

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 1-7, 2022



Chitra Sharma's creations for "Noctiluna," start with a silkscreen.



Forgework iron products of Sean Crane are available at the Workhouse Arts Center retail store.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Some members of this Chantilly family traveled to Turkey to investigate the secret to roasting nuts.

'Made in Fairfax' Finds a Place Under the Tree

Locally produced directory has 160 places to find the perfect gift.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

"Buy Locally," can now include "Made Locally," as the Made in Fairfax moniker gets traction this holiday season with everything from furniture to dog treats to peanut butter being made right here in Fairfax County.

Made in Fairfax is a program of Fairfax County and is coordinated by the Department of Planning and Development Community Revitalization Section, in partnership with the Department of Economic Initiatives. According to Doug Loescher, the coordinator of Made in Fairfax, an extensive directory was developed "to connect local

small production manufacturers to the community and potential customers," he said. It's a one-stop shop for maker businesses and the people who want to support them, he added.

The directory started with 30-40 local companies in 2017 and has now grown to 160 Loescher said. "It's been great for them, they've gotten a lot of exposure through the directory," he added.

Made in Fairfax partners with Visit Fairfax, which helps to promote them through the holiday gift guide, and Celebrate Fairfax, which operates a series of seasonal markets at the PARC in Tysons, free of charge to the makers. There are seven individual Made in Fairfax entities that are partnering with the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton to display their products

in the retail shop at the Workhouse.

Semicolon Craft and Forgeworks, is one of the local producers that has been in the directory since the beginning and has a presence at the Workhouse. Sean Crane is the blacksmith who runs his forge in Oakton and mans the hammer and anvil when needed. "The other day a guy called and needed a bracket with holes in the right place," he said. Recently some of his goods were displayed at the Workhouse Arts Center. "It has the same kind of atmosphere," Crane said.

Chitra Sharma is the power behind "Noctiluna," a woman-owned small business based in Vienna. "Happiness By Design," is the logo, and Sharma does all the sewing, silk screening and creativity in this locally owned business that specializes in children's clothing. Her works include colorful kids tee-shirts, dresses, pillows and tote bags adorned with panda bears, ice cream cones and dragons.

A Family of Nuts lives in Chantilly and be-

gan roasting nuts in the winter of 2019 with a dry roast process to ensure no additional oils are added. Faddy Zumot has spearheaded this business that his father and uncle dabbled in years ago, and Zumot took a trip to Turkey to learn the nut business. To make the authentic nut-roasting kitchen, "a guy from Turkey came out and helped us," he said. Now they feature a mixed nuts package and candied cashews from a secret family recipe that they feature at several of the county Farmers Markets in the area.

According to Ali Morris at Visit Fairfax, locally produced keepsakes are a part of the county's attraction and that's one reason they are participating. "The artisans and makers of Made in Fairfax are providing that option with their incredible products, helping to make any visitor's trip to Fairfax County memorable," she said.

Browse the guide at <https://www.fxva.com/blog/post/made-in-fairfax-holiday-gift-guide/>

Late Season Farmer's Markets are Bustling Before the Holidays

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In late November when thoughts were on the holidays and cold weather, the Farmers Market in Mount Vernon was busy before noon on the Wednesday when that market is scheduled to open. The vendors still had a couple of markets left in the season since the Mount Vernon market is one of three that will remain open into December.

There were about eight tents in the lot off Sherwood Hall Lane and they offered all the normal Farmers Market fare plus fresh holiday wreaths.

Regular shoppers Lisa and Susie Anamony were happy to see it thriving this late in the season. "Even if it's not produce, they've got a ton of other stuff," Susie said.

Betsy Herbst was behind the table at the Misty Meadow Farm Creamery, with a regular following of people seeking fresh milk, butter and ice cream. They have 120 cows back at the farm that they milk three times a day. "We have so many people that rely on our milk," she said.

The Mount Vernon Farmers Market just announced

County Farmers Markets that are open into December:

❖ BURKE

April 16 - Dec. 17; 8 a.m. - Noon on Saturdays
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway

❖ RESTON

April 30 - Dec. 3; 8 a.m. - Noon on Saturdays
Lake Anne Village Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza

❖ MCCUTCHEON/MOUNT VERNON

April 20 - Dec. 21; 8 a.m. - Noon Wednesdays
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

staying open into December, along with the Farmer's Markets in Burke and Reston. The rest of the county markets close in late fall.

Most fruits and vegetables grown around here stop at the first official frost, but there are certain items that are still around late in the season like apples and potatoes. "A few of our farmers have greenhouses



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

SEE FARMER'S MARKETS, PAGE 13

The Mount Vernon Farmers Market is at the Sherwood Hall Library.



Thank You

JULIAN T. BURKE II

2022 has been quite a year. One thing that has been consistent throughout is the remarkable support of my wonderful clients. Your loyalty is appreciated more than you know, especially as we've had to navigate through a year full of change. My goal is always to return that loyalty and give you the outstanding service that you deserve.

As we enter the holiday season, I hope you make many special moments with family and friends, and embrace the spirit of the season. I wish you all the best during the holidays and a wonderful 2023.



*107 Commonwealth Ave
22314 | \$847,500



*204 Jefferson Street
22314 | \$1,060,000



2685 Centennial Court
22311 | \$542,500



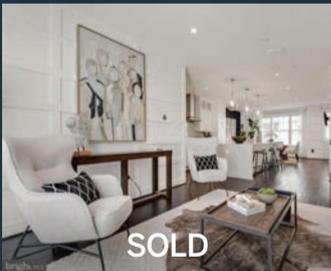
1604 Cleveland Street
22201 | \$2,015,000



416 Nottoway Walk
22304 | \$950,000



*711 Carpenter Road
22314 | \$925,000



1323 Wilkes Street
22314 | \$1,370,000



520 John Carlyle Street #116
22314 | \$682,500



6603 E Wakefield Drive #A
22307 | \$236,500



*412 S Fayette Street
22314 | \$1,149,000

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ADVENTURE

Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Receive Treatment Locally

Assistance goes beyond prosthetics.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE GAZETTE

When retired Marine Ed Moore found out that three Ukrainian soldiers with amputations would be in the area to be fitted with prosthetics after injury on the battlefield, he did what any Marine would do ... he offered to take them fishing.

Veterans Fishing Adventure was started by Moore and his daughter Haley. They've been offering veterans and their families fishing and boating trips on the Potomac River and Occoquan River for four years. With up to four boats, they offer as many as three trips per week. Veterans Fishing Adventure specializes in offering those with physical limitations an opportunity to participate and allowing those with disabilities to take their children fishing. Their non-profit, volunteer organization with specially fitted boats is able to offer this opportunity to be on the water at no cost to U.S. service veterans, to enjoy a pastime that many of us enjoy without much thought for the logistics. <https://veteransfishingadventure.org/>

Early, at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, because fishing often starts early, the three soldiers, their translator, and the boat crew gathered dockside at the Pohick Bay Regional Park Marina. First activity of the day — set nets to catch bait fish for the day's fishing excursion. After 13 fish, mostly shad with one or two carp, were netted by volunteer crew members Scott Cole and Tim Majewski, plus boat captain Moore head the Knot4gotn east into the sunrise for a promising day of fishing adventures and sightseeing along the Potomac River.

SEE ADVENTURE, PAGE 5



Capt. Ed Moore poses with his passengers for the day, (seated) Ruslan Tyshchenko, Alex Fedun, (standing) the Veteran's Success Resource Group representative, and Anatoliy Kirda.



Volunteer crew member Scott Cole watches the net buoys for signs that bait fish have swum into the nets.



The group huddles in the warmth of the cabin after leaving the dock.



The crew hauls in the nets and removes Shad and Carp for use as bait during the day's fishing excursion.



Scott Cole, volunteer crew, brings in fish that by size would make most fisherman happy but for today will be used to attract even larger catfish.



PHOTO COURTESY VFA

Anatoliy Kirda had the biggest catch of the day, a 39 pound Blue Catfish

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



A crowd of dozens of well wishers who gathered to greet the Ukrainians included retired Cmdr. Kirk Lippold (center), police and fire personnel, veterans and avid fishermen.

