

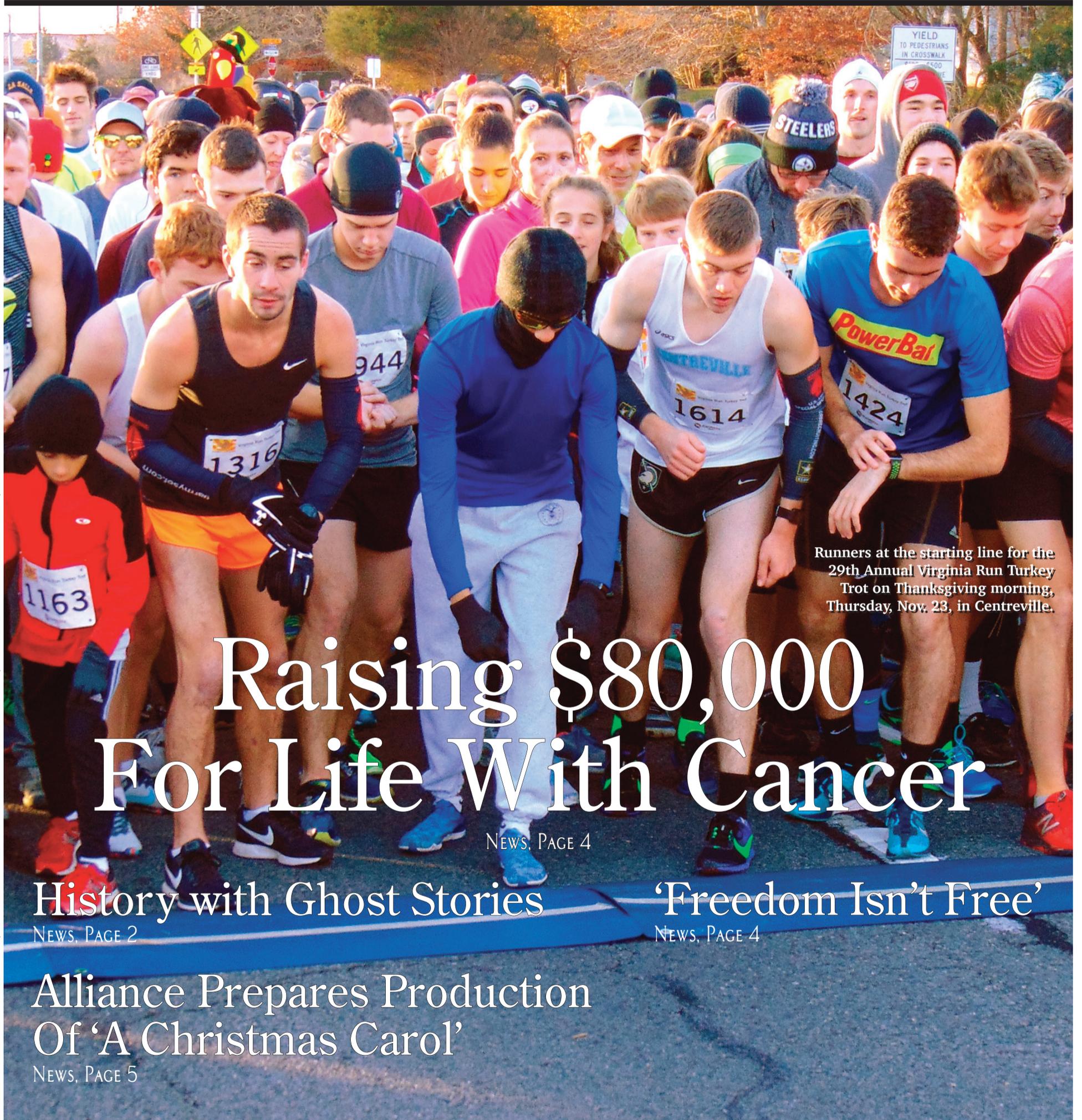
# Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run CENTRE VIEW

## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

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NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 5, 2017

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



Runners at the starting line for the 29th Annual Virginia Run Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 23, in Centreville.

# Raising \$80,000 For Life With Cancer

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## History with Ghost Stories

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## 'Freedom Isn't Free'

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## Alliance Prepares Production Of 'A Christmas Carol'

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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/CENTRE VIEW  
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## 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 \$4,150<sup>1</sup>
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 \$1,260<sup>1</sup>
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

<sup>1</sup> 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 budget<sup>2</sup> 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	6,540
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
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>101,025</b>	<b>103,634</b>
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,991)	(10,248)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 91,034</b>	<b>\$ 93,386</b>

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

<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates). A copy of the proposed budget can be found at [www.fairfaxwater.org](http://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](mailto: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.

## NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The holiday village set up occupies several levels.

## History with Ghost Stories

### Clifton Homes Tour this Saturday.

BY MIKE SALMON  
CENTRE VIEW

When Mona Harrington's sister was over at her Clifton house that dates back to 1771, the door to a cabinet in the second floor room kept mysteriously opening, so her sister got out her cellphone and videoed the whole thing. They both attribute it to the ghost that lives in the house. "You can see the doors opening on the video," said Harrington.

Visitors on the upcoming Historic Clifton Holiday Homes Tour will look for the ghost as they tour Harrington's home, known as the William E. Beckwith House, along with several others that are decorated with period items, one with another ghost, and one with a miniature village that occupies several rooms.

