

# ONC's Heroic Holiday Helpers

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Centreville High freshmen (from left) Carson Kaiser, Christine Lee, Mady Ragano, Kinsey Van Horn, and Nicole Maurer sort toys for each family.

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS



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Filling families' bags with their requested toys are (from left) Centreville High seniors and lacrosse team members Sidney Kiefaber and Paige Richbourg.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

From left: Chantilly High sophomores and SGA members Bryanna D'Souza, Sophia Hand, Kayla Rodriguez and Virginia Run resident Mindy Conway organize the table of arts-and-crafts gifts.

# ONC's Heroic Holiday Helpers

**O**ur Neighbor's Child is providing holiday gifts to some 700 families in need in Centreville and Chantilly. But it couldn't do it without the hundreds of volunteers who lend a hand to collect and sort presents, pack them into each family's gift bag and then deliver them.

Area residents, local businesses and students from Centreville, Chantilly and Westfield high schools pitched in to help. And they were in the thick of things, Dec. 12-14, during ONC's gift-packaging days.

Among them were Chantilly High SGA members Bryanna D'Souza, Sophia Hand and Kayla

Rodriguez, all sophomores. "We're in the leadership class, so we volunteer with Our Neighbor's Child every year, two days a week," said D'Souza. "It's good to give back to our community and help kids our age and younger who don't have the same opportunities that we do."

Centreville High freshmen Carson Kaiser, Christine Lee, Mady Ragano, Kinsey Van Horn and Nicole Maurer also participated. "It's important that everyone gets something for Christmas or whatever holidays they celebrate," said Ragano.

Kinsey said people should give

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PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY LAVIN

Members of Westfield High's Interact Club helped decorate ONC's warehouse prior to last week's three packaging days.



Centreville senior and SGA member Jake Waddell fills one of the 700 gift bags for local families in need.



Hanging up a hospitality sign in ONC's warehouse are (from left) Westfield juniors Sammi Castro, Hannah Johnson, and Caroline Render.



Having fun volunteering for Our Neighbor's Child are (from left) Westfield High SGA members, senior Rayna Easley, and junior Tracey Ampaw.

# Project To Generate Tax Revenue and Jobs

BY KEN MOORE

**A** high-quality, secure office complex on 77.31 acres of property at the southeast quadrant of Sully Road and Air and Space Museum Parkway will generate up to \$8 million in tax revenue for the county, said Frank McDermott, attorney for the developer Dulles Discovery South 5C.

“There is an awful lot of money there to benefit the county infrastructure and it is a tremendous job source,” McDermott said.

About 2.4 million square feet of office space will be available to a single [federal] government tenant, said McDermott.

With a unanimous vote, the Board of Supervisors approved the applicant’s request to rezone the 77.31 acres from the PDC and I-5 districts to the PDC district to permit the modifications to an office building complex and associated parking.

The Planning Commission gave its approval on Nov. 30.

More than 35 percent of the property will remain open space, according to planning and zoning documents.

“This is a wonderful facility, it looks great, and has high standards,” said Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith, at the Board of Supervisors’ public hearing on Dec. 5.



**Aerial view of the Dulles Discovery Office park, which currently generates more than \$5.5 million in taxes. Opening of Dulles Discovery Four in the spring will increase tax revenue to more than \$6.5 million in taxes.**

“I would simply mention that this is a very, very high-end office complex that is totally secure for a particular ... government tenant,” McDermott said.

One of the modifications approved on Dec. 5 permits an increase in fence height to nine feet around the perimeter of the

property. The applicant will assist in the timing of traffic signals around the office park, and will plant trees on all the boundaries to soften the view of the office park.

Two security entrances will be located on Sully Road and Centreville Road.

The rezoning office park in the Sully His-



**Frank McDermott, attorney**



**Kathy Smith, Sully District Supervisor**

toric District was originally approved in 2010, according to Kelly Atkinson, of Planning and Zoning.

## New Appointments to Planning Commission

### Four named to Fairfax County Planning Commission; one vacancy remains in Sully.

**M**embers of the Board of Supervisors appointed four new planning commissioners this month to begin serving on the 12-member commission.

The Planning Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on all matters related to land use in Fairfax County, a particularly busy time right now reviewing redevelopment along the Silver Line. The commission holds public hearings, often multiple times a week, and often brings together residents, developers and county planners to work through concerns and conflicts.

This includes the location and character of public facilities; amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, the Public Facilities Ordinance, and the Subdivision Ordinance; rezonings and special exceptions; approvals of final development plans; and also sometimes advises the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Each of the nine supervisory districts has a representative, and three members are appointed at-large. Planning commissioners are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for four-year terms on a staggered basis.

