

Ringling in Holidays

NEWS, PAGE 4

The annual Winter Fest is one of the many programs supported by the McLean Community Foundation. This year's McLean's community parade will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m.

McLean Sweats For Vets

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Time To Give

NEWS, PAGE 3

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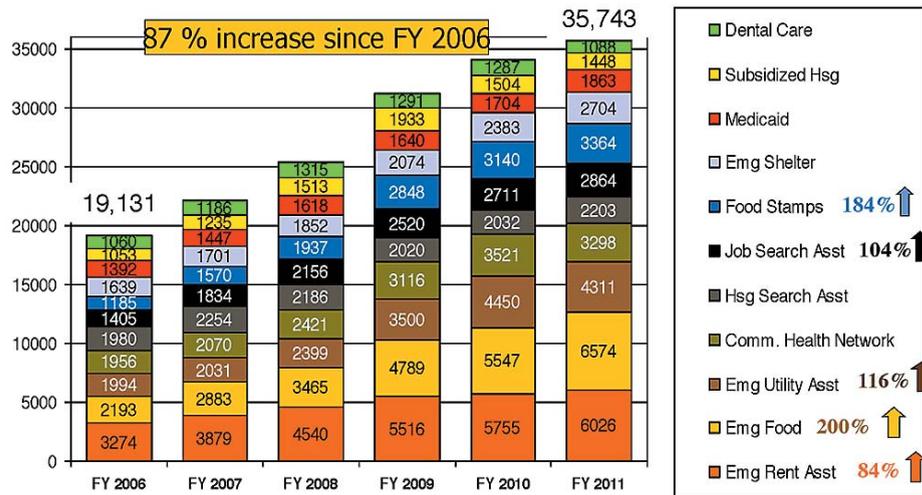
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NEWS

Average daily number of calls to Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) has steadily increased from an average of 297 calls per day in FY 2007 to 441 per day this year.

"Top 11" CSP Contact Topics (FY06-FY11)



Time to Give

Demand for food, other services increases in Fairfax County.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On a recent Tuesday night at ECHO's distribution center in West Springfield, the parking lot is jammed, and social workers are busy helping needy families stock up on holiday food, clothing and other necessities.

"Here's an apple pie, mommy. Can we have it?" asks 9-year-old Marjorie, a fourth-grader at Lynbrook Elementary School.

Her mother, Dayance, nods, as she balances Marjorie's baby sister on her hip and sorts through clothing.

"This is a fairly typical Tuesday evening," said Meg Brantley, ECHO's Executive Director. "We are lucky because we have such a generous community. We just got a bumper crop of food from the annual Boy Scout Food Drive, more than 25,000 pounds and the Franconia Police Department donated 3,000 pounds of food, but the need is always there."

Founded in 1969 by nine local churches, ECHO (Ecumenical Communities Helping Others), is an all-volunteer non-profit serving families in the Burke, Springfield and Lorton area. In a store-like setting, ECHO distributes donated emergency food, clothing, and household items, provides transportation and offers a variety of family-counseling and financial-assistance services.

Like many agencies and non-profits in Fairfax County, ECHO has seen a dramatic increase in clients and requests for assistance since the recession hit in 2008.

In 2010, ECHO assisted more than 1,472 households, an increase of nearly 30 percent over FY07.

According to Brantley, the organization also continued its upward trend in food distribution with a record 180,000 pounds of food going out the door to 1,000 households this fiscal year, and a record number requests for financial and housing assistance,



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Linda McCosky of Springfield fills bags with groceries at ECHO, a charitable organization that provides assistance to those individuals and families in the Burke and Springfield communities experiencing temporary difficulties. She has volunteered with the organization for more than a year. "I do it because it makes me feel good," says McCosky.

such as help paying utility bills.

"We're seeing more of a financial need, people calling for rent and utilities. The foreclosure crisis has trickled down, because it's usually not the owner of the home who needs emergency help, it's the family he's been renting to," said Brantley.

Brantley said the community has come through with donations, and they raised nearly \$30,000 at their bi-annual yard sale, but ECHO's food pantry contains 35 percent less than it did last year.

"We're still giving out about 160 pounds of food per family, but this year it may be a chicken instead of a turkey we're giving for Thanksgiving," Brantley said.

THE STORIES are similar at agencies all across the county.

Social workers say the fallout of the 2008 recession continues to reverberate. People who lost their

SEE AID AGENCIES, PAGE 12



Fairfax County's new "12 Ways of Giving" calendar. Visitors to the website can click on one of the gift-wrapped packages, and discover a new way of giving back to the community.

A New Way to Give Fairfax County launches "12 Ways of Giving" digital calendar.

If you're tired of buying the latest technical gadget for the holidays, Fairfax County has a new way for you to give gifts and give back to the community.

The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3), Celebrate Fairfax, and Volunteer Fairfax recently developed Fairfax Community Connections, a collaborative initiative to promote and recognize ways to give, gather and get involved in Fairfax County. Called Fairfax Community Connections, this is a new web portal designed to share and find opportunities to donate, volunteer and make a difference through activities that are already happening in the community.

"This is a new communications channel using social media and online tools to link the many organizations that are doing good things in our community with those looking for ways to make a difference," said Patricia Stevens, director of OP3.

"We're really excited about our 12 Days of Giving calendar," Stevens said. "It's a way to give back to the community, and give a meaningful gift for someone on your list."

For example, if you go to fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/enews/enews1211.html, you can click on one of the 12 gift-wrapped items, and learn more about that particular gift. If you click on the image of trees, you can find out how to "give" five native trees that will be planted in Fairfax County in honor of your family member, friend or client.

For additional creative and philanthropic gift-giving ideas, Stevens suggests checking out the following sites:

- ❖ www.FairfaxCommunityConnections.net
- ❖ www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org
- ❖ Catalogue for Philanthropy, www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org/cfpdc/nonprofits.php which includes more than 100 Fairfax County organizations.

The United Way Of the National Capital Area Fairfax Falls church Community Impact Fund at <https://donate.unitedwaynca.org/page/contribute/donate-impact-funds>, which goes to organizations in Fairfax County.

— VICTORIA ROSS

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



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

E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Nov. 30, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

NEWS

Santa greets children at last year's Winter Fest in McLean, one of the many community events and activities supported by the McLean Community Foundation.

PHOTO BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION



Foundation Supports McLean Community

Over 30 years, foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in grants.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When it comes to giving back, the McLean Community Foundation knows how it goes. Founded 30 years ago, they have contributed more than \$1 million in grants to local service organizations and projects.

Rip Sullivan, president of the foundation's board, says "our general mission is to nurture McLean as a community and our home."

In addition to supporting the annual Winter Fest, McLean's annual event, they support schools for various projects.

Over the past year, they funded Franklin Sherman

Elementary's courtyard and outdoor learning classroom, a rain garden at Longfellow Middle School and Churchill Road Elementary School's Outdoor Odyssey Program, among others.

"We've found that as school funds have been drained, more and more have come to us," said Pamela Danner, a past president of the organization.

