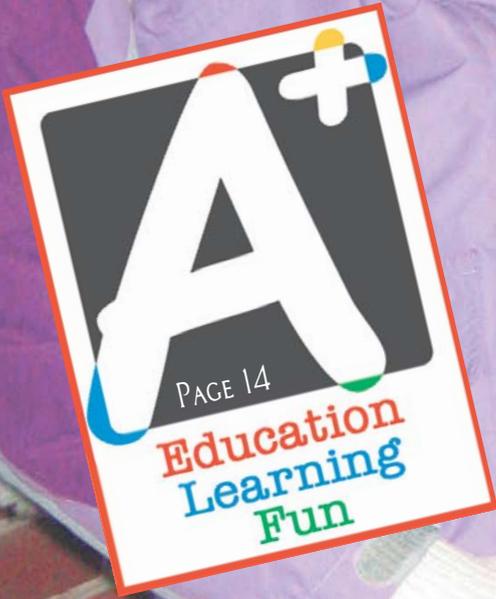


Emily Kile, 11,
asked Santa to bring
"science things" while
her sister Annika Kile,
5, asked for a fairy
doll and a unicorn.

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Christmas At Colvin Run Mill

Forging
Tradition

NEWS, PAGE 19

Fairfax to
Richmond:
Do Us No Harm

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ / THE CONNECTION

NEWS, PAGE 10

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NEWS

Anna Marie Mulvihill with her arrangement complete and ready to place in the museum exhibit in Freeman House.



Ayr Hill Garden Club of Vienna Decorates Freeman Store

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Town of Vienna's annual Church Street Holiday Stroll has come and gone, but Christmas displays made by the Ayr Hill Garden Club will adorn Freeman House for the month of December. The last days of November were so temperate that members of the club were able to assemble the arrangements in the sunshine on the historic site before decorating the outside of the building as well as the inside of the Store and the Museum.

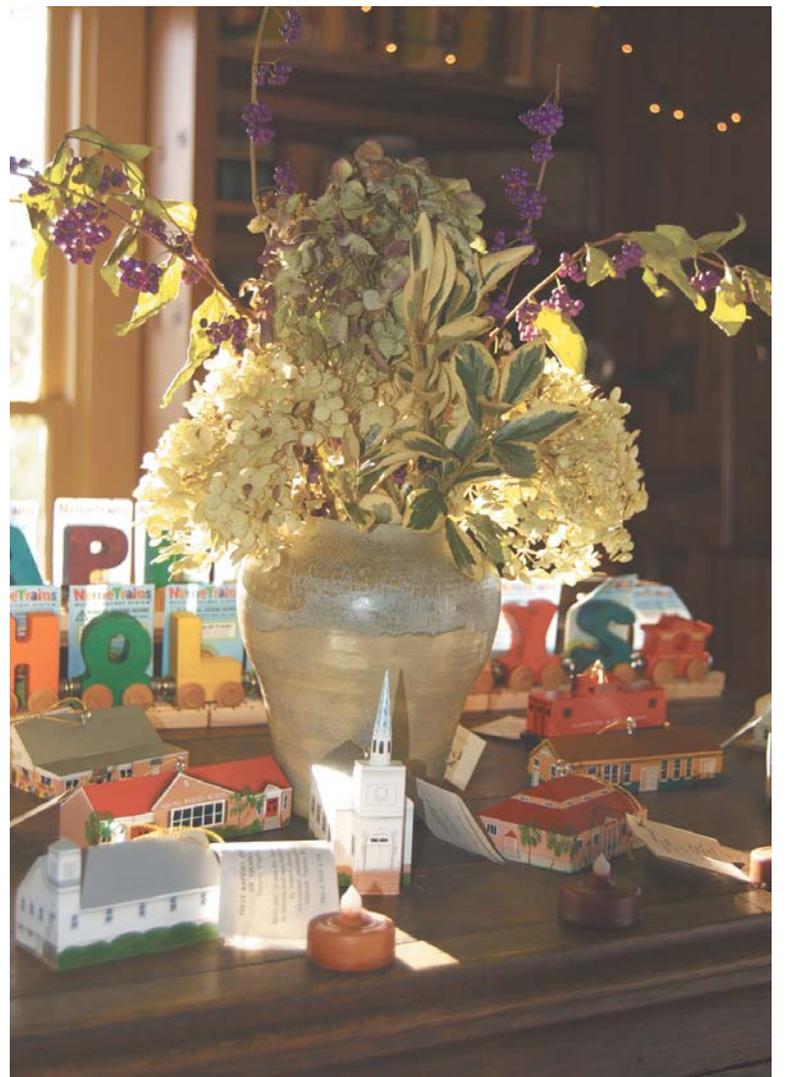
The Store offers merchandise for both children and adults including books, penny candies, old-fashioned toys, potter, gifts and souvenirs. The Museum now features an exhibit, Vienna Awakens to War, 1861-1865, which looks at the Civil War through artifacts loaned by local families. The property is located at 131 Church Street, N.E. and open to the public on Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.



A fruit arrangement on a table in the Freeman Museum.



Christmas tree in the Freeman Museum, which the Ayr Hill Garden Club decorated for the month of December.



Hydrangea arrangement amidst children's toys for sale at Freeman Store.

Diana Kilcullen and Sally Recinos displaying a wreath ready to hang on the front of Freeman Store.



State senators George Barker (D-39) and Richard Saslaw (D-35) and Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) listen as state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) addresses local officials during the meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly on Wed. Dec. 7 at the McConnell Public Safety Transportation and Operations Center.

PHOTOS BY
VICTORIA ROSS/
THE CONNECTION



Fairfax to Richmond: Do Us No Harm

Transportation funding dominates discussion.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The message Fairfax County Board of Supervisors delivered to legislators at its annual 2012 session was summed up in four words: Do us no harm.

“Our theme is basically ‘Leave us alone,’” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), chairman of the board’s legislative committee. “We recognize it’s difficult this year, and we’re begging our legislators not to make it worse for Fairfax County. It doesn’t sound collaborative, but we know we lose in all the funding formulas, so we’re saying don’t make it any worse.”

The 2012 General Assembly Legislative Work Session, held at the McConnell Public Safety Transportation and Operations Center on Wednesday, Dec. 7, followed the Boards’ unanimous decision to support the 2012 legislative agenda at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The county’s legislative program outlines four priorities: education funding; transportation funding; restoring the decimated level of state funding; and enhancing local authority, giving the county the flexibility to “modernize” its local tax structure, particularly in areas such as taxation and land use.

“I know we’re speaking to the choir here,” Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) said to the mostly Democratic state legislators in the room. “But now is the time for the state to begin the process of rebuilding the funding partnership with local government, by providing adequate funding for core services and avoiding shifting additional state costs and responsibilities to localities.”

THE CONCEPT OF DEVOLUTION, or shifting responsibilities from the state to the county, was a heated topic during the three-hour session.

“Basically, devolution means we don’t have enough money to go around,” said Del. Ken Plum (D-36) “so we end up pushing it down to counties. We’re not living up to our end of the bargain.”

During the session, Fairfax County executives said two facts merge to make FY 2012 a difficult year



School Board member Ted Velkoff (D-At-large), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) and Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) at the meeting.

financially: funding shortfalls exacerbated by diminishing federal stimulus dollars and the state’s declining revenue sources.

“The pie has shrunk. The money the state has been able to send us has dropped ... some of that decrease did not feel as bad because of the stimulus,” said James J. Regimbal Jr., a consultant from Fiscal Analytics who presented a fiscal forecast of state aid to Fairfax County during the session.

Regimbal said state revenues are not rebounding fast enough after the recession, which impacts core services such as education, transportation and human services. He predicted that Medicaid and Virginia Retirement System demands will continue to outstrip the state’s general fund revenue, putting pressure on state funding for other core programs.

“Without new revenues and expecting modest economic growth, the state will continue to reduce fund

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 15



Jane Cooper, Green Hedges principal Bob Gregg, Margaret Gambino, and Gregg’s daughters lead the sing-along.

Vienna Community Band Brings Joy to the

Annual holiday concert sparkled with holiday spirit.

On Dec. 11, the Vienna Community Band brightened the holiday season with a spirited concert of seasonal music, from a spritely March of the Toy Soldiers to the dramatic Alleluia. Sleigh Ride, with its sound effects, particularly the whinny of a horse trombone-style, closed out the band’s featured performance.

For some listeners in the audience at the Vienna Community Center, the highlight was the sing-along, merging community with band in a scene out of a Hallmark TV movie. As the band segued smoothly from traditional carol to carol in a medley, Jane Cooper led the audience in vocal accompaniment. Green Hedges principal Bob Gregg and his daughters, along with 7-year-old Margaret Gambino, took front stage in the sing-along with Cooper.

The audience sang along as the band played the carol medley, climaxing with Silent Night.

The Vienna Community Band receives grants from the Town of Vienna and the Exxon Mobil Foundation. Individual benefac-

tors help support the band, as well. Band director Mel Kessler, retired from the navy, lives in Annapolis and comes to Vienna to conduct practices. He also conducts the National Concert Band of America, based in Alexandria.

“Like so many professionals, your work gets in your blood,” said Kessler. “You don’t want to give it up so you find ways to continue with it.”

Corporations interested in sponsorship can contact band president Tom Cooper at tzcooper@verizon.net or go to the band’s website at www.viennacommunityband.org. Search Facebook under Vienna Community Band.

