



Hollin Meadows Elementary Principal Jon Gates, Heather Young and Melissa Edmiston sit around the fire at DRP - Del Ray Pizza during the Happy Hour Toy Drive event.



Hollin Meadows parent Jenn Regardie at the raffle table.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

## Happy Hour Toy Drive

### Hollin Meadows shows how to care and share.

The Hollin Meadows Elementary School PTA held a Happy Hour Toy Drive event on Thursday, Dec. 7 at DRP - Del Ray Pizza in Belle View for about 70 people. The event was sponsored by the PTA's Care and Share Committee to thank teachers, staff and PTA members for their support and to collect toys for about 60 families this holiday season at the Title 1 school. The school has a large contingent of international students from 25 different countries who speak about 30 different languages.

"We are hosting this toy drive for our PTA members, for the teachers and staff of our school, and for alumni families and community members who have continued to support both the school and the Care and Share Committee as both a thank you for these people and as a means to raise toys for our toy drive," said Co-Chair Erin Anderson.

"What we hope to hope to accomplish is twofold: one is raising awareness of the needs of our school community, and the other is providing toys and gifts for kids at the holiday season who wouldn't otherwise have them," added PTA Presi-



Erin Eley, an event manager with DRP - Del Ray Pizza, serves wine.

dent Nancy Engler.

Jon Gates, school principal, said, "We're making sure that our families who don't have the means have a very happy holiday season and the children are served, and so it's a very caring community. I'm totally humbled by the contributions that we get every year and what they do for our families."

At the happy hour, guests sipped wine and beer and dined on basil pesto arcanine, veggie and pizza rolls, mini quiche and meat balls.

The school also collected toys through the school lobby, the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, in a separate neighborhood toy drive, and through the Mason Hill Citizens Association. On Wednesday, they let the parents hand-select toys for their children in a special room with toys.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Tan Anderson drops off toys at the Toy Drive.

## Trees vs. Power Lines Competing for the same space.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN  
THE GAZETTE

"I saw Dominion Energy's contractor, Asplundh, while they were 'trimming' the trees on Parkers Lane," Williamsburg Manor resident Greg Crider recalled recently. "I've seen the company do reasonable trimming in the past, but they really butchered the trees this time."

One of the trees Crider mentioned is near the point where Collingwood Road becomes Parker's Lane close to the Justice-Snowden/Bock Farm in Mount Vernon. It's been pruned so severely, and in a seemingly unnatural manner, that it appears to be raising its limbs in search of salvation from the tree gods. Mimi Friedman of River/Briary Farms, offered her reaction to the same tree: "We gasp when we pass the one across from the farm on Parkers."

Crider and Friedman join many others on one side of a multisided debate/argument about how power suppliers keep tree limbs from interfering with their overhead lines. The target of the resi-



Directionally pruned trees

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

These drawings from Penn State University illustrate the accepted practice of "directional pruning."

dents' ire, at least in the Mount Vernon area, is Dominion Energy and its tree-trimming contractors. Dominion's Jay Griles, manager of the company's Distribution Forestry Division, and company spokesman Chuck Penn explained Dominion's challenges.

"It's a difficult task to keep our  
SEE TREES, POWER, PAGE 3



This severely pruned tree is on Sherwood Hall Lane near the library. VDOT arborist Robert Burris said it was stable in normal weather conditions and absent decay.

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# Trees, Power Lines Compete for Same Space

FROM PAGE 1

lines free of trees and objects that might adversely impact our ability to provide safe and reliable electricity,” Griles said. “It is important to balance keeping the lines clear with the impact we have on our customers and their property.”

Griles added that Dominion appreciates how people react to the manner in which the company trims their trees and that Dominion respects a “tree’s emotional value.” “It’s a very hard situation for us to deal with, as it is for them. Trees are good for everyone, electricity is good for everyone, they are just not good for each other.”

## “DIRECTIONAL PRUNING”

At the heart of the tree-trimming issue is an industry-standard practice termed “directional pruning.” [See drawings illustrating the technique from a brochure published by Penn State University’s Extension Service titled “Pruning for Utility Line Clearance.”] This pruning method removes branches growing toward power lines in favor of those growing away.

While this practice is endorsed by the Tree Care Industry Association and the International Society of Arboriculture, another widely observed trimming practice – topping – is not. Some private tree trimmers favor the operation, but certified arborists, including Dominion’s, abhor it. The technique cuts off a tree’s top and major lateral limbs, as if trimming a hedge or boxwood. According to TreesAreGood.org, an educational website sponsored by the ISA, “Topping is perhaps the most harmful tree pruning practice known.” The cuts foster wood decay and thus reduces the tree’s structural integrity and life span.

## OPTIONS

Alternatives to directional pruning are limited, and one is often useless in the well-established neighborhoods of Mount Vernon: Don’t plant unapproved trees under overhead power lines. However, this would apply to current homeowners wishing to replace a failed tree with a new one, and Dominion requests them contact the company regarding approved plantings under power lines. [See <https://www.dominionenergy.com/home-and-small-business/manage-service/trees-plants-and-power-lines>]. Virginia Tech’s Cooperative Extension also offers advice on selecting new trees at <http://urbanforestry.frec.vt.edu/STREETS/documents/VTextutility.pdf>.

Tree removal is an option for existing, severely-pruned trees or for those scheduled for radical trimming. The first instance can include trees pruned in the past, or when residents come home from work and see their newly mangled tree. “We handle these on a case by case basis because each tree and location have several variables,” Dominion’s Penn said. Those matters can include tree size, proximity to roads and buildings, accessibility — climbing a utility pole versus bucket truck access — and cost to Dominion Energy of removing the tree.



**Fort Hunt Road south of the Beltway hosts multiple severely-pruned trees. This one is located between Wellington Road and Collingwood Road.**

If the tree is within 10 feet of a power line, Dominion will seek a means of partnering with the resident to achieve removal. If a third-party contractor is needed, Dominion will prepare the tree by removing any limbs within 10 feet of the line or temporarily de-energize it for safe removal.

A homeowner’s awareness of planned trimming currently is an iffy proposition because Dominion only notifies residents of scheduled pruning by adding a note on their monthly electric bill. However, if residents see the note they should contact Dominion using the above link or by calling 1-866-366-4357. Ask to speak with the company’s Forestry Coordinator and ask for details.