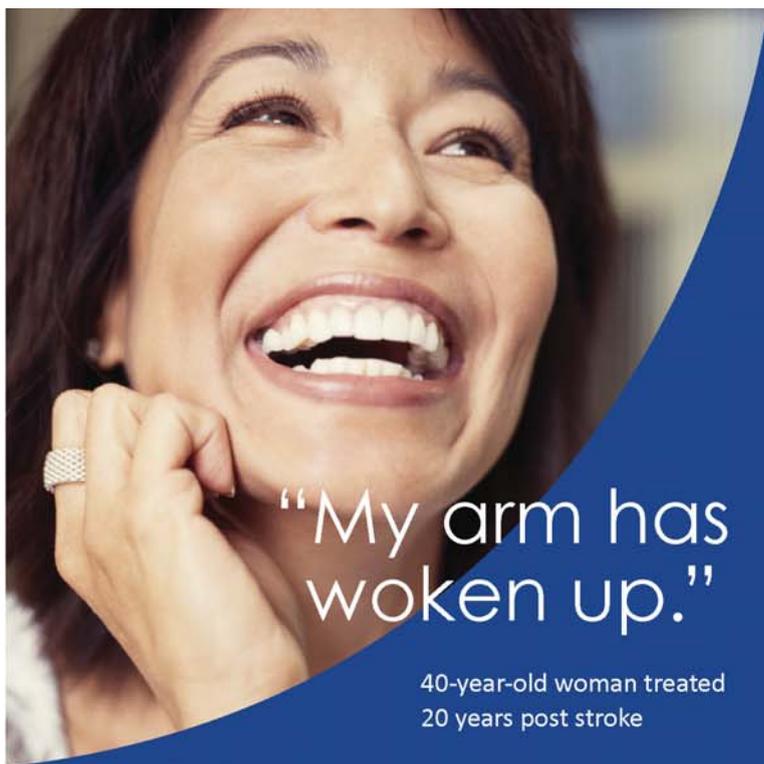
The organization was known as the McLean Citizens Foundation until last year, when it was changed to better reflect who they serve.

They also contribute to public safety organizations, including more than \$100,000 to the McLean Volunteer Fire Department.

"It's been a fantastic partnership that allows McLean to get things that we couldn't otherwise provide," said Steve Arner, president of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department.

The MCF is always looking for more organizations to support through grant. Sullivan says "there's nothing more frustrating than finding out we've gotten only one or two proposals."

More information is available at www.mcleancommunityfoundation.org.



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McLean WinterFest Returns Dec. 2-4

McLean WinterFest organizers are putting the final touches on McLean's community parade to be held on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. The parade will start at Fleetwood Road and march down Old Chain Bridge Road to Elm Street. Calling the parade from the stage in front of Langley Shopping Center will be WUSA's Emmy-winning journalist Peggy Fox. Parade participants are encouraged to check the schedule of events on the parade web site at www.mcleanwinterfest.org.

In promoting the parade, steering committee members are reaching out to local businesses to help Share of McLean fill its pantry in preparation for the holidays. Share is an all-volunteer organization serving local families who have fallen on hard times through crisis intervention, food, clothing and furniture donations, and other programs to help the local community.

Pre-parade entertainment will begin at 3:15 p.m. and feature performances from Bach to Rock, the Women's Club of McLean, Kent Gardens and Spring Hill

Elementary School children, and the McLean High School Dance Team.

This year McLean WinterFest will be a weekend of festivities:

- ❖ Holiday Tree Lighting: Friday, Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.
- ❖ Reindog Pageant: Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8 a.m.
- ❖ WinterFest Parade: Sunday, Dec. 4 at 4 p.m.

Organizers are still looking for community support in any of three ways: participate, donate or help promote WinterFest. Visit www.mcleanwinterfest.org for additional information.

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THE COUNTY LINE

Water Wars

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

It's not Owens Valley. There's no William Mulholland, no Jack Nicholson or Faye Dunaway. But Fairfax County has a water war as real as that depicted in "Chinatown," the 1974 film based on how Los Angeles got water.

In the early 1900s, William Mulholland, the superintendent of the Los Angeles Department of Power and Water, had a 223-mile aqueduct built from Owens Valley California to Los Angeles to carry water to what was the state's fastest growing metropolis. He bought the water rights from the farmers of Owens Valley for about half what the city could have paid and subterfuge was later charged. Lake Owen dried up leaving an alkali desert. Los Angeles still gets half its water from Owens Valley and is trying to deal with the environmental damage of this diversion to this day.

Like Los Angeles in 1913, the Tysons Corner/Merrifield area in Fairfax County is anticipated to be the fastest growing section of the county in the next decades. Tysons alone is slated to grow from an edge city of 100,000 day workers and 19,000 residents, to an urban center with 200,000 workers and a population of 100,000 people living primarily in high rise buildings. It would still draw upwards of 55,000 shoppers daily to its upscale stores.

Supplying water to this metropolis could be worth millions and perhaps billions over the coming years.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors set Dec. 6 for a public hearing on a proposed ordinance that would allow the board to set maximum water rates and fees for residents even if they get water from other municipal water utilities, Falls Church, City of Fairfax, Herndon and Vienna.

It would also allow the Board of Supervisors to set service areas for Fairfax Water, the county's water utility, which would be areas of future development where builders would be required to hook up to Fairfax Water.

Laurie Genevro Cole, a member of Vienna's town council, said the way the board is proceeding with the ordinance "smacks of a power grab." She said the mayor and council in Vienna had no prior warning of the ordinance, despite the fact that discussions on the water issues have gone on for years.



Sharon Bulova,
Fairfax
Board Chair-
man



Linda Smyth
(D-Provi-
dence)



John Foust
(D-
Dranesville)



Laurie Cole,
Vienna Town
Council

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said at the Nov. 1 meeting that he felt the board was "heavy handed" in proposing the ordinance and argued that the board give more time to working out an agreement with cities and towns.

He feared the action would impact the negotiation on other issues between the county and municipalities.

"He's right," said Cole, "this will make it harder." Nevertheless, Cook voted for the public hearing.

The Board of Supervisors voted 9 to 1 to move forward with the hearing. The nay vote came from Pat S. Herrity, (R-Springfield) who said the Democratic majority on the board hurried the ordinance before Election Day to help the candidacy of John W. Foust, (D. Dranesville). Foust won re-election with 61 percent of the vote.

The water battle in Fairfax has been a protracted issue for over a decade. Right after World War II, long before Fairfax County's extraordinary growth, county homes outside of the towns got their water from wells.

Laurie Cole said Vienna provided service to customers outside of the town as the county rezoned land for development in areas where the county could not provide service.

She said the town extended its water mains and increased its capacity at Fairfax County's request. "We have provided excellent water service to customers inside and outside the Town for decades," Cole said.

Falls Church has a similar story, but with a twist. Falls Church charges some 60 percent more for its water than Fairfax residents pay Fairfax Water. The city serves about 34,000 accounts; some 90 percent of those are outside of the City of Falls Church. County officials estimate some 100,000 Fairfax residents are getting water from municipalities and in the case of Falls Church paying a lot more for it.

Fairfax County presses to control water as new development looms in Tysons and Merrifield.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon S. Bulova (D) said "that inequity is something that is just unfair."

From 1981 to 2008, the City of Falls Church directed surplus water revenues to its general tax fund. It is estimated that some \$58 million were added to the town's coffers. In January 2010, Fairfax Circuit Court Judge R. Terrence Ney ruled that this practice was in effect imposing an unconstitutional tax on county citizens and halted it.

But Falls Church officials assert that Fairfax County is taking steps that might not be legal or appropriate.

"We have shared our concerns with Fairfax County that the proposed ordinance is legally questionable and anti-competitive, and not in the best interests of our customers," said Lawrence Webb, City Councilman and member of the Falls Church Public Utilities Commission, in an email. "Unfortunately, the county has not responded to these concerns and appears to be rushing this through to approval."

Supervisors Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence) and Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) have large numbers of constituents who pay what they say are exorbitant prices for Falls Church water. Last spring, after Falls Church announced it might have to raise its fees, Smyth and Hudgins asked the Consumer Protection Commission to study the fee structure.

Among its finding was that Falls Church continues to undercharge for hookups to win new customers and expand its territories, but charges older customers for the increased costs of new business.

Under the new rate, effective Oct. 1, Fall Church would charge a typical Fairfax County resident \$62.13 per quarter, some 60 percent more than Fairfax Water's charge of \$38.76.

It was from this consumer's report that Fairfax County's outgoing county executive, Anthony H. Griffin prepared the proposed ordinance.