In addition to the Beckwith House, the tour will stop at the Baber Home, circa 1880; the Stein/Davis home, built in 1911; the Clifton Baptist Church, 1875; the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 1870; the Primitive Baptist Church from 1871; and the Wyatt Home and the Layfield Homes that were built after 2000. The town holds the homes tour every year, but changes the homes each year.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

Melissa Milne on her porch overlooking Clifton.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

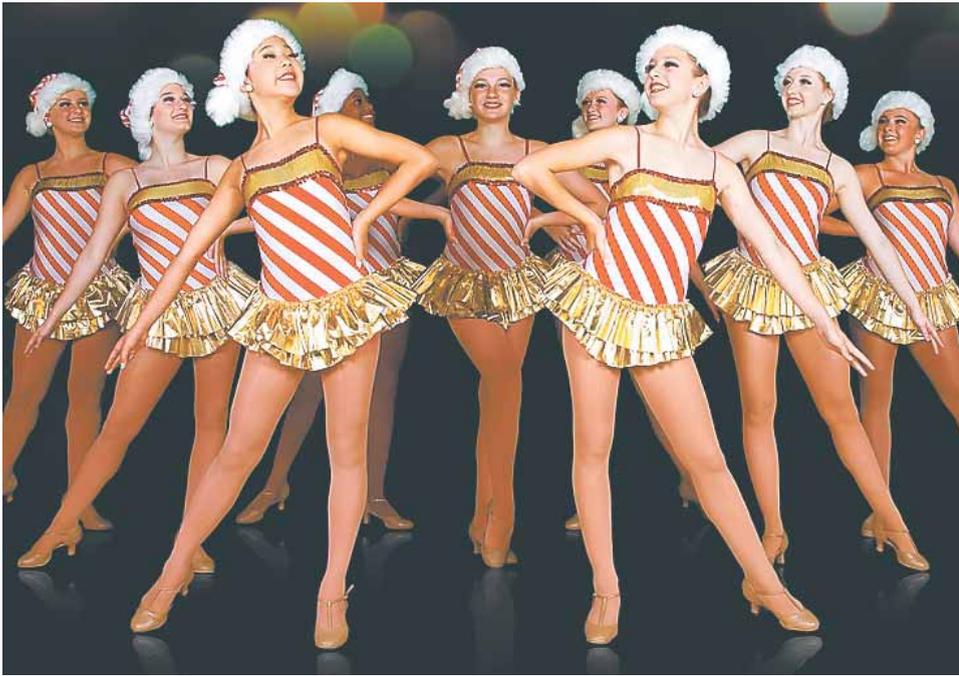
Mark Harrington and his daughter Ana beside a wood stove that dates back to the Civil War Days.

Melissa Milne is a tour coordinator along with co-chair Darah Curran. The ghost stories don't surprise anyone. "Almost every old house in town has a ghost story, these houses are really old, who knows," said Milne. That's the story with the Beckwith House ghost. "It migrates from upstairs to downstairs, it's peaceful," she said.

Clifton began as a small village situated at a railroad depot on the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Railroad in the 1860 timeframe, and in the advent of the Civil War, several locations were part of the war, including the Beckwith House where the Harrington's live. William Beckwith died in 1863 and left the home to his slaves, William Harris, his wife Harriet Harris, and their five children. In March, 1869, the railroad station was constructed and was known as Devereux Station and then the Clifton Sta

SEE HOMES TOUR, PAGE 11  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

**To Go** Show times are: Dec. 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9 at noon, 4 and 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 10 at noon and 4 p.m.; Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 16 at noon, 4 and 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 17 at noon and 4 p.m. Tickets range from \$19-\$26 via [www.encore-tap.org](http://www.encore-tap.org) or 703-222-5511. Location: Richard Ernst Theater, NOVA campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.



From left: Bea Tremblay, Maya Tischler, Faith Chun, Tiffanie Jones, Olivia Terry, Veronica Litschgi, Becca Perrone, Ashley Wood, and Erin Krobath rehearse a dance number.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS PHOTOGRAPHY

From left: Erin Krobath, Maya Tischler, Tiffanie Jones and Anjali Nair are elves in the show.

# Putting People in the Holiday Spirit

## Encore presents "Christmas at Quigley's."

BY BONNIE HOBBS

The holiday season is here, and that means it's time for mistletoe, gingerbread houses and Encore Theatrical Arts Project's new song-and-dance extravaganza, "Christmas at Quigley's." The show runs Dec. 8-17 in the Richard Ernst Theater at NOVA's

Annandale campus.

There's a cast of 28 students, plus adult guest performers Jack Stein and Nick McDonough. The story begins at the North Pole, where elf Albert (McDonough) is sent on a mission to New York City. There, at Quigley's Toy Shop, he meets Basil (Stein), who runs the toy shop.

Albert discovers the magic of Quigley's workshop and how — no matter how strange and bizarre a toy is that a child wants — it'll be in the store catalog and will magically appear. He wants to know how this happens, so he investigates. But he causes chaos, which Basil has to sort out.

The actors and dancers have been re-

hearsing since August, and Director/Choreographer Raynor van der Merwe says things are going wonderfully. Calling her students "a joy to work with," she said, "Watching them transform into young, pre-professionals is exciting for me. And knowing the history of the performers that have gone before them at Encore and gone on to professional dance careers, I can envision them doing the same thing in the future."

Van der Merwe said the show will be entertaining for all ages. "It's got the glamour of New York City and the big, musical, Broadway numbers," she said. "But at the same time, it has the charm that'll make people laugh because of the phenomenal

actors and the well-written script by Scott and Karsten Dees."

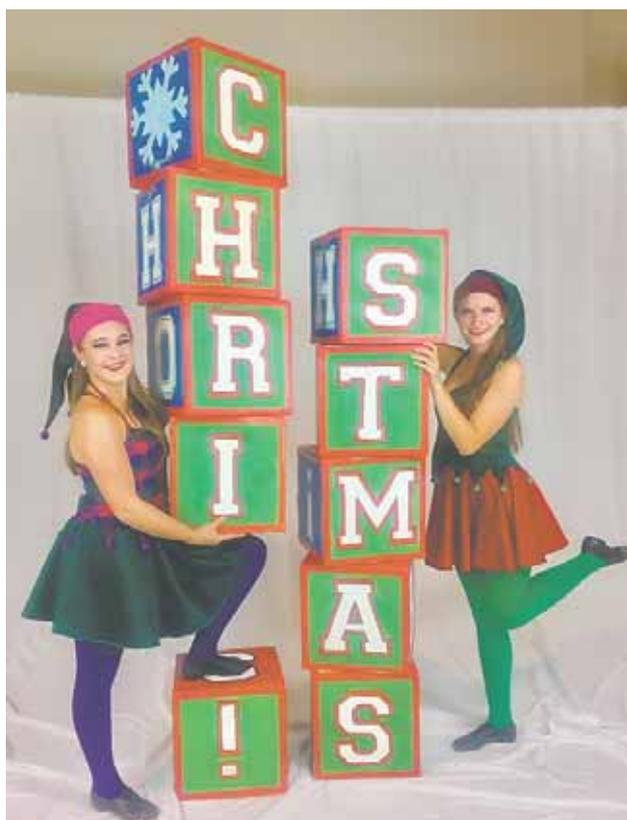
"It's upbeat and will put the audience in the holiday spirit," continued van der Merwe. "With some 18 song-and-dance numbers, it features music they know, plus some new songs and surprises. And as they leave the theater, they'll be tapping their toes and humming a song."

