

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

2016
VIRGINIA
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Newspaper

Fairfax CONNECTION



'We're Here Tonight Because We Care'

NEWS, PAGE 14

Daina Hart mans the silent auction's art, jewelry and clothing table. Some 300 people participated in the 17th annual "A Taste of Fall with FACETS," Nov. 5, at the Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax.

America's Veterans Honored in Fairfax

NEWS, PAGE 3

Holidays Are for Giving

OPINION, PAGE 8

NOVEMBER 17-23, 2016

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Attendees applaud the veterans (standing).



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) are WWII veterans Chester Myslicki (Air Force), 96, and Adrian Pelzner (Navy), 90.

Remembering America's Veterans

OLLI holds annual event in their honor.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Residents and veterans alike gathered last Friday, Nov. 11, at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) in Fairfax for the organization's second annual Veterans Day celebration.

The Fairfax County Police Honor Guard began the event with the presentation of the colors, and then Laura Redman sang the National Anthem. Then retired Army Col. Mike McNamara read a poem he wrote about his time in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. It ended with the words, "58,000 of our own fell in that country, and it is their service – and that of so many others – we commemorate this day."

McNamara co-moderates OLLI's Poetry Workshop and, following President John F. Kennedy's assassination, he organized the part of Kennedy's funeral that took place at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C. He even escorted Kennedy's widow, Jackie, up the church steps.

After McNamara's poem, each branch of the military's song was played, and the veterans stood when they heard their branch's anthem. Then the 75 or so OLLI members and their families watched "Arlington: Field of Honor," a National Geographic documentary about the history of Arlington National Cemetery and the elite Army guards who constantly watch over The Tomb of the Unknowns.

THE MOVIE stated that, "For an American, there is no more honorable place to be buried and no more sobering place to visit. It's a place where people come to grieve and say goodbye, but also a place where stunning feats of valor are recorded. Americans from every war are buried here. Each and every one of these [grave] stones tells a story about somebody who had an impact



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER DISANO

Veterans enjoying the program are (from left) OLLI President Ray Beery (Air Force) and Garrett Cochran (Army).

on American history."

Among those at Friday's event were WWII veterans Chester Myslicki and Adrian Pelzner. Myslicki, 96, was a sergeant in the Air Force Signal Corps; and Pelzner, 90, was a motor machinist in the Navy.

Drafted in 1944, Pelzner was trained as a diesel mechanic and assigned to the USS Alchiba supply ship. "We took supplies from the U.S. to the Mariana, Marshall and Caroline Islands and to the Philippines," he said. "We brought an unbelievable variety of materials – Quonset hut sections, diesel engines, medical supplies, wood and sheet metal so the airplanes could land and take off. There were different materials at different stages of the war – sometimes food, tents or ammunition."

Pelzner worked in the engine room and kept the ship going. "The hardest part was working in 100-degree temperatures there," he said. "At the end of the war, we were off the coast, awaiting orders to invade Japan. But then the atomic bomb was dropped, and we knew the war was going to be over when that happened. We were very happy that we were going to go home."

He said the USS Alchiba is the only sup-

ply ship in the history of the U.S. Navy to receive a Presidential Unit Citation. "Before I was on it, it was torpedoed by the Japanese in November 1942 in Guadalcanal," explained Pelzner. "But instead of letting the ship sink, the crew drove it into the beach and saved all the supplies on it needed for the Army Air Corps' further raids on Japan."

AS FOR MYSLICKI, he enlisted in the Air Force at age 23, after the war began. "I wanted to be in radar," he said. "I thought it would be interesting, as well as relatively safe, and I trained others, as well. We, too, were supposed to land on Okinawa and direct the planes landing there and hitting Japan. But the war ended before we could do that, so we were happy."

Myslicki liked his job because, he said, "It required a certain amount of skill. We



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Residents sing the National Anthem while veterans salute the flag.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Retired Army Col. Mike McNamara reads a poem he wrote about Vietnam.

told the U.S. warplanes what to do in the attacks and where to aim their bombs." He said the toughest part was learning all the signals, but he was proud that he belonged to "the largest signal unit ever created."

Pleased to be part of OLLI's Veterans Day celebration, he said it "reminds people of what has been accomplished by the veterans."

Agreeing, Pelzner said, "It's important because they're honoring veterans. Veterans Day means a tremendous amount of people gave their lives and took time out of their lives to serve their country."

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University is at 4210 Roberts Road in Fairfax. It offers intellectual, social and cultural experiences in a welcoming atmosphere to Northern Virginia residents in their retirement years. OLLI's more than 1,200 members enjoy access to unlimited courses with no homework, no exams, no required college degree and no age threshold. Classes and social events are offered at various locations. For a free catalog and more information, go to <http://olli.gmu.edu/> or call (703) 503-3384.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Solarize NoVA Reaches 100th Contract for New Solar

The Solarize NoVA campaign, a partnership between the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) and the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP), reached a significant milestone with the signing of its

100th contract. Solarize NoVA has been in existence since the Fall of 2014. Over the past two years more than 2,700 families signed up expressing an interest in the program, 619 families received free home energy checkups, and 100 entered into contracts. To date, the rated power of new solar installed is 776.5 kW with a construction value of \$2.6 million. The new solar represents a 7 percent increase statewide as compared to 2013.

"We are excited to be working

with our local government partners in the region and LEAP to help take the mystery out of solar," said NVRC Chairman and Mayor of the Town of Vienna Laurie DiRocco. "And, for those families not interested in solar the home energy checkup helps save families real dollars in terms of reduced energy costs at home." To further assist residents and business owners considering solar, NVRC created the first regional map in Virginia to help property owners see how

a solar array may fit on their home/building and to estimate the associated dollar value of the energy savings created. This free tool can be found at www.novasolarmap.com.

Fairfax Girls to Complete Girls on the Run 5K

On Saturday, Nov. 19, girls from nine Fairfax City schools

will complete the Girls on the Run 5K, presented by Cigna. The 5K is the culminating event for these girls who have spent the fall season participating in a curriculum which integrates running to help increase confidence, create positive connections with peers and coaches, and help girls contribute to their communities. Girls on the Run teams from Bonnie Brae, Daniels Run, Greenbriar East, Little Run, Navy, Oak View, Providence, Silverbrook, and Wakefield Forest Elementary Schools will complete the 5K at Pfitzner Stadium in Woodbridge.

The entire community is invited to share in this celebration, whether running alongside the girls, volunteering, or simply coming out to cheer. Two 5K runs will be offered over one weekend: Saturday, Nov. 19 at Pfitzner Stadium in Woodbridge and Sunday, Nov. 20 at Freedom Park in Rosslyn.

