

# Transforming Woodlawn

## Major changes: Current and proposed.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN  
THE GAZETTE

**D**rivers headed north down the hill from Fort Belvoir on the new Route 1 roadway have seen a change in activity on the grounds of the National Trust's Woodlawn. The expanded fruit and vegetable production in the former Woodlawn Stables pasture that Arcadia Farm began in the spring of 2016, however, is only the tip of the iceberg lettuce when it comes to new initiatives at Woodlawn.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, which has operated Woodlawn since 1951, has developed a proposal to transform parts of the 126-acre Woodlawn property into a "shared-use" facility. Key to this is the fusion of historic preservation activities and buildings with compatible commercial activities.

"We want to further engage the public regarding the history of the Woodlawn area and find a way to serve the surrounding community," said Katherine Malone-France, the Trust's vice president for historic sites. "And the way we think we can best do that is by using an operating model in which there is a combination of nonprofit uses that are paired with mission-oriented, income-generating uses."

### SHARED USE

The National Trust is in the process of preparing an application for a Fairfax County special exception permit that will authorize additional activity on the Woodlawn grounds.

At the core of the proposal is the designation of a cultural center, one with initiatives to support a sustainable program of public engagement. Using the site's unique history, the center would provide the community with a nexus of history, culture, food, "agri-tourism" and sustainable agriculture. However, in the words of Malone-France, "Woodlawn will remain a public historic site. But it will embrace its complex history while representing best practices in historic preservation and public interpretation."

Since many details have yet to be finalized, Malone-France



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

**The Woodlawn barn complex in its current configuration. At right is the historic Otis Mason House, which the Federal Highway Administration moved from its nearby original site. At the far left is the historic "bank barn," so named because of its location on the sloping bank of the hill. That allows simple access to both the upper and lower levels. The smaller structure in the middle is the corn crib, with the dairy between it and the house. The new Route 1 bypass is in the background.**



FAIRFAX COUNTY IMAGE

**This 2013 aerial imagery shows the barn complex before the rerouting of Route 1. The large indoor riding facility/stable was razed during the highway relocation. The former Woodlawn Baptist Church is now the Pillar Church of Woodlawn. The former site of the Otis Mason House is also noted. The driveway between the complex and the former Route 1 segment is a remnant of a 350-year-old overland route once called the Potomac Path. The U.S. Army paved part of it with concrete during World War I.**

pointed to a National Trust property in Monterey, Calif., that the Trust is using as a model for the Woodlawn project. The historic Cooper-Molera site in the city's Old Monterey sector consists of old barns, two adobe homes built by the Cooper and Diaz families, a museum, corner store, warehouse and other buildings. The houses date to the 1827, with other structures added through the early 20th century.

Construction is ongoing to adaptively reuse several of the historic structures as a restaurant, a café/bakery and an event center that will host weddings and concerts. The buildings are connected by gardens and public spaces, and new small commercial kitchens are under construction. The museum in the oldest adobe residence will be refurbished and be integrated with the commercial activities.

The National Trust's website for Cooper-Molera describes the origin of the undertaking. "After ex-

tensive engagement with local stakeholders, the National Trust developed a concept designed to bring new life to Cooper-Molera: a 'shared use' model for the property that includes an active program of historic interpretation by the National Trust centered in the Cooper and Diaz Adobes, along with compatible commercial uses appropriate to the historic setting."

The Trust is pursuing three goals at the Monterey site: Create distinct businesses, enable the commercial and nonprofit entities to manage the site collaboratively and apply new revenue streams to support preservation activities.

At Woodlawn, the Trust will mimic the Cooper-Molera development process by employing the former Woodlawn Stables barns and the relocated historic Otis Mason house. The Federal Highway Administration moved the house from its original site during the realignment of Route 1 through the property. This cluster of buildings will serve as the center of the shared-use program and their history goes back to the mid-1800s.

Two Quaker families from New Jersey, Troth and Gillingham, bought Woodlawn Mansion and 2,030 acres of land in 1846, largely for the timber. As lumber merchants, they supplied materials to Philadelphia shipyards for new ship construction. In 1850, John and Rachel Mason — not related to George Mason of Gunston Hall — bought the property from the remaining owners, the Troths. After the Civil War, the Masons sold about 63 acres to one of their sons, Otis T. Mason, a scientist at the U.S. National Museum (later Smithsonian) in the District.

According to historian Susan Hellman, a former acting director of Woodlawn and the current manager of Alexandria's Carlyle House, evidence points to a post-1873 date for the Mason house

SEE MAJOR CHANGES, PAGE 4

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# Police To Add Body Cameras

In other business, board hires new county executive and updates environmental priorities.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County police officers from the Mount Vernon and Mason district stations will soon wear body cameras in a three-month pilot program designed to determine if all Fairfax County police officers will wear the cameras in the future.

"We see this as a really wonderful opportunity to better connect our officers on the ground and our folks on the street and make sure that everybody has an opportunity to work together and see how that work goes," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck.

The Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission recommended in 2015 that officers be equipped with the cameras, and the Board of Supervisors approved the pilot program at its board meeting on Nov. 21. It will take another few months to get the three-to-six month pilot program up and running.

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, chairman of the board's public safety committee, expressed concerns about upcoming constraints on the public safety budget. "We are going to have some tough decisions in public safety and we need good data," said Cook.

Fairfax County Police Department will partner with American University to initiate an academic study, which could be extended from 90 days to six months.

"Community advocates will be at the table to help us monitor the deployment of the cameras and how the policy is working," said Col. Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Chief of Police.

"The pilot body worn program is designed to provide the department with the opportunity to review police-community member encounters as they occur, as well as provide an additional degree of safety for our officers as they patrol the streets," according to the Fairfax County Police Department.

The cost of the pilot program is \$684,000.

Storck asked if all officers from the Mount Vernon station could use the cameras.

