

Mount Vernon Gazette

Inside



MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 23, 2017

Through Love Serve One Another

Thanksgiving Food Baskets distributed by Rising Hope Church.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

For its Thanksgiving Holiday Give-away, Rising Hope Mission Church distributed 350 Thanksgiving baskets with all the fixings and sides last Wednesday and Thursday to help the homeless, low-income families, and disabled veterans along the Route 1 Corridor between Alexandria and Ft. Belvoir. The church on Russell Road in Alexandria also served 35 homebound bags of turkeys and fixings to those who were unable to get out of their homes.

The baskets of food included 14- to 16-pound turkeys donated from Christ Church in Lorton, all the fresh sides, a bag of rice, au gratin potatoes, macaroni and cheese, cornbread, cranberry, canned fruit and veggies, and gravy as well as fresh fruit and



Rising Hope volunteers Artrolus Hicks, Sia Mbayo-McWhite and Iris Barr.

veggies that were donated from Trader Joe's, according to Melissa Lee, Food Pantry coordinator.

On Thanksgiving Day, Rising Hope will be serving the homeless along the Route 1 Corridor from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers will be cooking a Thanksgiving meal, serving it and then cleaning up afterwards. They repeat the same effort on Christmas Day.

Coordinator of Outreach Ministries Mary Hamilton said they give out a lot of cold

weather wear to the homeless — both those who are sleeping outside and those staying at shelters. They are especially in need of men's warm coats, sleeping bags, blankets, warm socks, shoes and long johns. She said they give out clothing to between 300 and 500 people in the community each week. The biggest need is for men's winter and fall clothing but they are also happy to receive women's and children's clothing.

Last year, they gave out 1,600 Christmas



Volunteers Christopher Kemp, Martha Reitman, and Food Pantry Manager Melissa Lee.

gifts to the community, and this year, they still need new toys for children for all age groups. Donations can be dropped off at Rising Hope between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays.

The community can still send a financial donation to Rising Hope (through Dec. 31) to be applied to the \$30,000 matching gift provided by Beyond Coffee Beyond Church,

SEE RISING HOPE, PAGE 12

Beloved Riverside Elementary honors Dorthy Taylor's 40 years service to the school.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE GAZETTE

Some of the most poignant grade school memories come from lunch. Especially if you've ever been the new kid on the block, you know the importance of a friendly face in a school cafeteria. For 40 years, Alexandria's Dorthy Taylor was

there to provide one for the children of Riverside Elementary School.

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, Taylor retired as Riverside's longest serving "lunch lady" in the school's history.

"Dorthy was definitely Riverside's longest lunch lady and probably the longest tenure employee, as least to the best of anyone's memory on staff," said

Paul Basdekis, Riverside Elementary School principal.

Although the role at Riverside became incredibly significant to her, the elementary school cafeteria position simply started as a means for Taylor to produce extra income for her family. Before she knew it, though, she was too invested in the Riverside community to pursue anything else.

"Years go by and you still enjoy the people you work with, the job you are doing and the children. The younger ones are especially fun to be around and engage with," she said. "And, I have been blessed with good health overall. So as those benchmark anniversaries came, not only did our family need the money, but I was still making a difference and liking the work."

Although she had her own children at home, nurturing Riverside students was like an extension of motherhood for her.

"Engaging with the kids and making a difference was by far my favorite part," she said. "I know the role I played in feeding the students was important, and it's been in the news so much lately that

providing meals at school is so critical to student health. For too many kids, that may be their only meal of the day. Hungry kids perform poorly in school. The staff I worked with and many teachers and administrators would donate money each year to an informal fund to help kids in need. We would never allow a student to come into the cafeteria and not eat. It just didn't happen in the 40 years I worked."

Taylor has seen how lunch in Fairfax County Public Schools has changed over the past four decades.

"The kitchen has been modified so much over the years," she said. "In the early years, meals were prepared from scratch — spaghetti, pizzas, burgers, turkey, tacos. Even potatoes were peeled

and mashed by hand, fruit was cut fresh, the chicken came in whole and was cut into pieces, seasoned, breaded and cooked all by hand. Food was much more wholesome. On the other hand, even though food is more processed in many respects, there is also more emphasis on good nutrition. There are no longer, soda and juice machines, ice cream bars and cups are no longer sold."

The students coming in and out of the cafeteria every day have also changed.

"Students in the early years dressed up — button up shirts and slacks for boys, and dresses for girls," Taylor said. "Now there are much more icons, slogans, cartoons, logos, and goofy and funny

SEE RIVERSIDE, PAGE 12



Dorthy Taylor outside Riverside Elementary School.

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'A Disaster for Northern Virginia'

Connolly holds roundtable on congressional tax plan.

BY ANDREA WORKER

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) says that he and his Democratic colleagues are more than willing to work in a bipartisan effort on meaningful tax form. "As a leader of the New Democrat Coalition, a group of pro-business Democrats, I have written on several occasions to Speaker Paul Ryan and Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady asking them to partner with us ... to simplify the tax code, create revenue ... and provide middle class tax relief."

Speaking at a roundtable gathering that the congressman hosted at the offices of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) on Monday, Nov. 13, to discuss the consequences of the GOP tax plans, Connolly says those overtures have been rejected.

"Congress had a real opportunity to pursue neutral tax reform that would lower corporate tax rates and benefit the middle class," Connolly expressed "deep disappointment" at the House and Senate bills being proposed, categorizing both as "shameful, corporate giveaways" that will have unprecedented and far-reaching negative effects on Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

Connolly reported that by using "dynamic scoring" — a method of analysis that includes the potential feedback effect certain tax cuts can have, and that he said Republicans often advocate "because it provides more generous deficit projections for tax cuts" — the proposals actually increase the country's deficit to \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, "and somebody has to pay that bill."

An assessment of the tax plans by Congress' nonpartisan Joint Taxation Committee released on Monday, Nov. 20, seems to support the congressman's concerns. The committee's analysis projects that some 13.8 million moderate-income American households would actually see a tax increase as a result of the Senate plan by 2019. Households earning less than \$200,000 per year would face increases of \$100 to \$500. The tax liability rises even more for earners between \$75,000 and \$200,000. According to the analysis, tax increases would be felt by 21.4 million households by the year 2025.

Connolly likened the plans to previously failed "trickle-down" attempts at tax reform and economic stimulus.

"1981, 2001, 2003. The Reagan and Bush tax cuts. So disastrous that they had to enact tax increases in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1987 and 1990" to raise the needed funds. "Then in the early 2000s, President George W.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) meets with local leaders to discuss the consequences of the proposed Senate and House GOP Tax Reform Bills. Connolly admitted from the start that he wasn't there to "sing their praises."



Bob Adamson, chairman of the board of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, views the proposed legislation as "unfair to homeowners," and that they will have a negative "ripple effect" on the local economy and residents of the community.

Bush took the record surpluses of the Clinton era and created record deficits." Connolly added that the trickle-down theory is based on "the hope and the prayer that such tax cuts will someday pay for themselves," but that history has already proven "that assumption to be false."

TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT of the proposed legislation on the Northern Virginia region, Connolly convened a group of local business leaders, economists and financial experts, as well as participants representing social service providers, persons with long-term medical and care needs, economists, parents of students with significant student debt, and seniors.

Connolly set the stage for the discussion with a few more facts and figures, although he cautioned that "we still haven't seen the whole of either proposed legislation."

* The plans either repeal or limit several tax breaks that are crucial to Northern Virginians, including medical and dental expense deductions, premiums for long-term care insurance, in-home and nursing home care, and mortgage interest deductions.

* The state and local income tax (SALT) deductions would be limited or even repealed. In Connolly's 11th District, 50 percent of tax filers claim the SALT deduction,

with 75 percent of the claimants being in middle income tax brackets. The number of SALT claimants throughout Fairfax County is as high as 280,000 households.

* The plans call for the repeal of Estate Tax, which only applies to about the wealthiest 5,000 decedents each year, while cutting adoption tax credits and credits for small businesses that invest in accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities.

* According to the Tax Policy Center, after-tax income for the top 1 percent of earners would rise by about 2.6 percent by 2027, while those at the bottom 80 percent would see after-tax increase of between 0.0 percent and 0.6 percent.

