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# Mount Vernon Gazette

HOLIDAY  
ENTERTAINMENT  
PAGE 11

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 29, 2018



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the MVHS Vocal Recall advanced choir bag shoes collected from the drive: From left, back row, Nicole Duchaine, Annie Hood, Yara Ammar, Melanie Palacios Beltran and Casey Zanowic; middle row, Mark Rivera and Zachariah Pifer; front row, Erica Bartell, Laura Schmechel, Denilson Zapata, and Gopika Patel.

## Choral Boosters Launch Shoe Drive

To benefit choir programs and people in developing countries.

The Mount Vernon High School Choral Boosters are conducting a shoe drive fundraiser through Dec. 20 to raise funds for the activities of the choir programs. The boosters will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected. Anyone can help by donating shoes at the collection box located outside of Door 4 at the school (across from the football field).

The boosters are partnering with a group called Funds2orgs. All donated shoes will be redistrib-

uted through a group called Funds2Orgs which works with micro-entrepreneurs to help them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited.

Proceeds from the sales of the shoes collected in shoe drive fundraisers are used to feed, clothe and house their families.

"We are excited about our shoe drive," said Judi Belzer, director of Choirs at Mount Vernon High School. "People often have extra shoes in their closets and we hope that they will donate them to us. The Chorus Boosters hope to raise money to support the choral students and programs here at Mount Vernon and we have the chance to help families in developing nations who need economic opportunities. It's a win-win for everyone."

## Helping Keep Homeless Warm

Slightly higher numbers of residents in need face higher snowfalls forecasted.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE GAZETTE

This month, residents in the area were taken somewhat by surprise at the record-for-November snowfall on Nov. 15. For most in the region, the negative effects of the nor'easter meant hazardous commutes at the worst, or being annoyingly housebound on the less dramatic side of the scale.

For some of people experiencing homelessness, however, that snowfall brought potentially life-

threatening consequences, and the forecasts for a more snow-filled winter than in years past means the dangers they face will only escalate as winter wears on.

The Hypothermia Prevention Program is an integral part of Fairfax County's battle to combat homelessness and keep this vulnerable population safe during the coldest months. Nonprofit organizations operate shelters for individuals and families year-round, but when winter arrives, the efforts of nonprofits, faith communities, civic organizations, businesses and volunteers — in collaboration with a number of government agencies — kick in to an even higher gear. The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Community Services Board, the Police Department and the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Marshal's Office and the county's Land Development Services all work together with these partners to sup-

SEE HYPOTHERMIA, PAGE 10



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter on Richmond Highway will expand its services during the Hypothermia Prevention Program 2018-2019 season. The shelter and the program are operated by New Hope Housing.

## 'The Nutcracker' Performs at WPHS

The West Potomac Academy Dance program and Alexandria Community Nutcracker will present the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker," on Nov. 29, 30, and Dec. 1. This is the 10th year that the academy and the Alexandria Community Nutcracker have partnered to present "The Nutcracker."

This season's four public performances will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29; at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30; and at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1.

All performances will be held at West Potomac High

School, 6500 Quander Road.

The cast ranges from three-year-olds to adult performers dancing ballet, pointe, lyrical, tap, jazz, modern, and gymnastics. Auditions are held annually each June, and are open to preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school dancers who are enrolled in an approved dance or gymnastics program in the local area.

The Alexandria Community Nutcracker began in 2008, in partnership with the West Potomac

SEE 'THE NUTCRACKER', PAGE 10

11/30/18  
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**OPEN SUN 12/2, 2-4**

**Belle Haven | \$1,495,000**  
High on a hill overlooking the Potomac River is this 6,000-SF gracious, center hall Colonial. High ceilings, main level & upper level master suites, 2-car garage & exceptional entertainment flow – for an elegant lifestyle! 6040 Edgewood Terrace Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984 [www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)



**OPEN SUN 12/2, 2-4**

**Rosemont | \$950,000**  
Circa 1908, this brick beauty offers a rare opportunity to put your own personality into this light-filled gem. Offering 3-bedrooms, 2.5-baths, high ceilings, walking distance to King St Metro, Maury school, Old Town shops & restaurants. 11 Cedar St. Betty Mallon 703.989.8548 [www.BettyMallon.com](http://www.BettyMallon.com)



**OPEN SUN 12/2, 2-4**

**Old Town | \$995,000**  
Desirable Princess Townhouses near river, parks, and restaurants. Largest model with beautiful hardwoods, freshly painted, private patio, new heat pump & compressor, stainless appliances. Priced to enjoy now or update! 407 N Fairfax St. Sue Dickerson 703.286.1290 Jan Allison 571.276.9993



**OPEN SUN 12/2, 2-4**

**Arlington | \$850,000**  
Classic jewel box Cape Cod with beautiful updates. Gorgeous kitchen with granite & stainless steel, 2 updated baths, main level bedroom, living room, dining room & den with beamed ceiling. Walk to shops & restaurants. 4736 Old Dominion Drive Noel Kaupinen 703.200.1165 [www.noelk.com](http://www.noelk.com)



**OPEN SUN 12/2, 2-4**

**Liberty Row | \$879,900**  
Sunny corner unit with designer details & upgrades. Hardwood floors, fireplace, huge kitchen, renovated master bath & powder, 2 master suites. French door to treetop terrace overlooking Gables Old Town. 2 parking spaces. 635 First St #203 Susan Taylor 703.927.3000 [www.CallSusanTaylor.com](http://www.CallSusanTaylor.com)



**OPEN SUN 12/2, 2-4**

**Alexandria | \$772,000**  
Rare waterfront 4-bedroom, 3-bath home with private boat dock & access to the Potomac. Contemporary split-level on secluded large lot minutes from Old Town. Community amenities include pool, tennis, and more. 3011 Sevor Lane Susan Hume 202.280.5735 [www.shumehomes.com](http://www.shumehomes.com)



**OPEN SUN 12/2, 1-4**

**Marina Towers | \$529,900**  
Watch fabulous sunsets, fall foliage & DC fireworks from the 14-ft NW-facing balcony. 1,471-SF, 3-bedroom, 2-bath, open floor plan. Tons of closets, washer/dryer in unit, garage space. Expanded kitchen with pro stove. 501 Slaters Ln #922 Delaine Campbell 703.299.0030 [www.DelaineSells.com](http://www.DelaineSells.com)



**OPEN SUN 12/2, 2-4**

**Alexandria | \$799,000**  
New price for this dreamy home in a waterfront community. Classically updated with everything you'd desire! Gleaming hardwoods, quartz, lighted sinks, heated bathroom floor, screened porch, low HOA. 9350 Mount Vernon Cir. Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984 [www.JanetPriceHomes.com](http://www.JanetPriceHomes.com)



**OPEN SUN 12/2, 2-4**

**Alexandria | \$535,000**  
Beautifully expanded Cape Cod on 1/2 acre lot with family room addition & deck - over \$100K in upgrades! 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors, full basement attic, and gazebo. Two sheds - one with electricity. 3415 Groveton Street Kim Peele 703.244.5852 Hope Peele 703.244.6115



**McEneaney Associates is a proud Title Sponsor for the 48th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade, presented by The Campagna Center.**

The Campagna Center, Alexandria's leading not-for-profit organization, equips children and families with a comprehensive set of tools they need to thrive and succeed. Please join us on November 30th & December 1st for a weekend of festivities that will celebrate the rich Scottish heritage of Old Town Alexandria.

[www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend](http://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend)



**Woodbridge | \$1,347,000**  
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From left: UCM Executive Director Alison DeCoursey with event Co-Chair Diane Hanak, Friends of UCM President and UCM Board member Nancy Hawkins, and event Co-Chairs Trish Fowler and Judy Cahill.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

UCM will celebrate its 50th anniversary of service to the community throughout 2019. Honorary 50th Celebration Co-Chair Addy Krizek (center) is joined by (from left): Ken Disselkoen, UCM board chair; Tom Curcio and Elin Bohn, UCM board members and 50th Celebration co-chairs; and Alison DeCoursey, UCM executive director.

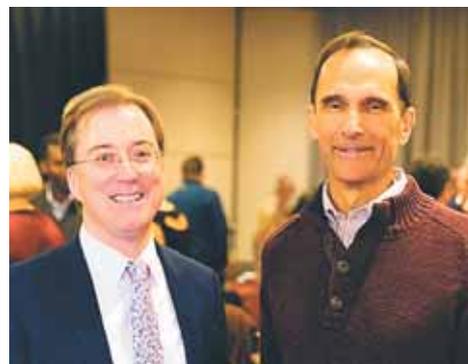
# Friends of UCM Raise Nearly \$80,000

## At 2018 Capitol Steps Benefit.

The Friends of UCM hosted the 27th annual Capitol Steps UCM Benefit on Sunday, Nov. 18, in the Madison Auditorium at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Old Town Alexandria.

The Friends of UCM, a group of volunteers, provide fundraising and community outreach support to UCM. The benefit raised nearly \$80,000 to support vulnerable individuals, families, and children in southeastern Fairfax County.

Close to 350 guests enjoyed an evening with friends and colleagues, including state Sen. Scott Surovell, Del. Paul Krizek, and Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck. The Title Sponsor was community



Del. Paul Krizek and Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck were among the 350 guests and supporters who enjoyed the 27th annual Capitol Steps UCM Benefit.

members Doug and Eileen Kennett, and the Diamond Sponsor was AT&T.

“Poverty is no laughing matter for so many in our community, but we always

appreciate the entertainment and laughter that the Capitol Steps group brings us every year to raise critical funds to empower our neighbors in need to transform their lives,” said Alison DeCoursey, UCM executive director. “We are grateful to The Friends of UCM and to our sponsors who make this event possible.

Thank you to all our caring community members who support UCM in so many ways to make our programs available to our neighbors in abject poverty. Each and every one of you here help to transform lives,” she added. The full list of more than 45 event sponsors is available on the UCM website at [ucmagency.org](http://ucmagency.org).

DeCoursey also made note of UCM’s 50th anniversary in 2019 by announcing Addy Krizek, former UCM volunteer development director and UCM board member, and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, former UCM board member, as honorary co-chairs of the 50th Anni-

versary Celebration. A series of mission-oriented activities are being planned to ensure that as many members of the UCM community can share in the celebration throughout 2019.

“For nearly 50 years, UCM’s programs and services have been changing lives for the better every day,” said DeCoursey. “We envision a community where everyone thrives. There is still much work to be done. There is tremendous economic disparity and inequity across the region. Nowhere is that more prevalent than along the Route 1 Corridor. UCM can do so much more with community support. We invite all community members to join us at the heart of community.”

For more information about UCM’s 50th Anniversary Celebration, contact Arleen Ramirez Borysiewicz, UCM director of development, at [arleen.borysiewicz@ucmagency.org](mailto:arleen.borysiewicz@ucmagency.org).



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Inaugural Pumpkin Chunk

In keeping with the spirit of the fall season, Mount Vernon High School engineering students designed and constructed trebuchets for their first Pumpkin Chunk. The goal was simple: design a machine to hurl a 7-10 pound pumpkin as far as possible. Both teams designed their trebuchets based on historic research. One team took the top prize with a 30-yard chunk.



## GrandInvolve Expands into Lee District

GrandInvolve, a program to improve the quality of life for older adult volunteers and school age children by providing intergenerational education activities, is expanding into the Lee District Title 1 schools.

GrandInvolve has established a Lee District Steering Committee to work toward having an Action Team of volunteers in each of those schools.