War Takes Heavy Toll on Ukrainian Women

United Nations warns of war impacts to women globally.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

As the war in Ukraine continues with brutal shelling of civilian targets, humanitarian catastrophe mounts in a war not confined to soldiers or distant battlefields. For millions of women and girls, the ongoing war continues to take a heavy toll as it grinds on. Whether joining the fighting at the front, remaining behind, or fleeing, the United Nations warns for women “access to livelihood opportunities and basic services, including life-saving sexual and reproductive health care and information, has been severely disrupted.”

Two Ukrainian women share their experience of the war. For the past three to four months all their time has been spent in hospitals supporting their husbands who lost legs while fighting for Ukraine. Iryna Kirda and Iryna Tyshchenko, are now in the Washington metro

area temporarily, while accompanying their husbands, who are being fitted for prosthetic devices in Silver Spring, Md.

Before the war, Kirda, who has four adult sons, was working as a nanny. She supplemented her income by leading a ‘health group’ — what we would call women’s exercise classes. After Russian bombardment of her Kiev suburb, she was evacuated from her home for a time. Once she could return, she spent her time holding charity events to support the war effort.

Before the war, Tyshchenko was an anchor for a television news station. On the first day of the war, all the television stations closed. From the first day, food disappeared from shelves, and they could not withdraw money from the banks. Her apartment in Kharkiv was heavily bombed. The Russians were close by, but not where she was. So friends came to hide in the basement of her building, though rockets flew overhead and a plane



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Iryna Tyshchenko and Iryna Kirda support their husbands on a easier day safely within the borders of the United States

was shot down just a kilometer away. As the Russians were eventually pushed farther away, their rockets and drones remained a

threat. True to her journalism profession, she has been taking videos to document the destruction of her apartment building and other devastation. Her adult daughter evacuated to the Czech Republic.

Both women speak of the difficulties and how hard life has become. Both talk about how very scary it is to wait for a call with news of their husbands. Kirda says she doesn’t know how God gave her the strength to survive. But she knew she had to be strong when that dreaded call did come saying her husband was wounded so badly. She knew he would look in her eyes for her reaction and she would be ready to show her support for him.

For the moment, life is a little easier. They said they feel so lucky to come here and love the United States, calling the opportunity to have the help a blessing. While their husbands enjoyed a day of fishing on the Potomac, a Ukrainian friend took them shopping at T.J Maxx and Nordstrom Rack. They described doing more looking than buying, but hoped to find small gifts for those waiting at home.

What’s next for them is hard to know. They will remain here while their husbands are under medical care until mid-December. Tyshchenko is videoing the care to show American cutting edge procedures to doctors at home.

They expect to return to Ukraine where life continues to be difficult and dangerous in the coming winter without reliable power, water, food or safety. And while their husbands are determined to overcome

their wounds, the women are likely to take on additional continued responsibilities to assist in their care and recovery.

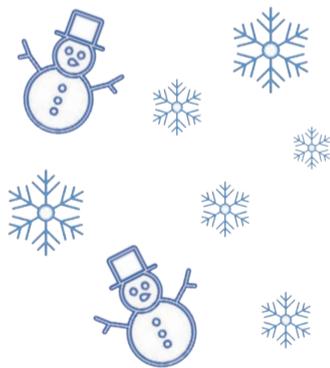
In a policy paper released in September, the United Nations outlined the devastating impacts on women and children. “The war in Ukraine has led to more than 4.2 million refugees and over 7 million internally displaced people, most of them women and children. The war contributed to growing risks, including trafficking, gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and forced labor. ... The war has widened gender gaps in food insecurity, malnutrition, energy poverty, and increased gender-based violence inside Ukraine and around the world. Women-headed households in Ukraine were already more food-insecure prior to the war, compared to male-headed households. Rural women in the territories occupied by the Russian military are increasingly unable to perform agricultural work due to high insecurity and lack of resources. Certainly a disproportionate share of the responsibility to accommodate, feed, and care for internally displaced people is adding to the burden of Ukrainian women, multiplying their domestic responsibilities.”

The U.N. includes a need to “prioritize women’s and girls’ voice, agency, participation and leadership in conflict response, recovery, and peace building,” among their recommendations for dealing with this humanitarian crisis. They have names like Anastasia, Boyka, Daniela ... and Iryna.



Supervisor Dan Storck invites you to our Holiday Open House!

Thursday,
December 8
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.



Meet Team MVD,
Members of the
Mount Vernon District
Boards, Authorities and
Commissions, and
your neighbors!

Food, Fun and Laughter!

Kindly RSVP using the QR code.
Questions? Call 703-780-7518

Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Mount Vernon, VA 22306



NOTICE OF WATER RATE AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
December 15, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2022, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2023, include the following:

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,510 to \$4,640.*
- An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$19,400 to \$22,090.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,480 to \$1,790.*
- An increase in the Account Charge from \$41 to \$44.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge for meters larger than the standard 5/8" residential meter. See the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges for details.
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.46 to \$3.65 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.85 to \$4.00.
- An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$50 to \$53.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
- A decrease in the Overhead Charges for Labor from 103% to 102%.
- An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge Inspection Fee from \$40 to \$42.
- An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$20 to \$25.

*Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$228 million budget for calendar year 2023¹. Water sales are expected to provide \$202 million and the remaining \$26 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2022	2023
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 59,399	\$ 66,276
Power and Utilities	11,804	14,120
Chemicals	9,905	11,956
Purchased Water	7,312	7,513
Supplies and Materials	5,358	5,462
Insurance	1,146	1,370
Fuel	963	1,015
Postage	584	618
Contractual Services	11,831	12,912
Professional Services	1,320	1,365
Other	2,322	2,613
Sub-Total	111,944	125,220
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,949)	(11,141)
Total	\$ 100,995	\$ 114,079

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$46,327,337
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$55,563,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

Visit [fairfaxwater.org/rates](https://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates) to view a copy of the proposed changes.

Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Tonya Clement at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 to be included in the record of the public hearing.



PHOTO COURTESY VFA

Ruslan Tyshchenko smiles at the size of his catch, held by translator Boris

Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Receive Treatment Locally

FROM PAGE 3

Onboard, tucked warmly in the boat's cabin on the chilly morning, the three heroes of Ukraine set out for a day of stress relieving fishing adventure.

Ruslan Tyshchenko, age 44, a sapper commander, served in the National Guard of Ukraine for 25 years as a combat engineer. Since the beginning of the war, he led a group of sappers, involved in removing mines in liberated Ukrainian territories. A sapper is a combat engineer with duties such as demolitions, bridge-building, preparing field defenses and road repair.

On June 8, while performing a combat mission near the city of Balaclava in the Kharkiv region, he came under fire from an enemy tank. Shrapnel hit a vital artery. With major damage to his artery, he lost his left leg and severely injured his right.

Oleksandr "Alex" Fedun, age 23, an entrepreneur in the Zaporizhzhia region, left his business and family at the outbreak of the war to defend Ukraine. On May 14, during a combat mission, Fedun's car was ambushed by the Russians and he received serious injuries to both legs caused by a mine explosion. He was able to save his own life by applying tourniquets to stop the bleeding, but when he was evacuated to the hospital, both legs had to be amputated.

Anatoliy Kirda, age 59, was a career seaman, away working on Israel's offshore oil rigs when Russia attacked Ukraine. He left immediately to volunteer at home. He first fought in Kiev. After that city was secured he moved on to Izum in the Kharkiv region. He was in his trench when a Russian mine flew it causing his injuries which resulted in the loss of his right leg.

The three men, among the most severely wounded, are here in the U.S., two with their wives, receiving medical care thanks



PHOTO COURTESY VFA

Anatoliy Kirda celebrates his catch with Moore giving a high five and a huge smile

to assistance from three non-profit organizations: Veteran Success Resources Group, United Help Ukraine, and Medical Center Orthotics & Prosthetics.

Veteran Success Resources Group is dedicated to facilitating access to professional and personal resources for veterans and their families. United Help Ukraine was started in 2014, after the initial 2014 Russian attack on Ukraine, by a small group of people who

SEE ADVENTURE, PAGE 14

Continuing Our Progress

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL (D-34)

It has been an honor to serve our community in the Virginia legislature for the last 12 years. I am letting you know that I will run for re-election to represent the 34th District in the Senate of Virginia in 2023.

