

Fairfax County Leads Blue Wave

Democrats sweep statewide races and come close to taking over House of Delegates.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Democrats swept all three statewide seats this week and picked up so many seats in the House of Delegates that control of the chamber is now in doubt. Voters rejected Republican arguments about sanctuary cities and Confederate memorials, divisive issues that had moderate Republicans trying to win over the most extreme elements of President Donald Trump's coalition. It didn't work, and it may have signaled a new era in how Democrats can take on Republicans and win at the ballot box.

"The new Democratic Party is back," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez during a raucous Election Night party at George Mason University. "And we're back with a bang."

In Fairfax County, Democrats picked up at least two seats in the House of Delegates. In Fairfax County, Northam received 67.86 percent of the vote; in Arlington, he received 80.07 percent; in the City of Alexandria, 78.36 percent.

Democrat Ralph Northam won 54 percent of the vote against Republican Ed Gillespie, whose performance slipped a bit from his 2014 nail-biter against Democrat Mark Warner for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Back in 2014, Gillespie won 48 percent of the vote. This year he was only able to get 45 percent. Here in Fairfax County, Republican Ken Cuccinelli won about 10,000 more votes four years ago than Gillespie won this

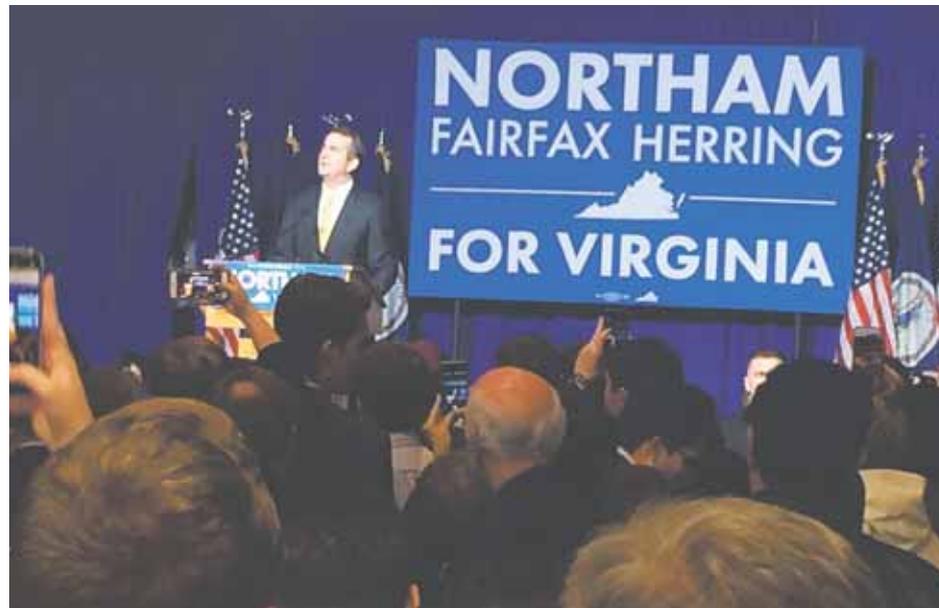


PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

Democrat Ralph Northam declares victory in the hotly contested race for governor at George Mason University.

year. Now Republicans say they're ready to mount their own resistance.

"Our grassroots are now primed to hold Northam accountable during his time as governor, and we plan to do just that," said Americans for Prosperity-Virginia State Director J.C. Hernandez. "If the Northam administration tries to advance policies that grow government and make life more costly, we stand ready, willing, and able to educate our neighbors on the issues."

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP was not on the ballot in Virginia this year, but he

loomed over every part of this campaign. The election cycle started when many Democrats were still in shock that the real-estate developer turned reality TV star was elected president. A historic women's march after Trump's inauguration led to an unprecedented number of female candidates taking on entrenched Republican elected officials this year, mostly men. The gamble paid off, and many of those defeated male incumbents are now preparing to leave office.

"Women are leading the resistance," said Emily's List president Stephanie Schriock.

Governor

- ❖ **Democrat Ralph Northam:** 54 percent, 1.4 million votes
- ❖ **Republican Ed Gillespie:** 45 percent, 1.2 million votes
- ❖ **Libertarian Cliff Hyra:** 0.05 percent, 1,400 votes

Lieutenant Governor

- ❖ **Democrat Justin Fairfax:** 53 percent, 1.4 million votes
- ❖ **Republican Jill Vogel:** 47 percent, 1.2 million votes

Attorney General

- ❖ **Democrat Mark Herring:** 53 percent, 1.4 million votes
- ❖ **Republican John Adams:** 47 percent, 1.2 million votes

"A record number of women ran for office in Virginia, and now a record number of women will serve in the Virginia House of Delegates, fighting for improved public education, investment in infrastructure, economic growth, and access to health care."

Voters in key swing jurisdictions voted for Northam; he won 61 percent in Prince William County, 60 percent in Loudoun County, 60 percent in Henrico County and 52 percent in Virginia Beach. And although Gillespie performed well in traditional Republican strongholds like Rockingham and Pittsylvania, he struggled in the Richmond suburb of Chesterfield, which was basically tied between the two candidates. Party leaders on both sides of the aisle say voters were

SEE A BLUE WAVE, PAGE 10

Jughandles and the Superstreet Concept Examining Route 1 widening plans.



Area residents examined the three proposals for a few specific intersections.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Several intersection improvement plans at the Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements public meeting on Monday, Nov. 6 left some residents with more questions than they had before. Is this being done to build a case for a Metro extension, wondered Heidi Kabler, a long time resident of the area. "I don't understand why you're making a super highway out of Route 1," said John Russell. A new storm water basin near the Spirit of Faith Ministries puzzled Christine Brown. "Why did they choose our property?" she asked.

And so goes the process of building this \$215 million, three-mile

improvement project that will stretch from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road. The intersection projects will focus on Buckman Road and Mount Vernon Highway intersection, the Sacramento Drive and Cooper Road intersection, and Buckman Road at the Government Center, where a roundabout is being looked at. The traditional intersection and superstreet concepts have been brought up before

for Buckman Road and Sacramento Drive, but the jughandle intersection is a new concept for these intersections.

The jughandle eliminates the left turns completely, but requires drivers to go past the road they want to turn left on, turn right, around the jughandle, and across Richmond Highway. This takes less time than the current traffic sig

SEE EXAMINING, PAGE 17

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Target: Roadside Litter

Annual event addresses ongoing problem of discarded trash.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Out in front of the Oaks of Woodlawn along Jeff Todd Way, a voice rang out from a group of volunteer trash collectors who were part of this annual clean-up to honor Jeff Todd, a former member of the Lee-Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce who was killed in an accident.

"We got a pair of shoes, the first pair," a volunteer said. They pushed on, decked out in safety vests as the groups walked up the 2.5 mile road in Mount Vernon. Although this is an annual event, there is never a shortage of litter. Drivers and pedestrians throw trash out at an alarming rate, and by the end of a few hours, the volunteers had 15 bags of trash.

"I think all the people that litter should come to these things," said Holly Dougherty of the chamber. "Jeff was a chairman of the chamber so we adopted the road," she said.

Brittany Garcia, an executive with Baywood Hotels, was on her fourth year

volunteering for the clean-up. She wasn't surprised that even though she had walked up and down the road last year, getting a bag full, there was more to pick up. "People ride down the road and they're constantly throwing things out the window," she said. No matter though, she was there as part of group with trash bag in hand. "This brings the community together," she said.

Amanda Sellman, co-worker of Garcia's, noted her company's support for things like this clean up day. "We're involved," she said.

