Tiny Tots Cheer at Holiday Concert

Santa and Mrs. Claus were guest VIPs at Madison High School’s Tiny Tots concert.

Whose Road Is it Anyway?
County Line, Page 3

Christmas Tree Sales To Benefit Community
News, Page 4

Home Life Style
Page 12
New Homes Tour of Vienna/Oakton

When: December 10th and 11th from 1-4 p.m.
Where: 502 Plum Street, Vienna, VA 22180
All Evergreene homes will be displayed in one location.

View the Outside Sales Team’s video message www.LandBuildLive21.com

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Ready Now! 4K finished sqft on 3 levels, 5 BR, 5 BA
Directions: I-66 to north on Nutley, right on Old Courthouse, right onto Plum, 502 on right

2019 George Washington Dr., Vienna $1,496,750
5K sqft living space, half-acre lot.
Under Construction, ready March 2012!

8430 Electric Avenue, Vienna $1,487,030
1.03 acre lot, 3-car garage, 6K finished sqft. Unique in a Tysons location!

8430 Electric Avenue, Vienna $1,487,030
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502 Plum Street, Vienna $1,049,000

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For more information, contact:
Melissa Larson,
Land.BUILD.Live..., 703-929-5427
melissa@landbuildlive.com

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“MERRIFIELD’S GARDENING ADVISOR” every Saturday at 8 am on NewsChannel 8
Who's Road is it Anyway?

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

STATE AND local government officials agree that Fairfax County’s roads are in deplorable shape, but who should fix the problem has sparked a heated political debate.

On Dec. 1, Fairfax County, along with Prince William and Loudoun Counties, issued a joint statement firmly opposing any hint of legislation from the Virginia General Assembly that would shift road maintenance responsibilities from the Commonwealth to counties, a process known as road devolution.

“Road devolution is going to be a huge issue in Richmond this year,” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee). “The idea of local control is universally embraced, but the problem comes down to the cash, and the state is not going to give us the money we need to take over our roads.”

County officials argue that devolution would lock in the state’s chronic underfunding of secondary roads, and county taxpayers would be on the hook for the cumulative effects of deficient maintenance measures when the big bills come due.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has reported that more than a third of secondary roads throughout the state are in poor condition, and estimates that $75 to $100 million is required to bring just one percent of the state’s roadways up to performance standards.

McKay, who chairs the Board of Supervisors Committee, said the cost to Fairfax County taxpayers could be close to $200 million.

“The start-up costs of taking this over would be significant, and my greatest fear is that we’ll be pitting roads against schools and public safety,” he said. He added that any additional costs associated with road devolution would necessitate a tax hike and likely take money away from projects such as new school construction and renovation of existing schools.

He compared road devolution to the state driving a new car into the ground, and then sticking the county with the repair bills.

“The biggest advocate of devolution is the state. They would like nothing more than to hand it over to us, because they’ve wrecked it.”

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

This section of Hunter Mill Road in Reston was the first of six roads and bridges to re-open after being extensively damaged by Tropical Storm Lee on Sept. 8.

“We should be chomping at the bit to take this over; instead, we arethumbing our nose at the Governor.”

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

IN A DEC. 2 PUBLIC LETTER, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) joined her Republican counterparts in Prince William and Loudoun County in opposing road devolution as a way of transferring control of secondary road maintenance and affecting commerce. In 1932, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Byrd Act, which gave VDOT all maintenance, operational, and construction responsibilities for secondary roads, with the exception of Arlington and Henrico counties.

“This is an opportunity, and the board is saying we don’t even want to have a dialogue. This could be the best thing for us if it’s done right, and they don’t know the state is not going to change the funding formula. We should be chomping at the bit to take this over; instead, we are thumbing our nose at the Governor.”

Cook said he has talked directly with McDonnell and Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton, and he sees an opportunity for Fairfax County to benefit from road devolution.

Cook said the way to make road devolution viable for Fairfax County includes having the state transfer ownership of the land and redoing the funding formula to be more in line with urban jurisdictions that control local roads.

“Don’t fall for the argument that this is going to cost $200 million,” Cook said.

“That is misleading, because it only costs us if we choose to do a better job than the state. That’s not an imposed cost. If we’re getting at least what the state is already spending, and we have control, that’s better than no control at all.”

Asked what local control would look like, Cook said residents would see medians and roads mowed more frequently, potholes would be filled within a week of reporting and roads would be repaved every 10-20 years instead of 20-40 years, among other benefits.

But McKay and other board members are not so optimistic.

Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) one of the three Republicans on the board, said he generally thinks the most effective government is local government, but for Fairfax County to take over control of its secondary roads, a few other items must come with the mandate.

“The state needs to make up for years of neglect, there needs to be a guaranteed funding stream, and it needs to be at a level necessary to perform the maintenance – not the current level,” Herrity said. “Otherwise the state is just transferring the burden and years of neglect onto Fairfax County taxpayers.”

“There’s no question Fairfax County could do a better job, but I am very suspect that the state is going to give us the tools to fix the problem. In my mind, this has to be dead on arrival,” McKay said.

Fairfax County’s position on road devolution is part of its 2012 legislative agenda, which will go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Dec. 6, for a final vote. On Wednesday, McKay chairs a joint session between board members and Fairfax County legislators during which the County’s legislative agenda will be presented.

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and a key player in obtaining funding for road projects in his district, which covers Springfield and Lorton. “We would not have to ask Richmond which roads to get repaired. We could ask our county supervisors, who personally know which roads are in need of repair,” Albo said.

Currently, counties do not have the same taxing authority as cities and towns. Cities, such as Arlington, have more latitude in raising revenue through other means, such as cigarette, hotel and restaurant taxes, while the majority of Fairfax County’s revenue is derived from property taxes.