A New District

The redistricting of state and federal elected officials' districts made substantial changes in the Senate district I have represented for the last six years. The area of Fairfax County south of Alexandria and east of Interstate 95/495 is currently divided between three state Senate districts. After the election in 2023, there will only be one district and it has been renumbered as the 34th Senate District similar to the configuration in our area before 2001. The new boundaries are roughly everything in Fairfax County south of Alexandria, west of the Potomac River, north of the Occoquan River and east of the CSX railroad tracks that run from Alexandria to Richmond, Pohick Creek and the former Lorton Prison.

I am excited to be reunited with many of my existing neighbors, former constituents and I look forward to working for a district that is more of a community than the current fragmented district. My life in elected public service began in 2009 when I was first elected to the 44th House of Delegates District after Del. Kris Amundson's retirement. I was elected to the current 36th Senate District after Sen. Toddy Puller announced her retirement in 2015.

Much Accomplished - More to Do

Since 2009, one of my top objectives has been the reconstruction and redevelopment of U.S. 1 to facilitate the extension of the Yellow Line Metro subway to the south. As a result of Sen. Puller and me securing \$2 million in 2011 to conduct the U.S. 1 Multimodal Alternative Analysis Study, our community reached



a consensus on a road design and supporting development which has resulted in a near \$1 billion transportation improvement project that is currently underway in the corridor with the full support of Delegates Paul Krizek and Mark Sickles along with Supervisors Dan Storck and Rodney Lusk.

In 2020, I was proud to carry legislation to abolish the death penalty in Virginia and lead reforms of Virginia's criminal justice system. I led the fight to require Alexandria to stop discharging 150 million gallons of raw sewage into the Potomac River every year and to require Dominion Energy to spend an additional \$2 billion to clean up its coal ash ponds to the highest standards.

Expanding Medicaid and health care to 300,000 Virginians in 2017 was a proud moment for me, an advance that has created tens of thousands of Virginia jobs and made health care available to over 10,000 people that I represent. I also proudly carried a bill to prohibit people from operating a motor vehicle while holding a cellphone and to provide driving privilege cards to 300,000 Virginians awaiting legal status –

many of whom live in our community where one in four residents was born in another country.

As a graduate of West Potomac High School, James Madison University and the University of Virginia School of Law, I recognize that state and local public education invested in me so I could have success. Fairfax County Public Schools now receive \$463 million more per year or about \$2,700 more per student than when I was first elected in 2009 – a 98% increase over 2010. We still do not pay our teachers nearly enough, but we have made significant progress.

I was also honored to negotiate Virginia's new minimum wage bill with Del. Paul Krizek which will increase Virginia's minimum wage will rise to \$12.00 per hour on Jan. 1, 2023. I was also proud to lift the ban on collective bargaining on our local public employee unions and expand all workers' rights to hold employers accountable for wrongful conduct.

We have much work to do to improve our quality of life. I hope I will earn your vote as your state Senator on Nov. 7, 2023. Please share your suggestions and views with me at scottsurvell@gmail.com.

Major Casinos Coming to Virginia

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Part Two of Virginia Casino Update

Last week I wrote about the two new casinos in Bristol and Portsmouth that are either opened already, as is the case with Bristol's temporary site, or about to open, like the first Virginia permanent casino site in Portsmouth by Rush Street Gaming's Rivers Casino. That first casino is to open on January 15th, 2023. Today I will focus on the next two Virginia casinos to be coming online a little bit later, in Norfolk and Danville.

Not to be outdone, ahead of their casino opening, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe, the first tribe in Virginia to be federally recognized and in all likelihood the first tribe to make contact with the Europeans centuries ago, has been on the

ground since July 2020 in Norfolk, helping the area's most vulnerable citizens facing food insecurity during the pandemic. The Tribe reached out to 50 food pantries in the city that were operating prior to the pandemic and found only 20 still operating. They committed to partner with 10 food pantries throughout the city and support them financially in order to ensure that they remained open and able to help those in need. For those two years, the Tribe's aid provided for approximately 350,000. It is the Tribe's goal to see that no person in Norfolk ever goes hungry again. This is an extraordinary commitment by the Pamunkey Tribe considering their casino is still at least another year from opening. The Tribe has also been partnering with the Norfolk Tides, a local minor league baseball team, to provide free tickets to thousands

of children through local community groups such as the Booker T. Washington High School Foundation and the Southside Boys and Girls Club.

I have visited the Pamunkey Nation. They have been thwarted at every turn throughout their history by broken treaties, disease, land grabs by settlers, slavery of their citizens, the 1925 Racial Integrity Act which tried to erase their very identity and forced many of the Pamunkey to move north to where people of color were more accepted. It is a real testament to their resilience to have survived and maintained their culture and now to exercise their sovereignty. It is only fitting that they will benefit from their casino to provide them the opportunity to continue to give back to their community and surrounding communities in Hampton Roads too.

MEANWHILE, earlier this summer, I went to the groundbreaking of where the casino and hotel will be in Danville. This will be an iconic site as it includes what the city of Danville calls the "Three Sisters" smokestacks as a reminder of the city's once prosperous industrial past. The city has already benefited from an upfront investment of \$15 million and a \$5 million payment to the city for the purchase of the casino site. It's going to be truly a destination for people from all over the country as it will include a 500-room hotel, entertainment spaces to hold up to 2,000 people, and multiple restaurants from fine dining to a sports bar and food hall. The project supports 900 construction jobs for all stages of the project, and the capital investment

SEE KRIZEK, PAGE 7

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A Connection Newspaper



Be Part of 2022 Children's and Teens' Gazette

One week of December for many years, this newspaper has devoted its pages to the creativity of local students, teens and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Gazette, the Children's Connection and Children's Almanac, comprise a long-time tradition.

You can see last year's editions by visiting <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> and scrolling down to Children's Edition.

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

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email. Writing should be submitted in text format: docx or google docs, or pasted in the body of an email. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format. These can be submitted via google drive as well. Please share all google drive files with kimm.mary@gmail.com

Some suggestions, but different ideas are welcome:

Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends,

pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

Short answers: What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite possession? What makes a good friend? What is the best gift you've ever received?

Your opinion (100 words) about movies, food, music, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

Poetry, short story or other creative writing.

News stories or photos from school newspapers.

We must be able to print the full first and last name of the student artist/writer with the submission, along with student's age, grade and school or town name.

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

Please send all submissions by Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022. The Children's Gazette will publish the middle of December, the edition with publication date Dec. 14, 2022.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette to kimm.mary@gmail.com

OPINION

Krizek

FROM PAGE 6

is over \$600 million. This part of the Commonwealth has gone through rough economic times for decades, and this investment is already making a big difference. Caesars is planning to open a temporary site next summer, a year before the permanent construction is completed. It will not include hotel rooms but the surrounding community should be able to accommodate the increase in visitors to the smaller, temporary site.

In just its first quarter of operations, the one casino that is open right now, the Bristol Casino, delivered over \$2.5 million in tax revenue for the Commonwealth, which distributes funding to the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund, the Family and Children's Trust Fund, and the host locality of Bristol and the neighboring region. The Problem Gambling and Support Fund was included in the original casino legislation and is receiving \$20,000 a month in revenue from the Bristol Casino, and there is also over \$100,000 a

month from online sports tax revenue that is being used to not just prevent problem gambling but to treat it too. I will be introducing a bill to establish and maintain a problem gambling treatment and support advisory committee to enable collaboration among prevention and treatment providers and gaming operators on more efforts to reduce the negative impacts of problem gambling.

It is important that we don't ignore the negative repercussions of increasing the availability of gaming to those with an addiction to gambling and how problem gambling can negatively affect people's lives. Indeed, if you or someone you know has a gambling problem you can call the Virginia Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-888-532-3500.

As these casinos open throughout the Commonwealth over the coming years, the revenue stream will grow exponentially, providing much-needed funding and jobs to economically revitalize local communities and fund essential programs and services, and with important financial support to prevent and treat problem gambling.

