

From left, Caroline Causey, Abbey Lentine and Taylor Shenk, dancers in the Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet's "The Nutcracker."

Haddad Studio to Present 'The Nutcracker'

News, Page 10

Gift Ideas in Great Falls

Gift Guide, Page 10

Star Crossed Lovers
Take Stage at Langley

News, Page 16

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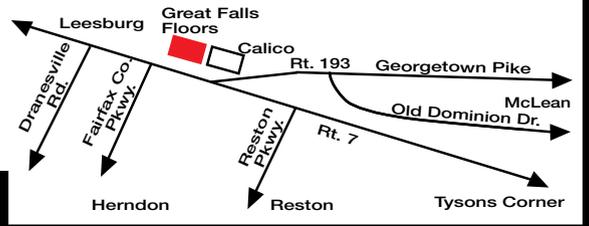




Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Reaction to the announcement that President Barack Obama has been re-elected at the Fairfax County Democrats Victory Party on Nov. 6.



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Sisters Maryam and Mondana Nicksolat of McLean celebrated with more than 200 other enthusiastic Democrats at the Tysons Sheraton on election night.

Area Votes for Obama, Kaine, House Incumbents

President Barack Obama wins second term, Kaine wins Senate seat, Moran, Wolf, Connolly re-elected.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

In a bitter and historically expensive battle, President Barack Obama defeated Gov. Mitt Romney, winning a second term Tuesday after grabbing the key swing state of Virginia after midnight.

With the addition of the Commonwealth's 13 electoral votes—as well as those of Colorado, Iowa, New Hampshire and Wisconsin—Obama sailed over the electoral cliff with the critical 270 electoral votes he needed for victory.

More than 200 Democrats gathered at the Tysons Sheraton Tuesday evening—some cautiously optimistic, some nervous—about the Democrats' chances of another four years for Obama in The White House.

Mondana Nicksolat, an Obama volunteer from McLean, said she was so nervous about Obama's chances for victory, "I feel like I'm getting ready to take a final exam. . . . I'm nervous. I'm not sure he will win," Nicksolat said. But as the evening wore on, Nicksolat became more optimistic.

"Obama shouldn't be called a politician," she said. "He is a human being. He has a lot in common with the American people. We are not all rich; we all did not go to elite schools; some of us are immigrants and we're Americans. Obama is with us."

Close to midnight, the Sheraton crowd erupted in cheers, hugs and tears when news networks projected the win for Obama.

"The country and women are safe for four more years," one guest shouted.

According to the Fairfax County Board of

Elections, Obama won the county with nearly 60 percent of the vote.

Kaine Wins Senate Seat

It was one of the most competitive and closely-watched Senate races in the nation, but after 17 months of brutal campaigning, former Virginian Governor and DNC Chair Timothy M. Kaine grabbed the seat of retiring U.S. Sen. Jim Webb from former Governor George Allen. Kaine won 51.85 percent of the vote over Allen's 47.97 percent with 100 percent of the state's 2588 precincts reporting, according to the Virginia State Board of Elections.

The 11th District: Connolly

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) knows how close a race can be on election night, beating challenger Keith Fimian in 2010 by a razor-thin margin, but Connolly handily defeated Republican challenger Chris Perkins Tuesday night along with four other candidates: Chris DeCarlo (Independent), Mark Gibson (Independent), Joe Galdo (Green Party) and Peter Marchetti (Independent Green Party). Connolly received 60.05 percent of the vote, or 163,212 votes, compared to Perkins's 36.22 percent of the vote with 98,456 votes.

"Tonight our voters also sent a message about our politics. They want more functional government," Connolly said, standing with his daughter and wife at the

Sheraton. "They don't want more rabid, partisan rhetoric as a substitute for real solutions to real problems."

Connolly said he was honored "to have been reelected, by my widest margin ever, and to have received the thrust of our voters to represent them for the next two years. On their behalf I will fight for the values we share while seeking common ground to move our country forward."

Connolly also displayed his trademark wit when he told the crowd he had another announcement: "CBS News just called it for Tim Kaine. . . . Not so fast, Tea Party!"

The 10th District: Wolf

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), the most senior of the 11 members of the House of Representatives from Virginia, won his 17th consecutive term on Tuesday. This year, Wolf faced a challenge on two fronts: Democrat Kristin Cabral and Independent Kevin Chisholm fought hard to take his seat.

Wolf won 58.71 percent of the vote (194,817 votes) compared to Cabral's 38.38 percent of the vote (127,355 votes) with 192 of 195 precincts reporting at 1 a.m.

Wolf sits on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he is the chairman on the Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee. In addition, he is the co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a bipartisan organization made up of more than 200 members of Congress who work together to raise awareness about international human rights issues.

The 8th District: Moran

U.S. Rep. James P. Moran won a 12th term in Congress, easily beating his Republican



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Ron Wiersma of Springfield and Caroline Smith of Reston celebrated with other Democrats at the Sheraton on Tuesday. "Look around you. This is America," Smith said. "Black, white, Asian, Latinos, men and women, young and old. . . . This is our America."

opponent J. Patrick Murray with 63.42 percent (174,974 votes) of the vote over Murray's 31.5 percent of the vote (86,910 votes). A senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Moran serves as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment and also serves on the Defense and Military Construction Subcommittees. Throughout his two decades of service in the House of Representatives, Moran has championed regional transportation solutions, the environment, women's issues, technology, fair and open trade, and fiscal discipline. He is also well known for his efforts to protect federal employees and military retirees.

The County Line

Long Lines on Election Day Revisited

Bulova calls for bi-partisan group to address the issue, improve election process.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

While voter turnout in Fairfax County on Election Day was at an all-time high—80.5 percent of registered voters cast their ballots, compared to 78.7 percent in 2008—some voters faced long lines and endured hours of waiting on a chilly day to cast their ballots.

Lines and wait-times varied throughout the County's 237 precincts. Voters at Vienna's Flint Hill Elementary School reported ample parking and virtually no lines. At other locations however, lines snaked around elementary school parking lots and through buildings, and it was not unusual for voters to have an hour-long wait.

Long wait times and other voting-day issues concerned Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large), who called for the creation of a bi-partisan commission to explore any inefficiency and analyze ways to streamline the process.

"While all together the day went well, I think it would be beneficial to examine what lessons we can learn from the 2012 Election," Bulova said on Wednesday, adding that she waited only 20 minutes at Villa precinct Tuesday morning to vote.

"I plan to present this issue to the Board of Supervisors at our next meeting and suggest the formation of a bi-partisan commission to identify ways to reduce lines, decrease wait times, and streamline our election process," she said. The next Board of Supervisors meeting takes place on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

She said the commission will review and make recommendations regarding Fairfax County's election process. "The commission will be asked to concentrate on ways to improve the County's efficiency on Election Day, with a specific focus on addressing wait times, long lines, and other voting issues," Bulova said.

ELECTIONS OFFICIALS said a shortage of poll volunteers coupled with complicated ballot questions, bond issues and confusion over County-wide redistricting meant some voters took much longer to finish their ballots.

At the Bailey's Crossroads precinct, where it had been reported that some voters waited for more than three hours, Cameron Quinn, the County's chief election official, said further investigation last week showed the last voter at the Skyline precinct voted at 9:30 p.m., according to the time stamp on the voting equipment. Polls closed at 7 p.m., so any voters arriving at 7 p.m. waited more than two hours before casting their ballots.

Some voters complained the County did not provide enough high-tech touchscreen voting equipment, preferred by 80 percent of voters over paper or optically-scanned ballots. Accord-



Voters line up in front of the Great Falls Library Tuesday, Nov. 6 to cast their votes.