After Connolly's remarks, Bob Adamson, chairman of the board of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, was the first of the gathering to offer comments.

Representing some 12,000 Realtors in the region, Adamson stated that the NVAR "wants to be part of the solution," but finds the proposed legislation to be "unfair to homeowners," disproportionately placing the burden of "filling in the financial gaps" directly on them.

NVAR Chair-elect Lorraine Arora agreed, adding that "real estate bolsters the economy" with so many related jobs and services, and that any plan that suppresses

home buying will cause a "ripple effect of harm."

The Realtors at the table also worried that the proposed tax reform will actually lower existing house values. NVAR CEO Ryan Conrad said that in the NoVa region, that decrease could be as much as \$30,000 lost in home equity.

ADDITIONALLY, THE REALTORS foresee a decrease in housing stock that is already an issue, and even see Fairfax County's successes toward ending and preventing homelessness, slip into reverse, as developers are less able than ever to profitably build affordable housing.

Continuing the "ripple effect" theme, JoAnne Carter, managing director of PFM Financial Advisors, LLC, said that the proposals threaten the means by which municipalities, nonprofits and other businesses fund their services and investments in improvements and expansion.

"Eliminating Private Activity Bonds and causing cuts to 'advance refinancing,'" said Carter is severely hampering the ability to finance the basics, like "schools, roads, hospitals, transportation, airports, sea ports, all of it."

That in turn "increases the burden on the counties," said Adamson, while potentially depleting their main source of revenue. For municipalities like Fairfax County, that are, in essence, only able to raise funds through property taxation, the choices are dauntingly few. Either raise those taxes significantly, or reduce expenditure on infrastructure and public and social services.

"And if we damage our AAA Bond rating," added Carter, "it costs more for these municipalities and service providers to borrow." According to Carter, Fairfax County could save between \$3-12 million when re-financing with a Triple A Bond rating. "Losing that could mean that public structures just don't get built."

Nancy Mercer, a licensed clinical social worker and the former executive director of the ARC of Northern Virginia, and Ridge Multop, an economist, former AARP Congressional Affairs and former House Budget Committee staffer, both discussed the impact the proposed tax bills could have on seniors, those with long-term care and/or medical issues, and those most in need and most vulnerable in the community.

Multop "put a face" on the discussion, speaking about an economist friend. "He's 85 years old, on a fixed income, in assisted living. He looked at how these bills would impact him based on his 2016 tax filing and said it would raise his taxes by more than \$3,000. How do people like him cope with that?"

Eliminating tax deductions for medical expenses and long-term care would be harmful to seniors, Multop said, possibly forcing more into custodial care and placing an additional burden on municipalities

SEE ROUNDTABLE, PAGE 18

Stempson House Finds Curator

Lorton house with historic ties to be matched with resident who will exchange rent for restoration.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and Chairman Sharon Bulova announced the next potential match of a resident curator with a historic Fairfax county home.

The county was scheduled to decide on subleasing the Stempson House at 7520 Furnace Road in Lorton to Resident Curator Steven J. McCullough at its next board meeting on Nov. 21.

"I'm looking forward to this," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"I am very much as well," said Storck. "We have several properties that lend themselves to this" program.

The county's Resident Curator Program is designed to preserve historic properties by offering long-term leases to qualified tenants who rehabilitate and maintain the historic houses. A curator can be a private citizen, a nonprofit entity, or a for-profit

entity, according to county documents.

THE STEMPSON HOUSE gets its historic significance from association with the Occoquan Workhouse and Reformatory and the Women's Suffrage movement of the early 1900s, according to Resident Curator Program documents.

The United States purchased the land in 1910 to construct the prison, according to the documents. "In 1937, amongst the Lorton Reformatory orchard trees, prisoners constructed a residence for a prison officer. It is likely that prisoners constructed the house, under the direction of prison engineers, using bricks manufactured at the prison brick kiln. Ultimately, the residence was converted for use by the prison security office."

The 1,500 square-foot-house is described as a "vernacular style residence with Colonial Revival style elements."

The length of McCullough's lease is anticipated to be a little more than seven years.



Stempson House is significant due to its association with the Occoquan Workhouse and Reformatory, and the Women's Suffrage movement of the early 1900s.

The Board of Supervisors established its resident curator program in Fairfax County in 2014.

Other applications have been taken for the Turner Farm House, 10609 Georgetown Pike, in Great Falls and the Ellmore Farmhouse on West Ox Road in Herndon. And the county intends to continue its programs

at the Ash Grove in Tysons, Lahey Lost Valley in Vienna, and Hannah P. Clark (Enyedi) House in Lorton.

See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir141-16.htm

Learn more about the Resident Curator program and other properties at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rcp.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 29

Holiday Grief Workshop. 1 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church — Sharon Chapel, 3421 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Capital Caring's Alexandria Neighborhood is offering grief workshops during the holiday season. These workshops will include tips on how to cope with grief during the holiday season, reflection about how to care for ourselves and a closing ritual of remembrance. The workshops are open to the community, free of charge. Contact Chesley Simpson at 703-333-6954 or csimpson@capitalcaring.org. Visit capitalcaring.org.

Spiritual Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at St.

Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Join David Potter as he looks at Contemplative Activism: A Grounded Spirituality for Social Transformation. Call 703-360-4220 or visit www.centerforspiritualdeepening.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Future Quest. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at GMU's Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. College and career conference for area middle and high school students with disabilities, as well as their parents, teachers and other professionals. Featuring more than 40 workshops and exhibits related to successful life after high

school. Free. There is free parking in Lot K, or in the Mason Pond Parking Garage for \$8. Visit www.futurequestgmu.org to register or email futurequestnova@gmail.com.

THROUGH DEC. 3

Coat and Blanket Drive. Nova Relief Center is holding a blanket and coat drive for Syrian and Iraqi refugees who have fled their homest to escape the violence from the civil war in Syria. Paxton Van Lines and Maersk are donating their services this year. Donated blankets and coats should be new or gently worn, and may be

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18

Correction

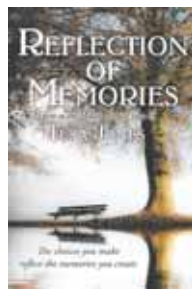
The following was left off the list of "Give Locally in Fairfax County" in last week's Gazette: Mount Vernon At Home: From practical help to social, wellness, educational and cultural activities, Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of our community. Neighbors helping neighbors is the power of Mount Vernon At Home with volunteer support. Mount Vernon At Home is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to meet the needs of older members. www.mountvernonathome.org, 703-303-4060.

Book-signing by Local Author

Meet former Mount Vernon resident Tesa Jones when she returns to the area to sign copies of her recently released novel, "Reflection of Memories."

Until a few years ago, Jones lived in Tauxemont — across the street from the Harvey's gas station on Fort Hunt Road. She grew up in that neighborhood, went to Hollin Hall Elementary, Bryant Intermediate and Fort Hunt High School.

This coming weekend, she'll be signing books at Barnes & Noble - Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Hwy. on Saturday, Nov. 25, noon to 2 p.m.



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—Colonel Philip (Phil) J. Saulnier, USA, Retired and Judith (Judy) Saulnier, Residents at The Fairfax for 3.5 Years

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Mt. Vernon Grove \$594,900
9336 Heather Glen Drive
Beautiful 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA colonial w/2 car garage on the Potomac River side of Mount Vernon. .34 Acre. Library on main level. Family Room w/fireplace off of the kitchen w/French doors to backyard. Dressing room & walk-in closet adjoin the spacious Master suite. Separate Dining and Living Rooms. Unfinished basement w/walk-up steps.



Alex/Riverside Estates \$615,000
8331 Blowing Rock Road
Beautiful Mt. Vernon Colonial w/stunning renovations! 4BRs, 3.5BAs, 3 lvls, garage & deck. Gorgeous addition w/exquisite remodeling expands the kit & family rm. The quality & design are exceptional. Stunning kit w/all the bells & whistles (skylight, tile & bamboo flooring, SS appliances, silestone counters, high-end cabinetry, double wall oven, gas cooktop) & a casual eating area overlooking bkyd. Spectacular family rm w/gas FPL & sliding glass doors to the deck. Abundant windows provide natural lighting. 4BRs on the upper lvl. Lower lvl has a full bath, lg finished rec rm, & an additional rm that can be easily configured as a 5th BR. Roof replaced in '15. Wood FPL in living rm & lower lvl. This is a winner!



