



Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Kennedy Shelter off Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. It opened Dec. 14, 1986 as the South County Community Shelter and was renamed for Eleanor U. Kennedy in September 1989.

The single-story rectangular building housing Kennedy was built in 1918 and served as the Camp A. A. Humphreys Pump Station and Filter Building — water treatment — until 1970 when the treatment equipment was removed and it was effectively abandoned. Photo from 1985.

## The Journey Beyond ‘Three Hots and a Cot’

Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter helping homeless for 30 years.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

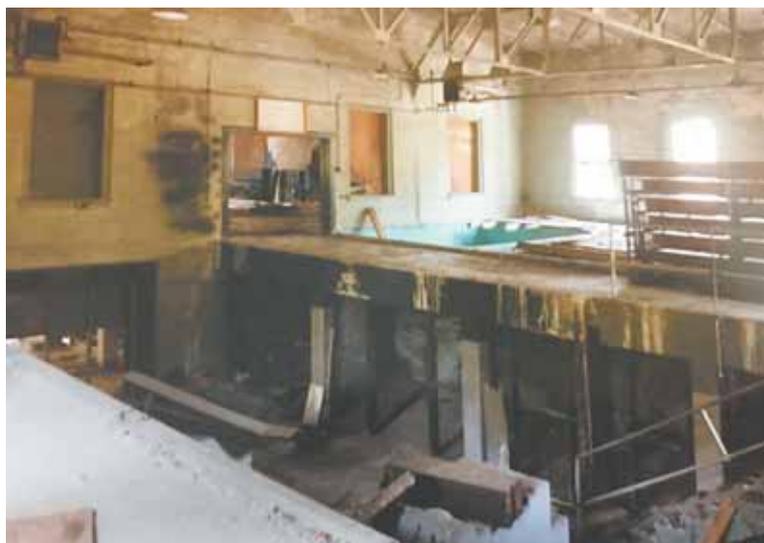
In late August, Mount Vernon resident “Maria” was released from the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center after being incarcerated for one year. Maria is in her late 20s and asked to remain anonymous. Due to her convictions, she couldn’t go back to live with either her mother or father. After getting out, she first went to live in a motel.

Maria’s probation officer recommended she contact the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway. On Sept. 13, she got a bed at Kennedy.

“They welcomed me with open arms,” Maria said.

At Kennedy, Maria met with a case manager and employment manager. Within two weeks, she secured a job in the Merrifield area. She takes public transportation for a commute that lasts 45 minutes each way, but she loves having the work.

Now, Maria said she’s been clean of drugs and alcohol for one year and five months, and is pursuing several leads for independent housing. The road hasn’t been easy.



Fairfax County began leasing the former water treatment facility in 1986 for housing homeless people, which required significant exterior and interior renovations. Photo from 1985.

Recently, she said, “I was on the verge of giving up on everything, about to quit.”

But Maria called her mother, who told her she had come too far to do that.

“I shook myself, I didn’t want to relapse, I’ve gotta move on,” she said.

Maria said she has a strong support system, and owes much to the staff at Kennedy, who provide her with dinner and a bag lunch, and

a lot of encouragement.

“They’re not here to shut you down and judge you,” Maria said, “but help you get back to the real world. They’re very positive. I see all these people here and I don’t want to let them down.”

The Kennedy Shelter is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. It opened Dec. 14, 1986 as the South County Community Shelter and was renamed for Eleanor U. Kennedy in September 1989. But

the building dates back further than that.

The single-story rectangular building housing Kennedy was built in 1918 and served as the Camp A. A. Humphreys Pump Station and Filter Building — water treatment — until 1970 when the treatment equipment was removed and it was effectively abandoned.

Fairfax County began leasing the former water treatment facility in 1986 for housing homeless people, which required significant exterior and interior renovations.

The shelter has been run by the Mount Vernon-based nonprofit New Hope Housing, which staffs it with seven case managers and former shelter director-now director of programs for single adults Tonya Golden.

New Hope Housing executive director Pam Michell said that in the 1970s and ’80s, just getting

people safe in a shelter was the priority — to provide them “three hots and a cot.”

Now, Michell said, “the shelter is a tool, we’re more focused on finding housing than ever before. And always the emphasis is on employment.”

To that end, Kennedy has these figures to show since their fiscal year began on July 1:

- ❖ 65 clients moved to market rate housing;
- ❖ 8 clients moved in with family, thanks sometimes to mediation from New Hope Housing;
- ❖ 7 clients moved to permanent supportive housing (PSH);
- ❖ 2 clients moved to public housing;
- ❖ 1 client moved with a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV);
- ❖ 1 client moved to assisted living.

Overall, Kennedy has housed 84

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# Happy Holidays

During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to our communities and to our clients. From our family to yours, we hope your holidays are filled with warmth and cheer.

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# Catching Drunken Drivers

## Grant funds new DWI Enforcement Squad.

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE GAZETTE

**A** new squad of police officers has started patrolling the county and they have only one mission: to combat impaired driving.

The new Fairfax County Police Department DWI Enforcement Squad began working on Dec. 1 and are averaging several DWI arrests per night.

You'll know who they are by their cruisers, which are specifically marked with "DWI Enforcement Squad," said 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Dana Ferreira, who runs the squad.

The nine officers who were chosen for the squad have a prowess for catching those who drive while drunk. The officers averaged a total of 241 DWI arrests during the past seven years.

The squad will work from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. in four-day rotations throughout the county eight patrol districts. As a team, the squad will be deployed each night to focus on two districts per shift.

"Our crime analysts will pull problem areas for us," Ferreira said.

The department has wanted to create the team of specialized patrollers for several years, but were unable to find the budget to do so until a federal grant was awarded.

The squad is operating under the Traffic Division of the department's Operations Support Bureau. However, the equipment and salaries have been paid for by a \$984,785 grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Expenditures that are not covered by the federal grant are the squad's vehicle maintenance and fuel.

"Every year, we have to reauthorize and reapply for the grant if we decide to continue with this program," says Ferreira.

The department has a desire to keep it going, according to Lt. Eli Cory, who is the assistant commander of the FCPD's Traffic Division.

"However we can continue it, we're going to pursue that, whether it's grant or other funds," says Cory.

Without the grant, the squad would be a large financial undertaking.

All the new positions in the new squad were filled by pulling existing officers out of their assigned communities where they patrolled the streets in the department's patrol bureaus or the bike team, according to Ferreira.

But the holes that the new positions left in the street will be filled by new officers, according to Lt. Eli Cory, who is the assistant commander of the FCPD's Traffic Division.

The desire for the squad came from a need in the community, says Cory.

Statistically speaking, DWIs have gone down in the county but the department has seen drug use increase.

Last year, there were 522 crashes caused by impaired driving in the county, according to Officer Megan Hawkins, a spokesperson for the department. There has been less this year, with 461 as of Dec. 13.

That's a 12 percent decrease.

"Although DWIs are down, we want to address the impaired driving while under the influence of drugs," Cory said.

"Whether it's marijuana, heroin, cocaine or anything that affects your ability to clearly operate a motor vehicle, it's something we need to address in the county," said Cory.

The squad will receive special training so the squad can handle drug-related incidents. Squad members will receive advanced training in DWI detection, drug recognition, and effective testimony to ensure successful prosecution.

"We chose officers for this assignment that not only are effective at enforcement, but also effective in prosecution and conviction," said Ferreira. "We're not only taking people off the street, but we're going to successfully convict them in court."

To ensure they stay that way, they will be regularly working with the Commonwealth's Attorney General's Office to receive trainings so that they are up-to-date on case law.

The team will be certified as Drug Recognition Experts through the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program. The training requirements for certification have been established by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"In Virginia, the number of DRE certified officers is in the single digits," said Ferreira. "Our entire team will eventually receive that

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left are Akira Brown, Alexandria Housing First case manager; Pamela Michell, executive director of New Hope Housing; and Lance Flowers, outreach counselor for Max's Place.

## New Hope Receives Grant

**N**ew Hope Housing, a nonprofit organization that provides housing and shelter for families and single adults in Alexandria, Fairfax County, Falls Church and Arlington, was the recipient of a \$7,500 grant awarded recently by the Dominion Foundation, the charitable arm of Dominion Resources. The grant from Dominion will be used to help the nonprofit operate

three group homes that have rooms for 22 chronically homeless adults.

According to Pamela Michell, executive director of New Hope Housing, "chronically homeless" describes adults who have been homeless over one year or had four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years and have a disabling condition.

Visit [www.newhopehousing.org](http://www.newhopehousing.org).

# Sheriff's Deputy Cleared in Fatal Shooting

## Commonwealth's Attorney: homicide was justified self-defense.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**I**n a decision released Dec. 16, Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh cleared Fairfax County Master Deputy Sheriff Patrick McPartlin of any criminal wrongdoing in the fatal shooting of Yovani Amaya Gomez that took place Aug. 15 outside Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Morrogh's decision comes after receiving the results of the Fairfax County Police Department criminal investigation on Nov. 15.

McPartlin was one of the sheriff deputies involved in the death of inmate Natasha McKenna at the the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. McKenna, a woman with a history of mental illness, died in February 2015, a few days after she was restrained, shackled, hooded and shocked with a taser four times in an attempt to move her to the Alexandria jail. Morrogh decided against

any charges against the deputies, including McPartlin, in that case as well.

