

From left, re-enactors Denise Winter, Jon Vrana and Carol Polkinghorne at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren's remembrance ceremony for the fallen soldiers at the Battle of Dranesville, which was fought 150 years ago.

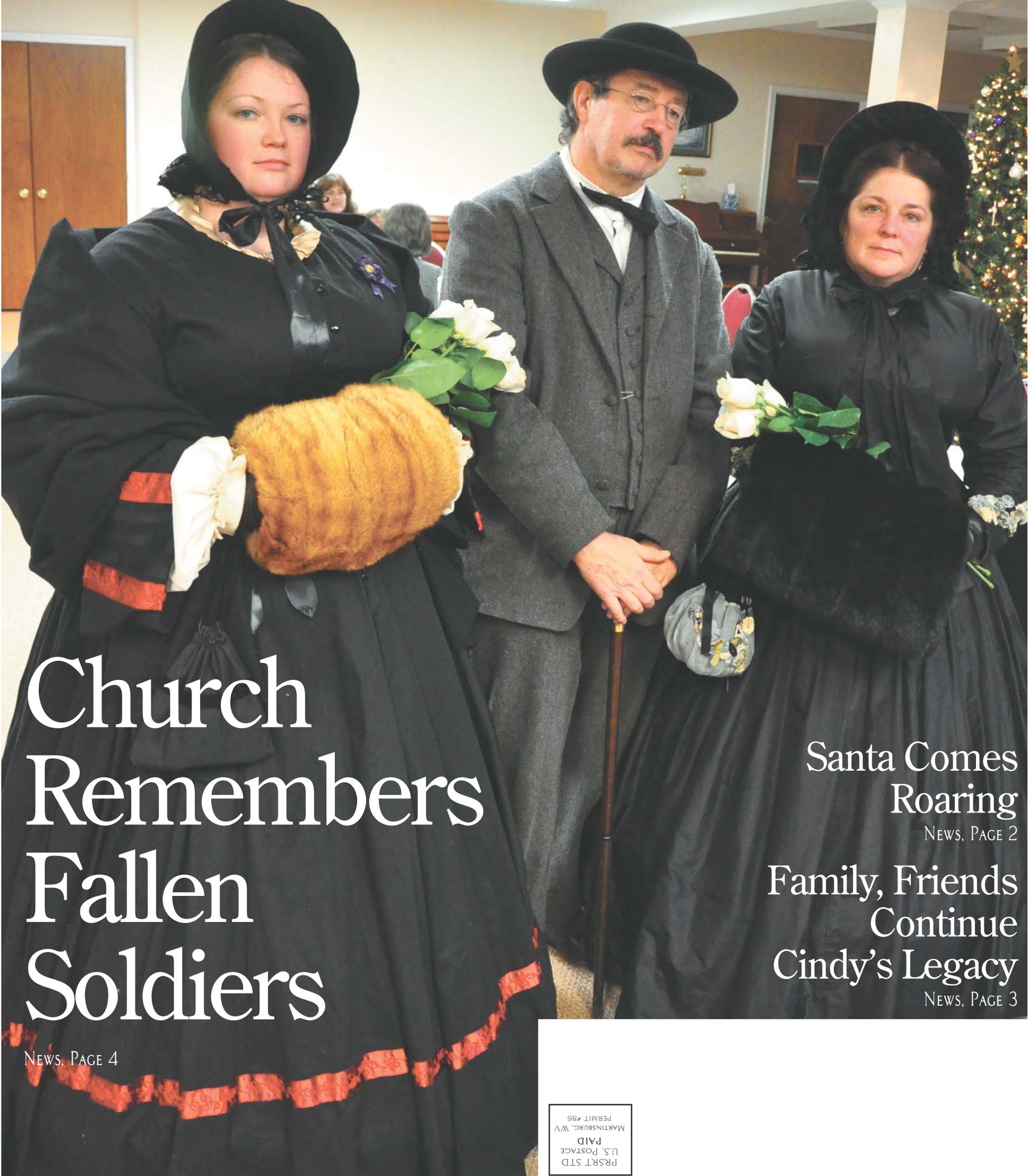


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HOLIDAY



Santa Claus drives onto the Crossfield Elementary School in style on Tuesday, Dec. 13, on a Harley Davidson motorcycle. Santa is visiting the school as part of the Fairfax County Police Motorcycle Squad's 25th Annual Santa's Ride for Children, visiting 7 Fairfax County elementary schools to thank them for their participation in the unit's toy drive.

Santa Comes Roaring

25th Santa's Ride for Children visits schools, hospitals.

