

Helping Keep Homeless Warm this Winter

Hypothermia Prevention Program gearing up for 2017-2018 season.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

The first semi-cold snap just hit the region, but it's just a taste of colder days and wintry weather yet to come. It's also a reminder that some of people will be braving the season without the ability to simply turn the temperature up on a heating unit. In a region that is consistently described as having one of the healthiest economies in the country, there are still hundreds who are homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

Fairfax County and surrounding communities operate shelters for individuals and families year-round and serve a large clientele with their efforts, but when winter arrives, it becomes apparent that there are many more homeless throughout the area, and without the Hypothermia Prevention Program their lives would be in danger.

During the 2016-2017 season, Abby Dunner from the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness reports that at least 1,057 people



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHERRY EDELKAMP

On a day like this last year, many appreciate that Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church in Alexandria offers their facilities to the homeless during the Hypothermia Prevention Program Season through their Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Program, with New Hope Housing coordinating the services for the region.

utilized one of the shelters for at least one night.

THE PROGRAM is an integral part of the county's commitment to prevent and end homelessness, offering shelter – and more – during the coldest months of the year. The non-profits New Hope Housing (NHH), FACETS, Cornerstones and Northern Virginia Family Services operate the program under contract with Fairfax County, dividing their efforts and offerings into five service areas, with the help of some 44 faith-based communities who have volunteered not only their congregants to assist, but also offered their facilities as shelter venues during the program's season.

New Hope Housing handles the task in the South County Route 1 area, the Central area, including Annandale and Seven Corners, as well as within the City of Falls

Church, in partnership with Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter.

In South County, NHH goes into high gear starting Dec. 1 with their overnight shelter program through the Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Program (VIC-HOP) at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church in Alexandria. An army of volunteers, many from faith-based agencies, assist staff with meal preparation and service for dinner and a to-go breakfast. NHH also offers housing assistance and employment skills at both shelters.

The City of Falls Church program will kick off on Nov. 15 and run through March 31, 2018 at the Falls Church Homeless Shelter at 217 Gordon Road. from 6 p.m.-8 a.m. daily. Like the South County facilities, case management services will be available, in addition to hot meals and a warm and safe sleeping environment.

In the Central region, from Dec. 1 through March 31, 2018, NHH operates their seasonal program out of the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter (BCCS), starting at 4:30 p.m. Faith communities offer their facilities on a

weekly rotation, enabling NHH to greatly expand the numbers they can assist. Clients can access meals, laundry, showers and cold-weather clothing and supplies at BCCS, before some are transported to a volunteering faith community for overnight accommodation in the care of NHH staff. Guests are then transported back to BCCS the following morning.

Cornerstones coordinates the efforts in the North County area, including Herndon and Reston, operating out of the Embry Rucker Community Shelter. The main Hypothermia Prevention Program opens at the North County Government Building on Dec. 1, where guests are directed after visiting the Embry Rucker facility. Case management, supplies, meals, showers, laundry, and even bus tokens are available to guests.

Contact Information

How to make contact in your area to receive assistance or to offer it:

- ❖ **South County** – www.newhopehousing.org.
- ❖ **City of Falls Church** – www.newhopehousing.org
- ❖ **Central** – www.newhopehousing.org
- ❖ **North County** – www.cornerstonesva.org. To donate or volunteer, contact ❖ Susan Alger at Susan.Alger@cornerstonesva.org.
- ❖ **Western/Central** – www.facetscares.org.

During the 2015-2016 season, FACETS and their partners served 385 guests.

The Western and Central region, which includes Fairfax and Centreville, is operated by FACETS. Their prevention program begins on Nov. 26. Accommodations vary, as guests are hosted by various partnering faith communities. The first four weeks will be hosted at one site, then, beginning on Dec. 24, the program utilizes two community sites rotating each week. FACETS provides case management services at each location. FACETS also encourages community members to volunteer at a location, or to donate items like food and clothing. The organization offers volunteer and staff training sessions "with the goal of making sure everyone involved feels safe and confident in providing shelter to those experiencing homelessness this season."

IN ADDITION to offering accommodation and life skills services, the Hypothermia Prevention Program includes visits – at least once per week – to the venues by nurse practitioners from Fairfax County's Homeless Healthcare Program. Basic medical care can be offered onsite, and flu vaccines will be offered free of charge. Outreach personnel will also visit, helping to assist clients wishing to enroll into the Community Health Care Network's free clinics.



Thousands of volunteers make the Hypothermia Prevention Program possible each year, offering a warm meal and a warm place to sleep. A cheerfully decorated lunch bag from some of the region's youngest citizens, can help warm the heart as well.



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Julie Strandlie, Mason District Commissioner



Nick Ploutis, Springfield



James Hart, At-large Commissioner



Timothy Sargeant, At-large Commissioner



Don Hinman, Mount Vernon



Gail Henry, Fairfax

Renting Out Homes Through the Net

Proposed zoning rules would allow residents to operate short-term lodging as an accessory use of a home.

BY KEN MOORE

Nick Ploutis developed his backup plan during tough economic times when fewer people contracted him to paint their houses.

“It has saved me,” said Ploutis of Springfield, a father of four who rented out his Alexandria property through a short-term rental platform. “Airbnb has helped me to pay my bills.”

Fairfax County Planning Commission held a workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 1 to address issues associated with allowing short-term rentals, such as who can operate lodging, the number of days permitted, whether homeowners or occupants must be present during the rental period, fees and necessary permitting for registering homes for short-term rentals, and if a log of overnight adults guests must be maintained and available to county staff.

“I think a lot of [short-term rentals] are flying under the radar,” said Dranesville District Commissioner John Ulfelder. “Technically, they are illegal right now.”

Currently, short-term lodging is not a permitted use under the existing Zoning Ordinance.

Laurie Arrants, of the Mason District, expressed comfort that the county will examine this new rental industry before rushing ahead: “Adding risk associated with lodging into the residential communities is a huge paradigm shift,” when local zoning code has protected residential areas from commercial activity, she said.

Right now, the county is considering limiting the number of nights in a range of 30 to 180 days annually; planners said they want the rentals clearly defined to be an accessory use, that

the property’s primary use will still be somebody’s domicile.

Gail Henry of Fairfax asked why there would be a limit to the number of days residents could rent out home spaces. “I imagine there are many positives,” said Henry, referring to widowers, military members, people laid off or underemployed, or trying to remain in an expensive county.

She voiced concern over a negative undertone she sensed in the county’s initial discussions on the topic.

But planning commissioners have not taken any stand, said Planning Commission Chairman and Springfield District Commissioner Peter Murphy.

“No one on the commission is calling balls and strikes right now, we are simply asking questions,” said Murphy, during the public workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING parking, noise, and insurance liability dominated the queries from the planning commissioners

Regulating, Permitting Short-Term Rentals

Fairfax County is moving forward with a process to permit and limit short-term lodging like Airbnb and other platforms. This would regulate who can operate short-term lodging, impose limits on the operation and develop a permit process for seeking approval of short-term lodging as an accessory use to the occupancy of a dwelling.

The county’s Department of Zoning Ordinance process allows time to fine-tune additional language of short-term rentals; the county will advertise public hearings to give all residents an opportunity to voice opinion. The county conducted an online survey and have conducted several public meetings already, including last week’s public workshop at the Planning Commission.

For more, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/shorttermrentals/shorttermrentals-calendar.htm.

to Department of Planning and Zoning staff during the two-hour meeting.

Liability insurance must be addressed, said Don Hinman, of Mount Vernon District, who spoke on behalf of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. The federation advocates that homeowners (or residents) must be present when renting out for short-term rental.

At-large Commissioner James Hart called the short-term rentals analogous to child care centers operating in people’s homes.

He asked if inspections will be made, but county officials said they intend the responsibility to be placed on the homeowner or occupant hosting the short-term renter.

“If we’re approving a registry of these,

maybe there’s some expectation in the public that somebody at some point has checked to make sure there’s a working smoke detector and that there’s a fire exit that meets code,” said Hart. “I hope that there’s not a false sense of security by us approving a registry for these, that yes, you can sleep overnight there ... and we don’t know if it’s a firetrap or not.”

Lee District Commissioner James Migliaccio would like to see “a more draconian approach” taken with violators.

“I’m looking to protect the neighbors a bit more,” said Ellen Hurley, Braddock District Commissioner.

THE STRONGEST request came from Mason District Commissioner Julie Strandlie. She implored the county to conduct a survey of HOAs and condo associations.

“I think it is imperative that we do a survey to find out what our communities existing HOA and condo language says,” said Strandlie. “It will be next to impossible for condo associations and HOAs to amend documents if theirs do not already prohibit [short-term rentals].”

At-large Commissioner Tim Sargeant said he has concerns for small HOAs that might not have the resources to pursue legal costs should the need arise.

“We’re not precluding any HOA in any way from saying no?” asked Commissioner Hart.

“That is correct,” answered Lily Yegazi, senior assistant to the zoning administrator.

Proposed Standards

Related to Operation:

- Short-term lodging allowed as **accessory use** to the primary residential use
- ✓ Limited to overnight rentals of not more than **30-180 calendar days/year**
- ✓ Operator must be present during all rental period except for a maximum of **14-60 calendar days/year**
- ✓ Limited to one contract per night
- A log of all overnight adult guests must be maintained & must be available upon request by County Staff

✓ Indicates provision to be advertised with flexibility

FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING

This chart shows a range of proposals for the zoning ordinance regarding short-term rentals.



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Cdr. Joseph Famme (left) and Col. John Bridge present the wreath at the tomb.

Wreath Laying at George Washington's Tomb

The George Washington Chapter Virginia Society Sons of the American Revolution and the Kate Waller Barrett Chapter Virginia Daughters of the American Revolution conducted their annual Veterans Day commemoration and wreath laying at General Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon at 2:15 p.m. on Nov. 11. The wreath was presented by Col.

John Brigden, USA (Ret) and Cdr. Joseph Famme, USN (Ret). Kate Waller Barrett Virginia DAR Chapter Regent Kathy Gray and George Washington Virginia SAR Chapter President Paul Walden gave remarks. George Washington Chapter Vice President Ernest Coggins served as Master of Ceremonies. The VASSAR Color Guard presented colors and Fifer Don Francisco provided the music accompaniment.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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.

Candlelight Vigil. 6 p.m. at 4911 Keeler Court. The Burgess-Williams family and friends will gather at a candlelight vigil for Delores "Sweetie" Williams, a resident of the Woodlawn area of Alexandria, who died following a domestic violence incident. Visit www.deloresewilliams.org for more.

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.