Brenda Scott of Vienna is familiar with the music of the Vienna Community Band, calling them “terrific.” She said she would like to know the band’s concert schedule for the year, but, on Dec. 11, she was happy to be there.

“I really like Christmas music,” Scott said.

— DONNA MANZ



Associate Conductor Katherine Wilson, leading the Vienna Community Band in Hanukkah Holiday.

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NEWS

MWAA Resists New Members

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf 'extremely disappointed.'

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

The Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority apparently never tires of resisting U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf and other Virginia officials from gaining more control of the authority's operations and its handling of the Dulles Rail project.

After President Obama signed into law a measure that increases Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority's membership from 13 to 17 members and called for an additional two Virginia members, Airports Authority Chairman Charles D. Snelling, wrote to Wolf that the authority did not plan to immediately abide by the law.

"Soon after the enactment of this legislation, the Airports Authority retained outside legal counsel to provide an independent legal opinion on the implementation of the legislation and, more specifically, on whether the changes made by the legislation

were operative upon enactment or require an amendment to the MWAA compact in order to become operative," Snelling said.

The authority engaged Jenner & Block, one of the nation's best known and most expensive law firms, to examine the constitutionality of the law. In 22 pages of legal dissertation, the firm said it might be unconstitutional but the issue would likely have to be settled in a federal court.

Robert Yingling, a public affairs spokesperson for Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, said he could not report on how much this legal opinion cost public funds because the bill for the work had not been submitted.

According to Snelling, the Jenner & Block opinion found that the "new legislation is not operable until the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia approve changes to the governing MWAA compact. Accordingly, it is the opinion of our outside counsel that the legislation is best understood as authorizing

Virginia and the District of Columbia to amend the MWAA compact, and not unilaterally bringing about that amendment itself."

He said Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority would not permit any new members appointed under the law to "participate in board duties until changes are made to governing MWAA compact."

Wolf said he was "extremely disappointed" that the Airports Authority "is choosing to fight bipartisan changes contained in Public Law 112-55." Wolf said the "intent of Congress could not be more clear" and there was "no need for MWAA to go the expense of hiring outside counsel." Wolf said he has asked the U.S. Transportation Department's Inspector General to find out who ordered the report and what it cost.

The role of board members acting out after expiration of their term arose when a member whose term had expired was allowed several years ago to vote from house arrest in the Ivory Coast.

Christmas at Merrifield Garden Center

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NEWSPAPERS

WEEK IN VIENNA

Town Offices Closed for Holiday

Town Offices will close at noon on Friday, Dec. 23, and will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Recycling will be collected as normal on Friday, Dec. 23. No trash will be collected on Monday, Dec. 26. Monday-route trash will be collected on Thursday, Dec. 29; no recycling will be collected on Thursday. Town-wide recycling collection (Thursday and Friday recycling routes) will be performed on Friday, Dec. 30.

The Community Center will close at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 23, and will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 24, and Sunday, Dec. 25. The Community Center will be open Monday, Dec. 26 from 12 to 4 p.m.

Technology Class for Baby Boomers and Beyond

"Today's Technology for Baby Boomers and Beyond" will be held on Mondays, Jan. 9, 23 and 30, from 1:40 to 2:40 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE. This class will also be held on Mondays, Feb. 6, 13 and 27, 2012.

The program will provide participants with the necessary tools to keep up with all the technologies that society uses on a regular basis including cell phones, computers, digital cameras, GPS devices and more. The class consists of a formal presentation for one hour followed by an additional hour after each class for personalized questions about your equipment.

The cost is \$26.25 for Town of Vienna residents

and \$33 for out-of-town participants. There is a limited enrollment of 16 students. For more information or to register, call 703-255-6360 and reference class number 341241 A1 (January) or B1 (February) or view page 27 in the Winter Parks and Recreation Brochure online at www.viennava.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=62.

Free Workshop on Wills

"Why Good Wills Go Bad" will be held on Monday, Jan. 9, 2012 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, S.E. Join attorney David G. Hoffman for a discussion of Virginia will law, organizing your assets, when to change your will, talking to your executor, reducing probate, will copies, do-it-yourself tax plans and more.

No registration required; free. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360.

Essay Contest on Women's History

The Fairfax County Commission for Women is sponsoring an essay contest to commemorate Women's History Month 2012. The contest is open to every high school senior attending a Fairfax County public school, college bound or not, male or female. The deadline is Dec. 31. Winning essays can win up to \$1000. More information about the topic and requirements can be found at: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/news_press_releases/2011/1107-essay-contest.htm.

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Vienna police department through Dec. 9.

ARRESTS

400 Block Creek Crossing Road, N.E. Nov. 25, 11:45 p.m. MPO Shaw responded for the report of a single vehicle crash into a utility pole. Upon his arrival he found both the vehicle and the driver. After interacting with the driver MPO Shaw detected signs of possible impairment. The driver, a 19-year-old male of Elmar Drive in Vienna, attempted to complete several field sobriety tests. He was subsequently arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center for analysis of his breath and processing.

200 Block Lawyers Road, N.W. Dec. 2, 5:54 p.m. MPO Sheeran responded for a single vehicle crash. His investigation revealed that a vehicle was travelling at an excessive rate of speed and failed to negotiate the turn on Lawyers Road near Sharon Lane, N.W. The vehicle ran off of the roadway to the right and struck a large rock. It then continued on and struck a tree, then spun around and contacted a second tree. The driver did not sustain any injuries. Upon his interaction with the vehicle's driver MPO Sheeran detected signs of possible impairment. The driver, a 56-year-old male of Ridgeview Lane in Brightwood, attempted to complete several field sobriety tests. He was then arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and transported to Vienna Police Headquarters for breath analysis. After the analysis he was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

300 Block Maple Ave., East. Dec. 3, 1:52 a.m. Sergeant Juelharte conducted a traffic stop. Upon her interaction with the driver she

detected signs of possible impairment. She also observed what appeared to be fresh damage to the exterior of the vehicle. The driver, a 20-year-old male of Lincoln Lake Way in Fairfax, attempted to complete several field sobriety tests. He was then arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and transported to Vienna Police Headquarters for analysis of his breath. After the analysis he was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. It is unknown where the damage was sustained. Area law enforcement agencies were made aware of Sergeant Juelharte's observations.

Cunningham Park Elementary School, 1001 Park St., S.E. Dec. 3, 6:28 a.m. PFC Ruddy observed a trash truck emptying a dumpster at Marshall Road Elementary School in the early morning hours. She followed it to Cunningham Park Elementary School and observed it servicing another dumpster. Officer Ruddy then issued a 47-year-old male of Liberia Ave. in Manassas a summons for violating the Town of Vienna noise ordinance. He was released after signing the summons.

Cottage St. at Kingsley Road, S.W. Dec. 5, 1:11 a.m. Sergeant Juelharte conducted a traffic stop. Upon her interaction with the driver she detected the presence of suspected alcohol. After further investigation Sergeant Juelharte determined that the driver, a 20-year-old female of Bridleridge Court in Vienna had consumed alcohol while underage. She was issued a summons for the violation and a friend responded to drive her home.

100 Block East St., S.E. Dec. 8, 6:01 a.m. Sergeant Juelharte observed a trash disposal truck collecting a dumpster prior to 7:00 a.m. in violation of town code. A 41-year-old

male of Kershaw Court in Manassas was issued a summons for the violation and released after signing it.

ABANDONED VEHICLE

300 Block Ayrhill Ave., N.E. Dec. 3, 9:21 a.m. A vehicle with a flat tire was left parked on the roadway for several days. A few days later the vehicle was towed away to a secure lot and will await retrieval by its owner.

ANIMAL CASE

300 Block Maple Ave., East. Dec. 6, 11:35 a.m. ACO Barker responded for a stray dog running at large. He was able to capture it and transport it to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to await retrieval by its owner. The dog is described as a female Collie.

ASSIST EMS

Tapawingo Road at Meadow Lane, S.W. Dec. 2, 10:14 p.m. Sergeant Juelharte responded for a motorist that was in medical distress. Fairfax County EMS also responded and transported the subject to an area hospital.

CREDIT CARD FRAUD

100 Block Casmar St., S.E. Between Nov. 7 at 12:01 a.m. and Nov. 28 at 11:59 p.m. A citizen reported receiving a phone call from her credit card company regarding a purchase approval. The complainant's credit card number was being used to attempt a fraudulent purchase at a Sears store. She declined the purchase approval. After checking her credit card activity online she

SEE CRIME, PAGE 7

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OPINION

Five Suggestions for the New School Board

Half of the School Board members are new.

On Monday, Dec. 19, the newly elected members of the Fairfax County School Board will be sworn in, marking the largest number of new members at one time in memory.

The change on the board comes from open seats with previous members deciding not to run. Fully half of the board will be new members, although most are also familiar faces.

But it was apparent from the election that voters were motivated by the school board races, turning out to have their say. It's a mistake to view the election as a vote of approval for all current policies or as a repudiation of particular policies. The level of interest and controversy indicates that it's a great moment for the new board to engage the public.

The fact that 70 percent of voters supported the school bond for county schools shows that county residents understand the importance of quality schools.

The school board consists of three at large members who represent the entire county, plus nine district members. Each voter had the opportunity to vote for four, three at large and one for their district.