The Steering Committee is reaching out to the community for volunteers to work with the Action Teams. A community meeting, “The Match Game – Volunteering with Passion and Purpose,” will be held at the newly renovated John Marshall Library on Thursday Dec. 13 from 1:30-3 p.m. GrandInvolve volunteers will share their experiences.

Email [info@grandinvolve.org](mailto:info@grandinvolve.org) or visit [www.grandinvolve.org](http://www.grandinvolve.org).

## Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2019, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,150 to \$4,260<sup>1</sup>.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$13,420 to \$15,285.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,260 to \$1,300<sup>1</sup>.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.94 to \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge for meters larger than a standard 5/8" residential meter<sup>1</sup>.
6. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$45 to \$48.
7. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
8. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$36 to \$38.

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

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$183.2 million budget for calendar year 2019<sup>1</sup>. Revenues are expected to be \$183.2 million in 2019. Water sales are expected to provide \$158.3 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-\$1,000s -	
	2018	2019
Personal Services and Employee Benefits	\$ 55,934	\$ 57,584
Power and Utilities	10,755	11,102
Chemicals	6,958	7,532
Purchased Water	7,810	7,155
Supplies and Materials	5,261	5,444
Insurance	955	1,075
Fuel	700	728
Postage	603	612
Contractual Services	12,481	12,974
Professional Services	1,001	1,065
Other	2,428	2,505
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>104,886</b>	<b>107,776</b>
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,248)	(10,380)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 94,638</b>	<b>\$ 97,396</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

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

<sup>1</sup> Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at [www.fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates). A copy of the proposed budget can be found at [www.fairfaxwater.org](http://www.fairfaxwater.org). Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

## PEOPLE



Al Glaeser, Worshipful Master of Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219, presents the Community Builders Award to Art Blakey of the Hollin Hall Barbershop.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Masons Award Blakey

On Nov. 19, Al Glaeser, Worshipful Master of Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219, awarded Art Blakey of the Hollin Hall Barbershop its Community Builders Award for his over 50 years of service to the families of the Mount Vernon area.

The award certificate was signed by the head of Virginia Freemasons, Most Worshipful Gary Wallace Taylor. Blakey has cut the hair and dispensed wisdom and sports talk with fathers who became grandfathers and their sons who are now bringing their sons in for haircuts. No politics or religion spoken here, just sports and local news while

listening to the golden oldies.

"I have never met a bad young man while cutting hair here. That says something about the families who live here," said Blakey of his Mount Vernon customers.

The Community Builders Award recognizes non-masons who are positive and notable contributors to the welfare of their community.

Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge is located on Fort Hunt Road and is the only Masonic Lodge on George Washington's Mount Vernon estate. President Washington was the first Master of Alexandria Washington Masonic Lodge No. 22.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## SAR Award

The Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Costa of the Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild received the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal from President Ernie Coggins of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution at the conclusion of a program that honored seven veterans living at the Sunrise at Mount Vernon assisted-living facility in Alexandria on Nov. 10. After honoring the veterans of the armed forces for Veterans Day, the Bronze Good Citizenship medal was awarded by the chapter for Costa's service to the residents, to the local SAR, and for supporting Revolutionary War-era history programs in the area.

## Helping Cleanup Fort Willard

More than 60 moms and sons of the Young Men's Service League Vienna-Oakton Chapter (YMSLVO) spent the day contributing to the

restoration of Fort Willard, a 1.5 acre local historic site built in 1862 by the Union Army and one of 63 forts built during the Civil War. SEE HELPING CLEANUP. PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# Applegate Receives Service Award

For outstanding volunteerism.

BY SUSAN LAUME

**M**ount Vernon volunteer Michael Applegate was recognized, among others, for outstanding volunteerism by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

During a ceremony on Nov. 16, Applegate received the “Ellie Doyle Service Award” for his efforts in maintaining and improving the grounds and mountain biking trails in a large portion of Laurel Hill Park — in the Apple Orchard and Equestrian Center areas. He works an average of 30 hours per week on the five-mile trail network — mowing, trimming trees, inspecting and fixing storm damage, improving trail surface and drainage, supervising contractors and scout projects, advising staff on improvements in processes and alterations to facilities to improve the visitor experience.

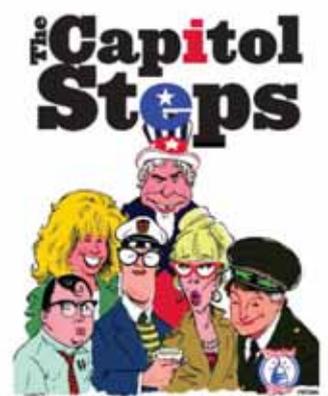
He regularly mows the grass aprons all along the trails, clearing invasive vines, identifying native trees to save from overgrowth of blackberry vines, builds ramp curves and moguls to enhance the mountain biking experience, fills in trail wash-out spots and keeps a watchful eye on the security of the grounds.

Regardless of the weather, Applegate donates his time to care of the park at all times of the year. Beyond the park itself, Applegate is a role model for showing by example the difference volunteerism can make and the importance of community service to the parks.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

**Michael Applegate (center) receives award from Park Authority Board Members Marguerite Godbold and Linwood Gorham.**



**The Capitol Steps**

**27th Annual**  
**Capitol Steps**  
**UCM Benefit**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO**  
**Our Hosts, The Friends of UCM**  
**All Our Event Sponsors, especially:**

Thank you to the caring community members who joined us on November 18. You helped raise nearly \$80,000 for our neighbors in need.

Join us in 2019 as  
**UCM Celebrates**  
**50 Years of Service**  
**in the Community!**



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*Complete list of sponsors is at [ucmagency.org](http://ucmagency.org).*

For more information, contact UCM's Giving Office at 571.255.8977.

Another **Mount Vernon Gazette** Community Partner



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**OPEN SUNDAY**



**Alex/Mt. Vernon Woods \$362,900**  
**8102 Martha Washington**  
 Precious 3BR, 1BA Rambler – Perfect Starter Home – Double pane windows and updated bath plus wood burning fireplace– Large deck overlooks the beautifully landscaped, deep, fenced backyard–Perfect for the grill. Roof 2016, A/C Compressor 2017, HWH 2018 – 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 17 mins to Old town, Alex.

**OPEN SUNDAY**



**Alex/Stratford \$574,900**  
**2601 Culpeper Road**  
 Price just reduced on this – Lovely 4BR, 3BA home with carport in popular Stratford on the Potomac. Situated in sought after Stratford Elementary school district. Well maintained home. Replacement windows. Freshly painted interior with refinished hardwood floors. Beautiful landscaping. Updated baths. Family room with gas fireplace. You'll love it!!

**COMING SOON**



**Alex/Woodland Heights Low \$800S**  
**8608 Woodland Heights Ct.**  
 Beautiful turnkey home: 4BR, 3.5BA center hall colonial in sought after Mt. Vernon neighborhood of Woodland Heights. 4,000 sq. ft. Stunning Sun Rm addition looks out over beautifully landscaped & terraced bkyd, complete w/in-ground irrigation system. Large & updated kitchen w/center isle, granite counters & ceramic tile. Gorgeous hardwood floors, 6 panel doors, double plane windows. Large Owner's suite w/vaulted ceiling & walk-in closets. Updated MBA has separate soaking tub & shower. Finished basement offers a Rec Rm w/bar, 3rd full bath & ample storage. GREAT LOCATION: 20 mins to Ft. Belvoir & 15 to Old Town & easy access to GW Pkwy.



**Stafford/Aqua Villa \$264,900**  
**11 Shady Lane**  
 Beautiful 3BR, 3BA Cape Cod, bursting with charm. This property contains two lots (for total .67 acres), with winter views of Aquia Creek. 2nd Lot may potentially be buildable (grandfathered). Expansive and open floor plan. Enjoy nature's beauty from the back screened porch or multiple decks. Large shed/hobby room w/electricity (conveys as is). Quiet and serene location. Close to Quantico!

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**McLean/Fountains at McLean \$234,900**  
**1537 Lincoln Way #304**  
**LOCATION!**  
 LOCATION! Beautiful 1BR unit in heart of Tysons near shops/mall/restaurants/metro/495/Toll Rd, commuters dream! Upgraded bathroom & kit w/granite counter-tops. Kit w/breakfast bar is open to living rm which flows out to spacious private balcony and storage closet. Bedroom w/walk in closet. Full washer & dryer in unit. A MUST SEE!

**SOLD**



**Ft. Hunt/Collingwood on Potomac \$730,000**  
**8313 Cedardale Drive**  
 Beautiful 5BR/3BA home w/carport in sought after Ft. Hunt community with easy access to GW Pkwy and Mt. Vernon Bike Trail just blocks away. Waynewood Elementary. Home provides lots of space including finished attic as a bonus room. Hardwood floors throughout 4 of the 5 levels. Anderson glass doors off of dining room lead to large deck overlooking lovely fenced back yard w/garden shed. Updated kitchen and baths. Fireplace in living room. Large family room in lower level is bright and cheerful.

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**Alex/Engleside \$1,300,000**  
**8734 Lukens Lane**  
 4.128 acres zones R-2 for sale. There are 2 lots: 4/0 acres w/house (Tax Map 1101 01 0043) and .128 acre vacant land (1101 01 0043A). House on Property sold “AS IS” and NO ACCESS given or allowed. Land Value only. Water, sewer, gas, electricity available. This land is adjacent to the houses on Halley Farm Ct. which were built in the 2010-2011 time frame.

**For more information: [www.RexReiley.com](http://www.RexReiley.com)**

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 5, 2018 ❖ 5

## Call for Submissions to Children's Edition 2018

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

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

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

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

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

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good friend?

### EDITORIAL

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

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.
- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.
- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

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

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school

location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

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

Please send all submissions by Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2018.

You can see last year's editions by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition.

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

For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at [kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com).

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

## Bringing People in from the Cold

This year 36 churches will be host sites for the hypothermia program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

BY JOE FAY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
FACETS



Fifteen years ago, two Fairfax men froze to death during the fall. At the time, FACETS was a non-profit that was primarily serving meals to the county's homeless in partnership with several churches. FACETS' leaders knew that feeding people only to send them back into the extreme cold was not a great answer for the growing number of people who were homeless in the community.

That winter FACETS responded by offering temporary shelter in conjunction with its partner churches, the Lamb Center, and Salvation Army to get people in from the cold. The first year, these hypothermia shelters rotated to several different churches and only opened when the temperatures dropped below freezing. Soon the centers were serving up to 60 people on cold nights.

The program has evolved as the region's population has grown. In 2006, FACETS worked on policies and procedures with the county and formally began managing central Fairfax's Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program. This

year 36 churches will be host sites for the program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

These faith community partners rotate when opening their doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to welcome people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and preparing the space. Other volunteers are planning menus. Unique partnerships have formed as a result of the program as Christians, Muslims, Jews, and more join together to help the homeless and in the process learn about each other.

The effort also matured beyond just providing safe haven. Guests now receive life-changing case management. By interacting with guests at the shelters, FACETS' case managers are able to address their needs in a very personal way by gaining their trust and connecting them with housing solutions and critical services. They also receive a variety of services from the county.

Last year 283 guests were given shelter from the biting cold. More than 3,800 people volunteered



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**This year's Hypothermia Response and Prevention Program began the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and runs seven nights a week through April 1.**

33,000 hours last season to care for these guests who are homeless. By the end of season, 41 of these people had left homelessness behind and were housed.

This year's Hypothermia Response and Prevention Program began the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and runs seven nights a week through April 1. With the projected cold and forecasts of a very snowy winter season, demand is expected to grow.

The hypothermia program continues to adapt to the times to meet the needs of struggling neighbors. Through a coordinated effort that involves broad cross sections of this caring community, we are able to strengthen the community and save lives. To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit us at [www.FACETSCares.org](http://www.FACETSCares.org).

