

Great Falls Farmers Market Moves to the Grange

NEWS, PAGE 12

The Stewart Sisters play Americana music while Alex Brudno explains the various Great Falls Historical Society gift possibilities. The Great Falls Farmers Market continues year round, meeting in the Great Falls Grange Hall from now through March 25, 2017.



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PHOTOS BY CHRISTIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Nine, Not 10, Houses Approved for Hills Nursery

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Drive Through Pharmacy Granted

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PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Eva Sereghy, a long-time Share volunteer and McLean Rotary member, sorts through a table of toys that was donated by one woman in the community.



Bob Delaney of McLean, a Share volunteer, slides bottles of laundry detergent from a truck to volunteers who were loading them into carts to haul into the church.

Season of Giving in Full Swing at Share

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

More than 275 families, or more than 800 people, at tended Share's holiday program on Saturday, Dec. 10, at the McLean Baptist Church on Chain Bridge Road.

The working poor, elderly, disabled and homeless people who comprise Share's client base in the McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills were provided a meal and were paid a visit by Santa Claus who handed out Christmas gifts.

"It's the highlight of the year for me," said Chris Wilbur, Share's holiday program coordinator. "Everyone goes home with presents and laundry detergent and toiletries, which can't be purchased with food stamps."

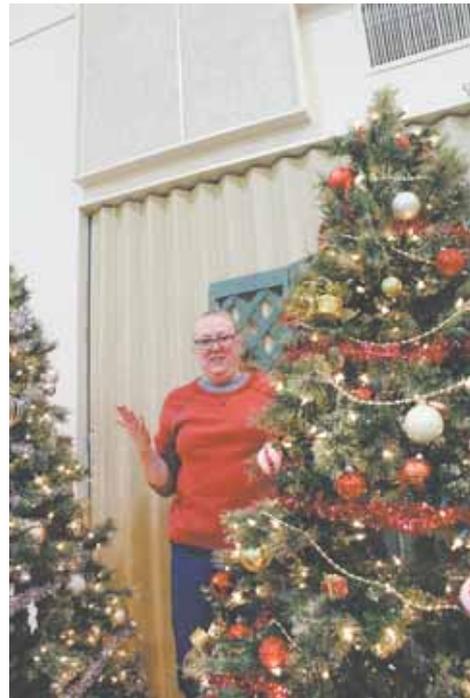
More than 50 volunteers contributed to the festivities over the last three months, helping organize the \$55,000 worth of gifts and groceries, according to Wilbur.

The holiday program started when Share's clients expressed sadness for their inability to buy Christmas gifts for their families, says Vick Kimm, who has been volunteering with Share for more than 20 years.

"If you're just getting by, you don't have much to fall back on so helping them through rough patches and the holidays ... We meet a real need," he said as he pushed a cart of toiletries into the church to be sorted.

The Giant grocery store down the street from the church contributed to the festivities by donating grocery gift cards. For years, it has also put up a tree in the middle of its store that helps Share.

"We like to make everything personalized," Wilbur says. "We get to know our clients."



Chris Wilbur, Share's holiday program coordinator, plugs in the lights of a tree that volunteers finished decorating.

Months ago, clients were given a needs assessment, which included wish list items. Volunteers then try to match gift cards or donations that will fulfill their requests.

The tree in the Giant grocery store is a way to get the community involved in making these wishes come true.

Shoppers can do this by picking an envelope off the tree, paying for the wish at the register and giving the envelope to the customer service desk.

One envelope reads: "47-year-old man, AMC Theaters gift card for date night." Another envelope reads: "12-year-old girl, Macy's gift card for pants and shoes."



Senior McLean High School student Jordan Schneier, 17, helps wrap gifts that Santa Claus will be handing out.

Food For Trees

The McLean Rotary sold 81 trees and 67 wreaths as part of its Food for Trees fundraiser.

"We raised more than \$1,700 in cash donations for Share, more than \$1,000 in Giant and Safeway grocery gift cards for Share clients and grocery cart after grocery cart of groceries for the Share food pantry that people brought when they picked up their trees and wreaths," Jan Auerbach, member of the McLean Rotary, said in an email to the Connection.

Volunteers from Share, the Rotary and 10 missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ



Margaret Dewar of McLean selects a few wishes from the Share holiday tree at the Giant in the McLean Shopping Center.

of Latter-Day Saints helped with the tree and wreath pick up on Dec. 3.

"It was very much a community event," said Auerbach. "Many purchasers thanked us for continuing the program since they believe it really does exhibit the spirit of Christmas."

Share Inc. is an all-volunteer organization providing emergency assistance to the working poor in McLean, Pimmit Hills, Great Falls and nearby areas of northern Virginia. Share's programs include: paying bills to ward off evictions and utility shutoffs; running a food bank; delivering recycled furniture; and providing refurbished computers and school supplies to clients.



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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Nine, Not 10, Houses Approved for Hills Nursery

Supervisors scheduled to
make final decision on Jan. 24.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The Gulick Group, Inc. originally requested to rezone and develop 11 acres of forested land at the north end of the former Hills Nursery site into 10 homes.