Alex/Berkshire East \$449,000
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Alex/Yacht Haven \$649,900
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Alex/Riverside Estates \$2,857
8314 Bound Brook Lane
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Alex/Woodstone \$329,900
7100 Cold Spring Court
This beautifully updated End Unit is one of the nicest properties in Woodstone. It has a beautifully fenced bkyd & expansive side yard. The interior is meticulous, updates include: kitchen w/granite counters, SS appliances, windows replaced w/double panes, plus front & rear doors replaced, all in '15. Main lvl floors replaced in '17, W/D in '14, roof in '12 & furnace in '14. BRs are huge & hall bath has a Jacuzzi tub. This is a 10!



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PEOPLE

'Celebrating Centenarians' Sharing their wit and wisdom.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Want to know the secret to a long life? If 107-year-old Laura Mallory is to be believed, it is not having a husband and children to worry about.

"I never married or had kids," said Mallory with a laugh when asked the secret to her longevity.

Mallory's comment was just one of the many bits of wit and wisdom shared as 25 centenarians from across Northern Virginia gathered for the second Celebrating Centenarians reception Nov. 7 at The Fairfax at Fort Belvoir.

"I call this 'saging not aging,'" said Kate Caldwell of Elder Tree Care Management Services and organizer of the event. "Our centenarians are sage wise and this is an opportunity to bring everyone together to celebrate life."

Mallory was one of two 107-year-olds in attendance. At 100, Rubenette Dunaway was the youngest.

"I just turned 100," said Dunaway. "I never imagined there would be so many people here older than me."

World War II Army Colonel Joseph Lucchi, just a few days shy of his 103rd birthday on Nov. 17, attended the luncheon with his wife Rosa, who he married 48 years ago following the death of his first wife.

"She is only 90 years old so I guess I was robbing the cradle," joked Lucchi. "She is also a great cook but unfortunately when I retired, she informed me that she was retiring too — from the kitchen."

When 102-year-old Vera Punke was complimented on her youthful skin, she quipped, "If you think I look good now, you should have seen me last year."

Interspersed with the laughter were more serious observations on life as a centenarian.

"I think it's important to maintain a sense of curiosity no matter how old you are," said 103-year-old Doris Kessler.

For Lucchi, having a fulfilling life as a centenarian is about the attitude he developed growing up as the son of poor Italian immigrants.



Centenarians from across Northern Virginia gather for a group photo Nov. 7 at the Celebrating Centenarians luncheon at The Fairfax at Fort Belvoir.

"The secret in life is to work hard and treat others with respect," said Lucchi, who attended law school at night and retired as the Chief Clerk of the Appellate Court in New York. "If you are good to people you often find later in life that they are good to you."

When Mallory wasn't joking about the benefits of being single, she simply said, "There is no secret. God has been so good to me in allowing me to live so long."

**Synergy HomeCare
Janet Barnett, left,
talks with 102-year-
old Vera Punke.**



Just days shy of his 103rd birthday, World War II veteran Joseph Lucchi, right, enjoys the Celebrating Centenarians luncheon Nov. 7 at The Fairfax at Fort Belvoir. With him are his wife Rosa and granddaughter Amy Joseph.



At 107, Laura Mallory, right, remembers the end of World War I.



Mitch Opalski and Janet Barnett of Synergy HomeCare, one of the sponsors of the Celebrating Centenarians event Nov. 7 at The Fairfax at Fort Belvoir.

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OPINION

Shop Locally, Give Locally

Every day is for shopping small and shopping locally.

An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 25. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is promoted as a day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

EDITORIAL There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair. And in this area, there doesn't have to be anything small about shopping locally.

But still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of

places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

The small business owner is often the leader for fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the holiday spirit there.

See Connection's Holiday Calendar for great celebrations near you.

❖ **Fairfax County:**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/16/holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ **Arlington:**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/arlington-holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ **Potomac:**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/potomac-almanac-holiday-calendar-2017/

❖ **Alexandria:**

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/20/alexandria-holiday-calendar-2017/

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Short Deadline for Children's Edition

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent via email, dropbox or google drive or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg

format.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 1.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Focus on Community Policing, Positive Outreach

To the Editor:

In response to: www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/08/commentary-independent-progressive-doublespeak-imm/

Fairfax County police officers do not conduct immigration enforcement sweeps or stop individuals solely to inquire about immigration status. Fairfax County police officers follow General Order 601 and cannot arrest someone unless there is reasonable suspicion that a crime was committed or is being committed.

Operation and policy decisions regarding the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center fall under the authority of the Sheriff, an elected constitutional officer, independent

of the Board of Supervisors. Per Code of Virginia 19.2-83.2, when individuals are arrested and booked into the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, their computerized fingerprints are automatically transmitted to the Virginia State Police's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), regardless of their immigration status. The Virginia State Police forwards the information to other state and federal databases per their guidelines. From there, it is up to ICE to determine who is a priority for deportation. Before 2016, ICE operated under the Priority Enforcement Program and focused its efforts on deporting undocumented immigrants with serious criminal records. Under

the Trump Administration, the Priority Enforcement Program no longer exists, and any immigrant who is in the country illegally may be selected by ICE for deportation.

If ICE places an arrest warrant and an order to detain on an inmate in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, the Sheriff's Office will hold that inmate for up to 48 hours (not counting weekends and holidays) past his or her scheduled release date. If ICE does not take custody of the inmate within that time frame, the inmate will be released.

The Board of Supervisors, the Police Department, the Sheriff's Office and all Fairfax County government agencies comply with state and federal laws, and immi-

gration is a federal matter. Any changes regarding deportations or the focus and direction of ICE must come from the federal level. On the local level, we continue to focus on community policing through positive outreach and building trust with the residents we serve. All residents of Fairfax County should know that Fairfax County police officers are here to protect and serve any and all community members, regardless of citizenship. No person should be afraid to call the police out of fear of deportation — our police officers are not in that business.

Sharon Bulova

Chairman,
Board of Supervisors

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

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A Connection Newspaper



Election Day Earthquake

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



Election Day was an electoral earthquake in Virginia politics. Fourteen seats in the House of Delegates switched from Republican to Democratic members — the largest switch since 1899. Two have not yet been certified due to irregularities and three are heading to recounts. We do not know if any party will control the House and probably will not know until late in the day on the first day of session after the dust has settled.

While the new situation in the House of Delegates will create some uncertainty over the next 50 days, it will create some opportunities in Virginia public policy, but not a wholesale change of direction. The Senate of Virginia is still controlled by the Republican Party and most major committees have significant partisan majorities.

Notwithstanding, I am hopeful that in the short-term, we might see some changes in three areas: Medicaid Expansion, Criminal Justice Reform, and Nonpartisan Redistricting.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

First, Virginia has foregone billions of dollars over the last several years due to our failure to expand Medicaid. In addition to billions of dollars, we have lost 30,000 new jobs per year and approximately \$200 million per year in savings to Virginia taxpayers.

Today, nearly 36,000 residents of the 36th District receive their healthcare from Medicaid, including 24,000 children. This means there are likely over 20,000 adults right here within minutes of your home who would received healthcare if Virginia had taken action.

The new margins in the House of Delegates make movement much more likely, but not without some changes in our existing program. In 1985, Medicaid consumed 6 percent of Virginia's General Fund Budget — today, that number has grown to 23

percent and that is before the coming tsunami of baby boomer retirement home admissions. We need to bend the Medicaid cost curve, but I am hopeful that we are nearing the end of irrationally refusing federal help to get healthcare to hundreds of thousands of needy Virginians.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Second, Virginia's residents and jails continue to be burdened by an overly punitive criminal justice system which over felonizes conduct and clings on to antiquated trial practices. Virginia's \$200 threshold between misdemeanors and felonies is the lowest in the United States of America and has not been adjusted since 1981. I will introduce legislation to raise this to \$500 and remain the lowest in the United States for the ninth time. Similar legislation has passed the Senate and died in the House five times. Hopefully, no longer.

