

# Spreading Holiday Cheer

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Herndon High School Student Isabel Bustamante moves with elegant grace performing as Persephone in Conservatory Ballet's "The Nutcracker."

## Herndon Dresses Up for Holidays

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Stephanie's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.



The Pearl Fine Teas pop up shop at the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station offers a variety of tea and teaware. Most of the vendors are open from 3 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday until Dec. 24.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

The pop-up market at Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station is Comstock's initiative for businesses to try a small retail space, about 100 square feet. At the end of December, many of the shops will close to be replaced by new vendors.

## Urban Pop at Reston Station Small business try retail At Reston Wiehle Avenue.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

Visitors to Reston Station may have noticed glass jewel housing on the north side of the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station. These pop-up stores are housing emerging and established artisan brands. The Urban Pop Shop opened in November at Reston Station, welcoming the holiday season. "Our Urban Pop lends vitality to the Plaza, and offers our commuters and neighbors an easy shopping experience. The Smart Markets Farmers' Market experience each Wednesday afternoon has been very popular, and we're confident that this 'first taste' of a different retail experience will generate interest from other entrepreneurs," said Maggie Parker, director of communications with Comstock Partners LC.

Several vendors are traveling in from Washington, D.C., and like the commuters, can use the Silver Line Metro when they close their shops. "Reston seems really nice," said Soyini George, owner of Yinibini, LLC. Yinibini Baby is handmade clothing and accessories for little ones. The company was recognized by Washington City Paper's BEST of DC, Best Local Crafter for the year.

Most of the vendors are open 3 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday until Dec. 24. Select vendors offer weekend hours.

"I love this, because it is really nice to be able to pick up something," said Vienna resident and Silver Line commuter Eileen Scherzinger. Scherzinger made a purchase at the station from D.C. based Co Co. Sala, a restaurant and chocolate boutique. Phase Two of the "Urban Pop Active" is scheduled to open Spring 2016, and will include an outdoor piazza entertainment area in an open concept setting, revealing oriented pathways and gathering spots.

Reston resident Rachel Wood, owner of Scrawl Books, recently welcomed New York Times Bestselling author Kwame Alexander to her pop-up station. "This is a great way to start out," said Wood, who plans to open an independent bookstore. Wood offers a good selection of books at her stand. "Some books for holiday gifts, and some books people can read on the metro," said Wood. Reston resident, graphic designer and knitter Janice Everett displays handmade scarves, gloves and hats in her space, WitKnits. For many it is a great introduction to retail business at the Wiehle Avenue area neighborhood.

Elise Scott, Chief Leaf and owner of Pearl

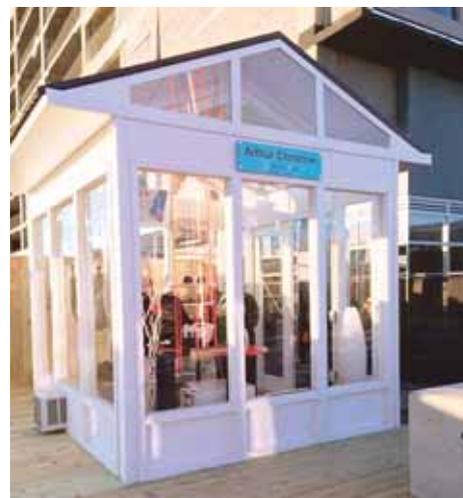


PHOTO PROVIDED BY COMSTOCK PARTNERS LC

The Arthur Christine pop up shop on the north side of the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station. The Urban Pop leases are short-term, but for the holiday launch see: Pearl Fine Teas, Scrawl Books, Cloud Terre, Co Co. Sala, Yinibini Baby, WitKnits (also jewelry from UrbanJule), Arthur Christine, and Scrawl Books.

Fine Teas, has welcomed visitors seeking tea and teaware at her stand on the Reston Station plaza. Pearl Fine Teas offers a broad

selection, including Darjeeling organic and Earl Grey de la Crème. "We are happy to be here and to get to know the Reston community," said Becky Waddell, owner of Be Clean skin care shop. Waddell, a self-described "ingredient label purist," opened her D.C. studio in May.

Starting next year, Reston Station residents will live at Comstock's BLVD apartments. Farmers Restaurant Group (FRG), the company for the Founding Farmers and Farmers Fishers Bakers restaurants in D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia, signed a lease for approximately 10,000 square feet of restaurant space in the heart of Reston Station's urban core. Reston's Wiehle Avenue is currently the final point of the Silver Line, which is planned to extend to Dulles Airport in Loudoun County. Officials with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority estimate passenger service for Silver Line Phase 2 will begin in 2020.

The pop-up market is Comstock's initiative for businesses to try a small retail space, about 100 square feet. At the end of December, many of the shops will close. Urban Pop is signing up vendors for next month's occupancy. For more information and leasing opportunities at Urban Pop, visit [www.urbanpopreston.com](http://www.urbanpopreston.com).