Last year, there was twice as many volunteers on Jeff Todd. It just happened to be on the same day as the "Ride de Mount Vernon," a bike ride that Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck sponsored, as well as various sporting events and other activities that may have impacted the amount of volunteers. The Fairfax County Police Department and the Explorer group were helping out as well. "We do a lot of events like this where we volunteer our time," said 17-year-old James So. He hopes to be a police officer in the near future.



Volunteers ended up with 15 bags and a bucket of roadside litter at the end of the morning.

PHOTOS BY
MIKE SALMON/
THE GAZETTE

Holly Dougherty from the Lee-Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce hands out clean up gear.



The Fairfax County Police Department Explorer's concentrate on the median.

Capitol Steps Event Raises Funds for UCM

The Friends of UCM hosted a sold-out crowd for its annual fundraising event, "The Capitol Steps Benefit for UCM," in the Madison Auditorium at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on Sunday, Nov. 5. The 26th annual signature event raised nearly \$87,000 that will provide help to vulnerable individuals, families, and children in southeastern Fairfax County.

"Poverty is no laughing matter, but The Capitol Step's political satire was as hilarious and timely as ever," said Elin Bohn, president of The Friends of UCM and member of the UCM Board of Directors.

More than 350 guests enjoyed the evening with friends and colleagues, with chances to win raffle baskets.

"UCM is grateful to our hosts and to our sponsors who make this event possible, especially Title Sponsor Doug and Eileen Kennett and Diamond Sponsor, AT&T, Diamond Sponsor," said Alison DeCoursey, UCM executive director. The



The Friends of UCM hosted the 26th annual UCM Capitol Steps Benefit on Nov. 5. From left: Event co-chair Diane Hanak with Friends of UCM President and UCM Board Member Elin Bohn, and event co-chairs Trish Fowler and Judy Cahill.



Among the community leaders who enjoyed the UCM Capitol Steps Benefit were (from left) retired Fairfax County Supervisor Gerry Hyland, state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), and Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck.

full list of more than 40 event sponsors is available on the UCM website at www.ucmagency.org.

The Friends of UCM will host its annual

"Give From the Heart Spring Gala" on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Madison Auditorium, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in Old Town Alexandria. For infor-

mation about sponsoring the 2017 Gala, contact UCM Development and Communications Director Kenya Welch at kenya.welch@ucmagency.org.

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Tran Takes Open Seat

First-time candidate swamps Republican to take seat held by longtime Del. Dave Albo (R-42).

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Virginia's first Asian-American female delegate will be representing a part of Northern Virginia that has seen a radical transformation during the time since its incumbent took office more than two decades ago. Democrat Kathy Tran swamped Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak with a runaway victory, 61 percent to 39 percent. She ended up with 7,000 more votes than the Republican in the GOP-held seat. Mancheno-Smoak's appeal was limited to two precincts with \$5 million homes.

"As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, Kathy's record of excellent leadership and advocacy is a powerful testament to the



Kathy Tran

American Dream," said Democratic Caucus Chairwoman Charniele Herring. "Kathy Tran has proven her commitment to Virginia's working families in her work with both the Department of Labor and the National Immigration Forum."

Tran says she was prompted to run by the election of President Donald Trump, and she was one of the 11 women who unseated Republican incumbents this year. Her opponent, Mancheno-Smoak, was an early supporter of Trump. During the campaign, Mancheno-Smoak embraced the controversial president, calling him a "positive disruptor." Voters in the 42nd District overwhelmingly rejected Trump and Trumpism.

"As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, Kathy's record of excellent leadership and advocacy is a powerful testament to the American Dream."

— Charniele Herring,
Democratic Caucus Chairwoman

"The strength of the resistance is at tidal wave proportions," said Stephanie Taylor, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee. "In legislative races, inspiring people to run for office as their act of resistance and ran on issues like expanding Medicaid and increasing investment in jobs and public education."

SEE TRAN, PAGE 18

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Alex/Riverside Estates \$615,000
8331 Blowing Rock Road
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Alex/Riverside Estates \$539,900
8603 Cherry Valley Lane
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Mt. Vernon Manor \$554,900
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RENTAL

Alex/Riverside Estates \$2,857
8314 Bound Brook Lane
Beautiful 3 level colonial w/1 car gar. Meticulously maintained. Lovely landscaping. Renovated kitchen, SS appliances, granite, breakfast bar. Refin Hdwd floors. Gorgeous screened porch off Din Rm. Beautiful finished lower level. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & a5 minutes to Old Town, Alex (N).



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NEWS

Tour de Mount Vernon

Storck describes annual Mount Vernon bike tour.

By VERNON MILES
THE GAZETTE

Cunston Hall, a Frank Lloyd Wright home, the nation's first bald eagle preservation refuge: Mount Vernon teems with hidden treasures. On Nov. 4, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck took members of the local community on a 35-mile bike tour. Starting and ending at the Workhouse Arts Center, the tour ran along paved bike trails through some of the most scenic parts of Fairfax.

The tour started out of a bike ride last with some friends in late December, but afterwards Storck decided to open the tour up to members of the community. Over email, Storck explained a little more about the bike tour and its goals.

Why do you think a ride like this is important?

Storck: More people need to get outdoors, connect with other people and experience something new. It helps to keep us young of mind, body and spirit. I know that it also improves our local economy by providing local businesses and heritage sites an



Cyclists on the Tour de Mount Vernon

opportunity to introduce themselves to new audiences. We had almost 200 riders, most of them had never ridden our extensive trail network or been to our start and end point at the Workhouse Arts Center. The Workhouse is home to the performing arts, dozens of visual artists from a variety of disciplines, and provides over 800 classes and workshops. As the Mount Vernon District Supervisor, a key part of my mission is to promote our scenic beauty, history and diversity and to encourage folks from near and far to spend their time and money here to experience our wonderful quality of life.

Of the sites you explore on this tour, what are some of your favorites and why?

Storck: The Tour had many wonderful sites to visit this year and, truly, each one is a favorite for me in different ways. However, the Tour is more than specific destinations, it is a short journey, hopefully appreciated for the wholeness of the experience. It's an opportunity to expand your mind with different challenges, experience our local scenic beauty, while meeting new people that may share common inter

SEE EXPLORING, PAGE 9

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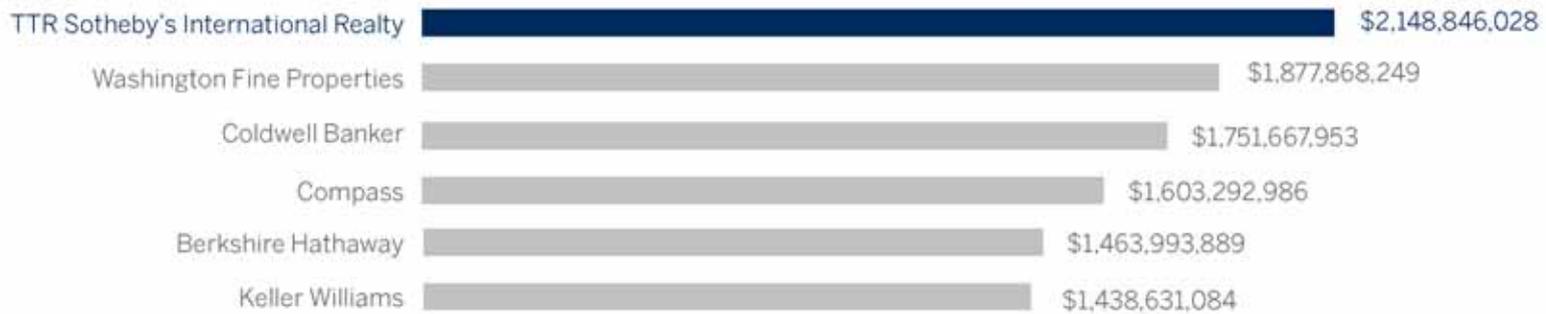
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OPINION

Be Part of Children's Issue 2017

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

EDITORIAL

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

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

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

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

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever been given? Ever received?