Hunter Mill Supervisor Catherine Hudgins appointed John Carter to replace Frank de la Fe as the Hunter Mill District Planning Commission. De la Fe, the vice chairman of the commission, served as the

Hunter Mill planning commissioner since 2001. The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations named him 2001 and 2012 Citizen of the Year.

“Commissioner de la Fe has been involved with every major task force and committee dealing with planning and land use,” said Hudgins. “His strength has been an ability to hear all sides of an issue and come to a decision that best serves the community and Fairfax County.

“Most significantly, he worked with the Planning Commission on the approvals to bring rail to the Dulles Corridor that has changed the culture from a rural/suburban area to a vibrant urban district,” she said.

Carter was a former chief of community-based planning in Montgomery County, Md., overseeing the county’s master plan and development review processes, and has more than 35 years experience as a planner, urban designer and architect, according to Hudgins. Carter has a Master of Planning degree from the University of Virginia; a Master of Architecture in Urban Design from Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Architecture with Distinction from Arizona State University.

“Mr. Carter has lived in the Hunter Mill District for over 44 years and has extensive community involvement. I believe Mr. Carter is an excellent choice for this position,” said Hudgins.

**SHARON BULOVA** appointed Mary Cortina in November to replace Janyce Hedetniemi as an at-large member.

Cortina currently serves as vice chairman of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. She grew up in West Springfield in the 1970s, said Bulova.

Cortina is a graduate of George Mason University with a B.S. in Business, majoring in Decision Sciences/Management Information Systems and Marketing. She also attended the Leadership Development Program at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, N.C.

**MOUNT VERNON** Supervisor Dan Storck appointed Walter C. Clarke to replace Earl Flanagan on April 18, 2018.

Clarke is a current co-chairman of the EMBARK Richmond Highway Advisory Group and played a substantive role in the revisions to the Mount Vernon Comprehensive Plan, according to Storck.

“The selection of Mr. Clarke as the next commissioner is a natural next step in his service to the Mount Vernon District,” said Storck.

Clarke is also vice president at Burke & Herbert Bank and has lived in the Mount Vernon Community for more than 15 years.

Current Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan “has agreed to work closely with Mr. Clarke over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition of upcoming matters and continued support, as needed,” said Storck. “[Flanagan] provided invaluable direction in land use cases for the District.

As a steadfast leader in our community, he is highly respected for his in-depth knowledge of zoning, as well as his ability to work with community leaders, individual residents, working groups and builders.”

**SULLY DISTRICT** planning commissioner remains vacant after Karen Keys-Gamarra announced her resignation effective Oct. 25, 2017.

Keys-Gamarra won a special election in August to fill the at-large School Board seat vacated by Jeanette Hough.

**THE OTHER** planning commissioners are:

- ❖ Peter Murphy, chairman, Springfield District, appointed December 1982 (appointed by Marie Travesky), current term expires December 2018

- ❖ Jim Hart, at-large, appointed Jan. 2004 (Gerry Connolly), term expires December 2019

- ❖ Tim Sargeant, at-large, appointed January 2007 (Connolly), term expires December 2018

- ❖ John Ulfelder Dranesville, appointed December 2013 (John W. Foust), December 2020

- ❖ Ellen Hurley, Braddock, appointed December 2011 (John Cook), December 2019

- ❖ Julie Strandlie, Mason, appointed December 2014 (Penny Gross), December 2018

- ❖ James Migliaccio, Lee, sworn in July 2010 (Jeff McKay), December 2019

- ❖ Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, Providence, 2017 (Linda Smyth).

# Local Man Indicted on Murder Charge

Police say he allegedly struck pedestrian twice with his car.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**B**elieving he was the one who struck and killed an elderly woman with his car, Fairfax County police in April charged Kenan Ozcan, 32, of Fairfax, with felony hit-and-run. Now, however, he's been indicted for murder in connection with her death and is slated to stand trial in March.

The tragedy occurred April 14, shortly before 10:15 a.m., near the intersection of Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway) and Rugby Road in Fairfax. The victim, Maria Amaya de Ascencio, 75, also of Fairfax, was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to police, investigation determined that she was crossing Rugby Road on foot, traveling eastbound, when she was struck by a car reportedly driven by Ozcan. They also say the car hit her twice.

"A 2016 Dodge Dart traveling southbound on Rugby Road struck [Ascencio], then turned around and struck the victim a second time, before leaving the scene," said police after the incident. "Crash Reconstruction and Homicide detectives responded to investigate. They are looking into the possibility the victim was intentionally run over.

It does not appear the victim and suspect were known to each other."

Reporter David Culver of NBC-TV, channel 4, interviewed some of the victim's family members following the tragedy. According to them, he said, Ascencio had gone for a walk that morning. But when she didn't return, her loved ones called her cellphone, trying to reach her, and the police answered it. Culver said the news of her death devastated them.