### HERNDON POLICE REPORTS

#### Notable incidents from Nov. 23-29.

##### Incidents

Nov. 23, 6:35 p.m. Assault-aggravated, 500 Florida Ave.  
Nov. 23, 7:49 p.m. Harassing Phone Calls, 600 Center St.  
Nov. 25, 5:46 p.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 900 Alabama Drive  
Nov. 25, 9:40 p.m. Drug/Narcotic Violation, 13000 Worldgate Drive  
Nov. 29, 2:39 p.m. Assault-Simple, 600 Center St.

Nov. 23, 0:08 a.m. Larceny-All Other, 1000 Elden St.  
Nov. 23, 0:08 a.m. False ID Offense, 1000 Elden St.  
Nov. 23, 1:31 a.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1000 Elden St.  
Nov. 25, 7:08 p.m. Larceny-Shoplifting, 1000 Elden St.  
Nov. 26, 2:17 a.m. Driving under the Influence, Herndon Parkway/Sterling Road  
Nov. 27, 3:08 p.m. Assault-Aggravated, 1000 Elden St.  
Nov. 27, 4:34 p.m. Trespass - Banned, 1200 Elden St.  
Nov. 28, 3:43 a.m. Drug/Narcotic Viola-

tion, 1100 Herndon Parkway  
Nov. 28, 11:26 a.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1100 Elden St.  
Nov. 28, 5:53 p.m. Destruction Of Property, 1100 Alabama Drive  
Nov. 28, 10:01 p.m. Drug/Narcotic Violation, 400 Van Buren St.  
Nov. 28, 10:04 p.m. Larceny-all Other, 600 Elden St.  
Nov. 24, 10:19 p.m. Warrant-Other Agency, 1000 Knight Lane  
Nov. 25, 10:11 a.m. Capias - Fail to Appear, 700 Lynn St.  
Nov. 27, midnight. Driving Under the Influence, 800 Dranesville Road/Old Hunt

Way  
Nov. 28, 12:32 a.m. Drug/Narcotic Violation, 900 Elden St.  
Nov. 28, 8:28 a.m. Larceny-from Vehicle, 1000 Hertford St.  
Nov. 28, 10:47 a.m. Assault-Simple, 1300 Dominion Ridge Lane

##### Arrests

Nov. 23, Drunkenness, 39 M  
Nov. 23, False ID, 18 M  
Nov. 24, Warrant, Other Jurisdiction, 52 M  
Nov. 25, Larceny, 30 M  
Nov. 25, Drunkenness, 64 M

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 Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
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## NEWS

# Herndon Dresses Up for Holidays

### As 2015 concludes, fun for the family in Herndon.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**D**eck the halls, hang the wreaths and string the lights for the annual "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" contest at the Town of Herndon. Judging will take place Monday, Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m. Judges from the town's Cultivating Community Initiative (CCI) will drive through Herndon's neighborhoods to choose the contest winners. Winners receive a yard sign as well as a certificate from the mayor and public recognition.

Residents of Herndon can nominate their home or their neighbor's home. You can email your nomination to [information@herndon-va.gov](mailto:information@herndon-va.gov) by Dec. 11 and look for the judges' van circulating through the neighborhood. "It's loads of fun," said Anne Curtis, communications officer at the Town of Herndon.

Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12 are the dates for the annual Towne Square Singers Christmas Show. This year the show is titled Christmas With the Singers. "It is sure to be a great way to kick off the holiday season," said Curtis. The shows will be held at NextStop Theatre at 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Tickets (\$10) are available at Herndon Community Center. Many members of the Towne Square Singers hail from Herndon and others come from surrounding communities in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

On Saturday, Dec. 12, Herndon Community Center will host A Storybook Holiday event. Bring your child to enjoy holiday fun. Cost includes kiddie open gym, craft projects, a visit with Santa and a reading of a holiday story by a special guest. The event is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Herndon Municipal Center at 777 Lynn St. will host the annual Herndon Holiday Model Train Show on Saturday, Dec. 12 and Sunday, Dec. 13. Model trains will be on display Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. is the date of the winter performance by the Herndon High School Choir at the school auditorium. Herndon High is located at 700 Bennett St., Herndon.

Mark your calendar for the Fairfax County Park Authority's final 65th Anniversary event: A family-friendly Holiday Party and Puppet Show at Frying Pan Farm Park Visitors Center on Dec. 19. The event begins at 10 a.m. with a brief program at 10:30 a.m. and the performance at 10:45 a.m. This free event will feature "Crooning with the Critters," an interactive musical show by the Goodlife Theater, which will feature puppets, live music and songs about our animal friends from the farm, the jungle and the deep blue sea.

Inside the Visitors Center, guests can enjoy hot cocoa, cider and cookies. Outside they can visit



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

**Homes in Herndon have been putting up holiday decorations for the annual "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" contest at the Town of Herndon. Judging will take place Monday, Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m.**

with farm animals from Kidwell Farm. A brief program will feature remarks from local officials as well as a viewing of the Park Authority's 65 Things to Do in Parks video.

