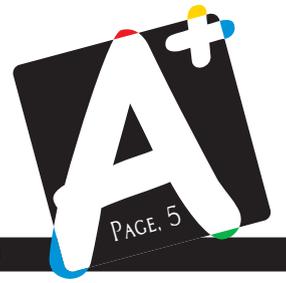


Mount Vernon Gazette



MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

To the Rescue 3,000 coats help kids in need.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

First responders from across the county came together Oct. 28 to help distribute more than 3,000 new coats to children in need as part of the annual Fairfax County Firefighters coat drive.

Held at Fire Station 11 in the Penn Daw section of the Route 1 corridor, the coat distribution serves 70 schools, shelters and nonprofits.

"This was the most coats ever distributed," said Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Willie Bailey, the organizer of the drive. "Prior to the school staff arriving we had buses drop off more than 200 preschool kids so we could personally place new coats on them."

Fairfax County police and sheriff's department volunteers assisted each child in selecting a new coat, hats, gloves, and books provided by InspireLit, a nonprofit that provides new books to school age children.

"We are one of the richest continents on the earth but here there are 16 million children living in poverty," Bailey said. "For families struggling to make ends meet, necessities like food, housing and healthcare take priority. Often there is simply not enough left

over for warm winter clothing so we feel we can make a difference by doing our little part."

Adult representatives of county nonprofits and schools were also on hand to select coats for children not in attendance.

"A new coat provides self-confidence in a way that second-hand clothing cannot," Bailey added. "It also provides physical warmth and emotional warmth. And a brand-new coat provides the opportunity to get to school and gain an education regardless of the weather conditions."

Sponsors for the coat drive include: Operation Warm; Apple

Federal Credit Union; Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax; Local 2068; Nationwide Credit Corporation; Promax Realtors; Retired Fairfax County Fighters Association; InspireLit; Communities of Trust; Fairfax County Police Department; Fairfax Sheriff's Department; Supervisor Dan Storck's Office; and Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon District School Board.

"Our sponsors and volunteers came out in full force to help so many children this year," Bailey said. "From the looks on the faces of the kids and the volunteers, it's difficult to say who was having more fun."



Volunteers select new coats for local children in need at the annual Fairfax County Firefighters coat drive Oct. 28 at Fire Station 11.



Fairfax County police officer Mike Riccio gets a high-five after helping a student select a new coat during the Fairfax County Firefighters annual coat drive distribution Oct. 28 at Fire Station 11 in Penn Daw.



Holding the hand of a Fairfax County Police officer, a Gum Springs preschooler visits with the Caring Angels therapy dogs at the Fairfax County Firefighters coat drive distribution Oct. 28 at Fire Station 11.



Coat drive organizer Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Willie Bailey, center, thanks the sponsors of the annual Fairfax County Firefighters coat drive Oct. 28 at Fire Station 11.



Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Scott Brabrand talks about the impact of the Fairfax County Firefighters annual coat drive Oct. 28 at Fire Station 11.

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Gordon Wood 703.447.6138



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Braddock Heights | \$850,000

4 bedrooms upstairs, 1.5 bathrooms. Family room addition and updated kitchen. Fully fenced, flat back yard. Great location in Braddock Heights. Walk to George Mason Elementary School, and both Fern Street and Del Ray restaurants and shops.

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Kingsgate | \$439,000

You won't believe the natural light in this fabulously located townhouse. Large dining and entertaining area, eat-kitchen, balcony, fireplace and powder room occupy the main level, and 2 en-suite master bedrooms and laundry are on the upper level.

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Environmental Expo has Many Messages

It's not just the spotted lantern fly that's causing problems.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

There's always someone dressed in a bug costume, walking around community gatherings to highlight an environmental cause and at Supervisor Dan Storck's Environmental Expo, it was Fairfax resident Adria Bordas in what appeared to be some kind of bee. "I'm not a bee," Bordas said, "I'm the spotted lantern fly, a new invasive insect."

She perused the cafeteria at Walt Whitman Middle School where there were informative displays from the Dyke Marsh, forestry, Clean Fairfax, Plant NOVA Natives, air quality, recycling and others to inform the residents of Mount Vernon what they can do to help the environment. There were electric vehicles out front, workshops in other rooms and a television showing Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," in the lecture hall.

The spotted lantern fly is an invasive species that came to this area from Pennsylvania in a shipment of landscape stone, and the costume looked uncomfortable, but the message was important, Bordas said. The fly feeds on trees and fruits, spreading mold along the way. The costume was created by a grad student at the University of Maryland. "I don't mind, I just want to get the word out, a costume like this draws the folks in," she said.

Early on, Storck took to the podium to welcome the attendees. "Learn, engage and act, how do we change the trajectory we're on?" he asked. "Do something more then talk about it," he said.

Tami Entabi was talking about invasive plants that have taken over some parts of the landscape. Ivy and kudzu are culprits, and some date back to the revolutionary days. "The British loved their flora fauna and brought it here," she said. "Bamboo is another one," she pointed out, but to some environmentalists, bamboo is a great material for flooring, they say. "They're complicated," Entabi said of these contradictory elements.



Adria Bordas sported the spotted lantern fly suit, an invasive species.



Global warming could impact Mount Vernon first since it's right on the Potomac River.



Bobby Monacella wants to change the school buses to electric.

Ali Althen is part of the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, a new office created at Fairfax County "responsible for leading the country's cross-organizational development and implementation of effective environmental and energy policies, goals, programs and projects," their information stated. This office was created in July 2019 and their three areas of focus are energy analysis and management; climate and resilience planning; and community engagement. They were handing out energy saving light bulbs, and have a thermal camera homeowners can borrow to detect cold air leaks.

Storck considers the whole Mount Vernon District to be ground zero of climate change

signs since they are so close to the Potomac River and prone to flooding.

The Friends of the Dyke Marsh are on the front line too, and showed an old aerial photo of the Dyke Marsh compared to now.

There is "a major restoration going on," said Dorothy McManus, one of the friends. "In theory, the breakwater is going to be redirecting the flow and hopefully result in the build up of silt," said Ned Stone, another friend who was manning their table. Erosion and excavation has caused the Dyke Marsh to go from 1800 acres in 1940 to 53 acres in 2010, and it loses about two acres a year, their pamphlet said.

Bobby Monacella sported a "Moms Out Front," tee shirt, and had an idea about

school buses. "We're pushing to turn the entire fleet to electric by 2020," she said.

The Energy Masters group focuses on low income families who may not be able to afford the energy efficient lifestyle that comes with being environmentally responsible. Susan Peters, an Arlington resident, manned their table and talked about their mission where they come into a home, replace light bulbs, insulate pipes and seal the cracks around the windows and doors. "We spend about 1.5 hours in each apartment doing these improvements," she said. They are funded by grants in Arlington and Alexandria from private companies.

Lessons learned at the expo are "an opportunity for us all," Storck added.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express

program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

United Community (formerly UCM), with main office located at 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office

administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at

chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 22

First National Suffragist Memorial Breaks Ground

Site in Lorton to mark women's struggle for right to vote.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Construction for the first national suffragist memorial, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial located in Lorton, in Fairfax County is set to begin following its Thursday, Nov. 14, groundbreaking ceremony. "With the stroke of a pen, 25 million women entered the Constitution and secured the right to vote," wrote Patricia Depew Wirth, Executive Director/CEO of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association. "Few Americans know about the suffrage movement or its historical significance as it rarely makes it into the history textbooks."

Fairfax County kicked off support for the needed \$2 million memorial construction costs when it issued a \$200,000 grant to the cause. During program remarks before the groundbreaking at Occoquan Regional Park, Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors said, "Our contribution in Fairfax County that was put into our budget was a turning point, so to speak, for fundraising. And it was clear that Fairfax County had skin in the game." According to "The Sentinel, the Newsletter of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial," Board Chairman Bulova and Supervisor John W. Foust drafted the motion to support the project. "They cited its importance to the county's tourism and hospitality industries and said the memorial will only enhance the interest among residents and tourists to visit a famous historical and cultural area of Fairfax County." The Fairfax County Board unanimously approved the motion of Supervisors.

Sargeant described the suffragist movement as the 'Best Kept Secret in American History.' While the seven-decade campaign sought women's economic, social and political gender equality, the effort was not for the faint hearted. In the early years, women organized and built a movement. Then at the turn of the century, they changed tactics for the new generation with a new battle cry.

Women paraded, petitioned and picketed. Few women who began the campaign saw it to fruition. Material distributed at the groundbreaking titled, "SHALL NOT BE DENIED, Women Fight for the Vote," by Library of Congress, stated: "Their story is one of courage, perseverance, savvy, creativity and hope that inspires women today."