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

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

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

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed. Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 1. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2017.

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

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

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

- ❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

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

Let's Grow Early Voting

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The 2017 Virginia elections once again demonstrated that Virginians are choosing to vote early in larger numbers each election.

As compared with 2013, early voting in Prince William County was up over 210 percent, 170 percent in Fairfax County, and 146 percent in Stafford County. In 2016, over 120,000 or one in five Fairfax County voters cast their votes early while

COMMENTARY

nearly 44 percent of Prince William County voters voted early.

Voting early allows voters to avoid precinct lines, unpredictable weather, job, family or health problems. Voting by mail gives voters more time to complete their ballot in the privacy of their home. Most importantly, it pro-

vides the flexibility to allow more people to participate in our democracy.

Given its popularity, there are more things our government can do to facilitate early voting.

First, I support no excuse early voting. However, my Republican colleagues kill it every year. Short of that, we need to use existing authority to make our current more user friendly.

Second, local registrars could choose to provide postage prepaid envelopes for voters to return their ballots. Many younger voters do not purchase stamps or transact business by mail. Prepaid envelopes would cost our localities a fraction of their budget.

Third, the Fairfax County Registrar has identified a company that manufacturers a recreational vehicle that functions as a Mobile Voting Precinct.

This mobile precinct could be placed at locations with large numbers of eligible absentee voters such as Metro Stations, Virginia Railway Express Stations, or commuter lots.

It costs only \$100,000 per van plus operating costs.

Fourth, in 2015, the Republican Speaker of the House of Delegates, Bill Howell, persuaded the State Board of Elections to allow electronic absentee ballot applications. I collaborated with software engineers to create my own application, and later that year the State Board of Elections created its own online application. This year, Win Virginia PAC and the House Republican Caucus created their own online absentee ballot applications.

There is nothing preventing each county from having its own on their county website other than appropriating some money. Voters no longer need paper applications that must be downloaded, printed and returned. The county should create an electronic application.

All of these simple and cost-effective steps would go a long way to promote participation in our elections and facilitate early voting.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Please email me at scott@scottsuovell.org if you have any feedback.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 9

Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Protect Yourself in an "active shooter" situation is the topic, meet some of Fairfax's finest who work at the Mount Vernon Police Station and learn how to be safe. \$25/\$35. MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

SATURDAY/NOV. 11

Office Hours. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- ❖ 9-11:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

- ❖ 12:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

DEADLINE NOV. 13

Apply for Fuel Assistance. The Virginia Department of Social

Services is currently accepting applications for fuel assistance. To qualify for fuel assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household must not exceed \$1,307. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$2,665. Families and individuals can apply through their local department of social services office. To apply online or to check eligibility for services, visit the CommonHelp website at commonhelp.virginia.gov. Applications may also be submitted by telephone by contacting the

Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at 855-635-4370.

TUESDAY/NOV. 14

Caregiving the Caregiver. 10 a.m.-noon at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Christi Clark from Insight Memory Care will discuss round-the-clock tips on caregiving, how to recognize challenges caregivers face, and strategies to help manage them. Call 703-765-4573.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18

Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper



Exploring the Mount Vernon District

FROM PAGE 6

ests. Riders have an opportunity to see the natural and human-made legacies around us and learn more about our history and heritage with each stop. Along the way, riders from all over the area shared experiences and connected.

What made you want to do this tour for a second time?

Storck: Our first ride got rave reviews and cyclists asked for more opportunities to tour. As an entrepreneur, I also know that it takes time to realize the full opportunity and potential of a new idea or activity. With almost five times more riders, more amenities, greater support and increased public-private collaboration, we were able to fully realize our second-year objectives. We know that we have seen only the beginnings of what future Tour de Mount Vernon's could include, particularly when we add in the Potomac and Occoquan rivers that define Mount Vernon District's eastern and southern boundaries.

How is Fairfax different for you on bike vs in a car or

on foot?

Storck: The Mount Vernon District has every kind of riding condition from rural and suburban roads, to now more urban streets, complete with trails and paths in the most scenic of places. As a life-long walker/runner/cyclist and yearly driver of tens of thousands of miles, I have found that cycling provides a nice balance between the slower walking/running world

and the fast, road-intensive focus driving requires. With cycling, my intensity and stress levels slow down, I feel a more human connection with the people around me (without a ton of metal between us), my mindfulness increases (for good and bad reasons) and my environment becomes more real (especially pushing-up a hill or dodging close cars). It helps me to keep the balance I want in my life.

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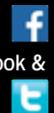


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A Blue Wave

FROM PAGE 1

reacting to Trump and sending a message. “Voters turned out in droves in a direct rebuke of state Republicans and the Trump administration,” said Jessica Post, executive director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. “Americans from coast to coast sent a clear message that when faced with adversity, we will step up and defend our values, safeguard the progress we have made, and push onward.”

JUSTIN FAIRFAX beat state Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27). Some Democrats feared that Vogel might end up being the lone Republican to win a statewide seat, potentially yielding a key tie-breaking vote in the state Senate on issues like immigration or reproductive rights. But the former federal prosecutor sailed to victory with 53 percent of the vote.

“As just the second African-American to ever win statewide office in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Justin Fairfax has already made history just by winning this seat,” said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy

for America. “For Democrats, he’s also made history by showing doubters in Richmond and Washington t h a t progressives dedicated to an inclusive populist political agenda can win big in Virginia.”

Democrat Mark Herring was the only part of the s t a t e w i d e ticket running for reelection, so his campaign was largely a referendum on his time in office.

On the campaign trail, Herring talked about his work tackling the opioid crisis and taking on the gun lobby. Voters agreed, and gave him 53 percent of the vote against lawyer John Adams. “Attorney General Mark Herring came under attack from the gun lobby for doing exactly what he was elected to do: prioritizing the safety of Virginia families over gun lobby profits,” said former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in a written statement. “I am proud to stand by Attorney General Herring as a true champion for safer communities, and I am thrilled to see Virginia voters stand by him as well.”

THE NEXT YEAR in Virginia politics is likely to be one of the most tumultuous periods since Reconstruction. With Democrats poised to take some measure of control of the House, the composition of committees and their chairmen is bound to change. Those details have yet to be worked out. But one thing is clear: When members of the House of Delegates elect a new speaker of the House in January, they will be setting the stage for a session that will have more liberal members than ever before. “Voters in Virginia soundly rejected the politics of division and bigotry and instead converted hate into political power,” said Julio Lainez, director of America’s Voice Virginia in a written statement. “This, however, is a first step, and it sends a clear message to candidates running in 2018: The Trump/Corey Stewart Political Playbook leads to political oblivion.”



Northam



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Home LifeStyle

Light Up the Season

Tastemakers create holiday trees, mantel-pieces, wreaths and a menorah for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Some local designers are collaborating with patients at Children's National Health Center to deck the hall for charity. The tastemakers are creating holiday trees, mantle pieces, wreaths and a menorah for a community fundraiser called "Light Up the Season." The Creative & Therapeutic Arts Services at Children's National worked with the Children's Health Board to pair designers with patients for inspiration.