On Dec. 12, 13 and 14, Santa Claus traded in his sleigh for a Harley Davidson motorcycle in an effort to bring holiday cheer to area children. The Fairfax County Police Motorcycle Squad, in cooperation with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Fairfax City Police, Town of Vienna Police, Falls Church Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police, escorted Santa on the 25th Santa's Ride for Children, the capstone event of a three-week long toy drive organized by the Motorcycle Squad. Police stations, government offices, nine Fairfax County public elementary schools (Mount Eagle, Bush Hill, West Springfield, Woodburn, Navy, Churchill Road, Crossfield, Union Mill and Forestville) and several local businesses and individuals collected toys for the drive.

sorted the toys by age group while Santa Claus and his entourage, including Mrs. Claus, "Merry" Claus, Frosty and Rudolph visited seven of the schools that donated toys to the drive, escorted by the police.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14 and Thursday, Dec. 15, Santa Claus hops back on the Harley and delivers the toys to patients at INOVA Fairfax Hospital for Children and the Georgetown Hospital Lombardi Cancer Center. Officer David Pierce, who coordinated the event, said, "For us to be able to put a smile on these kids' faces is something great..."

Toys are also given to several local charities, including the Ronald McDonald House and the Herndon-Reston F.I.S.H. (For Immediate Sympathetic Help).

On Monday, Dec. 12, the toys were collected from all sites, on Tuesday, Dec. 13, students from the Robinson High School Criminal Justice program



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Santa Claus is interviewed by Hannah, a producer with the Crossfield Elementary School TV show on Dec. 14, produced by students at the school.



A Crossfield Elementary School Student is overjoyed that Santa Claus has come to visit her school on Dec. 14 as part of the Fairfax County Police Motorcycle Squad's 25th Annual Santa's Ride for Children.



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THE CONNECTION
 NEWSPAPERS



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addressed attendees at the Inauguration Ceremony held at the Fairfax County Government Center on Dec. 13.

County Officials Inaugurated

All local elected officials will take office on Jan. 1, 2012.

The inauguration ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Fairfax County Government Center for the 15 recently-elected officials was filled with all the pomp and circumstance of any official celebration.

"Almost three years ago when I addressed you for the first time as your chairman, it was to a backdrop of troubled and uncertain times," Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-a-large) told the crowd of several hundred spectators in her inaugural address. "The world and our nation were reeling from a breakdown in our lending and financial institutions that was unprecedented in most of our lifetimes. Fairfax County, along with all state and local governments in the U.S., was seriously affected by this downturn," she said.

In addition the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County constitutional officers, and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District directors all took their oath of office.

FAIRFAX CIRCUIT Court Judge Jan L. Brodie administered the oath of office to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and 14 other elected officials, who each swore to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The ceremony also included musical performances by harpist Christine Van Dyke from Fairfax County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, the Frost Middle School Advanced Symphonic Orchestra, Langley High School Madrigals, South County Secondary School Chamber Orchestra and Captain Matthew Lopez of the Northern Virginia Firefighter's Emerald Society Pipe Band.

The colors were presented by the Fairfax County Public Safety Honor Guard and PFC Laura Redman of the Fairfax County Police Department sang the national anthem. The evening concluded with a reception.



Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District Supervisor.



John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor.

Sworn In

In addition to Bulova, the district supervisors installed were:

- ❖ John C. Cook, Braddock District
- ❖ John W. Foust, Dranesville District
- ❖ Michael R. Frey, Sully District
- ❖ Penelope A. Gross, Mason District
- ❖ Pat Herrity, Springfield District
- ❖ Catherine M. Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
- ❖ Gerald W. Hyland, Mount Vernon District
- ❖ Jeff C. McKay, Lee District
- ❖ Linda Q. Smyth, Providence District

The constitutional officer installed was:

- ❖ Raymond F. Morrogh, Commonwealth's Attorney

The three directors of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District installed were:

- ❖ Johna Good Gagnon
- ❖ George W. Lamb
- ❖ John W. Peterson

Stan G. Barry, sheriff, was not available and will be sworn in at a later date.

The ceremony will be rebroadcast on Fairfax County Government Channel 16 at 8 p.m. on Dec. 21 and 24.

"The ceremony was beautiful and I especially enjoyed the high school musical performances. What a great way to begin this four-year term," Bulova said after the ceremony.

All elected officials will take office on Jan. 1, 2012.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Cindy's Legacy

Foundation started to assist cancer patients.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Stacy Brooks knows how fast life can change. On Oct. 2, 2010 her mother, Cindy Martin felt numbness in her face while at her hairdresser's job. After the diagnosis of a brain tumor and several procedures, Martin passed away Feb. 23 of this year at the age of 54.

During her illness, Martin's friends came together to raise money to help her with bills and medical expenses, because as a hairdresser, when she couldn't work, Martin couldn't get paid. Now Brooks has started a nonprofit named Cindy's Legacy to serve people in the Reston and Herndon areas.

"Our mission is two-fold. One, we'd like to help provide some level of financial relief for cancer patients and their families," Brooks said. "We also would like to help provide administrative support for these families. When my mom got sick, we found that there are so many administrative issues, papers to fill out, prescriptions to drop off and pick up, documents to fax. It's a lot to handle even if you're healthy."

Brooks said she knows firsthand how what should be simple tasks can become difficult for caregivers and those suffering from cancer.

"We don't want people to have to deal with the mundane, day-to-day things while they're trying to get healthy," she said. "That's why we're trying to make something good about the experience we had with my mom."