"When it comes to evaluating the impacts of body worn cameras, we are still, as a field, in the early days," said Brad Bartholomew, professor at American University.

For studies to be effective, "we must ensure that a group of officers receives the camera and another group does not," he said. "The more you can control, the more you can model, the more believable your results may be."

The study analysis is expected to cover statistics and community member feedback to assess the impacts prior to, during and following the pilot program.

"Officers will be expected to activate the camera during any law enforcement-public encounter related to a call for service,



**Bryan Hill, new county executive**



**Stella Koch**



**Col. Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Chief of Police**



**John Cook, Braddock Supervisor**

law enforcement action, subject stop, traffic stop, search or police service," according to the police department.

Police and a variety of civic groups worked together on a proposed pilot body-worn camera policy to address personal privacy rights, transparency and accountability in police-community member contacts. The policy can be modified as needed based on the pilot.

Read the draft policy at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/boardcommittees/meetings/2017/oct10-public-safety-body-worn-cameras-draft-policy.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/boardcommittees/meetings/2017/oct10-public-safety-body-worn-cameras-draft-policy.pdf)

## TWO BOARDS, ONE FAIRFAX

The Board of Supervisors and School Board adopted a joint social and racial equity policy called One Fairfax.

The Board of Supervisors joined the School Board by adopting the policy on Tuesday, Nov. 21, one day after the School Board.

"I dare say we've spent thousands of hours on this policy and I think it's reached a point when it is time to approve it," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, adding that he judges this his most important action in the 10 years he has served on the board.

"This goes across all that we do," said Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins.

The policy identifies 17 areas of focus including housing, education, community and economic development, environment and transportation.

"What we are doing here is not guaranteeing that everybody is going to be successful because that really goes to the individual, but what we can do is ensure that this board and Fairfax County ensure ... that everybody in Fairfax County has an opportunity to succeed," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"I believe philosophically at our core, we believe in equity and our community reflects that, and our community wants that," said McKay.

"Far too often, I have found that some people in my community aren't at the table, but they rely on us to be there at the table for them. And they rely on us to make sure their county government represents them as individuals."

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity had concerns how to measure the efforts or define success.

"From the very beginning of this policy discussion, I've asked several simple questions that I haven't been able to receive an answer for," Herrity said. "I support every one of our residents having equal opportunities to succeed and I believe our county and staff are committed to that as am I. But I can't support a new government bureaucracy for a problem that no one can quantify and for which there are too few definitions or measures of success or impact."

Read the resolution at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2016/one-fairfax-resolution.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2016/one-fairfax-resolution.pdf).

## ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

While addressing deer management and a lack of predators in Fairfax County, Stella Koch said, "They've changed the ecology in Yellowstone [National Park], but I don't think that it is an option here."

The Environment Quality Advisory Council advocates for a full-time wildlife specialist position in Fairfax County to support the deer management program as well as the Canada Geese Management Program.

"That position has been needed for a long time," said Koch. "We have one person doing a significant amount of yeoman's work."

On Nov. 21, Koch presented the environmental quality annual report, highlighting major priorities for 2018, including the need to conduct a countywide survey on the public's view of the "cultural carrying capacity, how people are thinking about deer in this county."

The advisory council also says the Board of Supervisors needs to update its 2003 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and needs to implement a lighting work group. "Since 2003 there have been a lot of changes in technology and also an increase in density in this county," said Koch.

"The increasing density of development in Fairfax County will invariably lead to more instances of 'light trespass,' where lights on one property affect another property," according to the environmental report.

Koch also advocated for increasing the

Stormwater Service District rate by one-quarter penny, from a rate of 3 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 3.25 cents per \$100.

"As you know, there is an endless backlog of infrastructure that needs replacements," she said. "We're making great progress and it's slow and steady, but we definitely need more funding."

"I use this as a model for how we can track major issues," said Bulova, praising the structure and quality of the EQAC report.

"When you open the annual report, the first thing [you see] is the recommendations. We think that is important, it is what this annual report basically drives us toward," said Koch.

Other priorities include funding of \$263,000 required for the Fairfax County Park Authority's natural resource mapping efforts and additional technology.

The public will have an opportunity to give both EQAC and the Board of Supervisors feedback in a public hearing scheduled for Jan. 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway.

To read the report, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2017/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2017/).

## THE \$250,000 MAN

Bryan Hill will be Fairfax County's next county executive, effective Jan. 2, 2018.

"Selecting a county executive is the most important hire the Board of Supervisors undertakes," said Penny Gross, vice chairman and Mason District supervisor. "Mr. Hill brings impressive leadership, management, communications and budget experience to Fairfax County."

"I believe this is the fifth county executive for me and the fourth search," said Gross.

Hill, currently the James City County, Va. administrator and clerk to its Board of Supervisors, will replace Fairfax County Executive Edward L. Long, who retired in September.

"While [James City County] is a smaller jurisdiction, many of the issues are the same," said Bulova. "We are very, very excited to welcome Bryan Hill to Team Fairfax."

Hill will earn \$250,000 per year.

Hill has been the James City County administrator since 2014, and previously served seven years as the deputy county administrator with Beaufort County, S.C. Previously, he was the vice chancellor for Finance and Operations at the University of South Carolina's Beaufort/Bluffton Campus and was director of finance for the University of Maryland's Office of Information and Technology.

He earned his master's degree in public administration from the University of South

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# Major Changes at Woodlawn: Current and Proposed

FROM PAGE 1

construction, not the 1854 date that others have suggested for the first section of the home. The house used to stand immediately south of the Woodlawn Stables compound.

The stables complex dates to 1913 when a previous Woodlawn owner, Elizabeth Sharpe, built the historic “bank barn,” dairy shed, corncrib, stables and associated structures. Woodlawn Stables used the buildings, along with newer structures, until the re-routing of Route 1 forced the business to relocate to Jeffersonton, Va. [See the accompanying images of the complex before and after the highway changes.]