In addition, in an unrelated incident a few hours after this one, around 12:45 p.m., officers were called to the 3900 block of Fair Ridge Drive in Fair Oaks. At that time, a 43-year-old woman reported that a man was in the shopping center there, acting strangely.

"She took a picture of him," said police. "He became agitated, then [allegedly] assaulted her and went into one of the businesses. Officers found him inside and took him into custody." Police later identified this man as Ozcan.

"As they were investigating [this incident], say police, "One officer noticed front-end

damage on [Ozcan's] car in the parking lot. Further investigation determined he was also involved in [that] morning's fatal crash."

Police then took Ozcan into custody, transported him to the Adult Detention Center and charged him with both felony hit-and-run and robbery. He was held without bond.

He appeared in General District Court for his preliminary hearing on Oct. 16 before Judge Lisa Mayne. At that time, the robbery charge against Ozcan was dropped, and the hit-and-run offense was certified to the grand jury for possible indictment.

Then on Nov. 20, the grand jury indicted him on a charge of murder. He's scheduled for a jury trial, March 27, 2018, in Circuit Court. Until then,

Ozcan continues to be held in jail without bond.

Meanwhile, anyone with information about the fatality is asked to contact the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131, Crimes Solvers via [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text TIP187 plus the information to CRIMES (274637).



Ozcan

# Police Share Safety Tips

"Valuables can be replaced; you cannot."

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**T**he holiday shopping season is well underway. And at the Nov. 8 meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), MPO Sabrina Ruck, the station's crime prevention officer, provided several holiday safety tips.

Telling attendees to be wary of burglars, thieves, pickpockets and other holiday



MPO Sabrina Ruck

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

SEE HOLIDAY SAFETY. PAGE 11



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# OPINION

# Merry Christmas

Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

The pages of the Connection Newspapers (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) have been full of holiday spirit beginning before Thanksgiving. Group and individual efforts to help the needy, holiday parades, Santa arriving by boat, Santa arriving by horse-drawn carriage, Santa arriving at the Malls, tree lightings, Menorah lightings, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

## EDITORIAL

**Matthew 7:12:** "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

## EDITORIAL

**Matthew 25:35-40:** "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one

of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

**SO LET US SHARE** the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the

**"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."**

Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is

come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Editor's Note About the Rest of 2017

This is our last regular edition of 2017. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children's Issue, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. We have more submissions from local students than ever, and so some children's and teens' artwork and writing will spill over into the first week of the new year.

Our next regular edition will publish Jan. 3-4, 2018, with deadline for content and advertising of Dec. 30 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can reach the editors

at editors@connectionnewspapers.com and sales/marketing/advertising at sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

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## POETRY & ART

### Hanukkah

Menorah, nine candles  
dispel darkness away  
A dreidel with four sides  
spun to play

Yummy potato latkes,  
doughnuts to eat  
Blessings, good wishes,  
gelt to greet

Families spend time  
with each other  
Pray, give thanks and  
celebrate Hanukkah together

— ANITA R. MOHAN

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## CENTREVIEW

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A Connection Newspaper



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHRYN CONEWAY

**Kathryn Coneway and her family spend time in Huntley Meadows Park when feeling overwhelmed by the holiday rush.**

**Artist Kathryn Coneway uses the natural colors and lights of the holiday season in her paintings.**

# Finding Peace and Joy

**Relieving stress and finding meaning in the holiday season.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**W**hen artist Kathryn Coneway is feeling overwhelmed by the stress of the holiday season, she heads outside to find peace and calm in nature.

“I get easily overwhelmed by the crowded parking lots and busy stores,” she said. “When I’m feeling overwhelmed, I’ll go to Huntley Meadows Park and walk around. The beauty of nature restores me. You’re with other people when you’re there, but there’s still solitude.”

From those who are dashing to finish holiday shopping and those who are financially strapped to those grieving a loss or dreading dealing with strained familial relationships, the stretch of time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is often hectic and emotionally charged. Recharging and infusing the holidays with joy and peace might mean redefining the holiday season.

“Research shows increased happiness after thinking of three good things that happened to you today and what caused them,” said Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University. “Also, people report improved mood from doing five kind acts in a day, expressing gratitude, pursuing important goals, and playing sports.”

An evening of music and quiet creativity is one method that Elizabeth Rees, associate rector at Saint Aidan’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria uses to recharge during the holiday season. The event called “Healing Arts” is held at the Center for Spiritual Deepening at St. Aidan’s. “Sometimes for me, meditative art helps me to get into a different space,” she said. “And with instrumental cello and guitar music in the background, it [is] beautiful.”

Visual imagery is another technique Rees employs. “I went to a... prayer-yoga-dance gathering this week, and [the instructor] had us physically pretend to pick up things that we want to let go of or that are

weighing us down to place on an imaginary fire,” she said. “I loved the imagery: my burdens and distractions going up in smoke along with my prayers rising to God to make space in me for something new.”

