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McLean CONNECTION

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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Lily Costa, right, holds a wedding dress with her mother on Small Business Saturday at Mae's Dress Boutique in McLean.

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Hands-On Approach Feeds Small Business Saturday

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday morning, Lily Costa and her mother Nieves left the house with two missions in mind – Lily is getting married on Dec. 31 so she needs a dress, and they wanted to support Small Business Saturday, so they had both objectives in mind when they stopped at Mae's Dress Boutique in McLean.

"We even gave ourselves a pat on the back before we left," Lily said.

All the attention in the back of the shop was on the wedding dress, and that's the beauty of that small, independent dress shop. Mae's is known around the area, and has a steady client base from the surrounding community, especially those who prefer to avoid the busy Tysons.

"They come here because they get 100 percent service here," said owner Mae Shipe, who's owned local dress shops in the area for 37 years. Shipe calls all the shots at her small business so she curates her inventory according to the time of year and the client's needs. "There's a big void for this kind of products," she said, admiring a black dress on a manikin. "Black tie all the way," she said of the dress.

A few doors down, at the Red Tomato Pizzeria, owner Hamid Jadali was aware of the small business event, but the rain outside might have kept some diners at home. "Best pizza in McLean," he said. Their customer base is "a lot of locals and offices around Tysons Corner, we cater and do delivery," he said. His secret recipe was simple: "crust, cheese and tomato sauce, everything is fresh," he said. He did know one thing about Small Business Saturday is "right after Black Friday," which was nothing special around the pizzeria.

Small Business Saturday was kicked off



Lily Costa, right, holds a wedding dress with her mother on Small Business Saturday at Mae's Dress Boutique in McLean.



A party dress at Mae's Dress Boutique in McLean.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Hamid Jadali holds signature pizza at his Red Tomato Pizzeria.

In the windows around McLean, the buzz was building for retail.



in 2010 by American Express and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to support the neighborhood mom and pop

stores that have a local angle, and is part of a larger "Shop Small Movement."

"Small businesses provide a character to

communities," said Jack Spirakes, the public information officer for the Washington Metropolitan Area District office of the SBA. Last year, 108 million consumers shopped at small businesses on Small Business Saturday, spending a combined \$12 billion at independent neighborhood retailers and restaurants, the SBA said. Locally, SBA participates in a monthly workshop with the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority aimed at local entrepreneurs.

"It's a chance for communities to rally around these businesses," added Carol Wilkerson, an SBA spokesperson out of the national office in Washington, D.C.

Editor's note: Of course, every day is Small Business Day at the Connection.

McLean WinterFest Parade Set for Dec. 2

On Sunday, Dec. 2, McLean will welcome in the holidays as fun and fancy entries proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road for the 10th annual WinterFest parade. The stage will be set in the Langley Shopping Center, with Peggy Fox from WUSA Channel 9, again calling the parade. Parade entries will begin at Fleetwood Road and proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road to Elm Street if in a vehicle, or turn up Curran Street if marching. Old Chain Bridge Road will be closed to all traffic from 2 to 5 p.m. on the day of the parade. Langley Shopping Center parking lot, as well as all other business lots and shopping centers on the parade route, will be closed to all traffic as of 2 p.m. until the conclusion of the parade. The Safeway parking lot will be accessible only from Chain Bridge Road.

Entertainment prior to the parade at 2:30 p.m. will include performances by students from Spring Hill and Kent Gardens Elementary Schools and The TEA Center. Bach to Rock students will also perform prior to the parade.

Food vendors will be available in the Langley Shopping Center parking lot and will include Mama's Donut Bites, Crepe Love and Rockland's BBQ.

As in years past, the organizers ask that parade observers bring a gift card for food or merchandise they will pass along to Share of McLean. There will be a giant holiday stocking in the front of the stage for gift cards or cash donations to Share.

The parade steps off promptly at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2.

This year is the WinterFest parade's 10th anniversary and will be bigger and better than



Santa Claus rides on top of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department's fire truck in WinterFest Parade 2016.

ever. Go to the parade web site at www.mcleanwinterfest.org to see the local businesses that have donated to WinterFest

to help make it a success. You can also find additional parade information such as parking options and the parade route map.

OPINION

Call for Submissions to Children's Edition 2018

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good friend?

❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school

location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2018.

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

For Arlington, Potomac, CentreView, Chantilly, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, email to Steven Mauren, smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

EDITORIAL

Bringing People in from the Cold

This year 36 churches will be host sites for the hypothermia program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

BY JOE FAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FACETS



Fifteen years ago, two Fairfax men froze to death during the fall. At the time, FACETS was a nonprofit that was primarily serving meals to the county's homeless in partnership with several churches. FACETS' leaders knew that feeding people only to send them back into the extreme cold was not a great answer for the growing number of people who were homeless in the community.

