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Fairfax CONNECTION

Senior Living

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Ground Broken On New Fire Station

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Holiday Events In the City of Fairfax

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13

Cast members of City of Fairfax Theatre Co.'s upcoming play include Lilith Nees (the angel) and (front row, from left) Thomas Kennedy, Mindy Thomas, Gregory Kennedy and Mary Kennedy.

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4, 2019

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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.

NEWS

VDOT's Plan at Popes Head Road Comes Together

Design public hearing planned for Dec. 12.

By Mike Salmon
THE CONNECTION

Anyone who has traveled on the Fairfax County Parkway during peak travel times has experienced the back up at the Popes Head Road signal. From either direction, the traffic backs up on the parkway so far it's difficult to even see the traffic light that's causing the whole thing.

It's on the Virginia Department of Transportation's radar screen though, and another meeting is planned to look at the solutions their engineers have come up with for this \$290 million project. The first public information meeting was held in December 2017, and there was a series of meetings up until early November 2019, and now it's moved into the "design public hearing" stage, which is a more official point in the road building process.

According to VDOT, this section of the Fairfax County Parkway from a point just north of Lee Highway to Ox Road gets about 85,000 vehicles a day and Popes Head Road averages about 4,000 vehicles a day.

The plans are to widen about five miles of Fairfax County Parkway from four lanes to six through this corridor, and redo the Popes Head Road interchange using triple roundabouts that will allow traffic to flow freely via two new bridges over the parkway. At that interchange, there will be access to the future Shirley Gate Road extension and Patriot Park as well.

THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
The project area is a busy part of the Fairfax County Parkway.

Public Hearing Dec. 12

The design public hearing will be held Thursday, Dec. 12 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at James W. Robinson, Jr. Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. If cancelled due to inclement weather, the meeting will be held Monday, Dec. 16.

The project will also include improving the Route 123 interchange, the Fairfax County Parkway/Burke Centre Parkway intersection, and a section of a shared-use path. This is a missing segment on the shared-use path between Burke Centre Parkway to Route 123.



At Popes Head Road, eliminating the traffic signal will improve the traffic flow through here.



Flinging dirt into the air, current and past Fire Chiefs John O'Neal and Dave Rohr, respectively; City dignitaries; architects and the contractor break ground for Fairfax's new Fire Station 33.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Artist's rendition of the new, state-of-the-art Fire Station 33.

'It Brings Pride to Our Hearts'

City breaks ground on new Fire Station 33.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

With fanfare, flags and firefighters, the City of Fairfax broke ground for the brand-new Fire Station 33 on the site of the now-demolished former station at 10101 Fairfax Blvd. During the 16 months or so of construction, the fire-and-rescue personnel who worked there will operate out of Station 3 and the fire department's training facility.

The ceremony was Saturday, Nov. 16 and, besides several firefighters/paramedics, attendees included Fire Chief John O'Neal, former Fire Chief Dave Rohr, Fairfax Mayor David Meyer, City Manager Rob Stalzer, Treasurer Tom Scibilia and City Council members Jon Stehle, Jennifer Passey, Sang Yi and Janice Miller.

After the presentation of the colors by the Fairfax City Fire Department Honor Guard, Meyer thanked City Council for "its support and foresight with this critical need in the City. This is the first, municipal project the City has done in 14 years. Firefighting is an evolving science, and our firefighters stay on top of all the trends – and this building will position us to take care of the City's needs for the next 40 years."

Originally constructed for a single-engine company, the old building's design no longer met the needs of a modern fire station. It lacked the space to adequately store equipment, and its ready-reserve apparatus had to be housed off-site. Besides rectifying these things, the new facility will increase the Fire Department's operational readiness and improve safety, health conditions and quality of life for the staff.

LeMay, Erickson, Willcox Architects designed the new station, which is in the same location as the old one, but it will have a slightly larger building footprint. The front will be a bit closer to Fairfax Boulevard, with aprons in both the front



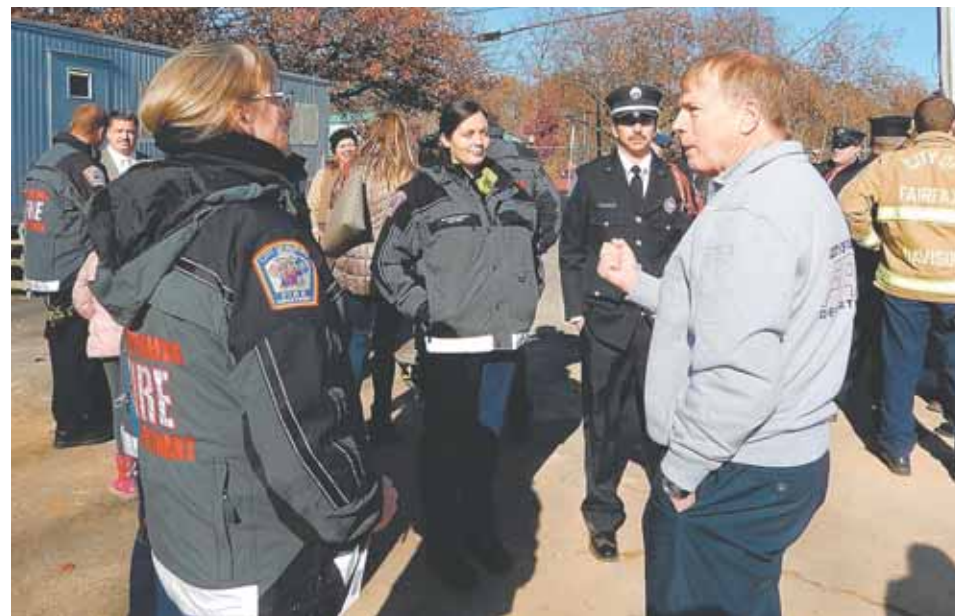
Fairfax City Fire Chief John O'Neal addresses the crowd during groundbreaking for the new Fire Station 33.

and rear of the building.

THE NEW FACILITY will have a secure vestibule and three engine bays, instead of two, like the former station. It will also have a much larger support area, a spacious control room and 25 parking spaces. The second floor will have administrative spaces on the right – three offices and a conference room – and a training area to the left. The third floor will house the dining and kitchen areas, plus bunks for 14 people.

Total project cost is \$9.6 million, and the new station is expected to be operational in early 2021. Meyer said it will incorporate gender equity and will also enable the firefighters to keep their dirty gear out of the living spaces, so they won't be exposed to toxic substances.

Some amenities are also included. "It's not easy to come back to the fire station after



Mayor David Meyer (on right) chatting with firefighters and paramedics after the ceremony.

stressful calls, and our firefighters need space to decompress and relax," explained Meyer. "Overall, this building will help in our retention of and competition for firefighters."