Erin Krobath plays Terri, one of the clerks at Quigley's. "She's trying to find Albert after he runs off with Basil's magical hat that brings the toy store to life," said Krobath. "She goes along with things and is outgoing and friendly, but serious about her job,

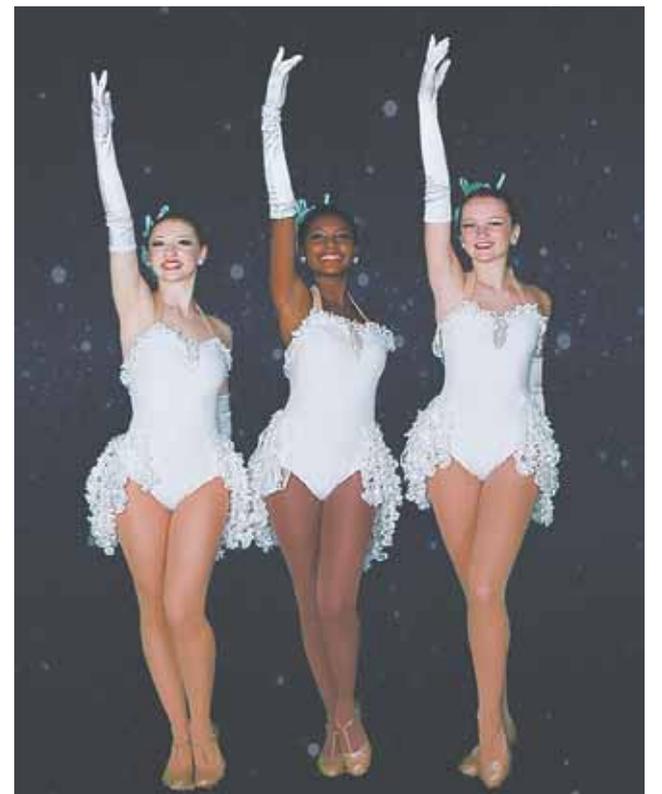
SEE ENCORE PRESENTS, PAGE 8



Maddy Spiewak gets in the holiday spirit in Encore's "Christmas at Quigley's."



Erin Krobath (left) and Veronica Litschgi show their Christmas spirit.



From left: Ashley Wood, Tiffanie Jones and Kendra Walsh are ready for snow and Encore's Christmas show.

# 3,500 People in Virginia Run Turkey Trot

29th annual event raises \$80,000 for Life With Cancer.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The 29th annual Virginia Run Turkey Trot was held on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 23, in Centreville. About 3,500 runners and walkers raced down Pleasant Valley Road helping to raise \$80,000 for Inova Hospital's Life With Cancer and the Inova Schar Cancer Institute.

The first-place male was Jonathan Phillips of Fairfax, 24, now living in Boston, who finished with a time of 15:42. The first-place female was Kelly Rogers, 24, of McLean, who finished with a time of 18:42.

"We had a really great turnout this year. There were a lot of smiles out there; so I think everyone was pretty happy to be here even though it was cold," said organizer Meghan Logan.

This year's USATF-certified 5K race and 2K walk was dedicated to two women from the community who died in September: Amy Miller and Gail Shedlick. "Their families were here today and we're happy to honor them," said Logan.

Logan said the 3,500 number was the perfect size for this year's race. "There were years that it was much larger; this year was perfect. It's very very big, but to us, it's a very nice manageable size. I think the turnout was phenomenal. We hope to keep this base of people and we're glad we have so many repeat runners and walkers join us every year," she said.



**Wearing pumpkin pie hats are runners Lisa Winch of Bristow and Lori Raden of Haymarket.**

A 12-person race committee and about 100 volunteers helped to put on the race, said Logan — from county and state police, to EMTs, to Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts to local churches as well as people from Life With Cancer who have been patients.

The primary event sponsors were American Windows & Siding of Virginia, Ourisman Chantilly Toyota, Korean Central Presbyterian Church, Skyline Insurance Agency, Edelman Financial Services, InCadence Strategic Solutions, and RE/MAX, Jeannie Donahue and Nicole Hillyard.



**Runners in the 29th Annual Virginia Run Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 23, in Centreville.**

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD



**The first-place female was Kelly Rogers, 24, of McLean, who finished with a time of 18:42. She received a \$100 gift certificate to The Running Store.**



**The first-place male was Jonathan Phillips of Fairfax, 24, now living in Boston, who finished with a time of 15:42. He received a \$100 gift certificate to The Running Store.**



**Race organizer Meghan Logan**



**Gavin Pepler, who dressed as a T-Rex dinosaur, passes out water to runners.**



**After the race, runners snacked on apples and bananas.**

# Alliance Theatre Presents 'A Christmas Carol'

A story of redemption.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Alliance Theatre is presenting the Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol," from Dec. 8 to Dec. 17 in Centreville. The story follows Ebenezer Scrooge, a man well-known for his miserly ways, who is visited by a series of ghosts and learns how his meanness has affected those around him. It is a transformative tale that teaches that it's never too late to change.

The show will be presented on Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. Tickets are \$18 general; \$15 for seniors and children. They're planning to have Santa visit after all the shows so children can visit and sit on his lap. They'll also be having cookies.