In some locations, Dominion has partnered with cities to remove and replant the right trees. “We work with the municipalities,” Dominion’s Griles said, “on the removal and they work with the homeowners’ association on what to replant.”

Cathy Ledec, the tree commissioner in Fairfax County’s Mount Vernon district,

noted Dominion’s help in the development where she lives. The company was agreeable about working with the homeowners’ association, paid for the removal of problem trees and approved a replanting list. “It’s in the interest of Dominion to remove problem trees,” Ledec said, “otherwise they have to come by every two or three years to trim the trees.”

Mount Vernon resident N. E. Hamilton has shared a bit of Ledec’s experience. “There are plenty of mangled trees over here in Mount Vernon Hills,” he said. “My neighbor’s mangled tree hangs way over the street and threatens my vehicle when it’s parked in my auxiliary parking spot. I inquired and Dominion Power told me that the owner needs to contact them to have it assessed for removal.”

Jim McGlone, an urban forest conservationist in the Virginia Department of Forestry, agrees there are few alternatives to pruning beyond removal. “The power industry has developed growth regulating hormones for trees,” McGlone said, “and



**This tree has caught the eye of many residents. It’s located near the point where Collingwood Road turns into Parker’s Lane near the Justice Snowden/Bock Farm.**

they slow down the extension of new shoots and reduces the pruning cycle. But power companies need the legal authority to use this compound, plus it’s more expensive than pruning.”

McGlone, also a member of the Fairfax County Tree Commission, seconds the statement by Dominion’s Griles about trees and power lines competing for the same space. “This is one of the constraints that urban foresters deal with all the time,” McGlone said. “Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to creating extra space except undergrounding the lines.”

In McGlone’s view, Dominion is, in the most part, “using arboriculturally appropriate pruning practices.” He also added a bottom-line assessment: “One of things that is important to keep in mind is that trimming those trees is a deadweight cost to the utility. They would rather not have to do that. The fact that they are spending money to do it is because it’s important to their business practice — provide electricity to their customers.”

Keith Cline, director of Fairfax County’s Urban Forestry Management Division, acknowledged the hard choices in tree vs. power line conflicts. “There’s no easy solution. Dominion must prune those trees too close to the lines because of potential power loss, but homeowners want healthy and pretty trees.” Cline also said the Fairfax County Code, Chapter 46 (Health or Safety Menaces), authorizes the county’s removal of a tree that is a safety hazard. Cline echoed Dominion’s stance on removal: “If drastic pruning is required, Dominion can work with the homeowner to remove the tree and replace it with ‘the right tree in the right place’ that will not interfere in the lines.”

Last, Cathy Ledec has been disappointed in Dominion’s use of notes in monthly bills to notify customers of planned tree-trimming operations. “Like many, I no longer receive a paper copy of the bill,” she said, “and the bills for my homeowner’s association’s electricity usage go to our management company, so we wouldn’t see those either. It seems that we have to find a better way to communicate the upcoming tree trimming schedule.”

SEE TREES VS. POWER, PAGE 13

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ DECEMBER 14-20, 2017 ♦ 3



**Dominion Energy trimmed this tree on Sherwood Hall Lane by the library but left the phone and cable TV lines fully encapsulated. A Verizon spokesman, when viewing this image, said the homeowner was responsible for clearing the branches from the telephone land line. A Cox Communications representative said they rely on Dominion Energy to keep Cox’s CATV lines cleared.**





Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) hears the concerns of others in the Richmond Highway corridor.



Rachel Carter and Walter Clarke at the awards ceremony.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON

## Thonen Awards for Beautification Streetscape improvements praised.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Vicky McLeod of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC), learned a lot from Mary Thonen, a friend of hers for years and a mentor of McLeod's with a sense of community. Thonen's community beautification methods became a focal point for the area and became the namesake of an annual award given out by SFDC to local establishments for their contributions to Richmond Highway improvements.

"She was just an active worker, when she set her mind on something, she did it," said McLeod.

McLeod was among the attendees at the 2017 Mary Thonen Highway Beautification Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 6, when the corporation named this year's recipients of the Mary Thonen award. "She had her hands in everything," McLeod added.

After looking at the many applications for this year's award and their contribution to improving the challenging Richmond Highway corridor, SFDC awarded first prize to the Cherry Arms Apartments, second to the Mount Vernon Square Apartments and third to Mount Vernon Plaza.

At Cherry Arms, "we always try to keep our curb appeal up," said Jean Austin, the assistant property manager. They concentrated on sprucing up the trees out front, as well as stuck to the schedule with regular maintenance. "That's how we continue to look as great as we do," Austin said.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck (D), a driving force behind the "Embark" improvement project, looks at the appearance of properties as a key part of revitalization. "It is the difference between people feeling like they live on a healthy, modern main street, or an old, rundown highway," he said.

Picking a Mary Thonen award winner is "a real positive process," said Rachel Carter, a former board member and currently a Realtor at Coldwell Banker Realty who was at the event. "It's all about landscaping and beautification, it's important for visibility," said Carter.

The awards ceremony was also an opportunity for Walter Clarke, the newly appointed Mount Vernon District Representative on the Fairfax County Planning Com-



Vicky McLeod was friends with Mary Thonen.

mission, to look at the beautification stems from that perspective, "We want to continue that legacy," Clarke said. He will officially move into the position on April 1, but he's had years of experience in the Richmond Highway corridor. He's had a couple of years on the Embark Richmond Highway advisory committee he co-chaired with Dick Knapp. He also works as the vice president, Business Banking, at Burke and Herbert Bank as his full time job. Embark "looks at what the possibilities can be," Clarke said.

In Storck's eyes, the Embark plan and the Mary Thonen award complement each other. "As Embark and new development come to the corridor there will be an emphasis on curbside beautification and environmentally pleasing features," Storck said.

Other elected officials at the presentation included Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), Del. Paul Krizek (D-44), and James Migliaccio, Lee District Planning Commissioner.

Storck hopes the award will become something property owners will strive for to improve the overall district. "The Mary Thonen award is a wonderful way to recognize and encourage our property owners to put forward their best presence along our main street," he said.