Last Thursday, Dec. 7, the Fairfax County Planning Commission recommended approval of a nine-lot cluster single family detached subdivision accessed from an extension of Challedon Road.

"It is a good example of what can be accomplished by clustering a development to retain important features and further environmental protection while not increasing the overall lot yield," said Dranesville District Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder.

For more than a half year, the Great Falls Citizens Association and Lexington Estates homeowners advocated for enhanced stormwater management, preservation for trees in the Piney Run floodplain and sediment and erosion control.

"Overall, it allows for further improvement in both water quantity and quality for the proposed site," said Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder.

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to make its decision on Jan. 24, 2017.

"This change results in a decrease in impervious surface, both by the reduction of one proposed house as well as the reduction in the proposed extension of Challedon Road," he said. "It allows for the



Gulick Group Builders and Great Falls advocates helped reduce the development of 11 acres of the former Hills Nursery from 10 to nine houses, as well as ensuring preservation of trees, water quality, and sediment and erosion control.

preservation and permanent protection of a number of trees along the northern lot line adjacent to the Lexington Estates subdivision."

THE GULICK GROUP had originally applied to rezone the 11-acre property at the "terminus of Challedon Road" to permit development of a 10-lot cluster single family subdivision at a density of 0.91 dwelling units per acre. The forested, 11-acre parcel is composed of moderate slopes that steepen towards the Piney Run floodplain.

Arthur Kingdom testified before the commission in June, calling the property idyllic. He described for planning commissioners sunlight shining through hundreds of

SEE DECISION, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Decision Nears on Hills Nursery

FROM PAGE 4

trees on Challedon Drive, and the birds singing at sunrise.

Kingdom said the land with steep slopes is not suitable for development because stormwater would run down the slopes to a floodplain, then to a creek that runs to the Potomac River, and then into the Chesapeake Bay.

At a town meeting held by Great Falls Citizens Association in June, Dranesville Tree Commissioner Bob Vickers said oaks and hickory trees cover the area.

GFCFA officials encouraged members to give the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors their feedback.

GFCFA formed a stormwater task force, in response to Dranesville land use cases in 2015 and 2016.

AT THE DECISION-ONLY hearing last Thursday, Dec. 7, Ulfelder said,

"The applicants have met with Great Falls Citizen Association, the neighbors, the Dranesville District member of the County Tree Commission, County staff, myself, and others.

"As a result of the concerns and comments at the hearing, the subsequent meetings and additional comments received after the hearing, the application was substantially revised to address those concerns," he said.

"The revised plan increases the tree preservation and tree canopy square footages, which were already significant, well beyond what is required. Similarly, the proposed stormwater measures will remain the same and with the overall reduction in impervious surfaces, plus further tree preservation, will further improve reduction in water quantity, as well as quality, well beyond what is currently required," said Ulfelder.

He reported that the Gullick Group is also committed to the installation of alternative septic systems that "require more attention and care" but "significantly reduce potential impact of residential sewage on the environment." And, during construction, Gullick Group will also use "super silt fencing" along clearing and grading to "maximize erosion and sediment control during the construction phase of the proposed subdivision."

The decision had been deferred at least five times since June to allow all parties the opportunity to meet consensus on the application.

"We've been through a number of revisions and every time there is a revision a fire bell rings and everybody runs around and has to review something, to write something," said Ulfelder. "And we've done that a number of times with this application."

"I would like to thank [planning] staff for hanging in there," he said.

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History in Police Reform Part 2

Civilian Review Panel — and they said it couldn't be done

Last week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to establish a Civilian Review Panel, part of a two-pronged concept of independent oversight of law enforcement recommended unanimously by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

On Sept. 20, 2016, the board voted to establish the Office of the Independent Auditor, the other piece of oversight. The two branches of oversight would not overlap.

The Independent Police Auditor will report directly to the Board of Supervisors and provide oversight in cases of police use of force that lead to serious injury or death, including officer-involved shootings. The Civilian Review Panel will respond to community concerns or complaints about alleged incidents of abuse of authority by FCPD by reviewing the investigations conducted by the department.

The vote by the Board of Supervisors for the Office of Auditor was unanimous, and for the Civilian Review Panel, 9-1, indicating the strong commitment to independent oversight and the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission. The experiences from other communities with civilian oversight have shown that strong, independent oversight builds legitimacy and public trust through increased police transparency and accountability to the public served. Oversight provides a meaningful voice or forum for the public and forms a crucial bridge between the public and the police. Increased transparency, trust, and communication between the police and the public

can lead to greater community cooperation in achieving the ultimate goal of decreased crime and increased public safety.

This very positive outcome seemed nearly impossible in the wake of the death of John Geer in August 2013, shot by then Fairfax Police Officer Adam Torres while standing unarmed in the doorway to his own home. Officials had long opposed consideration of a Civilian Review Panel.

Board of Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova deserves tremendous kudos, first for establishing the Ad Hoc Commission in the wake of public outrage over the shooting and the blackout of information that followed, and then for her unwavering support of the recommendations that emerged.