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Scouting for Food

On Saturday, Nov. 12, Boy Scout Troop 1130 of McLean, participated in the area-wide Scouting for Food drive to support area food shelters. Troop 1130 contributed 160 volunteer hours and collected more than 4,000 pounds of food from McLean area residents. All of the food collected by Troop 1130 was donated to the SHARE food bank at McLean Baptist Church. Boy Scout Troop 1130 (www.troop1130.com) is sponsored by Charles Wesley United Methodist Church in McLean.

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6 ❖ McLEAN CONNECTION ❖ NOVEMBER 23-29, 2011

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Formula Found to Complete Dulles Rail

Board of Supervisors to vote on plan Dec. 6.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

After weeks of negotiation, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority and federal, state and local "stakeholders" have agreed to a financing plan that would allow the \$6 billion Dulles Rail Project to complete its second phase to Dulles Airport and Ashburn.

But the financing plan is still not a full green light for the troubled project. The agreement stipulates that Loudoun and Fairfax Counties will pay for the \$2.8 billion in reduced Dulles Rail costs. Loudoun County voted last Wednesday to approve the agreement and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on the measure at its Dec. 6 meeting.

IN ORDER TO PAY their share, the two counties will receive some \$250 million in federal loans and another \$150 million from the State of Virginia, but even with the loans, the main source of funding remains the receipts from the Dulles Toll Road, according to several board members.

Mame Reiley said the federal loan should have been \$1 billion.

Over the next 40 years, the tolls would rise from \$1.25 at the main toll plaza and 75 cents at the ramps to \$9 dollars at the plaza and \$7 dollars at the ramps in 2047. Indeed the first big jump comes in 2013 when the rate will be \$2.75 at the plaza and \$1.75 at ramps and by 2019 a day's commute would be \$8.

But as the tolls rise, many question whether motorists will continue to use the toll road in the volume that MWAA's Wilbur Smith Associates estimated in 2009. According to TOLLROAD news, an electronic trade publication, toll roads can lose riders if rates get too high.

Fred Costello of the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations said in an interview that the rail users and the airlines should pay large bites of this because they are profiting from the rail system to Dulles.

Fairfax Board of Supervisors were told that a key element of shaving \$1.058 billion from the Phase 2 Dulles Rail cost would be to move some \$250 mil-

lion in construction charges directly to the tax payers of Fairfax County.

In a detailed briefing last summer, federal officials told the Fairfax Board that to save Phase 2 of the Dulles Rail project called for moving the \$136 million cost of a Metro station at Route 28 in Fairfax County and \$105 million in parking garages at the Herndon-Monroe and the Route 28 stations to Fairfax County.

The series of cost cuts envisioned by Ray LaHood, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, would reduce the total cost of Phase 2 from some \$3.5 billion to \$2.767 billion which was more in line with figures proposed when the project got underway.

As part of the deal, Fairfax County is expected to seek public-private partnerships to build the garages and the Metro station, allowing private contractors to share in parking fees and advertising revenue.

IN ADDITION to shifting costs to Fairfax, LaHood's plan would junk the idea of a \$912 million underground airport Metro station near the terminal and build a \$350 million station next to the airport's north garage. It was the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority's proposal to build the underground station that set off nearly a year of political wrangling and warnings that the Metro project might end at Tysons Corner.

Under LaHood's proposal the nearly \$80 million cost of two parking garages in Loudoun would be shifted to Loudoun's tax payers.

LaHood trimmed another \$135 million from the estimate mainly by reducing the yard and shop facilities by \$81 million and using steel rather than concrete at a savings of \$35 million.

But the conundrum for Fairfax Supervisors is how they could raise an additional \$250 million.

LaHood used TIFIA to assist Loudoun and Fairfax Counties in enticing public-private investment and helping to defray the costs associated with the assumption of Phase 2 parking facilities and the Route 28 station.

Meanwhile, Friday the House and Senate both approved legislation that will prohibit members of the MWAA from serving past the end of their term and would allow for all members to be removed for cause.

The bill also provides for membership in MWAA to be increased from 13 to 17 and gives Virginia two new appointments. Maryland and the District of Columbia will each get an additional member.

BULLETIN BOARD

MONDAY/NOV. 28

Ayr Hill Garden Club. 10:45 a.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Justine Harris, President of Fairfax Ferns Garden Club, demonstrates how to make flower designs with holiday colors. The Arbor House Trunk Show will sell flower arranging and gardening items. The public is invited. Reserve at plhweiss@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY/NOV. 29

Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Holiday Mixer. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, Tysons Corner. Take a break for a festive holiday mixer evening. \$15-

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

\$20. Register at www.vtrcc.org.
Resources to Help Sick and Elderly Family Members. 7 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Tools to make the best health care decisions. When hospice and palliative care is necessary, advanced directives, living wills and more. \$25-\$35. www.thewomenscenter.org.

Be Clutter Free. 7 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. A licensed, insured professional organizer with suggestions for downsizing and organizing. \$25-\$35. www.thewomenscenter.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

Youth Sport Injuries and Concussions: What You Need to

Know. 7 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. Dr. Matthew Levine of INOVA Health Systems will discuss initial on-field evaluation, post injury management and return to play implications, as well as complications resulting from multiple concussions. Free. Register at 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=82.

THURSDAY/DEC. 1

Financial Planning During Separation and Divorce. 6:30 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. A seminar on all financial components of the property settlement agreement. \$40-\$50. www.thewomenscenter.org.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

OPINION

Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade, and we begin getting inquiries from teachers and parents about submitting artwork and writing almost as soon as summer is over.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories and photographs.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or on CD. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Please provide the submissions no later than Thursday, Dec. 8.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings, paintings, photographs of 2-D and 3-D artwork that have been digitally photographed or scanned as .jpeg files.

- ❖ Short stories, poetry, essays, class-wide prompt writings.

- ❖ Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and home schoolers.

Email submissions for the Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston and Oak Hill/Herndon Children's Connections to ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connections to

ChildrensSouth@Connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Potomac Almanac to Steven Mauren at

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Arlington Children's Connection to Steven Mauren at

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Children's Centre View to Steven Mauren at

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette in the Alexandria Gazette Packet or Mount Vernon Gazette to Steven Mauren at

To send CDs of artwork or CDs of typed submissions, mark them clearly by school and/or hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

EDITORIAL

Kurspahic Takes over as Editor of Four More Papers

Kemal Kurspahic, longtime Connection managing editor, has taken the helm of the Springfield Connection, Burke Connection, Fairfax Connection and Fairfax Station/Lorton/Clifton Connection. He adds these responsibilities to his editing of the Vienna/Oakton Connection, McLean Connection, Great Falls Connection, Reston Connection and Oak Hill/Herndon Connection.

Kurspahic, who has won some of the most prestigious international awards as well as

Call for student artwork and writing; deadline Dec. 5.

many awards for local news coverage, focuses on a well-honed local mission with a lean team of reporters, photographers and freelancers, as well as editorial assistant Amna Rehmatulla.

Kurspahic was among the 50 World Press Freedom Heroes named more than a decade ago, honored again in Vienna, Austria in September, 2010.

In December 1988, Kemal Kurspahic was named editor-in-chief of Oslobodjenje, Sarajevo's 70,000 circulation daily newspaper, the first editor of that paper not appointed by the Communist Party. Then after the communists were ousted, Kurspahic maintained editorial independence against a coalition of nationalist parties who wished to control the press.

During the siege of Sarajevo, with snipers' bullets flying, shelling which destroyed the paper's building, no electricity and very little newsprint, Kurspahic guided the paper's multi-ethnic staff in a nuclear bomb shelter, publishing the paper, providing one of the city's only sources of information. Often its pages were filled with lists of the dead.

A U.S. citizen since 2001, Kurspahic is the author of several books, including "As Long as Sarajevo Exists" and "Prime Time Crime." He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute for Peace and also worked for the United Nations.