### Award Winners

**First Place:** Cherry Arms Apartments, of Hybla Valley

**Second Place:** Mount Vernon Square Apartments, of Hybla Valley

**Third Place:** Mount Vernon Plaza Shopping Center (Federal Realty Investment Trust), of Hybla Valley

Other finalists:

❖ City Side Apartments, of Huntington/North Gateway

❖ Kentucky Fried Chicken, of Hybla Valley

❖ Montebello, of Huntington/North Gateway

❖ Red Roof Inn, of Huntington/North Gateway

❖ The Beacon at Groveton, of Beacon Hill

❖ The Mehr Brothers Sunoco, of South County

❖ Washington Square Apartments, of South County

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## HOLIDAY GIFTS



Dealer booth at Mount Vernon Antique Center has a selection of holiday items and other gift items.



PHOTOS BY GALE CURCIO

Evolution Home currently has a selection of vintage ornaments.

# Finding Local Treasures

BY GALE CURCIO

In the Alexandria area, there are a dozen antique, consignment and thrift stores that are full of unusual items that make great holiday gifts. There are the classics, like crystal, silver and china. Gifts for collectors include action figures, trading cards, old cars and trains. They are also a go-to place for holiday decorations for the house or office.

Here's a look at a few of these stores.

Formerly known as Thieves Market, Mount Vernon Antique Center, 8101 Richmond Hwy., has something for everybody. There are plenty of antiques, but there are also vintage items, gift items, clothing, jewelry and more. Located on Route 1, across from Costco, there are currently more than 30 vendors in the store. Merchandise changes on a daily basis, and most vendors will keep a "wish list" if a customer is looking for something in particular.

Inside and upstairs at the Mt Vernon Antique Center is a computer store – The Eldest Geek. At the other end of the store is Yellow Gold. Not only do they sell gold jewelry, but they also design and repair gold and silver fashion jewelry and watches. Libby Bryant, who used to work at Hodges Gallery in Belle View Shopping Center, now has a space upstairs which is full of eclectic treasures. She does framing and restoration of all kinds of artwork.

Lisa Balough, volunteer at Select Seconds Thrift Store, 5834-D North Kings Hwy., said, "Select Seconds is a frequent stop for savvy shoppers. The jewelry case has a full selection that varies daily. The housewares selection runs the gamut from high end collectible to everyday practical. Clothing choices for women, children, and men from dressy evening wear to the coolest jeans.

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Appliances, books, linens, office items, great shoes and purses, and wonderful toys for children and adults."

AnnElise Waller, volunteer at The Twig Thrift Store, 106 N. Columbus St., said that they have a nice collection of pink-tag labels: "These are clothing items that are especially nice and good for the holidays."

Another volunteer, Susan Labovich, said, "We have so many beautiful things but we also have

customers who come in looking for ugly Christmas sweaters. "Some times of year, we get tons of donations. It's hard to turn them away. The other thing we do that's really nice is that churches give their clients vouchers to shop at Twig. Another nice thing is that if we get blankets and things we can't sell we bring them to the animal shelter."

Over at Look Again Resale Shop,

SEE FINDING LOCAL. PAGE 13

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# OPINION

## Save Healthcare for Children Right Now

If U.S. Senate fails to act soon, 69,000 children and pregnant women in Virginia, more than 8 million nationally, will lose health coverage.

**T**he Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP, provides health coverage to low-income, children with family incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid, up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level in Virginia, up to \$49,200 for a family of four. In Virginia, coverage under CHIP is called Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS) and covers more than 69,000 children and pregnant women. More than 8.4 million children are covered nationally under CHIP.

EDITORIAL Ironically, families with children covered under FAMIS (note that the S stands for "security") will receive letters this week letting them know that their medical insurance security ends in January unless the U.S. Senate acts to reauthorize (fund) CHIP by the end of the year. The House of Representatives passed a bill to reauthorize CHIP in November, funding it mostly through cuts to programs in the Affordable Care Act.

The letter to Virginia FAMIS participants reads:

"We are sending you this letter because these people in your family are enrolled in FAMIS or FAMIS MOMS:

"FAMIS and FAMIS MOMS are paid for by state and federal funds through the Children's Health Insurance Program known as CHIP. For

20 years CHIP has had the strong support of Congress and has been renewed many times. We are hopeful that Congress will once again provide the funding to continue this program. However, because Congress has not acted yet, we need to let you know that there is a chance the FAMIS programs may have to shut down.

"If Congress does not act soon, the FAMIS programs will end on Jan. 31, 2018."

Having tens of thousands of uninsured children is bad health policy for every Virginian. It's better for all children in school to have all children be able to access health care, both preventative care and care when they are sick.

According to a recent publication in the New England Journal of Medicine:

"The body of evidence summarized here indicates that coverage expansions significantly increase patients' access to care and use of preventive care, primary care, chronic illness treatment, medications, and surgery. These increases appear to produce significant, multifaceted, and nuanced benefits to health.

"Some benefits may manifest in earlier detection of disease, some in better medication adherence and management of chronic conditions, and some in the psychological well-being born of knowing one can afford care when one gets sick. ... Some of these changes will ultimately help tens of thousands of people live longer lives.

"Conversely, the data suggest that policies reducing coverage will produce significant harms to health, particularly among people with lower incomes and chronic conditions."

Also, having health coverage leads to greater financial security, and that helps the economy. "There is abundant evidence that having health insurance improves financial security," according to the same study.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine have repeatedly called for a vote to reauthorize CHIP.

Yesterday, they said, "Today is a scary day for a lot of families in Virginia, and it was completely preventable. We asked Senator McConnell multiple times to help us support the 66,000 children and 1,100 pregnant women in Virginia who receive their health care through the CHIP program, but Republican leadership still hasn't brought it forward for a vote. There is a bipartisan bill on the table, and it's critical that we pass it before Congress leaves for the holidays so we can give some peace of mind to Virginia parents who are worried about whether their children will have health insurance in the new year."