EDITORIAL

In voting for the Civilian Review Panel, Supervisor Linda Smyth said: "We all know it's time to put this in place. This is what the public has really asked us to do."

John Cook (R-Braddock), chairman of the Public Safety Committee, has been relentless in moving the recommendations forward for discussion and approval by the board. Having both the auditor and the panel approved in 2016 is no small accomplishment.

The recommendations for oversight also have the enthusiastic support of Police Chief Edwin Roessler, whose support overall for change in the FCPD has been admirable and essential.

Every member of the Board of Supervisors deserves credit for engaging on the details and supporting recommendations of the commission.

Other changes brought about by the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations include the implementation of Diversion First, which provides treatment rather than jail for nonviolent people with mental illness, resulting in some 350 diversions from potential criminal arrest, and in police transporting more than 1,000

done for veterans — she stands with us.

William C. Moore

Major General/U.S. Army, Retired
McLean

Major Bus Routes Slated for Elimination

To the Editor:

As part of its FY 2017 budget, Metro is recommending the elimination of several major bus lines in Fairfax County. Some of these routes are used heavily and are essential to a great many people. Two routes slated for elimination are Route 1C and Route 2B. Both run from Dunn Loring to Fair Oaks but by different routes serving different communities — 2B has a daily ridership of 900-plus (257,000-plus riders a year), The 1C has a daily ridership of almost 1,000 (320,000-plus a year).

Neither my partner nor I drive. We use the 2B frequently to go to Fair Oaks, Vienna Metro, Pan Am Shopping Center, Merrifield, and to connect to the 2A at Dunn Loring to go to the

people in mental health crisis to the Merrifield Center for treatment; an emphasis on de-escalation and on crisis intervention training; the revamping of the order of officer training to emphasize the role of policing in a democracy and the sanctity of life ahead of firearms training; and the significant amendment of General Order 540 on the use of force. The FCPD has been a leading force in these changes, and its leadership has played a pivotal role in seeking out and implementing best practices.

There are still miles to go, but evidence is that county and police leadership are prepared to traverse those miles.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and continues to advocate for ongoing implementation.

SoberRide Safety Net for Holiday Celebrations

The annual Holiday SoberRide program, offering free rides home to locals over 21 who have been celebrating with alcohol, will operate between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. each evening between Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 and Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period. SoberRide is organized by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Project. Area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a no-cost (up to \$ 30 fare), safe way home. Last December, nearly 1,500 people took advantage of the program.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberride.com.

doctor in Falls Church.

This bus provides the only weekend service, midday service, holiday service, and late evening service in our area. For us it is essential. Many low income folks who cannot afford cars depend upon this bus. As a regular rider I can also attest that many recent immigrants, seniors on fixed incomes or who cannot drive and disabled persons ride these buses. The loss of this service would be a tremendous blow to our daily lives.

Charles Keener
Vienna

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com



SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) student journalists have been recognized by two national student journalism organizations for their outstanding work.

News publications from McLean High School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) have been named Crown Award finalists by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA). They are The Highlander (High School News), McLean High School, Lindsay Benedict, adviser; and tjToday and tjtoday.org (High School News Hybrid for print and online), TJHSST, Erinn Harris, adviser. Both publications will receive either a Silver or Gold Crown at the CSPA award ceremony in March 2017. Five FCPS students have been named finalists in individual contests by the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA). These students are among just 10 finalists in their respective categories and were chosen from entries submitted nationwide.

NSPA finalists are:

❖ Sports Story: John Corvari, The Highlander newsmagazine, McLean High School.

❖ Sports Action Photo: Maggie Laird, The Clan yearbook, McLean High School.

❖ Newspaper Page One Design: Susie Hyland, Jodie Lee, The Hawk Talk, Madison High School.

❖ Illustration: Sam Willett, The Watchdog, Westfield High School.

Emma Leiken, a 2012 McLean High School graduate, earned Fulbright grant. She graduated from Oberlin College in May 2016.

Brandon Bast, of Great Falls, graduated from The University of Tampa on May 7. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in sport management and a minor in marketing.

Savannah Kathleen McBride was awarded an \$8,000 four-year Fraternal College Scholarship in a national competition by Modern Woodmen of America. She is the daughter of Stephen and Lezlie McBride, McLean. She plans to attend Reed College in Portland, Ore.

Brendan Mullen, Langley HS Class of 2011, was awarded a prestigious summer Research Fellowship by the Drexel University College of Medicine to study the effects of concussion on mice. Brendan will present his results at the College of Medicine's annual research event, Discovery Day, in October 2016. Former Langley ice hockey goalie, continues his support of children's special hockey by volunteering for the Philadelphia Flyer's youth special hockey team.

Dov Cohen, of Vienna, received a bachelor of arts degree from The College of Wooster during commencement exercises in May 2016.

Neal Daniel Dawson, of Vienna, graduated from Averett University in May 2016 with a master of business administration degree.

Courtney Laine Vereide, of Vienna, graduated magna cum laude from Elon University on May 21, 2016, with a Bachelors degree in English and a Classical Studies minor.