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

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Published by  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

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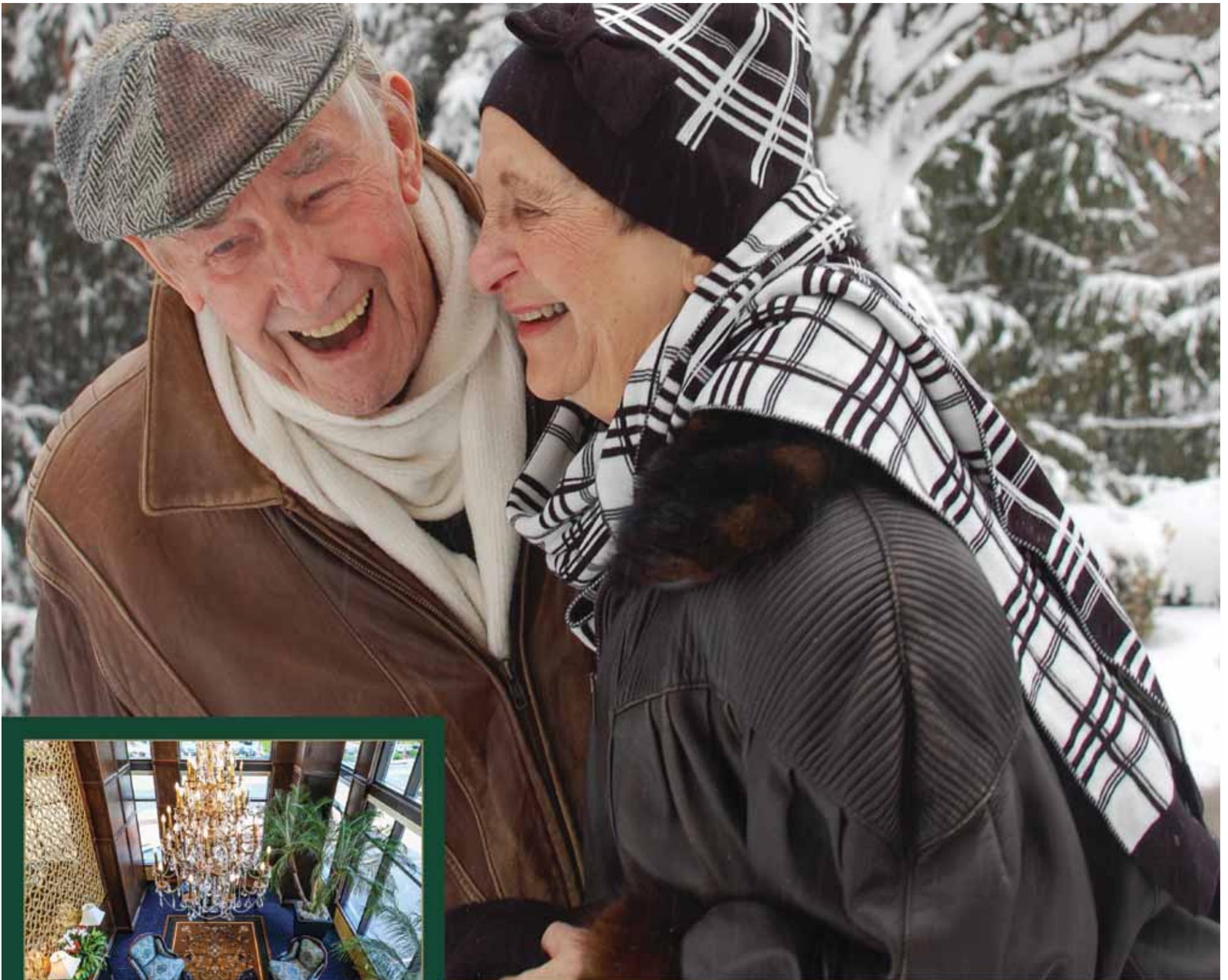
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# Federal Tax Reform to Force Action at General Assembly

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



**A**t a recent Senate Finance Committee retreat, state legislators had a preview of economic and revenue projections and other significant issues expected to be debated in the 2019 General Assembly session.

A vice-president of Moody's Analytics said that Virginia's economy continues to perform well due to increased federal spending coupled with federal tax cuts. However, he likened the performance to a sugar high and said that indicators are starting to point toward a recession in the next two years because of increased interest rates and increased import/export tariffs.

**COMMENTARY**

He cautioned that rising lending could exacerbate a recession. He also noted that Virginia's budget was well positioned for a recession because we have bolstered our Rainy Day Fund.

Next, we examined the state budget. Nearly 70 percent of Virginia's general fund revenue comes from income taxes. Traditionally, Virginia has been a "conforming" state, meaning that the Virginia's definition of adjusted gross income is identical to the

federal definition and taxpayers and accountants do not have to use two different sets of rules to figure out taxes. However, the tax bill passed by Congress in early 2018 significantly rewrote what constitutes income and limited deductions. Most significantly, Congress and President Trump limited the deductibility of real estate taxes and state and local income taxes to a total of \$10,000 (aka "SALT").

While most Virginians will see a combined net decrease or no change in their combined federal and state tax liability, many taxpayers who save on federal taxes, might end up paying more on their state taxes due to the limitation on SALT because Virginia historically requires taxpayers to claim the same deductions on their state income tax returns as on their federal returns. If Virginia continues to conform consistent with our traditional policy, the Commonwealth will see additional revenue of about \$600 million per year.

New state revenue is desperately needed. Virginia is still not funding K-12 education at the levels reached pre-2009 and pre-school funding is still marginal. Our higher

education funding is about half of the state goal.

Our safety net funding for services like subsidized childcare, temporary assistance for needy families and mental health care is abysmal. Notwithstanding these needs, I suspect some legislators will propose a broad tax cut even though most Virginians' combined tax liability will be about break even.

Governor Northam has also proposed to use part of the new revenue to fund a focused tax cut for low-income, working Virginians by making the Virginia Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refundable. Today, if a taxpayer claims the EITC and their refund exceeds their tax liability, they receive a federal refund, but no state refund. Refundability would benefit about 15,700 taxpayers here in the 36<sup>th</sup> District and 90,000 taxpayers in Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties.

Even though low- and moderate-income taxpayers make up half of Virginia taxpayers, they are projected to receive only six percent of the benefit from federal tax cuts. This would also help to restore some fairness to Virginia's income tax which is basically a flat tax today.

Also, earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the Wayfair case, reversed

longstanding precedent and held that states can now tax internet sales. Many online retailers, such as Amazon, were already paying sales taxes because they already had a physical presence in Virginia (distribution or data centers).

The additional revenue from taxing internet sales will be about \$124.7 million off \$2.9 billion in sales activity, but after mandatory allocations for secondary education and transportation, the net additional revenue to the General Fund is projected to be only about \$58 million per year.

While state revenues have come in around \$555 million over original forecasts, expenses are also higher. Specifically, forecasted Medicaid spending was off by \$469 million along with about \$200 million in other obligations such as Hurricane Florence expenditures, opiate epidemic-driven, public safety expenditures, mental health expenses and the projected Amazon investments which will consume much of the higher revenues.

The 2019 session is likely to be a very significant session for tax policy and spending decisions. If you have any feedback, please email me at [scott@scotturovell.org](mailto:scott@scotturovell.org).

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OPINION

# Act on Climate Change Now

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



exposed to water stress in the future (droughts, flooding etc...) is 50 percent lower at 1.5°C warmer versus 2°C warmer. The potential for extreme flooding and droughts could cause a worldwide refugee crisis. On the coasts, flooding would overrun and destroy homes, causing mil-

ions to be displaced. Low income communities will be particularly affected. We experienced this on a smaller scale when thousands of people had to re-settle in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy. We just saw the danger of areas facing droughts with the deadly fires in California. The warmer climate creates drier landscapes and thus a longer fire season. In fact, the fire season in western states is 84 days longer than it was in the 1970, according to the Economist. These droughts will ravage the farming community. If our warming continues at the same pace, the production of some crops could fall by 75 percent by the end of the century. Warming on our current trajectory could cost our economy approximately 500 billion dollars a year by the end of the century in crop damage, lost labor and extreme weather damage. This rivals the damage of the last economic recession!

After all this gloom and doom you may be asking what can I do to help? The good news is we still have time to halt and possibly reverse some of the

SEE CLIMATE, PAGE 18

Last Friday, the Fourth National Climate Assessment (nca2018.globalchange.gov) was released by scientists outlining the dire threat posed to our very existence by climate change. This report follows the equally ominous findings of the UN on climate change from October. All the science shows our planet is warming at an incredibly dangerous rate that will bring about economic and natural disaster. The five warmest years in global record have all occurred this decade. Think about that, the five warmest years in world history have all come within the last 8 years. This is not a normal fluctuation of weather. Climate change is often thought of as an existential threat but it is critical we recognize the tangible threat it poses right now and make viable plans to address it going forward.

A key to combating climate change is slowing the rapid warming of our planet. And, combat it we must. The Paris Climate Agreement, which the President announced the U.S. will withdraw from, aims to keep worldwide temperature rising between 1.5°C-2°C higher than pre industrial levels. Currently, the world is 1°C warmer (and quickly rising) than pre-industrial levels. Now, 1°C warmer might not sound like a lot but that seemingly small change is having a critical effect on the climate and our lives. The United Nations study estimated that the global population

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# Hypothermia Prevention Program Kicks off New Season

FROM PAGE 1  
port the program and address the clients' needs for service and safety throughout the season.

The hypothermia season runs from approximately Dec. 1 – March 1, activating a no-turn-away policy at shelters and adding additional venues where the homeless can shelter, find food, clothing, other basic needs and resources aimed at helping to lift them out of their situations.

This year, a number of those venues have already opened their doors, such as the Falls Church Homeless Shelter on Gordon Road, which operates in partnership with New Hope Housing.

Fairfax County has been waging a war against homelessness since they first officially took up the challenge in 2007. In the 10 years between 2008 and 2018, the annual "Point in Time" census, conducted by dozens of staff and volunteers throughout the Metro region in accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, shows a decrease of almost 50 percent in the number of people who are homeless in the county. Those same statistics, however, show a slight uptick in the last 12-month period.

When the last Point-in-Time survey was done, on the night of Jan. 24, 2018, 987 people were counted among the county's homeless, up from 964 at the same time in 2017. Of those, 488 were people in families and 499 were single individuals. Homeless persons in families increased by 3 percent compared to 2017. The number of homeless families also increased, by 6 percent over last year, while the number of single adults increased by 2 percent since the 2017 count.

**THE NUMBERS** also inched up for families in emergency shelters and in transitional housing. One of the largest increases over 2017 figures was the 18 percent increase in families whose homelessness was due to domestic violence.

Part of the study showed that 44 percent of single adults who were classified as "chronically homeless" suffered from serious mental health and/or substance abuse, a number identical to the last year. Also unchanged was the number of homeless children (298) under the age of 18.

The point-in-time statistics and some dis-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The county already operates six shelters for both individuals and families, but during the coldest times more homeless people need assistance to stay safe and warm. The Hypothermia Prevention Program kicks in to offer this needed support.**

cussion about root causes and steps to take to further the cause are available on the county's website [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) by searching Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.

But right now, as the weather turns colder, the challenge and the immediate efforts are focused on keeping people who are unsheltered alive and safe and surrounded by welcoming neighbors willing to assist.

That safe welcome is available throughout the area, with the county divided into regions offering a variety of services.