Spiritual Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Join David Potter as he looks at Contemplative Activism: A Grounded Spirituality for Social Transformation. Call 703-360-4220 or visit www.centerforspiritualdeepening.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Future Quest. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at GMU's Johnson Center, 4400 University

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 29

Holiday Grief Workshop. 1 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church — Sharon Chapel, 3421 Franconia

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 25

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NEWS



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Signature Sponsor Verizon with NVUL Board Members and Special Guests, from left: Gary Carr, NVUL Board Member; Dr. Lekeisha Terrell, NVUL Young Professionals Network; Jamil Smart, Smart Learning Solutions President/CEO; Douglas E. Brammer, Verizon Manager of State Government Affairs; Diane McCloughlin, NVUL Board Member; Marie Schuler, Comcast Director of Government & Community Affairs; Katina Matthews, Fairfax County Regional Manager for Department of Neighborhood and Community Services; and Karen Keys-Gamarra, Fairfax County School Board Member-at-Large.

Expos Spotlight ASTEAM

Learning about Aviation, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.

The Northern Virginia Urban League (NVUL), in partnership with Smart Learning Solutions, hosted two ASTEAM Fall Family Carnivals – the first, on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road, and the second, on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the new state-of-the-art Loudoun County facility, The Campus, 100 Powers Court, Sterling

More than 650 children, families, and community members and partners were in attendance for the two expos. Signature sponsors included: Verizon for the Oct. 14 expo and Leidos for the Oct. 28 expo.

The free community expos, with hands-on learning activities for children and families, featured a day of Aviation, Science, Technology, Engineering,

SEE ASTEAM, PAGE 25

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—Colonel Philip (Phil) J. Saulnier, USA, Retired and Judith (Judy) Saulnier, Residents at The Fairfax for 3.5 Years

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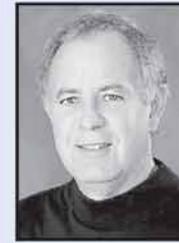


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Mt. Vernon Grove \$594,900
9336 Heather Glen Drive

Beautiful 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA colonial w/2 car garage on the Potomac River side of Mount Vernon. .34 Acre. Library on main level. Family room w/fireplace off of the kitchen w/French doors to backyard. Dressing room & walk-in closet adjoin the spacious Master suite. Separate Dining and Living Rooms. Unfinished basement w/walk-up steps.

COMING SOON



Alex/Potomac Valley \$554,900
8807 Vernon View Drive

Lovely 4BR, 2BA, 4 lvl, Split on a large, beautiful .3 acre lot w/a fenced bkyd. Main lvl has a spacious & cozy Family rm w/gas FPL, 4th BR, & 2nd full bath. Upper level #1 offers an open kitchen w/ceramic tile floor & space for a table plus Living & Dining Rm. Upper level #2 has a full bath & 3BRs w/carpet over the hwd floors. The lower level has a large partially finished Rec rm. Good price on a super lot & very nice home that you can add some personal touches to. Keep an eye out for the Estate Sale on furniture. CS 3% on the house-Call Rex for an early visit 703-409-4784

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 Hwd floors. Gorgeous screened porch off Din Rm. Beautiful finished lower level. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & a5 mins to Old Town, Alex (N).

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Alex/Riverside Estates \$499,900
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SOLD



Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor \$576,000
4601 Wood Drive

Stunning 4BR, 3BA Split w/a carport & garage on a beautiful lot w/a spectacular custom-built screened porch-perfect for entertaining & enjoying your private time. Freshly painted interior, beautiful refinished hwd floors, updated kitchen w/granite counters. Great price. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 25 mins to Ntl Airport. This is a 10!

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Alex/Riverside Estates \$509,900
8519 Wagon Wheel Road

Great price on this lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial in popular Riverside Estates. 3 finished levels w/large 2 car garage. Hardwood floors underneath carpet on main & upper levels. New HVAC, newer roof, windows, appliances. Family room w/gas fireplace off the kitchen. Laundry room main level, 4BRs on upper level. Patio deck in rear. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 25 mins to Ntl' Airport, 30 mins to Pentagon/D.C. You won't get a much quality house for this price in Mount Vernon!



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Nonprofit Dental Clinic Fills a Need

Serving more than 2,500 low-income patients a year.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON

While there are plenty of people who dread routine appointments to the dentist, the people in the scariest of situations are those who simply cannot afford to seek this critical care. And, because too many people today are in this unsettling position, the Northern Virginia Dental Society (NVDS) established the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic (NVDC) to provide low-income residents with affordable treatment.

"The program was one of the first of its kind in the nation and continues to serve the indigent population of our community," said Tom Wilson, NVDC executive director. "NVDC opened in 1994 and provides a comprehensive menu of services from the basic dental exams, fillings and teeth cleanings, to specialized treatment including root canal therapy, oral surgery, and the fabrication of dentures and other prosthetic appliances. The NVDC's goal is to restore each individual to an infection free and functional state of oral health."

Although NVDS is a professional organization of local dentists, its membership supports its nonprofit clinic.

"NVDC has always been the society's primary outreach program and our members volunteer their time, skill, and make monetary contributions regularly," said Cathy Griffanti, NVDS executive director. "Our clinic(s) provide the low-income population in our community with a true dental home where they receive ongoing oral health care and education."

Facilities like NVDC are often a qualified patient's only avenue to life-saving dental treatment.

"While there is an avenue for low-income children to seek oral health care, there is nothing for adults," Wilson said. "Through Medicaid, there are very limited healthcare services for adults. Those services are lim-

ited to one emergency extraction, diagnostics, and then there is limited care for pregnant women."

NVDC, with two locations in Fairfax and Sterling, currently serves thousands of patients a year. By charging just \$50 per appointment, regardless of the nature of treatment, procedures are affordable for people who have no dental insurance or a way to pay out-of-pocket. Under normal circumstances, for instance, even a simple cavity filling would eclipse the NVDC per-visit cost.

There are 23 regular staff members; however, the 120 NVDS volunteers, along with roughly 50 regular volunteer dental hygienists from the Northern Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association, make these affordable services possible.

Amidst the emergence of other similar dental clinics for the low-income population in Northern Virginia, NVDC has experienced much growth since its inception nearly 24 years ago.

"We serve over 2,500 patients a year, and provide more than 10,000 appointments per year," said Wilson, who has overseen NVDC for more than 20 years. "We did about 3,000 appointments total in 1997, the year I came. It's been a steady growth with lots of hard work from volunteers, the board and staff. We're hoping to move that number of annual appointments up to the 12,000 level in the next year and a half."

NVDC relies on a number of grants from government programs and private foundations. The most recent grant the non-profit organization accepted was from the Virginia Healthcare Foundation (VHCA).

"The primary initiative in securing the grant money is to increase the clinic's service capacity," Griffanti said. "The funding recently awarded by the VHCF will enable NVDC to hire two part-time dentists at the Fairfax facility, a part-time registered dental hygienist, and a full-time dental assistant. This additional staff will allow us to provide an additional 2,000 patient appointments."

Wilson said examples of other crucial sources of revenue are Northern Virginia Health Foundation, Inova Health Systems, Kaiser Permanente of the Mid-Atlantic States and United Way of the National Capital Area.

Since it would be impossible for NVDC to treat every single Northern Virginian in dental distress, the clinic works with social services organizations in each jurisdiction for the patient selection process.

"As a program, we don't decide who comes to us," he said. "Each jurisdiction identifies low-income residents throughout their jurisdiction and screens them for eligibility. Everyone we see, though, is at or below 200 percent of poverty. What that means in Northern Virginia, where the median annual household income is about \$110,000, you're talking about the majority of the people we serve having an annual income of around \$37,000."

From their first visit, patients have one year to complete the treatment plan that NVDC practitioners outline for them. According to Griffanti, approximately 78 percent of NVDC patients complete their treatment plan. This translates to thousands of

Referring Agencies

Emergency and initial appointments to the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic must be scheduled through designated referring agencies only.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

- ❖ Department of Human Services: 703-746-5700
- ❖ Mental Health/Substance Abuse: 703-746-3500
- ❖ Neighborhood Health: 703-535-5568

FAIRFAX COUNTY

- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Services: 571-748-2593 or 571-748-2500
- ❖ United Community Ministries: 703-768-7106 (Alexandria, Ft. Belvoir, Lorton)
- ❖ Multicultural Center/NVFS: 571-748-2800 (Annandale, Falls Church)

lives saved.

"Oral health is linked to poor overall health conditions," Wilson said. "It affects pregnancies, infants of pregnant women, it has links to Crohn's disease and a whole list of conditions. That's why we provide the full gamut of treatment for patients. Our focus is on functional restoration, but of course aesthetics always come into play."

"A lot of women come and talk to us with their hands covering their mouths," Wilson said. "You wouldn't believe the self-esteem that comes back to these individuals after a couple of months of treatment."

Programs like NVDC benefit the community at large, as well. The more patients that visit designated oral health care providers, the less often people will visit emergency facilities with debilitating pain caused by tooth-related infections.

For more information, see www.nvds.org/northern-virginia-dental-clinic.

"While there is an avenue for low-income children to seek oral health care, there is nothing for adults."

— Tom Wilson, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Dental Clinic

At Sea

Fire Controlman 3rd Class Jordan Peacock, from Alexandria, gathers water and air temperatures aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) during exercise Dogu Akdeniz 2017, Nov. 12. Dogu Akdeniz is a Turkish-led, multinational maritime exercise designed to improve combined combat capabilities, increase operational capacity and strengthen relationships among NATO allies.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO

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Heidi & Elke Kohler 703.609.7367 or 967.7633
ALEXANDRIA / Wilton Woods \$ 609,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 4

3419 WOODSIDE RD Charming 1941, 3 level Cape Cod, 4BR/2.5BA on cul-de-sac. Gorgeous, rebuilt screened-in porch, new driveway, and newer windows. Deck off dining room, living room fireplace, hardwoods on 2 levels plus beautiful mature trees on large lot. Bet. METRO blue/yellow lines, Ft. Belvoir and more.

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Margaret Ruhe 703.599.7527
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"The Giving Tree"

For the past 27 years, the agents of the Old Town Alexandria office have sponsored "The Giving Tree", a program where each Alexandria Elementary School identifies a family in need (55 children this year.) We receive a list of the family's needs, and the agents shop for each family. Your financial contribution enables us to purchase stocking stuffers, toys, games, books, clothing, and food gift cards for these adoptive families.

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OPINION

Give Locally in Fairfax County

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger for tens of thousands of poor children in our area.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest

areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Fairfax County, more than 52,000 (28 percent) of FCPS students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals.

The median family income in Fairfax County rose to \$129,800. But among families with children, 6 percent have income below the poverty level. That's \$20,420 for a family of three. That's about \$1,700 a month. Median rent in Fairfax County is \$1,747, meaning the cost for half the rentals is more than that.