Cindy's Legacy is looking for volunteers that will be able to help perform such administrative tasks, as the organization, which was founded shortly after Martin passes away, received its official 501(c)3 des-

ignation in November.

"We're not yet in the position to directly give money, but that will be coming soon," Brooks said. "Right now, we can help collect gift cards for groceries, gas and other expenses like the Metro. There are a lot of things people need when they're in that position, for example, my mom lost her hair, but we were able to use some money raised for a wig."

Cindy's Legacy recently gave gift cards to their first recipient.

"Thank you for your generosity and love, especially at this time of year. You don't know how much the gift cards are helping me and I could never



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cindy Martin, who passed away in February. Martin's family and friends have started Cindy's Legacy, a nonprofit dedicated to assisting cancer patients and caregivers.

repay you," they said. "I don't know who Cindy was, but she was a loved, and lucky woman to have this organization named after her. God bless you and her family for the love you all continue to spread in Cindy's name."

Martin is remembered by her family and friends as someone who almost always wore a smile and had a very calming influence on those she encountered.

"When she walked in, the energy would go up in the room. Even when things got busy, she always had a tendency to calm everyone down," said Beth Flood, who knew Martin for more than 20 years.

Those interested in volunteering, or wishing to see if they are eligible for assistance can find more information at www.cindyslegacy.org.

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, re-enactors Denise Winter, Jon Vrana and Carol Polkinghorne at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren's remembrance ceremony for the fallen soldiers at the Battle of Dranesville. Winter and Polkinghorne are wearing the traditional mourning attire that would have been worn in December 1861, when the Battle of Dranesville was fought.

Church Remembers Fallen Civil War Soldiers

Dranesville Church of the Brethren commemorates 150 years since Battle of Dranesville.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

One hundred and fifty years ago, Confederate forces coming from Centreville encountered Union troops coming from Langley, and the resulting Battle of Dranesville took place near the intersection of Leesburg Pike and Georgetown Pike. The battle, which took place Dec. 20, 1861, resulted in a Union victory, as well as the deaths of 300 soldiers.

It was with those soldiers in mind that the Dranesville Church of the Brethren, which was built in 1912 on part of the battlefield, held their annual remembrance ceremony. The church, known for its pacifist stance, paid tribute to the victims from both sides in the battle.

"There are many stories of riders going to both the Union and Confederate side, and it was understood that these people were not combatants, but they were pacifists, they were going to help whoever was in need," said Pastor Glenn Young. "When they saw the carnage of war, and what it did to others, they became even more convinced that this was something that they did not want to be a part of. Rather, they chose to be angels of peace and angels of healing on the battlefield."

THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN was founded during the days of the Holy Roman Empire, and when they came to America, they continued their pacifist ways throughout the country's early conflicts, Young said.

"They did not want to participate in any kind of

war. But what their response would be, was to help those who were wounded in battle," he said. "During the Revolutionary War, when their farms were overrun with soldiers from the British and American armies, there are many stories of people from the church going out and picking up people from both sides and nursing them back to health."

Members of the church read letters and journal entries from Civil War soldiers, which started off enthusiastic and boasted of victories, but the tone soon shifted as the horrors of war become more apparent to all involved.

"The units that fought at Dranesville would meet again and again over the next four years as the pace of the war picked up," said John Waggoner, a church member and local historian. "For those who fought at Dranesville, the war had just begun."

As Waggoner read about the battle, the names of many of the deceased were read. As each name came out, one of the dozens of candles were blown out, until the name of Alexander Smith was read, and the final candle was blown out, sending the church into darkness.

"I thought it was very powerful ceremony, really moving as they read the names," said Kathleen Murphy of Great Falls.

Members of the Dixie Rose Relief Society appeared at the ceremony, dressed as mourners from the era of the battle.

"You see a lot of battles in Hollywood, but not often what the females and children would go through while their family members were away at war," said Carol Polkinghorne, one of the re-enactors. "The more research you do by reading their letters, you really connect and can identify with what they were going through."

Denise Winter, who also dressed in a black hoop skirt and bonnet to represent mourning, said the group came from a performance at Gettysburg earlier that morning.

"These costumes were made for us to represent people in the mourning period," she said. "We try and do as many of these type of events we have, they're always very touching."

"The units that fought at Dranesville would meet again and again over the next four years as the pace of the war picked up."

— John Waggoner, area historian

COMMENTARY

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

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

The editorial in the Sept. 21, 1897 New York Sun responding to a letter from 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon inquiring about whether there was a Santa Claus has become the most reprinted newspaper editorial, according to Newseum (newseum.org/yesvirginia/).

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy."

Members of the higher education community in Virginia must have felt there was a Santa Claus last week as Gov. Robert McDonnell made the first of a series of announcements on his budget proposals for the next biennium. He announced that he is allocating an additional \$100 million for colleges and universities. While the amount of money is quite modest, the direction of adding money to the institutions of higher education to serve additional students as well as to reach the goals they are being asked to meet is a welcome change from the last couple of decades during which their state support was reduced.

