studio tour," Gillen said. "I enjoy looking at art and photography, and they've got that and more here."

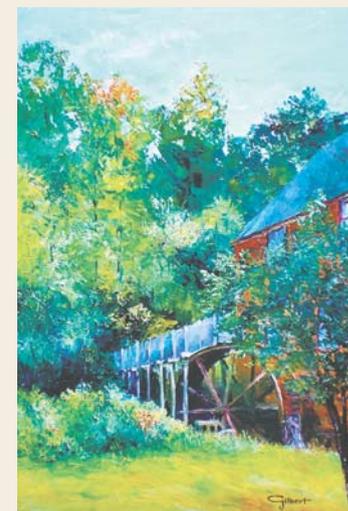
While there was plenty of art

and photography, there were other, more practical art forms available as well. Michael Long carves custom wooden walking sticks, a hobby he began after picking up hiking after a back injury several years ago.

"I was a carpenter when I was younger, and when I was hiking after my back surgery I needed a good walking stick," he said. "Most of them I actually walk around with while I'm carving, so I can remember places I've been with each particular stick."

Long has recently moved into sculpture and stone, and he had several of pieces on display as well. But the walking sticks are

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 14



CONTRIBUTED

**Bob Gilbert's oil painting shows one of Great Falls' landmarks, Colvin Run Mill.**

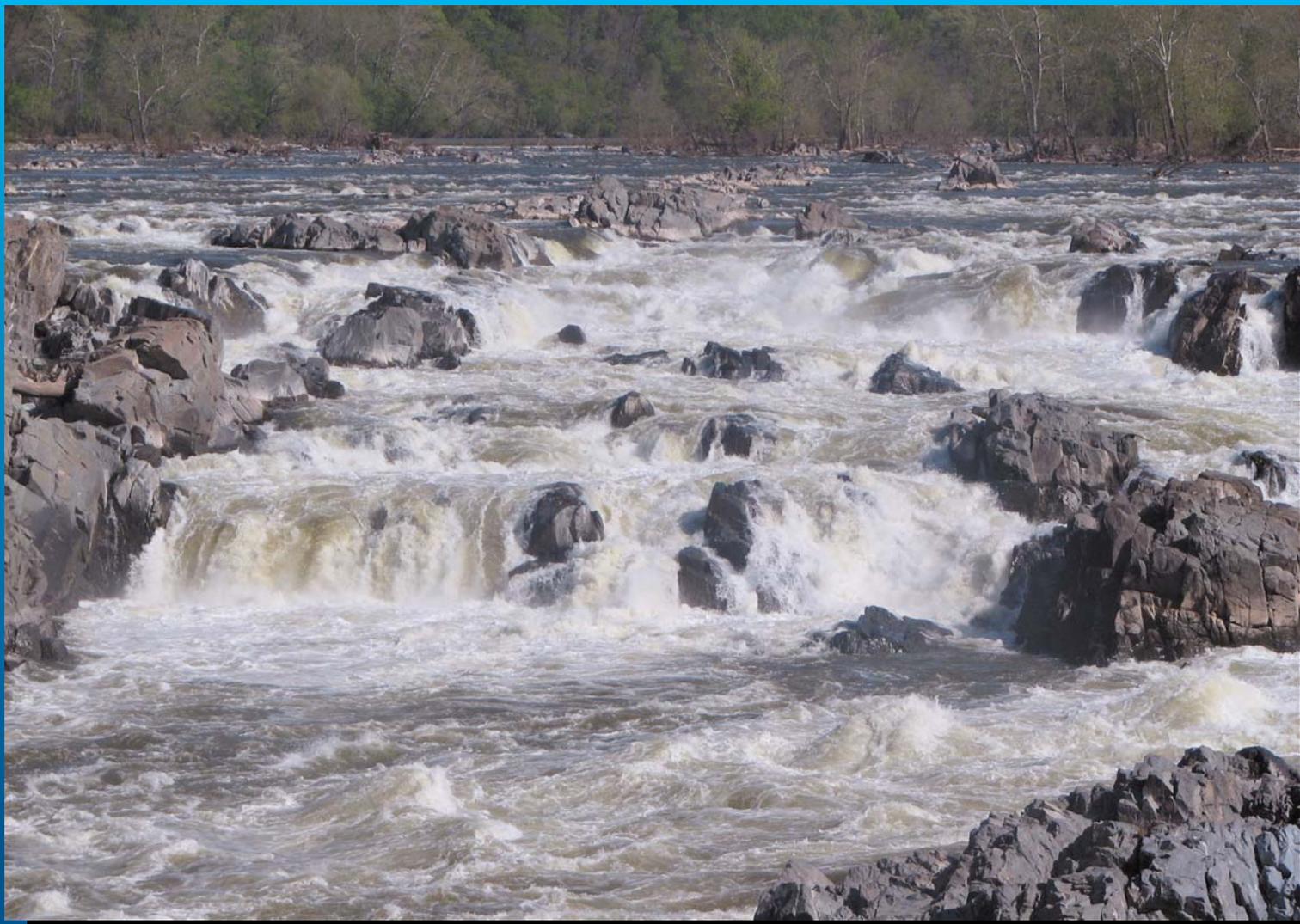


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From left, Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution Citizen of the Year Lawrence McKinley, chapter president John Sweeney and chairman for the Citizen of the Year Award Dennis Hickey.



Great Falls resident Lawrence McKinley is awarded the Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution Citizen of the Year. McKinley, who has served as past president of the organization, volunteers at local institutions, such as the Smithsonian, his local church and boy scout troop. He also records audio for the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic of Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

# Man of the Year

## Great Falls resident Lawrence McKinley awarded Fairfax Sons of the American Revolution Citizen of the Year.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

While Great Falls resident Lawrence McKinley was preparing for the Fairfax Resolves Chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution's Christmas social, he was responsible for making the certificate that would be awarded to the group's citizen of the year. The only problem was, he didn't know who the winner was. According to the information given him, a Coty Lemfaux was to be recognized.

"I didn't know who he was, I kept calling people to get some information about him, and they didn't get back to me," he said.

It wasn't until the social began that McKinley realized the truth. "Coty Lemfaux" wasn't a real person, rather it was a name made up of "Citizen Of The Year," followed by McKinley's initials "LEM" and "faux," meaning fake.

Instead the award was given to McKinley himself, as recognition for his years of service to the SAR, as well as the numerous other local institutions he volunteers for.

"I couldn't believe it, I really had no idea," said McKinley, whose genuine surprise was evident as soon as chapter president John

Sweeney announced McKinley as the winner. "I didn't expect anything like this, volunteering is just one of those things I started doing when I retired."

**MCKINLEY DESCRIBES** himself as blessed and cursed with a "helium hand," meaning he can't keep it from floating up when people ask for volunteer help. He serves as a docent at the National Air and Space Museum, has spent more than 1,200 hours recording readings for blind and dyslexic youth at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and other distance learning programs. He is also active in volunteering for Boy Scout Troop 1128, the McLean Youth Orchestra, the Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church and Bishop O'Connell High School.

"He is one of the select volunteers with the talent to make youth books come alive for our listeners," said Laurel Marget, evening program manager for the Recording

### Teacher of the Year

Langley High School history teacher Brigitte Lavey was awarded the Fairfax Resolves Sons of the American Revolution's Teacher of the Year award for 2010. Lavey has been teaching for 37 years, including AP History, and has consistently seen students test scores go up. She is known around the school as a teacher who will go to any lengths to help students, and is often one of the first at school in the morning and among the last to leave.

"She loves learning, she's constantly reading, constantly on the cutting edge when it comes to new research and technology to incorporate in the classroom," said Don Cooper, a teacher at Langley and the assistant registrar and chairman of the Teacher of the Year Committee for the SAR. "If her students have any need, she is always there for them, no matter what."

Lavey was given the award at the November Langley High School faculty meeting.

for the Blind and Dyslexic of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. "Listening to Larry's voice, the student's experience changes from one of frustration to one of enjoyment for further learning and reading."

Sweeney said that McKinley's countless contributions to the SAR made him a natural candidate, but it was his work with countless other organizations that made him rise to the top.

"Positively influencing the lives of both local and international students has been at the crux of Larry's long-standing volunteer service," Sweeney said. "He has served in an extraordinary number of SAR positions, to include: past chapter president, founder of the Fairfax Resolves Color Guard and immediate past commander of the Vassar Color Guard. He continues to serve as a color guard member, often traveling long distances to various commemorative

events."

McKinley, who has lived in Great Falls since 1983 along with his wife of 36 years, Mary Frances, served in the Army and Army National Guard, including stints as a Medevac Helicopter Pilot. He served in combat in the Vietnam War and Desert Storm.

**HE HAS BEEN** a member of SAR for the past fifteen years, after getting involved with the Children of the American Revolution with his daughter, Holly Lynn Schmidt.

"He joined CAR when I was younger, and he still serves with them as well," Schmidt said. "He always said 'if it's worth doing, it's worth doing well,' and that's how he has approached everything he's ever done."

