

Police Civilian Review Panel Established

As complement to police auditor, panel will review abuse and misconduct complaints.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 9-1 on Tuesday, Dec. 6 to establish a Civilian Review Panel to provide oversight of Fairfax County Police and to hear complaints of police misconduct or abuse of authority.

The independent panel was one of the more controversial of the 142 recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission created by board chairman Sharon Bulova in 2015. The commission, with representatives from law enforcement, the media and the community at large, was set up in response to public outrage over lack of transparency and accountability surrounding the 2013 shooting death of unarmed Springfield man John Geer by Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres.

From the Ad Hoc Commission's Use of Force Subcommittee, chairman Phil Niedzielski-Eichner said the Dec. 6 vote was a "tremendous accomplishment" and another opportunity to reinforce the major process the police department and government are undertaking to improve.

"I see what we're doing today as taking another step in making a great police department even better," Chairman Bulova said, "[being a] model for the nation, continuing to improve community policing and



Left, Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) said he was similarly frustrated with the legal limitations of the civilian review panel, like Hudgins, but said the less than ideal solution still enables citizens to be engaged.

enhance trust between the community and police department."

Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler said in an interview after the vote he's not concerned about the cost of the panel, the caseload or officer morale, issues raised by Supervisor Pat Herrity, the lone vote against the proposal.

"I'm very proud of Fairfax County today," Roessler said. "It showed how a community, political leaders and a highly engaged police department can work together to create more transparency and accountability."

FAIRFAX COUNTY will have a civilian review panel for police oversight, but will that body have the teeth to regain public trust in law enforcement and local government? Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) proposed an amendment that would have given the Panel more investigative power.

"While we have had some challenges in

the past, the absence of the receptivity to the concerns of the community, has been the biggest burden of what we had," Hudgins said Tuesday, Dec. 6 before she joined the board in voting in favor of establishing a nine-member police review panel comprised of citizens. The panel will have the authority to review completed FCPD investigations into citizen complaints of abuse or misconduct by Fairfax County police.

After reviewing the investigation, the panel would report to the Board of Supervisors with essentially a rating of how well they think it was executed. The panel could, as supervisor and Public Safety Committee chairman John Cook (R-Braddock) said, "send it back to be done better, say it was done great, say it was done horribly, and pass that information to us and to the public."

What that body would not have the authority to do, and what Hudgins said con-



Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler (right) said in an interview after the successful civilian review panel vote he's not concerned about the cost of the panel, the caseload or officer morale.

cerns her, is conduct independent investigations, take sworn testimony or compel officers named in complaints to appear and take part in public hearings with the complainant.

"Are those the limitations we want to exist under?" Hudgins asked prior to the vote. "We will learn very quickly, if we move forward, that it is going to be something that is lacking. We need to be prepared to address it."

Hudgins alluded to the last several years, a period that included the 2013 fatal shooting of Springfield resident John Geer by Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres and subsequent public outcry.

"We were unresponsive before," Hudgins said. "It was a very, very difficult environment to live in. Citizens felt we were not listeners, were not engaged."

State law limits the authority of a panel such as the one proposed to conduct inves-

SEE REVIEW PANEL, PAGE 5

Combatting Domestic Violence Deaths in Mount Vernon

Bystanders urged to call hotline as well as victims.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

In the last month, Fairfax County Police released information on two domestic homicides it was investigating.

On Dec. 1, FCPD announced they apprehended Lewis Edward Reeder, 56, of Alexandria for allegedly setting his girlfriend Delores Williams, 64 on fire and fleeing. Williams died from her injuries 12 days after the initial incident, police said.

Nov. 28, police arrested Ricardo Molina-Martinez, in his late 40s,

for allegedly stabbing his wife to death early that morning.

According to the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team 2013 Annual Report, in 2010, domestic violence was the number one cause of homicide in the county, accounting for seven out of 16, or 44 percent.

In July last year, Fairfax County began implementing the Maryland Model Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) to reduce domestic violence deaths. It includes a screening test for officers to use when they arrive on the scene of domestic violence situations.

High-danger victims are given the chance to speak with an advocate on the 24-hour LAP Line staffed by Fairfax County Office for Women and Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

In the first year of implementation, this LAP program generated about 46 such calls each month. About half of screenings led to phone calls. By Fairfax County Police station, calls from Mount Vernon made up the largest portion at 23 percent. Second was Mason with 16 percent followed by West Springfield and 13 percent.

Bystanders can also play a major role in preventing domestic violence, spokesperson for Fairfax County Department of Family Services Amy Carlini said, by contacting Fairfax County's 24/7 anonymous domestic violence hotline,

703-360-7273.

"It's not just for victims," she said. "We would love if family members, friends, neighbors call as well if they may think someone they know or love is experiencing

SEE COMBATTING, PAGE 4

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Taking a Fantasy Flight to the North Pole

In spirit of season, community organizations and businesses donate hundreds of service hours and supplies.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

One hundred twenty-five children with life-challenging illnesses, their families and a support team of doctors, nurses and volunteers, for a total of 216 people, arrived at Gate 7, Terminal D at Dulles International Airport, Dec. 3, and headed for the hottest destination of the season.

Children's Hospice International, located in Alexandria, in partnership with United Airlines had invited children and their families to experience a special trip. Earlier that morning each person had checked in at the United Airlines counter and received a complimentary ticket aboard Flight 2135, IAD-NTP, non-stop service from Washington to the North Pole, aboard Fantasy Flight 2016, call sign Sleigh Ride One.

They lined up at the boarding gate shortly before 8:30 a.m., awaiting an adventure so many families had anticipated for months. Going down the jet bridge, parents lifted their children out of wheelchairs leaving the chairs behind for the support crew. Others held the hands of their ill child and the hands of their other children as the line moved forward to enter the plane.

The flight crew greeted the passengers as they boarded the plane for their all-expense paid trip to the North Pole and personal visits with Santa Claus.

Sparkling garland hung on the overhead compartments and cut out snowflakes dangled from the ceiling.

HOLIDAY MAGIC, a mix of community spirit and care, fueled this year's United Airlines Fantasy Flight 2016, a program in its 27th year of operation. Through the support of United Airlines, its partnership with Children's Hospice International, the giving of dozens of local and regional corporations and hundreds of volunteers including United employees who donated their time and talent, United's Flight to the North Pole prepared to depart.

Francis Parker and her husband had eagerly anticipated this day since May when the youngest of their four sons, Case, age 2, was diagnosed with cancer. While waiting to board Fantasy Flight 2016, Parker's boys had crayoned letters to Santa and mailed them with the help from members of Herndon Rotary Club. Paul Williams, Rotarian, said, "It's a happy time here today, to celebrate with the families."

As the boys colored, Parker said, "Case is receiving treatment at Walter Reed. His nurses told us about the flight when Case was diagnosed. We woke them up this morning, put them in the car and didn't tell them where they were going until we got

to the airport. Everybody's been wonderful." Looking around, she added: "What a great opportunity this is."

Although Case's brothers had flown before, this was to be Case's first flight, as it was for many children aboard Fantasy Flight 2016. While the flight attendants helped the families settle in, United Airline's Captain "Bubba" welcomed everyone aboard. He explained that there were some very special rules on the nonstop flight to the North Pole.

"Window blinds have to remain down," he said, adding that the plane uses a very special fuel, making it travel so fast it'll be extremely bright outside. "And everyone knows, where Santa lives," Captain Bubba said, "is a secret, only United has clearance from Santa Claus" to land at the North Pole.

The flight is real and so is the destination. Sandy Steinmeyer, a United Airlines flight attendant and key organizer of the Dulles Fantasy Flights said: "All Fantasy Flights across the United States and Guam, a total of 14 flights, will really take off this year."

According to Randy Cox, managing director United Airlines, United Airlines donates the fuel for the flights while employees, flight attendants, crews and support teams donate their time.

Julia Wislocka, United Airlines staff representative corporate communication, commented that there is no doubt in her mind Fantasy Flight is the most amazing event of United Airlines. She said, "It's a great example of employees and the community coming together. The event, takes hundreds of volunteers, and the concourse where the families will arrive, really is transformed to be the North Pole."



Montel Flipping and Mrs. Minnesota, Morgan Bredde, enjoy a moment together during festivities sponsored by United Airlines at their Fantasy Flight celebration. Bredde is an Ambassador for Children's Hospice International (CHI), a non-profit organization that partnered with United Airlines. CHI completes the circle of care and improves the quality of life for children with life-altering illnesses.



PHOTOS BY ANTHONY C. TSANTRIZOS

Oak Hill Herndon Fantasy Flight 2016: Children with life-challenging illnesses and their families board Sleigh Ride One, nonstop service to the North Pole, for a day of holiday cheer and a private visit with Santa Claus. United Airlines hosted the day with the support of hundreds of volunteers and regional businesses.

Terry Edwards, a United employee for 27 years, was Mrs. Santa. Before the plane departed, she agreed and said, "In their mindset, the children are at the North Pole. They buy into it 100 percent."

While Sleigh Ride One traveled at near warp speed, it made quick time to the North Pole but not before flight attendants could treat everyone to apple slices and sweets. As Fantasy Flight 2016 prepared to land, Captain Bubba came on the intercom one last time. To everyone on board, he wished: "Fill your days with laughter; fill them with peace and with joy. Welcome to the North Pole."

The children, their families and the support teams deplaned. They headed up the jet bridge to the concourse. There, much to their surprise, with eyes wide open, storybook characters, Minions, Storm Troopers and hundreds of volunteers had formed a gauntlet, and were applauding their arrival. High fives were slapped; children hugged Minions and the Red, White and Blues band played. Even the Racing Presidents of the Washington Nationals stepped up to the children and gave out hugs.

Earlier, Cox described the effort it took to transform the concourse to be the North Pole; "We begin decorating the night before at 6 p.m. It takes 350 volunteers to decorate the North Pole. All the work and the decorations are donated."

Jim Lynch from Michigan attended the event with his teenage daughter Emily. Lynch said, "Emily completed a weeklong research program at NIH. This is a fun day. And to just walk off that plane, we were blown away."

Another element of the day is the impact the event has for the siblings of a challenged child. Wislocka said, "Today's event is so important for the sick kids, but also for their siblings because their parents' focus has been on the sick child. United Airline employees and our volunteers make sure the siblings get just as much attention and love."

Xin Huang's 3-year old daughter, Heidi, attends the Maryland School for the Deaf and Blind. While Heidi rested in her wheelchair, Huang said that this was the second time they had attended the event. She

added, "It's an important family event. Last year, every other month, Heidi's brother, Leon, would ask about it. He absolutely believes we are at the North Pole."