These are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who

may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger — a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again after Thanksgiving, so please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

WHERE TO GIVE LOCALLY

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Gifts will be collected at Cornerstones main office, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, VA 20190 on Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. – noon. Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.
- ❖ **Share of McLean** operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families (630-plus people) this year. Help neighbors in need by donating money, fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Share's Furniture Program is in major need of drivers and helpers. Visit the Furniture Program page. The Food Pantry is in major need of supplies; visit the Food Pantry page and check Facebook to see how to help the Food Pantry. Visit www.shareofmclean.org for more info about Share.
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105, herndonrestonfish.org. Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate at give.nvfs.org/holidaydonation or via check payable to "NVFS" with "Operation Turkey" on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards.

- Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124.
- ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182. 703-506-9191, second-story.org. Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent.
- ❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000+ mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org.
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.
- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153.
- ❖ **HomeAid** builds and renovates facilities that house the homeless, and partners with many local organizations to do so. 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly, VA 20151. www.homeaidnova.org.
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251, volunteer@facetscares.org or www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.
- ❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. britepaths.org.
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880, fairfaxfish.org.
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, day center for homeless, Fairfax. 703-691-3178, www.thelambcenter.org.
- ❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173, info@foodforothers.org or www.foodforothers.org. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO). 703-569-9160, www.foodforothers.org. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low

- income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year.
 - ❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families More information at lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/. Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at lortonaction.org or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140 or email Linda@LortonAction.org. Mailing address: LCAC, P.O. Box 154, Lorton, VA 22199-0154.
 - ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, email alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.
 - ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 373, Arlington, VA 22201.703-591-4968, cause-usa.org.
 - ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. www.shelterhouse.org/
 - ❖ **United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. For the holidays, donations of nearly 10,000 toys, books, games, clothing, and other gifts ensured a joy-filled holiday for more than 1,200 children in 600 families. 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org
- Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.
- ❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia. 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org.
 - ❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email jhenderson@homestretchva.org; 703-237-2035 x125; homestretchva.org/.
 - ❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-

SEE GIVE LOCALLY. PAGE 26

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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Help Children Awaiting Adoption

BY ANN BURROUGHS SUN
CASA VOLUNTEER

November is National Adoption Awareness Month. Adoption can take many shapes and forms. It can be done through private attorneys or organizations or public agencies. It can place children with relatives or others within or across communities, states, and even countries. It can happen for infants, toddlers, young children, or adolescents. Adoption can look like any combination of these, but the majority of adoptions nationwide are non-relative adoptions handled by public agencies within the same community or state.

Right here in Fairfax County, 34 children in each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015 and 15 children in fiscal year 2016 were adopted from foster care according to the Department of Family Services (DFS) 2016 Annual Report. Those children were fortunate — but they represented fewer than half of all children in foster care in Fairfax County with a goal of adoption during those periods. How can we increase the chances of find-

ing permanency for some of our most vulnerable young people?

There are dedicated people working on bettering outcomes for children available for adoption, including within DFS. DFS publicizes the fact that “more than 70 percent of ... adoptive families begin as foster parents, then commit to adopting the child in their care.”

This suggests that to the extent Fairfax County currently succeeds at placing its children who are in foster care with a goal of adoption into adoptive families, it is largely through cultivation of adoptive families from among its foster families. DFS Foster Care and Adoption Specialist Amanda Macaulay says that this happens through significant and concerted efforts to provide support and training to “resource families,” families who come to DFS interested in fostering or adopting who are dual-approved — for foster care and adoption — and who are given extensive tools and ongoing training to successfully engage with children throughout what is a journey, whether the goal is family reunification or relative placement, or becomes adoption. The hope is that these resource families will feel comfortable and confident, if and when the time comes,

making a natural progression to becoming adoptive families.

In an effort to increase the size of the pool of foster families from which 70 percent of Fairfax County’s adoptive parents come, DFS works hard to disseminate information about and generate interest in fostering. DFS Community Educator/Recruiter Emma Marshall describes the work she and her colleagues do as “trying to reach as many people as possible” to convey to our communities the need for foster families and information about how fostering works. Ms. Marshall describes efforts to reach people through radio and television, newspapers and websites, neighborhood and community events, and churches and service organizations, among other avenues. Foster Parent Ambassadors play a key role in extending DFS’s reach; DFS trains some of its foster parents to serve in community outreach roles, talking formally and informally with friends, neighbors, and others in the community about what being a foster family really means and how they can get involved. Getting more families in the door is critical to increasing the numbers of children moving from foster care to adoption when that is the goal.

The crucial work of DFS staff and people in other professional and volunteer organizations working with children to secure permanency, to create “forever families,” can be leveraged through efforts by the rest of us. Beyond having read this article, what can you do during National Adoption Awareness Month to further your own awareness or increase the awareness of others?

- ❖ Attend a DFS information session, held on the second Monday of each month.
 - ❖ Call the DFS Foster Care and Adoption Unit to find out more about the program or ask specific questions.
 - ❖ Talk to family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues about adoption in all its forms, and encourage them to educate themselves about the need for resource families right here in Fairfax County.
 - ❖ Contact the Fairfax CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) office to ask about becoming a volunteer CASA or contributing to the mission in other ways.
 - ❖ Go to www.adoptuskids.org/states/va/browse.aspx if you are interested in opening your home to one of the many wonderful children awaiting adoption here in Virginia.
- All children deserve safe and loving homes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Environment Under Assault

To the Editor:

My family and I have enjoyed living in the environment here in Northern Virginia since 1980. We enjoy it even more having returned from a cumulative 10 years of assignments in China, where we endured the air of the cities, saw the polluted land and water of the countryside, and talked with Chinese parents who are deeply concerned by the environmental contamination in the food they serve their children. Fortunately, the Chinese government is increasingly responding to the concerns of the Chinese people regarding public health and the environ-

ment. That is, conditions there are getting better.

On the other hand, we find increased cause for concern about the environment here in the U.S. After retiring from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) after more than 20 years, I am shocked that the proposed budget for EPA includes double digit cuts that will result in less research into environmental problems and how to fix them, fewer enforcement actions to ensure that polluters comply with the law, and less information available to the citizens about the environmental problems we all confront.

While many more citizens are committing themselves to the cause of a livable and sustainable environment (e.g., recycling and composting), the EPA — our flagship

in environmental protection — is not-so-slowly sinking from global and domestic leadership toward global and domestic disengagement when it comes to environmental matters.

For the sake of our — and future — generations, we must do better if we are continue to enjoy an environment that is both healthful and sustainable. The future of the environment is brightening in China, but it is dimming here at home.

It has been said that budgets are moral documents. Therefore, the current budget is not one that you would want to bring home to your mother ... Earth ... or show to your Father.

Donald G. Barnes, Ph.D.
Alexandria

CRIME REPORT

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

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: 3115 Sherwood Hall Lane (Thrift Store of Virginia), Nov. 12 around 1:30 a.m. Someone entered the business and stole merchandise and money.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: 7678 Richmond Highway (Wings To Go), Nov. 12 around 1:30 a.m. Someone entered the business and stole money.

RECKLESS DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY: 7212 Fordson Road (Quality Inn), Nov. 5 around 2:15 a.m. Officers responded after gunshots were heard in the area. They located several shell casings in the parking lot and in a nearby fence. There was damage to the building itself, but the bullets did not penetrate through the wall and no injuries were reported. Detectives are investigating.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY: 7900 block of Eagle Avenue, Nov. 4 around 12:30 a.m. A woman was walking home when she was approached by two teenaged girls. They demanded money and began

SEE CRIME REPORT, PAGE 18

DON'T MISS IT!

**The 55th
HOLIDAY SHOP**

**Saturday, Nov. 18
9:30 am – 4 pm**

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church • 1909 Windmill Ln., Alexandria

Buy unique gifts from 50 artisans; homemade chutneys, sauces, cakes, pies, cookies; estate jewelry; colorful handmade quilt raffle; homemade lunch

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OPINION

Community Engagement

The key to the success of improving the Richmond Highway Corridor.

BY DAN STORCK
SUPERVISOR (D-MOUNT VERNON)

Last week the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) engaged our community again in discussions regarding Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements. Improvements to this roadway are necessary to ease current congestion and plan for future increased demand, while improving safety for all users of the corridor. Citizen engagement is critical in identifying and implementing the best transportation solutions for our region.

COMMENTARY

Attendees at the meeting learned about the three-mile widening and improvement project from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road, which includes adding a third automobile lane in each direction; new, dedicated center lane Bus Rapid Transit (BRT); intersection improvements; bike and pedestrian trails on both sides of the highway; and for a limited number of areas, sound walls, if residents prefer. Unique design features, such as “superstreets” and “jughandles,” are being considered by VDOT for this project. While these concepts may be new to readers, VDOT believes they will make travel in the corridor easier, safer and faster. Following the presentation, residents had an opportunity to ask questions and share suggestions.

The Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements lead the way and create the framework for the future Embark Richmond

Highway initiative. Embark is a multi-year effort to address and promote renewed growth along the corridor by planning for walkable, urban-style, mixed-use developments close to the highway and future transit stations. Creating vibrant, active communities where residents and visitors, alike, can live, work and play with easy access to transit, will improve the quality of life for all in the Richmond Highway Corridor. These improvements and BRT are crucial to future plans for an extension of the Metrorail Yellow Line from Huntington to Hybla Valley. The Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements enable the Mount Vernon region to accelerate our renewal and to fully become a 21st century community.

A walking-cycling-driving-transit riding future is essential for the dynamic growth and enrichment of the Richmond Highway Corridor and its residents. Please be assured that I will continue to work with each of you to advance the best options for the region.

The engagement of our community at last week’s meeting was, as usual, very strong. To provide further input now, please visit the VDOT webpage by Dec. 6: www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp.

Dan Storck represents the Mount Vernon District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He welcomes input from constituents and can be reached at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.



The quilt “Garden of Delights!” made by the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church quilters, will be raffled at Holiday Shop at \$1 per ticket.

Holiday Shop This Saturday

The 55th Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church Holiday Shop will be held Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the church grounds at 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria.

Holiday Shop is a local tradition with

50 artisans in fiber arts, photography, wood, paper, metal, glass and clay, orchids, crafts from around the world, an estate jewelry sale, upscale resale decorative household items as well as chutneys, sauces, and baked goods.

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Alexandria is the D.C. region's Shop Small headquarters! The season kicks off with:

BLACK FRIDAY
November 24

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
November 25

MUSEUM STORE SUNDAY
November 26

Support local businesses as you wander our historic streets under a canopy of twinkle lights, and find that one-of-a-kind gift! Enjoy special festivities and surprises on Small Business Saturday. And don't forget to keep shopping small throughout the season!