We wish everyone peace of mind in the New Year.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### COMMENTARY

## Prioritizing Route 1

BY JEFFREY C. MCKAY  
LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

**S**ince I first took office, improving Route 1 has been a major priority of mine. It's where I spent my entire childhood, and is critical to the county's economic success. Route 1 received a boost on Tuesday when the entire Board of Supervisors voted to list our Route 1 widening and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects as the top two priorities for regional and federal funding over the next eight years through the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA).

Smart infrastructure investments pay off huge dividends in the long term, both in saving money and congestion relief, a major factor in my decision on the vote. Overall, the funds will have a major positive impact on the residents who live along Route 1 and the thousands of people who commute on it every day. Adding on to the widening, the Richmond Highway project will also add bike and pedestrian lanes, as well as reworking traffic timing to address rush hour congestion along the highway. The BRT project includes median running BRT from the Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir, and will include new tran-



sit stations, facilities for bicycle, pedestrian and vehicle travel modes.

While this is a great step ahead, I remain committed to continuing to work on securing additional funding to get these improvements built. While there has been misinformation floating around in the last few months that Fairfax County is less committed to Route 1, that is simply not true. Projects in Mount Vernon and Lee

make up 43.8 percent of the list of projects that we have requested NVTA funding for, nearly half of all countywide requested funds.

In the past years, the county has been making many improvements that have been long overdue as a result of lacking state funding. Almost all sidewalk, bus and road improvements made over the past 10 years have been paid for by the county, despite the roads being state-owned.

While superficial results are fast and easy, true revitalization takes time and effort. I am proud that the Board of Supervisors voted to approve this funding request that prioritizes Route 1. While the widening and improvement along the highway is complicated and takes time, getting funding is the critical step necessary to really get going beyond planning and towards implementation.

### LETTER

## Mismanagement Of Woodlawn

To the Editor:

I read your article about the intended "transformation" of Woodlawn with interest. I spent many years as a "stable parent" with a daughter who rode and worked at Woodlawn Stables for 10 years, and before that had enjoyed seeing the fields of horses for many decades.

I quit my long-time membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation over what I considered their mismanagement of the Woodlawn property: they've allowed the meadow and slope between the house and Route 1 grow up in trees, blocking the historic view of the house from the road. The Trust was instrumental in choosing the new alignment for the wider Route 1, destroying the historic alignment of the road. And the Trust eliminated the stables and the historic use of the property for horses.

Now they intend to commercialize the property, apparently with

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Alexandria-based designer Victoria Sanchez – pictured with the patients who served as her inspiration – created this tree for "Light Up the Season."



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Alexandria-based designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron created this mantel display.

## Holiday Décor on Display

Top designers create lavish holiday designs for charity.

Those still looking for inspiration for holiday décor are in luck thanks to some of the area's top tastemakers. The lights and shapes of Christmas trees, holiday mantels, a menorah and other décor, designed by some of Washington's top interior designers, are on display.

The designers donated their time to create festive displays for an event called "Light Up the Season" to benefit for Children's National Health System. The designs were unveiled ear-

lier this month at a festive event that included activities such as holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, a visit from Santa and Children's National Dr. Bear mascot, musical performances and youth entertainers, silent auction.

Each original piece is a collaboration between patients of Children's National and area designers and businesses. The Creative & Therapeutic Arts Services at Children's National worked with the Children's Health Board to pair de-

### Light Up the Season

Through Dec. 20 at Four Seasons in Georgetown, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

signers with patients for inspiration

The holiday decor will be on display and available for purchase at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown through Dec. 20.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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## OPINION

# Congress Needs To Fund CHIP

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

**T**uesday morning, the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) mailed letters to 68,495 Virginia children and 1,114 pregnant women informing them their children stand to lose health coverage on Jan. 31 if Congress fails to reauthorize funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Congress already let it expire on Sept. 30 and needs to reauthorize this life-saving program as soon as possible.

CHIP provides low-cost health coverage to children in families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid. In some states, like here in the Commonwealth, CHIP covers pregnant women. Each state offers CHIP coverage, and works closely with its state Medicaid program.

Without CHIP funding, Virginia



will run out of funding for its version of this program, called Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS), on Jan. 31, 2018. The letters are intended to warn families of that possibility and inform them about steps they can take now to prepare while they wait for Congress to act. Indeed, two other states, Colorado and Utah, have already notified their residents that they will soon run out of money to fund this critical program.

The agency said another letter would come in January if the program was not renewed by then, and to let them know that their benefits are currently unchanged. In the meantime, this letter is urging the families with children that need medical care to, "... make an

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14



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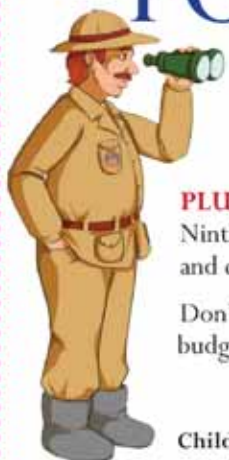
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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



**Chef Eric Reid starts with buttery crust.**



**Eyeball eggs, mayo and crisp Cherrywood bacon.**



**Layer half mixture in pie crust.**



**Throw tomato slices to deseed.**



**Spiral alternating layers of tomatoes.**

## Meet Chef Eric Reid at Reserve

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**L**et me grab a pie dough." Chef Eric Reid is making a "quiche-like" bacon-tomato pie at Reserve on Mount Vernon Avenue. He has prepared the crust and pulls it from the freezer — about 12.5 ounces of high-gluten King Arthur flour, 16 Tablespoons frozen butter, 1/3 cup ice water and 3 Tablespoons sour cream which gives it a "nice little flakiness." This makes two crusts. Reid pulls out his Escali scale. "I like to use weight measures; it is so much more accurate."

### IN THE KITCHEN

Reid liberally sprinkles flour on the counter so the crust doesn't stick. He presses down on the crust, rolling it in one direction, then another. He twirls the crust around the rolling pin and places it at the edge to unwind in the glass pie plate. "I use a glass pie plate so I can see how the crust is cooking when it has a lot of butter."

Using a small knife, Reid cuts off the extra crust around the pie plate. "I don't crimp it; I like the way it looks." He recalls this recipe came into his head when he and his dad were sitting on the deck at the lake having a bourbon and he needed a special side. "It's got our name all over it." Reid says he always tweaks a recipe until he gets it the way he likes it.