Also, accused persons in Virginia have extremely limited discovery rights in criminal trials. Legislation to bring Virginia's criminal discovery rules up to modern standards has also passed the Senate and died in the House. This year should be different.

NON-PARTISAN REDISTRICTING

Third, the close margins in the Senate and House of Delegates may finally make it possible to move nonpartisan redistricting legislation through the General Assembly. Computer enabled partisan redistricting lies at the root of many political problems in our country. Non-partisan redistricting constitutional amendments have passed the State Senate twice, but normally die in committee in the House. I am hopeful that the new situation in Richmond will move the discussion forward.

I am putting together the 36th District legislative agenda over the next month. Please send me your legislative ideas and feedback on structuring our \$100 billion budget over the next two years.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Please contact me at scott@scottsurovell.org if you have any thoughts.

way, should they run out of fuel, the river will gladly allow for a wet and safe landing, keeping us out of harm's way, and at peace on the ground.

This utter madness needs to stop.

Michael Dantley
Alexandria

Gun Violence Isn't Epidemic

To the Editor:

While I agree that there should be stricter laws in regards to the sale of guns in order to prevent these mass killings from happen

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17



Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2017, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2018, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,100 to \$4,150¹
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$11,685 to \$13,420
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,240 to \$1,260¹
4. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.81 to \$2.94 per 1,000 gallons of water
5. An Increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$44 to \$45
6. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge
7. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$35 to \$36

¹ Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$178.7 million budget² for calendar year 2018. Revenues are expected to be \$178.7 million in 2018. Water sales are expected to provide \$155.8 million. Approximately \$22.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2017	2018
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 54,270	\$ 55,983
Power and Utilities	10,468	10,670
Chemicals	6,846	7,732
Purchased Water	7,677	6,340
Supplies and Materials	4,850	5,102
Insurance	1,186	1,200
Fuel	595	655
Postage	611	614
Contractual Services	11,252	11,610
Professional Services	990	1,025
Other	2,280	2,503
Sub-Total	101,025	103,634
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,991)	(10,248)
Total	\$ 91,034	\$ 93,386

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:	
Debt Payment	\$42,981,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,087,000

² Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. A copy of the proposed budget can be found at www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

SALT Holds Annual Advocacy Conference

Social justice advocates told: “Go and do good.”

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

The agenda was full at the 2017 Social Action Linking Together (SALT) Fall Advocacy Conference. The annual forum was held at the Virginia International University in Fairfax on Saturday, Nov. 11 with a packed house in attendance.

SALT is a non-partisan faith-based network of individuals and organizations with the goal of bringing “the social and economic justice teachings of their faith to bear on public policy and legislation.” What started as eight socially conscious people about 20 years ago, has grown to a base of about 1,300, who educate themselves and the public on the facts surrounding social issues, and the actions that can be taken to address them.

“It’s education, it’s advocacy, building relationships with legislators, and bringing people together to strengthen the voices of all,” said SALT Founder and Coordinator John Horejsi, who is no stranger to the halls of the Commonwealth’s governmental chambers and offices in Richmond.

Each year, SALT selects new priority issues, or continues to address issues in progress, and rallies its troops to raise awareness and recommend actions. Horejsi was particularly pleased to announce that largely through the efforts of SALT members, many more Virginians in need will now benefit from the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program, simply by having consolidated the TANF categories.

Additional improvements to TANF, including an associated scholarship program is one of SALT’s priorities for the 2018 Virginia legislative session.

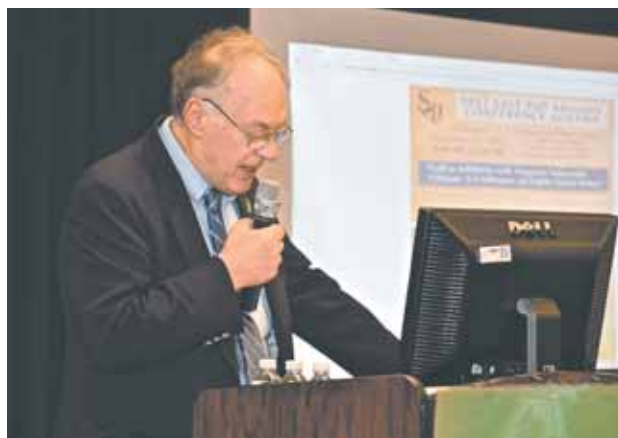
THE GROUP has identified several other priorities upon which they will focus their attention in the coming year, including:

- ❖ Ending school lunch shaming: SALT supports legislation that would prohibit identifying – and stigmatizing – children who are unable to pay for school meals.
- ❖ Legislation to provide video visitation services to inmates, and not to ban in-person visits where video visits are provided.
- ❖ Limiting, and ultimately eliminating solitary confinement in prisons.
- ❖ Opposing block grants for all human service programs opposing block grants for Medicaid.
- ❖ Supporting greater equity in Kinship Guardian situations, granting more funds to family members caring for children — where foster carers now receive, in some



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE

Sister Simone Campbell — often referred to as “the nun on the bus” for the bus tours she and other nuns undertake on their mission to bring about social justice — was the keynote speaker at the SALT conference.



Social Action Linking Together (SALT) founder and coordinator John Horejsi welcomes attendees to the organization’s 2017 Fall Advocacy Conference.

cases, almost five times the funds allotted to family carers.

To illustrate the scope of the needs of the citizens of Virginia, Horejsi recruited Sister Simone Campbell and state Del. Ken Plum (D-36) as speakers for the forum.

Sister Campbell, a member of the international Roman Catholic religious congregation Sisters of Social Service is often referred to as one of the “Nuns on a Bus.” As the director of NETWORK, a Catholic advocacy group for social justice, Sister Campbell leads a group of nuns who, since 2012, conduct bus tours around the country as part of their advocacy work, educating and leading discussions on a variety of issues, from healthcare to immigration, voter suppression to advocating for a “living wage” for all.

The need to provide a “living wage” was a central element in Sister Campbell’s keynote address on “21st Century Poverty.”

Sister Campbell advised the audience to throw away the old stereotypes of the “typically impoverished.” Today’s poor are increasingly “the working poor,” she said, recounting the story of a young woman she encountered at a special White House luncheon. The woman was filled with excitement for having been chosen to attend the

event, yet before the end of the meal, she confessed that despite having a “good, full-time job” at a well-known retailer, she lived at a homeless shelter because she couldn’t afford the high cost of rents in the D.C. area. Her dream was to work and save her way out of this dilemma.

Sister Campbell doesn’t believe that anyone working a full-time job – and some working more than one job – should not be earning enough to pay for a place to live and the means to exist.

“There’s something wrong here. We say we are a nation based on family, yet we do so little to support families and hardworking individuals.”

The “nun on a bus” expressed her scepticism regarding the tax reform

proposals currently being put forth on the Hill. “Trickle down does not work. We have already proven this, time and again. And you know the definition of insanity, right? Doing the same thing over and over, expecting a different result.”

Before concluding her remarks, Sister Campbell challenged the attendees to embrace certain “virtues,” including remembering to keep a “modicum of joy” in your efforts.

Secondly, she added to “use your ‘holy curiosity,’ by asking people about themselves and their situations as the way to truly know the face of 21st century poverty. Practice “sacred gossip” by sharing the stories that you hear and encouraging others to take action, and finally, just figuring out what your part is and doing it.”

Sister Campbell cautioned against trying to “do it all” or needing to take charge. “Learn whether you’re the head, the feet, the hands, whatever you do best to contribute.”

She says it took awhile, but now she knows what she does best and where she fits in. “I am the stomach acid ... there to churn everybody and everything up.”

Plum followed Sister Campbell’s address, giving a mini-history of the Commonwealth,

particularly in relation to slavery, the birth of a culture of racism, and the reasons why he feels the issue of monuments to Confederate war participants is far from over.

“Virginia has more such monuments than any other state,” said Plum, “with 223, almost all of them built in either the early 1900s or during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. What’s the message there?”

Like Sister Campbell, Plum also addressed the issue of poverty and the widening gap between the wealthy and the less fortunate, using a series of charts and graphs that illustrated how statistics may not tell the whole story, unless you look a little deeper.