EXTRAORDINARY
Alexandria

Visit AlexandriaVA.com/ShopSmall

OPINION

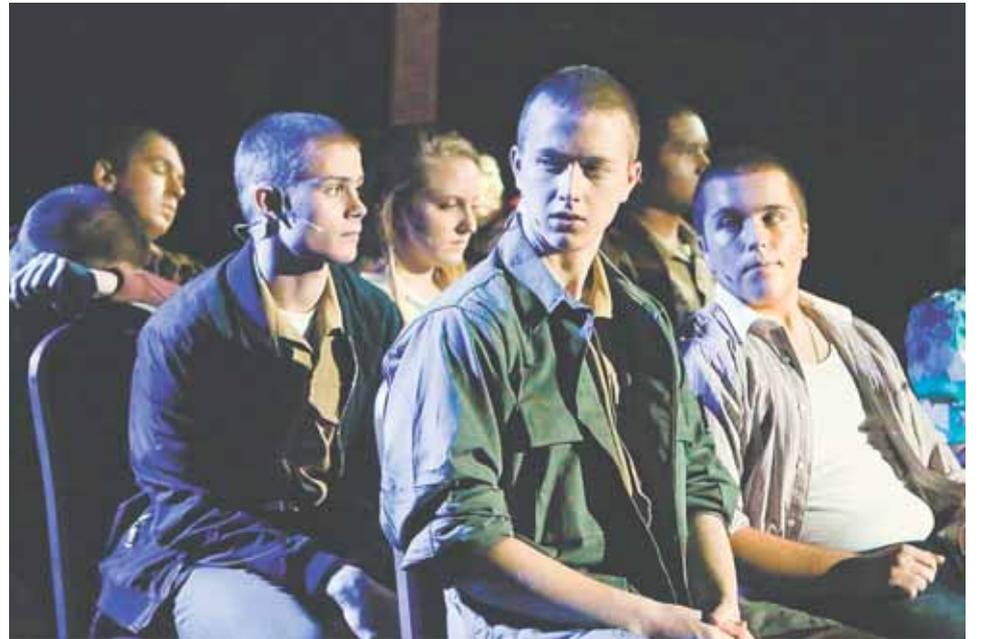


PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

From left are Brevan Collins, Josh Stein, and John McFarlane in West Potomac High School's performance of "Dogfight."

'Dogfight' at West Potomac

BY NICHOLAS HALL
SOUTH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

All is fair in love and war. "Dogfight" was performed brilliantly at West Potomac High School and brought the audience on a journey of love and loss. It made its premiere Off-Broadway in 2012 based on the successful 1991 movie.

"Dogfight" tells the story of Eddie Birdlace and his buddies who are recently recruited into the Marines and spending their last days in San Francisco before being sent off to Vietnam. Before leaving, the boys play the game of dogfight. In this game, the Marines ask the ugliest girls they can find to be their date to a party and whoever brings the ugliest girl is the winner. "Dogfight" is the story of Eddie and his date, Rose, and what comes after for them once the game has ended.

CAPPIES REVIEW West Potomac's production of "Dogfight" was immersive and all-encompassing. The show's overall energy started at a maximum and never faltered. The complex technical elements enhanced the experience and the choreography was flawlessly executed. The entire cast complemented each other, had great physicality, and worked very well together, especially the Marines. These actors trusted each other and were able to increase the realism and enjoyability of the show.

The story of "Dogfight" follows the experiences of Eddie Birdlace, portrayed almost impeccably by Josh Stein. Stein's vocals strengthened each number he was in and rarely faltered. His strong vibrato and vocal inflections allowed Stein to tell the story through his singing. His anguish was especially present in his singing during his powerful ballad ("Come Back"). His chemistry with his love interest, Rose, played by Sophia Farino, improved throughout the

show and was very believable throughout Act 2. Farino's talent was shown in several aspects throughout the show with her playing the guitar live on stage as well as her strong vocals. Farino had great facial expressions and utilized these to listen and react without speaking. She also was expressive with her voice, this was especially convincing in "Pretty Funny."

The talent and incredible energy of the leads was matched by the supporting characters and ensemble. Tony Lemus, portraying Boland, took charge and owned the stage with his strong, powerful voice. Tony used an accent throughout and was very committed to it.

Lorna Ryan, playing the humorous Marcy, shone throughout the show. Ryan used an accent as well for comedic effect but committed to it and never once lost it. Her accent was also present during her singing, which only enhanced her especially strong vocals. Her unique voice commanded the stage with Farino during their number, "It's a Dogfight." The ensemble relied on each other heavily and were successful in complementing each other. Their shared talent and incredible compatibility made for great harmonies.

The technical aspects of this show were no less impressive than that of the cast. The set was well-built and extremely detailed. The lighting added to realism and made for some attractive stage pictures. The sound, while sometimes excessive, such as during the war sequence, was greatly executed and the microphones rarely faltered. The props and costumes were designed well and the actors utilized them and brought them to life incredibly. Shifts were handled smoothly, being done by cast members.

West Potomac's production of "Dogfight" was executed brilliantly in all aspects and was a success in conveying the realism of war as well as being historically accurate.

THE CAMPAGNA CENTER
PRESENTS
47TH ANNUAL
SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

DECEMBER 1 - 2, 2017



Celebrating Alexandria's rich Scottish heritage and tradition of giving.

2017 EVENTS

HEATHER & GREENS SALE

Presented by McEinarney Associates

Decorate your home with greenery and traditional Scottish heather while supporting The Campagna Center. Order form is enclosed, or order online at campagnacenter.org.

TASTE OF SCOTLAND

Presented by The Goodhart Group

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 8PM - 10:30PM

The Atrium Building, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

This elegant evening features a robust Scotch tasting menu, including a variety of Scotches direct from Scotland distilleries, and decadent catering by local hotspot, Society Fair. Patron doors open at 6:30pm. General Admission begins at 8pm.

THE SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE

Presented by Mazda North American Operations

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 11AM

Old Town Alexandria

For the 47th consecutive year, we proudly present The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Enjoy marching units filled with the magnificent tartans of Scottish Clans, the stirring sound of Scottish bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries, classic cars, Santa Claus, and much more.

HOLIDAY HOME TOURS

Presented by Christine Garner, Weichert Realtors

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 12:30PM-4PM

Explore Alexandria's history by touring some of Old Town's most splendid homes, decked-out by acclaimed interior designers and local florists. While you tour the homes, guides will fill you in on fun facts and interesting historical tidbits.

DECK THE HALLS

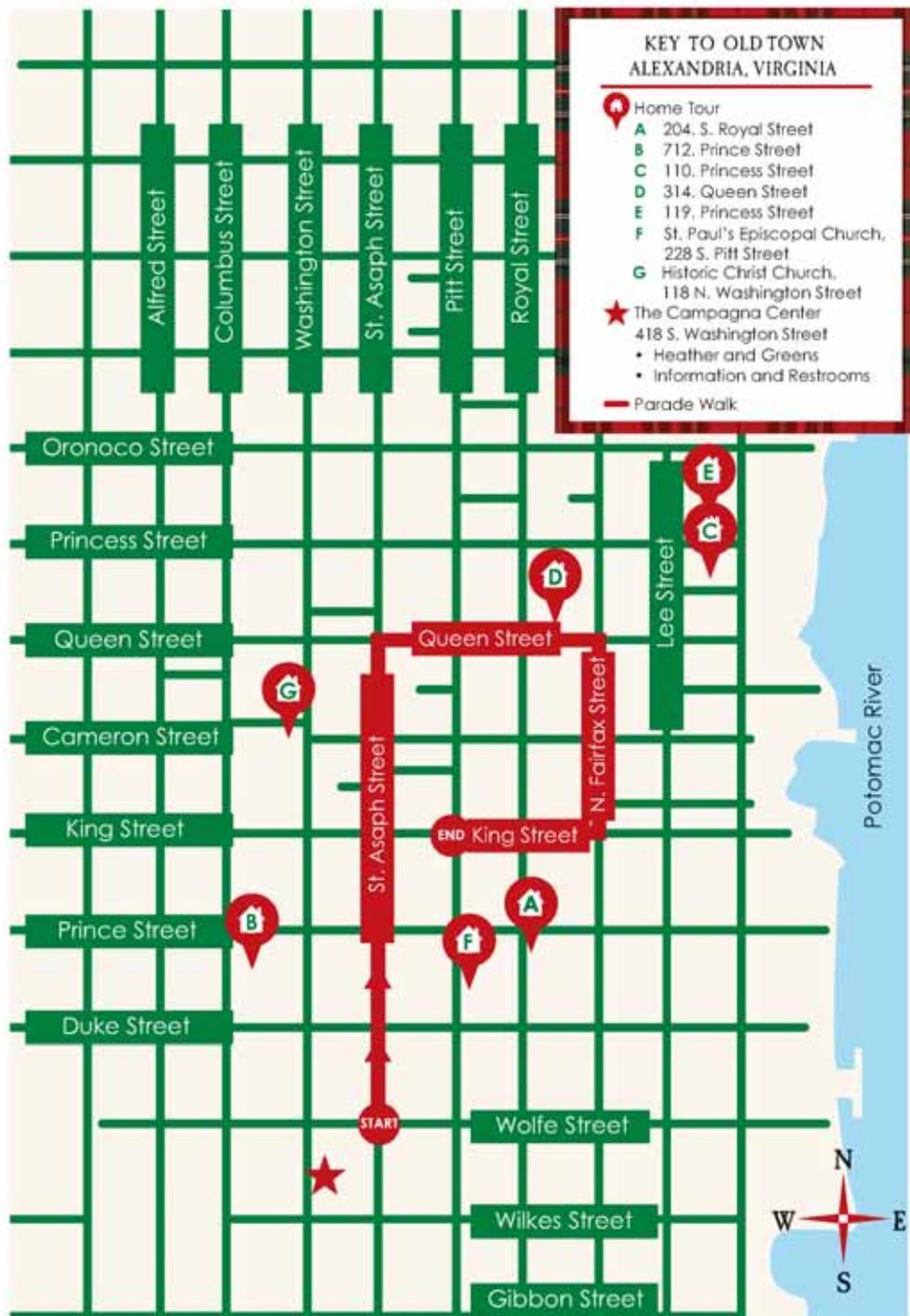
Presented by TTR Sotheby's International Realty

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 10AM-12PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Join us for Deck the Halls, a Christmas event for the whole family! Kids will have a chance to sit on Santa's lap, listen to live carolers, participate in holiday crafts, and snack on yummy Christmas cookies and hot chocolate.

For more information on The Campagna Center and Scottish Walk Weekend, or to make a purchase, visit campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend.



TICKET PURCHASES

Proceeds from all events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefit The Campagna Center's core education programs.