“We want to engage the local population by creating a place that local people want to visit,” Malone-France said recently. “We want to meet the community’s needs by providing fresh fruit and vegetables. Also, it will be a great place to eat and enjoy the bounty of Virginia’s agriculture and learn about the property’s rich agricultural history. The project will not only be connected with the history of this place, but also preserve Woodlawn’s open space in a densely developed corridor.”

Malone-France also said that commercial partners have yet to be identified, but activities will be similar to the Cooper-Molera site — restaurants, fresh-food market and gathering places. There will be no change to the operations of the Woodlawn man-



**Arcadia Farm part-time worker Sophie Spriggs, right, and volunteer Chantal Zen Broeder harvested chard on the “lower” or Dogue Run Farm in October. Okra is in the background.**

sion or the Pope-Leighey House.

## ARCADIA FARM UPDATE

On a pleasant, early-October morning, three farmworkers bent to the task of harvesting chard by hand. They plucked the purple stalks, tied four or five together, neatly trimmed the ends and placed the

bundle in a plastic bin. The three women worked steadily in the shadow of adjacent rows of seven-foot-tall okra stalks that partially blocked the morning sun, with each worker seemingly unfazed by the roar of traffic on nearby Route 1.

Production farm manager Katherine Collins occasionally spoke with the two oth-

ers — part time worker Sophie Spriggs of Alexandria and volunteer Chantal Zen Broeder from Arlington. Collins and Spriggs work for Arcadia Farm, a non-profit orga-

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**Some of the crops during 2017 at the Dogue Run Farm included cilantro, near center, with dill in the rear. Green onions are on the left, with salad mix far left. Arcadia staff and volunteers used drip irrigation on the vegetables.**



**Part of the “upper,” or Hilltop farm.**



**Katherine Collins, manager of Arcadia’s Dogue Run farm, helped with the chard harvest.**

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## NEWS

# Clarke: New Planning Commissioner

**M**ount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck has appointed Walter C. Clarke to the Fairfax County Planning Commission effective April 1, 2018. Clarke's background in business development and financial services, combined with chambers of commerce leadership, president of the non-profit Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) and co-chairman of the EMBARK Richmond Highway Advisory Group, qualified him for the position.



Clarke

"Mr. Clarke's professional experiences in business development and financial services, combined with his commitment to serving our community make him an excellent candidate for planning commissioner," Storck said. "As a current co-chairman of the EMBARK Richmond Highway Advisory Group, he has played a substantive role in the revisions to our Comprehensive Plan that are essential to funding mass transit improvements and redevelopment. The selection of Mr. Clarke as the next commissioner is a natural next step in his service to the Mount Vernon District. I am certain Mr. Clarke will bring excellent leadership and knowledge, combined with a calm,

thoughtful personality and strong sense of community to the Commission."

Current Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan has agreed to work closely with Clarke over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition of upcoming matters and continued support as needed.

The Fairfax County Planning Commission is a 12-member board, with nine district appointees and three at-large appointees. The Planning Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on all matters related to the growth and development of Fairfax County, including applications for rezoning, special exceptions, conceptual/final development plans, proffered condition amendments, and all associated amendments to such applications, as well as any amendments to the county's Comprehensive Plan. The planning commissioner receives a \$23,000 per year stipend. "My level of experience and the knowledge gained through working with County Staff, current Commissioner Earl Flanagan, other members of the community, and community leaders positions me to be of great value when it comes to land development decisions that will have an impact our community," said Clarke.

Clarke is a vice president at Burke & Herbert Bank and has lived in the Mount Vernon community with his wife and two children for more than 15 years.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/DEC. 7

**Holiday Grief Workshop.** 2 p.m. at Spring Hills Mount Vernon, 3709 Shannons Green Way, Alexandria.

Capital Caring's Alexandria Neighborhood is offering grief workshops during the holiday season. These workshops will include tips on

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7



## Christmas Dinner from our Home to Yours

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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 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

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## GIVE LOCALLY

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://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](http://www.shareofmclean.org) for more info about Share.
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105, [herndonrestonfish.org](http://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](mailto:holiday@linkagainsthunger.org). 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://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](http://www.cho-va.com)
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. 571-748-2500, [www.nvfs.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.scov.org).
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. [www.touchingheart.com](http://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. [www.homeaidnova.org](http://www.homeaidnova.org).
- ❖ **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](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org) or [www.facetscares.org](http://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](http://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](http://fairfaxfish.org).
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, day center for homeless, Fairfax. 703-691-3178, [www.thelambcenter.org](http://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](mailto:info@foodforothers.org) or [www.foodforothers.org](http://www.foodforothers.org). Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO). 703-569-9160, [www.foodforothers.org](http://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/](http://lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/). Volunteers

- are needed for these events as well. Register online at [lortonaction.org](http://lortonaction.org) or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140 or email [Linda@LortonAction.org](mailto: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](mailto:alnorthernva@gmail.com) or visit [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).
- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 373, Arlington, VA 22201. 703-591-4968, [cause-usa.org](http://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/](http://www.shelterhouse.org/)
- ❖ **Mount Vernon At Home**, 703-303-4060, [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:jhenderson@homestretchva.org); 703-237-2035 x125; [homestretchva.org/](http://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](mailto:info@pathwayhomes.org), [www.pathwayhomes.org](http://www.pathwayhomes.org), [www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/](http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/).

SEE GIVE LOCALLY. PAGE 19

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper



## VIEWPOINTS

The Fort Hunt High School alumni club gathered on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 2 in the staging area on Royal Street to take part in the 2017 Scottish Walk Parade.