"We were very excited to learn about Light Up the Season and be able to take part," said Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design. "Over the years we've been regular participants in the DC Design House, another charity event benefitting Children's National. However, with this event we got the chance to interact and collaborate with the children that these events benefit. It's been a much more hands on experience for us. And who doesn't love decorating holiday trees?"

Subaran, along with Megan Padilla and Kelly Emerson also of Aidan Design created a holiday tree design called "A 'Wimpy' Tree - A Tree in Cartoons," which was inspired by a patient named Wesley and his favorite book series, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

"Our tree will explore a black and white theme in keeping with the graphic novel genre," said Subaran.

The design team says that they used 2- and 3-D interpretations of classic Christmas décor combined with "striking graphic visuals, pops of color, and a good dose of wit, the tree will be both a throwback to a simpler time and on trend for young readers."

"A Guiding Light" is the name of the mantel design created by Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Proxmire, Inc.

and inspired by a patient named Cheyenne. In creating her mantel, the designer said that she, "tied in biblical references to light, which are shown throughout the display, and incorporated Cheyenne's favorite color: red for a red, white and silver-themed mantel."

Two sisters named Leilah and Ava were the inspiration for a tree design called, "A Colorful Family Christmas" by Annie Elliott and Christy Maguire of Annie Elliott Interiors. "When asked what they liked best about Christmas, the girls agreed that being together with their entire family was tops," said Elliott. "In that spirit, they inspired our theme, 'A Colorful Family Christmas.' Playing board games, reading stories, sitting around a fire and decorating the tree also are favorite family activities. You'll see all of these holiday traditions reflected in our



PHOTO BY RYAN MEDIA LAB

Christy Maguire (left) and Annie Elliott (right) of Annie Elliott Interiors, (pictured with Leilah and Ava) will collaborate on a holiday tree for Light Up The Season 2017.

tree's decorations."

"Leilah and Ava have many favorite colors, but a winner for both is teal," added Maguire. "Therefore, teal drives the tree's color palette, and other of the girls' favorites, purple, blue, and green, also are included."

Other area designers include Lena Kroupnik of Lena Kroupnik Interiors, Allie Mann and Alexandria Hubbard of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., Camille Saum of Camille Saum Interiors of Bethesda, Md.; Victoria Sanchez of Victoria at Home, Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron, Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley

Flowers of Alexandria; Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors of Herndon; Josh Hildreth and Tara Price of Josh Hildreth Interiors of Reston and Lisa Tureson of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill.

The holiday designs will be on display

during a family-friendly community fundraising event to benefit Children's National at Four Seasons in Georgetown, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW - on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. There will be activities for all ages, such as holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, a visit from Santa and Children's National Dr. Bear mascot, musical performances and youth entertainers, silent auction, and light fare and libations. In addition, guests will be encouraged to write holiday cards for Children's National patients. Visit childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason for more.

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GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
MOUNT VERNON

ENTERTAINMENT

17 Screenings for Festival's Films

Annual event returns Friday with Feature and Short films.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON

During the approaching Veteran's Day weekend, the 11th Annual Alexandria Film Festival will showcase 52 independent films for those looking for a taste of culture that they couldn't get from an ordinary visit to a Northern Virginia movie theater.

From Friday, Nov. 10, through Sunday, Nov. 12, the local film festival will host 17 different screenings — each screening consisting of a different combination of feature and short films. The digital reels will be turning on Friday at Alexandria's Beatley Central Library and, then on Saturday and Sunday at AMC Hoffman Theatres.

This year, for the first time, Alexandria Film Festival will offer free tickets to veterans for special screenings at both venues. While every work of cinematic art is open and available to the public, the festival's executive director, Patti North, said it is especially important for members of the veteran community to experience certain films that are a part of this year's event.

"This is the first year we are offering free admission for veterans' showcases at AMC," North said. "I was struck by how great the material is about active duty service members, veterans and their families. These films are such great quality that we decided to assemble them into two special showcases. These showcases are free for veterans and one guest. We have always had programming that was especially geared toward veterans, but, in previous years, we've had it at Beatley so that we didn't have to worry about selling tickets. This year, for the first time, we will feature these showcases at AMC and make it complimentary admission for veterans, first come, first served."

Civilian attendees pay a modest fee for guaranteed admission to view the sessions at AMC Hoffman.

THE ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Alexandrians Fight The Great War. Various times through Nov. 11 at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. This exhibit shares some of the stories of Alexandrians during the war and their more active participation in the American war effort after April 1917. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

Multiple Exposures Gallery.

Through Nov. 26, various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105



Ed Berkley, technical director, and Margaret Wohler, 2017 chair for the Alexandria Film Festival.

started with a movement within the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, to embrace art that has emerged as a result of the digital technology.

"We would always talk about what kind of art we wanted to promote in Alexandria," North said of her time on the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. "We were essentially promoting the kind of art we would have during the Renaissance. It felt like we weren't acknowledging the digital explosion. So, I went to the commission about promoting some of it, and the arts commission and chair at the time Pat Miller said, 'go for it.'"

While the Alexandria Film Festival was a part of the commission's programming for the first six years, it broke away as a separate entity in 2012.

"Over time, the main staff person left, and eventually the city said, 'we can't do this like we did it before,'" North said. "So, two other commissioners and I decided to do it ourselves. One of those commissioners, Margaret Wohler, chairs the festival today. We've been a nonprofit organization since then, with more than 100 volunteers and an executive committee that is between six and eight people. And we are grateful to the commission and the city for supporting us via the arts grant program. We have learned to be nimble and resourceful, but we are always looking for sponsors, volunteers."

The small group that kept the Alexandria Film Festival going knew they were providing something important to the community.

"With all the technological advances, film-

making has become so much more democratized," North said. "To be able to open a window on another part of the world is very special. For example, we have the Pakistani Academy Award nominee as one of our features, which even though is a fictional narrative, lets audiences see what life is like in rural Pakistan. There are films that bring up fascinating ethical questions. A film festival puts experiences in front of you that you may not have otherwise and gives you the opportunity to think about them and talk to other people about them. This is an experience that you will never get from Netflix or Amazon Prime."

THE GROWING popularity of the Alexandria Film Festival is clear evidence that other people see the value in it, too. Filmmakers from all over the world enter the festival, and, North said, the host organization has seen a steady increase in audiences over the last decade.

"We have filmmakers coming from as far as California this year," North said. "One of the winners last year came from Spain. Part of the appeal for them is that this area is a really nice place to stay. We are very grateful to the Hilton for sponsoring hotel rooms for filmmakers, but they pay for transportation themselves."

Michael Fallavollita, the writer, producer and director of the short film "Tale of the Kite" will be traveling to Alexandria all the way from Pasadena, Calif. for the film festival this weekend.

"I have known of the Alexandria Film Festival for some time now," Fallavollita said.



"In submitting 'Tale of the Kite,' I was hoping to be included in the quality films the festival chooses each year. I am always looking for interesting venues to share the film as well as visit states I have never been to before. This will be my first visit to Virginia."

He, too, is excited to be a part of a weekend devoted to opening the public to an invaluable cinematic experience.

"Being included in this year's festival is an honor," Fallavollita said. "Short films are not easy to distribute and when I make movies, I intend for them to be seen on a big screen with an audience. The festival gives me a chance to share the movie the way in which it was intended as well as meet some of the audience members and other independent filmmakers. Going to the movies should be an experience shared with others in a theater, not a solitary moment through the overloaded digital world of the internet. The Alexandria Film Festival gives the audience an opportunity to experience movies, not just watch them."