Brandon D. Kendrick, of Vienna, is on the spring 2016 deans list at Hampden-Sydney College.

Robert P. Buttarazzi, of Vienna, is on the spring 2016 deans list at Hampden-Sydney College.

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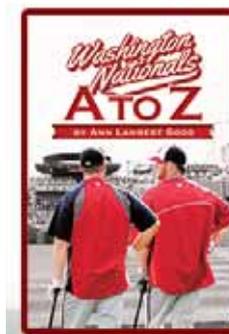
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“Monarchs at the Library” captures monarch butterflies enjoying the flowers at the Great Falls library garden. This photo will be on display at the Great Falls Library Dec. 1-31.

PHOTO BY DEE LEGGETT

Butterflies in December, Photo Exhibit by Dee Leggett, at Great Falls Library

No need to wait until next summer to see Virginia butterflies. Stop by the small conference room at the Great Falls Library and be surrounded by Eastern Tiger Swallowtails, the Virginia State insect. This exhibit by Dee Leggett includes butterfly photographs taken in Leggett’s butterfly-friendly garden as well as other locations in Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Included in the photo display are Red Admiral, Red-Spotted Purple, Buckeye, Clouded Sulphur, Great Spangled Fritillary, Giant Swallowtail, and Zebra Swallowtail butterflies. The most recent

photo was taken this past October in the Great Falls library garden of two Monarchs, a butterfly severely affected by habitat destruction. This exhibit is open at the Great Falls Library through Dec. 31.

Leggett is a member of Great Falls Studios and has been exhibiting her photography for more than 10 years.

“Visions of Joy,” Leggett’s photo journal book contains many photographs of Butterflies and quotations about Joy. Books are available. To see more of Leggett’s work: Contact her at 703-861-3335 or DeeLeggett@aol.com. Visit <http://deeleggettphotography.vpweb.com>

CALENDAR

Send announcements to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week’s paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Great Falls Farmers Market moved indoors into the historic Great Falls Grange Hall, 9818 Georgetown Pike on Saturday, Dec. 10 for the winter. Open every Saturday, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. <http://greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

CHO Food, New Toy, and Bike Drive Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 at various locations around Vienna. Dish soap, canned fruit, chili, canned beef stew, diapers and wipes, canned salmon, Spam, tuna, tomato sauce, and laundry detergent are in particular need. CHO requests that no food be expired.

Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens open every day through Jan. 8, 2017. Open Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s, too. The walk of lights runs daily from 5:30 - 10 p.m. Last tickets sold at 9:30 p.m. This family-friendly six-week winter wonderland of spectacle is only a few years old but has garnered a loyal following from throughout the Northern Virginia area, particularly Vienna and its environs. To buy timed tickets online: <https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2hr max). Valid driver’s license required. Our rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Living Nativity at Great Falls United Methodist Church

Great Falls United Methodist Church will be holding its annual Living Nativity on Dec. 18. Three 20 minute, one act plays of this glorious event will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle your joy for Christmas! 10100 Georgetown Pike Great Falls www.greatfallsumc.org

freshwater fishing license is required for persons 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Great Falls Studios Virtual Gallery Open online 24/7 at <http://www.greatfallsstudios.com/copy-of-virtual-gallery> for the month of

October. The gallery features the member artists participating in the Great Falls Studios 2016 Art Tour. During the month of October, in the Large Meeting room at the Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, GF, member artists

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

Explore Something New!
Register Now for Winter Classes
 at the **McLean Community Center**

Classes for Children, Adults and Seniors
 Parent & Child Workshops
 Subjects include:

- Adult Learning (50+)
- Chess & Bridge
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- Painting & Drawing
- Music, Fitness & Yoga
- Science, Technology & Computer Science
- Writing & Theater

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For a complete listing of classes, trips, performances and events, visit our website and register online.

The McLean Community Center
 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
 703-790-0123; TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

TALL OAKS HOLIDAY
Open House

Free Pictures with Santa

Sunday, December 18TH
From 2 to 5 PM

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

participating in the Art Tour are on display. The exhibit will be open during regular library hours.

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Winter Hours: January & February, 11am-4pm, last tour 3pm. Admission to park is FREE except for some special events.

Holiday Decorating Contest We encourage all Great Falls businesses, organizations and neighborhoods to light up the night this December. The winner will receive \$200 and will be featured in an ad in the Great Falls Connection.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Great Falls Historical Society Holiday Gathering: Message of Neighborliness, Great Falls Grange Hall, 6:30 p.m. This is a Free-Admission, Potluck Dinner Event. Please reserve your place at www.gfhs.org to ensure seating for all.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Holiday Express and Visit with Santa at Clemyjontri Park 10 - 3 p.m. Clemyjontri Park is located at 6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Visit with Santa, go for a ride on the Holiday Express train, and take a spin on the unique carousel that's wheelchair accessible. There will also be holiday pictures for children to color. Stay for a while and let the kids play on the specially-designed playground that allows children of all abilities to have fun side-by-side. Train rides: \$5 Carousel rides: \$3. Photo with Santa: \$5 <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/clemyjontri/>