Questions? Comments? Story ideas?

You can reach Kurspahic at Kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON

TWITTER @MARYKIMM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Paradigm Shift Needed in FCPS

To the Editor:

With a quasi-new School Board and the recruitment of a new superintendent, this system has the opportunity to reinvent itself, not just in rhetoric but in words and action. FCPS has had a great reputation, some of it built on old laurels. This is an opportunity to create a place where children can actually become. A place where homework is not four hours a night of senseless seatwork and where the stress level rivals a combat zone. It isn't good for humans — students, teachers, parents, administrators. The efficacy of homework is debatable, and many educators now say that it is completely without merit. It dominates our family lives and creates an atmosphere of micromanagement. I recently realized that my children would soon be grown and I have spent 12 years "getting through it"

with small periods of happiness between big fights with teachers and administrations.

What if we created a place where people felt welcome? What if we actually created emotional safety? What if homework was given only to the degree that it was meaningful and reasonable? (I still remember the wonderful elementary school teachers who "assigned" an hour of play outside). Studies show that trust and rapport are the most important aspects in seeking to enhance education and outcomes. (tests!) Ask yourselves this: how would you feel about a workplace where you were so closely monitored that you could do nothing right, where social interaction was not only discouraged but punished? Repressive and controlling policies like security cameras and the disgusting discipline policy create a toxic environment. We can learn from the research on community oriented policing that by creating an environment where no one feels

safe and everyone is under suspicion, bad events will happen, and are actually caused by these policies.

In this political cycle I was encouraged that some candidates for school board actually seem to get it. They ran on changing the horrific outcomes of zero tolerance. They acknowledged that this policy is not only harmful, but lethal. It is unfair, undemocratic and a violation of our children's civil liberties. It can strike your child, regardless of how accomplished, honest, hardworking or "good" they are.

I am hopeful that FCPS will un-hinge itself from some of these repressive tactics when they seek, and hopefully are granted, a waiver from some aspects of NCLB, the most harmful and poorly conceptualized piece of legislation ever launched against children and parents.

We need a system that starts from a simple place: the love of children. Some administrators

love buildings, and some love their jobs. You may say that this is simplistic but it is a critical starting place for change. Our schools must be student-centered, they must be built and designed, philosophically and literally, with students first.

Jan Falk, LCSW
Fairfax Station

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

Letters to the Editor
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Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.
By e-mail:
mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

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WEEK IN MCLEAN

McLean Students to Perform in New York Parade

McLean's own Alex Lichtenstein (Langley High School, 17) and Christopher Paul (Langley High School, 16) will sing and dance in the opening number for this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, alongside 140 of their fellow Stagedoor Manor students. The number — an all-new, original song written specifically for the event — will be a celebration of the famed Parade's landmark 85th Anniversary. Following the opening, the students will then make their way to the top of the Parade route and march the entire length of the Parade, eventually escorting Santa Claus into Herald Square for the NBC national telecast's finale. This year's appearance will mark Stagedoor Manor's third consecutive Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade performance.

For nearly forty years, children and teens from all over the world have been traveling to Stagedoor Manor to perfect their skills in acting, singing, and dance.

MITRE Purchases Land on Colshire Drive

The MITRE Corporation has purchased a 2.9 acre parcel of land adjoining its existing campus on Colshire Drive in McLean. The parcel, which was purchased from Cityline Partners, is zoned and entitled for construction of a 340,000 square foot office building and parking garage and is proximate to the planned Tysons East Metro stop. MITRE's McLean-area campus currently consists of three buildings on Colshire Drive and other leased office space in the Tysons Corner area.

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NEWS



More than 100 people participate in this year's Sweat for a Vet event at Tysons Sport and Health, which raised more than \$100,000 for rehabilitation equipment for local wounded warriors.



Members of TNT Fitness, in the yellow jerseys, join other cyclists in the second annual Sweat for a Vet event at Tysons Sport and Health Saturday Nov. 12. The event raised more than \$100,000 for rehabilitation equipment for wounded warriors, and the TNT Fitness team raised more than \$25,000.

McLean Sweats For Vets

Three-hour spin class raises more than \$100,000.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The basketball court at Tysons Sport and Health was covered with machines Saturday Nov. 12, as about 100 rowing machines and exercise bikes were manned by participants in the second annual Sweat for a Vet event.

The three-hour event raised more than \$100,000 for rehabilitation equipment for wounded warriors recovering in local hospitals. More than 25 other health clubs around the world also participated and were streamed live via Skype to participants at Tysons Sport and Health.

Riders could use rowing machine, regular exercise bicycles or special hand cycles, the same type that veterans with leg injuries use to rehabilitate. While some stayed on their bikes the entire three hours, others came as part of a team, and took breaks for water and donated snacks.

Local band The Taste performed for part of the event, which also featured wounded warriors onstage and other professional trainers.

Carlos Evans, a Marine who was

wounded in Afghanistan on his fourth deployment was one such participant. Evans, who is married with two children, stepped on an IED last year and lost both legs and his left hand. But he was right there during Sweat for a Vet, using a hand cycle throughout the day. "It's very motivational to me, and it gives me hope to see so many people dedicated to this one cause," said Evans, who recently participated in the Army Ten Miler and the Marine Corps Marathon.

The event raised funds for Project VisAbility, a nonprofit that uses the money raised to buy exercise and rehab equipment. "We wanted to make sure that we could have our disabled folks not only participate, but inspire people as instructors as well," said Debbie Miller, president of Project VisAbility.

Last year the event raised \$70,000, and this year participants raised more than \$100,000 before the event even started. One of the top teams was TNT Fitness, who brought more than 20 people and raised \$25,000 for this year's event.

"The event just has a great energy to it, and of course it's for a great cause," said Maz Movahed, owner of TNT Fitness. "I've spent the last day and half with a lot of our veterans, just talking with them, learning their stories and watching how positive they are despite all they've been through, it's very inspiring."

Jason Carden, one of the partici-



Carlos Evans, who lost both of his legs and his left hand while deployed in Afghanistan, participates in Sweat for a Vet, an event that raised more than \$100,000 for rehab equipment for wounded warriors in local hospitals.

pants, is a regular at Sport and Health, and said he was glad to come in to support the cause.

"It's amazing to think about what these



The Taste performs cover songs while more than 100 people participate in a three-hour spin class, part of the second annual Sweat for a Vet event at Tysons Sport and Health Saturday, Nov. 12.

guys have given up for all of us, supporting an event like this is the least we can do," he said. "They've worked hard to recover from their injuries, and I feel

blessed just to have a chance to help out." More information can be found at www.sweatforavet.org, or www.projectvisability.org.



Go to the place where the thing you wish to know is native; your best teacher is there. Where the thing you wish to know is so dominant that you must breathe its very atmosphere, there teaching is most thorough and learning is most easy. You acquire a language most readily in the country where it is spoken; you study mineralogy best among miners; and so with everything else.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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Agencies Report High Demand

FROM PAGE 3

jobs in 2008 or 2009 are draining personal savings, and the clock is ticking on social safety nets such as unemployment and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits, which provide a two-year cushion at best.

"What is particularly alarming is that many of the families calling are unemployed, and have been for a while," said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread (ODB), a non-profit serving Fairfax County's working poor for 25 years. More than half of ODB's clients are children.

"The low-wage jobs are decreasing. Some families that request utility assistance have been without electricity for over a month. They exhausted their personal resources and nonprofit resources and literally were living in the dark. Now that the temperature is dropping they are desperate," Whetzel said.

Since July of 2011, ODB has been tracking the number of clients they have to turn away who request financial assistance.

"The number is 60 families a month, and rising. And these are people that are able to work, but just cannot find work," Whetzel said. "The low-wage jobs that were once there for them, are just not there anymore."

