



From left: Enjoying the festivities are Nancy Engler, Nanette Dashiell, Therese M., Sabina Chlus, and Evelyn Ransom.



Toys were collected at the Toy Drive Holiday Gathering at DRP Belle Haven.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

In the Spirit of Sharing Hollin Meadows Elementary PTA hosts annual toy drive.

About 80 people attended the second-annual Care and Share Holiday Gathering Toy Drive for Hollin Meadows Elementary on Thursday, Dec. 6. The event was hosted by the PTA's Care and Share Committee and held at DRP Belle Haven. Guests were asked to bring an unwrapped toy, game, books, craft items, or sports equipment that will be given to children at the school. Last year's event collected enough toys for 90 children and 60 families.

"This is an overwhelming amount of toys that people have brought to us this evening," said Erin Anderson, Care and Share Committee event co-chair at

Hollin Meadows. She said that in addition to the toy drive at DRP, they had other toy collections going on throughout the neighborhoods, churches, and homeowner associations in the community. There was also a 50-50 raffle and a raffle with 19 items as a fundraiser.

In attendance were Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck, Hollin Meadows Principal John Gates, as well as PTA members, teachers, staff and community members. DRP Chef Mauro Molino prepared pizza and veggie rolls, bacon and cheese croquettes, and meatballs. In addition, there was red and white wines and beer.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Erin Anderson and Allison Miles-Lee hand out the raffles during the Toy Drive Holiday Gathering at DRP Belle Haven.



Erin Eley, assistant general manager of DRP Belle Haven, serves wine.



Guests gather around the fire pit during the Toy Drive Holiday Gathering at DRP Belle Haven.

Ana Padron, Heather Young and Ainsley Crowell at the Toy Drive Holiday Gathering at DRP Belle Haven.



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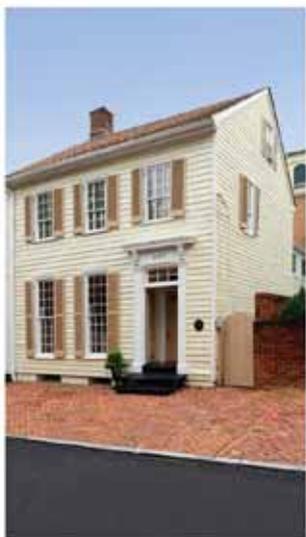
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Bulova Will Not Seek Re-election

On Thursday, Dec. 6, Chairman Sharon Bulova of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced that she will not be seeking re-election in 2019.



Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"It has been an honor to serve the Fairfax County community," Chairman Bulova said. "During these past 30 years, I have been privileged to work alongside dedicated elected officials at every level of government, with talented, caring county staff and a county full of enthusiastic community volunteers. While I will not be running for re-election in 2019 I sure do have a lot to look back on with great satisfaction."

Bulova served as the Braddock District Supervisor on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1988 - 2009, and was elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in a special election in 2009. She was re-elected Chairman in 2011 and again in 2015. The year 2019 will mark her 10th year as Chairman and her 31st year as a member of the Board of Supervisors.

During her career, Chairman Bulova is proud of her role in founding the VRE com-

muter rail system, piloting Metro's Silver Line Phase 1 over the finish line, navigating through the Great Recession and federal sequestration while retaining Fairfax County's triple A Bond rating, founding Faith Communities in Action, initiating Communities of Trust, convening the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, helping launch Diversion First, facilitating the new vision and plan for Tysons, and spearheading numerous environmental, historical and cultural initiatives on behalf of the residents of Fairfax County.

"There is still much to do and contribute," Chairman Bulova said. "My term does not end until the end of next year. I look forward to working with you during these months ahead and thank you for your engagement, support and participation in your community." The upcoming election for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will take place on Nov. 5, 2019, and the new Board will



Sharon Bulova with the Board of Supervisors.

COURTESY PHOTOS

REACTIONS

Ensuring Prosperity, Quality of Life

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA):

"As former mayor to a city of 200,000 people, I have enormous respect for Sharon Bulova's leadership of a county of 1.1 million.

Over the past 30 years, Fairfax County's population has grown by nearly half, and Sharon's service during that time has played a major role in ensuring the prosperity and quality of life accompanying that growth. Congratulations, Sharon, on a job well done."

A True Community Treasure

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:

"I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Sharon Bulova for more than 20 years and she is a true community treasure.

Under her leadership, she turned the idea of the Virginia Railway Express into a reality. As Chairman, she guided the County through the worst of the Great Recession, while still maintaining the critical investments and services that Fairfax residents have come to expect. And over her years of public service, she has helped transform our community into one that is envied by all others.

"Sharon's time on the Board will be remembered for her decency and commitment to collegiality, her willingness to listen to her constituents and bring people together, and her drive to leave Fairfax a better place for future generations. I want to thank my dear friend for her lifetime of service and the undeniable mark she has left on our community."

Gold Standard

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

"I first met Sharon Bulova in 1996 when I was a young lawyer entering the political world. She was (and is) the gold standard by which local officials can be measured. Her retirement marks the end of an era in Fairfax County which history will remember as one of prosperity and good will."

A Strong Proponent of Economic Growth

Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority:

"Chairman Bulova has been a strong and effective proponent of economic growth and the Economic Development Authority and me personally for many years. The effects of her leadership will be felt throughout the county for generations to come. Her support of our global outreach marketing has been particularly forward-looking and effective over the years."

begin its work on Jan. 1, 2020.

IN OTHER NEWS, more change is coming to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) has announced he will not seek re-election

in 2019. Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) has also announced that she will not seek re-election in 2019. Supervisor Jeff McKay (D) has announced that he will run for Chairman in 2019, vacating his Lee District seat.

Reflects on Getting Started

Chairman looks forward to 'more time with family and grandchildren, time for travel, to entertain, to smell the roses.' In her own words:

Memory is funny. If you asked me what I did last Tuesday I would be hard pressed to fill in the details. Some things, however, remain frozen in time, down to seemingly insignificant details.

Lunch at Hunan West on Jan. 11, 1987 is one of those memories. I was working as an Aide to Annandale District Supervisor Audrey Moore. She had pretty much made up her mind to run for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors against incumbent Jack Herrity. My co-workers, Florence, Carolyn and Janet, and I had escaped the office for lunch in the Kings Park Shopping Center.

We began discussing Audrey's plans, then the subject shifted to who would run for the open Annandale District seat. "Sharon Bulova," announced Florence Naeve. I looked up from my Sweet and Sour Pork laughing, thinking that she was joking. To my horror, my friends' expressions were electrified. They excitedly began listing all

the reasons why this was a good idea. I countered with a list of my shortcomings, why I couldn't possibly run for office, starting with a phobia about speaking in public. Carolyn smiled broadly and exclaimed, "And see! You're so modest and organized!"

Sometimes routine events like lunch with friends can prove pivotal. Despite all my doubts and misgivings, I did, indeed run for office, and went on to serve as Annandale - later renamed Braddock - District Supervisor for the next twenty years. When then-Chairman Gerry Connolly was elected to Congress in 2008, I ran for his open seat in a special election on February 3, 2009. This coming February will mark ten years since I have served as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Local government is an awesome place to be. It's the level of government closest to the people you represent. It's the place where you can truly make a tangible differ

"My term does not end until the end of next year. Between now and then there is still much to do and to contribute."

—Sharon Bulova

SEE SHARON BULOVA, PAGE 4

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ DECEMBER 13-19, 2018 ♦ 3

PEOPLE



Shakeela Doskas begins her English Boxwood Christmas tree with the tallest branch in the center and fills the tree in from the bottom. She is a designer at The Virginia Florist in the Belle Haven Shopping Center.



Shakeela Doskas has completed the greenery on her centerpiece and proceeds to the final stages.



After adding the ornaments and plaid Christmas ribbon, Shakeela Doskas sprays glitter on the tree from top to bottom.



Jose Capestany has just created a several-foot high design for a holiday event at the Old Dominion Boat Club in Alexandria later in the day.



