

To the Rescue Firefighters and Friends continue annual toy drive.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, in partnership with Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, continued its annual toy drive with a scaled down distribution day Dec. 15 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11.

More than 50 schools, shelters and nonprofits were provided with holiday gifts for families and children in need.

"This is my third event since I became the Fire Chief here in Fairfax County and every year I am amazed at the support and generosity of our business community," said Fire Chief John Butler.

"Not to mention the firefighters at Penn Daw Fire Station 11 stepping up several times a year to make this event and others a success. I am grateful to be a part of this worthy cause."

Representatives from local organizations provided information to

the firefighters and picked up bags full of gifts collected by the firefighters and provided by sponsors.

"Though we are in a pandemic our sponsors were not going to let that prevent them from supporting the event this year," said Deputy Battalion Chief Willie Bailey, who began the toy drive more than 20 years ago. "We received several calls from our sponsors hoping that we would find a way to pull off the distribution.

Because of those calls we decided to put on the event this year.

To be safe we used less volunteers and obviously no children were allowed to attend. But those

children will still be receiving their holiday gifts."

Sponsors for the toy drive include: Jack Taylor Toyota; Ken & Kelly Savittiere Foundation; Apple Federal Credit Union; Progressive Firefighters of Fairfax; Local #2068; Fire & Rescue Retirement Assoc.; Nationwide Credit Corpo-

"Every year I am amazed at the support and generosity of our business community."

— Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler



Volunteers sort gifts for distribution Dec. 15 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11 as part of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive for families and children in need.

ration; Medocracy, Inc.; Marsh & McLennan Agency, LLC; Five Guys; Fransmart; Promax Realtors (Ron Riddell); FCAC Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Union Street Public House (Bruce Witucki); Demo-

cratic Women of Clifton & NoVa.; Walmart (Store #2258); Kelly's Irish Times; and The Movement Studio.

"I have been asked for so many years why I do this," Bailey said.

"All I can say is that I learned to give not because I had much but because I know exactly how it feels to have nothing. This year especially, it is teamwork that makes the dream work."



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Deputy Chief Willie Bailey, left, with John Taylor of Jack Taylor's Alexandria Toyota and Alexandria Toyota marketing manager Andrew Mitchell at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and Firefighters and Friends annual toy drive distribution Dec. 15 at Penn Daw Fire Station 11. Jack Taylor's Toyota was a major sponsor of this year's toy drive.



Alison Nienaber, 7th Grade, St. Louis Catholic School
Art teacher Sarah Balough.

Children's & Teens' Gazette 2020



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ATLANTIC COAST MORTGAGE Brian Bonnet · Carey Meushaw · Amanda Wallingford



Illustrated by Marcella Kriebel | www.marcellakriebel.com

It's not a stretch to say that Marcella Kriebel has always been an artist and a lover of nature. As a local Washington, DC artist, Marcella's work has been featured in the Washington Post, NPR, Epicurious, and Williams Sonoma. Visit her at the downtown holiday market or see more of her work online at www.marcellakriebel.com.

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Appealing Bad Rulings

Lawmakers to consider expanding appeals court, providing new oversight and scrutiny to judges.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Virginia is the only state in the country that does not guarantee a right to appeal, allowing circuit court judges to make decisions with little oversight or scrutiny. Critics have been calling for reform ever since the Court of Appeals was first created in 1985. The Supreme Court of Virginia recommended an appeal of right as a “long term goal” in 2018. Now, Gov. Ralph Northam says he wants lawmakers to add four judges and support staff “to ensure the court can hear more appeals cases in a timely manner under an increasing workload.”

“The Supreme Court barely takes any cases, so the circuit courts are effectively the court of last resort,” said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who will be working in the Senate Judiciary Committee on the issue. “That gives circuit court judges a tremendous amount of power because their decisions are rarely reviewed.”

Soon after the governor announced his support for funding the proposal in a speech outlining his budget priorities for the upcoming General Assembly session, Republicans unleashed a buzzsaw of opposition. The chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia called the proposal to increase the appeals court from 11 judges to 15 judges a “court-packing plan.” The conservative Family Foundation said it was an effort “to protect the left’s radical new policies.” Senate Republicans said they would stand in opposition to the proposal.

“Governor Northam’s proposal to pack the Court of Appeals politicizes Virginia’s judiciary,” said Sen. Ryan McDougle (R-4), chairman of the Senate Republican Caucus. “I will adamantly oppose this effort by the governor.”

The fight over Virginia’s Court of Appeals comes after a blue-ribbon panel issued a 71-page report endorsing the idea of allowing appeal of right in all circuit court cases. A few months ago, a 24-member working group unanimously supported expanding jurisdiction. That was followed by an endorsement from the Judicial Council of Virginia, a group of judges, lawmakers and lawyers who voted unanimously in support of the proposal. A statement from the Virginia Bar Association explained that while some members were opposed, the consensus view was in favor of expanding the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeals to guarantee a right to ap-

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Lawmakers are about to consider a proposal that could dramatically remake criminal and civil procedure in Virginia.

peal court cases.

“Our members see this as an access-to-justice issue, and one implicating due process of law,” wrote Alison McKee, president of the Virginia Bar Association. “A circuit court’s rulings stand very little chance of reversal. That, our members posit, means that many erroneous circuit-court rulings go uncorrected.”

THE DEBATE OVER adding judges to the Court of Appeals is happening in an election year when candidates are jockeying for position during a heated primary season. The June primary for statewide offices will feature a huge slate of General Assembly members who will be hoping to use the upcoming session to highlight their policy positions and political skills. One of the House Republicans who is opposed to the governor’s proposal is Del. Jason Miyares (R-82), who is running for attorney general.

“Flipping the ideological makeup of this court will make it soft on crime,” said Miyares, who is one of two Republicans running in the June primary for attorney general. “This is yet another reason why we must

restore conservative leadership back to Richmond for a safe and secure commonwealth.”

Advocates for expanding the Court of Appeals say Virginia’s system is broken. Under the current system, the vast majority of defendants seeking an appeal for criminal convictions are denied. Even in civil cases, appeals are usually only heard in certain kinds of cases. That creates a disparity that is a black eye for Virginia, which is the only state in the country that has a system that does not guarantee a right for people to appeal a court ruling they feel is flawed.

