

Fairfax CONNECTION

Parents and children intently roast marshmallows for s'mores over a fire pit during the City of Fairfax's annual Festival of Lights and Carols on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Inside
**HOLIDAY
ENTERTAINMENT
WELLBEING**

PAGE 8

Christmas Comes To Fairfax City

NEWS, PAGE 8

Townhouses Proposed
For Davies Property

NEWS, PAGE 3

'The Nutcracker'
At Center for the Arts

NEWS, PAGE 4

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Townhouses Proposed for Davies Property

Council concerned about density, visitor parking and green space.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Davies property is 2.69 acres between Chain Bridge Road and University Drive in the City of Fairfax. And in May 2016, Paradigm Development Corp. proposed replacing the existing house there with 315 apartments in a six-story building.

After review by City Council, City staff and the public – which decried the high density and tall building – the plan was scaled back to 258 apartments and was later withdrawn altogether. Now, the applicant proposes 45 townhouses in four-story buildings and the Council discussed it at its Oct. 10 work session.

Some 37 of the homes would be 22 feet wide and located along the north and south sides of a private street. The other eight homes, each 20 feet wide, would front on Chain Bridge. Access would be via University onto the private street.

“It would have a density of 16.9 dwelling units per acre,” said senior planner Paul Nabti. “Staff believes a rezoning to residential townhouse or planned development would be better than what’s requested, which is multifamily.”

The applicant also proposes 164 parking spaces – 90 in garages plus 74 on the driveways of the 22-foot-wide units. There’d also be sidewalks, as well as a path along the south side. However, no visitor parking is planned, and Nabti said the City has never approved a townhouse project with no parking for guests.

He said the homes are anticipated to generate 10 students over a long term, and Councilwoman Janice Miller said she was concerned that full-sized school buses for special-ed students might not have enough space to park on University. And, she added, “There’s virtually no green space for this project. And I think the massing of the number of townhomes is excessive.”

“You’re going to build and move on, and the community is going to be left with the challenges.”

— Councilman Jeff Greenfield

THE BUILDINGS’ FOUR STORIES – estimated to be 42 feet high – would be above ground, with the fourth story within the roofline. But, said Miller, “The Davies property topography is 3 to 4 inches higher than the surrounding properties, so the townhouses’ height could actually be 45 or 46 feet, and that’s another concern.”

“An RT [residential townhouse zoning] designation would take care of the density concern and increase the amount of green



The Davies property is about a quarter mile away from downtown Fairfax.

space, correct?” asked Councilman Michael DeMarco. Yes, replied Nabti.

Representing Paradigm, attorney Matt Roberts said they requested multifamily zoning for this property because “Single family isn’t the best use of that site and multifamily use is a missing component in that corridor. And the RMF [residential multifamily] district provides the density we need.”

“We’re a development and management company,” said Paradigm’s Micheline

Castan-Smith. “We heard from the community that it wanted luxury, for-sale townhouses for better resale values. We’re providing 8-foot-wide pathways, two-car garages, plus two parking spaces in the driveways. There’ll be high-quality architecture with an all-brick

façade plus stone at the base and architectural variation at the [building] tops. And we’ll adjust the grading.”

“We’re cutting down that site by 8-10 feet to get access from University Drive, so the townhomes will actually be lower,” explained Adam Steiner, a landscape architect with Urban Engineering.

Responding to Council concerns, Castan-Smith noted that visitors could park in the townhomes’ driveways and said, “We’re trying to revise the plan to add additional visitor parking plus bicycle racks. And we can have the homes stepped and staggered to

provide an undulating façade, instead of a straight wall. There’s a green, planting strip in the [site’s] interior, and we’re working on [adding] more green space.”

Councilman Jeff Greenfield said increasing some townhouses to 24 feet wide and eliminating some of the others “would decrease the density, while enabling you to increase the price [for the larger townhomes]. I can’t support anything that doesn’t have some community parking. If someone wants to have a party, they’d park everywhere else but this property – and that’s not acceptable. And there are no public amenities. You’re going to build and move on, and the community is going to be left with the challenges.”

Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt asked if there’d be elevators, and Castan-Smith said they’re being considered. “The density is a concern for me, as well as the [building] height along University Drive, guest parking and open space.”

“It’s packing as much as you can [into this site] for the economics,” said Councilwoman Jennifer Passey. “But I agree with Mr. Greenfield and Ms. Schmidt about the parking and density.” Passey also asked why Paradigm only proposed a 10-year, stormwater-management plan and not one for 25 years. And Clayton Tock, a civil engineer with Urban Engineering, said the 10-year plan would already result in a “drastic reduction” of water flow.

Miller then asked the City’s Public Works Director, David Summers, for his input on this matter. “The 10-year storm is typically the maximum storm used for designing storm pipes and systems,” he explained.

“But if a storm exceeds the 10-year, [the resulting water flow] has to be able to travel without affecting the property owners.” “But climate change is resulting in a greater frequency of more intense storms,” said Mayor David Meyer. “Are we accounting for this?” Reassuring him, Summers replied that the “algorithms and statistical data are updated every year, based on modern rainfall data.”

DeMarco said a resident emailed Council a recommendation that the current access on Chain Bridge be maintained for emergency vehicles and for use

when University Drive is closed for special events. He also asked about any potential traffic problems this project could cause on Chain Bridge Road’s side streets.


Kevin Sitzman with transportation planners Gorove/Slade, said, “This development would generate an additional 30 trips an hour, but wouldn’t significantly delay people on Chain Bridge.”

STILL, said DeMarco, “We need to look at beyond a 10-year storm, plus access for emergency vehicles.”

And Councilman Jon Stehle said he was interested in Paradigm’s statement that residential development was needed to support the commercial development in the mixed-use corridor there. He then asked Brooke Hardin, the City’s director of Community Development and Planning, if that’s true, and Hardin said it is.