That winter FACETS responded by offering temporary shelter in conjunction with its partner churches, the Lamb Center, and Salvation Army to get people in from the cold. The first year, these hypothermia shelters rotated to several different churches and only opened when the temperatures dropped below freezing. Soon the centers were serving up to 60 people on cold nights.

The program has evolved as the region's population has grown. In 2006, FACETS

worked on policies and procedures with the county and formally began managing central Fairfax's Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program. This year 36 churches will be host sites for the program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

These faith community partners rotate when opening their doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to welcome people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and preparing the space. Other volunteers are planning menus. Unique partnerships have formed as a result of the program as Christians, Muslims, Jews, and more join together to help the homeless and in the process learn about each other.

The effort also matured beyond just providing safe haven. Guests now receive life-changing case management. By interacting with guests at the shelters, FACETS' case managers are able to address their needs in a very personal way by gaining their trust and connect-

ing them with housing solutions and critical services. They also receive a variety of services from the county.

Last year 283 guests were given shelter from the biting cold. More than 3,800 people volunteered 33,000 hours last season to care for these guests who are homeless. By the end of season, 41 of these people had left homelessness behind and were housed.

This year's Hypothermia Response and Prevention Program began the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and runs seven nights a week through April 1. With the projected cold and forecasts of a very snowy winter season, demand is expected to grow.

The hypothermia program continues to adapt to the times to meet the needs of struggling neighbors. Through a coordinated effort that involves broad cross sections of this caring community, we are able to strengthen the community and save lives. To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit us at www.FACETSCares.org.

FACETS is a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Downtown McLean: A Great Opportunity'

To the Editor:

I recently read the article about the Vision for Downtown McLean

(McLean Connection, November 14-20, 2018). I'm so excited to hear that there is possibly going to be a new community business center. Centers like these have been very successful in the past, such as the Mosaic District. So many job opportunities will come out of developing and building a commu-

nity business center and the new businesses who will need to hire employees. This is a great opportunity for the people of McLean. As Colin Greene, senior director of planning, said "Connectivity is key." He's right, this is going to be able to bring together everyone who lives there and everyone will

be able to benefit from the success of this center. I hope this community business center gets approved because it will offer so many opportunities to people they might not have had in the past.

Sophia Spero
Annandale

McLean
CONNECTION

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LETTERS

Protecting Our Diversity

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for publishing the article about the Fairfax For All coalition's recent activities ("Advocating for Immigrant Protection").

As the daughter of two immigrants, immigration policy has always been important to me — especially as the debate over deportation and ICE has escalated. My parents were fortunate enough to be able to immigrate legally, and have been citizens for about 10 years, but in examining the data I've come to see that that's most likely to do with the fact that they are white and had college degrees. Our town

is so beautifully diverse, and I believe that we're losing an important part of our culture when immigrants are scared to participate in the community for fear of deportation.

If what Fairfax For All says is true, then there is an entire group of people in our town who are being excluded from important decisions, prevented from seeking medical attention, and afraid to participate in the community — all out of fear. I'm learning just how important these relationships to the community, or social ties, are. They allow individuals a sense of purpose and help them to feel assimilated into this community that we like to profess as being so diverse.

Emma Steinhobel
Herndon

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
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com



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Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2019, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,150 to \$4,260¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$13,420 to \$15,285.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,260 to \$1,300¹.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.94 to \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge for meters larger than a standard 5/8" residential meter¹.
6. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$45 to \$48.
7. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
8. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$36 to \$38.

¹Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$183.2 million budget for calendar year 2019¹. Revenues are expected to be \$183.2 million in 2019. Water sales are expected to provide \$158.3 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-\$1,000s -	
	2018	2019
Personal Services and Employee Benefits	\$55,934	\$57,584
Power and Utilities	10,755	11,102
Chemicals	6,958	7,532
Purchased Water	7,810	7,155
Supplies and Materials	5,261	5,444
Insurance	955	1,075
Fuel	700	728
Postage	603	612
Contractual Services	12,481	12,974
Professional Services	1,001	1,065
Other	2,428	2,505
Sub-Total	104,886	107,776
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,248)	(10,380)
Total	\$ 94,638	\$ 97,396

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,988,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,337,000

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

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. A copy of the proposed budget can be found at www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

NEWS

Santa's Ride Celebrates 30 Years of Delivering Toys to Children

As Christmas approaches, children will be watching the skies for Santa Claus. Here in Fairfax County some very special children won't have to wait until Christmas Eve.