"Tale of the Kite," filmed over an 11-year

SEE FILM FESTIVAL. PAGE 20

North Union Street, #312. Photo exhibit. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

Holiday Toy Drive. Through Dec. 8, various times at Quander Road School, 6400 Quander Road. Donate new/slightly used unwrapped toys for toddlers to 12 years old (puzzles, dolls, board games, action figures and more). Call 703-718-2400, Ext. 2431.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 14. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm.

Watercolor Exhibit. Through Dec. 19,

various times at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. See "Nature from Three Points of View", the work of Jan Burns, Madeleine Chen, and Shari MacFarlane, at the Horticulture Center. Sunday, Oct. 29 is the Artists Reception. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

THROUGH NOV. 30

Training for Turkey Day. Various times at the Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, Suite 4. Prepare for feasting with an unlimited fitness pass for their Barre Fitness (MetroBarre) and yoga

classes for the month of November. \$60. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org or call 703-339-0444.

THURSDAY/NOV. 9

Historic Start. The inaugural meeting of the Mount Vernon Historical Society will be held 7-9 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. The guest speaker will be Sean Thomas, director of Leadership Programs for George Washington's Mount Vernon. Free and open to the public.

Pizza and a Project. 6:30-8 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 3900 King St. Enjoy a free pizza dinner while

participating in community service stations, which will provide hands-on projects to help neighbors. Free, open to all ages. Visit www.fairlingtonumc.org.

NOV. 9-12

Alexandria Film Festival. Various times at AMC Hoffman 22 Theater, 206 Swamp Fox Road and Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. More than 50 free and ticketed films. Visit AlexFilmFest.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 10

"Salute To Veterans" Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Del Ray United Methodist

ENTERTAINMENT

Church, 100 East Windsor Ave. The Alexandria Citizens Band plays favorite tunes of Allied partners, as well as American classics, including the Armed Forces Salute. Visit alexandriacitizensband.com/.

NOV. 10-12

Paula Poundstone Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 11

Civil War Tours at Fort Ward. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. The tours will be conducted by an interpreter who will portray a Union army veteran reminiscing about his military service at Fort Ward during the Civil War. Call 703-746-4848.

Lee-Fendall House as a Hospital. 11 a.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Highlights include themes of nursing, soldiers, civilians, medical practices, and free people of color. \$8/\$10 at door. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org or call 540-431-8241.

Adventure at Green Spring Gardens. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about the adventurous history of this activity that combines clues, nature and navigation skills at the Letterbox Hunt. \$6. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meet the Author. 2-3:30 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive. Award-winning author Marta McDowell presents her new book, "The World of Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Frontier Landscapes that Inspired the Little House Books." Visit www.ahsgardening.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 12

Christmas Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Christ Church - Meade Room, 121 North Columbus St. Choose from a variety of Christmas merchandise and other gift ideas. All profits go to local and international charities. Call 703-549-2248 or visit www.historicchristchurch.org/.

Musical Sunday Brunch. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Featuring the vocal jazz and pop stylings of Sarah Moyers accompanied by Gena Photiadis on piano, Joe Whitney on tenor saxophone and John Mark Diner on bass. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

Gardening Lecture. 12:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Dr. Ashley Egan discusses: "A Tale of Two Vines: The Far Reaching and Few Between." Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

The United States Navy Concert Band. 2 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This chamber music recital series will feature a diverse array of traditional and contemporary music including works by Kerry Turner, Lowell Shaw, and Katharina Thomsen. Call 703-548-0035 or visit nvfaa.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 14

Stuff the Bus with DASH. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Giant Food - Alexandria Commons, 3131 Duke St. DASH Representatives will be on-site collecting non-perishable food items along with gently used and/or new coats, gloves, hats and scarves for those of all ages. All donations will be given to Alexandria citizens who have been affected by poverty and



Little Hunting Creek in Winter

Art exhibition and sale on Dec. 2-3 from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Eighty local artists, most Torpedo Factory Art League members, will exhibit and offer their artwork for sale. Call 703-799-9635.

natural disasters. Visit www.dashbus.com.
Meet the Artists. 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn-Carlyle, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. The National Art Education Association (NAEA) is showcasing artwork from art educators across the country in a juried exhibition at the association's headquarters. Email daniel.selnick@yahoo.com or call 703-347-5540.

Bruce Cockburn Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com.

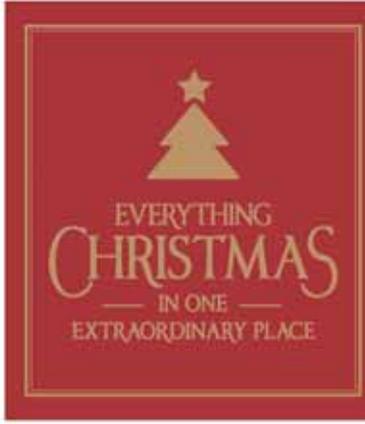
WEDNESDAY/NOV. 15

Genealogy Lecture. 10 a.m.-noon at

Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Professional genealogist Sharon Hodges explores "Tracing Your Family Roots through Genealogy." Free. Call 703-836-4414 ext 110 or visit www.seniorservicesalex.org
Stuff the Bus with DASH. 3-5 p.m. at King Street Metro Station, 1900 King St. DASH Representatives will be on-site collecting non-perishable food items along with gently used and/or new coats, gloves, hats and scarves for those of all ages. All donations will be given to Alexandria citizens who have been affected by poverty and natural disasters. Visit www.dashbus.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Greendale's Turkey Cup. 9 a.m. at Greendale Golf Course, 6700 Telegraph Road. Dinner is on the line as golfers compete in the 6th Annual Turkey Cup at Greendale Golf Course. The tournament is a two-player scramble, and winners take home Thanksgiving dinner and dessert. Prizes will be awarded for top finishes in each division, as well as closest to the pin. Call 703-971-6170 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/greendale/.
Stuff the Bus with DASH. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, Del Ray, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. DASH Representatives will be on-site




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ENTERTAINMENT

Del Ray Restaurants Get TV Time

BY HOPE NELSON

“Neighborhood Eats” Launch

Peek into WETA on Monday night at 9:30 and you’ll find a surprisingly familiar scene: Alexandria’s own Del Ray, highlighted on the small screen in the channel’s new episode of “Neighborhood Eats.”

The series — a companion to the “WETA Neighborhoods” series — takes viewers on a tour of neighborhood restaurants, highlighting interesting stories from owners, chefs, diners, and more. Along with other D.C.-area neighborhoods and eateries, this episode features three of Del Ray’s gems: Stomping Ground, Evening Star Café and Lena’s Wood-Fired Pizza.

“I think there’s a tendency in the Washington area to put government first and think of the Mall and all the federal institutions, but really this is a place that people live,” said Executive Producer Glenn Baker. “We feel like communities like Del Ray have that going so clearly, and we want to show how residents live, outside of the government infrastructure.”

Each segment of the episode begins with a big-picture survey of the scene and then gets right down to brass tacks. Stomping Ground owner and lead baker Nicole Jones begins the travelogue in the pre-dawn hours with a biscuit-making tutorial, giving viewers a tour of the ins and outs of a proper Southern breakfast (the general thesis: breakfast is sacred).

“The food obviously is fantastic. Nicole Jones is such a force, a presence in our community; people are drawn to her almost as much as the food,” said Producer Seth Tillman. “She’s brought a unique feel to the place, and it’s just packed every day of the week.”

The scene then changes to Evening Star, just down the street, and highlights a facet of the restaurant that might surprise even the most knowledgeable of Del Ray residents: The rooftop garden that spans the length of the café, growing fresh vegetables and herbs

Time: Monday, 9:30 p.m.

Channel: WETA (check local listings)

For more information: Visit www.weta.org and search for “Neighborhood Eats”

for use in the kitchen.