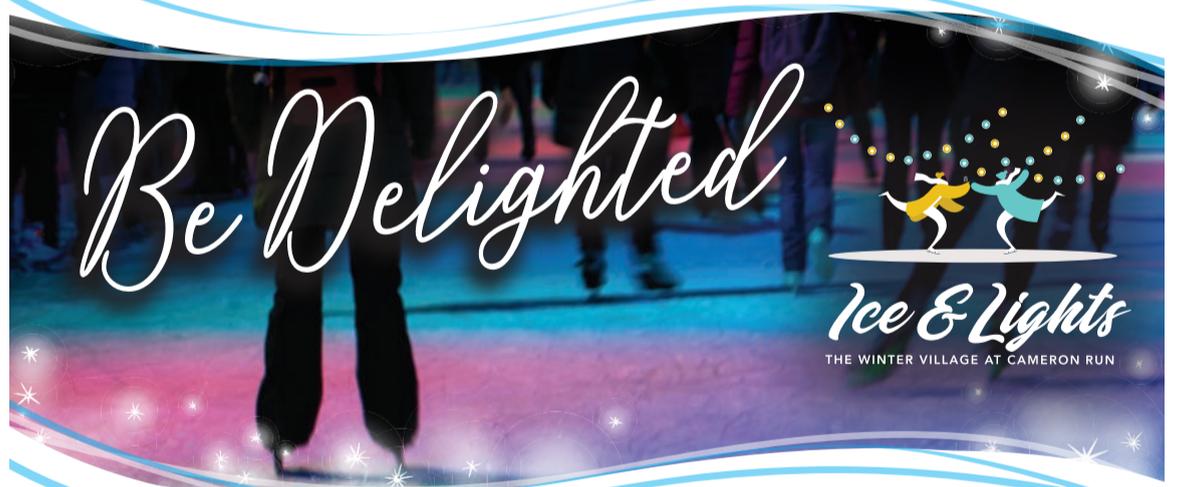
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NEWS

Reward for Arrest in Second Degree Murder

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Victims' Rights Foundation have partnered to offer \$5,000 each to be used as a combined reward with Crime Solvers for information that leads to the arrest of the Kyjuan Omar Braxton Trott-McLean.

Officers were called around 7 a.m. on Oct. 2 to the 5800 block of St Gregorys Lane in Mount Vernon for a report of gunshots. While officers were responding, Brandon Wims, 31, of Maryland was dropped off at Mount Vernon Hospital. He was suffering from gunshot wounds to the upper body and was later transported to Fairfax Hospital. Wims was pronounced deceased shortly after arriving at the hospital.

Detectives determined Trott-McLean saw Wims in the backseat of a vehicle on St

Gregorys Lane. Trott-McLean exited a silver Nissan Sentra with Maryland registration and shot Wims multiple times.

Detectives obtained warrants for Trott-McLean for second degree murder, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, felon in possession of a firearm and felon in possession of ammunition. Detectives are asking anyone with information on Trott-McLean's whereabouts to call our Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800 and select Option 8. If you see Trott-McLean, please call 911 immediately.

Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477).

Please click the link to view the press conference: [HERE https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyPD/videos/875238967245087](https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyPD/videos/875238967245087)

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATING IN TOYS FOR TOTS

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will be participating in the Annual National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments' 2022 Toys for Tots Campaign. The intent of the campaign is to "bring holiday joy and deliver a message of hope to children." Stations will accept donations now through Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Collection boxes will be placed outside the front door of each fire and rescue station every morning. Residents will be able to drop off toys until 8 p.m., each evening.

Please help us to help those less fortunate this holiday season. Thanks to the generosity of those who live and work in Fairfax County, FCFRD was able to provide the Marines with approximately 25,000 toys last year!

Children who are served by this campaign include toddlers and youths through age 17. The campaign will only accept new, unwrapped toys. Toys used as weapons or considered to be weapons (i.e., toy guns or knives of any kind) will not be accepted. Checks or money orders for donations must be made payable to Toys for Tots.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations will accept donations through Sunday, December 11, 2022. Toys will not be accepted after this date.

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Scottish Christmas Walk Parade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 • PARADE STARTS AT 11AM



campagnacenter.org/scottish-walk • [#ALXScottishWalk](https://twitter.com/ALXScottishWalk)

THE 51ST ANNUAL SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE

PRESENTED BY



CAMPAGNA CENTER 2022 EVENTS

TASTE OF SCOTLAND

Presented by



THE GOODHART GROUP

Friday, December 2, 7:30-11:00 PM

Torpedo Factory Art Center
105 N Union Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Join us for a festive cocktail party on Friday, December 2nd to kick off Alexandria's Biggest Holiday Weekend! Tickets to the Taste of Scotland include whiskey-tasting stations, delicious hors d'oeuvres, beer & wine bars, and a custom art exhibit from the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Proceeds benefit Campagna Center programs. Special thanks to our presenting sponsor Goodhart Group and our venue Torpedo Factory Art Center!

JOIN THE CELEBRATIONS!
Purchase tickets to the Taste of Scotland at
campagnacenter.org/taste-of-scotland



PATRON PAIR
\$375 (2 tickets)



PATRON INDIVIDUAL
\$200 (1 ticket)

Taste of Scotland tickets are partially tax-deductible.



THE 51ST ANNUAL ALEXANDRIA SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE

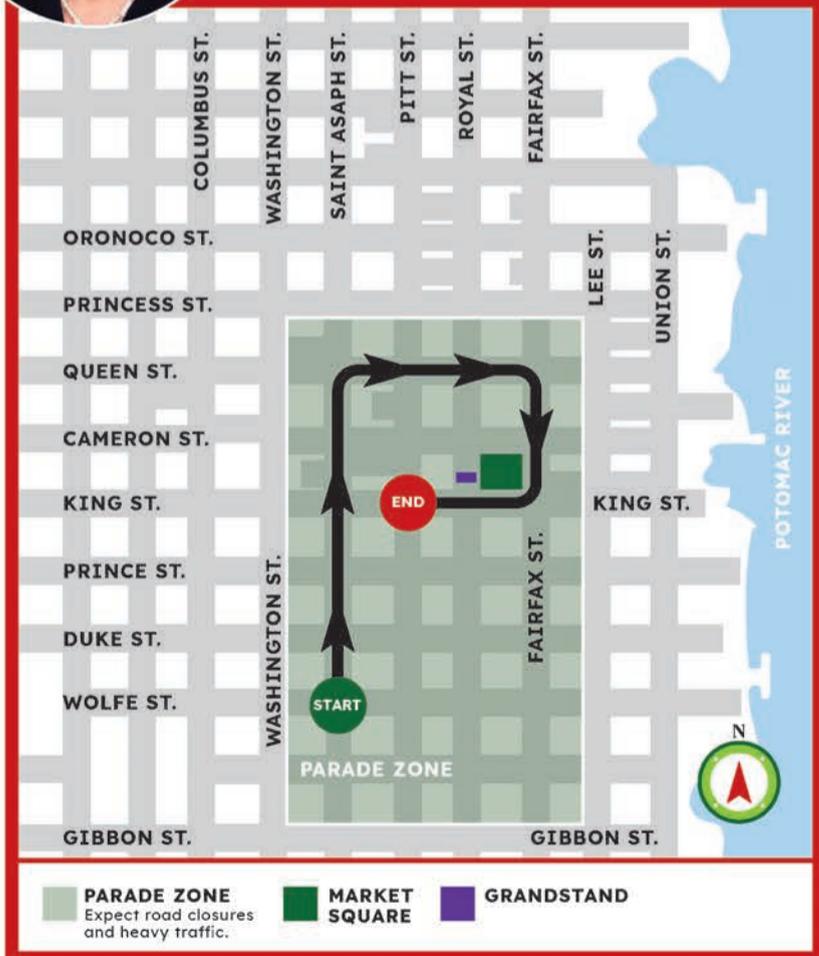
Saturday, December 3, 11:00 AM

Old Town Alexandria

Alexandria was founded in 1749 by Scottish merchants and was named after Scotsman John Alexander who owned the land that became Alexandria. Today, the city continues celebrating its heritage with the iconic Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as community groups, terriers, hounds, and more. The Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade is produced by Visit Alexandria in partnership with Campagna Center and the City of Alexandria. Special thanks to the Junior Friends of Campagna Center for ongoing volunteer support of this event!



The Grand Marshal of the 51st Annual Alexandria Scottish Walk Parade is former Alexandria City Councilwoman Del Pepper!





Since 1945, Campagna Center has served the residents of Alexandria by delivering exceptional educational and social development programs from cradle to career. Together we have been honored to support children and families and continue to deliver meaningful educational services so that everyone in the Alexandria community could thrive, even in the most challenging of circumstances.