Ledis Reyes combines lilies and greens in a glass cube for a popular centerpiece at The Virginia Florist.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

A Few Firs, a Few Flowers, a Beautiful Design

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

Shakeela Doskas is surrounded by the tools of her trade — green picks, wire, tape, and the branches of English boxwood for the Christmas tree she is creating for “if you don’t have the space for a real tree.” The long workspace is cluttered with spools of sparkly ribbon mixed with greenery, an assortment of holiday decorations, clippers, cans of spray and multi-sized containers. The floor is blanketed with discarded rose petals, bits of stems and branches.

PEOPLE AT WORK

Doskas begins with a 10-inch red and white pot filled with a green wet oasis (foam brick) for inserting the branches. “The oasis retains water so if you water every week this tree will be good until after Christmas.” First she places the tallest 15-18” branch in the middle. “We don’t want it to be too high for the table.” She will eyeball how many smaller branches she will need as she builds the tree from the bottom. In about half an hour she will have a completed design.

Doskas is ready for the next step. She twirls tape around small sticks and fastens them for stability to red gift decoration ornaments, then places six on the tree

branches and finishes the piece off with two loops of Christmas plaid ribbon. One final spray of glitter to add a shine. Doskas has worked at The Virginia Florist at Belle Haven for 18 years. She started doing this while going to college and has been doing it ever since.

Across the table, Keiko Cox is creating a hurricane centerpiece with a red Christmas candle. She places Cedar, then Frasier fir, pine and boxwood around the glass hurricane. “This branch is too big so I’ll snap it in two.” She sprays the leaves with Ultra Leaf Shine. One at a time she places silver decorative leaves around the base of the piece. “I like it more flat for the table and I don’t want to place the silver too close to the candle.”

Cox adds a few white lilies “for a clean look.” She picks up a cremon mum and sprays out the pollen with Clear Crowning Glory before inserting the mum into the arrangement. “I like these mums; they are smaller and more compact.” A glittery spray settles over the centerpiece and it’s ready.

Next to Cox at the table Jose Capestany has just finished an arrangement for a regular customer. He had started with a large white vase and added some branches of Curly Willow. He had added stalks of red ilex berries. “This is nice to support the amaryllis. Finally some cedar and pine to



Keiko Cox works on a centerpiece using a hurricane with a red candle surrounded by a variety of evergreens and silver decorative leaves.

fill it in.

“I am familiar with the house so I know the proportions. It goes on a credenza behind the sofa. I do a new arrangement every week.” Capestany has been at The Virginia Florist for two years. He came there after working at the Watergate Florist for

32 years before it closed.

Earlier in the morning Capestany had designed a several-foot high arrangement for a holiday party at the Old Dominion Boat Club in Alexandria later in the day. “See the magnolia is very dramatic.” He says, “Sometimes the big pieces are too tall for the van and I have to put in the final touches at the location.”

Across the table Ledis Reyes is arranging a centerpiece with a 4-inch glass cube using lilies and Christmas greens, noble fir and pine. She adds a bit of Dusty Miller around the edges and finishes it by combining red tulips and roses with white lilies and hydrangea. She says a lot of people love lilies and Christmas greens. Reyes has created this to sell in the front of the store but says they also do a lot of special orders. Doskas speculates they each do 20-30 pieces a day. She says she and Capestany recently produced 100 pieces for the Army Navy Club at Thanksgiving. Sometimes people make special requests like wreaths with fresh fruit or wreaths made out of herbs. The designers all agree the best is when someone says, “Just send something. Up to you, designer’s choice.” Capestany says he has one woman who has several large parties a year. “She doesn’t have a budget and she brings in her vases or heirloom silver and Shakeela goes to town.”

Sharon Bulova Reflects on Getting Started

FROM PAGE 3

ence, touch lives, and engage with the community in a personal, positive way. Deciding when to stop is just as hard as making the decision to start down the road of elective office. For me, however, that time has come.

When questioned by Tony Olivo of the Washington Post about my plans for running, I told him I was going to use the

Thanksgiving holiday to think about it, and to talk to my family and friends.

On Thanksgiving Day my son David arrived for dinner equipped with a large flip chart and colored stickies for voting. He titled the Chart “Family Decision Making Matrix” and separated it into “Pros” and “Cons.” It was a fun, light-hearted after dinner activity. Many of the items listed on the “Pro” side of the chart were some of the reasons that had already persuaded me to

not seek another four-year term. More time with family and grandchildren, time for travel, to entertain, to smell the roses.

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During these past thirty years, I have been privileged to work alongside dedicated elected officials at every level of government, with talented, caring county staff and a county full of enthusiastic community

volunteers.

While I will not be running for re-election in 2019 I sure do have a lot to look back on with satisfaction.

My term does not end until the end of next year. Between now and then there is still much to do and to contribute. I look forward to working with you during these months ahead and thank you for your engagement and participation in your community.

OBITUARY

CSM Lorene Ann 'Lori' Wright

Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Lorene Ann "Lori" Wright died at Fort Belvoir, on Dec. 2, 2018. A veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, she also served as the Command Sergeant Major of the 165th Military Intelligence Battalion (Tactical Exploitation) and was awarded the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star Medal.

CSM Wright was born on April 4, 1963 in Colville, Wash. to Urban and Dorothy Layton. In 1982, she joined the U.S. Army as an intelligence analyst and was assigned to Korea. She later served as a Senior Drill Sergeant at Fort Bragg, N.C. CSM Wright held multiple assignments as a leader of intelligence specialists and was awarded the Knowlton Award for Excellence in Intelligence in 2005. She retired from the Army in 2006 after over 24 years of honorable service and worked as a counterintelligence analyst at the Office of Personnel Management until her full retirement in 2017.

CSM Wright was a dedicated soldier and consummate military intelligence professional, as well as a fun-loving, warm and strong mother. She married Alex Wright in Steilacoom, Wash. in 2002. A lover of animals and the outdoors, she spent free time four-wheeling, hiking and kayaking with Alex and their beloved canine companions.

She is survived by her husband, Alex Wright of Alexandria, Va.; her daughter, Tiffany Sheakley of Tacoma, Wash.; Lori's father, Urban Layton of



Lorene Ann "Lori" Wright with Teddy and Hexa.

Goldendale, Wash.; her mother, Dorothy Garvey of Wenatchee, Wash.; and her siblings: Catherine (Cathy) Foster of Tacoma, Wash.; Richard (Rick) Layton of Spokane, Wash.; Jody Freeman of St. Louis, Mo.; Randell (Randy) Layton of Virginia Beach, Va.; Melinda Mae (Mindy) Kakazu of Aiea, Hawaii; and Denise Modglin of Mililani, Hawaii.

A funeral service will take place at the Fairfax Chapel, 5675 21st St, Fort Belvoir, Va. at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, with interment at Arlington National Cemetery in 2019. The service will be officiated by Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Benjamin Sprouse.

Donations in Lori's memory may be sent to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation and the Lead The Way Fund.

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Alex/Woodland Heights \$819,900
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: 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir & 15 to Old Town & easy access to GW Pkwy.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

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!!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Stafford/Aqua Villa \$259,900
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!

Alex/Mt. Vernon Woods \$362,500
8102 Martha Washington
Precious 3BR, 1BA Rambler—Perfect Starter Home — Double pane windows & 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.

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. Wayne-wood 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.

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OPINION

Holidays Speed By Every year is Election Year in Virginia; sometimes every month ...

Our last live newspapers of 2018 will come out next Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 18 and Dec. 19. Editors are already working on hundreds of submissions for our Children's Connections, which will come out in the days between Christmas and New Year's. Our first regular newspapers will come out in the first week of January, 2019.

EDITORIAL

Don't miss our holiday calendars in these weeks, with so many local things to do.

Among things to do is to watch for a Special

Election Day on Tuesday, Jan. 8, to fill the unexpired term of the 33rd District seat in the Virginia State Senate, as Jennifer Wexton vacates that seat to head to U.S. Congress in Virginia's 10th District.