New Hope Housing operates its Winter Seasonal program in Region I – the South County Route 1 area- out of the Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter at 9155 Richmond Highway. Guests are welcomed to enter the shelter after 4:30 p.m. where they are provided with showers and laundry service, self-care supplies, dinner, and breakfast and bagged lunches the next morning.

Starting Dec. 1, New Hope Housing starts operation of its Hypothermia Prevention Program through Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Program at the Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church at 8220 Russell Road in Alexandria. That hypothermia shelter operates from 6:30 p.m. – 7 a.m., offering shelter, meals and other supplies. Both shelters also allow New Hope case management staff to assist with employment skills and housing assistance.

Within the City of Falls Church, the

Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter partner with New Hope Housing to operate the Gordon Road facility, seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 8 the following morning. This shelter is already operational, and will remain open until March 31, 2019 to handle the winter homeless crisis. At the Falls Church shelter, guests have the opportunity to reserve their bed in advance, offering a sense of security for persons who often lack that basic need.

Region 2 is the Central area for the program, and includes Annandale and Seven Corners. New Hope Housing is at work in this area, as well, operating out of the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter (BCCS), located at 3525 Moncure Ave. in Falls Church.

Because of the partnership of many neighboring faith communities, the BCCS can handle a larger number of guests by welcoming them first at their own location, and then transporting them to a faith community facility.

These overnight hosts rotate throughout the season and offer meals, supplies and fellowship in addition to a warm, safe bed. Again, outreach case managers offer other life skills and housing assistance.

In the North County's Region 3, which includes Herndon and Reston, Cornerstones operates its winter seasonal efforts from the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, located at 11975 Bowman Towne Drive in Reston.

## Contact Information

To make contact to receive assistance or to find out how to offer assistance, here are some contact details:

### Region 1 – South County:

Contact Sherry Edelkamp at [sedelkamp@yahoo.com](mailto:sedelkamp@yahoo.com), or Chandra Beander at [cbeander@newhopehousing.org](mailto:cbeander@newhopehousing.org) or by calling 703-799-0200.

In the City of Falls Church, contact Jeff Lisanick at 703-854-1400 or via email at [jlisanick@newhopehousing.org](mailto:jlisanick@newhopehousing.org) or again, Chandra Beander.

### In Region 2 – Central/Annandale and Seven Corners:

Contact Alfred Grant at 703-820-7621, [agrant@newhopehousing.org](mailto:agrant@newhopehousing.org), or Kristina Koontz at [kkootz@newhopehousing.org](mailto:kkootz@newhopehousing.org).

### Region 3 – Reston, Herndon:

Cornerstones Outreach Missy Norquest at [missy.norquest@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:missy.norquest@cornerstonesva.org), or Cass Hyatt at [cass.hyatt@cornerstonesva.org](mailto:cass.hyatt@cornerstonesva.org) or 703-437-1975.

### Region 4 – Fairfax and Centreville:

Visit the FACETS website at [www.facetscares.org/programs/hypothermia-prevention-and-response-program](http://www.facetscares.org/programs/hypothermia-prevention-and-response-program) or call 703-352-5090 ext. 302 for English and ext. 303 for information in Spanish. Maria Avila at [Mavila@facetscares.org](mailto:Mavila@facetscares.org) can also provide more information.

The county operates a total of six year-round shelters for both adults and families. Their locations and contact information are available on the county's website. For families with children, to schedule shelter, the adults need to contact the Human Services Coordinated Services Planning office at 703-222-0880 during regular business hours. After hours, families with children can present themselves directly to one of the emergency shelters.

**THE EXPANDED SERVICES** are offered as part of the Hypothermia Prevention Program's move to the nearby North County Human Services Building at 1850 Cameron Glen Dr. in Reston, where guests are directed after checking in at the Embry Rucker facility.

Nonprofit FACETS takes point in Region 4 – the western and central areas that cover Fairfax and Centreville. The location of its shelters rotates among many of the area's various faith communities. It starts with the first four weeks at one location, and then the program operates from two faith community sites each week, beginning on Dec. 23, 2018. Potential guests or those wishing to volunteer, can learn where the program will be hosted at any given period by visiting the FACETS website, or contacting them at 703-352-5090, ext. 302 (or ext. 303 for the information in Spanish.)

In addition to providing shelter, food, supplies and other resources, the Fairfax County Health Department's Homeless Healthcare Program also deploys nurse practitioners to visit all of the Homeless Healthcare Program venues and the regular shelters at least once per week. The nurse practitioners see to basic medical needs during their visits and can offer no cost flu shots as needed. Medical outreach workers also visit, assisting clients in enrollment into the Community Health Care Network's free clinic.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### HOLIDAY DONATIONS

#### Blanket and Coat Drive. Through Dec. 8.

Organized by NOVA Relief Center, blankets and coats will be sent to refugees in three camps in Jordan this winter. Blankets and coats should be new or gently worn. Monetary donations are also needed and may be made to NOVA Relief Center online and at some drop-off locations. For drop-off sites or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit [novarelieffcenter.org](http://novarelieffcenter.org).

#### Toys for Tots Drive. Through Dec. 10.

Area Sheehy Auto Stores will collect new and unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the

campaign is conducted. Sheehy's Toys for Tots drop-off locations include Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway.

**Toy Drive.** Through Friday, Dec. 14 at local Weichert, Realtors offices. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. To find a local office, go to [www.weichert.com/offices/](http://www.weichert.com/offices/).

### WEBINAR

**Online Salary Negotiation Workshop.** AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Visit [salary.aauw.org](http://salary.aauw.org).

## 'The Nutcracker'

FROM PAGE 1

Academy's Dance program, with a goal of bringing young dancers of all skill levels from the local Alexandria community together to perform Tchaikovsky's masterpiece. West Potomac Academy Dance students would take on stage production roles and be featured in select choreography, while community dancers of all ages could audition as leading and supporting cast members. Over the last decade, the production has evolved in size and scope.

Led by a team of directors: Gennifer Difilippo of Alexandria Community Dance, Courtney Betzel of West Potomac Academy,

and Adrienne Taylor of Above the Barre, this Nutcracker adaptation is unique. The music in act two has been reproduced to incorporate traditional ballet dances, as well as jazz, contemporary, hip hop, Irish dancing, tap, and gymnastics.

In honor of this year's 10th anniversary performance, professional New York City choreographer Ebone Simone Johnson is lending her talents for the hip hop Russian number. The West Potomac High Orchestra will perform live music during the Waltz of the Flowers and there will be a live guitar accompaniment during the Reed Flutes number.

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

## Celebrate Armistice Day with British Humor

### MetroStage presents “Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush.”

BY STEVE HIBBARD

“Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush,” written and directed by Catherine Flye, had a six-year run at the Old Vat Room at Arena Stage (1997-2003) before debuting at MetroStage last season. Two members of the original Bull and Bush cast will be joined by some new members of an eccentric British troupe to entertain audiences for the holidays. MetroStage is presenting the show again this year from Nov. 29 to Dec. 30.

“We love celebrating the holidays in the British tradition at the Old Bull and Bush. It is festive joyful, fun and a great outing for the whole family. This year, we have some new cast members and some returning, lots of songs, sketches, classic British humor, and a touching tribute to the centennial of Armistice Day ending WWI,” said Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin.

The show offers British music hall entertainment from the Edwardian era that was a variety show for the working classes filled with jokes, songs, skits and dances. This production takes place during the Christmas season 1918, and 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 corny jokes and funny sketches, and join in sing-a-longs.

“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,” said Flye, who ran her own Interact Theatre Company for 20 years. Currently, she is playing Grandma in “Billy Elliot” at Signature Theatre.

She continued: “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 picturesque pub firmly on the map and has been sung the world over. It was Florrie who first made



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MetroStage in Alexandria is presenting “Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush” from Nov. 29 to Dec. 30.

famous ‘Pack up your Troubles’ and ‘It’s a long way to Tipperary,’ which became the marching songs for British young soldiers in France during World War I. The song and the story of Christmas in the Trenches has always been included in the Bull and Bush show, and this year it has a special significance as it is 100 years since the Armistice that brought to an end the horrors of World War I. Our production is dedicated to the men and women who have served, fought and paid the ultimate sacrifice for the good of the whole world.”

Brian O’Connor is playing the role of the narrator and Chairman, the “Captain of the Ship” with a sense of humor. “He leads the way into the comedy, singing and frivolity of the Bull and Bush pub where our play is performed. Like any captain of a ship, he is nothing without his superb crew. This show is formatted around the British music hall productions of the last century where audience participation is a must. We have a very joyful cast of players that take the audience into the fun of Vaudeville and music hall traditions.”

He added: “One of the more difficult tasks for me in learning this role is putting all the words into my brain. I played this role 20 years ago and when we brought the play back last year (2017) I had to work ex-

tremely hard to get the memorization down. This year, it’s a bit easier since the words are now a good ‘friend’ of mine. More like bringing my ‘bicycle’ out again for another fun ride at MetroStage.”

Katherine Riddle plays the role of Miss Daisy May, the Belle of the Barmaids. “She is a sweet, young Irish girl who works at the Old Bull and Bush — a public house near Hampstead Heath, London. Her dream is to become a glamorous and famous music hall singer like Florrie Forde, whom she admires greatly. Daisy has a budding romance with Mr. Percival Pennyfeather — a dapper young man who frequents the Bull and Bush and supports Daisy’s dreams.”

She continued: “Daisy is like a little ray of sunshine. She finds the beauty in everything and still has an air of childlike innocence. She believes her future is full of opportunities and love, and is unsullied by the troubles of the world around her. It is that quality of purity and optimism that I love most about Daisy; however, it can be difficult to portray without appearing unintelligent.”

Jimmy Mavrikes plays the role of Percy Pennyfeather, who is the personification of panache, charming, and a bit of a showman. “He is in love with the barmaid at the Bull and Bush, Miss Daisy May; sometimes

he shows off just for her — she gets his knickers in a right old twist,” he said.

He continued: “The most challenging part of this role has to be the ‘The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God.’ It’s a ‘dramatic monologue’ that was a staple in music halls back in the day. It has been done by many great comedians, so there is a lot to live up to, while still making it our own. Keeping that British dry humor, and not laughing at the hilarious Sherri L. Edelen who is behind me acting out everything I say is quite a challenge.”

Sherri Edelen’s character is based on real-life Florrie Forde, who was Australian-born but left for London at age 21 when she quickly became a star of the Music Hall. “She was known for singing meaningful and inspiring songs which the audience could join in and sing along especially during war time,” she said.

She added: “I love this kind of entertainment. Music Hall, revues and Cabaret are intimate settings which I most enjoy. But our show is chock-a-block full of silly comedy. That’s exactly what everyone needs right now — belly laughs. Add in the holidays and you have a cherry on top of your ice cream sundae or should I say some whipped cream on your pumpkin pie.”

Albert Coia is playing the role of Bertie Ramsbottom, a slightly inebriated regular at the Bull and Bush. “It’s a character I have played many times in music halls over the years so it’s rather easy for me. The main challenge is ensuring I relate with each and every audience, and the Chairman, as I often interrupt the proceedings. I really enjoy playing this character and hopefully this transmits to the audiences.”

Music Director Joseph Walsh (Maestro Peabody) is an adjunct professor of opera at George Mason University and is the general and artistic director of Lyric Opera Virginia with two decades of experience in presenting and conducting opera and orchestras in operatic performances.