Police had previously released some details of the chain of events leading up to McPartlin shooting Gomez in August. Morrogh's report added further information to the timeline, which included Gomez being taken in for medical attention for possible dehydration and/or mental health episode, and his discharge with no diagnosis for either. After being escorted to the bus stop outside Inova by a security guard, another pair of guards responded to a report of Gomez wielding a weapon.

Gomez hurt one of the guards, Morrogh says, who also requested backup from law enforcement. MDS McPartlin was one of two deputies guarding a prisoner at the hospital and responded to the call for help.

Gomez charged at McPartlin, who Morrogh says attempted to back up and then began firing.

**MORROGH'S REPORT** quotes McPartlin as saying, "... before I shot I think I was trying to get back but he was too close so I had to shoot."

McPartlin did not remember giving Gomez any commands prior to shooting, Morrogh says, though other guards who were at the scene said the deputy did ask Gomez to calm down and stop charging and put the apparent weapon down.

Earlier in the day, Gomez first approached Fairfax County Police officer K. Woodward in his cruiser on Little River Turnpike on what was an extremely hot afternoon. Morrogh said it was clear to Fairfax County Police officer K. Woodward that "Mr. Gomez did not speak English proficiently."

Woodward attempted to ask him if he wanted to hurt himself using the Google Translate cell phone app. Woodward had

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## Award Recipients

The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce's Dec. 16 Holiday Business Awards Celebration included recognizing the following: The new business award honors a business that opened in the past year and is achieving success: AdvantaClean Lorton, Manassas, Fredericksburk and owner Dan Derbes. The best small business of the year is Cedar Knoll Restaurant. The best mid-size business of the year is Dominion Surveyors Inc. The non-profit organization of the year is Christian Relief Services. The large business of the year is Andrews Federal Credit Union. The rising star award recognizes someone under 40 who is making significant contributions to the chamber and community. The first recipient of this award is Kimberly Baldy, marketing manager of Springfield Town Center.

The chamber event held a '50s contest. The winners were: Channing and Andrew Holden, Cedar Knoll Restaurant; and Jason and Christina Hunt, Roy Rogers Restaurants.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Installation of new officers and board members for the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce by past chairman George Ksenics.

# DWI Squad

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certification when training comes out."

The DRE training is designed to help officers determine if an individual is under the influence of drugs other than alcohol, or the combined influence of alcohol and other drugs, or suffering from some injury or illness that produces similar signs to alcohol and drug impairment.

While prosecution is paramount to the squad, voluntary compliance is the best way to combat impaired driving.

"Our ultimate goal is not making arrests, but is actually reducing the number of crashes in the county," said Ferreira. "If we had a year where we didn't make a single DWI arrest and didn't have a single impairment accident, I'd call that a success."

**DURING THE HOLIDAYS**, the department has been circulating flyers to promote the SoberRide program where festive party goers who are 21 and up can call and get a free ride home if they are not able to drive themselves. The program allows for rides up to a \$30 fare between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. through New Year's Day by calling 1-800-200-TAXI.

The temptation for drivers to get behind the wheel after drinking during holiday festivities was evidenced when the department's own chief of police was struck by a drunken driver last week.

The following day, he gave a press conference. Chief Col. Edwin Roessler Jr. said: "Drinking and driving don't mix ... Spend a little money and plan," he said. "Take a taxi. Don't get behind a wheel. You're going to kill someone."

One of the most visible things the department does to deter drivers from disobeying DWI laws is through sobriety checkpoints.

"If you look at statistics from other states that don't employ DWI checkpoints, you can see that their DWI crash rates and fatality rates are much higher than Virginia and other states that utilize DWI checkpoints," Cory said.

Primarily, the squad will be on the street looking for traffic safety issues, including DWIs, speeding, reckless driving and distracted driving.

"I'd far rather call a family member and tell them that their loved one has been arrested than tell them that they've been injured or killed in an accident," Ferreira said. "If it takes me bringing someone to jail and taking their freedom even only temporarily to get them off of the roads so they don't harm themselves or someone else, it's entirely worth it to me."

# Man Dies from House Fire

**O**n Saturday, Dec. 3, at approximately 3:47 p.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue units responded for reports of a house fire in the 3700 block of Logan Court.

Upon arrival, firefighters observed a one story, single family home with smoke showing from all sides of the structure. Units brought the fire under control. During a search of the residence, firefighters discovered an unresponsive occupant of the home. The occupant, Jack Darris Thomas, 82, was transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries. He later succumbed to his injuries. In addition, a family cat perished in the fire.

The fire was reported by a neighbor who saw smoke coming from the home and called 911. One occupant was home at the time of the fire. There was a smoke alarm present, however, it is unknown if it activated. There were no reported firefighter injuries. Red Cross assistance was declined.

Investigation revealed that the fire originated in



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The house fire was accidental, caused by an electrical event involving a wall outlet, according to fire officials.**

one of the bedrooms. The fire was accidental in nature, caused by an electrical event involving a wall outlet.

A contributing factor to the cause of the fire was the improper use of extension cords and surge protectors. Damages, as a result of the fire, are estimated at \$18,750.

*The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.*

## CRIME REPORT

**ROBBERY:** Lockheed Boulevard/Fairchild Drive. Dec. 17, 12:30 a.m. A man and woman were approached by another man who displayed a handgun and demanded money. The victims handed over property and were not injured. The suspect fled east on Lockheed Boulevard. He was described as black, 30 to 35 years old, tall and thin. He was wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt and black pants.

**ASSAULT ON A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ATTEMPT TO DISARM A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/RESISTING ARREST/WARRANT SERVICE/ARREST:** 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue, Dec. 17 around 3:30 p.m. A patrol officer saw a man walking in the area and recognized him as having an outstanding arrest warrant. An investigation confirmed he was wanted on criminal charges. When the officer attempted to take the suspect into custody, the suspect resisted and the two began fighting. During the struggle, the suspect grabbed hold of the officer's gun holster. The officer utilized his baton and was able to gain control of the suspect until responding officers arrived and helped him restrain the suspect. A 23-year-old man from Alexandria was taken to the adult detention center and charged with assault on a law enforcement officer, attempting to disarm a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest and the outstanding warrant for failure to appear in court was served. The suspect declined medical attention at the scene but was examined by medical staff at the jail. The officer did not require medical attention.

**ROBBERY:** 8200 block of Richmond Highway. Dec. 17, 4:56 p.m. A 26-year-old man was walking alone when he was approached by three men who punched the victim and threw him to the ground. The suspects searched the victim's pockets, stole his cell phone and then ran away. The victim did not require medical attention. Fairfax 1 and a

K9 team joined patrol officers in an extensive search of the area. At least one suspect was located about an hour later. The investigation continues.

**BURGLARY:** 6600 block of Tower Drive. Dec. 16, 12:35 a.m. A resident heard the sound of breaking glass in the living room and went to investigate. When the victim turned on a light, the suspect, who had been trying to get in through a window, ran off. The victim was not injured. There is no suspect description.

**BURGLARY:** 6600 Tower Drive, Dec. 16, around 12:40 a.m. A woman heard glass breaking in another area of her home. She walked over and saw someone trying to climb through a window. When she confronted the suspect, the suspect fled. There is no suspect description. The victim did not require medical attention.

**ROBBERY:** 7200 Fordson Road (Quality Inn), Dec. 15 around 10:44 p.m. Two men entered and demanded money from two employees. One suspect jumped over the counter; the other displayed a gun. The victims complied and the suspects fled with an undisclosed amount of money. The victims did not require medical attention.

**ROBBERY:** 7200 block of Fordson Road. Dec. 15, 8:44 p.m. Two men walked into the lobby of the Quality Inn Hotel, displayed handguns and demanded money from two employees. The suspects fled with an undisclosed amount of money and the employees were not injured. The suspects were both described as black, in their 20s. One suspect was approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall and around 150 pounds. The other suspect was approximately 5 feet 9 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall, and around 130 to 150 pounds. Both were wearing all black and masks.

**ROBBERY:** 8700 block of Richmond Highway. Dec. 12, 8:44 p.m. A man walked into the Subway restaurant and sat down. Moments later he got up, took

out a handgun, grabbed an unknown amount of cash from the register and ran out of the store. There were no injuries. The suspect was described as white, 18 to 25 years old, 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 10 inches tall, and 145 to 165 pounds. He was wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

**BURGLARY:** 8100 block of Keeler Street, between 6 p.m. Dec. 8 and 8 a.m. Dec. 9. A home was burglarized and several tools were reported missing.

**ROBBERY:** Tamarind Street/Janna Lee Avenue, Dec. 8, around 8 a.m. A woman reported that while standing at the bus stop, a man grabbed her, took her phone, and ran off. The suspect was described as Hispanic, 24 to 28 years old, approximately 5 feet 7 to 5 feet 9 inches, and 130 to 160 pounds. The victim did not require medical attention.

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:** 6100 North Kings Highway (7-Eleven), Dec. 3, around 5:10 a.m. A man entered the convenience store, displayed a handgun, and demanded cash from an employee. The suspect took cash and cigarettes and fled on foot. The victim did not require medical attention. The suspect was described as black, about 30 to 35 years old, approximately 140 to 160 pounds. He was wearing a black jacket and pants, a grey mask and gloves.