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) agrees that road devolution should be a local option, but with the stipulation that adequate revenue comes with the responsibility.

“There needs to be an agreed formula which holds the county harmless if it decides to maintain its own roads,” Petersen said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who made “local control of local roads” his signature campaign issue, said board members should see road devolution as an opportunity instead of an obstacle.

“Virginia is not the norm. We’re one of only a few states where the state has maintenance and construction responsibilities for local roads,” Cook said.

THE COMMONWEALTH’S SYSTEM goes back to the Great Depression. During the 1930s, many counties struggled with road maintenance, creating uneven levels of road maintenance and affecting commerce. In 1932, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Byrd Act, which gave VDOT all maintenance, operational, and construction responsibilities for secondary roads, with the exception of Arlington and Henrico counties.

“This is an opportunity, and the board is saying we don’t even want to have a dialogue. This could be the best thing for us if it’s done right, and they don’t know the state is not going to change the funding formula. We should be chomping at the bit to take this over; instead, we are thumbing our nose at the Governor.”

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Christmas Tree Sales to Benefit Community

Proceeds from Optimists, Lions tree sales go back to community.

In late November, Christmas tree lots spring up throughout towns in America. While some are for-profit retail operations, many tree sales are operated by humanitarian civic organizations that support the community with funding and volunteers.

Vienna is graced with two such tree sales along Maple Avenue, one sponsored by the Optimists of Greater Vienna, whose service and funding is dedicated to local youth, and the other is sponsored by the Vienna Host Lions Club, focusing on service to the visually-impaired. Both service organizations have worldwide membership supporting community needs.

The Optimists of Greater Vienna buy their Christmas trees from one of Virginia’s most prominent family-farm growers, the Sexton family.

Prices at the Vienna tree lots for the Optimists and the Lions clubs start at around $35. Trees come in a variety of sizes, from four feet up to approximately ten feet.

The Optimists are selling their trees in the Giant Food shopping center, and the Lions are set up in the Walgreen’s parking lot.

When you buy a tree from a community service organization, you are supporting the community you live in.

“We come every year to support a good cause,” said Vienna builder Dan Govan, choosing a tree with his family at the Optimists’ lot on Saturday. “They’re community-driven folks here.”

“And they have great trees,” added Govan’s wife, Kari.

— Donna Manz

Vienna builder Dan Govan and his family, wife Kari, and daughters Grace, 10, and Danielle, 7, pick out a tree from the Greater Vienna Optimists lot.
To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/DEC. 8
McLean Historical Society
Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Longtime resident and attorney Doug Mackall will relate the history of Langley. Open to the public, refreshments provided. 703-980-0885 or paulkohl@msn.com.

Avoiding Divorce Court I: How to Negotiate or Mediate a Property Settlement Agreement. 6:30 p.m. The Women’s Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. A comparison of mediation and negotiation plus mediation and negotiation tips and pitfalls to avoid and a general discussion of issues commonly addressed in Agreements. www.thewomencenter.org.

Dranesville District Holiday Open House. 5-7 p.m. McLean Governmental Center, 1407 Falls Hill Road, McLean. Sponsored by Supervisor John W. Foust. 703-356-0551 or DranesvilleBoard@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10
Brinker Toastmasters. 9:30 a.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Meets second and fourth Saturday of the month. brinker.wordpress.com.

Contemplative Advent Retreat. 12-4 p.m. St Dunstan’s Church, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean. With Susan Pullin, a graduate of the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. Bring a notebook for journaling. pullinsac@gmail.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 12
Impending Disaster: The New Law of Wills and Trusts. 10 a.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. Free seminar with attorney David Hoffman. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

TUESDAY/DEC. 13
Tysons Corner Kiwanis Club Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, Room 124, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Meeting is public and individuals looking to volunteer in their community welcome. Meetings the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. tysonscornerkiwanis.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14
Great Falls Citizens Association Community Town Hall. 7:30 p.m. Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meet 31st district senate-elect Barbara Favola, who will speak about her work on the Arlington County Board, her goals in Richmond and take questions from the audience. Coffee and holiday refreshments will follow. www.gfca.org.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group. 7 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., Vienna, VA. A group for anyone with multiple sclerosis, their family and friends. Sponsored by the National Capital Chapter of the MS Society. The group meets the second Wednesday of every month. Free. 703-768-4841.

TUESDAY/DEC. 20
Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce TIPS Luncheon. 12:15 p.m. Shula’s Steakhouse, 8028 Leesburg Pike, in the Tysons Corner Marriott. Every Tuesday. 703-862-4895.
Local organizations need your help right now to help needy families.

OPINION More on Giving Locally

Where To Give
In no particular order:

- Our Daily Bread — OOB has been serving needy families in Fairfax County for 25 years. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.oobfairfax.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 2028 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.org
- Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. www.eco-in.org
- Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 3956 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCA and clients also shop there. While donations are welcome, more 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-va.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 33931 Menemsha 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 22082, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13352 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 751-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. jscfreeclinic.org
- Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children’s Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativelifehouse.org
- Reston Interfaith, 11315 Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 751-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypertension 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 Road on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except Thanksgiving week): 9:30 a.m. - noon.
- Fairfax City Area Fish (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-222-0880. Lamb Center, www.thełambcenter.org. Fairfax 703-692-1758.
- Herndon-Reston Fish (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105
- Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, 703-385-2627.
- United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306.
- National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

Free, Safe Ride Home from Holiday Celebrations

Once again, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will provide a free, safe ride home (or 50 miles) who might otherwise drive and unexpectedly need a safe ride home.