DURING THEIR VISIT to the North Pole, guests experienced an entertainment line up of 13 bands; various support groups such as Summit Therapy Animals and Red Door Salon and entertainers like Aerial Graffiti Jugglers, who all donated their time and talents for the cause.

But the event everyone waited for was his or her personal visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each child had an extended time with Santa and received a bag full of age-appropriate toys or items, purchased specifically for that child.

At 21, Montel Flipping was the oldest invitee. He sat in his wheelchair, eyes alert. His mother, Sonja Flipping said, "Montel was diagnosed with pediatric brain cancer at Children's Hospital. This has been a 4-year journey, and God is awesome." She added that Montel, her only child, had been accepted into the Police Cadet Program one month prior to his diagnosis. "Where trust is, is what matters most," she said as they left to get in line for Montel's visit with Santa.

Ashtin Parker from West Springfield High School and Bryson McDaniels from Lake Braddock High School were two of the gift purchasers for the event. Parker said, "This year we got to buy 800 toys."

McDaniels added: "We got toys every child would like, from ages newborn to 21. If we can make a difference, we will do this any day." Both Parker and McDaniels had formed gift and fund drives, Ashtin's drive was named Ashtin's Angels and McDaniel's was Bryson's Blessings.

McDaniel's added: "We really put a lot of thought into what to buy, headphones, books, puzzles, then he added: "The headphones are for the 21-year old."

For more information about Fantasy Flight, contact United Airlines. For more information about Children's Hospice International that ensures medical, psychological, social, and spiritual support to all children with life-threatening conditions and their families, contact www.CHIONline.org.



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News



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

The multi-agency Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) held its grand opening in October this year in the Historic Fairfax Courthouse. The center houses county agencies and non-profit organization partners including Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Shelter House and Northern Virginia Family Service, and is a place where individuals can get legal help, court services, advocacy and crisis intervention in one location.

Combatting Domestic Violence

FROM PAGE 1

domestic violence."

Four of the seven domestic violence homicides in 2010 involved bystanders, the 2013 report said: people who either heard direct threats of killing or knew about ongoing violence within the relationship.

On the phone, callers can explain what they're seeing and why they suspect it. The advocate on the other end will then suggest the best way for people to move forward.

"We don't want to say bystanders should on their own try to intervene," Carlini clarified. "It really is a delicate situation and could be dangerous. A lot of times victims at highest risk when they try to leave the abuser. We don't want someone with all good intentions to put them at risk."

Another major resource Carlini highlights is the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC), which held its grand

opening in October this year in the Historic Fairfax Courthouse located at 4000 Chain Bridge Road.

The multi-agency center houses county agencies and non-profit organization partners including Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Shelter House and Northern Virginia Family Service. It's a one-stop location where individuals can get legal help, court services, advocacy and crisis intervention. To better serve the entire county and geographic restrictions, some of those services are also offered through the South County Government Center, Carlini said, located at 8350 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. For more information, visit the Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofw or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/domesticviolence. The 24/7 domestic violence hotline is 703-360-7273.

Pedestrian Crash Results in Fatality

Officers responded to the area of Richmond Highway and Frye Road around 5:44 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1 for a report of a crash involving a pedestrian. Investigation determined a 52-year-old man driving a 2005 Mercedes-Benz ES500 was traveling southbound on Richmond Highway. The driver made a turn onto westbound Frye Road.

The pedestrian, David D. Baines, 57, of Alexandria, was crossing Frye Road near the crosswalk and was struck by the car. Baines was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. The driver remained on

scene and Crash Reconstruction detectives assumed the investigation. On Friday, Dec. 2 just before 1 a.m., Baines died from his injuries. According to police, neither speed nor alcohol appear to be contributing factors to the crash. The investigation continues.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Fairfax County police at 703-691-2131 or contact Crime Solvers at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637)** or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477).



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Tuesday, Dec. 6, the Board of Supervisors voted 9-1 in favor of establishing a nine-member independent police review panel comprised of citizens.

Review Panel Established

FROM PAGE 1

tigations or take sworn testimony, and the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission did not propose that panel would conduct investigations.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) said he was similarly frustrated with the limitations like Hudgins, but said the less than ideal solution still enables citizens to be engaged.

"The most powerful thing we're doing today, ensuring people are heard," he said. "[That's the] core of my support for this."

The commission also recommended creating a Police Auditor office. This full-time county government position with a small staff would be able to monitor investigations and review complaints concerning the use of force or police-involved shootings. The supervisors adopted that recommendation in September this year and said they have since begin advertising for candidates.

"I am proud of how far we've come in implementing recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission, and establishing this Panel represents a significant milestone," Bulova said in a statement following the vote.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) was the lone dissenting vote and has previously voiced his support for the auditor but not the panel.

"I see it as duplicative in a time when we've got resource issues," he said. "It makes us the only jurisdiction in Virginia with two review boards."

The auditor, approved by the Board of Supervisors on Sept. 20, will review all use of force incidents that result in serious injury or death, as well as other citizen complaints about police use of force not resulting in serious injury or death. In addition, the auditor could engage in policy and practice analy-

sis, as suggested by the Board of Supervisors, County Executive or Chief of Police.

BY CONTRAST, the civilian review panel would "review completed police internal administrative investigations of civilian complaints concerning allegations of abuse of authority and serious misconduct."

At the Oct. 25 meeting, Cook specified the civilian review panel would not conduct investigations. Rather, the panel would review investigation files and decide whether the police's own review was "well done, not well done or needs more work," Cook said. If the panel determines more work is required, the panel would be able to send the issue back to the police.

The fiscal impact of the panel is up in the air, according to the board's agenda item. Though the panel members will be volunteers, they will be supported by the Auditor's staff and the county expects there to be other undetermined costs of time from FCPD, the County Attorney's Office, independent counsel and other required materials.

Herrity said he was also critical of "a number of issues with the implementation and the terrible impact on the morale of our great police department which keeps us the safest jurisdiction of our size in the country." Unlike Hudgins, Herrity said he really hasn't heard from the community "that we have a significant issue here."

Panel members will be selected by the supervisors from across all Fairfax County magisterial districts. Cook said that could take place as early as the spring.

The final version of the board's action Item will be posted online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/meetings/2016/dec-6.htm.

"I'm very proud of Fairfax County today. It showed how a community, political leaders and a highly engaged police department can work together to create more transparency and accountability."

— Police Chief Edwin Roessler



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Court Should Overturn Partisan Redistricting

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



Virginia is represented by Democrats in all five statewide offices, has voted for a Democratic president three times, yet the Virginia House of Delegates has 66 Republicans and 34 Democrats.

This week, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on the legality and constitutionality of the last redistricting of Virginia House of Delegates' districts. The court's decision could be monumental for all Virginia voters.

If I could fix one thing to make our government work better at every level, I would reform redistricting. Partisan redistricting abuse has been around since the beginning of American democracy. The term "gerrymander" originates from an 1812 attempt to draw districts favoring Massachusetts Gov. Eldridge Gerry. To be clear, both parties do it, but in the last two decades, gerrymandering has become especially powerful for a few reasons.

First, America is more partisan. Due to multiple and growing sources of information available in today's world, voters are able to self-select their news sources and are exposed to fewer alternative perspectives. This has driven up partisan identification and led to fewer voters who are willing to split their votes between political parties.

Second, and more importantly, computer-enabled mapping software has made it possible to draw districts that are finely crafted. When redistricting was done with index cards shifting precincts days because of ancillary effects and the need to recalculate and balance district populations.

Today, computing technology analyzes data by census block and in a few seconds can draw a comprehensive set of districts to elect a predicted number from a specific political party while maximizing majority-minority districts.

Over the last 30 years, these political considerations have caused district lines to constantly shift. Many areas constantly move between congressmen, senators and delegates every redistricting cycle. Changed lines leave people confused about their representatives.

Census level analysis leaves precincts split requiring local governments to redraw precinct lines to avoid polling places with multiple ballots. This costs taxpayers money and leaves voters confused about their polling place. Resulting districts are not communities of interest. The 36th Senate district that I represent stretches 60 miles across three counties and two area codes. The 1st Congressional District crosses the 36th District and stretches from Manassas to near Norfolk. Districts should minimize jurisdictional splits, use natural geographical boundaries like rivers and be truly compact and contiguous.

Together, this creates a series of hyper-partisan districts, both Republican and Democratic, which are so safe in general elections that they incentivize incumbents to focus on galvanizing primary voters' support and not the broader electorate. This distorts public policy and increases partisanship when it is time to legislate.

There are two solutions to this problem. First,

the legislature could give up redistricting power and transfer it to a bipartisan or non-partisan commission. Incumbent legislators should not pick their voters. I have always supported nonpartisan redistricting and the Virginia State Senate has passed it several times, but it always dies in the hyper-gerrymandered House of Delegates. A legislative solution is highly unlikely.

The real opportunity to remedy this situation lies in the courts. Some courts have thrown out hyper gerrymandered seats using Voting Rights Act provisions. While valuable, this law is not a comprehensive tool because it is limited to preventing racial discrimination and does not address other problems with partisan redistricting. A Wisconsin federal court recently used an analysis based on the 1st and 14th Amendments to invalidate partisan redistricting by focusing on "wasted votes," but did not recommend a remedy.

Courts can often better resolve issues that legislatures cannot. For example, in 1962, numerous legislatures, including Virginia's, refused to redraw districts recognizing the booming suburban populations. The U.S. Supreme Court required Virginia and other states to draw districts based on actual population by adopting the "one man, one vote" rule of the *Baker v. Carr* case.

Today, it is similarly time for the courts to restore democracy to our country and our commonwealth. Hopefully, they will use the Virginia House of Delegates case argued this week to restore democracy to America.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. If you have any feedback, you can always contact me at scott@scottsuovell.org.

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Give to Charities, But Give Wisely

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



With the holiday season upon us, now is the time not only to give generously to your favorite charities, but also to give wisely and knowingly. As someone who works in the nonprofit sector, I know now is a good time to discuss end-of-year giving tips. As your delegate to the General Assembly, I remind you we have laws governing how a charity may solicit your support.

It is a good idea for Virginians to research the charities they support and know that their donations are being used prudently. I encourage everyone to search the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) database http://cos.va-vdacs.com/cgi-bin/char_search.cgi and Guidestar.org to learn more about your favorite charities before making any donation.