Since 1988, Santa and his elves have been rumbling down the streets of Fairfax County on motorcycles picking up and delivering toys to children in local hospitals. In 1987, motor officers Buddy Skeley and John Burdette were invited to join Montgomery County Police Department's motor squad in their Santa's Ride which delivered presents to a D.C. hospital. The next year, they brought this event to Fairfax and began numerous traditions that are carried on today. They started by placing decorated toy collection boxes in all of the police stations. In their third year, the motor unit decided to keep the ride local and began visiting and delivering gifts to INOVA Fairfax Hospital.

Once again this year, Santa will temporarily trade in his sleigh and reindeer for a Harley-Davidson motorcycle and police escort. The Fairfax County Police Motor Squad, along with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Fairfax City Police, the Town of Vienna Police, Fall Church Sheriff's Office, and the Herndon Police will escort Santa on his



Santa's Ride: the early years

annual "Ride for Children."

During the second week of December, Santa and his elves will collect donated toys from local police stations, other government facilities, and eight Fairfax County schools. On Dec. 12 and 13, Santa and his helpers

will deliver toys to children at INOVA Children's Hospital Child - Life Services Center and the Georgetown Hospital Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Some of the toys that are not handed out on the day of Santa's visit are left with the Child



Santa's Ride 2017

Life programs at each hospital. Those toys are used throughout the year to provide the children something to keep their mind off being in the hospital. Toys will also go to various local charities including INOVA Life with Cancer.

Officer Buddy Skeley, now retired, re-

lects on the past 30 years: "Year after year the popularity of the ride grew and we collected more toys than we knew what to do with. I remember on our first ride I spontaneously rode through the front parking lot of Navy Vale elementary school. It happened to be lunch time and you could see

a couple of hundred faces in the cafeteria windows jumping up and down waving to Santa and his elves on police motorcycles. The next year we prearranged the stop with the principal who had the entire school outside to greet us. Luckily someone thought to bring bags of candy canes with us to pass out. It was a big hit and became a regular stop on our way to Fairfax Hospital."

Anyone wishing to make a donation can bring a new, unwrapped toy, game, book, or other gift to any Fairfax County Police Station, Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters, Fairfax County Print Shop at the Government Center, or the lobbies of the Pennino and Herrity Office Buildings. All donations should be made before 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 10.

For ongoing updates, read the blog and follow on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram at @FairfaxCountyPD.

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The Children's CONNECTION 2018

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For Advertising information, call 703.778.9431 or email sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Publishes December 26 | Ads Due By December 13

Share Needs Donors to Make Wishes Come True

Share of McLean is looking for donors to sponsor Share individuals' and families' wishes during the holidays. If you would like to fulfill the wish of a neighbor in need, please send an email to ShareWishes@gmail.com. Please include how many wishes you would like to fulfill, if you have a preference for age/gender/family size, and if you have a preference for purchasing gift items or gift cards. Gifts will be due by Thursday, Dec. 6. Share is also looking for cookie and mini muffin bakers. Please send an email if you are interested, and let us know how many dozen you can provide. The goodies are due on Friday, Dec. 7.

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❄️

Winter Fest Parade

McLean's Only Community Parade

When
Sunday, December 2nd

Where
Old Chain Bridge Road

Bring a gift card for Share of McLean to help your neighbors in need.

Go to
www.mcleanwinterfest.org
 for road closure times and parade details



PEOPLE

Leading by Example

Great Falls boy inspires others to be kind and socially conscious.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
 THE CONNECTION

A certain young boy didn't know the word "philanthropy" during a recent interview with the Connection, but he knew the importance of caring, generosity and accomplishing things through his actions.

Hudson Mostashari of Great Falls recently celebrated his tenth birthday. He asked for no gifts. Mostashari did invite eight friends to celebrate the day with him, but instead of giving him gifts, he asked if they'd make a monetary gift contribution to buy food for the homeless in Washington D.C.

Although Mostashari's friends were somewhat shocked at the request, they all went along with it. His mother Meredith Mostashari arranged for the anticipated funds to be donated directly to the Barbera Foundation in Reston. Hudson Mostashari raised approximately \$200 through his no-gifts for me, food for the homeless birthday campaign, said his mother.