Homeless Animals Rescue Team Receives Emergency Medical Grant

Homeless Animals Rescue Team, Fairfax Station, has received a \$1,000 Emergency Medical grant from the Petfinder Foundation. The Petfinder Foundation Emergency Medical grant program is used to assist Petfinder members who are caring for a pet that needs special life-saving veterinary care in order to become adoptable.

The Petfinder.com Foundation assists the 12,000+ animal shelters and rescue groups that post their adoptable pets on Petfinder.com. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, the Petfinder Foundation helps adoption organizations find homes for the pets in their care through its Sponsor A Pet, Disaster Fund, Quality of Life and other programs. Since its founding in 2003, the Petfinder Foundation has given more than \$20 million in cash and product grants to shelters and rescue groups in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Homeless Animals Rescue Team posts its adoptable pets at www.petfinder.com/shelters/VA56.html.

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Information Center: 1212 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com

NEWS

After the Polls Closed

Parker Davis, right, unpacks a precinct chief's kit as Bill Norton, left, logs sealed envelopes containing provisional ballots and other election forms around 9 p.m. Nov. 8 by the loading dock of the Fairfax County Government Center. In the background, other Office of Election staff Lisa Hogle and Pat Hart oversee the unloading and check-in process after the polls have closed.



PHOTOS BY BY MARTI MOORE/
THE CONNECTION

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Saturday, November 19, 2016
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Sunday, November 20, 2016
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www.saintandrewlc.org

NEWS

City Council Honors Armistice Turtora

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Most people don't receive special proclamations on their birthdays – but then, there's only one Armistice Turtora. And after serving tirelessly for six decades to better her community, she celebrated her 90th birthday last Friday, Nov. 11.

So not only was she honored at the Nov. 8 meeting of the Fairfax City Council, but Mayor Steve Stombres presented her with a proclamation officially declaring her 90th birthday as Armistice Turtora Day in the City of Fairfax.

The United States previously observed Nov. 11 as Armistice Day, in commemoration of the signing of the armistice (agreement) ending World War I in 1918. So when Turtora was born in the U.S. on Nov. 11, 1926, her immigrant parents of Armenian heritage named her Armistice.

She moved to Fairfax in 1959 and, as a wife and mother, became active in her neighborhood as part of the newly created Country Club Hills Civic Assn. She was a block captain and her community's newsletter editor and president.

Turtora also organized and served as the first president of the City of Fairfax Federation of Citizens Assns., organized the Bicycle Path Committee and designed costumes for the Fairfax Community Theatre. From 1959-84, she was a member of the City's League of Women Voters and even served as its chairman. And she worked on voter-registration drives, as well as open-space and education studies.

Turtora also chaired the City of Fairfax Democratic Committee – which was groundbreaking because she was the only woman on the committee. In addition, she worked on many political campaigns and at the polls on Election Day. And for the past decade, she's served on the Commission on the Arts.

In 1969, she became the first chairman of Fairfax's Parks and Recreation Board, which she helped es-

tablish, and she tirelessly advocated for the purchase and development of parks throughout the City. When Van Dyck Park was built during the '60s, she fought to keep its open field – known as "The Bowl" – as a place for unscheduled play and activities. And in June, "The Bowl" was officially renamed Armistice Turtora Field in her honor.

So it's easy to see why the City she's served for so long wanted to do something especially meaningful to commemorate her 90th birthday. After Stombres presented Turtora with the proclamation, she said, "I want to thank everybody and the Arts Commission and everyone here I know so well. And I wish you all long life, continued health and wisdom."



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City Mayor Steve Stombres presents a proclamation to Armistice Turtora.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers ser-

vices at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL DANCER/ART FOR THE SKY

Volunteers from around Fairfax County came out to not only donate food but pack it in colorful bins that formed the outline for a giant human graphic of a sunrise. The volunteers filled it in themselves, wearing T-shirts of different colors, at the end of the project and were photographed by Daniel Dancer and Art for the Sky.

Completing Circle of Giving

Volunteers compile more than 7,500 pounds in donated food for Lorton Community Action Center and Britepaths.

Wanda Jeter of Lorton has been a volunteer with the Lorton Community Action Center for 20 years. As single mother who's struggled to provide for herself and four children, she's also been a client.

Jeter said she's received support in the form of emergency financial assistance, food, counseling, nutrition and computer classes.

"It helped save my son from the streets," Jeter said. Rather than continuing to run with a dangerous crowd, he got involved with an LCAC job training program called Job Corps and later enlisted in the U.S. Army.

"They've done so much for me," said Jeter. "There are any number of things in life you're going through. They've been very caring, supportive and helpful."

Nonprofits LCAC and Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread) are trying to help provide clients like Jeter opportunities to better themselves. On Sunday, Nov. 6, the two organizations brought nearly 1,000 participants together for a sixth annual Complete the Circle food donation event.

Lorton Community Action Center executive director Linda Patterson put the nearly 8,000 pounds of do-

nated food in perspective.

Around 28,000 children, among 63,000 Fairfax County area residents, are "food insecure," Patterson told everyone gathered in the field next to South County Middle School in Lorton.

"Which means they will not have dinner tonight," Patterson said.

Volunteers from around Fairfax County came out to not only donate food but pack it in colorful bins that formed the outline for a giant human graphic of a sunrise. The volunteers filled it in themselves, wearing T-shirts of different colors, at the end of the project and were photographed by Daniel Dancer and Art for the Sky.

Supervisor Dan Stock (D-Mount Vernon) told the volunteers their work "is making a critical difference in the community, in so many people's lives today."

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova acknowledged, "we do have struggling families in Fairfax County. These are our neighbors, people we care about."

Complete the Circle donors raised a total of 7,648 pounds of food, Patterson said.

For more information, visit lortonaction.org and britepaths.org.

—TIM PETERSON

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A light meal or snack may be provided.

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OPINION

Holidays Are for Giving

Give thanks and share locally; tens of thousands of families in Fairfax County are in need.

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

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

More than 52,000 children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's 28 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools. (Nearly 7 percent of students in FCPS live below the poverty line, a harrowing \$24,000 for a family of four.)

All of these are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

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

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

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again after Thanksgiving, so please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Where to Give Locally

❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.

Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Sign up by Nov. 17 for Gifts for Kids, Alacia Earley at 571-323-9568 or alacia.earley@cornerstonesva.org.