Besides all that, he added, "A first-class fire station in close proximity to residents allows us to obtain the lowest tax rates possible. We're all excited to be here, and we thank [everyone attending] and the citizens for all your support for this project."

O'Neal thanked Meyer, Stalzer, the past and current City Council, former City Manager Bob Sisson and Finance Director David Hodgkins for their "support and guidance" through the whole process which began several years ago. He also recognized the Fire Department's internal, design-team staff that participated in the building's needs assessment with the architects.

The team included Asst. Fire Chiefs Andy Vita and now-retired Andrew Wilson, Bat-

alion Chiefs Andrea Clark and Pete Rhoads, Capt. Allen Nicholson, Master Technician Steve Yannucci and Lt. John Jeniec and his father – who shared lessons learned from building a new, volunteer station in their home community. O'Neal also acknowledged the project manager, Rick Thoesen, plus the contractor, Whitener and Jackson.

"We're very proud and pleased with the design," said O'Neal. "The new station will be three stories and almost 21,000 square feet, replacing the old, 7,800-square-foot building. Our new facility has incorporated the latest in hot-zone design principles and modern, vehicle-exhaust systems to help limit exposure to carcinogens.

"It will have a state-of-the-art decontamination area, equipment-storage areas, and modern offices and living quarters, including individual bunk rooms to help prevent

SEE GROUND, PAGE 14

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Route 50 and Waples Mill Road Intersection Improvements Fairfax County

Find out about planned intersection improvements at Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway) and Waples Mill Road (Route 665), including a second left turn lane from westbound Route 50 to southbound Waples Mill Road.

Review project information at www.virginiadot.org/projects, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-1794 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Zamir Mirza, Virginia Department of Transportation, Fairfax, VA 22030 on or prior to **December 16, 2019**. If upon receiving public comments it is deemed necessary to hold a public hearing, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT Civil Rights at 703-259-1775.

State Project: 0050-029-415, P101
UPC: 113517
Federal: NHPP-5A01 (945)

NEWS

Fairfax Teacher Charged

Fairfax County police have charged a 29-year-old teacher at Fairfax High with indecent liberties by a custodian (meaning a person in a position of trust). He is Daniel Kim of Oakton, and police say he had an "inappropriate sexual relationship" with a student at the school.

A math teacher, he was in his third year of teaching at Fairfax. Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau Child Abuse Squad arrested him last Wednesday evening, Nov. 20, at his home.

According to police, the detectives began their investigation into his alleged, illicit actions after a student reportedly disclosed information about unlawful sexual conduct with Kim within the past two months. Victim specialists from the Police Department's Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division were then assigned to ensure that the alleged victim is receiving appropriate resources and assistance.

Following his arrest, Kim was suspended from his teaching position and held in the Adult Detention Center without bond. He's currently scheduled for a preliminary hearing, Feb. 27, 2020, in the county's



Daniel Kim

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

Meanwhile, detectives are seeking anyone who has information about this case or who may have had inappropriate contact with Kim to call the Major Crimes Bureau detectives at 703-246-7800. Tips may also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by calling 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), texting –

847411.

Tips may also be sent to Crime Solvers by going to <http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org/>. Or download the mobile tip411 App, "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers." Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 if their information leads to an arrest.

—BONNIE HOBBS



John Modder saying the Boy Scout Oath.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III

Earning Eagle Scout Rank

John Allen Modder is the 220th person to earn his Eagle Scout rank in Boy Scout Troop 1131 at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church in Burke. John's parents are Donald and Elizabeth Modder. They live in the Wakefield Chapel area of Annandale.

John is a 16 year old junior at W.T. Woodson High School in

Members of the Eagle Scout Board of Review: Mark Blanchard, Former Scoutmaster; Chuck McPherson; M. Siddique Sheikh; Donald Modder (father); John Modder, Eagle Scout #220 in BSA Troop 1131; Phil Sternberg, former Scoutmaster and current Troop Committee Chairman; and C.P. Watkins, representing the Patriot District. Not in the photo, G.C. 'Gary' Black, III.

Fairfax, where he plays defense on the Lacrosse team and enjoys soccer. He is a member of the National Honor Society, as well. John attends Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale.

In the troop, he has served as the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). In the summers, he works as a lifeguard at his local community pool. His goal is to someday own his own Home Services company.

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The line of walkers wound around through the streets of Fairfax.



Delaney Hall Band greets the walkers at the after-party.

Fairfax CROP Hunger Walk Hits the Streets in November

Event is celebrating 50th year.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

On Sunday, Nov. 17, the CROP Hunger Walk took off from the Fairfax Presbyterian Church for the 50th annual fundraising walk, and netted \$16,316.58 in online and offline gifts.

For Janet Smith, who was on her 25th walk, the walk will mean that many of the



Fairfax Mayor David Meyer says a few words of encouragement.

less fortunate will have food. “We who have been blessed with much need to share with others less fortunate to help eliminate world poverty and hunger,” Smith said.

The walkers headed out of the parking lot, many with signs of support for the effort, and wound on a 2.8-mile route through Fairfax, and back to the church where they gathered and listened to the Delaney Hall Band. This band had played at last year’s event too.

CROP stands for “Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty,” and there are nearly 1,000 CROP walks across the coun-

try. The fundraising walks occur in the fall and spring each year.

This year is the 50th anniversary of CROP Hunger Walks, the oldest nationally-based walk for hunger in the U.S. and now commonly referred to as the “Granddaddy of charity walks,” according to Smith. It started in 1969 by George Sturgeon who was on his way to a youth retreat in Bismarck, N. D.

“Our Walk is part of this nationwide movement of more than 800 walks nationwide that raise about \$10 million each year,” Smith said.

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

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OPINION

Jump into the Children's (and Teens') Connection

Please send all submissions no later than Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Earlier is better!

During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

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

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

Some suggestions, but don't be limited by these:

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

- ❖ Short answers to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever been given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (around 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys,

trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.
- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.
- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.
- ❖ Were you involved in November's elections? What did you think?

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

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

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

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 13, 2019.

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Q&A

State Sen. Scott Suovell (D-36) on expectations from new General Assembly.

Q: What changes do the 2019 election results bring to the General Assembly?

A: Nov. 5, 2019 results will bring unified Democratic control to the House of Delegates, Senate of Virginia and Governor's Mansion for the first time since 1991. This will end partisan roadblocks that have prevented progress on common sense firearm violence prevention, women's rights, worker's rights, and other measures that will bring Virginia up to speed with the rest of the United States.

Q: What are your personal legislative priorities in the next session, and what are their prospects to pass in General Assembly?