“On a case by case basis, it’s harmful be-

“The Supreme Court barely takes any cases, so the circuit courts are effectively the court of last resort. That gives circuit court judges a tremendous amount of power because their decisions are rarely reviewed.”

—Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36)

cause if a judge made an error in your case you didn’t get justice,” said Andrew Elders, policy director for Justice Forward Virginia. “On a larger scale, the Court of Appeals makes law because it gives judges clarity about difficult questions.”

Despite opposition from some Repub-

licans, the proposal to provide an appeal of right has overwhelming support from lawyers and business groups. The Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Virginia Manufacturers Association support the effort, pointing out that the current system “undermines the quality of justice delivered in Virginia.”

The Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers supports the effort, adding that its members want to make sure every criminal appeal has an opportunity to present oral arguments.

The Virginia Trial Lawyers Association also supports the proposal, although its members raised concerns about systemic advantage of well-funded interests and a potential for less efficient administration of justice. “An appeal of right would give litigants from all walks of life the comfort of knowing that they received meaningful process and review of their causes,” wrote Valerie O’Brien, executive director of

the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. “Receiving reasoned decisions and explanations in all cases would promote confidence in the judicial system in that it would provide both the litigants and the public with a better explanation for why a given case produced a given result.”

The 121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count

Volunteers will count birds, locally and nationwide.



Red-tailed hawk

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS



Downy Woodpecker

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS



Members of the Friends of Dyke Marsh count birds for the Christmas Bird Count in the marsh and the Potomac River: Paula Sullivan Ned Stone, Ed Eder and Dorothy McManus.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS



Bald eagles stand out in the winter when trees are without leaves.

PHOTO BY NED STONE

Red-shouldered hawk

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

Between Dec. 14 and Jan. 5, volunteers will fan out across the Washington metropolitan area and count birds -- birds foraging in fields, hopping around front yards, poking in the leaf litter, perching in trees, wading in wetlands, feeding at feeders, flying, bathing, swimming, sleeping, all the things birds do. These volunteers are bird enthusiasts who will conduct the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC), a census of Western Hemisphere birds.

The Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 as an alternative to shooting birds, then a holiday sporting competition. That year, Frank Chapman, an ornithologist, proposed counting birds instead of destroying them and 27 people stepped up.

Volunteers register in advance and conduct each count in an established, 15-mile-wide-diameter circle. They count every bird they see or hear. Generally, there are four surveys in Northern Virginia. A National Audubon map of count circles shows surveys extending from Hawaii east to Newfoundland and from the Arctic south into South America.

Surveyors identify the bird species and record the number of each species. Beginners can pair with experienced birders. Counts are highly variable, affected by factors like weather, vegetation, time of day, pets, human activity and the observers' limitations.

Many birds are missed. Volunteers record birds as common as the American robin and as rare as a greater white-fronted goose.

Last winter, for the eastern Fairfax County count, 170 volunteers braved the cold and tallied 108 species. Two other counts in the northern and western part of the county and Prince William County had 237 volunteers. What's called the Manassas-Bull Run count identified over 20,000 birds, 86 species. "Compiling the Manassas-Bull Run Christmas Bird Count with the support of over 100 birders is a challenging and rewarding physical and mental exercise. It's great to help birds and have a key role in this oldest, largest, citizen-science project on Earth," said compiler Phil Silas.

Why This Matters

Birds are one indicator of the health of the environment and help people understand trends. Tom Blackburn, president of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, explains why surveys matter. "Bird surveys are vitally important to understanding the long-term trends in bird populations. The tens of thousands of citizen scientists who participate in these surveys provide information that professional researchers could not possibly replicate and that is used to develop strategies to protect birds and their habitat."

Local Trends

Larry Cartwright has been surveying birds in the region for almost 30 years and offers

SEE THE 121ST, PAGE 5



Paula Sullivan, Ed Eder and Dorothy McManus count birds along the Potomac River.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



Volunteers count birds at Huntley Meadows Park during the Christmas Bird Count.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



Green-winged Teal



Hooded Mergansers

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS

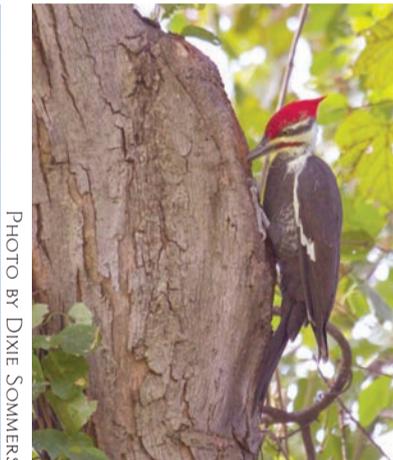


American Coot

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



Great Blue Heron



Pileated Woodpecker

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS



Red-bellied woodpecker

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS

The 121st Audubon Christmas Bird Count

FROM PAGE 4

some general observations. Woodland birds are stable. This includes most resident woodpeckers (downy, hairy, red-bellied, northern flicker and pileated). Red-tail and red-shouldered hawk populations are stable. Edge habitat species like cardinals are doing well or even increasing.

“Grasslands birds have been hit the hardest,” Cartwright maintains. “Northern bobwhites are gone and grasshopper sparrows are gone except from areas like the Lorton landfill.” Grassland habitats are rare in Northern Virginia. He’s seen a “gradual but steady decline” of great blue herons. Great blue herons are 46-inch-tall, long-legged, bluish-gray wading birds that frequent wetlands.

In the last 50 years, North America has lost three

billion birds, 29 percent of the population, according to the September 2019 Science magazine. A 2019 National Audubon study found that two-thirds of North American birds are at risk of extinction because of global temperature rise.

What Birds Need

People can support birds by planting and preserving native plants and trees that provide food and shelter for birds. To learn about Northern Virginia native plants, visit <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants> and enter your zip code and visit Plant NOVA Natives at <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/>.

For information about the CBC, visit <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count> and www.audubonva.org.