### How has Old Town changed since you were at Fort Hunt High School?



**"It keeps getting better, valuing the history." — Heidi Christal, Class of '77**



**"It's a continued love of Old Town, a tradition." — LeeAnn Feltman, Class of '76**



**"Chic." — Ruth Ryder, Class of '75**



**"Modernization but still keeping the charm, there's nothing like Old Town." — Kendra Allman, Class of '83**



**"The jacket still fits." — Bobby Suggs, Class of '77**

PHOTOS BY  
MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE



**"I remember the abandoned warehouses on the waterfront." — Joe Gililand, Class of '73**



**"My hat is an original, it's my dad's hat, he was the announcer at the football games." — Gwen Neigh Stanton, Class of '70**

## Economy's Reliance on Metro

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE  
(D-44)



**I**t is no surprise that Northern Virginia's economic growth is directly tied to our region's transit network. It is our transit system that provides the critical links between businesses and their employees, customers, suppliers and investors. Sixty percent of jobs are within a quarter mile of a Metro station, rail station or bus stop, and one third of Metro riders live within a half mile of a station.

Our transit system is moving approximately 550,000 people on an average weekday in Northern Virginia, saving the region 35.5 million hours of congestion-related traffic delays annually. Most significantly, the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) provide over \$600 million per year to the Commonwealth in sales and income tax revenues, according to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) briefing to elected officials on Monday.

It's not news to any of us that WMATA is in trouble. It needs \$15.5 billion over the next 10 years for capital improvements. Metrorail is a \$40 billion asset and suffering from years of delayed and deferred maintenance.

Metro is the backbone of Northern Virginia's transportation network and a failure to invest in WMATA threatens the economic vitality of both Northern Virginia and the entire Commonwealth.

Our legislature needs to make a serious effort to create a multi-year, stable and bondable revenue source to allow WMATA to address critical safety and repair projects and ensure our Commonwealth continues to support its local jurisdictions' share of WMATA capital and operating costs using the funds that provide finance flexibility.

Virginia also needs to continue matching any federal funding for WMATA, through

the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act, and maintain the current capital allocation formula to ensure that Virginia's financial commitments are consistent with our ridership, stations and population.

There are also some reforms that I and the NVTC believe could boost WMATA's success.

First we need to have a WMATA Board that represents the local funding jurisdictions and includes a range of elected and non-elected officials. I also urge WMATA to make continuous reviews of its policies regarding conflict of interests and fiduciary responsibility in its decision making. Finally, we should eliminate the jurisdictional veto, so long as there is a Project Labor Agreement in place to provide Metro workers in every region a collective bargaining agreement.

This will be a top priority in transportation policy for the entire General Assembly in the 2018 Session and I look forward to working with my colleagues to keep Metro working for all Virginians.

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

how to cope with grief during the holiday season, reflection about how to care for ourselves and a closing ritual of remembrance. The workshops are open to the community, free of charge. Contact Chesley Simpson at 703-333-6954 or [csimpson@capitalcaring.org](mailto:csimpson@capitalcaring.org). Visit [capitalcaring.org](http://capitalcaring.org).

#### SATURDAY/DEC. 9

**Office Hours.** Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto: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.

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**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](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

**Volunteer Fairfax** makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety of service options. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org) or call 703-246-3460.

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## News

# Police To Add Body Cameras

FROM PAGE 3

ern California and his bachelor's in public administration from Alfred University.

Bulova thanked Kirk Kincannon, who was the acting county executive since Long's retirement in September.

### COUNTY'S FIRST TENANT RESIDENT CURATOR

The county extended its first lease through the Resident Curator program to a Coast Guard officer.

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

"It is really a wonderful opportunity and a great pleasure to be the first of what I think will be a number of properties in Fairfax County ..." said Storck, "to bring back to life housing which is old and historic and meaningful to all of us."

The Board of Supervisors approved the lease of the historic Stempson House at 7520 Furnace Road in Lorton to Steven J. McCullough for eight years and eight months to renovate the historic home.

"This is the first time we are doing this, you are our first tenant," said Bulova said

to McCullough.

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

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

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

Other applications are pending for the Turner Farm House, 10609 Georgetown Pike, in Great Falls and the Ellmore Farmhouse on West Ox Road in Herndon. The county intends to continue its programs at the Ash Grove in Tysons, Lahey Lost Valley in Vienna, and Hannah P. Clark (Enyedi) House in Lorton.

See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir141-16.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir141-16.htm)

Learn more about the Resident Curator program and other properties at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rcp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rcp).

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## GIFT GUIDE

# Sleighting the Holidays

A survival guide for local gifts.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN

**Y**ou've made your list and checked it twice. Even if you aren't already one of the 57 percent of shoppers who have started their hunt for holiday gifts, you can relax. Local businesses offer last-minute shoppers a selection of gift ideas sure to please even the Grinch on your naughty or nice list.

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, shoppers actually get an extra weekend to shop for family and friends. And while it may seem counterintuitive to wait until then, stores are actually less crowded and many begin marking down merchandise that evening in anticipation of the Dec. 26 sales.

Old Town and Del Ray feature many shops with handmade and Alexandria-centric items. In Old Town, one-of-a-kind hand-crafted gifts can be found at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, including textile gifts like colorful scarves, wraps, sweaters and capes. Unique pottery and images of local scenes are also available in a variety of mediums. You can pick up some hand-painted note cards or give a gift certificate for a family or pet portrait.

The Old Town Shop on South Union Street carries a variety of items designed to highlight Alexandria and its history as a port city. Gift items range from clothing to historic maps and food items from the Old Town Farmers Market.

In Del Ray, the Del Ray Artisans Fine Art and Fine Crafts Holiday Market features works from local artisans including handmade pottery by Stephen Lally. Remaining weekends for the Market are Dec. 8-10 and Dec. 17-19. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org) for details.

An often overlooked source of holiday gifts is The Shops at Mount Vernon. Combine a shopping trip with a visit to George Washington's Estate and lunch at The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant.