To be able to solicit contributions in Virginia, charities are required to register with the VDACS and to disclose the organization's leadership, mission, financial statements and any professional fundraisers they work with. They also must provide a copy of their governing documents.

When you are called at home, the solicitor must make disclosures that include stating af-

firmatively that they are a "volunteer or paid solicitor" and who they are calling on behalf of. You should ask for the charity's registration as well as theirs if they are a "paid solicitor," make a note of the caller's name and the per-

centage of the donation that will go to the charity, whether the donation is tax deductible, and what charitable programs it will support.

Unfortunately, some charities will use high-pressure tactics to solicit donations but fail to explain how the donation will be used. These groups tell potential donors that it is "critical" that they donate "immediately." Reputable charities will not use such 'sky is falling' tactics.

Here are other good tips to consider when giving:

- ❖ Resist pressure to give on the spot, whether from a telemarketer or door-to-door solicitor, and beware if they thank you for making a pledge you don't remember making. If you feel uncomfortable, just say, "No, thank you."

- ❖ Do not give cash. Donate by check made payable to the charity or use the charity's website to donate by credit card or download

a form and mail it back.

- ❖ Be wary if the charity fails to provide detailed information about its identity, mission, finances and how the donation will be used. Reputable charities will gladly provide the information requested.

- ❖ Watch out for charities with names that sound similar to well-known organizations.

These sound-alike names are intended to confuse donors.

And remember to consider our many fine local nonprofits serving our community here in the 44th district like United Community Ministries (UCM), Good Shepherd Housing and New Hope Housing, just to name a few.

As many of you may know, my family and I are very supportive on giving to the less fortunate; but we always do a thorough research on the charities we support.

Write The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Gazette, 1606 King St. • Alexandria VA 22314, Call: 703-778-9415. By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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A Connection Newspaper



LETTERS

Punish Illegal Dumpers, Not County Residents

To the Editor:

We've never had one of the large blue recycling bins because we don't have additional space beyond where we keep our trash bin. Instead, for the last 20-plus years, we brought our recycling items to the large Fairfax County bins behind the Mount Vernon Rec Center off Belle View Boulevard and Fort Hunt Road. And I know there are lots of county residents who use of those bins for the same reason as I did, but also to get rid of large pieces of cardboard and other recyclables that don't fit in their blue bins.

As of Nov. 30, the county removed the bins, and in their place

put up a large sign noting it was done because of all the illegal dumping in and around the bins.

Anyone who frequented the recycling area would always see lots of illegal dumping of paint cans, beds, TVs, wood items, regular trash, broken furniture and so much more.

While there were signs all around noting fines for illegal dumping, it happened all the time ... and I wondered why the county hadn't put up security cameras to watch for violators to enforce the law. (Section 33.1-346 of the Code of Virginia makes littering or dumping trash a Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$2,500.) I imagine, the fines would have paid for the costs involved and violators would have eventually stopped dumping. What's the use of having laws if they're not enforced?

We'll all now get our blue bins — that also cost the county money — and chalk this up to being one "rubbish" of a law.

Danny Selnick
Alexandria

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Quarterback Promotes 'Phones Down. Touchdown.' Initiative

Redskins' quarterback urges region to put phones down while behind the wheel.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE GAZETTE

Washington Redskins starting quarterback Kirk Cousins kicked off the "Phones Down. Touchdown." safe driving campaign in McLean to spread awareness of the dangers and consequences of using cellphones while driving.

"I've made a career out of playing offense playing quarterback," Cousins said during the press conference. "When I'm behind the wheel, I drive defensively. I don't text or look at my phone while driving because it's dangerous. No text or phone is worth risking your life or the lives of others."

Texting for just five seconds behind the wheel is like driving blindfolded across an entire football field, he said.

"If I get sacked in a game, I can get back up and move onto the next play—for the most part," he said. "But when you text and drive, you might not get back up."

He encouraged people to apply positive peer pressure when they see the foul being committed.

"Speak up and tell them to put the Phones Down," he said. "Tell them to wait. If you're in the car, don't let a distracted driver make an excuse. No matter the call or the text, it's not worth it."

FRIENDS WHO HAVE DIED in car accidents is part of the reason Cousins was willing to be the face of the campaign. His college teammate and former Michigan State punter Mike Sadler, 24, died in a car accident in Wisconsin in July.

"Mike is one of a few people close to me who have been lost due to a car accident," Cousins says. "If we can even save one life by putting this message out, it's a worthwhile message."

While distracted driving may not have been the reason for his friend's fatal accident, it is a trend among young drivers.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 10 percent of all drivers 15 to 19 years old involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crashes.

"I've been up here for 12 years and at least 16 troopers in those 12 years have been struck on the sides of the interstate in Northern Virginia for drivers that were distracted by various reasons," Cpt. Jim De Ford, commander of the Fairfax Division of the Virginia State Police, said during the press conference. "It is a real problem and it is one that affects us every day."

"Distracted driving has become an epidemic and one too many people are too willing to accept as the norm, and too many people are willing to be a part of the problem rather than be the solution," he said. "By the solution I mean ignore the phone, and that's even hard for me to do I'll admit, but I try to do it."

If drivers fail to ignore their phones while driving, De Ford said that he and his officers will not be ignoring them.

"I can assure you that if a Virginia state police trooper observes you texting while driving or determines that your texting caused a crash, then you will be cited," he

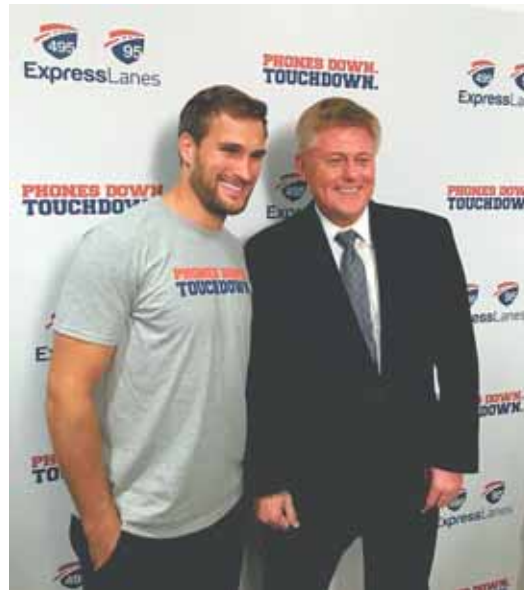


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR COOK

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock District), right, who is also the chair of the board's Public Safety Committee, took the pledge to commit to keeping his Phones Down while behind the wheel. Cook, who attended the press conference with Kirk Cousins (left) is the author of the "Slow Down" campaign, which helps alert motorists to the dangers of speeding.

said.

Fairfax County has not been immune to the epidemic.

"In 2016 year-to-date, [Fairfax County is] at 35,000 crashes approximately and 29 percent of those have been attributed to distracted driving," Cpt. Bob Blakley, com-

mander of the Fairfax County Police Department Traffic Division, said during the press conference.

That's more than 10,000 car accidents so far this year due to distracted driving, and even more citations.

POLICE OFFICERS have issued more than 13,000 citations to drivers in the county for distracted driving, Blakley said. But Blakley said enforcement alone is not the answer to the problem.

"It's a combination of aggressive enforcement but more importantly a huge education and awareness campaign," he said. "This is what will truly make the difference."

He encouraged the public to take the time to take the campaign's pledge at www.phonedowntouchdown.com and to talk about their experiences with texting while driving.

The "Phones Down. Touchdown." Campaign is sponsored by Transurban, which manages and develops toll road networks in the U.S. and Australia. The company, which hosted the press conference at its McLean office, operates the 495 and 95 Express Lanes in Northern Virginia.

According to Mike McGurk, a spokesperson for Transurban, drivers who share the "Phones Down. Touchdown." graphic on social media with the hashtag #PhoneDownTouchdown will be entered to win a month of free travel on the Express Lanes. A new winner will be selected every week throughout December and January.

VIEWPOINTS Do you think the campaign will make us safer?



Del. Marcus Simon (D-53)

"I think that having a nice and easy-to-remember catch phrase will keep it front of mind. Having a celebrity will get the kids involved. My son will catch me looking at my phone [while driving] and it's not safe."

Cpt. Jim De Ford, commander of the Fairfax Division of the Virginia State Police

"You don't have to wear a uniform to see the dangers and too often deadly consequences of distracted driving on the highway, but we see it every day ... This is caused by people who fail to do their jobs when they're on the highway and that's just simply driving a car while they're behind the wheel ... the Virginia State Police proudly supports this traffic safety initiative ... This is a pledge to do the right thing."



Cpt. Bob Blakley, commander of the Fairfax County Police Department Traffic Division

"The problem is growing ... so we definitely need help from everybody to get it under control ... Year to date, we have issued more than 13,000 citations for failing to pay full time and attention which includes texting while driving in Fairfax County ... But enforcement's not the answer to the problem. It's a combination of aggressive enforcement but more importantly a huge education and awareness campaign. This is what will truly make the difference."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Raising Over \$75,000

The Friends of UCM held its annual fundraising event, The Capitol Steps Benefit for UCM, in the Madison Auditorium at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and raised more than \$75,000 for children, youth, and families in need. The D.C.-based musical political satire troupe, The Capitol Steps, performed to a sold-out crowd of more than 350 community members on Nov. 13.

Suspect Sought

Detectives are asking for the public's assistance in identifying and locating a suspect in connection with a robbery that occurred outside the 7-Eleven store at 8434 Frye Road, on Friday, Nov. 18, at about 6:30 a.m.

A 58-year-old woman went into the store and used the ATM to withdraw cash. She left the store and as she walked toward Frye Road, a man grabbed her from behind and threw her to the ground. A second suspect grabbed the victim's wallet and both suspects fled toward the adjacent apartment complex. The victim did not require medical attention.

One suspect has been identified and arrested. An 18-year-old man from Alexandria, was apprehended at his home on Monday, Nov. 21. He was transported to the Adult Detention Center and charged with robbery. The second

suspect was described as 18-26 years old, of unknown race, about 5 feet 8 inches tall. He was wearing a red jacket, with a reflective vest over it, tan pants and construction style boots.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Detective E.L. Carpenter of the Criminal Investigation Section at the Mount Vernon District Station at 703-360-8400, or Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



From left:
Keeley Bryant,
Laura
Schmechel,
Zev Knudsen,
Catherine
Martinez, and
Rron Salihu



PHOTO FROM
AREEBA HAMID AND
MAURO GOMEZ

‘A Christmas Carol’ at MVHS

BY CAROLINE WOODSON
CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL

As the holiday spirit begins to fill the air and everyone’s hearts, Mount Vernon High School spread it to their stage in their classic rendition of “A Christmas Carol.”