A: My top legislative priority is funding transit improvements in the U.S. 1 and I-95 Corridor. We need to finalize funding for the U.S. 1 bus rapid transit, Yellow Line extension to Hybla Valley, start planning to extend the Blue Line to Potomac Mills Mall, and fund the construction of a new Long Bridge over the Potomac River to expand both VRE and higher speed rail service from D.C. to Richmond, Norfolk and Charlotte. I hope to finally pass hands free legislation, driver's permits for all Virginians, create a Prince William County Public Defender's Office, lead on criminal justice reform, and lay the groundwork for clean energy in Virginia.

Q: What do you see as the top five legislative priorities in the next session: What do you think can be achieved, and what is the timeline?

A: ❖ Increasing funding for free preschool,



Scott Suovell

K-12, and higher education are top priorities. Virginia's teachers' salaries have dropped exponentially from the top third in the country to the bottom third in the last three decades. This is detrimental to teacher recruitment and retention, which ultimately impacts the quality of education for our youth. We will work for progress in

implementing universal preschool along with lowering tuition rates at Virginia's state-supported colleges.

- ❖ I hope to expand access to voting including no excuse early voting for 45 days before any election.

- ❖ We will become the 38th and final state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in the first two weeks.

- ❖ I also hope we can codify Roe v Wade to protect against a backwards looking U.S. Supreme Court along with repealing the need for ultrasounds before women can exercise their constitutional reproductive rights.

- ❖ This will be a big session for predatory lending reform. Online lenders who charge 400 percent interest rates and hide behind out-of-state Native American tribes will face regulation. Car title lenders who currently charge 267 percent interest rates authorized by Virginia law will likely face lower rates.

State legislators are currently preparing for the 2020 General Assembly session which will begin Jan. 8 and end in March. Public support is critical and feedback from constituents is important to make sure the Virginians' voices are heard throughout the legislative process. I look forward to receiving comments and encourage constituents to reach out to my office.

Fairfax
CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS

The Washington Pentateuch on display.

PHOTOS BY DENISE LEW/
THE CONNECTION



Millennium-Old Hebrew Bible on Display

Area residents help bring 1,000-year-old Washington Pentateuch to Museum.

BY DENISE LEW
THE CONNECTION

The Washington Pentateuch, an ancient Hebrew Bible, was revealed for the first time in a thousand years to the public in “A Fence around the Torah” special exhibit at the Museum of the Bible on Thursday, Nov. 7. An Arlington resident, Jeff Kloha, who is chief curatorial officer at the Museum of the Bible, headed the team.

The Washington Pentateuch, dating back to the 10th or 11th century, contains the first five books of the Jewish Torah. The leather-bound artifact is the only intact Hebrew Bible manuscript on public display in the U.S. and features the Masoretic Text, which is “the authoritative text of the Hebrew Bible in Jewish and Western Christian tradition,” said Herschel Hepler, a curator at the museum.

“This artifact is a window into an era, a millennium ago, that serves as a basis for how we understand and still talk about the Bible today. Everyone who has the opportunity to come and see this exhibit will witness a significant

thread in the Bible’s history; one that has endured for more than a thousand years,” said Kloha.

The Arlington resident has been instrumental in leading the exhibition teams and curators in analysis, planning the exhibit, and development programs at the museum. “We have a talented and amazing team at the Museum of the Bible, many of whom live in northern Virginia,” said Kloha. Another team member, Allison Mullins, is a Springfield native who works as an education program developer at the museum.

Future plans for the museum include continued sponsorship with the Washington Theological Consortium, which the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria takes part in. Kloha and his team are already planning events for the spring. “We hope that this important artifact will provide another reason for people to come to visit the DMV and see the amazing history and culture that is unique to the area,” said Kloha.

For more information on “The Fence around the Torah” special exhibit on display through Nov. 25, 2020, please visit www.museumofthebible.org.



From left, Andrew Binkley and team member Allison Mullins both, both from Springfield.

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Vestibule Expanded at St. Lawrence Catholic Church

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

At St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Franconia, the interior of the church is spacious, with high ceilings and a centrally located altar, but the lobby was small so when the priest was meeting the congregation after the mass, or a noisy toddler was not being church-like, there wasn't much room. Construction is now underway at St. Lawrence Catholic Church on a project to expand this area, known as the vestibule.



Lots of work underway at St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

"It's a gathering area," said Deacon Mike Waters, who says mass at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. "It's really going to change it, the masons have done a great job," he said.

When completed, the church will have a 15-foot room outside the main doors to the worship area, a covered walkway, wheelchair amenities and new restrooms.

At St. Lawrence Catholic Church, there is daily services, and

regular services on Saturday and Sunday. The weekend services are still held in the main church, but the daily service is held in the administrative building until the project is completed sometime next March.

St. Lawrence Catholic Church is locally famous for a rose garden named the "Father McAfee Garden," they had out front by a statue. In prime growing season, the rose garden is an attraction for

many. Before the project started, the rose garden was temporarily relocated to another area on the church property, and will be replanted in March, just in time for the next growing season.

The church was built in 1970 and the interior was upgraded in the 1990s. While it was under construction, the original parish met at Edison High School to celebrate mass until the church facility was completed.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

A statue gives the site a blessing.

Through the years, a collection of statues and stained-glass windows became part of the church, and they'll be incorporated into the

new part somehow, Waters said. "All the statues and stained-glass windows that were decorated are going to be used," he said.



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SENIOR LIVING



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARLINGTON TURKEY TROT

Mimi and Rob Mortimer will be among thousands of runners at the 14th annual Arlington Turkey Trot.

Ready to Trot Seniors among those joining turkey trots on Thanksgiving.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As part of a world-wind trip, Mimi and Rob Mortimer flew from Ethiopia to Paris last week before heading back to Arlington. They wanted to spend Thanksgiving at home with family. Their holiday tradition however, involves more than turkey and dressing. At the crack of dawn, long before the feast, Mimi, 81, and Rob, 82, will lace up their running shoes and join thousands of other runners at the 14th annual Arlington Turkey Trot.

“We first began running in our early 30s,” said Mimi. “We started doing 10k races years ago but now do only the Arlington Turkey Trot with our family, children and grandchildren.”

The Mortimers are proving that age doesn't limit their ability to pound the pavement on Thanksgiving morning to raise money for charity. In fact, the number of older runners has increased over recent years, says Arlington Turkey Trot race director, Mark Riley, as have donations with runners raising more than \$120,000 for Arlington nonprofits that provide food and clothing for those in need.

“We see people who range in age from babies in strollers to 90 people who are in the 90s,” he said. “This is a well-regarded festival and there are people who've been doing it for years.”

Alexandra Danza, who is 72, ran in the Bethesda Turkey Chase last year, but will be in Florida this year for the Seniors First Turkey Trot. “I love doing turkey trots and this one will be fun because people

will be dressed in costumes or hats with a Thanksgiving theme,” she said. “There's even an award for the oldest runner.”