Coneway uses the season’s natural surrounding to inspire her art, which is another way in which she finds joy and relaxation. “The gift of this time of day is the display of light and colors of early morning and evening,” she said. “I encourage families to gather around the table and [create] art together. Whether its parents addressing Christmas cards while children are drawing or making a collage out of wrapping paper or tissue paper, I encourage families to work on something together.”

Serving others and expressing gratitude are research-driven techniques for finding happiness says Dr. Lois T. Stover, Ed.D., dean, School of Education and Human Services at Marymount University.

“Make holiday cards and send them out. It’s fun to drop a word of kindness anonymously to someone in the neighborhood and then tell that person to pass along the idea, leaving words of kindness or gratitude themselves for someone else,” she said. “Create an ‘I am thankful for ...’ wall and cover it with sticky notes that complete the sentence as new thoughts come to mind each time you pass by.”

There’s plenty of holiday joy that comes without a price tag, suggests Stover. “Drive through various neighborhoods just after dark and exclaim ‘Oooh – aah’ over homes or other buildings that have particularly fun or beautiful displays of lights,” said Stover.

“Listen to holiday music in a variety of genres and make play lists of favorites. Sing along loudly. It’s hard to feel down while belting out anything from ‘Frosty the Snowman’ to ‘Joy to the World.’”

For those looking to maintain the religious meaning of the season, Rees suggests daily devotions sent electronically. “I’ve found some wonderful daily prayers that arrive each day by email. Just a minute or two of focus on what is deep and joyful and holy help center me for the day,” she said. “For me, Ignatian prayer has been speaking to me lately, imagining myself into the stories of scripture. Moments of quiet and rest and being able to be present in the moment help me to get through the frenzy.”

**“Moments of quiet and rest and being able to be present in the moment help me to get through the frenzy.”**

**— Elizabeth Rees, Associate Rector, Saint Aidan’s Episcopal Church**

## St. John’s Episcopal Church

**Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent Liturgy**

• 9:30 AM – Service of Holy Eucharist, *music*

**Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve**

• 4:00 PM – Service of Holy Eucharist, *choir*

• 9:30 PM – Service of Holy Eucharist, *special music by the St. John’s Choir*

• 10:00 PM – Service of Holy Eucharist, *choir*

**Monday, December 25, Christmas Day**

• 9:30 AM – Service of Holy Eucharist, *music*



The Rev. Carol Hancock, Rector



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**VDOT** Virginia Department of Transportation

### Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concession Payment Projects

Public Hearing

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018

Open house at 6 p.m.; hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office  
4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

If cancelled for inclement weather, the alternate date will be **Friday, Jan. 5, 2018.**

The **Commonwealth Transportation Board** invites you to comment on projects to be funded by a concession fee to the Commonwealth as part of the financial agreement with Express Mobility Partners for the I-66 Express Lanes Outside the Beltway project. At a future meeting, the CTB will vote to amend these projects in the Commonwealth’s Six-Year Improvement Program.

Information related to the following projects will be available:

- Rt. 234/Balls Ford Road interchange and relocation in Prince William
- Virginia Railway Express Manassas Line upgrade - Phase I
- Balls Ford Road widening from Groveton Road to Route 234 Business (Sudley Road) in Prince William
- I-66 median widening at Route 29 for WMATA in Fairfax
- Commuter parking garage at Fairfax Corner
- George Synder Trail in Fairfax City
- Widen Jermantown Road bridge to four lanes over I-66 in Fairfax
- Western bus maintenance facility in Prince William
- East Falls Church Metro Bus bay expansion in Arlington
- Monument Drive bridge pedestrian improvements in Fairfax
- Rt. 50/Waples Mill Road intersection improvements in Fairfax
- Construct Poplar Tree Road bridge to four lanes over Route 28 in Fairfax
- Lee Highway pedestrian improvements in Fairfax
- Nutley Street SW multi-use trail to Metro in Vienna

If you cannot attend the hearing, email comments to [meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov) and reference “I-66 Concession Projects” in the subject line, or mail them to Maria Sinner at VDOT’s District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 through **Jan. 8, 2018.**

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## PEOPLE

# Ono Brewing Supports Western Fairfax Christian Ministries

Scott and Cyndi Hoffman, owners of Ono Brewing Company, recently presented a \$1982.54 check to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. Ono Brewing Company, a new brewery in Chantilly, helps support great deeds in the community by donating all tips collected each month to a different local charity.

The Chantilly brewery tasting room features a self-serve beer wall with eight beers on tap, all brewed on the premises. Since customers are serving themselves, tipping is optional at Ono and not expected. The Hoffmans have chosen to pay their employees a competitive wage so they don't need to rely on tips. If customers are compelled to add a tip to support a different local charity each month.