WRAP’s 2011 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., beginning Friday, Dec. 16, and running until Jan. 1, 2012. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a $30 fare), call 1-800-200-8294 (TAXI). You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. All requests for SoberRide service must be called to and dispatched from 1-800-200-8294. Galliers will be responsible for any amount over $30. WRAP’s SoberRide has helped to ensure local residents have a safe way home on high-risk holidays, keeping likely impaired drivers on the roads. Since 1993, WRAP has served nearly 53,000 safe rides home. SoberRide operates during the December/January holiday season, St. Patrick’s Day, Independence Day and Halloween. For details, see http://wrap.org/soberride

Tax Policy Update To Help Rebuild Schools


North America’s economic recovery continues to pose tough challenges. Our citizens need good jobs, and our students need the skills to compete for those jobs in the years ahead. During a time of economic uncertainty, we need to work together on creative ideas that confront these challenges in an innovative manner. With divided government in Washington, we need solutions that both parties can support.

Republicans and Democrats agreed in 1986 on a private capital approach to modernize America’s oldest buildings. Congress authorized a federal rehabilitation tax credit, worth up to 20 percent of qualified costs, for rebuiding historic buildings.

Commentary

Defining what constitutes an historic building is a complicated process. However, the essential goal is to restore historic buildings to their former glory.

The policy was a good start, but there were a few problems. One problem was that the tax credit was only 20 percent of the cost of rehabilitation. This was not enough to encourage private investment.

Another problem was that the tax credit was not a direct infusion of capital. This meant that private investors had to find other sources of capital to finance the rehabilitation.

A third problem was that the tax credit was not available to all historic buildings. Only buildings that were listed on the National Register of Historic Places were eligible for the tax credit.

Despite these problems, the tax credit was a significant success. Over the years, it has helped to finance the rehabilitation of thousands of historic buildings. In 2011, the credit is scheduled to expire, but Congress is considering reauthorizing it.

Opponents of the tax credit argue that it is too expensive and that it is too generous. However, these arguments are not valid. The tax credit is not a subsidy, and it is not a giveaway. It is a tool to encourage private investment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the tax credit is a good policy. It has been successful, and it has helped to modernize America’s oldest buildings. We urge Congress to continue supporting this policy.

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Helping Rebuild Schools

From Page 6

Depression-era high school into a modern K-12 facility. But local leaders and the Richmond City Council devised a novel solution. If the private sector rehabilitated this city high school into a regionally operated, high-tech high school for the top students in central Virginia, this could technically be seen as a “new” use. The IRS agreed. Using the 1986 law, this formerly run-down school is now home to one of the highest-ranked U.S. public high schools. With that in mind, we all support the Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act, legislation that would eliminate this roadblock to school renovation and allow local governments to use the historic building rehabilitation tax credit. The legislation isn’t a silver bullet. But it is the only proposal before Congress to leverage private capital to help modernize our public schools. The national interest — not to mention the best interests of parents, children and teachers — is not served by allowing obscure provisions of current law to cost jobs and opportunities for students and private investors. This is a bipartisan jobs bill that could help make America more competitive while also expanding our economy. We hope our colleagues and the White House agree.

Tiny Tots Cheer at Holiday Concert

James Madison High School holiday concert always a big hit.

The season’s most popular characters — as well as those of kiddie television — showed up at one of Vienna’s most enduring children’s holiday events, James Madison High School’s Tiny Tots concert performed by the school’s wind symphony, conducted by Band Director Michael S. Hackbarth.

The Dec. 1 morning performance was packed with young children and their parents or teachers. Buses, carrying preschool classes and local kindergarteners, came from throughout Northern Virginia for the concert.

All four concerts, scheduled for Dec. 1 and 2, were expected to be sold-out.

The musical program included iconic winter music such as Frosty the Snowman, Jingle Bells, The Twelve Days of Christmas, Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Theatre student Sofia McKewen, sitting on a super-duper high chair, narrated. She described, to instrumental responses, the different kinds of instruments in the wind symphony, and the children in the audience laughed at each sound.

Characters appeared as their theme music played and the children in the audience expressed their excitement as Dora the Explorer, Bob the Builder, Rudolf, Frosty the Snowman, Pooh and Tigger, Big Bird, Elmo and Cookie Monster made their way to the stage. Mrs. Claus led the way for Santa as the children went wild. It was a veritable din when Santa asked the boys and girls to yell out to him what they wanted for Christmas.

There were toys soldiers and elves, too. Characters and ushers were members of the school’s bands, as well. Children had their favorites. Allie Growney, 3, liked the reindeer the most, while Harry Lewis, also 3, said he liked the elves the best. The grown-ups appeared to like everyone and everything, applauding readily, almost as if on-cue.

Every great concert performance deserves a great climax and the Tiny Tots concert did not disappoint. As the band played a rollicking Sleigh Ride, the show’s characters — from Frosty to Big Bird and elves — emerged as a group to wave to the children as “snow” gently fell from up high.

Outside the auditorium, the characters stood in a receiving line, sharing hugs with the kids greeting them. — Donna Manz

Photos by Donna Manz / The Connection

Sofia McKewen narrates throughout the Tiny Tots concert.
Firefighters Collect Toys for Tots

Fire stations in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria are accepting new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages for the annual Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. “All 37 stations in Fairfax County and eight in Alexandria will serve as drop off points through Dec. 19,” said Capt. Willie Bailey, coordinator of the firefighters’ toy drive efforts. For more information, contact Capt. Bailey at 571-641-0036 or willie.bailey@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shillelaghs Travel Club

IRELAND, April 9-18..............................................................$2199
Includes Air, Hotels, Daily Breakfast, 7 Dinners, Daily Sightseeing

NEW ORLEANS, March 18-24..............................................$947
Includes Motorcoach from Vienna, 6 Nights Hotel, Daily Breakfast, 4 Dinners, Sightseeing

CRUISES FROM BALTIMORE ON ROYAL CARIBBEAN:
Jan. 28-Feb. 6 ............................................................................. $390
March 19-31 ............................................................................. $770

For questions or to schedule an appointment
703-255-9100
115 Park Street, SE, Ste. 300
Vienna, VA 22180
www.ViennaFamilyMedicine.com

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703-242-2204 1-800-556-8646
Please visit our Web site at: www.shillelaghstravelclub.com for a listing of all our upcoming trips and socials.