"In my mind it's a sort of redemption story. It's about a guy who is selfish, miserly, and only cared about money and material things versus people. In the process of the ghosts who come to visit him, he sees a new way to be. He becomes a new person and changes," said Maggie Swan of Chantilly,



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD

The cast of Alliance Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol" during rehearsals last week.

SEE ALLIANCE PREPARES, PAGE 8



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# OPINION

## Careful What To Wish For

Could changes in General Assembly mean some legislative requests from Northern Virginia might not be dead on arrival?

**W**hen the Virginia House of Representatives adjourned from its 2017 session, Republicans controlled the house by 66 to 34. The exact count following elections earlier in November is still unclear, but one party or the other could have a 51-49 majority, or even face a 50-50 split.

I don't recall anyone predicting this level of change. Three very close races are likely headed for recount, including one in Fairfax County, and since this is the first time all voters have used paper ballots, it's hard to predict how that will go. But one way or the other, Northern Virginia localities are likely to have more influence.

Fairfax County, along with Arlington and Alexandria, prepare a state legislative wish list each year, made all the more urgent because localities in Virginia have only the powers specifically given to them by the General Assembly. If there is any reasonable doubt whether a power has been conferred on a local government, then the locality does not have that power.

That has meant, for example, localities can only raise revenue from limited sources, can't restrict where people carry guns, can't set their own minimum wage, and can't fully control land use within their boundaries. Some haven't been able to ban discrimination on the basis

of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Not all of these restrictions are based on party affiliation.

Aside from more local authority, the top wish is for more funding.

Fairfax County's draft on funding schools: "Public education funding in the Commonwealth is enshrined in the Virginia Constitution as a joint responsibility of both state and local governments, so it is essential that the state fully meet its Constitutional responsibility to adequately fund K-12 education. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth continues to allow critical gaps to persist between state fund-

ing and the actual costs of providing a high-quality education, placing more of the fiscal burden on localities while substantially limiting local revenue sources, creating a discrepancy that has become increasingly untenable."

The one action that could produce significant funding and services with very low cost to state coffers: expanding Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act. Virginia has turned away billions of dollars, plus the jobs and healthier citizenry that come with that.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### EDITORIAL

### Next Week: More Local Giving

Next week, we will publish our lists of local nonprofits for holiday giving. If you know of an organization that should be included or whose listing needs updating, please email [mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com).

### Deadline Extended: Children's Edition

Submissions of student art and writing are due by Friday, Dec. 8, an extended deadline. You can see last year's editions by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition. Email submissions 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](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com).
- ❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com).

## Honoring Patients' Wishes

BY MALENE DAVIS, MBA, MSN, RN, CHPN  
CAPITAL CARING

**N**ovember is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month, and we encourage Virginians to be more aware of the innovative and compassionate end-of-life care available throughout the Commonwealth.

Capital Caring — a non-profit, community-based, hospice and palliative care organization — was founded in 1977 and is one of the oldest and most experienced non-profit hospices in the

### COMMENTARY

United States. Our dedicated staff serve more than 1,400 patients and families every day in the mid-Atlantic region. Our commitment to providing the best medical care for patients with life-limiting illnesses is imperative, and we are fortunate to have skilled medical professionals, caregivers and volunteers in a four-state region.

I would like to emphasize an increasingly-utilized program for honoring patients' wishes that is underway in Virginia. The Virginia POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) is part of the POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) Paradigm that originated in Oregon in the 1990s to combat the

"failure of advance directives." It is an approach to end-of-life planning that emphasizes advance care planning conversations and shared decision-making which culminates in the POST order set — an actionable set of medical orders that, according to the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, is far better than advance directives in following patient's wishes.

The Virginia POST Collaborative's Executive Committee — consisting of members from hospital systems and other healthcare organizations throughout the Commonwealth — has designated Capital Caring as the organizational home of the program. We are deeply honored by this responsibility and excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Our greatest challenge is the lack of awareness and funding available for this meaningful program. Since the inception of the Virginia POST Collaborative in 2008, the program has existed only because of the in-kind donation of time and personnel by our member organizations. However, full implementation of this important initiative throughout the Commonwealth requires financial assistance from partners so that we can offer comprehensive education, provide expert training, and achieve national certification for our POST program.

Frankly, Virginia got off to a late start with the POST program and is lagging behind other states nationally and regionally. We have made great progress in the past few years, but this month should be a reminder of its importance and need.

Capital Caring has assumed the major costs of education, training, and building awareness for the Virginia POST program. Matthew G. Kestenbaum, M.D., medical director, Health Information & Training at Capital Caring, and associate medical director of the Virginia POST Collaborative (703-957-1768 or [mkestenbaum@capitalcaring.org](mailto:mkestenbaum@capitalcaring.org)) is our point person. For more details, one can contact Dr. Kestenbaum or visit our website at [www.virginiapost.org](http://www.virginiapost.org).

The estimated annual cost for the POST program is \$200,000. Any contributions are tax-deductible, and will directly impact the most frail and vulnerable citizens of the Commonwealth. We need your support, but we also need your dollars to help grow and to sustain this valuable program. Thank you for your consideration.

*Malene Davis, MBA, MSN, RN, CHPN, president and chief executive officer of Capital Caring based in Falls Church and the home of the Virginia POST program, can be reached at [MDavis@capitalcaring.org](mailto:MDavis@capitalcaring.org).*

# CENTREVIEW

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Steven Mauren**  
Editor, 703-778-9415  
[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mike Salmon**  
Assistant Editor  
[msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Bonnie Hobbs**  
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415  
[bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Andrea Worker**  
Reporter  
[aworker@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:aworker@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

Led by Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), center, delegates, county officials and transportation officials break ground on the I-66 express lanes project.

## Launching I-66 Express Lanes

Construction set to start on lanes outside the Beltway.

BY MIKE SALMON

A five-year road project to build express lanes on I-66 was kicked off on Monday, Nov. 20 as officials grabbed the golden shovels and smiled for the cameras in western Fairfax County. Gov. Terry McAuliffe (VA-D) was there with officials from the Virginia Department of Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, federal, state and local partners, and the Commonwealth's private partner, I-66 Express Mobility Partners.