On Election Day polls are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. Joe T. May (R) faces Jennifer B. Boysko (D). If Boysko should win, another Special Election will be scheduled to fill her seat in the Virginia House of Delegates. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming

And later in 2019, every seat on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, every seat on the School Board, every seat in the Virginia House

of Delegates and Virginia Senate, and more are up for election. We already know that there will be significant turnover, with many new candidates to get to know. Primaries will likely be in June. The 2019 session of Virginia's General Assembly begins Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

For families, we can point you back to holiday happenings; breathe and enjoy some hot chocolate with your children and neighbors.

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Targeting Deaths in Vehicle Crashes

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



In about 30 days, the 2019 legislative session will begin in Richmond for the 400th year. I feel honored every day to be your representative in the oldest legislative body in America. The first thing to remember about our legislature is that in odd-numbered years house members are only allowed to introduce

COMMENTARY

15 bills. I have over 30 bill drafts that I will have to cut down to 15. Unfortunately, this means there will be good legislation left on the cutting room floor. However, as we head towards the 400th session, I want to spend the next few weeks updating you on the legislation I plan on introducing next year. Today, I will be discussing two of my bills that I will introduce every year until they pass regarding safety restraints in vehicles.

The first piece of legislation will require every occupant of the front seat and back seat of a vehicle to wear a seatbelt. For the front seat, it will be a primary offense for those that are not wearing a seatbelt and for the backseat it will be a secondary offense with both carrying a \$25 fine. The bill was inspired by former West Potomac high school student Jonathan Tucker, who suggested the legislation as his 2016

Amundson Institute Scholar project. Under current Virginia law, an unbuckled front seat belt is a secondary offense while there is no law requiring a seat belt in the backseat of a vehicle if you are over 18. This makes Virginia one of only 10 states with secondary seat belt enforcement laws with backseat exemptions for anyone over 18. The purpose of this measure is very simple, seatbelts are the single most cost effective traffic safety device in the event of an accident. Seat belts hold drivers and passengers in place, keeping them from being thrown forward into the steering wheel, windshield or being ejected from the vehicle. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention seat belts reduce serious crash related injuries and deaths by 50 percent. Furthermore, more than half of adults aged 20-44 that died in car accidents in 2016 were not wearing a seatbelt. We see this problem acutely in Virginia where 16 percent of drivers still do not use their seat belts. Last year alone 308 unbelted motorists died in crashes on Virginia roadways accounting for 52 percent of all crash fatalities. These deaths are easily preventable and it is long past time to enact this life-saving legislation.

The second piece of legislation will require seat belts to be installed in new school buses and in all school buses in the Commonwealth by July 1, 2037. Currently, six states have laws requiring seat belts for large school buses. Many private schools in Virginia already have

seatbelts on their school buses. However, the large majority of counties in the Commonwealth do not require seat belts on their school buses, with one exception being Henrico county which added the requirement in 2017. We can not let the school a child attends determine whether they have the necessary safety precautions or not. According to the National Highway Traffic Administration there were 54 fatalities of school age children between 2006-2015. Having seat belts or restraints in these buses statistically could have saved the lives of 27 young children.

These statistics don't include the numerous injuries that occur during serious accidents as well. Recently, we saw the tragic school bus accident in Arkansas that killed one child but also left 45 injured. It is unacceptable that our public schools are not providing our children with this easy and vital safety precaution. We have a solemn responsibility to protect our youth and right now, we are failing that obligation here in Virginia.

Next year, I am hopeful we will pass both pieces of legislation. Governor Northam recently announced the Toward Zero Deaths initiative. The aim of the program is to drastically reduce fatalities in vehicle crashes. Over 40,000 people die annually in the U.S from vehicle crashes. These two pieces of legislation fit perfectly within the mission of this program and would drastically reduce Virginia's contribution to that tragic total.

community believe that your decision to locate HQ2 in Northern Virginia is the most impactful event to happen in each of these categories in a generation.

Your arrival will bring jobs, critical advancements in the quality of our public transportation, investments in technology education, and opportunities for small businesses that will serve you and the workers you attract — among many other things. Like you, we want our neighborhoods to be diverse and vibrant places to live and work. We want our economic development to be a rising tide that lifts all boats. Companies and community foundations have worked in tandem to address local issues for over a century. It is therefore our deepest hope that in partnership, we can reimagine solutions to workforce development, affordable housing and other social problems, perhaps

driven by imaginative technology-dependent solutions not yet seen that we invent together.

Your arrival in Northern Virginia gives us all a chance to create a more regional, collaborative approach to local philanthropy that brings to bear the full capacity and weight of our non-profit partners, our collective community knowledge, and our shared impulse to help build community through philanthropy. We look forward to working with you, problem solving with you, and advancing our community's best interests, together.

Heather Peeler, ACT for Alexandria; **Jennifer Owens**, Arlington Community Foundation; **Amy Owen**, Community Foundation for Loudoun & Northern Fauquier Counties; **Eileen Ellsworth**, Community Foundation for Northern Virginia; **Bruce McNamer**, Northern Virginia Greater Washington Community Foundation

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 5 3.5 3,090 sq.ft.
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Local Designers To Help Light Up the Season

Holiday wonderland this weekend will benefit Children's National.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

More

Light Up the Season
childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason

Interior designers, artists and florists from Alexandria, Bethesda and Fairfax County will be among the those who will help light up the season for young patients at Children's National Medical Center this Sunday. Holiday trees, wreaths and other festive designs will be unveiled at the second annual "Light Up the Season" event.

Local tastemakers spent weeks collaborating with Children's National patients to create a holiday wonderland with festive displays that range from menorahs and trees to artwork and wreaths. Those designs will deck the halls and be available for purchase on Dec. 16, from 12 to 4 p.m. at Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C. Proceeds will benefit Children's National.

The family-friendly event will offer activities for all ages include holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, musical performances and visits from Santa and

Dr. Bear. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason.

Designers from the region who created displays for Light Up the Season include:

- ❖ Wendy Danziger of Danziger Design in Bethesda, Md.
- ❖ Rachel and Charles Gang of Helen Olivia Flowers in Alexandria, Va.
- ❖ Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley Flowers in Alexandria, Va.
- ❖ Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria, Va.
- ❖ Lauren and David Liess of Lauren Liess in Great Falls, Va.
- ❖ Rachelle Roth, Jillian Roth, Sascha Roth and Terri Johnson of Urban Country in Bethesda, Md.
- ❖ Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors and Marika Meyer Textiles in Bethesda, Md.

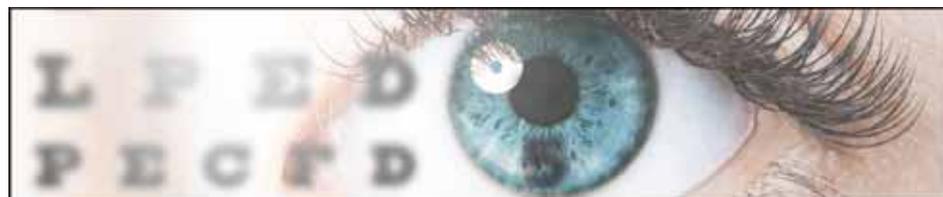


This tree by Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria will be among the displays that deck the halls at the second Annual Light Up the Season event.



PHOTOS BY PHOTO COURTESY OF MERVIN DURBAN AND LIGHT UP THE SEASON

This tree by Bethesda designers Rachelle Roth, Jillian Roth, Terri Johnson and Sasha Roth of Urban Country in Bethesda will for sale at the second Annual Light Up the Season event this weekend.



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The Retina Group of Washington (RGW), the country's largest provider of retinal and macular care, has added yet another extraordinary physician to better serve the eye-related needs of people throughout Northern Virginia.