The proposed allocation is slightly more than the University of Virginia alone would receive (\$97.3 million) if it was funded at the 1989-90 level of in-



flated dollars without considering the growth of its student body. His proposed amount will be spread across all of Virginia's state colleges and universities. The Governor's proposal if approved by the General Assembly will help slow the descent of the Commonwealth to the bottom among the states in support of students in higher education. The Commonwealth ranks 40th in the level of state appropriation per student at \$5,065 for FY 2010. The percentage of the state's general funds allocated to higher education has decreased from 14 percent in 1992-93 to 10 percent in 2011-12. In 2000-01 the general fund appropriation was \$11,108 per student.

Just as with Santa Claus we do not always get all that we want. If higher education is going to get an increase in its budget at a time when revenues remain stagnant, who will be getting a further reduction? We may have to wait for the last of the Governor's announcement, as the bad news is generally held for last. Obviously, I am not Santa Claus and will not be able to make you any prom-

ises, but I am interested in your wish list for General Assembly budgeting and legislating in its 2012 session. I will be calling constituents in my district at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012, for a tele-hearing. Stay on the line to talk with me about your interests. Or join me at an in-person public hearing with State Sen. Janet Howell at the Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods on Thursday, Jan. 5, at 7:30 p.m.



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OPINION

Share Your New Year's Resolutions

What were top events, accomplishments of 2011 in your opinion?

This is the last regular edition of the Connection for 2011. Between Christmas and New Year's, we'll deliver the Children's Connection, an annual tradition, with pages filled with the artwork and writing of local students.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for the first issue of 2012, sharing views of what were the most important happenings of 2011 and what to look for in 2012. We'll also share a variety of New Year's resolutions. We invite our readers to help in this endeavor.

For some, local elections were likely the top event of 2011. For advocates of families of the fallen, like the Tragedy Assistance Program (TAPS), the end of 2011 brings the end of the Iraq war and the complex emotional and practical issues that come with that. For non-profits and charitable organizations, 2011 brought greatly increasing numbers of people in need. For your family, the top events of 2011 might have included the birth of a child or a graduation or the completion of a marathon.

Share your joys and milestones with us, not only from the year that's past, but also your expectations of 2012.

Answer one or all of these questions:

1) What were the (one, two or three) most significant happenings of 2011 for you in your community? Why?

2) What do you think our readers should know to watch for in the coming year (up to three issues)? Or what do you think the top (one, two or three) happenings of 2012 will be locally? Why?

3) What is your New Year's Resolution? (Feel free to share more than one)

Please include your home address with your responses, we'll only print your town name. And we'd also love to have a photo of you, your family and/or events or places in your community that you reflect upon in your answer.

Please send photos and answers via email. For McLean, Vienna/Oakton, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, send to Kemal Kurspahic, kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

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Free, Safe Ride Home from Holiday Celebrations

Once again, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will provide a safety net for those who might celebrate the holiday season with alcohol and unexpectedly need a safe ride home.

WRAP's 2011 Holiday SoberRide program will operate each night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The program began Friday, Dec. 16, and will continue until Jan. 1, 2012.

To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 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. Callers 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 off the roads. Since 1993, WRAP has provided 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>

EDITORIALS

COMMENTARY

'Tis the Season To Be Green

BY NAT WILLIAMS
MARYLAND/D.C. DIRECTOR FOR
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Which is better for the environment — a live or artificial Christmas tree? That's just one of the perennial holiday questions we hear at The Nature Conservancy.

For the record, our experts say your best choice is a fresh-cut tree from a local farm. Not only will you support rural traditions and open space, but also avoid the carbon emissions and recycling quandary that result from the manufacture and eventual disposal of vinyl trees.

Real trees also provide gifts all year — not just a place to put them around the holidays. They clean the air and water and help store carbon. And don't worry; a tree farmer typically re-plants up to three seedlings for each tree cut, keeping the cycle going and supporting the local economy.

Dozens of local farms in Maryland and Northern Virginia offer opportunities to choose your own tree. It's a great family outing, and you'll enjoy the memory of your experience, along with the enticing smell of a fresh-cut tree, throughout the holiday season.

Beyond the tree, your family faces a host of other holiday-season challenges to green living. Can holiday meals be healthy and sustainable, as well as festive? What about gifts that won't fade with the latest fad, or require reams of wrapping paper? And can we usher in 2012 with changes for the better?

I'd like to offer a few suggestions that can make your holiday season greener and merrier.

GREEN YOUR TRADITIONS

Visit your local farmers market and make in-season foods the star of your holiday dinner table. You'll connect with nature while you reunite with family and friends.

Power off the electronics and get outdoors with family and friends. Go for a hike along the Potomac at Great Falls Park, or scramble up Bear Island's Billy Goat Trail, which we manage in partnership with the National Park Service.

GREEN YOUR GIVING

The average American spends \$700 on holiday gifts, and between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the U.S. generates more than 5 million extra tons of trash destined for landfills.

You can set an example of re-

sponsible giving by choosing local, hand-made presents, or creating your own. A card, photo album, or music mix that you make especially for that special someone will remain meaningful long after many gadgets are broken and discarded.