"This project will reduce congestion, stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life of commuters all over the

Northern Virginia region," said McAuliffe, in a release issued by his office.

When completed, I-66 will have two express lanes in each direction stretching nearly 23 miles from I-495 to Gainesville, and three regular travel lanes. These express lanes will be free for cars with at least three occupants, and a toll option for cars with one or two occupants. All tolling will be done with the EZ-Pass, or the EZ-Pass Flex for the carpool vehicles to avoid the toll.

Initial construction will begin on the project over the next few weeks, and by the spring of 2018, construction will be ramped up throughout the corridor. Regular construction-related updates will be available on Transform66.org as well as through news and social media channels.

For the portion of I-66 inside the beltway during rush hours, a toll option for single occupancy vehicles is beginning on Monday, Dec. 4. More details on this portion of I-66 is available on Transform66.org as well.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

#### ORNAMENT SALE

**GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club** is selling 2017 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors the 32nd President, Franklin D Roosevelt. The two-sided ornament features a gilded eagle, flags and the Great Seal. 2017 ornaments cost \$21. Proceeds benefit charity. Order now by calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216. It is possible to order previous years' ornaments when you call.

#### 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](http://www.futurequestgmu.org) to register or email

[futurequestnova@gmail.com](mailto: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 homesto 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 dropped off at any designated drop-off location below. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit NOVA Relief Center's website at [www.NOVAReliefCenter.org](http://www.NOVAReliefCenter.org)

- ❖ Centreville Elementary School, 14330 Green Trails Blvd., Centreville
- ❖ Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 14150 Upper Ridge Drive, Centreville
- ❖ Office of Supervisor Kathy Smith, Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly

#### FRIDAY/DEC. 8

**Academy Open House.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Clifton Children's Academy Preschool, 14315 Compton Road. Call 703-968-8455 or email [cca@childrensacademy.com](mailto:cca@childrensacademy.com).

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CENTRE VIEW ❖ NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 5, 2017 ❖ 7

# Encore Presents 'Christmas at Quigley's'

FROM PAGE 3  
and I like her quirkiness."

Her favorite dance number is "Elf Lounge" because, said Kroboth, "We're looking for Albert with flashlights and it's a smaller, group dance. And it's fun choreography with a cool dynamic. This show is different from what we've done before because an elf will directly interact with a human. We're bringing back a lot of old, familiar dances, like 'Soldiers,' but also doing some new versions, like 'Disappearing Santas.'"

Rithika Ashok, a Chantilly High junior, has been dancing since age 3 and has been with Encore eight years. "Dancing is a free space to express myself, and it's super fun," she said. "Being with Encore has taught me many life skills, such as respect, perseverance and responsibility. It's not just dance — you learn things that you can apply in the real world."

In this production, she sings "Santa Claus Boogie" with a group wearing various styles, prints and colors of elf costumes. "My favorite dance is 'Snow Biz,' the jazz, Rockette number," said Ashok. "I like the kickline at the end, and it's pretty cool to see everybody dancing in synch. During Christmastime, there are a lot of 'Nutcrackers' and classical holiday shows, but we're a more family-friendly, Broadway-style musical."

She said the audience will enjoy the diverse array of dances. "We go from being Rockettes to toy soldiers to elves at the North Pole to clerks in a New York City toy store," said Ashok. "So they'll really get immersed in the whole, holiday experi-

ence."

Fairfax High senior Veronica Litschgi dances as an elf, a clerk, a Rockette, a doll and a soldier. "I especially like the tap number, 'Wreaths,' because tap is my strong suit," she said. "It's also my favorite costume in the show; we look like candy canes dancing with Christmas wreaths."

She also likes the song, "Let Yourself Go." Litschgi said it was hard to learn because "It's really fast and you have to build up stamina to do it, so it feels really good when you do. In it, we clerks are stocking the toy shelves, but telling the shoppers to relax."

She's danced nine years with Encore. "There are so many different styles, so you're not just doing the same thing every day," said Litschgi.

"And putting movements together with music is really fun. In this show, the audience will enjoy how many dance numbers we have.

They'll also like all the different costumes and will be amazed at how fast we change for each number. And they'll appreciate all the detail in the set because our set designer, Tabitha Dees, is amazing."

Agreeing, van der Merwe said, "The set is beautiful; the North Pole and Santa's village are bright and vibrant. And in New York, people will see the outside of Quigley's — and then it'll open up into this gorgeous, magical toy shop with a large train, toys and jack-in-the-boxes that come to life. It's visually exciting, with lots of color and sparkle."

Faith Chun, an eighth-grader at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, sings, dances

and portrays a snobby elf named Lavender. "She doesn't like Albert and tries to get him in trouble at the North Pole," said Chun. "She's fun to play, and I often show her character by her actions toward Albert."

Chun loves being in the show because dancing is one of her favorite things to do. An Encore member for six years, she said, "Dancing is my passion and what I want to do when I grow up. I especially like the number, 'No Biz Like Snow Biz.' It's a Rockette-style dance, and we wear white leotards with ruffles in the back, plus white gloves. It's upbeat and fun to do."

Chun said the audience will like how both the dancing and acting tell the story. "It's very enjoyable to watch," she added. "And the colorful costumes help bring the story to life, too."

Becca Perron plays Snickers the elf in the North Pole scenes. "She's kind of dumb, but loves the North Pole and Christmas, and she's happy, so she makes a good elf," said Perron. "The things she says aren't the brightest, so I have fun playing around with that."

Perron also portrays a clerk at Quigley's,



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS PHOTOGRAPHY

**Dancers strike a pose during rehearsals for Encore's upcoming Christmas show.**

where her favorite number, "Sparkle Jolly," takes place.

"It's about making everything more Christmasy," she said. "And it'll help get people in the Christmas spirit." Perron said people will like the set because "It has a ton of toys and bright colors. And the 'Soldiers' number is one that the audience always loves." In her seventh year with Encore, she said, "Dance isn't just a sport, it's an art form, so you get to play around with it."

# Alliance Prepares Production of 'A Christmas Carol'

FROM PAGE 5  
president of Alliance Theatre.