Early Childhood

- A total of **529** infants, toddlers, and preschoolers participated in our Early Childhood programs, all of which were held in-person for the duration of the program year.
- **78%** of children enrolled in our Early Childhood programs demonstrated improvement across assessments in language, literacy, math, physical development, and social and emotional growth.
- Campagna Center staff connected families to medical supports, with **98%** of children in our Early Childhood programs being provided access to medical care by the end of the program year.



School-Aged Children

- The number of kindergarten students deemed "high-risk" for not meeting literacy benchmarks in Wright to Read was cut in half from **67% to 33%** by the end of the program year, and on average, students in the early literacy pilot showed a **52%** improvement relative to their grade-level benchmarks.
- **95%** of parents with children enrolled in Campagna Kids would recommend the program to other families, and **89%** of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child benefitted from Campagna Kids program activities.
- **456** tutoring sessions were provided to **29** students in the Building Better Futures college and career readiness program, with tutoring sessions being rated an average of **4.2/5** stars by students.



Adults

- Our **16** volunteer language instructors spent **2,536** hours working with New Neighbors students on their English-language learning.
- **76%** of New Neighbors students graduated from their language classes and progressed to the next level in their English studies, with **100%** of students reporting that the program helped grow their English vocabulary.
- New Neighbors were provided with dual-generation supports, with **9** adult students in the program enrolling their children in other Campagna Center educational programs, including Campagna Kids, Wright to Read, and Early Head Start.

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

Funds raised during **Alexandria's Biggest Holiday Weekend** support the educational programs of Campagna Center, Alexandria's oldest nonprofit. With your gift, you can ensure that everyone in our community has the tools they need to thrive. Scan the QR code to the right to make a tax-deductible donation to Campagna Center, or visit campagnacenter.org/scottish-walk



\$150

would provide 10 books to a **Wright to Read** student and tutor.



\$300

would provide extended care to a child in **Alexandria Head Start** for one month.



\$500

would provide career counseling to a high school student for a full year.

**THANK YOU TO ALL 2022 SPONSORS OF THE 51ST ANNUAL
ALEXANDRIA SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND**

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Sponsorship listing as of November 21, 2022.

Special thanks to the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center for the coordination and planning of the weekend's festivities. Our great appreciation also extends to the founding partnership organizations, St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C., and Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Graphic design by Scholastica Graphic Design, LLC.

COMMUNITY

Late Season Farmer's Markets

FROM PAGE 1

es, allowing them to grow produce year-round and attend some year-round farmers markets in the area," said Molly Cullen, Farmer's Market Outreach Coordinator in Fairfax County.

Other vendors fill in the gaps, selling items such as baked goods and pastries, frozen take home meals, or specialty products like hot sauce and kombucha. Since it was just before Thanksgiving, there were quite a few pies at the various stands.

Most of the stands operate from the back of the vans or trucks, and the tents were fastened to a heavy object or four, so when the fall winds kicked up, they stayed in place. According to the county rules, vendors are required to secure at least 25 pounds of weight to each tent leg to make sure the tent stays on the ground. The county Vendor Handbook states that "Farmers Market Staff is likely to cancel markets before market



Fresh holiday wreaths are available too.

day if severe winds are forecasted during market hours exceeding 30 mph, or a thunderstorm, tornado, severe snowstorm or flood warning has been issued during market hours".

The Mount Vernon market is the latest one open in the season and will have its last market on Dec. 21, right before Christmas.



Betsy Herbst and JoHanna Walters behind the table at the Misty Meadow Farm Creamery.



Lisa and Susie Anamony

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE

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ADVENTURE

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME



After the day's fishing, the fisherman received a police boat escort for their return to the dock



The fisherman, draped in the Ukrainian flag, had smiles and waves for the crowd waiting at dockside to welcome their return.

Injured Ukrainian Soldiers Receive Treatment Locally

FROM PAGE 5

met at a protest in Washington, DC. Most, but not all of the founding members have a personal connection to Ukraine. Along with other avenues of support for the country, the group sponsors dedicated fundraisers for the Ukrainian wounded, including those who are being treated in American hospitals, and support for their families. They are covering the non-medical expenses to bring the three soldiers and the wives of the two who are married to Silver Spring, Md. for prostheses and physical therapy.

Medical Center Orthotics & Prosthetics recently announced "Operation Renew Prosthetics," providing care to the most severely injured Ukrainian soldiers who have had amputations. They previously assisted a hip disarticulation amputee, donating time and expertise, and are assisting the three soldiers with complete leg prostheses this month. They expect to assist two more patients who will visit their facilities in the coming months.

A day of fishing on the Potomac River provided a break between medical appointments for the three Ukrainian men. Fishing is an activity that many Ukrainians once had time to enjoy in their county filled with lakes and rivers. There the main fish species caught is the Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). The catch for this day on the Potomac was Blue Catfish. A large fish, but not as large as Ukraine's Wells Catfish, the largest freshwater fish in Ukraine which can attain a weight of 100 kg (220 pounds) at the age of 80-100 years.

Kirda had the catch of the day on Saturday, pulling in a 39 pounder. The boat did well according to Moore, with most of the fish released back into the Potomac. Two were saved for the soldiers to sample. As Moore explained that the mercury levels



Even Santa and Mrs Claus (Ryan and Shannon Riegel), who arrived by motorcycle, were on hand to welcome the soldiers.

limit the amount of fish recommended for safe eating, the soldiers broke into spontaneous laughter. Telling Moore that food scarcity in wartime Ukraine had sometimes forced the soldiers to eat dogs, frogs and snakes as they held positions in the forest, doubting that a little mercury would be an issue.

When the boat returned to the dock on Saturday afternoon, dozens of community members were on hand to greet and applaud the fishermen. Police and fire trucks stood sentinel. Retired Cmdr. Kirk Lippold, who commanded the USS Cole when the ship was attacked by al-Qaeda in 2000, presented the men with copies of his book, "Front Burner" which captures a critical moment in America's battle against terrorism.

"Catch the Fever" presented each man with a new high-end fishing rod. Even Santa



Before dawn, three Ukrainian soldiers board the specially equipped Veterans Fishing Adventure boat, Knot4gotn, as the crew prepares to leave the dock. The Ukrainian men have had limbs amputated because of wounds of war.

and Mrs. Claus were on hand to show support. And many photos were taken to mark the day.

Although it may be traditional to enjoy a fish fry after a day of successful fishing, Moore didn't want the Ukrainians to leave without experiencing an American Thanksgiving feast. He hosted a meal at his house on Sunday, serving the fresh caught fish on the side, along with the usual Thanksgiving fare. Five turkeys, two hams, stuffing, gravy, green beans and pies fed bellies, and sustenance for the soul. With ongoing deprivations and food scarcity in Ukraine, it may be a meal they will remember for the food, but more significantly, a reminder of

what can be accomplished after injury.

All those that encountered the men during their visit no doubt hope that their morning sail toward the bright dawn sky will be symbolic of the start of brighter days to come for these determined Ukrainians, and the Ukrainian people, though they face continued daunting struggles.

For more information about the Veterans Fishing Adventure or to inquire about a trip: info@veteransfishingadventure.org. For more information on or to donate to the organizations mentioned in this story, see <https://unitedhelpukraine.org/>; <https://vetresourcegroup.org/>; and <https://mcoopro.com>

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CALENDAR

NOW THRU DEC. 29

An Eye for Nature Exhibition. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Nina Tisara and Steven Halperson have teamed up for an exhibition of Tisara's mosaic art and Halperson's fine art photography. The exhibit may be seen from 10 a.m. to noon, Mondays and Tuesdays and 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays except for Thanksgiving. To schedule other hours contact ninat@ninatisara.com.

NOW THRU JAN. 8, 2023

The Botanical Gourmet. Presented by the Botanical Arts Society of the National Capital Region. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. For eons, animals ranging from massive leaf-eating dinosaurs to minuscule nectar sipping insects have been attuned to the healthful benefits of a plant-based diet. For their part, plants have enlisted the help of animals by attracting them with visual and other cues for purposes of reproduction. These interactions, while necessary, are purely transactional. They lack the aesthetic spirit. That's where botanical artists step in. Botanical art is neither scientific illustration nor decorative floral composition, but an engaging combination of the two. Like blue jays or cabbage moths, botanical artists are drawn to shiny red berries and bright yellow flowers, but unlike other creatures, they have the means to depict their attraction. The works in this exhibit focus specifically on plants that have health-giving nutritional properties for people.