“Moving Beyond Homelessness”

Housewarming Baskets: Last year Cornerstones helped 52 families and 84 individuals leave the Embry Rucker Shelter and homelessness. A housewarming basket is a welcome gift for a family moving beyond homelessness as they settle into their new home. Baskets can be delivered to the Cornerstones administrative office during business hours.

Include any of these new items in a laundry basket or large box to help our neighbors on their path to stability: Inflatable air mattress with pump; twin size, and double size “bed in a bag;” pillows; laundry basket; hangers; bathroom towels; vacuum; broom/dust pan; pot/pan kitchen starter set; silverware, cooking utensils, and glasses/cups;

kitchen towels; dishes; cookbook; can opener; toilet paper; paper towels; cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, toilet brush and cleaner, disinfecting spray); tool kit; fire extinguisher; First Aid kit; standing floor lamps; light bulbs; gift cards (Grocery store, Target, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Home Depot, gas station, etc.) For more information, contact Nate King at 571-323-9569 or Nate.King@cornerstonesva.org.

Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet

distributed over 5,500 winter coats and jackets last winter, plus over 4,000 hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to individuals and families in need of winter gear. Bring coat donations to the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190 through Feb. 16, 2017, 24 hours a day.

The Closet is accepting donations of new and clean, gently used coats and jackets, as well as new hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Deliver any time to the 24-hour drop box at the Community Room of the North County Governmental Building, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190.

❖ **SHARE** of McLean operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families (630-plus people) this year. Each family will receive a grocery gift card in November along with a bag filled with pantry staples and traditional items. In December, our families will be welcomed to a festive party, served a light meal, and Santa will travel all the way from the North Pole to take photographs with the children. Each person will receive a “wish” gift and families will be given a grocery gift card, a bag filled with toiletries, and a jug of laundry detergent. Help us help our neighbors in need by fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Contact Chris Wilbur at ShareWishes@gmail.com for more information. Visit www.shareofmclean.org for more info about Share.

❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and much more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.

❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, and needs volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.

❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate online or via check payable to “NVFS” with “Operation Turkey” on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family

Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Gifting for Families was able to bring some extra holiday cheer to more than 2,000 children in Northern Virginia last year. Monetary contributions and online donations help the most at www.nvfs.org. www.nvfs.org/holidayprograms. Or donate toys. New toys for children of all ages are needed to stock our Toy Closet. (If possible, shop for infants/toddlers or teens, as these age groups can be overlooked.) Drop off on Monday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 13939 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

❖ **Alternative House** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. Alternative House provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent. www.thealternativehouse.org.

❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.

❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Join Britepaths at Wine & Wonderment, Nov. 30, at 2941 Restaurant britepaths.org

❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 <http://fairfaxfish.org/>

❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.

❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. www.foodforothers.org

❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year. www.echo-inc.org.

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families during this holiday season. Consider making a basket or “adopting” Christmas wishes this year to help a neighbor. More information about LCAC's holiday program can be found at <http://lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/>. Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at <http://lortonaction.org> or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 9

Fairfax
CONNECTION

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NEWS

FCPS Get2Green Program Re- ceives Climate and Energy Leadership Award

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) presented Climate and Energy Leadership Awards to the District of Columbia, Fairfax County Public Schools, the District of Columbia's Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU), and Love & Carrots for their outstanding efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency.

These annual awards recognize and encourage local actions to advance the regional climate and energy goals established by leaders at COG, while engaging the community in the planning of their programs.

The awards were distributed Wednesday at the November COG Board of Directors Meeting by Fairfax County's Mason District Supervisor and COG Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Penny Gross and COG's Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) Chair Glenna Tinney.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is recognized with a 2016 Climate and Energy Leadership Award in the Educational Institution category for its Get2Green program.

FCPS is the 10th largest school district in the nation with over 220 facilities comprising 197 schools, 11 centers, and other support buildings.

The Get2Green program's mission is to promote student learning and action using the environment as a foundation.

FCPS has potential to reach over 186,000 students through programs such as home energy audits as part of curriculum; learning about renewable energy through building wind turbines; and sharing school grown edible food and leftover cafeteria food with local food banks.

As a result of Get2Green, FCPS has experienced an 11 percent reduction of greenhouse gases, a value in excess of 39,000 metric tons of CO₂e; with realized energy savings of more than \$8.5 million and an anticipated \$95 million dollars in energy savings by the year 2025.

Give Locally

FROM PAGE 8

counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit <http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org>

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. <http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/>

❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: jhenderson@homestretchva.org; 703-237-2035 x125; <http://homestretchva.org/volunteer/>

❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390 info@pathwayhomes.org <http://www.pathwayhomes.org> <http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/>

Volunteer Locally Through Volunteer Fairfax

❖ **Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread)**: Sponsor individuals and families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area for Thanksgiving meals, December holiday meals and/or gifts for children in December. Britepaths will send you information on a person/family who meets your criteria, and you will contact them and arrange to deliver food and/or gifts. You may also donate funds to help us assist those who are not sponsored. To sponsor a family or make a donation, visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

The Holiday Project: Share the spirit of the season with The Holiday Project, a non-profit organization that organizes visits to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities during the holiday season. Bring the spirit of a holiday to those who might not otherwise have a celebration. Visits occur throughout the metropolitan area. Dates and times of visits vary by location; for more information visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Cornerstones: Volunteer to accept gifts from donors and get them ready for distribution to local families, or assist families that are picking up gifts with getting items to their car. Several shifts are available. Good for adults, families and corporate groups. Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17. Times vary. To sign-up or learn more please contact us at <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

New Hope Housing: Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday, New Hope Housing provides nearly 200 food baskets to clients living in our community housing programs. Volunteers ensure that families are able to have a special and memorable holiday. Volunteers can sign up to help by hosting a Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive, donating a food basket for a single adult or family, donating grocery store gift cards for clients to purchase turkeys (grocery stores along Route 1 are best), signing up to drop off Christmas dinner at one of our Permanent Supportive Housing sites. <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Sign up to help ensure that children in those families receive holiday gifts this year. You can volunteer to help by adopting a child and fulfilling his or her holiday wish list. Wish lists are available now. Donating gift cards for parents to purchase their children new clothing. Stores along Route 1 are best. Hosting a special program for the children, such as holiday card and gift making for their parents. To sign up, fill out the following form and a member of the New Hope Housing team will respond as soon as possible <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Richard Byrd Library: Semi-annual Holiday used book sale at Richard Byrd Library in Springfield. Pre-Sale: (Nov. 28 - 30) volunteers will set up tables, organize sale area, post signs, lift/move crates of books, sort books. During Sale: (Dec. 1 - 4) volunteers will assist shoppers; restock sale items, clear sale area as necessary. For information visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Volunteer Fairfax: Your local volunteer center, seeks individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs for volunteer opportunities at holiday time and throughout the year. www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.