For something different, check out the gift shops in Alexandria's local museums. And school bookstores often have interesting gifts for students along with logo-ware for your favorite alum.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

**The Christmas Attic is ground zero for shoppers during the holiday season, where nutcrackers are always popular.**



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

**The Shops at Mount Vernon are a good source for holiday gifts ranging from books to jewelry, gourmet food and home décor.**



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

**Educational gifts that tell the story of slave life at Mount Vernon are available at The Shops at Mount Vernon.**



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN

**Gifts, books, clothing and food items specially designed for Alexandria are available at Valerie Ianeri's The Old Town Shop on South Union Street.**

Local spirits can be purchased at Port City Brewing or pick up some gourmet cupcakes at Alexandria Cupcake. While you are walking along King Street, stop in at Goldworks, where David Martin creates custom designed jewelry for both men and women.

Gift certificates for dance or acting classes are available at The Little Theatre of Alexandria or purchase a season subscription to one of Alexandria's many performing arts organizations like The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra or MetroStage.

With 18 shopping days left until Christmas, there is plenty of time to get your holiday shopping done while checking out the many local shops and restaurants.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN LALLY

**Handcrafted pottery by artisan Stephen Lally is available through the Del Ray Artisans Gallery.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Colorful handcrafted bags are available at the Del Ray Artisans Fine Art and Fine Crafts Holiday Market. Remaining dates are Dec. 8-10 and Dec. 15-17.**

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

## WELLBEING

# 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.

"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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERFAITH WORKS

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

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 non-denominational 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 re-

ceived, 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."

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# HOLIDAY FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

## THROUGH DEC. 10

**Sheehy Cares Toy Collection.** Various times at Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway. Sheehy is working with the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program to collect new, unwrapped toys during the holidays each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Visit [www.sheehy.com](http://www.sheehy.com) or call 703-802-3480.

## THROUGH DEC. 15

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

## THROUGH DEC. 16

**Snow Day on Stage.** Various times at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. This nonverbal production features live music and lots of wintertime fun, just in time for the holiday season. \$9. Visit [artsonthehorizon.org](http://artsonthehorizon.org).  
**A Christmas Carol.** Various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. \$17. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

## THROUGH DEC. 23

**4th Annual Holiday Market Festival.** Various times in the Carlyle District, 300 John Carlyle St. Art and craft items, enjoy sweets, mulled wine and live entertainment from local musicians. Visit [www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com](http://www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 7

**Happy Hour Toy Drive.** 5-8 p.m. at Del Ray Pizza, 1401 Belle Haven Road. Hosted by the Care and Share Committee of the Hollin Meadows Elementary School PTA. Aside from collecting toys there will be raffle prizes from local stores, small businesses and restaurants. Call 703-765-5300.  
**Holiday Open House.** 6-8 p.m. at the Mount Vernon District Office, 2511 Parkers Lane. An evening of refreshments, get to know the staff and tour the office. Artwork from Bryant High School students will be on display. Call 703-780-7518 or email [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 8-9

**Holiday Pops Concert.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. "Reflections!" show weaves pop arrangements of holiday classics with new tunes. Collecting donations and wrapped gifts for the Alexandria Community Shelter adult residents at all performances. \$20/under 5 years old free. Email [marketing@alexandriasingers.com](mailto:marketing@alexandriasingers.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 9

**Mount Vernon High School Holiday Market.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Shop indoors from over 50 vendors. Email [ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com](mailto:ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com).  
**Kwanzaa Workshop.** 11 a.m and 1 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. \$2. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [alexandriava.gov/blackhistory](http://alexandriava.gov/blackhistory).  
**Civil War Christmas in Camp.** noon-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. \$2 suggested donation per person; \$5 per family. Call 703-746-4356 or visit [alexandriava.gov/blackhistory](http://alexandriava.gov/blackhistory).  
**Recycled Wrapping.** 3 p.m. at the Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Wrap gifts with reused newspaper that will spare the Earth. The library will have stamps, paints, ribbons and bobbles to add a special touch. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.  
**Del Ray Candy Cane Bar Crawl.** 4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Free. Call 703-683-2570 or visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).  
**Caroling.** 5-8 p.m. at the St. Mary Catholic Church, 310 S. Royal St. Carolers will sing all of the traditional Christmas songs. Call 703-841-2517.  
**Alexandria Choral Society Concert.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Alexandria Choral Society



FILE PHOTO BY J. CLIFFORD

## First Night

**The 23rd Annual First Night Alexandria, a family-friendly New Year's Eve party, takes over Old Town Alexandria on Sunday, Dec. 31 with more than 150 performances at 24 indoor venues in Old Town and one in Del Ray, with live music, dancing and children's activities. Dancing in the street starts at the east end of King Street at 10 p.m. First Night's fireworks finale returns with a display over the Potomac River at midnight. Afternoon activities are from 2-5 p.m. Performances are from 7 p.m.-midnight. Children under 12 and active military are free. 703-746-3299, [FirstNightAlexandria.org](http://FirstNightAlexandria.org). #ALXFirstNight**

presents "On This Shining Night," featuring new settings of familiar works, modern compositions to evoke the season, and traditional seasonal carols. \$20 adult, \$15 senior/military/student. Visit [www.alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://www.alexandriachoralsociety.org).

## DEC. 8-10

**Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market.** Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org).  
**Artfête Weekend.** Various times at The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison St. Open house and holiday party, holiday ceramics sale, and more. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 9

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

## SUNDAY/DEC 10

**Christmas Celebration.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Saint James United Methodist Church, 5200 Fillmore Ave. Celebrate the Christmas season with music, activities for the family, and food. Free. Visit [sjumc.net](http://sjumc.net).  
**Colonial Handbell Ringers Concert.** 2 and 4 p.m. at 201 S. Washington St. Free. Call 703-746-4994 or visit [www.colonialringers.com](http://www.colonialringers.com).  
**Cookies with Santa.** 4-5:30 p.m. at the Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. Meet with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com).  
**Free Holiday Concert and Sing-Along.** 4:30 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. A Holiday Concert by the students of Kevin Diana. Selections from Handel's Messiah and other sacred and secular favorites will be performed. Call 703-780-3081 or visit

[www.stjamesmv.org](http://www.stjamesmv.org).