“This land has a good location in relation to downtown and walkability,” said Miller. “So whatever’s developed there will contribute to the retail and restaurants along Main Street and where T.J. Maxx is, and I think that’s a good thing.” Meyer said what’s still in play are this proposal’s number of units, their width, façade, height, stormwater management, parking, access to the site and its impact on University Drive. Other concerns needing more information, he said, are site access by emergency vehicles, the amount of shared green space, the architecture, streetscape and price point.

“I know you have financial goals to meet,” Meyer told the applicant. “But what’s important to us is how this [project] fits and conceptually works for this site and relates to all the adjacent properties.”



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HOLIDAY EVENTS

'The Nutcracker' at Center for the Arts

Creative partnership of Fairfax Symphony and Fairfax Ballet.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax Symphony and The Fairfax Ballet are combining artistic strengths to spotlight talented local artists, musicians and dancers, with a performance of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at the Center for the Arts. "Both organizations have a long history of producing quality performing arts and arts education programs that help build community and develop a capacity for creativity," said James McKeever, Board Chairman, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO). "The arts are vital to building a balanced, successful society."

Fairfax Ballet Artistic Director Margaret Virkus said that "by performing together with Chris Zimmerman conducting Tchaikovsky's masterpiece, the audience has a rare opportunity to experience live orchestral accompaniment together with this timeless holiday dance classic."

"The Nutcracker" at the Center for the Arts will include 50 musicians and nearly 60 dancers. The performance will have an innovative, digital backdrop to create memorable scenes,

This performance of "The Nutcracker" will welcome two guest performers from the renowned Dance Theatre of Harlem; dancers Lindsey Croop and Anthony Santos.

"I'm excited by this unique opportunity to dance the role of Sugar Plum with The Fairfax Ballet and Fairfax Symphony. I look forward to performing for the local community and providing support to the student dancers," said Croop.

"I know a lot of national attention has been drawn to ballet's lack of diversity which extends from its aristocratic European roots. I'm so happy that this is given more awareness," added Croop. "But I also want to make sure my narrative includes how beneficial ballet has been for me throughout my life.

It's been a backbone throughout my life that has



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Clifton's Ana Victoria Smith, 16, in performance.

kept me looking forward; continuing with belief and aspiration for the future. Dancing as a member of Dance Theater of Harlem has taught me to celebrate my heritage rather than try to hide it or blend in. I think that's the unique power of art."

Clifton's Ana Victoria Smith, 16, is performing the key role of Clara, the ballet's young heroine. "It is truly an honor to perform such an iconic role that most every young ballerina dreams of dancing. I am certainly one of those."

"Performing with a live orchestra is an incredible experience. You become surrounded by the intensity of the music. It brings the artistry of the performance to a whole other level," added Smith.

A partnership of two of Fairfax County's long-standing performance organization are ready to light-up the holidays with their "Nutcracker."

Where & When

"The Nutcracker" presented by the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and the Fairfax Ballet at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance Dec. 16, 2017 at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$39, \$53, \$65. Call 703-993-8888 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu. Performance information also available at Fairfax Symphony www.fairfaxsymphony.org and Fairfax Ballet at www.rsbdance.com.

The Children's CONNECTION 2017

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Well done and a special tip of the fire helmet to (pictured, from left), Firefighter Arthur Claiborne, Technician Adam Bartman, Firefighter Kathryn Buist and Lt. Matthew Nacy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters Demonstrate Holiday Spirit

Over the weekend, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department crews were dispatched for a citizen who fell from a ladder while installing Christmas lights around the outside of the home. The citizen was transported to an area hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries received as a result of the fall.

After the patient was transported from the scene, the crew from Tower Ladder 440, Fairfax Center, decided to complete the task of placing the rest of the lights around the home. In the spirit of the holiday season, they felt it important that the patient and family not have to worry about trying to finish getting their Christmas lights up.

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Virginia Department of Transportation

Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concession Payment Projects

Public Hearing

Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018
Open house at 6 p.m.; hearing begins at 6:30 p.m.

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office
4975 Alliance Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

If cancelled for inclement weather, the alternate date will be **Friday, Jan. 5, 2018.**

The **Commonwealth Transportation Board** invites you to comment on projects to be funded by a concession fee to the Commonwealth as part of the financial agreement with Express Mobility Partners for the I-66 Express Lanes Outside the Beltway project. At a future meeting, the CTB will vote to amend these projects in the Commonwealth's Six-Year Improvement Program.

Information related to the following projects will be available:

- Rt. 234/Balls Ford Road interchange and relocation in Prince William
- Virginia Railway Express Manassas Line upgrade - Phase I
- Balls Ford Road widening from Groveton Road to Route 234 Business (Sudley Road) in Prince William
- I-66 median widening at Route 29 for WMATA in Fairfax
- Commuter parking garage at Fairfax Corner
- George Synder Trail in Fairfax City
- Widen Jermantown Road bridge to four lanes over I-66 in Fairfax
- Western bus maintenance facility in Prince William
- East Falls Church Metro Bus bay expansion in Arlington
- Monument Drive bridge pedestrian improvements in Fairfax
- Rt. 50/Waples Mill Road intersection improvements in Fairfax
- Construct Poplar Tree Road bridge to four lanes over Route 28 in Fairfax
- Lee Highway pedestrian improvements in Fairfax
- Nutley Street SW multi-use trail to Metro in Vienna

If you cannot attend the hearing, email comments to meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov and reference "I-66 Concession Projects" in the subject line, or mail them to Maria Sinner at VDOT's District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 through **Jan. 8, 2018.**

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OPINION

Give Locally in Fairfax County

Holidays are for giving; many choices to help.

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

EDITORIAL Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encoun-

tering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Fairfax County, more than 52,000 (28 percent) of FCPS students are are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals.