RGW is pleased to announce that Dr. Joshua D. Levinson has joined the practice and is seeing patients in the Fairfax and Alexandria offices. It was his research on improving the safety of intravitreal injections for Macular Degeneration, Retinal Vein Occlusions and complications from Diabetes that is credited with making more sterile techniques common practice at clinics throughout the country. Dr. Levinson cares for patients suffering from Diabetic Retinopathy and Age-Related Macular Degeneration, and performs surgical procedures for retinal detachments and macular holes among many other eye-related problems.

We hope our patients will have the opportunity to meet and be treated by Dr. Levinson sometime soon. They can be certain their eyes are in excellent hands.



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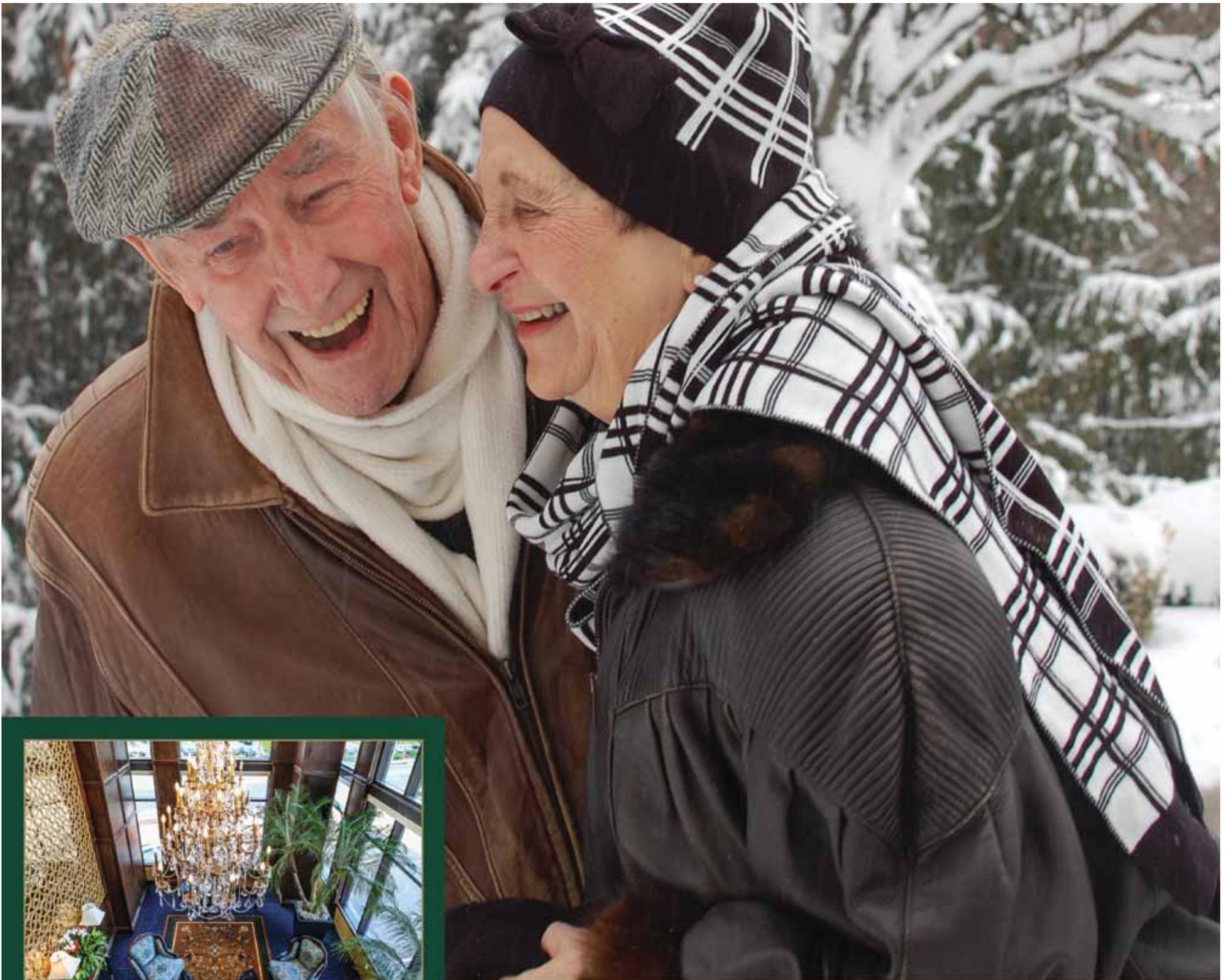
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PHOTO BY HOME ON CAMERON

Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria suggests adding a decorative mirror for a quick bathroom update.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

Potomac designer Anne Walker used Thibaut wallpaper to make the room a "fabulous, joyful place to visit," she said.

Preparing for Holiday Guests

Sprucing-up a bathroom without a renovation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Amid the tree-trimming, wreath hanging and stocking stuffing in an effort to deck the halls in anticipation of holiday guests, there's one space that can be forgotten: the humble bathroom. While not as festive as hanging garland, a few simple tweaks can transform a bathroom from glum to guest ready.

"Hands-down, the easiest way to spruce up a bathroom with little or no expense is to de-clutter," said Anne M. Walker of Anne Walker Design. "You'll be amazed how beautiful your bathroom looks if you clear away all of the items sitting on the countertop and around the room."

To help with that effort, Walker suggests investing organizational items such as Lucite or bamboo trays and drawer inserts so that personal items can be kept out of sight.

For those with a budget and time to allow for it, Walker suggests a fresh coat of paint or new wallpaper. "That can make a huge visual impact in a bathroom," she said. "Since the space is so small, and it's a room where you don't spend long periods of time, you can have fun with interesting colors and patterns."

Also think about painting just one wall as an accent or the ceiling," said Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria. "[Add a new] mirror, such as a decorative or colorfully framed mirror or one that runs from floor to ceiling, for a fresh look."

He also suggests updating a bathroom's lighting to make the space feel bright and airy.

Another practical tip that Walker offers is a good, old-fashioned scrub-down. "Clean like you've never cleaned before," she said. "Use a surface cleaner with bleach, like Krud Kutter, which is my personal favorite, a strong brush, and your elbow grease to remove dust, grime and dirt from tile grout, caulk, and cor-

ners of the room."

Among the more mundane tasks is to visually inspect the bathroom's grout to check for cracks and stubborn, unsightly mold. Re-grouting might be necessary, says Chuck Khiel, vice president of Fred Home Improvement. "When making a repair, it is very important to remove all of the cracked grout in the joint so that the full edge of the tile is exposed," he said. "The new grout can then bond to the full thickness of the tile edge. Simply smearing a thin layer of new grout over old grout will not work."

Once the room is sparkling clean and totally decluttered, Walker suggests adding display on a countertop or in a shower niche. "A vase full of bamboo, pretty soaps in a rattan basket or a Lucite tray filled with beautiful guest towels are just a few suggestions for fresh objects that will lend an air of tranquility to your bathroom."

For guests who might cringe at the thought of shared guests towels, Martz suggests adding a tray of disposable hand towels. He also encourages engaging one's sense of smell by, "adding some scented candles like those by Rigaud's Cypres and Cythere."

Another simple fix is to buy fresh new bath linens, says Walker. "No matter how hard you try, towels and shower curtains get dingy over time," she said. "There are so many places to buy lovely linens, and many of them are very low cost."

With the right accessories, even the most modest spaces can be made to feel like a spa, suggests Walker, recalling a bathroom in which she added a Turkish towel, striped shower curtain which became transformative. "Even though the bathroom, itself, is modest, the beautiful shower curtain makes it feel like a resort," she said. "By adding just a couple of colorful accessories on the countertop, it pulls the whole room together."

Installing new fixtures such as a shower head can quickly transform a bathroom from outdated to updated. "There are many types of shower heads on the market these days," said "Some offer a variety of water streams and different features, [and] most manufacturers make it so that changing a shower head is fairly simply."