"I plan to present this issue to the Board of Supervisors at our next meeting and suggest the formation of a bi-partisan commission to identify ways to reduce lines, decrease wait times, and streamline our election process."

— Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large)

ing to election officials, there were between two and five touchscreens in every precinct this year, depending on the number of voters assigned to each precinct. Additionally, each precinct had one or two optical scan machines, and paper ballots for a projected 80 percent voter turnout.

"Rovers, who are in the field on Election Day to assist precinct officials with problems, also carry several spare machines in case of breakdowns. A number of these were rushed to precincts to prevent lines from building up too much when machines were down," Quinn said.

ONE OF THE KEY REASONS for some of the long waits was the lack of precinct volunteers, Quinn said.

"This is a longstanding issue that has become more acute across the entire country over the past decade, particularly in large urban and suburban areas," Quinn said. "Despite the County executive's extraordinary request to all County employees to sign up, using County

administrative leave, to work for Election Day, there were relatively few additional officers resulting from that request."

"Given the extraordinary voter turnout, things went fairly smoothly on Election Day," Quinn said. "There were some precincts that had issues and problems, but no more than any presidential election, and smoother than anticipated, given the challenges as a result of Hurricane Sandy and the recent redistricting." While long lines created headaches for some Fairfax County voters, it was much worse in other parts of the state. In Prince William County, some voters faced five-hour waits before casting their ballots.

"Asking anyone to wait several hours is unacceptable," Virginia Democratic Party Chairman Brian Moran said in a statement Wednesday. "Why did it go so poorly this year and why were these long lines experienced? We're going to be a battleground state, so ultimately we don't want this to happen again. Let's take the proper steps. Let's fix it."

McLean Holiday Parade Set for Dec. 2

Mark your calendars for McLean's only community parade Sunday, Dec. 2. To register to be in the parade, go to the WinterFest site at www.mcleanwinterfest.org. WinterFest again this year will present a check to Share of McLean, the local organization that does so much to help families in need. "We're asking residents to share their good fortune with those who have fallen on hard times by bringing grocery, pharmacy or clothing store gift cards to the parade that Share volunteers will collect," said Trish Butler, chair of the parade steering committee.

What's new about WinterFest in this its fifth year? Food trucks and pizza by the slice from Naked Pizza. There will also be a tent in the Langley Shopping Center near the stage where the 495 Express Lanes team will be available to provide information and answer questions about the Express Lanes. Attendees will also be able to pick up an E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex.

Here's more information about this year's parade:

- ❖ The parade route will be the same as last year's: Old Chain Bridge Road from Fleetwood Road to Elm Street. The parade route will be closed from 3 to 6:15 p.m. on Dec. 2.

- ❖ There is still no fee to be an entry in the parade. But you must register before Nov. 16.

- ❖ WinterFest 2012 will have food trucks this year along the parade route.

- ❖ Free popcorn from Cardinal Bank and hot beverages courtesy of Giant and McLean Pharmacy.

- ❖ Peggy Fox from WUSA/Channel 9 will again call the parade from the Fairfax County Showmobile situated in Langley Shopping Center.

- ❖ The pre-parade entertainment begins at 3:15 p.m.

- ❖ The parade will step off at 4 p.m.

For more information on WinterFest, go to the website at mcleanwinterfest.org or contact the parade committee at 703-917-0611.

Week in Great Falls

Friends of Riverbend Receive BMW Donation

Friends of Riverbend Park (FORB) has received \$10,000 from BMW of North America. The grant followed the conclusion of BMW's successful Restore the Outdoors campaign, which helped launch BMW's new X1 crossover vehicle, and which spotlighted 12 park sites across the United States, including Riverbend Park in Great Falls.

BMW's donation has enabled FORB to continue to support Riverbend Park's educational programs, maintenance, and nature activities. Riverbend Park will use the FORB funds to expand Riverbend's 2013 summer camps, to hire four college-level summer interns, and to generate additional revenue for the Park.

Further information may be obtained from Tim Hackman, president, Friends of Riverbend Park. Call 703-759-6414 or email forbpark@gmail.com.



Route 7 Widening Fairfax County

Public Information Meeting

Wednesday, November 28, 2012, 6 – 8:30 p.m.
Colvin Run Elementary School
1400 Trap Road, Vienna, VA 22182

Find out about an ongoing study to widen Leesburg Pike (Route 7) from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and the west end of the bridge over the Dulles Toll Road, to improve capacity, decrease congestion, and improve safety, in conformity with the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. VDOT and Fairfax County staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.virginiadot.org, at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1793, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by December 8 to Mr. Douglas Miller, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Route 7 Widening – Reston Avenue to Dulles Toll Road" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager at the above phone numbers.

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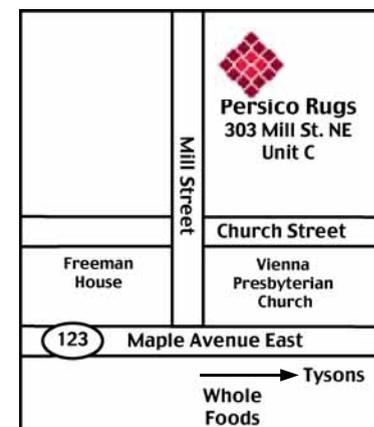


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News

The Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial hosts their annual Veterans Day ceremony at the memorial Monday, Nov. 12.



Veterans Honored at Freedom Memorial

Annual ceremony features Marine Color Guard, student performances.

Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

By Alex McVeigh
 The Connection

More than 150 people gathered at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Monday, Nov. 12, to participate in the community's annual Veterans Day ceremony. More than 100 students from Village Green Day School, Great Falls Elementary School and Langley High School also attended.

"It's important to know why this day is commemorated in this country. In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, a cease fire was declared between the Allied countries and Germany," said Andy Wilson, vice president of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial. "Armistice Day became Veterans Day in 1954 after congress went to President Eisenhower and said we should honor all of our veterans, especially those from World War II and Korea."



James Roberts speaks at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Veterans Day ceremony Monday, Nov. 12.

Wilson was one of almost a dozen veterans in attendance at the ceremony. An Army Ranger officer, Wilson was severely wounded in Vietnam and spent a year rehabilitating at Walter Reed Hospital, where he met his wife Nancy.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER James Roberts pointed to Wilson's example as one of hundreds that have inspired him throughout his life. Roberts served in the Navy during Vietnam as a weapons officer, and founded the American

See Great Falls, Page 7

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Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

The Langley High School Madrigals perform at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Monday, Nov. 12.

Great Falls Honors Veterans

From Page 6

Veterans Center in 1995. The center supports a wide range of programs for veterans, including organizing the annual National Memorial Day Parade.

Roberts named other veterans who he has met over the course of his work, and said he was inspired by every one of them.

"I think of Jack Lucas, who at age 15, lied about his age to join the Marine Corps, and a year later found himself in heavy fighting in the bloodbath that was Iwo Jima. When a Japanese grenade landed in the midst of his platoon, young Jack dove on it, taking the blast and saving his platoon mates," he said. "Jack was given up for dead until a medic saw one of his fingers twitching. He was horribly wounded and survived months of surgery before returning to civilian life. When he did, he honored the promise he made to his mother to finish high school."

Roberts urged the people in attendance to make sure their children learned about things like good values, responsibility and hard work, in order to protect what the military has done for this country over its history.