Puppy Nativity Vienna Church 10 - 2 p.m. in the parking lot of the church at 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Bring your puppies and dogs to take part in the Live Puppy Nativity. This will be fun for the community and may make great holiday pictures. Costumes and treats will be provided for pets. Hot chocolate will be served, and the church's youth group will be on hand to accept community donations for the Britepaths Holiday Program to help needy families <https://britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program>

"John Eaton's Holiday Songbook" 2 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Jazz pianist and musicologist John Eaton's first-ever holiday concert last year was such a hit that we're bringing it back! Hear your Great American Songbook favorites with a yuletide twist. Admission: \$35/\$20 MCC tax district residents. <http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre>

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

McLean Symphony Family Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Features Antonio Vivaldi's Winter from "The Seasons" and highlights from Gian-Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Admission: \$25/adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/students.

Glorious Sounds of Christmas Concert 4 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, Vienna. Share in the Christmas celebration with all of the VPC choirs and the Cathedral Brass orchestra. Child care available with 48-hour reservation by calling 703-938-9050, x351. <http://www.cafetatti.com>



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens becomes ablaze with a half-a-million colorful sparkling lights in its annual Winter Walk of Lights, beginning on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, through Jan. 8, 2017.

viennapres.org/
Great Falls United Methodist Church Living Nativity 5 - 6 p.m. Three 20 minute, one act plays will kick off the event. Come listen to the

story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. www.greatfallsumc.org

Plan Ahead Great Falls

SATURDAY/JAN. 7

The Capitol Steps at The Alden 8 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. To recover from this off-the-wall election cycle, remain calm and walk, do not run, to The Alden and shelter-in-place with these master political satirists. \$50/\$35 MCC tax district residents. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 8

Concert: Opera Celebration 4 - 6 p.m. Saint Francis Episcopal Church 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The new year is the traditional time to revel in the beauty of the voice. Beloved Amadeus pianist-in-residence Frank Conlon brings together spectacular talent in solos and ensembles, as well as his incomparable storytelling. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: <http://amadeusconcerts.com/>

SUNDAY/ JAN. 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at The Alden Center: Chuck D 2 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Best known as leader and co-founder of the legendary rap group, Public Enemy, Chuck D redefined rap music and hip hop culture with the release of Public Enemy's explosive debut album, "Yo Bum Rush The Show," in 1987. Speaker subject to change. Cost: \$20/\$10 MCC tax district residents. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Mary Ruth Brown, a 2012 graduate of Oakton High School and a 2016 graduate of Embry-Riddle

Aeronautical University, is currently in graduate school at East Carolina University studying meteorology/atmospheric science. She has been selected for an internship at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, VA for spring semester 2017.

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Here's What's Happening at MCC



Onstage @ The Alden
John Eaton's Holiday Songbook
Saturday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m.
\$35/\$20 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse Winter Break Trips



Timeline Arcade

Tuesday, Dec. 27
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents
Activity No. 8305.216

XP Laser Sport

Thursday, Dec. 29
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents
Activity No. 8307.216

AMC Double Feature

Friday, Dec. 30
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents
Activity No. 8308.216

Onstage @ The Alden



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration
Chuck D

Sunday, Jan. 15, 2 p.m.
\$20/\$10 MCC tax district residents

Closing Notice

MCC and The Old Firehouse will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holiday.

Happy Holidays!

from the Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center.

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

1234 Ingleside Ave.,
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

Great Falls REAL ESTATE

October, 2016 Top Sales in Great Falls

IN OCTOBER 2016, 18 GREAT FALLS HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$3,767,500-\$639,900.



3 131 River Park Lane — \$1,850,000



4 939 Seneca Road — \$1,800,850



1 946 Hickory Run Lane — \$3,767,500



2 1140 Bob O Link Circle — \$1,850,000



6 9100 Dara Lane — \$1,510,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 946 HICKORY RUN LN	6	7	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$3,767,500	Detached	5.01	22066	TAYLOR SPENCER	10/11/16
2 1140 BOB O LINK CIR	6	7	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,850,000	Detached	1.68	22066	MILL RUN ACRES	10/18/16
3 131 RIVER PARK LN	6	8	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,850,000	Detached	5.00	22066	RIVERBEND LANDING	10/20/16
4 939 SENECA RD	6	6	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,800,850	Detached	1.00	22066	PRIVATE	10/13/16
5 10102 COTTESMORE CT	5	4	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,580,000	Detached	2.25	22066	FALCON RIDGE	10/27/16
6 9100 DARA LN	5	4	2	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,510,000	Detached	1.72	22066	THE LAWNS OF TOWLSTON	10/07/16
7 1057 LEIGH MILL RD	6	6	2	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,496,500	Detached	3.00	22066	LEIGH MILL	10/21/16
8 393 PATOWMACK CT	6	5	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,425,000	Detached	1.82	22066	BEACH MILL DOWNS	10/07/16
8 850 TROTTEING CT	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,338,000	Detached	1.76	22066	SENECA HUNT	10/31/16
10 967 MILLWOOD RD	6	4	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,180,000	Detached	3.25	22066	JACKSON MILL WOODS	10/31/16

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The changes increased natural light. A south-facing trapezoidal-shaped window in the dining room provides a hilltop view of the neighborhood.