“You get up there, and when we filmed with the blue sky and the birds chirping, you really have this pastoral scene right in the heart of Del Ray,” Tillman said.

Chef Keith Cabot takes viewers on a tour of the garden and of the many offerings of the restaurant itself, ranging from sweet tomatoes to tasting menus to a glass of wine after work.

Finally, viewers end up at Lena’s on the far end of Del Ray, nestled at the corner of Mount Vernon Avenue and Braddock Road. Owner Jason Yates takes a tour of the restaurant and the history behind it — the pizzeria’s name is an homage to the Yates family matriarch, Lena — and discusses some of the top sellers, such as the 10-ounce meatball.

“It’s a little bit set off from the main Mount Vernon drag, but I think it’s also good because a lot of Del Ray is south of where the restaurants end on Mount Vernon, and it definitely has a really strong neighborhood feel,” Tillman said. “... The backstory with the Yates family and the connection they have to literally that corner, and opening up a restaurant that paid tribute to Jason’s mother and her Italian background and her style of cooking, was important to us.”

The second episode of “Neighborhood Eats” airs Monday at 9:30 p.m. on WETA (check local listings).

“What better way to learn about a new neighborhood than to go out, have a terrific meal there, and walk the streets? And Del Ray is the perfect destination for that,” Baker said.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

collecting non-perishable food items along with gently used and/or new coats, gloves, hats and scarves for those of all ages. All donations will be given to Alexandria citizens who have been affected by poverty and natural disasters. Visit www.dashbus.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 17

Meet the Artist. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, rooms 1 and 2, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Rachel Collins, a local watercolor artist and member of the National Watercolor Society, will be the presenter. Collins teaches classes at the Art League School in Alexandria, Va. and the Yellow Barn Studio in Glen Echo, Md. Call 703 653-9519.

NOV. 17-DEC. 24

The Old Bull and Bush. Various times at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. An effort to reopen the famous Hampstead England pub on stage to celebrate the holidays with food, song, jokes, dance and a sing-along. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

Thanksgiving Food Drive. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Gum Spring Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road. The Northern Virginia Project GiveBack will be hosting the 8th annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution

Drive. Call 703-217-1675.

Stuff the Bus with DASH. 9 a.m.-noon at Alexandria’s City Hall and Market Square, 301 King St. DASH Representatives will be on-site collecting non-perishable food items along with gently used and/or new coats, gloves, hats and scarves for those of all ages. All donations will be given to Alexandria citizens who have been affected by poverty and natural disasters. Visit www.dashbus.com.

Floral Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Thanksgiving Table Arrangement is the topic of the workshop. Professional floral designer Betty Ann Galway shares tips and tricks of the trade for you to practice on your own designs at home. \$38, and the supply fee is \$25. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Holiday Shop. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Holiday Shop is a local tradition with 50 artisans. Quilt will be raffled. Call 703-298-2176.

Kids Krafts at Friendship Firehouse Museum. 10 a.m. at the Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 South Alfred St. Children and caregivers work on crafts and visit the historic firehouse together. Ages 5-8. \$5. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse.

Alexandria Bus Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. African

American History of Alexandria Bus Tour, “From Slavery to Freedom,” a collaboration between the Office of Historic Alexandria, George Washington’s Mount Vernon, and the Gum Springs Museum. Lunch included. \$50. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

Alexandria Cider Festival. 2-6 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Celebrate Virginia Cider Week Nov. 10-19, in Alexandria with a special tasting festival. Call 703-746-4554.

Concerts at St. Luke’s. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. A wind quintet plays the works of Brahms’ Waltzes, Beethoven, Liszt and Chopin. \$20 adult; \$15 senior; free to students 18 and under. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Musical Sunday Brunch. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Featuring a selection of jazz standards, with some blues and Latin selections by Adam Fluger on guitar, Jack Irby on saxophone and TJ Turqman on bass. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/.

Meet the Author. noon-4 p.m. at Fiberworks, Studio 14 Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Cindy Grisdela, an award winning fiber artist, will speak and sign copies of her book, “Artful Improv: Explore Color Recipes, Building Blocks & Free

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ENTERTAINMENT

Film Festival Returns to Alexandria

FROM PAGE 16

period, is about a young pilot who finds himself in a dangerously remote area and with few resources to guarantee survival. It will be screened as part of the Burke & Herbert Bank Family Showcase on Saturday.

Fallavollita and about 200 other applicants submitted their short or feature films to the Alexandria Film Festival's open call.

"Our call for entries goes out on a national web platform, the same platform that Sundance uses," North said. "Any filmmaker in the world can look on there for film festivals. We have a panel of judges from the community that previews and rates films. Then we pick the finalists. It's an organic process; we're looking for films to curate at the same time we are judging submitted films. Then we put together the program very carefully."

She explained that each showcase session is between two and three hours long, including speakers, so organizing each of the 17 showcases is like piecing together a giant puzzle. Most of the sessions include Question and Answer sessions with filmmakers, 40 of whom will be in attendance this year.

At the end of the festival on Sunday evening, there is a reception and awards presentation. Winners receive "nominal" cash prizes, North said and a custom art glass award.

There are far more than 17 reasons to visit one of



Alexandria Film Festival volunteers work at last year's event.

the 17 sessions of the Alexandria Film Festival.

"Even for me and the other judges, who stream the films on computers to judge," seeing them on the big screen makes a huge difference. It's a whole new experience blown up. You're bedazzled by the shimmering waves of grain, or whatever scenery it is. You're also able to meet filmmakers and ask questions and give feedback. Oftentimes, audiences are incredibly sophisticated so it's fascinating to see their take on these films. It's overall a really special experience to be there."

To purchase tickets, and for information about the Alexandria Film Festival, including hours, visit alexfilmfest.com.

CALENDAR

Motion Quilting." Visit torpedofactory.org.

Christmas Cookies: History and Tea Tasting. 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Chef and culinary historian Nora Burgan tells the story of the Christmas cookie, a mainstay of the holiday table from medieval times to today. \$42 with tea, \$18 program only. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

Emerging Artist Concert. 4 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Julia Angelov, from Alexandria, and Oscar Paz-Suaznabar, age 12, on the piano, play orchestra favorites. Visit www.amadeusconcerts.com.

MONDAY/NOV. 20

Children's Discovery Garden. 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children enjoy different sensory materials in the garden, rain or shine. Dress for the weather. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

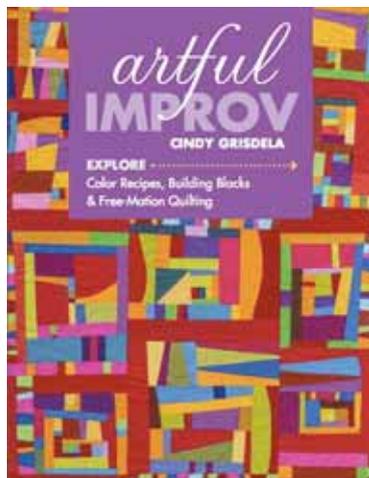
TUESDAY/NOV. 21

Music in History. 1-3 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Performance of "Hamilton & Washington: The Musical vs. Reality." Peter Henriques talks about the collaboration between Alexander Hamilton and George Washington, its importance in the nation's founding, and their portrayal in the musical, "Hamilton." Visit www.mvgenalogy.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 25

Small Business Saturday. Noon-3 p.m. at various businesses on King Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com/SmallBusinessSaturday.