**ROBBERY:** 3900 Sonora Place, Dec. 3, around 12:37 a.m. The victim was walking when he was approached by two men. One suspect displayed a knife and demanded money. The victim attempted to flee and dropped his phone. The victim was assaulted by one of the suspects but did not require rescue. The suspects fled on foot. The first suspect was described as black, 20 to 25 years old, 5 feet 11 inches to 6 feet tall, and 160 to 180 pounds. He was wearing a gray jacket. The second suspect was described as black, 20 to 25 years old, 6 feet to 6 feet 1 inches tall, and 170 to

SEE CRIME, PAGE 16



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# Journey Beyond 'Three Hots and a Cot'

FROM PAGE 1

clients since July, 12 of whom were veterans.

Since the end of November, Kennedy has also been a no turn-away site for Fairfax County's hypothermia prevention program each night. Do to the already strained size of the shelter, the men must go into a trailer off to the side of the main building and the women sleep on the floor of the dining area.

"There's not a lot of space here," Golden said, pointing out what is immediately clear walking through the shelter. Michell described Kennedy as "bursting at the seams." Not to mention the historic building isn't Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant and more closely resembles a fall-out shelter than emergency housing.

Those seams will eventually get some relief, however, thanks to the Human Services and Community Development bond that was passed by voters in the November election.

The \$85 million out of a total \$312 million for all the bond questions is dedicated for a couple pur-

poses according to Fairfax County: replacing the Sully Senior Center and building a new Lorton Community Center (\$37 million), and to "renovate, expand or replace four emergency shelters for people who are homeless: Patrick Henry, Embry Rucker, Eleanor Kennedy and Bailey's (\$48 million)."

Unfortunately for Kennedy, the historic and environmental significance of the current structure and land upon which it sits make it impossible to either expand or tear down and rebuild on the same property.

Which means Fairfax County needs to find a new location for the shelter. Michell said the search is underway. Finding the right balance, she said, will be difficult. "What's important is to be close to public transportation and access to things you need, like the South County Government Center, mental health facilities and shopping centers," Michell said.

That means not being in the middle of a neighborhood, which also presents problems due to the ever-changing population at Kennedy.

"We do have some clients with

numerous barriers: We provide service to sexual offenders, violent offenders," said Golden. "So we have to consider that in being close to schools, daycares."

What Michell and Golden are certain of is that the new Kennedy should include a combination of both shelter space and temporary to permanent housing — think efficiencies and one-bedroom apartments — critical for helping individuals transition from shelter life.

Both women said this model has been extremely successful at the Bailey's Community Shelter in Falls Church and Mondloch Place, which has 20 efficiencies housing 20 chronically homeless single adults who now pay rent and have signed leases.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is seeking volunteers to participate in a free, non-profit program, offered in conjunction with the IRS, that provides tax filing assistance to people of low- and middle-income, with special attention paid to those aged 60-plus. Training will be available in December and January to help taxpayers Feb. 1-April 18, 2017. Visit [www.aarp.org/taxaide](http://www.aarp.org/taxaide).

**Sponsors Needed.** Britepaths Family Sponsoring, Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread) is seeking community members to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with an individual or family with demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal, and/or gifts for children under 18. Cash donations and gift cards are welcome to assist those who are not sponsored. Britepaths is expecting to have 3,000 households on its assistance list. A great family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at <http://britepaths.org>. Contact 703-273-8829 or [hpassist@britepaths.org](mailto:hpassist@britepaths.org).

## SECOND WEDNESDAYS

**Art Making as Meditation.** 7-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Art making as meditation can be an active form of contemplative practice. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Call 703-360-4220, email [info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org](mailto:info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org) or visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening).

## ONGOING

**Peer Facilitated Mental Health Support Group** 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For now, though, Golden said the clients feel safe at Kennedy.

"We've been making it work all these years," she said. "But I do feel hopeful, we'll be able to find a property and build on it."

For more information, visit [www.newhopehousing.org](http://www.newhopehousing.org) and [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention/emergency-shelter.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention/emergency-shelter.htm).

Those seeking shelter can call Fairfax County coordinated services planning at 703-222-0880. Anyone who sees or knows of an individual in need of shelter can call the Fairfax County Police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131 and an officer will be sent to pick them up and transport to a shelter.

Thursdays at the Gartlan Behavioral Health Center, 8119 Holland Road. Facilitated by trained peers with lived-experience dealing with mental health challenges. 571-414-9072 [sharonmartinbsa@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonmartinbsa@yahoo.com)

## Mount Vernon Preservation Challenge

George Washington's Mount Vernon has embarked upon a special year-end fundraising campaign that will help ensure the ongoing preservation of the estate of this nation's first president. As the country's most popular historic home, Mount Vernon does not accept government funding, instead relying upon donations from patriotic individuals and organizations. Through the Preservation Challenge, Mount Vernon hopes to raise enough money to perform critical repairs and restoration work on original structures located in the historic area. The funds raised through the Mount Vernon Preservation Challenge will support the following projects:

- The Spring House:** This building currently does not have a roof. Money originally slated for this project was reassigned to perform emergency repairs in the Mansion.
- The Ice House:** There is a serious crack in the masonry that may result in long-term structural damage if not promptly addressed.
- The Mansion:** Mount Vernon has just begun a five-year "rustication" project, which is the method used in George Washington's time of cutting, beveling, and sand-casting wood siding to make it appear as if it is stone.

For more information, visit [www.mountvernon.org/donate](http://www.mountvernon.org/donate).

## TUESDAY/JAN. 17

**Heroin-Opioid Dependency Information.** 7-9 p.m. at Merrifield Center, 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board is hosting a public information session for people who know someone who has opioid or heroin dependency and learn about a new CSB opioid dependency treatment group that starts in February. 703-324-7006.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 8

**School Open House.** 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit [www.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.org) for more.

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# Seasons & Greetings HAPPY NEW YEAR

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## Fairfax Police Reform Is Well Underway

BY PHILLIP NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER

COMMENTARY

I endorse the Connection Newspaper's recent editorial on the progress Fairfax County has made implementing the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, on which I had the honor of serving as chairman of the Use of Force Subcommittee. I have had the opportunity to interact with many members of the Fairfax Police Department, ranging from commanders to precinct-level supervisors and officers, all of whom I hold in high regard. We have a fine police department that we are fortunate to have protecting us day-in and day-out.

While the August 2013 shooting death of John Geer was the catalyst for the commission's formation, our charge was to assess the Department's performance against national best practices. As we executed against this charge, we identified both areas for improvement and mechanisms we believed would strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the department.

Forming a commission is a time-honored tool by public officials to delay action — or avoid it altogether — since there are always significant barriers to achieving change to deep-rooted organizational practices, traditions and culture. I commend both the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and the Police Department, particularly its chief and command leadership, with ensuring that the Police Commission's work is not sitting on the shelf gathering dust.

With my seven-month commission experience and a year's worth of persistent focus on implementation alongside a dedicated subset of fellow commissioners, I can state without reservation that both the letter and spirit of the commission's recommendations have been embraced by Fairfax County.

Fairfax County is well on the way toward approving and implementing the preponderance of the commission's recommendations. Of

note in this regard are the following:

- ❖ The two-pronged approach to independent Police Department oversight advocated by the commission and recently approved by the Board of Supervisors is significant in light of historical resistance to civilian review of police actions.

- ❖ The changes directed by the supervisors and Chief Roessler with regard to the Police Department's openness and transparency are substantial and have already helped regain the public trust lost, in part, because of the dismal handling of the Geer case.

- ❖ The county's investment in Diversion First, which provides treatment rather than jail for nonviolent people with mental illness, and broad-based police officer training in crisis intervention techniques, are already paying dividends. Those with mental illness are being treated with greater sensitivity to their affliction, easing the potential for unnecessary suffering, while also reducing the potential for officer injuries and the need for the use of force. Ultimately, this will also help insure a more effective use of tax dollars.

As important and forward leaning as these steps are, I believe the recrafting and rewriting of the Police Department's Use of Force policy, also known as General Order 540, warrants particular note. The new Use of Force policy encompasses the commission recommendations, which also incorporated use-of-force recommendations made by the independent Police Executive Research Forum. It gives emphasis to the sanctity of human life, dignity and liberty of all persons as its overarching value or driving theme; and it calls for de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of deadly force.

Every member of the Fairfax Police Department, from command leadership to police of-

icer will receive training under General Order 540 by the end of January, 2017. Police officer performance will be assessed against the standards set in this policy, while recruitment and vetting of police officer candidates will focus on the abilities and temperament that comport with the values captured therein.

While the preponderance of our recommendations have been approved and are being implemented, there are exceptions. For example, we called for all officers being outfitted with body worn cameras, to complement the dashboard cameras now mounted in each patrol vehicle. We believe such cameras will benefit both the public and the police officer. The supervisors delayed consideration of this recommendation for important matters of budget and privacy concerns, which I believe will ultimately be overcome.

I encourage everyone who is interested to review the Police Commission recommendations progress report at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/progressreport.htm>. In summary, you will find that 178 of the 202 recommendations (88 percent) have been approved and are either in process of being implemented or have already been implemented; 15 (7.4 percent) are still under review; and 9 (4.5 percent) have been rejected.

The evidence so far is that the deep-rooted change of the nature and spirit advocated by the commission is more achievable now than even the most optimistic expected. This noted, I caution that the transformative progress I have observed can only be sustained over time with the continued county and Police Department leadership commitment, the active involvement of the police rank and file officers and most critically continued community participation, monitoring and oversight.

*Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner served as chairman of the Use of Force Subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, and continues service on the Implementation Committee.*

## Quality Education at a 'Wise' Cost

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

Winter break is good time for our high school seniors to focus on college. My message to them as a member of the General Assembly is that there are a number of wonderful opportunities among our public institutions here in Virginia. It's important to many of our constituents to find that balance between a high-quality and affordable education. You might want to consider The University of Virginia at Wise (UVA-Wise). It is a top ranked college with financial aid programs that keep students out of crippling debt. The college has the third lowest tuition and fees of the 15 public four-year institutions in Virginia. In fact, more than 80 percent of the students receive financial aid through scholarships made possible by private donors.

The college is highly ranked in a variety of programs from the liberal arts to software engineering to nursing. UVA-Wise is ranked first in the nation for public liberal arts colleges that

graduate students with the least amount of debt and has been in the top 20 for over five years. UVA-Wise also offers Virginia's only four-year program for software engineering, accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABATE). The graduates have 100 percent job placement.

A related computer science program, along with the software engineering program, concentrates more on cyber security education to meet increased demands in the private sector. There are thousands of job opportunities in cyber security in Virginia that cannot be filled for lack of an educated workforce. Also, the nursing program has an excellent pass rate on state board exams. A recent class had a 100 percent passing rate, a rare feat for nursing programs across the nation.

In addition to its accredited and successful programs and excellent financial aid, the college supports undergraduate research. These research programs link undergraduate students with faculty across curriculum. Funded with private money, undergraduate research pro-

grams give students real world experience and an advantage in graduate school as well.

UVA-Wise also supports international study programs with an affordable price tag. Multiple opportunities to study abroad include short-term, faculty-led trips (1-2 weeks) or a semester or year abroad at one of the College's international partners. Private donor scholarships are available for many of the study abroad trips making it possible for undergraduate students to experience and learn about another culture, to gain an international perspective, and to develop confidence in their own abilities.

Overall, UVA-Wise is an excellent college option for many students across the commonwealth, and especially for our young people in Northern Virginia who are looking for a quality education at a reasonable price. Out of the 95 counties in the commonwealth, the college has students from all but five counties demonstrating how the college is doing its part to serve the Commonwealth by offering a quality education at a Wise cost.

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A Connection Newspaper





PHOTO BY WENDI SCHWEIGER

**100 Years Old**

On Dec. 16, Samuel Joseph White (center) toasts to his 100th birthday at Spring Hills Mt. Vernon Assisted Living with his son Rufus and daughter-in-law Marjory. He joined the Army in 1941 and was stationed in Africa and Europe with the 41st Engineers during World War II. In 1945 he received an honorable discharge and worked at Government Printing until he retired.

**Church Supports Women’s March**

At its monthly December meeting, the board of trustees of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church voted to support the Jan. 21 Women’s March on Washington D.C.

The Rev. Dr. Kate Walker offered her support and leadership: “With the upcoming Women’s March on Washington it is important to publicly demonstrate support for all those being targeted with sexist, racist, ableist and other xenophobic language by leaders in our beloved country. These are morally challenging times in our country. As Unitarian Universalists we have long stood for basic rights of all people, full

equality and generosity of spirit. “When these values are threatened as they are now, we recognize the need for protest and being allies with those most impacted. The Women’s March on Washington is an important opportunity to hold up our values in the heart of our democracy on a weekend when millions around the world will be watching how our country holds to our democratic values. Members and friends of Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church will be present on this important moment in history.”

For more information, contact Walker at minister@mvinc.org .



PHOTO BY KATHERINE HOFFMAN

**Festive**

Preparing holiday decorations for three Waynewood community signs are Garden Club of Waynewood members Cindy Johnson, Marjie Morris, Barbara Bulleit, and Patsy Morrison. The signs are decorated annually as part of the club’s community involvement and service projects. The Garden Club of Waynewood, which meets monthly at the Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, has a history of community involvement and service projects.

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# Holiday Grief Workshop helps others deal with loss.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

The holiday season is bittersweet for Jeanne Rorke. The days leading up to Christmas are filled with memories of her parents. Her mother committed suicide when Rorke was 12, and her father died on Christmas Eve eight years ago.

"No one really helped me through the grieving process," said Rorke, recalling her mother's death. "My family was like, 'Don't talk about it.' ... My Christmases have always been kind of sad ... even though I put on a happy face for my family."

Rorke joined about two dozen others at a workshop on handling grief during the holidays called, "Facing the Empty Chair: Surviving the Holidays after Losing a Loved One" at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. From those who are preparing to celebrate a first Christmas without a loved one to those who've been grieving for decades, participants shared experiences, supported each other and gained tools for surviving the season while facing the reality of the empty chair in which their loved one once sat.

"The holidays can be time of longing for those who've lost someone," said Carey Gauzens, a licensed clinical social worker at the Center for Pastoral Counseling of Virginia in McLean. "The holidays are a time when you reflect on family, and it's hard for someone who's aware that that person isn't there."

At the workshop, Gauzens clarified some of the misinformation surrounding grief, especially during the holidays. "First and most important, is that normal grieving is really hard for most people. Some people believe the myth that grief lasts only for a few months, but it's hard to measure your healing because it's an up and down process, not a smooth, straight line."

**THROUGHOUT** the process, and particularly during the holidays, being able to tap into a source of strength other than oneself is a factor that Gauzen underscores: "It's important to have a support group, friends, a therapist."

Finding someone who is also grieving can be particularly helpful. For example, when Beverly Bell's husband died nine years ago following an extended illness, she found strength and comfort in a friendship with another widow.

"[We] had a wonderful relationship ... for several years following my husband's death," said Bell, who attended the workshop. "We had a regular lunch date and also shared a number of holidays. She also died a couple of years ago, and I realized that I am particularly missing her presence."

Earlier this year, Bell's brother died as well. "I found myself re-experiencing many of the feelings I had had when my husband died, [but feeling] particularly helpless to comfort my sister-in-law," she said. "Perhaps [my] presence is the most important thing I can ... offer my sister-in-law."

Some of the workshop attendees wanted to learn

how to better support others. "I am a member of the Community of Hope International, a group of lay pastoral caregivers whose ministry is to visit those who are experiencing sickness, trauma, tragedy or loss of a loved one," said Caroline McCormack, one of the participants. "I wanted to have a better understanding of the grieving process, so I might be a more compassionate listener."

She and Bell learned that process is different for everyone. "My husband's death was preceded by a long illness. My brother's death was sudden," said Bell. "I wondered if something about the timing made a difference in how we experience and cope with grief. I learned that it really does not."

"... We all experience grief in different ways and it can show up at unexpected times and places and so we need to be gentle with ourselves and find ways that we can express our grief in ways that feel healing and safe for us," added Reverend Elizabeth Rees, associate rector, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

This is a point Gauzens tried to underscore: Grieving is an individual process and there is no one-size-fits-all method for coping. Even people who are grieving for the same person can experience it differently and have different needs. "For example, one person might want to talk about the loss, but others might not," she said. "It's important to be sensitive to family members who grieve differently and compromise so that each person feels emotionally safe."

Cultivating self-awareness and knowing what is normal to expect while one is grieving is important. "Sometimes the symptoms are so intense it makes people feel like they're going crazy and frightens them sometimes," said Gauzens. "They might cry at the drop of a hat, get angry or feel unable to control their emotions. There could become deeply distracted or confused like get lost going someplace they know well."

"Give yourself permission to make careful decisions about how you'll spend your time," she added. "It's helpful to discern within yourself what feels right. Decide whether to maintain holiday traditions or do something completely different."

Avoiding all festive, social activities might do more harm than good, however. "A person who's grieving might end up isolating because they won't go to places they once went to with the person they've lost," said Gauzens.

Instead, Gauzens suggests planning "something to look forward to after the holiday to reward yourself for getting through the holidays."

She also stressed the need for self-care, including exercising, eating healthy and staying hydrated. "It's important to minimize your use of mood altering substances like alcohol," said Gauzens. "It's tempting to try to numb the pain, but it comes back."

Changing customs can make holidays less painful, says Dr. Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology, Marymount University in Arlington. "I like to break with traditions that are familiar and that remind us of the loved one we lost," she said. "Sometimes it's good to shake it up and start a new tradition, so you're looking forward instead of behind you."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREY GAUZENS  
**Carey Gauzens of the the Center for Pastoral Counseling of Virginia in McLean, led a workshop on grieving during the holidays at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria.**

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- Burke Connection
- Centre View
- Chantilly Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Dorton/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Dalton Connection

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

## Savoring Results of 2016's Restaurant Debuts

By HOPE NELSON  
THE GAZETTE

2016 has been quite a busy year for the Alexandria food scene. Here are several of the restaurants that have made their debut over the past 12 months and how they're faring today.

### Hank's Pasta Bar, 600 Montgomery St.

Of all the restaurant openings in 2016, perhaps none has arrived with as much fanfare as Hank's Pasta Bar in North Old Town. The younger sibling to the popular Hank's Oyster Bar has flourished over the ensuing months since it opened during winter's final months, and the dining room still sports a busy scene nearly every night of the week.

For a hearty, filling meal in a deceptively small package, choose the wild mushroom lasagna, which is teeming with a rich Bechamel sauce in between layers of mushrooms and pasta. Gloriously rich, it's sure to warm you during these cold winter months. Or for something down-home and pure comfort food, you'd do well to order the spaghetti and meatballs, which is just as pure and well-known as you'd expect.