The event is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Foundation as part of the parks' 65th Anniversary Celebration. With nearly 24,000 acres of parkland, Fairfax County Parks is among the area's largest pro

SEE HOLIDAYS, PAGE 5

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### DECEMBER

12/23/2015 .....Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays

12/30/2015 .....Children's Connection

### JANUARY

1/6/2016 .....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/13/2016 .....HomeLifeStyle  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18

1/20/2016 .....A+ Camps & Schools

1/27/2016 .....Community Guide

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Jessica Sarmiento, a Herndon/Oak Hill area student, in her Arabian solo in the Conservatory Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker."**

## Conservatory Ballet's "The Nutcracker" Spreading Holiday Cheer

More than 85 area students make holiday magic come to life performing in Conservatory Ballet's 43rd annual production of "The Nutcracker." Performances run Wednesday, Dec. 9 through Sunday, Dec. 13 at the Reston Community Center located in the Hunters Woods Village Center. In addition to six full-length performances, there are two shortened toddler matinees that run 1 hour 30 minutes. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com); by phone at 703-476-4500, press 3; and in person at the box office on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 4-9 p.m., Saturday: 1-5 p.m., and two hours prior to curtain time.

# NEWS

Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12 are the dates for the annual Towne Square Singers Christmas Show. This year the show is titled Christmas With the Singers. The show will be held at NextStop Theatre at 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWNE SQUARE SINGERS

## Holidays in Herndon

FROM PAGE 4

viders of recreation as well as stewards of open space, forests, historic sites, and a popular network of connecting trails. The event is free however donations to the Fairfax County Park Foundation will be accepted in support of Frying Pan Farm Park summer camp scholarships for low-income children. Frying Pan Farm Park Visitors Center is located at 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon.

On Dec. 22, bring your holiday guests and join master puppeteer Bob Brown in a holiday production of Winter Wonderland at Frying Pan Farm Park. Join the marionettes as they frolic in a magical winter wonder-

land of snow. After the show, stroll the Park and visit animals or shop at the Country Store. Children must be accompanied by a paid, registered adult.

ArtSpace Herndon located at 750 Center St. in Herndon is hosting its annual New Year's Eve Gala. The event begins with a Children's Crafts and Dance Workshop with Acoatzin Torres from 2-4 p.m. for ages 5 - 12. Tickets are \$5 per child. New Year's Eve celebration for adults at ArtSpace Herndon continues with A Night of New Orleans Jump Blues with Herbie D and the Dangermen, from 10 p.m.-12:20 a.m. Tickets are \$25 and include hors-d'oeuvres. For more information about ArtSpace Herndon, visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

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# OPINION

## Safety Net for Holiday Celebrations

It's an opportunity to talk about responsibility, alcohol and planning ahead.

The holiday party season is here, and we will almost all be celebrating in some way. Some ways will involve celebrations that include alcohol.

It's up to you to make a plan to get home safely.

Plan to bring a designated driver. Plan to party (and live) where you can take public transportation. Plan to celebrate at home or someplace where you can spend the night. Plan to abstain.

And if all of that fails, the Washington Regional Alcohol Project has a safety net for you.

WRAP, a local nonprofit organization, will offer free cab rides to would-be impaired drivers throughout Northern Virginia during the winter holidays.

The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate nightly from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. starting Friday, Dec. 11, 2015, and continuing until Thursday, Jan. 1, 2016 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During these times, area residents 21 and over, celebrating with alcohol can call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. Callers will be responsible for fare amounts

over \$30.

WRAP also offers free cab rides for other holidays, including Halloween, Independence Day, Cinco de Mayo, and more.

Concerns about consequences of driving under the influence are well founded.

In Fairfax County in 2014 there were 740 alcohol-related crashes, which included 12 alcohol related fatalities and 476 alcohol related injuries. (Overall in Fairfax County in 2014, there were 13,680 total crashes including 32 fatalities and 7,649 injuries.)

In 2014, there were no fatal vehicular accidents in the City of Alexandria. But of the 1,777 total crashes, 99 were alcohol-related; and of the 757 injuries in crashes, 60 were alcohol-related.

In Arlington in 2014, there were 235 alcohol related crashes, with two alcohol-related fatalities and 78 alcohol related injuries. (Overall in Arlington in 2014, there were 2,469 with five fatalities and 1,094 injuries.)

In 2013, 10,076 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third of all traffic-related deaths in the United States, according to the CDC. Tens of thousands more were injured. Holidays lead to an increase in impaired driving, the Christmas through New Year season in particular.

### Safe Ride Home

WRAP's 2015 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Dec. 11, 2015 to Jan. 1, 2016. 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. See [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 63,000 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

We know that many young people over 21 are living at home with parents, or will be visiting for the holidays. Parents, be brave. Have a conversation with your children, whether they are under or over 21. Be sure those over 21 have a plan, and are equipped with the SoberRide number.

SoberRide is not available for underage drinkers, but parents still should talk to their children about their plans, and tell them out loud that you expect them not to drive impaired and not to get into a car with an impaired driver. Tell them to call you, and you'll come get them if necessary.

The consequences and vulnerabilities of drinking to excess are significant, more so for underage drinkers and young adults, even beyond drinking and driving. Don't let the opportunity to talk about it pass you by.

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Climate Scientists Warnings Go Unheeded in Congress

To the Editor:

In this vituperative political age of partisanship, it is no wonder that 86 percent of voters disapprove of Congress, a body in which the national good seems to be trumped by political ideology, grandstanding, name-calling, pandering, and distortion of the truth—all of which gets in the way of common-sense governance.