McKinley remained humble throughout the evening, which is the trait that caused his fellow SAR members to set up such an elaborate ruse. Even after his accomplishments were laid out for all to see, McKinley still offers a humble, yet humorous explanation for his thousands of hours of volunteer work.

"They're just things I do that keep me out of prison," he said with a laugh.

**"I didn't expect anything like this, volunteering is just one of those things I started doing when I retired."**

— Lawrence McKinley

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From left, Cynthia Adler, Ginger Mahon, Shawn Adler and Denise Cannon hold the basket of new books collected by Forestville Elementary School's Girl Scout Troop #316.



PHOTOS BY COURTNEY ENGLE

Santa reads *The Night Before Christmas* to a group of children at the annual Wish List party.

# Making Wishes Come True

Wish List angels spread holiday cheer to the area's homeless families.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

When David, a Fairfax County foster teen, receives his gifts from the Wish List Project, he won't get the bike he requested this year.

Instead, the 19-year-old college freshman at Old Dominion University will get two top-of-the-line bikes from two local families. In addition to a bright blue Cannondale and a white Monaco, valued at nearly \$1,200, David will also receive a gift basket filled with biking essentials, including a new helmet, bike lock, tire gauge and gloves

"It's unbelievable. I had two calls about David, and both people were very moved by his story in the newspaper. David said he needed a bike to get to and from his classes and his part-time job at college, and now he's getting two... The angels really did come out this year," said Ginger Mahon.

For the past 11 years, Mahon, a Great Falls mother of two daughters, has helped more than 1,000 local people like David get their holiday wishes through the Wish List Project, a community outreach program she founded in 2000 that provides gifts to local homeless families and foster teens by



Nene Spivy, past president of the Junior League of Northern Virginia, and her family, arrive at the Mahon home Saturday bearing gifts for a local homeless family. The Spivy family (clockwise, from left) - Art, Nene, Nathan, Sara and Ben.

PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

matching them with generous donors.

**ON SATURDAY**, Mahon opened her doors for the annual "Wish List Drop-Off Party," where dozens of friends, neighbors and donors gathered to drop-off their gifts and celebrate the season of giving.

Decorated with angels, garland and twinkling lights, Mahon's home quickly became crowded with people navigating their way through the boxes, bags and bundles of gifts that filled her basement, garage, kitchen counters and every other space of her home. Some gifts were whimsical - one gift bag contained an animated Spiderman lamp and another gift bag was filled with a pink

tulle fairy dress, tiara and lighted wand. Other gifts were practical - gift cards, books, blankets, diapers and bottles of shampoo.

"Honestly, I was a little more worried about this year, because I think people are still feeling the financial strain. But once again everyone has opened their hearts and we have more angels than ever," Mahon said. She said she was particularly happy that she added about 20 more donors to her list this year, bringing the total to approximately 135 "angels" whose generosity will benefit 400 people in need.

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, a county-sponsored shelter for victims of domestic violence.

"When you see all the gifts that you know will really be appreciated, you realize that this is really what it's all about this time of year," said Michele Wrigley, a Reston resident, whose family has been donating gifts to local homeless families for three years. "I think the message is that it really is better to give than to receive. We need to take care of each other because we're all one family."

Sister Mary Bader of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville calls Mahon "St. Ann's guardian angel."

"She is a remarkable woman with bundles of energy who rallies people together at the holidays to help others in need. I am always amazed to see the different ages of people who attend her party and share so generously. While Ginger inspires others to give, she also educates the donors as to the needs of their community," Bader said.

Bader said The Wish List Project has helped about 40 teens and infants at the home every year for the past four years. "She has helped us close the gap on what we have and what we need for our children and teen mothers during the Christmas season," Bader said.

**MAHON**, who said she feels blessed to have a home, a supportive husband, and two daughters, started the Wish List as a way of "paying it forward." The former Forestville Elementary School PTA president launched the project by "adopting" the Embry Rucker Shelter and helping 49 families get their holiday wishes.

Susan Alger, the volunteer manager for the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston, said she is always amazed by the generosity of the Wish List donors. "Just look at all these gifts! I'm thankful for someone like Ginger. She is getting the message out there that there are people in need right here, and there are ways to help. It's always wonderful to see all the gifts and know they will make many children and families very happy," Alger said.

# Best Wishes For The Holidays



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# OPINION

## Counting Your Blessings? Don't Forget Nature

Free gifts to all in Northern Virginia from nature include drinking water from the Potomac River.

The holiday season offers many opportunities to count our blessings and give something back to those who enrich our lives. In the process, we may realize that we've been taking for granted something, or someone, very dear to us. I suspect nature often falls into that category.

From rivers winding through forests to oyster reefs rising from coastal bays, our ecosystems provide us with clean water, fertile soils, food, fuel, beauty, flood control, storm protection and many other benefits. So this year, I encourage you to join me in showing your appreciation for all that nature does to enhance and sustain our lives.

In the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region, whether a faucet runs in the White House or in your house, that water almost certainly comes from the Potomac River. When you fill your coffeepot before breakfast or your children wash their hands before dinner, you are among more than 4 million other people in our area who depend on the Potomac River

for water.

In addition to household water, the Potomac provides many other natural services. It creates habitat for fish and wildlife, offers opportunities for recreation and tourism, supplies water for irrigation, absorbs wastewater generated by communities, and supports industry and economic development.

**GUEST  
EDITORIAL**

And if we extend our view to take in the whole Potomac watershed, including tributary streams such as Turkey Run and Cabin John Creek, then we see the critical roles that forests play. While some forest benefits are obvious — wildlife habitat, recreation, wood products and forestry jobs — services such as preventing erosion and filtering runoff often go unnoticed.

Now here's the clincher. Nature's services are absolutely free.

But perhaps that fact has been part of their undoing. Many natural systems around the world, from tropical coral reefs to our own Chesapeake Bay, are seriously degraded. This reality begs a question: If humans can't put a

price tag on it, do we really value it?

Even professional conservationists sometimes struggle to describe all the benefits we derive from nature, much less determine an economic value. But scientists from The Nature Conservancy are working with conservation and university partners to do both through our Natural Capital Project. In the near future, we will offer practical tools for factoring natural systems into decisions about how humans interact with our world.

This we already know for certain: Nature is the life-support system for every animal, plant and person on Earth. So for all that nature has given to you in 2010, I hope you'll consider giving something back. One way you can show your appreciation is to be a good neighbor to the Potomac River. To find practical tips for protecting water quality, visit our website and download our guide to river-friendly living, the Good Neighbor Handbook: [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) or [www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/maryland/files/goodneighborhndbk\\_web.pdf](http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/maryland/files/goodneighborhndbk_web.pdf)

— MICHAEL L. LIPFORD

*Michael Lipford is Virginia executive director of The Nature Conservancy*

## Kicking the Can Down the Road

BY MARGARET  
VANDERHYE

The number one priority issue for Northern Virginia has been and continues to be the critical shortfall in transportation funding. In his first year in office, Governor Bob McDonnell fulfilled his campaign promise to reopen rest stops on Virginia highways. His audits of VDOT commendably identified funds that were not being applied to projects as efficiently as they could be. He established operations to streamline the delivery of services and public private partnership opportunities. McDonnell also made a categorical pledge that he would not raise taxes during his term.

These proposals involved better use of existing revenues and programs. The Governor also invested considerable time and political capital promoting the flawed idea that if only we could privatize liquor stores and drill for oil offshore, our transportation funding picture would be significantly improved. His recently announced \$4



billion Transportation Plan relies largely on debt to provide funds for projects. Repaying the debt will make the current \$1 billion annual transportation funding "hole" even deeper by 2013. In Richmond, this is called

"kicking the can down the road" because the bill for these policies will come due after the current Administration departs. The project list in his Plan includes the I-95-395 HOT lanes in northern Virginia among the number of statewide improvements. The Governor promises more details before the legislature convenes in January, but the bottom line is this: our short term transportation gains will be offset by the lack of sustainable revenue behind them.

Other elements of the Plan include a Transportation Infrastructure Bank that draws on General Fund revenue to sustain it. The Plan relies on the expectation that the federal government will approve tolling on I-95, and that the revenue from future tolls will be more substantial than audits suggest is likely. The Governor seeks

to double the current annual sales of transportation bonds from legislation passed in 2007, without specifying how bond payments will be financed. The GARVEE bonds he identifies as a main component of the Plan rely on future anticipated federal highway funds to repay investors. His call to pass a constitutional amendment to permanently protect the Commonwealth Transportation Fund from transfers to the General Fund is a perennial favorite bill that always generates wide bipartisan support in the House. It fails each year because the Senate wants the lock box to work both ways.