Despite always being categorized as one of the richest states in the union, Plum showed how the “real” numbers show one geographically small portion of Virginia, the “Golden Crescent” of Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads, having a median income of \$150,000. “For the rest of Virginia, that number is closer to \$40,000. What do we do with that information? We have to find ways to share economic opportunities and all that comes with it to rural Virginia, as well.”

LOOKING AHEAD to the 2018 legislative session, Plum thinks redistricting could be a hot topic — and that it should be. Fighting for more school funding and the expansion of Medicaid is also on his agenda. “\$10.4 billion by not expanding it. Who leaves that kind of money on the table, especially in ‘fiscally conservative’ Virginia?”

Plum warns that it “might not be pretty” when the session begins, as both parties readjust after the Democratic wins in the Nov. 7 election, but the delegate is hopeful that all the new faces bring fresh new perspectives and new solutions.

The final speaker at the forum was Gay Gardner, from Interfaith Action for Human Rights, (IAHR) speaking about her organization’s efforts to “make solitary confinement truly a last resort.”

Gardner cited numerous studies that attest to the physical and mental harm done by long-term solitary confinement.

Kimberly Jenkins-Snodgrass, a board member with IAHR spoke briefly about her own son, an inmate who has been kept in solitary for four years. Other prisoners they have contact with have been held in isolation for even longer, one for 14 years.

“Getting a straight answer as to why these men have been so confined is not easy,” Gardner said. Sometimes, solitary is employed as a response to an inmate who exhibits signs of mental illness or distress, “but solitary confinement only makes the condition worse.”

A question-and-answer session followed the speakers’ presentations. Horejsi noted that the energy in the room remained high, despite the almost overwhelming number of issues that had been brought to the table. “Must be that joy that Sister Simone told us to keep handy,” he said, before adjourning the forum and exhorting attendees to “Go and do good.”

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Open House Sunday 1-4pm • Jefferson Manor

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PRICE REDUCED! • Open House Sunday 2-4pm

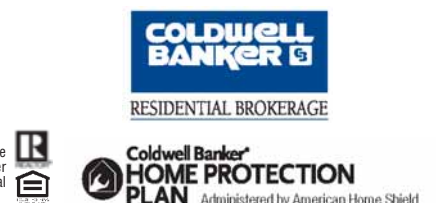
MONTEBELLO 5901 Mount Eagle Drive #215, Alexandria VA This very well maintained and lovely large "G" Model 2 bedroom condo in top Montebello building. This unit has close access to the Huntington Metro Station. Enjoy the terrific restaurant/bar, indoor and outdoor pools, tennis courts and walking/jogging trails! \$287,500 Ellis Duncan (703) 307-4295 <http://bit.ly/2yftjjo>

A Very Happy Thanksgiving to All from the Alexandria Office!

Alexandria 310 King St. | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300

*comScore, Jan.-Dec. 2015. The property information herein is derived from various sources that may include, but not be limited to, county records and the Multiple Listing Service and it may include approximations. Although the information is believed to be accurate, it is not warranted and you should not rely upon it without personal verification. Real estate agents affiliated with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage are independent contractor agents and are not employees of the Company. ©2016 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Operated by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. Coldwell Banker, the Coldwell Banker logo, Coldwell Banker Global Luxury International and the Global Luxury logo are registered and unregistered service marks owned by Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. 10713MA_A6/16

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ NOVEMBER 23-29, 2017 ❖ 11

Rising Hope Distributes 350 Thanksgiving Baskets

FROM PAGE 1

according to Denene Crabbs, Strategic Partnership director. To donate, go to risinghopeumc.org/shop or mail a check payable to Rising Hope, 8220 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22309, or call Kat Roman at 703-360-1976. Office hours are 9:30

a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Food Pantry hours are Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m.-noon and 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The Rags to Riches Clothing Closet is open Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Food and clothing donations can also be delivered to the Russell Road address.



Tony Nash, a Rising Hope volunteer for nine years, takes Thanksgiving turkeys out of the freezer.



Terri Powell of Hybla Valley with her bags of food.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Rising Hope Food Pantry Manager Melissa Lee assists Ray Schonasky of Mount Vernon with his bags of food.



Volunteers Vivian and Jeremiah Kuffour of Alexandria.



Linda Duck of Mount Vernon with her turkey and bag of fixings.

Riverside Elementary School Honors Dorothy Taylor

FROM PAGE 1

prints on tees and shirts that boys and girls wear. As well, there is so much more diversity. In the early years, the school children were predominantly white. Now, it's so nice to see such a blend of students from Africa, Asia, South and Central America and from countries across Europe. And they often dress in the colors and styles that are influenced by where they came from. The diversity is great in my mind."

While some things change, others remain the same.

"Teachers are still great, underappreciated and overworked," she said. "They do so much for kids besides teach academics; they really try to teach manners, and civility. Learning table manners is important to be taught, and many of the teachers through the years try to instill these lessons."

Taylor herself planted some important lessons to the children that surrounded her, especially her own. Her three children – Ron, Teresa and David – all went to Riverside and their mom was the epitome of hard work.

"My mom was only 17 when she had me, and she and my dad worked their butts off to ensure we had everything we needed to

have a great childhood," Ron said. "They sacrificed a lot to make our lives fun, safe and full of experiences. I know my work ethic is a direct result of their example. I try to emulate and honor them with how I engage and perform with my coworkers and clients in my workplace. How many people does anyone know who worked 40 years anywhere? And even more incredible at one place doing one job. It's estimated with 180 annual school days over 40 years with 500 to 700 kids eating a lunch each day and the last two years breakfast for all the kids each day. My mom helped prepare and serve between 3,600,000 and 4 million meals. I think that may be a record. My family is in awe of Mom's achievement."

As much as the always evolving Riverside student body meant to her, Taylor had a significant impact on Riverside, too.



Students and staff surprise Dorothy Taylor with a celebration of her 40 years of working at the school.

"As someone who just recently spent some time in the kitchen to help cook and serve for the Thanksgiving lunch that brings in an extra 300 plus parents to have lunch with their kids, I can tell you that it is not easy work," Basdekis said. "The ladies work fast and they work hard to make sure that our

kids have a hot and healthy meal ready for them at lunch time. I could barely last an hour in there and Dorothy did it every school day for 40 years. She is an incredibly humble and positive person who embodies

SEE TAYLOR, PAGE 17

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Multiple Exposures Gallery.

Through Nov. 26, various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #312. Photo exhibit. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

Holiday Toy Drive. Through Dec. 8, various times at Quander Road School, 6400 Quander Road. Donate new/slightly used unwrapped toys for toddlers to 12 years old (puzzles, dolls, board games, action figures and more). Call 703-718-2400, Ext. 2431.

Toy Collection. Through Dec. 10, Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway, Alexandria will collect new and 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, which will distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 14. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm.

39th Annual Weichert Toy Drive. Through Dec. 15, various times at Weichert Realty, 121 N. Pitt St. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices which will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. Call 703-549-8700.

Watercolor Exhibit. Through Dec. 19, various times at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. See "Nature from Three Points of View", the work of Jan Burns, Madeleine Chen, and Shari MacFarlane, at the Horticulture Center. Sunday, Oct. 29 is the Artists Reception. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

The Old Bull and Bush. Through Dec. 24, various times at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. An effort to reopen the famous Hampstead England pub on stage to celebrate the holidays with food, song, jokes, dance and a sing-along. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Potomac Fiber Art Show. Through Jan. 7, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. The show will be supplemented with juried items on Dec. 5. The Torpedo Factory has new hours, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and weekends, and 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Visit torpedofactory.org.

All the President's Pups. Saturdays 10 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All the President's Pups Walking Tour, along the way, learn about George Washington's love for dogs, his dogs' unusual names, and his efforts to improve the quality of his hunting dogs through breeding. \$7. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour. Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short



Art Exhibit

IMPart Exhibit Showcases the Power of Art through Dec. 3 at the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St., Studio 21. The Art League's IMPart visual arts education program connects returning Injured Military Personnel with transformative art experiences. These experiences are designed for creative enrichment, relaxed social engagement, redevelopment of fine motor skills, and expressive catharsis. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

Pick-Up Hockey. Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/ or call 703-768-3224.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit. Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/forward.

Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War. Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House

hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum.
Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit. Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or www.forward.org.

Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit. Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired "Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. www.carlylehouse.org or call 703-549-2997

Color Disorder Exhibit. Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. www.nfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.lataascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.forward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 11 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$7 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Evenings at the Athenaeum. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is

open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Doggy Happy Hour. Starting April 5, Tuesdays through October 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Doggy Happy Hour at Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco Alexandria offers specials on cocktails and beers plus treats and water for canine companions. Free, but drinks sold separately. Visit www.monaco-alexandria.com for more

Wake Up Wednesdays featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke St. near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. maurisapotts@gmail.com

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

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ENTERTAINMENT



MetroStage Celebrates

The Old Bull and Bush will be at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. through Dec. 24. An effort to reopen the famous Hampstead England pub on stage to celebrate the holidays with food, song, jokes, dance and a sing-along. Call 703-548- 9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

CALENDAR

Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

THROUGH DEC. 3

IMPART Exhibit Showcases the Power of Art . Various times at the Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St., Studio 21. The Art League's IMPart visual arts education program connects returning Injured Military Personnel with transformative art experiences. These experiences are designed for creative enrichment, relaxed social engagement, redevelopment of fine motor skills, and expressive catharsis. Visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 24

Cookies with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

City of Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6-9 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Free. Call 703-746-4343 or visit www.alexandriava.gov.

SATURDAY/NOV. 25

Small Business Saturday. Noon-3 p.m. at various businesses on King Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. Visit VisitAlexandriaVA.com/SmallBusinessSaturday.

Frosty Follies. 6 p.m. at Market Square, 300 King St. The Metropolitan Arts Dance School presents the annual Frosty Follies. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

NOV. 24-25

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. \$24 for adults; \$16 for youth. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.mountvernon.org/candlelight.

SUNDAY/NOV. 26

Musical Sunday Brunch. 11 a.m.-3

p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Featuring international Latin and Brazilian jazz and classical guitarist Cristian Perez, with John-Marc Diner on bass and Nick Natalie on saxophone. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

Museum Store Sunday. Various times at the following 10 participating museums across Alexandria. Visit AlexandriaVA.com/museumstoresunday or www.museumstoresunday.org.

- ❖ George Washington's Mount Vernon (free tote bag with purchase of \$50 or more while supplies last; open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Alexandria Archaeology Museum (20 percent off; open 1-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Alexandria Black History Museum (20 percent off; open 1-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Carlyle House (10 percent discount and free Carlyle House postcard with purchase; open 12-4 p.m.)
- ❖ Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site (20 percent off; open 1-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Friendship Firehouse Museum (20 percent off; open 1-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Gadsby's Tavern Museum (20 percent off; open 1-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Lee-Fendall House Museum (20 percent off; open 1-5 p.m.)
- ❖ The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum (20 percent off; open 1-5 p.m.)
- ❖ Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum (20 percent off; open 1-5 p.m.)

MONDAY/NOV. 27

Yoga for Gardeners. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This class features a gentle introduction to the vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. Class held indoors. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call 703-642-5173.

THROUGH NOV. 30

Training for Turkey. Various times at the Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, Suite 4. Prepare for feasting with an unlimited fitness pass for their Barre Fitness (MetroBarre) and yoga classes for the month of November. \$60. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org or call 703-339-0444.

Local Author Thursdays . 5-7 p.m. at the Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. Featuring Barbara Cousens, who came to this country in 2001 from

her native South Africa and will be talking about her book "My Alexandria Tales." Visit theoldtownshop.com/.

NOV. 30-DEC 2

West Potomac Academy's Nutcracker. Various times at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Guest choreographers include professional dancers Paul McGill and Brittany Hall (a West Potomac Academy Dance alumna), and Christie Elise (a Washington Wizards dancer). \$12/\$15. Visit www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacHS/.

Mt. Vernon Oral History. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Recording residents experiences living in the community. Free. Call 703-799-7601.

DEC. 1-2

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Various times at the The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. The 47th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend has activities throughout the weekend. Visit campagnacenter.org or call 703-224-2395.

DEC 1-17

Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market. Weekend hours only, Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit www.delrayartisans.org.

DEC. 1-16

Snow Day on Stage. Various times at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. This nonverbal production features live music and lots of wintertime fun, just in time for the holiday season. \$9. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org.

"A Christmas Carol." Various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. \$17. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

DEC. 1-23

4th Annual Holiday Market Festival. Various times in the Carlyle District, 300 John Carlyle St. Art and craft items, enjoy sweets, mulled wine and live entertainment

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT



Holiday Fun

Frosty Follies will be on stage **Saturday, Nov. 25, 6 p.m. at Market Square, 300 King St.** The Frosty Follies are from the Metropolitan Arts Dance School. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

CALENDAR

from local musicians. Visit www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Alexandria Archaeology Ornament Decorating Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Boat Parade of Lights. 5:30 p.m. waterfront at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. 18th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Festivities at the marina 2-9 p.m. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/boatparade.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 2-3

Original Artwork Sale. 4-7 p.m. Saturday, noon-4 p.m. Sunday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Eighty local artists,

most members of the Torpedo Factory Art League, will display and sell their original artwork. Visit www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org/.

SUNDAY/DEC. 3

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The dancers will show the audience how it's done and then invite spectators to give it a try. Music will be provided by local and well-known Scottish Country Dance fiddler, Becky Ross. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

MONDAY/DEC. 4

Ballroom Dance Classes. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Led by Gary Stephans on Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-505-5998 for more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

Japanese Art Auction. 10 a.m. at the Potomack Company, 1120 N. Fairfax St. Featuring the Hauge Collection. call 703-684-4550 or visit www.potomackcompany.com.

"A Christmas Carol" at the Tavern. Reception at 7 p.m., Performance from 8-9:15. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society is hosting a special performance of "A Christmas Carol" at The Little Theater of Alexandria. \$25. Visit www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/.

Holiday Magician. 7-8:15 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Carlyle, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Featuring three family magicians in the region: Noland the Magician, Captain Token the Magician and Louis the Magician. Donations of nonperishable food items or new toy are encouraged: Donations go to the Salvation Army. Contact Danny at DanielSelnick@yahoo.com or call 703-347-5540.

THURSDAY/DEC. 7

Worldly Collection for Auction. 10 a.m. at the Potomack Company, 1120 N. Fairfax St. Featuring the Ron Krannich Collection from Burma, Thailand, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Democratic Republic of Congo. Call 703-684-4550 or visit www.potomackcompany.com.

Shops of Del Ray's Ladies' Night Out. 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Shop local and enjoy special promotions while sipping Virginia wine. Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.visitdelray.com.

Neighborhood Health 20th Anniversary Gala. 6-9:30 p.m. at the Hilton Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Join the gala "Celebrating Our Partnerships" to support Neighborhood Health's mission of serving thousands of uninsured patients in the community. Email anniversary@neighborhoodhealthva.org or phone 571-438-7715.

An Introduction to French Comics. 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Arlington resident RM Rhodes leads this lecture about comics. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time: Julia Wilbur's Struggle for Purpose" by Paula Tarnapol Whitacre. \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Civil War Christmas in Camp. noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. \$2 suggested donation per person; \$5 per family. Call 703-746-4356 or visit alexandriava.gov/blackhistory.

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. 4-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Tour stops at several locations around Old Town. \$25 adults; \$20 seniors (65 years and older) and active military; \$5 children (ages 6-17). Call 703-746-4242.

Del Ray Candy Cane Bar Crawl. 4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Free. Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.visitdelray.com.

Ivy Hill Cemetery Presents: The History and Mystery of Christmas. 7 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Historians Terry Gish and Wayne Kehoe host an informational event. \$10. Not for children under 10. Call 301-395-9541 or 703-549-7413.

Alexandria Choral Society concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101



Little Hunting Creek in the Winter

Art exhibition and sale on Dec. 2-3 from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Eighty local artists, will exhibit and offer their artwork for sale. Call 703-799-9635 for more.

Callahan Drive. Alexandria Choral Society presents "On This Shining Night," featuring new settings of familiar works, modern compositions to evoke the season, and traditional seasonal carols. \$20 adult, \$15 senior/military/student. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

Vernon Concert Band will perform holiday songs in the gallery. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org. **Cookies with Santa.** 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Apothecary Museum Geek Tour Series. noon-1 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. \$15. Call 703-746-3852.