“A Christmas Carol,” by Charles Dickens, is a traditional novella published in 1843. Instantly after being published, this book received both love and criticism. Nonetheless, this story is still very popular and for that reason it has never been out of print. Many variations have been made of this tale in the form of plays, movies, operas, and other media. The storyline follows old, irascible Ebenezer Scrooge as visits from a myriad of ghosts give him the chance to go back through his bittersweet past, examine his dreary present, and look to his forlorn future.

From the start of the show, the audience was enveloped in the production due to the inventive use of the aisles. Throughout the play, a multitude of characters manipulated the aisles to become streets on their walk home or to simply further the storyline in the case of the narrator. This aspect kept the audience enthralled in the production and added to the rigor of the actors’ parts.

Being the leading man of his dismal life, Ebenezer Scrooge had an extensive amount of stage time and a generous number of lines. Samuel Zarek, playing the cantankerous old man, tackled this arduous challenge wonderfully. Throughout the entire show, he never so much as stumbled upon the slightly abstruse,

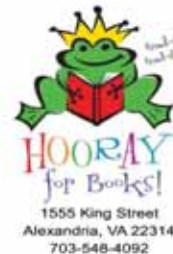
venerable language, nor did he forget a single word. Moreover, he managed to sustain remarkable diction and excellent volume all through the production.

Another impressive factor of this show was that the students utilized their stage time, no matter how limited, to its upmost potential. A great example of this was the Fezziwigs. These two employed the entirety of the stage with their enormous physical comedy and vivacious character choices. Mr. and Mrs. Fezziwig, played by Ttendo Williams and Sydney Osei Tutu, brought laughter into the throats of the audience and smiles onto their faces, providing this slightly bleak tale with well-needed buoyancy.

Technically, this show was also intriguing. Although minimal, the set fit the show very well and allowed the actors to manipulate it in whatever way they wanted. The set also allowed for the duality of set pieces, enabling them to have meaning in several locations. Another technical aspect that enhanced this show was the make-up. From the start of the show, this element was tastefully visible, starting with Scrooge’s age make-up. Looking onto the stage from a distance and at him in close proximity when he wandered through the aisles, this make-up was impeccably done and really added to Scrooge’s character. Furthermore, the make-up of the series of ghosts was also impressive with their unearthly, gorgeous highlights and gloss.

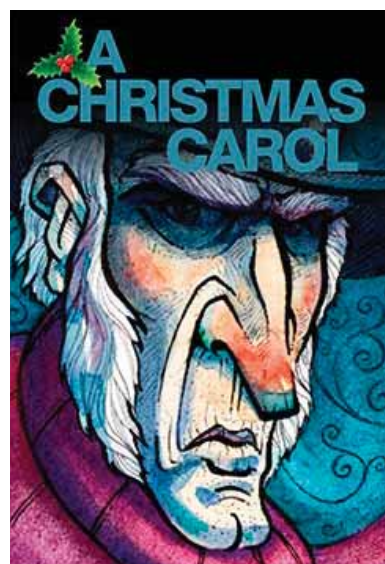
Overall, Mount Vernon High School brought the Christmas spirit to their audience and reminded everyone that life isn’t about the quest for money or possessions but about rejoicing in the things they already have.

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**CAPPIES
REVIEW**

Season Extended for Farmers Market

The Fairfax County Park Authority will extend its farmers market season at McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market will be open Wednesdays until Dec. 14.

Customers can preorder fresh produce, meats, cheese, pies and eggs for the holidays, or stop by for fresh produce, bread and honey. Rolling into markets right now are winter squash, greens, apples, potatoes, mix and match greens, carrots and more.

Additionally, customers can stock up on gifts such as honey and lip balm made from beeswax, and jams.

For a Produce Guide of harvest times visit: www.vdacs.virginia.gov/vagrown/pdf/producechart.pdf.

For more information, including locations, directions and a list of vendors at each market go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets or contact the Community Horticulture Office at 703-642-0128.

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12/21/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide III
12/21/2016.....Connection Families: Safe for the Holidays
12/28/2016.....Children's Connection 2016

JANUARY

1/4/2017.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions
1/11/2017.....HomeLifeStyle
1/18/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools
1/25/2017.....Community Guide
1/25/2017.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/1/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
2/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle
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WELLBEING

Preventing Underage Drinking

Experts suggest holding honest conversations.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As Bridget O'Brien took inventory of her liquor supply recently, she checked off vanilla rum, white chocolate liqueur, peppermint schnapps, Champagne and Crème de cassis. These fanciful ingredients would be the key ingredients of the signature drinks — candy cane cocktails and kir royale — that guests had come to expect at her family's annual Christmas caroling party. This year, however, there was a new item on her checklist: keeping a close eye on her 13-year-old daughter, 16-year-old son and their friends, who would be among the guests at the family-friendly affair.

"The party begins at our house and we stroll to the end of the street singing carols," said O'Brien. "There are so many people that it would be easy for kids to wander off back to the house where they'd be alone with the alcohol. They're starting to want more independence now, so we naturally lose some of the control that we had when they were younger."

A recent study from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shows that increased access to alcoholic beverages for underage drinkers, combined with less oversight from distracted adults and mixed messages from parents may fuel surges in underage drinking during the holidays.

"A lot of parents would be surprised that their child would drink, but there are a lot of ways for children to get alcohol," said Allen Lomax, executive director of the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria. "It's easy for them to get alcohol from their parents' home if it's not locked up. You have to constantly monitor parties in your home when teens are there because there's a good chance that someone, even if it's not your own child, could have alcohol."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, underage drinkers are responsible for between 10 and 20 percent of all alcohol consumed. They also make up the highest percentage of impaired drivers, and during the holiday season, two to three times more people die in alcohol-related crashes than they do during the rest of the year. In fact, 40 percent of traffic fatalities during this period involve a driver who is under the influence of alcohol. As a result, child safety advocates encourage parents to have frequent conversations with their children about alcohol.

"It is best to start the conversation ... long before the child might be in a situation where they partake in underage drinking," said Linda R. Cote-Reilly, Ph.D., a developmental psychologist, certified family life educator and professor at Marymount University in Arlington. It's not that different from conversations about sexual activity. One big difference, though, is that the child will have observed his or her own parents' alcohol use, so parents should be prepared to ... answer pointed questions."

In fact, personal experiences, even those that are unpleasant, can be teachable moments and should not be avoided or sugarcoated, said Cote-Reilly. Inform older children of any family history of alcoholism or alcohol abuse. "Some children will have an

alcoholic in the family, and parents should always address that situation honestly and in child appropriate language. For example, a child might say, 'Why did Uncle Jim fall asleep during Thanksgiving dinner?' and the parent could respond, 'Because he drank too much alcohol.'"

Because alcohol is a legal substance that children often observe adults consuming, and that they themselves might legally consume themselves later in life, the issue can be confusing.

Cote-Reilly advises parents to start by mulling over their own views on alcohol. "Parents values will vary," she said. "If the child is an older adolescent, parents can explain why they made the choices they did, for example, to be a teetotaler, regular drinker or somewhere in between."

While parents want to curb underage drinking to keep their high school children safe and avoid legal penalties, rather than simply banning alcohol, parents "need to lay the groundwork for their children to consume alcohol responsibly in early adulthood," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. This is especially important for students transitioning to college, where binge drinking is more common.

Engaging in a straightforward discussion that is void of mandates and hard-lined rules is the most effective approach in getting children to be receptive, advised Best.

"Research suggests that when parents focus on rules and discipline, adolescents tend to be more likely to engage in surreptitious drinking and succumb to peer pressure," agreed Shannon N. Davis, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology at George Mason University. In fact, parents who talk to their adolescents about drinking as something that is forbidden might actually enhancing its desirability. Instead, [discuss it] as something that in moderation is part of adult life.

"Children often harbor ideas about alcohol that are downright wrong," said Best. "Sometimes this means parents just listen and then can share their own observations, as well as the strategies they used to navigate the complex world of adolescent and adult drinking."

Ask a child to research the consequences of underage drinking, both legal and safety, and review that list with your child. Develop a family position on alcohol consumption, set clear boundaries and ask your child to commit to those standards. Decide on consequences for breaking the commitment and make sure children understand those repercussions.

"It is important that teens have the means to forge a sense of self that is separate from their parents," said Best. "That is the fundamental developmental project of adolescence. When teens have productive means to forge a sense of self independent of parent(s), alcohol holds less appeal."

One overarching factor that affects not only underage drinking, but other adolescent temptations is the process of developing a healthy sense of self-worth. "Parents want to ensure that their adolescents have high levels of self-esteem that allow them to feel comfortable saying 'no' to any circumstance where they are uncomfortable or pressured by their friends," said Davis. "Reminding adolescents that it is OK to be different is a hard thing, and it is a hard thing for the adolescents to hear."



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The holidays and the resulting increase in celebrations and parties create opportunities for underage drinking.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Sponsors Needed. Britepaths Family Sponsoring, Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread) is seeking community members to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with an individual or family with demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal, and/or gifts for children under 18. Cash donations and gift cards are welcome to assist those who are not sponsored. Britepaths is expecting to have 3,000 households on its assistance list. A great family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at <http://britepaths.org>. Contact 703-273-8829 or hpasist@britepaths.org.

SECOND WEDNESDAYS

Art Making as Meditation. 7-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Art making as meditation can be an active form of contemplative practice. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Call 703-360-4220, email info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org or visit www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

THURSDAY/DEC. 8

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital's New ER Featured at Business

Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Deborah Addo, President and CEO of IMVH will highlight all the new amenities at this hospital. \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for non-Chamber. www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

Saturday/Dec. 10

Supervisor Dan Storck holds open office hours at the Lorton Library (9-11:30 a.m.) and at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center office (12:30-3 p.m.) on the second Saturday of each month (except August). Call 703-780-7518 for a 15-20 minute appointment, which could result in a longer subsequent meeting during the work week, if needed. He may meet with walk-ins as time permits between appointments.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/DEC. 14-15

Draft Action Plans for the Chesapeake Bay, Sediment, Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB), and Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads. 6-8 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 4 & 5 on Wednesday, and Conference Rooms 2 & 3 on Thursday, 12000 Government Center Pkwy. The draft plans will be presented at two public meetings to present the County's Draft Sediment, PCB, and Bacteria TMDL Action Plans. SWPDMail@FairfaxCounty.gov or 703-324-5500

SUNDAY/JAN. 8

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org for more.