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RE/MAX Allegiance
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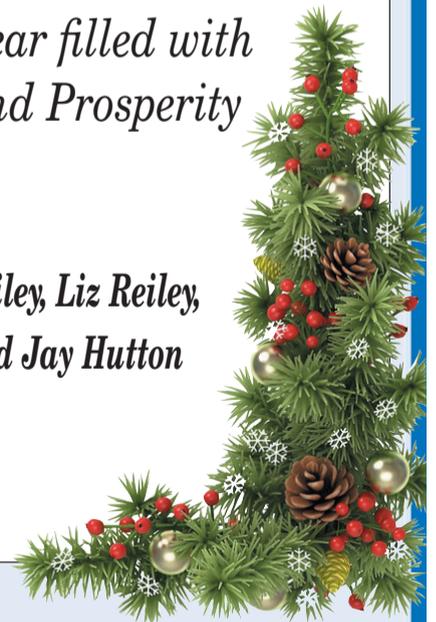


Season's Greetings

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Merry Christmas

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The pages of the Connection (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) are usually full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving. While in this, the year of COVID, the year 2020, a year like no other, the holidays have been

EDITORIAL muted in so many ways. Still we have celebrated help for the needy whose numbers have expanded with the pandemic; collecting toys and warm coats for children who might not otherwise receive them; holiday celebrations, concerts and performances via Zoom; socially distanced Santa, tree lightings; stories of giving; the Virtual Nutcracker; and more.

And still, Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption. In this holiday of 2020, like no other as we keep saying, we need the Christmas story in whatever way we can access it.

Christmas is also about embrac-

ing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you. These teachings have deep meaning and consequence for us right now.

Matthew 7:12:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.”

Matthew 25:35-40:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go

to visit you?’

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

SO SHARE the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

Whether you embrace the Christmas story literally or in spirit, it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that

she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cutting Pollution for Our Health

Ella Kissi-Debrah had severe asthma, frequently visiting the ER with cardiac and respiratory arrest. She died in February 2013. On Dec. 16, in a landmark decision in the UK, the coroner’s court found that air pollution “made a material contribution” to Ella’s death.

Under the Clean Air Act, Virginia has the legal authority to limit tailpipe pollution. Cars, SUVs, and pickup trucks are the largest source and produce greenhouse gases and other pollutants that harm us all, particularly children and the elderly. In 2016, Virginia had 750 deaths from transportation pollution.

Virginia Delegates Lamont Bagby and Richard “Rip” Sullivan are working on legislation to reduce tailpipe emissions by joining 13 other states in the Advanced Clean

Car Program. This program addresses both low emissions vehicles (LEV) and zero emissions vehicles (ZEV).

The LEV component reduces total emissions from gas- and diesel-powered vehicles. Car manufacturers must meet emissions standards based on average emissions across their entire fleet. Thus, manufacturers decide what combination of vehicles to sell to meet the standards. Buyers can still decide which vehicle to buy. Over time, the standard will get more stringent.

The ZEV component requires that approximately 8% of new vehicles sold in Virginia be electric or other zero-emission technology. Consumer demand for electric vehicles in Virginia is higher than supply. A ZEV standard would make more electric models available, and competition will reduce prices.

The Advanced Clean Car Program has a two-year lag between

when the regulation is finalized and when manufacturers must comply. Therefore, time is of the essence. The Virginia Assembly’s next legislative session begins Wednesday, Jan. 13. Let your representatives know you want cleaner cars. I’ll be writing Senator Pe-

tersen and Delegate Keam, and I’ll be doing it for our health.

Find your representatives at <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov>.

Linda Brown
Vienna

Correction

In October, the County and School Boards’ Joint Environmental Task Force (JET) submitted a list of recommendations for consideration by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County Public Schools Board to slow the impacts of global warming. Both Boards accepted the JET report and directed their respective staffs to develop an action plan based on these recommendations for consideration by the Boards in spring 2021.

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://www.instagram.com/TheismannMedia)

Marcia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike Salmon
Contributing Writer
msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Contributing Writer
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Helen Walutes
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://www.instagram.com/MaryKimm)

Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper



Landmark Deal

Hospital to relocate to site of old shopping mall on West End.

BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
GAZETTE PACKET

In a landmark move that could have repercussions for generations to come, city leaders are striking a deal with Inova to relocate the Alexandria hospital to the site of the old mall on the West End. The proposal calls for mixed-use urban development, including residential development, with transportation and park networks. Construction of the site could begin in 2023, with the first buildings completed in 2025.

"This plan for the future of the Landmark site is exciting, long-awaited news for our community," said Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson in a release. "The project would be a catalyst for the West End, providing significant benefits for Alexandria and the region at a time when focus on our long-term future is critical."

Before construction, applications for special use and zoning



Concept drawing of the four-million-square-foot community that would include the relocated and expanded Inova Hospital along with residential and commercial properties, parks and multi-modal transportation.

permits from developers will have to be sent to the city for review and approval, a process that could begin as early as February. The hospital is expected to be a part of the initial construction process, according to city spokesperson Craig Fifer.

"We are thrilled for the potential

to build a new hospital and medical campus, one that would allow us to expand our seamless system of care, increase our services, and elevate the facilities in Alexandria and throughout the region for decades to come," said Stephen Jones, president and CEO of Inova,

SEE LANDMARK, PAGE 13

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CHILDREN'S & TEENS' GAZETTE

Riverside Elementary

Pictures created by individual students at Riverside Elementary School in Alexandria, Va. Riverside Elementary School is a part of Fairfax County Public Schools Art specialist and teacher Nancy Libson.