The median family income in Fairfax County rose to \$129,800. But among families with children, 6 percent have income below the poverty level. That's \$20,420 for a family of three. That's about \$1,700 a month. Median rent in Fairfax County is \$1,747, meaning the cost for half the rentals is more than that.

These are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who

may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

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

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

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

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

GIVE LOCALLY

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org. Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Gifts will be collected at Cornerstones main office, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, VA 20190 on Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. – noon. Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.
- ❖ **Share of McLean** operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families (630-plus people) this year. Help neighbors in need by donating money, fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Share's Furniture Program is in major need of drivers and helpers. Visit the Furniture Program page. The Food Pantry is in major need of supplies; visit the Food Pantry page and check Facebook to see how to help the Food Pantry. Visit www.shareofmclean.org for more info about Share.
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105, herndonrestonfish.org. Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. 571-748-2500, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124.
- ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182. 703-506-9191, second-story.org. Second Story

(formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent.

- ❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000+ mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org.
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.
- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153.
- ❖ **HomeAid** builds and renovates facilities that house the homeless, and partners with many local organizations to do so. 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly, VA 20151.
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251, volunteer@facetscares.org or www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.
- ❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. britepaths.org.
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880, fairfaxfish.org.
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, day center for homeless, Fairfax. 703-691-3178, www.thelambcenter.org.
- ❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173, info@foodforothers.org or www.foodforothers.org. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO). 703-569-9160, www.foodforothers.org. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year.
- ❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families More information at lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/. Volunteers

are needed for these events as well. Register online at lortonaction.org or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140 or email Linda@LortonAction.org. Mailing address: LCAC, P.O. Box 154, Lorton, VA 22199-0154.

- ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, email alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.
- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 373, Arlington, VA 22201. 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org.
- ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. www.shelterhouse.org/
- ❖ **Mount Vernon At Home**, 703-303-4060, www.mountvernonathome.org. From practical help to social, wellness, educational and cultural activities, Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of the community. Neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support is the power of Mount Vernon At Home. Mount Vernon At Home is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working hard to meet the needs of older members. They fundraise all year to make this possible and count on the generosity of the community.
- ❖ **United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306, 703-768-7106, www.ucmagency.org, assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. For the holidays, donations of nearly 10,000 toys, books, games, clothing, and other gifts ensured a joy-filled holiday for more than 1,200 children in 600 families. Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.
- ❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia. 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org.
- ❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email jhenderson@homestretchva.org; 703-237-2035 x125; homestretchva.org/.
- ❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390, info@pathwayhomes.org, www.pathwayhomes.org, www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/.

SEE GIVE LOCALLY. PAGE 15

Fairfax
CONNECTION

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Don't Sponsor Alcohol Parties for Minors

BY JOHN C. COOK
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)

The holidays are a time for celebration. And as our teenagers progress through high school, there are a series of celebratory events – prom, graduation, the last football game or track meet, etc. How families celebrate at home is their own business. But when others outside the home are involved, it can become the community's interest. That is the case with serving alcohol to minors.

If you are holding parties for youth outside of your family in your home, or allowing your children to do so, and alcohol is being served to youth under the age of 21, then you are breaking the law. More importantly, you are endangering young lives.

Please stop. If you don't, the county will stop you. At my motion, the Board of Supervisors unanimously directed our Police Department to arrest parents who host for minors parties where alcohol is served. We care about our kids.

The adolescent brain is still developing its ability to engage in reasoned thought. When alcohol is introduced, the brain's reasoning capability is further reduced. This is why youth who drink alcohol are even more susceptible to risky behaviors and peer pressure.

At its worst, teen drinking can result in drunk driving, assault, drug use, teen pregnancy, injury, or even death. When parents provide youth with alcohol, they are directly endangering the lives of those youth who drink.

Serving alcohol to youth is also a missed opportunity to set a good example.

nity to set a good example.

The 2016 Fairfax County Youth Survey shows that 93 percent of teens do not drink alcohol when their parents clearly conveyed their belief that it was very wrong to drink underage. But when teens thought their parents were ok with underage drinking, then 53 percent did drink.

Our kids may not listen to us, but they do watch us and learn from us. We should all be positive role models for the youth in our community, both in our homes and outside.

Why do some parents serve alcohol to their children's friends? Some believe it strengthens their bonds to their own children. Others believe it will make their kids more popular. Some may believe it makes them (as parents) more popular with kids. Others believe that kids will drink anyway, so it would be better if they did so under some sort of supervision.

To be blunt, none of these reasons is a good reason. There are far more constructive ways to be popular than to serve alcohol, and adults, especially parents, have an additional responsibility to be good role models.

I strongly support the parents' organization "Parents Who Host Lost the Most." Parents who serve alcohol to other kids need to be held accountable.

Every year some youth in our county die needlessly, or are badly injured or otherwise subject to harmful results, due to drinking alcohol. Let's join together to help our kids stay safe. And for those who don't wish to join us, please know our police department will be out looking for you. Don't serve alcohol to minors.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Keep Kids Safe With Be SMART

To the Editor:

As children are spending more time at home during the holidays, there are simple steps adults can take to prevent unintentional and self-inflicted gun violence. The Be SMART guidelines can be used by parents, caretakers, gun owners, and non-gun owners by taking the following steps:

- ❖ **Secure** guns in homes and vehicles
- ❖ **Model** responsible behavior
- ❖ **Ask** about unsecured guns in other homes
- ❖ **Recognize** the risks of teen suicide
- ❖ **Tell** your peers to be SMART

A child discharges an unsecured gun, accidentally harming or killing someone every 34 hours in the United States. In Virginia during 2017, there have been four injuries and two deaths from children under 17 unintentionally discharging a weapon. As a parent of two


young children, I have incorporated asking about firearms in the home before play dates, just as I would discuss food allergies or other safety concerns.