Some of this elbowing justifiably begins with legitimate differences of opinion. How big should the government be? How much should the government regulate? What should be our national position on social issues such as abortion, gay marriage or gun regulation? What trade-offs are we willing to accept to protect ourselves from terrorists? How do we respond to the income gap between rich and poor? How do we stimulate job growth and deal with compensation for work? How robust should our military be? How should our health care system be structured? Answers to these and multiple other complex questions often start with our values, our history, and our notions of fairness.

Like most of us, I have strong feelings about how best to proceed

on many of these issues. At the same time, I recognize that others have very different but equally impassioned views. Our political process is supposed to be about sorting out differences like these. The majority of us presumably hope we could marshal at least some civility as we struggle to find a way forward that is in our national best interest. The goal for most of us, it would seem based on the record of Congressional approval, is for Congress to give us outcomes that work.

Sometimes, however, an issue comes along that so defies common sense and incontrovertible fact that it should make open-minded people wonder if Congress can resolve anything. Who would imagine that despite dire warnings from virtually every climate scientist in the world, a majority of members of the House of Representatives would vote to embarrass the United States during the world's most important conference on climate change by voting to limit the Environmental Protection Agency on its rules to lower power plant emissions? The evidence that our world's climate is rapidly changing in ways that will lower

the life-expectancy of our children is overwhelming. And yet the majority of our elected representatives in the House, driven apparently by narrow party ideology, has actually impeded solutions. Do campaign contributions from carbon industries and other special interests have anything to do with it?

Those members of Congress (including, regrettably, our own representative in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia) who vote to trivialize or combat this issue, are putting their credibility and judgment on the line for dealing with almost any issue and

thus, I would hazard, are risking their endorsement from us, the voters, to hold their seats. Their incomprehensible votes on climate change help to explain why we think so little of Congress and particularly so little of the House of Representatives. Climate change is an issue in which the stakes are so clear-cut and the facts so convincing that there should be no hesitation about moving forward with the enthusiastic backing of our elected representatives in both parties.

Jonathan Fisher  
Great Falls

### Write

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

Letters to the Editor  
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1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com)

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 11

**Senior Tea.** 1-2 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Every month seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea on the second Friday of the month. Free. 703-956-6590.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 11-12

**Herndon Towne Square Singers.** Friday, 7:30-9 p.m. Saturday, 2-3:30 p.m. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. The Herndon Towne Square Singers present their holiday performance of holiday songs old and new. Following the concert enjoy refreshments and a group sing-along, to which all are invited. \$10 per person. [herndon-va.gov](http://herndon-va.gov). 703-787-7300.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 12

**National Wreaths Across America.** Noon. Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 831 Dranesville Road, Herndon. A short ceremony will be held at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon followed by the placing of wreaths on about 500 veterans' graves there. 703-582-1640.

**Community Irish Ceili and Set Dance.** 6:30-10 p.m. Frying Pan Park Visitors Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Call for directions, 703-437-9101. Wear flat, comfortable shoes and lightweight clothing. Holiday headgear for a chance at an extra door prize ticket. \$15. 703-631-9179.

**Storybook Holiday Featuring "The Polar Express."** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814, Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Children and parents are invited to celebrate with the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department at a holiday-themed event - A Storybook Holiday. Children will visit with Santa, create a craft, play in the kiddie open gym, and listen to a reading by a special guest reader in costume of

## Ongoing

**"Seussical the Musical."** Dec. 4-20. Times vary by performance. NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Bring the whole family along for this musical spectacular featuring all your favorite Dr. Seuss characters! The cast of Seussical features local young actors in 3rd through 11th grades. \$25. 866-811-4111. [boxoffice@nextstoptheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@nextstoptheatre.org).

**Korean Pop Art in America Exhibit.** Tuesday, Dec. 8-Sunday, Jan. 10. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featuring selected works of modern art trends in Korean Pop Art from the Han-Mee Artists Association of Greater Washington (HMAA). The exhibit features the art of invited guest artists Kyungjoo Park, Robert Yi, Chris Mona,

"The Polar Express." \$9 per child. [herndon-va.gov](http://herndon-va.gov). 703-787-7300.

**Korean Pop Art in America Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. The exhibit features the art of invited guest artists Kyungjoo Park, Robert Yi, Chris Mona, and Franc Rosario along with participant artists of Han-mee. Free. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/korean-pop-art-in-america/>. 703-956-9560.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 13

**Christmas at the Farm.** 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy a special holiday visit and take a wagon ride with Santa through the woods and fields. Activities include a holiday craft, cookie decorating and puppet show. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Tickets: \$8-\$10. 703-437-9101.

## MONDAY/DEC. 14

**Holiday Concert and Christmas Sing Along.** 7 p.m. Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St.,

and Franc Rosario along with participant artists of Han-mee. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/korean-pop-art-in-america/>. 703-956-9560.

**Rebecca Kamen: Continuum.** Dec. 1-Feb. 13. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Kamen. Informed by research into cosmology, neuroscience, history of science, and philosophy, Kamen's abstract sculptures and paintings connect common threads across various scientific fields to capture and re-imagine what scientists see. [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org). 703-471-9242.

**Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion - 2015-2016 Season.** November through March. Open daily. 11900 Market Street, Reston. For more information on rates, rentals

and schedules, call 703-709-6300 or visit [skating@restontowncenter.com](mailto:skating@restontowncenter.com).

**Portrait and Figure Painting with Jordan Xu.** Wednesdays, Nov. 4-Dec. 23. 7-10 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Come and learn how to paint portraits and figures in oil, acrylic or pastel from a live model. In this class you will gain the knowledge of basic painting concepts and techniques such as value, color temperature, composition and transition. Step-by-step instructions will take you through the entire process of a painting. Fee: \$250. Registration required at <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/portrait-and-figure-painting-with-jordan-xu/>. For more information, call 703-956-6590.

Herndon. Herndon Regional Wind Ensemble will be joined by Pender United Methodist Hand Bell Choir and Swing Shift Band. Free. Toys for Tots donations will be accepted. <http://www.herndonrwe.com/>.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

**Senior Movie Day.** 9:15 a.m. Reston Bow-Tie Cinemas 11940 Market St. Reston. The Reston Association, in cooperation with Reston Town Center Bow Tie Cinemas, presents, "Meet Me at the Movies". Join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month; 9:15 a.m. doors open, 10 a.m. movie ("A Walk in the Woods") starts. Refreshments are provided and door prizes are distributed prior to the movie. 703-435-6530.

**Toys for Tots Collection Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Ice Skating Pavilion, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. U.S. Marines will be on site accepting unwrapped toys and cash donations to help children's holiday wishes come true. [restontowncenter.com/holidays](http://restontowncenter.com/holidays).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 19

**Tour de Lights.** 4:40-6 p.m. Lake Anne Plaza Lake Anne Plaza, 11404 Washington Plaza, Reston. You are invited to join Reston Association's Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee for our fourth annual Reston Tour de Lights. An evening bike ride to view some of Reston's best holiday lights. We will travel approximately 10 miles. Riders are required to have a front light and red, rear light. Helmet strongly recommended and required if under 15 years old. Free. For registration contact Craig Clark 703-689-0152, [ccbike@verizon.net](mailto:ccbike@verizon.net) or Burton Griffith 408-705-2652, [burtongc@yahoo.com](mailto:burtongc@yahoo.com).

**65th Anniversary Party and Puppet Show.** 10 a.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Join the 65th anniversary event come to a family-friendly Holiday Party and Puppet Show. The event features an interactive musical show, live music and more. The kids can pet live farm animals outside and enjoy hot cocoa, cider and cookies inside. \$5 donation suggested for Frying Pan Farm Park camp scholarships. 703-437-9101.

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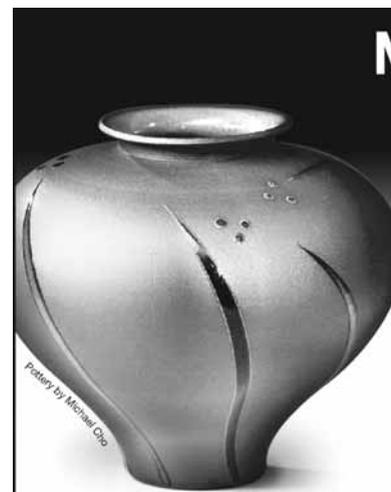
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**Melinda Doolittle.**

## Fresh, Entrancing Musical Evening

Soulful singer Melinda Doolittle at CenterStage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

She wowed judges and audiences alike performing on season six of “American Idol.” Now Melinda Doolittle is coming to Reston’s CenterStage to present a cozy evening filled with soulfully sweet arrangements of songs ranging from “Home” from the musical “The Wiz,” to American Songbook favorites such as “Let’s Stay Together,” “The Man That Got Away,” “At Last” — to mention a few.

Doolittle, who has performed at illustrious venues such as the White House, the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, will bring her evening of treasured music into a program she calls “It Must Be Love.” She will be accompanied by a piano.

In an interview, Doolittle indicated that she loved “to sing about love and I definitely picked songs that told my story well. Sometimes you hear a song and you feel like whoever wrote it must have been living your exact life...those are the songs I will put into this show.”

Doolittle enjoys touring. “‘It Must Be Love’ is a fun show to do! It takes the audience on a

### Where and When

Melinda Doolittle presents “It Must Be Love” at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performance: Saturday, Dec. 19. Tickets: Reston \$25, Non-Reston Ticket Price: \$35. Call 703-476-4500 or visit: [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com).

journey through the ups and downs of love with classic soul, Broadway and jazz songs they’re sure to recognize,” said Doolittle. “The journey is funny, fast and will occasionally pull on heartstrings too.”

When performing, one of Doolittle’s favorite parts “is watching the audience relate in their own way to each song. I love it!” Each show becomes unique in its own way since she has freedom to interact with the audience in what she calls “a musical conversation.”

When asked about scheduling Doolittle for Reston’s CenterStage through the Professional Touring Artists Series, Paul Douglas Michnewicz, arts and events director, Reston Community Center, said, “I vowed never to watch ‘American Idol’ again when she did not win. Melinda Doolittle is such a remarkable artist and I am so happy that she will be on CenterStage so that I can tell her in person what a fan I am of hers.”