Thanksgiving Art & Craft Show

Spring Hill RECenter

1239 Spring Hill Rd., McLean, VA 22102




Thanksgiving Weekend
Fri & Sat 10 - 5
Sun 11 - 4






New Location!
Formerly
Vienna Art & Craft Show

\$5 Admission
Free Return
Free Parking

www.NVHG.org





Virginia Department of Transportation

Atlantic Gateway Highway, Rail and Transit I-95 Corridor Projects Public Hearing

Please note new date:
Wednesday, December 14, 2016
7:30 p.m.
VDOT Northern Virginia District Office
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

The Commonwealth Transportation Board invites the public to comment on Atlantic Gateway highway, rail and transit improvements along the Interstate 95 corridor.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14 in Fairfax. This meeting has been rescheduled from Tuesday, December 13, 2016 as previously advertised. Commonwealth Transportation Board members will be present to accept written and oral comments.

Information related to the Atlantic Gateway grant will be available for review at the public hearing and online at www.atlanticgateway.net.

If you cannot attend a public hearing, please send your comments meetingcomments@VDOT.Virginia.Gov. Please reference "Atlantic Gateway PH" in the email subject line. Comments may be mailed to VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Comments will be accepted until December 22, 2016.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

ONGOING

Bull Run Festival of Lights and Holiday Village November 23, 2016 - January 8, 2017 7700 Bull Run Dr. Centreville, VA

Every year from Thanksgiving until just after New Year's Day the Bull Run Festival of Lights will be in session. A 2.5 mile stretch will be illuminated by holiday light displays. The festival happens annually at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville, Virginia. Drive the festival route from the comfort of your car; turn out your headlights and just follow the magical glow. After viewing the lights, bring your family and friends to the holiday village to enjoy rides, refreshments, and of course, photos with Santa Claus. The cost of driving through the light show is Mon-Thurs, \$15 per car; Fri-Sun & Holidays, \$20 per car (vans w/ 15-34 people and motorcoaches cost extra - visit website for details) Want to avoid the crowds? Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays are our busiest nights. Please take advantage of the Monday through Thursday discounted price and avoid a long wait.

Children's Theatre: "A Magical Christmas" Saturdays through Dec. 22, 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A children's theatre performance for the holidays. There's something not right in the town of Believe. Santa hasn't stopped there for many years; in fact he doesn't even know the place exists! Joy's grandfather decides to do something about it and make sure that this year's Christmas will be the most magical ever. Appropriate for all ages. Concessions available in lobby before the performance and at intermission. Cost: \$8 children, \$12 adults. workhousearts.org Cost: \$8 children, \$12 adults.

THURSDAY/NOV. 17

Historic Pohick Church Christmas

Mart 10 - 2 p.m. 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Parish House and the Vestry House will be transformed into a festive Christmas atmosphere with rooms filled with Attic Treasures, a Consignment Shop, fresh baked goods, homemade candy and apple butter, and frozen casseroles made by the women of Pohick Church. Booths will feature the work of artisans showcasing handmade jewelry, stained glass, Christmas decorations and many other crafts. Colonial-attired ladies will serve luncheon at three sittings—11:00 AM, 12:00 noon and 1:00 PM—the cost is \$12.00. The Docent Guild will be leading tours of the historic church and the Golden Dove Gift Shop will be open. Admission: free. www.pohick.org

FRIDAY/NOV. 18

Fairfax County Department of Family Services "We Got the Gold" Free Family Event 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Annual National Adoption Awareness Month Celebration Event. There will be music, prizes, games family photos, activity stations all Open to the Public. Formal Adoption Ceremony will be 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. RSVP to Ann Kim or call 703-324-7486.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 19-NOV. 20

Burke Civic Ballet's Nutcracker shows at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. At Ernst Theater on Northern Virginia Community College's campus 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Founded in 1993, The Burke Civic Ballet, offers its students a professional ballet performance. Dancers from age 3 to professionals present the holiday classic at a



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Friends Reese O'Donnell, 4, and Reilly Lewis, 3 1/2, hold hands at the 2014 City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. This year's festival will be held at Old Town Square 10415 North Street, Fairfax, on Saturday Dec. 3 There will be live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols> for times and locations.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 30th Annual Holiday Craft Show will be held Saturday & Sunday Nov. 19 - 20 from 10 - 3 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030. What started out in 1987 as a very small show has grown to become a premium arts and crafts festival.

professional theater. This event has been an area favorite for over 20 years. For organized groups (10+) and handicapped seating, please email burkecivicballet@gmail.com

SUNDAY/NOV. 20

N Gauge Model Train Show at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum 1 - 4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission: \$4 for adults 16 and over. \$2 for children 5-15. Free for Museum members. www.fairfax-station.org www.facebook.com/FFXSRR 703-425-9225

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 19-20

30th Annual Holiday Craft Show 10 - 3 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030. What started out in 1987 as a very

small show has grown to become a premium arts and crafts festival. Artisans from all over the United States, including many local artists, are participating in this year's show and we are delighted to be able to offer you so many wonderful holiday gift choices. There really is something for everyone on your shopping list. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/holiday-craft-show>

SATURDAY/NOV. 26

Fairfax Ballet's Nutcracker 2 - 4 p.m. WT Woodson High School 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. The Fairfax Ballet Company stages the "The Nutcracker" Nov. 26-27, 2016 at W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, Va. *Three show times include:* Nov. 26, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm, and Nov. 27, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. Cost: \$23-26 events@fairfaxballet.com <http://www.fairfaxballet.com>



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Simone Dinnerstein, pianist and guest soloist.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Comes to GMU

"Brahms' Great Beginnings" performed by Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with featured soloist Simone Dinnerstein at Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance on Nov. 19, at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$39, \$53, \$65. Tickets available online at cfa.gmu.edu or by phone at 888-945-2468. Note: Pre-Performance Discussion at 7 p.m. with David Ginder of WETA 90.9-FM and FSO Conductor Christopher Zimmerman with special guests.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in concert.

fairfaxnutcracker2016.bpt.me
Fair Oaks Mall Hosts Pet Parties with Santa 6:30 - 8 p.m. Santa's Flight Academy in Grand Court 11750 Fair Oaks. FairfaxFair Oaks Mall will offer pet parents a chance to celebrate the holiday season and visit with Santa. Pet photos will take place at the interactive Santa's Flight Academy holiday set located in Grand Court West. Please note that pets must be up-to-date on their vaccinations and must either be on a leash or carried in a lightweight, portable pet carrier with harness. www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events

MONDAY/NOV. 28

Turkey Walk 10 - 11 a.m. 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Discover the wild turkey's habits and secret ways during a walk in the cedar forest at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Look for wild turkeys and their signs. This program for participants

age three to adult. Cost: \$5 per person. 703-631-0013.