Iryong Moon is the one incumbent remaining at large; Ryan McElveen and Ted Velkoff will join the board at large. District members are: Megan McLaughlin, Braddock; Janie Strauss, Dranesville; Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill; Tammy Kaufax, Lee; Sandy Evans, Mason; Dan Storck, Mount Vernon; Patty Reed, Providence; Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield, and Kathy Smith, Sully. Moon, Strauss, Evans, Storck, Reed and Smith are returning members.

EDITORIAL

It's important to respect the dedication and motivation of school board members. It's hard to understand why anyone would want these jobs. The hours are never ending. The pay is symbolic. Few decisions will come without acrimony from some quarters. These are people who really are dedicated to service.

That said, we offer a few suggestions, some very general, some very specific, for the new board as it steps up to serve.

1) On with campaign. Begin with a listening tour. Hold some full-board listening sessions around the county. Hold some regional listening sessions in schools and parents' living rooms. Listen in small groups and individually.

Invite teachers and administrators to come out on tour with you. Don't forget to listen to teachers as well as students, parents, administrators and more.

2) Fix large classes. You don't have to reduce the "average" class size. But do something about every class of 30 students or more. It's the exceptionally large classes where students don't even fit in the room that drive parents wild. It doesn't matter if it's a classroom of poor students or wealthy students or something in between, really large classes are not appropriate.

3) Are surveillance cameras really the best use of scarce dollars? No matter what the current board decides to do later this week (likely vote on Dec. 15 after Connection deadline), set the decision aside until after the listening tour.

4) Don't wait for a state law. Instruct administrators to call parents to be present if they plan to question a student about behavior that could result in serious disciplinary measures or legal action.

5) Celebrate the specific and varied successes in Fairfax County Public Schools.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Grand Illusion in Richmond

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Recently I performed a magic show for children at Barnes and Noble in Reston as part of a fundraiser for a local preschool. Part of the success of performing magic is dependent upon the ability of the magician to divert the attention of the audience from what is going on to the illusion of what seems to be happening.

A ballpoint pen seems to stick a hole in a dollar bill, although no hole is found when the pen is removed. The peanut butter jar and the jelly jar seem to mysteriously change places. A string of bright beads is produced from an empty container. Magic and illusion are great forms of entertainment.

Unfortunately the agenda shaping up for the 2012 General Assembly session in Richmond includes some sleight-of-hand to make the state legislature look good in the short run but could leave local governments on the losing end of the trick.

The Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review is proposing the elimination of a number of existing mandates. The Task Force is focusing on 105 education mandates and 80 local government mandates.

While many of these requirements that state government placed on local government may have made sense at the time they were enacted, some are redundant, unnecessary, or meaningless today. A good house cleaning is always in order. Also under review by the Task Force is a possible moratorium on new state mandates to local governments. Review the report at www.dhcd.virginia.gov/GovMandateReview/default.htm.

As local governments and school boards are



COMMENTARY

celebrating the elimination of some nuisance reporting requirements and pesky accountability reports, their attention will need to be shifted quickly to the other side of the stage for the grand illusion that is about to take place.

In order to balance the state budget, the General Assembly is likely to whittle away at the schools' Standards of Quality. And for every mandate that is lifted in the state SOQs, localities will lose state aid. For a partnership that should be equal between state and local governments, a shift has already occurred with local governments picking up 60 percent of costs to the state's 40 percent.

State general funding to education that in Fiscal Year 2009 was \$5.6 billion is expected to dip to \$4.9 billion in Fiscal Year 2012.

The grandest of the illusions may be the expected attempt in the 2012 session of the General Assembly to shift secondary road maintenance from state to local governments. The state would balance its transportation budget with this little trick, but local governments would be saddled with millions of dollars in expenses. For Fairfax County the cost would be in the hundreds of millions.

For taxpayers the show may even be made to look attractive in the realignment of state and local government responsibilities with counties taking care of local roads. When taxpayers check their wallets and realize they are suddenly empty from paying the additional property tax that will be required to pay for road repairs, the trick will not be nearly so entertaining.

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:

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CRIME

FROM PAGE 5

learned that there were some other fraudulent purchases on the account. This case is still being investigated.

FOUND PROPERTY

Cedar Lane Shopping Center, 262 Cedar Lane, S.E. Dec. 4, 8:50 a.m. A citizen reported finding a wallet in the parking lot. MPO Evans will attempt to locate the owner.

GRAND LARCENY

Chipotle Restaurant, 200 Block Maple Ave., East. Between Nov. 30 at 7 a.m. and Dec. 1 at 7 a.m. The property manager reported that during the listed dates unknown subjects stole the hydraulic system from an exterior trash compactor. The approximate cost to replace the system is \$1500. This case is still being investigated.

400 Block Knoll St., N.W. Dec. 2 between 1-2 a.m. A citizen reported that her estranged husband stole a GPS unit and a wedding ring from the interior of her vehicle. The complainant had become intoxicated at an area bar and asked her estranged husband to drive her home. The husband told the complainant that he took the items as retribution for her taking a television set when she left her previous home. This case is still being investigated.

LOST PROPERTY

Skorpio's Restaurant, 421 Maple Ave., East. Dec. 6, 9:01 p.m. A citizen reported that he believes he lost his wallet inside the restaurant.



Church of the Holy Comforter
The Rev. Richard A. Lord, Rector

CHRISTMAS EVE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24:
11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist
10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

CHRISTMAS MORNING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25:
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

(Episcopal)

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HOME SALES

In October 2011, 52 homes sold between \$1,320,000-\$170,000 in the Vienna and Oakton area.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
10301 HICKORY FOREST DR	5	5	1	OAKTON	VA	\$1,320,000	Detached	1.09	22124	HICKORY HOLLOW FOREST
1020 APONI RD	5	4	2	VIENNA	VA	\$1,257,219	Detached	0.35	22180	OAK GROVE
2151 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	6	7	0	VIENNA	VA	\$1,230,000	Detached	0.98	22182	OLD COURTHOUSE
908 SYMPHONY CIR	5	4	1	VIENNA	VA	\$1,227,500	Detached	0.37	22180	VIENNA WOODS
9020 LUPINE DEN DR	5	4	1	VIENNA	VA	\$990,000	Detached	0.34	22182	MANORS AT WOLF TRAP
1884 BEULAH RD	3	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$900,000	Detached	2.02	22182	ANKER OAKS
2702 BERRYLAND DR	4	3	1	OAKTON	VA	\$775,000	Detached	0.97	22124	BERRYLAND FARM
2853 WILLOWMERE WOODS DR	5	3	1	VIENNA	VA	\$768,000	Detached	0.21	22180	WILLOWMERE WOODS
9612 CENTER ST	4	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$735,000	Detached	0.35	22181	BARRISTERS PLACE
1854 FOXSTONE DR	4	2	2	VIENNA	VA	\$720,000	Detached	0.24	22182	FOXSTONE
2923 ARAN CT	4	4	0	OAKTON	VA	\$715,000	Detached	0.10	22124	OAK MARR COURTS
9409 DELANCEY DR	4	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$714,000	Detached	0.39	22182	EMBASSY COURTS
2008 ADAMS HILL RD	4	3	1	VIENNA	VA	\$705,000	Detached	0.72	22182	HUNTER MILL FOREST
10101 GARRETT ST	5	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$700,000	Detached	0.48	22181	GLENCANNON
8021 KIDWELL HILL CT	3	3	1	VIENNA	VA	\$670,000	Townhouse	0.07	22182	KIDWELL TOWNS
10205 WANDERING CREEK RD	4	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$665,000	Detached	0.47	22182	COLVINS GLEN
2926 OAKBURY CT	3	3	1	OAKTON	VA	\$655,000	Detached	0.07	22124	OAK MARR COURTS
10861 PARCEL CT	3	2	1	OAKTON	VA	\$625,000	Detached	0.48	22124	BERRYLAND FARM
9419 VAN ARSDALE DR	3	2	2	VIENNA	VA	\$620,000	Townhouse	0.05	22181	VIRGINIA CENTER
2824 CHARLES DUNN DR	4	3	1	VIENNA	VA	\$610,000	Townhouse	0.04	22180	PROVIDENCE PARK
311 PATRICK ST SW	7	4	0	VIENNA	VA	\$608,000	Detached	0.24	22180	VIENNA WOODS
424 CENTER ST	4	3	0	VIENNA	VA	\$600,000	Detached	0.23	22180	SOMERSET
9507 MANDOLIN CT	4	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$595,000	Detached	0.40	22182	SHOUSE VILLAGE
1700 FOX RUN CT	5	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$575,000	Detached	0.54	22182	WAYSIDE
636 MARSHALL RD	5	3	0	VIENNA	VA	\$570,000	Detached	0.45	22180	MOIDONE ACRES
2044 PIERIS CT	3	2	2	VIENNA	VA	\$564,000	Townhouse	0.06	22182	TYSONS STATION
11804 WAPLES MILL RD	4	3	0	OAKTON	VA	\$560,000	Detached	0.47	22124	WAPLES MILL ESTATES
2241 CHESTERTOWN DR	4	2	0	VIENNA	VA	\$546,500	Detached	0.24	22182	TYSONS WOODS
1652 GELDING LN	3	3	1	VIENNA	VA	\$543,900	Detached	0.34	22182	TRAILS THE
608 BLACKSTONE TER	3	3	0	VIENNA	VA	\$525,000	Detached	0.23	22180	VIENNA HILLS
8044 MERRY OAKS CT	3	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$520,100	Townhouse	0.04	22182	MERRY OAKS
2601 BOWLING GREEN DR	5	3	0	VIENNA	VA	\$512,500	Detached	0.36	22180	DUNN LORING WOODS
8219 BUCKNELL DR	4	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$502,000	Detached	0.25	22180	DUNN LORING WOODS
105 SANOY CIR	4	3	0	VIENNA	VA	\$470,000	Detached	0.25	22180	VIENNA WOODS
8608 PEPPERDINE DR	3	3	0	VIENNA	VA	\$467,000	Detached	0.28	22180	DUNN LORING WOODS
121 HICKORY CIR	2	3	0	VIENNA	VA	\$465,000	Detached	0.26	22180	WEST VIENNA WOODS
3090 BRADFORD WOOD CT	4	3	1	OAKTON	VA	\$452,000	Townhouse	0.04	22124	CONCORD VILLAGE
10435 RED GRANITE TER	3	2	2	OAKTON	VA	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.06	22124	ARROWOOD
9914 BRIGHTLEA DR	3	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$415,000	Detached	0.29	22181	EDGELEA WOODS
2964 BERGE ST	3	3	1	OAKTON	VA	\$407,000	Townhouse	0.04	22124	CHERRYWOOD SQUARE
207A LOCUST ST #P	3	2	1	VIENNA	VA	\$405,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22180	VIENNA TRAIL
2932 WATERFORD CT	4	3	1	VIENNA	VA	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.04	22181	WATERFORD
8647 DELLWAY LN	3	2	2	VIENNA	VA	\$399,995	Townhouse	0.03	22180	DUNN LORING VILLAGE
128 MOORE AVE	3	2	0	VIENNA	VA	\$385,000	Detached	0.26	22180	WEST VIENNA WOODS
10309 EMERALD ROCK DR	3	2	2	OAKTON	VA	\$353,000	Townhouse	0.04	22124	ARROWOOD
2765 CENTERBORO DR #165	2	2	0	VIENNA	VA	\$304,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STAIN
10221 VALENTINO DR #7411	3	2	0	OAKTON	VA	\$260,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22124	VISTAS OF VIENNA
2765 CENTERBORO DR #261	1	1	0	VIENNA	VA	\$214,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STAIN
10175 OAKTON TERR RD #10175	1	1	0	OAKTON	VA	\$209,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		22124	THE OAKTON
3179 SUMMIT SQUARE DR #2-C3	2	1	0	OAKTON	VA	\$190,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22124	FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
3179 SUMMIT SQUARE DR #2-A1	1	1	0	OAKTON	VA	\$186,500	Garden 1-4 Floors		22124	FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
10204 BUSHMAN DR #304	2	2	0	OAKTON	VA	\$170,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22124	THE VISTAS

OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS
Will Return after the Holidays

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call 703-821-5050

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Saturday 12/24 6:00 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE BY CANDLELIGHT
A McLean Tradition featuring carols and candles, storytelling and scripture reading.

Sunday, 12/25 10:00 AM
CHRISTMAS GLORY
A majestic celebration of Christ's birth complete with pageantry, strings, classic Christmas music and Communion. Afterwards we'll share a birthday cake in honor of Christ.

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FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, has announced their Christmas Worship Services. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

*Sunday, Dec. 18. 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. A traditional service of lessons and carols with the Choirs of St. John's Church accompanied by organist Dr. John C. Wulff, and the Sunrise String Quartet with Teri Lazar and Osman Kivrak.

*Saturday, Dec. 24. 4 p.m. Christmas Eve family service of Holy Eucharist, with Christmas music beginning at 3:30 p.m.

*Saturday, Dec. 24. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. A traditional service of Holy Eucharist including familiar carols. Music begins at half an hour before each service.

*Sunday, Dec. 25. 10 a.m. Celebrate Christmas with the Holy Eucharist and carol singing.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach, and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual growth. 7:45 a.m. Worship Service without music; 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children's Chapel and Children's Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive N.E.

in Vienna, will hold a Christmas Eve Family Service on Saturday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m., featuring the Praze Band and a Christmas Children's Program. On Sunday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day worship and communion service will be at 11 a.m. office@epiphany.com or 703-938-3494.

McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike in Vienna, will host two free Christmas concerts at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15 and Friday, Dec. 16. "Joy: An Irish Christmas" will feature modern hymn writers Keith and Kristyn Getty, as well as artists from the McLean Bible Church staff. Doors will open at 7:15 p.m. Free. There will be sign language interpretation for the Thursday concert. <http://mcleanbible.org/christmas>.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly ba-

sis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed and strength is gained. 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, will hold its Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 11 a.m. The sermon topic is "Why Me, Lord." office@epiphanyumc.com or 703-938-3494.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week program "Passages," for those experiencing separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or Passages@ViennaPres.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Multiple Sclerosis Support Group. 7 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, 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.

Five Hills Garden Club. 10 a.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., Vienna. Meets third Tuesday of every month. 703-988-9324 or mariansanders@cox.net.

TUESDAY/JAN. 3

English, Citizenship, and Computer Class Registration. 7 p.m. St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. All students must be registered and tested. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 10 and meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. A 6:30 p.m. optional Basic Computer Skills Lab and a 6:30 p.m. Citizenship Preparation Class offered to intermediate and advanced students. \$20 per course, cash only. Register at 703-300-3936 or st.mark.esl@gmail.com for English or Spanish, 703-994-8510 for Korean.

THURSDAY/JAN. 5

English, Citizenship, and Computer Class Registration. 7 p.m. St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. All students must be registered and tested. Classes begin Tuesday, Jan. 10 and meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. A 6:30 p.m. optional Basic Computer Skills Lab and a 6:30 p.m. Citizenship Preparation Class offered to intermediate and advanced students. \$20 per course, cash only. Register at 703-300-3936 or st.mark.esl@gmail.com for English or Spanish, 703-994-8510 for Korean.

SATURDAY/JAN. 7

McLean Little League Spring Registration. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. McLean Little League Fields, 1836 Westmoreland St., McLean. www.mcleanll.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 10

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.

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. www.tysonscornerkiwanis.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 11

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.

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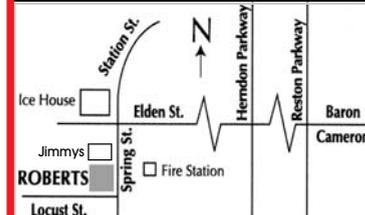
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Celebrating Christmas at Colvin Run Mill

Park hosts Santa, carolers and crafts for children.

Colvin Run Mill returned to an earlier time in Virginia when it hosted Santa Claus at the mill, complementing Santa's visit with a roaring bonfire, carolers from the Virginia 49th Infantry and their families, crafts for children and marshmallow roasting. Luminaria lined the path from the general store to the miller's house where Santa Claus sat in the miller's office, warmed by a fire blazing in a brick fireplace. A Victorian-decorated Christmas tree welcomed families.

Hot chocolate waited for cold hands and, inside the general store, old-fashioned gifts, including a variety of puzzles for children and adults, lined the shelves of the rustic shop. Teen volunteers guided children's craftmaking activities inside the barn. Snowflake design



The Virginia 49th Infantry Regiment, CSA, and their families gathered around a bonfire to lead guests in a holiday sing-along.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/ THE CONNECTION

and pipe cleaner candy canes were big hits. Families came from throughout Northern Virginia for the holiday celebration at Colvin Run Mill, many saying that they come often to events there.

"This is a nice atmosphere to see Santa," said Alexandria mother Sarah Wrazen, in the barn with husband David and their children, Evie, 2, and Clara, 6. "There's crafts and carolers, people singing along. It feels like Christmas here."

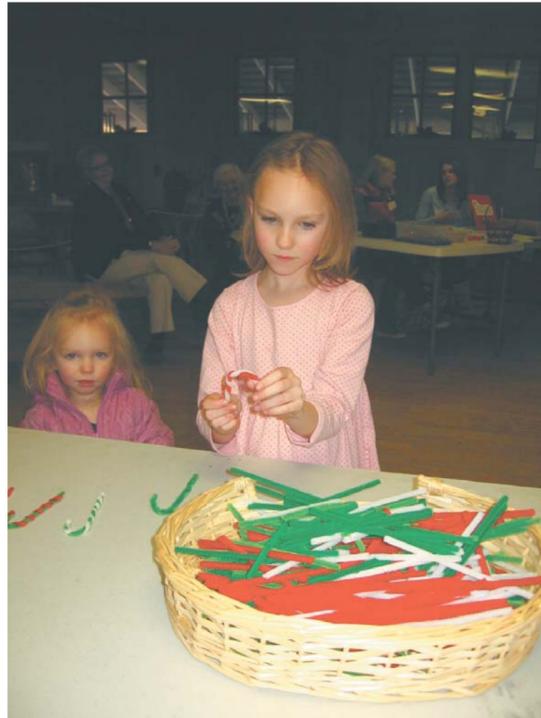
The Kile sisters, Emily, 11, and Annika, 5, along with Santa, shared what it is that they like the most about Christmastime. For Annika, it's snow and making a snowman. Emily said that what she likes most about the season is "time

off from school." And Santa said he likes getting a chance to bring things to boys and girls, to bring some joy into the world.