**Concerts at Saint Luke's.** 5 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. A candlelight concert presented by Words&Music, who play holiday music of the Advent season. Words&Music is a vocal quartet with piano from the Alexandria area. \$20 Adult; \$15 Senior; free to students 18 and under. Call 703-765-4342 or visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net).

**A Cappella Holiday.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Capital Hearings, Washington, D.C.'s most versatile a cappella ensemble, will entertain with their anchor holiday concert that includes the premiere of "It Sifts from Leaden Sieves," composed by Rachel DeVore Fogarty, the winner of the 2017 Capital Hearings Young Composers Competition. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 12

**Twelve Beers of Christmas.** 5-midnight at the Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Choice of 14 Christmas beers on tap - 12, plus two bonus beers to simply celebrate the season of giving. Visit [unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://unionstreetpublichouse.com).

## DEC. 15-16

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

## DEC. 15-17

**Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market.** Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 16

**Gift Wrapping Fundraiser.** Noon- 4 p.m. at

Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Alice's Kids is holding it's 5th annual gift wrapping fundraiser. Call 703-304-0958 or visit [www.aliceskids.org](http://www.aliceskids.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 17

**The Mount Vernon Flutes.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This small ensemble from the Mount Vernon Concert Band will perform holiday songs in the gallery. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Holiday Handbell Concert.** 4-5:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Hear from Jingle Bells and White Christmas to the Game of Thrones Theme and Wizards in Winter. \$10. Visit [www.vabronze.org](http://www.vabronze.org).

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

## SUNDAY/DEC. 24

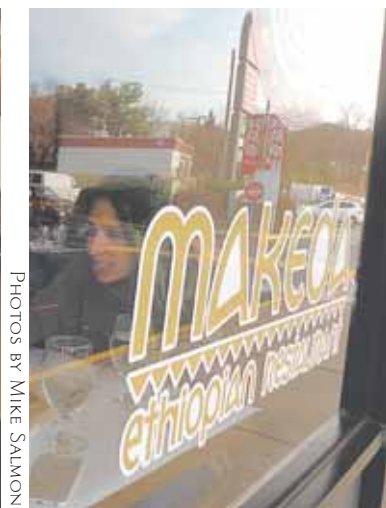
**Waterskiing Santa.** 1 p.m. at the waterfront between King and Oronoco streets. Free. Visit [www.waterskiingsanta.com](http://www.waterskiingsanta.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 31

**New Years Noon.** 10 a.m.-noon at the Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. The fourth annual bash includes performances by "Oh Susannah" and "The Great Zucchini" and an 11:55 a.m. for a countdown to "Noon Year" with music and a balloon drop. All ages invited, but especially appropriate for children ages 2 and up. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

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

# ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON

## Cooking Up Traditional Ethiopian

By HOPE NELSON      fect location for us," Solomon said.

**T**ucked into a space in a West End shopping center, the new restaurant cooking up traditional Ethiopian food is easy to miss at first. But look again and you'll see a new resident of the Van Dorn Plaza, its sign unassuming, its food anything but.

You've found Makeda — named after Queen Makeda of Ethiopia. Let your stomach be your guide and pop in for a meal.

Makeda opened several months ago as the kid sister to chef and owner Philipos Mengistu's longstanding Queen of Sheba restaurant in New York City, a pioneer bringing the restaurant's food to the D.C. area. Mengistu says the expansion makes sense.

"Our menu is getting strongly popular in this area," he said. Much of the menu inspiration from Queen of Sheba, "so we catered that for the neighborhood around here too."

The Alexandria outpost was the brainchild of two lifelong friends: Mengistu and Daniel Solomon. Friends since kindergarten in Ethiopia, they joined forces for Makeda. After years in the United States, Solomon went back to his homeland, and when he returned, he revisited

Mengistu's Queen of Sheba in New York and saw the menu in a new light.

"When I came back and had lunch at Queen of Sheba, I felt as if I was at home. So I said you know what, how about bringing that taste to Alexandria?" Solomon said.

While scouting for a location, the chosen region was equally important, Solomon said. With hundreds of thousands of Ethiopian residents in the greater D.C. area, the key was finding a spot that would accommodate as many people as possible.

"Most of the Ethiopian community lives around Springfield and the Franconia area. Not only that, but this place is growing ... not only for the Ethiopian community, but non-Ethiopians as well. And this was a per-

**THE MENU ITSELF** is abundant with many Ethiopian favorites. And while Mengistu is a fan of everything on the menu, a couple of items do stand out personally with him.

"While I like everything, I have two favorite dishes: I like the vegetarian combination, which is one of my favorites, and the doro wot, which is our signature dish. It is served in Ethiopia when it's a holiday. It's like a holiday treat," he said.

The vegetarian combination offers up a buffet of vegetable-based options for diners, ranging from shiro to gomen wot. The doro wot, on the other hand, is a chicken dish cooked in a stew flavored with onions and Ethiopian spices. It is in fact Ethiopia's national chicken dish, and Makeda offers it daily — no holidays required.

Though Makeda hews closely to the roots of Mengistu's original Queen of Sheba, there are some differences in this sibling restaurant. For starters: gluten-free options, ranging from gluten-free injera to rice and other companions to the main course. And then there's the addition of a kids' menu — almost a requirement in the West End neighborhood bustling with families.

"Here we put the kids' menu because we want kids to be comfortable and the families to be comfortable," Mengistu said. "They can have injera, the kids can have their spaghetti, they can share an Ethiopian dish with the kids — we have rice chicken, we have chicken nuggets, which is not Ethiopian but we have to accommodate."

Makeda is now offering a weekend brunch menu, as well — with an Ethiopian twist, of course.

The menu is an egg-based brunch menu, "but we do it Ethiopian style. We have cracked wheat; we have fit-fit, which is typical Ethiopian breakfast; we have egg with meat — we do it Ethiopian style," Mengistu said.