Marsha Edgell is also hoping to do a turkey trot. Two years ago she was out of shape and overweight. Her fitness program entails cycling, hiking and yoga.

“I did a hike in Scotland,” she said. “I never could have done that two years ago.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARSHA EDGELL

Marsha Edgell who hopes to run in a turkey hikes and cycles to stay in shape.

“We see people who range in age from babies in strollers who are less than a year old up to 90 people who are in the 90s.”

— Mark Riley, Race Director, Arlington Turkey Trot

“20-30 years ago I'd run the occasional 5k charity race for fun,” continued Edgell. “I got in shape because I want to be capable and able to [run in a turkey trot] if I feel like it.”

Riley says that older runners are motivated by different factors. “For some it's become a family holiday tradition,” he said. “Running each year preserves that tradition.”

“We're motivated by the love of the sport,” said Mimi. “Will continue as long as we can.”

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



“Gift of the Magi” (from left): Jessica Singley as Della and Emily-Grace Rowson as her sister, Dot.

Providence Players Bring ‘The Gift of the Magi’

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

“Providence Players at the holiday season wants to give its audience a unique experience. We want to bring them humor, joy, holiday themes, family friendly shows and entertain them,” said Beth Whitehead, director, “The Gift of the Magi.”

“We found a lovely rendition which we know will give our audiences joy and entertain,” added Whitehead. The live play “The Gift of the Magi” is based upon the O. Henry classic short story about a young married couple desperately in love with each other and very poor. The theater adaptation is by Jon Jory.

The play remains the warm tale of the young couple’s efforts to show how much they love one another, including their desire to buy each other proper gifts for the Holidays. Finding the perfect gifts for one another involves some unexpected costs.

The Providence Players production of “The Gift of the Magi” takes in New York City at the turn of the 1900s. The production also includes holiday singing from a

wonderful ensemble of actors,” noted Whitehead.

For the “Magi” story, “the challenge is how to take a very simple classic story adapted for the stage and make it come alive. It’s a creative process which brings a live theatre experience for audiences and shares a great story,” said Whitehead. “Adding to the production’s impact, some audience members may be seated on onstage, just a few feet from the 14 actors in the show.

Jessica Singley plays the young wife Della. “She wants nothing more than to find the perfect Christmas gift for her husband Jim.” Inviting audiences to the “Magi” production Sinagley added, “this production embodies the most wonderful parts of the holiday season. It’s heartwarming, it’s charming, and it’s a beautiful love story.”

Robey Manno portrays Madame Vadvasakaya. “My character is a shop owner trying to make a living in the hair business. She is a colorful performer and will be a hoot to portray.” For Emily-Grace Rowson who plays Della’s sister Dot, “The Gift of Magi” is “classic and wholesome, yet witty and complex.”

“We have partnered with ‘The Young



“Gift of the Magi”: In Central Park (from left) Jessica Singley as Della, Anand Tripathi as Digsby and Alex Marshall as Jim.

PHOTOS BY CHIP GERTZOG/COURTESY PROVIDENCE PLAYERS



The Ensemble of “The Gift of the Magi” Carolers (from left) Mandi Ellis, Judi Deatherage, Gunner Moskowitz, Earl S. Greene, Louisa Stanwich, Thomas Udlock and Sarah Maurer. °

Where and When

Providence Players present “Gift of the Magi” at the James Lee Community Center Theatre, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: Dec. 6 to 15, 2019. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with Sat & Sun 2 p.m. Matinees on Dec. 7, 8, 14 & 15, 2019. Tickets: All Tickets general admission: \$18. Call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org. **Note:** “The Gift of the Magi” performances will benefit the work of The Young Hearts Foundation, a group of teens who raise funds to battle blood cancers and other diseases that affect children. ° Half of all net proceeds from this production will be donated to Young Hearts Foundation.

Hearts,’ a very special group of teens, to fundraise for those dear to us; those living with cancer,” noted Whitehead. Half of all

net proceeds from the “The Magi” production will be donated to Young Hearts Foundation mission.

Fairfax County Fire And Rescue Participating In TOYS FOR TOTS Campaign

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will be participating in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments’ 2019 TOYS FOR TOTS Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to “bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children.” Stations are accepting donations beginning Nov. 20.

Last year, the Fire and Rescue Department collected more than 15,000 toys. Children who are served by this cam-

paign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new unwrapped toys and you can drop them off at any of our Fire and Rescue Stations. Toys used as weapons or considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to TOYS FOR TOTS.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Friday, Dec. 13.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Friday, Dec. 13.

Learning the True Meaning of the Holidays

City of Fairfax Theatre presents
 “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 THE CONNECTION

Putting on a church Christmas pageant should be a fun and joyful experience – after all, ’tis the season. But when some rowdy, rambunctious siblings get involved, both chaos and hilarity ensue. That’s the premise of City of Fairfax Theatre Co.’s (CFTC) upcoming play, “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” to be held at Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main St. in Fairfax.

Show times are Thursday-Friday, Dec. 5-6, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 7, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15, adults, and \$10, children 13 and under, at <https://fairfaxcitytheatre.ticketleap.com/best-christmas-pageant/>. Prices are \$5 more at the door. For group rates, contact fairfaxcitytheatre@gmail.com.

The 16 children and eight adults in the cast, plus the crew of 15, have been rehearsing since September. The story follows the Bradley and Herdman families, and scenes take place in a church and inside the Bradleys’ home.

“It was originally a children’s book published in 1971, so our general look and setting is 1970s Ohio,” said Director Isabelle Baucum. “People will enjoy watching a comedy about the stress of Christmas. These children are animated and interesting to

watch; we have a great group of talented performers.”

Gregory Kennedy is the real-life father of twins; and as Bob Bradley, he also portrays their dad in the show. “My character is the comic relief,” said Kennedy. “He doesn’t even want to see the pageant, but he wants to support his lovely wife, Grace, who’s gotten dragged into this production.”

The church’s women’s club plans all the church’s events, and one particular woman controls the pageant every year, so it never changes. And that’s part of why the children don’t want to be in it. But when she breaks her leg, Grace takes over as director.

Meanwhile, said Kennedy, “The ragamuffin Herdman siblings come to the church for the desserts on the day they’re choosing parts for the pageant. No one will cross them because they’re so tough, so they get the main roles. And who would have thought that the hardened, rough-and-tumble Herdmans would learn humility and find the true meaning of Christmas? That’s the emotional center of the production.”

BY THE PLAY’S END, he said, “The church ladies realize this has been their best pageant ever, the dad is glad he was in it, and everyone comes away learn-

SEE CITY OF FAIRFAX THEATRE. PAGE 14



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Playing the Herdman siblings are (back row) Tristan Farmer; (middle, from left) Sabrina Revand, Daniel Plummer and Amelia Marsh; and (front, from left) Leo Kaddoura and Nate Hampel.