Maryam Hassan, 11, Grade 5



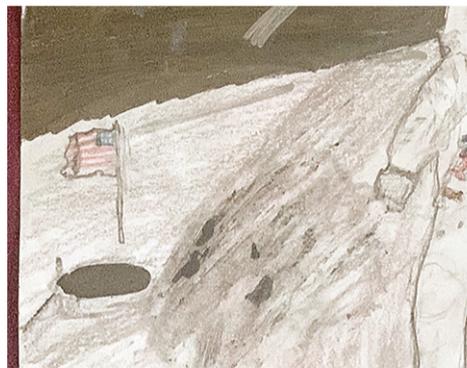
Mery Miranda, 9, Grade 4



Layla Simms, 10, Grade 4



Muhammad Salar, 10, Grade 4



Ramin Alam, 10, Grade 4



Nabiha Ahmed, 10, Grade 5

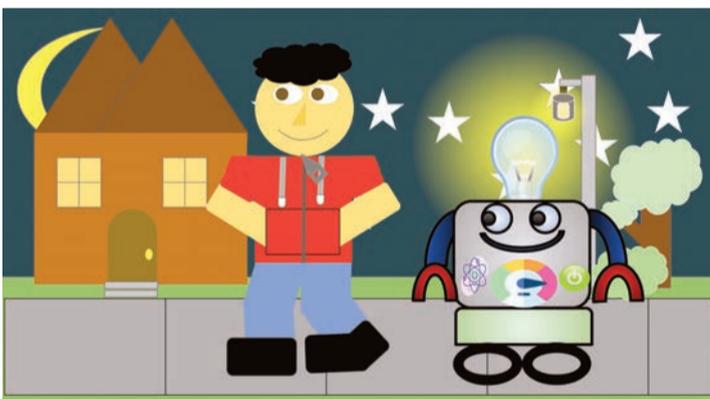


Elisabeth Fortin, 9, Grade 4



Cara Stocks
4th Grade
10 years old

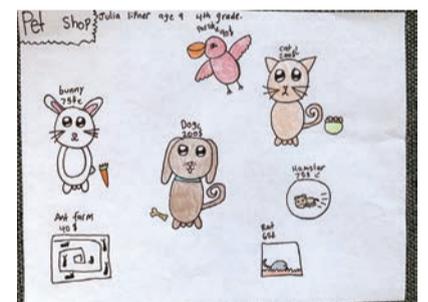
Hollin Meadows Elementary School



Christopher, Robot of the Future, 4th Grade, Riverside Elementary, Ms.Land



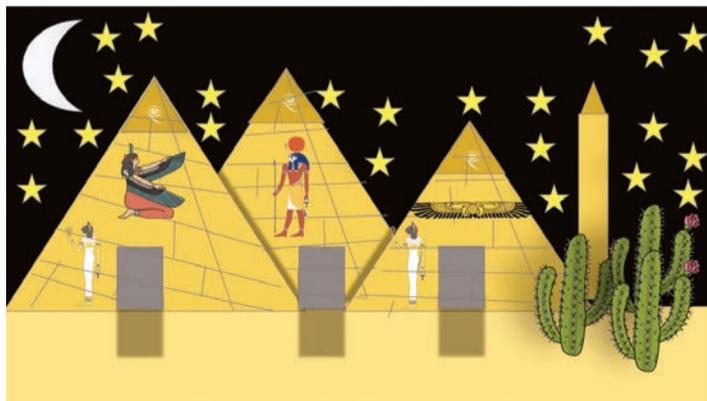
Dilia, Painting with Scissors, Kindergarten, Riverside Elementary, Ms.Land's class



Julia Lipner
4th Grade



Haroon, My Dream Home, Kindergarten, Riverside Elementary, Ms. Land



Mackenzie, Time Traveler, 4th Grade, Riverside Elementary, Ms. Land



Julia Lipner 4th Grade: dozen donuts



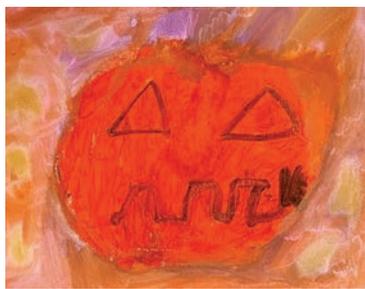
Julia Lipner age 9

Stratford Landing Elementary School

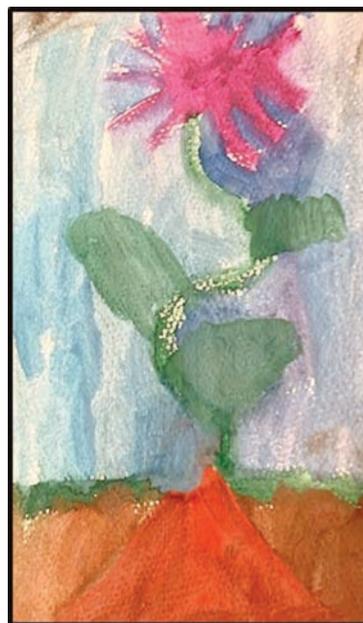
Mrs. Burke, ART Teacher



Darcey Goad – 1st Grade – Mrs. Froehlich



Evan Schwartz – 1st Grade – Mrs. Jarboe



Evan Schwartz – 1st Grade – Mrs. Jarboe



Karrington Carter – 1st Grade – Mrs. Froehlich



Brayden Banfield – 1st Grade – Mrs. Jarboe



Cecilia Schwartz – 3rd Grade – Ms. Lee



Jackson Saloom – 3rd Grade – Ms. Lee



Jeimy Hernandez Galeas – 3rd Grade – Mrs. Wegner

Riverside Elementary



Eymi, Ming Dynasty Pottery, 5th Grade, Riverside Elementary, Ms.Land



Mariangel Holiday Home, 2nd Grade, Riverside Elementary, Ms.Land



Michelle Me as an Architect, 6th Grade, Riverside Elementary, Ms.Land



Viviene, 2nd Grade, My Ideal Community, Riverside Elementary, Ms.Land



William, My Family Dream Home, 1st Grade, riverside Elementary, Ms.Land

CHILDREN'S & TEENS' GAZETTE

St. Louis Catholic School

Art teacher Sarah Balough.