Reid pulls out a large aluminum bowl and measures two and a half cups "give or take

a Tablespoon or so" of Duke's mayonnaise. "I've made this so many times I just eyeball it now." Then he breaks two large eggs into the bowl and adds a cup and a half of cooked, chopped Cherrywood bacon. "The cherrywood gives the bacon a sweeter, fruitier taste." He says the original recipe had the bacon in the crust but with all of the butter he thought it would be too greasy.

Then he takes about a cup of shredded Parmesan and a pinch of dried dill, and he mixes it well. "No need for salt because of the bacon. It's like a BLT without the lettuce. "So we're gonna do half the mixture in the pie crust."

A tray of salted, thinly sliced slightly under-ripe tomatoes sits on the side. The salt helps pull out some of the juice in the tomato slices. Reid picks up each tomato slice, one at a time and throws it hard into the pan. "This is to slap them down and get out the seeds and shake off some of the salt." He carefully places each tomato slice in an overlapping spiral on top of the mixture. He says, "The bottom layer of tomatoes doesn't have to be pretty but I like to know; it's an OCD thing."

Reid spoons the other half of the mixture on top of the spiraled tomatoes and spreads it to the edges of the crust, then arranges another layer of spiraled tomatoes. "I sprinkle more of the dried dill and about 1/4 cup of shredded Parmesan just to cover it."

"Into the oven she goes at 350 degrees

for 45 minutes." Reid says this will serve eight people." He serves it at room temperature. Reid says Reserve reopened four months ago after being closed for two years. "We felt there was a void with all of the big plates where you needed a doggy bag." He would take the leftovers home and forget about them and then a few days later they would literally go to the dog. "What we have to offer is more shareable, small plates." He said they have nine items on the menu so you can bring in all of your friends and order everything.

The bacon-tomato pie is a customer favorite along with the hot chicken and the Montreal sausage. "I make the sausage myself from top butt, slice and freeze." Then into a meat grinder with chopped bacon, season with granulated onion and garlic, black pepper, sugar, crushed red chili. It goes through the sausage stuffer, then is smoked over pecan wood.

Reid said his parents always cooked. His dad was from Nebraska and his mom from Martinsville so it was fun to see different produce. When they drove back and forth, "mom and dad would always pull over and grab some stuff." His mom made sautéed yellow squash with onions and a lot of black pepper and wine "which was on our menu when I worked at Del Merei Grille" where he was for five years. He says he started out at Evening Star Cafe where he trained under the chef there.

Now onto squid ink ravioli. "This is our



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**Bacon-tomato pie ready to serve.**

vegetarian dish. The squid ink adds a nice, fun color and has a slightly salty undertone." Again he eyeballs the flour and eggs and feeds the dough through the pasta machine. "They always tell me this mound of dough doesn't look like much but 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 through the machine and back on itself. It gets longer and longer. "See it stretches the whole length of the counter."

### CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

#### 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.

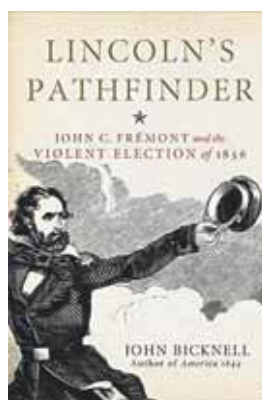
Through Dec. 17, weekend hours only, Fridays: 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Free to browse. Call 703-838-4827 or visit [www.delrayartisans.org](http://www.delrayartisans.org).

#### 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.

### Civil War Author

**On Monday, Dec. 18, local journalist John Bicknell discusses his book "John C. Fremont and the Violent Election of 1856," from 7-8:30 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 South Washington St. Christmas refreshments served. Free. Email [marktooley2003@yahoo.com](mailto:marktooley2003@yahoo.com) or call 703-409-4035.**

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).

#### Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.

Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit [www.dcmilitarytour.com](http://www.dcmilitarytour.com) for more

#### The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.

Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Goldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# Lift a Glass at the 1986 Whiskey Bar

BY HOPE NELSON

Deep within the walls of Union Street Public House, there's a new tasting room emerging, with its own offerings and its own identity: The 1986 Whiskey Bar. This bar-within-a-bar offers all manner of – what else? – whiskey, along with some cocktails.

The whiskey bar's origin story harks back to the origin of Union Street Public House: in 1986.

"We wanted to look at where we've come from over the last 31 years," said general manager Dan Patrizio.

**APPETITE** "You can't buy legacy. You can't buy time. And we wanted to really respect and appreciate the fact that 1986 was the year we started."

But while Union Street has been around for the better part of 31 years, the 1986 Whiskey Bar is a newcomer on the scene. Not even a month old yet, it's a celebration of one of the nation's finest spirits, Patrizio said.

"It came about for a simple fact that (whiskey is) America's native spirit," he said. "I love whiskey of all sorts, and I felt that it was from a business perspective an underserved commodity here in Old Town. There's a ton of exceptional places to dine, but there weren't a lot of places you could go have a proper whiskey."

1986 aims to change all that. From a plethora of whiskeys available to enjoy all by themselves to a tableau of cocktails that range from traditional to creative concoctions, the bar aims to be accessible to both hard-core whiskey connoisseurs and more casual acquaintances.

Three dozen different whiskeys and bourbons make up 1986's body of work at the moment, ranging from the house whiskey – Old Forester, which began production in the 1870s and continues to the present day – to more far-flung choices. On the cocktail front, diners and drinkers can expect traditional standards, such as the old fashioned, as well as signature creations such as the Irish Brigade, a vanilla-infused whiskey with chamomile tea and luxardo.

Don't drink whiskey? Don't worry. 1986 also offers aged rum, tequila and more.

So far, the whiskey bar "has been very well received," Patrizio said. "We've been very pleased with the community response. The community was looking for things like this. They're looking for the rare and the interesting."



PHOTO BY MAURISA POTTS

**The 1986 Whiskey Bar within Union Street Public House opened late last month.**

## If You Go

1986 Whiskey Bar, 121 S. Union St.

**Hours:** 5 p.m.-midnight, Wednesday-Saturday

**Try this:** The 1870 formula of Old Forester.

"That has been featured very prominently in quite a few cocktails we've put out so far," says general manager Dan Patrizio.