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HOLIDAY

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

ONGOING

Give the Gift of Original Art. Now thru Jan. 5. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 2905 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 – 7 p.m. Reception celebrating small businesses, Nov. 30, 5 to 8 p.m. You can find extraordinary fine art that makes great gifts this holiday season — the work of highly-acclaimed Torpedo Factory Artists — at their satellite space in Merrifield. Beautiful paintings, fine-art photographs, one-of-a-kind jewelry, scarves, ceramics and much more will be offered. Plus you can get an early start on your holiday shopping. Artists Sonne Hernandez and Greg Knott are in residence during this show.

PJ Party + Santa's Arrival. At Springfield Town Center, Springfield. Welcome Santa with a Pajama Party. Get in the holiday spirit with caroling, hot coco and watch as Santa arrives in style with Fairfax police and fire. Santa's visiting hours will be as follows: Now through Dec. 13; Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Dec. 14 thru Dec. 23; Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Christmas Eve: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Event in Reston

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

Reston Holiday Parade. 10 a.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. The 29th annual Reston Holiday Parade — one of USA Today's 10 Best — plus tree lighting, sing-along, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more all day. Rain or shine. Schedule: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Visits and photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus; 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.: Mini-train rides on Market Street; 5 p.m.: Dance Performance at Fountain Square; 6–6:30 p.m.: Tree Lighting & Sing Along; 6:30–10 p.m.: Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/holidays.

NOV. 30-DEC. 1, 2019

"The Nutcracker." Nov. 30, 4 pm, and Dec. 1, 2:30 pm. At W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax. The Fairfax Ballet Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists, take the audience on a magical journey through a festive party, an epic battle scene, a winter wonderland of sparkling snowflakes, and a Land of Sweets that includes a delicate Sugar Plum Fairy, a dashing Cavalier, graceful Mirlitons, and waltzing flowers. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Nicole Shortle, a sophomore at Oakton High School, dances the role of Clara. Carlos Martinez, a sophomore in George Mason University's dance program, portrays the Nutcracker Prince. Professional guest artists, Cody Beaton and Mate Szentos from the Richmond Ballet, dance the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. Philip Smith-Cobbs dances the roles of the Mouse King, Mechanical Doll, and Arabian Coffee. Tickets are available for purchase at <http://fairfaxnutcracker2019.bpt.me>. Tickets will also be available at the door beginning one hour before each show. Group discounts are available for qualifying organizations with 10 or more guests. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427.

Celebrating Holidays with Music

Old favorites return and new performers debut at the Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

For nearly three decades the Center for the Arts has offered the best in the performing arts to Northern Virginia audiences. This year is no exception. The "Great Performances Series at Mason" will continue its long-standing tradition of exceptional Holiday themed events.

For the upcoming Holiday season, audience favorites return including "A Chanticleer Christmas," the American Festival Pops Orchestra and the Vienna Boys Choir. There will also be a visit from the family friendly "The Very Hungry Caterpillar Christmas."

However, the Center is not standing pat with its seasonal scheduling. A singing group will be making their Center debut. It is the renowned, Grammy-nominated and Washington, D.C. based African American a cappella ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock. The group will perform Holiday songs from across the country and around the world with its program called "Celebrating the Holidays."

"We're thrilled to be presenting Sweet Honey in the Rock in



PHOTOS COURTESY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Sweet Honey in the Rock's Alisha Kahlil

Where and When

Sweet Honey in the Rock in performance at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, Dec 7, 2019 at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$30, \$43 and \$50. Call 703-993-2787 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu **Note:** The Sweet Honey in the Rock performance will be sign language interpreted in ASL. In addition, the Mason student gospel group, the Anointed Vessels of Unity, will give a free performance in the Concert Hall Lobby from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m.

their Center for the Arts debut. This internationally-renowned a cappella ensemble will be sharing a really special program that celebrates holiday traditions from across the globe," said Adrienne Byrant Godwin, programming manager, Center for the Arts.

Sweet Honey currently consists of members Carol Maillard, Louise Robinson, Nitanju Bolade Casel, Alisha Kahlil, and featured musi-

cian Romeir Mendez on upright acoustic bass and electric bass.

For "Celebrating the Holidays," Sweet Honey will present its luminous harmonies with sign language interpretation. The group's finely-honed a cappella sound will range from African to blues to gospel and jazz. "Celebrating the Holidays" will be an unusual fusion of traditional American holiday spiritual songs and hymns, as



Sweet Honey in the Rock's Alisha Kahlil

well as songs from other cultures and religions ranging from Africa to Israel.

In a conversation with Sweet Honey member Alisha Kahlil, she spoke of "the great variety of music" that the group will perform.

One original song was written in response to the climate crisis. It is "The Living Waters." Kahlil indicated that "The Living Waters" speaks to the pollution of the world's waterways with this lyric; "We used to drink from waters that were pure/And dance in sparkling waters that were pure."

Godwin also announced an addition to the afternoon performance of Sweet Honey. "As a very special treat, audiences should also plan to arrive early to hear Anointed Vessels of Unity, Mason's student gospel choir." The student group will give a free performance in the Concert Hall Lobby before Sweet Honey in the Rock performs.

SATURDAY/NOV. 30

Build a Holiday Gingerbread House.

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Enjoy a family tradition of making your own gingerbread house. The first seating will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the second seating will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Each seating has a limited number of houses available. The price for each house is \$40 (\$35 for museum members). Local guest pastry chefs Laurent Lhuillier and Sergio Mueller will be on hand with volunteers to help you with your masterpiece. Make reservations at <https://squareup.com/store/fairfax-station-railroad-museum>. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

NOV. 30-DEC. 20

Fairfax City Elf Hunt. 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Takes place Fairfax City-wide, start point: Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Locate 10 elves in Fairfax City businesses, get a stamp from each business confirming that you found the elf; share the Fairfax City Elf Hunt card with us at economicdevelopment@fairfaxva.gov. Once you have submitted your Fairfax City Elf Hunt card, you will receive a Fairfax City car magnet and have your name entered into a drawing for a \$250 cash prize. Completed cards must be received by

Dec. 16 to be eligible. Free to participate; patrons are encouraged to purchase items when they visit businesses. Visit the website: <https://fairfaxcityconnected.com/2019/10/08/elfhunt/#prettyPhoto>

SUNDAY/DEC. 1

Messiah Sing Along. 3 p.m. At Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. All are welcome. Bring a score, or borrow one here, and join in the Messiah Sing Along...or simply come and enjoy the music. Free. Visit the website: fairfaxpresbyterian.org

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Blue Christmas Eucharist and Healing Service. 7 p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. This special Blue Christmas service recognizes the difficulties of the season for those experiencing grief, loneliness, or loss. This service of meditation, music, candle lighting, and prayers of consolation and healing calls to mind the comfort, hope, and encouragement of the season. Visit the website www.pohick.org or call 703-339-6572.

