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Lauren Smith holds up her gifts as Dori Salomone hands out the Small Business Saturday raffle tickets at Misguided Angels in Great Falls.

# Great Falls CONNECTION

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**Wild boots were on display at Misguided Angels in Great Falls.**



**The moose in the window attracted attention at Bedheaders Home in Great Falls.**

## Small Business Saturday Is a Hit in Great Falls

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s a special perk to recognize Small Business Saturday at Misguided Angels in Great Falls, raffle tickets were handed out and special prizes awarded to those who braved the rain on this special day for local small businesses.

Lauren Smith stopped in for a present but ended up buying something for herself too. "Now I'm buying a gift for me too," she said, earning a couple of raffle tickets in the process. She'd gotten an email about Small Business Saturday as a reminder, which is a perk for being on the email list, and the raffle was the idea of Kim Hutchings, the owner. That's something a small business can do without any corporate red tape.

The raffle tickets, the special attention customers get and the banter around the shop are "true retail therapy," said Dori Salamone, a Great Falls resident who had been behind the counter at Misguided Angels for about a year. "The personal touch, you just don't get that in a retail at the mall," she said. Owner Kim Hutchings is a fan of Small Business Saturday.

"This is one of my favorite days of the year because we really get to connect with our customers who truly appreciate us and want to support us," she said.

Across the parking lot at Bedheaders Home, it was the personal attention and the unusual gifts that brought in Shirley Bass. "This is my first stop for Christmas shopping," she said.

The owner, Joan Bormat, knows about Small Business Saturday. "We had a rush this morning," she said.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



**The raffle tickets were a perk for Saturday.**

Small Business Saturday was kicked off 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.*

**The lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Great Falls Celebration of Lights on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017, at the Great Falls Village Centre.**

PHOTO BY  
STEVE HIBBARD/  
THE CONNECTION



## Great Falls Celebration of Lights Set for Dec. 2

Celebrate the beginning of the season with Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 2, 3:45 - 6:30 p.m. on the Village Field, behind the Great Falls Post Office. The event held in any weather. Enjoy hot cocoa and cookies next to the fire as you listen to local children's choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep your kids busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck to light the tree.

**Schedule:**  
3:45 - Great Falls United Methodist Preschool  
4 - Village Green Day School  
Pony Rides and Petting Zoo begin

4:15 - King's Kids Preschool  
4:30 - Siena Academy  
4:45 - St Francis Creche Preschool  
5 - Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive to light the tree  
5:15 - Forestville ES Ensembles  
5:30 - Great Falls ES  
5:45 - Colvin Run ES Singalong  
6 - Live Nativity (pony rides and petting zoo close)

Volunteers needed between 4-6 p.m. Contact [info@celebrategreatfalls.org](mailto:info@celebrategreatfalls.org) if you are available.

After Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in an antique fire truck to light the Great Falls Tree, they will meet all children who wish to share their holiday wishes. Hot cocoa and cookies offered by sponsors.

### WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

## Great Falls Senior Center to Hold Holiday Luncheon

Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) will hold Holiday Luncheon on Dec. 4 at The Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The lunch will be catered with all the Christmas trimmings, and the desserts and beverages will be provided by Great Falls Senior Center. A donation of \$10 per person will be greatly appreciated and will help to defray the costs. Reservations are a must so the correct number of lunches can be ordered. Contact Polly Fitzgerald at [pollyfittz1@verizon.net](mailto:pollyfittz1@verizon.net) or call 703-759-4345. Deadline for reservations is Nov. 28. The Dr. and Mrs. William Busey and Family has been GFSC sponsor for several years and their continued support is greatly appreciated. Give back for December is canned meat or fish.

## Breakfast With Santa at St. Francis Episcopal

Breakfast With Santa will be held Saturday, Dec. 1, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 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).



# 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/](http://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](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com).

For Arlington, Potomac, CentreView, Chantilly, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, email to Steven Mauren, [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://www.FACETSCares.org).