Need a little nibble with your drink? 1986 is in the process of ironing out its own menu, but while that's in process, they've got you covered with Union Street Public House's traditional bar menu.

Patrizio says the accessibility of the bar is one of the things he's proudest of. It doesn't require a membership card to get in; it's not a hidden speakeasy. 1986 is open for whoever comes in the door — and Patrizio hopes customers will be comfortable.

"When you walk into 1986, you know that this is a place you can come, you can enjoy, you can have the experience you are looking for because it's intentionally approachable," he said.

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).

## CALENDAR

think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org).

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

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

**Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals**

**During the Civil War.** Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum).

**Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit.**

Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).



## Sopranessence

**Bharati Soman will be part of the Sopranessence Concert on Saturday, Dec. 16, 4 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Visit [www.arts.virginia.gov](http://www.arts.virginia.gov).**

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

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

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

**Fifty Years of Collecting.** Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Evenings at the Athenaeum.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

**The Monday Morning Birdwalk** takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

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

## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a

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

**The Harmony Heritage Singers** (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit [www.HHSingers.org](http://www.HHSingers.org), or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

## 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.

**Meet the Artist.** 8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Artist Desirée Venn Frederic discusses "Nomadic & Creative: Art and the Immigrant Experience." Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 15

**The Late Shift: STEAM-Powered Exhibit.** 7-11 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. American Geosciences Institute joins the festivities for a night of music, interactive art, artist presentations, featuring interdisciplinary artist Fumi Amano. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

## 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).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 16

**Santa on the Trolley.** 9 a.m.-noon at Alexandria's City Hall Market Square, 301 King St. Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) and Santa Claus, will be on hand for a morning of free photos with Santa courtesy of Jackie Garcia Photography. All children will receive a special gift from Santa. Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats will be on-site brewing up hot apple cider to go. Visit [www.dashbus.com](http://www.dashbus.com).

**Meet the Artist.** 3-6 p.m. at the Broadway Gallery, 5641 B General



## Art Exhibit

**On Thursday, Dec. 14 Artist Desirée Venn Frederic discusses "Nomadic & Creative: Art and the Immigrant Experience." 8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).**

Washington Drive. Closing reception for Richard McMurtry. Call 703-354-2905.

**Sopranessence Concert.** 4 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. "Tuneful Tidings" featuring Bharati Soman, soprano soloist. \$55 family 4-pack (pre-sale only); \$20 general admission; \$18 senior/military; \$10 youth (18 and younger). Visit [www.arts.virginia.gov](http://www.arts.virginia.gov).

## 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

**Civil War Roundtable.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 South Washington St. Local journalist John Bicknell discusses his book "John C. Fremont and the Violent Election of 1856." Christmas refreshments served. Free. Email [marktooley2003@yahoo.com](mailto:marktooley2003@yahoo.com)

or call 703-409-4035.

**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).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 12

**Concert at Blessed Sacrament.** 8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Free. Email [mcushmac@comcast.net](mailto:mcushmac@comcast.net) or call 703-548-1176.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 13

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

## THURSDAY/JAN. 18

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

## SATURDAY/JAN. 20

**Winter Tree Day.** 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take a walk in the woods to examine trees in their wintry state. Get to know some evergreens and learn how critters use trees as their homes during our coldest months. \$6. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-642-5173.

**Tea Tasting: A Tea for Each Continent.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Sample teas from each of the seven continents of the world. \$25. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-642-5173.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 3

**Watercolor Workshop: Paint a Winter Scene.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn to paint a winter landscape in watercolor with the help of artist Erik Hottenstein, who demonstrates techniques for translating photographs into winter scenes and provides guidance for your individual piece. \$90. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-642-5173.

## 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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# Trees vs. Power Lines

FROM PAGE 3

Ledec offered two ideas on improving trimming notifications. First, Dominion could use an online approach similar to that of Virginia's Department of Transportation. At VDOT's website is a map showing scheduled paving activities, an excellent tool for homeowners: [http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northern\\_virginia/northern\\_virginia\\_paving\\_program.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northern_virginia/northern_virginia_paving_program.asp)

Secondly, and, speaking as the chair of the Environment and Recreation Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association, Ledec offered to use MVCCA's communications capabilities to publicize scheduled trimming. Dominion's Chuck Penn agreed to examine the offer, as well as investigate using social media and the online Nextdoor.com listserve in the Mount Vernon area.

## VERIZON, COX AND VDOT

There are three other major players in the local overhead utility/tree conflict – Verizon's landline telephone and FIOS services, Cox Communications cable TV and telephone and VDOT.

Shown a photo of a tree enveloping non-power, overhead lines on Sherwood Hall Lane, Verizon spokesman John Johnson responded: "The tree and its maintenance are the landowner's responsibility. We would trim it only if we needed to do so in order to perform work on the lines."

Emma Inman, Cox's director of public affairs in Virginia, offered the following: "We generally rely on the pole owner, such as Dominion, to address the trees or any associated real estate as they own the easement." However, photos in the Mount Vernon area of trimmed trees near overhead utility lines show Dominion's power line pruning, but often there is no accompanying trimming around Cox and Verizon lines.

Multiple images of severely pruned trees were sent to VDOT representative Ellen Kamilakis, including the trees on Sherwood Hall Lane and at the Collingwood/Parker's corner. "A lot of these trees are ours because they are in the right-of-way, which we own," Kamilakis said, "so they will be our responsibility."



"Topping" trees, such as those pictured, is a practice discouraged by all certified arborists.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PHOTO

The image you sent me of the tree on Sherwood Hall ultimately could become a VDOT issue because it's our tree." Kamilakis added that if a pruned tree in a VDOT right of way posed a safety hazard, VDOT could pay for its removal.

Kamilakis asked VDOT arborist Robert Burris to inspect the Sherwood Hall Lane tree, and afterward Burris offered his assessment: "The tree has an atypical growth habit because of the directional utility pruning, but structurally it is OK under normal weather conditions and in the absence of any significant decay. After the tree was initially pruned years ago, it began to add wood as it grew to compensate for the effects of the pruning and to support its subsequent atypical growth habit."