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News

New Chamber officers are, seated left, Sonja Caison, vice president and Jane Gandee, chairman; standing left, Chris Reddick, treasurer; Paul Gaymon, secretary, and Scott Stroh III, president.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Gandee To Lead Chamber

Jane Gandee, owner of ServiceMaster Restore on Fordson Road, was recently selected as the 2017 chairman of Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Gandee and her husband have owned and operated the ServiceMaster franchise for the past 30 years. She is also on the board of directors for The Salvation Army Alexandria Citadel and Rising Hope Mission Church.

Joining her on the chamber's executive committee will be President Scott Stroh III, executive director of Gunston Hall; Vice President Sonja Caison, owner of The Cleaning Authority; Board Secretary Paul Gaymon, The Gaymon Law Firm; and Treasurer Christopher S. Reddick, The National Capital Bank.

Recently elected to the board of directors were Dr. D.R. Butler, Mount Vernon Rotary Club; Debbie Farson, HomeWise Referrals Inc.; Jason Hunt, Roy Rogers Restaurants; Stanley Koussis, Andrews Federal Credit Union; and Josh Toth, Burke & Herbert Bank.

Selected to fill unexpired terms on the Board were Cindy Hurrell, Mount Vernon Country Club, and Mark Murray, Fort Belvoir Swim Team.

New officers and board members will be installed at the Holiday Biz Awards Celebration on Dec. 16 and begin their terms of service on Jan. 1, 2017.

Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce provides business and community leadership in eastern Fairfax County and works to promote economic growth.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

More Than 12,000 Pounds of Food

The Cub Scouts of Pack 658, from Belle View Elementary School, participated in the annual Scouting for Food drive on Saturday, Nov. 12, at the United Community Ministries (UCM) in Mount Vernon. UCM estimates a record-breaking collection this year totaling more than 12,000 pounds donated, collected, sorted and packed all in one day by Boy Scouts and community volunteers. Cub Scout Steve Guch, at right, liked the idea of helping others in his community.



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

Fairfax-based non-profit **Britepaths** (formerly Our Daily Bread) is seeking community members to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with an individual or family with demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal, and/or gifts for children under 18. Cash donations and gift cards are welcome to assist those who are not sponsored. Britepaths is expecting to have 3,000 households on its assistance list. A great family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at: britepaths.org. Contact 703-273-8829 or hpassist@britepaths.org.

Volunteer Alexandria is looking for volunteers to host a **Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive**, donate a food basket for a single adult or family and donate grocery stores gift cards. www.volunteerallexandria.org/

THROUGH DEC. 24

West Potomac High School Athletic Boosters Christmas Tree Sale. Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and weeknights from 5-8 p.m. next to Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. 703-360-1048

THROUGH DEC. 31

116 King Holiday Pop-Up. At 116 King St. The shop will feature 28 upscale fashion and lifestyle brands, including 13 brands under the umbrella of The Skinny Dip, a fashion collective founded by Sara Rossi and Taylor Ivey, as well as 15 additional brands with products ranging from women's apparel and jewelry to men's clothing, children's items and other gifts. Sponsored by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. www.116king.com

THROUGH DEC. 14

Community Toy Drive. Toys, games, and books for children 0-12 years are needed and can be dropped off at Volunteer Alexandria, Recreation Centers, libraries, and other places. This effort is sponsored by Volunteer Alexandria and DCHS with the support of COPS. www.VolunteerAlexandria.org or 703-836-2176

THROUGH DEC. 17

Holiday Community Toy Drive. Volunteers will be needed to deliver and pick-up toy bins from various locations. Volunteers will be needed on Friday evening, Dec. 16 and Saturday, Dec. 17, to unload, sort, and inventory toys. Spanish speakers encouraged. www.volunteerallexandria.org/
The Little Theatre of Alexandria's "A Christmas Carol". Various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Complete with special effects, Victorian carols, and Tiny Tim. 703-683-0496 www.thelittletheatre.com



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Door Decor

The Old Town Walled Garden Club will be doing the **Annual Holiday Door Decorating Judging on Saturday, Dec. 10, strolling down the streets of the Old and Historic District identifying the most striking door decorations, and choosing the winners. The first, second, and third place winners will be awarded prizes, and photographs of the winning doors will be published.** OTWGClub@gmail.com.

THROUGH DEC. 9

Toys for Tots. At Sheehy Honda, 2434 Richmond Highway. Collecting new, unwrapped toys as part of the company's annual Sheehy Cares Toy Collection to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Supplies limited. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free.

THURSDAY/DEC. 8

The Dan Band. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Holiday Show www.Birchmere.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

The Honky Tonk Holiday Show. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun and special guest Commander Cody www.Birchmere.com

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 9-11

Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market. 6-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016

SATURDAY/DEC. 10

Natural Holiday Ornaments Workshop. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Class by horticulturist and

Green Spring decorating veteran Nancy Olney and her team of volunteers will share crafting skills. \$38/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2904831101 or call 703-642-5173. For ages 16-Adult.

Deck the Halls with Santa. 10 a.m.-noon at Norton Hall St. Paul's Episcopal Church 228 S Pitt St. An afternoon filled with arts and crafts, musical entertainment, and a visit from Santa. www.campagnacenter.org/

TC Williams Choir Community Caroling. 10:30 a.m. at Greenstreet Gardens at Braddock and King Streets before caroling in Alexandria neighborhoods for its annual fundraising effort. 703-824-6800

Winter Solstice Workshop. 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how people in the past celebrated the winter solstice and create an evergreen centerpiece, complete with beeswax candle. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$10/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2904815001 or call 703-642-5173. For ages 5-Adult.

Holiday Choral Concert. 3 p.m. at Washington Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. The Encore Chorales of Langston Brown, Alexandria, Potomac Arts Academy and Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads invite the community to a free Holiday Choral Concert. For more information, visit encorecreativity.org, call 301-261-5747 or email info@encorecreativity.org.

Civil War Christmas in Camp. noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. \$2 suggested donation per person; \$5 per family. 703-746-4848 or www.alexandriava.gov/forward

Friendship Firehouse Ornament Decorating Workshop. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Decorate and take home ornaments inspired by firefighting. For children ages 4-10, and their caregivers. No registration required. 703-746-4994 or www.alexandriava.gov/friendshipfirehouse

Kwanzaa How -To Workshop. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. This interactive workshop will present information about Kwanzaa and how to do it. 703-746-4356

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. 4-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Travel through centuries of local history as you learn more about Alexandria during the holiday season at Carlyle House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum and the Lee-Fendall House. \$25 adults; \$20 seniors (65 years and older) and active military; \$5 children (ages 6-17). 703-746-4242 shop.alexandriava.gov

Annual Holiday Door Decorating Judging. Members of the Old Town Walled Garden Club will be strolling down the streets of the Old and Historic District identifying the most striking door decorations, and choosing the winners of the 49th Annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest. The first, second, and third place winners will be awarded generous prizes, and photographs of the winning doors will be published. OTWGClub@gmail.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 10-11

Mount Vernon By Candlelight. 8 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Character-guided tours of the first and second floors of the Mansion, 18th-century dancing and

fireside caroling. Learn more about holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Rain or shine. \$24 adult; \$16 youth (ages 2-11). 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

Floral Workshop: Williamsburg Centerpiece. 2-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Florist Chuck Mason will teach how to make a Williamsburg-style Christmas centerpiece complete with greens, fruit, and dried material. \$38 for the program plus \$25 supply fee. Register online for the program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2904302901 and also register for the supply fee using code 2904302902 or call 703-642-5173. For ages 16-Adult.

Wreath-Making Classes. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Work with one of Mount Vernon's horticulturists to decorate a wreath with dried botanicals representative of plants grown on the estate. For ages 16 and older. \$35 (includes general admission). Cost includes supplies. 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

Family Gift Distribution. Volunteers are needed to check-in sponsors, organize bundles of gifts, check-out families, and provide transportation for families if needed. Spanish speakers encouraged. www.volunteerallexandria.org/

Colonial Handbell Ringers Concert. 2 and 4 p.m. at 201 S. Washington St. The Colonial Handbell Ringers, 10 "ringers," in period costume, will be playing a full five-octave set of 80 handbells. Audience participation in the sing-a-long encouraged. 703-746-4994 or www.colonialringers.com

Holiday Fun Brunch with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at Union Street Public House · 121 South Union St. Enjoy complimentary Christmas cookies, seasonal treats, soft drinks, coffee and tea.

26th Annual Christmas Reading. 7-8:30 p.m. at Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 So. Fairfax St. 26th Annual Christmas Reading & Carols program is a salon-style holiday entertainment featuring the writings of famous and obscure authors and poets. Sacred and secular; touching and funny. pbea@phbpa.com 202-607-6415 www.opmh.org

DEC. 12-16

Early Childhood Holiday Store at 418 S. Washington St. Volunteers are needed to help set up and staff the holiday store. www.volunteerallexandria.org/

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 14

Holiday Open House. At Alexandria Library, Duncan Branch, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Enjoy the music of the Irish Breakfast Band at the Duncan Open House and enjoy light hor d'oeuvres, fellowship with neighbors, and children programs for a celebration of the holiday season. 703-746-1781.

T.C. Williams Choir Winter Concert. 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School auditorium, 3330 King St, 703-824-6800

Give A Can, Get A Can. Pizzeria Paradiso, 124 King St. Bring a can of food and receive a free can of beer in return. The menu of beer options available includes DC Brau Public, New Belgium Fat Tire, Jack's Hard Cider and more. 703-837-1245

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Merry Membership edition of Business After Hours. 5:30-7

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Chef Richard Euripides slowly layers his lasagna with Zerega noodles, marinara, shredded provolone and meat. When he is finished, it will have five layers and nearly spill out of the pan.

Meet Chef Euripides

At the Royal Restaurant, a community institution since 1904.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Richard Euripides, chef at the Royal Restaurant on N. Asaph Street, has boiled two packages of ribbed Zerega lasagna noodles for a customer favorite. "I boiled them slowly for 30 minutes because I've found if you cook them slowly, the noodles don't stick." Euripides spreads a thin layer of marinara sauce in the bottom of a large, heavy aluminum pan. "We make everything homemade here. This pan will make enough to cut 20 squares of lasagna," he adds.