Kids are curious and it is our job as adults to protect them from gaining access to guns with safe storage.

Additionally, at least one child takes their own life every day in America, resulting in over 500 suicides from guns — 90 percent of suicide attempts using guns are fatal, and preventing access to a firearm can easily prevent these tragedies. U.S. children are 11 times more likely than their peers in other nations to die by gun suicide, but they're no more likely to die by any other suicide method.

Visit beSMARTforkids.org for more information on how to keep our kids safer.

Ashley Misitzis
McLean



SUNRISE AT SILAS BURKE HOUSE



The Very Best in Resident-Centered Care Coming Soon to Burke, VA

Our community is being built on the grounds of the historical Silas Burke House in Burke, Virginia. Here, you will be able to experience Sunrise's personalized care and a robust calendar of activities and events in beautiful surroundings. We look forward to opening our doors in early 2018.

At Sunrise at Silas Burke House, we'll offer:

- Assisted living and memory care
- Personalized activities and programming
- Three delicious meals served daily
- Convenient location near INOVA Fairfax Hospital
- Nearby dining and shopping at Burke community center

Sales Gallery & Models Now Open

9619 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015
SunriseSilasBurkeHouse.com/Fairfax

Call **703-286-2768** to schedule a tour and see our decorated models.

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SILAS BURKE HOUSE





The Fairfax Jubil-Aires sing Christmas carols in barbershop harmony.



The GMU Patriot Pitches a capella group sings "Carol of the Bells."

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Christmas Comes to Fairfax City

Old Town Square was the place to be last Saturday, Dec. 2, for the City of Fairfax's annual Festival of Lights and Carols. The fun included a holiday market, s'mores, hot cider, crafts, live singing groups, a petting zoo, visits with Santa and the lighting of the City's Christmas tree.



Yasmine Bandali of All that Yazz sells her palm-free soaps at the holiday market.



Holiday market vendor Miora Randrianantenaina with her hand-made bags and purses made by Madagascan women.



Girl Scouts from Service Unit 55-6 sing "Silver Bells."



Singing Christmas carols are the fifth- and sixth-grade Daniels Run [Elementary] singers.



Laura Davidovich, 9, a Daniels Run fourth-grader, pets a sheep in the petting zoo.



Vendor Michelle Fisher sells handmade Christmas wreaths and decorations.



Sara Reinsel, daughter of Debbie and City School Board member Bob Reinsel Jr., pets a pony at the petting zoo.

WELLBEING



Charitable activities, such as this toy drive by Interfaith Works, can improve one's overall well-being.

PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERFAITH WORKS

Season of Giving, Healing

Acts of kindness can boost wellbeing.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As Terrance Puller surveys boxes wrapped in holiday paper and filled with tubes of toothpaste, sticks of deodorant and other self-care toiletries, he says he can feel his heart well up with gratitude. The packages were part of a donation drive to benefit So Others Might Eat (SOME), a local nonprofit organization with a mission to provide services to the poor and homeless. Puller, who is now both a SOME employee and volunteer, reminisces about a period in his life when he was a recipient of such generosity.

Five years ago, Puller says he was alone, homeless and deep in an alcohol and crack cocaine-induced haze. He would later recall that he was so staggeringly intoxicated one holiday season that he would miss an opportunity to say goodbye to his dying mother. What he did receive that year however, was life changing.

"I was able to come into the shelter and get treatment, food and eventually a job," said Puller. "I volunteer my time because ... being here reminds me of my story and makes me grateful. It keeps me uplifted, less depressed and clean and sober."

Mounting research validates Puller's assertion. "Giving of our talents and time is an important way to improve our well-being," said Carolyn Lorente, professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "What many of my colleagues are looking into is the connection between volunteerism and sense of self. It turns out that when we give to others, it not only helps those we are assisting but also boosts our sense of agency, gives us a sense of purpose and belonging and informs our sense of identity."

During the holidays, which are often emotionally charged, a focus on helping others can lead to feelings of gratitude and happiness, says psychologist Jerome Short, Ph.D. In fact, he points to a 2010 study published in the journal *Clinical Psychology Review*, which shows a link between benevolence and contentment.

For More Information

Interfaith Works – www.iworksmc.org
SOME – some.org
HOPE Pregnancy Care Center – 703-536-2020
www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

"Kind acts increase personal happiness because we naturally empathize with others and take pride in our ability to make others smile and feel good," he said.

Even for those who haven't experienced levels of need such as Puller's, acts of altruism can have a positive effect on one's mood. An example is Jennifer Carter, a senior at Marymount University in Arlington, who spent last weekend in the center of a crowded auditorium on the university's campus frantically tying strips of fleece cloth. Along with nearly 300 other volunteers, she was making blankets for newborn babies for an organization called HOPE, a nondenominational crisis pregnancy center in Fairfax County.

"When these new mothers leave the hospitals it's usually with a thin cotton blanket," she said. "A lot of times, the things that they're missing are warm blankets for the babies. It feels good to be able to give these mothers something that many people take for granted. It makes you realize how fortunate you are."

Short points to a 2016 study from the University of California at Riverside which shows that volunteerism can lead to gratitude and happiness. "Grateful people pay more attention to the cost, effort, and value of helping acts than the average person does," he said. "They are better at coping with life stress because they trust others to help them and then reach out and accept help."

Christabel Sampson experienced this metamorphosis first hand when she relocated to the Washington, D.C. area and was unable to find a job. She had mounting bills, but no income. Her financial outlook spiraled further downward and she became homeless. She moved into a shelter run by Interfaith Works, a nonprofit organization in Montgomery County Maryland that works to meet the needs of the poor. Through the organization's job training program, she was able to gain skills training, clothing and shelter. As a result of the services she received, Sampson says she found a job. Now she volunteers her time to helping others at Interfaith Works and has even become a member of the organization's board of directors.