At ODB, there is a steady waitlist for food assistance. "Another way that we track the need for food assistance is the number of requests for one-time emergency deliveries we make to families in dire need of food. This number averages 10 per month. Last month we made 21 deliveries. And we are leaning in that direction again this month," she said.

Food for Others, the largest direct distributor of free food in Northern Virginia, reported it delivered a record 2.7 million pounds of food to an average of 125 families a day last year.

"We are always slammed," said Lynne Galanis, Food for Other's finance director.

"This is our busy time of year, and we're seeing a sustained high volume of calls," said executive director Roxanne Rice.

John Horejsi, founder and coordinator of SALT (Social Action Linking Together), said Catholic Charities of Arlington has experienced a 450 percent increase in requests for emergency assistance from families, "With 17 tons of food delivered, Catholic Charities say they are still dangerously low on grocery supplies," Horejsi said.

FACETS, a Fairfax-based non-profit committed to helping vulnerable families struggling with homelessness, has also seen a surge in needs for services.

"At one point during the recession, we saw a 60 percent increase in our services," said Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director. "Since there has been such an increase in the amount of services requested, and the time we need to spend working with our clients to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, the donations are not keeping up with this increased need."

"The call volume for assistance countywide has gone through the roof," said Patricia Stevens, director of the county's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3). "People are living close to the margin, and something like losing that second job, or running out of savings, can tip the balance."

The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) serves as a clearing house and point of contact for public agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses.

Stevens said Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) tracks the volume and type of calls



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Patricia Stevens, executive director of Fairfax County's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3), unveils its new "12 Days of Giving Calendar."

that come into its hotline.

In 2007, CSP had five "high volume" days with more than 400 calls. In 2010, there was a 60 percent jump in days when social workers were handling more than 400 calls, and one in every five days had more than 500 calls.

AVERAGE DAILY CALL VOLUME has steadily increased from an average of 297 calls per day in FY 2007 to 441 per day this year. Since August 2006, there has been a prolonged increase in the number of requests to CSP, which is one indicator, Stevens said, of economic stress in the community.

And while Fairfax County still ranks as one of the wealthiest in the nation, the number of residents living in poverty (considered to be less than \$60,000 annually for a family of four) increased 33 percent from 2000 to 2009, according to a report released by Fairfax County's Human Services Council this month. Nearly 58,000 county residents currently live in poverty.

According to Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 2,000 Fairfax County Public School students were identified as homeless during the 2010-11 school year, and one in four FCPS students is eligible for free and reduced lunches.

Despite the bleak statistics, there are bright spots.

"We are a caring community, and people are extremely generous this time of year," Rice said. "It's a double-edged sword. People are taken over by the holiday spirit, and we're able to provide for the demand, but the demand for food is there in January and February too."

"Overall, Fairfax County has done better than many parts of the country. We're a vibrant community of diverse people who want to give," Stevens said, "but they are not always aware of how to give so that their donations stay in the community. What I find is that it's a matter of raising awareness, which is something we're all trying to do."

Where To Give

Consider donating time, food, household supplies or financial aid to one of these local organizations this holiday season.

In addition to the organizations listed below, Fairfax County maintains an online database of human services organizations that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to anyone with internet access. The Human Services Resource Guide is a database of public, non-profit, and some private for-profit organizations that provide human services to Fairfax County residents. The database includes descriptions of services provided, access criteria, location and contact information among other information. To access the Human Services Resource Guide, click on the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rim/default.asp>. Visitors to the site are able to search by a service category and/or organization name.

❖ The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. jsfreeclinic.org.

❖ Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org.

❖ Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

❖ SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off at SHARE, c/o McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd. on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except Thanksgiving week) 9:30 a.m. - noon. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org

❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. Email Lisa Lombardozi at LisaLombo@signaturecos.com. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org

❖ FACETS — Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at www.facetscares.org. Additionally, FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. People who are interested in volunteering can contact 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org.

❖ Our Daily Bread — ODB has been serving disadvantaged families in Fairfax County for 25 years. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com.

❖ Food for Others — Food for Others is the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia, provides the assistance needed by unemployed and low-income neighbors. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com

❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. www.echo-inc.org.

❖ Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. While donations are welcome during store hours, visitors are asked to call first at 703-339-8611 before dropping off. www.lortonaction.org.

❖ Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE) — CAUSE ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.

Inspired to Give

Area residents share their personal stories of what inspires them to give, or a time when they were thankful.

“After my mother died, I was taken in by poor relatives at the age of 3. I was moved by the sacrifices they made to care for me. These kinds of life events caused me to think about what I am doing for others. Inspired, I became an activist social worker, devoting time to impoverished people. After speaking at a Catholic Charities conference about homelessness and hunger, eight individuals in the audience decided to join me to take action. I learned that Virginia was charging sales tax on food stamps. Virginia was scraping \$9.5 million of food aid off the top of the federal food stamp program for families at risk of hunger. Outraged, our group went to Virginia to lobby their cause. When nothing happened in Richmond, I contacted Sen. Edward Kennedy, who discovered that 18



John Horejsi

other states were also taxing folks in need of food stamps. Thanks to the combined efforts of our group and sympathetic politicians, the tax was prohibited in all 19 states. Heartened by our success, SALT (Social Action Linking Together) was founded. When word spread of our tax-removal success, SALT membership grew from eight to more than 150. We now stand at more than

1,000. SALT seeks to keep social justice issues front-and-center at the Virginia General Assembly. One legislator told me, ‘Whenever we have a hearing, if the issue is for rich people, you can’t get in the door. But when we’re talking about poor folks, the room is empty.’ Encouraged, SALT began diligently tackling new problems. Legislators have said the thing they really respect about SALT is that we’re not asking anything for ourselves, but for those most desperate and in the greatest need.”

— JOHN HOREJSI, FOUNDER AND COORDINATOR OF SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT), VIENNA

“I work at Food for Others, the largest direct distributor of free food directly to families in Northern Virginia. I volunteered for two years prior to coming on staff at this incredible organization. I am humbled every day by our clients as well as our volunteers. I share a birthday with one of our favorite clients and there is always a hug and a special chat when she comes in. She is just one of so many special people we serve and that we care so much about.

We are a staff of nine, and have the equivalent of 12 full-time employees in volunteer hours (over 1,000 wonderful volunteers). We serve the ‘working insecure,’ and



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Lynne Galanis of Great Falls

last year distributed over 2.7 million pounds of food, 9 percent of which is donated or salvaged. We appreciate all the donations that we receive during the holiday season; it insures that we can meet the high demand that we face every day.

Unfortunately we have the same demand all year, and our shelves are at their lowest in the summer. We have been blessed by our donors in the community and have managed to meet the demands as best we can.”

—LYNNE GALANIS, FINANCE MANAGER FOR FOOD FOR OTHERS, GREAT FALLS

Don't Miss Our 2011 Holiday Special Editions

More Holiday Gifts and Entertainment on December 7, deadline December 2; December 14, deadline December 8; December 21, deadline December 14.

Plus, be a part of the acclaimed annual Children's Connection, December 27, deadline December 14

Be a part of our new Wellbeing pages

the first week of every month.

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Foundation Recognizes Community Leaders

Washington Gas receives Community Leadership Award.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia held its annual Sweet Home Virginia gala Friday, Oct. 21 at the Tysons Hilton. The McLean-based nonprofit supports organizations around Northern Virginia with grants focused on five areas: poverty relief, child and youth development, education, health and aging and military personnel and their families. Last year they awarded more than \$2 million in grants.

"The event is a chance to talk about our work, and the needs of the region, as well as what people can do to impact those needs," said foundation President Eileen Ellsworth. "Volunteerism isn't always visible, but it's nice to have a public forum to recognize some of the best."