Governor McDonnell is right to assert that "right now is the best opportunity to get roads built in modern Virginia history." Contractors are hungry for work and construction materials are priced below previous market levels. Virginia has a long and proud tradition of fiscal prudence. We take our Triple A bond rating and our reputation as a well-managed state very seriously. The successes from the current \$4 billion plan will be undermined by the lack of dedicated, sufficient and sustainable new revenues to address our

annual \$1 billion transportation funding shortfalls. The Governor knows this to be true. But the rural House leadership has dictated the terms for funding proposals for a decade, and they continue to call the shots today. With state level elections, redistricting and a restless Tea Party heading for Virginia in 2011, the chance is almost nonexistent for passing funding legislation with the kind of ongoing revenue stream we need.

Without it, our transportation problems will continue to get worse no matter how much we tell ourselves that we are efficient, creative, optimistic, and business friendly about infrastructure. By 2013 when we elect a new governor, all Virginians, regardless of party affiliation or label will be carrying more debt. We will be scrambling to protect general fund programs even if the economy improves. And we will still be sitting in traffic, wondering how we got to this point and dismayed that no one has the courage to do something about it.

*Margaret Vanderhye, of McLean, is a former Virginia state delegate (D-34).*

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## NEWS

# Toll Road Rates Change

**25¢ increase at Main Toll Plaza; Tolls at on/off ramps remain the same.**

**E**ffective Jan. 1, 2011, toll rates on the Dulles Toll Road will increase by 25 cents at the main toll plaza to \$1.25. Toll rates on the on/off ramps will remain 75 cents.

A three-year schedule for new toll rates was approved by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Board of Directors in November 2009 after conducting a series of public hearings. At that time, the Board also approved a toll rate increase that took effect on Jan. 1, 2010, the increase for 2011 and a third toll rate increase that will be effective Jan. 1, 2012.

The toll increases are necessary for the Airports Authority to fulfill its commitment to operate and maintain the Dulles Toll Road and to construct the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project. That commitment is contained in agreements with the Commonwealth of Virginia and local governments in Northern Virginia, and is based in substantial part on the parties' agreement that funding for the Metrorail Project is to come from Dulles Toll Road revenues, as well as contributions by the federal government, the Commonwealth, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, and the Airports Authority.

Under its agreement with the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Airports Authority has assumed the responsibility to operate and maintain the Dulles Toll Road for a 50-year period beginning in 2009.

For more information about the Dulles Toll Road and the process the Airports Authority follows before setting new toll rates, please visit our website at [www.mwaa.com/tollroad](http://www.mwaa.com/tollroad).

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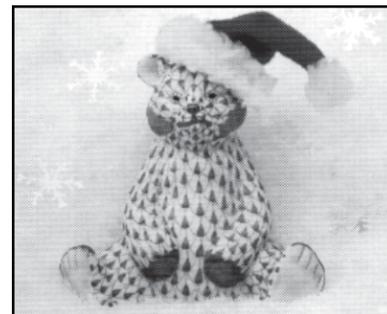
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10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

**CHRISTMAS MORNING:**  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Episcopal)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26:**  
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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) presented fifth-graders at St. Luke's with a certificate of appreciation for their "Treats for Troops" program, which collected 35 boxes worth of items to send to troops deployed overseas for the holidays.

## Sending Treats to the Troops

Students at St. Luke collect holiday gifts for troops overseas.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Fifth graders at St. Luke's School in McLean were recognized by Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) for their "Treats for Troops" program, which collected 35 boxes of items to send to troops overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The program, now in its second year, is led by the fifth graders, but students throughout the school participated. They saved their Halloween candy, toiletries, sundries, boxed soup and other non-perishable items.

"It was an idea by our room mother two years ago, and the students have really gotten behind it," said fifth grade teacher John Farnham. "We plan to do it every year, as long as there are troops overseas."

Foust presented the students with a certificate of appreciation at their weekly advent assembly Monday.

"This school already has a tre-

mendous reputation, and they have added to it with what they've done," he said. "This is a great service to men and women overseas, including some that are away from home during the holidays for the first time."

The boxes were shipped by the Neighbors Program, which is a nonprofit group that ships packages to military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan.

**"This is a great service to men and women overseas, including some that are away from home during the holidays for the first time."**

— Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)

### MILITARY NOTES

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

Army National Guard Pfc. Joshua B. Atkins has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, he studied Army history, tradition and core

values, physical fitness, received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics and more. He is the son of Randy Atkins of Weant Drive in Great Falls, and a 1990 graduate of the Blue Ridge Preparatory School of Dyke, Va.

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## WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

### Sprinklers Douse Two Structure Fires

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to two fires Saturday, Dec. 11, in the Oakton and Great Falls areas of Fairfax County. In both fires, sprinklers activated controlling the fires and keeping property damage to a minimum.

Firefighters responded to a house fire at 476 River Bend Road in Great Falls at approximately 4:45 p.m., with fire and smoke in the attic area. Prior to firefighters arriving, water from the sprinkler system activated, providing early fire protection and minimizing the property damage. Firefighters did extensive overhaul to ensure there was no additional fire in walls, rafters, or elsewhere in the attic area. Fire damage was confined to an approximately 50 square foot area in the attic. There were no injuries.

The installation of sprinklers provides critical early protection to property, and from potentially serious injury or fire death to occupants inside a structure. Sprinklers are designed to extinguish and control fire before it evolves into flashover, the point at which rapid flame spreads and deadly heat and smoke are produced. Sprinkler systems will control a fire and provide life-saving time for occupants to escape.

Virginia has not adopted mandatory residential sprinkler use in homes. However, the Virginia Building Code Officials Association and the Home Fire Safety Council support mandatory sprinkler use.

For more information on residential sprinklers, contact the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office, 703-246-4753.

### Get Home Safe

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program is offering its SoberRide program through January first. People who call the number will get a free taxicab ride home, up to a \$30 value. During the 2009 holiday season, 692 people in the area took advantage of the program, up from 468 in 2008.

This past Halloween, SoberRide provided 461 rides home.

Area residents age 21 and over can call the toll-free number at 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and AT&T users can dial #TAXI. More information about SoberRide can be found at [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

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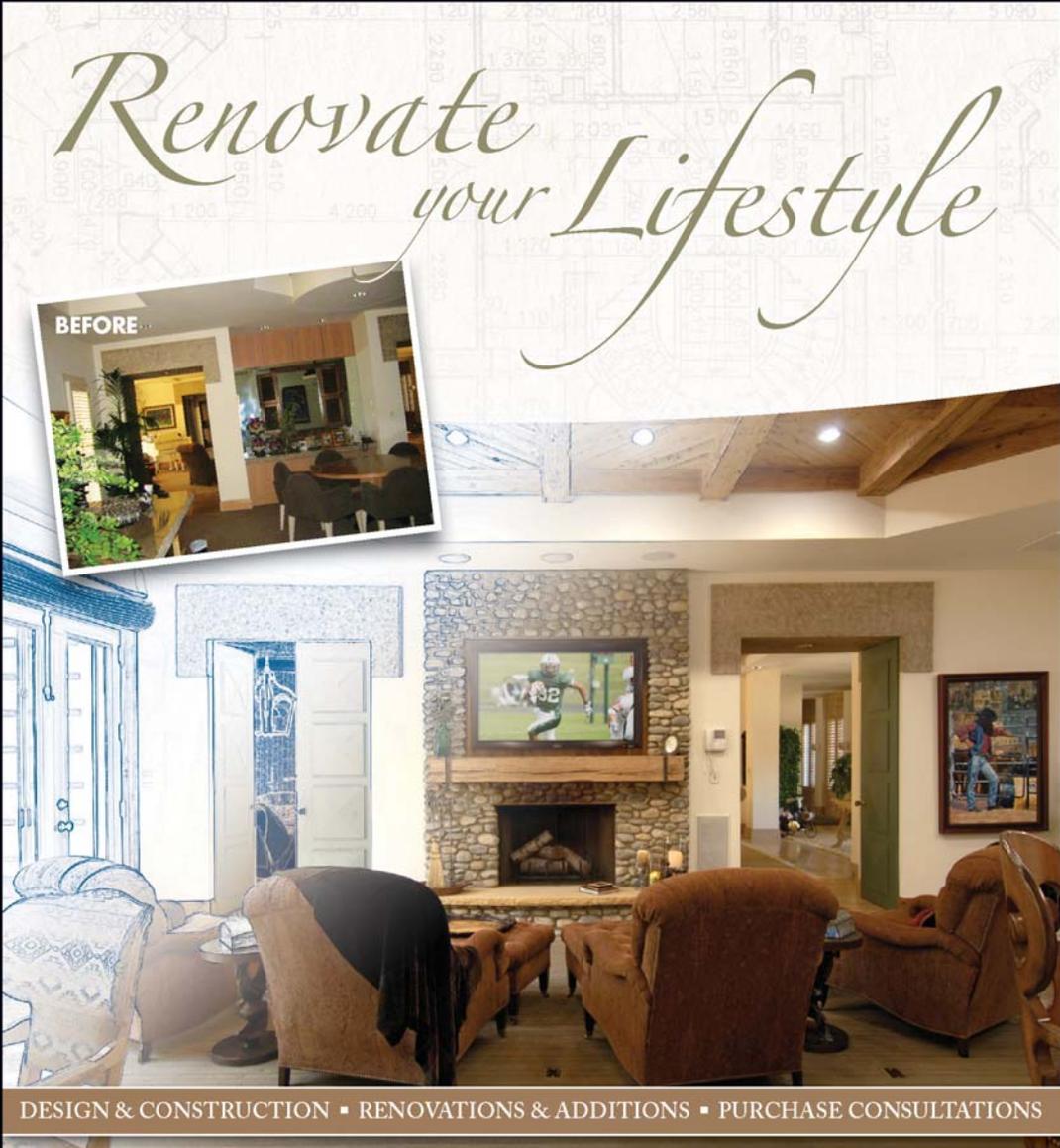
**NYC BROADWAY to see "Memphis", March 1-3**.....\$579  
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**SAVANNA FOR ST. PAT'S DAY, March 15-18**.....\$899  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

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. 16

**McLean High School Orchestra's 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@tstrategies.com](mailto:elizabeth@tstrategies.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](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. [www.sesamestreetlive.com](http://www.sesamestreetlive.com).