TASTE OF SCOTLAND

PATRON HOUR, 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Patron Couple: \$290

Individual Patron: \$180

GENERAL ADMISSION, 8:00PM

General Admission: \$110

\$50 of each Taste of Scotland ticket is not tax-deductible

DECK THE HALLS

General Admission: \$15

HOME TOUR

General Admission: \$40

2016-2017 SELECT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Our work centers around three core goals: helping young children enter school ready to learn, supporting the academic and social success of children and youth, and helping adults realize goals that foster self-sufficiency. The Campagna Center stands alone as the only nonprofit in Alexandria serving children and adults across the education spectrum, from cradle to career. Reaching over 2,000 children, teens, and adults each year, we are deeply committed to measuring the impact of our results, made possible by your investment in our programs.

EARLY CHILDHOOD (Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children)

- Our programs result in an average of **83%** of infants and toddlers and **86%** of children in preschool meeting or exceeding expectations in all areas of development, including language/literacy, math, science, social and emotional development, and physical health.

CAMPAGNA KIDS

- **87%** of parents report that Campagna Kids helps their child learn and develop new skills.
- **88%** of parents report their child has improved academically.
- **98%** of parents would recommend Campagna Kids program to others.
- Launched an innovative peer-mentoring program, partnering Building Better Futures program students with our Campagna Kids at our Jefferson Houston site.

BUILDING BETTER FUTURES

- **96%** of Building Better Futures students were promoted to the next grade.
- **89%** of Building Better Futures graduating seniors were accepted into college.
- Launched a summer externship program to place Building Better Futures students at 13 corporate and business partners for experiential learning and career exploration.

NEW NEIGHBORS ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

- New Neighbors now delivers 10 levels of English language courses, ensuring students are learning at their level of experience and aptitude.
- **88%** of students at the end of their class qualified to advance to the next level of English course work.
- **97%** of New Neighbors students reported that learning English has improved their quality of life.
- More than one-third of students took advantage of onsite child care while attending class.

BECAUSE OF YOU, IN THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR:

A total of **2,786** enrollment opportunities were offered to children and adults across all of our programs.

683 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers discovered the joy of learning through our Early Childhood programs.

1,360 children had a safe place to be after school, homework help, and whole lot of fun in our Campagna Kids programs.

Building Better Futures helped **257** middle and high school students excel today and plan for college and careers on the horizon.

357 adults and **129** children were welcomed, cared-for, and educated by our New Neighbors program.

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

This year, you can give the gift of a great education.



\$125

would support one adult English language learner through 14 weeks of ESL classes.



\$300

would provide extended care to one Head Start child for one month.



\$500

would provide tutoring support to one of our high school youth for a full year.

THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND:

AN ALEXANDRIA TRADITION

Proceeds from all events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefit The Campagna Center's core programs that help children and families from cradle to career by providing high quality early learning experiences, preschool programs, tutoring, mentoring, college preparation support and enrichment through high school, and English Language Learning for adults.

With your help, The Campagna Center makes it possible for our community's children to enter school ready to learn, experience academic and social success, and for adults to realize their goals that foster self-sufficiency.

CAMPAGNACENTER.ORG/SCOTTISHWALKWEEKEND

THANK YOU TO THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S 2017 SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WEEKEND WALK SPONSORS

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Special thanks to the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center for the coordination and planning of The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Our great appreciation also extends to our friends at the City of Alexandria and to the members of the St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C.

Cover art by Patricia Palermino.

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Open House Sunday 2-4pm • Alexandria-College Park
402 Princeton Boulevard, Alexandria VA Absolutely stunning 4 level brand new home. Nothing else like it in Alexandria City. Custom millwork, coffered ceilings, paneled wainscot, custom crown, more. All Sub-zero, Wolf appliances in gorgeous kitchen. Great room, Library w/ built-ins. Huge Master BR, 2 walk-in closets. Marble Baths. 3rd floor loft perfect for office, art studio, etc. 20,000 sq ft lot. Detached 2 car garage \$2,499,000 The York Group (703) 409-3377 <http://bit.ly/2zm5j3l>



McLean
1021 Towlston Road, McLean VA Beautifully maintained All brick estate home privately sited on 2+ acres. Great outdoor entertaining w/Pool & integrated Spa, deck & screen porch. Two story foyer, open kitchen/fam rm. Large master suite, full apartment style guest suite. Freshly updated move-in condition. In the heart of McLean located just 6 miles from Tysons Corner & Silver Line. \$1,649,000 Susan Gray & Alexandra Attilis (703) 203-9900 <http://bit.ly/2fgDeC8>



Traumerei Farm
70 Legacy Lane, Fredericksburg VA This custom estate is exceptionally maintained, light-filled casual open flrln w/ gracious Fmrl Rms & high-end custom finishes. Sited on 36.6 Acres w/ 3 fenced paddocks, a 7 stall barn w/ heated tack Rm, office & bathroom. Privately set high above rolling pastures w/ ring trails to explore, Orchards & Herb Garden. Located halfway between Richmond & DC, it's a quick drive with EZ pass access. \$1,545,000 Susan Gray & Alexandra Attilis (703) 203-9900 <http://bit.ly/2whNKUm>



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Old Town
317 Lee St. S, Alexandria VA Impeccably updated with recent Master bedroom/bath addition. Wonderful family room overlooks gardens. 3 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths \$1,195,000 Liz Bucuvalas (703) 626-8400 <http://bit.ly/2gPLwFy>



Mt Vernon on the Potomac
9399 Mount Vernon Circle, Alexandria VA Classic all brick center hall colonial with 4900 sq ft finished on two levels in exclusive water front community \$985,000 Steve Deleyiannis (703) 966-6062 <http://bit.ly/2hwrJLE>



Open House Sunday 2-4pm • George Washington Park
604 S. View Terrace, Alexandria VA Just Listed. Expanded Cape Cod with 5BR, 3BA. Over 2500 Sqft of living space, screened porch, rear deck off kitchen overlooking expansive rear yard with alley access. Finished lower level. Turn Key ready for move in. \$799,900 The York Group (703) 409-3377 <http://bit.ly/2zm5j3l>



Open House Sunday 1-4pm • Oakleigh
3207 South Glebe Rd, Arlington VA This Arlington Ridge brick home PRICE RECENTLY REDUCED. A great value with 3 bdrms. Basement garage, ample parking, carpeted bsmt. multipurpose room, interior recently upgraded, cherrywood and granite kitchen, unique fenced back yard with large patio for privacy. Private balcony off large 2nd floor bedroom. Easy access to all parts of area, transit, bike path, Pentagon, DC, MD, Old Town, Del Ray, Shirlington. \$749,000 Jim Larsen (703) 380-5645 <http://bit.ly/2tnYjQk>



Open House Sunday 2-4pm • Carlyle Towers
2181 Jamieson Avenue, Unit 1010, Alexandria VA PRISTINE, freshly painted vacant 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with glass enclosed balcony has wood floors THROUGHOUT, bath upgrades to include Quartz tops, new faucets, sinks, light, etc. Storage Room. Garage parking. Open Sunday OR give Marie a call if you want to see it another time! \$525,000 Marie Louise Meyer (703) 929-1002 <http://bit.ly/2zepLqg>



Open House Sunday 1-4pm • Jefferson Manor
5800 North Kings Highway, Alexandria VA Live across the street from Huntington Metro Yellow Line Station. 100yards from Metro entrance. Price reduced! Exceptional value here. 3 lvl 2BR 1BA home w/ gracious hardwoods, new roof, new AC, new 200 AMP panel, & new DW. Fresh paint throughout this turnkey house. Finished LL. Large fenced backyard. Hurry over soon. \$355,000 Tom Rickert (703) 477-79010 <http://bit.ly/2gNQnHa>



Open House Saturday 1-4pm • St Charles Gleneagles South
5306 Exeter Pl, White Plains MD Gorgeous 3 yrs young; 3-level TH; 2 car garage; End unit backs to beautiful landscaping & huge fenced yard; Fin RR; SS, granite; 3 BRs; 2 full & 2 half baths; W/D & Large Deck Included! Closing Help; Home Warranty! 100% Financing avail.; Ride to work in comfort on Commuter Bus to DC! \$332,900 Jim & Annie Haskins (301) 404-3130 <http://bit.ly/2rXf8Vj>



Parkside at Alexandria
1425C Van Dorn N, Alexandria VA PRICED TO SELL! Desirable END unit in the heart of Parkside At Alexandria! Lots of natural light from large windows on main level. Private patio, great for entertaining, grilling and family meals. Convenient to 395/495, BRAC, Pentagon, bus/rail. \$306,000 Joyce Jones (703) 731-6071 <http://bit.ly/2mnDF3l>



Open House Sunday 2-4pm • Parkfairfax
6618 Potomac Ave # J, Alexandria VA YES! You can buy a GREAT condo in Alexandria for less than \$200,000!!! Visit the #OpenHouse Sunday 2-4 to experience the awesomeness! \$199,999 Michelle Zelsman (202) 390-8714 <http://bit.ly/2xlSubr>

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ NOVEMBER 16-22, 2017 ❖ 17

Walk to Bust Cancer \$40,000 raised for breast cancer treatment.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

More than 500 people turned out Oct. 15 to participate in the second annual Walk to Bust Cancer, raising over \$40,000 to help women in need gain access to education, screening and treatment for breast cancer.

“Our region has the highest incidence and mortality from breast cancer in the nation,” said Martha Carucci, a breast cancer survivor and one of the organizers of the walk, which was held in Fort Hunt Park. “Women in our area also have one of the highest rates of late stage breast cancer. Something has to happen to address this crisis.”

Carucci and other breast cancer survivors joined with Dr. David Weintritt, founder of the National Breast Center Foundation, to organize the walk after the Vola Lawson Walk to Fight Breast Cancer was discontinued in 2014.

“Dr. Weintritt believes that education, access and technology are the answer to helping cure breast



Dr. David Weintritt, left, founder of the National Breast Center Foundation, and breast cancer survivor Martha Carucci at the 2017 Walk to Bust Cancer Oct. 15 at Fort Hunt Park. More than 500 participants turned out for the walk organized by Carucci and Weintritt.

cancer,” Carucci said. “The walk is important to survivors as well as friends and family members who are walking in memory of someone who has died from this disease.”

Weintritt founded the National Breast Center Foundation to help provide screening, diagnosis, and education to under- and uninsured women.

“Our women are dying from breast cancer too frequently because they aren’t getting the care they need,” Weintritt said in addressing the crowd. “With your help, we will turn the tide. Your spirit, encouragement and participation will enable us to reach out and help women in our community.”

For more information, visit www.walktobustcancer.org.



PHOTOS BY DELIA SULLIVAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Participants listen to remarks prior to the start of the 2017 Walk to Bust Cancer Oct. 15 at Fort Hunt Park.



Dr. David Weintritt embraces a breast cancer survivor and her daughter at the 2017 Walk to Bust Cancer Oct. 15 at Fort Hunt Park.