Vienna/Oakton Connection ❖ December 7-13, 2011 ❖ 9
Entertainment

**Calendar Listings**

*The Connection Newspapers* contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar previous events, provided they are properly credited with Calendar items.

**Name of Event:**

**Address of Event:**

**Date of Event:**

**Time of Event:**

**Place of Event:**

**Type of Event:**

**Contact Information:**

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.

*New*:

If your event is new or a new time and place, it will be considered first.

**Deadline:**

Deadline for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

**Contact:**

vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

For more information, call 703-778-9410.

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**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival**


**Great Falls Studios Holiday Art Show**

Great Falls Studios, 10100 Sunset Hills Rd., Great Falls. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Art Fair featuring paintings, pottery, sculpture, glass, jewelry, weaving and fiber. www.greatfallsstudios.com. Free. 703-464-0878.

**Chantilly Shopping Center Holiday Fair**

Chantilly Shopping Center, 7900 Lee Hwy., Chantilly. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Holiday gift fair features vendors such as jewelry, dolls, paintings, wood, metal, furniture, home decor, fashion, paper, ink, paint, etc. Free admission. www.chantillyshoppingcenter.com. 703-792-9550.

**McLean Youth Orchestra Holiday Concert**

McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 7:30 p.m. Free. For more information, call 703-207-7226.

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**Visit from Santa Claus**

Sully Community Center, 2855 Sully Rd., Chantilly. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Annual Visit from Santa. Under age 12 free. www.sully.org. 703-938-5187.

**Holiday Bake Sale**

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Bake sale creates funds for the arts. 703-225-0770 or 703-451-7274.

**Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker**

Alden Theatre, 4020 Holmes Ave., Alexandria. 7 p.m. Every night from Dec. 7-11. $28-$122, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-0402. 703-548-1770.

**The Nutcracker Suite**


**Village Green Day School Holiday Bazaar**

Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Holiday bazaar features vendors such as jewelry, dolls, paintings, wood, metal, furniture, home decor, fashion, paper, ink, paint, etc. Free admission. www.villagegreenday.org. 703-356-3527.

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**Choralis Christmas Concert**

First Congregational Church of Alexandria, 1220 Randolph St., Alexandria. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7. $20, available at www.choralis.org or 703-237-2499. 703-237-2499.

**Oakton Library, 10304 Little River Tpke., Oakton. Stories, rhymes, songs and crafts for children. 703-714-5400.**

**English Conversation Group**

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the English language. Free. 703-225-0770 or 703-451-7274.

**Great Falls Studio Holiday Art Show**

Great Falls Studios, 10100 Sunset Hills Rd., Great Falls. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Art Fair featuring paintings, pottery, sculpture, glass, jewelry, weaving and fiber. www.greatfallsstudios.com. Free. 703-464-0878.

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**Jr. Holiday Market**


**Combined Choirs Sing-Along and Display**

Vienna Town Hall, 120 S. Church St., Vienna. 1 p.m. Dec. 8. The Vienna Choral Society, Holmes Choral Society and the Holmes Community Chorus will perform. www.holmescommunitychorus.com. 703-912-0750.

**Vienna Community Library, 220 S. Church St., Vienna.**

The Christmas Caroling Project will present a variety of holiday carols. 703-255-1234.

**Holiday Cookie Walk**


**Moscow Ballet’s Great Russian Nutcracker**

Alden Theatre, 4020 Holmes Ave., Alexandria. 7 p.m. Every night from Dec. 7-11. $28-$122, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-0402. 703-548-1770.

**The Nutcracker Suite**


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**Vienna Community Library, 220 S. Church St., Vienna.**

The Christmas Caroling Project will present a variety of holiday carols. 703-255-1234.

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**To order your McLean Community Center Register for Winter Classes**

For a complete description of classes and events, pick up a free Program Guide at the Center or visit our Web site at www.mclanecommunitycenter.org and register online.

**The McLean Community Center**

1234 Ingleside Ave.

McLean, VA 22101

703-790-0123

www.mclanecommunitycenter.org
### Local REAL ESTATE

#### Top Sales in October

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Sold Price</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date Sold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>903 Turkey Run Road</td>
<td>$7,501,310</td>
<td>Detached</td>
<td>10/27/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8537 Old Dominion Drive</td>
<td>$2,950,000</td>
<td>Detached</td>
<td>10/06/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11990 Market Street</td>
<td>$2,700,000</td>
<td>Hi-Rise 9+ Floors</td>
<td>10/04/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129 Commonage Drive</td>
<td>$2,695,000</td>
<td>Detached</td>
<td>10/06/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9330 Georgetown Pike</td>
<td>$2,350,000</td>
<td>Detached</td>
<td>10/07/11</td>
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<tr>
<td>11322 Beach Mill Road</td>
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Source: MRIS, Inc. For more information on MRIS, visit www.mris.com

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel / The Connection

© Google Map data

11990 Market Street
#2112, Reston — $2,700,000

11322 Beach Mill Road, Great Falls — $2,335,000

8537 Old Dominion Drive, McLean — $2,950,000

129 Commonage Drive, Great Falls — $2,695,000
Creating the Holiday Table
Local designers offer suggestions for dressing a festive table and caring for guests.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

A festive holiday table requires more than prime rib and plum pudding. From incorporating natural elements to maintaining a consistent theme, local entertaining and design gurus dole out advice for creating a tablescape as enticing as the food it holds.