DEC. 6-7

Norwegian Christmas Festival. Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Christ Lutheran

Church, 3810 Meredith Drive, Fairfax. Free Admission. Live music, dancing, fjord horses on Saturday. Food and craft demonstrations. Imported foods (nokkelost), fresh lefse and krumkake made onsite, Nordic Cafe, huge gift selection including books, linens, authentic Scandinavian sweaters. Free. Visit the website: www.norwaydc.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Christmastide at Gunston Hall. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. At George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Celebrate a holiday tradition at Gunston Hall! Daytime activities include children's crafts, a visit from Santa, games, and even an indoor snowball fight. The evening hours provide a romantic holiday experience by candlelight as guests are invited to sample period food in the kitchen, explore the grounds, enjoy 18th century music, and chat with characters from the past. Cost: \$15 adults, \$10 children (ages 6 – 18), and members receive a 50% discount. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/event/christmastide-at-gunston-hall/>

Christmas Party. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Twins Ace Hardware, 10310-B Main Street, Fairfax. Fun-filled activities include: Live grill demo from celebrity Ace grilling chef Jason K Morse of 5280 Culinary; BBQ Provisions & Team Traeger Grills; free goodie bags to the first 150

people at 11 a.m.; delicious apps and deserts; special appearance from children's author Lindsay Barry; photos with Santa; letters to Santa activity; decorating ideas; giveaways, demos and more. Visit the website: www.twinsacehardware.com.

DEC. 7-8

"The Nutcracker." 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. At Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts' Nutcracker brings to life the gift of imagination with Clara and her Nutcracker in a magical journey from her Victorian home through the Land of Snow and into the Land of Sweets, with dazzling dancing, a larger-than-life Christmas tree, more than 100 dancers, and Tchaikovsky's glorious score. Tickets \$26 to \$28. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org to purchase tickets.

Winter Wonderland. 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. At Winter Wonderland, you can hop a train ride on the Holiday Express, take unlimited spins on the Carolers Carousel, play Gingerbread Man Golf or cook s'mores by the fire. Visit with Santa and enjoy hot chocolate or cider and candy canes. Five-hour passes are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the event day. The park will also

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13



Nicole Shortle, a sophomore at Oakton High School, dances the role of Clara; and Carlos Martinez, George Mason University Dance, dances the role of the Nutcracker Prince.

“The Nutcracker”

NOV. 30-DEC. 1, 2019

“The Nutcracker.” Nov. 30, 4 pm, and Dec. 1, 2:30 pm. At W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax. The Fairfax Ballet Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists, take the audience on a magical journey through a festive party, an epic battle scene, a winter wonderland of sparkling snowflakes, and a Land of Sweets that includes a delicate Sugar Plum Fairy, a dashing Cavalier, graceful Mirlitons, and waltzing flowers. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Nicole Shortle, a sophomore at Oakton High School, dances the role of Clara. Carlos Martinez, a sophomore in George Mason University’s dance program, portrays the Nutcracker Prince. Professional guest artists, Cody Beaton and Mate Szentes from the Richmond Ballet, dance the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. Philip Smith-Cobbs dances the roles of the Mouse King, Mechanical Doll, and Arabian Coffee. Tickets are available for purchase at <http://fairfaxnutcracker2019.bpt.me>. Tickets will also be available at the door beginning one hour before each show. Group discounts are available for qualifying organizations with 10 or more guests. Email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

be accepting new toys or canned food items for donation. In the evenings, enjoy a magical train ride through a forest decorated with holiday-themed lights and scenes. Celebration Station runs the same weekends as Winter Wonderland, but will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Celebration Station ticket are \$10 each; trains depart every 20 minutes. Visit the website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

“The Nutcracker.” Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. At Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Mia Saunders School of Ballet presents “The Nutcracker.” The 2019 production of “The Nutcracker” marks the first for new MSB Artistic Director Hannah Woodruff, an alumna of MSB and 2017 graduate of University of Virginia. Proceeds for this annual giving tradition will benefit CVHS Drama Scholarships and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research. Enjoy this holiday classic with your family and support local dancers and CVHS students. Tickets are \$12, (cash or checks payable to CVHS Drama Boosters only) and are available at the door. Visit the website: <http://miasaundersballet.com/>

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

“Little Drummer Dude.” 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. A children’s musical, “Little Drummer Dude” takes place during the time Jesus was born and we see the story through the eyes of the wise men, a traveling band and a little drummer dude. Free. Visit the website: jccag.org.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10-11

Moscow Ballet’s “The

Nutcracker.” 7 p.m. At GMU’s Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. The Moscow Ballet “Dance with Us” cast will perform their ancillary roles as Party Children, Snowflakes, Mice, Snow Maidens and Variation Dancers. The aspiring ballerinas and danseurs, ages 7 to 17, perform in ancillary roles developed for their age and skill level by dancer, choreographer, and Julliard graduate Mary Giannone Talmi, also co-producer of Moscow Ballet’s North American tours. Tickets are \$34 to \$180.

DEC. 13-22

ETAP’s “Finding Santa.” 12 show times over 2 weekends, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:30 p.m., 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. At Richard J. Ernst Theatre, Annandale NOVA Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Encore Theatrical Arts Project presents a new holiday musical, “Finding Santa.” Cost is \$19-\$26. This song and dance musical features over 30 performers, creative choreography, elaborate sets, over 165 costumes, and over 16 musical numbers. Come see all the glamour of a Broadway-style show right here in Northern Virginia. Appropriate for audiences of all ages. Visit the website: www.Encore-tap.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Annual Christmas Musical. 6 p.m. At Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. The Ministry of Music and Performing Arts of Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax presents its Annual Christmas Musical, No Ordinary Night, a special service to celebrate the birth of our Savior in narration, music, song, and dance. Featured will be the Greater Little Zion choirs and praise dancers, along with a special performance by recording artist and

Holiday Events in the City of Fairfax

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The first three weekends in December will be holiday central in Fairfax City. Here are the details:

Festival of Lights and Carols

This annual event is set for Saturday, Dec. 7, from noon-6 p.m., in Old Town Square, 10415 North St. There’ll be live, holiday music plus s’mores and hot cider. The festivities will also include caroling and the lighting of the Christmas tree there at 5:30 p.m.