Beyond singing, Doolittle is involved with community outreach and support. “Basically, I love to see people live the best life possible...especially children.” She has partnered with organizations such as “Malaria No More” and the Ronald McDonald House to make a difference for children.

As for her “American Idol” appearances, “I’m indebted to them for the opportunity to do what I love.”

And now local audiences can see Melinda Doolittle all for themselves.

## SPORTS



**South Lakes sophomore Emmanuel Aghayere dunks against Archbishop Carroll on Dec. 4.**



**Marcus Cherry led South Lakes with 21 points during the Seahawks’ 74-60 win over Archbishop Carroll on Dec. 4.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## A Family Tradition, Another Aghayere Takes Charge

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

With his team building an early lead against Archbishop Carroll, South Lakes sophomore Emmanuel Aghayere threw down a two-handed dunk in the opening quarter of Friday’s contest, part of a 10-0 Seahawks run.

With 2 minutes remaining in the first half, Aghayere, a physical, 6-foot-3 forward, took a charge with South Lakes leading by 23.

Aghayere took another charge in the opening minute of third quarter. Less than 20 seconds later, he scored and drew a foul at the other end.

The South Lakes boys’ basketball team is young, athletic and full of energy. On Dec. 4, one night after the Seahawks squandered a lead during a 63-56 loss to Robinson, Aghayere’s high-energy play helped South Lakes bounce back with a 74-60 victory over Archbishop Carroll during the second day of the “Readers are Leaders Tip Off” at South Lakes High School.

**AGHAYERE** finished with 16 points, dunked twice and took multiple charges, leading the Seahawks to their first win of the 2015-16 season.

“High energy, big-time motor, much like his sister,” is how South Lakes head coach Andrew Duggan described Aghayere, comparing him to his sister, Princess Aghayere, a 2015 South Lakes graduate and former basketball standout at the school. ... “I think he enjoys stepping in and taking a charge. It’s a matter of pride and honor. ... We’re hoping something like that rubs off on other guys. I see him as a leader. I see him as a hard worker.”

How does Aghayere decide when it’s time to block a shot and when it’s time to take a charge?

“You can tell when a guy is coming down the lane

hard it’s time to take a charge,” he said. “Charges help the team. It just boosts our morale and helps everyone get hyped.”

The previous three seasons, South Lakes was led by standout guard Brandon Kamga, who helped the Seahawks win the 2014 Conference 6 championship. Kamga graduated in 2015 and is now a freshman on the Northeastern University men’s basketball team. This year, South Lakes features a nucleus of young talent, led by Aghayere and a trio of talented guards.

Marcus Cherry, a 6-foot-1 junior, led South Lakes with 21 points on Friday. He scored 10 points in the first quarter, including a pair of 3-pointers.

Duggan described sophomore guard Damon Johnson as a high-energy player and a strong defender. Johnson finished with 12 points.

Cameron Savage, a 5-foot-10 freshman, is the team’s starting point guard.

“I think we’re just all really unselfish,” Cherry said. “We all can get our shots pretty easy because we all have that confidence when we’re dribbling the ball and we all feel we can put the ball in the basket any time we need to. We all feed off each other really well.” Senior guard Marvin Grunshie finished with seven points on Friday and was one of 12 Seahawks to score against Robinson.

**SOUTH LAKES** faced Woodson on Tuesday, after The Connection’s deadline. The Seahawks will travel to face Westfield at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9 and will take on rival Herndon on the road at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11.

“The group is very special,” Duggan said. “Part of it is their athleticism, their basketball skills and their knowledge and they’re smart kids and they work hard, but even when they’re down, they’re still pretty dang good.”

## Ideas for Decking the Halls

Local designers create opulent holiday designs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

From traditional to glamorous, fresh to faux and high-end to old school, local tastemakers tell how they create holiday dazzling holiday design extravaganzas.

Karen Velehoski and the rest of the design team at Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks spend nearly a year planning and building the holiday displays that overtake each store during the Yuletide season.

In creating the holiday wonderlands, the designers assemble each space around a theme, maintaining consistency in style, color and texture. Their goal is to dream up design concepts that will inspire.

"We hope that people will get ideas for their own homes, but the first step is to focus on color," said Velehoski. "You can incorporate family heirlooms or decorations that you've had for years if you coordinate the colors. You can really use ribbons to tie the colors together easily."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

**Designers at Merrifield Garden Center spend almost one year creating holiday displays.**

For example, they designed a rustic space that draws inspiration from a snow-covered forest. "It's decorated with things like branches, berries, birds and other outdoor animals," said Velehoski. "And we used red, plaid ribbon to keep the outdoorsy feel."

There's another winter scene that sparkles with décor in hues

of gold, copper and platinum, and a classic display that pays homage to time-honored traditions. "It appeals to people who like greens, reds and poinsettias," said Velehoski. "This year we incorporated a little bit of black with that red, white and green which is pretty."

There's even inspiration for

those with a penchant for pastels. "It has an icy look," said Velehoski. "It has an icy, frozen winter wonderland feel with snowflakes and icicles. We used a lot of pale blue, pink and a touch of silver."