According to Wirth, the groundbreaking date coincided precisely one hundred and two years after the infamous Nov. 14, 1917 "Night of Terror." On that evening scores of suffragists ages, 19-73 were illegally imprisoned and tortured at the nearby historic D.C. prison grounds (what is known as the former Occoquan Workhouse) after peace-



Dressed as American suffragists Alice Paul, Rose Winslow, Lucy Burns and Elizabeth Cady Stanton respectively, from left: Debbie Glaser of Woodbridge, Julianna Smith of Woodbridge, Michelle McCall of Herndon and Quinn Jones of Arlington hold up shovels used at the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Groundbreaking at Occoquan Regional Park, Lorton, Nov. 14, 2019.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Emily McCoy, Director, Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; Nancy Sargeant, Chairman Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisor; Patricia D. Wirth, Executive Director Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; and Michael Nardolilli, Chairman NOVA Parks at the Thursday, Nov. 14, groundbreaking ceremony for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.



People from across Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, Maryland and the nation listen to remarks held during the Suffragist Memorial Groundbreaking on Night of Terror Anniversary.

fully picketing outside the Woodrow Wilson White House for the right to vote. "There, they were humiliated, kept in inhumane conditions, tortured, locked in solitary confinement, and brutalized."

Doris Stevens wrote 'Jailed for Freedom' in 1920. In it, she stated, "When all suffrage controversy has died away, it will be the little army of women with their purple, white and gold banners, going to prison for their political freedom that will be remem-

bered. The challenge of the picket line roused the government out of its half-century sleep of indifference ... (On the Night of Terror) I saw Dorothy Day brought in. She is a frail girl. The two men handling her were twisting her arms above her head. Then suddenly, they lifted her up and banged her down over the arm of an iron bench-twice."

Wirth said when word leaked out about the unconscionable treatment; it became a

"turning point" in forcing President Wilson to ask Congress to consider a Constitutional Amendment. The site for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is located within Occoquan Regional Park and the National Register-listed D.C. Workhouse and Reformatory Historic District, where the Night of Terror occurred.

CONSTRUCTION of the national suffragist memorial is anticipated to take nine months, culminating in the Aug. 26, 2020 dedication ceremony, which is the centennial anniversary certification of the 19th Amendment, Wirth announced in a statement. Designed by R.E. Beach Architects of Falls Church, the memorial, Wirth said would be the cornerstone of a planned park redevelopment. It would commemorate the five million women who fought for seven decades to win ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution - the right for American women to vote. Wirth said Turning Point Suffragist Memorial would tell a critical part of history about American women through the construction of the memorial and "establishment of the Turning Point Institute and development of a 'Constitution Trail' in collaboration with numerous historical sites germane to our ever-evolving Constitution."

SEE MEMORIAL, PAGE 6

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Cooking with Children this Thanksgiving

Holiday meal prep can help create life-long memories.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Mashing sweet potatoes for a soufflé and drizzling spoonfuls of olive oil over carrots for roasting are Sarah Pardo's earliest memories of cooking with her mother and younger sister during the holidays.

"Some of the things I made then became a family tradition," said Pardo, who is now a nutritionist in Falls Church. "I still make sweet potato soufflé every Thanksgiving."

From establishing tradition and making memories to building confidence and expanding one's palate, the holidays are a perfect time to include children in holiday meal preparation, says Pardo and other culinary aficionados. Bringing children into the kitchen using kid-friendly tools and recipes gets little ones excited about the feast, creates a sense of independence and offers an opportunity to learn about nutrition.

"Thanksgiving is all about tradition and family," said culinary instructor Terri Carr of Terri's Table in Potomac. "I started cooking with my son Nick when he was four or five. I bought him a Cookie Monster apron and we would bake and decorate cookies and give them to friends. We created a lot of special memories."

Allowing children to help with meal planning helps them to feel invested, especially if their favorite fare is included. Enticing children into trying new dishes that they claim to dislike might be made easier if they had a hand in the preparation. "You can also encourage them to try something new or introduce the food groups that make up a balanced meal," said Pardo. "Take them shopping with you and let them help you find the ingredients."

Advanced planning might be necessary for parents who tend to find preparing for a holiday meal stressful. "When you're in a frenzy to get the meal cooked before guests arrive, it might seem easier to do it yourself than have your kids trying to help," said Jessica Bernard, a personal chef in Alexandria. "You can include them in the prep work, even the



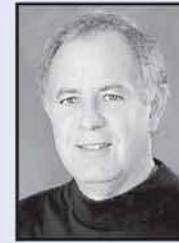
PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI'S TABLE

Baking holiday cookies with her son when he was four, became a family tradition that continues today.

day before. They can wash vegetables or measure ingredients

"Kids particularly would love making mashed potatoes," added Carr. "When parents do the prep work, kids can put the dish together."

Cooking is not the only task involved in a holiday meal. Creating a centerpiece or the table or choosing decorative items to display will help them to feel included in the festivities. "Kids can set the table so that they realize that it's a special day," said Carr. "Get them involved in decorating. You can set the table a day or two in advance and kids can make crafts to incorporate in the table setting. Decorating the house ahead of time gets everyone in the mood for the holiday."



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Alex/Mt. Zephyr \$476,000
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Alex/Riverside Estates \$599,900
8508 Cherry Valley Lane
Prestigious Riverside Estate's Large & Popular Concord Model - 5BRs, 3BAs - 2 Car Garage w/ many upgrades: Brand new double pane windows in 2019, New HVAC & HW in 2018, beautiful upgraded kitchen in 2007. Refinished hwd floors, bright sky lights in both the kitchen & hall bath. 20 year old roof w/30 year shingles. A beautiful & sturdy deck looks over a lovely landscaped & fenced-in backyard. This is a gem, priced well & will sell fast.



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4201 Kimbree Court
Spectacular all-brick colonial home w/2 car garage on a cul-de-sac in exclusive Mt. Vernon waterfront community of Oxford. Partial water views and a beautiful multi-tiered deck. Five bedrooms & 4.5 baths. Grand 2 story foyer entryway. Large eat-in kitchen w/numerous upgrades & double butler pantry. Formal living & dining rooms. Family room off kitchen w/brick fireplace. Library on main level w/built-in bookcases. 4 bedrooms & 3 baths on upper level, huge master suite w/large luxurious bath. Fully finished lower level w/5th bedroom & full bath, exercise, tv, & game rooms. Newly refinished hardwood floors. Recent updates include new roof (2019), new windows (2019), new deck (2018) High-end kitchen appliances (Wolf double oven; Subzero refrigerator). Main & lower level HVAC replace 2016. Backyard fence ('16). It's a wonderful home!



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3102 Cunningham Drive
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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.



Alex/Pembroke Village \$220,000
4395 Pembroke Village Drive
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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

From left: Emily McCoy, Director, Turning Point Suffragist Memorial; Dr. Thelma Daley, 16th President Sigma Theta Sorority; and Lidia Soto-Harmon, CEO, Girl Scouts Council of the Nation's Capital.

Ground Broken for Suffragist Memorial

FROM PAGE 4

Preceding the program guests spoke out. Nancy Tate, a board member of Turning Point and Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, shared her thoughts about the brave and brilliant suffragists. "I joined the board when I was Executive Director of League of Women Voters, which was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, leader of the major suffrage movement and who ensured the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment which the memorial is here to honor."

Lois Elizabeth Bingham, Executive Director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., said: "I think at long last women are being recognized. As an African American woman, I am doubly proud because we face the double jeopardy of being black and being women."

Mary Ellen Brock, International President, General Federation of Women's Club, spoke about how dedicated the suffragists were and that they "suffered so much."

Patricia Harrison, Fairfax County representative to NOVA Parks Board, said she was there to support and celebrate the achievements of women. "And to recognize the importance of the women's suffrage movement in creating opportunities for all women who come after us."

Significant donors, national partners and others spoke during the program, among them Tara Hogan Charles, Global Government Relations and Public Policy, Proctor and Gamble. She explained P&G had an aspiration, "to create a world free of bias, with equal voice and equal representation

for all individuals, which is why we are humbled to support the construction of the memorial to recognize the decades-long fight for the women's right to vote here in the United States."

Colleen Shogan, Assistant Deputy Librarian for Collections and Services at the Library of Congress, Vice Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission shared how different states had already celebrated the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. "They have honored those occasions with commemorative proclamations and resolutions, lighting up state capitals and landmarks in purple and gold and holding celebrations and educational programs throughout the states."

OCOQUAN REGIONAL PARK is part of NOVA Parks. In a Memorandum of Understanding, NOVA Parks provided the land and perpetual maintenance of the memorial. "NOVA Parks is proud to share its role in the route for this important addition to Occoquan Regional Park," said Michael Nardolilli, Board member, Chairman, NOVA Parks. "As engaged citizens today, we need to understand the low points, and there were low points suffered by these women that are driven by fear and hatred but at the same time aspire to the high point of unity and love where all of us can strive to be our best. Let this site point to a better future for all Americans with liberty, and justice for all."

To learn more about the memorial, visit suffragistmemorial.com.



PHOTOS BY JASON DIXON PHOTOGRAPHY

Captain Eugene "Red" McDaniel, a Vietnam veteran and POW survivor, addresses the crowd at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans Nov. 6 at Belle Haven Country Club.