"The experience of being homeless and now helping other women definitely made me stronger," said Sampson. "Sometimes even a spoken word can be said to help someone to a better place. I have empathy because I have been there."

Come enjoy a Sunday Brunch...on us



This holiday at
 The Kensington,
 there's always room
 for one more,
 or two...

— Couples welcome and encouraged —

Whether a place under our roof, at our table or in our hearts, we have room. We are a family of families whose lives are more full and happy because we have each other. *Please join us!* Bring us your traditions and memories—we'll honor them. Share your hopes and dreams—we'll help realize them. Tell us how you want to live—we'll put our heads together and make a plan that feels right.

As the holidays unfold, visit The Kensington and soak in the magic of the season. Now, and always, new friendships are waiting to be made. Expert care and service are ready to deliver. Our team is anticipating your arrival. Stop by any time. We can't wait to meet.



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www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com



3

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3

Holiday Hooplah!!!

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20 oz. Soda*

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Large Popcorn!

With this Coupon.
Good 12/1/17-12/21/17

FX FREE!

ONE ADMISSION*

NOT VALID ON TUESDAYS

*with purchase of one
adult admission

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FOR ONLY \$18.00!!!

Includes: 2 Admissions, 2
Medium Drinks & 1 Large
Popcorn! (You Save \$6.00)

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Good 12/1/17-12/21/17

* With coupon, not valid with any other offer, one per person per visit.

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Virginia Ballet Company® Presents

Nutcracker

A magical holiday tradition®

December 27, 28, 29
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Ernst Community Cultural Center
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For tickets and pricing, please visit
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Virginia Ballet Company® & School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit pre-professional company. Sponsored in part by a grant from the Arts Council of Fairfax County, with support from Fairfax County

Photo: Ruth Judson

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Celebrate the Holidays in the City of Fairfax

Festivities galore are on top in the City of Fairfax, this month. Here's a list of what's on tap:

DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET

Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax (December weekends 8, 9, 10 and 15, 16, 17)
Friday 5-9 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday 1 -5 p.m.
Enjoy holiday shopping in the heart of Downtown Fairfax, with foods, unique gifts, wine tastings and more.

DEC. 1-24

The Hub Theatre - Peekaboo! A Nativity Play
John Swayze Theatre, 9431 Silver Kind Court, Fairfax
by Anne M. McCaw; Directed by Helen Murray
Mary and Joseph have just learned that they are to be parents, of the world's savior no less. That's a lot to swallow for a couple of naive kids, and now they find themselves caught in the middle of angels, an authoritarian politician and his minions, shepherds, farm animals, and some strange kid following them around with a drum. Is there anywhere to hide... and is there anyway to protect a newborn to which the whole world has pinned its hopes? *World Premiere. Visit thehubtheatre.org.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8, 7 PM. — BINGO

Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax
Every Friday night at 7 p.m. the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department hosts smoke free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire & rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8, 8 PM.

— THE BONITA LESTINA OLD

TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES

Come Celebrate the Sounds of the Season with the Columbia Flute Choir – Christmas Concert
Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax
Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts
The Old Town Hall Performance Series is sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. The performances begin at 8 p.m. October through April, on the second and fourth Fridays of the month (except Government holidays). All performances are free and open to the public. Please come early as there are no booked tickets and it is on a first-come, first-served basis.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9,

11:30 A.M. AND 12:30 PM.

— Lunch with Santa Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax, Call 703-385-7858
Children ages 10 and under can enjoy lunch with Santa at Old Town Hall. There will be two lunch seatings offered – 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tickets (\$6 per child) are on sale at the Parks & Recreation office at City Hall and Green Acres Center. Limit of 10 tickets per person.

DEC. 9, 10, AND 16 — 12:30 PM., 4:30 PM., 7:30 PM. — ACTING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH JR., GMU HARRIS THEATRE

Based on one of Roald Dahl's most poignantly quirky stories, Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach JR. is a brand new



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Dante Furlan-Freguia, 4, hand delivers his letter to Santa Claus during last year's lunch.

take on this “masterpeach” of a tale. Featuring a wickedly tuneful score and a witty and charming book, this adventurous musical about courage and self-discovery is destined to be a classic. Visit www.afyp.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 6:30 9:30 PM. —

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE HIBERNIANS PRESENTS THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CEIL, “IRISH COUNTRY DANCING”

Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Call 703-273-6090.

The second Saturday each month, October thru December. Admission: Adults: \$15, Families: \$25 (includes all children under 16, and uncles, aunts, and grandparents); Children under 16: Free; GMU Students (with ID): \$5. Free coffee, tea, and Irish soda bread.

Dance Instruction: Marilyn Moore; Music by Shepherd's Pie; Sponsored by City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts & Father William Corby Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians

SUNDAY, DEC. 10, 2-4 PM.

Second Sunday Program — “An Early American Christmas.” Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax.
Enjoy a culinary journey with Food Historian Joyce White plus tastings of historic holiday treats. Reservations required. 703-385-8414.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10, 2 PM. — TUBA CAROLING

Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax
Celebrate the holidays with the George Mason University Tuba Euphonium Ensemble as they play holiday favorites.

SEE HOLIDAYS, PAGE 11

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

JUBILEECHRISTIANCENTER

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Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM
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Sun. Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM
Family Night – Wednesday 7:15 PM
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To Advertise Your
Community of Worship,
Call 703-778-9418

HOLIDAY CALENDAR



Students from Daniels Run Elementary sing Christmas carols in Old Town Square last year in 45-degree weather.