Chris Campagna and McArthur Myers at the 2017 Walk to Bust Cancer.

20th ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating Our Partnerships

Meet Our Gala Committee

Alisa Valudes-Whyte
Chair, Anniversary Gala Committee
Current NH Board Member
Senior Partner, CEO, Merritt Group

Kerriane Mustard
Co-Chair Anniversary Gala Committee
Principal, Connex2

Susan Abramson
Pathways to Lifelong Health
NH Founding Member & First Executive Director

Becky Bostick
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Carter Flemming
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For information contact us at: anniversary@neighborhoodhealthva.org or to sponsor our Gala and make a reservation go to www.501auctions.com/neighborhoodhealthgala

CRIME REPORT

FROM PAGE 10

assaulting her. A citizen intervened and was able to hold the two girls until police arrived. The victim was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspects were taken to the Juvenile Detention Center and charged with attempted robbery.

ROBBERY/ARREST: 7800 block of Belford Drive, Nov. 2 around 5:10 p.m. A man was approached by two or three others who assaulted him and stole items from his pockets. One suspect, a 22-year-old man, was located by officers nearby and arrested. He was taken to the Adult Detention Center and charged with robbery and obstruction of justice. The search for other suspects continues.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY: 7648 Richmond Highway (KS TV Electronics LLC), Oct. 29 around 4:30 a.m. Someone broke into the business, and damaged and stole property.

NOV. 13 — LARCENIES:
1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, beer from business
8600 block of Fort Hunt Road, medications from residence
3100 block of Furman Lane, cash from residence
2300 block of Huntington Avenue, merchandise from business
5900 block of Mount Eagle Drive, cash from residence
2700 block of Popkins Lane, backpack from business
6300 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business
6600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
7300 block of Richmond Highway, property from residence
7400 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
8600 block of Richmond Highway,

SEE CRIME REPORT, PAGE 26
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

THROUGH DEC. 15

39th Annual Weichert Toy Drive. Various times at Weichert Realty, 121 N. Pitt St. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices which will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. Call 703-549-8700.

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 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.

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.

Rise to Hunger Packing Party. 9-11 a.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Help pack 10,000 dried food meals for those in need. Call 703-780-3081 or visit www.stjamesmv.org.

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.

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 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



First Night

Celebrate the 23rd anniversary of First Night Alexandria on Dec. 31, 2017.

artist, will speak and sign copies of her book, "Artful Improv: Explore Color Recipes, Building Blocks & Free 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.

WEDNESDAY/NOV 22

Thanksgiving Eve Service. 5 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Call 703-780-3081 or visit www.stjamesmv.org.

FRIDAY/NOV 24

Cookies with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

City of Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6-9 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Free. Call 703-746-4343 or visit alexandriava.gov.

NOV 24-25

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. \$24 for adults; \$16 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org/candlelight.

SATURDAY/NOV 25

Santa at Hooray for Books. noon-3 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Purchase a Hooray for Books! gift card in any denomination to be used to support Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Holiday Party. Call 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

Frosty Follies. 6 p.m. at Market Square, 300 King St. The Metropolitan Arts Dance School presents the annual Frosty Follies. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

NOV 30-DEC 2

West Potomac Academy's

Nutcracker. Various times at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Guest choreographers include professional dancers Paul McGill and Brittany Hall (a West Potomac Academy Dance alumna), and Christie Elise, a Washington Wizards dancer. \$12/\$15. Visit www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacHS/.

DEC 1-3

Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market. Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit www.delrayartisans.org.

DEC 1-2

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Various times at the The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. The 47th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend has activities throughout the weekend. Call 703-224-2395 or visit www.campagnacenter.org.

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. \$24 for adults; \$16 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org/candlelight.

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.

A Christmas Carol. Various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. \$17. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

DEC 1-23

4th Annual Holiday Market Festival. Various times in the Carlyle District, 300 John Carlyle St. Art and craft items, enjoy sweets, mulled wine and live entertainment from local musicians. Visit www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com.

SATURDAY/DEC 2

Scottish Walk Parade Open House at The Apothecary. 11-4 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. Free. Call

703-746-3852 or visit alexandriava.gov/apothecary.

Scottish Walk Parade Open House at the Carlyle House. noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Free. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.carlylehouse.org.

Alexandria Archaeology Ornament Decorating Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Boat Parade of Lights. 5:30 p.m. waterfront at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. 18th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Festivities at the marina 2 to 9 p.m. Visit visitalexandriava.com/boatparade.

Holiday on the Avenue in Del Ray. 6 p.m. at Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at Mount Vernon Ave. and E. Oxford Ave., Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.visitdelray.com.

SATURDAY/DEC 9

Kwanzaa Workshop. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. \$2. Call 703-746-4356 or visit alexandriava.gov/blackhistory.

Civil War Christmas in Camp. noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. \$2 suggested donation per person; \$5 per family. Call 703-746-4356 or visit alexandriava.gov/blackhistory.

Del Ray Candy Cane Bar Crawl. 4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Free. Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.visitdelray.com.

DEC 8-10

Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market. Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit www.delrayartisans.org.

SUNDAY/DEC 10

Colonial Handbell Ringers Concert. 2 and 4 p.m. at 201 S. Washington St. Free. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.colonialringers.com.

Cookies with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and

Mrs. Claus. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

Free Holiday Concert and Sing-Along. 4:30 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. A Holiday Concert by the students of Kevin Diana. Selections from Handel's Messiah and other sacred and secular favorites will be performed. Call 703-780-3081 or visit www.stjamesmv.org.

DEC 15-16

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon. 5:30-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. \$34 adult/\$24 youth without mansion tour. Visit mountvernon.org/illuminations.

DEC 15-17

Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market. Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit www.delrayartisans.org.

SUNDAY/DEC 17

The Mount Vernon Flutes. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This small ensemble from the Mount Vernon Concert Band will perform holiday songs in the gallery. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Holiday Handbell Concert. 4-5:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Hear from Jingle Bells and White Christmas to the Game of Thrones Theme and Wizards in Winter. \$10. Visit www.vabronze.org.

Cookies with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

SUNDAY/DEC 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m. to midnight at venues throughout Old Town. Activities include the Ninth Annual Fun Hunt, musical entertainment, food, drink and midnight fireworks over the Potomac River. Visit firstnightalexandria.org or call 703-746-3299.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush'

MetroStage presents British-variety music hall entertainment from the Edwardian era.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

MetroStage in Alexandria is presenting "Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush" from Nov. 17 to Dec. 24. Written and directed by Catherine Flye, the play is returning to the stage after a six-year run at the Old Vat Room at Arena Stage (1997-2003).

The play features British-variety music hall entertainment from the Edwardian era that was a show for the working classes filled with jokes, songs, skits, and dances. Taking place during the Christmas of 1912, The Old Bull and Bush Public House, Hampstead, London, is alive with British music hall songs and Christmas carols. Audiences will enjoy a pint or two, eat mince pies and sausage rolls, laugh at jokes and sketches, toe-tap to tuneful melodies and join in sing-a-longs.

"It is always fun to offer something for the holidays that delights an audience, that brings friends and families together in a festive setting to laugh, sing along and perhaps even enjoy a sausage roll or two," said Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin. "Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush" returns for Washington audiences to enjoy after a 15-year absence. The Old Vat Room where it was performed no longer exists at Arena Stage but the Old Vat's café tables and chairs have lived in the MetroStage lobby for many years. So with the departure of 'A Broadway Christmas Carol' a few years ago, it seemed like a logical step to recreate the Old Bull and Bush pub in our lobby and the traditional variety show on our stage."

Griffin continued, "I am excited for Alexandria audiences to discover or rediscover this classic British entertainment. It is filled with song and dance, Christmas crackers, silliness and singalongs that the entire family can participate and enjoy. A pub will be recreated in the lobby so audiences should come hungry for pub fare and ale, be ready

to have a raucous good time, and leave full of holiday cheer."

Writer and director Catherine Flye said the Old Bull and Bush in Hampstead, London, is probably one of the most celebrated public houses in the world and was a home for the popular British Music Hall, which was entertainment for the working classes. The genre began in the 1890s and was at its height for about 20 years. Florrie Forde was a famous music hall star and her first big hit in 1904 was "Down at the Old Bull and Bush." It put Hampstead Heath and its pub firmly on the map and has been sung the world over. It was Florrie who first made famous "Pack Up Your Troubles" and "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," which became the marching songs for British soldiers in France during World War I.

From 1997-2003, under the banner of the Interact Theatre Company, Flye's "Down at The Old Bull And Bush" followed by "Christmas At The Old Bull And Bush" became favorites with Washington audiences. With the demise of the Old Vat Theatre during Arena's re-building program, the show lost its home.

Flye is also doing a cameo on stage as Joyce Grenfell who was a beloved British comedienne and who had an enormous influence on her formative years in England. "Since her death I have been performing and touring throughout the United Kingdom and here in the states, an entertainment entitled 'George - Don't Do That!' (one of her catch phrases) which celebrates her life. And so it's a particular joy to be able to play her again at the Old Bull and Bush," she said.

Albert Coia plays the main comedic role of Bertie Ramsbottom, the "Little Lump of Fun" as described in the script. "So all of my songs are slightly suggestive/bawdy, as is typical of the Music Hall genre," he said. "It is always up to the audience to hear what they will from the lyrics and my performance."

He said since he's done at least 35 to 40



Tracey Stephens, Catherine Flye, and Albert Coia in MetroStage's production of "Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush" from Nov. 17 to Dec. 24.

PHOTO BY
TERESA CASTRACANE

Music Halls over the years with the British Players (formerly The British Embassy Players) here in Washington and with the Woodside Players in London, that there were no major challenges in playing the role.

"Personally, the main challenge for me is the timing and physical interpretation of a song in order for the audience to get the suggestions and innuendo being made, which is what makes it so fun and entertaining and why Music Halls had such a devoted following," he said. "We are definitely trying to recreate that Music Hall atmosphere here at MetroStage for our holiday audiences."

Tracey Stephens plays the historical character Florrie Forde, a pillar of strength who is free loving to all. "She is the spark of the

Ball," she said.

"When playing an historical character, it is always easier to physically look like the character. The challenge is, I don't physically look like her (at all), but what I found in the process is that really didn't matter. Once I spoke her words and began to live the way she lived, the essence of Florrie began to emerge. When the heart and the mind understand each other, the character comes to life," she said.

Performances for MetroStage's production of "Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush" will be Nov. 17 to Dec. 24; 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., (no performance Nov. 23). Tickets are \$55-\$60 with student and active military and group discounts available. For ticket reservations or information about group sales, call the theater at 703-548-9044 or go to www.metrostage.org.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Multiple Exposures Gallery.

Through Nov. 26, various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #312. Photo exhibit. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

Training for Turkey.

Through Nov. 30, 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.