Candlelight creates a warm ambiance, but Ann O'Shields, owner of The Nest Egg in Fairfax suggests skipping tall tapers.

“Low candles set a really nice glow on the table and give it a really nice feeling as well,” said O’Shields. “I always recommend doing unscented candles so they don’t interfere with all the fragrances from your holiday meals.”

Vienna-based design consultant Denise Willard of Décor by Denise suggests choosing a color scheme, but limiting the palette.

“A simple way to give your holiday decorations a designer look is to stick to two or three colors at most,” said Willard. “This year the silver and green color combination is hot.”

O’Shields agrees that simpler is better. “Whether you want to decorate with blues and browns and silver or go more traditional and use red and gold, keep your palate at a minimum for really high impact.”

Let the colors of your room inspire you, especially when choosing flowers.

“Pick a color scheme that goes in your environment,” said Evelyn Kinville, lead floral designer for Behnke’s Florist Shop in Potomac. “If it is neutral, then you want to add in other colors. Choose colors that go in the room, maybe the colors of the linens. Sometimes people will bring in the china [and try] to pick [the colors in the pattern].”

Bring the outdoors in by using elements from nature, even from your own property, on your table.

“The outdoor, woody, organic feel is really popular right now,” said O’Shields. “You can incorporate [things] from your own back yard, whether it is pinecones or holly. [You don’t have to purchase] brand new decorations every year. You can freshen up what you have by using new elements from outside.”

Rustic floral centerpieces are also popular.

“Woody [arrangements] are well-received in Potomac,” said Kinville. “There is a [plant] called angel vine. It looks almost like grapevine except that it is very, very fine. Add it to a fresh centerpiece to give it a woody look.”

But remember that when you’re creating concepts for the table, height matters.

“When setting your tablescape for a dinner, keep in mind the height of things that you’re putting together and how many people will be at the table,” said O’Shields. “You don’t want it to be so high that you can’t see the person across from you.

For the most polished look, choose a theme and keep it consistent.

“I always think that when you pick a theme and do it well through-out and don’t falter, you’ll be satisfied whether you spend a lot of money or not,” said Michael Corrado, owner and head designer at Devers Design Group in Arlington. “If your theme is candy cane, for example, and everything you do is [is] red, white and candy cane oriented, it is going to be very successful looking. If you start faltering, that is when your event looks mish-mashed and not well organized.”

Don’t be afraid to break tradition. Holly and mistletoe are holiday mainstays, but O’Shields says sometimes it is wise to mix old and new. “If you have plates that you like that were passed down to you, you can use them and add in some new, modern elements, like mercury glass pieces,” she said. “A good way to keep your decorations current is by adding in modern elements.”

FOR YOUR GUESTS
Use care in choosing a menu, keeping in mind possible dietary restrictions of your guests.

“Make sure you understand all of your guests’ needs and are doing your best to make sure that you have food for everyone so that no one feels overlooked or left out,” said Scott Hoffner, corporate chef for Main Event Caterers in Arlington. “Keep in mind that the dietary restrictions of the average person are much different than [they were] even just a few years ago. There is a huge turn to vegetarianism and veganism, and you have gluten issues and religious factors in terms of pork or shellfish.”

Hoffner believes a menu with farm-to-table fare will make a memorable meal.

“Find food that is local, fresh and in season,” said Hoffner. “At the end of that day, that is what is going to give you the best result.”

A little planning can make your guests more comfortable.

“Put guests at ease,” she said. “If you see the table and you see that there is already a place set for you, there are not awkward [moments] of looking for a seat [and trying to determine] who you should sit by. They take the anxiety out, especially if guests don’t know each other.”

“Woodsy [arrangements] are very popular right now,” said Willard. “Low candles set a really nice atmosphere.”

MEMORABLE MEAL
Farm-to-table fare will make a memorable meal.

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Top 10 Things To Know Before You Remodel
By Joshua E. Baker

There are very few decisions that can impact your family life, and the value of one of your biggest assets, more than selecting the right remodeler. Why not approach this as you would when hiring a lawyer, investment advisor, or even a physician?

1 Seek an Advocate: Unless you’re an expert, and have an enormous amount of time, you will need someone who is able to assemble and manage a team of professionals to work together on your behalf. Complex projects require input from numerous players, and may include an architect or designer, various engineers, landscape designer, lighting expert or others. Having one party who takes accountability and manages the entire process while looking after your interests is key to a successful remodeling experience.

2 Plan Early: Government regulations and the permitting process for home remodeling are becoming increasingly restrictive and challenging. An experienced professional who understands the ever-changing requirements can help you to navigate through this process will be invaluable during the early stages of your project.

3 Find a Good Match: Ensure that your contractor has a track record of success with projects similar to your own. Ask specifically about projects of comparable complexity, magnitude and level of finish, or requiring special areas of expertise, such as green remodeling, or historical restoration.

4 Get First-Hand Info: Check the remodeling company’s current references and visit recently completed projects to see firsthand if you are satisfied with the caliber of work. The best remodeling firms will be able to provide you with a list of raving fans who will welcome you into their homes.

5 Explore Options: “Paper is cheap.” Take as much time as you need to make sure that the design addresses all of your priorities. It is better to invest in design which is relatively inexpensive, vs. having missed opportunities or costly changes during the construction process. Look for cost-effective ways to increase your home’s value, such as using durable materials and investing in green technologies that will pay off over time.

6 Be Wise: Beware of offers and deals that appear too good to be true. Remodeling remains one of the most reported industries at the Better Business Bureau. Understanding exactly what you are getting for your investment and taking steps to ensure the remodeler will be able to provide service in the long term is essential. Asking for bank references, researching employee tenure, and confirming that subcontractors have been paid on time can help you evaluate a company’s financial stability.