IN THE KITCHEN He has made the marinara sauce. "I sauté chopped celery, green pepper and crushed garlic." He pinches his fingers together. "Then I add diced tomatoes and tomato sauce and simmer the sauce for two hours. I make marinara sauce every day and spaghetti sauce and alfredo."

Finally he adds salt and pepper and Italian seasoning. He fits the first layer of cooked lasagna noodles into the pan over the marinara sauce. Another layer of marinara is topped with shredded provolone. He repeats the layers, and then adds the first layer of meat. When the lasagna is finished it will have five layers and nearly spill out the top of the pan. "I like to put on a lot of cheese; it makes the lasagna rich."

Euripides says his favorite version of lasagna is Florentine. He says the Bar Association and the American Legion always order this version. "I squeeze the water out of the spinach and sauté it in olive oil. The spinach is mixed with feta cheese." Again many layers of noodles, spinach and cheese. He adds some shredded carrots for color and tops with a layer of ricotta mixed with cottage cheese and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

Euripides peers into a container SEE IN THE KITCHEN, PAGE 20



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Chef Richard Euripides says he came over from Cyprus as a refugee when they had a war. He has been cooking at the Royal Restaurant since 1974.

of the soup of the day. "Today it is cream of broccoli. Yesterday it was cream of potato and tomorrow it will be clam chowder. We've had beef stew on Mondays for the last 100 years. Tuesday used to be Greek day." He says on weekends they have a big buffet brunch with a crowd out the front door. "I make two gallons of my homemade salsa every weekend." He heads for the refrigerator and juggles around 25-pound bags of panko crumbs to pull out a sample. "All gone. People say I should make it commercially."

"It is a long story how I became a cook. I have been here at Royal since 1974. I lived in Cyprus where I worked in a bank. Then we had a war." He says, "I became a refugee. I came here with \$100 in my pocket." His brother, Charlie, who owns the restaurant, was already here. "My mother was a good cook at home in Cyprus, and I liked to cook so I came here and started cooking. I remember the first time I made my mother's meatball



Happy Holidays

HOLIDAY CATERING & EVENT LOCATIONS!

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A Message from Murphy's Grand Irish Pub this Holiday Season

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Murphy's will be open Christmas Eve 11am-1am with Live Entertainment by Rocky and Ronan Kavanagh starting at 9pm and serving a full Menu.

Murphy's will also open Christmas Day from 5pm-1am and will Feature a Traditional Holiday Dinner with all the Trimmings. Live Entertainment by Ronan Kavanagh.

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dancing shoes and swing to the
sounds of the Silver Tones!

Stay tuned to our website for
more details.

reservations@cedarknollva.com
703.780.3665 www.cedarknollva.com



**Franco and his staff wish you peace,
love, faith & hope this holiday season!**

Christmas Eve Dinner

Featuring Holiday Music with
Mike Blaney with Daryl Ott on the Piano
And a few Arias by Franco, too!

Special Holiday Menu includes:
- Salmon with Caviar - Lobster Ravioli
- Veal with Cream Brandy Sauce

305 S. Washington Street
Old Town Alexandria
703.548.9338
Trattoria-Dafranco.com

**Reserve Now!
Holiday Parties
& Champagne
New Year's Eve**

- Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs...3-Course Dinner with Wine \$39.95
- Mondays...Italian Class
- Tuesdays...Flamenco show with Ricardo of Andalusia
- Fridays...Daryl Ott on the Piano with Franco
- Saturdays...David Redskin on the Piano with Franco



**Live Opera...
Every Month**
Next Opera Night is Dec. 18

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

p.m. at Cedar Knoll, 9030 Lucia Lane. Network with other business professionals while celebrating the holidays and ring out the year with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Holiday refreshments and appetizers provided by Cedar Knoll. \$20 early bird member rate, \$40 non-member rate. sbolouri@alexchamber.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

Holiday Choral Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Encore Chorale. 1801 Quaker Lane. The programs, co-conducted by Jeanne Kelly and Jeffrey Dokken, will feature holiday and seasonal pieces. encorecreativity.org or 301-261-5747

Holiday Fun Brunch with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Enjoy complimentary Christmas cookies, seasonal treats, soft drinks, coffee and tea.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 16-17

Christmas Illuminations. 5:30-9 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Fireworks choreographed to holiday music, with fireworks beginning around 9 p.m. Tour the estate while listening to local choirs, visit with re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment in winter encampment, and learn 18th-century dance moves from costumed guides in the Greenhouse. "George and Martha Washington" will also be on site. Colonial artisans demonstrate the 18th-century process of creating chocolate. Warm up by a bonfire, visiting the blacksmith shop, or enjoy some hot chocolate or cider. Additional food will be available for purchase. Christmas Illuminations takes place rain or shine. \$34 adult/



Live Nativity

On Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16-17, see a Live Nativity Scene 6:30-9 p.m. at Virginia Hills Baptist Church, 6507 Telegraph Road. Take a trip back to Bethlehem to visit Mary, Joseph, the Inn, the shepherds, angels and kings, welcome the baby Jesus and prepare for the upcoming Christmas celebration. Hot chocolate available. Donations accepted. virginiahillsbaptist.com

\$24 youth with Mansion tour. \$30 adult/\$20 youth without Mansion tour. 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

Live Nativity Scene 6:30-9 p.m. at Virginia Hills Baptist Church, 6507 Telegraph Road. Take a trip back to Bethlehem to visit Mary, Joseph, the Inn, the shepherds, angels and kings, welcome the baby Jesus and prepare for the upcoming Christmas celebration. Hot chocolate available. Donations accepted. virginiahillsbaptist.com

Toy Sorting Help Needed.

Volunteers are needed to deliver and pick up bins, sort, count, and

organize toys on Friday evening 6-9 p.m. www.VolunteerAlexandria.org

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 16-18

Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market. 6-9 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2016

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Holiday Gift Wrapping. Volunteers



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

House, 614 Oronoco St. Discuss the series while enjoying a traditional tea, then a private tour of the house showing the surprising connections between the people and places of Downton Abbey and those of the Lee-Fendall House. www.leafendallhouse.org, 703-548-1789.

Holiday Ice Show. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. This annual show features group routines performed by students of all ages and abilities who are enrolled in the ice arena's group lessons, as well as solo skate routines. With a special guest. 703-768-3224 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/.

T.C. Williams Choir Community Caroling. Caroling in Alexandria neighborhoods for its annual fundraising effort. 703-824-6800

Wrap It Up. 1-4 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Hwy. Alice's Kids 4th annual gift wrapping fundraiser. Drop off holiday treasures to be wrapped by our volunteers. Suggested donation \$5 per gift. Barbara@aliceskids.org 703-304-0958

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Mount Vernon By Candlelight. 8 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Character-guided tours of the first and second floors of the Mansion, 18th-century dancing and fireside caroling. Learn more about holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Rain or shine. \$24 adult; \$16 youth (ages 2-11). 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

Lorrie Morgan's Enchanted Christmas. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

"...one of those rare events that delight people of all ages." -The Washington Post

Denmark ♥ Finland ♥ Iceland ♥ Norway ♥ Sweden

"...a celebration to make even the most incorrigible Grinch grin." -The Washington Post

The Christmas Revels

A Nordic Winter Celebration in Music, Dance, & Drama

EIGHT PERFORMANCES

December 10-18, 2016

MATINEES & EVENINGS

GW LISNER AUDITORIUM, WASHINGTON DC

revelsdc.org

WASHINGTON REVELS

Community. Tradition. Celebration!

The Campagna Center thanks the Alexandria community for a most successful 46th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Most especially, we wish to thank the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center, our generous Host Committee and the following sponsors:

PREMIER SPONSOR

PASSPORT AUTO

2016 BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

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THE GOODHART GROUP
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The Scottish Government
Rugathan na h-Alba

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An Alexandria Gazette Packet Community Partner

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

www.Birchmere.com

Ocean Quartet and Trio Sefardi in Concert. 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. FocusMusic is a nonprofit organization that has been producing folk and acoustic music shows in Alexandria for more than 14 years. \$18/\$15 for advance sales and members. Non-Focus members who bring at least three cans of food will get \$3 off the cost of admission. Food collected for Capital Area Food Bank. www.FocusMusic.org

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

John Water's Christmas. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Noted filmmaker spreading yuletide profanity and perverted piety with his critically acclaimed one-man show. www.Birchmere.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 23

Holiday Gift Wrapping. Volunteers are needed to wrap gifts at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, at 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway, and collect donations. volunteeralexandria.org/

SATURDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa. 1 p.m. at the waterfront near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Waterskiing Santa and his wakeboarding reindeer, plus flying elves, the Grinch and his friends, Frosty the Snowman and Jack Frost. 703-746-3301 or www.waterskiingsanta.com

SUNDAY/DEC. 25

The Holiday Project – Share the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Breakfast with Santa

Metropolitan School of the Arts will host their annual Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 9:30 a.m. and noon. at the Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. \$35-\$45. Tickets can be purchased online at www.metropolitanarts.org

Spirit of the Season. Volunteers are needed to Share the Spirit of the Season by visiting with patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long term care facilities. Sing carols and distribute cards and gifts. www.volunteeralexandria.org/

SATURDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m.-midnight at venues throughout Old Town and one at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Midnight

fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St. More than 150 performances at 25 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children's face painting and games. The afternoon's Eighth Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There's a venue at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray filled with activities for children 10 and younger, and dancing in the street at the east end of King Street beginning at 10 p.m. firstnightalexandria.org

Bethany Lutheran Church & Preschool

Celebrate the Christmas Season with your Family

ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesdays Nov 30, Dec 7 & 21 7:00 PM - Worship

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday Dec 24 4:40 PM - Glad Strains Music 5:00 PM - Family Service

7:15 PM - Music of the Nativity 7:30 PM - Candlelight Service

Sunday Dec 25 10:00 AM - Worship

NEW YEARS SERVICES

Saturday Dec 31

8:00 PM - AIM Watch Night

Sunday Jan 1, 2017

10:00 AM - Worship

2501 Beacon Hill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22036

The Bethany Family — Growing in Faith and Serving Others

Come As You Are – God doesn't expect you to be perfect and neither do we

- Service at 10:00 a.m. with children's Sunday School during the service.
- Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m.



- Trained Nursery Staff
- Handicapped accessible

Rev. Robert L. Lewis, Pastor
Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)

6510 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria, VA 22307

703-765-5003

E-mail: office@messiahelca.org • Website: messiahelca.org

HUZZAH!