The new brewery has already donated a total of \$7,482.62 to local charities in their first three months of business.

During its first month of business, September 2017, Ono Brewing Company col-

lected \$3142.36 in gratuities, which was donated to the CIA Officer's Memorial Foundation, an organization that supports the families of CIA officers who have died in active service of the nation. In October, Ono Brewing Company donated \$2360.72 to the Step Sisters, a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for those impacted by breast cancer by funding needed support services, such as house cleaning, transportation, and child care to assist the families of women with breast cancer in the Northern Virginia area.

Ono Brewing Company has chosen to support Every Citizen Has Opportunities, Inc. (ECHO) in December. ECHO offers vocational training, community integration, and comprehensive, individualized disability employment for adults with disabilities in Loudoun and Fairfax counties.

See [www.onobrewco.com](http://www.onobrewco.com). Contact [info@onobrewco.com](mailto:info@onobrewco.com) with a recommendation for a local charity that Ono should consider supporting in the future.



From left: Cyndi Hoffman, Ono Brewing Company; Mary Ellen Walsh, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries; and Scott Hoffman, Ono Brewing Company.

PHOTO BY TYLER SCHRODER



## National Certificate Of Merit

The Boy Scouts of America, upon recommendation of the National Court of Honor, presents the National Certificate of Merit to Christopher Thomas Davids in recognition of performance of a significant act of service, 2017. He had taken control of a three-car accident scene until authorities arrived and provided first aid assistance to one of the drivers. Above, Pack 1860 Assistant Den Leader Christopher T. Davids receives the award from Sully District Chairman Hondo Davids at a Pack 1860 meeting.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

### HOLIDAY SOBER-RIDE

**Free Sober Rides.** The annual Holiday SoberRide program will operate 8 p.m.-4 a.m. each night from Friday, Dec. 15, 2017-Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. Area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's weekly Holiday SoberRide promo codes will be posted at 2 p.m. on Dec. 15, Dec. 23 and Dec. 31 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

## Veteran Support Dogs Honored

Volunteers and community members gathered at Veterans Moving Forward (VMF), in Dulles on Sunday, Dec. 3, to bid "Bone" Voyage to their latest service dog graduates, Kirby and Albie. The two service dogs were raised and trained specifically for the veterans they will serve, Max Lilly, of Harper's Ferry, W.Va., and Bob Williams, of Woodbridge, Va.

Lilly is a retired engineer and Viet Nam veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force as a helicopter mechanic.

Williams gave 26 years of service in the U.S. Army. Williams needs Albie to provide the push he needs to get out of the house and exercise more. It takes nearly

40 volunteers over a period of two years to raise a puppy into a service dog. The group includes the breeder who provides the puppy, the puppy raiser, his many sitters and trainers, the animal hospital caregivers, the volunteer canine training team who matches each service dog to his veteran, the donors who provide funding for the dog's training, and more.

Kirby and Albie are two of four dogs VMF has placed this year. Since 2010, VMF has placed 25 dogs into some level of service with a veteran, whether it be a 24/7 service dog; a veteran support dog; or an animal assisted therapy dog.



Max Lilly with Kirby



## Thanking Jersey Mike's

PHOTO BY DAN PALENSCAR

Tom Donahue of Jersey Mike's Subs in Chantilly, receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Assistant Council Commissioner Bill Schoonmaker for his support of the 20th Sully District Boy Scouts of America Golf Tournament. The 21st Golf Tournament will be held on Oct. 4, 2018, at Twin Lakes Golf Course.



PHOTO BY DAN PALENSCAR

## Thanking Chick-fil-A

Assistant Council Commissioner Bill Schoonmaker presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Team Leader Carlos Valencia of Chick-fil-A in Chantilly, for their support of the 20th Sully District Boy Scouts of America Golf Tournament. See [www.NCACBSA.org/SullyGolf](http://www.NCACBSA.org/SullyGolf).

## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

# Entertaining and Educational

### Gifts to stimulate intellect and curiosity.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON

This year, popular items on children's holiday wish lists are likely video games, mobile devices, and trendy articles of clothing. There's a more enriching way to approach holiday gift giving for youths, though.

Keeping in the holiday spirit doesn't mean mentally checking out, according to Dr. Lisa Turissini, chair of Marymount University's Education Department. Stimulate their intellect and curiosity with gift giving this year, and ultimately provide children with much more than the surges of adrenaline they'll receive from unwrapping something shiny or with a battery.

Turissini, who has been an educator for more than 30 years, leans toward gifts that result in experiences. When holiday season rolls around, she suggested an array of gifts that ultimately lead to more knowledge, or more memories.