Frosty Follies. 6 p.m. at Market



Meet the Author

Cindy Grisdela's book, "Artful Improv," will be the topic on Sunday, Nov. 19, noon-4 p.m. at Fiberworks, Studio 14 Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Cindy Grisdela, an award winning fiber artist, will speak and sign copies of her book. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Square, 300 King St. The Metropolitan Arts Dance School presents the annual Frosty Follies. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 26

Musical Sunday Brunch. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Featuring international Latin and Brazilian jazz and classical guitarist Cristian Perez, with John-Marc Diner on bass and Nick Natalie on saxophone. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/.

MONDAY/NOV. 27

Yoga for Gardeners. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This class features a gentle introduction to the vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Class held indoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call 703-642-5173.

DEC. 1-2

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Various times at The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. The 47th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend has activities throughout the weekend. Email developmentoffice@campagna-center.org or call 703-224-2395.

DEC. 1-16

Snow Day on Stage. Various times at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. This nonverbal production features live music and lots of wintertime fun, just in time for the holiday season. \$9. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 2-3

Original Artwork Sale. 4-7 p.m. Saturday, noon-4 pm. Sunday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Eighty local artists, most members of the Torpedo Factory Art League, will display and sell their original artwork. Visit www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org/.

THURSDAY/DEC. 7

An Introduction to French Comics. 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Arlington resident RM Rhodes leads this lecture about comics. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

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Meet Bishop Ireton's New Director of Theater Arts

School to stage
 "Twelve Angry Jurors" Nov. 16-18.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Bishop Ireton High School, a Catholic school with about 800 students in grades 9-12 on Cambridge Road in Alexandria, is staging "Twelve Angry Jurors" for three days only on Nov. 16, 17, and 18, at 7:30 p.m. Based on the movie, "Twelve Angry Men," this show features 13 students in the play, in both male and female roles.

"It's the same as 'Twelve Angry Men.' We just changed the gender," said Joanna Henry of Arlington, the new director of Theatre Arts at BI, adding that all 12 jurors and the guard are on stage the entire time. "It's a non-stop, constant discussion and not broken down into scenes," she said.

Henry said the action takes place when the jury starts to deliberate. "Eleven think he's guilty and one doesn't know. So he votes 'not guilty' because he feels they should talk about it and not sentence a man as guilty. Little by little other jurors start changing their minds," she said.

The Bishop Ireton theater program has about 50-75 students who do everything from the acting to stage crew to the Drama Club. Henry said they use the students to design shows and costumes, build the sets, and do all of the technical elements — stage manage, lighting design, sound design, and gather props.

Henry directed at Bishop Ireton in the early 2000s and took a break for about 12 years but continued to teach classes. With her new head position, Bishop Ireton put all of the theater programs under one roof and Henry said she couldn't be happier. "It's exciting to be back and directing and working with the students that way. I'm really enjoying it," she said.

She added, "I'm still teaching theater (four levels), and directing, producing and overseeing all the other programs within the



PHOTOS BY CABBY BANIQUEL

Bishop Ireton students in rehearsal for "Twelve Angry Jurors" (from left): Kevin McNerney (Juror # 8), Jake Carlo (Juror # 10), Kathleen McNerney (Juror # 7), Anna Johnson (Juror # 12), Roxanne Fisher (Juror # 5), Andrew Holland (Juror # 4), Olivia Hays (Juror # 3), and Emily Graham (Foreman).

school — the stagecraft class and costumes class. We also have a Drama Club, which I'm overseeing, but we have other teachers running it. We are also involved with the Cappies program. I'm also in charge of the International Thespian Society, which is an honor theater society. I'm pretty much doing theater all day; it's full time."



Joanna Henry

Under her watch, some Bishop Ireton graduates from the 2004 time period have gone on to become stars in the New York theater world. "At one point we had four involved with Broadway shows. They've been very successful in New York," she said.

Former student Jake Odmark played Harry in "Kinky Boots;" Karla Garcia was a "swing" who substituted for other actors in "Hamilton;" Matt Aument music-directed in "Sweeney Todd" and co-conducted the revival of "Gigi;" and Kerry Stinson started her own theater company called Blowout Theatre Company.

"I'm very proud of them. I know they've

worked hard. They're all phenomenally talented. You can't describe how it feels to sit in an audience and see one of your students perform on Broadway. I'm so proud of what they've done," she said.

WHILE SHE WAS AWAY for 12 years, she still taught English and theater classes, occasionally helping with the productions, even though she wasn't actually directing and producing. Now that she's back in the director's seat, she said, "It's just been wonderful to work with the students, the enthusiasm and the passion, and the excitement makes me feel so much younger than I really am."

Over the years, Henry has worked on roughly 90 productions and directed close to 50. Besides working at Bishop Ireton, she's directed at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, The Arlington Players, Reston Community Players, Vienna Theatre Company, and Port City Playhouse in Alexandria.

At LTA alone, she directed many productions including "The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)," "33 Variations," "Rabbit Hole," and the musicals, "Company," "Gypsy," "Into the Woods," and "The Music Man."

"LTA is set up very much like a professional theater," she said. "They have tremendous support in place for the director. They have terrific producers, stage managers, music directors, crew, choreographers. They're all there and they're all very talented."

Rachel Alberts, who serves as LTA's governor of public relations, said, "Joanna Henry is a theater student's dream. She is open and interactive with her teaching style. Many theater teachers have a big and blustery, larger-than-life approach. Joanna's approach is very different — she listens, she's patient, with her gentle but decisive manner she waits for a student to find their own voice on stage."

She continued, "Joanna is confident enough in her own abilities that she doesn't feel the need to impose her own opinions on her students. She knows that there are many, many ways to accomplish a variety of goals on stage and behind it. She allows students to find their way, not her way."

Added Joan Lada, "Joanna is the kind of teacher I would wish for every child. She has a passion for teaching — whether in her classroom or in the rehearsal room. She enriches and expands her students' lives ... From the moment I met her I was struck by her passion for theatre, her creativity, her ability to listen to everyone involved, her willingness to empower other people to create, and above all, her kindness and her patience." They met in 2006 when Lada stage-managed LTA's "Into the Woods," which Henry was directing.

All in all, Henry's been working in theater for close to 40 years — doing everything from acting, to props, to painting sets, to publicity, to stage managing, and even doing radio spots. Originally from Roseto, Pa., she graduated from East Stroudsburg University in the Poconos with an English major and drama minor. She earned a master's degree as a reading specialist from GMU.



Bishop Ireton High School is staging "Twelve Angry Jurors" for three days only on Nov. 16, 17, and 18, at 7:30 p.m. The venue is the school auditorium at 201 Cambridge Road. Visit www.BishopIreton.org.

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This map shows the stretch of Route 1 that will be widened.

Examining Route 1 Widening Plans

FROM PAGE 1

nals, which go through several cycles at each turn. For example, the current light at Buckman under the traditional option would take seven minutes to cross the highway, and only three to three and a half minutes with the superstreet option. The jughandle option does require the most right-of-way acquisition.

The project is being coordinated with the Embark Richmond Highway plan that was proposed by Fairfax County to create “a multimodal future for Richmond Highway,” according to the Fairfax County website. One part of the multimodal aspect is bus rapid transit, followed by bike and pedestrian venues. There would be bike and pedestrian facilities “on both sides of the highways,” said Amanda Baxter, the VDOT administrator that narrated the slideshow portion of the meeting. One slide dealt with the introduction of sound barriers that are part of the plan, but there is a long process to decide where they go and the size of the walls. Currently, the plan entails three northbound sound walls, totalling 1,009 feet, and two southbound sound walls that stretch 1,004 feet, but the style and appearance of the walls still needs to be worked out. “Aesthetic treatments will be considered,” said William Dunn, the VDOT project engineer.