**Decembersongs with Dan Navarro, Amy Speace, Sally Barris and Jon Vezner.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Book Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560

**Langley High School Choral Department Winter Concert.** 7:30 p.m. in the LHS auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Schubert's Mass in G with student soloists and a professional string quartet, the Madrigal choir singing a capella Renaissance holiday music and more. Free admission, open to the public. 703-404-5502 or [gendellc@aol.com](mailto:gendellc@aol.com).



**The Langley High School Choral Department Winter Concert will be Thursday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the LHS auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The concert will feature Schubert's Mass in G with student soloists and accompanied by a professional string quartet. The Madrigal choir will perform Renaissance period holiday music sung in the traditional a capella style. All of the Langley choirs will perform holiday favorites that mix traditional and jazz arrangements. Free admission, open to the public. 703-404-5502 or [gendellc@aol.com](mailto:gendellc@aol.com).**

## FRIDAY/DEC. 17

**"The Laramie Project."** 7:30 p.m. Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A play about the reaction to the 1998 murder of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. All proceeds from ticket sales and a silent auction will be donated to the Matthew Shepard Foundation. **Sesame Street Live: Elmo's**

**Healthy Heroes.** 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. [www.sesamestreetlive.com](http://www.sesamestreetlive.com).

**Bill Kirchen's Honky Tonk Holiday Show.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap".** 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. [www.1ststage.com](http://www.1ststage.com) or 703-854-1856.

**2010 Graduating Artist Showcase.** 6-9 p.m. George Mason University Art and Design Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall 2010 Senior Exhibition Reception. Exhibits of over 60 graduating artists including paintings, sculpture, animation, graphic design, drawing and more. Live music and refreshments available. Free admission. 703-993-8898 or [hmiller@gmu.edu](mailto:hmiller@gmu.edu).

**The Brothers Grimm Spectaculation.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy in the style of Monty Python. \$5-\$8. [sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Vienna Arts Society Reception.** 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Works by local artists selected to display their pieces in Delegate Mark Keam's Capitol Office. Free admission, open to the public. 703-319-3971 or [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 18

**"The Laramie Project."** 7:30 p.m. Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A play about the reaction to the 1998 murder of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. All proceeds from ticket sales and a silent auction will be donated to the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

**Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes.** 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at

[www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. [www.sesamestreetlive.com](http://www.sesamestreetlive.com).

**4th Annual Rockoceros Holiday Singalong with The Barbershop Quartet.** 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Vienna Boys Choir.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Holiday music from Gregorian chant to favorite Christmas carols. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**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.1ststage.com](http://www.1ststage.com) or 703-854-1856.

**Vienna Choral Society Concert.** 4 p.m. at the Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, Vienna. Celebrate the season with favorite and familiar holiday songs at "Come in from the Cold: A Fireside Concert." Adults \$20, students and seniors \$15, family \$35. 703-255-5508 or [www.viennachoralsociety.org](http://www.viennachoralsociety.org).

**The Brothers Grimm Spectaculation.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy in the style of Monty Python. \$5-\$8. [sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**The Meltdown Dance Party with DJ Lova, DJ Nick@Nite and Beetkeepers.** 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Colvin Run Schoolhouse Holiday Dance.** 10:20 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Bosa Nova lesson at 8 p.m. and music by The Family Band from 9-11:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Lesson \$5, dance \$12 per person. Sodas and snacks available for purchase. 703-705-2003 or [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 19

**Old Firehouse Teen Center Dance: Winter Ball.** 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Friday night dance for 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Semi-formal. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Glorious Sounds of Christmas.** 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 NE Park St., Vienna. Choirs, orchestra and bells perform Christmas music. Free. 703-778-9422.

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Bingo.** 7 p.m. at the VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Games held every Sunday in the Flame Room. [www.vvfd.org](http://www.vvfd.org).

**Breakfast With Santa.** 9:30 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Breakfast, live entertainment, crafts, photos with Santa and more. \$15 per person, \$10 McLean district residents, age 2 and under free. Space limited and registration is required, no walk-ins. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes.** 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. [www.sesamestreetlive.com](http://www.sesamestreetlive.com).

**Vienna Boys Choir.** 4 p.m. at George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Holiday music from Gregorian chant to favorite Christmas carols. \$24-\$48, youth through grade 12 half price. 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**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.com](http://www.1ststage.com) or 703-854-1856.

**Live Nativity.** Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning at 6 p.m. with three repeating 20-minute acts. 703-759-5949 or 703-759-3705

**Theatre IV Presents "The Tailor of Gloucester."** 3 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A musical version of Beatrix Potter's classic tale. Appropriate for age 4 and up. \$8-\$12. [sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**My Favorite Highway's Finale.** 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## MONDAY/DEC. 20

**V.I.P. Vienna.** 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Support group for visually impaired persons. Adults. 703-938-0405.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 21

**Bliss FM, JUSTI and Ced Hughes.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 22

**Todd Wright's 8th Annual Christmas Spectacular (acoustic).** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 23

**Santa Jam Benefit Concert.** State

Theatre, 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church. To raise money for Northern Virginia's Doorways Women and Families Shelter and non-profit 'Music to Give'. Featuring Tommy Lepson, Soul Gravity and Linwood Taylor. \$10. An unwrapped child's Christmas gift also suggested. Purchase tickets at [www.theatrettheatre.com](http://www.theatrettheatre.com).

**Todd Wright's 8th Annual Christmas Spectacular.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 24

**Good For The Jews: Putting The Hat In Hanaukka Tour with Rob Tannenbaum and David Fagin.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 26

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Bingo.** 7 p.m. at the VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Games held every Sunday in the Flame Room. [www.vvfd.org](http://www.vvfd.org).

**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.com](http://www.1ststage.com) or 703-854-1856.

**Poor Man's Lobster, Funkmknz and The Arctic Groove.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## MONDAY/DEC. 27

**Movie Matinee.** 11:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Short movies based on popular children's books. Bring a lunch and have a picnic. Age 2-3 with adult.

703-757-8560  
**Where's My Face (Dubstep and Electrohouse) with Viking, DJ M.A.F., Konstellation and Hubsmoke.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 28

**The Dinobabies and Marly Dumarz.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 29

**Berrett and Harrison and Cara Salimando.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 30

**Natalie York and Molly Hagen.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Frostival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo & Conference Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Family fun with storytellers, music and dance, crafts, interactive activities, Secret Agent 23 Skidoo and more. Canned food items and new and gently used winter coats will be collected to provide to families in need. [www.Frostival.com](http://www.Frostival.com).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 31

**Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap".** 9 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Special performance and party. \$50. [www.1ststage.com](http://www.1ststage.com) or 703-854-1856.

**4th Annual Rockoceros New Years Eve Party.** 11 a.m., 2 p.m.

and 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Frostival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo & Conference Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Family fun with storytellers, music and dance, crafts, interactive activities, The Great Zucchini and more. Canned food items and new and gently used winter coats will be collected to provide to families in need. [www.Frostival.com](http://www.Frostival.com).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 1

**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.1ststage.com](http://www.1ststage.com) or 703-854-1856.

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

**Frostival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo & Conference Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Family fun with storytellers, music and dance, crafts, interactive activities, Secret Agent 23 Skidoo and more. Canned food items and new and gently used winter coats will be collected to provide to families in need. [www.Frostival.com](http://www.Frostival.com).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 2

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Bingo.** 7 p.m. at the VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Games held every Sunday in the Flame Room. [www.vvfd.org](http://www.vvfd.org).