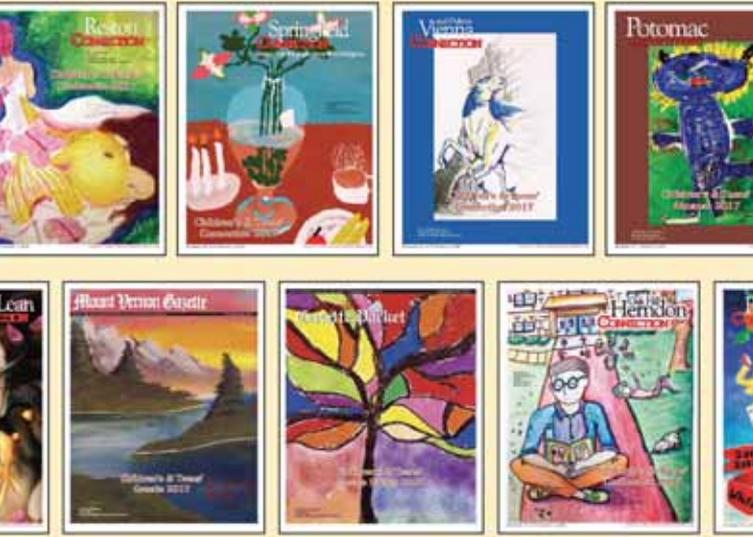
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CRIME

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

SEX OFFENSE (PEEPING):
3500 block of Holly Hill Road, Dec. 8, 6:28 p.m. The victim was in their residence when a shirtless man was seen masturbating in front of their window. They immediately called 9-1-1, and the man ran away to a nearby laundry room where officers found him. The 28-year-old man was charged with peeping, indecent exposure, trespassing and two counts of sex offender violations.

BURGLARY: 7900 block of Audubon Avenue, Dec. 3, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The victim returned home to find that someone had entered their home through the front door. Electronics and clothing were stolen.

DEC. 10 LARCENIES
2600 block of Arlington Drive, property from residence
6100 block of Bayliss Place, sunglasses from vehicle
5700 block of Fenwick Drive, wallet from vehicle
5800 block of North Kings Highway, beer from business
7700 block of Richmond Highway, tools from vehicle
8400 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from residence

8800 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from residence
7500 block of Vernon Square Drive, bicycle and shovel from residence

STOLEN VEHICLES
5700 block of Fenwick Drive, 2014 KIA Sorento

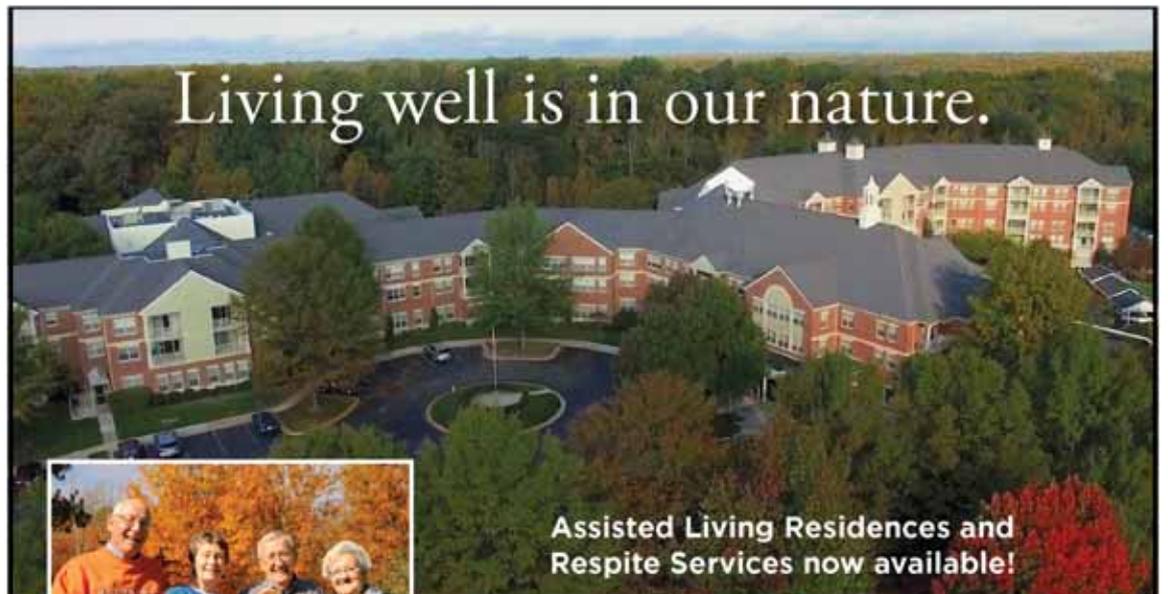
DEC. 7 LARCENIES
2400 block of Fort Drive, cell phone from residence

6300 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from residence
DEC. 6 LARCENIES

8000 block of Buckman Court, cell phones from residence
4200 block of Fielding Street, cash from residence
4400 block of Groombridge Way, check from residence

DEC. 5 LARCENIES
7900 block of Audubon Avenue, cash from location
2800 block of Fairhaven Avenue, cash from residence
8400 block of Frye Road, beverage from business
2500 block of Parkers Lane, cell phone from school

DEC. 4 LARCENIES
8400 block of Arlington Boulevard, medication from residence



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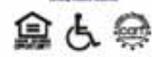
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Season's Greetings & Happy New Year

Best wishes for the Holiday Season and our sincerest thanks and gratitude for all your support this past year. May 2019 bring many opportunities your way, along with peace and prosperity, turning all your dreams into reality and all your efforts into great achievements.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

“Adventures with Mr. Bear.”

Through Dec. 15, 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.

LTA’s “A Christmas Carol.”

Through Dec. 16, 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.

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.

Art Exhibit: “Attending.” Through Dec. 22 at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Prints and Paintings by Julie Shelton Snyder. This exhibit features new work by the artist completed during her recent residency at the foot of Mt. Fuji in Japan studying the mokuanga traditional woodblock printmaking technique. Julie Shelton Snyder’s paintings and prints invite the viewer to consider the importance of finding silence within in order to hear when “deep calls to deep.” Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

“Christmas at the Old Bull & Bush.” Through Dec. 23, at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Admission is \$55. The



PHOTO BY “MANGO” MIKE ANDERSON

Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America Day will take place at Alexandria National Cemetery (VAANCA) Dec. 15 at noon. More than 5,000 veterans are buried in the cemetery, which is located at 1450 Wilkes St. Funding for the wreaths is provided by corporate and individual donations, including local Scouting troops. To date, the cemetery has reached 75 percent of its funding goal for 2018. To volunteer or donate, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org and search for VAANCA.

Old Bull and Bush Public House is alive with British music hall songs and carols, corny jokes and funny sketches, tuneful melodies, sing-alongs and sausage rolls. Celebrate the holidays with Florrie Forde, the most famous music hall star of the era, and her troupe of British performers. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.MetroStage.org.

Small Works Exhibit. Through Dec. 30 at Multiple Exposures Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center (Studio 312), 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. A Fine Art Photography Exhibition juried by Sarah Gordon who has selected 33 images for exhibition at

Multiple Exposures Gallery that she believes reveal something otherwise unseen. For more information, contact Multiple Exposures Gallery at info@multipleexposuresgallery.com or 703-683-2205.

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 strong – church, school, and family. Other exhibits are also on site.

Suggested admission \$3 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/museums or call 703-746-4356.

Open for Tours. Through December. At 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Pope-Leighey House is open for tours Friday through Monday, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.) Not open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. To learn more about National Trust Sites, visit savingplaces.org/historic-sites.