"It is very impressive that Hudson, a 10-year-old, thought about others on his birthday, a day when most of us think about ourselves," said Kevin Barbera, Barbera Foundation, CEO & Founder. "Hudson has inspired me and many others to be more engaged in charitable efforts to change our community for the better." Mostashari hinted he got the beginnings of the no gift birthday when he and his parents helped fellow volunteers for the Barbera Foundation sort school supplies for underprivileged children this fall. His actions made a difference, and it made him happy too. Mostashari told how he also attends the Leadership Training Program led by Fr Andrew Gronotte,



BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

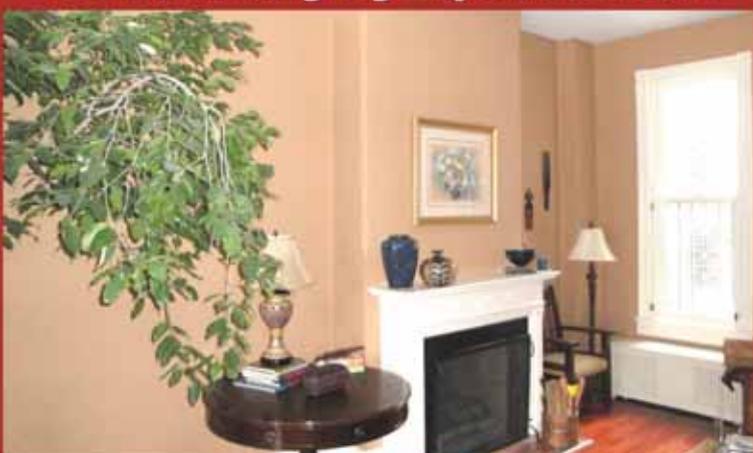
Meredith and Shaw Mostashari of Great Falls are proud of their son Hudson, 10, a young philanthropist in his own right. Hudson decided he would forfeit birthday gifts and instead ask his friends and family to make donations for the purchase of food and supplies for the homeless living on the streets in Washington D.C.

L.C. Mostashari said he and his family planned to join Gronotte and Fr Michael Sliney at the Thanksgiving/Christ the King Family Mission in Washington D.C. to help support the homeless. Together they would hand out pizza to the homeless living on Pennsylvania Avenue. Asked in the interview if he would have a slice pizza, Mostashari looked surprised and said no. That would mean a homeless person wouldn't get it and that person would be hungry.

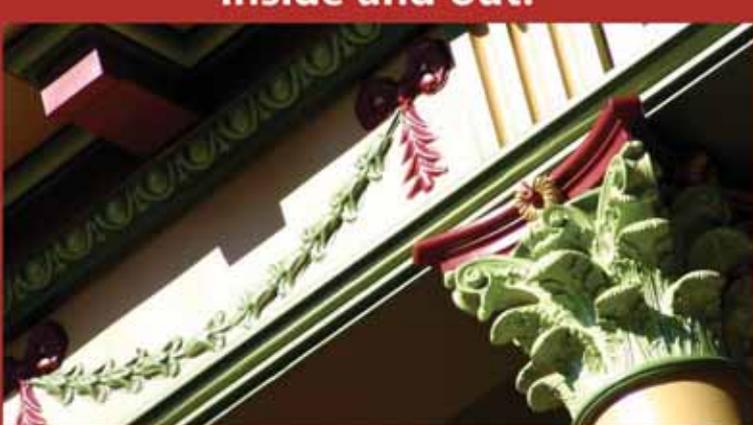
"Hudson is doing a great job living out the virtues that we are trained to teach him in the LTP program. Not only are his actions effective to those he directly comes in contact with but also with the people looking in from the outside," wrote Fr Andrew Gronotte in an email to the Connection.

"I am very impressed with Hudson's actions," Gronotte added. "I hope many others can follow the path that he is paving."

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Allstate Contributes to 'Weekend Food for Kids'

Assistance League of Northern Virginia's Weekend Food for Kids program was the featured volunteer service activity for the "Feed Your Future Volunteer Relay" that took place during the recent Allstate Insurance Company Regional Advisory Board conference in Washington, D.C. Lynn Barron and Karen Amster, board members with the all-volunteer ALNV, were invited to attend and speak about Assistance League's impactful program that increases food security in three local school districts in the region. Assistance League provides bags of nonperishable food for at-risk children to take home on the weekends when school meals are not available who otherwise could be hungry.

Following the keynote presentation, the event turned competitive. Executives, regional advisory board members — exclusive agents and exclusive financial specialists from D.C., Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia — participated in a volunteer relay, packing food for hungry children. Allstate Senior Communication Consultant Caitlyn Barron coordinated the resources and purchased the nonperishable food items to support The Allstate Foundation Helping Hands in the Community group volunteer event. A team of more than 40 volunteers packed 500+ bags of food for at-risk children whose families struggle



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left: Karen Amster (ALNV), Caitlyn Barron (Allstate), Lynn Barron (ALNV) and Christine Angles (Allstate).

to put food on the table on weekends when school meals are not available.

This partnership provided an opportunity to satisfy an immediate need for food assistance at two Title I elementary schools not currently supported by the Weekend Food for Kids program.