First Night Alexandria

The 31st Day of December, 2016

An Old Town New Year's Eve Party

24 Indoor Venues in Old Town and One in Del Ray

FIREWORKS ON THE POTOMAC



PLUS afternoon adventures with the Eighth Annual Fun Hunt and new creative and culinary activities all around town.

Don't miss the area's largest, safest, family-friendly, budget-friendly New Year's Eve celebration!

Children 12 and under, and active military are **FREE**



Badge and schedule information at
FirstNightAlexandria.org
#ALXFirstNight

PRESENTING SPONSORS



Dominion

Oh the places you'll go...



December 11 – 16, 2016

6:00 - 9:00 PM

McLean Bible Church
8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22128
(703) 639-2000

Join us for a week of holiday cheer & festive activities the entire family can enjoy.

RSVP: mcleanbible.org/christmasvillage



ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Convergence: “Various Small Fires.” Through Dec. 17, gallery hours at Convergence Gallery. 1801 N. Quaker Lane. the Convergence Arts Initiative presents: ‘Various Small Fires,’ a site-specific installation and exhibit by Isabel Cureux. Various Small Fires explores how each small event in our lives creates who we are. Mental illness, divorce, “biraciality,” and religion will be presented in innovative ways to garner a feeling of solidarity with others who have experienced these things, and present a new way to understand them for those who have not. Free to attend. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

“Raising: Motherhood in Modernity.” Through Dec. 18, gallery hours at The Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Elements of motherhood and the good and bad of being a parent can be found in the ceramic pieces Jessica Gardner created for the exhibit “Raising: Motherhood in Modernity.” Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

West Potomac High School Athletic Boosters Christmas Tree Sale. Through Dec. 24. Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and weeknights from 5-8 p.m. next to Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. 703-360-1048

December Artist Showcase. Through Dec. 31 at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The December Artist Showcase features new works from several of gallery artists, including abstracts, landscapes, seascapes, and photography. www.broadwaygallery.net 703-450-8005

116 King Holiday Pop-Up. Through Dec. 31, at 116 King St. The shop will feature 28 upscale fashion and lifestyle brands, including 13 brands under the umbrella of The Skinny Dip, a fashion collective founded by Sara Rossi and Taylor Ivey, as well as 15 additional brands with products ranging from women’s apparel and jewelry to men’s clothing, children’s items and other gifts. Sponsored by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership. www.116king.com

THROUGH JAN. 6

Holiday Teddy Bear Teas. 9 a.m.-4

p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. On select weekends, bring a favorite stuffed animal friend to have “tea” with “Lady Washington.” This special experience will also include a hands-on seasonal activity. For ages 4-11, accompanied by an adult. Refreshments provided. \$5 in addition to general admission. Adults \$17, ages 6-11, \$9, ages 5 and under free. 703-799-5203 or www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAYS THROUGH DEC. 24

Random Acts of Holiday Cheer. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Throughout Alexandria random Acts of Holiday Cheer will delight holiday shoppers with surprise giveaways from the Elf Prize Patrol, pop-up musical performances through the Alexandria Arts Alliance, and hands-on activities at the Mobile Art Lab.

THROUGH DEC. 17

“Adventures With Mr. Bear.” Various times at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. One cozy winter afternoon, a young girl and her favorite stuffed animal, Mr. Bear, play a game of hide and seek which evolves into a series of exciting adventures. Together, they embark on a journey of endless possibilities – all from the comfort of her playroom. Tickets are \$9. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

DEC. 2-17

The Little Theatre of Alexandria’s “A Christmas Carol.” Various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. A return of the classic by Charles Dickens featuring Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug. 703-683-0496 or www.thelittletheatre.com

THURSDAY/DEC. 8

A Life France-Amerique: Reflections of a New American Citizen. 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave. Guy Sorman will discuss his experiences as a new American citizen and his life and career in France and the United States from his latest book, “J’aurais voulu être Français.” \$5 suggested donation at the door. Wine and dessert reception to follow. <https://franceamerique.eventbrite.com>

Second Thursday Art Night at Torpedo Factory Art Center. 7-8 p.m. at 105 N Union St. Featuring open artist studios to explore your shopping options, artist talks, and Jane Franklin Dance featured in small dances throughout the building, concluding with a performance of “Fightin’ Words” performed to bluegrass fiddle. torpedofactory.org/ 703.933.1111 or

www.janefranklin.com

Dawn of Infamy: America Goes to War. 9:30 a.m.-noon, live viewing of this Richmond-based event at the American Legion Ballroom, 400 Cameron St. The Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission is hosting a special recognition ceremony in Richmond for World War II veterans who will receive special recognition and commemorative items if they register in advance. 804-786-3591, ext. 252 or www.VirginiaWorldWarII.org/ 2016tribute.

View Rare Washington Letters.

6:30-9 p.m. at Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, 3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy. 703-988-4875

FRIDAY/DEC. 9

The Migration Project: Performance and Art. 7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. The Migration Project explores stories of relocation. Featuring Jane Franklin Dance-Emily Crews, Carrie Monger, Matthew Rock, Amy Scaringe, Brynna Shank, Rebecca Weiss, and Visual art by Rosemary Feit Covey and Dawn Whitmore.

DEC. 8-JAN. 8

“Fully Committed” at MetroStage. Various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Tom Story plays a restaurant reservationist, juggling phones, personalities and pandemonium with the dexterity of a Cirque du Soleil contortionist. \$55-\$60 703-548-9044 www.metrostage.org

DEC. 9-19

Concerts at Saint Luke’s. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Natascia Diaz, a two-time Helen Hayes award winner, will present a Cabaret evening with Pianist Darius Smith the music of Jacques Brel, Kander and Ebb, John Becchino and others. Tickets purchased at the door: \$20 adult, \$15 senior, free for students 18 and under. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net/events.

SATURDAY/DEC.10

Ribbon Cutting. 5 p.m. at Del Ray Towers complex, 3116 Mount Vernon Ave. Ribbon Cutting for one of Del Ray’s newest businesses, Dental Excellence.703-216-8597

Case Remodeling Seminars. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Case Mosaic Tile Showroom, 821 S. Pickett St.Case Design/Remodeling experts will give insight into the latest trends and different levels of kitchen and bath

remodeling, as well as project timeframes and budgeting. www.casedesign.com/seminars-events/ celeste.henry@mokimedia.com

Singing Eagles and Strings at Sunrise at 2 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Part of a music education partnership organization of the Alexandria City Public Schools and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Singing Eagles is a chorus of Kindergarten-5th grade students who meet every day after school, and Strings at Sunrise is a string ensemble of 4th and 5th graders, who meet every day before school. Free and open to the public.

SUNDAY/DEC. 11

New Dominion Chorale presents Gloria! 4 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. The chorale will be joined by six soloists who are specialists in the performance of Baroque music, and organist William Neil of the National Symphony Orchestra. Contact Anne Huhn for more information at 703-478-6137.

Philharmonic Orchestra Concert. 3-5 p.m. at Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic presents Francis Poulenc’s “Gloria”, with the NOVA Community Chorus. The program also includes Bloch’s “In the Night” and Dohnayni’s “Konzertstuck for Cello and Orchestra.” \$20. Children 18 and under are free. wmpa@earthlink.net 703-799-8229 <https://www.wmpamusic.org>

“Del & Dawg” Bluegrass. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount

Vernon Ave. Del McCoury and David Grisman, bluegrass. 703-549-7500

Book Release Party. 4-6 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Rd. Besties, Bromances and Soulmates: Stories about Pivotal Relationships, short stories and personal essays on friendship, family, love and everything in between. Featuring local authors: Joani Peacock and Meredith Maslich. Free but accepting donations of winter clothing. meredith@possibilitiespublishingcompany.com

MONDAY/DEC. 12

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$49.50 703-549-7500, www.birchmere.com, www.bbvd.com

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Merry Membership edition of Business After Hours. 5:30-7 p.m. at Cedar Knoll, 9030 Lucia Lane. Network with other business professionals while celebrating the holidays and ring out the year with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Holiday refreshments and appetizers provided by Cedar Knoll. \$20 early bird member rate; \$40 non-member rate. sbolouri@alexchamber.com

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In the Kitchen

FROM PAGE 16

recipe for the family at Easter time in America.” His eyes light up. “They loved it.” He says he uses pork and the secret ingredient is found high on a shelf in a large plastic container of dried mint from the garden.

He walks back to the counter to finish the lasagna. Large containers of ricotta are mixed with cottage cheese. He sprinkles a scoop of sugar into the mixture. “Makes it rich.” One- handed, Euripides cracks four eggs, one at a time, on the side of the large bowl, opens the shells and lets the yolks drip down the side. Finally a sprinkle

of cinnamon. He spoons a thick layer of the ricotta mixture on top of the lasagna and reaches into a bag of shredded Parmesan for the final touch.

Euripedes heads for the oven that is warmed to 400 degrees. The oven door is already crusted with many other lasagnas. The lasagna will cook for one hour and be ready just in time for the lunch crowd. Over time the menu has changed but the “eat healthier” trend has not changed the Royal Restaurant. “Not here,” he says. And the recipe for lasagna goes back to 1904 with the original owner of the restaurant.

SHOP LOCAL FIRST

MOUNT VERNON ★ LEE

**Chamber OF COMMERCE**

Connecting Business and Community

Find local businesses at
www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org
703-360-6925

Monthly Networking
Second Thursday Business Breakfast
2nd Thursday of each month
8:00 am to 9:30 am
Belle Haven Country Club

MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
6821 Richmond Highway / Alexandria, VA 22306

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule

Saturday:
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass
(en Español)

Sunday:
7:30 am; 9:00 am
(with Sign Language Interpreter and Children’s Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm
(en Español); 6:30 pm

Monday-Saturday:
9:00 am Mass
(Rosary at 8:30 am)

En Español:
Monday, 6:30 pm;
Thursday, 7:30 pm;
First Friday, 7:30 pm
8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 • www.gs-cc.org

Join us for the Year of Mercy

To Advertise Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468



21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot between Nov. 1 to Dec. 2, 2016 to elect the President-Elect, three seats on the Board of Directors, and two seats on the Nominating Committee for service beginning on June 5, 2017. Information about proxy ballots is available at www.asco.org/election. Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or his designee for casting at a meeting to be held on Dec. 6, 2016, 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314. Members with questions can email ascoelection@asco.org or call 571-483-1316.

OBITUARY



Marion L. Meeks (92)

Of Alexandria, VA peacefully passed away December 4, 2016. She is survived by her beloved husband of 75 years Richard. She is predeceased by her daughter Carol. A funeral ceremony will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 10 am at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301. Interment will immediately follow at Ivy Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Episcopal Church or St. Joseph's Indian School: Native American School and Nonprofit Organization.