### Makeda

516A S. Van Dorn St.

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-2 a.m.

**Top seller:** "So far we're selling a lot of the vegetarian [combination] dish, and a lot of Makeda tibs, which is a ribeye meat," salted with onion, garlic and peppers, owner and Chef Philipos Mengistu says.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

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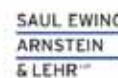
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**December 24: Champagne Sunday Brunch 10am-3pm**  
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**December 25: Traditional Holiday Dinner Open at 5pm**  
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**December 31: Champagne Sunday Brunch 10am-3pm. Open until 4pm**  
NYE Celebration, doors open at 6pm.  
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**Jan 1: Champagne New Year's Day Brunch 11am-2pm**

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## ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

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

**Toy Collection.** Through Dec. 10, Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway, Alexandria will collect new and unwrapped toys as part of the company's annual Sheehy Cares Toy Collection to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

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

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

**Snow Day on Stage.** Through Dec. 16, various times at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. This nonverbal production features live music and lots of wintertime fun, just in time for the holiday season. \$9. Visit [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org).  
**"A Christmas Carol."** Through Dec. 16, various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. \$17. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

**Del Ray Artisans' Holiday Market.** Through Dec. 17, weekend hours only, Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org).

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

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

**4th Annual Holiday Market Festival.** Through Dec. 23, various times in the Carlyle District, 300 John Carlyle St. Art and craft items, enjoy sweets, mulled wine and live entertainment from local musicians. Visit [www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com](http://www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com).

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



## MetroStage Celebrates

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

### THURSDAY/DEC. 7

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

**Happy Hour Toy Drive.** 5-8 p.m. at Del Ray Pizza, 1401 Belle Haven Road. Hosted by the Care and Share Committee of the Hollin Meadows Elementary School PTA. Aside from collecting toys there will be raffle prizes from local stores, small businesses and restaurants. Call 703-765-5300.

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

**Holiday Open House.** 6-8 p.m. at the Mount Vernon District Office, 2511 Parkers Lane. An evening of refreshments, get to know the staff and tour the office. Artwork from Bryant High School students will be on display. Call 703-780-7518 or email us at [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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

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

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

**Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.** 7:30 p.m. at the Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Road. Alexandria GOP Committee volunteer appreciation dinner and December meeting. \$5. Call 571-281-7042.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 8-9

**Holiday Pops Concert.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. "Reflections!" show weaves pop arrangements of holiday classics with

new tunes. Collecting donations and wrapped gifts for the Alexandria Community Shelter adult residents at all performances. \$20/under 5 years old free. Email [marketing@alexandriasingers.com](mailto:marketing@alexandriasingers.com).

### DEC. 8-10

**Artfête Weekend.** Various times at The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison St. Open house and holiday party, holiday ceramics sale, and more. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 9

**Holiday Market.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Shop indoors from over 50 vendors. Email [ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com](mailto:ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com).

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

**Recycled Wrapping.** 3 p.m. at the Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Wrap gifts with reused newspaper that will spare the Earth. The library will have stamps, paints, ribbons and bobbles to add a special touch. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

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

**Del Ray Candy Cane Bar Crawl.** 4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Free. Call 703-683-2570 or visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).

**Caroling.** 5-8 p.m. at the St. Mary Catholic Church, 310 S. Royal St. Carolers will sing all of the traditional Christmas songs. Call 703-841-2517 or email [a.pellerano@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:a.pellerano@arlingtondiocese.org).

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

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 22

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# ENTERTAINMENT



## Celebrating At Mount Vernon

**Trees inside George Washington's Mount Vernon visitors' center are covered with ornaments and historical trivia.**

FILE PHOTO BY  
TIM PETERSON

## CALENDAR

presents "On This Shining Night," featuring new settings of familiar works, modern compositions to evoke the season, and traditional seasonal carols. \$20 adult, \$15 senior/military/student. Visit [www.alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://www.alexandriachoralsociety.org).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 10

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

**Christmas Celebration.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Saint James United Methodist Church, 5200 Fillmore Ave. Celebrate the Christmas season with music, activities for the family, and food. Free. Visit [sjumc.net](http://sjumc.net).

### Colonial Handbell Ringers

**Concert.** 2 and 4 p.m. at 201 S. Washington St. Free. Call 703-746-4994 or visit [www.colonialringers.com](http://www.colonialringers.com).

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

**Concerts at Saint Luke's.** 5 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. A candlelight concert presented by Words&Music, who play holiday music of the Advent season. Words&Music is a vocal quartet with piano from the Alexandria area. \$20 Adult; \$15 Senior; free to students 18 and under. Call 703-765-4342 or visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net).

**A Cappella Holiday.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Capital Hearings, Washington, D.C.'s most versatile a cappella ensemble, will entertain with their anchor holiday concert that includes the premiere of "It Sifts from Leadens Sieves," composed by Rachel DeVore Fogarty, the winner of the 2017 Capital Hearings Young Composers Competition. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 12

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

**Meet the Mystery Author.** 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary

Road. Mystery writers Lane Stone and Sherry Harris will be on hand to sign copies of "Murder in the Afternoon." Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

**Twelve Beers of Christmas.** 5 p.m.-midnight at the Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Choice of 14 Christmas beers on tap - 12, plus two bonus beers to simply celebrate the season of giving. Visit [www.unionstreetpublichouse.com](http://www.unionstreetpublichouse.com).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 13

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

### THURSDAY/DEC. 14

**Local Author Thursday.** 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Featured author Garrett Peck is a historian and tour guide in the nation's capital. Call 703-599-6307.

### DEC. 15-16

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

### SUNDAY/DEC. 17

**The Mount Vernon Flutes.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This small ensemble from the Mount Vernon Concert Band will perform holiday songs in the gallery. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

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

**Celtic Christmas with Iona.** 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial 101 Callahan Drive. Sponsored by FocusMusic. \$15/18 at door. Email [Herb@FocusMusic.org](mailto:Herb@FocusMusic.org) or call 703-380-3151.