This year, the best was Washington Gas, which was awarded the 2011 Community Leadership Award for their efforts in promoting volunteerism among their employees.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, WJLA Meteorologist Brian van de Graaff, master of ceremonies, board member Don Strehle, Washington Gas Chairman and CEO Terry McCallister, foundation president Eileen Ellsworth, chairman David Young and board member Paul Leslie at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia gala Friday, Oct. 21. McCallister and Washington Gas were given the foundation's 2011 Community Leadership Award.

"There's an old adage, 'you can do well and you can do good.' I think as a company, we do well in serving our customers and our employees do a lot of good in their com-

munities," said Washington Gas Chairman and CEO Terry McCallister. "And it's all self-driven. Our employees plan events, run organizations and do a great job doing it."

Washington Gas Chief Operating Officer Adrian Chapman said the company works hard to keep employees involved in volunteering.

"One of our corporate goals is to have our employees give back to the communities we serve," he said. "Just five years ago, employees donated 2,000 hours of volunteer time, last year it was more than 10,000."

McCallister said that when it comes time to look back on how the company met its goals for the previous year, "volunteerism is always one of the easiest goals to meet."

Ellsworth said that the extent in which Washington Gas employees get involved was the reason they were chosen for this year's award.

"They're a local company, and they always have a strong presence when it comes to community service," Ellsworth said. "They're incredibly organized and serve with so many nonprofits in the area, we felt they were very noteworthy."

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS is only a small function of the foundation, most of their time is dedicated to finding worthy causes to support. John Healy, who retired three years ago after selling his business, now lives in Arizona, but he still tries to support the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia whenever he can.

To find out more, visit www.cfnova.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

FRIDAY/NOV. 25

29th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

Along Those Lines, One City Mile and Since Antarctica. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

The Grandsons General Admission Dance. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Roots-rock quartet. \$16. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 26

Artist's Reception. 2-4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. "Let it Flow" is an exhibit of abstract acrylic paintings by Mary Ellen Mogee. 703-785-5784 or www.maryellenmogee.com.

29th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

Photo with Santa. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 225 E Broad St., Falls Church.

David Wazeter and Struan Shields. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

A Civil War Thanksgiving. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. Watch reenactors recreate an 1863 Thanksgiving. Watch them serve the holiday meal, eavesdrop on war time conversation and join them in parlor games. Free admission. 703-248-5171.

John Eaton: Indiana on Our Minds. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Music of Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Christmas Bazaar. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Holiday decorations, candles, gift items, jewelry, art work, paintings and more. Proceeds benefit veterans, children and youth, and neighbors in need. 703-893-4588.

Nutcracker 11. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Presented by the Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls, with professional guest artists from The Richmond Ballet plus 3 local Russian dancers. 703-759-3366.

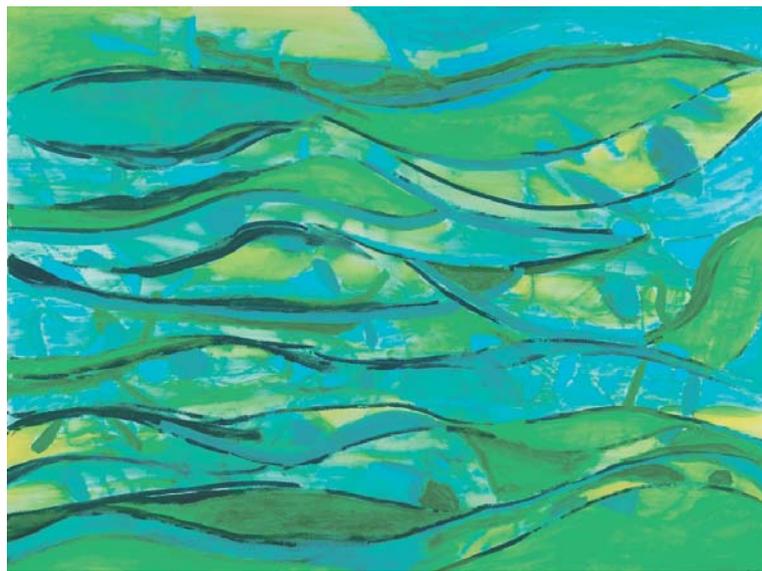
SUNDAY/NOV. 27

29th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

TheRuinCity, AudioStrobeLight, Accidents (CD Release), Big Paper Airplanes, Farah & The Boy and Daniel Wrigley. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Lilt. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Tina Eck on wooden flute and whistle and Keith Carr on 10 string bouzouki and tenor banjo. \$15. www.oldbrogue.com.

Harpist Angelina Savoia and



There will be an Artist's Reception on Nov. 26 from 2-4 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, for "Let it Flow," an exhibit of abstract acrylic paintings by Mary Ellen Mogee. The exhibit will be on display through November. 703-785-5784 or www.maryellenmogee.com.

Violinist Marina Aikawa. 3 p.m. Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sonata for solo harp by Hindemith, plus works by Bach, Mozart, Faure, Francais, Saint-Saens and Monti. Free. 703-620-9535.

Nutcracker 11. 4 p.m. Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Presented by the Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls, with professional guest artists from The Richmond Ballet plus 3 local Russian dancers. 703-759-3366.

MONDAY/NOV. 28

Annual Church Street Stroll. 6-9 p.m. Church St., between Lawyers Road and Mill St., Vienna. The Freeman House general store, the railroad station, red cabooses, Knights of Columbus (former First Baptist Church) and Vienna Presbyterian "little chapel" will be open to visitors. Santa Claus will arrive at the Freeman House at 6:30 p.m. and help Mayor Jane Seeman light the holiday tree at 6:45 p.m. Afterwards, Santa will visit with children on the front porch of the Freeman House. Entertainment by local musical groups, a petting zoo, marshmallows for roasting at supervised "bonfires" and more. Visitors are encouraged to bring a toy to donate to the Toys for Tots collection. Sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc., and the Town of Vienna. All activities free. 703-938-5187.

Model Railroad HO Scale Open House and Display at the Vienna Holiday Stroll. 6-9 p.m. Historic Vienna Depot of the W & OD Railroad, 231 Dominion Road N.E., Vienna. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.

Space Program, Today's Tomorrow, Minor Kings EP Release and Wrestle With Jimmy. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

English Conversation. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Read aloud to Beamer, a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register at 703-293-6227.

Rock-A-Bye Baby. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-11 months with adult. 703-938-0405.

Game On Afternoon Edition. 3:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Test your prowess at our Wii Mario Kart or Wii Super Smashbros. Brawl Tournament. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

TUESDAY/NOV. 29

Shoot The Cricket, Kill Lincoln and East Ghost. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Personalized Internet Training. 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A 45-minute one-on-one Internet training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-790-8088.

Book Talk for Book Lovers. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns. Adults. 703-790-8088.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

Pieta Brown and Peyton Tochterman. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Short stories. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-242-4020.

Gourds and Gobblers. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Wild turkeys still live in Northern Virginia. Through activities find out about this shy bird and other plants and animals that are part of Thanksgiving traditions. 703-356-0770.

Steve Solomon's My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm Home for the Holidays! 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Hilarious recount of a chaotic family reunion. \$32. www.wolftrap.org.



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29th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show

Fri.-Sun, Dec. 2-4

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Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Come enjoy the sights, sounds, and aromas of the season! This year's craft show will feature 80 fine American artisans from across the country.

McLean Traveler Day Trip

Holidays at the James River Plantations

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

\$145 per person/\$135 district residents

Step back into a festive holiday time while visiting the 17th and 18th century Shirley and Berkeley plantation homes, two icons of Virginia society.

Alden Insider Knowledge Series

The Roots of Root Music

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m.

Free and open to the public.

Reservations are not required.

Mary Cliff, host of WAMU's "Traditions", and Mary Sue Twohy, folk musician and host of "The Village" on SiriusXM, will lead an exploration of the roots music tradition and its echoes in new roots music, such as that of Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem.

Alden Professional Series

Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem

Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

\$25/\$18 district residents

Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem's eclectic roots music is a fresh take on America's musical traditions that combines folk, blues, swing, Cajun and traditional pop influences.