Holidays in the City

FROM PAGE 10

SUNDAY, DEC. 10, 2:30 P.M. — “SEASON OPENER” —

NV YOUTH WINDS/JUNIOR WINDS
Robinson Secondary School, 5035
Sideburn Road, Fairfax. For more
information, visit
www.fairfaxband.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 10, 5-7 P.M. — FAIRFAX ART LEAGUE HOLIDAY PARTY

Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive,
Fairfax
FAL's annual holiday party is a social
highlight of the year. Bring friends
and family and enjoy the exhibit,
decorations, and special touches that
make the holiday season reception a
delight. www.fairfaxartleague.net

MONDAY, DEC. 11, 10:30 A.M.

— FUNDAY MONDAY

Story Time & Crafts, Old Town Hall,
3999 University Drive, Fairfax,
703-385-7858; www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

Join the City of Fairfax every Monday
morning at 10:30 a.m. for Funday
Monday. Sponsored by the City of
Fairfax Commission on the Arts.
Funday Monday will offer a variety of
children's activities and
entertainment in Old Town Hall. Free
and open to the public. Donations are
gratefully appreciated. There is
ample free parking in the downtown
area.

THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 10:30 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

— ART AND LUNCH

Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive,
Fairfax

The Fairfax Art League will be hosting
an Art & Lunch event at Old Town
Hall, from 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring
lunch and enjoy the company of
other artists. Free and open to the
public. New members welcome. Visit
the Fairfax Art League on Facebook
or at www.fairfaxartleague.net or call
703-587-9481.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 7 P.M. — SHERWOOD FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS— BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (2017)

Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old
Lee Highway, Fairfax
703-385-7858
A family-friendly movie on the new
state-of-the-art big screen. Each

movie is rated PG. An adult must
accompany anyone under the age of
14.

“Britepaths” Food Drive at Sherwood
Family Movie Nights. Britepaths is a
volunteer-based organization that
identifies and addresses the unmet
fundamental needs of Fairfax area
residents. Food can be dropped off at
the Sherwood Center on the evening
of the Family Fun Nights between 7 –
9 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15, 7 P.M. — BINGO

Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive,
Fairfax

Every Friday night at 7 p.m. the Fairfax
Volunteer Fire Department hosts
smoke free Bingo (with breaks for
smoking friends). Enjoy free coffee,
entertaining callers, a friendly
atmosphere, \$1000 guaranteed
jackpot, treasure chest progressive
raffles, and good food available for
purchase. All proceeds go to
purchasing fire & rescue equipment.
Information: www.fairfaxvfd.com,
703-273-3638.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 4-6 P.M. — FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:

THE NUTCRACKER

GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Christopher Zimmerman, conductor with
The Fairfax Ballet Margaret Virkus,
Artistic Director .

Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker.
Experience this timeless holiday
classic with the FSO and the Fairfax
Ballet – a holiday tradition your
family will always cherish. Enjoy a
winter wonderland of dancing
snowflakes, sugar plum fairies and
epic battles between heroic toy
soldiers and mischievous mice. It's
the perfect holiday treat for the
entire family. Visit
www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 7 P.M. — CHRISTMAS IN FAIRFAX - THE CITY OF FAIRFAX BAND & THE FAIRFAX CHORAL SOCIETY

Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run,
Fairfax
The City of Fairfax Band's annual
tradition of this gift to the
community continues. The Fairfax
Choral Society Adult Chorus joins the
band on stage, and John Lyon
entertains with his singular wit and a
reading of “Twas the Night Before
Christmas. Santa is on hand to get
those last-minute Christmas lists.
This program is free to the public,
but tickets are required. Visit
www.fairfaxband.org

CALENDAR

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30
					31

**Let us know
about an
upcoming event**

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax

Presents

Nutcracker In A Nutshell

Saturday, Dec. 16th
at 3:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Sunday, Dec. 17th
at 3:00 pm

Rachel Schlesinger
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Call for More Info: 703-273-5344
www.thecenterforballetarts.com

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HOLIDAY FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Toy Collection. Through Dec. 10, Sheehy Auto Stores throughout the Washington, D.C.-metro area 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. Sheehy's Toys for Tots drop-off locations include:

- ❖ Sheehy Volkswagen of Springfield, 6601 Backlick Road, Springfield
- ❖ Sheehy Ford of Springfield, 6727 Loisdale Road, Springfield
- ❖ Sheehy Subaru of Springfield, 6571 Backlick Road, Springfield
- ❖ Patriot Harley-Davidson, 9739 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax

Santa's Flight Academy. Through Dec. 24, at various times at at Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Santa surrounded by a space motif. Visit www.santaexpresslane.com for more.

"Peekaboo! A Nativity Play." Through Dec. 24, 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre, New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. The Hub Theatre presents "Peekaboo! A Nativity Play." Call 703-674-3177 or visit www.thehubtheatre.org.

Senior Line Dancing. Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email barbriba@hotmail.com or call 703-524-3739.

Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation. An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit www.fpow.org for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at www.fpow.org/volunteer. www.fpow.org, 703-324-5424 or dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

Exercise Program Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will



Holiday Play

The Hub Theatre presents "Peekaboo! A Nativity Play" through Dec. 24, 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre, New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Call 703-674-3177 or visit www.thehubtheatre.org.

learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp

FRIDAY/DEC. 8

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Smoke free, all proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

Flutist in Concert. 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebrate the Sounds of the Season with the Columbia Flute Choir in the Christmas Concert. Free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Christmas at George Mason's Gunston Hall. 10-7 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. A full day of holiday activities starts with a visit from Santa and games and crafts for all ages. Call 703-550-9220 ext. 240 or email mkcraver@gunstonhall.org for more.

Lunch with Santa. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

Lunch with Santa. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Children ages 10 and under can enjoy lunch with Santa. \$6. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

The Messiah - The Northern Virginia Chorale. 8 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Orchestra and professional vocal soloists will perform an evening of selections from Handel's Messiah. \$25 for Adults; \$10 for students (12-24); Children under 12 free. Visit www.northernvirginiachorale.org.