### Junction Bakery and Bistro, 1508 Mount Vernon Ave.

To be sure, Junction had big shoes to fill when it took over the old Mancini's location this summer. And while it may have taken some longtime Del Ray residents a little while to adjust to the new face in town, adjust they did — the café on the corner of Mount Vernon and Monroe avenues is now a bustling epicenter of foot traffic, especially on the weekends.

Though Junction is now open until 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday (and 2 p.m. on Sunday), brunch is where it's at. Head chef Nathan Hatfield makes each biscuit sing and has



Junction Bakery and Bistro has made its home in the old Mancini's space over the past half-year.

### Don Taco on King Street has become a popular happy hour haunt.

Walk into Don Taco right after work on a weekday and — quick — grab a table while the restaurant is still wide-open. Wait an hour or two and you'll find a much more crowded scene, one that only grows in popularity as the hours tick by and evening turns to nighttime. From the moment Don Taco moved into the old Flat Iron space on King Street this spring, its concept — handheld, shareable tacos and other dishes — has resonated with Alexandria's diners.

Grab some friends and order up a passel of tacos for the table. And be sure not to miss the Buffalo chicken, banh mi pork, fried avocado, and chipotle quinoa sweet potato varieties — the mix-and-match approach is sure to please all palates. While you're at it, put a request in for some fresh guacamole — while many guacs are often overrated, Don Taco's is on point. Scope out the tequila list and toast to a happy 2017.

### Don Taco, 808 King St.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

come up with some innovative takes on the now-popular avocado toast. The Country sandwich perches egg and sausage atop a cheddar-and-chive biscuit (you'll be satisfied, but wish you had room for more light, airy biscuits); the Sicily toast perches artichokes and onion atop a hearty sourdough. You can't go wrong with either.

### Thanida Thai, 835 N. Royal St.

This summer, Thanida Thai reclaimed the building that had housed the longstanding Thailand Royal Street prior to the latter's relocation several years ago, and the surrounding neighborhood has welcomed owners Jaruvan "Yui" Simuang and Songyodh "Noom" Tantiyangkul with open

arms. If the flavors of Thanida harken back to its predecessor, there's good reason: Tantiyangkul worked alongside Thailand Royal's owner for several years, and he has brought those lessons to the kitchen.

Fast-forward just a few months since Thanida's June opening, and it's easy to see the restaurant's success. The dining room has steady traffic night after night, as does the front desk, which doubles as a waystation for takeout orders. The restaurant's pad Thai is a point of pride — simultaneously smooth and substantive, it's a wonderful starting point for newcomers to Thai cuisine — as is Thanida's array of curries, from panang to red to green. Choose a protein and enjoy the result.

## 2016 HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Volunteer Alexandria is looking for volunteers to host a **Christmas food drive**, donate a food basket for a single adult or family and donate grocery stores gift cards. [www.volunteerallexandria.org/](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org/)

Fairfax-based non-profit **Britepaths** (formerly Our Daily Bread) is seeking community members to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with an individual or family with demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal, and/or gifts for children under 18. Cash donations and gift cards are welcome to assist those who are not sponsored. Britepaths is expecting to have 3,000 households on its assistance list. A great family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at: [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org). Contact 703-273-8829 or [hpassist@britepaths.org](mailto:hpassist@britepaths.org).

### THROUGH DEC. 24

**West Potomac High School Athletic Boosters Christmas Tree Sale.** Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and weeknights from 5-8 p.m. next to Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. 703-360-1048

### THROUGH DEC. 31

**116 King Holiday Pop-Up.** At 116 King St. The shop will feature 28 upscale fashion and lifestyle brands, including 13 brands under the umbrella of The Skinny Dip, a fashion collective founded by Sara Rossi and Taylor Ivey, as well as 15 additional brands with products ranging from women's apparel and jewelry to men's clothing, children's items and other gifts. Sponsored by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership.

[www.116king.com](http://www.116king.com)

### THROUGH JAN. 6

**Mount Vernon Holiday Tours.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Tour the Mansion, watch historic chocolate-making demonstrations, and meet Aladdin the Camel. Join daily "Camel Talks" and learn more about the rare animals at George Washington's home during the holiday season. Hear from costumed friends and family of the Washingtons tell stories of Christmas traditions of the past. Mount Vernon is open every day of the year, including Christmas Day and New Year's Day. 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org). Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

**Holiday Ornament Making.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy. On select weekends, make a Mount Vernon holiday wooden ornament.

For children ages 5-10, accompanied by an adult. Included in admission. Supplies limited. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 22

**Jazz Christmas Service.** 7-8 p.m. at 201 South Washington St. Join Aldersgate Methodist Church and the Eric Sabo Quintet featuring Darden Purcell for a Christmas Celebration. 703-765-6555, [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net)

### FRIDAY/DEC. 23

**Holiday Gift Wrapping.** Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, at 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. and collect donations. [www.volunteerallexandria.org/](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org/)

### SATURDAY/DEC. 24

**Waterskiing Santa.** 1 p.m. at the

waterfront near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Waterskiing Santa and his wakeboarding reindeer, plus flying elves, the Grinch and his friends, Frosty the Snowman and Jack Frost. 703-746-3301 or [www.waterskiingsanta.com](http://www.waterskiingsanta.com)

### SUNDAY/DEC. 25

**The Holiday Project - Share the Spirit of the Season.** Volunteers are needed to Share the Spirit of the Season by visiting with patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long term care facilities. Sing carols and distribute cards and gifts. [www.volunteerallexandria.org/](http://www.volunteerallexandria.org/)  
**Play Santa for a Single Adult.** 8407 Richmond Hwy E. Volunteers are needed to play Santa this Holiday season by adopting one of New Hope Housing's single adults. [volunteerallexandria.org](http://volunteerallexandria.org)

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**First Night Alexandria**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Day of December, 2016  
An Old Town New Year's Eve Party  
24 Indoor Venues in Old Town and One in Del Ray

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PLUS afternoon adventures with the Eighth Annual Fun Hunt and new creative and culinary activities all around town.

Don't miss the area's largest, safest, family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Mosaic Jewelry by Nancy Kline



Hand-painted silk charmeuse scarf by Alanna Graboyes

### Holiday Market

Find work by local artists at the 21st Annual Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market at Del Ray Artisans, each weekend in December leading up to Christmas. The Holiday Market is at Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Market hours are: Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016).

### 2016 HOLIDAY CALENDAR

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** 2 p.m.-midnight at venues throughout Old Town and one at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St. More than 150 performances at 25 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children's

face painting and games. The afternoon's Eighth Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There's a venue at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray filled with activities for children 10 and younger, and dancing in the street at the east end of King Street beginning at 10 p.m. 703-746-3299 or [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org)

**The Carlyle Club New Years Eve Gala.** 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. \$150 includes live jazz dinner set, dinner buffet, dessert bar, two complimentary drinks. NYC's Time Square countdown and ball drop on big screen. midnight champagne toast [brencore\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:brencore_@hotmail.com), 240-601-6803

### CALENDAR

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

#### ONGOING

**West Potomac High School Athletic Boosters Christmas Tree Sale.** Through Dec. 24. Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and weeknights from 5-8 p.m. next to Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. 703-360-1048

**December Artist Showcase.** Through Dec. 31 at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The December Artist Showcase features new works from several of gallery artists, including abstracts, landscapes, seascapes, and photography. [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net) 703-450-8005

**116 King Holiday Pop-Up.** Through Dec. 31, at 116 King St. The shop will feature 28 upscale fashion and lifestyle brands, including 13 brands under the umbrella of The Skinny Dip, a fashion collective founded by Sara Rossi and Taylor Ivey, as well as 15 additional brands with products ranging from women's apparel and jewelry to men's clothing, children's items and other gifts. Sponsored by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. [www.116king.com](http://www.116king.com)

**Master Realist Painter Dennis Crayon Pieces Together the Past.** through Jan. 2 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Scraps of old photos are starting points for his paintings



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

and expands outward, using imagination to fill in the story and objects outside the bounds of the snapshot. Opening reception and meet the artist: Thursday, Dec. 8, 6:30-8 p.m. [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org)

**"Fully Committed" at MetroStage.** Through Jan. 8, various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Tom Story plays a restaurant reservationist, juggling phones, personalities and pandemonium with the dexterity of a Cirque du Soleil contortionist. \$55-\$60 703-548-9044 [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org)

**Art Exhibit: Color Disorder.** Through Jan. 8 at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Katie Baines and Amy Chan's acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print work on display. Sat., Nov. 13, 4-6 p.m. is opening reception. 703-548-0035, [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery: "Geometry Glitz."** Through Jan. 8, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art

### December Artist Showcase

Now through Dec. 31, the December Artist Showcase at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The December Artist Showcase features new works from several of gallery artists, including abstracts, landscapes, seascapes, and photography. 703-450-8005 or [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net)

Center, 105 N. Union St. 2016. In this show, our artists have the sparkle and shine of the holidays for inspiration, with an additional focus on geometry. Explorations may focus on points, lines, and other flat shapes, such as circles and triangles, or 3-dimensional shapes, such as spheres and cubes. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**Bagels and Bach Concert Series Returns.** Through Jan. 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music from Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association's Youth Orchestras while eating a light brunch. Advance registration: resident \$10/Nonresident \$15. Children under 5 years old are free. For more information, contact Cheryl Ann Colton at 703-746-5565 or e-mail [cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov)

**Art Making as Meditation with Kathryn Coneway.** Second

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 • Tuesdays...Flamenco show with Ricardo of Andalusia  
 • Fridays...Daryl Ott on the Piano with Franco  
 • Saturdays...David Redskin on the Piano with Franco

Franco & his staff wish you a Joyful 2017!