You can also give an experience. Treat your favorite foodie to a cooking class, for example. Or provide a getaway to one of Maryland or Virginia's beautiful state parks: Take your outdoors person camping at Sky Meadows, say, or reserve a cozy cottage on the Chesapeake Bay at Point Lookout.

You can also skip the wrappings and trappings altogether and give the gift of nature. The Conservancy and other like-minded organizations offer gift memberships and ways to support specific conservation projects in honor of your nature-loving friend or family member.

GREEN YOUR RESOLUTIONS

To improve ourselves and our planet, what New Year's resolutions can we actually keep this year? Here in Maryland/D.C., the Conservancy encourages a healthy planet and a healthy you by inviting runners to join Team Nature.

Team Nature offers a support system for local runners who, in turn, are supporting restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. We share tips on how to be a green runner, and you'll look great sporting our distinctive green shirts at D.C.-area races.

Exploring our region's natural areas on your own is another wonderful way to exercise mind and body. For inspiration, check out our online series Passport to Nature at www.nature.org/marylanddc. We hope to see you outside in 2012.

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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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 22

Outdoor Chanukah Festival. 6 p.m. Lake Anne, Reston. Giant ice Menorah lighting by Robert E. Simon, family entertainment, live performance by the Chabad Hebrew School, prize drawings, hot chocolate, Chanukah donuts, latkes, chocolate gelt, free dreidels and more. Free admission. www.chabadrh.org or 703-476-1829.

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.

TUESDAY/DEC. 27

"Nutcracker." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performed by the Virginia Ballet Company and School. \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. www.virginiaballetcompany.org or 703-249-8227.

Practice Your Spanish. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Speak Spanish and make friends every Tuesday. Not a class, just an opportunity to speak. All levels welcome. robert_lambert01@comcast.net.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 28

"Nutcracker." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performed by the Virginia Ballet Company and School. \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. www.virginiaballetcompany.org or 703-249-8227.

Drop-In Storytime. 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Old and new picture book favorites. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 29

"Nutcracker." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Performed by the Virginia Ballet Company and School. \$30 adults, \$20 children, students and seniors. www.virginiaballetcompany.org or 703-249-8227.

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.

Johnny Reb and Billy Yank. 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Gary Lloyd presents true stories from both sides of the Civil War. Age 8 and up. 703-242-4020.

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Golf Tournament. 10 a.m. Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual four-person scramble. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, range balls, prizes and lunch. \$70. 703-471-5769 or www.herndongolf.com.

New Year's Eve Celebration at ArtSpace. ArtSpace, 750 Center St., Herndon. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org. *7-9 p.m. Hands-on-art activities for children and youth, storytelling, and great art. Free. *9-10 p.m. Bonfire, family-friendly and alcohol free. Free. *10:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Musical Cafe with live music, desserts, and midnight champagne toast. Tickets \$15-\$20.

Bull Run 5k. 3 p.m. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Timed with IPICO timing. Refreshments and gifts after the race. 75% of the proceeds benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. \$27 online. www.bullrunrunners.com.

New Year's Dance with Orpheus Jazz Band. 9 p.m.-12:30 a.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Dance with jazz music. Family-friendly. \$30 per person.

SUNDAY/JAN. 1

New Year's Day 5k. 10 a.m. Start and finish at Reston Town Center. Presented by Potomac River Running. Cash awards, food and prizes following the race. Register at potomacriverrunning.com or 703-689-0999.

TUESDAY/JAN. 3

Practice Your Spanish. 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Speak Spanish and make friends every Tuesday. Not a class, just an opportunity to speak. All levels welcome. robert_lambert01@comcast.net.

SATURDAY/JAN. 7

Reston Contra Dance. 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Music by the June Apple Band. Beginners' workshop 7:15 p.m. Partner not required. Admission \$9. anote20@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 8

United States Marine Band. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free, non-ticketed. www.gmu.edu.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 11

Speakers Forum with Dr. David Applegate. 10 a.m. Ernst Cultural Center, NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The latest scientific research on earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and floods with Dr. David Applegate, associate director for natural hazards at the United States Geological Survey. Social hour 9:30 a.m. Sponsored by Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia for adults over 55. Free admission, garage parking \$1 per hour. <http://lli.nova.org> or 703-503-0600.

SATURDAY/JAN. 14

Reston Community Orchestra: Tribute to Dr. King. 6 p.m. Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. With singer Beverly Cosham. Featuring music by African-American composers and vocal selections inspired by the Civil Rights movement. Free, donations accepted. www.restoncommunityorchestra.org.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With cellist Sergey Antonov. Glazunov's Chant du Ménéstrel, Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, "The Year 1905." Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

MONDAY/JAN. 16

Assistance League of Northern Virginia. 11 a.m. Fairfax County Police Department-Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Martin Luther King, Jr. day of service Operation School Bell Weekend Food for Kids, packing 1,000 food bags for 3 Title one schools in Northern Virginia. Preceded by the regular monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. for members and those interested in joining the organization. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org or 703-591-2312.