Online condolences may be made at www.everlywheatley.com.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

D.R.L. 111(3), 111-A(6), 115 (9)
Adoption form 4
(Notice of Proposed Adoption)
10/2004

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF KINGS

In the Matter of the Adoption of _____ Docket No. A29790/15
A Child Whose First Name is _____

ARLO

TO: **CARLOS ARMANDO RAMIREZ MARTINEZ**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition requesting an order approving and allowing the adoption of an adoptive child whose first name is : **ARLO**, who is alleged to be your **SON**, and whose full name and date and place or birth is set forth in a Schedule annexed to the Petition for adoption herein, together with an agreement to adopt and consents to the adoption pursuant to the Domestic Relations Law, has been filed with the **Family Court of the State of New York, Kings County**. A hearing on the Petition will be held at the Court, located at: **330 JAY STREET, 22nd floor, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201** on 1/19/2017 at 9 A.M. o'clock in the morning of that day, at which time and place all persons having any interest therein will be heard.

___ PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that your failure to appear may constitute a denial of your interests in the child, which may result, without further notice to you, in the adoption other disposition of the custody of the child.

JAMES M. GREENBERG
3 Sierks Lane, Roslyn Harbor, NY 11576
516-621-7717

29 Misc. for Sale

29 Misc. for Sale

Cutting Boards and Lemon Boards. Looking for a giftmade in Virginia?

Thoughtfully crafted of various locally sourced woods, in a thin style design.
Each comes with a leather tie loop and wood burned H&HFCo Alexandria, VA logo.
HeartandHammerFurniture.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the Office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

ITB No. 0000622, Safe Routes to School Pedestrian Improvements Projects, Project No. 1605014

Opening Date and Time: January 12, 2017, 3 p.m., prevailing local time

Pre-Bid Conference: December 21, 2016, 9 a.m.: Purchasing Division Conference Room, 100 North Pitt Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

For general inquiries contact Michael F. Hauer, CPPO, CPPB, Deputy Purchasing Agent at 703.746.4295.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all bids, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that two fireworks displays will take place as part of a public event, Christmas Illuminations, at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Friday, December 16 between 9:00 p.m. and 9:15p.m.
(15 minutes)

Saturday, December 17 between 9:00 p.m. and 9:15p.m.
(15 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ABANDONED WATERCRAFT

Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of Frank Smith, 807 South Alfred Street, Apt #4, VA 22314, Telephone number 202 5695761.

Description of the watercraft:

Make: Wellcraft, length: 19 feet, year built: 1988, color: blue and white, boat registration: VA 1134 XX, hull identification number: WELT 4187B888

Application for Watercraft Registration / Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with questions.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

OBITUARY

FERGUSON, James "Jamey", (age 46) of Alexandria, VA. On November 28, 2016. Beloved Son of, James H. and Anne Ferguson. Loving brother of, John C. Ferguson (Jeanine) of Sterling, VA and Jane F. Camp (Charles) of Beaver Falls, PA. Also survived by his many Nieces and Nephews. A Memorial Service will be at, HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 8503 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria, VA 22308 on Friday, December 9, 2016 at 11:00 AM. Arrangements by, Demaine Funeral Home, Alexandria, VA.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Pearlie Mae Funderburk, 94, of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on November 29, 2016 of cardiopulmonary arrest.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00am on December 9, 2016 with viewing from 10:00 until 11:00 am at Olivet Episcopal Church in Alexandria with Pastor Dr. Edward Young, Sr. officiating. Burial will follow the funeral at Mount Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria at 12:45 pm. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Chinn Baker Funeral Home.

Pearlie Mae is survived by her husband Charles of 75; children, Serita M. Godfrey (Howard, deceased), John E. Funderburk (Linda), Charles D. Funderburk (Gladys) and A. Jane Hassell (William); grandchildren, Venita Godfrey Scott, Reginald E. Funderburk, Clarissa N. Winslow, Charzetta D. Funderburk, Michelle A. Funderburk, Christopher D. Funderburk, Howard J. Godfrey and Anthony L. Godfrey; nieces, Mary Ellen Staten and Annette Baldwin; nephew, Thomas Steele, Jr.; ten great grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren and a host of great nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind many loving family members, her church family, and friends.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Chester William Fannon III (Chet) of Middleburg, Virginia died peacefully on Saturday, December 3, 2016 with his wife, Kate Armfield Fannon and his sister, Heather Fannon Young by his side.

A loving husband to Kate and a respected and cherished father to Kingsley and Chester, Chet was born on October 21st, 1961 in Alexandria, Virginia to Chester William Fannon Jr. (Bill) and Mary Frances Tucker Fannon. His childhood was spent at Laurel Hill in Rappahannock County, Virginia. His love of and years spent on the family farm fostered his lifelong passion for the outdoors, bird hunting, dog training and habitat restoration. He also enjoyed horseback riding and had been an accomplished polo player.

Chet was a graduate of the Blue Ridge School in Albemarle County and James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia and enjoyed a career with Fannon Petroleum.

In death, Chet showed the same courage, integrity and grace that had been the hallmarks of his life. He is remembered with love and missed with heartache by his wife Kate, his daughter Kingsley and son Chester; parents Bill and Mary Frances Fannon; sisters and their husbands, Beth and Jimmy Swindler and Heather and Daron Young; nieces Addie Swindler, Ellie Young, and Claire Young; and nephew Trey Swindler; and beloved in-laws, Howard and Gloria Armfield.

Chet's family will receive friends on Wednesday evening, December 7, from 4:00 pm until 6:00 p.m. at Royston Funeral Home in Middleburg, Virginia. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, December 8 at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville, Virginia. Family and friends are invited to gather for remembrances at the Middleburg Tennis Club after the funeral service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Chet's memory to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) at 700 N. 4th Street, Richmond, VA 23219 or at www.unos.org.

Obituary



Walter "Walt" L. Wilson, Sr. 96

Walter Little Wilson, Sr., 96, of Alexandria, VA passed away October 20, 2016. Born July 6, 1920 in Athens, GA, Walt was the son of the late George Thomas and Marinza Little Wilson.

Walt found much joy in his work during his 55-year career. His civilian service started at the Naval Torpedo Station Alexandria in 1940. He went on to spend 46 years at Ft. Belvoir with the Engineering Research and Development Lab, Night Vision Lab and Army Research Lab. At retirement, numerous U.S. Patients included his name. Walt was proud to have served his Country in WWII during 1944-1945 as a Rifleman for Company H, 86th Mountain Infantry, 10th Mountain Division.

Following his career, talking to anyone, telling tales, "tinkering" and fixing anything was his passion. His stories, hand-made items, furniture and wood working pieces have been passed along to many.

Walt was preceded in death by Dorothy, his wife of 52 years, and two brothers and two sisters. Walt is survived by his sister Wynelle McLeroy of Canton, Georgia; daughter, Deborah Wilson of Bellevue, Washington and son, Walter Wilson, Jr. of Alexandria, Virginia, numerous nieces and nephews, and many caring friends.

Walt's final resting place will be Arlington National Cemetery.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Stanley Slivinski, age 77, of Cape Charles, Va, passed away on November 30, 2016, after an extended battle with lung cancer. Born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia to parents Frank T. and Helen E. Slivinski (both deceased), he attended George Washington High School. Stan served in the US Army, 114th Engineering Company, last stationed at Ft. Benning, GA and the DC National Guard from June 1957 to August 1962, reaching the rank of Sergeant. His time in the Army was spent training for bridge construction and deployment in support of Army operations.

Prior to moving to Cape Charles in 2009, Stan was a longtime resident of Luray, Va., living in a log cabin overlooking the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, built with his own hands and tools from logs he cut himself on his property. He hosted many wonderful family reunions there, leaving his relatives with many cherished and lasting memories. Stan was an avid hunter, fisherman and sportsman, once receiving a citation for catching a 51 pound striped bass. He loved sports, and spent many years managing Annandale Sport and Hobby, outfitting local sports teams with shoes and uniforms. He also managed the Hunting and Fishing department, and worked with local enthusiasts to outfit them with archery gear, tackle and supplies. Stan had a keen interest in archeology and history, and was deeply involved with the Archeological Society of Virginia as a volunteer, supporting site investigations and digs in various locations across Virginia, particularly the Eastern Shore and Shenandoah Valley. This work led him to receive the In-State Avocational Archeologist of the Year award in 2013. For a short time, he and older brother Frank (deceased), operated a bakery in Luray. He loved baking bread and had a Christmas tradition of baking a loaf of bread for every member of the entire family each and every year. He worked as a landscape supervisor, landscaping many buildings in Northern Virginia. When he retired from landscaping, he worked part time as a construction supervisor in the environmental consulting industry, and was involved in the clean up and restoration of contaminated properties in the Mid-Atlantic region. He is survived by sister Joan Monastero and husband Frank, of Purcellville, Va., sister Judith Miller and husband Dennis, of Bluemont, Va., brother James Slivinski and wife Ann, of Centerville, Va., designated guardians, nephew Michael Slivinski, wife Dilka and their beloved daughters Helen and Michelle, and niece Theresa Brenner and husband Brian, along with many other nieces, nephews, and cousins. The family extends special thanks to his dear friends, Linda and Ron Harlow of Cape Charles, who gave of their time and love to help Stan during his final months and to help him stay in his home and enjoy the time he had left. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made in his memory to: The Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) Federal tax exempt # 54-6044013 Sent c/o: ASV Treasurer Carl Fischer, 1685 Sweet Hall Road West Point, VA 23181 804-843-9194 <http://www.archeologyva.org> Viewing and visitation with family will be at Colonial Funeral Home, 201 Edwards Ferry Road, N.E., Leesburg, Va beginning at 1 p.m., Friday, December 9, including a brief time at 2 p.m. for an opportunity to share fond memories.

Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 3 p.m., Friday, December 9, at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, corner of Union and North King Street, in Leesburg, across from St. John the Apostle Catholic Church. Burial will be at the church cemetery. www.colonialfuneralhome.com

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21 Announcements

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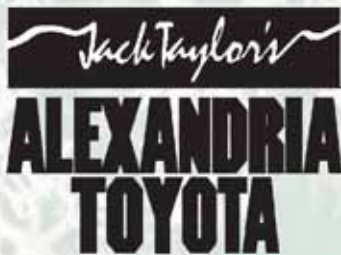
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