See www.assistanceleague.org/northern-virginia/

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Children dance in McLean's 2017 Winterfest Parade.

WinterFest Holiday Parade

This will be the 10th year for WinterFest. The viewing stand will be at Langley Shopping Center with a variety of food trucks. Sunday, Dec. 2, pre-parade entertainment, 2:30 p.m.; parade, 3:30 p.m. on Old Chain Bridge Road, from Fleetwood to Elm Street in McLean. To be an entry in the parade, one must register at www.mcleanwinterfest.org. Questions about registration or sponsorships can be directed to Trish Butler at sagecommunications@earthlink.net.

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

ONGOING

Chanukah Bazaar. Through Dec. 2, at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. Ready, Set, Go to Chanukah Bazaar sponsored by Women of TRS. Everything you could possibly want to celebrate the Festival of Lights will be on display in the Grand Foyer. Choose from a large assortment of menorahs, Safed and beeswax candles, dreidels, books, crafts and toys, party goods and nut-free gelt. Hot items such as Chanukah socks and slippers plus fun children's menorahs have been restocked. Shop early – popular items go quickly. Proceeds from this event are donated to the Temple as well as Jewish and community charitable organizations. Dates and times: Sunday, Dec. 2, 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tuesday, Nov. 27, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 4:15-6:30 p.m. Email treasures@templerodefshalom.org.

Santa HQ. Through Dec. 24, Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. HGTV's Santa HQ is located in Fashion Court near Nordstrom on the Lower Level. This year Tysons Corner Center is again partnering with HGTV to present the incomparable, immersive "Santa HQ." Families are invited to explore the wonder of Santa in the digital age. Interactive technology transforms and customizes the experience. Guests can make reservations to spend less time in line. Shoppers are invited to bring an unwrapped toy and participate in our 'Help Through Holiday Giving' toy drive benefitting Second Story (formerly Alternative House). Visit www.santa-hq.com.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV. 29-30

Tiny Tots Concerts. Thursday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. ("jammy-friendly show"); Friday, 10 a.m. at James Madison High School, 2500 James

Madison Drive, Vienna. The JMHS Band Program presents a concert celebration featuring a wide spectrum of seasonal music. Costumed performers include old friends and surprise guests. The audience can sing, clap and dance along with the band. Advance purchase is highly recommended. \$9 per person at james-madison-band.ticketleap.com/tinytots2018/. Admission is free for babies in arms (under 1). If available, tickets may be purchased in the lobby by check, cash or credit card 30 minutes prior to the show for \$10 per person. Email tinytots@jmhsband.org.

THURSDAY/NOV 29-SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Neil Simon's "Biloxi Blues." At Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Saxon Stage Theatre begins its 2018-2019 season with a production of "Biloxi Blues," a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story by Neil Simon packed with wit and charm promised to please all ages. Visit www.Saxon-Stage.com.

THURSDAY/NOV 29-SUNDAY/DEC. 2

BalletNova presents The Nutcracker. Thursday-Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 and 5 p.m.; Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. at George Mason High School Theatre, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. BalletNova's Nutcracker has become a holiday tradition. BalletNova presents a brand-new production of the holiday classic with new costumes, new characters and new choreography. The Sugar Plum Fairy is being danced by Willa Frantz, of Fairfax. \$18-42. Call 703-778-3008 or visit www.BalletNova.org.

THURSDAY/NOV 29-SUNDAY/DEC. 23

A Civil War Christmas: An American Musical Celebration. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sundays, 2 p.m. at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road,

Tysons Corner. It's 1864 and Washington, D.C. is settling down to the coldest Christmas Eve in years in this pageant of carols by Paula Vogel. Stories of many intertwining lives—spanning from the battlegrounds of Northern Virginia to the halls of the White House—demonstrate that the gladness of one's heart is the best gift of all. Visit www.1stStage.org for the schedule of Community Conversations, captioned and audio described performances. Tickets: general admission, \$39; senior (65+), \$36; student and military, \$15 at www.1ststage.org or at 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Nighttime Walk on the Wildlife Side. 5-7 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Wrap up the month of November with a wildlife walk after dark at Riverbend Park. Participants age 3-adult will take a nighttime walk with a naturalist to search for wildlife and see what's happening at Riverbend after the sun sets. After the hike, it's time to gather around a campfire and enjoy s'mores. Register for the "Night Hike Campfire" program. \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by an adult registered in the program. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30-SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Tysons Library Book Sale. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Half price/\$10 per bag on Sunday. Email tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or call 703-790-4031 or 703-338-3307.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Breakfast With Santa. 8:30-10:30 a.m. St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Old Firehouse Friday Night Trip



Double Feature
Friday, Dec. 7, 3:30-11 p.m.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents

Sponsored by The Alden



Unruly Theatre Project
Friday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m.
The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free admission.