"If you ask many people what the main responsibility of the United States Military is, they would probably say 'keeping us safe.' And there's something to that. But when you get down to it, I think the major responsibility of the United States military is to keep us free," he said. "And they've done that job for over 200 years. But freedom can be lost. Ronald Reagan famously said 'the loss of freedom is but one generation away.' So we here at home need to do our part."

Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard participated in the event for the first time, posting and retiring the colors before the start of the event. The Langley Madrigals also per-

formed several patriotic songs, while the students from the Village Green Day School led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"This is what the Great Falls Freedom Memorial is all about, being inspired by the Marine Corps Color Guard, feeling the pride coursing through as we're inspired by the patriotic singing of the Madrigals, seeing the young children here," Wilson said.

MANY LOCAL RESIDENTS attend the ceremony every year, which, in addition to the Memorial Day and 9/11 remembrances, is an annual tradition at the memorial.

"It gets better and more poignant every year," said Gordon Howard of Great Falls. "It's amazing how they are able to find speakers every year who have interesting experiences and thoughts, and the participation of the students, who are sharing their morning with the older residents and veterans, make it a true community event."



Members of the U.S. Marine Corps Color Guard post the colors at the annual Great Falls Veterans Day remembrance Monday, Nov. 12.

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Opinion

Shop Locally, Give Locally

Small business Saturday isn't enough; don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.

An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 24. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, a day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

It sounds like an obligation, and it is. But there is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair.

The economy continues to improve slowly without inspiring. But still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any commu-

nity. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face

Give Locally

Poverty and homelessness are sometimes hard to see in Northern Virginia, but there is no shortage of families in need locally, especially at the holidays. Here are some of the local organizations ready to help, and in need of your help. Financial contributions are always preferred.

Where to Give Locally

In no particular order:

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

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

❖ **SHARE** of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards and more. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org

❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org

tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

— Mary Kimm,
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

❖ **Committee for Helping Others (CHO)**, Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of concerned churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. 14th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. 703-281-7614 <http://www.cho-va.com>

❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), working with the Office of Coordinated Services Planning, Fairfax County Department of Human Services, FISH helps local citizens who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 <http://herndonrestonfish.org>

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**, 10455 White Granite Drive Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124 703-385-3267 <http://www.nvfs.org/>

Letters to the Editor

Election Over, Now What?

To the Editor:

The election is over, and whether your candidate won or not, your job as an American is not over. We still remain in a deep economic slump, and there are many things that we as individuals can do to help the situation, that we all can agree on.

START A BUSINESS

As I was taking my constitutional walk a couple days ago, there were two young girls, about 10 years old, who had set up a table along the road. I stopped to speak with them. They said that they were raising money to start a business at Dulles Town Center. They said they were selling their Halloween candy, that they didn't need anyway, and they had \$16 so far, in a jar. They explained that their mother was going to make clothes, and they were

trying to get some seed money. I thought this was a small but inspirational example of a small business startup. Who knows what it will become? One thing is clear—it is not sending our money overseas. These kids were also learning a trait that will serve them, and America well, over the long term. Teach your kids this lesson. Our government also needs to step out of the way of small business startups, or they will not happen.

BUY AMERICAN

There are things that every consumer can do, and one of them is to preferentially purchase high quality products that are made in America. We do not need the government to change the tax code for this to help. Every dollar used to purchase something made in America, stays in America, and creates demand for the domestic companies to produce more. It is easy to determine what is made in the USA, as you just need to look on

the label. It is even easier today, as there are Internet sites listed on Google which identify products of every type, that are made here at home. Try it this year when buying toys and gifts for the holidays. You say they cost more, but you surely see that every dollar spent on products made in the USA benefit the entire business chain, and probably contribute several dollars to our economy. Select well-made American products, and you will not need to return them or throw them away. Some, including this writer, have certain problems with actions of some of the unions in our country, but one thing we can all agree upon is that union workers make high quality products, including American automobiles.

DEMAND COOPERATION BETWEEN PARTIES

We all know that Congress is often deadlocked on political ideology, and cannot seem to do the right thing for all of America.

There should be debates on the pluses and minuses of alternate courses of action on issues, but the proper basis for choosing among options is not necessarily that which will garner votes in the next election, but that which will solve a problem that needs to be solved. Many issues being battled at the federal level today should not be settled at the federal level in a "one size fits all." What is terribly wrong with people settling their own affairs, so long as they do not harm other people? This is what we call freedom. Write letters or speak with your elected leaders and tell them they need to say No more often to special interests, and support them when they do. Filling up all the rice bowls with tax money is not desirable. It is clear that our 535 elected leaders in Congress need to work across party lines, and we need to hold them to it.

Glen Sjoblom
Great Falls

Great Falls CONNECTION

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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/NOV. 14

Silent Stocking Stuffers. 7:30 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Composer Ben Model and silent film historian and preservationist Bruce Lawton select silent cinema apropos for the upcoming season. Among the picks are *The Courtship of Miles Sandwich* (a travesty on how Thanksgiving began) and *Good Cheer*, on getting into the spirit during a snowstorm. \$10; \$6, McLean residents. www.mcleancenter.org.

The Vienna Photographic Society's Photography Competition. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. The theme for the competition is "Animal Portraits," and all prints and digital images must fit into that category. The competition will be judged by Don Johnson. 703-451-7298 or www.vps-va.org.

Karla Bonoff and Steve Forbert. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk-rock music veterans return with classics and new songs. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15

Oakton Church of the Brethren's 19th Annual Christmas Craft Show. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The craft show features a wide variety of handmade items and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Free admission. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Lend Me a Tenor. 7:30 p.m., at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. When the 1930s world famous tenor Tito Morelli shows up late for his appearance at the Cleveland Grand Opera, the manager persuades his assistant to take the star's place. \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door. 703-319-2300 or www.madisondrama.com.

Karla Bonoff and Steve Forbert. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk-rock music veterans return with classics and new songs. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 16

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-Noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Watercolorist David Daniels will be the featured artist at this meeting with his impressionistic and nature inspired pictures. Guests are welcome. 703 790-0123.

Oakton Church of the Brethren's 19th Annual Christmas Craft Show. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The craft show features a wide variety of handmade items and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Free admission. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Lend Me a Tenor. 7:30 p.m., at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. When the 1930s world famous tenor Tito Morelli shows up late for his appearance at the Cleveland Grand Opera, the manager persuades his assistant to take the star's place. \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door. 703-319-2300 or www.madisondrama.com.

Howard Levy. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The multiple GRAMMY Award-winner, a master of the diatonic harmonica and a pianist and composer, returns to the Barns after 25 years. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Oakton Church of the Brethren's 19th Annual Christmas Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The craft show features a wide variety of handmade items and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Free admission. For more information, call 703-281-4411 or see www.oaktonbrethren.org.

Shopping Shindig. 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Body Elements, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 100, Vienna. Shop for gifts from local women-owned shops while you sip wine. www.body-elements.com.

Lend Me a Tenor. 2:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. When the 1930s world famous tenor Tito Morelli shows up late for his appearance at the Cleveland Grand Opera, the manager persuades his assistant to take the star's place. \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door. 703-319-2300 or www.madisondrama.com.

Thanksgiving Season Labyrinth Walk. 4-7 p.m., at Charles Wesley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. It's easy to navigate and impossible to get lost in the labyrinth; find a safe, calm space to reflect, contemplate, look for guidance, or walk in remembrance, grief, thanksgiving, for balance or even adventure. www.charleswesleyumc.org.

Winter Walk of Lights. 4:30-5:30 p.m., at MeadowLark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority presents a well-lit walk. info@mailva.evite.com.

BLUE County Experience. 8 p.m., at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. An eclectic mix of rock, hip hop, soul, blues and funk for an emotional, intense show. www.jamminjava.com.