DEC. 2-3

Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Taste of Scotland: Friday, December 2, 2022; Parade: Saturday, December 3, 2022. Campagna Center is pleased to announce a new presenting partnership for the 51st Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade on Saturday, December 3. The parade will be produced by Visit Alexandria in partnership with Campagna Center and the City of Alexandria, as part of Alexandria's Biggest Holiday Weekend. Learn more about the 2022 parade at ALXscottishwalk.com, or send questions directly to alxscottishwalk@visitalexva.com.

DEC. 2, 3, 9, 10, 18

Holiday Candlelight Tour. At Mount Vernon Estate. Experience the holidays like George and Martha Washington. Meet Mrs. Washington and 18th-century Mount Vernon residents during a 45-minute candlelit estate tour, see the themed Christmas trees, and shop for holiday gifts.

DEC. 2-18

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique hand-made fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus 2023 wall calendars to support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Market is the first three weekends in December (Dec 2-4, Dec 9-11, Dec 16-18). Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Old Town's waterfront will shine for the 22nd Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sponsored by Amazon on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. when more than 50 brightly lit boats cruise along one mile of the Potomac River shoreline. Boat parade dockside festivities will entertain parade-goers from 2 to 8 p.m. The boat parade is part of a weekend of festivities including the 51st annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Head to Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street, near the official parade start line at the Alexandria City Marina, for festivities from 2 to 8 p.m. including a pop-up beer garden from Alexandria's award-winning Port City Brewing Company, hot chocolate from Dolci Gelati, gourmet popcorn from America's

Favorite Gourmet Popcorn and holiday music from 97.1 WASH-FM.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Used Book Sale: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

DEC. 3-4

"The Nutcracker Ballet." At the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts. On Sat., Dec. 3 and Sun., Dec. 4 at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. on both days. This year, MSA is replacing the Russian musical suite with Ukrainian folk dance in support of the Ukrainian crisis, and invited Colleen Prince, a dancer/choreographer from Carpathia Folk Dance Ensemble of Washington, D.C. to help choreograph the MSA Nutcracker. Tickets range from \$30 to \$32 per person. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org for more information, and purchase tickets at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35491/production/1140336>.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Washington Philharmonic. 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Featuring Anna Binneweg, conductor; Michael Stephen Brown, piano Beethoven: Coriolan Overture, Op. 62 Michael Stephen Brown: Concerto for Piano and Strings Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64

MONDAY/DEC. 12

Have you ever experienced Aurora Borealis? Start off the season with this magical ultra violet art class with resident artist Mirela. Pop on by on Monday, Dec. 12 for a colorful evening of painting with resident artist Mirela. Reservations are required and seating is limited. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/palette-22-art-sip-winter-aurora-borealis-tickets-462632455127?aff=Dec22Email>

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

DECEMBER

Thu. 1: Rick Springfield "Stripped Down" \$115.00
 Fri. 2: Chris Botti \$110.00
 Sat. 3: Chris Botti \$110.00 SOLD OUT!
 Sun. 4: Dar Williams "All Request Show!" w/ Jesse Terry \$45.00
 Thu. 8: An Acoustic Christmas with Over The Rhine \$45.00
 Fri. 9: Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio \$29.50
 Sat. 10: Pieces of A Dream \$45.00
 Sun. 11: Karla Bonoff & Livingston Taylor "Home for the Holidays" \$45.00
 Mon. 12: Samantha Fish w/ The Jesse Dayton Band \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
 Tue. 13: Storm Large: Holiday Ordeal \$59.50
 Thu. 15: Carbon Leaf \$45.00
 Fri. 16: Carbon Leaf \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
 Sat. 17: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes \$49.50
 Sun. 18: LUTHER RE-LIVES Holiday Concert featuring William "Smooth" Wardlaw \$45.00
 Tue. 20: Samara Joy "A Joyful Holiday" \$39.50 SOLD OUT!
 Wed. 21: A John Waters Christmas \$59.50
 Thu. 22: MAYSA - A Very MAYSA Christmas! \$69.50
 Fri. 23: Charles Esten w/ N'est Pas \$59.50
 Thu. 29: Bela Dona Band \$35.00
 Fri. 30: 25th Annual HANK WILLIAMS Tribue with Robin & Linda Williams, Daryl Davis, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Patrick McAvinue, & Alex Lacquement \$35.00
 Sat. 31: New Years Eve with The Seldom Scene, Eastman String Band, & Wicked Sycamore -8pm- \$49.50



The Metropolitan School of the Arts presents "The Nutcracker Ballet" on Dec. 3-4, 2022 in Alexandria.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT 2022

NOW THRU DEC. 6

DWCNV Toy Collection. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Drop off items at 13155 Compton Rd., Clifton, or drop off items at 12714 Chestnut St., Clifton. Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia sponsors of Fairfax Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue, will collect new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages; gift cards to Best Buy, Target, Old Navy, etc for older children, and monetary donations for purchase of new coats. Mail checks payable to FF&FR to DWCNV, P.O. Box 143, Clifton VA 20124, or bring items to any of three collection points: 13155 Compton Rd. or 12714 Chestnut St., in Clifton, or 12301 Delevan Dr., Herndon, before Dec 6th. The Women also are collecting monetary donations (checks or grocery store gift cards) payable to Britepaths, at DWCNV, P.O. Box 143, Clifton VA 20124 by Dec 31, to stabilize low-income working families. Visit the website: www.democratic-womenofclifton.org

DEC 1-23

"Snow Maiden." At Synetic Theater, 1800 S. Bell St, Arlington. In a frozen forest, a lonely boy builds a girl from snow. When she mysteriously comes to life, mischief, laughter, and enchantment abound. But what will happen when the ice begins to melt? Told through dazzling movement, dance, and acrobatics, Snow Maiden is a magical tale of hope, friendship and the transformative power of dreams. Based on the beloved folktale Sne-gurochka, Snow Maiden is a holiday treat for friends and fans of all ages.

DEC. 1-31

Home for the Holidays Art Show. At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Works by local artists on display the entire month of December. Visit www.artsherndon.org. Call 703-956-6590.

DEC. 2-17

The PARC at Tysons Holiday Market. Fridays and Saturdays. Celebrate the holiday season with local makers, crafters, and artisans from the Fairfax County area! Visit the holiday market at The PARC at Tysons on the first three Fridays and Saturdays of December for a pop-up shop of local artisans and small businesses offering holiday-inspired goods. The PARC will be transformed into a festive indoors and outdoors winter village, featuring a local holiday market and (free!) snowtastic activities for the whole family to enjoy! Food and beverages can be purchased onsite from local businesses as well.

DEC. 2-11

Traveling Players presents "Commedia Christmas Carol." Tickets are now available for "Commedia Christmas Carol," which runs Fridays-Sundays, Dec. 2- Dec. 11 at Traveling Players



Alexandria's Biggest Holiday Weekend

<https://visitalexandria.com/holidays/biggest-weekend/>

Celebrate the return of top signature events, including the 51st Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade and the Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.

The Christmas Walk will take place in historic Old Town Alexandria at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022. Alexandria was founded in 1749 by Scottish merchants and was named after Scotsman John Alexander who owned the land that became Alexandria. Bagpipers include the Kiltie Band of York and the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums plus a bagpiping Santa closing the parade. This year's Grand Marshal is Redella "Del" Pepper, the recently retired, longest-serving member of Alexandria City Council with more than 36 years of service to the community.



Encore Theatrical Arts Project (ETAP) presents "The Perfect Christmas List" Dec. 10-18, 2022 at NOVA's Annandale Campus.

Studio in Tysons Corner Center. Performed by Traveling Players middle and high school students, the play is a new imagining of Dickens'

classic ghost story, a perfect holiday treat for the whole family. Visit <https://www.travelingplayers.org/performances/>

DEC. 2-18

Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans 27th Annual Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus 2023 wall calendars to support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Market is the first three weekends in December (Dec 2-4, Dec 9-11, Dec 16-18). Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

DEC. 2-11

Fairfax City Holiday Market. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The Fairfax City Downtown Holiday Market will be open the first two weekends of December on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Shop at the market of craft vendors as you enjoy Old Town Square in the heart of Historic Downtown Fairfax covered in holiday lights. The festival will include live holiday music, hot drinks, heated tents and gourmet treats, and more!