COLVIN RUN MILL PARK, still with a working mill, celebrated its 200th anniversary this year. Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Park Authority sponsors programs for all age groups, from maple syrup boil-downs to ice cream making and wood carving. On Dec. 3 and 4, Colvin Run Mill hosted children's shopping days where children shopped for family members at the general store.

The park features a G-gauge holiday train layout on Saturday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For details, call 703-759-2771. There's no charge to watch the model trains chug through a replica western town.

— DONNA MANZ



Clara Wrazen, 6, learns how to make her own pipe cleaner candy cane as her sister Evie, 2, watches.

At the school's annual Colonial Day, Churchill Road 4th graders Nash Leaptrot and Katherine Walker dance the Virginia Reel while their classmates await their turn.



PHOTOS BY JEFF PALK

Colonial Day at Churchill Road

On Friday, Dec. 9, Churchill Road fourth graders participated in the school's annual Colonial Day, an immersion into the life styles and customs of the colonial days. Students, teachers and parents participated in a variety of activities that included tin punching, calligraphy, candle-making, stenciling, quilting, soap carving, dancing, corn husk doll making and more. Parents and students dressed in period garb and thoroughly enjoyed the daylong events. The event was organized by CRS fourth grade teachers Rachel Dunleavy, Dave Ickowski, Nick Kilpatrick, Claire McHale, Mary Lynn Robosky and Dave Suchoski.



As part of a reenactment of Colonial crafts, Churchill Road fourth graders Nathan Ward and Joey Park learn how to make corn husk dolls from parent volunteer Sarah Walter.

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On his 3rd tour in Iraq in 2008, Spc. Josh Schictl was driving a Humvee which was hit by two IED's. He suffered life-threatening injuries to his face and head. Despite the quick work of medics, Spc. Schictl lost his right eye and nine teeth. Nearly all of the bones in his face were broken but were stabilized before transport to Walter Reed Medical Center. He also suffered a TBI.

Wounded warriors and their families struggle for years to recover physically, emotionally and financially from the sacrifices they make in wartime. Operation Homefront seeks to walk with them on their journey and ease the hardships they face. The DC Metro Chapter assisted Josh and Emily with transitional housing, household furnishings, holiday gifts and grocery gift cards during these difficult times.

There are many ways you can work with the DC Metro Chapter to assist local military families like Josh and Emily.

People ask us everyday how they can show their appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices made by military families. One way you can do this is to let the DC Metro Chapter fill the gap for military families as they adjust to the 'new normal' after being deployed or wounded in combat. Send your tax deductible donation before Dec. 31st to help us meet next year's needs.

Send your donations to:
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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker. 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$28-\$122, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Winter Orchestra Concert. 7 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A celebration of France, with music by Faure, Herold, Saint-Saens, and Bizet, poetry readings and a mime. Silent auction and refreshments. Free. smcquade2002@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more take to the stage to share their love of music. Tickets \$15-\$75, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Buon Natale Featuring Natalie York & Friends in a benefit for Food for Others. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Where I'm Calling From by Raymond Carver. Adults. 703-242-4020.

E-book /E-Reader Instruction. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library eBooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. City

of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories, songs, fingerplays and more. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Holidays Around the World. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Cody & Bj interactive holiday music show. All ages. 703-938-0405.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

"Parfumerie." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Two Budapest shop clerks bicker by day, oblivious to the fact that they've fallen for each other exchanging anonymous love letters. Tickets \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage Tysonson.org.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more take to the stage to share their love of music. Tickets \$15-\$75, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

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

Living Nativity and Christmas Concert. Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Rd, McLean. The Living Nativity is from 6-8 p.m. and the Concert at 7:30 p.m. Live animals in the Manger, hot chocolate and bake sale. The Concert includes the Bell Choir, Praise Team, Traditional Choir, Youth Choir and Student Symphonic Orchestra. 703-356-3346 or redeemermclean.org.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-938-0405.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Friday Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. All ages. 703-790-8088.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Model Railroad (HO Scale) Open House and Display. 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The layout depicts the Western North Carolina Railroad (now a portion of the Norfolk Southern) during the period of transition from steam to diesel. The Open House also features Thomas the Tank Engine and some of his friends. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more take to the stage to share their love of music. Tickets \$15-\$75, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

5th Annual Rocknocos Holiday Singalong and Happy Family Hour at 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Christmas in Cape Breton. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive,



There will be a Model Railroad (HO Scale) Open House and Display on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 1-5 p.m. at the Historic Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The layout depicts the Western North Carolina Railroad (now a portion of the Norfolk Southern) during the period of transition from steam to diesel. The Open House also features Thomas the Tank Engine and some of his friends. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.

Fairfax. Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster performs traditional and contemporary Celtic melodies and Christmas carols. \$25-\$50. www.gmu.edu.

"Parfumerie." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Two Budapest shop clerks bicker by day, oblivious to the fact that they've fallen for each other exchanging anonymous love letters. Tickets \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage Tysonson.org.

Candlelight Tour: Civil War Christmas. 4:45-7 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Hear 19th century fiddling by Michael McDonnell. Witness Confederate officers dining at Sully as JEB Stuart's cavalry did in December 1862. See what goes into the Christmas box being packed for soldiers in the field. Ladies make their own holiday decorations. Watch members of the 28th Virginia Infantry cook Christmas dinner in the yard. Tour the 1794 home in the glow of natural candlelight, hear seasonal music, make holiday ornaments, and sample sugar cookies. \$10 adults, \$7 seniors and children. Reserve at 703-437-1794 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/calendar.htm.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Rd., Falls Church. Attendees are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. The line dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance lesson at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$5-\$12. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

Book Talk: Your Emotional Type. 1 p.m. Books-A-Million, 1457 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Author Michael Jawer on emotional types and susceptibility to chronic illnesses. Assessment survey provided. Free. mjawer2001@yahoo.com.

Movie Day at the Library. 1 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Holiday Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. All you can eat pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, and more. Santa will make an appearance at 11

a.m. \$8 adults, \$7 seniors, \$6 age 5-12, free age 4 and under. www.vvfd.org.

Piano Recital. 1 p.m. Steinway Hall, Tysons Corner Center, McLean. With students of the Elite Piano Academy. 202-674-0499.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Yosi and the Superdads Rockin' Hanukkah Concert. 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$10-\$15. www.mcleancenter.org.

Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music. 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more take to the stage to share their love of music. Tickets \$15-\$75, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano: Fiesta Navidad. 4 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fiesta Navidad mixes traditional Mexican and American holiday songs with dancing, authentic, costumes and an audience sing-along. \$23-\$46. www.gmu.edu.

"Parfumerie." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Two Budapest shop clerks bicker by day, oblivious to the fact that they've fallen for each other exchanging anonymous love letters. Tickets \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage Tysonson.org.

Candlelight Tour: World War II, Christmas on the Homefront. 4:45-7 p.m. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. The 51st Engineers Battalion set up camp in front of the house. Listen to holiday radio broadcasts of Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. See how Fairfax families celebrated a homemade Christmas and helped the troops, and how Christmas dinner was enjoyed in spite of rationing. Enjoy cider and cookies, have their photos taken on an antique sleigh. Tour the 1794 home in the glow of natural candlelight, hear seasonal music, make holiday ornaments, and sample sugar cookies. \$10 adults, \$7 seniors and children. Reserve at 703-437-1794 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully/calendar.htm.

MONDAY/DEC. 19

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

V.I.P. Vienna. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Support group for visually impaired adults. With Patrick Timony, adaptive technology specialist and Leslie Bobbitt, IT specialist on accessibility features of the iPhone and iPad. 703-938-0405.

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

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

Sounds of the Season Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The LHS Madrigals will perform Renaissance holiday music in elaborate period costumes. In addition, all of the LHS choirs will perform selections. Free admission. smayman@verizon.net or 703-283-1697.

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 an 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.

Mystery Book Discussion. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. 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.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 21

Student Volunteer Training Session. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Students receive training from library staff and sign up for volunteer hours. Age 12-15. 703-293-6227.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Vienna 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.



Holiday Recital at Chesterbrook Residences

On Saturday, Dec. 3, Aaron Grossman (Cooper Middle School), Matthew Gregory (Longfellow Middle School), Aaliyah Booker (McLean High School), and Julia Kushan (Saint John Academy) performed their semi-annual concert at Chesterbrook Residences, an assisted living community in McLean, with a full house ready to enjoy a "Piano and Violin Holiday Recital."

Marshall's DECA Makes Wishes Come True

The Marshall High School DECA chapter is sponsoring the Treats for Treatment project during the week of Dec. 12-16 to collect and fund items for pediatric patients at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children.

Led by DECA members Luke Dzedzic, Rachel Killmeyer, and Lauryn Johnson, the Treats for Treatment project will be collecting wish list items — including markers, playing cards, bubbles, and play dough — to make a child's visit at the hospital more comfortable. Items from the INOVA Fairfax Hospital for Children wish list can be found at <http://www.inova.org/upload/docs/Foundation/IFHC/Wish-List-Change-a-Life-2010x6081.pdf>.

DECA has planned a number of activities throughout the week to benefit the hospital. Donations will be collected throughout the school and at the varsity basketball game on Tuesday, Dec. 13, against Fairfax High School. Students can make cash donations to the wish list fund in the cafeteria

and will be recognized by having their name placed on a Treats for Treatment bandage on the cafeteria wall. At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, Leigh Bauman, development officer with Inova Health System Foundation, was scheduled to talk about how the project will help young patients at the hospital. On Thursday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 9 p.m., Jason's Deli in McLean will donate 10 percent of its dine-in sales to fund purchases from the wish list.