Performances for “Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush” will be Nov. 29-Dec. 30, on 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. Tickets are \$55 (four plus tickets are \$50, with student, active military and group discounts available). The venue is located at 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. For ticket reservations or info about group sales, call the theatre at 703-548-9044 or go to [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

##### Art Exhibit: “Pattern+Texture.”

Through Dec. 2, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, Alexandria. Photographer Pete McCutchen captures mesmerizing patterns found in rock, ice, and sand, transforming natural scenery into

abstract, alternate realities. Presented in monochrome and printed on metallic paper, McCutchen’s photographs bewitch the eye with their ability to evoke two-dimensional patterns; jagged rocks become houndstooth; sand dunes pose as pinstripes. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**Christmas Tree Sale.** Through Dec. 16, at Belle View Shopping Center, 1632 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. Mount Vernon Kiwanis will hold its annual Christmas Tree Sale featuring

Fraser Fir trees and garland and wreaths. 100 percent of profits will go to high school scholarships and local charities.

**Christmas Tree Sale.** 10 a.m.-8 p.m. At 110 Callahan Drive, in the Amtrak Parking Lot, Alexandria. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp Christmas tree sale begins. The lot will be open daily until they run out of trees, which will likely take three weeks. They have purchased more trees than ever before because they may be faced with an additional \$10,000 bill to transport the kids to

camp next summer; the goal is to cover that cost in additional tree sales. The youth camp has been operating for more than 70 years and this fundraiser is the largest, helping to cover approximately 50 percent of the summer camp operation. The tree sale runs from Mon.-Fri., 4-8 p.m.; and Sat. and Sun., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market.** Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Every Wednesday (through Dec. 19), 15 local farmers

and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

**Dollhouse Exhibit.** Through December, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Alexandria. Exhibit “Our Alexandria” Dollhouse Collection. The exhibit captures some of the forgotten businesses, people, and institutions that made African American families

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

strong – church, school, and family. Other exhibits are also on site. Suggested admission \$3 per person. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/museums](http://www.alexandriava.gov/museums) or call 703-746-4356.

## THURSDAY/NOV 29-SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**Alexandria Community Nutcracker.** At West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Celebrating its 10th year, the Alexandria Community Nutcracker – in collaboration with The West Potomac Academy Program – will once again delight guests of all ages with the holiday classic, “The Nutcracker.” This season’s four performances will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29; 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30; and 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1. Cost is \$10-\$25. Visit [www.alexandrianutcracker.com](http://www.alexandrianutcracker.com).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 30

**Opening Reception.** 5-9 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 105 District Ave., in Fairfax. This mixed-media show called 500 (Less than 500) features the work of 13 TFAA member artists, and all of the art is priced \$500 and under. From framed oil paintings to photography, this show is perfect for art lovers, new collectors, and holiday gifting. Give the gift of art this holiday season. The show runs Nov. 28-Dec. 23, 2018. Visit [www.torpedofactoryartists.com](http://www.torpedofactoryartists.com).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV 30-DEC. 1

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5-8 p.m. At George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate. Join Mount Vernon’s residents and visitors for a festive



SECORE FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA

## 19th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights

Alexandria’s waterfront shines as dozens of brightly lit boats cruise the Potomac River for the Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Saturday, Dec. 1, 5:30 p.m. At Alexandria City Marina, Cameron St. Parade viewing areas include: Founders Park (351 North Union St.); Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.); Waterfront Park (1A Prince St.); Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.); and Ford’s Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Call 703-746-3301 or visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/BoatParade](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/BoatParade).

evening tour. The experience begins in the Ford Orientation Center, where visitors can enjoy the sounds of the holiday season and view spectacular Christmas trees highlighting the lives of the Washingtons and their home. Visitors will be guided into the 18th century for a lantern-lit tour of the historic area, where they will see the Slave Quarters and the Blacksmith Shop.

Inside the Mansion, Martha Washington and other Mount Vernon residents will welcome guests into their home and share stories of past Christmases. \$25 adult, \$17 youth (ages 6-11). Visit [mountvernon.org/candlelight](http://mountvernon.org/candlelight).

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

**Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market.**

Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and more. Plus FUNdraising 2019 wall calendars, cookbooks, and upcycled tote bags to support Del Ray Artisans. Free admission. Visit

[DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2018](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2018).

## NOV. 30-DEC. 15

**“Adventures with Mr. Bear.”** At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Presented by Arts on the Horizon. One winter afternoon, a young girl and her favorite stuffed animal, Mr. Bear, play a game of hide and seek which evolves into a series of exciting adventures. \$10. Performance Schedule: (Friday, Nov. 30 - 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 1 - 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m.; Friday, Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m.; Friday, Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Purchase tickets at [www.artsonthehorizon.org/mr-bear-2018.html](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org/mr-bear-2018.html).

## NOV. 30-DEC. 16

**LTA’s “A Christmas Carol.”** At 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. The Little Theatre of Alexandria rings in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable, bitter old miser travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Tickets \$20. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.TheLittleTheatre.com](http://www.TheLittleTheatre.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**Holiday Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. The Mount Vernon High School PTSA presents their 2018 Holiday Market.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# 4 Dates to Circle in December

BY HOPE NELSON and Northside 10 at 1:30. \$15 for advance tickets; \$20 at the door.

The holiday season has descended on Alexandria, and there's no shortage of events for eating and drinking your way through December. Here are a few of the city's best bets.

### Port City Pop-Up Beer Garden, Dec. 1

Looking for a refreshment while you take in the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights? Port City Brewing has you covered. The holiday-themed Tidings Ale will be the cornerstone beer of the evening (though many of the brewery's concoctions will be available), along with food from Vola's Docksider Grill and Dolci Gelati. Raise a glass and cheer on this year's maritime participants from the comfort of the beer garden. Alexandria City Marina, 0 Cameron St. 4-8 p.m.

### Third Annual Candy Cane Bar Crawl, Dec. 8

Del Ray plays host to an event that blends food and drink with service and holiday cheer in its third annual Candy Cane Bar Crawl event. Visit participating eateries – nearly a dozen in all – and enjoy drink specials and snacks along the way, ranging from Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap all the way through to Northside 10. The crawl, which features nearly a dozen restaurants, benefits the Cora Kelly ALIVE Weekend Food Packs and Mount Vernon Community School Blessings in a Backpack initiatives, helping low-income students and their families to have enough to eat. 2-6 p.m.; check-in begins at Lena's

### Georgia Peach Truck Comes to Town, Dec. 15

'Tis the season for fresh citrus fruit. The Georgia Peach Truck makes its way to Greenstreet Gardens midmonth, offering up Satsuma mandarin oranges and freshly shelled pecans. The Satsumas – akin to a clementine, but with fewer seeds – hail from Franklin Farms in Statesboro, Ga., and are available in 20-pound boxes. The pecans, from Lamar Pecan Company in Hawkinsville, Ga., come in one-pound bags that contain more than 300 halves. 1721 W. Braddock Road. 2-3 p.m. \$48 for Satsumas; \$15 for pecans.

### Christmas Dinner at Sonoma Cellar, Dec. 25

Feast on a five-course prix fixe holiday dinner with all the fixings (and some surprises) at one of Old Town's favorite wine bars. Start with a soup, salad or appetizer, then move on to an amuse bouche, then your choice of salmon, fettuccine, rib-eye roast, baked ham or turkey. Take a break for a cheese plate, and finish off with a holiday dessert. Wash it all down with some wine – bottles are 30 percent off for the holiday – and toast your friends and family. 207 King St. 4-10 p.m. \$60 plus tax and tip. Reservations recommended.

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

## CALENDAR

Accepting vendors. Learn more at [Facebook.com/MVHSHM](https://www.facebook.com/MVHSHM) or email [ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com](mailto:ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com).

**Christmastide at Gunston Hall.** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. A full day of holiday activities starts with a visit from Santa to games and crafts for all ages. The evening hours provide a romantic holiday experience by candlelight as visitors sample period food in the kitchen and explore the grounds by candlelight. \$15 for adults; \$10 for children. Visit [www.gunstonhall.org/](http://www.gunstonhall.org/) or call 703-550-9220.

**Brunch With Santa.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Skip the lines at the mall and bring the family to Pinecrest's new indoor golf studio. Meet and take pictures with Santa while enjoying a family friendly brunch. Santa will be making his way around to mingle with families, take requests for holiday wish lists and give out goody bags before he heads back to the North Pole. \$12 for ages 3 to 12; \$14 for ages 13 and up. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Email [fcppinecrestgc@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fcppinecrestgc@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-941-1061.

**Scottish Walk Open House.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. At The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Tour the historic Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and learn about this family-run business and the products they sold to the residents of Alexandria between 1792 and 1933. Special guests The Schod Family Apothecary will demonstrate the making of 19th century apothecary products. Don't miss the Apothecary's museum shop, which is filled with fun, creative and unique holiday gifts. Call 703-746-

## Concert: Gloria in Excelsis

New Dominion Chorale to perform Gloria in Excelsis. The concert, conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will feature Puccini's "Messa di Gloria," Bach's "The Childhood of Jesus," and Beveridge's "Carols for Singers and Orchestra." Vocal soloists will be tenor Issachah Savage; soprano Annie Schwartz; mezzo-soprano Julia Farbstein; tenor Aaron Tucker; baritone Andre Darvasan-Stancu; and bass-baritone Bob McDonald. Sunday, Dec. 2, 4 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors (62+), and \$15 for students up to age 22. Call 202-244-7191, email [ndpublicity@gmail.com](mailto:ndpublicity@gmail.com), or visit [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org).



3852 or visit [AlexandriaVA.gov/Apothecary](http://AlexandriaVA.gov/Apothecary).

**Story Time for Little Historians.** 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. "Why the Sun & Moon Live in the Sky," retold and illustrated by Niki Daly. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

**48th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Christmas Walk Parade.** 11 a.m. Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old

Town, joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as terriers and hounds. The parade, which takes place rain or shine, begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Parade admission is free. Call 703-549-0111 or visit [www.CampagnaCenter.org/ScottishWalkWeekend](http://www.CampagnaCenter.org/ScottishWalkWeekend).

**Scottish Walk Open House.** Noon-4 p.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Visit Old Town to enjoy Alexandria's rich Scottish heritage and see the Scottish Walk Parade march past Alexandria's oldest stone building, Carlyle House. After the parade, enter the museum gates and step back in time for an open house in the spirit of the



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[www.stpaulsschoolalexandria.com](http://www.stpaulsschoolalexandria.com)

Office@stpaulsschoolalexandria.com

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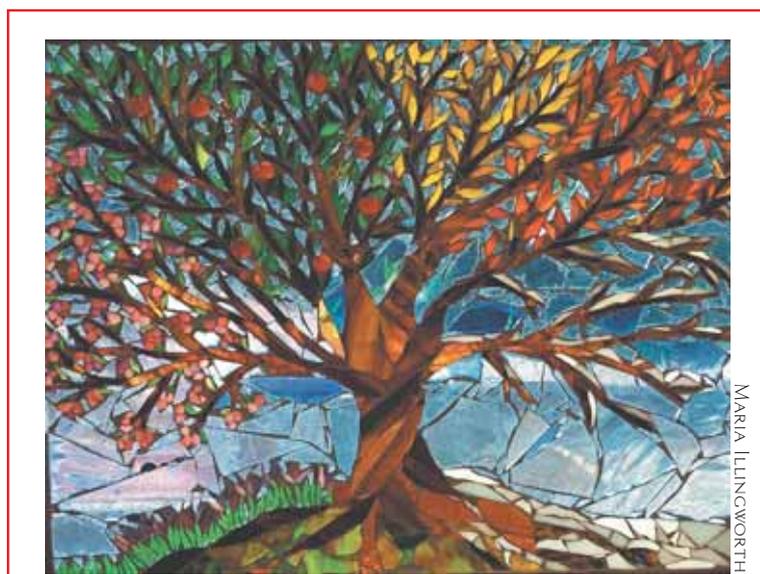
# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

holiday season. The museum will be open for free and docents will be available to answer questions about the house and the collection while guests tour at their own pace. Visit [www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park](http://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park).