THURSDAY/DEC. 1-SATURDAY DEC. 3

Richard Byrd Library Holiday Used Book Sale 3 - 5 p.m. 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Friends of Richard Byrd Library holiday used book sale is a semi-annual fundraising event. Funds support adult and children's programming and subscriptions at the Richard Byrd Library. rbfriends@gmail.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis 6:30 p.m. Dinner with 7:30 p.m. performance. Truro Anglican Church 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Come see the play for a Holiday celebration of the classic C.S. Lewis novel - take a

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www.connectionnewspapers.com



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

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trip to Narnia. <http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org>

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols noon - 7:30 p.m. Old Town Square 10415 North Street, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols> for times and locations.

Lunch with Santa 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. Children ages 10 and under

can enjoy lunch with Santa at Old Town Hall. Two lunch seatings will be offered one at 11:30 a.m. and another at 12:30 p.m. Tickets: \$6 per child on sale at the Parks & Recreation office at City Hall, Sherwood Center, and Green Acres Center. Limit of 10 tickets per person.

Pre-Registration is required for this event - children 1 years of age and younger may attend at no cost but still must be registered. Parents do not need to purchase tickets. All are welcome - both Fairfax City residents and non Fairfax City residents. Tickets can be purchased online at: https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/9853

Holiday Book Sale 10 - 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, VA 22015. Peruse and shop a selection of gently used holiday-themed books collected by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Visit: <http://www.burkecenterlibrary.org>

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'Christmas Gift Showcase' to Be Held Dec. 14

The Springfield Christian Women's Connection invites everyone to luncheon program, "Christmas Gift Showcase," on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$20 per person - all inclusive. Reservations are requested by Friday, Dec. 9, 2016.

Enjoy extra time to shop Twice: 11 a.m. until lunch is served and after the luncheon until 2 p.m. Come and enjoy shopping for your Christmas gift list and plan to treat yourself, too.

Gift items include Longaberger baskets and pottery, MAGZ Art Handcrafted Jewelry and Gifts, Matilda Jane Clothing, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Serendipity of

Occoquan, baked goods, and much more. In addition, several vendors have donated door prizes.

Arrive early for the best selections and if you'd like, you can also bring your own baked goods to add to fall fundraiser for Stonecroft.

In addition, Karin Williams will reflect on how she learned to grow in spite of pain in Learning to Say Goodbye. Please join this festive and informative luncheon, along with great door prizes, delicious food, and new friendships.

For Luncheon reservations call 703-922 6438 or e-mail: SpringWmConn@yahoo.com

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THE NUTCRACKER

presented by

The Burke Civic Ballet

Come share in the magic of the holiday tradition!

Featuring 3-year-old miniature dolls to professional dancers courtesy of Colorado Ballet, this production will enchant all ages. Be mesmerized by a growing tree, magic tricks, leaping mice, toy soldiers, falling snow, authentic costumes made in the Ukraine, seventy-five dancing flowers and delectable confections from the Kingdom of Sweets. Treat yourself and friends to a wonderful entrée to the spirit of the season. Makes a perfect holiday gift! Order your tickets online at www.buffas.com

Saturday, November 19th at 2:00 & 6:00 p.m.

& Sunday, November 20th at 2:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater • NVCC Annandale Campus

Adults - \$28 • Children/Seniors - \$20

For organized groups (10+) and
handicapped seating, burkeciviballet@gmail.com





HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

FROM PAGE 11

/www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. Time TBA Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols> for times and locations.

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis 2 p.m. performance. Truro Anglican Church 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Come see the play for a Holiday celebration of the classic C.S. Lewis novel - take a trip to Narnia. <http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org>

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Fair Oaks Mall Hosts Pet Parties with Santa 6:30 - 8 p.m. Santa's Flight Academy in Grand Court 11750 Fair Oaks. FairfaxFair Oaks Mall will offer pet parents a chance to celebrate the holiday season and visit with Santa. Pet photos will take place at the interactive Santa's Flight Academy holiday set located in Grand Court West. Please note that pets must be up-to-date on their vaccinations and must either be on a leash or carried in a lightweight, portable pet carrier with harness. www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events.

THURSDAY/DEC. 8 - FRIDAY DEC. 9

Tiny Tots Concert at Robinson Secondary School's Russell Theater Thursday 10 a.m. Friday 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Great holiday fun for "kids from 1 to 92" Robinson High School's Symphonic Band plays

holiday tunes and introduces the audience to different types of musical instruments while costumed characters make appearances: Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph and more. For group reservations contact Karen Ingle at markarenin@verizon.net.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Fair Oaks Mall Hosts Pet Parties with Santa 6:30 - 8 p.m. Santa's Flight Academy in Grand Court 11750 Fair Oaks. FairfaxFair Oaks Mall will offer pet parents a chance to celebrate the holiday season and visit with Santa. Pet photos will take place at the interactive Santa's Flight Academy holiday set located in Grand Court West.

Please note that pets must be up-to-date on their vaccinations and must either be on a leash or carried in a lightweight, portable pet carrier with harness. www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events.

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

Fairfax High School Winter Concert 7 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Fairfax High School Choral and Orchestra Department present a performance of Christmas tunes. Bring an unwrapped gift for a child to donate to the Toys for Tots drive. Cost:Free 703-219-2355; fhschorus.net