**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.com](http://www.1ststage.com) or 703-854-1856.

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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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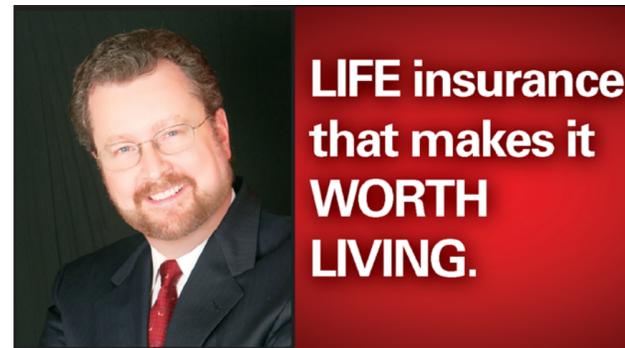


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# Winter Break Trips

**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.

**Shadowland**

Monday, Dec. 27  
10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.  
\$35/\$30 McLean district residents  
Activity No. 8107.210

**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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## NEWS



Artist Jan Bender shows Megan Flynn, a sophomore at Langley High School, how she makes her photograms.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Artist Gail Pean works on a painting at the Great Fall Studios Holiday Art Show and Sale Saturday at the Village Green Day School.

## Holiday with Arts

FROM PAGE 3



From left, artist Michael Long shows off his wares to Paulie and Suzanne Gillen, who came from Bethesda to see the Great Falls Studios annual Holiday Art Show and Sale.

still what he has most of, and Long says he'll always work on those.

"I like to think that each stick tells me how to carve it," he said.

Long isn't the only artist that has undergone some changes. Bob Gilbert started painting watercolors of outdoor scenes, but he has made the transition to another passion: the cityscape of New York City.

"I've traveled a lot, and every city has its own identity, but none quite as diverse as New York, with Chinatown, the theater district, the financial district, midtown, the bridges," he said. "I want to convey the power, the emotion, You're pushing your way through the crowded city and hearing the horns of the taxicabs."

Gilbert's pieces often feature a scene from New York, but with a dream-like quality, with vivid colors and architecture that almost bends to envelop the viewer. He gets his scenes from a variety of sources, sometimes online image searches, frozen frames from his DVR or from a picture of the Nederlander Theatre that he took when his daughter was in the theatre's production of "Guys and Dolls."

"I want you to feel involved, have an emotion about what you're seeing," Gilbert said. "It makes me feel good when people come up and say, I've been to that spot in New York, and you really captured what it feels like."

JAN BENDER takes the term "homegrown art" to another level. She specializes in photograms made from plants from her garden. A photogram is when

### Art in the Community

The Great Falls Studios is a group of more than 80 artists living and working in Great Falls. They work in such mediums as calligraphy, digital, fiber and paper art, jewelry, pottery, photography, painting, filmmaking, printmaking and sculptures.

For more information, visit [www.greatfallsstudios.com](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com), or e-mail [info@greatfallsstudios.com](mailto:info@greatfallsstudios.com).

plant cuttings are positioned on light sensitive photo paper and exposed to light from an enlarger. The result is a silhouette-type image, which shows the sepia-toned plant image on a dark background.

"In the past, photograms were a black background and white silhouettes on a dark background, but that doesn't work well for

plants," Bender said. "But the brain sees more depth in images that are brown or gray."

Bender grows her own material, even if sometimes it takes a while to get the plant ready. She recalls waiting almost five years for a ginkgo biloba plant to grow enough to give her enough material.

"You have to have the actual plant, and they pretty much have to be onsite, because a lot of them will dry too fast during transport if they're not close," Bender said. "But we're gardeners as well, and that's what gave me the idea."

Langley High School sophomore Megan Flynn takes photography at school, and was intrigued by Bender's photograms, saying "I've done photograms before, which is why I thought the plants looked so neat."

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# Play Aims to 'Erase Hate'

FROM PAGE 3

were very supportive. I've gotten amazing positive responses from people outside the community who are anxious to see it," Jaffe said.

Una Higgins, president of Saxon Stage on Cue, the booster group of Langley parents dedicated to supporting theatre arts, said the organization is very supportive of the project. "We are delighted to support this student-directed project and to promote the message it embraces, 'Erase Hate.' In light of recent events in the national news, the themes of this transformative play are timely and expose a complex issue—intolerance," Higgins said.

Shepard's murder triggered a flood of media coverage and reaction from activists, celebrities and many lawmakers. A 1998 Time magazine cover story called the murder "society's wakeup call ... to prevent homophobia and hate crimes," and noted that three days after Shepard died, so many members of Congress showed up to voice their grief and anger at a candlelight vigil on the steps of the Capitol that then-House minority leader Dick Gephardt had time only to read their names.

Stewart is aware of the irony of producing the play in the wake of recent hate crimes against gays, gay teen suicides and the political controversy swirling around the effort to end the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"We didn't plan it this way, but the timing is important, because I think people have stopped talking about the incident," Stewart said.

**HER INTEREST** in the play and its themes has grown since she first saw The Laramie Project when she was a sophomore.

"This is the issue I'm most passionate about. Everyone should be treated equally, and be able to get married. This summer, I read Matthew Shepard's mother's book. It gave me a more well-rounded version of Matt and his family's struggle. The ultimate goal for me is that the play will open some minds," she said.

Caroline Callahan, a junior at Langley who plays Shepard's friend Romaine Patterson, said the play has made her more aware of issues such as homophobia. "My hope," Callahan said, "is that people realize how hurtful words can be... If you're walking around saying 'you're so gay' now, what will you be like in 20 years when your hatred grows?" Callahan asked.

Stewart said one of the most affecting scenes in The Laramie Project occurs when Callahan - portraying Patterson - shows up at the courthouse in a flow-



PHOTO BY LANGLY STUDENT CASEY MALONE

**Romaine with her three angels (from left) Taylor Goodson, Kathleen Welch, Vanessa Strahan and Caroline Callahan in black.**



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Lauren Stewart**

**The ultimate goal for me is that the play will open some minds."**

**— Director Lauren Stewart**

ing white angel costume with 10-foot wings. Patterson and other "angels" are there to counter the neon hate signs by preacher and anti-gay activist Fred Phelps. They use their "wings" to block Phelps' signs from the view of passersby.

Stewart said she hopes the audience is also moved by one of the final scenes, when Mamana, as Matthew's father Dennis Shepard, addresses his son's murderers during the death-penalty phase of the trial. The monologue is one of the play's most famous scenes.

"I would like nothing better than to see you die, Mr. McKinney. However, this is the time to begin the healing process. To show mercy to someone who refused to show any mercy. Mr. McKinney, I am going to grant you life. You robbed me of something very precious and I will never forgive you for that. Mr. McKinney, I give you life in the memory of one who no longer lives. May you have a long life and may you thank Matthew every day for it."

"That scene still makes me cry," Stewart said.

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Jonathan Merrill (Fritz), Veronica Merrill (party girl) and Matthew Merrill (Littlest party boy), all of Great Falls, prepare to take their places on stage at the Warner Theater

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## Great Falls Children Perform in the Washington Ballet 'Nutcracker'

The Washington Ballet is presenting its Holiday classic, The Nutcracker at the Warner Theater running through Dec. 26.

Eight children who live in Great Falls are students at The Washington School of Ballet, and are in the show this year. One student in particular, Jonathan Merrill, age 10, plays the lead male student role, Fritz, in the party scene. It's a family affair for the Merrills, where Veronica is also in the party scene as is youngest brother Matthew Merrill playing littlest party boy. Veronica also plays clown in act 2. Also from Great Falls, Kelly Rose Burke is a butterfly and Sophie Smith is a soldier. Sisters Danielle and Nicole Schwartz are also soldiers in the show.

The classic story takes an historical twist with a Washington version: George Washington is the Nutcracker, King George is the Rat King, the soldiers wear replica colonial uniforms and tri-cornered hats, the party scene takes place in a Georgetown Mansion where guests include Frederick Douglass and dolls are John Paul Jones and Lady Liberty.

Noted Washington area celebrities take the stage as walk-on guests, including Kojo Nnamdi on opening night. The show opened Thanksgiving weekend at THEARC in Anacostia where The Washington Ballet has a significant community engagement program. The show then moved to The Warner Dec. 3.

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# HOLIDAY

## Holiday Champagne and Sparkling Wine

From \$10 to \$85, some excellent suggestions for the holidays.

BY MIKE POTASHNIK AND DON WINKLER  
INTERNATIONAL WINE REVIEW



Mike Patashnik and Don Winkler of International Wine Review recommend champagne and sparkling wine for holiday season.

The Holidays are the time for Champagne and sparkling wine and what incredible choices. In France alone there is Champagne, of course, but also another 38 regions producing sparkling wines in the Loire, Burgundy, Alsace and elsewhere. Italy makes Prosecco and Asti Spumante. Spain produces Cava. In the US, excellent sparkling wines are made in California, New Mexico, and Virginia. Canada even makes really exotic sparkling icewine. And we've tasted excellent sparklers from Australia, New Zealand, Greece, and South Africa.

We've selected what we think are sparklers of excellent value

and then organized our recommendations by price level: Inexpensive (around \$10), Moderately Priced (under \$30), and Luxury Cuvées (above \$30). We've limited our recommendations to mostly, very dry Bruts, and included some rosé sparklers.