**Ship Biscuit Ornaments.** 1-4 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327, Alexandria. Free. An almost completely intact ship's biscuit from the 18th century was found in Alexandria last year. To commemorate the discovery, visitors are invited to make their own ship's biscuit. Each biscuit will be stamped with the year and then baked at home to track its preservation. Call 703-746-4399 or visit [www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org](http://www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org).

**Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.** 2:30 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Scottish Country Dancing is the social dancing of Scotland, a tradition that dates back to the 1700s and is globally promoted today by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS), which is headquartered in Edinburgh. The dancers will show the audience how its done and then invite spectators to give it a try. Music will be provided by Scottish Country Dance fiddler, Becky Ross. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

**19th Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.** 5:30 p.m. At Alexandria City Marina, Cameron Street. Alexandria's waterfront shines as dozens of brightly lit boats cruise the Potomac River for the Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Parade viewing areas include: Founders Park (351 North Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1A Prince St.), Shipyard/Harborside



MARIA ILLINGWORTH

## Del Ray Holiday Show

The Fifth Annual Del Ray Holiday Show, studio show of fine arts/crafts, 7 artists (glass mosaics, fine jewelry, woodfired pottery, turned pens, paper mache masks, upcycle bags/scarves, gourmet dog treats). Sunday, Dec. 2, noon-6 p.m. at Studio of Stephen Lally, 8 East Howell Ave., Alexandria. Email [slallypottery@gmail.com](mailto:slallypottery@gmail.com), call 703-819-9990 or visit [stephenlallypottery.com](http://stephenlallypottery.com) for more.

Park (1 Wilkes St.), and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Call 703-746-3301. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/BoatParade](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/BoatParade).

**Country-Western Dance.** At Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music.

Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; \$5 for children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Toys 4 Tots Dance: collecting unwrapped toys for donation. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org).

**Holidays on the Avenue in Del Ray.** 6 p.m. At Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at Mount

Vernon Avenue and E. Oxford Avenue, Alexandria. Kick off the holidays with a visit to Del Ray for the annual holiday tree lighting, featuring a special appearance by Santa Claus who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. Continue the celebration and start your holiday shopping with a stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be illuminated by thousands of luminarias. Pick your favorite in the neighborhood business association's annual Christmas tree decorating contest. Call 703-683-2570 or visit [www.VisitDelRay.com](http://www.VisitDelRay.com)

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 1-2

**Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Fraser Fir trees and wreaths will arrive fresh from Pennsylvania and be ready to sell the day after Thanksgiving. The tree lot is a festive atmosphere, complete with hot cocoa and cookies. Join for caroling on Dec. 1 at 2:45 p.m. and Dec. 2 at 11:45 a.m. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com).

**Art Exhibit and Sale.** Saturday, 4-7 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. The 26th Annual art exhibit and sale by 60 local artists will take place on Dec. 1 from 4-7 p.m. and on Dec. 2 from noon-4 p.m. Contact Arleen Jeszenszky at [blackhawk245@hotmail.com](mailto:blackhawk245@hotmail.com).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 2

**Holiday Sweater Run.** 8 a.m. Meet at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Followed by brunch at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. at Chadwicks, 203

Strand St., Alexandria. Join Pacers Running, the City of Alexandria and Chadwicks at Waterfront Park for a run. All paces are welcome, and no ticket is required to join the run. Come out in your holiday finest (running shoes strongly encouraged). The run route will take you south through Old Town on Union Street and then connect to the George Washington Memorial Parkway Trail. There will be different turnarounds options from 4 miles up to 20 miles. Call 703-836-1463 or visit [www.RunPacers.com](http://www.RunPacers.com).

### Bagels and Bach Concert Series.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. At Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Showcasing Klara Farren, French hornist with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra along with Zsolt Balogh, pianist, University of Maryland. The duet will play classical pieces that will delight audience members of all ages. Tickets are \$9 per person. Children under 5 years old are free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/arts).

### Del Ray Holiday Pop-Up Market.

11 a.m.-3 p.m. At the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at Mount Vernon Avenue and E. Oxford Ave., Alexandria. Find the perfect gift at this pop-up market featuring local artisans and at-home entrepreneurs. Call 703-683-2570 or visit [www.VisitDelRay.com](http://www.VisitDelRay.com).

### Gardeners' Holiday Open House.

Noon-4 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Treat yourself to a day of fun as Green Spring features holiday decorations, seasonal displays, live music and holiday breads. There will be ornaments for sale and free refreshments. For gardeners of all ages. Children, and the young at heart, will enjoy the holiday puppet

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

shows by Bob Brown Puppets at 1 and 3 p.m. \$5 per person, and advance registration is recommended. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**Del Ray Holiday Show.** Noon-6 p.m. At Studio of Stephen Lally, 8 East Howell Ave., Alexandria. The Fifth Annual Del Ray Holiday Show, studio show of fine arts/crafts, seven artists (glass mosaics, fine jewelry, woodfired pottery, turned pens, paper mache masks, upcycle bags/scarves, gourmet dog treats). Email [slallypottery@gmail.com](mailto:slallypottery@gmail.com), call 703-819-9990 or visit [stephenlallypottery.com](http://stephenlallypottery.com).

**Toys for Tots Benefit Square**

**Dance.** 1-5 p.m. at Lee Center Exhibit Hall, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. This year's theme is "Doing More at Forty-Four!" and a special program by Mainstream and Plus Tips. The square and round dance benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Drive by collecting toys and donations at the event. Recommended donation for each dance couple is a new, unopened toy or a \$20 minimum contribution (singles \$10). The public is also invited to come watch the square and round dancers perform. Drop off a donation until 3 p.m. at the Lee Center. All toys and proceeds from this dance will remain in the metropolitan area. Call 703-746-5592.

**New Dominion Chorale.** 4 p.m. At Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. New Dominion Chorale to perform Gloria in Excelsis. The concert, conducted by Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will feature Puccini's "Messa di Gloria," Bach's "The Childhood of Jesus," and

Beveridge's "Carols for Singers and Orchestra." \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors (62+), and \$15 for students up to age 22. Call 202-244-7191; e-mail [ndcpubcity@gmail.com](mailto:ndcpubcity@gmail.com) or visit [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org).

**Messiah Sing-Along.** 4-6 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St. This year, sing all choruses (parts 1, 2 and 3) accompanied by the Amadeus Orchestra. The audience is the chorus, led by the Fairlington United Methodist Church Choir with Dr. Louise Wilson, conductor. Free. Visit [bit.ly/messiah-sing-along](http://bit.ly/messiah-sing-along).

**MONDAY/DEC. 3**

**Poetry Workshop.** 6:30-8 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. "Building Cultural Bridges" with Wendi R Kaplan, Poet Laureate. At these workshops, poetry can be read and written. The Poet Laureate and literary programs are part of the Office of the Arts, a division of the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. The workshops are free; to register, RSVP at [poet@alexandriava.gov](mailto:poet@alexandriava.gov) or contact Cheryl Anne Colton at 703-746-5565 or [cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov), or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts).

**TUESDAY/DEC. 4**

**"A Christmas Carol."** 8-9:15 p.m. (reception at 6 p.m.) at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society is hosting a Special Performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the Little Theater of Alexandria. Enjoy a lovely family evening including a Silent Auction, appetizers



## Christmastide

A full day of holiday activities starts with a visit from Santa to games and crafts for all ages. The evening hours provide a romantic holiday experience by candlelight as visitors sample period food in the kitchen and explore the grounds by candlelight. Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. \$15 for adults; \$10 for children. Visit [www.gunstonhall.org/](http://www.gunstonhall.org/) or call 703-550-9220.

and sweets, beverages including a champagne punch, and a classic performance of "A Christmas Carol." Free photo opportunities with Father Christmas. Tickets \$25. Visit [www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/](http://www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/) or call 703-549-6242.

Donations made to Salvation Army Alexandria Citadel. Put on by local magicians club, IBM Ring 50. Call 703-347-5540 or visit [ibmring50.org/holidaymagic](http://ibmring50.org/holidaymagic).

**THURSDAY/DEC. 6**

**Shops of Del Ray's Ladies' Night Out.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. Throughout Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Shop local and enjoy special promotions while sipping Virginia wine. Call 703-683-2570 or visit [www.VisitDelRay.com](http://www.VisitDelRay.com).

**WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5**

**Children's Holiday Magic Show.** 6:45-8 p.m. at Holiday Inn-Carlyle, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Four amazing magicians magicians. Free with non-perishable food item or new toy.

**Holiday Open House.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Join Supervisor Storck, his staff and members of the Mount Vernon District Boards, Authorities and Commissions for a holiday open house. Enjoy an evening of refreshments, get to know the staff and tour the office. Consider supporting those in need by donating to the Blanket & Coat Drive for Refugees sponsored by the NOVA Relief Center. New or gently used coat and blanket donations can be dropped off at the Mount Vernon District Office until Friday, Dec. 7. RSVP by Dec. 1, appreciated but not required. Call 703-780-7518.

**Community Shopping Event.** 7-9 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 519 King St. Every gift purchased will provide special needs assistance to an Alexandrian – a child, teen, adult, or older adult – of limited means who is striving for recovery and wellbeing with help from the City's mental health services. Enjoy light refreshments, music, free gift-wrapping, and a great selection of handcrafted items made by artisans from over 38 countries. The more items purchased, the greater the help to those in need. Email [FriendsoftheAMHC@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsoftheAMHC@gmail.com).

**FRIDAY/DEC. 7**

**First Friday: "A Season of Celebrations."** 6:30 p.m. At Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Enjoy music from "Roumana," performing Middle Eastern music primarily, Arabic and Turkish with styles such as Balkan, Armenian, Romani, Andalusian, North African and Sephardic music.

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

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[lostdogandcatrescue.org](http://lostdogandcatrescue.org)



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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 7-8

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** 5-8 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Join Mount Vernon's residents and visitors for a festive evening tour. The experience begins in the Ford Orientation Center, where visitors can enjoy the sounds of the holiday season and view Christmas trees highlighting the lives of the Washingtons and their home. When the tour begins, visitors will be guided into the 18th century for a lantern-lit tour of the historic area, where they will see the Slave Quarters and the Blacksmith Shop. Inside the Mansion, Martha Washington and other Mount Vernon residents will welcome guests into their home and share stories of past Christmases. \$25, adult; \$17, youth (ages 6-11). Visit [mountvernon.org/candlelight](http://mountvernon.org/candlelight).

## Believe: A Holiday Pops Concert.

Dec. 7 and 8, at 7:30 p.m.; and 2 p.m. on Saturday. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Join the Alexandria Singers for its annual holiday pops concert weekend as they weave pop and jazz arrangements of traditional holiday classics with new tunes that will instantly become your holiday favorites. Admission: \$25 premium reserved seating; \$20 general admission; \$15 groups of 10+, free children 5 and under. Visit [www.AlexandriaSingers.com](http://www.AlexandriaSingers.com).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 7-9

### Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market.

Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and more. Plus FUNdraising 2019 wall calendars, cookbooks, and upcycled tote bags to support Del Ray Artisans. Free admission. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2018](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2018).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 8

**Kwanzaa Workshop.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Kwanzaa, celebrated Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, is one of three inherently African American celebrations, along with Juneteenth and Watch Night. This interactive workshop will teach participants about Kwanzaa and how to do it. Included will be history, principles, symbols, activities, and decorating ideas to aid in planning a Kwanzaa Celebration. The program will be entertaining and educational for children, youth, and adults. \$5. Call 703-746-4356.