Salute to Veterans

POW details time in captivity.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Captain Eugene "Red" McDaniel, a Vietnam veteran who survived six years as a POW in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp, was the keynote speaker at the annual Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Salute to Veterans event Nov. 6 at Belle Haven Country Club.

Presented by the National Industries for the Blind, the event recognized businesses that support veterans in the community.

Recognized as Small Veteran Owned Business of the Year was The Garden by Building Momentum, a service-disabled veteran owned business. Large Veteran Owned Business of the Year was ProSphere and The Code of Support Foundation was recognized with the Empowering and Supporting Veterans Award.

Col. Kim Ching (ret), a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, was

recognized as the 2019 Distinguished Patriot recipient but was unable to attend the event.

McDaniel, who was once described by Time Magazine as one of the most brutalized prisoners of war in Vietnam, spoke of the struggle to survive when "all but the breath of life has been taken from you."

"For three years my family never knew if I was dead or alive," said McDaniel, who described the unimaginable conditions that he and other POWs endured.

Following his release in 1973, McDaniel returned to Virginia, where he was awarded the Navy's highest award for bravery, the Navy Cross. McDaniel settled with his family in the Mount Vernon section of Alexandria and authored a book, "Scars and Stripes," recounting his time in captivity.

"People think courage is the absence of fear" said McDaniel, who received a prolonged standing ovation following his remarks. "But courage is the presence of faith."



Santo LaTores and Eric Hughes of Prosphere, accepting the Large Veteran Owned Business of the Year Award alongside Brandywine Living Executive Director Ray Dennison and Alexandria Chamber of Commerce's CEO Joe Haggerty.

POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS



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At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, 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, 2020, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,260 to \$4,320¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$15,285 to \$18,030.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,300 to \$1,370¹.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$39 to \$40.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$12.20 to \$14.40¹.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.07 to \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.80 to \$3.85.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$48 to \$49.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 105% to 104% and the Overhead Charge for Materials from 16% to 13%.
11. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$38 to \$39.

¹Charges 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 \$192.5 million budget for calendar year 2020¹. Water sales are expected to provide \$166.2 million and the remaining \$26.3 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2019	2020
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 56,839	\$ 60,020
Power and Utilities	10,890	11,060
Chemicals	7,241	7,878
Purchased Water	7,510	7,812
Supplies and Materials	5,418	5,713
Insurance	991	1,165
Fuel	685	730
Postage	612	622
Contractual Services	12,635	13,103
Professional Services	829	1,290
Other	2,353	2,562
Sub-Total	106,003	111,955
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,380)	(10,313)
Total	\$ 95,623	\$ 101,642

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$43,000,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$36,099,000

¹ 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 can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to 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 11, 2019** to be included in the record of the public hearing.

OPINION

2020 Virginia Legislature to Consider Many Reforms

Will sweeping change come to Virginia in 2020?

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL
(D-36)



Electoral Day, Nov. 5, 2019, brought a political earthquake to Virginia. The Governor's office, House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia will be controlled by Democrats for the first time since 1991. Virginians voted for change and we are likely to see significant changes in Virginia policy after nearly 30 years of delayed and avoided actions. The 2020 Session is a welcomed opportunity to bring Virginia up to speed with the rest of the country. Your state legislators are now preparing for the 2020 General Assembly session which will begin on January 8 and end in March.

People should expect to see funding for education at all levels prioritized. Virginia's teacher salaries have dropped from the top third in the country to the bottom third over the last three decades. This hurts teacher recruitment and retention and ultimately the quality of education. We will work for progress toward universal preschool. Virginia's state-supported colleges now have some of the highest tuition rates in the United States. I expect the legislature to work toward lowering tuition.

Voting reforms will be high on the agenda, including expanding early voting. I will work to move state and local elections to even years, but that may take time and requires a state constitutional change.

Virginia's criminal justice system is unnecessarily punitive, has significant racial disparities and falls short on rehabilitation. We will likely revisit Virginia's still low misdemeanor-felony threshold of \$500, along with measures to increase diversion, promote expungement and second chances and reconsider mandatory minimum sentences.

We will move the long-overdue Equal Rights Act ratification early in the session. The legislature will also put Roe v. Wade into law to protect against the U.S. Supreme Court going backwards. We are also likely to revisit Virginia's mandatory ultrasound requirement for women exercising their constitutional reproductive rights.

Several groups have ranked Virginia as the worst state in which to be an employee. The General Assembly will consider raising

the minimum wage to \$15 phased in over time. We will also address measures to strengthen workers' rights, including eliminating the ban on project labor agreements in public contracts, requiring a prevailing wage in public contracts and measures to provide real remedies to employees who experience wage theft.

Virginia has a recent history of hostility to people in our lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgendered (LGBT community). We will be considering measures to prohibit discrimination in housing and employment against LGBT Virginians and prohibiting the misguided practice of conversion therapy.

Virginia's newest residents have also been unfairly demonized over the last two decades. My legislation to provide one-year driver's privilege cards to certain undocumented immigrants will finally receive serious consideration along with in-state tuition privileges for Virginia children brought to the United States as minors.

The legislature will give serious attention to investments in wind and solar energy, including incentives to make it easier and more affordable for Virginians to install solar panels on their own homes. We will also likely consider mandating renewable energy targets for the entire state. These measures will help reduce polluting, carbon-based, greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet at unsustainable rates.

The General Assembly will finally truly take on predatory lending. Online lenders who charge 400% interest rates and hide behind out-of-state Native American tribes will face regulation. Car title lenders who currently charge 267% interest rates authorized by Virginia law will likely face lower rates.

Many of these changes will require additional resources. Virginia should not have repealed its estate tax in 2008. The repeal only affected about 50-100 families per year and has cost taxpayers nearly \$2 billion since it was done. Virginia's income tax is effectively a flat tax given that our top bracket is a \$17,500.

Considering all of these changes will not be easy and will require significant time, focus and consideration. Public support is critical and feedback from constituents is important to make sure the General Assembly gets these proposals right.

As we work toward fulfilling our commitments to voters and prioritizing policies, I look forward to your comments and encourage you to reach out to me at scott@scottsurovell.org. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

Prosecutorial Discretion?

Dear Editor:

When one is elected Commonwealth Attorney of a jurisdiction in Virginia, an oath of office is taken in which the elected officer swears to support the Constitutions of

the United States and Virginia and to faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon them in that office. A

SEE SPIEGEL, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

OPINION

Spiegel

FROM PAGE 8

Commonwealth Attorney is obligated to enforce all the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia as enacted by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor or through override of a veto, not just those he or she favors.

Fairfax County voters elected Steve Descano as their Commonwealth Attorney. He will take office on Jan. 1, 2020. During the election, Mr. Descano made several campaign promises. He promised that his office will not “prosecute simple possession of marijuana.” He also promised that for thefts that do not exceed \$1,500 in value, he will charge such crimes as a misdemeanor even though the felony threshold is now \$500 which he described as “much too low,” and even though only a few years ago, the felony threshold was \$200. He also promised that he will not “seek the death penalty” for any crime for which the death penalty might be available.

The concept of “prosecutorial discretion” is important to understand. Prosecutorial discretion is properly applied on a case by case basis, not across an entire category of cases. Thus, if under the facts and circumstances of a particular alleged crime, a prosecutor decides to prosecute the particular defendant in a manner resulting in a lower penalty than statutorily mandated, such action is perfectly appropriate. On the other hand, when a prosecutor decides to refrain from prosecuting an entire class of cases without regard to the individual facts of each case, this is not the exercise of prosecutorial discretion. Rather, it falls within the categories of neglect of duty and misuse of office.

Sections 24.2 - 233 and 235 of the Virginia Code provide the procedure by which voters can remove elected officials from office for reasons including neglect of duty or misuse of office. I predict that if Mr. Descano follows through on his campaign pledges and decides to refrain from prosecuting sweeping categories of crimes that are the law in Virginia, Fairfax County voters will quickly start the process for removing him from office, as they should. Mr. Descano’s campaign pledges, if fulfilled, will not go unnoticed by the criminal element. They are likely to result in an increase in the number of crimes committed in Fairfax County.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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OPINION

Give Locally

For tens of thousands of families in our area, uncertainty and need are distant from the celebrations and plenty that so many of us associate with this holiday period.

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

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through

our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 54,000 students (29 percent) are poor enough to receive subsidized meals.

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

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

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

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

Many nonprofits in the region

need your help to provide holiday meals around Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season, for humans in need, for animals in need, for an environment in need. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Where to Give Locally

❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp) aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity nor heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. It helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area through small acts of kindness.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the

lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact nfo@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore, Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, and Chantilly, focusing on character and academic success. <https://www.bgcgw.org/club-page/fairfax-county-region-our-impact/>

❖ **Britepaths** Britepaths is working to assist 500 Fairfax County area families who might otherwise go without holiday meals and gifts for their children. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a holiday meal and/or gifts for their

children. britepaths.org <https://britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program>

❖ **Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in our region. Your gift helps us make grants in our focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists www.cfnova.org/for-donors/donate-now

❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of donations and volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities.