DECA is also holding a silent auction featuring restaurant gift cards, autographed Redskins memorabilia, and Washington Capitals tickets. Bids can be made in the school office, at Tuesday's basketball game, or during the fundraiser at Jason's Deli on Dec. 15. All proceeds will fund purchases from the wish list. DECA members will also host a number of student-centered events during the week, including Shoot the Shot, Find the Band-Aid, and Rock the Doc.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Allison Pepper of Vienna has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list Villanova University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova, Pa.

Shilpa Darivemula of Vienna has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Union College of Schenectady, N.Y. The James Madison High School graduate is majoring in leadership in medicine.

Marine Corps 1st Lt. **P. Heg** of Vienna has graduated from the Combat Engineer Officer Course at Marine Corps

Engineer School, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N. C. Heg studied operational and planning skills in engineering related subjects pertaining to mobility, survivability, and general engineering. The 2000 graduate of Oakton High School joined the Marine Corps in July 2001.

Kerry Jordan Aldrich of Vienna has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Washington University School of Engineering and Applied Science in St. Louis.



The ingredients for Sweetleaf's potato and leek soup are on display for all to see.

Matinis Finding Success is Sweet

Family run Sweetleaf is finding place in community.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Arita Matini knows about the restaurant business. Her mother Sherry has been in the business for 20 years, and growing up Arita and her brother Andre were always behind the counter. Arita Matini, McLean native and graduate of Langley High School, went to college to study Interior Design, but couldn't escape for long.

"I convinced my mom after college that we should team up again, that food was the way to go," she said. "I knew what had to be done to make it work, and I know the area, the community and I'm comfortable with it."

Arita opened the first Sweetleaf in McLean more than two years ago, while she was still a senior in college. She modeled it after her mother's Sweet Stuff shop, but with a few alterations.

"It's sort of the same concept, but we gave it a new face. We added more salads and some newer concepts, everything is made in front of you," she said. "We wanted to combine the feel of a café with a sandwich shop and more, and make it sort of a one stop shop. Sometimes a couple comes in and one wants a salad, the other a more substantial sandwich, and we can meet both of those needs."

Using her background in Interior Design, Arita Matini designed the McLean location and

the new Vienna location, with bright green walls and a relaxed atmosphere.

THE RESTAURANTS are run with freshness at the top of the priority list. The McLean location features a garden that is the source of many of their vegetables.

"Hopefully we can help people get away from that fast-food sort of lifestyle and provide people with something fresh and healthy to eat," Arita Matini said.

Arita currently runs the Vienna location, while Sherry runs the McLean one. One of Sherry's biggest contributions to the store is her soups, which she makes fresh daily using the minimum amount of ingredients.

"I love the soup, and I've found it's practically a staple when it starts to get cold," said Lisa Wall of McLean. "It really tastes like something you'd find in your family's kitchen, not something you're buying at a restaurant."

John West, a childhood friend of Anita Matini's, says he is impressed with her drive and vision.

"It's been interesting to watch her as an entrepreneur create an enterprise like this, that's so focused on the community and its' families," he said. "There's a line out the door every month. In this bad economy, they were confident it would work, but so far, it has."

IN ADDITION to a full menu of toasted sandwiches and soups, Sweetleaf features milkshakes, ice cream and frozen yogurt, as well as a full children's menu. Arita



Arita Matini, a McLean native, started Sweetleaf more than two years ago, while still a senior in college. Matini, who runs the business with her mother and brother, opened up her second location in Vienna a few months ago.

Matini said this is to attract as many different members of the community as possible.

"Whether it's regulars or people just passing through, the best part about this job is interacting and meeting with new people," she said. "I think we're able to fill a nice niche, to give someone anything they could want."

The Vienna location is at 262 Maple Avenue E and the McLean Sweetleaf is at 1359 Chain Bridge Road. More information is available at www.eatsweetleaf.com.

Getting into 'Right Fit' Private School

Experts explain how to navigate admissions process for area's most elite schools.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Each year, parents who opt out of their neighborhood public school in favor of an independent school must sift through the long list of the Washington area's independent schools to find one that meets the needs of their child.

They must then navigate the lengthy application required by most schools, and hope that their efforts are deft enough to gain acceptance in a competitive environment. Some schools report receiving as many as nine applications for each available slot.

Even for prospective pre-kindergarten students, the independent school admissions process often includes a written application, admissions tests, parent statements, student interviews, parent interviews, playdates, school visits, transcripts and teacher recommendations.

"What we're trying to do is get a whole picture of a child and look at information from a variety of different sources," said Christina Tait, director of admission and financial aid at The Langley School in McLean.

THE APPLICATION PACKETS provide insight for both the school and the applicants. "We have a fairly detailed process so that we get to know the girls and they get to know us," said Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, head of the Madeira School in McLean. "Our goal is to find girls who are the right fit for our school and for whom our school is the right fit."

The role of each component of the application varies depending on the age of the applicant. "The admission [process] for young children is especially complex and difficult because we have to use both explicit and intuitive measures because we have less data," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "If you were looking at a ninth grade [admissions] folder, you would have eight years of report cards and maybe four years of standardized testing. You are also able to interview [older applicants] in a different way than when you are interacting with the young children."

Why is so much probing necessary?

"Schools are looking for consis-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

The Madeira volleyball team recently won the Independent Student League title.

teny in grades, attitude, testing and recommendations," said Lindsay White, educational consultant with the School Counseling Group in Washington, D.C. "[For example] If there is a huge difference between a [teacher] recommendation and what they are seeing on the grades, that is going to be a red flag."

Most schools want prospective applicants to spend time on campus. "The [school] visit is important to us. It gives the boy and his family a chance to experience the Heights first hand," said Richard Moss, director of admission at the Heights School in Potomac, Md. "On the flip side, it gives us a chance to really get to know the boy. How is he interacting with his peers? Is he friendly? Is he courteous? Does he have a good, firm handshake? Does he look the teachers in the eye when he greets them in the morning?"

Most applications ask parents to answer questions describing their children. Here are two questions from the Langley School's application: What do you believe is your role as a parent in your child's education? What qualities do you consider to be most

"Our goal is to find girls who are the right fit for our school and for whom our school is the right fit."

— Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, head of the Madeira School in McLean

important for your child's education?

Consultants say schools look at the way parents answer questions. "There are a lot of parents who regurgitate the school's mission statement and all the language that is used on the school's website. Schools can see right through that," said educational consultant Clare Anderson, of Chevy Chase, Md. "They want to know that the family is in line with how [the school] works with students and [their] approach to education."

Schools also pay attention to a parent's evaluation of their child. "Red flags go up when everything is just perfect and they've never encountered a setback or difficulty," said Anderson. "[Schools] are looking for honest, candid responses. Obviously parents are going to frame it in a positive light, as they should."

Most schools require admissions tests. Depending on the age and grade of the child, these tests include the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI-III), Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) and the Secondary School Admission Test for (SSAT).

"Testing often creates the most anxiety," said Dunning, of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

THE TESTS are used differently depending on the age of the applicant. "Tests for [young children] are used as standardized tools to give an overall picture of a child's learning profile. These are not predictors for academic

success. They give broad overviews of how a child learns," said Anderson. Tests given to middle and high school applicants are more meaningful. "Those tests measure how well your child has done with the information he or she has learned in school. If they see an eighth grader who has only average grades, but remarkable SSATs, they are going to ask, 'Is this an underachiever? Why is this child not excelling in the classroom?'"

Should children prepare for tests? When it comes to young children, most consultants say no. "It is unethical and makes your test scores invalid," said Anderson. "You are going to shoot yourself in the foot [if you prep your young child]. Your child will be the first to announce it either in the tester's office or at the school on the playdate. Then the scores are invalid."

The scenario is different for those applying for slots in middle and upper school. "I've had students who've taken [admissions tests] without prep, and then I worked with them and their scores [went] up considerably," said Christa Abbott, an Arlington-based independent test prep tutor.

Anderson agrees. "Just like you preheat your oven, you've got to get your child ready for the test. Just knowing the format of the test can really help," said Anderson. "But I caution parents about [taking expensive test prep classes]. There has to be a primary concern that something is going to get in the way of your child being able to show what he or she knows."

Some parents hire educational consultants like White or Anderson, hoping to get a competitive advantage. Consultants say their role is to guide families through the process. "The number one mistake that I think parents make is thinking that hiring an educational consultant is going to give them an advantage at a very competitive school," said Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association in Fairfax. "That is just not the way the system works. Consultants don't have a secret handshake that they can use with an admissions director to help get a student in. The reason you hire an educational consultant is to find a good fit between a student's needs and a school's strengths. A consultant's role is to [identify] a school where a child is going to thrive."

So what can parents do to make sure their child's application shines in a pool overflowing with many attractive applicants?

"It is always nice to think about what is special about your child," said White. "What is the one special strength or talent your child might have, whether it be academics or an extracurricular interest? What is the potential for your child to contribute to the school?"

Anderson says she encourages parents to view admissions procedures as multi-pronged. "My hope is to help parents understand the process and see that there really is a method and [schools] are looking to get the best from your child."