Cinema Vivant™ and Jazz Night. 8 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Hot Club of San Francisco recreates French Gypsy jazz with a concurrent screening of two short films, one on a toy story and the second a combination of animation and live action. www.mcleancenter.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 18

Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great. 2 p.m., at the Alden, 1235 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A play for children about being a child—how to deal with bossy older sisters, being afraid of everything? Ask Sheila. Based on the Judy Blue book; ages 7-plus. \$15; \$10, MCC residents. www.aldentheatre.org.

Fall Concerts of Traditional Celtic Music. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. IONA, the East Coast's premier pan-Celtic band, performs the music and dance of ALL the Celtic nations and their transplants in the Americas. Tickets for all 5 concerts, \$65; \$15 each for individual concerts. All ages. Reservations. 703-759-3309.

FRIDAY/NOV. 23

Annual Gingerbread House. Opening at 2 p.m., daily hours from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. A life-sized gingerbread house where one can shop for pastries and holiday treats, and on

See Entertainment, Page 15

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From left, Hannah Yazdani, Emily Pleasant, Justine Verheul and Rachel Davenport, part of the Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet's performance "The Nutcracker."



Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Haddad Studio to Present 'The Nutcracker'

Annual show celebrates 21st year.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet will present its 21st edition of "The Nutcracker" the weekend after Thanksgiving. Featuring 49 children, guest artists from several ballet companies and adult volunteers, the annual performances will take place at The Madeira School.

Guest artists will be Kirk Henning and Ceclie Tuzzi of the Richmond Ballet, and Aleksey Kudrin and William Smith of the Manassas Ballet. Past students Julianne Gurgel, Mary Jean Stack and Sally Horton will also be performing.

"It's nice to combine the generations, because the younger girls seem to enjoy creating the fantasy of the show, and the older girls can really appreciate the technical aspect," Haddad said. "And both groups really enjoy the camaraderie, it's what keeps them coming back year after year, and that's a wonderful thing."

Haddad also credited her parent volunteers with helping put the show together.

"Rita Parks helped iron the more than 700 pieces of costume that we are using in the show," Haddad said. "Patty Pleasant and Mandy Sagar helped organize everything about going to the theater for the performances, and will help with costume changes. We've had an outstanding commitment from our parents, who are trying to make it perfect for everyone."



Front, from right, Emma Walker, Julianne Haddad and Shelby Willcox. Rear, Alexandrya Bryson. The dancers will be part of the Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet's annual performance of "The Nutcracker."

This is Haddad's 50th year of teaching ballet. She has taught in four countries, in addition to the United States, she has taught in England, Lebanon and Kenya.

The performances will be Saturday, Nov. 24 at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 25 at 4 p.m. at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike. Tickets are available for friends and family of the performers at www.brownpapertickets.com and for the general public on Living Social, or at the Haddad Studio, 9911 Georgetown Pike, in Great Falls.

Rear, from right, Alexis Watkinson, Licole Luz, Kiana Khoshnoud and Sabrina Luz. Front, Meagan Warner. The dancers will participate in Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet's annual performance of "The Nutcracker," which will be the weekend after Thanksgiving.



Gift Guide



A holiday figurine on display at Maison et Jardin in Great Falls.

Photo by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Gift Ideas in Great Falls

Maison et Jardin, Maison du Vin offer gift ideas for holidays.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

While places like Tysons Corner might draw the large crowds and big numbers during the holiday shopping season, plenty of local residents are able to find gifts much more locally. The shops at the Great Falls commercial center offer a wide variety of items at locally owned businesses.

"One of my favorite places to shop during the holidays is Maison et Jardin," said Jean Bakewell of Reston. "I first found it when I was stopping for a sandwich in the shopping center, and since then it's become a great stop for anything home décor."

Maison et Jardin features a variety of seasonal items that are starting to come in for the winter months. Thymes Fraser Fir candles and reed diffusers have arrived, and are one of their most popular items.

"We don't usually put up our Christmas tree until after Thanksgiving, but I tend to get the holi-

day fever right after Halloween," said Jamie Jensen of Great Falls. "So I love to get those fir candles because they smell as close to the real thing as possible."

Maison Jardin is located a few doors down from the Safeway in Great Falls. More information can be found at www.maisonetjardenltd.com.

"One of my favorite places to shop during the holidays is Maison et Jardin."

—Jean Bakewell of Reston.

While Maison et Jardin focuses on home and garden, Maison du Vin means "house of wine" in French. The store features more than 800 wines from around the world that are hand-selected by the store's staff.

"My favorite part about

See Taste, Page 11

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Gift Guide

Maison du Vin in Great Falls has eight bottles of red and eight bottles of white ready to sample at all times.



Photo contributed

A Taste of Holidays

From Page 10

Maison du Vin are the wines available for sample, because its nice to try a wine before you invest in an entire bottle, especially if you're not an expert," said Sam Sharpe of Herndon. "I usually come in to pick up a few gifts, but after a few samples I end up getting at least a bottle for myself."

In addition to wines, there are other items, such as gourmet foods. They also sell memberships to a monthly wine club, which features a staff picked bottle every month

and offer free wine chilling.

"The best part is that no one who works there treats you like an idiot if you don't know what you're looking for," said Anna Carmine of Fairfax. "I'm not a big wine drinker, but it's a great gift idea for holiday meals, and once I know what's on the menu, I just let the staff know, and they always make a great pick."

Maison du Vin is located at the Great Falls Village Centre, and can be found online at www.maison-duvin.com.

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Dr. Donna Greco
D.M.D.
Family Dentistry

Dr. Donna Greco completed her undergraduate studies in fine art, and after a brief professional career as a graphic artist, she returned to dental school and earned her Doctorate of Medicinal Dentistry from the University of Kentucky in 2002. As a dental student, she was selected as one of only three dental students to ever complete the year-long clinical research training program at NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, studying head and neck development. After graduation, she returned to the D.C. area and eventually settled in Loudoun County, where she resides with her husband, Craig, and their daughter. Dr. Greco participates in extensive continuing education and training in all aspects of her profession, including her particular areas of interest which are esthetic and cosmetic dentistry, orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, dentistry for children and TMJ disorders.

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

E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



The executive members of Youth Inspire at Inova Children's Hospital. From left, Tyler Zimmerman, assistant director of development; Ezzy Sriram, chief operating officer; Jason Cui, founder and president; Rosie Brock, assistant director of media; and Kathrine Meiser, assistant director of fundraising.



Jason Cui, founder and president of Youth Inspire, holds the "Teens Helping Teens" sign.

Photos contributed

Inspired 'to Make a Difference'

Langley High School students inspiring teens around the globe.

By Jennifer Benitz
The Connection

While many high school students are busy worrying about upcoming SAT exams and sport practices, Langley High School junior Jason Cui is busy heading Youth Inspire, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting teen cancer patients one picture at a time.

At just 16 years old, the Great Falls resident not only serves as founder and executive director of the non-profit organization that was officially launched in August 2012, but has also taken it from a local movement to an international movement. With advocates in over 200 schools across 10 countries worldwide, Youth Inspire acts as a network for peer-to-peer support, help, and encouragement.

"Youth Inspire is basically an idea I had to connect teens worldwide with cancer patients to provide motivation and emotional support," said Cui.

THE IDEA came to him two years ago while he was competing at an international science fair after placing fourth at the national level with a science project examining the effects of Cordyceps sinensis on the adverse effects of current chemotherapy treatments. While at the competition, it was the interaction of students from all over the world and the support that he encountered, as well as encounters with cancer in his family, that inspired him to make an idea into reality.