7 Prevent Stress: Especially for larger or more complex projects, insist on a full-time onsite project supervisor to orchestrate the entire process and all the players involved. This will help to keep your project on schedule and surprises to a minimum.

8 Be Firm: Insist that a detailed production schedule be tied to your contract, and hold the builder accountable for these deadlines. While it’s not commonly provided, ask for a written schedule guarantee with a penalty clause to ensure your satisfaction.

9 Double Check: Warranties can vary greatly from one remodeler to another, so make sure you understand exactly what your builder will cover and for what duration after the completion of the project. Also ask about what resources are available to provide service if problems arise in the future.

10 Take Advantage: Now is a great time to remodel. Compared to a few years ago, subcontractors are more readily available and their costs are significantly lower, enabling contractors to produce projects more efficiently and deliver greater value.

Joshua E. Baker is founder of BOWA Builders.

Built-ins Reinforce Order
By John Byrd

There are many prefab shelving and cabinetry systems aimed at helping homeowners better organize family gathering areas. But when the goal is a solution that’s both sustainable and aesthetically-pleasing, then a system designed for a custom interior designed by an experienced professional.

That was the conclusion reached by a Vienna couple, in any event. After years of struggling with a family room clutter originating from their three creative children, homeowners Ben and Mariko hired architect Susan Pierce, AIA, to develop an interior that would inspire a more orderly household.

“We wanted to infuse a more orderly household into our lives, and to set rules that are easy to keep.” Mariko said. The centerpiece of Pierce’s family room makeover is a new interior elevation designed around a wood-burning fireplace.

By moving the hearth two feet forward into the room, the architect created room for a broader system of built-in organization spanning the entire wall. The shelving and cabinetry on either side of the hearth are precisely measured accommodation for everyday storage needs. As specified by Mariko, there are now shelves, baskets and cubbies for each child’s personal items, art projects, unfinished homework.

The children (ages 8, 6 and 4) now understand that objects “belong” in a specific place or might be otherwise re-classified as “disposable.” Mariko said.

“It’s really designed so that the whole family can gather at the fire and watch a movie,” Mariko adds, “and this is the season when all that really begins.”

Commonwealth Home Remodelers periodically offers workshops.
703/255-9863 or www.CommonwealthHome.com
### Employment

**Staff Auditor**

Accounting grad. 2 yr. exp.  
Apply @ jobloc: Turner, Jones & Asso. 
108 Center St. 2nd Fl Vienna, VA 22180

**Market Research Analyst**

market condition research, info.  
Collect & analysis to promote sales  
& create marketing campaign of telecommunication product. PT.  
Req: MS/eqv in Marketing w/ 1y exp. Job in Mclean VA. Resume to HR of iTalk Global Communications, 1122 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Ste 375, Austin TX 78746.

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### Community Involved

**Communities**

- The Potomac Almanac
- The Vienna/Oakton Connection
- The McLean Connection
- The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- The Fairfax Station/Clifton/ Fairfax Connection
- The Great Falls Connection
- Centre View South
- The Burke Connection
- The Fairfax Connection
- The Fairfax Station/Clifton/ Lorton Connection
- The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- The McLean Connection
- The Reston Connection
- The Springfield Connection
- The Vienna/Oakton Connection
- The Potomac Almanac

- Great Papers
- Great Connections
- Great Readers!
but maybe the fact that I’m available for
Seeing is believing and showing can be tell-
not at all. I’m happy to still be in the game.
a sort of curiosity, maybe even a source of
malt scotch, but I’m still able to walk
say I’ve aged like fine wine or a bottle of sin-
served, given my circumstances. I wouldn’t
it was – and is, and likely will continue to be,
hasn’t gotten over that last description.) To
sentence? “I can treat you,” my oncologist
that sort of thing) when you’re given a death
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been an excellent patient. As Curly Howard
my treatment to proceed. In summary, I’ve
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scans. I’ve taken all my medications as
showed up for all my appointments and
one’s adherence to doctor’s orders. I’ve
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a bit of a story to tell. I think it’s more plain
kind of wisdom, however, although I do I have
a bit of a story to tell. I think it’s more plain
dumb luck – without characterizing myself
too disparagingly. Sure, I’ve been “compli-
dy-instructed and prescribed. In addition, I’ve
I’m able to not take it too seri-
it was – and is, and likely will continue to be,
hasn’t gotten over that last description.) To
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I’m able to not take it too seri-

Show
and Tell
BY KENNETH H. LOURIE

Regularly, my wife or I receive an
invite/query for something or other from
friends, family and/or miscellaneous past,
present and future business acquaintances,
so that they can “see Kenny.” Concerned and
courteous – and caring though it may be, if
it makes me feel peculiar, sort of, like I’m
something of a “bearded lady.” “Come see
the lung cancer patient as he continues to
live against all medical odds.” And appar-
etly, I thought I really feel it – and cer-
tainly don’t acknowledge it. I am not an
oddity, as I have been all my life. But now,
rear death – in terms of statistical presum-
tion, I need to be seen; not to be believed,
but to be congratulated, encouraged, embraced. “The Amazing Kenny,” as the
barker might want to grab your attention.
Now I’m not about to charge admission or
set up a $100 number to answer questions
about my life-with-cancer experiences, but
people do want to “see me” like I’m the
adult version of the baby on the Sendel ep-
sode when the new mother whined over the
phone to Jerry: “Jerry, you gotta see the
baby.” (Do you remember the mother
described the baby as “breathtaking”?) Well,
I don’t think I’m breathtaking – or worth
whining about, but I am still taking breaths,
which apparently, is worth noting. Moreover,
my living and still breathing is interesting to
some, as I’m continuing to do so provides
some sort of wisdom.