The Old Firehouse

WINTER BREAK TRIPS

Trips depart from and return to The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.



Dave & Buster's
Wednesday, Dec. 26, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$70/\$60 MCC district residents



Indoor Go Karting
Thursday, Dec. 27, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$80/\$70 MCC district residents



Zavazone & Movie
Friday, Dec. 28, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents



Snow Tubing & Ice Skating
Wednesday, Jan. 2, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents



Laser Tag & Indoor Paintball
Thursday, Jan. 3, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$60/\$50 MCC district residents



Upscale Bowling & Movie
Friday, Jan. 4, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$65/\$55 MCC district residents



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

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ENTERTAINMENT

Free community event open to all to benefit Housing Up and Samaritan Ministry. Suggested donation is a new, unwrapped toy for boys or girls from infant-aged through 12 years old. Toy suggestions include puzzles, games, cars, and dolls (African-American dolls are preferred). Visit www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org.

Holiday Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m. at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Marine Band, led by Assistant Director Capt. Ryan Nowlin, will perform at Wolf Trap's Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long. Free, no tickets required. Free parking is available. Visit www.marineband.marines.mil.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 1-2

The Enchanted Forest. Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 8-11 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Sheraton Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. 18th Annual The Enchanted Forest featuring live entertainment, Junior Leagues' Kids in the Kitchen activities, a visit from Santa, crafts, premium events for all, and a silent auction of over 80 themed trees and wreaths. \$10 general admission for adults, \$15 child general admission. Visit www.jlnv.org/tef/.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Holiday Gift Shopping. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Judy's Place, a Temple Rodef Shalom tradition for 20 years, provides a non-denominational and convenient shopping experience for children ages 2-13 that lets your child, with the help of volunteers, choose from among over 100 gift items ranging in price from \$1 to \$15 to surprise parents, siblings, grandparents and pets. Contact Jackie Rockman at jackie.rockman@gmail.com.

WinterFest Holiday Parade. Pre-parade entertainment, 2:30 p.m.; parade, 3:30 p.m. on Old Chain Bridge Road, from Fleetwood to Elm Street in McLean. This will be the 10th year for WinterFest. The viewing stand will be at Langley Shopping Center with a variety of food trucks. To be an entry in the parade, one must register at www.mcleanwinterfest.org. Questions about registration or sponsorships can be directed to Trish Butler at sagecommunications@earthlink.net.

Celebration of Lights. 4-6:30 p.m. at Great Falls Village Field. Celebrate the beginning of the season with Great Falls' Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep children busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck. Held rain or shine. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights.

TUESDAY/DEC. 4

Mah Jongg Lessons. 1-4 p.m. Other dates are Dec. 11 and 18. Join in a three-session Mah Jongg class for beginners. Plan to attend all three sessions. Enrollment is limited, so register now. \$85 (9 hours of lessons and includes the 2018 National Mah Jongg League Playing Card). To register, send a check made out to WoTRS to Iva Gresko, 120 N. Fairfax Street, Falls Church, VA 22046. Include e-mail address, home address, and your home and cell telephone numbers. Contact: Iva Gresko, iva.gresko@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

52nd annual Holiday Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tour four large, festively decorated homes in the McLean neighborhoods of Langley Forest, River Oaks, Odrick's Corner and McLean Hamlet. Jewelry and holiday boutique and high-end raffle



Puppy Nativity

Celebrate the holiday season with third annual Puppy Nativity, where dogs play dress up as part of the nativity (costumes provided). The church's youth group will be on hand to accept donations for Britepaths (britepaths.org). The "Peace Like a River" art exhibit also will be open in The Gallery at the church during the event. Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Free. Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

at house in River Oaks. \$30 before Dec. 6 at Mesmeralda's in McLean, Karin's Florist in Vienna, and Great Dogs of Great Falls. \$35 at the tour houses on Dec. 6. Call 703-556-0197 or visit www.mcleanwomansclub.org.