THURSDAY/JAN. 12

Reston Historic Trust Annual Meeting, Art Show and Sale. 6-8 p.m. Reston Museum, Reston Historic Trust, 1639 Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Review of the past year and election of board members. Art show and sale exhibit reception will follow the meeting. www.RestonMuseum.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 13

Friday Forum Business Networking. 7:30 a.m. Sheraton Reston Hotel Syrah Restaurant, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 22

Lupus Support Group. 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. Lh@ascendcomm.com or www.lupusgw.org.

Alzheimer's Association Memory Care Support Group. 11 a.m. Great Falls Assisted Living, 1121 Reston Avenue, Herndon. Facilitated by a geriatric care counselor. Free. www.greatfallsassistedliving.com or 703-421-0690.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 4

Spiritual Development and Study Group. 7:30 p.m. Hunan East, 2533 John Milton Drive, Herndon. Every Wednesday. 703-620-3018.

Lupus Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310

Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Lupus Foundation of America DC/MD/VA Chapter offers a free support group for lupus patients and their families the first Wednesday of the month. 1-888-787-5390 or info@lupusdmv.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 12

Reston Historic Trust Annual Meeting, Art Show and Sale. 6-8 p.m. Reston Museum, Reston Historic Trust, 1639 Washington Plaza, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Review of the past year and election of board members. Art show and sale exhibit reception will follow the meeting. www.RestonMuseum.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 13

Friday Forum Business Networking. 7:30 a.m. Sheraton Reston Hotel Syrah Restaurant, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston.

Business professionals focused on generating business for members through qualified referrals. New group being formed. Meeting free and open to all, breakfast available for purchase. Meetings every Friday. 703-802-0334.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

OAK HILL/HERNDON CONNECTION ♦ DECEMBER 21-27, 2011 ♦ 7

Hoops Seasons Underway for Hornets, Seahawks

Herndon boys reached region semifinals last year, while South Lakes made it to Liberty District title game.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon High boys' basketball team is coming off a tremendous season last year which saw the Hornets capture the Concorde District tournament title and go as far as the Northern Region semifinals.

A season in which Herndon finished 23-3 overall concluded with a round of four 64-61 region playoff loss to T.C. Williams. The Titans went on to defeat upstart Annandale High in last year's region title game.

Herndon, last winter, enjoyed a spectacular season, falling just one win short of reaching the region championship game and nearly qualifying for the state AAA playoffs. Had Herndon gotten past the Titans in the semifinals, it would have qualified for states for the first time since 2006 when Scottie Reynolds was the team's star player and Gary Hall was head coach.

"We have been a little banged up early and have been working to get all of our kid's healthy going into the holidays and the rest of the season"

— Andrew Duggan

Perhaps Herndon's highlight moment of last year's season came in the Concorde District title game when the Hornets, the tournament's No. 1 seed, defeated Chantilly High, 64-58. In that finals game, Herndon trailed the Chargers by 15 points in the third quarter before rallying to win behind the superb play of since-graduated point guard Austin Hamilton, who scored 27 points and earned tournament MVP honors.

Herndon, at the ensuing 16-team regional tournament, then won games over both W.T. Woodson, 66-61, and local cross-town rival South Lakes, 87-76.

Hamilton, last year's Northern Re-



Herndon coach Chris Whelan talks strategy with his team during a game last year. Whelan's Hornets are off to a 4-2 start this season, following last year's campaign, which saw them capture the Concorde District title.

gion Player of the Year, and backcourt mate Jonathan Beltran both scored 17 points in the first round win over Woodson. Hamilton then scored 33 in the Hornets' quarterfinals round win over South Lakes, which experienced an outstanding turnaround season under new head coach Andrew Duggan last winter.

Going into the region semifinals contest versus annual region power T.C. Williams, Herndon had won 13 straight games. The Hornets trailed early that night, 10-2, but played hard throughout and were within 47-46 early in the final quarter. Herndon was within 63-61 with 30 seconds left but could not get closer.

Herndon lost several key players to graduation from last year's team but has still gotten off to a good 4-2 start this season.

"We are coming along and getting better every day," said veteran Herndon coach Chris Whelan.

Herndon opened the current season with a 67-62 non-district home win over Washington-Lee (Arlington) on Nov. 29, but lost a few days later at non-district opponent West Potomac, 67-49, on Dec. 2.

Since then, Herndon, going into this week, has won three of its next four games. The Hornets won a non-district home game over Annandale, 86-64, on Dec. 16 before falling at Stuart, 64-67, three days later.

In non-district play last week, Herndon defeated visiting Lake Braddock, 71-56, on Dec. 13, than won at Hayfield, 60-54, Dec.

16.

Herndon's top scorers in the win over Lake Braddock were senior forward Patrick McLaughlin (23 points) and sophomore guard Dorian Johnson (20). Also in double figures for the Hornets were guards DeAndre Thomas (16 points) and Ashkan Naderi (11). Herndon used a strong second quarter to build a 29-19 halftime advantage over the Bruins.