I don’t see my continuing to live as any
kind of wisdom, however, although I do I have
a bit of a story to tell. I think it’s more plain
dumb luck – without characterizing myself
too disparagingly. Sure, I’ve been “compli-
dy-instructed and prescribed. In addition, I’ve
I’m able to not take it too seri-


News
Vienna Musician Headlines Benefit Concert

Dec. 15 performance at Jammin’ Java benefits
Food for Others.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

V
nienna musician and songwriter
Natalie York headlines an 8 p.m.
concert performance at Jammin’
Java on Dec. 15 to benefit the
local non-profit Food for Others.
York, whose first CD was released in 2010,
is joined by fellow professional musicians
and songwriters Margot MacDonald, Justin
Travis, Kate Moran Band, Owen Danoff
and Emily Henry. Concert tickets are $13
each and donations of canned food will be
accepted.

“I wanted to do something in the spirit of
the season of giving,” said York, who
graduated from college as a music
major a year ago. “I wanted to give back
to the community, which is why we chose
a local food bank. It’s a prosperous area
but there’s still a lot of need.”
York’s church, the Church of the Good
Shepherd in Vienna, has done a lot of work
with Food for Others, York said, and that is
why she chose that particular food bank.
At the concert, church volunteers will
help collect canned goods that customers
donate in behalf of Food for Others.

All participating musicians at the benefit
concert are donating their share of ticket
proceeds to Food for Others. York is solicit-
ing donations from local businesses for
raffle prizes to be awarded at the benefit
concert. Many Vienna businesses have
contribution raffle prizes, from popular restau-
rants and shops to in-kind support. Raffle
donations will be accepted through Dec. 14
and the donors promoted.

Music at Natalie York & Friends will range
from popular holiday and winter tunes to
original pieces created and sung by the
benefit’s artists.

“I really hope people will join me in the
spirit of giving,” said York. “Food for
Others is a great organization that helps
the hungry in our area.”
York said that her biggest performance
opportunity to-date was a two-night per-
formance in July at the Birchmere music
Currently, she’s working on material for her
local CD, as well as performing throughout
the Southeast.
She appeared as a guest artist with the
James Madison High School Jazz Band on
Tuesday, Dec. 6.
York gives about eight performances a
month, and, over the past year, has given
“a lot” of house concerts in which a host
invites friends and neighbors to hear the
artist. A house concert, donation-driven,
introduces the musician to a community not
familiar with the artist. Her house concerts
have been performed from Florida to New
York and in North Carolina.

“it’s an intimate way for people to get to
know me,” said York. Sometimes, the con-
cert is in a living room where no amplifier
system is needed. “It can be even more in-
timate when you’re completely unplugged.”
It’s pretty trendy right now,” said York.
“It’s a cool way to hear music because you’re
really getting to know the artist and the
music.”

NATALIE YORK & FRIENDS presents its
Food for Others benefit concert on Dec. 15,
8 p.m., at Jammin’ Java in Vienna.
To donate raffle prizes or for more de-
tails, contact York at
natalietoddyork@gmail.com. Tickets for
Natalie York & Friends, $13 each, are on
sale at http://jamminjava.com/home/
events/buon-natale-featuring-natalie-york-
friends-in-a-benefit-for-food-for-others and
at the door. Jammin’ Java is located at 227
Maple Ave. E, between Stalcup’s Hardware
and Walgreen’s.

Coldwell Banker’s Vienna Office Hosts Toy Drive

The Vienna Office of Coldwell Banker
Residential Brokerage, located at 465
Maple Avenue West, will be collecting
new, unwrapped toys to be donated to the
Toys For Tots program through Dec.
24. Donations can be made either during
normal office hours or after hours,
in the two recycle bins donated by AAA Re-
cycling and Trash.

JK Moving and Storage donated an 18-wheel
trailer to store the donations, and on Dec. 14,
the Vienna Police Department will close down
Nuytle Street to escort students from Louise
Archer Elementary School from school grounds
to Coldwell Banker’s Vienna Office, so the
children can donate a toy and enjoy candy
and hot chocolate.

For more information, please contact
Mark Ackermann, Coldwell Banker Resi-
dential Brokerage, Branch Vice President,
Vienna, at 703-938-5600.
Two Northern Region Football Teams in State Finals

Centreville, South County set to play in respective title games this Saturday in Charlottesville.

By Rich Sanders

Behind an outstanding game from left-throwing quarterback Shane Foley and an offensive line which dominated play in the trenches, the South County Secondary football team soundly defeated Hanover High (Mechanicsville), 38-22, in a Div. 5 Virginia State AAA semifinals football playoff game last Saturday evening. The postseason contest, which began at 4 p.m., took place at South County’s home field in Lorton.

With the win, South County continued what has been as dramatic a turnaround season as has perhaps ever been seen from a Northern Region football team. The Stallions began the season with three straight losses — to Hayfield, Oakton, and West Potomac — but have since won 11 straight and now find themselves preparing for this Saturday afternoon’s state championship game against annual Div. 5 power Phoebus High (Hampton). The title game is scheduled to be played at the University of Virginia’s Scott Stadium in Charlottesville beginning at noon.

Following that state finals clash, the Div. 6 (larger schools) title game will take place between local Northern Region teams Centreville versus Oscar Smith High (Chesapeake). That game, set for 4:30 p.m., will also be played at Scott Stadium.

SOUTH COUNTY’S 11-GAME WIN STREAK following its tough start has been fascinating to watch. The Stallions, under new head coach Gerry Pannoni this fall season, had never before, in the school’s relatively short seven-year history, won any type of postseason football title before this season. Following the 0-3 start, South County won all seven of its remaining regular season games to make its record 7-3, earning the Stallions a part of the Patriot District title along with West Potomac and Lake Braddock.