When asked about the potential effects of snow/ice loading or high winds on the tree, Burris said, "When wet snow or ice accumulates on tree branches and adds weight to them, branches can be damaged or fail if they become overloaded."

Light accumulations can cause small, dead, decaying, or broken branches to fail. As wet snow or ice accumulations increase, so can the size of any branches or limbs that might be damaged. Strong winds can add to the stress on trees that are covered with wet snow or ice.

However, any tree can be damaged during a weather event that includes accumulating amounts of wet snow or ice."

Dominion is undergrounding its overhead electrical lines in areas with a history of outages arising from tree problems. However, the company has no plans for widespread undergrounding.

# Finding Local Treasures

FROM PAGE 5

900 King St., manager Jeff Elmendorf, said, "We have the best selection of Christmas presents at good prices. Our store is actually two stores in one. We have quality donations and nice antiques, but items range from \$1 items to higher end items."

As a new manager, Elmendorf said, "If people haven't been here lately, we have a lot less clutter lot and more good stuff. We have transformed the store. "Many people don't realize that we are a charity, but our proceeds help the prevention of blindness."

Evolution Home, 6239 Shields Ave., is the next step in the evolution of a 15-year old business and combines a large consignment area with various dealer booths – full of fun and unusual items. Owner Susan Driscoll, said, "Our theory is that our homes are constantly evolving. Small apartments, first time homes, forever homes, homes with kids, homes with dogs,

empty nests and retirement dream homes — as we move through each stage of life our styles, tastes and budgets change. Evolution Home has one goal, to be with you through each change. We are committed to providing quality antique, vintage, modern and consignment home furnishings and accessories."

The Back Porch Thrift Store, 8794 Sacramento Drive, has nominally priced necessities, affordable apparel, very reasonable vintage, retro and contemporary furniture,

books, collectibles and home decor for every taste. Their inventory changes daily and customers will find antique furniture, luxury crystal ware, popular DVDs, rare books, vintage jewelry, designer clothing, stylish home decor, electronic goods, heritage china, collectibles and more.

There are two Goodwill Stores on Route 1, 6220 Richmond Hwy. and 8228 Richmond Hwy. as well as a new 2nd Avenue Value Store, 8750 Richmond Hwy.

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## Announcements



## As Good As It Gets



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Five weeks of blissful ignorance. (Speak for yourself. I am.) No 24-hour urine collection. No pre-chemotherapy lab work. No chemotherapy infusion. No CT scan. No follow-up appointment with my oncologist – or any other doctor for that matter. No brain MRI. No fasting. No emailing. No prescription-drug refilling. No vitals. No weight check. No taste/eating side effects. No anything. Other than pretending and presuming that all is not wrong in my “whirled” (my underlying diagnosis), life is for the living, and I’m living proof, random though it may be, that an incredibly grim/surreal prognosis: “13 months to two years,” was not all it was cracked up to be.

Forgive me if I unleash my pent-up inner demons. As a cancer patient, there’s just so much to worry about; daily, weekly, monthly and always, that when you get a break/brake in the action, it becomes a moment in time to celebrate and cherish.

Good things may come in small packages, but great things come in five-week intervals. And though the minor deficits I have as a result of nearly nine years of chemotherapy have not dissipated; in the scheme of things, in the midst of two-fortnights-and-a-half of “uncumbrances,” to quote my late father, I am “untethered,” to once again quote my father. This time however, quoting the late, great Sid Caesar for a skit he performed (involving “an elephant,” my father always said) on “The Show of Shows” back in the early 50s.

And so for the next month and change, I am almost normal (or a reasonable facsimile thereof); other than following my daily anti-cancer, non-Western routine which I have long ago assimilated into my dos and don’ts, that is. A routine which, though it can always be enhanced, is a direct result of the advice I’ve received from my certified Holistic Health Coach. And despite the fact that I may not exactly be on the straight and narrow – more like the squiggly and wiggly, I certainly am not on the path I was when my cancer cells activated after I slid into my first PET scan back in early February 2009, and “lit it up like a Christmas tree,” according to my thoracic surgeon. An indication/confirmation which led to a surgical biopsy a week or so later which then led to the last nine years of my life.

Still, it’s been a life worth living and one for which I have few regrets. I have lived so far beyond my original prognosis, it’s not even funny; it’s ridiculous. Sure, I’m doing more of the right things than I ever did, but hardly am I the poster boy for “see what happens when you ...” If I’m the poster boy for anything, it’s more likely “how to maintain and even increase your weight while being treated for stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer.”

Not that I won’t savor the moments ahead, but I am mindful, which led to the substance of this column, of what happens after this semi-party is over: Jan. 2, 2018 – 24-hour urine collection; Jan. 3, 2018 – pre-chemotherapy lab work; Jan. 5, 2018 – chemotherapy infusion; Jan. 17, 2018 – CT scan; and finally, Jan. 26, 2018 – follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results of my scan, and then maybe another emotional honymoon or, God forbid, a nightmare that diagnosis to date has rarely raised its ugly head.

That possibility roams my head, constantly; compartmentalized – yes; “in the vault” – yes, but unfortunately, “the cancer,” (as “Forrest, Forrest Gump” said) still in my body and, medically speaking, not yet something one can flush out with treatment. But there’s always hope.

In the past few years, the FDA has approved half-a-dozen new lung cancer drugs, more than during the preceding decade. I don’t think medical professionals would say they have lung cancer on the run; they might say however, they have it on the trot. Which is good for me because I can’t run, but I can trot.

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

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## OPINION

# Funding CHIP

FROM PAGE 9

appointment to visit your doctor or dentist before Jan. 31.”

The shameful Congressional gridlock and dysfunction have left nearly 70,000 Virginians who depend on the FAMIS program swinging in the wind. DMAS delayed sending this letter as long as possible, but it has a responsibility to these families to inform them of the possibility that their coverage could lapse so they can be as prepared as possible to explore limited alternatives.

CHIP typically has near-unanimous bipartisan support, but was neglected this year because of Congressional Republicans’ preoccupation with passing their current tax plan to redistribute our national wealth to billionaires and to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Children and pregnant mothers in Virginia and across the country depend on CHIP for life-saving care. Eliminating this program would wreak havoc on families’ health care for children should never be a political bargaining chip.