Please donate a basket of non-perishable

food and a \$25 grocery store gift card (so the recipient may purchase the perishable items needed to complete their meal). Please drop off your donations of Thanksgiving food baskets and gift cards by Friday, Nov. 22. Donations will be accepted at FACETS' main office (10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax VA 22030) between 9am – 5pm.

Contact Haylee Davis at hdavis@facetscares.org. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.** Each year, nearly 5,000 pets, including cats, dogs, small mammals, reptiles and livestock, come to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter funds

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 20

Honoring Virginia's Native American Heritage

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

November is Native American Heritage Month: dedicated to celebrating the rich and diverse cultures and traditions, and to acknowledge the important contributions, of Native people throughout the country.

It is especially meaningful to me personally as general counsel of Running Strong for American Indian Youth, a Native American-led charity headquartered right here on Richmond Highway in Mount Vernon, and also as a Virginian, home to the first Native people to encounter the European colonists on our shores.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants of the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994.

In Virginia, four years ago, I introduced a joint resolution HJ 347, passed unanimously by the General Assembly, to designate the day before Thanksgiving as Indigenous Peoples' Day, even though across the

SEE HONORING, PAGE 21



Del. Paul Krizek speaking with Virginia Chiefs at the dedication of the Mantle, a Native American monument on the grounds of the Virginia State Capitol.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH &
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2019 EVENTS

HEATHER & GREENS SALE

Presented by McEneaney Associates

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TASTE OF SCOTLAND

Presented by The Goodhart Group

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:30 PM – 10:00 PM

The Atrium Building, 277 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

This elegant evening features a robust Scotch tasting menu, including a variety of Scotches direct from Scotland distilleries, and decadent catering for all guests. Sponsor and Patron doors open at 6:30 PM. General Admission begins at 8:00 PM.

THE SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE

Presented by Mazda North American Operations

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 11:00 AM

Old Town Alexandria

For the 49th consecutive year, we proudly present The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Enjoy marching units filled with the magnificent tartans of Scottish Clans, the stirring sound of Scottish bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries, classic cars, Santa Claus, and much more!

2019'S SCOTTISH WALK GRAND MARSHAL IS VIRGINIA TECH PRESIDENT, TIM SANDS!

HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR

Presented by Christine Garner, Weichert Realtors

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 12:30 PM-4:00 PM

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



KEY TO OLD TOWN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

Home Tour

- A 518 Duke Street
- B 209 South St., Asaph Street
- C 217 Wolfe Street
- D 415 Wolfe Street
- E The George of Old Town, 506 Cameron Street
- F 204 South Royal Street*
- G Historic Christ Church, 118 North Washington Street*
- H Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 South Fairfax Street*

The Campagna Center
418 South Washington Street

- Heather and Greens
- Information and Restrooms

Parade Walk

*No ticket sales at these stops and no tickets required

TICKET PURCHASES

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

TASTE OF SCOTLAND	HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR
<p>6:30 PM – 10:00 PM</p> <p>Patron Pair: \$290</p> <p>Individual Patron: \$180</p> <p>General admission: \$110</p> <p><small>\$50 of each Taste of Scotland ticket is not tax-deductible</small></p> <p>Patron & Sponsor Doors Open at 6:30 PM</p> <p>General Admission Doors open at 8:00 PM</p>	<p>12:30 PM – 4:00 PM</p> <p>General Admission: \$40</p> <p>TICKETS PURCHASED BEFORE 11/22 WILL BE MAILED TO THE PURCHASER. TICKETS PURCHASED AFTER 11/22 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP AT ANY HOME TOUR STOP.</p> <p><small>Home Tour Map will be available by Nov 15th at campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend/home tours</small></p>

2018-2019 SELECT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- On average, across all of TCC's Early Childhood programs, **77%** of preschool children demonstrated improvements across all areas of assessment: social and emotional, language, cognitive, literacy, math, and physical development.
- We recognize that school readiness goes beyond the classroom. Wellness and access to health care plays a big role in school success. Our Family Services staff were instrumental in closing the gap for preschool children, toddlers, and infants who lacked health insurance over the program year. Rates of uninsured children decreased from an average of **14%** uninsured at program enrollment to **3%** at the end of the program year.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- TCC's Campagna Kids and Wright to Read programs ensure "out of school time" is safe, enriching, and fun.
- **95%** of Campagna Kids parents would recommend the Campagna Kids program to friends, neighbors, and family. Over **90%** of Campagna Kids parents agree their child has benefitted from program activities and Campagna Kids has helped their child learn and develop new skills.
- **100%** of Wright to Read parents say they would recommend the program to others, and their child shows more interest in books and reads more at home since enrolling in the program. **87%** of Wright to Read students say that "reading is easier" and **93%** say "writing is easier" since joining Wright to Read.

HIGH SCHOOL

- TCC's Building Better Futures program helps teens develop leadership skills through mentoring, academic tutoring, community service, college planning, and externships with local businesses.
- **91%** of students receiving tutoring support obtained a B or better or improved by one letter grade in a core curriculum course.
- **43** week-long career exploration placements, called Externships, enabled Building Better Futures students to explore career fields of interest while our corporate externship partners had some additional helping hands.

ADULTS

- TCC's New Neighbors program helps immigrants become self-sufficient members of the community. With ten levels of English instruction, access to city services, and on-site child care, New Neighbors provides a safe place where people from many cultures build skills and friendships while learning English.
- **96%** of New Neighbors students report that the program has helped them develop a greater sense of self confidence, independence, and self-sufficiency.

BECAUSE OF YOU, IN THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR:

- A total of **2,559** enrollment opportunities were offered to **2,187** children and adults across our programs.
- **618** infants, toddlers, and preschoolers discovered the joy of learning through our Early Childhood programs
- **1,130** children had a safe place to learn and play before and after school, homework help, reading assistance, and a whole lot of fun in our Campagna Kids and Wright to Read programs.
- Building Better Futures presented **108** youth with externship opportunities, tutoring sessions, enrichment activities, and college preparation and application assistance.
- **230** adults and **101** children advanced their English language skills, made friends, and were warmly welcomed by our New Neighbors program.

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

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

<p>\$125</p> <p>would support one adult English language learner through 14 weeks of ESL classes.</p>	<p>\$300</p> <p>would provide extended care to one Head Start child for one month.</p>	<p>\$500</p> <p>would provide tutoring support to one of our high school youth for a full year.</p>
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Special thanks to the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center for the coordination and planning of The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Our great appreciation also extends to our friends at the City of Alexandria and to the members of the St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C. Cover art by Patricia Palermino. Graphic design by Marie Chambers.

COMMENTARY

Helping Families Struggling To Make Ends Meet

Ensure a living wage and meaningful tax relief for working families to address affordable housing crisis.

BY KERRIE WILSON AND LISA WHETZEL

Rent or childcare? Food or gas for the car? A doctor's visit or the electric bill? Those are impossible – often daily - decisions faced by too many families and individuals struggling to live and work in Northern Virginia.

At Cornerstones and Britpaths, we serve individuals and families throughout Fairfax County who are struggling to make ends meet and live in constant uncertainty about their future. With nearly 85 years collectively of serving the community, our nonprofits work with our most vulnerable neighbors to help them manage their limited income. But while our region rapidly

attracts major industry, we're finding a punishing domino effect is forcing our clients to save less and less just to cover basic needs – with affordable housing as the greatest barrier to everyone thriving in our community.

Addressing the affordable housing crisis in Virginia is possible today if we offer meaningful tax relief for working families and ensure a living wage for families in the Commonwealth. This was the strong recommendation of local and national affordable housing experts convened recently in Northern Virginia.

Of course, meaningful, permanent investment in the Virginia Housing Trust Fund (such as the proposed \$35 million increase) is critical. Practically speaking; however, the long runway for housing production means we must look at near-term solutions to help struggling families today.

That's why we support tax policy proposals that offer a promising path forward.

Legislation has been proposed at the federal and state levels that would strengthen the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC).

At the federal level, lawmakers have proposed to build on the success of the federal

SEE HELPING FAMILIES, PAGE 20

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Calm in the Storm

Have you ever been tossed around by a wave, completely at its mercy?

Often times we don't even see it coming. It may be a relationship ending, debt, or even a health issue. Suddenly, the ground we thought was solid beneath our feet is gone, and we are swept along at the whims of an external event. Whatever stage of life you're in, we can all use a little help navigating the Waves of Life. Visit Community Church of Christ this Sunday as we explore how to get back on our feet and regain our balance in turbulent times.

About Community Church of Christ
Community Church of Christ is a small loving congregation that is serious about doing God's work, we are right around the corner. We invite you to come as you are and enjoy a biblically based sermon and fellowship with others in your community.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Meet Joseph Conrad at Oak Steakhouse

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Executive Chef Joseph Conrad at Oak Steakhouse on N. St. Asaph pulls out two eight-pound pork racks from the cooler. “I got these from a farm in Maryland. We cut everything in house. I have a band saw in the back.” Today he is making Langenfelder Farms 16-ounce pork chops with chantrelle mushrooms, baby turnips with green chartreuse and pistachio puree. “It is one of our featured items, not on the regular menu.”