In the win over Hayfield, Johnson (16 points), Thomas (14), and McLaughlin (12) were each in double digits while Naderi added nine and sophomore guard Malcolm McKenzie six.

McLaughlin, Johnson, and Thomas are all returning starters from last year's team.

Herndon was scheduled to host South Lakes on Tuesday, Dec. 20 of this week, its final game before Christmas.

Over the holidays, Herndon will participate in the Lake Braddock Tournament.

Herndon will open its Concorde District schedule with a home game versus Oakton on Jan. 6.

THE SOUTH LAKES BOYS opened the season with a pair of wins — home victories over Centreville, 68-50, on Dec. 1, and Oakton, 63-52, on Dec. 2. But the Seahawks have lost three straight since then and were 2-3 going into this week's game against Herndon.

The losses came to visiting Westfield, 66-58, on Dec. 10; host team McLean, 69-52 in South Lakes' Liberty District opener; and

visiting district opponent Langley, 63-33, on Dec. 16.

"We have been a little banged up early and have been working to get all of our kid's healthy going into the holidays and the rest of the season," said Duggan, South Lakes' second year head coach. "We have high expectations coming into this season. One of our goals is to win the Liberty District."

South Lakes' leading scorers in the recent loss to McLean were senior guard Jordan Francis (13 points), freshman forward Brandon Kamga (9 points), and sophomore forward Clayton O'Neill (7). Against Langley, however, no South Lakes players scored in double figures.

South Lakes' top scorers thus far are JD Wallace (17 points, six assists per game), Francis (12 points), Kamga (8 points), and DJ Christian (7 points).

Over the holidays, South Lakes will participate in a tournament at Wakefield High School in Arlington. The Seahawks will meet West Potomac in their first game of the tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 27. South Lakes is also scheduled to play tournament games the following two days as well.

A year ago, in coach Duggan's first season as the South Lakes head coach, the Seahawks went 14-12 and made it to the Liberty District tournament finals. At the region playoffs, the Seahawks defeated Falls Church, 61-53, in a first round game before losing to Herndon in a quarterfinals contest. Christian scored 26 points for South Lakes in that season-ending loss.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday School and Adult Education available. Morning Prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-herndon.org.

Adult Sunday school will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

The Baha'i community of McLean holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fel-

lowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, at 8 p.m. every Friday. An opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith. 703-556-3400.

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

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will present "Fascinating Facts: Exploring the Myths and Mysteries of Judaism." The six-session course will commence during the week of Nov. 6. Rabbi Leibel Fajnlend of Chabad of Reston-Herndon will conduct the six course sessions at 7:30-9 p.m. on Monday nights at Chabad Aleph Center. 718 Lynn Street, Herndon. 703-476-1829 or www.myJLI.com.

Hope Fellowship Church will temporarily be meeting at Woody's Golf Range, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sunday Worship Services for the Southern Baptist church are at 10:45 a.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org.

Knitters needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 7 p.m., at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

Ali Asgar Sohanguhpurwala of Herndon has received a master of science degree in computer engineering from the Virginia Tech College of Engineering.

Yvette Sanchez of Herndon received an associate of applied science degree in travel and tourism from Kaplan University online.

Stacey Livornese of Herndon received a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from Kaplan University online.

Tryshan Ravenell of Herndon received a master's degree in business administration from Kaplan University online.

Heather Davis of Herndon has been named to the spring 2011 honors list at Stephens College of Columbia, Mo.

Sulan Zheng of Herndon will attend Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in Needham, Mass.

Jenny R. Schmitz of Herndon graduated with a master of arts in Christian ministry from the James and Carolyn McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University, Atlanta, Ga.

Miranda E. Smith of Oak Hill has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Roger Williams University, Bristol, R.I.

Curtis William Strasburg of Oak Hill has graduated with a bachelor of science in accounting from Clemson University of Clemson, S.C.

Andrew Criminski of Oak Hill was named Master Sergeant and Band

Squadron First Sergeant in the AFJROTC at Randolph-Macon Academy. He is the son of Scott Criminski and Charmain Wardley of Oak Hill and Therese Criminski of San Diego, CA.

Natalie Chanfreau of Flint Hill School has been named as a 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

Four Oakton High School students have been named as 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: **Tony S. Lee, Cameron H. Lindsay, Zachary J. Sturm** and **Gabrielle R. Tate**.

Robert Pearson of Herndon has been named a 2011 Bonner Scholar at Emory & Henry College.

Douglas Ferrer of Herndon has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at The Johns Hopkins University. Ferrer, who majored in physics, graduated in May 2011. He is the son of Robert and Jennifer Ferrer.

Andrew Rys of Herndon has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at The Johns Hopkins University. Rys was also elected to the Phi Beta Kappa academic honorary society. The son of Steven and Leigh Rys is majoring in economics, and will graduate in May 2012.

Valerie Pratt of Oak Hill has graduated from Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Douglas Pratt.

Oakton residents **Catherine Cook** and **Christina Cook** have been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design of Savannah, Ga. Both are seeking a bachelor of fine arts in visual effects.