Simple, clean and fresh are words that Gretchen Fuss, an interior designer with Tchoupitoulas Furnishings in Alexandria, uses to characterize her holiday design aesthetic.

"I don't like to over do it when it comes to holiday design," she said. "I love the mood and ambiance of white lights. It changes the feel of a room. I like candlelit rooms."

Fuss says she uses a minimalist approach to incorporating family heirlooms with new acquisitions. "I do little vignettes where I'll have a piece, for example, that my mother once used to store ornaments in, and I'll use that to display fresh greenery."

The designer has even created holiday adornments of her own. "I've made holiday sculptures," said Fuss. "I even made little flower-shaped sculptures that I put

together to make a six-foot tall Christmas tree."

Candles, ribbons and bows hanging on a mantle, swags of greenery and garlands draped over wall art and mirrors are what visitors who enter the spaces created by the designers of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria will see. "... A string of lights combined with ornaments might flow down the center of a table, or shine inside a cloche combined with a winter wonderland theme," said designer Amanda Mertins.

For an exterior space, Mertins advises using a twinkling wreath or a lit arrangement in an urn to greet guests at the front door.

Maintaining thematic consistency is a precept that designer Jenne Whitlaw, of GTM Architects in Bethesda, Md., recommends when conceiving ideas for holiday spaces. "Pick a central focal point, and echo the sentiment around the space, for both indoor and outdoor," she said. "This allows the eye to bounce around your holiday canvas, experiencing asymmetrical visual harmony and balance."

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## COMMUNITY

### I Beg Your Indulgence

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Even after seven years as a patient in the cancer whirled, I still find it emotionally difficult to promptly return a well-meaning phone call or a likewise intended e-mail when the message/content is clearly having to do with my health and welfare. Not that I don't appreciate, and on many levels, most likely need these kinds of communications; nevertheless, the challenge of summoning up the intestinal fortitude to discuss, detail, outline, rehash, speculate, articulate, wonder, hope, fear, introspect, extrovert, try to make light of and not be made heavy by, in addition to all the other miscellaneous anxieties a cancer patient experiences 24/7, is often too much. And as regularly as we are left alone with our own thoughts, sometimes, the emotional road less traveled is the one fraught with fewer bumps and bruises.

Not that I want to get stupid and live in a "cone of silence," where I can't be heard and others can't hear me; that wouldn't be smart. Still, as often as not, the effort to respond in kind is not respectfully honored. It's an odd reaction to be sure. Receiving inquiries is one thing, a helpful thing, almost like "Thing" from "The Addams family," but not responding is quite another thing. It's not exactly akin to trudging through the snow – uphill, in winter, as our parents all claimed they did, but the emotional weight of it is something that I'm probably having difficulty explaining – as much as I'm trying.

Maybe this is all just an excuse to obfuscate my ill-mannered and disrespectful negligence. How poorly was I raised that I don't know enough to provide a common courtesy? People ask, you answer. When one is sick or "diseased," and friends, family and co-workers reach out, one is not supposed to pull back, right? I should appreciate their support and absorb whatever positive energy/good vibrations they're sending. Let's face it, as I do most days; living with cancer is not exactly a solitary pursuit. Although it may seem like it, at home, alone, especially at night when tossing and turning and not sleeping becomes an Olympic sport, the cancer experience is not a meal best served cold, if you know what I mean.

Regular interaction with humans, and I don't mean radio, television or Internet, is the next best thing to being there/reaching out and actually touching someone or being touched (which is likely another benefit). Moreover, being made to feel alive and well – and dare I say, normal (not diagnosed with cancer), is the goal, but the figurative elephant in our world is not just in one room, one time; it's in every room all the time; it's herd but not seen. But difficult to ignore nonetheless.

Stage IV lung cancer is like that. It's typical that when symptoms manifest themselves, the patient is already inoperable and tumors which gave the patient no indication that they even existed, have now metastasized (moved/grown). Ergo, the staging. There is no stage V, by the way. This is not to imply that it's ever too late. It's just hard to assimilate when the diagnosis comes out of the blue and previously you were feeling in the pink. In this context, the silence of it (meaning the lack of symptoms) was not golden; any more than my silence now in not responding to well-wishers is golden. It's not. It's self-indulgent and most times I readily acknowledge it. However, I feel powerless to affect it. Please don't take my lack of a timely response personally. I'm just trying to navigate as best I can. As George Costanza made famous on a long-ago "Seinfeld" episode: "It's not you. If it's anybody, it's me. ..."

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

# Faith Community Helps Epiphany Episcopal Church with Hypothermia Shelter

## Hypothermia shelter will require more volunteers than total members at Epiphany Episcopal Church.

Leaders at Herndon's Epiphany Episcopal Church knew they would need help: they had committed to hosting a hypothermia shelter for the area's homeless population Christmas week, but the number of people required to operate it outnumbered their entire congregation.

So they reached out for help, and neighboring faith and service communities responded.

One month before the shelter is scheduled to open its doors to as many as 49 homeless men and women, eight organizations have committed to contribute either volunteers or supplies needed to operate the shelter. They include FACETS, Epiphany Episcopal, St. Anne's Episcopal, St. Francis Episcopal, New Hope Baptist, Unitarian

Universalist of Sterling, Congregation Beth Emeth, and Boy Scout Troop 1257, with more expected to join.