The McLean Community Center



703-790-0123, TTY: 711

www.mcleancenter.org



Yorktown, shown here in a regular season game versus Langley, is a perfect 12-0 going into this Friday afternoon's Div. 5 region title game versus South County.



PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Region Football Title Games Set for This Week

South County ready to tackle Yorktown in Div. 5 finals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Two Northern Region high school championship football games are set to take place this weekend. The Div. 5 (smaller schools) title game will see undefeated Yorktown host red-hot South County in a Friday afternoon affair in Arlington. Meanwhile, in the Div. 6 (larger schools) finals, undefeated Westfield will be at home Saturday versus Centreville High.

Neither of the two Great Falls-area teams, McLean or Langley High Schools, was fortunate enough to make it to one of the title games this season. Nevertheless, both the Highlanders and Saxons did qualify for the eight-team Div. 5 region playoffs. Both lost first round (quarterfinals) games on Nov. 11 with McLean losing at Yorktown, 20-6, and Langley falling at Stone Bridge, 35-0.

Stone Bridge, which has won several Div. 5 region crowns in recent years, saw its stronghold end this past Saturday night when the Bulldogs, the top-seeded team in the Div. 5 playoff field, lost a region semifinals game to South County, 25-3, in Ashburn. In the other Div. 5 semifinal, Yorktown, under long-time head coach Bruce Hanson, eliminated Lee High, 51-15.

In the Div. 6 playoffs, Centreville (11-1) put a stop to Lake Braddock's reign of dominance in recent years by defeating the Bruins, 21-18, in a semifinals round game last Friday. Lake Braddock had won the region crown in both 2009 and 2010 - defeating Chantilly in last year's finals — and was going for a third region title this season. The Bruins, following a so-so 6-4 regular season, won big at Oakton, 50-21, in a quarterfinals round playoff game two weeks ago.

CENTREVILLE'S lone loss this season came to Westfield (12-0), by a 13-10 score in overtime, in a week nine game played on Oct. 28 at Centreville. Now, four weeks later, the two Concorde District juggernauts are preparing to meet one another for the Div. 6 championship. Centreville, under second-year head coach Chris Haddock, defeated Fairfax High two weeks ago in a quarterfinals round game before edging the Bruins in the semifinals.

"Our team is excited to play Saturday versus

Westfield," said Haddock. "We feel we played them well last time and hope to do so again."

Westfield, under first year head coach Kyle Simmons, broke open a close game in the second half of a 21-3 quarterfinals round win over visiting Robinson two weeks ago before winning a high-scoring affair over West Potomac, 42-34, last Friday night.

In its win over Robinson, Westfield held just a 7-3 halftime lead to an underdog Rams' team which slipped into the Div. 6 playoffs as the No. 8 seed.

Robinson, with the loss, concluded its first season under head coach Trey Taylor with a 4-7 record. The Rams were 1-5 at one point this season before winning three of their final four regular season games to squeeze into the Div. 6 playoffs. They had a huge challenge in facing top seeded Westfield. But the Rams did not wilt and gave the Bulldogs a good game.

The Westfield defense is allowing less than 10 points per game this season and has posted two shutouts. But in Friday's semifinals they showed some vulnerability against West Potomac, members of the Patriot District, and its standout quarterback Caleb Henderson, who completed 25 of 42 passes for 348 yards and a touchdown. Westfield's defense did return an interception for a touchdown to help the Bulldogs' cause.

Two of the region's top running backs — Westfield's Kendall Anderson (181 yards versus West Potomac) and Centreville's Manny Smith (161 yards versus Lake Braddock) — will highlight Friday's Div. 6 title game.

In Div. 5, unbeaten Yorktown is meeting a South County team, which was 0-3 at one point this season. Since then, the Stallions, under head coach Gerry Pannoni, have won nine straight games, including playoff wins over Madison, 31-0, and Stone Bridge. South County was tri-champions of the Patriot District this season, along with West Potomac and Lake Braddock.

Stone Bridge, the Liberty District champion, finished its season 10-2. Its only losses were to Chantilly early in the regular season and, of course, South County in the playoffs.

The winner of this week's Div. 5 and 6 region title games will advance to next week's Virginia State AAA playoffs.

SPORTS BRIEFS

The NoVA Wonders professional basketball team, a member of the American Basketball Association, is participating in a nationwide fundraiser for the National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) called 'Shoot for the Cure.' The campaign invites basketball teams around the country to participate by committing to donate proceeds from at least one game or special event to NFCR. The Wonders dedicated their game on Nov. 13 versus the Richmond Elite to the NFCR cause. The event was scheduled to take place at the Wonders' home venue, the Northern Virginia Sportsplex.

"We are excited to be a part of NFCR's pursuit of a cure through this fundraiser," said Jackie Smith, General Manager for the NoVA Wonders. "The cause is especially close to my heart, as I have lost both my parents to this terrible disease. Cancer research programs should never have to worry about funding; millions have been lost to cancer and it must be cured. Our team is looking forward to doing our part to contribute."

To learn more, please visit www.nfcr.org/shootforthecure or call 1-800-321-CURE.

Prospects Baseball Academy, located on Tyco Rd. in Vienna, held its Inaugural Diamond Club Gala, 'A Night at the Ballpark,' this past Saturday evening, Nov. 12.

The event, a fundraiser for the Academy, recognized the organization's star players who have recently signed collegiate letters of commitment to play Div. 1 collegiate baseball. The night also included the recognition of various sponsors; guests (scheduled to be Hall of Fame pitcher Bert Blyleven and former Oriole Bill Ripken); food and beverages; a silent auction; and entertainment for the entire family. Many of those who attended wore baseball attire.

The Academy Principal is Troy Allen. Prospects Baseball Academy is located at 8500B Tyco Road, Vienna, VA 22182. Their phone number is 571-765-4702.

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) has joined the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) effective for the upcoming 2011-12 academic year. With membership in the NJCAA, NOVA joins more than 500 two-year colleges with the opportunity to compete for national championships. In addition, the NJCAA awards prestigious academic and athletic All-American distinction to deserving student-athletes.

"We are thrilled to be joining the NJCAA," said NOVA President Robert G. Templin Jr. "Club sports teams have been a long tradition at NOVA and the College has fielded numerous athletic teams since it was established in 1965. By joining NJCAA, our athletes will have greater opportunities for winning championships and academic awards."

NOVA will also be adding additional support for intramural sports programming. The college's current roster of teams that will transition to the NJCAA include women's volleyball, men's soccer, women's basketball, men's basketball and men's lacrosse. An additional women's sport is slated to be added in the 2012-13 academic year. NOVA's ice hockey program will retain membership in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA).

Through membership in the NJCAA, the College's sports teams will have the opportunity for postseason play and student-athletes will have additional exposure for possible recruitment by four-year colleges and universities. NJCAA membership requires full-time enrollment and progress toward degree requirements for participating student-athletes.

For more information about NOVA's athletics programs, contact Brian Anweiler at 703-845-6206 or banweiler@nvcc.edu.

The Chantilly Phoenix, an under-17 Div. 1 team within the Washington Area Girls' Soccer League (WAGS), is looking for a few self-motivated, dedicated and committed players who are intent on playing college soccer. The Phoenix conduct open tryouts year-round. Through the end of November, practices are as follows: Mondays at Word of Grace from 7:15 to 9 p.m.; and Thursdays at Word of Grace from 7:15 to 9 p.m. Contact coach Cristian Linte at linte@verizon.net to arrange a tryout.