"I spent about a year trying to fundraise on my own and refine ideas, and last summer, I reached out to kids in Langley to help," said Cui.

One of those classmates is 17-year-old



Founder and president of Youth Inspire, Jason Cui.

Ezzy Sriram, a junior at Langley. "We worked on Youth Inspire all summer," said Sriram. "I started off just making the website and wanted to get more involved." As chief operating officer, that is exactly what he did. Starting in July 2012, Sriram and Cui spent a month doing research on creating a non-profit organization and filling out paperwork.

"We worked on establishing a foundation and getting our name out there," said Sriram. "What set us apart was the fact that we were high school students and we had never done this before. We did all the research and got everything running in a professional sense."

With 40-50 active members at Langley High school, Youth Inspire locally coordinates with Inova Children's Hospital in Falls Church and is quickly growing as it inspires other local high schools to follow.

Youth Inspire is more than simply taking pictures; it is about connecting teenagers in a digitally operated world to show teen cancer patients the enormity of support behind them by fellow peers. "Support



Youth Inspire Chief Operating Officer Ezzy Sriram. The McLean resident is a junior at Langley High School.

doesn't need to be financial," said Sriram. "We want to show people the satisfaction of helping and how easy it is to get involved."

Youth Inspire's "Teens Helping Teens" program embodies the organization's fundraising efforts by using digital media to capture teenagers from across the globe holding the Teens Helping Teens sign to show their support. For every picture the campaign gets, a charitable organization will donate \$1 to Youth Inspire. In addition, the organization's interactive program, "YOU Inspire," allows the students to go to Inova Hospital in groups to pay frequent visits to interact and connect with patients their same age while providing emotional support in a variety of ways, whether it is simply by hanging out and talking, making cards, or playing games.

To date, the volunteers have raised \$5,000 from "Teens Helping Teens," and an additional \$5,000 from miscellaneous fundraising, including bake sales and car

washes—not bad for an organization that is just shy of the three-month mark. The money is used to buy games and toys for patients, and will soon also help fund a third program, "Inspire Connect."

Cui got the idea for "Youth Inspire Connect" after going to the international science fair for a second time in the spring of 2012 and asking his international peers to take the movement to their local hospitals and schools. "One of their hospitals was not [technologically] equipped to give this kind of support; some of the patients were even barely receiving the treatments they needed. We decided we should try to provide them with an Ipad as a 'connector' to give support so the patients can use it to play with, research and communicate."

CHUI HOPES to send a few hundred Ipad by spring break. "I want to concentrate on rural areas in China and India, and eventually also areas in Germany and Korea," said Cui.

While Youth Inspire is a relatively young organization, its success can be attributed to the students' hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm for the movement and their peers. "I am very impressed by Youth Inspire," said Jamie Gentile, the director of child life services at Inova Children's Hospital. As director of child life services, Gentile coordinates any and all activities for the patients.

"It is completely student-run and I can already see they have all the ducks in a row better than some other professional non-profit organizations. The students are committed, enthusiastic and hard workers. They've put in a lot of time and energy, and they've done a phenomenal job," said Gentile. Both Cui and Gentile see a lasting partnership with Inova Children's Hospital.

With hopes to see Youth Inspire continue and spread, Cui and fellow volunteers have set a goal to raise \$100,000 by the time they graduate in the spring of 2014. "Young people from around the world can use their own efforts to make a difference," said Cui. "Seemingly small acts can make a big difference."

Entertainment

From Page 9

opening day, enjoy holiday confections, hot spiced cider, roasted chestnuts and hot cocoa. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street S.E., Vienna. Eighty-plus juried artisans offer original, handmade arts and crafts: fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking, hand-weaving, clothing, functional textiles and many other types of goods/art. www.nvhg.org.

Altar Boyz. 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

The Grandsons. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. DC-based rock 'n' rollers play their annual post-Thanksgiving concert. \$18. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 24

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street S.E., Vienna. Eighty-plus juried artisans offer original, handmade arts and crafts: fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking, hand-weaving, clothing, functional textiles and many other types of goods/art. www.nvhg.org.

Altar Boyz. 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Messiah Sing-Along. 7 p.m., at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., Vienna. The church orchestra combines with youth choirs from Lewinsville, Falls Church and Vienna Presbyterian Churches in a community-wide sing-along. www.viennanapres.org.

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The jazz pianist, vocalist and musicologist reinterprets American composers' classics. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 25

Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Holiday Market. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street S.E., Vienna. Eighty-plus juried artisans offer original, handmade arts and crafts: fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking, hand-weaving, clothing, functional textiles and many other types of goods/art. www.nvhg.org.

Thanksgiving Food Drive at Wildfire. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., at Wildfire Tysons Galleria, 1714 International Drive, McLean. Proceeds from Wildfire sales on Thanksgiving Day go to Food for Others, the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia; the restaurant will also donate all unopened cans and boxes of non-perishables brought in on Sunday. www.wildfirerestaurant.com/mclean.

Altar Boyz. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.



"Everlasting Love," Digital Photography, 10" x10" by Terri Parent.

Artists to Hold Reception, Holiday Open House

"Big Squares, Little Squares" show will kick off the holiday season at The Artists' Atelier, 1144 Walker Road, Suite H, Great Falls. Photography, mixed media, painting and fiber arts will be on exhibit in small and large squares. Artists of The Atelier have also designed original ornaments and holiday cards. An opening reception will be held Friday, Nov. 16, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. followed by a holiday open house on Sat-

urday, Nov. 17, 12 noon-4 p.m. The Squares show will be on display through Dec. 30.

The Atelier is open every Wednesday and Saturday noon-4 p.m. Atelier members include Jill Banks, Bobbie Beasley, Brenda Drake, Jennifer Duncan, Elaine Elinsky, Cindy Grisdela, Tina Learned, Walt Lawrence, John McCabe, Mollie Vardell, Michela Mansuino, Terri Parent, Chris Rollins and Judith St. Ledger Roty.

80 fine American artisans convene from across the country for this highly-regarded and much-anticipated juried show. This show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, silhouette portraits, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings and more! Call for **silhouette appointments** now!

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 Saturday, Nov. 17, 8 p.m.
 \$25/\$18 MCC district residents

ArtsPower's production of
"Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great"
 Sunday, Nov. 18, 2 p.m.
 \$15/\$10 MCC district residents



Sunday Soiree Dance
 Sunday, Nov. 18, 3-5 p.m.
 Admission: \$5 at the door

30th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show
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Schools

Star Crossed Lovers Take Stage at Langley

Theatre department presents "Romeo and Juliet."

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

During Langley High School's inaugural theater tech class, several students had a vision: Shakespeare's character Juliet giving her famous speech on a scaffolding. The school's upcoming production of "Romeo and Juliet" took on a new look after that idea, transforming the setting of the play from an Italian city to an apocalyptic future city.

"We were looking for a way in tech class to learn about building scaffolding, and once we came up with the idea of Juliet on a scaffolding instead of a balcony, we went from there," said senior Alex Swann, head of the tech crew for the play. "In addition to the scaffolding, we had to build a lot of flats with a very futuristic, industrial feel to it. We wanted the set to feel very oppressive, and it's been one of the biggest sets I've ever worked on."

Gray bare metal streetlights and metal piping are surrounded by backgrounds containing multiple shades of gray, but nothing else. Though the play features a different setting than the source material, the students will be performing the play's classic language.

"I've done Shakespeare before, so I knew the language would be a challenge, but this is my first lead," said senior Chris Paul, who plays the role of Romeo. "It's one thing to get used to it, to find the rhythm,

but it's also important to find the meaning, so it comes out sounding as natural as possible."