Tom Biesiadny, director of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, joined Baxter on the stage to answer some of the audience’s questions. One question was about the business development in the future. “Embark does entail business development and the future Bus Rapid Transit will present options,” he said. Other questions from the audience

Anticipated Schedule

- ❖ Third Public Information Meeting - Spring 2018
- ❖ Design Public Hearing- Spring 2018
- ❖ Approve Design- Summer 2018
- ❖ Begin Right of Way Acquisition - Spring 2019
- ❖ Begin Utility Relocation - Summer 2020
- ❖ Begin Construction - Spring 2023
- ❖ Project Completion - 2026

dealt with cars stacking up at the red lights so they stick out in the roadway, storm water management, smart lights, the gaps between crosswalks and a popular crossing near Costco. Instead of crossing where one of the interchange redesigns would take place, “they all cross at the next light near Costco,” said one resident.

Part of the Embark plan goes into Lee District, so Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) has been involved in the pedestrian planning, which he called “public safety issues.” Currently many people are crossing at will and not following the crosswalk or crossing lights. “One of the biggest drivers of this plan is the pedestrian features,” McKay said.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mt. Vernon) is also involved with the pedestrian features of the plan. “We have to design it differently to reduce pedestrian-vehicle collisions.”

The question-answer section of the meeting was one aspect that was minimized in past meetings so everyone got their chance to speak up. “Engaging citizens is our best answer for future highways,” said Storck. A comment sheet was inserted in the brochure that were handed out, and VDOT is collecting the comments until Dec. 6.



Heidi Kabler doesn't want additional traffic that the new configuration might bring.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON

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Infusion Schedule is all Fowled Up

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Previously, chemotherapy only had anecdotally-described memory loss: “chemo brain” as proof of a missing fragment. Recently however, clinical studies have confirmed the link. Yet, I still feel as if I haven’t forgotten that I don’t recall any prior infusions occurring on the day after Thanksgiving, as my next infusion is presently scheduled. If I remember correctly, and there are occasional disputes, this would be the first Friday after a holiday when I’ve needed to be local, and infused. And yes, the Infusion Centers are open for business on the weekdays following major holidays.

Having recently had my quarterly, post-scan, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist and survived the ordeal, we moved on from discussing the scan results to being examined to scheduling future appointments – including a brain MRI and CT Scan, and of course, my next infusion. And looking at the calendar, Nov. 24 is that next date. Generally speaking, per previous conversations with my oncologist, rescheduling my infusions by a week or two, here or there, had not been much of a problem (my oncologist is a strong proponent of quality of life), and pretty much up to me.

However, as I’ve gotten older and presumably wiser – and well aware of my creatinine level/kidney issues, my current infusion schedule is what it is for a reason – protecting my kidneys. Moving the infusion up a week or back a week is not an arbitrary, Kenny-made decision any more, despite my holiday wish least. Sure enough when I asked my oncologist if he had any thoughts on my possibly rescheduling my next infusion to five weeks or seven weeks (vs. the current six weeks), he had a specific preference: five weeks. This would mean infusing the Friday before the following Thanksgiving Thursday (the effect of which would likely cause some eating challenges for yours truly – on my favorite meal of the year no less) rather than extending the infusion interval to seven weeks.

His thinking, as he explained it to us was: he didn’t want me to wait any longer for my infusion/medicine than was absolutely necessary. Not that I don’t realize how precarious my situation is but I am sort of going merrily along of late. His rebuke, so to characterize, to me about not extending my next interval to seven weeks reminded me yet again of the seriousness of my underlying diagnosis. The last thing one can do is take cancer’s inactivity for granted. Even though I’ve been stable for four years since I was last hospitalized in August 2013, I do have an incurable disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, and I was initially characterized as “terminal,” so hardly am I “N.E.D.,” no evidence of disease.

So my next infusion date is up to me, just not as ‘up’ as I thought it was/has been. Either I can keep my original six-week interval infusion appointment as currently scheduled or I can advance one week to five weeks (my previous regular interval). Extending it to seven weeks is not recommended. According to my oncologist, this is good news. Since my creatinine level/kidney function has not appreciably improved while extending the interval from five to six weeks, shortening the interval back to five weeks is not a concern to him which means my kidneys are up to the challenge, which is very reassuring since kidney damage is permanent.

And even though waiting a seventh week for my next infusion might allow my kidneys more time to filter the chemotherapy a bit longer, it might also give the cancer some time to activate – and we certainly don’t want that.

However, nothing lasts forever, and cancer cells in particular are pretty resourceful and often figure out what’s being done to them and start doing something else which leads to different treatment. At the moment, the drug I’m infusing, alimta, is working miracles. Perhaps the next drug will be as successful, perhaps not; and that of course is the problem, the unknown.

What I do know is this: a definite is better than a maybe. If I infuse the previous Friday, I definitely won’t feel like eating on Thursday. If I infuse on the Friday after Thanksgiving, maybe I won’t feel like driving. So what! A bird in hand ...

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

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NEWS

Tran in 42nd

FROM PAGE 5

Tran is blazing a new trail through Virginia history, becoming the first Asian-American woman to be elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. That reflects the steadily growing international flavor of the district, where 58 percent of the foreign-born population is from Asia. She joins Del. Mark Keam (D-35) as members of an Asian-American community in Northern Virginia that is organized and focused.

“There is no room for intolerance and racism in Virginia,” said Hyun Lee, AAPI Victory Fund activist. “The AAPI Victory Fund will continue to support candidates across America that understand and stand up for our community.”

House District 42

- ◆ Democrat Kathy Tran: 61 percent, 19,000 votes
- ◆ Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak: 12,000 votes

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

Consumer Protection Lecture and Lunch. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon District Building, 2511 Parkers Lane. Speakers from the Fairfax Department of Consumer Services, presenting information on avoiding fraud, scams, and other consumer issues. Sponsored by the Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax-Burke. Call 703-799-0505.

Information Session. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the South County Center, Room 221B, 8350 Richmond Highway. Join the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board’s Support Coordination staff at an information session that will help prepare individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to transition out of public schools in Fairfax County. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/events/transition-information-sessions.htm.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 15

Holiday Grief Workshop. 6 p.m. at Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, 2729 King St. Capital Caring’s Alexandria Neighborhood is offering grief workshops during the holiday season. These workshops will include tips on how to cope with grief during the holiday season, reflection about how to care for ourselves and a closing ritual of remembrance. The workshops are open to the community, free of charge. Contact Chesley Simpson at 703-333-6954 or csimpson@capitalcaring.org. Visit capitalcaring.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

Volunteers Wanted. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Gum Spring Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Northern Virginia Project GiveBack will be hosting the 8th annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution Drive. Approximately 500 volunteers will gather to assemble and deliver approximately 500 boxes to low income families in the Northern Virginia Area. See www.novapgb.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 29

Holiday Grief Workshop. 1 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church — Sharon Chapel, 3421 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Capital Caring’s Alexandria Neighborhood is offering grief workshops during the holiday season. These workshops will include tips on how to cope with grief during the holiday season, reflection about how to care for ourselves and a closing ritual of remembrance. The workshops are open to the community, free of charge. Contact Chesley Simpson at 703-333-6954 or csimpson@capitalcaring.org. Visit capitalcaring.org.

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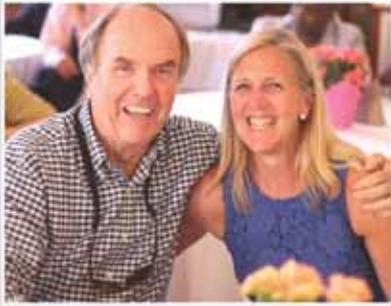
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