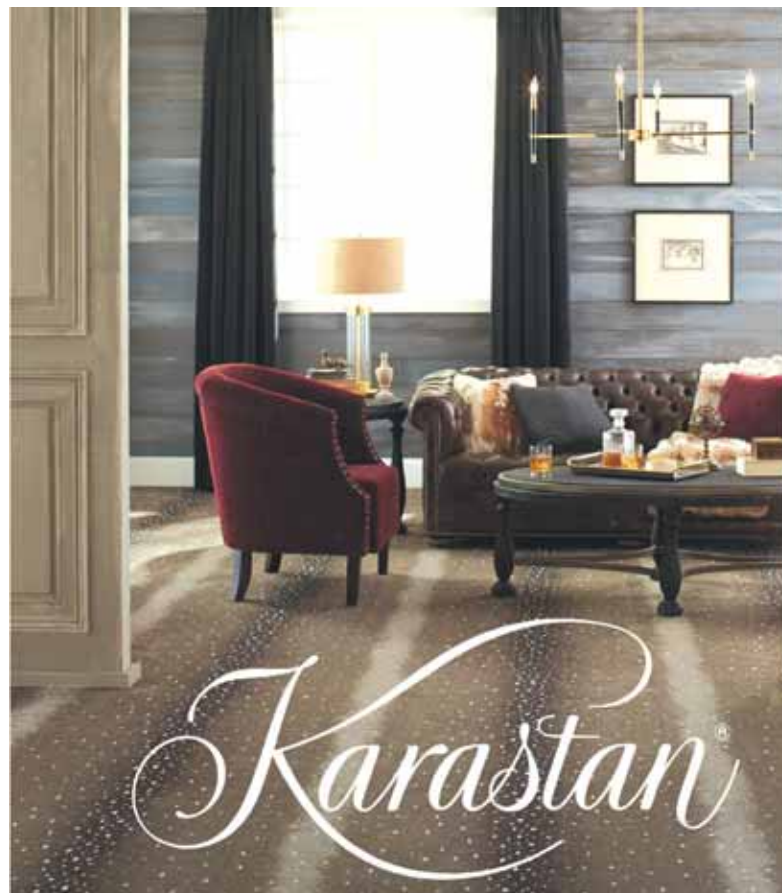
SATURDAY/DEC.31-SUN/JAN.1,12:30AM.

Atlaa New Year's Eve Tennis Party 7 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. Fairfax Racquet Club 9860 Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Fairfax Racquet Club invites you to play singles/ doubles tennis with all levels welcome to participate. ATlaa is offering healthy dinner, soft drinks, and a Champagne Toast for New Year. You may bring your own beer/wine if you would prefer to do so.



Burke Civic Ballet to Present Nutcracker

Burke Civic Ballet's Nutcracker will be held on Saturday - Sunday/Nov. 19 - Nov/ 20 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Ernst Theater on Northern Virginia Community College's campus 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Founded in 1993, The Burke Civic Ballet, offers its students a professional ballet performance. Dancers from age 3 to professionals present the holiday classic at a professional theater. This event has been an area favorite for over 20 years. For organized groups (10+) and handicapped seating, please email burkecivicballet@gmail.com



Grand Opening

Kemper Carpet & Flooring is moving to your neighborhood!

Kemper Carpet & Flooring has been in Fairfax since 1972—proudly serving the area for 44 years! Woman-owned and rooted in the community, we are your neighborhood flooring specialists.

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(next to Harris Teeter)

703.978.9001

[kempercarpet](https://www.facebook.com/kempercarpet)

www.kempercarpet.com

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Quality, Value & Service Since 1972



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

Megan Marino (Rosina) and Will Liverman (Figaro) in Virginia Opera's "The Barber of Seville."

Delightful Comic Opera Comes to Fairfax

Virginia Opera to perform "The Barber of Seville" at Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A universally appealing comic opera, Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" contains instantly recognizable and notable tunes that have made their way into pop culture. One well-known song introduces Figaro, the lead character, with its famous repeated proclamations of his own name. There is even a Bugs Bunny animated short called "The Rabbit of Seville."

"The Barber of Seville" is truly one of the gateway operas, full of infectious tunes and hilarity that's remarkably easy to follow," said Adam Turner, principal conductor and artistic advisor, Virginia Opera. "It is a masterpiece; a delightful dose of comedy paired with a bubbly score, full of familiar melodies carried along by impressive vocal acrobatics."

Turner promised that "Barber" will have the audience "humming along, fully tuned-in to the hilarious schemes" of the barber character. For those who have never been to an opera, "The Barber of



Will Liverman in title role of Figaro in Virginia Opera's "The Barber of Seville."

Seville" is a highly accessible story with catchy tunes and "razor-sharp clarity and wit."

The opera follows the fast-moving comical exploits of Figaro, a mischievous barber who finds himself dealing with matters of love for not only himself, but others as well. He jumps into one funny situation after another until all becomes right in the world.

For Robert Cinnanti, Virginia Opera, director of education and outreach, the troupe's approach for "Barber" is to "throw out any notion of the 'traditional' or 'same old, same old.'" The company wants audiences of every generations and knowledge of opera to enjoy the performance.

According to Russell Allen, President and CEO, Virginia Opera casting for the featured roles in "The Barber of Seville" include Megan Marino, Andrew Owens and Will Liverman as Figaro, the quick-wit-

ted barber. It is Liverman's Virginia Opera debut. He is a graduate of the Virginia Governor's School for the Arts. In an interview Liverman reached out to aspiring artists thinking of a career in opera. "Stay focused on what your own path is...Your experiences will be what they are...Stay true to yourself and never lose the joy in why you decided to sing."

Megan Marino plays the opera's love interest and heroine Rosina. She is an alumna of Virginia Opera's "Herndon Foundation Emerging Artist Program." Andrew Owens is the young Count Almaviva who loves Rosina. He is also an alum of Virginia Opera's "Herndon Foundation Emerging Artist Program."

Virginia Opera's clever and inventive production is directed by Michael Shell with John Brill conducting the Rossini delightful musical score.

Where and When

George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Dec. 3 and 4, 2016 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$54, \$90 and \$110. Call 888-945-2468, or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu. Note: This Virginia Opera production of "The Barber of Seville" will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. Note: Pre-performance discussion led by Dr. Glenn Winter, 45 minutes before the performance.

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Katie and Logan Kraft entertain the crowd.



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(From left) Alaha Ahrar, a FACETS community advocate, dishes up Shepherd's Pie from Auld Shebeen to Carolyn Mellone.

'We're Here Tonight Because We Care'

FACETS fundraiser is a huge success.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

They enjoyed food, drink, games, live music and socializ-

ing with friends. But those attending the recent fundraiser for FACETS also opened up their hearts and wallets to make the event a huge success.

Some 300 people participated in the 17th annual "A Taste of Fall with FACETS," Nov. 5, at the Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax. And by evening's end, they'd contributed more than \$80,000.

"The amazing support for our Taste of Fall event shows the heart our community has," said FACETS Executive Director Margi Preston. "Businesses and residents alike care about making our community stronger. Their support of FACETS's work is alleviating poverty and homelessness in Fairfax, making the lives of neighbors better."