Alana Fallon, 3rd Grade



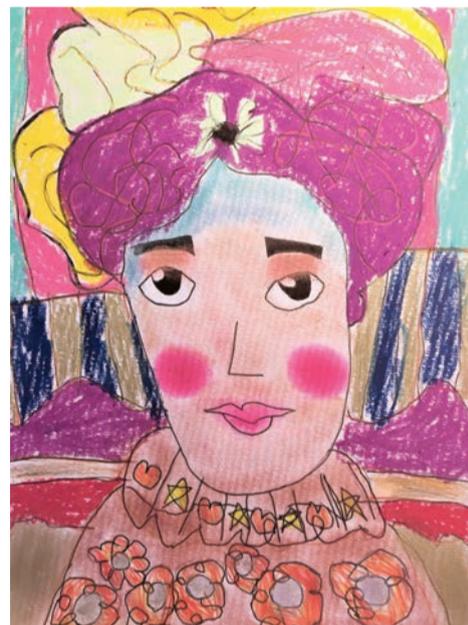
Alison Nienaber, 7th Grade



Bernadette Gorman, 4th Grade



Bennett Larrabee, 4th Grade



Abigail Graf, 2nd Grade



Annabelle Lovelace, 2nd Grade



Catherine Bobrowski, 7th Grade



Nora Costello, 2nd Grade



Clara Dibella, 5th Grade



Eren Allison, 2nd Grade

St. Louis Catholic School

Art teacher Sarah Balough.



Cole Michaels, 5th Grade



Felix Ferguson, 5th Grade



Frances Miller, 7th Grade



Genevieve Theroux, 5th Grade



Isabel Graf, Kindergarten



Kyla Conner, 2nd Grade



Hannah Suwandhi, 3rd Grade



Nolan Kennedy, 3rd Grade



Kyla Matheis, 7th Grade



Mia Gagan, 4th Grade



Makenna Widhalm, 1st Grade



Quinn Powell, 1st Grade



Reesa Benitez, 5th Grade



Will Fletcher, 1st Grade



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SENIOR LIVING

Surviving Christmas Day in Solitude

Ideas for coping with being alone of the holiday.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

While Christmas Day will be different and difficult for many this year, will be especially difficult for seniors who live alone and will be in solitude because of COVID-19 risks. This is particularly the case for those who are spending it without loved ones or who are missing religious or social observances for the first time.

Part of making it through the next few days, and other milestones that come before widespread vaccination, is accepting that there will be highs and lows, excitement and disappointment and acknowledging that the day will pass.

Local churches have found creative solutions to fill the void of those who are missing religious services, such as those held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. "Though we'll have two limited-capacity outdoor Christmas Eve services in our cemetery, most of our parishioners will be attending church through our prerecorded virtual service," said Elizabeth Rees,

Senior Associate Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. "We have been working hard to include as many parishioner faces as possible through prayers, readings, choir pieces put together digitally, and candle-lighting montages."

In addition to calling homebound, elderly parishioners, Rees says the church created Advent calendars which include scripture passages. "It is a hard time for seniors especially, since many of them aren't as facile with things like Zoom and FaceTime that allow them to at least see people remotely," she said.

The lack of social celebratory connections can be challenging, says Alice Clark of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University, who suggests pre-arranged virtual group chat sessions, such as those organized by OLLI.

"We have launched a 24/7 chat room for our members to jump on any time to an ongoing open Zoom session and chat with friends," she said. "They can even arrange for



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETH GIBBS

Beth Gibbs, who will be alone on Christmas, has developed a plan to make it through the day.

friends to login at a certain time for an organized group chat. It is meant to serve as a social lifeline between terms and during the holidays." A virtual dinner on Christmas Day with family and friends can also provide comfort.

Creating an hour-by-hour or minute-by-minute plan is the strategy of 77-year-old Beth Gibbs,

during the holidays," she said.

Her creativity comes in the form of writing. "I write every day for two to three hours," she said. "I finished a book that I've been working on for two years and started two others. I also laugh out loud every day."

For those who are missing the majesty and grandeur of Christmas

music, one option is a virtual holiday concert, entitled, "Joy" by the nonprofit Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the largest choral organization for adults 55 and older. This year, the Christmas concert will include more than 400 singers from Maryland, Virginia and other

parts of the country, as well as musicians playing string, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments.

"Since the pandemic, Encore had to pivot and we created Encore University, a comprehensive virtual program of singing, rehearsing and a wide range of courses in vocal technique, music history and music theory," said Georgetta Morque of Encore. "Many of the singers say singing brings them joy, gives them purpose and keeps them engaged with others, even virtually."

The concert is free for viewing until Jan. 16.

"This is a very different way of celebrating Christmas this year for everyone," said Rees.

"Smiling eyes above a masked face help but don't replace the close physical contact of a hug from my son."

— Beth Gibbs

who will be spending the holidays alone.

"What I'll miss most during the holidays is simple human interaction," said Gibbs of Flourish From The Ground Up, a blog that seeks to help others develop self-awareness. "Smiling eyes above a masked face help but don't replace the close physical contact of a hug from my son, my brother and his family and all the nieces and nephews. I'll really miss seeing them in person during the holidays. I guess I'll have to be okay with Zoom."

Gibbs has a few ways of coping: creativity, laughter, yoga and 20 minutes of meditation each day. "I'll be employing all of them

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Landmark Deal

FROM PAGE 7

in a statement.

The hospital relocation could also heavily impact the West End's perceived identity. The expanded hospital, along with the rest of the redeveloped site, could be a distinguishing factor for the Landmark Mall area.

"Landmark Mall really has the opportunity to be a gathering spot for the West End," said Brigg Bunker, chief operating officer of Foulger-Pratt, a real estate firm partnered with the city government and the hospital in the relocation. "The new design will be anchored by large outdoor gathering spaces and parks that will really engage the community — not just those that live and work in Landmark Mall but the entire West End community.

This project is no small expense. Inova plans to invest about \$1 billion dollars to create, expand and relocate its campus to Landmark Mall. According to the proposal from Inova and DC Area-based real

estate firm Foulger-Pratt, acquiring the land to lease to the hospital is estimated to cost about \$54 million. Preparing the site and infrastructure could cost an additional \$76 million.

"We are investing a significant amount of time and we are investing significant amounts of equity," said Bunker. "There will be multiple billions of dollars of private investment in Landmark Mall."

The city will start its community information process with a virtual meeting involving real estate developers and Inova on January 4 at 7 pm.

Inova plans to sell its current Seminary Road location to residential developers before relocating to Landmark Mall, which means a separate process would begin to have the area rezoned for residential use.

Inova's plans to work with the city to request zoning for residential use will be further discussed at a virtual meeting on January 6 at 6 pm.

"This plan for the future of the Landmark site is exciting, long-awaited news for our community."

— Alexandria Mayor
Justin Wilson

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.