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**New Year's Eve Dec 31st 2016**

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Silver Spring: Coming December 2016

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Watch for our upcoming special New Year's Eve events!

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Celebrate the New Year at Indigo Landing on the Potomac! We welcome you to enjoy a splendid four-course meal, music and dancing, and a Champagne toast at midnight. Reservations required.

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**New Year's Day Dinner open 4-9 pm**  
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**Innovative Indian Cuisine**

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Email [info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org](mailto:info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org).

**New Frontiers in Textile Art** through Jan. 15 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. a new exhibition in Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the, turns an eye toward the future of textile art. Public reception: Thursday, Dec. 8, 6-8 p.m.; Juror's Talk at 7 p.m.

**"Ancient Art of Movement."** 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit [www.latascausa.com](http://www.latascausa.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

**Community Yoga.** Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532 YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in

weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit [www.532yoga.com](http://www.532yoga.com).

## THROUGH JAN. 6

**Mount Vernon Holiday Tours.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Tour the Mansion, watch historic chocolate-making demonstrations, and meet Aladdin the Camel. Join daily "Camel Talks" and learn more about the rare animals at George Washington's home during the holiday season. Hear costumed friends and family of the Washingtons tell stories of Christmas traditions of the past. Mount Vernon is open every day of the year, including Christmas and New Year's Day. 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org). Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

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**Holiday Teddy Bear Teas.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. On select weekends, bring a favorite stuffed animal friend to have "tea" with "Lady Washington." This special experience will also include a hands-on seasonal activity. For ages 4-11, accompanied by an adult. Refreshments provided. \$5 in addition to general admission. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free. 703-799-5203 or [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

## SATURDAYS THROUGH DEC. 24

**Random Acts of Holiday Cheer.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Throughout Alexandria random Acts of Holiday Cheer will delight holiday shoppers with surprise giveaways from the Elf Prize Patrol, pop-up musical performances through the Alexandria Arts Alliance, and hands-on activities at the Mobile Art Lab.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 16-SUNDAY/JAN. 1

**WRAP Sober Ride Program.** 10 p.m.-6 a.m. each evening as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period. Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home. (AT&T wireless users can dial #WRAP for the same service.)

## THURSDAY/DEC. 22

**Jazz Christmas Service.** 7-8 p.m. at



## Acoustic Music Live

**Acoustic artists Friction Farm and Michael Bowers & Siobhan Quinn will perform Sunday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Tickets are \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members, contact [herb@focusmusic.org](mailto:herb@focusmusic.org) or 703-380-3151.**

201 South Washington St. Join Aldersgate Methodist Church and the Eric Sabo Quintet featuring Darden Purcell for a Christmas Celebration. 703-765-6555, [www.aldersgate.net](http://www.aldersgate.net)

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## THURSDAY/DEC. 29

**Hank Williams Tribute Show.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. This tribute to the "Hillbilly Shakespeare" is celebrating its 20th anniversary. A different show for the holidays, it features hometown artists saluting Hank Sr.'s songs. [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com)

## SATURDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** 2 p.m.-midnight at venues throughout Old Town and one at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King Street. More than 150 performances at 25 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children's face painting and games. The afternoon's Eighth Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

for families and pets. There's a venue at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray filled with activities for children 10 and younger, and dancing in the street at the east end of King Street beginning at 10 p.m. 703-746-3299 or [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org)

## JAN. 3-FEB. 12

**Multiple Exposures Gallery.** Torpedo Factory Art Center, #312, 105 North Union St. Colleen Henderson's A Study in Contrasts, and Sandy Lebrun-Evan's McDowell County, WVA. Artist reception is Jan. 14, 2-4 p.m. [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com)

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 4

**Boomerangs Square Dancing Lessons.** Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. No partner is needed. Cost is \$30 per four classes for a 12-week series of classes. 571-210-5480.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 5

**Cuban Cruise Informational Meeting.** 5-6:30 p.m. at Carr Workplaces, 500 Montgomery St., Suite 400. The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce is partnering with the Arlington Chamber of Commerce for a four-day trip to Cuba. [sbolouri@alexchamber.com](mailto:sbolouri@alexchamber.com)

## FRIDAY/JAN. 6

**The Cecilian Players, Blessed Sacrament's Chamber Ensemble.** Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The concert is free but contributions to support the concerts are welcome. [jmccrory@blessedsacramentcc.org](mailto:jmccrory@blessedsacramentcc.org) or 703-998-6100 x 103

**Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster, will direct the Adult Choir in a Choral Evensong on the Feast of the Epiphany. Music by Ayleward, Stanford, Archer, Palestrina will be featured. The Three Wise Men will appear at this service. 703-549-3312, [grant@stpaulsalexandria.com](mailto:grant@stpaulsalexandria.com)

## JAN. 6-29

**Simply Abstract" Art Exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features local area artists' expressions of abstract art using shape, form, color, and line in 2- and 3-dimensional work. Artists tossed their colors and media in the air to release their inner energy in this display of artwork. Opening Reception: Friday, Jan. 6, 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## SATURDAY/JAN. 7

**Nowell Sing We.** 7-9 p.m. at the St. Mary Catholic Church Lyceum, 313 Duke St. Alkemie Medieval Music Ensemble will present a concert of Medieval and Renaissance vocal music for three sopranos and vielles (medieval fiddles) and instrumental dances in celebration of Epiphany. [stover.michael@gmail.com](mailto:stover.michael@gmail.com) 202-966-7298 [www.alkemie.org](http://www.alkemie.org)

**Parade of Plants.** 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Look at the history of the Rose Parade, see close-up photos of the floats and go on a walk in the gardens to collect plant materials. Afterwards make a wintery decoration from natural materials in the tradition of the floats. \$6 Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 2901813501 or call 703-642-5173.

**Zombie Drama Camp Registration.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the West Potomac Theatre Department, 6500 Quander Road. Open to students 3rd-8th grades. [westpotomactheatre.org](http://westpotomactheatre.org)

## SUNDAY/JAN. 8

**Art Show and Reception.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Reception for the Vienna Arts Society show at the Horticulture Center and Historic House from Dec. 20-Feb. 19. Free. 703-642-5173

**FocusMusic Concert.** 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. FocusMusic presents folk and acoustic artists Friction Farm and Michael Bowers & Siobhan Quinn. \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members [herb@focusmusic.org](mailto:herb@focusmusic.org) 703-

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# MetroStage Stages 'Fully Committed'

**One-man show stars Tom Story who channels 40 different characters at a New York restaurant.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

**M**etroStage in Alexandria is staging the newly revised version of "Fully Committed" (following the successful Broadway run that closed in July) through Jan. 8, 2017. Tom Story plays a restaurant reservationist named Sam at a trendy and posh New York restaurant who channels the role of 40 characters as he answers phones and portrays the personalities of the people on the line who desperately want a seat. Prestige, power, desperation and boundless egos are all on display in this one-person comedy show.

This is something new and fresh at MetroStage to replace "A Broadway Christmas Carol," which played for six years previously during the holiday season. "Fully Committed" is not full-out holiday fare, but there is a slight holiday theme to it.

Story plays an out-of-work actor trying to get his next acting gig, who endures the pressure and chaos of his day job by answering phones and taking dinner reservations for the rudest and most demanding of well-heeled New Yorkers. But there's hope toward the end that Story will be cast in an acting role to escape his day job, and maybe get home for Christmas.

"It is exciting for MetroStage to be producing 'Fully Committed' using the newly revised Broadway script," said Carolyn Griffin, producing artistic director of MetroStage. "We have Tom Story, one of Washington, D.C.'s actors, and Alan Paul, a Helen Hayes Award winning director, here at MetroStage for our holiday show. We have even had the playwright Becky Mode come down from New York to see this production and participate in a talkback with Tom and Alan. It is always a treat for an audience to

hear some of the backstage scoop after seeing a show."

She continued: "At MetroStage we are always pleased to present such talent on our stage and share this level of artistry with our neighbors. Nationally recognized artists in your own backyard! We certainly hope that Alexandrians join our neighbors around the Beltway this holiday season and come to see an acclaimed play that will entertain you all the while touching your heart with a little holiday spirit."

Paul (associate artistic director at the Shakespeare Theatre), has directed "Kiss Me Kate," "Man of La Mancha," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "The Boys from Syracuse," revivals of "Twelfth Night," and "The Winter's Tale," and numerous readings, workshops and special events. Outside STC, Paul's work has ranged from Shakespeare to musical theater to opera. Recent highlights include "Silence! The Musical" at Studio Theatre 2nd Stage, "The Rocky Horror Show" at Stu-

dio Theatre 2nd Stage, "The Matchmaker" at the University of Maryland, "Fire and Air" at The Kennedy Center, and "I am My Own Wife" at Signature Theatre.