This year's event had a "Carnival of Cultures" theme, celebrating the diverse cultures represented by FACETS's program participants. Guests sampled an array of food and beverages from local restaurants, wineries and breweries. Participants included: Amphora, Kona Grill, The Auld Shebeen, Coyote Grille, Caribbean Corner - Fairfax, Dickey's Barbecue Pit - Merrifield, California Pizza Kitchen, TGI Fridays, Paradise Springs Winery and Rosemary's Thyme Bistro.

ATTENDEES also dressed up in funny ac-



Margi Preston



Ruby Ledbetter



Bob Grimmert



Jim Corcoran

cessories for a photo booth, played carnival games and bid on items in both silent and live auctions. Providing the musical entertainment was Katie & Logan Acoustic Duo, who sang and played guitar.

Dignitaries attending included Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34th), Fairfax City Council members Janice Miller, David Meyer, Ellie Schmidt and Michael DeMarco, and former City Councilman Dan Drummond.

"I volunteer at the hypothermia shelter at Fairfax United Methodist Church, and the FACETS staff helps the volunteers every night with the homeless in the wintertime - and they do a phenomenal job," said Meyer. "They transport the homeless to the church to stay overnight in the winter, and this program has been very successful in preventing people from dying of the cold. It's a critically important program."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) wasn't able to attend the event, but wrote a special message that was included in the program. In it, he commended FACETS for its nearly 30 years of service to the community.

"I am proud to have been a partner in these efforts since the early days delivering hot meals with FACETS Founder Linda Wimpey," he wrote. "Linda was instrumental in developing the 10-year plan to pre-

vent and end homelessness implemented in 2008 during my tenure as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors."

"The efforts of organizations like FACETS, in conjunction with their public and private partners, have produced significant results," continued Connolly. "I personally thank the staff, volunteers, partners and supporters who are working to provide real change in people's lives."

In Fairfax County, 1,059 people are homeless. It's a significant amount, but it also marks a 42-percent decrease, since 2008, in the number of homeless people here. "Furthermore, it demonstrates the success of the various strategies implemented by the county and by local nonprofit organizations over the past eight years."

FACETS works throughout the county to help impoverished men, women and children succeed by offering services such as emergency shelter, food and medical care, as well as financial assistance, counseling and outreach, educational enrichment programs and housing. And "A Taste of Fall" helps support these life-changing services geared toward breaking and ending the cycle of poverty and homelessness.

"It is because of our caring community [that] we have come so far in the fight to end homelessness in Fairfax County, but we

still have more work to do," said FACETS spokeswoman Shawn Flaherty. "At FACETS, we are growing our programs to strengthen the support we provide to our neighbors in need. With the community's help, we can continue to provide long-term solutions and life-saving services."

DURING THE NOV. 5 FUNDRAISER, Preston

told the crowd how much she appreciated their participation. "Your attendance here tonight and your support help us help our neighbors in need overcome the effects of poverty," she said. "Together, we provide them with food, a roof over their heads and hope for a brighter future. We're here tonight because we care. And with you by our side, we'll continue moving forward to a time when no one is homeless."

Agreeing, FACETS Chairman of the Board Bob Grimmert said, "It takes a collaborative effort to make a positive change in our community. And we've aligned ourselves with several businesses to do this."

Stepping next to the podium was Jim Corcoran, president and CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. "We represent more than 500,000 employees, and the businesses they work for help our community thrive. Our focus is on ending homelessness, and we partner with nonprofits like FACETS where the business community is there to assist with their mission."

Also speaking was FACETS client Ruby Ledbetter, who participates in the organization's program for single adults. She graduated from Catholic University in 1985

SEE TASTE, PAGE 15

NEWS



Kevin and Kim Metzger with their cheese-cake from Rosemary's Thyme Bistro.



Jennifer Ayers serves baklava and cheese-cake from Rosemary's Thyme Bistro.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Taste of Fall Nets \$80,000 for FACETS

FROM PAGE 14

with a degree in social work, and she and her husband had eight children – one with a severe handicap. “My husband was our source of support; but Alzheimer’s crept into our life and he died in 2001,” she said. “Then our whole life became a strain.”

By 2006, they were homeless. And after working 23 years as a school social worker, Ledbetter lost her job in 2010. “FACETS helped me with counseling, food, transportation and a place to stay,” she said. “I now have a good job, my own apartment and am a grandmother of 15. I’m here today because of your help and support.”

Warby Parker to Open First Virginia Eyeglasses Store at Tysons

Warby Parker, a popular online eyeglasses retailer, is opening its first brick-and-mortar location in Virginia on Nov. 19 at Tysons Corner Center mall.

The Tysons shop will be one of the latest in the company’s expansion from the internet to 40 retail locations around the United States.

In the summer of 2015, Warby Parker opened a temporary shop to test the market’s waters as part of the Nordstrom program Pop-In@Nordstrom.

Inside the new store, the design is meant to resemble a classic library — appropriately studious for eyeglass-vending — and features a mural of original illustrations by *New Yorker* contributor and independent author Maira Kalman.

Tysons is located at 8013 Tysons Corner Center, Tysons Corner.

—TIM PETERSON



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Warby Parker, a popular online eyeglasses retailer, is opening its first brick-and-mortar location in Virginia on Nov. 19 at Tysons Corner Center mall.

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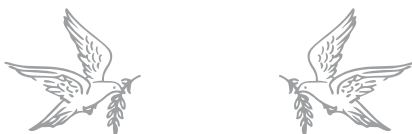
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Decking the Halls, Stuffing Bellies

Local cooking schools offer crash courses in holiday dishes.

Ever since Bernadette Lott can remember, she's had a sweet tooth as big as a sugarcane field. Describing herself as a hard and fast confection lover of the extreme type, she thinks her predilection for all things candy-coated probably started with her grandmother, who pretended not to notice when she devoured spoonfuls of sugar while the two were baking.

"I must have been three or four, standing on a stool in the kitchen, craning my neck to see," said Lott.

In fact, baking was a hobby she honed at her grandmother's hand, which later became a practical skill. She learned that in order to satisfy her ravenous sugar cravings, be they for shiny glazed lemon tarts or gooey chocolate trifles moistened with rum, she needed to learn to bake.

"I think my first word was cake," Lott said. "I love to bake, but I also do my fair share of tasting."

It's no wonder that for Lott and other foodies, the holidays offer a chance to legitimize an obsession with baking marathons that, if done at any other time of the year, might appear to be chocolate-covered insanity.

In response, dozens of local chefs and culinary enthusiasts are rolling out a slew of



Friends Terri Carr and Elaine Agran have a decades-long tradition of baking holiday cookies for friends and family.

holiday cooking classes this season. Want to make your own lemon rugelach? Considering letting your children take over the gingerbread baking? Interested in assem-

bling a buche noel? From the informal classes that Lott runs out of her Alexandria kitchen to formal cooking schools with classes taught by professional chefs, there's instruction for students at both ends of the skills spectrum.