Carolers and Stage Performers. 8

p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performers from the Workhouse Cabaret and Theatre series take the stage to perform the most loved music of the season. \$15 adults; \$10 student. Visit workhousearts.org.

DEC. 9-10

James and the Giant Peach. Shows at 12:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the GMU Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that grows a tremendous peach that rolls into the ocean and launches a journey of enormous proportions. Visit www.afyp.org for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

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 for more.

Unveiling Eagle Sculpture. 2 p.m. at Mason Neck Park, Mason Neck State Park Visitor Center, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. The sculpture is named "Spirit of America" by the nationally renowned artist, Mike Curtis of Sagle, Idaho, and is part of a multi-year renovation of the park's visitor center. Visit masonneckstateparkfriends.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 15

Fairfax Art League Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Call 703-385-7855 for more.

Sherwood Family Movie. 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Featuring "Beauty and the Beast" (2017). participants may bring their own snacks. Britepaths will accept donations of non perishable food. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 16

James and the Giant Peach. Shows at 12:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the

GMU Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that grows a tremendous peach that rolls into the ocean and launches a journey of enormous proportions. Visit www.afyp.org for more.

Boy Scout Anniversary

Celebration. 5-8 p.m. at Clifton Presbyterian Church, Main St., Clifton. BSA Troop 1104 50th Anniversary Celebration, those who belong or belonged to the troop or Venture Crew 99 members to come and join the celebration. Email BSATroop1104VentureCrew99@gmail.com or call 703-867-2707 for more.

Frosty Follies Show. 6 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Metropolitan School of the Arts will present their annual Frosty Follies shows in the Springfield Town Center in the Main Court. Visit metropolitanarts.org/ for more.

Christmas in Fairfax. 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. Theater production. Call 703-219-2200 for more.

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 for more.

Nativity Play. 2 p.m. at Swayze Theater, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. HUB Theatre: Peekaboo! A Nativity Play. Call 703-219-2200 for more.

MONDAY/DEC. 18

Bob Brown Puppets Holiday Show. 10:30 a.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts.

THURSDAY/DEC. 21

Friday Morning Music Club. noon-1 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Sponsored

by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fmmc.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 24

Celtic Carols by Candlelight. 9:30-10 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Hear Celtic instruments and sing Christmas carols featuring the hammered dulcimer, Irish flute, pennywhistle; harp-guitar, cittern, mandolin, fiddle and Celtic harp. Donations go to FACETS and ECHO. Christmas Vigil Service will follow. Visit www.standrews.net for more.

FRIDAY/DEC. 29

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-219-2200 for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 30

Art and Lunch. noon-3 p.m. at Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Free and open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481.

SUNDAY/DEC. 31

Fairfax 4 Miler. 6 p.m. at Pacers Running Fairfax, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Celebrating their ninth year, the Fairfax Four is a favorite for its post-race pizza party and sweatshirt premium. Call 703-537-0630 for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 5

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit www.fairfaxvfd.com for more.

MONDAY/JAN. 8

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. Funday Monday will offer a variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Hall. Free. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 11

Art and Lunch. 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be hosting, bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Free. Visit www.fairfaxartleague.net or call 703-587-9481 for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 12

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit www.fairfaxvfd.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 27

Irish Dancing Show. 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. "Stepping Out" by Dublin Irish Dance, an exploration of the Celtic experience through the fast footwork of Irish step-dancers and an eight-member traditional Irish band. Call calling 888-945-2468, or visit cfa.gmu.edu for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Birdland All-Stars Concert. 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. With drummer Tommy Igoe for a high-energy performance. Call 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

12

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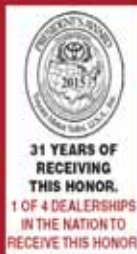
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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 9

Office Hours. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

- ❖ 9-11:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.
- ❖ 12:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

MONDAY/DEC. 11

Blue Christmas. 7 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Christmas can be a painful time for some. King of Kings Lutheran Church offers a special Blue Christmas service with prayers, scripture, candle lighting and music acknowledging that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle. Everyone is welcome. Visit www.kofk.org/ or call 703-378-7272.

Community Meetings. 7:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a community meetings focused on specific sections of Braddock Road this fall. This meeting is on the Burke Lake intersection.

The goal of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study is to develop commuting improvements for the corridor from Guinea Road to I-495 to Ravensworth Road. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/braddockroadmmstudy/.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

Annual Taste of Braddock, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall in the Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road. Supervisor John. C. Cook invites the Braddock District residents to join with their friends and neighbors at annual Open House to mark the start of the holiday season. Enjoy food donated by Braddock area businesses and share in the spirit provided by area residents. RSVP at 703-425-9300 or email to braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

SUPPORT GROUPS

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or

703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50 and older who no longer drive. **Volunteer drivers** are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. **Office workers** are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

Positive Parenting Strategies Course. At PHILLIPS, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. A series of classes and in home consultations taught by PHILLIPS' counselors. Open to all local families. Call Stacy Strykowski at 703-658-9054.

Thermal Camera Loan Program.

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Legals

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING, JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

IN RE THE DEPENDENCY OF:
GABRIELLE DAVAADORJ
DOB: 09/23/2008

NO: 17-7-02183-9 SEA
NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Grace Abata Dadzie, mother and Battuvshin Davaadorj, father, and/or anyone claiming parental/paternal rights or interest in the child and to All Whom It May Concern:

On September 26, 2017, a petition for Guardianship was filed in the above entitled Court, pursuant to RCW 13.34.080 and/or RCW 26.33.310 regarding the above named child.

[FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL 206-477-2310, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.]