PHOTO BY GREG HADLEY

Open Floorplan Eases Entertaining

Open house helps homeowners looking for ideas.

BY JOHN BYRD

It's one thing to talk a good game; quite another to put your ideas to the test by inviting a long list of perceptive critics to inspect your wares.

"We like to see how well our plans work first hand whenever we can," Bob Gallagher said, as he describes a holiday tour his home remodeling firm held at one of this client's homes last Saturday.

"Our designers spend a lot of time conferring with clients on specific needs and learning from case histories — but what really counts is seeing your plan in action. A holiday tour is a test drive, but it's also a chance to explore ideas, brainstorm on breaking trends — and just enjoy being around people who are enjoying what we create."

Case in point, the Arlington home of Steve and Louise Brooks.

Two years ago, the Brooks hired Sun Design to convert the primary living area of their raised rambler into space that would serve a multitude of purposes, including a place for frequent gatherings of friends and family.

Last weekend, the remodeler hosted an open house for anyone who wanted to see how their freshly-minted new space plan would perform under real life home entertainment conditions.

There were about 50 visitors in all. Standing in one corner, one could see fluidly organic pockets of revelers — but all flows smoothly, a far cry from the past.

In the past, one's guests were usually in another room.

The original small kitchen with its adjacent living room and dining room actually felt crowded whenever the head-count exceeded six or seven.

The eight-foot ceiling and small-scale windows didn't help either; ditto, the "builder grade" interior finishes and restricted space-use options.

"We're a host site for our church, so we wanted a place that would allow us to comfortably meet with friends," said Louise Brooks. "We just weren't at all sure how to make that happen within our existing floor plan."

Fortunately, Gallagher and team knew the way. In fact, Gallagher notes that there's been something of

a revolution in how homeowners are now configuring living space: Emergent interior design styles now allow for well-articulated activity zones integrated into a visually distinctive spatial continuum. "The end result feels generously-sized, yet unified."

To effect the changes Brooks sought, Sun Design concentrated on strategic improvements inside the envelope of the existing structure: a nearly 800-square-foot great room was formed by eliminating walls separating the kitchen, dining room, living room and foyer; to create the 14-foot cathedral ceiling, the new interior incorporated a seldom-used attic.

A granite-surfaced food preparation island and dining counter now facilitates the easy circulation needed for entertaining; the "built-in" was custom-designed to support a wide-range of storage, cooking and clean-up requirements.

The plan also increased natural light. A south-facing trapezoidal-shaped window provides a hilltop view of the neighborhood. Distinctive finish work details delineate key activity zones within a warmly cohesive ambiance that features sight-lines in all directions.

Meanwhile, back at the tour, Bob Gallagher is talking to a drop-in guest about how the new space is used on an everyday basis.

"It works extremely well," he said. "The open plan allows people to happily pursue different tasks within the same continuum without loss of personal space. You have privacy, but you're in eye-contact. It's a very popular trend."

Gallagher also stresses the value of an open house to homeowners looking for ideas.

"We've been doing tours of newly remodeled homes for about 10 years," he said. "We've found that the open houses often become neighborhood meet-up opportunities where people naturally start exploring matters of mutual interest."

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently has a second office in McLean. For information, call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

Trinity United Methodist Church
1205 Dolley Madison Blvd.
McLean, VA 22101
703-356-3312
umtrinity.org



Celebrate Christ's Birth With Us

Dec. 18 10:30 a.m. Lessons & Carols
3 p.m. Blue Christmas

Dec. 24 5 p.m. Family Service
8 & 10 p.m. Candlelight & Communion Services

Dec. 25 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service
Jan. 1 10:30 a.m. New Year's Day Service

Weekly worship: Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.; Wednesdays at noon



ST. JOHN'S
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Invites you
to Christmas
Worship