Sparkle and Glow: Holiday Show. Through Jan. 6 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, located in Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North

Union St., Alexandria. Free admission. The Gallery shines with holiday spirit – unique gifts to give, lovely pieces to wear, and enchanting and decorative works for the home. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Art Exhibit – Re:Vision. Through Jan. 6, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. In Re:Vision, Elizabeth Casqueiro reflects on the emotional content of immigration and what it means to push forward with a new life while remaining pulled by the old. Using as springboard two sets of images that represent these conflicting dynamics, namely retro comic books and lifestyle ads, she investigates the power of visionary myth to propel and restrain, the relinquishing of the precious as a condition to move forward, and the struggle to reconcile who we are, how we are perceived, and who we want to become. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Art Exhibit: re-Cog’-ni’-zing / dc. Through Jan. 6 at The Torpedo Factory Art Center (Studio 21), 105 North Union St., Alexandria. From unique vantage points and unexpected perspectives, painter and architect Milton Shinberg invites viewers to rediscover Washington in watercolor, through his limber brushstroke and clear, glassy palette. Shinberg captures fragments of Washington in luminous watercolor, lingering on details that captivate the mind of an architect and beguile the hand of an artist. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

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

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Evening of Design. 5-6:30 p.m. At 315 Cameron St., Alexandria. Free. Join interior designers Todd Martz and Emily Bishop at Home on Cameron, located in the heart of Old Town Alexandria. Todd and Emily will discuss the latest in interior design and remodeling. Guests are also treated to a private, complimentary, 30-minute interior design consultation. RSVP at the shop or by emailing info@homeoncameron.com. Home on Cameron will continue hosting these events every third Thursday of each month. Visit homeoncameron.com/

Reception: re-Cog’-ni’-zing / dc. 6:30-8 p.m. At The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., in the

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Torpedo Factory, Studio 21, Alexandria. An exhibit by painter and architect Milton Shinberg who captures fragments of Washington in luminous watercolor, lingering on details that captivate the mind of an architect and beguile the hand of an artist. From the gilded dome of Georgetown's iconic bank, to the half-moon colonnade of the Jefferson memorial, he dwells on moments and memories. Approaching familiar sights from unusual angles, the exhibit focuses on the architecture of Washington — what the artist calls the “connective tissue” of the urban environment. Visit theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

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.

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. Visit www.facebook.com/events/

Presenting Bach, Brandenburgers and Brews

BY MELINDA KERNIC
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will offer a fresh take on chamber music with Bach, Brandenburgers & Brews after the holidays. On Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Old Town, new Music Director James Ross and members of the orchestra will present Brandenburg Concertos No. 2, 4 and 5. Each concerto will feature soloists who regularly perform as principals with the ASO.

Bach dedicated the six Brandenburg Concertos in 1721 to Christian Ludwig-Margrave of Brandenburg, and they have since been regarded as some of the finest orchestral compositions of the Baroque era.

Following an Italian concerto grosso style, the Brandenburg Concertos combine solo instruments for each concerto, accompanied by the other players, called the ripieno. Concerto No. 2 in F major features a trumpet, oboe and violin while Concerto No. 4 in G major presents a violin and two flutes; Concerto No. 5 in D major combines a harpsichord, violin and flute. Attendees will enjoy the intimate atmosphere of St. Paul's, known for its great acoustics, paired with an authentic harpsichord.

“Given the popularity of the Brandenburg Concerti among all kinds of people, the idea of presenting this joyous music in one of Alexandria's historic churches grabbed my imagination,” comments Maestro Ross. “For our players, it is a chance to touch a kind of music that has rarely been presented in ASO programming. This will also be a very different experience for the audience, and I'll invite attendees

to participate with a surprise element during the concert.”

Immediately following the performance, the audience is invited to a reception serving “Alexander Brandenburgers” specially created for the occasion, craft beer and German delicacies, provided by the German Gourmet, Pork Barrel BBQ and Port City Brewing Company. The vibe is casual, and the concert will appeal to Bach lovers of all ages.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. Many musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO welcomes corporate and individual sponsors for this event. For tickets and more information, visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

174884993456719/.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 14-15

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon. 5:30-8:45 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. 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.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 14-16
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.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Cookie Decorating. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Visit the cozy greenhouse and receive a box of cookies and decorations to adorn them. Create beautiful gingerbread cookies with the guidance of a Mount Vernon staff member. \$5 per person in addition to general admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

A Victorian Christmas. 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Experience a Victorian Christmas at the Lee-Fendall House. The house will be beautifully decorated for the season and there will be holiday crafts, photographs with Santa, seasonal treats, story time, an antique toy exhibit and more. Admission: \$10; free to members. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.LeeFendallHouse.org.

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 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.

Portside Holidays: Storytime with Santa. 3 to 4 p.m. At Alexandria Waterfront Marina at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Free. Join Santa for a special storytime that includes a reading of holiday stories like "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Take part in the Penny Post pop-up to write a letter to Santa that he will take back with him to the North Pole, enjoy a gourmet giant s'more from The Capital Candy Jar, and warm up with a cup of hot cocoa from Dolci Gelati's hot chocolate bar. Get in the holiday spirit with a musical performance by the Cantamos children's ensemble. Visit www.PortsideInOldTown.com.

Carols of the World. 3-4:30 p.m. At Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Sopranessence rings in the holiday season with music that will take you on a trip around the world. Celebrate the season while globetrotting with the Divas through Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas – all without needing a passport. Tickets are \$10-\$20 presale; \$25 at the door. Visit www.sopranessence.org.

Stroll the Boardwalk. 5-7 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Join park naturalists to take a tour of constellations, comets and other celestial happenings. Find out what's new in the night sky. \$9 per person. Canceled if there's rain or other severe weather. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Country-Western Dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m.; open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance.



PHOTO BY E. PALORINA FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA

Santa at the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade.

Portside Holidays: Storytime with Santa

Join the region's most beloved Santa for a special storytime that includes a reading of holiday stories like "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Take part in the Penny Post pop-up to write a letter to Santa that he will take back with him to the North Pole, enjoy a gourmet giant s'more from The Capital Candy Jar, and warm up with a cup of hot cocoa from Dolci Gelati's hot chocolate bar. Get in the holiday spirit with a special musical performance by the Cantamos children's ensemble, part of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's Sympatico program. Saturday, Dec. 15, 3-4 p.m. At Alexandria Waterfront Marina at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Free. Visit www.PortsideInOldTown.com.

A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org.

Little Tree. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Join Alexandria Choral Society for its holiday concert, featuring the Del Ray Kinderchoir. The performance will include Julian Wachner's "Hark! The Herald Sing!" and "Angels We Have Heard on High" and Stephen Heitzeg's "little tree," a tender setting of the e.e. cummings poem of the same name. Cost is \$20 adults, \$15 senior/military/student, 13 and under free. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 15-16 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.staidansepiscopal.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Cheerleading Competition. 2 p.m. At T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St., Alexandria. The public is invited to attend the 40th Annual Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition, which features youth cheerleading teams representing Alexandria recreation centers and the metropolitan area. Teams will compete in three divisions: Pee Wee (ages 7 and under), Youth (ages 8 and under) and Junior (ages 16 and under). Radio Personality EZ Street will emcee this all-ages, family-friendly event. Tickets are available for purchase upon entry at the event or in advance by visiting

www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac. Ticket prices are \$10 for ages 13 and older and \$5 for ages 5-12. Ages 4 and under are admitted for free.

Colonial Handbell Ringers Concert. 2 and 4 p.m. At The Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The Colonial English Handbell Ringers perform clad in colonial attire, bringing a five-octave set of nearly 80 handbells from the world-famous Whitechapel foundry in London. The ringers will perform children's classics, timeless holiday tunes, and original show-stoppers. Audience participation in the sing-along encouraged. Free concert – first come, first served. No reservations will be accepted in advance and seating capacity is limited.

Christmas Traditions at Historic Huntley. 4:30-6 p.m. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Get a glimpse at holiday celebrations of past generations. Share a glass of hot cider and shortbread cookies, and make a small

gift for a loved one. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

18th Century Christmas. 5-8 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. 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, to 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.