"Experiential gifts stay in our memories forever, and an interesting trip can be one of the best family gifts," she said. "Music lessons, for instance: As kids learn new skills, such as playing a musical instrument, they gain confidence. Also, the process of studying, practicing, and performing teaches kids how to set and achieve goals. Kids taking these kinds of classes or lessons are able to explore their creativity."

These types of gifts don't have to be expensive either.

"Board or card games are great because they will lead to a coming together for a family game night, which is old-fashioned fun," she said. "Developing strategies through critical thinking and learning how to be a good winner are some of the benefits. Our family in particular enjoys Risk, Monopoly and Uno."

She added that downloading a collection of good Podcasts makes a great gift, too.

Local early education experts agree that playing is an important part of childhood, and gift-giving season is a great opportunity to provide them with the tools for the best kind of play.

"Children learn through play," Turissini said. "When playing with educational toys and games, children can develop perception, intuition, and reasoning as they engage in creative activities. Educational toys can help children connect to their thought processes and further develop their capabilities to think freely. Common toys that help boost cognitive skills include puzzles and number games. By providing children with well-devised play experiences, inside and outside, children develop appropriate social interaction skills, language skills and emotional development.

While technology has changed so much about this generation of elementary school aged children, teachers continue to see the benefit of traditional learning toys. Technology isn't all bad, but, kids need time



Fisher-Maltese

away from screens to interact with the real world.

"I've taught little people for eight years and higher ed for almost six years," said Dr. Carley Fisher-Maltese, an Early Childhood Education assistant professor for George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). "Some STEM-related toys that I'd

consider purchasing for my own kids would be telescopes, microscopes, and logic and/or puzzle books."

Despite the lure of mobile devices, youngsters today still seem to find fun in the simple stuff.

"I love books of science experiments, particularly kitchen science, where you can find pretty much everything you need in your kitchen. My kids love making slime — they even have kits you can buy to make it — and making volcanoes explode with a little baking soda and vinegar. I also like building toys for kids, such as marble mazes and magna tiles. There are some good robot-building kits and drones that connect to your phone or tablet that you can buy for older kids."

**THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX** — literally. Dr. Debbie Stone, GMU CEHD assistant professor of Child, Family and Community Engagement, said some of the best gifts are impossible to wrap up or put in a gift bag.

"I am a big advocate for open-ended toys such as building materials, art supplies, a dollhouse, kitchen, etcetera," Stone said. "Anything that sparks open-ended play and problem solving gets my vote."

Children need to keep moving over holiday break, too. A gift as simple as a jump rope could help with this. "It is important for children to engage in physical activities during holiday break," Turissini said. "Bike riding and nature walks are terrific ways for children to get the physical exercise that they need. In colder weather building a snowman or going sledding can be fun for all. By allowing children to participate in a variety of activities you will ensure continued not only healthy emotional and physical development, but also kids who are recharged and ready to get back to school."

With existing excitement in the air, it's a perfect time to spark a love of discovery within children.

"Picture a future where, rather than making a trip to the local store for a toy, your child could create toys for him or herself," Turissini said. "It sounds like something out of a futuristic movie, but conceivably, kids can make their own creations using a 3D printer, which today is extremely expensive. But, as with computers and flat-screen TVs, the price of 3D printers will eventually go down as the technology becomes more widely available. In a couple of years, your child and her friends could be printing their own dollhouse furniture, trains, and cars."

erly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat.

Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

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### NEWS BRIEF

## Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 21, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may prop-

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The Old Siam, LLC trading as Thai Kitchen, 5653 Stone Road, Centreville, VA 20120. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages ORapin Hirakawa, managing member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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**NEWS**



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

Volunteers posing with some of the bicycles to be gifted are (from left) Ralph Harmon and Sarah George, both with Metronome government contractors, and Arjun Suryakant, Kristi Liesegang, and Ron Richmond, all with Splunk software sales.

**ONC's Heroic Holiday Helpers**

FROM PAGE 3

back to their community, especially around the holidays. And, said Lee, "People like us, who are more fortunate, should help out people who don't have as much." Kaiser said, "It's nice to know you're helping someone have a better Christmas."

And although Chantilly, Centreville and Westfield are normally rivals in athletics and other competitions, when it comes to ONC, said Maurer, "It's great that different schools are coming together to help the community."