**INEXPENSIVE.** We suggest you stick to Spanish Cavas, Italian Prosecco and Asti, and American Sparklers. Many of these wines are non-vintage or produced in a way that minimizes year-to-year variations in quality. Most have a lovely

SEE SPARKLING, PAGE 22

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications installation on an existing building located at 2425 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA. Three panel antennas will be mounted at a centerline height of 85 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 61107461-LLM c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at 215-908-9207.

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## 21 Announcements

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
AT&T intends to file an application to modify an existing wireless communications facility at 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22205. 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 "Kentucky Drive" will consist of the collocation of three new Kathrein LTE antennas on existing stealth mounts within the steeple and the installation of equipment in the AT&T equipment room. 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).

## 21 Announcements

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
AT&T intends to file an application to modify an existing wireless communications facility at 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia 22205. 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 "Kentucky Drive" will consist of the collocation of three new Kathrein LTE antennas on existing stealth mounts within the steeple and the installation of equipment in the AT&T equipment room. 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).

## 21 Announcements

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
AT&T intends to file an application to collocate cellular telecommunications antennas and install new equipment at 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, 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 "National Airport" will consist of the collocation of antennas on existing mounts on the building roof and equipment in the building garage. 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 Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Stand-ard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o [theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com](mailto:theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com)

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
AT&T intends to file an application to collocate cellular telecommunications antennas and install new equipment at 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, 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 "National Airport" will consist of the collocation of antennas on existing mounts on the building roof and equipment in the building garage. 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 Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Stand-ard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o [theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com](mailto:theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com)

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## Not So Much "Fun" Anymore



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Closer to "Minis" or "Bite Size" is more like it – and I don't like it, if you want to know my candy-eating truth. To what am I referring, specifically? I am referring to the "snack size" candy bars ("Items not for sale," in bags) most of us know and love, especially before, during and after Halloween and on through to the next Halloween when the eating/buying frenzy continues unabated to infinity (at least it does for me). Has anyone noticed the shrinkage in the size of M&M/Mars' brand "Fun Size" Milky Ways, Three Musketeers, Snickers and M&M varieties (my brand-area of expertise)? The "Fun Size" as they are still labeled, used to require two bites to finish – when I was in mixed company; alone, they were gone in just one bite, in my mouth, anyway. Now, however, one bite is sufficient – alone or in mixed company (and the ounces are less, too).

And as disappointing and inevitable as that shrinkage is, it's certainly not unique to M&M/Mars or "snack-size" candy bars. It appears to be a relatively common/recurring phenomenon among many pre-packaged items with which I'm familiar (not that I've done a study but I know what I buy): Half gallons (64 oz.) of Breyers ice cream are now 48 oz., bags of Utz potato chips have shrunk from 11.5 oz. to 10 oz., jars of the Classico pasta sauce have been reduced from 26 oz. to 24 oz., cans of Bumble Bee tuna fish I buy for my wife are now 5 oz. instead of 6, the 1 lb. bag of M&Ms are now 11.4 oz give or take (depending on the specific variety), bags of Oreo cookies (my formerly long-time favorite) which used to be 21 oz. are now as low as 15.25 oz (again depending on variety) and on and on. Moreover, not only is there shrinkage in the package/volume itself; where applicable, the individual items in those packages have been reduced as well. However, I wouldn't say this shrinkage has led to any reduction/discount in price. Hardly. From what I'm buying, mostly, I am definitely getting less and paying more.

But I am consuming less calories as a result; 80, to be specific (like it's a good thing, not an obfuscating thing), per this product anyway: according to the starburst featured prominently on the bag of Milky Way "Fun Size" candy bars whose recent purchase has inspired this column. So I really and truly am getting less for more. And why don't I consider that lower calorie number "Fun"? Because I consider it spin: telling me I'm consuming less calories; not because of any Earth-shattering, sugar-reformulating breakthrough but because there's less actual candy bar to eat (than in previous "Fun Size" bags). As Danny Glover ("Mal") said in Lawrence Kasdan's classic Western, "Silverado": "That ain't right. I'm tired of things that ain't right."

Consuming fewer calories, though, is not the reason I'm eating Milky Ways (or any number of other "Fun Size" bars with which I'm familiar). So no, it doesn't make me happy – or induce me in any future Milky Way-buying way. It's merely an attempt to veer me off my how-much-is-this-bag-of-candy-really-costing-me course. And, of course, I'm paying attention; I'm paying money, aren't I? I just don't eat indiscriminately without realizing how much – or how little of what's actually in the bag, is going into my mouth. This reduction in calories is, strictly speaking, nothing more than a reduction in value. And reduction in value during a struggling economy is hardly the thing from which legends – and new business are spawned, especially when most of us need more, not less. It's into this environment that M&M/Mars, among many others is instead providing the exact opposite: less for more.

Just remember, Mr. Manufacturer, consumer's dollars don't grow on trees anymore than sugar cane does (it's a "tall grass," actually; who knew?). And trying to sell me less value for more money is definitely going to reduce my calorie intake – to zero! From your products, anyway.

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

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# THEATRE REVIEW

Patrick Smith (far left), Jennifer Weinreich (left), Karl Bittner, Abby Wood, Luke Tudball (right), and Arden Moscati (far right) in the 1st Stage production of 'The Mousetrap.'



PHOTO COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

## Delightful Mystery

'The Mousetrap' at the 1st Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL

Old and blustery it is outside. So, do head off to 1st Stage in Tysons Corner for an affectionate, comfy rendering of the world's longest running theatrical show, Agatha Christie's 1952 mystery who-dunnit, "The Mousetrap." You will find enjoying a satisfying evening trying to solve the puzzle whether you already know the outcome or are partaking for a first time.

Director Jessica Lefkow has created an evening for audiences to "perk up...and enjoy." The mystery set-up is straight forward, but with delightful complications as a newly married English couple opens a guest house in an old country manor. A major snow storm closes in on them and their expected and unexpected guests. A crackling radio reports news of the murder of a woman in a nearby town. A policeman arrives, on skis no less, to investigate and hunt down the killer. It seems that every one of the guests and even the owners have some darkness made visible with possibly a connection to the murder victim.

The eight-member cast is solid, performing especially well as an ensemble. Standouts include Suzanne Richard as the

overbearing older Mrs. Boyle showing absolute disdain for all others with the flip of a hand and arch of an eyebrow. Jennifer Weinreich is a cheery new bride, a fluffer of pillows who putters serenely but with a deep well of emotions that appear over time. John Stange is her somewhat condescending husband who can boil over at mere trifles.

Joining them are a stiff bearing, ram-rod Major (Patrick Smith) and a very taut, unbending investigating sergeant (Arden Moscati). Less enjoyable are characters that perhaps as written would be considered naughty arch-types played a bit too fey by Karl Bittner, a bit too hard by Abby Wood and a bit too inscrutable by Luke Tudball.

The uncredited detailed set is a joy with high paneled walls resplendent with doors, niches and alcoves. Large windows show signs of the winter storm. Jennifer M. Allevato's costumes are muted grey and brown tones with hints of color giving some characters pizzazz.

Listening to some in the audience as the lights went up, it was apparent they had not guessed who did it. Go see for yourself. Promise not to tell who did it.

*Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays through Jan. 9. Information at [www.1stStageTysons.org](http://www.1stStageTysons.org). 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner.*

### 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.

**The Antioch Christian Church**, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna, will host its annual community Christmas Open House on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. The open house will include an old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing, gifts for children and the ringing of the historic church bell by all in attendance. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org) or call 703-938-6753.

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive NE in Vienna, 703-938-3494 has announced the following Christmas schedule:

❖ Dec. 19, 11 a.m. Epiphany's Christmas Cantata

❖ Dec. 24, 6 p.m. Children & Family Service

❖ Dec. 24, 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight, Carol & Communion Service

❖ Dec 26, 11 a.m. Christmas Celebration

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean, has announced their Advent and Christmas events. 703-356-3312 or [www.umtrinity.org](http://www.umtrinity.org).

❖ **Service of Hope and Healing.** Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. A celebration of God's love in every season and in every heart.

❖ **The Message of Christmas.** Sunday, Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols presented by the Chancel Choir.

❖ **Family Service with Pageant.** Friday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. Childcare will

be available.

❖ **Candlelight & Communion.** Friday, Dec. 24 at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

**St. John's Episcopal Church**, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, has announced their Christmas worship services. 703-356-4902 or [www.stjohnsmclean.org](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org).

❖ **Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.** Sunday, Dec. 19 at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Seasonal anthems by the Choirs of St. John's Church, organist Dr. John C. Wulff and the Sunrise String Quartet. Carols will be sung by the congregation.

❖ **Christmas Eve Family Service.** Friday, Dec. 24 at 4 p.m., with Christmas music beginning at 3:30 p.m. This service is especially designed for families with young children.

