Promises of a Blue VA: ‘A House for all Virginians’

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) pictured outside of the Virginia State Capitol. Del. Filler-Corn is the first woman and first Jewish Speaker-designee in Virginia House of Delegates’ 400-year history.

‘Radium Girls’ On South County Stage

Holiday Fun

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By Mike Salmon

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.

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

A

nyone 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 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.
Promises of a Blue VA: ‘A House for all Virginians’

Democrats continue to focus on education, transportation and economic equality issues.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

n the evening of Nov. 5, 2019, voters in Virginia paved the way for a historic legislative shift from red to blue in January 2020 when the Virginia General Assembly convened. Democrats had turned the tables resulting in Democratic State House and Democratic State Senate whirlwinds as members selected their leaders, sensitive to culture, gender and geographic diversity in Virginia. Democrats have pre-filed priority bills and a resolution for the January Session, to create an early voting system, universal background checks/gun safety, housing nondiscrimination for LGBTQ+ and ratification for the Equal Rights Amendment. They pledged to work on current critical needs in education, transportation and economic equality issues.

“We will be walking our own new path moving forward, of (a) Virginia that represents & listens to all people no matter what they look like, the color of their skin, the language they speak at home, the religion they practice or not, or who they love,” tweeted House Speaker-designee Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41).

All 40 seats in the Virginia State Senate and all 100 seats in the Virginia House of Delegates had been up for grabs in the 161st Virginia General Assembly and Virginia Democrats picked up four House District seats, 40 (in Fairfax County), 76, 83 and 94 defeating the four Republican incumbents. Democrats won two other House seats, 28 and 91 in open races. They also picked up two State Senate seats, 10 and 13.

The Democrats would have full control of the state legislature when the Virginia General Assembly session convened on Jan. 8, 2020. All three arms of the state’s government would be theirs. With the newfound power of a blue-controlled lower chamber of the Virginia Assembly alongside the Virginia State Senate coupled with a blue Governor’s mansion, Democrats could pass their agenda Republicans blocked for years including gun safety, higher minimum wage and ratification of the Equal Right Amendment. This also allows Democrats to wrest back control of the redistricting process after the 2020 Census, the shifting and drawing of the new maps for congressional and state legislative districts.

Democratic Agenda

The day after the election with new Democratic power base on the horizon in the state legislature, Governor Northam (D) told CNN’s John Berman on “New Day” he planned to reintroduce a slate of “common-sense pieces of legislation” for gun control, “Getting rid of bump stocks, high volume magazines, red flag laws (extreme risk protective orders). I will reintroduce those in January, and I’m convinced with the majority now in the House and the Senate, they will become law. And because of that, Virginia will be safer... Another issue that is very important is women’s reproductive health care and stopping the discrimination against the LGBTQ community,” Governor Northam said.

Later that day, Governor Northam met with his cabinet and reporters. “Virginia is blue, and I want everyone to know that,” he said. Northam stated he wanted to bring back eight bills in January, including decriminalizing marijuana, increasing support for early childhood education, more training for high schoolers to enter the workforce, and reducing the recidivism rate. In addition, Northam said he hoped the Equal Rights Amendment would be brought to a floor vote and thought progress could be made with raising the minimum wage.

Caucus Leadership Elected

On Saturday, Nov. 9, the new House Democratic Majority Leadership announced the election of Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) as Speaker-designee. The full House of Delegates would officially vote to confirm the new Speaker the first day of the 2020 legislative session. The House also announced Del. Charniele Herring (D-46) as Majority Leader. She became the first woman and the first African American to serve as Majority Leader. And they elected Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48) as Caucus Chair.

“Not only did Virginia just elect the most diverse House of Delegates in its 400-year history, but House Democrats have made history again by nominating a diverse leadership slate to truly represent Virginia,” said House Democratic Caucus Executive Director Trevor Southerland. “Finally, we will be able to move forward with a House for All Virginians.”

“We are a unified caucus with the shared priority to move our Commonwealth forward, address our most critical challenges, and ensure transparency for all Virginians,” said Speaker-designee Filler-Corn. “We are stepping up to lead and understand the value of making our schools better, our community safer, our economy fairer, and our Commonwealth the envy of all the states. The firsts are not lost on me - the first woman and the first Jewish person elected Speaker-designee in our 400-year legislative history... We have the most diverse House Caucus in our history, which includes cultural, gender and geographic diversity. It also means diversity of experience and perspectives on issues that affect Virginians in all regions.

Senator Barbara Favola (D-31)-Incoming Chair of Rehabilitation & Social Services:

“The Democratic majorities will honor Virginia’s history as a forebearer to the Bill of Rights and a state that included an equality amendment in its own constitution by ratifying the ERA. This will be a momentous occasion. Gun safety measures such as universal background checks and red-flag bills will pass, a women’s constitutional right to privacy as defined in Roe v Wade will be protected, and important criminal justice reform measures will pass.