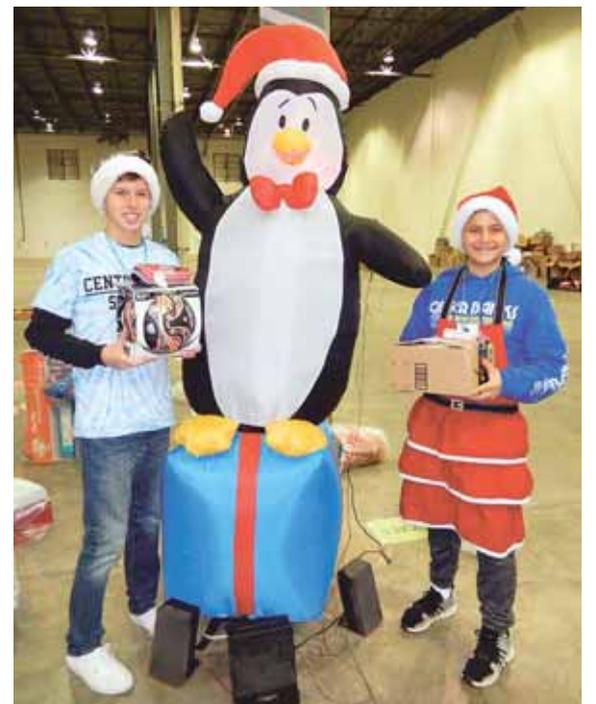
— BONNIE HOBBS



About to empty and distribute a big box full of presents into the families' gift bags are (from left) Centreville senior Kylie Martino; Chantilly juniors Ashleigh Tellef, Lauren Zarbo and Erika Park; and Chantilly sophomore Jordan Baker.



From left: Kaitlynn Delano and Carolyn Rector, both with Scott Long Construction of Chantilly, hold some LEGO sets ready to be packed.



Posing with a penguin decoration in ONC's warehouse are Centreville freshmen and SGA members (from left) Jakob Robinette and John Marciano.

# Holiday Safety

FROM PAGE 5

Grinches, she said, “Valuables can be replaced; you cannot. If someone demands your purse or car keys, just give it to them.”

Ruck said people should be alert and not provide an appealing opportunity to be ripped off. Shoppers are easier targets for criminals if, for example, they’re looking at their cell phones and not paying attention to their surroundings.

“Be alert, because the criminals are watching the crowd for potential victims,” she said. “So be confident, walk with a purpose, look alert and trust your instincts. There’s safety in numbers, so stay in pairs or insert yourself in a crowd walking outside. And look out for poor lighting and secluded areas.”

Ruck also warned people not to have their hands too full and to keep their keys in their hands while walking to their cars. “Hold your purse under your arm and be aware of people coming up to you,” she said. “They could distract you for another purpose, so keep your guard up.”

She further advised residents to keep any valuables in their car out of sight. These include packages, electronics and power cords. And she told them to be sure and report any suspicious activity.

When shopping, said Ruck, “Don’t wear expensive jewelry, only carry the cash or credit cards you need and always carry your cell phone. Men should carry their wallets in their front pocket or inside their jacket pocket, and everyone should be aware of strangers and con artists.”

She said people should program their cell phones with their emergency contacts and the police, non-emergency number, 703-691-2131, as well as the emergency 911 number. In addition, Ruck said residents should choose ATMs that are well-lit, used often and that they feel comfortable using.

People who don’t like the look or feel of an ATM should come back at another time or go to another location. They should also pay attention to their surroundings and be wary of anyone trying to help them with their transaction. Or, better yet, said Ruck, “Get cash back at grocery stores, instead of from ATMs.”

She also urged people to check out charities before donating to be sure they’re legitimate and actually do what they claim to do. “Ask questions about the charity,” she said. “And find out how much of the contributions goes directly to the charity.”

Ruck further encouraged potential donors to contact the Wise Giving Alliance, operated by the Better Business Bureau, at [www.give.org](http://www.give.org). “It vets charitable organizations, and you can also find out the percentage of donated amounts actually going to charity,” she said. “And never use a debit card online, and look for the lock icon for safe and secure sites.”

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## “Suit Yourself, Biscuit”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Talk about a superfluous statement. I was asleep in bed and awoke to find one of our five cats, Biscuit, the oldest at 11+, lying sphinx-like on the front right of our bed. Though it was dark, I could see in his yellow eyes that he was awake.

Wanting to feel a cat against my body, I said, “Biscuit, come here. Come lie against my chest.” No response so I repeated the request. This time with a bit more conviction: “Biscuit, come here. I want to feel you next to me.” Again, no response. In fact, no reaction whatsoever. So I muttered, without thinking even: “OKAY, Biscuit, suit yourself.”

And then I laughed. Of course he’s going to suit himself. That’s what cats do. I should be grateful he didn’t jump off the bed. After all, he was minding his own business.

And that business is the entire philosophy of the feline species captured in two words. If any of you has ever owned a cat and been sensitive to and appreciative of their differences with the canine population, cats don’t really come when you call them. Nor do they respond to a million other things you ask of them. If you understand and embrace that behavior, you’ll likely begin to see this non-responsiveness as part of their charm.