❖ **Traditional Service of Holy**

**Eucharist.** Friday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Familiar carols, following Christmas music beginning at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

❖ **Celebrate with Holy Eucharist.** Saturday, Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. The singing of familiar carols on Christmas morning.

**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).

**Centering Prayer offered at St. Dunstan's**, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean, Tuesdays at 7-7:45 p.m. Centering prayer is meditation and contemplative prayer, wordless, trusting, opening of self to the divine presence. Instruction

offered. [marjorie.cole@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.cole@gmail.com).

**Epiphany United Methodist Preschool**, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4-year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or [www.epiphanypreschool.com](http://www.epiphanypreschool.com).

**Vienna Assembly of God** has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or [www.ViennaAG.com](http://www.ViennaAG.com).

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms**, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).



Aaraj Vij, James Chen, Andrew Liao, Judge, Anvitha Metpally, Siona Prasad, and Vishnu Murthy.

## State Champions

Sciborg Stars – a team of children from Great Falls, Vienna, McLean and Reston - won the first place award for the Project Research Presentation at the VA-DC State FLL Championship Tournament. The team went through rigorous question and answer sessions with different sets of judges on two days before being selected out of all the participating teams.

The judges praised the team's polished presentation skills, in-depth research, extensive community outreach and practical

solution ideas. Sciborg Stars was also recommended to enter another prestigious Competition- Toshiba Exploravision Contest. Sciborg Stars plans to continue working on the current project to help the community.

In addition to the joy of winning, the team members got a chance to meet and see the work of over 100 teams, ages 9-14 from all over Virginia. For them, it was an excellent opportunity for exposure to Science, Technology and Competition.

### Longfellow Middle Wins Knowledge Master Open

On Dec. 8, the quiz bowl team of Longfellow Middle School in Falls Church placed first in the nation in the Knowledge Master Open, beating out over 500 schools. Coached by Eugene Huang, the winning team consisted of: Kate Salamido, Bobbie Sheng, William Liu,

Raymond Yang, Renee Wah, Rebecca Hall, Anna Tursi, Tajin Rogers, Junyoung Hwang, Ross Dempsey, Ryan Golant, Allen Cheng, Matthew Steelberg, Tiger Zhang, Emma Fan, Ari Ghasemian, Khoi Tran. This is Longfellow fourth KMO national championship in a row.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean's Thomas Van Wazer (33), a junior forward, has been a key scoring leader for the Highlanders.



Langley coach Travis Hess (center) and his Saxons have played close games this season, but have yet to win.

## Basketball Season Underway

Highlanders win second straight while Saxons in search of first win.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

A couple of losses to begin the season did not keep the McLean High boys' basketball team down for long. The Highlanders, following a 0-2 start, responded with wins over both Falls Church and Yorktown High Schools to even their early season record at 2-2.

McLean, under head coach Kevin Roller, opened the season at the Woodson High Tipoff Tournament where it lost games to both Paul VI High, 63-43, and Robinson, 74-49. The opener loss to the private school Panthers came against a Paul VI team considered to be one of the elite of the metropolitan area.

Gordon Rogo, a junior guard, led the Highlanders with 14 points in the Dec. 1 loss to Paul VI while teammate Thomas Van Wazer, a junior forward, added eight. McLean actually led the game 16-15 after one quarter before the Panthers outscored the Highlanders 21-4 in the second half to carry a 36-20 lead into the half.

Two nights later, McLean again took a lead, 19-15, after one quarter against Robinson before a poor second quarter hurt its cause. The Rams outscored McLean, 16-8, in the second stanza to grab a 31-27 halftime advantage on way to their win. Rogo and Van Wazer were once again high scorers for the Highlanders with 19 and 14 points, respectively. Daniel Lewis, a junior guard, contributed nine points.

McLean, however, got into the win column last Tuesday, Dec. 7 with a 66-41 non-district win at Falls Church. The Highlanders trailed 10-9 after one quarter before outscoring the Jaguars 25-8 in the second quarter to take a 34-18 lead at the half. McLean continued to build on the momentum in the second half by outscoring Falls Church, 32-23, to gain the victory. Three Highlander players - Van Wazer (19 points), Rogo (16) and junior guard Sango Amolo (10) - scored in double figures to pace the guests from the Liberty District. Falls Church, a member of the National District, fell to 0-4 with the setback.

Later last week, in McLean's season opener, the Highlanders won their second straight, defeating another opponent from the National District -

Yorktown - by a 55-45 score. Following a low-scoring 5-5 game after the first quarter, McLean outscored the Patriots (0-4) by an 18-5 margin in the second quarter to grab control of the contest.

Yorktown played well in the third quarter to get within 34-28 before McLean outscored its guests by four points in the final quarter. Rogo led the way for McLean with 15 points while Lewis (11) and Van Wazer (10) also had double figure scoring games. Other contributors in the well-balanced Highlander attack were Amolo (9 points) and junior guard Kevin Lastova (8).

McLean was scheduled to play at home this week on Tuesday, Dec. 14 against The Heights, a private school team from Washington, D.C. The Highlanders, this Friday evening, will host local and Liberty District rival Langley at 7:30. Next Tuesday, Dec. 21 the Highlanders play a Liberty District game at Jefferson.

**LANGLEY**, the two-time defending Liberty District champion, is struggling out of the gate this season with a 0-4 mark. The Saxon losses, all fairly close, have come to visiting Gar-Field, 59-56, on Dec. 3; visiting Hylton (Woodbridge), 84-76, on Dec. 4; at Robinson, 86-80, on Dec. 7; and home against Edison, 71-66, last Friday night, Dec. 10.

Langley, in the loss to non-Northern Region opponent Gar-Field of Dale City, led 47-42 going into the final quarter before the Indians rallied to win. The Saxons' top scorers in the season-opening setback were junior guard Daniel Dixon (17 points) and senior guard David Adams (14).

Against non-region foe Hylton in its second game, Langley was in a 56-56 tie following three quarters before being outscored by eight points in the final quarter. Adams tallied 30 points in the loss. Tristan Evans, a junior guard, was also in double figures scoring for Langley with 16 points while senior guard Braden Anderson and senior center Patrick Haddad both had eight points.

In the loss at Robinson, the Saxons fell way behind, 30-15, after one quarter before rallying to get within 62-60 after three quarters. The Rams outscored Langley by four points in the final quarter to win. Four Saxon players scored in double digits - Dixon (23), Adams (20), Evans (17) and senior guard Jeff Cochran (10).



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Matt Crawford (right), shown here in his Classic finals win over heavyweight opponent Tyler DeLeon of Westfield, went a perfect 5-0 over the two-day event held at Fairfax High School.

## Local Wrestlers Shine at Classic

Marshall's Crawford Takes Heavyweight Title; McLean's Miller Places Third.

The Northern Virginia Wrestling Classic, the local high school early season showcase event, was held this past Friday and Saturday at Fairfax High School.

Thirty-one teams, most from within the Northern Virginia area, participated in the early season tournament. The team champion, for the second straight year, was Westfield High School, which accumulated 271.50 points and had 12 individual place finishers (top eight). Other local team finishes included 11th place Fairfax (90), and 13th place Marshall (84). W.T. Woodson (73) finished 15th, while Centreville High, Madison and Bishop O'Connell (Arlington) finished in a three-way tie for 17th place with 70 points each. McLean was 24th overall.

Marshall High, 13th place overall in the team standings, had an individual winner in heavyweight wrestler Matt Crawford, who went a perfect 5-0 over the two day tournament. Crawford defeated Westfield's Tyler DeLeon in the heavyweight finals, 5-2.

The Statesmen had two other top eight place finishers in James Cusack (6th place at 103) and Zack Brooks (7th at 215).

McLean received a third place individual finish from Austin Miller, who went 5-1 at the 125 weight class. Miller earned a for-

feit win over Ricky Rumley of Tallwood (Virginia Beach) in the third place consolation finals.

Also for the Highlanders, seventh place finishes came from both Adilet Uspeev (135 weight class) and Andy Chung (130).

South Lakes, one of the most improved teams in the Northern Region over the past couple of seasons under head coach Bruce Hall, had an individual champion in Ryan Forrest at 145 weight class. Forrest went a perfect 5-0 to gain the title, defeating Batchka Zulkhuu of Potomac Falls in the finals, 10-2 (major decision).

Meanwhile, the Seahawks also got a second place finish - that coming from Jake Slover at 171 division. Slover, who was 4-1, lost his finals match to Jake Fahlfeder of Fauquier, 11-3 (major decision).

Fairfax High, 11th place overall in the team standings, received a second place individual finish from Joseph Vanderplas, who went 4-1 over the tournament at the 215 weight class. Vanderplas lost a tough 5-2 decision to Justin Tribble of North Stafford in the finals.

Madison High's Robert Dooley earned the first place championship at the 119 weight class. Dooley went a perfect 5-0 and defeated Westfield's Dennon Caranza-Kee, 5-3, in the championship match.