"These cooking classes help people get into the holiday spirit," said Toni Lipe of Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna, Virginia. "They learn to make things that they can wrap in paper and ribbon and give as gifts."

Students at Culinaria enter a holiday cookie paradise of softened butter, vanilla and coconut, and spend hours cutting, rolling and decorating, emerging at the end of class with boxes of rugelach, almond macaroons and other confections.

"The classes are filled with laughter and chatter," said Lipe. "It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."

In Lott's lessons, which she runs informally out of her home – students discover her through word of mouth – she demonstrates tooth-achingly rich buche de noel and fudge-filled, whiskey-soaked chocolate bundt cake recipes.

A limited class size allows her to guide students through the process, from melting chocolate over simmering water to adding a good dousing of liqueur to the mixture and beating it into a fluffy batter before sliding it into the oven.

"Some of my best holiday childhood memories were baking with my family," said Lott. "I love being able to share that love with other people so that they can create their own memories."

During her lessons, students rummage through a treasure trove of cookie cutters in shapes ranging from angels and wreaths to starfish and rosebuds. After mixing flour and nutmeg with lemon zest and vanilla extract, then chilling, rolling and cutting the dough, their effort bursts forth in the form of highly spiced citrus, ginger cookies.

"I still like nibbling the cookie dough as much as I did when I was a little kid," said Claudia Yost, a recent student.

Even the youngest gourmands can add calorie-laden joy to the world this season. Diminutive cooks-in-training use seasonal bounty to create child-friendly versions of traditional Thanksgiving fare at Tiny Chefs cooking school. They use yeast, flour and sweet potatoes to create warm, fluffy doughnuts, encased in sugar that crunch slightly to the bite.

"Cooking during the holidays, and at any time, builds memories and gives them skills that they can use when they're responsible for preparing dinners later on down the road," said Katie Raguindin of Tiny Chefs.

In the gingerbread house-making class, instructors support children's imaginations, encouraging the wackiest, most creative designs, propelled by a rainbow of colored icing and decorative candies.

There's even a gift class where they fill mason jars with ingredients for cookie dough. The project becomes present-ready when topped with shiny bows.

"We're giving them a nice way to participate with the holiday cooking," said Raguindin.

"It's a good family activity, and they can remember for years to come that they got to cook with Mom and Dad for Christmas dinner."

Even as adults, life-long friends can relive their childhood sugarplum fantasies. At the start of the holiday season, Terri Carr and Elaine Agran gather in Carr's Potomac, Maryland, kitchen to preserve a baking tradition

"The classes are filled with laughter and chatter. It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."

— Toni Lipe of Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna, Virginia

that spans more than three decades. For four days and four nights, the two friends lose themselves in a shrine of softened butter, flour and sugar, emerging with several thousand sugar cookies that they package and ship to friends, family and colleagues.

"We take turns. One of us sleeps while the other one bakes," said Carr, of Terri's Table, a cooking school she runs out of her home.

This year, Carr's holiday classes are focused on Thanksgiving, teaching students to make both main and side dishes, and ending with a crunchy and deeply nutty pecan pie.

At the end of her classes, Carr sets a festive table around which her apprentices gather and nosh on the fruits of their holiday labor until the last crumb is devoured.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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VIRGINIA: IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA (ALEXANDRIA) INDIANA LUMBERMENS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, Plaintiff, vs. TIMBER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, et al., Defendants. CASE NO: 1:16cv692 CMH-TCB ORDER OF PUBLICATION THE ABOVE styled matter is a Complaint for Declaratory Relief concerning coverage by insurance policies described in the Complaint; AND IT APPEARING by Affidavit filed according to law that Karen M. Slimak is a named Defendant herein who cannot be found, and that diligence has been used by Plaintiff without effect to ascertain the location of said Defendant; NOW, THEREFORE, it is ADJUDGED, ORDERED and DECREED that said Defendant appears on or before December 26, 2016 in the Clerk's Office of this Court and do what is necessary to protect her interests. AND it is further ORDERED that this Order be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in the Greenville News, the Star Ledger, and the Springfield Connection, that a copy of this Order be posted at the front door of the courthouse. ENTER: September 13, 2016 United States Magistrate Judge Theresa Carroll Buchanan I ask for this: David D. Hudgins, Esquire, VSB No. 20602 HUDGINS LAW FIRM, P.C. 515 King Street, Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22314 Telephone: 703-739-3300 Telefax: 703-739-3700dhudgins@hudginslawfirm.com

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NEWS



PHOTO BY TONY DE LA PAZ

Classical Ballet Theatre To Present Classic Nutcracker

Experience the magic of Classical Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker. Performed at the 520-seat Ernst Theater, this holiday classic includes all of the stunning costumes, dancing, and enchantment necessary to bring Clara's dream to life. Join Clara for a mischievously fun family holiday party, an epic battle between the Mouse King and Nutcracker, and a captivating journey with her Nutcracker Prince.

Saturday, Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. at Ernst Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. More Information: <http://www.cbntva.org/nutcracker>.

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

TUESDAY/DEC. 6

Board of Supervisors' Public Hearing: at 4:30 p.m.
To subscribe to other Fairfax County electronic mailing lists, click the link below and follow instructions given: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/email/lists/>

Thank you for your interest in the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance. Should you have questions, please contact the Zoning Administration Division at 703-324-1314.

ONGOING

Volunteers Needed as Drivers & Office

Workers Drivers are needed for trips Monday - Friday to medical appointments and Companion Shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Office Workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday - Friday) of individuals requesting rides and match an available driver for each request. If you can volunteer your time, please contact the SCFB office at 703-323-4788.

Four Free Private Well Owner Webinars to be Held in October one-hour webinars for household water well owners will be held in October on the subjects of addressing methane, iron and manganese, fluoride, and water treatment system maintenance by the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). To register visit: <http://www.wellowner.org/well-owner-webinars/>

Basic Disaster Response Skills Free

Training Monday Nov. 7 at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy. There are two sessions each week on Mondays and Wednesdays that run until December 7. The class is 28 hours in length, plus the final practical exercise. CERT training is free of charge and basic gear is provided. The minimum requirements to participate in CERT training at any level is that residents be 16 years of age or older, and either be a Fairfax County resident,

or work in the county. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/cert.htm>

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through October 31 – are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

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

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

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

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs **Front Desk Volunteers** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. and Fitness Instructors. Volunteer instructor positions **could** lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.



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