Holiday Performance with The Capital Hearings. 7 p.m. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Capital Hearings, Washington, DC's versatile vocal ensemble, performs an a capella selection of pop, classical, and jazz music for the season. Meet the performers at a reception immediately following the concert, with wine and dessert at 8 p.m. \$30. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

THROUGH SUNDAY/DEC. 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 through Dec. 16. Contact the Old Town Walled Garden Club at OTWGClub@gmail.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 17

Teen Poetry Circle Reading. 7-8:30 p.m. At Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Come celebrate the creative voices of Alexandria teens at the Teen Poetry Circle Reading. Light refreshments will be provided from 7-7:30 p.m., The Poetry Circles are free from 7:30-8:30 p.m. To register, RSVP at poet@alexandriava.gov.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

Santa's Winter Wonderland. 5-8

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that two fireworks displays will take place as part of a public event, Christmas Illuminations, at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Friday, December 14
between 8:15 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. (15 minutes)

Saturday, December 15
between 8:15 p.m. and 8:45 p.m. (15 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Holiday Performance

The Capital Hearings, Washington, DC's versatile vocal ensemble, performs an a capella selection of pop, classical, and jazz music for the season. Meet the performers at a reception immediately following the concert, with wine and dessert. Sunday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. \$30. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

p.m. At Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. Families enjoy toy stations in replicas of Alexandria landmark buildings and opportunities for photos with Santa and the Grinch. Eligible children may choose two presents. Sponsored by the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Tickets required but free. Beginning Monday, Dec. 10, tickets available for pick up for ARHA residents at ARHA HQ, 401 Wythe St., and for non-ARHA residents at Charles Houston. Call 703-549-7115.

Winter Recital. 7:30 p.m. At MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Join three ASO musicians who are sponsored by the Adopt a Chair program for an evening of music and conversation. Enjoy a variety of solos from the classical tradition by Kathy Ceasar-Spall (oboe), Kathy Mulcahy (clarinet), Jihea Choi (cello), and pianist Sophia Kim Cook. Stay after to mingle with the musicians for a reception with sumptuous refreshments to be held in the lobby following the concert. Limited seating is available. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

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 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.

MONDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa. 1 p.m. At Alexandria's waterfront from the Alexandria City Marina and Waterfront Park, Alexandria. Gather along historic Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront for Waterskiing Santa and his merry crew. The prime viewing area is the Alexandria City Marina and Waterfront Park. Come early to see the pre-show (on jet skis) and stay afterwards to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and their crew by the Christmas Tree. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 26

Holiday Concert. 6-7:30 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. Featuring local Encore Chorale groups from Alexandria, Arlington,

Fairfax, and Reston. Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral program for singers 55+, will present the combined talents of more than 250 Encore Chorales and Encore ROCKS singers in concert. Free, the public is invited and no tickets are required. Call 301-261-5747 or visit www.encorecreativity.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 29

Hot Cocoa Wetland Night Hike. 4:30-6 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Sip hot cocoa and join a naturalist on a search for nocturnal animals. Look for signs and listen for sounds of beavers, owls, deer and other winter animals that are on the move at nighttime. \$9 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/DEC. 30

Walking with Washington Tour. 2-4 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St., Alexandria. Free. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, the Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern/ Duvall House, Gadsby's Tavern, Washington's townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, "Light-Horse" Harry Lee's house and Christ Church. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee. Call 703-379-7460 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m.-midnight. This annual New Year's Eve music festival and more takes over Old Town Alexandria with more than 150 performances at 25 warm indoor venues. Come enjoy the Earth Wind & Fire Tribute Band, Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun Band, Vaughan Ambrose Trio, Magician Mike Rose, R&R DJs and many more entertainers while dancing into the New Year with DJ Ray Casiano. The afternoon's 10th Annual First Night Alexandria Fun Hunt is a fun way to explore Old Town and take a chance on winning great prizes.

- ❖ Afternoon activities: 2-5 p.m. including the 10th Annual First Night Alexandria Fun Hunt
- ❖ Kids Karnival: 6-9 p.m., families with children 12 years old and younger can enjoy the "Kids Karnival" at Charles Houston (Old Town),

William Ramsay (West End) and Mount Vernon (Del Ray) Recreation Centers. There will be face painting, balloons, special hosts in costumes along with carnival-styled games, dancing and fun.

- ❖ Performances: 7 p.m.-midnight at warm indoor venues throughout Alexandria.
 - ❖ Dancing: 10 p.m. Join the crowd dancing on King Street near the waterfront.
 - ❖ Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King Street.
- This family-friendly and fun-filled day culminates with First Night fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Admission: \$30 Dec. 1-30, 2018; \$35 Dec. 31, 2018. Call 703-746-3299 or visit www.FirstNightAlexandria.com.
- Ship Biscuit Ornament Making.** 2-5 p.m. At Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., #327, Alexandria. An almost completely intact ship's biscuit from the 18th century was found last year in Alexandria. 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. No registration required. While supplies last. Visit www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 4

Opening Reception: "Faces." 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Faces" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans features portraits that show the life a person has lived, joy a person emanates, wisdom gained through years of living, and focuses on the soul of the person. View the exhibit from Jan. 4-27. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/faces.

FRIDAY/JAN. 4

Art Exhibit: "Faces." At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Faces" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans features portraits that show the life a person has lived, joy a person emanates, wisdom gained through years of living, and focuses on the soul of the person. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/faces.

TUESDAY/JAN. 8

Guest Speaker Author. 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m. At Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Author Mark Maloy will be the guest speaker presenting and signing his new book, Victory or Death. The event is hosted by the Rotary Club of Alexandria. Visit rotaryclubofalexandria.net.

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DAR Chapter Cleans up Section of Highway

Twelve Kate Waller Barrett Chapter members of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution picked up trash and other items on Dec. 5 from Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Several husbands of the members joined to help. The outing was a part of the Adopt a Highway Project.

The Chapter finished its first assigned section from Rt 1 to the Grist Mill Park near Old Mill Road.

The group found many beer and soft drink cans, plenty of plastic and Styrofoam fast food containers and discarded remainders of cigarettes. Thirty work hours were performed and 10 trash bags filled. Several unusual items were found including unused ammunition which the police were notified and came to pick up. Two downed road signs were reported to authorities.

From left: Back row, Jane Hackemeyer; Peter Christensen, husband of Michele Aubry; Bev Dietz; Joanne Ridge; Dan Gray; Ruth Lescher; and Candace Cowan. In first row are: Michele Aubry; Claire Bennett, Regent of Chapter; Claire Kluskens, Conservation Committee Chair; Laurel Wessman; Kathy Gray; Dee Gainer; and Phyllis Kelley.



PHOTO BY CHARLES COWAN

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Lodge Honors Bradburn

The Masonic Community Builders Award recognizes non-Masons who are positive and notable contributors to the welfare of their community. On Dec. 5, Al Glaeser, Worshipful Master of Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219, awarded Dr. Douglas Bradburn, president and CEO of Mount Vernon, with the Masonic Community Builders Award to recognize his contributions to the Mount Vernon community over the past five years.

Bradburn, an American history scholar, became the founding director of Mount Vernon's Fred W. Smith National Library for the study of George Washington in 2013. The library has served the nation in its outreach and education to all who seek information and history surrounding the country's first president.

On Jan. 1, 2018, Bradburn assumed his current role as president and CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon, one of the most notable historic landmarks of the nation. President George Washington became a Freemason at the age of 20, and was a faithful member of the fraternity for over 47 years until his death in 1799. In retirement President Washington became charter Worshipful Master of the newly chartered Alexandria Washington Lodge No.22.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Al Glaeser (left), Worshipful Master of Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219, awarded Dr. Douglas Bradburn, president and CEO of Mount Vernon, with the Masonic Community Builders Award.

In death President Washington was buried with Masonic honors.

The award certificate was signed by the head of Virginia Freemasons, Most Worshipful Gary Wallace Taylor, and the head of Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge, Worshipful Al Glaeser. Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219 is located on Fort Hunt Road and is the only Masonic Lodge on George Washington's Mount Vernon estate.

Free Sober Rides. 8 p.m.-4 a.m. daily, Dec. 14-Jan. 1. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY JERRY VERNON/THE GAZETTE

Award-Winning Lights

The Vaughan family's home at 1601 Collingwood Road won ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight" with a \$50,000 prize.