Twins Ace Hardware Holiday Party

Also on Dec. 7, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Twins Ace Hardware at 10310B Main St. will hold a family-friendly celebration filled with holiday-themed activities. They include gifting and home-decorating demonstrations and a photo opportunity with Santa Claus benefiting Children’s National Medical Center. Free goodie bags will be given out while supplies last. Children may write letters to Santa and there’ll be a coloring-book giveaway.

Guests will also enjoy tasty treats, cold brew created on the grill and special offers on products for holiday gifting. In addition, the store will welcome renowned chef and Ace Hardware national grilling spokesperson, Jason Morse, plus Team Traeger.

“We’re excited to host our neighbors, family and friends at our Christmas party, and we’re delighted that Chef Jason and Team Traeger will join us for the fun,” said Twins Ace Hardware co-owner Craig Smith. “We can’t wait to see what they create on our versatile, outdoor grills.” For more information, visit: www.twinsacehardware.com/events.

Lunch with Santa

Children will enjoy crafts, lunch and holiday characters in costume, Saturday, Dec. 14, at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. There’ll be three seatings – at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Purchase tickets at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St.; Green Acres, 4401 Sideburn Road and the Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy., or via fairfaxva.gov.

Holiday Market

The third annual City of Fairfax Holiday Market will be held in Old Town Square, all three weekends, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from

Dec. 6 through Dec. 22. A wide variety of craft vendors will sell their wares, with different vendors scheduled each weekend. covered in holiday lights. The fun will include music, hot drinks and gourmet treats.

Dates for the Holiday Market are: Weekend One, Dec. 6-8; Weekend Two, Dec. 13-15; and Weekend Three, Dec. 20-22. The times are: Fridays, 5-8 p.m.; Saturdays, noon-6 p.m.; and Sundays, noon-4 p.m. The vendors are as follows:

❖ Weekend One

...with love stationery collections
ABB Handmade
Ahh...Candles
All That Yazz
Altyn Clark Glass
Bella’s Sterling Silver Jewelry
Culpeper Craftsmen
Frocks + Frills
Just Breathe Natural Scents
Made From Coins
Metro-Retro
Penguin Bean Designs
Textile Philes
True Honey Teas
Trupti’s Craft
Uniquely Sea Glass LLC

❖ Weekend Two

AMC Woodcrafts
Area718 by Karen Mullarkey
Artsy Like Whoa
Bags2Cute
Bandwagon LLC
Betty Jane’s Sweet Delights, Inc.
Cindy’s Special Gift
Crochet Treasures
Gourd Art
Homemade Heartfelt
LikeableBeads by Lisabeth
Little Hat Creek Farm, LLC.
Moonchildren Boutique
Nativo Condiments and Seasonings
Spirely LLC
Sprout Head
Whole Grain Goods

❖ Weekend Three

Wood and Glass Design
Pet Wants Chantilly
Cupcakes & Beyond
e.c. ornaments
Stix & Stones
Savage and Sweet
InterNutritionals, LLC.
Crescent Clay
Yarn Chef Creations
Artisanal Leather Aprons
Grandma Mary’s Buttons & Bows
Mandi’s Dandies Soaps & Such
Murrell’s Salsa
Silverstar/Painted Coins
The Secret Jewelry Garden
Art by Zachary Sasim

Menorah Lighting

The annual lighting of the menorah, to celebrate the start of Hanukkah, will be held Sunday, Dec. 22, at sundown, in Old Town Square. The festivities will include special treats to eat, plus live entertainment.

renown pianist, Bro. Jeff Corry. Free. Call 703-239-9111.

DEC. 14-15

Winter Wonderland. Noon to 5 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. At Winter Wonderland, you can hop a train ride on the Holiday Express, take unlimited spins on the Carolers Carousel, play Gingerbread Man Golf or cook s’mores by the fire. Visit with Santa and enjoy hot chocolate or cider and candy canes. Five-hour passes are \$15 in advance and \$20

on the event day. The park will also be accepting new toys or canned food items for donation. In the evenings, enjoy a magical train ride through a forest decorated with holiday-themed lights and scenes. Celebration Station runs the same weekends as Winter Wonderland, but will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Celebration Station ticket are \$10 each; trains depart every 20 minutes. Visit the website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

Bethlehem Walk. 3-7 p.m. At Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726

Braddock Road, Annandale. Get in the Christmas spirit walking through the narrow streets of Bethlehem. Haggle with shop owners, sidestep tax collectors, avoid the Roman centurions on your way to the manger scene. Hundreds of families make the trek each year to a replica of the holy city, raised by Parkwood Baptist Church. Features reenactors, live music, children’s crafts, games. Live nativity scene. Free. Ample parking. Reserve advance tickets at www.parkwood.org. For details call 703-978-8160.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE
 AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 150' & 152') on the building at 7200 Westpark Dr, McLean, VA (20191779). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
 -Werner Heisenberg

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Announcements

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NEWS

Ground Broken on New Fire Station

FROM PAGE 3

sleep deprivation," he continued. "Construction will take approximately 16 months as we move forward, and then we can return here for a ribbon-cutting/hose-uncoupling ceremony."

Christopher Kehde, principal with LeMay, Erickson, Willcox Architects – which has designed fire station for more than 30 years – said, "We're excited to be here today celebrating this important milestone. We're proud to do our part to serve our first responders who put their lives on the line every day to keep our communities safe."

He said concepts focusing on the health and wellbeing of the firefighters will be an integral part of the new Station 33. "This has been a positive and amazing process," said Kehde. "Thanks again to everyone that's helped us get to this important day, and we look forward to seeing everyone back here at the grand opening."

Kevin Jackson, with Whitener and Jackson, told attendees, "It brings pride to our hearts that we were chosen as your contractor. Thank you – we won't let you down."



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax City Fire Department Honor Guard.

SPEAKING LAST was Joe Charley, vice president of the City of Fairfax Professional Firefighters and Paramedics IAFF Local 2702. "Making a career of firefighting is a noble profession," he said. "But firefighters have a 9-percent higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer – and a 14-percent higher risk of dying from cancer – than the general public."

So, he said, "Mayor Meyer has been an advocate for cancer-reducing elements in this building – and,

for that, we are eternally grateful. This fire station will also be able to deal with new growth." Then, also thanking O'Neal and Stalzer for their efforts in bringing the project to this point, Charley added, "When management and labor work together, everyone benefits – most of all, the citizens."

City of Fairfax Theatre Presents 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

FROM PAGE 11

ing about the gifts of love, understanding and forgiveness from an unexpected source. And Mindy Thomas, who plays Grace Bradley, brings a lot of personality to her role and brings the best out of the kids."

"I love playing Bob," said Kennedy. "I brought my own kids to audition for this show and was asked to audition, too, and got the role. It's just great to share the stage with my real-life children and see how prepared and professional they are."