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Sunday, 12/25 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS GLORY

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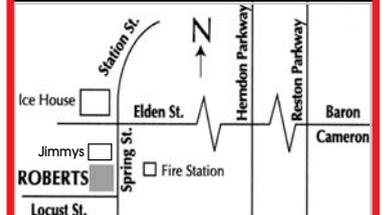
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/REDEVELOPMENT

On December 6, 2011, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held a public hearing regarding an ordinance to establish exclusive water service areas and maximum allowable rates, fees, and charges within Fairfax County for water service. At the same meeting, the BOS enacted the ordinance as Section 65-6-13 of the Code of Fairfax County. Section (a) of the ordinance provides that effective 12:01 a.m. December 7, 2011, Fairfax Water will be the provider of retail public water service within Fairfax County, Virginia, for any new construction or redevelopment of any dwelling unit and any residential or non-residential structure, unless Fairfax Water determines it cannot make water service available due to a utility-related reason.

The ordinance requires that any determination by Fairfax Water that it cannot make service available be made in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations established by Fairfax Water for the purpose of establishing when a utility-related reason exists that prevents it from supplying water. The ordinance further requires that the policies, rules, or regulations be adopted by Fairfax Water after notice and a public hearing.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/ REDEVELOPMENT. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed rule should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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Living Proof



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or just plain dumb luck (which I don't take personally), or inherited genes (for which I am fortunate) that have so far fended off the cancer due to their DNA profile – or whatever, or the cumulative effect of the diet and lifestyle choices I've made, or the ingenuity of the design of the chemotherapy initially and then the anti-angiogenesis maintenance treatment I've been infused with – going on nearly three years, or everything together or some other things I've done separately, or a higher power simply blessing me for reasons I couldn't begin to understand. Why ever, how ever, I am grateful life goes on; thank God!

Woe is not me so I have never wondered why it has been me so seriously and unexpectedly afflicted. Certainly I've been curious and at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist, questions were asked but answers were not really provided. My oncologist was more interested in treating the disease going forward rather than determining a cause for this effect reviewing backwards. It was of no interest to him, so by association – or influence, it likewise became less so to me. And so was born – and has evolved, my attitude toward being diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer at age 54 and one half. It's my problem, but I can't really worry about it – sort of, somehow.

On the one hand, whatever will be will be and attempting to control the uncontrollable (cells in my body) will likely mentally-anguish even a patient patient like me. On the other, giving up and/or giving in to this terminal disease doesn't make much sense either. I didn't (don't) want to be a victim of my own circumstance. Nor do I want to be an answer to anybody's prayers, except my own. Everybody has their own problems. Cancer has become mine and it's a problem I have assimilated into my life. I wouldn't say I've embraced it but I have accepted it and moved on, you might say.

Writing these columns and sharing with all of you has likely contributed as well to that acceptance as much as anything has. Not taking my diagnosis/prognosis lying down (in fact, I was sitting at the time), might have started the proactive peace with which I presently exist – and formerly as well, ever since that first this-is-what-you-have/this-is-what-we-should-do-about-it meeting occurred with my oncologist. He set the forward-thinking tone at that meeting and I have, to the best of my ability – despite some valleys along the way, remained vigilant, trying to appreciate the present while constantly thinking about the future. A future once filled with hope, but now one filled with anxiety and uncertainty.

Managing that anxiety has been, and continues to be, my greatest challenge, a challenge I never anticipated given that my parents' ages when they died were 87 and 86 and their health history had not included any cancer. And though it doesn't appear as if I've inherited their long-living genes, I have most definitely inherited their senses of humor and positive attitude. Maybe that's why I've outlived my prognosis. I think I thought: why not me? And then joked about it. (I remember asking my oncologist if it were OK for me to buy in bulk, among other similar kinds of queries.)

At the end of the day, the whole thing has probably been out of my hands. But accepting that wouldn't have been any fun.

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

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COME MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS
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HEALTH CARE FOR KIDS ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT FOR KIDS HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Again this year Floris United Methodist Church will give away its entire Christmas Eve offering. It's a tough time to give away the offering, but Christmas is calling us to make a difference in the world. Maybe it's calling you too.

Support Local Schools:

During the 2010-2011 academic school year, 2,274 homeless students were identified by Fairfax County Public Schools and more than 45,000 students were on the free and reduced lunch program. Children living in poverty face daily challenges that impact their education. Floris United Methodist Church partners with local schools to provide weekend meals, support to families and faculty, and academic enrichment programs that help children succeed.

Support Local Needs:

Non-profits and county service organizations are seeing a dramatic rise in the need for assistance. Between 2000 and 2009, the number of individuals below the poverty line in Fairfax County increased 33%. The Connections for Hope center in Herndon was established on the principle that non-profits can serve needs in the community more effectively and efficiently if they work in a shared space. Agencies at Connections for Hope provide homelessness prevention, homework assistance, health care for children, and a wide array of other essential services.

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Other services at 5, 7, 9 & 11 PM



www.florisumc.org/christmas