Then, in the eight-team Div. 5 region playoffs, the Stallions continued their red-hot play with victories over three quality opponents — Madison, 31-0; defending Div. 5 region champion Stone Bridge, 24-3; and previously unbeaten Yorktown, 37-13, the latter victory over the Patriots (National District) coming in the region finals.

That earned South County its first-ever trip to the state playoffs.

“The past 11 weeks, it’s really been unexplainable,” said South County senior running back Jake Josephs, who both caught a touchdown and threw for one as well — on a halfback option play. “Everything has worked. If something goes wrong [in a game], the next play works. … When we were 0-3 we all got together and said, ‘That’s it, no more losses or we’re done.’”

Hanover, the Div. 5 Central Region champion, had no answers for slowing down South County’s rolling offense on Saturday as Foley, the Stallions’ southpaw quarterback, behind ample protection from his offensive line, smoked the Hawks by connecting on 13 of 16 passes for 200 yards and three touchdowns. The signal caller threw no interceptions and was not sacked.

His biggest target was senior wide receiver Mike Ferguson, who caught three touchdowns on pass plays of 27, 11, and 13 yards. Ferguson, the team’s kicker, also converted a 29-yard field goal.

The Stallions (11-3), who led 24-0 at halftime, utilized an impressive running attack in the win to bring balance to the offense. South County, in all, rushed for 162 yards, the top ball carrier being senior running back Peter Basnight (15 carries, 64 yards).

CENTREVILLE HIGH, meanwhile, edged home team Hermitage High (Richmond), 10-9, in a Saturday afternoon Div. 6 state semifinals game. The Wildcats (13-1), champions of the Concorde District, will play in the state title game this Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. versus Oscar Smith (Eastern Region) in Charlottesville.

Centreville, under second year head coach Chris Haddock, went 9-1 over the regular season, its lone loss coming against district opponent Westfield in overtime. In the playoffs, the Wildcats defeated Fairfax, 42-19, defending Div. 6 champion Lake Braddock, 21-18, and Westfield, 27-24. The region title game win over Westfield avenged the regular season loss and gave the Wildcats their first region crown since 2000.

Last week against Hermitage, Centreville — with the score tied at 3-3 — took the lead for good in the third quarter when quarterback Mitch Ferrick, on the final play of a 50-yard scoring march, connected with receiver Chase Walter on an eight-yard fade route pattern in the back of the left side of the end zone. Jared Rondeau, who had tied the game with a 20-yard field goal in the second quarter, converted the extra point kick to give the Wildcats a 10-3 lead.

“I had a one-on-one on the outside,” said Walter, a senior, of the TD play. “Mitch told me he would throw it up and I said, ‘Fine.’ We work on that play every day. I beat my guy — he was behind me — and Mitch threw it up. It was a well thrown ball and I just caught it.”

Hermitage scored a touchdown in the fourth quarter to get within 10-9 but the extra point kick failed. Ferrick said a Wildcat player might have tipped the ball on the conversion try.

“We knew [from watching game films] that we’d have a great chance to block field goals or extra points,” said Ferrick. “It was a high snap and our guys went in hard at it. I would think it likely their kicker was nervous [with the game on the line].”

Later in the fourth quarter, with Hermitage threatening, Centreville’s fierce pass rush forced a poor pass from QB D’Vonta Derrickot, resulting in an interception by Connor Coward at the Hawks’ 30-yard line.

Shortly after that, with time running out and Hermitage with the ball at its own 25, the Wildcats, on third and fourth down plays, got sacks from Ken Ekanem and Ryan Sepulveda to put the game away. In all, Centreville’s defense accounted for 10 sacks, with Ekanem, a senior linebacker, accounting for four-and-a-half.

“I think we did real good on defense,” said Ekanem. “We wanted to prove we were a better defense than Hermitage. We threw some blitzes at them and their linemen couldn’t pick them up.”

Centreville star running back Manny Smith led the Wildcats’ ground game with 50 hard fought yards on 20 carries.

The Wildcats, this week, will be looking for their first state crown since winning it all in 2000.

“It’s very exciting,” said Walter. “We’ve been playing football [together] since we were in the seventh grade, so to get to the state championship game is awesome.”

“We’ve been playing football [together] since we were in the seventh grade, so to get to the state championship game is awesome.”

— Centreville receiver Chase Walter

“The past 11 weeks, it’s really been unexplainable.”

— South County running back Jake Josephs
Sports

The Phillies are Vienna Little League’s Majors Fall Ball champions for 2011. The Phillies finished the season 12-2. The Phillies are: Nick Evan, Matt Fahnstock, Henry Freck, Zach Fulton, Sammy Junco, Ethan Lipp, Matt Scopta, Kenny Sharpe, Korey Sharpe, Grant Williams, Luke Williams, coach Mike Abundo, coach Andy Platou, coach Jim Triantos, coach Roger Williams, and manager John Freck.

The Astros are Vienna Little League’s triple-A Fall Ball champions for 2011. Clad in their retro orange uniforms, the team had a fantastic campaign with a 17-1 record and capped it with an exciting 3-2 victory in the championship game. The Astros are: Zack Castegnaro, Ian Cobb, Tomas Denemark, Andrew Kim, Brandon Kim, Jimmie Linza, Luke Monaco, Nick Morgan, Jordan Murakami, James Triantos, Colin Taft, David Varel, coach Sean Murakami, coach Jim Triantos, manager Jimmy Linza.

Vienna Little League Baseball will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary this season. Registration for children ages 5 to 12 begins in mid-December and will close in February. Go to www.vll.org for details.

The Phillies won the Majors’ championship of the Vienna Little League Fall season.

The Vienna Little League triple-A Astros captured the Fall League baseball title.

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