### Civil War Christmas in Camp.

Noon-4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Learn about Christmas traditions during the Civil War. Program features a patriotic Union Santa Claus, soldiers and civilians celebrating the holiday in winter camps, the decorated Officers' Hut, a Victorian tree, fort tours and kids' activities. \$2 suggested donation per person; \$5 per family. Call 703-746-4848 or visit [www.AlexandriaVA.gov/FortWard](http://www.AlexandriaVA.gov/FortWard).

**Photos with Santa.** 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a



## Toy Drive

Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. Through Friday, Dec. 14 at local Weichert, Realtors offices. To find a local office, visit [www.weichert.com/offices](http://www.weichert.com/offices).

10-minute slot for a child to meet with Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore's special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Holiday Party. Visit [www.Hooray4Books.com](http://www.Hooray4Books.com).

**Touch a Truck.** 4-5 p.m. At First Christian Church of Alexandria, 2723 King St., Alexandria. Touch a truck including fire and police vehicles. Learn about car seat safety. Enjoy snacks and hot chocolate. Donate an unwrapped toy (no weapon type toys). Visit [www.fcalexandria.com](http://www.fcalexandria.com).

**Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours.** 4-9 p.m. At the following locations: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.; Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.; Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Travel through centuries of local history and learn more about Alexandria during the holiday season at Carlyle House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Lee-Fendall House. Enjoy each site by candlelight, smell seasonal greenery, sip on drinks and taste period inspired food. Seasonal libations will be available for purchase. Admission: \$25 adults; \$20 seniors (65 years and older) and active military; \$5 children (ages 6-17). Call 703-746-4242 or visit [Shop.AlexandriaVA.gov](http://Shop.AlexandriaVA.gov).

**Del Ray Candy Cane Bar Crawl.** 4 p.m. Throughout Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Take a break from the bustle of holiday preparations and enjoy specialty cocktails, beer and food specials at select Del Ray restaurants during a neighborhood bar crawl to benefit local nonprofits. Admission: \$10 for advanced tickets; \$15 at the door. Call 703-683-2570 or visit [www.VisitDelRay.com](http://www.VisitDelRay.com).

**"Chips for Charity" Fundraiser.** 7 p.m. At The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in the Madison Auditorium, 600 Dulany St. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Military Association is hosting a "Chips for Charity" to raise funds for Serve Our Willing Warriors (SOWW). SOWW is a local non-profit charity in Haymarket that provides no-cost

retreats and other programs that positively impact the lives of wounded, ill, or injured military service members and disabled veterans. Open to the public. \$30 for players, \$20 for non-players. Tickets can be purchased at [ptomilitaryassociation.org/chips-for-charity](http://ptomilitaryassociation.org/chips-for-charity).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9

**Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Fraser Fir trees and wreaths will arrive fresh from Pennsylvania and be ready to sell the day after Thanksgiving. The tree lot is a festive atmosphere, complete with hot cocoa and cookies. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com).

**Metropolitan School of the Arts Nutcracker Ballet.** 1 and 5 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, NOVA Alexandria campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. The Metropolitan School of the Arts Nutcracker Ballet showcases a world-class, international principle guest dancer, Brooklyn Mack, who performs the role of Cavalier. Tickets are \$26-\$28 at [metropolitanarts.org](http://metropolitanarts.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 9

**Holiday Centerpiece Workshop.** 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Construct a homemade holiday wreath during this two-hour workshop. Mount Vernon's greenhouse manager instructs participants how to construct the wreath using greens, preserved pomegranates, and dried seed heads from Mount Vernon's gardens. \$75 per person. Visit [mountvernon.org/christmas](http://mountvernon.org/christmas).

**Facetime with History.** 1-5 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Featuring Mr. and Mrs. William Bates - guests stranded at the City Tavern after dancing the night before. On the 2nd Sunday of every month, guests will be greeted by a person from the past

while journeying through the museum. Guests can always expect conversations and stories that will deepen their understanding of the past and how it connects to today. Included in admission fee. Sponsored by the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

**The Mount Vernon Flutes.** 2 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. The Mount Vernon Flutes have been an Athenaeum favorite for many years. This small ensemble from the Mount Vernon Concert Band will perform holiday songs in the gallery. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Music Concert.** 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic continues its season spotlighting women composers with Joan Towers' "Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman" and "Made in America," plus Jennifer Higdon's "All Things Majestic." The WMP will also feature Robert Tindle's "Concerto for Bass Trombone and Orchestra" with soloist Adam Stokes. \$25, general admission; children are free. Visit [www.wmpmusic.org](http://www.wmpmusic.org).

**Holiday Concert.** 3-4 p.m. At Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. The National Concert Band of America presents a free concert that celebrates the holiday season and salutes America's Armed Forces. Visit [www.nationalconcertband.org](http://www.nationalconcertband.org).

**Concert at Saint Luke's.** 5 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. A candlelight concert with the return of "Words & Music," titled 'Star of the Morning' including the seasonal music of Advent, Hanukkah, the Solstice, Christmas and the coming of the New Year. Offering four voices, piano and pipe organ. A reception will follow. \$20, adults; \$15, seniors; free for children under 18 years. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net/events](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net/events).

**Christmas with the Annie Moses Band.** 6 p.m. At First Baptist Church, 2932 King St., Alexandria. From the spirited renditions of 'God Rest Ye,

Merry Gentlemen,' 'Deck the Halls' and 'The Sussex Carol' to the beauty of 'O Holy Night,' this evening of music is invigorating, reverential, and transporting. Tickets at [AnnieMosesBand.com/tour](http://AnnieMosesBand.com/tour).

**The Christmas Reading.** 7 p.m. At the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Heritage Hall, 323 South Fairfax St., Alexandria. For 28 years, The Christmas Reading and Carols presents the sacred and secular stories, poetry, essays and amusements by well-known and lesser-known writers. Free. Visit [www.opmh.org](http://www.opmh.org).

## MONDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 10-16

### Holiday Door Decorating Contest.

Sponsored by Alexandria's Old Town Walled Garden Club, the contest recognizes holiday door decorations in the Historic District. In keeping with Old Town's historic provenance, contest rules require that - except for festive bows and ribbons - the door decorations should feature only natural materials and be made by the homeowners themselves. Professionally-made decorations are not eligible. Judging criteria include originality of design, scale, color, contrast, and attractiveness from the street. Photographs of the winning doors will appear in the holiday issue of the Gazette Packet. Judging will take place Dec. 10-16. Contact the Old Town Walled Garden Club at [OTWGClub@gmail.com](mailto:OTWGClub@gmail.com).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 11

**Del Ray Artisans Benefit.** Reception, 6:30 p.m.; performance, 8 p.m. at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Little Theatre of Alexandria performance of "A Christmas Carol" to benefit Del Ray Artisans. \$45. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/christmas-carol](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/christmas-carol).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 14

**Holiday After Work Concert.** 6-8 p.m. At The Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. This month features a holiday concert with Meridian, which weaves together beautiful music and themes of Christmas with much older Winter Solstice traditions. Meridian is Colin de la Barre and Olivia Gale. Cost is \$5; free for members of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available. No ticket required. Visit [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org).

**Holiday Sing-Along.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Join the Alexandria Citizens Band for the fun and popular Alexandria Holiday Sing-Along. They'll play musical favorites, and the audience is invited to sing along. Wear holiday sweaters and Santa hats. Bring family and friends. Email [AlexandriaCitizensBand@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandriaCitizensBand@gmail.com). Visit [www.facebook.com/events/174884993456719/](http://www.facebook.com/events/174884993456719/).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 14-15

**Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon.** 5:30-8:45 p.m. At Historic Mount Vernon. Kick off the holidays with an evening of family-friendly fun and fireworks choreographed to holiday music, with fireworks beginning around 8:30 p.m. Take a stroll through the estate while being serenaded by local choirs, visit with re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, and learn 18th-century dance moves from costumed guides. George and Martha Washington will also be on site to greet Mount Vernon's holiday guests. Tickets: \$35 adult/\$25 youth with Mansion tour, \$30 adult/\$20 youth. Visit [mountvernon.org/illuminations](http://mountvernon.org/illuminations).



Spring Hills Mt. Vernon Assisted Living residents George Grubbs Loring Starnes, Alfred Mackey, Robert Nelson, Larry Pallant and Richard Whetstone each received Veterans Day Appreciation certificates.



Spring Hills Mt. Vernon Assisted Living resident Alfred Mackey salutes the flag.

## Recognizing Veterans at Flag-Raising

The flag that flew above the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier for a short while was raised in a formal flag-raising ceremony at Spring Hills Mt. Vernon Assisted Living.

Just before Veterans Day on Saturday, Nov. 10, more than 15 veterans who reside at Spring Hills Mt. Vernon were joined by their friends for this special flag-raising.

## Help in Fire Investigation

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is asking for the public's help identifying a person of interest in a fire that occurred on Monday, Nov. 5. At 11:05 a.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue units responded for reports of a building fire in the 6000 block



Person of interest

of Richmond Highway in the Belle Haven section. The fire is under investigation.

The person of interest is described as a male, 5'8" to 5'10", 220 to 225 pounds.

Fire investigators would like to speak with him regarding their investigation.

Anyone who can provide information for the person of interest is asked to call Captain Tim Palmer, lead investigator, at 703-246-7407.

### CRIME REPORT

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

**BURGLARY:** 2600 block of Arlington Drive, between Nov. 21, 7 a.m., and Nov. 25, 6 p.m. The victim had been gone since Tuesday morning and came home Sunday night to find that someone had entered their home through a rear sliding glass door. Several electronic devices were stolen from the home with no witnesses to the crime.

**BURGLARY:** 2400 block of Phillips Drive, Oct. 20, between 8:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. The victim returned from work and found someone broke into his home by breaking a basement window. Money was stolen.

**BURGLARY:** 6400 block of Cavalier Drive, Nov. 16, between 4:45 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The victim came home and noticed that their house had been broken into. Several watches, cash and a passport were taken from the home.

**BANK ROBBERY:** 1805 Belle View

Bldv, (Wells Fargo Bank), Nov. 13, 2:14 p.m. A man entered the bank, pointed a handgun at an employee and demanded money. The employee gave the man an undisclosed amount of cash. The suspect is described as a black man, around 30 years old, 5'5"-5'10" and weighing about 150 pounds.

#### NOV. 27

#### LARCENIES

2700 block of Arlington Drive, property from residence  
7900 block of Audubon Avenue, cell phone from residence  
7700 block of Fordson Road, food and detergent from residence  
8200 block of Russell Road, beers from business

#### NOV. 26

#### LARCENIES

7700 block of Richmond Highway, bicycle from location  
8600 block of Shadwell Drive, wallet from location

#### NOV. 21

#### LARCENIES

2800 block of Beacon Hill Road, cable from business  
8400 block of Frye Road, merchandise from business  
7700 block of Richmond Highway, electronic device from business  
8000 block of Richmond Highway, beverages from business  
8800 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

#### NOV. 20

#### LARCENIES

8400 block of Frye Road, beer from business  
7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue, electronic device from residence  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from location

#### NOV. 19

#### LARCENIES

7900 block of Flamingo Drive, keys from vehicle  
8400 block of Madge Lane, cell phone from business

## Helping Cleanup Fort Willard

FROM PAGE 4

War in the Washington, D.C. area. YMSLVO members helped restore a stone path, clean stone and brickwork, and clear the park of invasive vegetation growth on Nov. 3. The work represented YMSLVO's 2018 Ultimate Gift Project for the Fairfax County Park Authority. In addition to participating in restoration activities, the YMSLVO members spent a portion of the day learning from Park Authority experts

about the significance of Fort Willard and its importance as a Union Army installation during the Civil War.