Conrad got the idea for the puree from one of his buddies who liked to drink green chartreuse, which is an unusual drink. “I smelled it. I liked it because it is herbaceous and grassy. I thought of pistachios, rich and savory. I cook them and puree them with the chartreuse, simple syrup and salt. “It has a slight little sweetness when you marry them together. It is pretty delightful.”

Conrad has removed the chime on the back of the pork loin for easier parting into chops. In 7-8 minutes he has taken the sinew off the back, scraped the excess meat off the ribbons, sharpened his

Japanese knife and started on the large end of the loin, going closer to the bone as he proceeds, so the slices will come out a consistent size.

In the middle of cutting up the pork, he texts the mushroom man to order his mushroom mix from Pennsylvania. He says it is used mostly for their popular mushroom side dish made with black-soy sauce pepper butter and thyme. Conrad orders 20 cases of 5 pounds each of mushrooms once a week.

Conrad sprinkles Kosher salt and then toasted ground Tellicherry pepper and places the chop on the grill.

“I estimate it is about 600 degrees at this spot.”

Conrad will grill it about 8 minutes for medium rare. “Since it is high quality meat, we’re not afraid to grill pork medium rare.” Conrad remembers with some humor that he worked at a pig farm in Iowa when he was in high school. “I’m surprised I can eat pork today.”

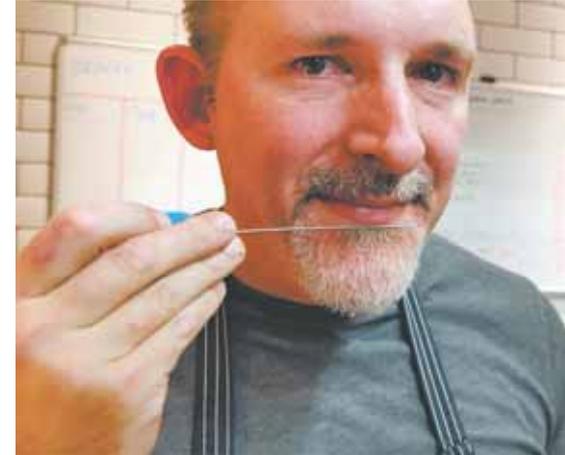
Conrad inserts a razor thin cake thermometer into the chop and then presses it against his face.

He doesn’t use a meat thermometer because it pokes large holes in the meat and lets the juices run out. “Since your skin is 98.6 degrees, if the cake thermometer feels completely cold, you know the meat isn’t done. If it’s just getting a little warm, you know it is medium rare.” He says, “It’s not just something you just learn overnight.”

Conrad bastes the chop with butter compound which is house made butter mixed with Dijon mustard, white wine, salt and pepper. He cuts two mission figs in half, and turns to flip over the chops and baste them once again.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE



Executive Chef Joseph Conrad cuts the pork loin to prepare the 1-1/2 inch chops, bastes the chop with composed mustard butter, checks the temperature against his skin with a cake thermometer, adds the pistachio green chartreuse puree, and arranges the final presentation with baby turnips.



Conrad pulls out two baby turnips each about the size of a large pea with long feathery leaves to use as garnish. He explains, “I ordered baby turnips but when the sous chef showed them to me I asked ‘is he still here.’ But they turned out to a nice garnish.” He turns to the chops and bastes them once again. “Pork is a lean meat without a lot of marbling.”

Conrad has made a wine jus, which is one of the two basic house sauces, used in the restaurant. “You roast beef bones an hour and twenty minutes until they are crispy and have a nice flavor. Mix bone broth with tomato paste and reduce until sticky.” Separately he

has reduced red wine, port and shallots and mixes the two sauces together.

“I’ll take the chop off and let it rest for a minute.” With a swipe of a brush, Conrad creates a green swath across the white serving plate.

Then a swirl of the red wine reduction. He places the chop on a cutting board. “Here I’ll cut off the end.” He places it at an angle on the side of the plate and then spirals open the other slices in a curve.” The baby turnips are nestled with the pork along with a few thinly sliced radishes on the edge.

Conrad went to Culinary Acad-

emy in San Francisco and then did an externship at Charlie Trotter’s in Chicago before going back to San Francisco for six years. He has been at Oak Steakhouse since January 2019 when he came to supervise the opening of the restaurant in July.

He credits his love of cooking to his grandmother and her amazing lemon poppyseed bread. “Very simple but the same every time—the structure of the loaf, just the right amount of icing.” And it was more the camaraderie, everyone hanging out in the kitchen, the heart of the house.

Oak Steakhouse is at 901 N St Asaph St, Alexandria, VA 22314.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh

brewed coffee). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

Band Members Needed. Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.mvbands.com/join-us/.

Creature Comforts Art Exhibit.

Now thru Jan. 26, 2020. At VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke Street, Alexandria. The “Creature Comforts” art exhibit at VCA Alexandria through the Gallery Without Walls program features artwork of the animals in our lives by Del Ray Artisans members. Showcasing animals that lift and fill our hearts is a popular theme at VCA Alexandria and coincides with the winter holiday season in which creature comforts of all types are appreciated. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww

HOLIDAYS AND CHRISTMAS

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Black Friday Alexandria. Held in Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray. Alexandria’s alternative Black Friday experience features more than 40 independent boutiques kicking off the holiday shopping season with one-of-a-kind deals on designer and coveted merchandise, including home decor, chic fashions, gourmet food, classic toys and gifts for dogs. Store offers vary, with special discounts

throughout the day and more than 10 boutiques opening by 7 a.m., including fibre space, Pacers, The Shoe Hive, Red Barn Mercantile and Bloomers. Visit the website: visitalexandria.com/blackfriday or visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/holidays.

NOV. 29 TO DEC. 31

Winter Wonderland at The Alexandrian. 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. At The Alexandrian, 480 King Street, Alexandria. New this year, the
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Lift a Glass at Cider Festival This Weekend

BY HOPE NELSON

Once an innocent bystander in the craft-beer wars, hard cider has become a mainstay on the popularity circuit in its own right. And for the fifth year in a row, Historic Alexandria is toasting the beverage with the Alexandria Cider Festival, celebrating both the history and the future of cider. The festivities will take place in a weather-protected tent outside the Lloyd House on Nov. 23 from 1-5 p.m.

APPETITE

“Cider has been around for a long time in Virginia. This is part of a long tradition,” said Historic Alexandria’s Dan Lee.

Though apples aren’t native to Virginia, native crabapples were bred with apples from Europe through the 18th and 19th centuries. Naturally, once the fruit’s fermentation properties became known, drinkers lapped it up.

“For a while cider was a favorite alcoholic beverage, favorite fer-

mented drink, of Alexandria,” Lee said.

Though beer eventually subsumed cider’s popularity in America, now cider has had a resurgence. No longer do drinkers have just a sugary-sweet option for fruity alcoholic beverages; now, they’ve got a plethora of more savory options to round out the cider spectrum.

“There’s this Renaissance of using these apples that we don’t like to eat to make cider,” Lee chuckled.

At this weekend’s festival, 10 different cideries will be offering their wares for tasting. Alexandria’s Lost Boy Cider will have the shortest commute; Albemarle Cider Works from North Garden and Blue Bee in Richmond will celebrate their status as cideries that have been part of the festival since Year One. And don’t expect to leave the festivities peckish; Mount Vernon’s food truck, Executive Orders, will pull around to offer up some festive lunch fare for the occasion.

Festival-goers will bring home a



Cider from Lost Boy in Alexandria.

IF YOU GO

Alexandria Cider Festival
When: 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23
Where: Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St.
Tickets: \$45 in advance; \$55 at the door.

tasting glass, listen to live music on site and taste the nearly dozen ciders from around the Commonwealth.

“They also have the option of having a cider talk in which they’re given more information about particular ciders and the history of cider as well,” Lee said.

And while reveling in the city’s history with cider, attendees can take comfort in the fact that they’re not alone. Alexandria’s sister city, Caen, France, has a robust cider tradition, too.

“It’s the capital of Normandy, and Normandy actually has a 40-kilometer route called La Route du Cidre,” Lee said. That’s a fact you can lift a glass to.

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

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

Alexandrian and Jackson 20 will convert their central courtyard into a Winter Wonderland. The Winter Wonderland will be a destination for festive cocktails and small bites by a fire pit as well as holiday programming working with local community partners throughout the season. A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Children’s National. Visit the website: thealexandrian.com.