TUESDAY/JAN. 19

Genealogy in Print. 1-2:30 p.m. Zoom online network -- Mount Vernon Genealogical Society monthly meeting. Genealogist Sharon MacInnes will speak about how to find and download county and family history books, articles, newspapers, manuscripts, etc. Online access info to be emailed to Society members and registered nonmembers. Email registration by January 15 to contact-us@mvgenealogy.org. Visit the website: www.mvgenealogy.org/eventListing.php?nm=20

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ACADEMIC RESOURCES

The Alexandria Library will soon offer free academic resources and online tutoring from Tutor.com. All customers with a library card can use the service to get help with homework, class projects, papers—even test prep. Tutoring is available in all core K-12 subjects — math, science, English, social studies and writing, including AP-level assistance. Students can access live, online tutoring from any Internet-capable device. Visit: <https://alexlibraryva.org>.

PROJECT STICKER SHOCK

Throughout December, the City of

Alexandria is collaborating with local restaurants in this year's Project Sticker Shock campaign, an annual youth-led initiative to educate adults about the serious penalties for providing alcohol to minors under 21 years old.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) and Alexandria youth, who spearhead the campaign each year, are providing participating restaurants with window clings and bright warning stickers for delivery boxes and bags. While the initial group of partners includes pizza restaurants because the delivery boxes easily facilitate the project stickers, any restaurants with suitable delivery packaging are encouraged to participate. Youth age 13 and older have reported in national polls that it is easy to get alcohol from adults, including sometimes from parents with substance use disorders. Providing alcohol to a person under age 21 is a Class 1 misdemeanor in Virginia, punishable with a driver's license suspension and a fine of up to \$2,500, and up to 12 months in jail, or both.

CAPITAL BIKESHARE EXPANDS

The City of Alexandria will expand the Capital Bikeshare Program to the West End several years ahead of schedule, starting in early 2021. The City will purchase seven previously deployed stations in good condition, which will accelerate the system expansion by two to five

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 16

2021 GOALS

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Last-Minute Stocking Stuffers to Support Restaurants

BY HOPE NELSON
ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET

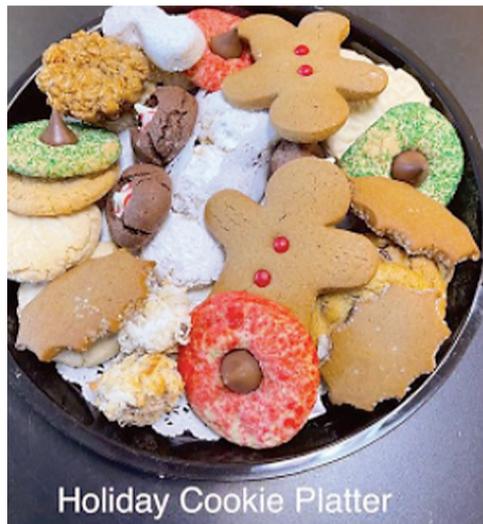
Let's face it: Sometimes, you find yourself at Christmas Eve Eve and still have yet to procure a gift or two for some loved ones on your list. No problem: These restaurants and cafes have you covered. Gift cards to the rescue – and your recipients will never know the difference. Buying restaurant gift cards also helps rescue the restaurants.

**The Dairy Godmother,
2310 Mount Vernon Ave.**

Is someone in your life especially deserving of a sweet treat? Let The Dairy Godmother sprinkle some magic on your behalf. From thick, rich custards to lighter sorbet to some decadent dairy-free options as well, there's something for any elf on your list. A gift card will help you stuff stockings with ease. Egg nog custard, anyone?

**Chadwicks,
203 Strand St.**

Give the gift of hearty American fare with a certificate to Chadwicks. The stalwart along The Strand has faced 2020's challenges head-on and pivoted – and pivoted again – as events warranted. To wit: Hosts and servers became delivery drivers when indoor dining was suspended; the restaurant's outdoor dining space expanded by a good 100% to accommodate those looking for some more fresh air; and, like so many



Holiday Cookie Platter



Peppermint Stick Frozen Custard Cake



Peppermint Stick frozen custard truffles



Peppermint Stick Frozen Custard Pie

Treats from Dairy Godmother. Instagram @thedairygodmom.

other eateries, curbside pickup has become the name of the game. With Chadwicks' extensive menu, a gift card certainly wouldn't go amiss with most any recipient.

**Elizabeth's Counter,
804 N. Henry St.**

Get a card, give a card to help those in need – isn't that what the holidays are all about? Along with purchasing a card from Elizabeth's Counter for a friend, you can also buy one to support ALIVE, a food pantry and services organization that helps the city's most vulnerable. This purchase helps two groups: The recipients at ALIVE and also the staff at Elizabeth's Counter, which like so many cafes is struggling during the pandemic. With their card, your loved ones can splurge on an array of doughnuts and hearty plant-based comfort food (including fried chik'n and burgers).

**Bagel Uprising,
2307-A Mount Vernon Ave.**

For breakfast, lunch, dinner or even snack time, bagels get you where you need to go. And Bagel Uprising aims to keep the holiday season merry and bright with a selection of gift cards, which recipients can use to buy a baker's dozen of bagels, order some sandwiches or even pick up a pizza bagel or two (or more).

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JAN. 3

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run. At Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Opens nightly 5 to 10 p.m. Ice and Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run will return this year, featuring an ice rink, more than a dozen holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming, retail area, food, music and more. The Ice and Lights Village is a short drive from Old Town. Masks are required in all areas of Ice & Lights except when eating or drinking in the concession areas. Admission: \$8.16 for general admission to Village; \$20.68 for admission with skating; starting January 9, 2021, \$12.19 for skating. Visit novaparks.com/events/ice-lights

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Christmas at Mount Vernon. From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Visit Mount Vernon this winter to participate in holiday activities and meet special guest Aladdin the camel. Learn about camels and George Washington's interest in exotic animals during Camel Talks, offered

Friday through Sunday beginning on November 27. Specialty tours give guests a deeper look into the holidays at Mount Vernon. During the tour "Mrs. Washington's Mount Vernon," hear Martha Washington discuss the day-to-day planning needed for a busy holiday season. The "Holiday Dinner for the Washingtons" tour shares how food was grown, preserved and served during the holidays. Mount Vernon is open 365 days a year, including on Christmas Day. Admission: \$23 for adults; \$12 for youth (ages 6-11); free for children age 5 and below; extra cost for some activities. Visit mountvernon.org/christmas

NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Art on the Avenue. The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival will move to a virtual format for 2020, running through the holidays. Over 150 artists will be featured, offering handmade items in a wide range of mediums, including wheel-thrown vases and bowls, tiles, sculpture, tote bags and purses, drawings and pastels, knitted and crocheted hats and gloves, woven scarves and shawls, gourmet food, fused and blown glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, and much more. Traditionally held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue, Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival that strives to reflect

the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work, and draws an estimated 75,000 visitors each year. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Small Works Show. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. "Small Works, Great Joy!" an all-member, all-media show of compelling small-scale works by our artists, priced affordably for holiday shopping. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

NOW THRU JAN. 30

Winter Wonderland. At King & Rye's courtyard (480 King Street, Alexandria) is transforming into a Winter Wonderland. In addition to general courtyard seating with heat lamps and holiday décor, new this year, book an igloo for private dining for up to eight guests. This is ideal for social distancing as you are only in the space with your party, and the area is sanitized between parties. The igloos will each have heaters as well as the option to play your own music via a Bluetooth speaker. The igloos will be reservation required with a \$50 rental and \$100 food and beverage minimum. The rental will include a hot cocoa and cookie bar. For food and beverage, enjoy a tapas style menu with a southern twist

and, of course, festive cocktails. Reservations can be booked online or via info@kingandrye.com, available as of December 2, 2020. Visit kingandrye.com/event/winter-wonderland

NOW THRU JAN. 8

Old Town Business Holiday Lamp Post Art Walk. Along King Street and select side streets, Old Town Alexandria. The arts are alive in Old Town this holiday season with the debut of its first-holiday art walk. Don't forget the exceptional shopping and dining Old Town Alexandria has to offer. Old Town Business collaborated with 25 artists from The Art League to create holiday-themed lamp post art pieces along King Street and select side streets. A map of the artwork will be created so folks can stroll the art walk at their own leisure. Lamp Post Art will be located in the following areas.

DEC. 26-27

Nutcracker Ballet. Metropolitan School of the Arts is going forward with a COVID-19 style, Nutcracker ballet performed at the George Washington Masonic Memorial Temple in Alexandria., to debut as a virtual, pre-recorded video to stream on Sat., Dec. 26 at 12 PM, 3 PM and 6 PM; and Sun., Dec. 27, at 11 AM, 2 PM and 5 PM on Metropolitan School of the Arts'

private YouTube channel (YouTube link will be emailed one hour before performance time). Tickets are per household with ticket prices ranging from \$40 to \$80, while early bird pricing is available before Dec. 15. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org for more information, and purchase tickets at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35491/production/1034231>.

DEC. 26-27

Mansion House Christmas at Carlyle House. 5 to 8 p.m. (tours on the half hour). At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Discover how Christmas was celebrated when the Green family lived at Carlyle House and the Mansion House Hotel was being used as a Civil War hospital. Stay tuned for updates about live music. Be sure to check out last minute deals in the Museum Shop. Tours offered of the first floor with timed entry on the hour and half hour. Space is limited and reservations are required. All COVID-19 safety procedures will be in place during this tour. Admission: \$10 per adult; \$3 per child; free for children under 6 years old. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. Visit novaparks.com. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE I4
com.

DEC. 26-28

Winter Glow at Mount Vernon. From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Experience an enchanted evening of winter lights at Mount Vernon. See the estate illuminated with soft lights and holiday patterns as you listen to Christmas carolers and visit an 18th-century winter encampment. You can also meet Aladdin the camel, shop for artisan-made goods, purchase warm food and holiday drinks at the Mount Vernon Inn Food Truck and more. Admission: Starting at \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members. Visit mountvernon.org/christmas

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria's "A Night of Nostalgia." 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. At 5001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. New this year, First Night Alexandria celebrates New Year's Eve with "A Night of Nostalgia," a drive-in and virtual concert experience. Load up the car and celebrate the arrival of 2021 in the West End of Alexandria with a drive-in concert experience of pre-recorded music and comedy projected on the big screen. Sing along, dance and enjoy a night filled with classic hits, local food truck favorites and exciting giveaways. Or let First Night Alexandria be the soundtrack for your at-home celebration, featuring the same great music as the live event, streamed to you virtually. Admission: Per car - \$60 general/\$75 VIP; Per virtual link - \$20. Visit FirstNightAlexandria.org

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

Torpedo Factory Art Center's Virtual Olde Year's Day. Welcome 2021 from the comfort of your home with our art videos and projects to create and share. Visit torpedofactory.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 31

Holiday Open House at Carlyle House. 5 to 8 p.m. (tours on the half hour). At 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Wrap up your year with a visit to Carlyle House on New Year's Eve. Guests will learn about holiday traditions of old, some which we still enjoy today. Stay tuned for updates about live music. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. Visit novaparks.com

SATURDAY/JAN. 2

Twilight Boardwalk Stroll. 4:30-6:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. On this outing for family members age 6 to adult, you will take a guided walk along the park's forested paths to the wetland. A park naturalist will help interpret what you see. Watch and listen for beavers, owls and other nocturnal residents. The program runs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and the cost is \$9 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

JAN. 8-30

Hidden World Art Exhibit. Regular gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-6 p.m., and Saturdays 12-4 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Hidden World" SEE CALENDAR, PAGE I6

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Trip, and Hopefully Not a Fall

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Having recently returned from a driving sojourn through the south with stops and stays in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida visiting four sets of friends in those three states, I can say with certainty that wearing masks, social distancing and common sense consideration for your fellow citizen were not nearly so accepted as we had hoped. Though we didn't exactly mingle with the masses, we were, nonetheless, in uncharted territory. As such, my wife and I will be getting covid tests after a week or so of being at home. Though still symptom free, it seems prudent under the very unique circumstances in which the world finds itself that we not wait too much longer. Time is very likely of the essence.