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Special Forum for Great Falls Seniors, Families, Dec. 1

To the Editor:

We are all getting older, and with that come new challenges and opportunities for people in every community. Among the challenges: building a support network to help senior citizens

stay in their own homes, providing social outlets so people can interact and share a meal, dealing with new health issues such as immobility and dementia, and addressing financial concerns. Among the opportunities: building

a strong local community of senior citizens who enjoy each other's company, providing new ways for younger residents to provide transportation and fellowship to their nearby older neighbors, and learning about new ways to shape lo-

cal services.

There is a growing interest in all of these issues in Great Falls. To provide an overview of them — both challenges and opportunities — the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) is sponsoring a

SEE SPECIAL FORUM, PAGE 5

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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# LETTERS

## Visit Holiday ArtFest

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention that the holidays are upon us once again and phrases like Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday are being used as though they were always part of our historical traditions. It is also a time when people seem very willing to stand in endless lines waiting for a door to open just to secure a deep deal. Others will drive to malls and endlessly circle parking lots just to find a place to abandon their vehicles.

Well none of this craziness need befall you if you just take a deep breath and come to the Great Falls Studios' Holiday ArtFest. So please accept this invitation to visit the artists on Dec 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You will find me at my studio at the Artists' Atelier located in the Great Falls Village Centre just down from the Old Brogue. We just refer to the days as Saturday and Sunday and there are never long lines and parking is always available and it's free.

If you are looking for something for your home or



**Water and Rocks at Great Falls, by Walt Lawrence, Photographer.**

office or to give as a gift I certainly believe you can find something very unique in my collection of Great Falls photography. And if you are one of those people who has already done all your holiday shopping then please stop in and say hello.

With every best wish,

**Walt Lawrence**, Photographer  
Great Falls

## Special Forum

FROM PAGE 4

special forum on Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. until noon. This "Seminar for Savvy Seniors and their Families" is free and open to the public. It will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike. Local speakers, including Dranesville Supervisor

John Foust, and representatives from the Great Falls Senior Center, Shepherd's Center of Great Falls and Dementia Friendly America will discuss all of these salient issues. Full details and a list of all speakers are on the GFCA website: <http://www.gfca.org>. There will be a time with light refreshments after the presentations for residents to speak individually with the speakers.

We hope Great Falls senior citizens will benefit from this seminar and we hope their younger families and friends will learn about ways in which they can help. There is ample parking behind the church, but seating is limited. We hope a good cross section of the community can attend.

**Bill Canis**, President  
Great Falls Citizens Association



# Winter Fest Parade

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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 \$4,260<sup>1</sup>.
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 \$1,300<sup>1</sup>.
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 meter<sup>1</sup>.
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.

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

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$183.2 million budget for calendar year 2019<sup>1</sup>. 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)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 94,638</b>	<b>\$ 97,396</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

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

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates). A copy of the proposed budget can be found at [www.fairfaxwater.org](http://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.



# ART SHOW

# & SALE

Sat. & Sun.,  
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**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.**

PHOTO BY  
MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION

## 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, LC. 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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## 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  
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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.**  
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**Upscale Bowling & Movie**  
**Friday, Jan. 4, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

### Celebration of Lights

Celebrate the beginning of the season with Great Falls' Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Drink hot cider or cocoa next to the fire while listening to local children's choral groups sing seasonal music (starting 3:45). The petting zoo and pony rides will keep children busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck. Sunday, Dec. 2, 4-6:30 p.m. at Great Falls Village Field. Held rain or shine. Visit [celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights](http://celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights) for more.

### The lighting of the Christmas Tree at the 2017 Great Falls Celebration of Lights.



FILE PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD

The King's Kids Preschool from Christ the King Lutheran Church of Great Falls performs at the 2017 tree lighting.

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

to please all ages. Visit [www.Saxon-Stage.com](http://www.Saxon-Stage.com).

### ONGOING

#### Art Exhibit: "Walking the Path."

Through Nov. 30 in the large meeting room at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Featured artists include Pat Menster Neuman, Richard Masaniello, and Lesley Hackman. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/great-falls](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/great-falls) or call 703-757-8560.