Christmas at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Holiday programs and tours fill each day with delight at George Washington’s Mount Vernon. Visitors of all ages can tour the Mansion, watch 18th-century demonstrations and hear stories of Christmases past from costumed characters. Admission: \$20 for adults; \$12 for youth (ages 6-11); free for children age 5 and below; extra cost for some activities. Visit the website: mountvernon.org/christmas

DEC. 1-6

Holiday Market at Carlyle. Dec. 1 from 6-8 p.m.; Dec. 2-6 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. Alexandria’s Holiday Market is an annual signature event that transforms John Carlyle Square into a lively open-air festival, perfect for children young and old. On Dec. 1, Santa and Mrs. Claus and the town crier will ring in the season with a live appearance. The holiday market and festivities are sponsored by The Carlyle Vitality Initiative. Visit the website: thecarlylecommunity.com

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at

11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend provides vital support to Campagna Center programs that serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend

DEC. 6-22

Holiday Market. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. The artists are presenting a variety of media, including botanical drawings, fiber/textiles, glass, jewelry, mixed media, mosaics, painting, paper crafting, photography, pottery/ceramics, sculpture, watercolor, wood turning, and more. Different artists each weekend. First three weekends in December. Market is Dec. 6-8, Dec. 13-15, Dec. 20-22. Fridays 6-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free admission. Visit the website: DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2019

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Boat Parade of Lights. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.),



Help kick off the holidays with the annual Tree-Lighting Ceremony, which will take place on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria.

Tree-Lighting Ceremony

Saturday/Nov. 23, 6 p.m. At Market Square, 301 King Street, Alexandria. The City invites the community to join Mayor Justin Wilson and a host of holiday friends at the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Bring the family to spark the season’s spirit a week earlier than usual. The Town Crier will call everyone to gather around the tree, where the Metropolitan School of the Arts will perform “Santa’s Spectacular,” and the T.C. Williams High School Advanced Choir will perform holiday music. Help count down to the lighting of the tree, then visit and take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Admission is free, and the event will occur rain or shine. Call 703-746-5592 or visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford’s Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)
❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR

Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

Holiday Sing-Along. 7:30 p.m. At Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria. Experience a jolly good time at the always popular – and free – Alexandria Holiday Sing-Along. You’ll join in song with your neighbors as Conductor Mike Evans

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Thanksgiving Dinner from our Home to Yours

Let the Mount Vernon Inn take care of your Thanksgiving feast. Meals-to-go include turkey or ham, an assortment of sides, plus pumpkin pie, starting at \$120. Call 703.799.5096 or go to mountvernon.org/inn to order yours today.

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FROM PAGE 17

and the hometown Alexandria Citizens Band play your holiday favorites. Elisa Ravas will lead the singing. And to make it easy for everyone, we'll have the lyrics in brand new song books. Free tickets are available on eventbrite at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/alexandrias-annual-holiday-sing-along-free-tickets-79959949361>

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit firsnightalexandria.org.

Calendar

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Thanksgiving Golf Tourney. 9 a.m. Shotgun Start. At Greendale Golf Course, 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Compete for



The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend

Friday-Saturday/Dec. 6-7, At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. <https://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend>

Thanksgiving turkey and pie at Greendale Golf Course's eighth annual Turkey Cup. Adults 18 and up compete in an 18-hole, two-person, captain's choice format. Prizes are awarded for first and second place per division and Closest to the Pin. Registration closes Nov. 14. The cost is \$100 per team and includes lunch, greens fee, power cart and prizes. Fees are due at the time of registration. Call 703-971-3788 to register. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/tournaments.

Juror Talk with Antonio McAfee. 7 p.m. At The Art League, 105 North

Union Street, Alexandria. Featuring mixed media artist and photographer Antonio McAfee. He will be discussing his work and career as well as his process for selecting member works for "Origins," one of three shows in the gallery this month. His recent works employ a technique of reworking photographic portraiture to offer a layered image and concept of the people depicted. website: www.theartleague.org

Designing for Stormwater. 7-8:30 p.m. At Sherwood Hall Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Big

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

NOVA Parks Debuts The Winter Village at Cameron Run

For the first time ever, *Ice & Lights, A Winter Village at Cameron Run*, debuts Friday, Nov. 15 in Alexandria, transforming the water park into a winter wonderland. The village will be illuminated with thousands of lights and feature a real ice rink, a Christmas shop, music, food and much more.

"Ice and lights is our newest winter event that transforms Cameron Run Regional Park into an ice rink and winter village, extending our operating season to year round," said Blythe Russian, park operations superintendent at NOVA Parks.

The wintry village includes a 20-foot walk-through tree, a lighted tunnel, giant stars and snowflakes, roasting marshmallows at fire pits, a playground and well-lit holiday photo ops. Innovative heated igloos allow visitors to warm up before once again tackling the cold.

"We felt like there was a real opportunity to take what was typically a summer space and transform it into a winter wonderland in order to provide the residents of Alexandria a fun new attraction," said Brian Bauer, communications administrator at NOVA Parks. Nov. 15 through Jan. 5, 2020. From Jan. 6 through Feb. 29, only the ice rink will be open. <https://www.novaparks.com/events/ice-lights>



Heated igloos so visitors can warm up from the cold.



Thousands of lights adorn the Ice & Lights Winter Village.



Lighted giant snowflakes illuminate the winter village.



Lighted tunnel at the Ice & Lights Winter Village.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

storms, big flooding: How can redevelopment help flooding and water quality along the Richmond Highway Corridor? Join county staff and advocates to discuss. Free. Visit the website: <https://anshome.org/events/designing-for-stormwater/>

Sortie of the Beaujolais Nouveau. 7:30-10 p.m. At The Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Join the Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee and the Office of Historic Alexandria, and participate in the world's largest wine party. On this year's Beaujolais Nouveau Day, celebrate the first taste of the 2019 harvest in the company of fellow French enthusiasts and Sister City supporters. The fresh and fruity Beaujolais Nouveau wine is made using a quick fermentation process that it is ready in time to celebrate the end of each harvest season. Tickets are \$40 per person and may be purchased by calling 703-746-4994 or through alexandriava.gov/Shop.

NOV. 21-23

"The Laramie Project." 7-9:30 p.m. At Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The play is a documentary-style drama focusing on the aftermath of a hate crime in Laramie, Wyoming, based on real events and people. Mature content. Cost is \$5 and \$10. Visit the website: www.edisontheatrecompany.org

SATURDAY/NOV. 23

Stories with Santa. At Union Street www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Public House, 121 S. Union Street, Old Town Alexandria. There will be Christmas cookies, stories read by Santa, hot chocolate, juice, and milk. \$12 per ticket. Call 703-548-1785 or visit <https://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com/>

Alexandria Cider Festival. 1-5 p.m. At Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington Street, Alexandria. Enjoy a selection of ciders from more than 10 Virginia cideries. Ticket includes tastings, a souvenir glass, live music, and fun fall activities. Food truck available. Dress for the weather – this event is outdoors. Cost is \$45 presale, \$55 at the door. Tickets available at alexandriava.gov/shop.

Thanksgiving History Lesson. 11 a.m. to noon. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Gather around the campfire for a "Dutch Oven Brunch." Enjoy corn pancakes and freshly made butter as you learn about the history of Thanksgiving foodways. Discover why Thanksgiving might not have been celebrated by the Mason family that once called Huntley home. This program is designed for participants ages 6 to adult. Cost is \$8 per person. Call the park at 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

Old Town Cookie Crawl. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At various locations through Old Town Alexandria. Admission: \$20 registration fee. Kick-off the holidays early during Old Town Business's first annual Old Town Cookie Crawl. Receive a commemorative tin and stop by all 15 stores on the crawl to receive a



The Boat Parade of Lights will be held Saturday, Dec. 7 in Old Town Alexandria.

Boat Parade of Lights

Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade

Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)

- ❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
 - ❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
 - ❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
 - ❖ Bookmark making station from Old Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
 - ❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
 - ❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
- Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

Coldwell Banker Realtors Honored

Winners of first-ever National Broker Spirit Award.

Each year, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) recognizes members for their outstanding contributions to the community and to the real estate industry. At the NVAR 2019 Convention and Trade Show on Oct. 15, 2019, the recipients of this year's inaugural Broker Spirit Award were announced.

NEW THIS YEAR, the Broker Spirit Award honors a brokerage that gives back to the community in a significant way.

The Coldwell Banker, Alexandria Office is the first ever recipient of the NVAR Broker Spirit Award.

The award is based not on funds raised, but by the brokerage's efforts in charitable outreach.

Rachel Carter, managing broker of the Coldwell Banker, Alexandria Office, co-chairs the company's charitable foundation



Realtors from the Coldwell Banker Alexandria Office are honored as the first-ever recipient of the NVAR Broker Spirit Award. From left: Sara Hanni, Lynn Walsh, Nora Partlow, NVAR 2019 President Christine Richardson, Coldwell Banker Alexandria Managing Broker Rachel Carter, Virginia Amos, Prince Raassi, Cathy D'Antuono, Kathy Kratovil and Jennifer Molden.

– CB Cares. The foundation is completely funded by agent and employee contributions and has donated over \$1 million to local charities.

“NVAR created the Broker Spirit Award because we wanted to recognize offices that, through their exemplary leadership, encourage Realtors to give back to their communities.

The Coldwell Banker, Alexandria Office fully embodies what this award represents, and we couldn't be prouder to recognize their give-back efforts,” NVAR CEO Ryan Conrad said.