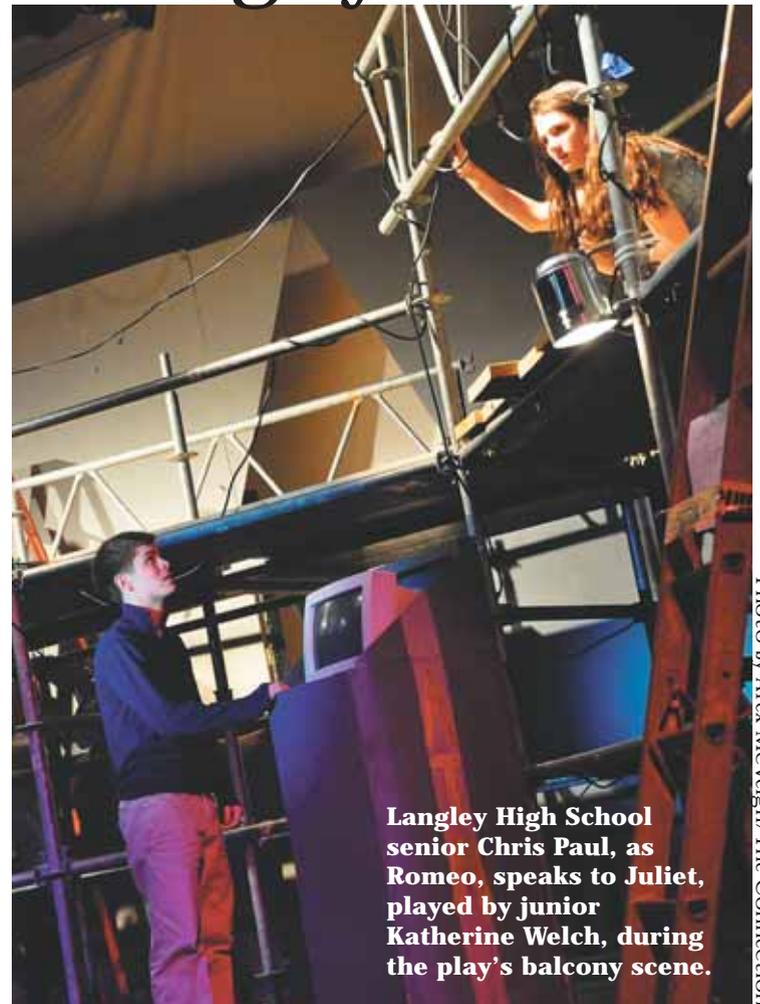
Senior Kaitryn Evans, who plays the nurse, says she enjoys the role because she enjoys the nurse's humorous nature, as well as her ability to get serious when it matters. Evans says many cast members are able to find common ground with their characters.

"I think the play has been cast very well, most of our roles in some way match the personality, which helps everything look more natural," she said. "The characters' actions in the play are all something the person playing them could do, except for the killing of course."

The play features a large number of freshman, one of the highest turnouts from that class in years. The large cast also had to learn to work together as a crowd during some of the larger scenes

"With such a big ensemble, there are a lot of scenes, like the brawls and the parties, that have to be very organized in order to look chaotic," said stage manager Shannon Keen, a senior. "This was my first major play as a stage manager, and it was a very enlightening process. It's fun to work with the actors and tech department and see the things they go through to do their jobs."

"Romeo and Juliet" will be performed at the Langley High School auditorium Nov. 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. More information is available at www.saxonstage.com.



Langley High School senior Chris Paul, as Romeo, speaks to Juliet, played by junior Katherine Welch, during the play's balcony scene.

Photo by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

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Thanksgiving Centerpiece Ideas: Flowers Not Required

Floral design pros share secrets to creating swoon-worthy centerpieces.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

While the turkey is often the star of a Thanksgiving dinner table, a nonedible focal point can play a leading role in creating an elegant dinner table aesthetic. From lush floral arrangements to designs without blooms, three local floral design pros offer ideas for spectacular centerpieces that can be replicated easily at home.

"We usually suggest low containers for the Thanksgiving dinner table," said Jenny Park, a floral designer with Reston Floral Design in Reston. "I use things that represent harvesting, like pumpkins or artificial fruit like grapes and apples."

Floral designer Alison de Wit, of Distinctive Floral Designs in Great Falls, suggests going horizontal: "Create a runner of sorts at the midpoint of a long table with blooms and autumn harvest elements. These can be placed in a lush carpeted type form to create a meandering avenue of décor or grouped along the length of the table. The effect is one of abundance and is particularly aesthetically pleasing when paired with groupings of candles of different heights [such as] pillar candles, votive candles or floating candles."

Old Town Alexandria-based designer Rebecca A. Henry often includes elements of nature. "Incorporate leaves — either dried or fresh," said Henry. Henry owns Petal's Edge Floral Design with her business partner, Arlington resident Gerry Rogers. "Fresh leaves don't hold up very well, so preserved leaves are actually a better choice with gourds and mini-pumpkins. They add a touch of nonfloral, and Thanksgiving arrangements tend to veer toward nonfloral."

DESIGNERS SAY GLASS, basket or pumpkin containers are ideal for Thanksgiving. "If you want to do something contemporary, but still stay within that feeling of fall, use a glass container but fill it with something like cranberries or coffee beans to give it the color of fall," said Henry. "Fill a square glass vase with cranberries and top it with an arrangement that has a lot of oranges and



Floral designer Rebecca A. Henry suggests using dried pods like lotus pods or cattails, dried wheat, dried pomegranates or anything that is reminiscent of harvest season.

yellow and reds and rust colors and some dried elements. You can fill a vase with just about anything."



Photos courtesy of Petal's Edge Floral Design

Great Falls-based floral designer Alison de Wit of Distinctive Floral Designs created this fall centerpiece in a hollowed-out pumpkin that rests on a bed of woodlands moss. Designers suggest incorporating elements of nature into Thanksgiving centerpieces.

De Wit adds that berries are always a welcome addition to fall arrangements, suggesting pepper berries, snowberries and

hypericum berries, along with pods such as scabiosa and poppy. "Greens can diverge from the traditional to a mélange of hues from soft mint to deep leaf green. Lambs ear, seeded eucalyptus, variegated ruscus, pittisporum and papyrus all provide a lovely aesthetic within a composition. Likewise, feathers are a beautiful component of mixed medium pieces."

Make use of the woody elements that are in abundance now. "Popular things to incorporate into fall centerpieces are dried pods like lotus pods or cattails, dried wheat, dried pomegranates, dried fruits or anything that reminds you of harvest time," said Henry. "Most of these dried items can be picked up at a craft store."

Use sentimental or personal pieces to create an elegant presentation. "Rather than having a singular arrangement ... create a tableaux with floral or organic pieces to form a pleasing central theme," said de Wit. "This would include a grouping of smaller vases — and these can be special pieces from personal collections or

all glass, ceramic or antique pieces. This offers an interesting variant on a single arrangement."

Marika Meyer, of Meyer Interiors, in Washington, said, "Look for flowers that are in the autumn palette but might be out of season. I recently saw a beautiful arrangement of French tulips in oranges and reds, but used on a tablescape with gourds, it was a fresh take on a flower arrangement."

Inexpensive flowers are in vogue. "This is a great time of year to use less expensive flowers that are not always highly prized like mums," said Henry. "At this time of year that it what is in the garden, so those make a lot of sense in Thanksgiving arrangement."