Sunday, December 18

• 9:00 and 11:15 am - A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

• 4:00 pm - Family Service of Holy Eucharist

Christmas music at 3:30 pm

• 7:00 pm - Holy Eucharist

Christmas music at 6:30 pm

• 10:00 pm - Holy Eucharist

Christmas music at 9:30 pm

Christmas Day

• 10:00 am - Holy Eucharist

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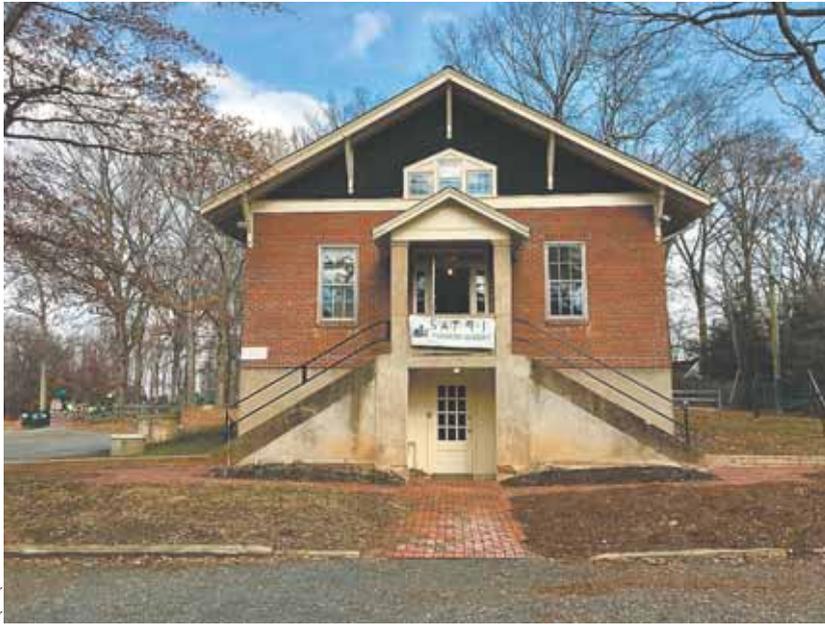
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NEWS

The historic Great Falls Grange Hall, built in 1929, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Here, the farmers market banner marks the entrance. Vendors display their wares on the upper and lower levels.



PHOTOS BY
CHRISTIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Great Falls Farmers Market Now Warm in the Grange

The Great Falls Farmers Market continues year round, meeting in the Great Falls Grange Hall from now through March 25, 2017. This used to be a time when farmers were dormant, whittling and knitting through the winter, but thanks to greenhouses, tunnels, and other innovations, certain farmers are able to produce certain produce all winter long. Winter is a “return to the roots” time of year, and there are root vegetables and storage crops that can be dug up or taken out of storage throughout the winter to keep the supply flowing. Every Saturday morning, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. <http://greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

Michael Sideris, owner of Vordonia Extra Virgin Olive Oil, completes a sale with Ruth Morine, one loyal and dedicated shopper at the Great Falls Farmers Market.



Jerry Fields, owner of Jerry's Gourmet Berries, a certified organic grower, offers tastes of his various pickled products and aronia juice.



A variety of duck, chicken and quail eggs, thanks to DoctorSchar's EcoFarm are in the forefront, as Lilia Dubynin checks out a Tuscarora Organic Growers Coop customer.



Real Country Sausage (many kinds of sausages from 100-year-old recipes) and Panda Wokking (a cooking demonstration and catering – this week, sweet potatoes with a Korean sauce) do their cooking outside.

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State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

Drive Through Pharmacy Granted Planning commissioner requests continued monitoring by VDOT and Fairfax County police.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Seneca Corner Associates wanted approval to permit a drive-through pharmacy on 3.23 acres of land at 1020 Seneca Road in Great Falls. “I think they did everything they could, particularly given the fact that this is, in essence, a by-right development with the exception of the drive through,” said Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust.

But he added: “This application sits at one of the worst possible intersections we have.”

The Board of Supervisors approved the special exception application on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2017.

Seneca Corner Associates sought approval for a 11,945-square-foot pharmacy with a drive through on the northern portion and a 5,670-square-foot building on the southern portion of the site for retail and other permitted uses in the C-8 District.

Seneca Corner Associates will ensure that 1.29 wooded acres zoned R-1 will remain undeveloped to retain a buffer for the neighbors, said Lynne Strobel, of Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, who represents the applicant.

Traffic was debated heavily during the application, before it was

filed and during the application process.

“I’m familiar with that intersection. I served on the Georgetown Pike traffic calming study in the late ‘90s. The issues came up about 2005 when the current site plan was approved for a large office facility,” said Dranesville District Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder at the public hearing on the application earlier this fall.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the application on Nov. 2.

Neighbors had testified before the Planning Commission, voicing frustration with traffic and safety at the confluence of intersections.

“With all that is being said, we have to remember this is just a special exception for a drive-through. It is not a rezoning,”

said Ulfelder.

According to planning documents, “Seneca Place, Section Two” had been approved in July 2006 for a two-story commercial, 33,953-square-foot building on the site.”

But Ulfelder hopes the Virginia Department of Transportation “will be encouraged to keep an eye on that intersection.”

“The other part of some of the complaints we heard is the lack of enforcement at that intersection of particularly evening rush hour traffic and blocking the box and other violations and other problems,” he said. “Another step we can take is to work with the police department to make sure there is adequate enforcement presence to address those problems.”

FAITH NOTES

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

Chabad Tysons Jewish Center is holding a Menorah workshop at The Home Depot at Merrifield, 2815 Merrilee Drive in Fairfax on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m. Open for all. They are also having a Chanukah Wonderland Dec. 25 till Dec. 30 in Vienna at 226 W. Maple Ave. from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. every day and a Menorah lighting at the first night Vienna.

Great Falls United Methodist Church will be holding its annual Living Nativity on Dec. 18. Three 20 minute, one act plays of this glorious event will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle your joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike Great Falls www.greatfallsumc.org Questions? Call 703-759-3705.