Story makes his MetroStage debut after appearing as Prior Walter in Round House/Olney's production of "Angels in America." He is an affiliated artist at The Shakespeare Theatre where credits include "The Winter's Tale," "The Government Inspector," "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "Cymbeline," "Twelfth Night," "Richard II," "Henry V," "Design for Living," "Major Barbara," "The Rivals," and "Measure for Measure," among other roles. He has also appeared in Synetic Theater's "Three Men in a Boat," Arena Stage's "The Book Club Play," and "Oliver;" Ford Theatre's "Our Town," "Sabrina Fair;" "A Christmas Carol;" "1776," and "The Glass Menagerie," among others.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Tom Story stars in the one-man show, "Fully Committed," at MetroStage in Alexandria through Jan. 8, 2017.**

*Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. (with some exceptions including Tuesday performance Dec. 27 and Saturday twilight shows on Dec. 24 and 31 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$55 to \$60 with student and active military discounts available. For reservations, call the theater at 703-548-9044 or visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org). For group sales, call 703-548-9044 or email [info@metrostage.org](mailto:info@metrostage.org). The venue is located at 1201 North Royal Street in North Old Town, Alexandria.*

## CALENDAR

380-3151

### MONDAY/JAN. 9

**Yoga for Gardeners** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This class features an introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Register \$91 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 2901262401 or call 703-642-5173

**Garden Sprouts: Nature Playgroup** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road.

Preschooler do nature-themed activities while other playgroup parents can meet one Monday a month. \$6 [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 2901028701 or call 703-642-5173

### JAN. 9-20

**Christmas Tree Recycling.** Residents who receive city refuse collection may place Christmas trees at the curb for recycling on their regular trash collection day, beginning Monday, Jan. 9, through Friday, Jan. 22. Remove stands, lights, and decorations from trees. See [alexandriava.gov/YardWaste](http://alexandriava.gov/YardWaste).

### TUESDAY/JAN. 10

**NVCC Community Chorus invitation.** Rehearsals start for all interested singers to join for the spring 2017 season. No audition is required. Join by registering for this one-credit class at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus. Rehearsals are 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at the NVCC Alexandria campus, 3001 N. Beaugard, with some optional extra Saturday morning rehearsals. The college waives tuition for seniors 60 and older. Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director, 703-845-6097 [mwhitmire@nvcc.edu](mailto:mwhitmire@nvcc.edu)

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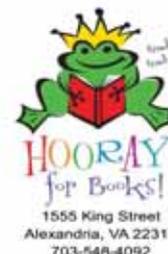
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# Sheriff's Deputy Cleared in Fatal Shooting

FROM PAGE 3

also summoned paramedics to check Gomez out physically.

Rescue determined Gomez's vital signs were within normal ranges, Morrogh reports.

But when Gomez appeared to answer in the affirmative with "Sí," he did want to harm himself, Woodward asked that he be taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Morrogh says the medics described Gomez as non-combative, mumbling in Spanish and at one time pointing to his head and saying "voices."

Gomez was examined at the hospital by a physician and Spanish-speaking nurse, the report continues.

"They advised Officer Woodward that Mr. Gomez denied any mental health issues and further said that he did not want to hurt himself," Morrogh said. "They also told Officer Woodward that Mr. Gomez told them that he had a stomach ache and didn't feel well."

Gomez's diagnosis after a physical examination and mental condition assessment was that he was not in distress but suffering from "general weakness," according to Morrogh's report.

Old Dominion Security guard Ezra Carter found Gomez in the lobby after he was discharged some time between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Carter used an interpreter to find that Gomez wanted to be taken to a homeless shelter. The guard then walked Gomez to the bus stop, Morrogh's report says.

In the conclusion of his seven-page investigation report, Morrogh reiterates Gomez charged at McPartlin with what appeared to be a sword but later turned out to be a sign post pulled from the ground.

"Reasonably perceiving himself to be in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm, MDS McPartlin, while retreating, discharged his weapon until the threat was abated," Morrogh says in the report. "In my legal opinion, this is a case of justifiable homicide and no individual is criminally responsible for the death of Yovani A. Gomez."

**IN A RESPONSE STATEMENT**, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid said, "Our condolences go to Mr. Gomez's family. Now that Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh has released his findings that no criminal charges are warranted, the Sheriff's Office will conduct an administrative investigation."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) chairs the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee, which has recently voted to establish an office of independent police auditor to review all use of force cases, as well as a civilian review panel to look at complaints of police misconduct.

Cook's office declined to comment on Morrogh's decision.

Cook previously commented that while the Sheriff's office doesn't fall under the administrative purview of the supervisors, they have been invited to present and field questions related to recommendations for

policy changes from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission at the Public Safety Committee Meeting in March 2017.

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova did not respond to a request for comment before print time.

Fairfax County Chief of Police Col. Edwin Roessler Jr. said FCPD had been made aware of Morrogh's decision. "The Sheriff's Office was fully cooperative with our detectives throughout the process," Roessler said in a statement.

Author and blogger Pete Earley of Fairfax was a member of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and that group's mental health subcommittee.

In response to Morrogh's report, Earley said in a statement he was concerned that it failed to answer basic questions about the encounter "that would reassure Fairfax residents with mental illnesses that they are safe when seeking help."

Earley raised a number of issues, including whether Gomez's doctor and Spanish-speaking nurse were qualified to diagnose psychiatric issues; why there is no mention of Gomez being observed by a psychiatrist despite Inova having a psychiatric unit; the way in which the nurse questioned Gomez about his psychiatric condition; and what about Gomez's behavior after being discharged prompted the security guard to approach him.

"Just as we were told in the Natasha McKenna case, the reason why Mr. Gomez was fatally shot was entirely his own fault [according to the report]," Earley says.

"Blaming an individual with a mental illness is an easy out. Asking tough questions about why a man who sought help from the police and ended up dead hours later is much more difficult and, sadly, this report appears to have failed to ask and answer those questions."

Natasha McKenna, 37, of Alexandria died in February 2015 after being tased multiple times by Sheriff's deputies who were trying to restrain her and transport her to the Alexandria jail. McPartlin was among that group of deputies.

McKenna, police said, had a history of diagnosed mental illness including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression. In McKenna's case as well, Morrogh made the decision none of the deputies were criminally liable.

Cayce Utley is a lead organizer for the organization Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Northern Virginia that has demonstrated over the Gomez shooting and McKenna's death.

"Commonwealth Attorney Ray Morrogh and Police Chief Ed Roessler have made it clear they have no interest in holding Stacey Kincaid's sheriff's deputies responsible when they kill people," Utley said in a statement. Natasha McKenna and [Yovani Gomez] deserve justice and we will keep pressing Fairfax County until this racist policing is stopped. We are tired of watching this county celebrate so-called 'reforms' that leave all the power in police hands. It's time for Fairfax to be accountable to the people who live and work here."

## Filling Oversight Positions

### Supervisors outline procedures for bringing on police auditor and Civilian Review Panel.

One week after voting to establish Fairfax County's first Civilian Review Panel for police, Public Safety Committee chair supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova outlined steps to be taken to fill the nine-member panel, as well as hire an independent police auditor.

Near the conclusion of the Dec. 13 Public Safety Committee meeting, Cook said a letter will be sent to organizations around the county by the end of December inviting them to submit nominees for the review panel. Those groups include minority organizations, disability services, interfaith groups and others that were part of the Election Process Improvement Commission.

Each supervisor will also be able to nominate individuals for the panel.

Cook said all nominations should be received by Jan. 31, 2017. For the next two weeks those applications will be available to the supervisors, who will then review them in closed session on Feb. 14.

On Sept. 20, the board created another

oversight entity, the office of the independent police auditor. Both bodies were recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

The members of the Civilian Review Panel will be volunteers, while the Independent Auditor and staff will be paid Fairfax County employees.

The job posting for auditor has closed, and received many applications, Bulova said. Six candidates have been determined by Fairfax County human resources to fulfill the requirements of the advertisement, supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) said.

Bulova said she's appointed a screening committee for the auditor applicants, including Auditor of the Board Jim Shelton, Connection Newspapers publisher and Ad Hoc Commission member Mary Kimm, Ad Hoc Commission member Adrian Steel, chair of the commission's Independent Oversight and Investigations subcommittee Jack Johnson, and supervisors Gross and Cook.

— TIM PETERSON

## CRIME REPORT

FROM PAGE 5

190 pounds. Both suspects' faces were covered.

**DEC. 19 LARCENIES**  
7900 block of Audubon Avenue, electronic device from residence  
4000 block of Buckman Road, bicycle from residence

6400 block of George Washington Memorial Parkway, purse from vehicle

6300 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business

7800 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

3500 block of Stepnies Court, jewelry from residence

**DEC. 16 LARCENIES**

6200 block North Kings Highway, bicycle from residence

6700 block of Richmond Highway, air freshener from business

**DEC. 15 LARCENIES**

7900 block of Fort Hunt Road, baby formula from business

8200 block of Richmond Highway, produce from business

2300 block of Huntington Avenue, alcohol from business

5500 block of Woodlawn Manor Court, packages from residence

**DEC. 14 LARCENIES**

6800 block of Richmond Highway, equipment from business

6300 block of South Kings Highway, merchandise from business

6700 block of West Wakefield Drive, license

plate from vehicle

**DEC. 13 LARCENIES**  
2300 block of Huntington Avenue, liquor from business

6200 block of North Kings Highway, bicycle from business

2500 block of Parkers Lane, purse from business

9000 block of Patton Boulevard, purse from residence

7700 block of Richmond Highway, clothing and shoes from business

8600 block of Woodlawn Court, tools from vehicle

**DEC. 12 LARCENIES**

1500 block of Belle View Boulevard, liquor from business

1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, merchandise from business

7200 block of Harrison Lane, wallet from residence

3100 block of Jackies Lane, cell phone from business

7600 block of Richmond Highway, shoes from business

**DEC. 9 LARCENIES**

1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, purse from business

6700 block of Richmond Highway, tools from business

9100 block of Richmond Highway, purse from Metro bus

**DEC. 8 LARCENIES**

3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, ankle braces from business

8500 block of Old Mount Vernon Road, laptops from school

1800 block of Belle View Boulevard, license plate from vehicle

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## ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-12-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Social Studies Instructional Materials.