Signorelli Named Tech Coach of Year

Tim Signorelli, school-based technology specialist (SBTS) at Bryant High School, has been named 2018 Tech Coach of the Year by the Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE).

Signorelli, who has worked at Bryant for three years and is a six-year veteran of FCPS, is praised for being a knowledgeable and visionary technology leader and a trusted and helpful colleague. His ability to make learning about technology fun has enabled faculty members to pick up and use new tools with ease, and his leadership has helped empower students while freeing teachers to deepen their own technology learning.

To help prepare Bryant students for a 1:1 technology integration program, Signorelli created a series of 10 technology tasks that taught the foundational skills necessary for success in a digital environment.

As students practiced these skills, teachers were able to focus

on teaching more advanced skills. And to keep teachers up to date, Signorelli offers formal and informal professional development tailored to meet their needs, including use of hyperdocs, working with collaborative teams to create Google Forms for assessment, and structuring and delivering class activities including Padlet walls to student-built websites to class wikis.

This year, he is encouraging colleagues to contribute video from their classrooms to a school database; the ultimate goal is to create a digital best practices playbook of strategies that have worked for Bryant students.

Signorelli also hosts technology carnival days, enabling teachers to share what they have learned with their peers by modeling the use of different technology tools like Plickers, Quizizz, and Flipgrid. He also encourages colleagues to experiment with technology; last year, he helped facilitate a Skype session between two classes and



Tim Signorelli

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8).

In addition to supporting faculty and students, Signorelli welcomes custodial staff members to the computer lab to learn about technology or navigate their job-related online portals.

He also hosts a Twitter feed (@FCPS_Signorelli) to share emerging technologies and share strategies and ideas.

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/.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6
(up to \$15) safe ride home (limited quantities available). WRAP's Holiday SoberRide promo code will be posted at www.SoberRide.com.

DONATIONS NEEDED

UCM Needs Help. United Community Ministries (UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Inventory is low on disposable diapers especially sizes 4,

5, 6; canned tuna and other canned meats like chicken; and low-sugar breakfast cereals. Shop and donate with their Amazon Wish List at: bit.ly/UCM_FoodPantry_AmazonWishList. Email Assistant Food Pantry Manager Von at vonna.jones@ucmagency.org.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Toy Drive. Through Friday, Dec. 14 at

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Still Scared to ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a follow up to last week's column: "Scared to ...," let me provide a bit more context for the fear and anxiety I wrote about; as well as some history for you readers to appreciate the emotional challenges some of us cancer patients experience.

It all began with the initial Team Lourie meeting on Feb. 27, 2009 when we met my oncologist for the first time.

After exchanging pleasantries, such as they could be, I was examined by my oncologist in an adjacent room. After he completed his exam, we all re-assembled in his office where he reviewed the results of my most recent medical history dating back to Jan. 1, 2010 when I first showed up at the Emergency Room complaining of shortness of breath.

Subsequently, there were two sets of X-Rays, one CT scan, one P.E.T. scan and then a surgical biopsy to confirm the previous findings. It was nearly eight weeks to the day that I learned my diagnosis: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. And so my oncologist began to talk. I'm semi-quoting, but clearly remembering the substance:

I can treat you, but I can't cure you. Your prognosis is 13 months to two years. The percentage of patients who live beyond two years is 2 percent. Could you be the one who lives beyond two years? Absolutely. This is extremely serious. You should begin chemotherapy as soon as possible. Next week if possible.

Then our questions began – after we gathered our composure that is. I mean, hearing these words directed at you is as surreal as it gets, and with limited knowledge on the subject and the circumstances, we had difficulty starting a conversation.

This is as much as I remember hearing that day. Could there have been more? I'm sure. Unfortunately, we were ill-prepared for the occasion.

Though there were three of us: my wife, Dina, my brother, Richard, and myself – collectively, what went in all of our ears went out in different directions.

What was said, what was heard, what was understood, what was remembered, was all a jumble. No one thought to take notes or bring in a recording device, two suggestions which have been subsequently made and that I now pass on to you.

My oncologist answered our questions about surgery, radiation, treatment, drugs, side effects, schedule, etc., all of which was difficult to absorb.

He then attempted to describe what my life would be like going forward, offering no guarantees of anything particularly hopeful, which now explains the reasons for these two columns: death and progression from dying/symptoms getting worse. He used a staircase as an example.

My health would steadily decline, as if walking down a flight of stairs. As my health deteriorated/symptoms manifested (down a couple of steps), he could stabilize me there by trying new treatment. But he could never bring my health back to its previous place. Then after a while the new treatment would become unsuccessful (down a few more steps), and again, he could stabilize me but he couldn't bring me back. And on and on until ... I think I can remember another visual he offered: playing with a yo-yo as I descended the stairs; down, down, down.

Amazingly, this has not happened to me despite a week's long hospitalization five-plus years ago.

HOWEVER, per my understanding of my condition (I wasn't diagnosed as "terminal" for nothing), I anticipate stepping down at some point. And any time – every time – I experience symptoms uncharacteristic of my semi-normal existence, I ALWAYS wonder if this is the beginning of my end.

And as much as I want to stay one step ahead, it's hard for me (practically impossible) to not think that when new symptoms occur, cancer is stepping up its attack.

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

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Help Identifying Person of Interest

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



Suspect

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 703-246-4707.

Arrest Follows String of Burglaries

An 18-year-old is facing charges related to a series of residential burglaries in the Mount Vernon District that began in early November. Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) worked together with the Neighborhood Patrol Unit (NPU) and patrol officers to identify the suspect and take him into custody on Dec. 6.

Detectives were able to recover property that belonged to victims of the burglaries in the suspect's home and a nearby location, and it will be returned to them. The suspect has been charged with two counts of burglary, one count of grand larceny, one count of petit larceny, and one count of destruction of property. Additional charges are expected. The suspect is currently being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center without bond.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 17

THROUGH SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Christmas Tree Sale. Weekdays, noon-8 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at Belle View Shopping Center, Belle View Boulevard and Ft Hunt Road. The 63rd Annual Mount Vernon Kiwanis Christmas Tree sale with all Fraser fir trees from southwest Virginia and North Carolina. All garland and wreaths are made from Virginia Fraser firs. 100 percent of profits go to scholarships and local charities.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Volunteering With Passion and Purpose. 1:30-3 p.m. at John Marshall Library Meeting Room 1, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Join in for "The Match Game - Volunteering With Passion and Purpose," a workshop designed to help match one's skills, hobbies and passion with volunteer opportunities in the community while learning about GrandInvolve (helping students in the community succeed in school). Email info@grandinvolve.org.

Beautification Awards and Open House. 4-7 p.m. at McAlister's Deli, 7704 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Join SFDC for the 2018 Mary Thonen Richmond Highway Beautification Awards and Open House. This annual award program recognizes local establishments for their outstanding contributions to Richmond Highway beautification in the form of landscape improvements. Visit sfdc.org to register.

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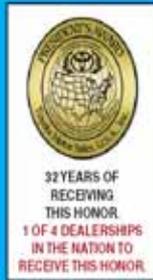
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BRAKE SPECIAL \$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only. MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL.

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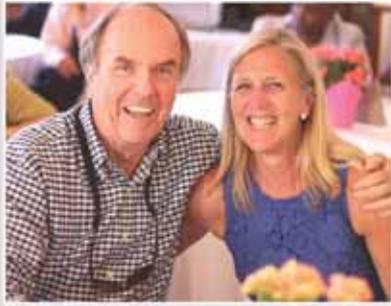
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8314 Wagon Wheel Dr

Private Dock! | \$665,000

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!



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!



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

JUST SOLD!



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!

JUST SOLD!



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!

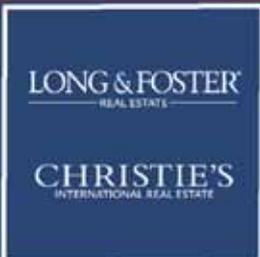
JUST SOLD!



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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