Consider mixing warm and cool tones, as well. "Color for autumn arrangements were traditionally the rich saturated orange, yellow and reds," said de Wit. "These colors retain their popularity but are often augmented with deep purples and blues to offer a counterpoint to the warm tones. Perennially popular blooms are hydrangea, roses, sunflowers and dahlia."

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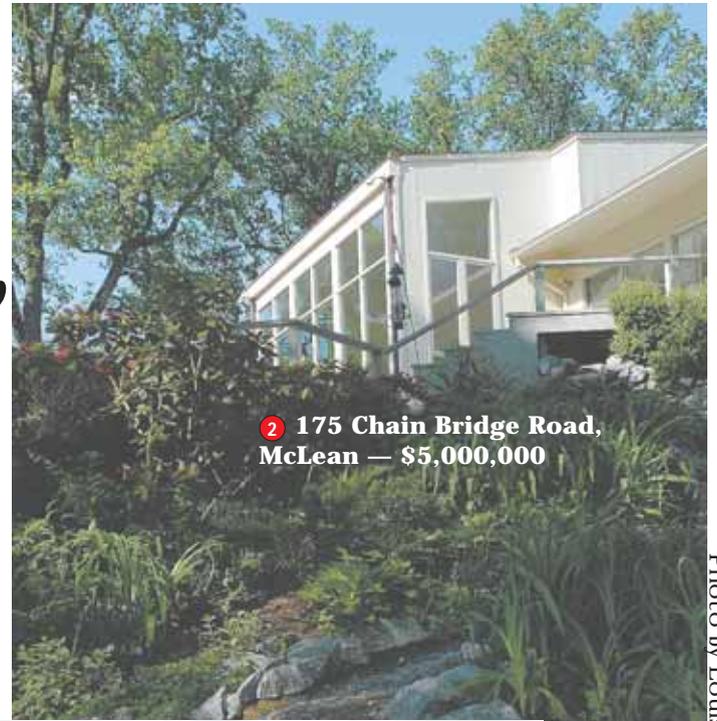
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8 7846 Westmont Lane, McLean — \$2,350,000



Photos by Craig Sterbutzel /The Connection



2 175 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — \$5,000,000

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12 11041 Heathland Drive, Oakton — \$1,300,000

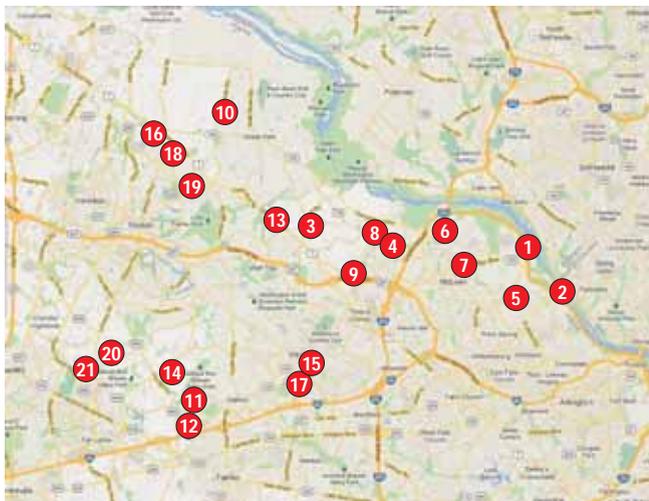


13 1290 Difficult Run Court, Vienna — \$1,285,000



16 11630 Cedar Chase Road, Herndon — \$1,229,000

18 11305 Stones Throw Drive, Reston — \$1,150,000



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175 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	4	3	1		MC LEAN	\$5,000,000	Detached	2.30	22101	ARLINGWOOD	09/21/12
1112 DARA LN	4	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$3,696,597	Detached	1.88	22066	MARQUETTE	09/27/12
932 DOMINION RESERVE DR	4	5	2		MCLEAN	\$2,625,000	Detached	0.96	22102	THE RESERVE	09/27/12
6019 WOODLEY RD	6	6	1		MCLEAN	\$2,575,000	Detached	0.63	22101	SIMPSON AND MAYS	09/28/12
6901 BENJAMIN ST	7	7	3		MCLEAN	\$2,500,000	Detached	0.97	22101	LANGLEY FOREST	09/24/12
1222 STUART ROBESON DR	6	8	1		MCLEAN	\$2,425,000	Detached	0.27	22101	MERRYHILL	09/18/12
7846 WESTMONT LN	5	5	2		MCLEAN	\$2,350,000	Detached	0.99	22102	THE RESERVE	09/28/12
1361 HARDISON LN	7	6	1		MCLEAN	\$2,250,000	Duplex	0.80	22102	BELLMEADE	09/07/12
10496 PATRICIAN WOODS CT	4	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,778,000	Detached	1.01	22066	FINGER LAKE ESTATES	09/24/12
3186 WHEATLAND FARMS DR	5	4	2		OAKTON	\$1,300,000	Detached	1.23	22124	WHEATLAND FARMS	09/19/12
11041 HEATHLAND DR	5	4	2		OAKTON	\$1,300,000	Detached	0.95	22124	OAKTON CROSSING	09/17/12
1290 DIFFICULT RUN CT	4	4	1		VIENNA	\$1,285,000	Detached	0.46	22182	MIDDLETON TWO	09/27/12
11227 SORREL RIDGE LN	6	6	0		OAKTON	\$1,250,000	Detached	2.00	22124	FOX LAKE	09/14/12
606 COTTAGE ST SW	5	6	3		VIENNA	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.23	22180	WEST VIENNA WOODS	09/19/12
11630 CEDAR CHASE RD	5	4	1		HERNDON	\$1,229,000	Detached	0.50	20170	CEDAR CHASE	09/11/12
513 RIDGE RD	6	5	1		VIENNA	\$1,215,000	Detached	0.25	22180	VIENNA WOODS	09/14/12
11305 STONES THROW DR	5	4	1		RESTON	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.58	20194	ESTATES AT WYNDHAM HILLS	09/18/12
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12314 WESTWOOD HILLS DR	5	6	2		OAK HILL	\$1,080,000	Detached	0.87	20171	RESERVE AT OAKTON	09/28/12
12854 PARAPET WAY	5	4	2		HERNDON	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.88	20171	CAMBERLEY EAST	09/07/12

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Langley Secures State Tournament Berth

Saxons turn season around after early loss to South Lakes.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

The Langley volleyball program has been one of the best in the Northern Region in recent years and the 2012 team figured to be strong, as well. But after a 5-1 start, the Saxons received a wake-up call.

Langley lost its Liberty District opener to South Lakes, 3-1, on Sept. 6. Saxons Head Coach Susan Shifflett believes it was the first time South Lakes had ever defeated Langley.

"I feel like [the loss to South Lakes] was such a beneficial thing for us," Langley senior setter Jenna Dean said recently. "Even though it was a loss on our record in a district game, we fought after that. ... We came into the season knowing that we were going to be pretty good and I feel that loss really put us in our place. We need to work. Talent doesn't get you anywhere unless you put it out there."

Four days later, Langley dropped its next match against Potomac Falls, 3-1. From that point, however, the Saxons won 19 of their next 20 matches, including a victory against Fairfax for the Liberty District championship on Nov. 3, and a come-from-behind win against Madison in the Northern Region semifinals on Nov. 8 at Centreville High School.

THE DISTRICT TITLE was Langley's first since 2007, the year the Saxons finished state runner-up. Langley had finished district runner-up to Stone Bridge each of the last four seasons, but the Saxons didn't get a chance for another rematch as the Bulldogs lost to Fairfax in the district semifinals. Langley defeated Stone Bridge, 3-2, in the regular season finale on Oct. 25.