The Coldwell Banker, Alexandria Office participates in an annual food drive with the company's entire Mid-Atlantic region. Coldwell Banker has provided tens of thousands of pounds of food and donated well over \$300,000 in the past five years to area food banks.

With more than 80 percent participation from office agents and some clients, the Alexandria office has collected nearly \$10,000 in the past five years – all of which has gone to local organizations such as Carpenter's Shelter and ALIVE! (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically).

Helping Families Struggling

FROM PAGE 15

version of the EITC and the federal Child Tax Credit. This proposal, known as the Working Families Tax Relief Act, would strengthen both credits, enabling working people to keep more of their hard-earned pay and help millions of more kids in families with low and moderate incomes get a stronger start in life.

At the state level, restrictions around Virginia's state EITC means families are missing out on the full value of the credit. Making the state EITC refundable would allow these families to keep more of the income they earn.

We work with clients every day like “Denise,” who explained to us what the EITC has meant to her and her family...

“I was a 21-year old single mother to a three-year-old. I worked full time, earning about \$12,000 a year. I paid \$75/week in daycare.

I had no health care. A constant challenge was not having enough money to pay unexpected bills. A trip to the emergency room cost hundreds of dollars that I didn't have. My old Honda needed a significant repair before passing inspection, which I couldn't afford. Without my car, I couldn't get to work. Thankfully, every year, I received about \$1500 of EITC. The first year I qualified for EITC, I felt like I'd won the lottery. I paid off some bills, bought a new stroller for my son, and a blue futon from IKEA, which meant I no longer slept on the floor next to my son's crib.

The tax credit didn't allow me to work any less hard. It didn't pay the rent, or

the tax bill, or fill my tank with gas. But it allowed me to make purchases that I could never have afforded and it improved my quality of life. It also did something less tangible – it gave me hope. I counted on that check and planned and re-planned throughout the year how to best use it.”

That hope kept Denise moving forward as she eventually earned a college degree and worked her way into higher-paying jobs. She is now financially comfortable, and her son works as an engineer.

She explained, “My experiences as a young single mother have forever impacted the way I see the economic injustices. We fail as a society if we don't recognize where we can remove obstacles and create opportunities for people to build a good life for themselves and their children. Conversations about social support programs are not hypothetical political statements; they are decisions that impact real people.”

It's time to prioritize working Virginians and their families. We urge Virginia's congressional delegation to support improvements to the federal EITC and CTC, and we urge the governor and state lawmakers to strengthen the state EITC by making it refundable. We hope all lawmakers will join them in sponsoring these proposals.

For more information on the proposed tax policy changes, please visit <https://www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org/research/budget-tax/>

Kerrie Wilson is Chief Executive Officer, Cornerstones; and Lisa Whetzel is Executive Director, Britepaths.

Where to Give for Local Impact

FROM PAGE 10

important needs throughout the Shelter such as behavioral training and dental or medical care beyond what the shelter's budget can provide. generalinfo@ffcas.org 571-212-9858 www.ffcas.org/

- ❖ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia** transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at www.habitatnova.org.
- ❖ **Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)** will provide holiday assistance to hundreds of families. There is still time to help for Thanksgiving, Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for children and teens will help low-income families. See website for warm coat donation details and volunteer needs. <https://lortonaction.org/2019-thanksgiving-outreach/>
- ❖ **Mount Vernon At Home**, 703-303-4060, www.mountvernonathome.org. Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of our community. Neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support is the power of Mount Vernon At Home. The group fundraises all year to make this possible and count on the generosity of the community.
- ❖ **Neighborhood Health**, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. The organization partners with its patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. It has 10 clinics throughout Arlington and Fairfax counties. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org
- ❖ **New Hope Housing**, ends homelessness in Northern Virginia by providing housing, offering hope, and building community. We currently offer various Housing Programs, and Support Services. 8407E Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309 www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. The organization provides the essential building blocks for financial, emotional and physical well-being, serving as leaders and innovators for the Northern Virginia community. Every year, it empowers 35,000 individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. www.nvfs.org Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. 571-748-2500
- ❖ **OAR** rebuilds lives and breaks the cycle of crime

with opportunities, alternatives, and resources for offenders and their families to create a safer community. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 250, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-246-3033. OAR needs volunteers and financial donations. oarnova.org/donate

- ❖ **Pathway Homes** providing non-time-limited housing and supportive services to adults with serious mental illness and co-occurring disabilities in Northern Virginia. Founded in 1980, Pathways currently serves more than 400 adults in community-based homes in Northern Virginia. www.pathwayhomes.org
- ❖ **PRS, Inc.** is a non profit providing mental health, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Seeking to change and save lives in our community by empowering hope, safety, recovery, wellness, independence and community integration.. PRS also provides crisis counseling and connection to supports CRISISLINK When crisis calls, we answer 24/7 Call: 800-273-TALK [8255] Text: “CONNECT” to 85511
- ❖ **Second Story** — Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. second-story.org.
- ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. It is our mission to get families back into stable housing in order to provide them the opportunity to continue their journey to self-sufficiency. www.shelterhouse.org
- ❖ **United Community**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UC provides housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center. Last year, for the holidays, donations of nearly 10,000 toys, books, games, clothing, and other gifts ensured a joy-filled holiday for hundreds of children. Help a child in need celebrate the holidays by donating to the United Community Holiday Gift Room by Monday, Dec. 9. Items should be for children ages 0-17. No time to shop for gifts? Make a Financial Contribution to support the Holiday Gift Room 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.

Honoring Native American Heritage

FROM PAGE 10

country you can find Indigenous Peoples' Day, or often called Native American Heritage Day, on the second Monday in October. Indeed, earlier this year, Alexandria City Council unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing what was formerly known as "Columbus Day" as Indigenous Peoples' Day, joining more than 130 cities across the country which have done so. However, in my conversations with local Virginia tribal leaders, they decided that celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day the day before Thanksgiving is the best way to recognize Virginia tribes and their historic and current contributions to our Commonwealth. The lands that would later become known as Virginia have always been home to indigenous people, with an estimated population of 50,000 comprising at least 15 separate nations prior to the arrival of the English settlers.

Below I have listed the 11 state-recognized tribes in Virginia. The first seven tribes below are also federally recognized.

- ❖ Pamunkey (Pamunkey River/King William County)
- ❖ Chickahominy (Charles City County)
- ❖ Eastern Chickahominy (New Kent County)
- ❖ Upper Mattaponi (King William County)
- ❖ Rappahannock (Indian Neck/King & Queen County)
- ❖ Monacan Indian Nation (Bear Mountain/Amherst County)
- ❖ Nansemond (Cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake)
- ❖ Mattaponi (Mattaponi River/King William County)
- ❖ Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) (Courtland/Southampton County)

Southampton County)

❖ Nottoway of Virginia (Capron/Southampton County)

❖ Patowomeck (Stafford County)

Each year on Indigenous Peoples' Day in Virginia, a ceremony as part of a peace treaty from 1677 continues to this day in which leaders of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey tribes deliver their traditional tax payment to the Governor on the grounds of the State Capitol in Richmond, usually a couple of deer and a turkey.

"Keeping the treaty keeps our people involved in their culture," said Pamunkey Tribal Chief Robert Gray at the 2017 ceremony that dates back 340 years. In 2017, the bucks were presented to then-Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"We're really here to celebrate what we call the original Virginians – those that were here many, many years ago," said McAuliffe during the ceremony.

Knowledge of the history of Native Americans is essential to understanding our history. Their story is the origin story of Virginia and America, yet so few Americans know much about them.

Indigenous Peoples' Day is a day to celebrate the heritage of our Indigenous people, and for both native and non-native to celebrate the many aspects of native culture, both historic and contemporary.

I hope that you will consider visiting the Capitol in Richmond in front of the Governor's mansion on Indigenous Peoples' Day, the day before Thanksgiving, to witness this important tradition going back centuries and predating the establishment of our nation.

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Legals

Notice is hereby given that Ridesportation LLC, 8378 Hunter Murphy Circle, Alexandria, VA 22309, has filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity that would authorize passenger transportation of elderly persons and school children as a Common Carrier over Irregular Routes, providing service in the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park, Virginia and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William, Virginia.

Any person who desires to protest the application and be a party to the matter must submit a signed and dated written request setting forth (1) a precise statement of the party's interest and how the party could be aggrieved if the application was granted; (2) a full and clear statement of the facts that the person is prepared to provide by competent evidence; (3) a statement of the specific relief sought; (4) the name of the applicant and case number assigned to the application; and (5) a certification that a copy of the protest was sent to the applicant. The case number assigned to this application is MC1900503PS.

Written protests must be mailed to DMV Motor Carrier Services, Attn: Operating Authority, P. O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001 and must be postmarked on or before December 5, 2019.

Any protest filed with competent evidence will be carefully considered by DMV. However, DMV will have full discretion as to whether a hearing is warranted based on the merits of the protest filed.