I will be submitting legislation to require paid sick days. Too many families are struggling because they cannot care for themselves or their sick children. I will also be submitting legislation to protect a patient from high medical care bills if he/she received emergency care from out-of-network providers. In collaboration with the Zero Carbon Virginia group, I will be implementing important actions to address climate change. Voters spoke very strongly in 2019 about the need for a new direction in the criminal justice system. One piece of legislation that I have consistently sponsored is the expungement of non-violent felony convictions from the records of juveniles. I am confident that this legislation will now pass.

It is noteworthy that the composition of the General Assembly more closely reflects the diversity of our great state, and women are taking their place in the power structure.
Jump into the Children’s (and Teens’) Connection

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

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 Hylita 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, 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 encouraging constituents to reach out to my office.

Q: Any additional thoughts you would like to share?
A: As always, my staff is available for your constituent service, to help you navigate state agencies, and access services. Please make an appointment to visit us in Richmond. If you are coming, we can schedule a tour of your historic State Capitol. Please reach out to us at 571-249-4484 or district36@senate.virginia.gov. Please also keep an eye out for information about the Puller Institute. As I have in the past, I will bring high school students to Richmond to learn about state government. In the coming weeks, I will also announce our town hall schedule for the 2019 legislative session. Please plan to come share your opinions on legislative issues and make your voice heard!

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

Letters to the Editor

Season to Go Back to Basics

To the Editor:

In just a couple of days, me and my family will join together to share a meal and eat some pumpkin pie. I’ll get a couple of days off school to sleep in and relax. But Thanksgiving is not just about food, but gratitude. These days, it seems like we don’t appreciate each other enough. But I hope this holiday season, we go back to basics.

Aumena Choudhry
12th Grade, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
Fairfax CROP Hunger Walk

Hits the Streets in November

Event is celebrating 50th year.

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 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 country. 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.
A 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.”

There’s even an award for the oldest runner.” 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.

“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.”

“Seniors among those joining turkey trots on Thanksgiving.”

Ready to Trot

Seniors among those joining turkey trots on Thanksgiving.

Mimi and Rob Mortimer will be among thousands of runners at the 14th annual Arlington Turkey Trot.
Who knew that radioactive chemicals are dangerous? Well, the people of 1926 were surely not aware of this fact as seen in South County High School’s production of “Radium Girls,” which answers the question of what occurred to the people who simply thought radium to be a glow-in-the-dark substance.

Based on a true story, “Radium Girls” was written by D.W. Gregory in 2000 and follows the lives of young female factory workers tasked with painting watch faces with a luminous radium substance. When the workers develop ailments as a result of their exposure to the radioactive element, their conditions worsen and they have no choice but to challenge the company that is gradually killing them.

Aadith Iyer commanded the stage as Arthur Roeder with his depiction of the conflicting characteristics of compassion and greed. Iyer portrayed the human side of a villain and the strife that comes with being the head of a corrupt company, both of which were accentuated by Iyer’s upright posture, clear articulation, and overall authoritative presence.

Mincy Barbosa played Grace Fryer and portrayed her character’s declining health with mannerisms such as trembling hands and a pained hobble across the stage. Barbosa’s ability was highlighted through shy yet loving glances, illustrated in the relationship between Grace and her husband Tom (Zach Patel). Together, Barbosa and Patel’s endearing partnership provided comedic relief even through the desolation of the show.

Irene Rudolph (Aren Iverson), Kathryn Schaub (Shaylen Estrella), and Grace Fryer amplified the show’s spirit of female empowerment through their supportive yet playful nature towards one another. Blending her initial feistiness with the sudden emotion required for her performance, Iverson took on her role with ease as she played off Estrella and Barbosa, providing a charming dynamic. They exhibited consistency with their movements, particularly with a commitment to licking paintbrushes and the clockwork choreography as displayed in the nightmare scene.

The entire ensemble allowed for the cohesive flow of the show as they accurately identified the tone shifts and accented the pivotal moments. The pair of reporters (Ella Nguyen and Kevon Thompson) added to the collective energy with their lively spirit, which was both engaging and fit the tone of the time period.

The technical elements of the production united together in order to meet the expectations of the show. The lighting, headed by Sarah Khalil, back lit the sets, alternating among a scenic sunset and a neon green shine. The green illumination allowed for a parallel between the beginning and end as silhouettes of the factory workers were presented, providing an ominous stage picture. Lighting enhanced transitions replacing the standard blackout with a fade to the green hue. The music, written by students Julien Monette and Ryan Bonanno, accompanied transitions as it subtly matched the emotion of the scenes that it surrounded. The show demanded intricate and vividly grotesque makeup to represent the girls’ declining health, and the makeup crew accomplished this with peeling skin and sores that looked painful to the touch. The time period of the show was recognized within the production as the hair of the factory workers was tied up to reflect thefactory regulations. Grace’s hairstyle was altered throughout the production to symbolize the deterioration of her health and conformity to society.

The luminescence of radium may glow so vividly in the dark, but not as distinctly as South County High School’s production of “Radium Girls” where each actor shone brighter than the radioactive substance.
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. 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 cocoa 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.

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

Holiday Entertainment

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 dancing 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. Phillip 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 703-685-9427. 