As a precaution - and courtesy to our southern hosts, we both got tested before our trip and with negative results, off we drove with one less concern. Now we could say with certainty that we had acted respectfully and with other people's prospective health in mind. Nevertheless, it was hardly a guarantee that we would remain covid free. After all, it was only a test. It was not an inoculation. Speaking of which, as a cancer patient with a compromised immune system, I imagine I'm likely to get my two shots sooner rather than later. But what about my wife, Dina. She raised an interesting question. Though she's not in any of the categories of early shot recipients, she is however living with someone who is: me. Moreover, I don't suppose it would be to my advantage living in the same household/sleeping in the same bed/caring for a covid-positive person: my wife, even after receiving my shot. Data for that situation likely doesn't exist yet. I don't imagine it's akin to playing with fire - for me, more likely like playing with embers. Still, there seems to exist a risk, perhaps one that's been considered in the hierarchy/schedule of "inoculees." In summary, will family members of high-risk covid 19 recipients receive their vaccinations earlier on in the schedule than they might otherwise have been eligible? Or is the demand too great, given the worldwide pandemic, which I imagine it is.

If the plan is to minimize the risk for those most at risk, how do you accomplish that while leaving those closest (literally and figuratively) to them unprotected? I'm not asking for special treatment or dispensation from the Pope (has he gotten his shot?), I'm just wondering. Granted, there's not an unlimited supply - on or off the shelves, of vaccines, but there does seem to be nearly unlimited numbers of people who need to be vaccinated to accomplish a sort of worldwide herd-type immunity. That being said, if other people living in the home of an individual qualified/fortunate to receive a shot or two, are not inoculated as well, will it in fact enable the virus to move on, so to speak and find some other host susceptible enough to keep the virus straining? Will the proximity of other non-inoculated people defeat the purpose of getting the tier ones and twos inoculated? (I sound like Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah Jessica Parker) from "Sex and the City" sounding out one of her columns.)

I don't mean to be paranoid; I'm just wondering/theorizing if my fear is at all founded in reality or am I just cruising for a verbal bruising? I'm also curious if there's any discretion in the recipient process. Presumably, there are lots of circumstances/patients like me where the cancer patients' health and welfare - to varying degrees, are dependent on the health of people (family, friends or caregivers) entrusted to care for them. Giving the vaccine to the patient but denying it for the people responsible for their wellbeing seems counterproductive - or short sighted. I may very well be inoculated against covid in the not too distant future, but if I don't receive the care and feeding I need, I may survive covid but still die from my underlying disease: cancer. I understand there's no perfect solution at present. But it's the future I'm worried about.

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

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 15

exhibit challenged artists to look deeply into the world, their emotions or imaginations to uncover something normally unseen. There will also be two workshops: Hidden World: Collage in a Box, with Susan Farrer on Sunday, January 10 from 1:30-4:30 p.m., and Hidden Layers: The Joys of Gel Printing, with Eileen O'Brien on Sunday, January 24 from 3-6 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

Free Online Concert. 7-10 p.m. Via Zoom. Enjoy an evening of robust sea chanteys with Forty Degrees South, coming to you live from Australia. Forty Degrees South excels in full throated, gloriously gutsy harmony Singing. Virtual Doors open at 7 p.m., Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Register at <https://fsgw.org/event-4082739>. Visit the website: <https://fsgw.org/event-4082739>

JAN. 13 AND JAN. 24

Catch a Critter. Jan. 13 from noon to 1:30 p.m.; Jan. 24 from 1-2:30 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. On these special days, program participants will have the chance to see, touch and study wetland creatures up close under the guidance of a park scientist. Grab a net to see what can be found in the wetland and use magnifying lenses to study the unique

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

years. The interim stations, which are anticipated to be installed in January and February, will be replaced with new equipment once grant funding becomes available. City staff is finalizing locations for stations and coordinating an installation schedule. The general locations recommended in Alexandria's Transportation Master Plan (p. 55) are being used as a starting point for the new locations and are being considered in coordination with the bikeshare operator and adjacent property owners. Members of the Traffic and Parking Board supported these locations during discussion at their meeting on October 26. Visit alexandriava.gov/Bikesharing.

DRIVERS NEEDED TO HELP SENIORS

Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization serving senior citizens in the Mount Vernon and Alexandria areas of Fairfax County. They are in critical need for volunteers to assist members with driving to medical appointments and grocery shopping. Mount Vernon At Home will supply you with necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), and can provide a donation receipt for your mileage. Volunteers can sign up for driving assignments through the online system which makes it easy to see and accept assignments. Give what time you can, there is no minimum or maximum number of hours. If you have some time to give to the community and can spare several hours a month, visit info@mountvernonathome.org, or call 703-303-4060.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org. Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based

characteristics of these little animals. Discover what they can tell us about their home. This rare opportunity to dip-net in the wetland is possible through the guidance of the park naturalists, and the event is designed for nature lovers age 4 to adult. The cost is \$9 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

THE BIRCHMERE

The Birchmere in Alexandria is reopening with limited capacity. During the public health emergency, there will be a \$25 food and beverage minimum and a \$5 Covid fee. There will be no bar service and no gathering in the stage or bar areas. Customers will be escorted to their seats, and those without reserved seats will be seated by staff to ensure social distancing.

Schedule of Shows:

Sat. Dec. 26: Mousey Thompson & The James Brown Experience
Sun. Dec. 27: Citizen Cope -- Canceled
Mon. Dec. 28: Deanna Bogart -- Canceled
Tues. Dec. 29: Live at the Fillmore
Wed. Dec. 30: Kindred The Family Soul -- Canceled
Thu. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve with The Seldom Scene, Sideline, Shannon Bielski & Moonlight Drive 8 p.m.
The venue is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. All shows at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall. Visit the Birchmere's website: <http://www.birchmere.com/>

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

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711. Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteer-fairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

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

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

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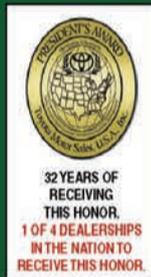
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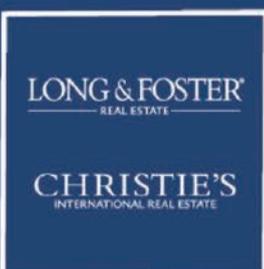
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