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An Idiot Servant No More



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Given the extremely sad experience I shared with you all in last week's column: "Chino Lourie, Rest in Peace," this column will be an attempt to bounce back to my usual and customary reality, one oddly enough that has nothing to do with cancer (well, much, anyway). Instead it has to do with unexpected joy.

The joy to which I refer has to do with a subject which typically provides me little joy: I refer to our two automobiles, a 2000 Honda Accord and a 2018 Audi A4. The former inherited from my parents, payment-free but rarely hassle-free, the latter not free of payments, unfortunately, but free of hassle since its maintenance is covered by the warranty.

Nevertheless, for the past few years, off and mostly on, both cars have had an indication that all was not right. Each had illuminated dashboard warning lights (aka "idiot lights") constantly reminding the driver that attention to some detail was required. For the Honda, it was twofold, a "Main't Req" light and a "Brake" light "were dashing." For the Audi, it was "onefold," an icon which looks like an upside down horseshoe, sort of, which I learned, after thumbing through the owner's manual, meant low tire pressure, appeared directly under the speedometer. Since I felt no give or take with the Honda and saw no evidence of low tire anything with the Audi, I learned to take their reminders in stride and figured I'd wait until their respective next service calls to respond to them.

Those service calls have now occurred. And I am extremely glad - and relieved to say, that their necessary/underlying repairs have been made. Glad/relieved not so much because the repairs/obvious safety issues have been addressed. Rather, glad/relieved that in making those repairs, the dashboard warning lights are no longer illuminating their disdain with the idiot behind the wheel: me, neglecting them.

No more, after starting either car, will my initial focus be on the dashboard to see if miraculously the warning lights have disappeared and finally stopped their incessant, non-verbal badgering. No more will I be forced to ignore their illumination and attempt to compartmentalize their visual reminders that all is not well under the hood (so to speak). And finally, no more will I have to worry that one day - or night, the other mechanical shoe will drop and I or my wife, will be left stranded on the road somewhere waiting for a tow truck to drag us to our car-repair maker.

And though this dashboard-warning-light-turn-off is really a turn-on, I am still able to keep its effect in perspective. It's not a cure for cancer and neither is it a cure for my "stable" issue as written about multiple times recently ("Please Relief Me" and "Apparently, Not a Stable Genius"). However, as we say in sales: "I'll take a yes;" as they say on the high seas: "Any port in a storm;" and has been said for the last century: "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth." For the official record, I am not horsing around in the least when I say how thrilled I am now that everytime I start our cars, I see no lights reminding me what an idiot I've been. As a cancer patient I don't need that kind (or any other kind, quite frankly) of negativity in my life, or in my car either. Eliminating it from my activities of daily living adds a bounce to my step and a joie to my vivre.

I realize I may be over stating the significance of this momentous occasion, but when cancer takes over your life, it does so emotionally before it does so physically. As such, finding relief is HUGE. Moreover, solving a problem however insignificant in the scheme of things it appears to be, provides the building blocks of success that, as a cancer patient, help strengthen your foundation as you navigate your daily routine. A routine which is already filled with enough challenges. So yes, I am going to make a mountain out of a molehill. And I am going to fill myself up with as much positivity, nonsensical or otherwise, as possible.

I need to be pulled forward, not dragged backward.

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

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaaldrea@aol.com.

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

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

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

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs **volunteers to drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Gum Springs Senior Program** in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria** needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** in Alexandria needs front desk volunteers and patient Card Players. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center** for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

Mount Vernon At Home is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores, home technology and more. No minimum number of volunteer hours required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail info@mountvernonathome.org or visit www.mountvernonathome.org for more.

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garage. Custom brick & stone patios/walk ways to enhance the beautiful private natural setting. Amazing home and grounds locate at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac for exceptionally attractive price!

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9346 Mt. Vernon Cir | \$849,500

Just listed in Mount Vernon on the Potomac, the area's premier waterfront community! Unique three level colonial with stately columned front portico, reminiscent of the neighboring Mt. Vernon Estate. The interior presents exceptionally large room sizes and excellent floor plan. Amazing opportunity to customize to make this home truly your own! Additional special features include: gorgeous stained hardwood floors, "Marvin" replacement windows, 2 fireplaces, newer gas heat and hot water heater, true oversize two car garage, large deck off family room overlooks private rear grounds. Walk to nearby marina & community waterfront area. Mt. Vernon on the Potomac is the only community in the area with these facilities for the exclusive use of its residence!

water heater, true oversize two car garage, large deck off family room overlooks private rear grounds. Walk to nearby marina & community waterfront area. Mt. Vernon on the Potomac is the only community in the area with these facilities for the exclusive use of its residence!

JUST LISTED!



4112 Ferry Landing Rd | \$833,900

Absolutely the most house for the money in prime Mt. Vernon location! Exceptionally spacious approx 5,000 sq ft colonial at end of quiet lane in the heart of Mt. Vernon. This home was custom built in 2003 for its only owner and is loaded with upgraded items and amenities. Special features include: dramatic 2 story entry foyer, open floor plan with spacious kitchen/family room combination, spectacular bright main level sun room, 4 BR's and 3 full baths on upper level, huge finished lower level with rec room, guest room, and full bath, Amazing outdoor scene includes, private back yard with oversize custom stone patio & hot tub. Unique combination of size, custom features, & location compare favorably to properties selling for substantially more!

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4296 Neitzey Pl
\$1,776,000

Truly spectacular estate in premier setting near the river in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Custom home capitalizes on its location with soaring high ceilings, glass walls and multi-level decks designed to capture sweeping views of the river & adjoining wooded areas. Special features include: multi-story entry foyer, grand room sizes, elegant interior finishes, elevator, truly breathtaking master suite with dramatic river views, and his & hers private baths. Nothing was spared in creating this unique, one of a kind masterpiece!

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POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS!



4116 Ferry Landing Rd
\$910,000

Truly stunning property! Almost 5,000 luxuriously finished square feet built in 2011 by Brookfield Homes. This "Waverly Model" contains virtually every modern amenity and is loaded with custom upgrades. Special features include: 4 finished levels, spectacular open floor plan, high ceilings, custom Chef's kitchen, upgraded trim details, hardwood floors, 6 Bedrooms with huge master suite, finished lower level with bedroom, full bath, fireplace, bar and walk out stairs. No expense was spared on exterior landscaping with custom deck & stone patio with fireplace as well as children's playground. Combination of size, custom features and prime location impossible to duplicate for under \$1 Million. One of a kind opportunity!

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VIRTUALLY NEW!



4313 Neptune Dr
\$645,000

Character abounds in this fabulous new Yacht Haven listing. Premier setting on beautifully landscaped half acre grounds in the heart of one of Mt. Vernon's leading water front communities. The home has been lovingly maintained by long term owner and has many significant updates including replacement thermal windows. Other special features include: gorgeous refinished hardwood floors on two main levels, large sun room and screen porch, master bedroom with private balcony, finished basement, attractive front porch, and garage parking. Amazing outdoor scene with large screen porch and oversize deck overlooking beautiful private grounds. Walk to nearby Mt. Vernon Yacht Club

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CONTRACT IN 1ST WEEKEND!



3717 Carriage House Ct
\$889,000

Uniquely spectacular property in prestigious Riverwood community. One of the area's premier communities, bordering Mt. Vernon Estate on one side and the Potomac river on the other! No expense spared in updating & expanding the residence resulting in an incredibly dramatic property! Major additions include a truly spectacular great room featuring soaring cathedral ceiling, 6 sky lights, floor to ceiling "Andersen" windows, gas fireplace, and custom 8 ft "Andersen" glass doors. Other special features include: sun room, family room off kitchen, four large bedrooms on upper level, finished lower level, and true oversize 2 car garage. Stunning 37 x 25 ft custom deck overlooks beautifully manicured grounds. A truly special property!

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RIVERWOOD GEM!



4749 Neptune Dr
\$995,000

Significant price adjustment! A true estate caliber property! Spacious custom home nestled on beautifully manicured 3/4 acre grounds near river in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates! Home was carefully crafted with extensive covered verandas and elevated decks to capitalize on the privacy and serenity provided by gorgeous large wooded and lush environment. The home's special featured include: 3 beautifully finished levels, 5 Bedrooms, stately living and dining rooms, large family room with fireplace, and stunning custom chef's kitchen. Numerous glass doors lead from major rooms to outside verandas, ideal for entertaining! Lot is large enough to accommodate spacious custom pool + extensive grassy area. Unique property providing character & graciousness that would be very difficult to

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INCREDIBLE GROUNDS!



9316 Old Mansion Rd
\$950,000

Totally unique location. One of the few area properties that provides direct Potomac river views. Enjoy the same sweeping river views that George Washington did from Mt. Vernon Estate which is just upriver from this special property! Other special features include: beautifully manicured grounds backing to private parkland with community path leading to river. The home is an attractive three level colonial featuring 3 levels, 4 bedrooms on upper level, bright white kitchen, two car garage, walk out lower level and large deck providing elevated private views of woods and river. A true natural wonderland!

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POTOMAC RIVER VIEWS!



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