Taking care of our children’s health care is about people, not politics — but the process has become inherently political. It is not too late to ask your friends living in GOP-held congressional districts to call on their congressmen to reauthorize CHIP so Virginians and citizens across the country can have the medical certainty they deserve and need.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

restaurants and other commercial ventures, all while claiming some historical basis in market gardening and organic farming. While Arcadia may be a worthwhile organization, the destruction of the historic landscape surrounding Woodlawn is a travesty.

If the Trust wasn’t up to managing the property as it was, they should have just sold it (their first historic property) with appropriate easements.

**Robert McNeil**  
Alexandria

## Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:  
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BONUS:  
ADD A 4 WHEEL  
ALIGNMENT  
FOR \$39.95

Jack Taylor's  
**ALEXANDRIA  
TOYOTA**

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy

Alexandria, VA 22305

703-684-0710

www.alexandriatoyota.com

CHECK ENGINE LIGHT DIAGNOSIS

**NO CHARGE**

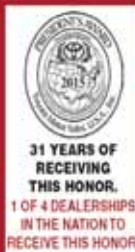
INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

WE WILL RETRIEVE VEHICLE CODES  
& GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE OF REPAIR COSTS.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

Jack Taylor's  
**ALEXANDRIA  
TOYOTA**

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305

**Service & Parts Dept. Hours:**

Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm

Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.  
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**

**ToyotaCare**  
Customers  
Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.  
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000  
Mile Services  
Call your ASM for details  
**ToyotaCare Plus \$329<sup>00</sup>**  
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

PSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MERRIFIELD, VA  
PERMIT NO. 772

**BASIC LUBE, OIL & FILTER  
CHANGE SERVICE**

**\$29<sup>95</sup>**

NON-SYNTHETIC

**\$44<sup>95</sup>**

SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil\*, inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air &amp; cabin air filters.

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**BRAKE SPECIAL****\$79<sup>95</sup>**

INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front &amp; rear rotors &amp; drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/18.

**SIGHT LINE  
WIPER BLADES**

**\$10 OFF**

Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/18.

**FREE****BATTERY CHECK-UP**

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

**VARIABLE DISCOUNT****\$15.00 OFF** when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99**\$30.00 OFF** when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99**\$45.00 OFF** when you spend \$300.00 - \$399.99**\$50.00 OFF** when you spend \$400.00 or more

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**4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT****\$64<sup>95</sup>**

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts &amp; shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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Jack Taylor's

**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

**TRUESTART BATTERY**  
**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month **FREE** replacement, 24 month **FREE** roadside assistance.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.

Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **11/17, 12/17,**or **1/18?** If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due**VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION****FREE**

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**





# CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2018?*

*Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!*

*Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***

LONG & FOSTER  
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



5125 Remington Dr.

\$1,395,000

Virtually New!

Spectacular Views!



Truly stunning custom home near river with seasonal water views from many major rooms. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan enhanced by dramatic high ceilings on main two levels. 7,000 sq ft of luxurious custom features include spectacular custom kitchen with two islands, 5 BR's, including the most amazing master suite you'll ever see, 5 full / 2 half baths, top of the line interior trim. Premier setting on .5 acre lot near the Potomac.

**JUST LISTED**



8709 Curtis Ave.

\$549,000

\$10,000 Closing Cost Allowance!

Open Floorplan!



Gorgeously updated home on 2 lots on quiet cul-de-sac ready for you to move in! Inviting front porch leads you to dramatic open floor plan with tons of light. New Kitchen, windows, light fixtures, updated baths, fresh paint and landscaping make this a rare opportunity! Huge yard, pond, and hot tub complete this serene setting. Seller offering \$10,000 in closing cost assistance and one year home warranty! \*must close by 1/30/17

**OPEN SUNDAY**



1400 Oakbrooke Ave  
\$649,900  
Great Location!

Rare Opportunity! Reasonably priced home in Waynewood School area with Garage! Other Features include: Open floorplan, gorgeous refinished hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, 4 bedrooms, 3 Full baths, lower level family room with fireplace, custom oversize screen porch overlooks private back yard. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Convenient to everything!

**OPEN SUNDAY**



4417 Dolphin Ln.  
\$649,900  
Spacious Rambler!

Exceptionally spacious rambler in Yacht Haven Estates with expanded main level master suite with luxury bath. Gorgeous setting on large level lot steps from Yacht Club. Features include: large room sizes, hardwood floors, 4 BR's, 3 Baths, thermal windows & finished lower level. Oversize deck overlooks expansive fenced rear yard.

**COMING SOON**



1904 Sherwood Hall Ln  
\$1,275,000  
Amazing Opportunity!!

**2 NEW HOMES FOR SALE!**

1902 Sherwood Hall Ln  
\$1,295,000  
Select your finishes!



8807 Battery Rd  
\$589,000  
Excellent Deal!

Quaint setting backing to Ft. Hunt Park creates your own private oasis. Many impressive features including gorgeous kitchen which opens into dining room area, many windows creates light filled living area and garage parking/storage. Back deck overlooks private wooded parkland. Great opportunity at a great price!

**JUST LISTED**



8745 Plymouth Rd.  
\$829,000  
Great Opportunity!

Rare opportunity to get into desirable Plymouth Haven at such a reasonable price! 4 level home has many updates including impressive family room addition, upgraded windows, large master bath and closet. Home is surrounded by \$1.5+ million homes on a gorgeous half acre lot! This one won't last long!

**JUST LISTED**



9424 Mt. Vernon Circle.  
\$975,000  
Fully Renovated!

**CONTRACT**

9317 Maybrook Pl.  
\$575,900  
Great Value!



**SOLD**



3705 Riverwood Ct.  
\$889,500  
Classic Colonial!

**SOLD**

4708 Ferry Landing Rd.  
\$475,000  
Great Value!



**CONTRACT**



4102 Sulgrave Dr.  
\$519,500  
Just Listed!

**SOLD**

8721 Plymouth Road  
\$1,467,998  
Brand New Home!



**SOLD!**

LONG & FOSTER  
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028

www.chrisandpeggywhite.com

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**BEST** 2015  
2016  
WASHINGTONIAN 2017