Movie Screening: "Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety." 7 p.m. in the McLean High School Auditorium, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. This documentary features students affected by anxiety, mental health professionals, and Olympic athlete and mental health advocate Michael Phelps. Following the movie, a panel of mental health professionals from McLean High School and the community will lead a panel discussion and question and answer session to provide further information. Friends, neighbors and anyone sixth grade and above are welcome to the free event. Visit mcleanscc.org/.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

Meet the Artist: Fleurs et Fruits. 6-7 p.m. at TD Bank, 9901 Walker Road, Great Falls Village. Jan Heginbotham presents "Les Fleurs et les Fruits," still life paintings in oil and gouache. Portraits of fresh flowers and handsome fruits and veggies. Free. Email the_sculptor@hotmail.com or visit www.JanHeginbotham.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 7-8

Annual Renaissance Feaste. 7 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Langley High School's choirs are busy rehearsing for the 16th annual Renaissance Feaste, which takes place in the school's "Langley Halle." Choir students in full medieval attire - dressed as jesters, minstrels, and musicians - will serenade guests with holiday carols, entertaining them with performances straight out of Merrie Olde England. Guests will dine on authentic medieval English fare, including meat pie (or chicken or vegetarian), potatoes, and English custard topped with apple crisp. For tickets, available through Nov. 30, visit www.brownpapertickets.com, and search for "feaste" (with "e" at

the end).

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Annual Holiday Bazaar. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The McLean High School Annual Holiday Bazaar Fundraiser features many returning and new vendors this year. Complimentary gift wrapping. Free admission for shoppers and free parking. Food available to purchase. Learn more at mcleanboosters.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 9

Fair Trade Fair. 9:15 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Ten Thousand Villages is an all-fair-trade store in Alexandria with products crafted by artisans from around the world - brought to Lewinsville's St. Andrews Hall. Shop for stocking stuffers, larger Christmas gifts, or treats for oneself. Sponsored by the Mission and Service Ministry Group. Free admission. Visit lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors." 6 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The Choirs of Lewinsville Presbyterian Church present: "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Gian Carlo Menotti. A prelude of choral and handbell Advent and Christmas music will begin at 6 p.m. The production will begin at 6:30. Reception to follow in St. Andrews Hall. Free and open to the public. Visit lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Parents' Day Out. 9 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Annual Parents' Day Out event for children in Kindergarten through Grade 6. Children will spend time watching Christmas movies, making crafts, decorating Christmas cookies, and playing games while parents prepare for the holidays. Free and open to the public. Sign up at www.lewinsville.org/event-items/parents-day-out/ or email agroenenboom@lewinsville.org.

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Food for Fines. Through Nov. 30. Fairfax County Public Library will be hosting a food drive called "Food for Fines." Canned goods and other non-perishable items collected during the drive will be donated to Food for Others, a not-for-profit food pantry and food rescue operation that serves Fairfax County. Each item donated will erase \$1 from a patron's overdue fines up to a maximum of \$15. Customers may donate even if there are no fines accrued. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/food-fines

Blanket and Coat Drive. Through Dec. 8. Organized by NOVA Relief Center, blankets and coats will be sent to refugees in three camps in Jordan this winter. Blankets and coats should be new or gently worn. Monetary donations are also needed and may be made to NOVA Relief Center online and at some drop-off locations. For drop-off sites or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit novareliefceneter.org.

Volunteers Needed: CHO Christmas Store & Bike Program. Friday, Dec. 7, 9:30 a.m.-noon (set up); Saturday, Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m.-noon (shop) at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna.

CHO's 2018 Christmas Store is an annual event that invites our less fortunate neighbors to "shop" for gifts for their families and provides holiday extras that many take for granted. CHO (Committee for Helping Others) will be accepting donations of new unwrapped gifts for young children, gift cards for teens, as well as food gift certificates from Giant and Safeway. It also will be accepting new or like new jackets and coats.

Clothing and other donations can be dropped at the CHO Clothes Closet at Vienna Court Condos, 133 Park St. NE, across from the Vienna Presbyterian Church, any Monday morning or by appointment. Call 703-281-7614; leave a message in Box # 1. The "bike distribution program," will be collecting bikes on Saturday, Nov. 24, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna Presbyterian parking lot and at Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road.

Toys for Tots Drive. Through Dec. 10. Area Sheehy Auto Stores will collect new and unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Sheehy's Toys for Tots drop-off locations include:

- ❖ Sheehy INFINITI of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna
- ❖ Patriot Harley-Davidson, 9739 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax

Toy Drive. Through Friday, Dec. 14 at local Weichert, Realtors offices. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. To find your local office, go to www.weichert.com/offices/.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28

Fairfax Commission on Aging Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at the Hunter Mill District Office, Community Room A, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Medicare Enrollment Event. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dar Al-Hijrah, 3159 Row St., Falls Church. Learn the facts about health insurance for older adults. Registration required, call 703-531-2905, TTY 711. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Insurance Counseling-VICAP.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Dyslexia Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Join the FCPS Office of Special Education Instruction and the Parent Resource Center for the 4th Annual Dyslexia Open House. Meet Carrie Leestma, FCPS dyslexia specialist, browse exhibit tables, and learn about next steps for FCPS students with dyslexia. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center

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Mow, Mow, Mow Your Grass ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... Not gently by the stream, and not by yours truly, either. Yet another task that seems beyond this homeowner's ability.