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.

39th Annual Weichert Toy Drive.

Through Dec. 15, various times at Weichert Realty, 121 N. Pitt St. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices which will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. Call 703-549-8700.

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.

Potomac Fiber Art Show. Through Jan. 7, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. The show will be supplemented with juried items on Dec. 5. The Torpedo Factory has new hours, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and weekends, and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

on the second Thursday of each month. Visit torpedofactory.org.

All the President's Pups. Saturdays 10 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All the President's Pups Walking Tour, along the way, learn about George Washington's love for dogs, his dogs' unusual names, and his efforts to improve the quality of his hunting dogs through breeding. \$7. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

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 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.

Local Author Thursdays. 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. Michael Lee Pope is the author of four books on Northern Virginia history. Pope is an award-winning

ENTERTAINMENT

4 Restaurants for a Thanksgiving Feast

BY HOPE NELSON

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. This year, let somebody else do the cooking (and the dishes) and take a seat at one of these tables. But make a reservation before you go: Seats sell out well ahead of time.

Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St.

Go back in time and enjoy a Thanksgiving meal fit for your ancestors with Gadsby's set menu. Sit at a private table or take part in a more communal setting and peruse the menu that best suits you. The private tasting menu consists of cornbread and Sally Lunn bread; a peanut soup or salad to start; turkey, rockfish, or a vegetarian entrée; and, of course, pie. Looking to mingle with your neighbors? Take a seat in the 19th-century ballroom and feast on turkey and ham, yams, red potatoes, cornbread stuffing, cranberry stuffing, and more. Seating times are at noon, 2:30, 5, and 7:30 p.m.; \$53 per person.

Ramparts, 1700 Fern St.

The neighborhood bar and grill on the cusp of Fairlington has been offering up Turkey Day fare for two decades now, and the tradition continues this year. Start the three-course tasting menu off with a selection of butternut squash soup, seafood bisque or chowder, or a mixed green salad. Then move on to the main event, where you'll have a choice of turkey, prime rib, pork chops, or grilled salmon, paired with a slew of traditional sides such as cornbread stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, and creamed corn. Tie everything up with pumpkin or

pecan pie, and prepare for naptime once you get home. Seating from 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; \$29 per adult, \$12 for children.

Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St.

The sprawling restaurant on the Potomac is offering a holiday feast of its own next week, complete with a carving station, seafood station, and plenty of dessert. Take a gander at the buffet and you'll spy turkey with cranberry-orange chutney, roast beef, oven-baked ham, Old Bay shrimp, oysters, and plenty of sides. Save some room for dessert: apple and pumpkin pie lead the charge along with plenty of other baked goods. Seating from 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; \$38 per adult, \$19 for children.

Trademark, 2080 Jamieson Ave.

Tucked into the corner of the Westin, Carlyle's Trademark restaurant is offering up a holiday feast to remember next Thursday. The three-course prix-fixe menu touches on some holiday favorites but also deviates into new territory on occasion. Start the feast with an autumn apple cheddar soup or kale and stilton salad, and then get ready for the entrée, which offers a delectable selection for omnivores and vegetarians alike. If you're the former, the rum and pumpkin turkey with all the trimmings will be sure to delight; if you're the latter, the last harvest risotto is teeming with root vegetables and is far from an afterthought. Toffee pudding and sweet potato pie make for a tough choice to end the meal. Seating from 4-8 p.m.; \$36.

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

APPETITE

CALENDAR

journalist who lives in Old Town, Alexandria. Call 703-684-4682.

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.

Rise to Hunger Packing Party. 9-11 a.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Help pack 10,000 dried food meals for those in need. Call 703-780-3081 or visit www.stjamesmv.org.

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 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 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 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

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ENTERTAINMENT

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/.

NOV. 20-DEC. 10

Toy Collection. Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway, Alexandria will collect new and unwrapped toys as part of the company's annual Sheehy Cares Toy Collection to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

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.

WEDNESDAY/NOV 22

Thanksgiving Eve Service. 5 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Call 703-780-3081 or visit www.stjamesmv.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 24

Cookies with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit

www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.
City of Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6-9 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Free. Call 703-746-4343 or visit www.alexandriava.gov.

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

NOV. 24-25

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. \$24 for adults; \$16 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org/candlelight.

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



Art Auction

Japanese Art Auction on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. at the Potomack Company, 1120 N Fairfax St. Featuring the Hauge Collection. call 703-684-4550 or visit potomackcompany.com.

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.

Various times at the The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. The 47th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend has activities throughout the weekend. Call 703-224-2395 or visit www.campagnacenter.org.

NOV. 30-DEC 2

West Potomac Academy's Nutcracker. Various times at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Guest choreographers include professional dancers Paul McGill and Brittany Hall (a West Potomac Academy Dance alumna), and Christie Elise (a Washington Wizards dancer). \$12/\$15. Visit www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacHS/.

Mt. Vernon Oral History. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Recording residents experiences living in the community. Free. Call 703-799-7601.

DEC. 1-2

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.

DEC 1-17

Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market. Weekend hours only, Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit www.delrayartisans.org.

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.

A Christmas Carol. Various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. \$17. Call 703-683-0496 or

visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

DEC. 1-23

4th Annual Holiday Market Festival. Various times in the Carlyle District, 300 John Carlyle St. Art and craft items, enjoy sweets, mulled wine and live entertainment from local musicians. Visit www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Alexandria Archaeology Ornament Decorating Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Boat Parade of Lights. 5:30 p.m. waterfront at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. 18th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Festivities at the marina 2-9 p.m. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/boatparade.

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/.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The dancers will show the audience how it's done and then

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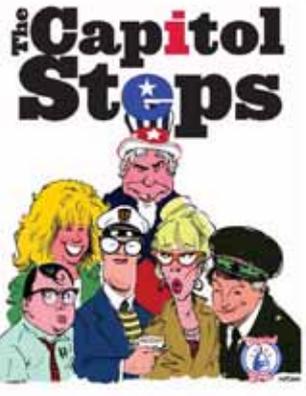
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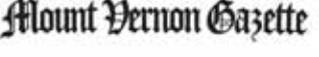
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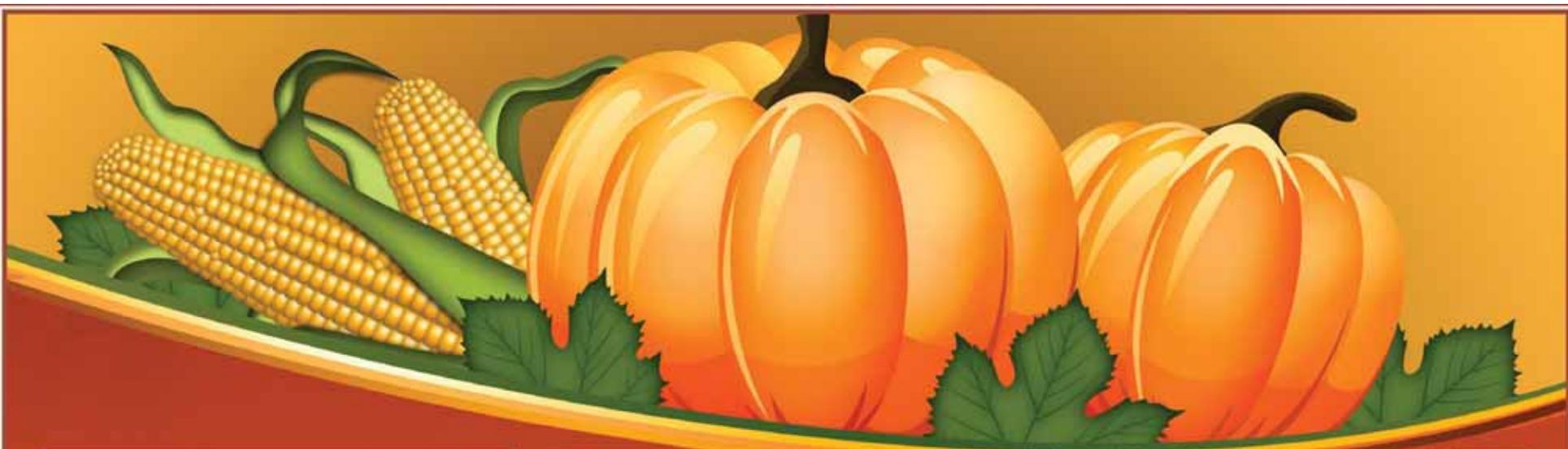
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lostdogandcatrescue.org

ENTERTAINMENT

invite spectators to give it a try. Music will be provided by local and well-known Scottish Country Dance fiddler, Becky Ross. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

MONDAY/DEC. 4

Ballroom Dance Classes. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Led by Gary Stephans on Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-505-5998.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

Japanese Art Auction. 10 a.m. at the Potomack Company, 1120 N. Fairfax St. Featuring the Hauge Collection. call 703-684-4550 or visit www.potomackcompany.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 7

Worldly Collection for Auction. 10 a.m. at the Potomack Company, 1120 N. Fairfax St. Featuring the Ron Krannich Collection from Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Democratic Republic of Congo. Call 703-684-4550 or visit www.potomackcompany.com.

Shops of Del Ray's Ladies' Night Out. 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Shop local and enjoy special promotions while sipping Virginia wine. Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.visitdelray.com.

Neighborhood Health 20th Anniversary Gala. 6-9:30 p.m. at the Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Join the gala "Celebrating Our Partnerships" to support Neighborhood Health's mission of serving thousands of uninsured patients in the community. Email anniversary@neighborhoodhealthva.org or phone 571-438-7715.

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.

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose" by Paula Tarnapol Whitacre. \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Civil War Christmas in Camp. noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. \$2 suggested donation per person; \$5 per family. Call 703-746-4356 or visit alexandriava.gov/blackhistory.

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. 4-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Tour stops at several locations around Old



Art Exhibit

Potomac Fiber Art show through Jan. 7 Various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. The show will be supplemented with juried items on Dec. 5. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Town. \$25 adults; \$20 seniors (65 years and older) and active military; \$5 children (ages 6-17). Call 703-746-4242.

Del Ray Candy Cane Bar Crawl. 4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Free. Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.visitdelray.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Apothecary Museum Geek Tour Series. noon-1 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. \$15. Call 703-746-3852.

Colonial Handbell Ringers

Concert. 2 and 4 p.m. at 201 S. Washington St. Free. Call 703-746-4994 or visit colonialringers.com.

Cookies with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

AARP Virginia Dinner Group. 4-8 p.m. at FireFlies, 1501 Mount Vernon Ave. Enjoy dinner with other AARP members and their guests and receive a 20 percent discount on a dinner entree. Call 703-548-7200.