DEC. 2-3

Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Taste of Scotland: Friday, December 2, 2022; Parade: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022. Campagna Center has a new presenting partnership for the 51st Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk. The

parade will be produced by Visit Alexandria in partnership with Campagna Center and the City of Alexandria, as part of Alexandria's Biggest Holiday Weekend. Learn more about the 2022 parade at ALXscottishwalk.com, or send questions directly to alxscottishwalk@visitalexva.com.

DEC. 2-3

McLean Holiday Art & Crafts Festival. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Holiday Art & Crafts Festival will feature a wide variety of high-quality handmade items just in time for the holidays. This indoor show features the work of 80 talented, juried, regional artisans. Produced by MCC in conjunction with the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild, the juried show will be held Friday through Sunday, Dec. 2 through 4. Show hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 4. Admission is \$5, free for children ages 12 or younger. The admission price is good for all three days of the show. Visit the center's website, www.mcleancenter.org, or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

DEC. 2-3 AND 9-10

Holiday on the Farm. 5:30-7:30 p.m. (timed entries). At Fryling Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. See the farm as you never have before, lit up with hundreds of holiday lights. Wagon rides, indoor activities, food, animal interactions and campfires. One-hour entry in 15-minute slots starting at 5:30 p.m. For times and to register, visit www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/parktakes

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Old Town's waterfront will shine for the 22nd Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sponsored by Amazon on Saturday, December 3, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. when more than 50 brightly lit boats cruise along one mile of the Potomac River shoreline. Boat parade dockside festivities will entertain parade-goers from 2 to 8 p.m. The boat parade is part of a weekend of festivities including the 51st annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Head to Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street, near the official parade start line at the Alexandria City Marina, for festivities from 2 to 8 p.m. including a pop-up beer garden from Alexandria's award-winning Port City Brewing Company, hot chocolate from Dolci Gelati, gourmet popcorn from America's Favorite Gourmet Popcorn and holiday music from 97.1 WASH-FM.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

2022 Alternative Gift Market & Craft Fair. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Shop online Nov. 25-Dec. 4. After two years, Unitarian Universalist Reston's Alternative Gift Market and Craft Fair is back in person this year. With the holiday shopping season upon us, enjoy socially conscious gift-giving. Visit UUReston.org/agm

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Christmastide at Gunston Hall. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Discover Christmases of the past through activities from the 1920s and the 1780s. See how Christmas has changed over time. Help visitors feed their curiosity by thinking about life for different people—enslaved, indentured, wealthy, and poor—at 18th-century Gunston

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR, PAGE 18
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Inova Experiencing Unprecedented Patient Volumes

Due to another spike in flu, COVID-19, RSV and other illnesses following the Thanksgiving holiday, Inova's hospitals are experiencing unprecedented patient volumes and strain on hospital capacity.

Inova Emergency Departments, in particular, across the system are experiencing a significant surge in patient volume and are operating at or over capacity. For every patient discharged another is waiting to be admitted.

While Inova is equipped to handle the current surge, the following recommendations could help stem the surge:

- ❖ Get vaccinated for both flu and COVID-19 and boosted for COVID-19 if you're eligible.
- ❖ Continue to practice safety measures including hand hygiene, masking, and social distancing as appropriate.
- ❖ Stay home and away from others if you or your children are not feeling well.
- ❖ Know where to go for your medical care. <https://www.inova.org/know-where-to-go>

In addition, patients are encouraged to consider if the hospital-based emergency department is the appropriate level of care to meet their medical needs. For emergency needs, Inova's freestanding emergency departments provide the same level of emergency care and may have shorter wait times.

If your condition does not require emergency care, consider whether primary care or an Inova GoHealth Urgent Care Center is more appropriate. <https://www.inova.org/locations/inova-gohealth-urgent-care> Inova also partners with Dispatch-Health, which provides urgent medical care at your home.

If you are experiencing a life-threatening medical emergency, call 911, or go to the nearest emergency department.

Click here <https://www.inova.org/know-where-to-go> for guidance to determine what level of medical care you need.

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Obituary

Kerrie Sanders McHugh

On November 15, 2022, beloved wife, mother, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend passed away peacefully after complications from an illness in Alexandria VA. Born on August 22, 1936 in Washington DC, Kerrie grew up in Alexandria VA (Old Town and Belle Haven), Montevideo Uruguay, Santiago Chile, Virginia Beach VA, Oahu Hawaii, San Diego and Monterey California. She graduated from Santiago College (Chile) in 1955 and nearly graduated from Goucher College (Maryland) in 1959. She lived in the Mount Vernon area for 50 years. Kerrie was preceded in death by husband W. Michael McHugh (2015) and brother Barry Sanders (1990). She is survived by children Heather S McHugh (Alexandria VA) and William Bruce McHugh (Burlington NC); four grandchildren Katherine Elizabeth Allison, William Bruce McHugh, Jr., Madeleine Mae McHugh, and Lily Julieanna McHugh, and four great grandchildren Jackson Paul Smith McHugh, Aubrey Nevaeh Allison, Sutton Elizabeth Allison, and William Bristol McHugh. Kerrie is also survived by her brother Jonathan Scully Sanders (Bethesda MD) and family.



Kerrie loved people – she found kinship with everyone – and enjoyed spirited conversations, discussions, and even good-natured arguments. She was passionate about opera, classical music, and the songs of Chile and Mexico. Kerrie would sing the Chilean national anthem at the drop of a hat. She loved to read, consuming books at a prodigious rate. Kerrie was known for throwing parties, where the food, music, and wine flowed generously. For years she managed Granny's Place (a children's shop) in Alexandria VA. Kerrie volunteered at Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, various hotlines for mental health, and was a Cub Scout den mother. She was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and served on the board of the Bryant Committee which supports, enhances, inspires, and sustains the arts for the midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, December 3, at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Alexandria VA. Interment will be held at a future date at Elmwood Cemetery in Shepherdstown WV. Contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, the PBS Foundation, or to the Bryant Foundation at the US Naval Academy (www.usna.com "Donate Now" or checks made out to the US Naval Academy Foundation, 247 King George St., Annapolis, MD 21402 – memo "Bryant Fund").

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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Lucky Me – Or Not



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a diagnosed-with-lung-cancer-at-age-54-and-half adult, I haven't felt particularly lucky. Nevertheless, I rarely if ever, woe is me. I take the bad with good, and vice versa. I'm never too high and hopefully, never too low. I've always felt, since being diagnosed with cancer in late February 2009 that the cancer/diagnosis was bad enough on its own, so I didn't need to make it any worse by dwelling on it and/or considering how unlucky I was; considering that I was lifelong non-smoker and second son of a family with no "immediate" cancer history. Let alone to then be diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer stage IV and given a "terminal"/13 month to two-year prognosis by my oncologist – at age 54 and a half. A prognosis which, on the face of it, offered very little hope. And to invoke a M*A*S*H comment by Lt. Col. Henry Blake, my oncologist wasn't "blowing any sunshine up my skirt."

Yet somehow, I didn't die. Possibly due to a misdiagnosis, and/or possibly affected by my never-woe-is-me attitude and equally never-say-die approach, literally-ish. I always figured that receiving bad news from my oncologist, whenever it arrived would be disheartening enough so that I didn't need to put the cart before the horse, so to speak and write any epitaphs (sort of like Orson Welles advertising that Paul Masson would "not sell any wine before its time"). Rather, I would let the treatment, side effects, scans, and all, good, bad, or indifferent, happen in due course and not react too much in advance of anything actually happening (as in getting sick/being hospitalized). I decided to look before I leaped, and not jump to any conclusions. I would try to take it all stride and not cart any horses.

And sure, there were highs and lows, growth/progression, delays in treatment due to low white blood cell counts, high and low potassium, high creatinine (still to this day), and as it turned out, many post-scan characterizations of "stable disease," words to live by, you might say (I certainly have – for years). As you might imagine, I've lived very happily with "stable." Certainly "shrinkage" was preferred/the hope, but it occurred less and less while "stable" I heard more and more. I soon realized – and embraced "stable." As I often say, "stable" is hardly the problem. I can live with 'stable. 'Stable' is unlikely to kill me." Granted, it's not a cure, but neither is it a dreaded complication regarding the underlying problem: cancer and tumor growth.