Epiphany counts about 165 households in its membership but must fill 180 volunteer slots to operate the shelter, which will be open from the evening of Dec. 20 to the morning of Dec. 27 at the church on the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Franklin Farm Road.

"We're foolish enough to believe that we can make a difference in this world, welcoming our neighbors with open hearts and extended hands, offering a home to those in need this holiday," Epiphany's Rev. Hillary West said. "Our Christmas is made more holy through this opportunity to serve."

The shelter will be open to homeless men and women 5 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. each day, except Christmas, when it will remain open all day. Operating these shelters is a volunteer-intensive effort, with about 25 volunteer slots of about three to four hours that must be filled every day the shelter operates. Volunteers will help transport guests to the shelter, set up the shelter, prepare and serve dinner, breakfast and a bagged lunch, provide entertainment and compan-

ionship, be on hand overnight, and close the shelter in the morning. On Christmas Day, the shelter will remain open to provide shelter, a holiday dinner, and church services for any who wish to attend and participate.

"Last year's shelter experience left us all with wonderful memories," said Celeste Meyer, Epiphany co-lead organizer for the shelter. "We look forward again this year to providing a place that is warm and welcoming, where our guests can have a hot meal, experience some companionship, and be treated with dignity." While Epiphany is hosting the shelter, it is operated by FACETS, a Fairfax County-based poverty relief organization. FACETS organizes a series of hypothermia shelters at different faith-based institutions across Fairfax County from November to March, with each institution hosting and staffing the shelter for a week. Last year FACETS hypothermia shelters served 244 individuals.

For more information or to volunteer, visit <http://www.coe.org/shelter>. For more information about FACETS shelters, visit <http://facetscares.org/programs/hypothermia-prevention-and-response-program/>.

### FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.

The **Church of the Brethren** will hold the Battle of Dranesville Peace Service at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, the anniversary of the Battle of Dranesville fought in 1861. Hear about the battle, the Brethren and the war. Artifacts from the battle will be on display. Refreshments will be served. The church is located at 11500 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. 703-430-7872.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-

10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or [www.trinityherndon.org](http://www.trinityherndon.org).

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center**, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**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-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.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](http://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](http://ShalomDC.org).

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com) by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

#### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

**Covenants Committee Meeting.** 6:30-9 p.m. Reston Association, Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. The Covenants Committee is responsible for administering the Use and Maintenance Covenants set forth in the Reston Deed of Dedication. In doing so, the Committee considers and decides violations in accordance with adopted procedures that are found by staff or other Association Members, develops Use and Maintenance Standards, and considers requests for temporary exception permits. 703-435-6530.

**Business Education Series Workshop.** 8:30-10 a.m. Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. Discover how to fill your pipeline with qualified leads just by improving how you network! In this discussion, James Lawson, Co-Founder & Marketing Strategist of Impact Business Solutions LLC, will show you exactly how to create a simple, yet effective, networking

strategy and system. Cost: free/member; \$15/future member. Registration at <http://www.restonchamber.org/events>.

**League of Women Voters Program.** 7:30-9 p.m. Hunter Mill District Community Room B, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. "Money in Politics" will be the topic. Free. Open to all. 202-263-1311. [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

**Ready, Set, Buy: Preparing for a Spring Home Purchase Webinar.** Noon-1 p.m. If you're thinking of purchasing your first home you're probably wondering, am I really ready to make such an important investment? Attend this free webinar to learn the home buying basics you'll need to get ready, get set, and buy. Offered by Northwest Federal Credit Union in Herndon. Register at [www.nwfcu.org](http://www.nwfcu.org). Click on Upcoming Events.

#### THURSDAY/DEC. 10

**Workshop: Preparing Your Home For Winter.** 6:30-8 p.m. Reston Association, Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Contractors will provide information on winterizing the home, home inspections, etc. Free. Comments, questions, and RSVP's, [covenantworkshops@reston.org](mailto:covenantworkshops@reston.org).

#### THROUGH SATURDAY/DEC. 12.

**Wish List Project.** Take a look at the wish lists and take this opportunity to spread some cheer this December. Wish List Angels directly help families in area shelters, alternative housing and children in foster care. Make wishes come true by signing up to sponsor a child's wish. Find out how at <http://wishlistangels.com/>.

#### MONDAY/DEC. 14

**Rabbi Jonah Pesner.** 8-9 p.m. Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Discussion by Pesner, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, entitled "American Judaism and Economic Justice." Free. 703-437-7733.

#### TUESDAYS/DEC. 15

**Design Review Board Meeting.** 7-9 p.m. Reston Association, Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. The Design Review Board (DRB) is responsible for reviewing all additions and alterations to many different types of Reston properties. To assist in the review process, the DRB develops Design Guidelines and review procedures, and establishes design standards for clusters. 703-435-6530.



# FREE Holiday Workshop!



Join us at the Worldgate Centre Lobby

**Saturday,**

**December 12**

**from 2pm to 5pm**

◆ **Photos with Santa**

Line closes at 4pm. Parents are invited to bring their own cameras.

◆ **Holiday Crafts**

◆ **Entertainment**

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