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NOV 24 & 25: 10 AM – 5 PM

NOV 26: 11 AM – 4 PM

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Handcrafters Guild

\$5 Admission
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Expos Spotlight ASTEAM

FROM PAGE 5

Art, and Mathematics. The primary purpose of the events was to introduce

and broaden awareness of STEM education to youth, especially minorities and those at-risk; to inspire and engage students; and to encourage youth to pursue their natural curiosity to solve problems by exploring technology and engineering solutions.

Partnering organizations that provided instructors for the ASTEAM component of the expos included: Army Educational Outreach Program, Athletes Innovate, Cyber Green Group, DEILab, Destiny Aviation Services, Gum Springs Clubhouse, Katrina Lynn Educational Services, Inc., NASA, Patriots Technology Training Center, Propel Productions Center, Inc., Race Tech, STEM EIC, UDC Speech and Language Pathology, Youth Technology Network, and 5Starr Enterprise and Productions.

In addition to the support of Verizon, the signature sponsor, Comcast, Dominion Energy, RSM US LLP, and SunTrust served as contributing sponsors for the Oct. 14 expo. Likewise, in addition to the support of Leidos, the signature sponsor, Boeing, Comcast, and SunTrust served as contributing sponsors for the Oct. 28 expo.

For more information about the Northern Virginia Urban League, visit www.nvul.org or call 703-836-2858.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Signature Sponsor Leidos presents a \$15,000 check to Northern Virginia Urban League for the expo, from left: Jamil Smart, Smart Learning Solutions President/CEO; Tim Reardon, Leidos President, Defense & Intelligence Group; and Tracey Walker, NVUL Board Chair.



Students explore a crime scene with a Forensic Science instructor.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

Drive, Fairfax. College and career conference for area middle and high school students with disabilities, as well as their parents, teachers and other professionals. Featuring more than 40 workshops and exhibits related to successful life after high school. Free. There is free parking in Lot K, or in the Mason Pond Parking Garage for \$8. Visit www.futurequestgmu.org to register or email futurequestnova@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 7

Holiday Grief Workshop. 2 p.m. at Spring Hills Mount Vernon, 3709 Shannons Green Way, 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer

Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

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

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Not About Me, Mostly



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, as in a few weeks ago, Mindy, who none of you regular readers know, died of lung cancer. She was my decade's long best friend's wife. And she was my friend too, going back almost 40 years. Married to my oldest friend (starting in 10th grade), Cary, for over 35 years, Mindy was originally classified as stage I five years ago. Cary didn't tell me for a year or so after because he didn't want to burden me with another piece of bad news, and Mindy being diagnosed with lung cancer would most definitely have been bad news. She had a lobectomy (part of the lung is surgically removed), back then and that's pretty much all I know about the beginning stages. After the surgery however, she was told she was cancer free.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend Mindy's funeral. I had my own post-scan appointment on the Monday morning following the Sunday funeral and night-time shiva and the logistics of traveling back and forth from Washington, D.C., to Boston and back were unworkable. Two weeks later, last weekend in fact, I flew up to Boston and spent four days with Cary, just him and me in the house – without Mindy, of course. We shared an awful lot about Mindy and life, reminiscing backward and contemplating forward. One afternoon, along with Mindy's first cousin, Julie, Cary and I visited Mindy's grave, about 20 minutes from the house, where I was able to pay my respects and say a few words in private. After standing alongside the grave site for a few minutes, Cary took out his smart phone, bent over toward the ground and played "their" song, sniffing and wiping away tears in the process. A very touching moment. Another afternoon, I sat with Cary at their kitchen table and read through all the condolence cards with Cary explaining all the relationships to Mindy. One night, Cary and I went to dinner with his two sons, Jonathan and Jordan (along with Jon's girlfriend, Coleen and Jordy's wife, Lauren). At dinner, I shared two jokes with the boys that Mindy had told years ago, that to this day, I keep in my repertoire; they had not heard them before. One involved an elephant, another had to do with Jesus Christ becoming a bell ringer. Cary's third - and oldest son, Jeffrey, was not present as he had flown back to California on Tuesday where, after spending three weeks at home with his father and brothers watching his mother struggle to survive, he returned a few days after the funeral.

As for me, I teared up throughout the weekend. Over the years, especially after my parents moved to Florida, I didn't see Cary and Mindy as regularly as I had while my parents were still living in Massachusetts (four times a year, generally). From 1989 on, maybe we visited one another a dozen times in person: high school reunions, bar mitzvahs, a couple of Celtic's games and the odd occasion where the timing/opportunity presented itself. All the while, going on 45 years now, we spoke/speak every couple of weeks, picking up in conversation without ever missing a beat.

What was particularly/uniquely difficult for me – and I don't think it is as difficult as losing one's "soul mate," as Cary described Mindy, just as they were beginning to embark on their final journey together: retirement – was that I too have lung cancer. As such, it was a peculiar position in which I found myself. Not only was I grieving the loss of a close friend: Mindy, way too young; she was younger than me by a couple of years, and the effect it had on my best friend, Cary, I was also witnessing first hand, up close and extremely personally, the ravages and devastating impact of a lung cancer diagnosis, a diagnosis with which I am all too familiar. Of course, I felt bad for Cary losing his beautiful wife. Of course, I felt bad for the boys losing a fabulous, devoted mother. But there was a part of me that felt bad for me. As a cancer survivor, it's easy to pretend that this disease isn't killing you until you attend a funeral/spend time with the family of someone who has succumbed to this terrible disease. Then it hits home, with a vengeance. "Cancer sucks," as so many of us know, but life must go on, as difficult as it sometimes is.

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

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GIVE LOCALLY

FROM PAGE 8

- 0390, info@pathwayhomes.org, www.pathwayhomes.org, www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/.
- ♦ **Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**, 8305-17B Richmond Highway, PO Box 15096, Alexandria, VA, 22309, 703-768-9419, www.goodhousing.org/. The mission of Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) is to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency. GSH housing manages more than 70 housing units.
 - ♦ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. www.bgcgw.org/fairfax.
 - ♦ **Christian Relief Services**, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, 703-317-9690, christianrelief.org/
 - ♦ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/
 - ♦ **Wright to Read** 703-299-9854, www.wrighttoread.org. Provides volunteer-based, one-to-one tutoring and mentoring to City of Alexandria public elementary school children in need. Funds are needed to provide field trips and enrichment activities, books and other resources. For more information about Wright to Read and becoming a "Tutor/Mentor" see website.
 - ♦ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia** transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at www.habitatnova.org.
 - ♦ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp) aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity nor heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. Alice's Kids helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area through small acts of kindness.
 - ♦ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** has launched its Permanent Fund campaign, a community endowment which is a forever source to provide critical support for those in need in the Northern Virginia region; Consider leaving a legacy through a current or planned gift to the Permanent Fund at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. www.cfnova.org/permanentfund.

CRIME REPORT

FROM PAGE 18

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- NOV. 13 — STOLEN VEHICLES:**
8400 block of Old Mount Vernon Road, 2013 KIA Rio
- NOV. 9 — LARCENIES:**
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- NOV. 8 — LARCENIES:**
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- NOV. 7 — LARCENIES:**
8200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

11

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Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

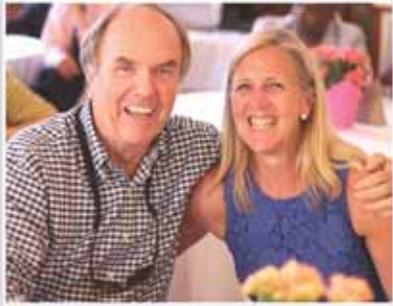
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 11/30/17

Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **10/17, 11/17, or 12/17?** If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due
VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION FREE

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Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**



CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2018?
Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!
Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***



9424 Mt. Vernon Circle
\$975,000!
JUST LISTED!

OPEN SUNDAY

Completely Updated in MVOP with water access!



Better than new! Stunning updated home in area's premier waterfront community! Fabulous home has been renovated from top to bottom. Features include: 3 finished levels, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, designer kitchen, hardwood floors, new HVAC, new windows, doors, and 2 car garage. Spacious screened in porch overlooks expansive rear yard. Unparalleled community amenities include marina, tennis, and waterfront park. Amazing Value!



9317 Maybrook Pl.
\$575,900
\$100k below tax assessment!

Stunning opportunity! Spacious 5 Bedroom, 3 level Colonial in prime Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Numerous features include: hardwood floors, 5 Bedrooms on upper level, luxurious master suite with fireplace, open kitchen, large sunroom, and garage parking. Check the comps, truly a super value!



3705 Riverwood Ct.
\$889,500
Classic Colonial!



8709 Curtis Ave.
\$559,000
Substantially updated!

Gorgeously updated home on 2 lots on quiet cul-de-sac ready for you to move in! Inviting front porch leads you to dramatic open floor plan with tons of light. New Kitchen, windows, light fixtures, updated baths, fresh paint and landscaping make this a rare opportunity! Huge yard, pond, and hot tub complete this serene setting.



Stunning updated and expanded kitchen!

Gorgeous updated & expanded home in fabulous Riverwood, one of the area's premier riverfront communities. Features include: Three finished levels, stunning updated & expanded kitchen, dramatic sunroom addition, luxurious master suite, thermal windows, hardwood floors, & 2 car garage. Uniquely attractive property on beautiful private grounds and quiet cul-de-sac.

JUST LISTED



1904 Sherwood Hall Ln
\$1,275,000
Amazing Opportunity!!
Fabulous new home near Old Town! Unique opportunity for new home amenities in prime location. Brand new custom home with numerous upgrades on picturesque .90 acre lot. Features include: 3 finished

levels, 5 BR's, 5.5 BA's, main level suite, chef's kitchen. Over 5,000 total sq ft. Remarkably priced compared to surrounding new home comparables!



1902 Sherwood Hall Ln
\$1,295,000
Select your finishes!
The hard work has been done. The structure for this spectacular home is complete. Now the exciting part can begin. Personalize to meet your taste and select your preferred interior finishes. The most

dramatic, open floor plan you'll find in the area. Schedule a walk through today to envision your dream future home!

2 NEW HOMES!



8307 Crown Court Rd.
\$729,900
Vacation at Home!
Owner invested over \$250,000 in renovating this spectacular 5 Bedroom, 5 Bath home featuring large room sizes, soaring cathedral ceilings, and oversized two car garage. Large deck overlooks truly

stunning back yard scene with custom pool, spa, and extensive landscaping. Vacation at home in setting that resembles luxury upscale resort!



9211 Volunteer Dr.
\$545,000
Resort Living!



4102 Sulgrave Dr.
\$519,500
Amazing Lot!



8571 Enochs Dr.
\$409,500
So Many Updates!!

1111 Cameron Rd.
\$615,000
Substantially Updated!



9309 Maybrook Pl
\$549,500
Great Value!



8721 Plymouth Road
\$1,467,998
Brand New Home!



CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

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