St. Stephen's & St. Agnes Upper School students Isabella Norton, Leah Joseph, and Ulises Giacoman with Upper School Science Teacher Julie Krane.

County Sends 'Hands Off' Message to General Assembly

FROM PAGE 3

ing for locally-administered, but required programs in the 2012-14 budget. The Governor is going to have to balance the budget. Think about what he might do," Regimbal said.

County Executive Anthony Griffin said Fairfax County's budgetary shortfall is expected to be about \$114 million in Fiscal Year 2013, and the county is taking several steps — including looking at fee increases and analyzing agency cuts of up to 5 percent — to bridge the financial gap.

"Quite frankly, we're running out of places to make reductions. This is a struggle now, and it's going to continue to be a struggle for my successor," Griffin said, alluding to his retirement in April 2012.

Griffin said there was some good news. Job growth in Northern Virginia has continued to grow each month since April 2010, and Fairfax County's unemployment rate remains stable at 4.6 percent (which is about 28,000 unemployed residents), compared to 6.4 percent across the state and 9 percent in the nation.

ALTHOUGH GOVERNOR Robert McDonnell (R) has not yet proposed specific road devolution legislation, House Republicans have been looking at ways to shift spiraling road-maintenance responsibilities

back to localities for several years.

Fairfax County leaders have been unequivocal in their opposition to any prospect of road devolution, saying it's tantamount to an unfunded mandate that would force the County to increase property taxes.

"It's a major concern for anyone who cares about transportation, but frankly anyone who cares about anything else localities have to keep up because all those elements would be affected," said McKay. "My greatest fear is that [with road devolution] we would be pitting roads against schools and public safety."

Tom Biesiadny, director of Fairfax County's Department of Transportation, estimated that Fairfax County would have to make a one-time investment of up to \$208 million to take local control of local roads, which would mean a property tax increase of about \$479 for the average household.

He said that localities that maintain their own roads typically spend about 25 percent more than what the state allocates. For example, he noted that in Fiscal Year 2010, Arlington spent \$18 million, while the state spent \$15 million.

"Counties in Northern Virginia already spend millions of dollars a year to mitigate the effects of state underfunding of road construction, which has created some of the worst traffic in the nation," Biesiadny said.

Bulova added that if counties are required to maintain their secondary roads, the resulting disparity in road conditions will affect Virginia's ability to attract business.

During the roundtable discussion, Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) agreed the county's roads are in terrible shape.

"At some point we have to act," he said, suggesting a referendum asking voters to decide whether to increase certain taxes, similar to a 2002 failed referendum on the sales tax, in order to pay for transportation costs.

State Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35) told the elected officials not to "punt the damn ball." "I can tell you this: It ain't gonna happen with my vote ... I will not ever, ever, ever, if I have anything to say about it, allow taxes to be put to a referendum. That's what the voters elected you to do. If they don't like what you did, they will show you the door the next election. We have no business putting revenue-raising measures to a referendum. Plain and simple."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he thought road devolution was viable if done correctly.

"It's not going to be pain-free, but there are ways to do it," Cook said. "If we're going to have the responsibility, we ought to own the streets. And if we're going to own them ... we ought to have the mechanisms to raise the money we need to raise," Cook said.

"Would you be supportive of raising taxes to do it?" Bulova asked. Cook did not respond.

ON THURSDAY, DEC. 8, the Governor outlined his transportation policy and funding plans for the upcoming 2012 General Assembly session. Speaking to more than 700 industry and transportation agency professionals during the 2011 Governor's Transportation Conference in Norfolk, McDonnell called for changes in laws governing the allocation of future surpluses to transportation, dedicating portions of revenue growth attributable to transportation infrastructure projects to transportation and increasing the portion of sales tax dedicated to transportation.

Several legislators, including state Senators Chap Petersen (D-34), Dave Marsden (D-37), Janet Howell (D-32) and Del. Ken Plum said they will hold Governor McDonnell to his promise of a dedicated source of revenue for a transportation bond package passed last session.

"There's a fundamental disconnect," Marsden said. "Any transportation solution is not acceptable if it doesn't come with money ... What we were promised was a funding stream and not the transfer of responsibility to localities. I think we need to let the governor know this is not acceptable."

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Abstract or Intact



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How does one not become consumed with something that is all-consuming? Moreover, how does that same one take certain information in stride that potentially is anything but stride-worthy? And if one were not to be all-consuming by the information that, disturbing as it was, was in fact taken in stride, how does that one not feel guilty and/or responsible about neglecting to act – if there was even anything to be done about the unsettling news that may have spawned this initial paragraph?

I don't. I can't. I won't. Somehow. Not that I received any news of late that was particularly jarring or life-abbreviating but, as a terminal patient, so far as I know (and how far do I really know, since I've never been a terminal patient before), information that is not positive is negative (almost by definition) and the fine line of life upon which I straddle every minute of every day becomes that much more difficult to sustain, especially if the negative begins to overtake the positive. I have equated the sensation to taking the first few curious steps across a newly frozen pond – in winter, each step more precarious than the last, waiting for the cracking – or not, and the associated fear. You want to go forward, but not at your own peril. Yet going backward seems equally ill-advised. I mean, you've been there and done that. Backwards represents the past. Forward represents the future. Personally, I don't want to live in the past. I want to live in the present/future. Receiving results which prevent you from going forward – which may stop you in your tracks, are not so much safe as they are insecure. For me, it's all about momentum. I don't want to lose what progress I've gained, nor do I want to retrace my steps. However, survival may be about knowing when to redirect those energies/treatment, to rest and/or retreat (to fight another day) and to work with your body, not against it.

But who knows? For a terminal patient, changes in anything are disproportionately significant. It could mean anything. It could mean nothing. Objectivity disappears the day your oncologist tells you have an incurable disease. Accordingly, it's extremely difficult to shrug off any abnormal medical findings. How do I not think that the beginning of the end starts at the end of the beginning? The point at which my body begins to weaken and reveal indicators that reflect a body in distress and one whose underlying diagnosis is starting to assert itself and break down all the barriers that have been constructed (metaphorically speaking) over the previous 34 months?

In summary, how do I interpret change? For the better? The worse? Meaningful? Meaningless? As a cancer patient who has now outlived his original prognosis ("13 months to two years") by a rather significant amount of time, how do I remain objective about lab work, urine specimens, diagnostic scans, etc.? I can't. However, worrying about any or all of it likely produces no real tangible benefit either, whereas not worrying about it, not stressing about it might, anecdotally speaking, anyway. Unfortunately, worrying and stressing are not simply emotions I can switch off, especially when you're consumed by a terminal disease, whether figuratively or worse, literally.

Diagnosis to date, my cancer-related problems have been figurative, mostly. Nevertheless, it's difficult to not react negatively when results are changing right before your eyes, literally. Yet somehow, I have to. If I don't, I'll likely make matters worse. And given my underlying stage IV lung-cancer diagnosis, I probably don't need to go out of my way to cause any more trouble. It's already found me.

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

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SPORTS

Three VYI Football Teams Capture National Titles

Five Vienna teams in all reach title games in Daytona Beach.

Following last year's success in which two Vienna Youth Incorporated (VYI) football teams — the 75-pound Steelers and the 125-pound Steelers — won national championships, five VYI teams gained invitations to this year's nationals tournament.

Vienna Youth Coach of the Year nominee Willy Pickett's 75-pound Cavaliers, Todd Casey's 85 Steelers, longtime coach Ricky Lipscomb's 110 Steelers, two-time national champion Casey Samson's 125 Steelers, and Vienna Youth Coach of the Year nominee Randy McCargo's 150 Raiders each competed at this year's national championships, held in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Vienna families took Daytona by storm and turned it into their own with beach cookouts and great football. Vienna Youth Incorporated had all five teams make it to the National Championship finals with three

winners and two runners up.

The 75 American Cavaliers ran the table this season with a perfect 9-0 record and, earlier this postseason, won the Fairfax County Championship. In their first game of the national tournament in Daytona Beach the Cavaliers overpowered Groveport, Ohio, 40-0. Playing Nashville BBB in the championship game the Cavalier's offensive line took over early, blowing open holes that enabled touchdown runs by John Finney (2), Caleb Williams and Riley Fitzsimmons in Vienna's 32-0 title game victory. The offensive line was anchored by center Colin Gardner with a supporting cast of Bowman Raskin, Jake Calhoun, Thomas MacCall, Riley Fitzsimmons, Max Wysocki and Max Cowman.

The 85 American Vienna Steelers defended their 2010 national championship with a successful tournament this year. Their first game was a match up against the athletic and physically larger Blue Island Untouchables of Metropolitan Chicago. The Steelers started out the game in a big way with a 55-yard touchdown on the first play

from scrimmage. From then on they controlled both sides of the ball in a 32-0 victory.

The championship game pitted Vienna against a Mason Comets (Cincinnati, Ohio) team that had gone 44-0 combined over recent seasons. A recovery of the opening kickoff sparked the Steelers early. Offensively, the line was dominant as the running game consistently ripped off large gains. Defensively, the Comet passing attack was frustrated by Vienna's discipline and quickness. The Steelers intercepted two passes and had one return of 85 yards. The final Score: Vienna Steelers 24, Mason Comets 0.

The 110 American Vienna Steelers made their first appearance at nationals this year, going up against two undefeated teams with a combined record the past few years of 76-0.