Sealed Proposals with the notation **RFP# 16-12-05 Social Studies Instructional Materials** will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, January 20, 2017. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions answered will be posted as an addendum to the ACPS web site.

No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

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### ABANDONED WATERCRAFT

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Description of the watercraft:

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Application for Watercraft Registration / Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with questions.

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The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Art Instruction Studio license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Katie Wells Owner  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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# NEWS



PHOTO BY BETH MCLEAN/THE FAIRFAX

## Annual Pep Rally

Before the big game, West Point Cadets joined the military retirees at The Fairfax in the Mount Vernon area for their annual pep rally prior to the Army/Navy football game in Baltimore. This has been a tradition at The Fairfax for 25 years. Following the pep rally, the cadets stayed and enjoy lunch before heading off to local attractions. The following Saturday afternoon, Army beat Navy for the first time in several years.

## New Volunteer Coordinator

United Community Ministries recently hired April Love as its new volunteer and community relations coordinator. Love is a graduate of Lynchburg College and began her career at UCM by reaching out to meet volunteers at the weekly Volunteer Orientation sessions. One of her first goals at UCM is to incorporate an online "virtual" volunteer orientation session to make volunteering easier and more convenient for prospective volunteers and groups. To volunteer, email her at [april.love@ucmagency.org](mailto:april.love@ucmagency.org) or call 571-255-8973.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## 70th Anniversary

Sharon Bulova, chairwoman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay presented Burgundy Farm Country Day School's Head of School Jeff Sindler on Nov. 1 with a resolution recognizing Burgundy "for its 70th anniversary, noteworthy education of children and inestimable contributions to Fairfax County."

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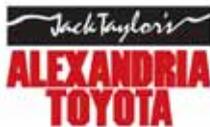
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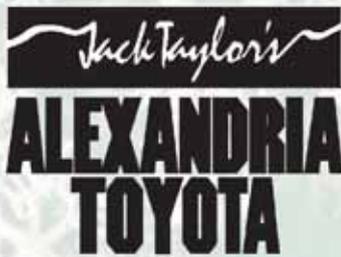
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2016

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

**VARIABLE DISCOUNT**

**\$5.00 OFF** with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99  
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**\$15.00 OFF** with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99  
**\$20.00 OFF** with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99  
**\$50.00 OFF** with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/16

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**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only. MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

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**LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL**

**\$29<sup>95</sup>** NON-SYNTHETIC      **\$49<sup>95</sup>** SYNTHETIC

INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

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**30,000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE**

**\$159<sup>95</sup>**

Synthetic \$10 More

INCLUDES: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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**15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES**

- Apparel • Window visors • I-pad adaptors •
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Jack Taylor's

**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

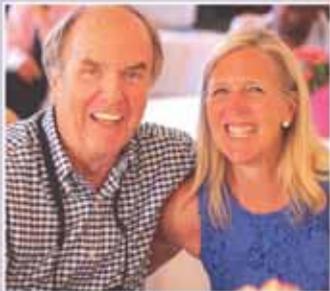
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# CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2017?*  
*Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!*  
*Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***



**9314 Craig Ave.**  
**\$635,000**  
**Pristine Condition!**

Truly exquisite property! Spacious 5 Bedroom home on gorgeous, fenced level lot in premier location. Numerous features include: Bright open floor plan, Hardwood floors, gas cooking/heat/hot water, thermal windows, and garage. Large deck overlooks spacious grounds. Property is in pristine "move in" condition!



**9433 Forest Haven Dr.**  
**\$745,000**

**Walk to Yacht Club!**



Unique New Orleans Colonial on gorgeous large lot in prime location near Potomac River. Features include: Updated custom kitchen, 3 finished levels, 4 BR's including spacious Master suite w/ balcony, 3 full baths, recently installed Andersen windows, oversized 2 car garage, expansive rear deck overlooks magnificent grounds which includes detached studio/office. Club



**8717 Plymouth Rd.**  
**\$1,399,000**

**New Build, time to customize!**



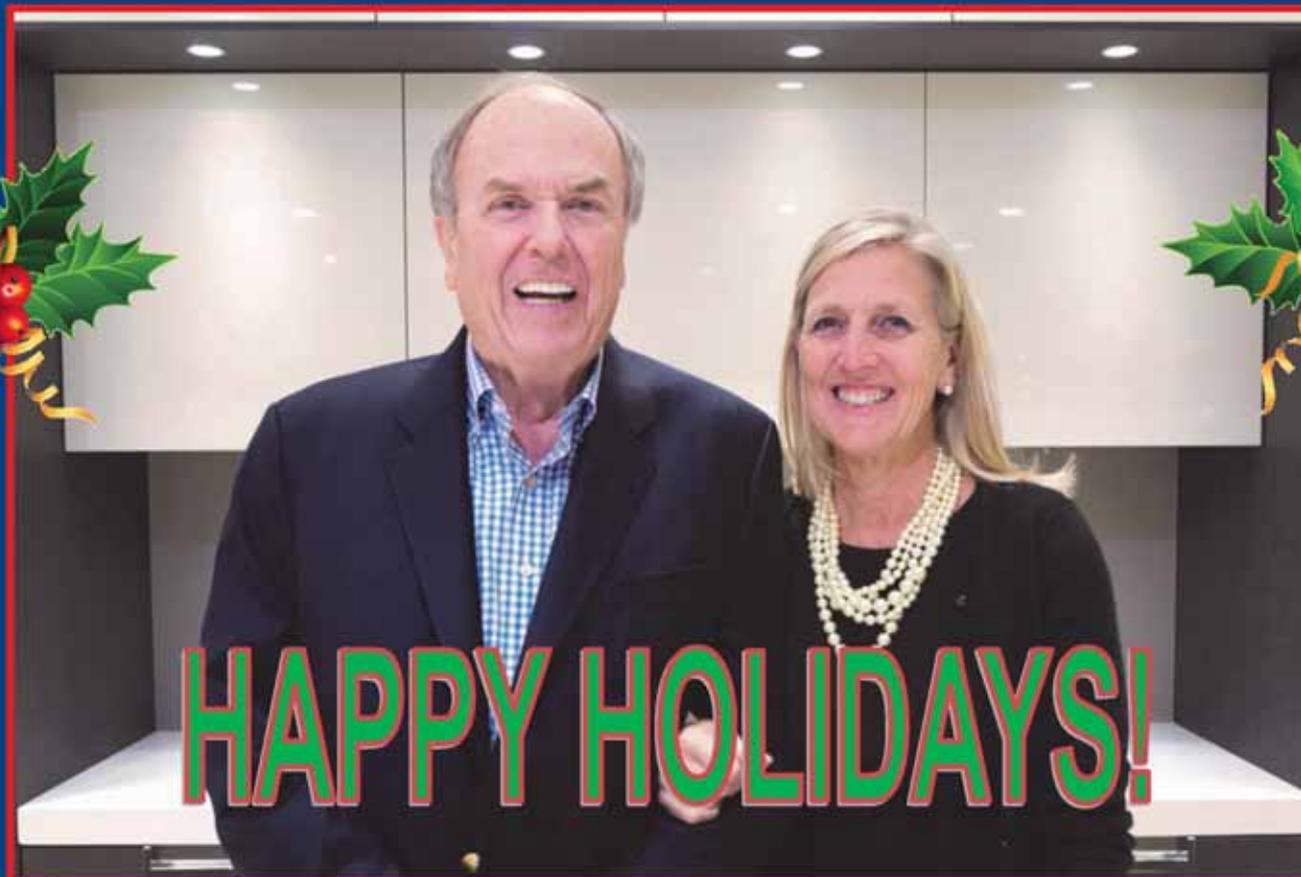
**Last Opportunity in Plymouth Haven!!!**

Last opportunity in Plymouth Haven! Three recent sales leave only one Wakefield Home available. In Ft. Hunt area's most sought after neighborhood. Exceptional value - special pre-construction price on spacious luxury custom home by area's leading custom builder. Stunning level half acre lot. Walk to Waynewood School. Pre-construction sale allows max customization!



**5427 Grist Mill Woods Way**  
**\$899,000**

Stunning 5,686 sq ft Colonial featuring dramatic open floor plan, large room sizes, soaring high ceilings, and modern amenities typically found in \$1 Mil+ properties. Features include: 3 Fin levels, walk out lower level, 5BR's, 4.5BA's, Chef's kitchen, upgraded trim, hardwood floors, & 2 car garage. Custom deck and brick patio capitalize on gorgeous fenced grounds backing to park. Amazing Value!



**CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028**

[www.chrisandpeggywhite.com](http://www.chrisandpeggywhite.com)  
[chris.white@longandfoster.com](mailto:chris.white@longandfoster.com)

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