With a cast of 20 people in the play, Swan said this is the fourth time Alliance has done "A Christmas Carol." Alliance Theatre was founded 15 years ago by Elaine Wilson and Pat Kallman and meets at Mountain View School.

"We do about two to three plays a year — musicals, straight plays, original shows. It's mostly for families, we have kids of varying ages, all the way to seniors. A lot of the people in this show are people who have been with Alliance for a very long time," said Swan.

Mike Cash, 63, of Oakton plays the role of Bob Cratchit in his 16th Alliance show. "Bob Cratchit is a man who has borne a lot of strain of carrying the family on a very meager wage. He is beaten down at work but manages to shed most of that at home with his family. This is tough for me because I usually do the comedic stuff," he said.

He said his challenge this time was to be

serious. "My usual stock in trade is going for the laugh. Now I don't really have any of those opportunities. But that makes it fun because I haven't had to be serious before, and it's the challenge of doing something new that makes it fun."

Anna Marie Carbaugh, 25, of Dumfries is playing the role of the Spirit of Christmas Present. "She is a lot of laughs and she's trying to spread Christmas cheer, in a nutshell," said Carbaugh, who majored in theater at Emory and Henry College. Having been in 10 productions, this is her second role out of college.

She said her challenge was that she's only seen the role played as a man

before, "So it was fun to do this as a woman," she said. "I didn't feel like I had many challenges because I could go at it in a new angle. I didn't feel bound to the way it had been done before."

Ed McGee, 53, of Potomac Falls is playing the dual roles of Jacob Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Future. "Marley is

Scrooge's deceased business partner who comes back to hopefully change Scrooge's opinion on life so he doesn't suffer the same fate as Marley on earth. Marley is doomed to wander eternity carrying the chains he forged in life," he said.

He added: "Christmas Future is a silent ghost; he quite often resembles the Grim Reaper on what could be, especially if Scrooge doesn't change his ways. So he presents the future as if Scrooge doesn't change his ways, his outlook on life."

He said the challenge was to be scary. "Both of my characters are the only scary ones, essentially in the whole play. I've generally played kinder characters — I played Bob Cratchit in a different production in a different company." Noah Fraize, 21, of Chantilly plays the role of Fred, who is Scrooge's nephew. "He's very infected with the holiday spirit. He loves Christmas and the holiday season and all of its forms. He's basically trying to reach Scrooge and improve his view of Christmas," he said.

He said the challenge was his limited connection to Christmas because he was brought up Jewish. "It's not a subject matter I connect to deeply. I'm usually not playing a very positive character. The closest to a character like this has been with children's

theater so it's been a bit of a difficult transition," he said.

Noah Tajudeen, 12, of Fairfax plays the role of Narrator One. "Basically I'm a towns boy, a turkey boy — he gets the turkey for Scrooge in the end. He's telling the story of the show from his perspective and how he sees everything. It's subjective to him because everyone sees Scrooge as a mean person, but he evolves," said the Frost Middle School seventh-grader.

He said the challenge was learning the complex Dickens-style lines. "But when you get entuned to the character, it became easier because you understood how they flowed and it just clicked," he said.

Jack Abidin, 9, of Fairfax is having a lot of fun playing the role of Urchin. "I don't really have any lines; I just basically sing songs. I do have a few lines. I'm in a group of urchins. We sing together," he said.

The Alliance Theatre is presenting "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. Tickets are \$18 general; \$15 for seniors and children. They're planning to have Santa visit after all the shows so children can visit and sit on his lap. Visit the website at [www.thealliancetheatre.org](http://www.thealliancetheatre.org).

**"A lot of the people in this show are people who have been with Alliance for a very long time."**

**— Maggie Swan, President, Alliance Theatre**

# GIFT IDEAS

## Trends in Gift Giving

From charitable to sustainable, shopping ideas to please even the pickiest.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Consider eco-friendly gifts that are constructed from recycled materials. “Items made from reclaimed materials are a great way to give a unique gift,” said Courtney Thomas of the Picket Fence in Burke. “Reclaimed wood is especially popular.”

Solemate Socks are another colorful option. They are made by repurposing recycled cotton yarn that is then spun into vibrant, patterned socks. Thomas also recommends decorative items made from reclaimed wood. “We have some beautiful churches made from wood salvaged from barns in Alabama,” she said.

Ornaments made from reclaimed paper are another environmentally conscious option. “Not only are these beautiful decorations, but they help provide jobs for people in third-world countries,” said Thomas.

Kevin Sweitzer of Thos. Moser, Handmade American Furniture recommends items made from sustainable North American hardwoods, “Namely cherry from the Allegheny Plateau in Pennsylvania and walnut from the riverbanks of Missouri.”

Examples include stacks of food-safe wooden bowls, which are “are sustainable and reusable, [make] a perfect hostess gift ... and a great conversation piece.”

**GIFTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE** in the lives of others are also on trend this year.

One example is Starling Project candles. Proceeds from the sales of these scented candles are donated to UNICEF to help provide solar energy to under-resourced countries.

“Products that support a cause are also a great way to both give a meaningful gift and help those in need,” said Thomas. “We have pottery ornaments that are made in Alabama by women escaping domestic violence.”

Vintage-inspired gifts are trendy this season, says Susan Nelson from Home on Cameron in Alexandria. “Wooden toys, [for example] appeal to all ages, as do vintage items such as magnifying glasses,” she said. “Gifts that are unique and offer a unique experience are popular right now.”

Handmade gifts are another consideration, adds



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME ON CAMERON

**Vintage items such as these at Home on Cameron in Alexandria make unique holiday gifts.**

Todd Martz, also from Home on Cameron. “Visitors ... love the handmade items for gifts, such as felt flowers from Nepal, hand painted vases, and the custom pillows [which come] in a variety of colors and patterns.

**GIVING PRACTICAL GIFTS** that the recipient will actually use can minimize the need for gift returns. Merchants who are on the receiving end of after-season holiday gift returns suggest customers think about what it will be like for the recipient to actually own the gift, rather than the moment of receiving the gift.