The Steelers' first game was a match up against the athletic and previously unbeatable metropolitan champion Bartlett Hawks from Chicago — a team which went 54-0 over the past three years. From the beginning the Steelers controlled both lines of scrimmage behind the strong play of Pat Davis, Paul Plawin, Thomas Gates, Charles

Urbanek, Miles Collins, Paul Gerdon, Noah Clemente and Nate Leas. Vienna scored 30 points in the first half without a single pass play while giving up no first downs. In the end the Steelers had six different players score (including Joe Zucarr, Kullen Kritsky, John Tucker, Thomas Gates and Nate Williams) and beat the Chicago metro bowl champions 42-0.

The championship game pitted Vienna against the Miami, Fla. metro bowl champions who were 22-0 going into the game. Vienna went out in front early with a balanced attack led by quarterback Jason Gastrock and strong running by Joe Zucarr, John Tucker, and Nate Williams. At halftime the score was 16-6 Vienna with touchdowns by Paul Gerdon and Nate Williams. In the second half the Miami team scored early, bringing the score to 16-12, before Vienna returned to its domineering play behind the strong running and scoring of Mike Grimes, the outstanding kicking of Kyle (Money) Fredrick, and the hard defensive hitting by Nate Williams, Patrick Davis, Kullen Kritsky, Joe Zucarr and Paul Gerdon. In the end, Vienna won the game 24-12.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Flint Hill School football player Hunter Windmuller, a senior punter and kicker for the Huskies this past fall season, has verbally committed to be a preferred walk-on player at Virginia Tech next school year. This season, as a senior, Windmuller averaged 47.1 yards per punt and was a superb kickoff specialist. He was also recruited by the University of Virginia, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, and The College of William & Mary.

Both the Flint Hill boys and girls swim teams won their meets against Bullis this past week by scores of 116-26 and 102-49, respectively. Double event winners for Flint Hill included: Rob Ikeda, Rachel Swarts, Natalie Brendsel, and Brian DeMocker. Single event winners included Eric Tang, Zach Thornburg, Jonah Chang, Catherine Swarts, Drew Johnson, and Allison Kennedy. Earlier in the week, the girls lost to Madeira 121-58. Rachel Swarts won both her events.

Alex Long, a senior point guard for the Flint Hill School girls' basketball team, has enjoyed a great high school playing school career with the Huskies. Since her freshmen season, Long has been one of coach Jody Patrick's top players.

"From her first practice on the Hill in 2008 to our current season,



PHOTOS/COURTESY OF FLINT HILL ATHLETICS

Flint Hill School's Hunter Windmuller gets a punt off during a Huskies' home football game this past fall season versus Bishop Ireton.

Alex has led the way with a stellar work ethic and attention to detail both on and off the court," said Patrick. "She has helped her teammates become better players as well, which is the sign of a true leader."

With a 15-foot jump shot in a Flint Hill game last week, Long became just the second Huskies girls' basketball player to ever reach the 1,000-point career scoring mark.

Long, who has been a big factor in Flint Hill's strong 4-0 start this



PHOTO COURTESY OF VYS NINJAS

The Vienna Youth Soccer (VYS) Ninjas, an under-13 girls' select team made up of seventh grade players from the Vienna/Oakton area, captured first place at the 14-team Herndon All Star Tournament, held Nov. 19-20. The Ninjas were undefeated in their four round robin games against teams from Arlington, Annandale, Herndon and Loudoun. After one day of play, Vienna was the top seeded team. The locals then prevailed in a 2-0 semifinals victory over McLean on Sunday morning. The win advanced the Ninjas to the championship where they defeated Arlington, 2-1. The VYS Ninjas are made up of Sahana Bhagat, Hailey Blaine, Isabel Bufton, Annika Burstein, Molly Cox, Megan Craven, Sarah Franklin, Angie Garcia, Kaitlin Gutenson, Hannah Hibbs, Samantha Levowitz, Cathy Maroney, Shannon Prescott, Isabelle Sexton, Ysabel Spague, and April Williams. The team was coached by Jill Maroney and Neeraj Bhagat.

season, has signed a collegiate scholarship to play the sport at Davidson College (N.C.) next school year.

The Madison High girls' gymnastics team, in a meet hosted by Robinson Secondary on Nov. 30, finished third place overall with 111.525 points. The competing teams were the Warhawks, host Rams, Hayfield, Oakton,

Robert E. Lee, and West Springfield. Madison's Evelyn Nee was first place in All Around with a 36.425 score.

Alisa Harrison of Vienna is the leading scorer for the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) women's ice hockey team. RPI, located in Troy, N.Y., is a private research university. Through 20 games, Harrison has a team-

best seven goals with seven assists for 14 points. An ECAC Hockey Player of the Week selection once this season, the former Washington Pride standout has tallied a short-handed goal and has a team-leading two game-winning goals.

Rensselaer (4-12-4) is idle over the holiday break, but returns to the ice on Jan. 6 and 7 when it hosts Colgate and Cornell, respectively, at the Houston Field House.

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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: December 15, 2011 to January
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Artisan blacksmith Curt Welch of Vienna molds a jingle bell from heated, softened metal.



Curt Welch in his blacksmithing workshop. The forge started its life as a Sears compressed air tank. It now reaches 1,800 degrees of fiery heat.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Forging Tradition

Vienna blacksmith creates enduring work.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

There are 150 members of the Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac and Vienna's Curt Welch is of one of them. Welch, a blacksmith for two and a half years, hand-forges home accessories and seasonal decorations from his home workshop, Ayrhill Forge, near Glyndon Park.

"I wanted to get into robotics, making robots," said Welch whose professional background is in computer science. "I needed welding [instruction] and when I researched welding, I discovered Northern Virginia Community College had a series of classes in welding." Welch's immersion into welding several years ago was the catalyst for his entry into forging.

A welding instructor brought his own forge into class one day and the teacher created a simple iron piece there. It didn't take long before Welch was hooked on the art and science of blacksmithing.

ON A POST-THANKSGIVING SATURDAY, Welch was in his regular place, his garage workshop, forge blazing, making tall forged iron candy canes and jingle bells. The bells have whimsical handles for ringing hands. He uses a vise to turn the twists on his fanciful candy canes, some of which have reverse twists.

"I get immense enjoyment from this," said Welch. "I've always been the kind of person



Curt Welch of Ayrhill Forge is making and selling his seasonal candy canes and jingle bells.

who likes to design and make stuff."

A blacksmith changes the shape of metal by heating it to softness in a fired forge, Welch explained. An artisan blacksmith takes metal to an art form. No, he does not make horseshoes, if you're wondering. The smithy who makes horseshoes is called a farrier.

Welch's propane-driven forge was made from an old Sears compressed air tank. It has two inches of ceramic wool insulation on its interior and reaches 1,800 degrees. The artisan blacksmith buys his steel from a Manassas wholesaler but admits that blacksmiths use recycled metal and look for "roadkill," usable pieces of metal left along the roadway.

Welch's garage houses his blacksmiths' equipment, from forge to tools and water bucket for cooling and safety. "I can take the summer heat in here but it's harder to work out here in the winter," Welch said. Because he uses a propane tank, he leaves the garage door open for ventilation. "It gets pretty cold in here when it's 32 degrees, even with the heat from the forge."

The Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac operates a traditional coal forge at the Gulf Branch Nature Center in Arlington. Members maintain the forge and run blacksmithing demonstrations at the park for the public to learn about blacksmithing. Welch, a member of guild board and the group's webmaster, is a demonstrator there. The Saturday after Thanksgiving, Welch helped deliver coal to the forge at the park.

Welch's swirl-y candy canes start at \$30, and the jingle bells are \$10. The decorative wall hooks start at \$5, and he keeps a large stock of those. He makes everything from trivets, flowers and accent pieces to table bases and a slithering snake poised to strike. One of forging's most forgiving attributes is that you can repair or redesign a piece by reheating it in the forge.

"[Blacksmithing] is not a big moneymaker," said Welch. "I do it for the love of it."

PHOTOS OF SAMPLES of Welch's forged pieces are on his Facebook page, visit www.facebook.com and search Ayr Hill Forge.

To order a hand-forged decorative piece of ironwork from Welch, e-mail him at Curt@ayrhillforge.com. His website is www.ayrhillforge.com. To learn more about blacksmithing and the Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac, go to bgop.org.



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About the Doctor

Brittany L. Vo, DDS was raised in Pasadena, TX. She graduated from the University of Houston with a B.S. in Economics and Minor in Political Science. She then went on to complete her dental education at Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, TX. She received her D.D.S. in 1997 and soon after was commissioned as a Captain in the United States Air Force. She was stationed at Bolling AFB in Washington, D.C. and finished at the Pentagon. In December 2001, after proudly serving her country, Dr. Vo went into private practice in Northern Virginia. She is licensed in Virginia, Maryland, and Texas.

She spends her free time keeping up with her husband, Binh Trang, and their four children. They recently moved to Vienna and enjoy the small town feel of Vienna in the midst of the big city. She is an avid sports fan and enjoys reading, traveling, and is a news junkie.

Dr. Vo is passionate about her patients and places a strong emphasis in providing quality dental care in a warm and caring environment. Her goal is to provide individualized care while offering knowledge, comfort, and gentle dentistry that is in harmony with the clinical techniques of today's dentistry. To her, patients are not just another name but become lifelong friends of the practice.



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