# OPEN HOUSES

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## HOLIDAY

# Sparkling Holidays

FROM PAGE 17

mousse with good fruit flavors and are lively and crisp. Some widely distributed Cava we recommend are **Conde de Subirats NV Brut Cava** (\$13), **U Mes u Fan Tres NV 1+1+3** (\$16) and the **Cristalino Brut Cava** (\$9). Italian Prosecco is made from the Prosecco grape grown just north of Venice. We recommend **Bisol, Canella** and **Zardetto**. Asti comes from the Piedmont, and we like those spritzzy wines made by **Cinzano Moscato d'Asti**.

Finally, if you wish to buy American, we would especially recommend the sparkling wines of Gruet, which come from, of all places, New Mexico! Look for the **Gruet Demi-Sec** (\$14) if you prefer an off-dry wine.

**MODERATELY PRICED.** Since there is such an abundance of moderately priced sparkling wines from all over the world, we limit our recommendations to those you may not know. As with inexpensive sparklers, the vintage date isn't important on most of these wines. We recently returned from Austria and found some excellent Champagne-style wines made from Austrian varietals like Grüner Veltliner and Welschriesling. One that is widely available is the **Steininger NV Grüner Veltliner Sekt** (\$24). We also recently tasted some French sparkling wines made outside Champagne that we especially like. From Burgundy and made with Pinot Noir grapes in an elegant creamy style are the **Domaine Michel Sarrazin Crémant de**



**Bourgogne** (\$25) and **Charles Duret's Crémant de Bourgogne Rosé** (\$20). From Alsace there is the powerful and lush Wolfberger **Crémant d'Alsace Brut** (\$20). From America we highly recommend a superb sparkling wine from Virginia called **TJ Virginia Fizz** (\$23). It is a crémant style wine made from 100 percent Chardonnay by the talented team of Claude Thibaut and Manuel Janisson in Charlottesville. It has fresh apple aromas and flavors with a yeasty creamy palate filled with fruit and has a long finish. Finally, if you'd like try something from the Southern Hemisphere, we recommend an attractive rosé sparkler showing pretty light red berry fruit, the **Graham Beck Brut Rosé** (\$19).

**LUXURY CUVÉES.** There are a lot of wonderful wines to choose from in this category. Champagne usually heads the luxury list, but in fact, there are lots of other top quality sparklers you can enjoy. It is hard to go wrong with Champagne; it's not really all a matter of taste, and the price you are willing to pay. We like non-vintage and vintage **Pol Roger, Henriot, Champagne Roland Champion, Champagne Trouillard, and Tattinger**, to name but a few.

The **NV Champagne Roland Champion Blanc de Blancs** (\$66) is a rich yeasty wine offering attractive lemon citrus aromas

and flavors. Tattinger is recognized worldwide for producing some of the finest

Champagnes available. The **Tattinger Brut La Française** (\$35) is an attractive, rich tasting blend of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, while the **2004 Brut Millesimé** (\$80) raises the bar in term of complexity, elegance and refinement. There are many outstanding sparklers produced outside of Champagne in California, Italy, and Austria. These are equal in quality to Champagne and are made using the same *methode champenoise*, but they cannot be called Champagne because they are not made in the Champagne region of France. Argyle Winery in Oregon produces some of the finest sparklers in the United States. Their sparklers sell at all price levels, but if you want something very special, try the refined and elegant **Argyle 2000 Extended Triage Brut** (\$80). Much harder to find, but worth the effort are the Austrian Sekts of Willi Bründlmayer. His **NV Sekt Brut** (\$44) and **NV Sekt Brut Rosé** (\$44) are relatively expensive, but outstanding in quality.

Finally, there are no finer sparklers from Italy than the refined and delicate Bellavista Franciacortas. Try the **Franciacorta Brut Cuvée NV** (\$52) or the **Franciacorta Gran Cuvée Satèn** (\$80).

See Champagne and sparkling wine special reports by the International Wine Review at [www.i-winereview.com](http://www.i-winereview.com). Read about the 170 year old Champagne discovered on the Baltic Ocean floor at [facebook.com/iwinereview](http://facebook.com/iwinereview).

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/DEC. 16

**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](mailto:alnorthernva@yahoo.com).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 17

**Line Dance Class.** 10 a.m. Durga Temple, 8400 Durga Place, Fairfax Station. For age 55 and up. All levels. Ongoing, meets every Friday. \$5. Registration required at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec) or 703-324-5544, TTY 711.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 18

**T'ai Chi Practice.** 8 a.m. at St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Saturdays through March. Free, open to all. No special clothing or equipment needed. [www.FreeTaiChi.org](http://www.FreeTaiChi.org) or 703-759-9141.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 23

**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](mailto:revku@cox.net).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 24

**Washington DC Jewish Community Center's Day of Service.** Help at one of over 50 non-profits throughout the area. Projects vary from 2-4 hours and encompass a variety of activities such as throwing holiday parties for children, visiting seniors and serving meals to the homeless. Family and group projects are also available. \$20. Register at [www.washingtondcjcc.org/volunteer](http://www.washingtondcjcc.org/volunteer).

### TUESDAY/DEC. 28

**Tyson's 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](http://www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org).

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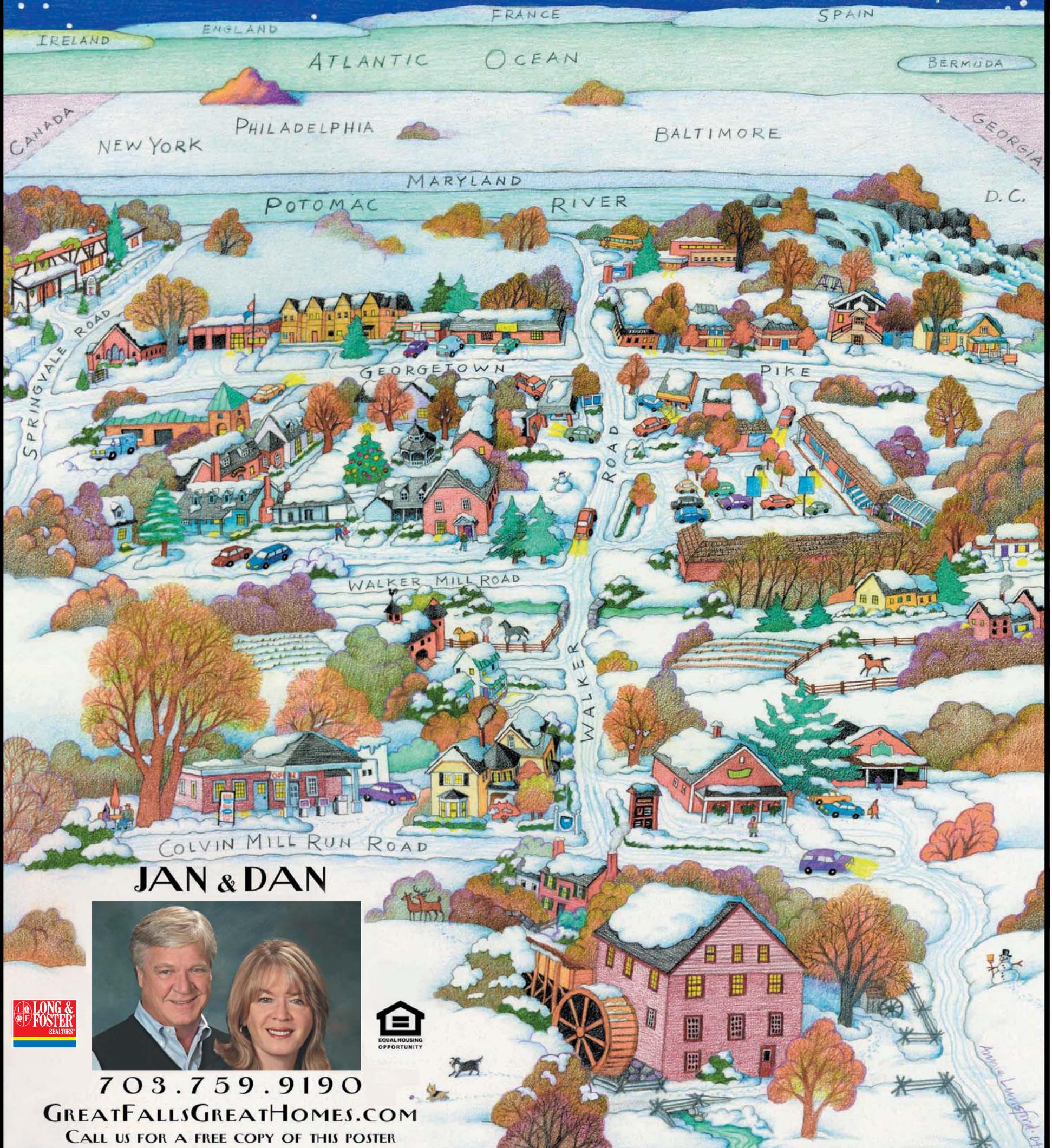
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