One example, says Madeline Fairbanks of Country Casual Teak, “are accessories for those who entertain regularly such as ... wine stopper or wine caddy,” she said. “Purchasers like the thoughtfulness of the items and the durability of the products because they last for many years.”

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2. not appreciated or understood.  
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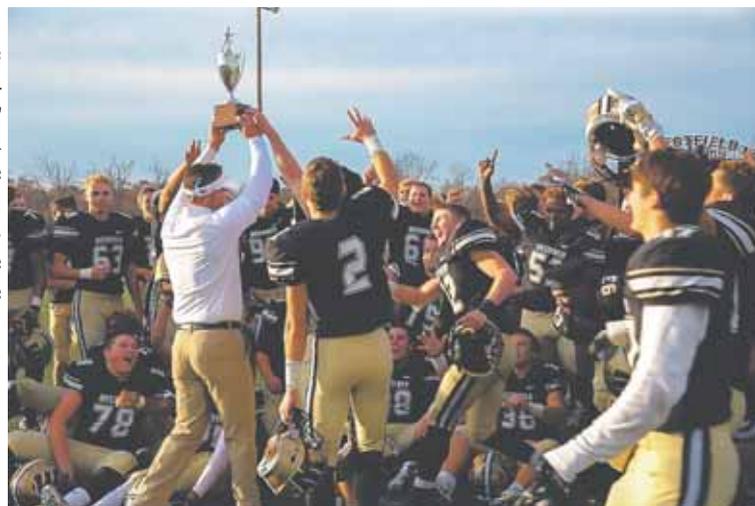
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**SPORTS**

**Westfield Head Coach Kyle Simmons hoists the 6A Championship trophy after his team defeated South Lakes 27-7 on Nov. 25. The Westfield Bulldogs (13-0) defeated the South Lakes Seahawks (11-2), 27-7 in the Region final and will play the Woodbridge Vikings (12-1) who defeated Hylton 28-14.**



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

**Seizing 6A Region Championship**

The Westfield Bulldogs hosted the 6A Region final against South Lakes on Nov. 25. The Bulldogs advanced to the final by defeating Battlefield, and Patriot. South Lakes defeated Yorktown and Madison to advance. Westfield scored first when Bizzett Woodley caught the first of his two touchdown receptions with 8:09 to play in the first quarter. Gavin Kiley put Westfield up 14-0 with 10:26 to play in the second quarter. Later in the second quarter South Lakes scored when Joseph Dagbe caught a pass from QB Devin Miles and lunged into the end zone. In the third quarter, Bizzett Woodley caught his second TD pass from Noah Kim and the Bulldogs were up 21-7 with 4:45 remaining in the quarter. In the fourth quarter, Kim

ran in from 5 yards out. A missed extra point would leave the score at 27-7. For the game Kim, completed 10 of his 20 passes for 114 yards and 3 TDs. Eugene Asante would run for 139 yards on 19 carries and Woodley caught four passes for 60 yards and 2 TDs. South Lakes was led by Miles who completed 12 of 22 passes for 92 yards and a TD. With the 27-7 win, the Westfield Bulldogs (13-0) will host the Woodbridge Vikings (12-1) who defeated Hylton 28-14 in the VHSL semifinal game. South Lakes (11-2) season ends for the third consecutive year to Westfield.

— WILL PALENSCAR



Dylan Winesett #49 and teammate Saadiq Hinton # 3 work together to stop South Lakes RB Albert Mensah #24.



Devonte Roberts #93 and Dylan Winesett #49 put a stop on South Lakes ball carrier Albert Mensah #24.



Bizzett Woodley #17 catches his second TD pass of the game with 4:45 to play in the third quarter.



Bizzett Woodley #17 pulls in a 30 yard TD pass for Westfield with 5:09 left in the first quarter.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON

A Listerine bottle dug up in the Beckwith House yard.

# Homes Tour

FROM PAGE 2

tion, and the town acquired the red caboose that sits along side of the tracks in 1949. The houses exchanged hands through the years, and eventually the train ceased stopping in Clifton, except during their annual Clifton Day where the train acts as a mode of transportation from a stop in Springfield where there is more parking.

Milne lives in a newer house on a hill overlooking the town, but is still surrounded by the history of the area. When doing some yard work years ago, she found some “very old bottles and the remains of a still from the prohibition days,” she said.

The Baber House, which dates back to 1880, and was a boarding home in the 1950s, that may have been the start of the ghost experiences. Owner Kathy Kalinowski has lived in the house since 1980, and knows the ghost story, but doesn’t have any personal experiences. “An old lady in the house who was taking care of a child who died,” she said. The house sits on several logs which is consistent other home foundations from that era. “We’ve had folks come with their metal detectors and they found bullets,” said Kalinowski.

A newcomer to the tour is the Sawyer/Aspesi home, which is technically outside of the Clifton town limits, but is part of the tour nonetheless. The bus will not stop at the home, but it’s on the map and tour-goers can stop on their own. The house was built in 1989 but has an extensive holiday village set up, with one part named the “North Pole,” while others are “Christmas in the City,” “New England Village,” and “Nicholas Nickleby.” The North Pole has 62 lighted buildings, a sledding hill and stream.

During this visit to the Beckwith House, a set of car keys vanished, only to turn up 15 minutes later in a high traffic spot that had been looked at minutes before. Everyone present attributed it to the ghost.

## Details

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## Giving Thanks for the Going



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Four hours up north with moderate hassle first thing Thanksgiving-Thursday morning. Dinner and all the fixings with family and friends upon arrival, after a midday break. Conversations and such with young, medium and old (with yours truly being the oldest of our generation) until 1:15 a.m., (a recent time record for many). Up at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast with more casual talk and noshing. Out the door at 9:15-ish heading back for an immediate day-after return trip home scheduled to make an early Friday afternoon chemotherapy infusion. Infusion completed and on the final way home, a stop at the supermarket at 4 p.m. – since we had no Thanksgiving leftovers (turkey sandwiches in particular) to satiate the deprived. Dinner as soon as possible since we were both hungry and tired after our up-and-back. Turkey breast, mashed potatoes and peas for our own leftovers, off-and-on television and napping and then we both called it at 9:15 p.m. or so.