### MONDAY/DEC. 18

**Ballroom Dance Classes.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Led by Gary Stephans on Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Visit

[www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-505-5998.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 24

**Waterskiing Santa.** 1 p.m. at the waterfront between King and Oronoco streets. Free. Visit [www.waterskiingsanta.com](http://www.waterskiingsanta.com).

### THURSDAY/DEC. 28

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

### SUNDAY/DEC. 31

**New Years Noon.** 10 a.m.-noon at the Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. The fourth annual bash includes performances by "Oh Susannah" and "The Great Zucchini" and an 11:55 a.m. for a countdown to "Noon Year" with music and a balloon drop. All ages invited, but especially appropriate for children ages 2 and up. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) or call 703-746-1704.

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

### JAN.9-FEB. 4

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

### SATURDAY/JAN. 13

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

### THURSDAY/JAN. 18

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

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that there will be two 15-minute fireworks displays that will take place on:

Friday, December 15 and  
Saturday, December 16, 2017

between 8:45pm and 9:15pm as part of the public evening event, Christmas Illuminations, here on the property.

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

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**News**

# Transforming Woodlawn

FROM PAGE 4

nization created by Washington, D.C. restaurateur Michael Babin in 2010. A year later, Arcadia began a small educational and sustainable farming operation next to the Woodlawn mansion called the Hilltop Farm. The size of Arcadia's operation increased dramatically in late 2015 when the National Trust leased the former Woodlawn Stables acreage to Arcadia. The organization broke ground on what Collins calls the "lower" or Dogue Run Farm in March 2016.

The crop production and educational uses at the 2.3-acre Dogue Run operation resulted in a banner year for Arcadia in 2016. Collins and her volunteer crew of 67 harvested nearly 21,000 pounds of produce from 23 crops and 56 varieties. Three thousand pounds of watermelon boosted the total, but 3,800 pounds of tomatoes, 2,500 pounds of summer squash, and 2,600 pounds of cucumbers formed a sizeable harvest. Other vegetables included basil, green beans, scallions and turnips.

Last year Arcadia donated some of the produce to United Community Ministries and other good-works organizations, sold some to restaurants, and, most importantly, produced 82,000 servings of fresh and healthy food for underserved neighborhoods. Additionally, the two farms hosted field trips for 1,450 students from 24 schools, and farm staff and volunteers visited 10 schools and talked to 1,000 children. All in all, Collins and her helpers quadrupled Arcadia's annual production from 2015 to 2016.

During the 2017 season, Arcadia harvested 27,000 pounds of produce, up 6,000 from 2016. The increase came from the efforts of more than 100 volunteers who contributed over 2,000 hours of labor at Dogue Run Farm. Pam Hess, Arcadia's executive director, said the 2017 effort translates to 113,000 servings of fresh fruits and vegetables.

A facet of Arcadia's program is the Mobile Markets initiative, which Arcadia's website describes as

"farm-stands-on-wheels that distribute local, sustainably produced food to underserved communities in the Washington, D.C. area." A converted, lime-green school bus regularly visits low-income and "food-insecure" neighborhoods to sell high quality, affordably priced farm products. Included are not only produce from the Woodlawn operation, but also goods from other area farms — grass-fed and pastured beef, pork, organic milk, cheese, handmade bread and honey. Arcadia reasonably prices the produce and accepts food stamps. During this year's season, the Mobile Market regularly has visited 13 locations in the District and one in Falls Church, Va. The program has delivered 75 percent of Arcadia's 2017 production to those communities.

Also, as reported in the Gazette last June, Arcadia trains military veterans in the science and business of farming. Two programs are available: salaried fellowships for on-site, hands-on learning; and a "reserve" option in which enrollees work on the farm once a month. Arcadia's hope is to help replenish the nation's decline of people working on small farms.

Arcadia is planning for an onsite farm stand next season to be overseen by LaRon Murrell, the Hilltop farm manager and a U.S. Army veteran, further binding Arcadia to the neighborhood.

Arcadia Farm, Woodlawn and the National Trust have created an agricultural environment that has parallels to that of dozens of Quaker families who moved to the area after the Troth-Gillingham purchase of Woodlawn in 1846. The Friends were intent on creating an agricultural society that wasn't based on slave labor. They started myriad small farms, opened and staffed schools, started businesses, operated a shipyard at the mouth of Accotink Creek and founded the Woodlawn Horse Company to protect residents from horse thieves. The success of the Friends revitalized southeast Fairfax County, and Arcadia and the National Trust are bringing those accomplishments back to life at Woodlawn.

**OBITUARY**

## James Edward Martin

James Edward Martin, 93, of Alexandria, died on Friday, Nov. 24, 2017. He was the beloved husband of the late Betty Martin; father of Donna Breeding, Sandy Brown and Edward "Marty" Martin; grandfather of five and great-grandfather of five.

Mr. Martin served in the Navy



during World War II. He began his police career on the Alexandria Police Force subsequently serving with the DC Metro-

politan Police until his retirement, after which he was an administrative assistant with Fairfax County Schools.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Alexandria. Visit [www.lls.org/national-capital-area](http://www.lls.org/national-capital-area).

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# OPINION

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- ❖ **Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**, 8305-17B Richmond Highway, PO Box 15096, Alexandria, VA, 22309. 703-768-9419, [www.goodhousing.org/](http://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](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax).
- ❖ **Christian Relief Services**, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, 703-317-9690, [christianrelief.org/](http://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](mailto:info@friendsofguesthouse.org), [friendsofguesthouse.org/](http://friendsofguesthouse.org/)
- ❖ **Wright to Read** 703-299-9854, [www.wrighttoread.org](http://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](http://www.habitatnova.org).
- ❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp), [aliceskids.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 "squeaky." 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/compartamentalizing 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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