Said Petition will be heard on December 18, 2017, at the hour of 8:15 a.m., at King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Room E-201, Seattle, WA 98104, before a judge of the above entitled court, at which time you are directed to appear and answer the said petition or the petition will be granted and action will be taken by the court such as shall appear to be for the welfare of the said child.

Dated November 13, 2017,

BARBARA MINER
KING COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK
BY: SJS, Deputy Clerk

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ABC LICENSE

Flik International Corp. trading as Inova Conference Center, 3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Scott Davis, President.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

OPINION

FROM PAGE 6

- ❖ **Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**, 8305-17B Richmond Highway, PO Box 15096, Alexandria, VA, 22309. 703-768-9419, www.goodhousing.org/. The mission of Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) is to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency. GSH housing manages more than 70 housing units.
- ❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. www.bgcgw.org/fairfax.
- ❖ **Christian Relief Services**, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, 703-317-9690, christianrelief.org/
- ❖ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/
- ❖ **Wright to Read** 703-299-9854, www.wrighttoread.org. Provides volunteer-based, one-to-one tutoring and mentoring to City of Alexandria public elementary school children in need. Funds are needed to provide field trips and enrichment activities, books and other resources. For more information about Wright to Read and becoming a "Tutor/Mentor" see website.
- ❖ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia** transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at www.habitatnova.org.
- ❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp), aliceskids.org, P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121. When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity nor heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. Alice's Kids helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area through small acts of kindness.
- ❖ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** has launched its Permanent Fund campaign, a community endowment which is a forever source to provide critical support for those in need in the Northern Virginia region; Consider leaving a legacy through a current or planned gift to the Permanent Fund at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. www.cfnova.org/permanentfund.
- ❖ **The Historic Pohick Church Foundation**, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, VA 22079, 703-339-6572. The Historic Pohick Church, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has played a central role in the history of our country, founded by George Washington, George Mason, and others. The Historic Pohick Church Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable corporation that was established in 1983 for the maintenance, upkeep, and preservation of the historic colonial-era Pohick Church building and the surrounding churchyard.
- ❖ **Rising Hope**, 8220 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22309, risinghopeumc.org. Supports poor and homeless people along the Route 1 Corridor. To volunteer, donate in-kind contributions or partner with Rising Hope in other ways, contact Kat Roman at kroman@risinghopeumc.org or 703-360-1976.
- ❖ **The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia**, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042, 703-237-0866, lcnv.org, teaches adults to speak, read, write and understand English at the most basic level. The organization has been around for 55 years, and serves Fairfax and Arlington Counties and the cities of Falls Church and Alexandria. Most of the students are immigrants, and they are mostly women, and low income.
- ❖ **Neighborhood Health Clinics**, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org, Improving health and advance health equity in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax by providing access to high quality care regardless of ability to pay.

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Context of Having Written



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't want to self-indulge too much about last week's column but, sometimes in my unexpressed desire to fulfill my writing obligation/not let me cancer/cancer treatment affect my schedule, I write my column under less-than-ideal circumstances.

Post chemotherapy (last week) – the immediate week after, is about as challenging as it gets for me. I'm a bit irritable. I'm a bit out of sync/unable to focus. I'm somewhat impatient. My hands are shaky. My eyes are "squinty." I'm hungry yet I can't eat. My self-editing skills are below average – more than usual. And finally, my reading comprehension is mostly lost in the toxic haze. Still, I'm determined to make my deadline.

Not that any of the preceding paragraph is an excuse. It's more of an explanation as to why a column written with the best of intentions may have missed the mark in tone and substance. Though I've not received any feedback as yet confirming my sense of what I had written last week; nevertheless, my feeling upon submitting it to editorial was that I had wavered a bit. Unfortunately, I didn't have the balance emotionally or the ability physically to assess its content. I apologize in arrears for attempting to maintain its regularity.

And to that point, specifically to that word, that's what my attitude as a cancer patient has been about: regularity. Doing the things that I regularly/normally/typically do without deviating from my norm. Because for me, deviating from my norm, living/doing outside of my box – within reason, would be – to me anyway, reinforcing the negative that is most definitely a cancer diagnosis. A diagnosis with which I have long ago made my peace, made my choices and moreover, made my it goal to face the present/future with a positive attitude infused with as much self-effacing good humor as possible. It's nothing I really did intentionally, it is simply who I am: my father's son, with inherited sensibilities to live my life thinking the glass is half full, until it's not.

And so far, nearly nine years into a "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I'm living proof that either whatever I'm doing is working (and there's a bit more to the story) or I'm an incredibly lucky act of kindness for which there's no quantifiable explanation. Regardless, I'm not the least bit inclined to look a gift horse in the mouth and/or deny the possibility that my tumors are necrotic (dead). I'm very happy to accept the inexplicable fact that, statistically speaking, I'm an official anomaly: a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor.

However, since I'm not one to presume facts not yet in evidence, I'm still infused every six weeks, scanned quarterly and seen by my oncologist every three months. I don't for a second believe that somehow, after being diagnosed with a "terminal disease" in late February 2009, that life goes merrily along without consequences. Not that I'm a fatalist – Rebecca, I'm merely evaluating/introspecting/compartmentalizing and allocating precious emotional resources so I can live my life as I'm accustomed to doing.

And what I'm most accustomed to doing, especially dating back to December 1997, is writing a weekly column for Connection Newspapers. Though the columns published previous to June '09 were not "cancer" columns, as we call them, they were nonetheless written with the same passion and nonsensical prose as my "cancer" columns are. So, generally speaking, I am able, as my brother Richard says, "to churn out the dribble."

Still, writing is not like reading. Though a similar commitment is needed, writing requires a bit more effort. And it's been an effort I've sustained before, after and during my lung cancer diagnosis. Some weeks are harder than others. Last week was difficult. This week not so much.

Perhaps you agree?

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

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