St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook Roads in McLean, just a mile west of Tysons, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Look for our Pumpkin Patch this October, and check www.stthomasmcleanva.org for Special Events and Services through the year. St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

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Information Center: 1212 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com

No Urge



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's not often; heck, it's extremely rare, that I don't write a cancer column, as I call them. And my reaction to not having the 'urge' to write yet another cancer column is, somewhere between simply taking a break/brake in the action and having no need to impose my cancer-centric self-indulgence on you faithful readers.

I'll be the first to acknowledge that I write these columns because I need to, and because I'm allowed to; thank you Mary Kimm. Not that the related purpose is to avoid therapy (however, I did go on a handful of appointments with a psychologist but it seemed pointless and especially so, when the therapist expressed that she felt I was fairly well-adjusted). Ergo, I really didn't see a purpose per se.

Oh sure, I will admit that the writing of these columns gets out of me some very personal and occasionally painful prose outlining the anxieties and fears of a cancer patient undergoing life-sustaining treatment that is better out than in, if professionals are to be believed. And maybe I'll further acknowledge that, based on feedback I've received in the six-plus years that I've been writing them, that the content is, generally speaking, much appreciated (I'm not ready to characterize them as having served a greater purpose/been for the greater good however, because it's only me I'm writing about and there's a much bigger world than what I perceive in my head) and helpful. Nevertheless, I can't imagine that it's just me I'm writing about, mostly; and a la Las Vegas, sort of: in that what happens to me only happens to me. Hardly.

Just because I've made public something very personal and presumably private doesn't make me the go-to-guy for cancer chat, it just makes me a person willing to open the doors wider than are typically opened. So what? A little honesty never hurt anyone; self-indulgence though, can be really boring and tiresome. (I mean, sometimes, too much of a good thing is simply too much. To quote my deceased mother: "It's enough already.") And as much as I'm cognizant of possibly droning on and wasting what attention-span you've allocated in my direction, I am trying not to drone on and trying not to lose you in the process.

Possibly there is a means to my hopefully not premature end. Perhaps admitting the error of my ways and/or addressing the cancer concerns as I regularly do has contributed/caused my rather unexpected (based on my oncologist's original "13 month to two-year prognosis from FEBRUARY 2009) living "unexpectedly." Perhaps laughing in the face of danger extends one's life more than giving in to it. All I know is, whatever I've done/been able to do emotionally was not/has not been thought out. I've just continued to be me, myself and I — which has included my weekly cancer columns. Moreover, the three of us, collectively, have likely survived for so long because so much that could have bothered us/me, didn't.

Whether it was the outlet I had/have in my column, my personality, encouragement from family and friends, or my connection to The Connection, there's no way to know. What I do know is, the weeks when I don't write a cancer column are my favorites. Those are the weeks when I feel that cancer doesn't have a hold on me and in turn, I feel that I have a hold on cancer. And if there's one thing us cancer patients want to feel, it's control. Even if it's only for a week or two, here or there, the benefit is exponentially greater than the time we actually get to experience it.

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

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MONDAY NOON

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Gong & Yuan, LLC trading as Hunan Gate, 4233 Fairfax Dr. Arlington, VA 22203. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Zhao Feng Gong, owner
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 of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
K. Rob Krupicka, Jr. trading as Sugar Shack Donuts, 1014 S. Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22204. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. K. Rob Krupicka, Jr., 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 of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Natural Food LLC trading as Asia Origin, 1753 Pinnacle Dr., McLean, VA 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises; Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Chaosheng Liu 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 of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Thai Boys Inc. trading as Tom Yum Thai, 226 Maple Ave. W, Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Tanitta Diwtragulchai, 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 of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Pre-Register Now or on Auction Day at 4pm
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Free Holiday Cab Rides Help Prevent Drunk Driving

Combating that holiday period which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says is a "dangerous time to be on the road due to a high number of drunk drivers behind the wheel," a local nonprofit organization will offer free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during the winter holidays.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), operates the annual Holiday SoberRide program between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. each evening between Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 and Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During the evening hours, between Dec. 16 and Jan. 1, Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home.

"Last December, nearly 1,500 (1,456) Greater Washington residents did the right thing and availed themselves of this life-saving service rather than possibly driving home impaired," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's president. "For SoberRide's hours of operation during just last New Year's Eve, alone, such ridership (580) translated into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from our shared roadways every 49-seconds."

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 65,385 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberide.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

THROUGH DEC. 18

The Container Store Annual Holiday Hugs Program in Partnership with Children's National Health System Collections are going on now through December 18th and gifts will be delivered to the hospital the week of December 19th. The Container Store is thrilled to continue its annual, nationwide signature giving program, Holiday Hugs. In each of our Washington, DC-area stores, we are partnering with Children's National Health System to collect and deliver new, unwrapped gifts to their young patients who are spending the holidays in the hospital. Customers can participate in the Holiday Hugs program by dropping off new, unwrapped books, small toys and games, toiletries, gift cards and kid-friendly stocking stuffers in collection bins at our Washington, DC, Arlington, VA, Reston, Tysons Corner and Rockville locations

ONGOING

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.



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