DEC. 6-7
Norwegian Christmas Festival.
Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church, 3901 Richmond Hwy., Lorton. This special Blue Christmas experience 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.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7
Christmas 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. Volunteers 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 receive members a 50% discount. Visit the website: https://gunstonhall.org/event/christmas-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 drumming performances from celebrity Acid grilling chef Jason K Murphy of The Happy Pear, and P&O Promotions & Team Trueger Grills; free goodie bags for the first 150 people at 11 a.m.; delicious apps and desserts; special appearance from children’s yoga instructor Lindsay Barry, photos with Santa; letters to Santa activity; dressing for a giveaway, 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, magical snowmen, dancers, and Tchaikovsky’s glorious score. Tickets $25 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. Santa Spectacular 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 $20 for ages 2-11 and $20 on the event day. The park will also be accepting new toys or canned food donations. Visit the website: www.metropolitanarts.org.

FROSTY AT THE SANTA SPECTACULAR.
12 show times over 2 weekends, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. At Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike on Sat., Dec. 7 and Sun., Dec. 8, 12:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. both days. Tickets at www.metropolitanarts.org

The Cathedral Brass will put on a concert on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8
“Little Drummer Dude.” 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gart 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: jscc.org.

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10-11
Moscow Ballet’s “The Nutcracker.” 7 p.m. At GMU’s Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Moscow Ballet’s “The Nutcracker.” Since 1983, Moscow Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” will perform their ancillary roles as Party Children, Snowflakes, Mice, Snow Maidens and Variation Dancers. Their aspiring ballerinas and dancers, ages 7 to 17, perform in ancillary roles developed for their age and skill level by dancer, choreographer, and full time graduate Mary Giunonie 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 at 7:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. At Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike on Sat., Dec. 7 and Sun., Dec. 8, 12:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. both days. Tickets at www.metropolitanarts.org

Metropolitan School of the Arts.

Upcoming Performances
Santa Spectacular shows (free): Nov. 30, 11:30 a.m. at National Harbor in Washington, D.C.; Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Springfield Town Center, and Dec. 22 at 12 and 1 p.m. at the Kingsmound Town Center. The Nutcracker Ballet: Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike on Sat., Dec. 7 and Sun., Dec. 8, 12:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. both days. Tickets at www.metropolitanarts.org.

Danielle Jones, who both play Clara and Jacqueline Doherty, who is the artistic director. Dobbs founded the school 20 years ago while trying to find a quality dance program for her daughter. To that end, she decided to start a school that would be nurturing and joyful, reflecting the “flourishing arts community” she had grown up in to become a professional dancer. “I hope that Metropolit- an brings joy to the lives of our community through the arts. Whether by way of taking a dance class, learning to sing or play piano or watching The Nutcracker, my goal is for any one and everyone who encounters MSAs to leave with a heart full of light and joy,” said Dobbs. For more information on upcoming events and tickets, visit www.metropolitanarts.org
Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Mount Vernon) Caucus Vice Chair
Sen. Jeremy McPiike (Prince William)- Caucus Vice Chair
Sen. Barbara Favola (D-Arlington)- Caucus Co-Chair
Sen. Lionel Spruill (D-Chesapeake)- Caucus Co-Chair
Sen. Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond)- Caucus Secretary
Sen-elect Ghazala Hashmi (D-Chesapeake)- Caucus Treasurer
Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-Fairfax)- Caucus Sergeant at Arms
Sen. Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth)- President Pro Tempore-designe (first African American and the first woman to serve as President Pro Tempore)

Senate Democrats announced Committee Chairs for the 2020 legislative session:

- Agriculture, Conservation & Natural Resources: Senator Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City)
- Commerce & Labor Committee: Senator Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax)
- Courts of Justice: Senator John Edwards (D-Roanoke)
- Education & Health: Senator Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth)
- Finance: Senator Janet Howell (D-Fairfax)
- General Laws: Senator George Barker (D-Hampton)
- Rehabilitation & Social Services: Senator Barbara Favola (D-Arlington)
- Rules: Senator Mamie E. Locke (D-Danville)
- Roads & Transit: Senator Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond)
- Transportation: Senator Dave Marsden (D-Fairfax)
- Privileges & Elections: Senator Creigh Deeds (D-Bath)
- Sen-elect Ghazala Hashmi (D-Chesapeake)

With the appointment of State Senator Janet Howell (D-Fairfax) as incoming Chairwoman of the Senate Finance Committee and Del. Luke Torian (D-Prince William) as chair of the House Appropriations Committee, the state’s purse strings and its power rested in Northern Virginia.

On Nov. 21, incoming House Speaker Filler-Corn announced decisions for Chairs of two additional committees Del. Mark Sickles (D-43)- Health, Welfare & Institutions Committee and Del. Delores McQuinn (D-70)- Transportation Committee.
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 3-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.fcpsvd.org/animalshelter/communityassistance/ rabieslicenses for more.
WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA’S PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL
$69.95

Your car’s alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems. INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

OIL & FILTER CHANGE
$24.95

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with engine off), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, replace air & cabin filters or belts.

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