Twelve hours later, we were both awake. What a sleep! What a 24 hours! What a wonderful holiday! I wouldn't characterize it as an ordeal. However, it was a bit of an undertaking given my Friday afternoon commitment; my first-ever, post-holiday, having-to-rush-back-from-out-of-town excursion. Though in previous years, we may have occasionally travelled up and back in the same day, when our route was two-hours to Pennsylvania where the in-laws lived, we are older and presumably wiser now and somewhat less able and inclined to travel with as little margin and rest.

Compounded of course with Kenny-with-cancer being mostly behind the wheel, a permanent designated driver since I don't drink and still see pretty well at night. Still, I'm hardly the driver I used to be and the affect of the holiday festivities on my fellow drivers is always cause for concern.

But all's well that ends well, except for the piles of Thanksgiving day-afters left where we last saw them, miles away. Nevertheless, we are happy to have made the effort, despite the less-than-ideal timing. As difficult as this kind of schedule was/had to be, I can't let, as much as possible anyway, my cancer stuff: infusions, 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, quarterly scans and yearly MRIs and quarterly appointments with my oncologist impact my semi-normal life. In fact, my oncologist has been a major proponent of my “quality of life,” an advisory he has regularly encouraged.

I've always felt, from the beginning of my diagnosis/prognosis, that I was not going to live my life any differently than I had previous to 2/27/09. As challenging as that proved to be on many occasions, my goal has been to try and integrate my life around my chemotherapy – and vice versa, and to not let too many chips fall along the wayside. Moreover, my philosophy has been not to bucket a list either, but rather to simply live my usual and customary life and not be affected by my “13-month to two-year prognosis.” If I was doing bucket list-type things, things that I would ordinarily not be doing, I felt that would be reinforcing a negative: that I was going to die prematurely, rather than encouraging a positive: that I am going to live.

For me, maintaining the status quo and continuing to do the little things that characterize who I am and what I value seemed more appropriate and more Kenny-like. Not sharing Thanksgiving dinner with relatives with whom I've shared a table going on nearly 40 years wouldn't have helped at all. Not now, or ever.

Finding balance – and sanity in the midst of a battle royal – vs a “terminal” diagnosis, stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, is all it's cracked up to be. A little fun, make that a lot of fun, never hurt anyone, especially those of us fighting for our lives.

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

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Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org).

## ONGOING

**Toy Collection.** Through Dec. 10, Sheehy Infront of Chantilly, 4145 Auto Park Circle, Chantilly 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.

**Bull Run Festival of Lights.** Through Jan. 7, Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m., \$15 per car; Fridays-Sundays and holidays, 5:30-10 p.m., \$20 per car. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. After enjoying two and a half miles of light displays, stop at the Holiday Village, complete with bonfires, s'mores, holiday merchandise and free activities, the Holiday Village is fun for the whole family. Have a photo taken with Santa. Call 703-631-0550 or visit [www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights](http://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights).

## PET ADOPTIONS

**Adopt a Dog.** Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org).

**Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit [hart90.org](http://hart90.org).

**Adopt a Dog.** Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [aforeverhome.org](http://aforeverhome.org).

**Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center,

## FRIDAY/DEC. 1

**Matt Walker in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

**Christmas Tree Lighting.** 7 p.m. at Chapel Road and Main Street in Clifton. Set the holiday season in motion with the official lighting of the town Christmas Tree. Carol, drink hot chocolate, roast s'mores over the fire, and join in the holiday spirit. Visit [clifton-va.com](http://clifton-va.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**Annual Holiday Train Show.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Bring broken locomotives to the "Train Doctor" to fix or advise on other options. Stop and admire the antique cars visiting for this event, weather permitting. Visit the gift shop for holiday gift items and Santa may stop by to visit. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$5. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

**Matt Walker in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

**Town of Clifton Holiday Homes Tour.** 4-7 p.m. at 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton. Five homes in Town and a bonus home outside of Town, in addition to the caboose and two historic churches that will be open to the public. Free admission. Call 703-517-7703.



## Art Galore

The Sugarloaf Crafts Festival the weekend of Dec. 8-10 at the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, will feature artists of all types. \$8 online, \$10 at the door. Visit [sugarloafinfo@sugarloaffest.com](mailto:sugarloafinfo@sugarloaffest.com).

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

**Senior Exercise Class.** 10:45-11:45 a.m. at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Staying Active and Independent for Life (SAIL) is a fitness class for Adults 50 and better. Free. Email [Amanda.kelly@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Amanda.kelly@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-322-4475.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 8

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. \$8 online, \$10 at the door. Visit [sugarloafinfo@sugarloaffest.com](mailto:sugarloafinfo@sugarloaffest.com).

**Ryan Angello in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 9

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. \$8 online, \$10 at the door. Visit [sugarloafinfo@sugarloaffest.com](mailto:sugarloafinfo@sugarloaffest.com).  
**Holidays at Walney Farm.** 1-4 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn about

the holiday traditions of past eras. Take a tour with a historian, make historic ornaments and drink hot cider around the campfire as you listen to our volunteer bagpiper play holiday tunes. End your day with a holiday wagon ride. \$10. Call 703-631-0013.

**Ryan Forrester Band in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 10

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. \$8 online, \$10 at the door. Visit [sugarloafinfo@sugarloaffest.com](mailto:sugarloafinfo@sugarloaffest.com).

**Holiday Ornament Craft Day.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

**Lexi Jackson in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 15

**Levi Stephens in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 16

**Ken Fischer in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 17

**Victorian Tea.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Museum members and under 4, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

**Brian Franke in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 22

**Phil Selz in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 23

**Britton James in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 24

**David Thong in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 28

**The Nutcracker.** 2 and 7 p.m. at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Virginia Ballet Company is presenting its 68th annual production of "The Nutcracker." This is a full-length, professionally-staged ballet. \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, seniors and students at [VABallet.org](http://VABallet.org). Email [vbcoffice@vaballet.org](mailto:vbcoffice@vaballet.org) or call 703-249-8227.

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