According to Mary Jo Hoeksema, YMSLVO Ultimate Gift Committee, "The Ultimate Gift Project exemplifies YMSLVO's commitment to improve northern Virginia and service to others." The group worked with the Park Authority and the Belle Haven Home Owner's Association to ensure that Fort Willard continues to be preserved and enjoyed for years to come.

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### Obituary



#### CHARLES RAY JONES, COLONEL US ARMY and US ARMY NATIONAL GUARD "The Bike Doctor"

Charles died peacefully of congestive heart failure at age 88 at Johns Hopkins Hospital on November 15, at 2:00 PM surrounded by his wife of 68 years, DeJuana, our beloved Pastor Rob Erickson and dear friend, Beverly Dyer. Charles lived life to its fullest and will be deeply missed by many.

Charles was born in Nacogdoches, Texas. He met DeJuana, the love of his life, in Oklahoma, where they also married. During the Korean Conflict, Charles served on Okinawa as a radio announcer for the Far East Network while DeJuana taught high school English in Oklahoma.

Upon his return, Charles completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in music, and a Master of Science in school administration at Oklahoma State University. He became a high school teacher and later served as principal of the Vance Air Force Base Elementary School in Enid, Oklahoma.

When a retired general recommended that he take flight training, a new career was born. In 1970 he was assigned to the Pentagon. His travels took him around the world. He retired as Chief of US Army Aviation in 1988.

Charles was a voracious reader, a gifted writer, a meditator, a singer, and a meditator whose musical taste ranged from sacred hymns to Wagner's Flying Dutchman. An engaging conversationalist and great storyteller, possessed with wit, good humor, and a caring soul, Charles made friends wherever he went.

His charities were many. In retirement he restored bicycles for needy kids. He set up a shop in his otherwise perfectly groomed back yard and there, over a thousand bicycles passed through Charles' loving hands on the way to needy youngsters. Due to this work he became known locally as "The Bike Doctor."

Charles is predeceased by his son, Gregory, mother Cleo, father Virgil, and brother Woodrow. He is survived a younger sister, Francis Jones Martin of Houston. He was a loving grandfather to Katy Jones of Chicago and Evan Jones of Minneapolis.

The memorial service will be at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 30.

You can read any  
of this week's  
15 papers digital  
editions here:  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs)

# Mow, Mow, Mow Your Grass ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... Not gently by the stream, and not by yours truly, either. Yet another task that seems beyond this homeowner's ability.

Which is fine by me because the older I get, it seems the less capable I become, and the less inclined I am to risk life and limb in the pursuit of that which that doesn't make me happy. Throw in a lung cancer diagnosis and the last thing my re-wired (figuratively speaking) brain will allow me to do is anything which doesn't put a smile on my face and a bounce in my step. And avoiding yard work ranks up there with most household tasks that a typical able-bodied homeowner takes pride in doing him or herself.

It's not so much that I take pride in avoiding it, it's just that I know my limitations, unlike Hal Holbrook in "Magnum Force."

Sharp objects, mechanical objects and/or electrical/spinning/rotating objects, objects with multiple doohickeys (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), objects which require assembly/reading instructions are all challenging for me. Moreover, none of it fascinates me in the least.

What fascinates me more is the level of interest and passion with which so many of my brethren are engaged in the process; from start to finish.

I just don't get it. Nor have I ever gotten it, and neither do I expect to get it in the future.

Perhaps this total lack of interest comes from the experience of being a life-long renter. Never during my pre-college daze was my family ever responsible for yard work, home repairs (inside or out), or had much of a need for tools, other than the most rudimentary: hammer, screwdriver, pliers, etc.

No power tools. Nothing electrical that required a plug/proximity to an outlet. No plumbing, and of course, nothing like a chainsaw.

My parents were children of the Depression and all they had time for was school, play and some work; yes, even as children. And living in tenement/multi-level housing hardly lent itself to anything but doing what was necessary to survive.

But as my parents so often said: everyone else they knew was experiencing similar hardships so they didn't really realize what they were missing. Tools? Repairs? Amenities? Conveniences? Hardly. Toilet paper was a Sears catalogue cut into squares and hung on a nail in the bathroom down the hall - outside of their apartment.

They didn't have money or time for any of it. What money they earned was for food, rent, utilities and clothes; the most basic of basics.

It is through these experiences that my parents passed on their instincts and priorities to the their two Baby Boomer-era sons. There was ample love, affection and importance of family but not so much time and/or energy for interior and exterior home repairs, yard work, tools and what to do with them/how to use them as well as a variety of other homeowner-type tasks.

As a family of renters, it was never our responsibility. I suppose that was a match made in Depression-era heaven because very little in our family's past prepared us for this new future.

When my father returned from his service in World War II (working in Washington, D.C., actually), he had, unlike Liam Neeson, no unique set of skills. He had to find some vocation/avocation that would provide for his family - which he did, as a salesman.

After living in Dorchester, Mass. for their entire lives (since their parents immigrated to America in the early 20th century), in 1958, my parents moved the family to Newton Centre, Mass. - for the schools. We spent the next 15 years as renters and other than taking out the trash and the rubbish, I did very little to hone my homeowner-type skills.

I wouldn't say I've been stigmatized by this experience, but I learned very little that became useful in the maintenance and upkeep of the 275-year-old home, my wife Dina and I have occupied for the past 25+ years. Other than knowing how to ask for help that is.

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

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# OPINION

# Climate

FROM PAGE 9

effects of climate change. We must work to reduce our carbon emissions by investing heavily in renewable energy and clean energy sources. This means investing in electric cars, solar energy and wind energy among others. And, the costs of clean energy and solar are plummeting. That's why I sponsored HB 618 in 2016 which aimed to create community solar gardens where utilities would provide credit to consumers in the form of net metering credits for the excess energy produced.

As a staunch environmentalist, I am eager to continue working to expand this program among other clean energy initiatives to move away from our reliance on fossil fuel. For example, Virginia has created a Voluntary Renewable Energy Portfolio goal of 15 percent renewables by 2025.

I support legislation that will mandate this goal is reached and significantly increase the percentage as a majority of states are doing. Furthermore, Governor Northam has signaled his support for joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) which currently consists of 10 other states. States in the initiative cap the amount of CO2 power plants can emit and mandates that utilities pay fines if they go over the limits. These funds are then invested in clean energy initiatives throughout the state. The current members in the RGGI have seen their CO2 emissions reduced by 40 percent since 2005 while their economies have grown by approximately 8 percent. I am hopeful Virginia will be able to join the 10 current members soon.

In our everyday lives there are several small, but important, steps we can take to reduce our pollution. First and most obviously, always make sure you properly recycle everything you can. Next, try to limit your use of single use items such as plastics.

Plastic bags will end up in landfills or in the ocean. Try to buy environmentally friendly grocery bags that are reusable. Create a compost pile in your backyard. Plant some trees. Additionally, make sure your home is properly insulated. Statistically, homes that are properly insulated use far less energy because they use less heat or air conditioning. We should think of energy efficiency as a fuel resource, just like oil or coal, and recognize that it saves us from using more fossil fuels. These are just a few of the many measures that we can all take in our everyday lives to minimize our fossil fuel usage.

The time to act on climate change is now; we have no more time to procrastinate. It is no longer a valid or realistic argument to point to others and complain. The point of no return for global warming is quickly approaching. Yet, research indicates that if we commit now to make strong adjustments within the next 10 years we have an opportunity to minimize the long-term damage and possibly even work to reverse some of the effects. However, if we remain complacent and don't act, our children and grandchildren will suffer tremendous consequences.

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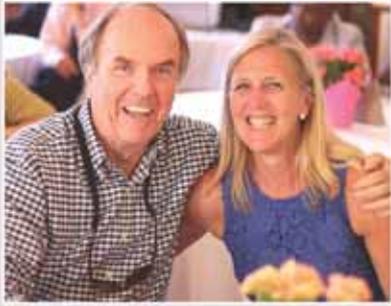
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## COMING SOON!



### 8902 Beauchamp Dr.

Mid-century flair! | \$550,000

Expanded and updated contemporary on gorgeous half acre lot near Mt. Vernon Estate. Fabulous features include: bright open floor plan, glass window wall, gorgeous hardwood floors on two levels, and oversize two car garage. Large deck overlooks private grounds. Freshly painted interior makes this one move in ready!



### 8314 Wagon Wheel Dr

Private Dock on little Hunting Creek!

3 level Colonial situated on serene elevated lot overlooking natural wonderland. Private dock for your canoe, kayak, or small motor boat! Home has huge potential & features: 4/5 Bedrooms, large room sizes, hardwood floors, fully finished lower level w/ outside entrance, sunroom overlooking creek. Won't find another one like it!



### 9112 Volunteer Dr

Westgate Colonial! | \$655,000

Exceptionally property! Spacious Colonial in the Williamsburg tradition featuring premier setting on large level lot in the desirable Westgate community near Mt Vernon Estate. Features include: large room sizes, 2 fireplaces in family and living room, hardwood floors, two car garage, & incredible sunroom overlooking rear grounds.



### 3708 Carriage House Ct \$810,000

Truly special property in prime location on gorgeous lot bordering Mt. Vernon Estate grounds. Fabulous home in pristine condition. Features include bright open floor plan, stunning glass

walled addition, updated expanded kitchen, gorgeous hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms including master suite with recently remodeled bath, & 2 car garage. Custom deck & brick patio overlook backyard & MV Estate

**CONTRACT!**



### 9416 Old Mt Vernon Rd. \$789,000

Incredible opportunity to own a brand new 5 Bed/5.5 Bath home on 4 finished levels! Economical Gas appliances include: fireplace, cook top, heat and hot water. Hardwoods on main level,

open kitchen to family room w/ large island & breakfast area, 4 BR's on upper level w/ 3 baths including luxurious master suite, finished basement w/ rec room, bedroom, & full bath. 10 year builder warranty

**CONTRACT!**



### 4417 Neptune Dr. \$739,000

Exceptionally unique and spacious Colonial on private .72 acre lot. Special features include: updated kitchen, updated baths, family room with gas fireplace opens to patio

overlooking serene pool scene, detached two car garage, extra parking area for RV/ Boat. Short walk to Mount Vernon Yacht Club and riverfront area!

**CONTRACT!**



### 4519 Dolphin Ln \$545,000

Fabulous large rambler with huge potential. Gorgeous half acre lot just steps from Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Features include large room sizes, open floor plan, replacement windows,

finished lower level with direct outside access, sun room and over sized carport. Excellent value in Yacht Haven!

**JUST SOLD!**



### 4401 Granada St. \$549,000

Immaculate and spacious home on gorgeous flat lot. Features include: 4 Bedrooms, 3 fully updated Baths, top of the line updated Kitchen, refinished hardwoods on

main two levels, whole 3rd lower level just for storage, replacement windows and siding, New Roof (2013), garage and long additional list of updates. Great Value!

**JUST SOLD!**

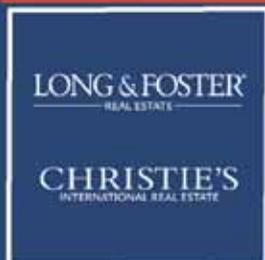


### 9411 Mount Vernon Circle \$959,900

Incredible new price on one of Mount Vernon on the Potomac's most stately homes! Home has it all! 3 finished levels, high ceilings, estate room sizes, approx

6,500 sq ft of luxury at unheard of price. Community marina and brand new docks provide vacation vibe in convenient, close in location.

**JUST SOLD!**



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