Colonial Handbell Ringers Concert. 2 and 4 p.m. at 201 S. Washington St. Free. Call 703-746-4994 or visit colonialringers.com.

Cookies with Santa. 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 12

Homeschool Programs with Historic Alexandria. Each class offers two sessions, 10-11:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. Class is "Ship ScienceO" at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327. Use dendrochronology and other scientific methods to uncover the mystery behind Alexandria's 18th-century ship discovered along the waterfront. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

AARP Virginia Dinner Group. 4-8 p.m. at FireFlies, 1501 Mount Vernon Ave. Enjoy dinner with other AARP members and their guests and receive a 20 percent discount on a dinner entree. Call 703-548-7200.

DEC. 15-16

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon. 5:30-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. \$34 adult/\$24 youth with mansion tour; \$30 adult/\$20 youth without mansion tour. Visit www.mountvernon.org/illuminations.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

The Mount Vernon Flutes. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This small ensemble from the Mount

MONDAY/DEC. 18

Ballroom Dance Classes. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Led by Gary Stephans on Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-505-5998.

THURSDAY/DEC. 28

Piff The Magic Dragon Magician. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. A former participant on America's Got Talent. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 2 p.m. to midnight at venues throughout Old Town. Activities include the Ninth Annual Fun Hunt, musical entertainment, food, drink and midnight fireworks over the Potomac River. Visit firstnightalexandria.org or call 703-746-3299.

JAN.9-FEB. 4

"Déjà Vu," Art Exhibit. Various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery show "Déjà Vu," highlights the work of artists Elizabeth Davison, Elise Miller, and Dianne Harris Thomas. Visit torpedofactory.org.


SATURDAY/JAN. 13

Watercolor Workshop: Painting on Yupo. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Paint on slick plastic called yupo with in-structor Marni Maree. \$90. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

THURSDAY/JAN. 18

Air Force Band Concert. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall 4915 East Campus Drive. Special appearance by tubist Patrick Sheridan. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

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NEWS

Taylor

FROM PAGE 12

everything we teach our children about work ethic. We want to provide our students with the tools that will enable them to have as many career options as possible upon graduation, but most importantly, we want them to do their best in whatever line of work they choose. Dorthy is a great example of work ethic, humility, and commitment and she has left an impression on our children and Riverside community for so many years."

As a new citizen of the world of retirement, Riverside is still very much with Taylor. And, as she moves forward, she'll still be spending time with an important group of youngsters.

"It's been tough," she said. "I still wake up early and think I have work to go to. Work still calls to ask questions, which makes me chuckle and feel good. It's nice to be missed, but I have three kids, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren so I love spending time with them. I also plan to travel more to see my sisters, brothers, nieces and nephews."

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

ing, I do believe it's a bit naive to think that restricting guns will eliminate violence altogether.

The letter ["To End Epidemic of Violence" by the League of Women Voters of Virginia] talks about ending the "epidemic of violence" that plagues the country. While it is fair to claim that any incident of violence is one too many, I think it's important to know that the so-called "epidemic" isn't one at all. In fact there's data that suggests the national crime rate is going down; people just believe it's rising.

The reason behind these false perceptions of crime is due to where we get our news from: the media. Oftentimes, media outlets use the phrase "if it bleeds, it leads" in regards to crime; this phrase conveys the

idea that more gruesome crimes get more exposure, as they attract more attention, and in turn will benefit the outlet. This inaccuracy depicted by the media stokes the fears of the public by exaggerating the amount of crime present in a given area. In reality, very few households experience violent crime in a year.

Kayleigh Pelkey
Alexandria

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Welcome to the Club



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Some club," as my late mother would likely scoff. And the club to which I refer is, to spin an old Groucho Marx joke: a club you'd rather not join especially if they'd have you as a member. This is of course, the cancer club, a club whose membership continues to grow despite worldwide efforts to the contrary. According to Medscope.com, one in two men and one in three women will be affected by cancer in their lifetime. Hardly a statistic to be ignored. And so, even though I had a rather uneventful/healthy upbringing and further on into adulthood, in late middle age, 54 and five months, Feb. 27, 2009, I was impacted and rudely awakened with a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis – out of the blue, and given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis to boot. As a life long non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer, whose parents both lived well into their 80s, I was more inclined to worry about the Boston Red Sox pitching depth than I was about cancer.

But cancer, for the past nearly nine years has been my life and amazingly, so far anyway, not the cause of my premature death (what death isn't 'premature?'). And what brightens my day and lifts my spirits more than anything else (other than a Red Sox World Series Championship) is when I meet a newly-diagnosed lung cancer patient who exhibits the can/will do positive-type attitude necessary to endure the inevitable ups and downs to follow. To be selfish, it empowers me and strengthens my own resolve to live life to the fullest (it's not as simple as saying it) and damn the torpedoes.

Within the last few months, I have met, over the phone, two such individuals. The first man, Lee, I met before he even had his first infusion. The second man, Mark, a bit more experienced, I met a year and a half after his first infusion. Each man was engaging, outgoing, confident, enthusiastic and quite frankly, happy to make my acquaintance. You see, after being given a less-than-desirable prognosis, it's helpful to meet someone who, despite having received a similar diagnosis, has nevertheless managed to live almost nine years post diagnosis. (If he can do it, I can do it kind of feeling.)

As for me, the nearly nine-year survivor, meeting cancer patients who are at the beginning of their respective cancer journeys, helps me to reconnect with my roots, so to speak, and share and share alike some memorable experiences, both cancer-related and not. In a way, we get to live vicariously through one another which for me reinforces how lucky I've been to survive for as long as I have.

And not that I need reminding, but it's easy to take for granted one's good fortune and forget – occasionally, the seriousness of my situation and the cloud that hangs over my head. The sword of Damocles has got nothing on me, literally or figuratively. Living with cancer is akin to nothing really. The chance that you'll survive beyond your prognosis, maybe even have your tumors shrink, or see your scans show "no evidence of disease," creates a kind of tease that cause your emotions to run the gamut. The possibility of living after being told you're dying – and vice versa, perhaps more than once, over your abbreviated – or not, life expectancy, is simply too much to handle/absorb sometimes. It's a roller coaster for sure, but one that rarely comes to a complete stop and never allows you to get off. Moreover, it's not multiple rides, it's one long, endless ride with no guarantees about what happens next – or where it even happens.

Meeting people who are ready, willing and able to confront their cancer future is just as important and stimulating as meeting someone like me who hasn't succumbed to this terrible disease. It's a win-win situation. Particularly significant when at date of diagnosis, it appeared to be a lose-lose. I'm proud to be a member of the cancer club, especially so when I meet people like Lee and Mark.

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

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News

Roundtable

FROM PAGE 3

and nonprofits. "We are cutting our social safety network, one strand at a time," said Mercer.

Multop donned his economist's hat once more to also note that so far he had heard no mention from the GOP plan makers of the debt service on the increasing deficit. "That's another \$200 billion in interest costs that I don't hear them having accounted for." Multop's concern is that Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security benefits will become the targets to shore up the financial levee in the wake of these tax cuts and the domino effect of their implementation.

Another personalized example of the the proposed reforms was offered by attendee Edythe Kelleher. The executive director of Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, Kelleher could have spoken about impacts to development in that region, but instead, told how cuts to student loan interest deductions and a proposal to tax teacher's assistant stipends would affect her graduate-school son.

"He works, he goes to school, he lives frugally. We provided him with a cheap car." Kelleher says that if a tax on the modest teacher's assistant stipend is adopted, "that's \$6,000 more each year, and he doesn't know where that money will come from."

Connolly responded to this story by saying the need to educate for competitiveness in the world's marketplace is greater than ever. The congressman said that making getting an education even more difficult means "some will have to leave school. That's hardly 'making America great again.'"

As the session came to a close, NVAR CEO Conrad asked Connolly, "What's your advice? What do we do next?"

In addition to the rally call to NVAR membership and AARP members, Connolly replied, "Run, don't walk and immediately express your concerns to your representatives" at every level of government, and "tell everyone you know. This plan does not reflect our values and priorities. We can and should do better than this."