"Stable" is a way of life for me. "Stable," as I'm extremely fond of saying, has become "my new favorite word." The goal, as much of one as one could have when you're diagnosed with a "terminal" disease, was/is to somehow turn cancer into a "chronic" disease (like diabetes) where you can live a relatively normal life while treatment/monitoring of your disease continues until monitoring is no longer required, if you know what I mean?. Unfortunately, you'll still have doctor's appointments and multiple scans, but you'll be alive and living – with cancer. You'll likely never be cancer-free or have peace of mind, (concerning your cancer), but you'll still have the life expectancy you were anticipating; not one cut short by this dreaded disease. And as an originally-diagnosed-as-"terminal" cancer patient, "chronic" is my brand new/real-time favorite word. And I couldn't think of ever getting here without having previously been "stable." Moreover, it sure beats the alternative, and as the old saying says: "Living is its own reward."

Realistically speaking, I don't need to be cured (of course I dream of that), but it's not front and center, anymore; it's more my subconscious. I'm thrilled to be "chronic." And since (in my mind), "chronic" is the new "stable," ("stable" all grown up, you might say), "chronic" is hardly the problem. I can live with "chronic." Heck, considering that I thought I'd be dead 12 years ago, "chronic" is no more of a problem – for me, than "stable" has been.

Granted, it's not a cure, but it's a living, one I'm incredibly lucky to still have. For a cancer patient who was given a two-percent chance to survive beyond two years, to still be living nearly 14 years later (late Feb. 2023) is a miracle. I was happy to be called "stable." Now, if my life continues as I hope, and I am considered "chronic," I will be just as grateful, every minute of every day, to be called "chronic Ken."

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

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you!

Please, help save these historical papers. Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR



FROM PAGE 16

Hall during the holiday season. This family-oriented event includes crafts, games, and live music. Visit the website: <https://gunstonhall.org/events/christmastide-at-gunston-hall/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Cookies with Santa. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join Reston Association when Santa makes his first stop in Reston. Join the holiday countdown with a cookie jar full of fun and see Santa Claus before he embarks on his annual journey around the world. With a craft, cookies & cocoa and activities to jumpstart your holiday season and a letter to and from Santa will sure be a highlight. Don't forget your camera! Registration and fee is only for the child, but parents must stay at the event. Contact Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-6577.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Claus & Paws. 2-4 p.m. Dress up your pet, bring your camera and take a photo with Santa to share with family and friends this holiday season. Santa will also have a gift for your four-legged family member. This event will be held outdoors at the Lake House, Reston Contact Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-6577.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Historic Clifton Holiday Homes Tour. 4-7 p.m. In the Town of Clifton. Kick off the holiday season at the Clifton Holiday Homes Tour. This year's tour will feature four historic houses, an open caboose, arts and crafts show in the Town Hall, and a gospel ensemble in the Clifton Primitive Baptist Church. Tickets: Prior to Tour \$20 adults, \$5 child; Day of Tour: \$25/adults, \$5 child. Tickets are available for purchase in town shops/restaurants. Visit <http://cliftonva.gov>.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Herndon Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tour Herndon homes decorated for the holidays. Tickets \$15 through Nov. 26; \$20 Nov. 27-Dec. 3. Buy in person at Arts Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon; (credit, cash or check) and Herndon Florist, 1675 Reston Parkway Suite G, Reston; (cash or check) or online through Dec. 2 at holidayhomesherdon.eventbrite.com. More information at holidayhomestourherndon.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Gifts from the Heart Exhibit & Shopping Event. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, Reston. People can enjoy the artists' creations on display in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery through January 9, 2023; 3D Gallery exhibit items will remain on display through February 18, 2023. Artist entry fees and 10 percent of all sales will be donated to Cornerstones. The exhibit showcases original works of art in a variety of media – including oil, acrylic, watercolor, collage, stained glass, ceramic, sculpture and mixed media – with a wide range of sizes and prices. The December 3 sales event will offer the community a chance to purchase artwork and get into the holiday spirit. RCC will also offer a virtual art-

ists' directory, which will connect visitors with the dozens of artists displaying their wares at Gifts from the Heart. Interested shoppers can shop directly from the artists' links. Find the directory online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com beginning December 3.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Holiday Model Train Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. At W&OD Caboose Open House, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. At Arts Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Contact herndonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Holiday Tree Lighting & Sing-Along. 5-6 p.m. Carols, tree lighting and a visit from Santa. At Town Hall Square, 730 Elden Street, Herndon. Visit dulleschamber.org or call 571-323-5300.

HOLIDAYS AT THE GRANGE

Dec. 3-4. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Great Falls Studios Artfest.
Saturday/Dec. 10. 3 p.m. Holiday Afternoon Tea.
Sunday/Dec. 11. 4:30 p.m. Amadeus Presents Sounds of the Season.
Visit the website: www.gfgrange.org.

DEC. 3-4

"The Nutcracker." At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Presented by Metropolitan School of the Arts. Sat., Dec. 3 and Sun., Dec. 4 at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. on both days. This year, MSA is replacing the Russian musical suite with Ukrainian folk dance in support of the Ukrainian crisis, and invited Colleen Prince, a dancer/choreographer from Carpathia Folk Dance Ensemble of Washington, D.C. to help choreograph the MSA Nutcracker. Tickets range from \$30 to \$32 per person. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org for more information, and purchase tickets at <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35491/production/1140336>.

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Great Falls Tree Lighting. At Great Falls Village Center Field, Great Falls. Join in on Sunday, December 4 for the annual tree lighting at the Great Falls Village Field. There will be pony rides, a petting zoo, school choir performances, Live Nativity, and a special visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Herndon Holiday Arts & Crafts Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 70 arts and craft vendors offer unique gifts, decorations and handmade items. Free admission and parking. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Visit herndon-va.gov/events. Call 703-787-7300.

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Wintermarkt. 12-7 p.m. Bringing the Old World charm of Christmas in Europe to Herndon. Family-focused events, entertainment, and items for all members of the household. Downtown Herndon, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon. Visit herndonwintermarkt.com or call 571-323-5300.

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OPEN SAT 12/3 & SUN 12/4, 2-4PM

Vienna | \$1,150,000

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www.KicklighterTeam.com



OPEN SUN 12/4, 12-2PM

Alexandria | \$949,000

Tucked away on a quaint neighborhood street, this 3-bedroom, 2.5-bathroom home in Beverley Hills is ready for a new owner! Newly renovated kitchen, remodeled basement and a large, fully fenced-in backyard with deck. 412 Tennessee Avenue

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OPEN SUN 12/4, 1-4PM

Del Ray | \$899,900

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OPEN SUN 12/4, 12-2PM

Orchard Valley/Taylor Run | \$879,000

An abundance of natural light streams into the beautiful, open concept living space of this updated home with Brazilian cherry floors, modern touches, updated kitchen, and sleek primary bath. Outdoor retreat with multi-level deck & tiered garden. 477 E Taylor Run Pkwy

Sallie Seiy 703.798.4666

www.SallieSeiy.com



OPEN SUN 12/4, 2-4PM

Westgrove | \$869,900

Lovingly maintained Swarthmore model, split level home features many improvements over the years. Just painted, hardwood floors refinished, living room with large picture window, landscaped backyard, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, floored attic. 6902 Clemson Dr

Phyllis Sintay 703.472.3563

www.psintay.com



Midtown Alexandria Station | \$400,000

1,090-SF, 1-bedroom + den/office condo with balcony and 2 garage parking spaces. Impeccably maintained building is conveniently located across from Huntington Metro with 24/7 concierge, pool, sundeck, fitness center, and more! 2451 Midtown Avenue #1317

Jeffrey Cann 703.717.1932

www.JeffreyCann.com



OPEN SUN 12/4, 2-4PM

Parkfairfax | \$350,000

Open floor plan creates a welcoming space in this sunny, 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo. Living room door to flagstone patio overlooking large courtyard. Freshly painted throughout and original wood parquet floors. Extra storage and easy parking. 1762 Preston Road

Courtney DeVries 703.795.8311

www.courtneyd.com

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