Which is fine by me because the older I get, it seems the less capable I become, and the less inclined I am to risk life and limb in the pursuit of that which that doesn't make me happy. Throw in a lung cancer diagnosis and the last thing my re-wired (figuratively speaking) brain will allow me to do is anything which doesn't put a smile on my face and a bounce in my step. And avoiding yard work ranks up there with most household tasks that a typical able-bodied homeowner takes pride in doing him or herself.

It's not so much that I take pride in avoiding it, it's just that I know my limitations, unlike Hal Holbrook in "Magnum Force."

Sharp objects, mechanical objects and/or electrical/spinning/rotating objects, objects with multiple doohickies (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), objects which require assembly/reading instructions are all challenging for me. Moreover, none of it fascinates me in the least.

What fascinates me more is the level of interest and passion with which so many of my brethren are engaged in the process; from start to finish.

I just don't get it. Nor have I ever gotten it, and neither do I expect to get it in the future.

Perhaps this total lack of interest comes from the experience of being a life-long renter. Never during my pre-college daze was my family ever responsible for yard work, home repairs (inside or out), or had much of a need for tools, other than the most rudimentary: hammer, screwdriver, pliers, etc.

No power tools. Nothing electrical that required a plug/proximity to an outlet. No plumbing, and of course, nothing like a chainsaw.

My parents were children of the Depression and all they had time for was school, play and some work; yes, even as children. And living in tenement/multi-level housing hardly lent itself to anything but doing what was necessary to survive.

But as my parents so often said: everyone else they knew was experiencing similar hardships so they didn't really realize what they were missing. Tools? Repairs? Amenities? Conveniences? Hardly. Toilet paper was a Sears catalogue cut into squares and hung on a nail in the bathroom down the hall - outside of their apartment.

They didn't have money or time for any of it. What money they earned was for food, rent, utilities and clothes; the most basic of basics.

It is through these experiences that my parents passed on their instincts and priorities to the their two Baby Boomer-era sons. There was ample love, affection and importance of family but not so much time and/or energy for interior and exterior home repairs, yard work, tools and what to do with them/how to use them as well as a variety of other homeowner-type tasks.

As a family of renters, it was never our responsibility. I suppose that was a match made in Depression-era heaven because very little in our family's past prepared us for this new future.

When my father returned from his service in World War II (working in Washington, D.C., actually), he had, unlike Liam Neeson, no unique set of skills. He had to find some vocation/avocation that would provide for his family - which he did, as a salesman.

After living in Dorchester, Mass. for their entire lives (since their parents immigrated to America in the early 20th century), in 1958, my parents moved the family to Newton Centre, Mass. - for the schools. We spent the next 15 years as renters and other than taking out the trash and the rubbish, I did very little to hone my homeowner-type skills.

I wouldn't say I've been stigmatized by this experience, but I learned very little that became useful in the maintenance and upkeep of the 275-year-old home, my wife Dina and I have occupied for the past 25+ years. Other than knowing how to ask for help that is.

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



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**STUNNING* 6BR/5BA Colonial home on quiet cul-de-sac in Chesterbrook Woods! Leave the city stress behind in your personal woodland retreat! Entertainers deck that backs to parkland; screened porch w/ a Charleston swing bed; granite kit with 2 bar areas opening to breakfast rm & family rm w/fireplace; fully finished walk - out LL w/ upscale rec room!*



Offered for... \$1,150,000

1531 Forest Lane, McLean
**SPACIOUS* 5BR/3.5 BA home on BEAUTIFUL .35/acre lot in sought-after CHESTERBROOK WOODS! Bring your designer/decorator OR build NEW! The charming home features formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, den and family room with shared fireplace; hardwood floors; owner's suite; finished, walk-out lower level!*



RENTAL!

7441 Chummley Court
 Falls Church, 22043
 \$2,850/month



UNDER CONTRACT!

6629 Williamsburg Blvd
 Arlington, 22213
 \$735,000



UNDER CONTRACT!

6805 Lumsden Street
 McLean, 22101
 \$1,739,000



UNDER CONTRACT!

315 N. Van Buren St
 Falls Church, 22046
 \$1,299,900



UNDER CONTRACT!

277 Gundry Drive
 Falls Church, 22046
 \$569,950

BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2017



1115 Lincoln Avenue
 Falls Church City, 22046
 \$1,125,000



UNDER CONTRACT!

623 Laura Drive
 Falls Church, 22046
 \$799,999

The Market is Moving! Call Me Today for a Free Analysis of Your Home's Value!