However, when they do come when you call them, or when they climb uninvited onto your chest while lying in bed or snuggle with you on the couch; oh, how special you feel. And if you don’t feel put upon or tolerated and can instead savor the uniqueness of their knead (and do everything you can to encourage its repetition), then you can indeed find pleasure and purpose in that moment, rare though it may be – or maybe not.

Accepting the parameters of the relationship with your cat, and managing your expectations, will go a long way toward understanding what your cat is able to give you. And what cats can give you is companionship and love – on their terms of course. The mere fact that Biscuit is lying on the bed should be enough to make me happy. Expecting that he would rise due to my beck and call, at night, especially while he’s cat-napping is unreasonable on my part. Biscuit is not being difficult in the least. He is simply adhering to a non-responsive-type behavior that generations of cats – and generations of cat owners, should be accustomed to, not questioned or even curious about.

As an extraordinarily experienced cat owner (almost 40 years), I should have known better. Yet I couldn’t resist the temptation/control the urge to give Biscuit (a cat) the chance to change the course of presumptive cat history and come to me when I asked. The problem is, once in a blue moon – or was that a red moon (it certainly appeared to be above the fold on the front page of The Washington Post the other day), cats will break with historical convention and respond/react/reply in kind with both word and deed. They’ll come, they’ll snuggle, they’ll talk, they’ll nuzzle, they might even lick. In fact, they’ll do everything they can to endear themselves to you.

But it doesn’t happen often or rather it doesn’t happen consistently. Yet it remains the goal of every committed (or rather should be) cat owner to make every attempt to induce their cats to succumb to their cat-seducing charms. Like right now, Twinkle, our white, five-and-half-years-old domestic medium hair, is doing everything she can to get my attention. She’s walking back and forth across my note pad (as I’m trying to write; I’m busy), she’s rubbing her head against my face and using the top of my pen as some sort of head scratcher, she’s lying on her left side with as many as four paws outstretched across my left arm as I use it to block her advance and she’s talking non-stop.

She’s being such a pain, but you have to love them. If you can’t appreciate their untimely intrusions and instead expect some kind of predictable dog-like obedience, you need more than “The Cat Whisperer,” you need “The Cat Screamer,” because it’s NOT HAPPENING.

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**Fitness for 50+.** Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email [lynnelott@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lynnelott@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-322-4475.

**History Volunteers Needed.** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), 703-425-9225.

**Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919.

**Carolina Shag Dance.** Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit [www.nvshag.org](http://www.nvshag.org).

**Open Rehearsal.** Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The

Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxjubilairs.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilairs.org).

**Toddlin' Twos.** Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Storytime for Three to Fives.** Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Plant Clinic.** Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

**Lego Block Party.** Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Duplo Storytime.** Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

**Live After Five.** Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com) for a full schedule.

**Mondays are Family Night.** 5-7 p.m. at Villaggio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a



PHOTO BY LINDA M. TOKI

## Festival of Lights

Through Jan. 7, Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m., \$15 per car; Fridays-Sundays and holidays, 5:30-10 p.m., \$20 per car. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Bull Run Festival of Lights is more than just a light show. After enjoying two and a half miles of light displays, stop at the Holiday Village, complete with bonfires, s'mores, holiday merchandise and free activities. Call 703-631-0550 or visit [www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights](http://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights).

family of four. Call 703-543-2030.

**Legos Kids Club.** Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

**Starlight Storytime.** Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 22

**Phil Selz in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 23

**Britton James in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 24

**David Thong in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 26

**Music Sing and Dance.** 12:30 p.m. at the Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Sing and Swing w Chris Edwards. Call 703-380-0660.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 28

**The Nutcracker.** 2 and 7 p.m. at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Virginia Ballet Company is presenting its 68th annual production of "The Nutcracker." This is a full-length, professionally-staged ballet. \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, seniors and students at VABallet.org. Email [vbcoffice@vaballet.org](mailto:vbcoffice@vaballet.org) or call 703-249-8227.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 29

**The Nutcracker.** 2 and 7 p.m. at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Virginia Ballet Company is presenting its 68th annual production of "The Nutcracker." This is a full-length, professionally-staged ballet. \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, seniors and students at VABallet.org. Email [vbcoffice@vaballet.org](mailto:vbcoffice@vaballet.org) or call 703-249-8227.

**Joe Bernui in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 30

**James Stevens in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 31

**New Years Eve Party.** 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. A glass of Champagne upon arrival, DJ Paul Surreal and photo booth, door prizes and Champagne toast at midnight. Bonn Boni food truck will be on site. \$50. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 21

**G Gauge Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Sponsored by the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Garden Railway Society Admission, Museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), or call 703-425-9225.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 10

**Ping Pong Tournament.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. In-door activity in the middle of winter that includes cookies from Clifton's own Sweet Annaline's. Free. Visit [clifton-va.com](http://clifton-va.com).

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