On Nov. 10, however, Stone Bridge returned the favor, beating Langley, 3-1 (25-18, 23-25, 26-24, 25-11), in the region final at Centreville. The Saxons' season continued, though, as the semifinal win against Madison meant Langley had secured a berth in the state tournament.

"We're considered the underdog," Dean said. "However, we



The Langley volleyball team won the Liberty District title and advanced to the state tournament in 2012.

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection



Langley junior Alex Andrejev was a first-team All-Northern Region selection this season.

don't consider ourselves the underdog. Our team is so cohesive and so functional, it's stuff that other teams don't have."

In the region final against Stone Bridge, junior Alex Andrejev and sophomore Rachel Andrejev each had 11 kills for Langley. Freshman

Jessica Donaldson had nine kills. Alex Andrejev is a first-team All-Northern Region selection who recently committed to Columbia University.

"She's our stud," Shifflett said. The Langley coach also praised the performance of Rachel



Langley sophomore Rachel Andrejev had 11 kills against Stone Bridge in the Northern Region final on Nov. 10 at Centreville High School.

Andrejev and Donaldson against Stone Bridge.

"You've really got to hand it to them that they both stepped up and really went for it," she said. "They didn't hide from the challenge. I'm really proud of how our young kids did."

Langley Football Advances to D5 Semifinals

The No. 5 Langley football team defeated No. 4 Hayfield, 21-14, in the quarterfinal round of the Division 5 Northern Region playoffs on Nov. 9 at Hayfield Secondary School.

Langley (7-4) will travel to face No. 1 Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16. Stone Bridge defeated Langley, 27-6, during the regular season on Oct. 5. The Bulldogs are 11-0.

Langley Football All-District Honors

Twelve members of the Langley football team received All-Liberty District honors.

Running back Phil was named Offensive Player of the Year and was a member of the first team. Jack Howerton (offensive guard, defensive lineman) and Phil Novacki (receiver, linebacker) were each named first-team all-district for both offense and defense.

Quarterback Nick Casso, defensive end Kyle West and defensive back Aaron Yi were each named to the second team. Alex Kolencik (center), Brooks Norris (guard), Philip Antypas (tight end), Andrew Gentry (defensive end), Kevin Fisher (linebacker) and Garrett Collier (defensive back) each garnered honorable mention.

Langley got off to a rough start, falling behind, 13-2, in the opening set before making things competitive.

"We've played this team before many times," Alex Andrejev said. "It was like the energy had to pick up and once we got the momentum back on our side, then we really started to [make] good plays and we were back in it."

After splitting the first two sets, Stone Bridge scored the final three points to secure the pivotal third set, 26-24, before cruising in the fourth set, 25-11.

LANGLEY TRAVELED TO ROANOKE to face Patrick Henry on Tuesday in the state quarterfinals on Tuesday, which was after The Connection's deadline. If the Saxons won, they would advance to the semifinals at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15 at VCU's Siegel Center.

"They're very resilient," Shifflett said about her players. "Jenna Dean is a little fireball of the group. She just keeps them positive and keeps them going."

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 6212 Duntley Pl. \$434,000 Sun 1-4 Gary Harvey/Veronica Kressel Samson Props 703-819-9804

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

Fairfax Water
NOTICE OF WATER RATE Public Hearing

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
BKN9, LLC, trading as Zaika, 2800 Clarendon Blvd, suite 900, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer and Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Bhupinder K. Nanda President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC License
MWB DEVELOPMENT 1, LLC trading as World of Beer, 901 N. Gleve Road, #105, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1853. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer On & Off Premises & Keg License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Evan Matz, Managing Member.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2013, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,700 to \$3,850†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,000 to \$9,500.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,000 to \$1,050†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$33 to \$35.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$8.35 to \$9.20†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.16 to \$2.29 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$46 to \$50.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
10. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$41 to \$44.
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$16 to \$17.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also 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, December 12, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

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Fairfax Water
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$143.4 million budget for calendar year 2013¹.

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2013 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m.

A copy of the proposed budget 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 budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$143.4 million in 2013. Water sales are expected to provide \$124.6 million. Approximately \$18.8 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2012	2013
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$46,473	\$48,367
Power and Utilities	11,345	11,686
Chemicals	6,694	7,968
Fuel	916	960
Postage	547	460
Insurance	1,300	1,107
Supplies and Materials	3,976	4,233
Contractual Services	8,749	8,657
Professional Services	1,656	1,902
Other	2,005	2,285
Sub-Total	83,661	87,625
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,559)	(9,613)
Total	74,102	78,012

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$39,374,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$14,068,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

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Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

21 Announcements **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

A.O. "K," Emotionally



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Well, I did, along with 2,000 or so other like-minded individuals, walk the Walk on November 4th: Five Ks, although not exactly the route mapped out by the literature provided by the LUNgevity Foundation. (If truth be told, our group, "Team Kenny's Column" veered off course prematurely by a "K" or so to attend to some prearranged business, unfortunately). Nevertheless, we started the Walk behind the Washington Monument, then alongside the Reflecting Pool up toward the Lincoln Memorial, stopped at the steps for a "photo op," then returned on the other side of the Reflecting Pool back down to 7th Street, then across the Mall - with the U.S. Capitol in our sights, finally turning back along the sidewalk bordering the Mall and returning to the Start/Finish.

Twenty-two registrants from our "team" paid their money and made their presence felt. Spirits were high even though the temperature was low, in the 40s. Still, the sun was mostly shining, the breeze was light, and the turnout was record-setting, as was the money raised: over \$261,000 as of November 10, 2012 (the site, www.LUNgevity.org will remain active/open through December 31st for donations), and the greater good was most definitely served.

As a "survivor," I was given a green t-shirt with "Survivor" printed on the front; the other participants received blue t-shirts without being so identified. In addition, we all received LIVESTRONG-type wrist bracelets with "www.lungevity.org" and "Cure Lung Cancer" printed on them. I wore my bracelet proudly that day, (as everyone did) and even kept it on my wrist when I went to bed that night. However, I had trouble sleeping and attributed it to the bracelet reminding my brain that I have cancer. Feeling a physical reminder like that touched me - subconsciously. And though I may wear my emotions on my sleeve, as you regular readers know, having such a constant reminder of my cancer diagnosis dangling on my wrist didn't seem to help me fall asleep. I know I have cancer. I don't need to be convinced. Nor do I need to be reminded all the time. Forgetting helps too.

And if I did forget about having cancer, it would qualify as a mental health moment. Being diagnosed with cancer is bad enough, especially the kind (non-small cell lung cancer, or NSCLC) that I have, which is, at present, incurable/terminal ("Treatable," my oncologist said, "but not curable;") words I never imagined hearing at age 54 and a half). Forgetting about my diagnosis, as often as possible and living life - as normally as possible, has been a part of my process diagnosis-to-date. Though sometimes it seems irresponsible to do so, and almost inappropriate even, concentrating and focusing on it/the disease/my compromised life expectancy shall we say, 24-7 seems counter-productive. It's sort of a bastardized version of: "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." Somehow, I have to live my life like I have a life, not like I have a cancer. I'm not giving up, and I'm not giving in. I'm just making the best of bad situation. And as bad as it is, I don't need to make it any worse. If it sounds counter-intuitive, it probably is. But that's life in the cancer lane. One conundrum after another.

Participating in Breathe Deep DC/ LUNgevity Foundation's 5K made that life better. And "better" is all I can ask for. Thanks to all who organized, volunteered, participated and donated their time, energy and money. See you all next year.

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

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