His son, Thomas Kennedy, 11, portrays Charlie Bradley. "He's sometimes sarcastic and says funny stuff to be noticed, and he criticizes everything," said Thomas. "Sometimes he's a good angel; but when the Herdmans come in, he goes back into his shell."

He likes his role because he has a lot of lines and also because "I like how he's sarcastic," said Thomas. "But when the Herdmans become involved in the show, Charlie changes from strong and powerful to a scaredy cat. He goes from a big, red fire to a little, blue flame."

Thomas said the show's funny and the audience will enjoy "how every scene teeters on the edge of explosion. They'll also like the Herdmans because they're humorous, but in their own way. This play teaches people about Jesus's birth, but in a funny way and with some songs, too."

HIS TWIN SISTER, Mary Kennedy, plays Charlie's sister, Beth Bradley. "She's the narrator of the story and also talks to her friend in the show," said Mary. "She's kind of shy and is afraid of the Herdmans, but she's also interested in finding out what they're going to do next."

Mary, too, is glad to have such a big part and enjoys describing the action. Looking forward to the show's opening, she said, "The audience will like its humor and all the good actors we have."

Lilith Nees, 8, portrays Juanita, who plays a baby angel in the church pageant. "She's one of the smaller and younger kids, so the Herdmans try to intimidate her," said Lilith. "She's very shy and terrified of them, but she wants to know what they do in their spare time. She also makes up excuses when she's not prepared for her part in the pageant."

Lilith likes her role because "Juanita is a meek person, so I don't have to remember a lot of lines. That way, I can focus on my entrances and the four songs I sing. My favorite is 'Angels We Have Heard on High' because we sing as a group and, when we all sing 'Gloria,' we do it in a really loud tone." Overall, she said, "People will like the feeling the actors show when they're speaking. And when they're leaving, the audience will feel like, 'Wow, that was deep.' It's a very touching production."

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.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meetings in 2019

12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Dec. 3, 2019 9:30 a.m. - Full Board of Supervisors Meeting
Dec. 10 Committee Meetings
9:30 a.m. - Health, Housing and Human Services Committee
11 a.m. - Development Process Committee
1:30 p.m. - Transportation Committee
3 p.m. - General Assembly Annual Reception and Work Session

TUESDAY/DEC. 3

Open House. 7:30-10:30 a.m. At Main Street Child Development Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Tours at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Stop by Main Street for coffee and a quick breakfast. Stop by for a tour or just come by for a quick visit. RSVP encouraged but not required: cschwarzen@MainStreetCDC.org or 703-273-1192.

Fairfax Lions Club Dinner Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, upper level. 939 Oak St., Fairfax. Visit a Lions Club dinner meeting. Enjoy a buffet dinner, speaker, and club announcements. Guests are cordially invited - meet members and learn about Lions community service. Free. Visit www.fairfaxlions.org or call 703-879-5795.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Transportation Meeting. 7-9 p.m. At Garfield Elementary School, 7101 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold a community input meeting to encourage public input on alternatives developed to provide enhanced Fairfax Connector bus service (Routes 310, 321, 322) in the Franconia and Springfield areas. The service alternatives were developed based on the first round of public input received through community engagement, stakeholder engagement and technical analysis. After this round of public engagement, FCDOT staff will develop a preferred service plan based on public input received and further technical analysis to provide better access to destinations, improved travel times, increased schedule reliability and more dependable service. The community will have an opportunity to review and comment on the preferred service plan in Spring 2020. Residents are encouraged to provide input on the service alternatives by filling out an online survey. (Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/franconia-springfield-optimization>) The survey will be open from now thru Dec. 17, 2019. Mail comments to Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22033.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

PN Support Group. 2-4 p.m. At Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. PN Support Group monthly meeting. Dr. Sarah McQuide addresses lifestyle changes around chronic pain, anxiety and depression of PN. Visit the website: www.dcpnsupport.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. Noon-2 p.m. at West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

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Lost in the Shuffle



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As difficult as the last few weeks have been, with Chino's at-home hospice-type care and ultimate passing, and the "Catch-22 A" realities of "reverse-mortgaging" my house "perplexed" by the "derelict" stable/shed on my property, my upcoming quarterly CT scan hasn't even "blipped" the radar. Though it will have occurred already by the time this column prints, it's quite possible, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, its results won't be known for much longer, 12 days in fact, than has been customary. And so far, between my wife, Dina and I, none of this has even been discussed. Yet, as I sit and write on Sunday, the scan is on Wednesday, three days away. Close enough to where it should have been front and center instead of where it's been: back and off to the side.

But so what, really? My attitude is, and has always been, to quote John, a close friend: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." By the time I slide forth and back under the CT scan's arch, or earlier I imagine, the damage to my body such as it is - or isn't, will have been done. Either the cancer has grown/spread or it hasn't. Certainly hearing and/or reading results from the oncologist will confirm facts at present not in evidence but there is, without being particularly negative about my circumstances, an inevitability to it. One day, my amazing nearly 11-year run is going to come to a walk and eventually to a lie-down. And I will deal with it when the time/results come. In the interim however, this next scan is merely another stop on the less-than Merry Go 'Round.

I don't mean to make light of an extremely heavy burden that we cancer patients have to carry: the prospect of death. As Lee J. Cobb said in "The Exorcist:" "I only mention it in passing." Cancer causes enough internal problems (physically), one doesn't need, if possible - and so far for me, it has been possible, to cause external (emotional) problems as well. Maybe it's a kind of resignation or some kind of accommodation or acceptance of reality that has enabled this one to have lived so long beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis (offered up on Feb. 27, 2009), an accomplishment I am proud to say occasionally has led to my oncologist showing me off to his medical students; his prize cow I call myself.

Honestly, what's the point, really? I'm only in control of so much. Focusing on things I can't control seems a waste of time and energy. Life is precious. Why dwell on things beyond my reach? Grasping at straws, if you can even find one, is likewise counter-productive. And setting oneself up for failure or disappointment is counter-intuitive almost. Why do that? The cancer is already causing enough havoc in your body. Don't let it affect your mind too. "Piling on," as the NFL referees used to call this major infraction. Now I believe its called "Unnecessary Roughness." For cancer patients, doing anything, physically or emotionally to hasten your demise/adversely affect your quality of life is most definitely unnecessary roughness and should be penalized.

Learning to live with what ails you seems a more prudent plan than "woeing" is me or bemoaning the process. Sure we'd all love to be on the President's plan where you're examined in the morning, scanned in the afternoon and operated on in the evening. But none of us are on the plan and wishing we were, to quote Jean Luc Picard from "Star Trek: Next Generation," is not going to "Make it so." But I can live with that. I have lived with that - for almost 11 years now, and counting. I'll learn the results from my scan soon enough. Good or bad, life goes on. To quote my friend John's daughter, Melanie: "Whatever."

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

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