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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❖ Office of Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon

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THURSDAY/DEC. 7

Holiday Grief Workshop. 2 p.m. at Spring Hills Mount Vernon, 3709 Shannons Green Way, Alexandria. Capital Caring's Alexandria Neighborhood is offering grief workshops during the holiday season. These workshops will include tips on how to cope with grief during the holiday season, reflection about how to care for ourselves and a closing ritual of remembrance. The workshops are open to the community, free of charge. Contact Chesley Simpson at 703-333-6954 or csimpson@capitalcaring.org. Visit capitalcaring.org.

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TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US,
WE WISH YOU A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

BREAKFAST 7 DAYS A WEEK

Now Open for Breakfast



MONDAY-FRIDAY

6:00 - 10:00 AM

Starting December 4th

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

8:00 - 11:00 AM

Merry Christmas

From

Primo

Family Restaurant

1636 Belle View Blvd | Alexandria | VA 22307

703-765-6766

www.primofamilyrestaurant.com

Dishes OF INDIA

Innovative Indian Cuisine

Alexandria

1510-A Belview Blvd

(703) 660-6085

Belle View Shopping Center



www.dishesofindia.com



Now Serving Luncheon Buffet Everyday

Monday - Sunday: 11:00am to 2:30pm

Dinner Hours:

Sunday - Thursday: 4:30pm - 9:30pm

Friday & Saturday: 4:30pm - 10:00pm

Party Trays for the Holidays

Holiday Gift Certificates Available

Holiday Hours

Thanksgiving Day: Closed for the Holiday


Christmas Day: Closed for the Holiday

New Year Day: Closed for Lunch, Open for Dinner 4:00 to 9:00

Chef's Special Menu for New Year's Eve

Call 703-660-6085 for details

**Happy & safe
Holidays**

Please like us at Facebook 



Just Dance

BELLE VIEW SHOPPING CENTER

1606 BELLE VIEW BLVD.

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22307

(703) 768-6249

sallyballet@hotmail.com

First Month FREE Dance Classes!

No Obligation

Choose from:

Any 3&4 Combo class

(Schedule available online)

10:30 am Saturday 5&6 combo class

11:30am Saturday 6&7 combo class

Offer only valid for specified classes.

Please check the website for all available classes.

WWW.5678JUSTDANCE.COM





Bradlee Shopping Center
3690 J King St. Alexandria, VA 22302
703.820.8600

Belle View Shopping Center
1600 A Belle View Blvd. Alexandria, VA
571.384.6880

Hours:
11am-7pm Mon-Sat
12pm-5pm

Belle View Barber & Stylists

*Serving families for over 30 years
and still going strong!*



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Hours:

M-F: 9 am - 7 pm

Sat: 9 am - 5 pm

Sun: 10 am - 5 pm

Closed:

Thanksgiving,
Christmas, New Year's Day
and Independence Day



We Love Our Community!

Thank you and happy holidays
to our customers.

We appreciate your loyalty as we have
watched your families grow and look forward to
your continued support for many years to come.
Belle View Barbers & Stylists are proud to have the
same ownership and same location for over 30 years.

We are HERE TO STAY!



1608 Belle View Blvd • Alexandria, VA 22307 • (703) 660-9623

HOLIDAY SAVINGS

to make your future a whole lot clearer.

20% OFF

A purchase of eye glasses

When you mention this ad.

Expires 12/31/17. Some restrictions apply.



EYE CARE, EYEGLASSES & CONTACT LENSES

Northern Virginia Doctors of Optometry have been providing patients with professional eye care for more than 40 years.



Belle View Shopping Center

1632-A Belle View Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22307

Phone: 703-660-9494

www.novaeyedocs.com

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri:

9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Call our office today.

Time is running out, so hurry in to use your 2017 insurance and FSA benefits.

Buck's Shoe Repair



SHOE
REPAIR

**Belle View's Favorite Cobbler
Season After Season**

Mention this ad and get

\$5.00 off

Any Shoe Repair

Offer expires 12/31/17

Tuesday to Friday

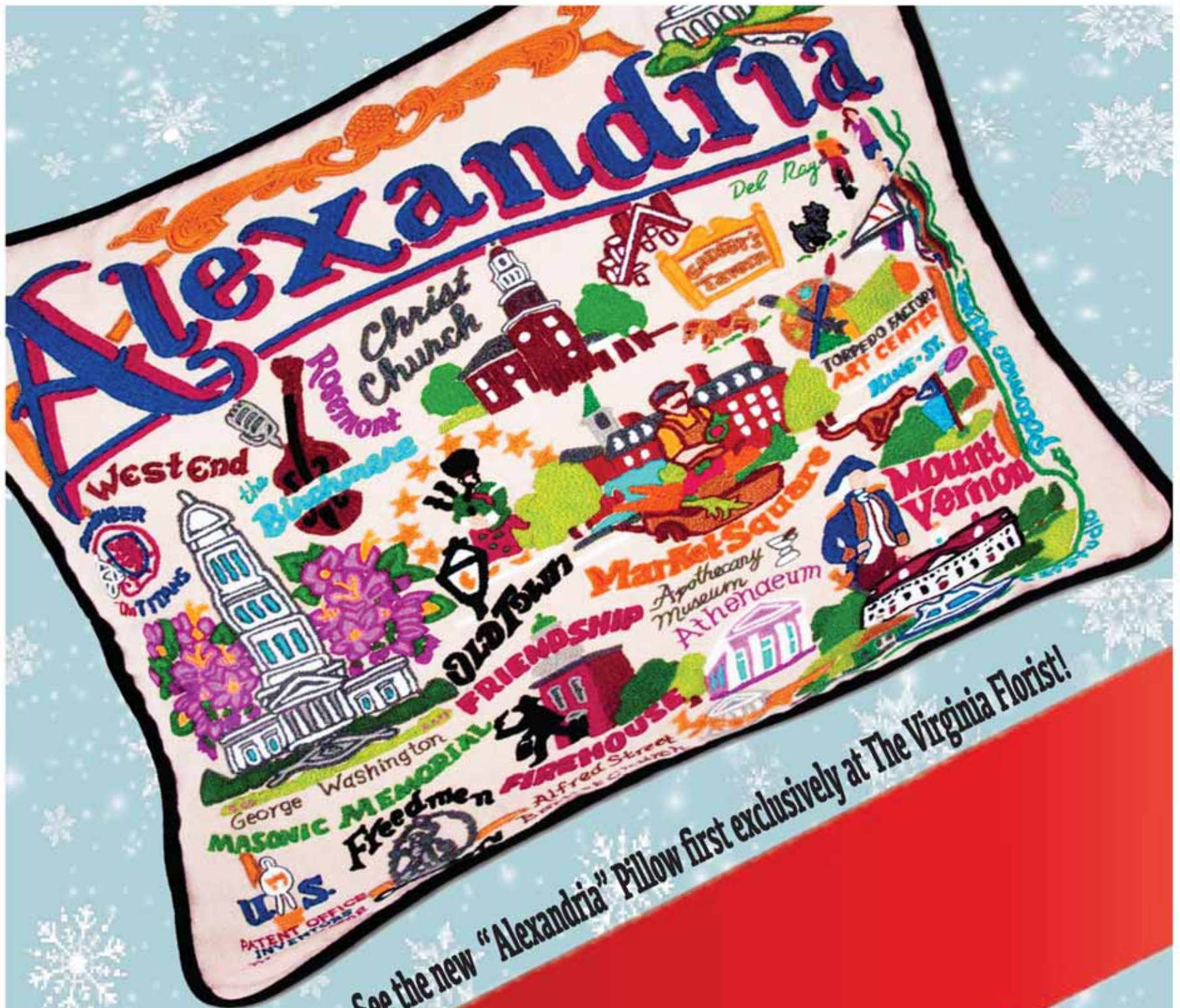
8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

(703) 768-2358

1516 Belle View Blvd
Alexandria, VA 22307



See the new "Alexandria" Pillow first exclusively at The Virginia Florist!



Join us at our 2017 Holiday Open House
 Saturday, December 9th, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm to celebrate
 our 60th year in Alexandria and enjoy delicious holiday
 comestibles and 15% off all holiday decorations!

1632 Belle View Boulevard
 Alexandria, VA 22307



Follow us on
 Facebook & Instagram!