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
 AT&T intends to file an application to install cellular telecommunications antennas and equipment at 1988 Kirby Road, McLean, Virginia 22101. 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 "Brilyn Park-Candidate C" will consist of the construction of a new 100-foot tall church bell tower within a proposed 37-foot by 34-foot telecommunications compound. Antennas are proposed to be pipe-mounted behind stealth material at a height of 97 feet RAD center within the tower. An eight-foot tall decorative brick wall is proposed to screen the compound from the Kirby Road and Westmoreland Street intersection to the south-east. 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 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE
 Improved by the premises known as 4600 South Four Mile Run, #1242, Arlington, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Linda Faye Johnson, also known of record as Linda Faye North and Linda F. Johnson, dated May 31, 2006, and recorded June 5, 2006, in Deed Book 3987 at page 2577 among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Court House for Arlington County, at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia, on

Monday, November 7, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Unit 1242, The Carlton, a Condominium
 RPC No. 28034987

Commonly known as 4600 South Four Mile Run, #1242, Arlington, Virginia 22204.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$15,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.50 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
 Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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DAVID N. PRENSKY
 Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
 David N. Prenskey
 Chasen & Chasen
 5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
 Washington, D.C. 20015
 (202) 244-4000

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE
 Improved by the premises known as 6616 Melrose Drive, McLean, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Ana Maria V. Clarke and Paul F. Clarke, Jr., dated October 18, 2010, and recorded November 20, 2010, in Deed Book 21361 at page 78 among the Land Records of Fairfax County County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Friday, October 7, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lots 38, 39 and 40, Section B, Water Heights Subdivision, as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Book T-9 at page 247, among the Land Records of Fairfax County County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 6616 Melrose Drive, McLean, Virginia 22101.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$100,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 4.0 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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 5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
 Washington, D.C. 20015
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Let's Talk Turkey

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths. One-hundred, sixty-thousand people, approximately, succumb to its ravages every year. More people die from lung cancer than from breast, prostate and colon cancer COMBINED. Eighty-five percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer die within five years. Fifteen-percent of lung cancer patients are non-smokers (yours truly). Men and women are diagnosed in equal numbers. Smoking rates among young people have not been affected by these facts, unfortunately. The message – or its delivery, is not getting through to this population, for some reason. (This information provided by Dr. Wallace Akerley, Professor of Medical Oncology, University of Utah School of Medicine, Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City; recently he and I participated, along with a second stage IV lung cancer survivor, in a Satellite Media Tour (several media interviews from one location) sponsored by Genentech/Astellas as part of Lung Cancer Awareness month: November 2011.

When asked, Dr. Akerley explained the cruel irony as to why lung cancer has not garnered the kind of publicity that breast, prostate and colon cancer – and their survivors have; his answer was succinct: "Death." There are simply not enough survivors to advocate for it. To advocate, you sort of have to be alive, and there's not exactly an abundance of lung cancer survivors able to do so. As strength is so often found in numbers, so too is weakness often found when those same numbers are shrinking. Lung cancer's deadliness is its own worst enemy, if you know what I mean, to provide the necessary elements to raise awareness – and money, to fight and ultimately defeat this insidious disease.

However, in the last decade or so research has yielded insights into how cancer cells grow. Genetic mutations in cancer cells have also been discovered which have led to targeted therapies – such as Tarceva and Avastin as an example, that can attack the tumor itself – directly, or that alternatively, can attack the blood vessels feeding the tumor, thereby cutting off its blood supply. When targeting the tumors in this manner, there's less damage (make that side-effects) to the patient and greater damage/effect on the cancer/tumor. John, the other stage IV lung cancer patient and I are living proof. Nevertheless, lung cancer patients – like myself, still face a rather unenviable future with few guarantees. Every day brings hope however, that more research, clinical studies, gene therapy, whatever else, will yield new and different strategies to help cancer patients/survivors, survive.

As for preventing lung cancer in the first place, Dr. Akerley answered that it is possible: "Stop smoking. Eighty-five percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer are smokers. The second leading cause of lung cancer is exposure to Radon Gas, so have your homes checked." There's also a confirmed link between exposure to asbestos and lung cancer.

Enough cancer talk. It's Thanksgiving and I'm hungry, and thankful as well for all I've been given. I am alive and reasonably well, having survived stage IV lung cancer for nearly three years; after originally receiving a "13-month-to-two-year prognosis" by my oncologist. Now would someone please pass the gravy? Thanks.

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

NEWS

McLean Holiday Homes Tour To Feature Evans Farm

On Thursday, Dec. 1, the Woman's Club of McLean will host its 45th annual Holiday Homes Tour at

Evans Farm, a gated community built a dozen years ago on the site of the popular farm and Evans Farm Inn restaurant in McLean. The village of Evans Farm is located between Dolley Madison Blvd. and Chain Bridge Road, just east of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church. The tour will focus on four large, four-story houses plus an "Old Stone House," which dates from the original farm. Each home will be decorated for the holidays by Woman's Club members, who will serve as hostesses, assisted by students from McLean's Oakcrest School.

Visitors will be able to walk from one tour house to the next after parking only once in either of two church lots adjacent to Evans Farm — at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road or the First Church of Christ Scientist, 1683 Old Chain Bridge Road. They will be able to walk past or through the gates into the complex. A tour map appears in the guide booklet that will be given to each visitor and serves as a ticket.

THREE OF THE HOUSES on the tour are townhouses; the fourth is a detached home. The former represent three architectural styles reflected in the village's townhouses; the detached house is in the Southern plantation style. Still other styles are used in the remaining detached homes. The facades of all the houses, while traditional in feel, vary in design and materials. Most have four levels with elevators; high ceilings add to the grandeur of the first levels. The tour booklet describes each house in detail.

In addition to exploring the homes, visitors will enjoy strolling Evans Farm's streets and walks, which have been planned with an eye to tasteful variety and attractive landscaping of its gently rolling terrain. Besides its approximately 125 residences (including condominiums), the complex contains a picturesque small lake and an old stone millhouse and waterwheel.

Before completing the tour, visitors may want to stop by the Old Stone House (at 7243 Addington Drive), which will offer a raffle — known as a "Chinese auction." Visitors will be able to buy chances (for \$5 to \$10) on a variety of services and merchandise donated by local businesses and ranging in value from \$100 to \$1,000. The drawings will take place at 3 p.m. on the tour day; participants need not be present to win. The Old Stone House also will offer gifts for sale and refreshments.

All proceeds of the tour will be donated to local charities and nonprofit organizations, such as Share, Inc., the Hospice of Northern Virginia, Alternative House, the McLean Project for the Arts, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, the McLean Volunteer Fire Department, Fisher House and the McLean Symphony, as well as used for scholarships and education.



Besides its approximately 125 residences (including condominiums), the Evans Farm complex contains a small lake and an old stone millhouse and waterwheel.



The tour will be officially kicked off at 10 a.m. on Dec. 1 at the Chain Bridge Road entrance to Evans Farm and will continue in all four tour houses until 3 p.m.

THE TOUR will be officially kicked off at 10 a.m. on Dec. 1 at the Chain Bridge Road entrance to Evans Farm and will continue in all four tour houses until 3 p.m. Caroline Evans Van Wagoner, the daughter of Ruth and Bayard Evans, the former owners of the farm, will serve as honorary host and chairperson of this year's tour.

Tickets are available at Mesmeralda's Ltd. (1339 Chain Bridge Road, McLean), Karin's Florist, Inc. (527 Maple Ave., E., Vienna), Great Dogs of Great Falls (9859 Georgetown Pike) and Vinson Hall Retirement Community (6521 Old Dominion Drive, McLean).

They may also be ordered on the Woman's Club website, www.mcleanwc.org, before Dec. 1 and picked up on the day of the tour at the first tour house (1493 Evans Farm Drive); or they may be purchased on the tour day at any of the houses. (On the website, type "Holiday Homes Tour" into the search box, and then click on "Ticket Sales and Information.") The cost is \$25 before the day of the tour and \$30 on the day of the tour. For more information, refer to the website or contact a Woman's Club member at 703-556-0197 or sheridan2@cox.net.

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