### 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/](http://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](mailto: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

### 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](http://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, the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of *Indecent*. 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. Approximately 2 hours with one 15-minute intermission. Visit [www.1stStage.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).

#### Opening Reception: 500.

5-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 105 District Ave., Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) presents 500, a mixed-media show featuring the work of 13 TFAA member artists, from framed oil paintings to photography, all of the art is priced \$500 and under. Visit [www.torpedofactoryartists.com](http://www.torpedofactoryartists.com).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 30-SUNDAY/DEC. 2

**Tyson's 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](mailto: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.

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 10

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

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](http://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](http://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/](http://www.jlnv.org/tef/).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 2

**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. Drink hot cider or cocoa next to the fire while listening to local children's choral groups sing seasonal music (starting 3:45). 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](http://celebrategreatfalls.org/event/celebration-of-lights).

## 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 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](http://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/](http://mcleanscc.org/).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 7

**"Dining with Dorothy."** 12:30 p.m. at Tysons Corner Sakura Japanese Steak House, 8369 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Join with friends or make new ones. Newcomers are welcome. To reserve space contact event chair, Dorothy Flood at [dflood1706@gmail.com](mailto:dflood1706@gmail.com).

**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



## 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](http://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](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com) for more.

and gouache. Portraits of fresh flowers and handsome fruits and veggies. Free. Email [the\\_sculptor@hotmail.com](mailto:the_sculptor@hotmail.com) or visit [www.JanHeginbotham.com](http://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](http://www.brownpapertickets.com), and search for "feaste" (with "e" at the end).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 7-16

**A Christmas Carol.** Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2:30 p.m. at James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. In 1933, an unemployed Shakespearean actor and his manager run out of gas, and the townsfolk agree to supply them with some if they tell them the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim. This depression-era adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic truly brings this story to life. \$17. Tickets and more information at [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org).

## DEC. 7-JAN. 4

**Art Exhibit: Fleurs et Fruits.** Bank hours 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](mailto:the_sculptor@hotmail.com) or visit [www.JanHeginbotham.com](http://www.JanHeginbotham.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 8

**Puppy Nativity.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. 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](http://britepaths.org)). The "Peace Like a River" art exhibit also will be open in The Gallery at the church during the event. Free. Visit [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com).

**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 [www.mcleanboosters.org](http://www.mcleanboosters.org).

**Cookies and Cocoa with Santa.** 1-3 p.m. at Vienna Pediatric Dentistry, 301 Maple Ave. West, Suite 400, Vienna. Cookie decorating (gluten free options available), cocoa, Christmas music and most importantly, Santa. Parents are welcome to take pictures of their children with this special guest. Free, all are welcome. \*Consider bringing a small, unwrapped gift to donate to Toys for Tots. Call 703-938-6600 or visit [www.viennapediatricdentistry.com](http://www.viennapediatricdentistry.com).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9

**Christmas Market.** Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Shop for holiday hand-crafted gifts, fine art jewelry, nature photography, watercolors and homemade baked goods and sweets. The United Methodist Women will be providing Christmas gift wrapping services (morning drop-offs welcomed). Bring a camera and the kids to visit with Santa from 11-3 on Saturday. A majority of the profits will go to women and children's missions. Free admission. Call 703-759-3509 or visit [www.andrewchapelumc.org](http://www.andrewchapelumc.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. Shop for stocking stuffers, larger Christmas gifts, or treats for oneself. Free admission. Visit [lewinsville.org](http://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. Free. Visit [lewinsville.org](http://lewinsville.org) or call 703-356-7200.

## MONDAY/DEC. 10

**Film Screening: Straws.** 7-9 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Sierra Club will show Straws, a film about how plastic straws pollute beaches and oceans, litter streets, and wind up in landfills. Discussion follows film. Free. Email [s.weltz@yahoo.com](mailto:s.weltz@yahoo.com).

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*Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://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](http://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 [novareliefcenter.org](http://novareliefcenter.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/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 doohickeys (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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