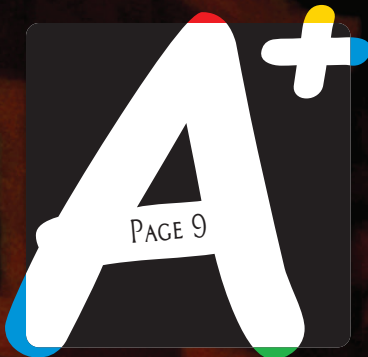


Fairfax CONNECTION



From left: Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, Mayor David Meyer and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) at the City's Chanukah celebration last week.

Lighting Up Fairfax for Chanukah

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2017: 'A Great Year
in Braddock District'

NEWS, PAGE 4

'It's the True Meaning
of Christmas'

NEWS, PAGE 3

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'It's the True Meaning of Christmas'

FACETS, Centerpointe Church bring holiday joy to local families.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Not everyone in Fairfax County is wealthy. And when parents are struggling just to pay the electric bill or put food on the table, it's tough to scrape together extra money for Christmas gifts.

So nonprofit FACETS held Sibling Shops last week at its five community centers to lend a hand. They were holiday parties for children whose families live in affordable and public-housing communities and have an average income under \$20,000 for a family of four.

Also invited were children whose families were recently homeless. The parties featured food and games and let children "shop" among donated gifts to pick out presents for their brothers and sisters. Then volunteers wrapped them for the holidays and gave them to the children to take home.

One of these Sibling Shops was held last Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Centerpointe Church in Fair Oaks and was for local children living in the Ragan Oaks community and attending FACETS' community center at Centerpointe. But the church took things one step further.

"We wanted to find a unique way to touch our community," said the Rev. Keith Edwards. "So we decided to help kids 'shop' for their parents, and we've been doing this for five years. Church members donate clothing, hats, scarves, gloves, etc., and then church and FACETS volunteers wrap them as presents."

"This year is the first year FACETS has joined us for this event, with its Sibling Shop, but we partner with them on other things," continued Edwards. "We sometimes mentor the children at Ragan Oaks and they use our basketball court and playground area."

However, he stressed, it's not an evangelist outreach, but a relationship outreach. And, added Edwards, "It's created a wonderful relationship over the years, and so many people got on board."



Serving up spaghetti, meatballs and rolls to the parents and children are (from left) FACETS volunteers Miranda Lan, Katie Plaster and Ngan Pham.

FOR THE HOLIDAY EVENT, the church set up a wishlist on Amazon and then people were able to purchase the gift items online. "We know what gifts go fastest in this community," said Edwards. "And we received [financial] offerings to fill in the gaps."

For both the church and FACETS, presents were in the \$10-\$25 price range. Items for children included toy cars and trucks, games, books, dolls and stuffed animals. Gifts for parents were things such as slippers, candles, small appliances and throw blankets.

At Centerpointe, children sat at tables with volunteers, ate a spaghetti dinner and did holiday activities until it was their turn to go shop in the rooms with the presents. The table volunteers were from FACETS, area businesses and the church.

"Some of our church teenagers host each table, visit with the kids and supervise them," said Edwards. "They also help them pick out gifts and get them wrapped. The kids don't have a lot of resources to buy presents, so this is their opportunity to get gifts for their parents, and they're excited about it."

Among those hosting a table were four employees of Capital One in Vienna. They recruit potential employees from college campuses and said Capital One offers volunteer opportunities all year 'round. So what made them choose this particular chance to volunteer?

"I have a little sister, 10 years younger than me, so shopping for siblings is really sweet," said Chelsea

SEE SHOPPING, PAGE 10

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Rabbi Sholom Deitsch discusses Chanukah in Old Town Square.

Lighting Up Fairfax For Chanukah

The City celebrated Chanukah last Thursday night, Dec. 14, with an event called "Light Up Fairfax." The fun included a fire eater, jelly doughnuts, hot apple cider and potato latkes. Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, of the Fairfax-based Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, talked about the meaning of Chanukah, and Tyler Fyre wowed the crowd by

eating fire.

Braving freezing temperatures, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Fairfax Mayor David Meyer helped Deitsch light a giant menorah next to the City's Christmas tree in Old Town Square. Then Meyer told event attendees, "This is the season of hope."

— BONNIE HOBBS



Tyler Fyre eats flames during the City of Fairfax's Chanukah event.



Lorelei Graham, 3, proudly shows the teddy bear she chose for her brother.



Nathan Boateng, 9, shopped for a Barbie doll for his sister.



Fairfax High sophomore Nabeel Bhatti selected a gift card for his brother and candles for his mom.



From left: Rose Johnson and Elizabeth Sullivan wrap presents.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2017: 'A Great Year in Braddock District'

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



We had a great year in the Braddock District and look forward to the year to come: 2017 brought us big improvements in our local parks and trails. We held many excellent community events that brought the Braddock District together for both serious matters and entertaining gatherings. There are so many incredible things happening in the Braddock District thanks to our wonderful residents. I look forward to serving you again this new year.

BRADDOCK ROAD STUDY:

The Braddock Road Study was finalized this year and recommended a series of intersection improvements and pedestrian facilities to help ease traffic congestion. The study was a result of several years of work by County staff and collaboration with the Braddock Road Citizens Task Force. Thanks to the community's input through a survey, community meetings, and the task force, the County went with the intersection improvement option. There have been six workshops in Braddock Hall this year for the community to speak with County engineering staff about their neighborhood's intersection changes.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

My office is dedicated to keeping the public informed with the latest county and local news for the Braddock District. I also use social media to educate followers on important issues affecting our county, such as domestic violence prevention, and the county resources available for them. We nearly doubled our outreach with our daily posts. Our goal is to make government more accessible to you.

OAK HILL DAY:

In October we held another successful Oak Hill Day at the Historic Oak Hill Mansion. This event gave residents the chance to experience the historical aspects of the Braddock District by touring the revolutionary era Georgian Style mansion.

FAITH NOTES

Email notes to south@connectionnews.com. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Christmas Holiday Services at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway Lorton. Visit www.pohick.org or call 703-339-6572.

❖ Sunday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve — at 10 a.m. will be a Service of Lessons and Carols. Evening services begin at 6 p.m. with a Family Holy Eucharist with Children's Choirs. At 10:30 p.m. is a Christmas Carol presentation with choir and brass ensemble, followed by the 11 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist.

❖ Monday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

— at 10 a.m. will be a Christmas Day Holy Eucharist.

Christmas Eve Celebrations. Celebrate Christmas in a positive, welcoming and inclusive spiritual community. Sunday, Dec. 24 — Meditation service at 9 a.m., family-oriented service at 11 a.m.; candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, Oakton. Free. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events.

Christmas Eve Service. Sunday, Dec. 24, 8-9 p.m. at Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield. Join in a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service. Free. Call

703-455-7800 or visit harvesterpca.org.

Burning Bowl Ceremony. Sunday, Dec. 31 at 9 and 11 a.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Experience this ritual of releasing what no longer serves you and envisioning the year ahead. Free. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events.

New Year's Labyrinth. Monday, Jan. 1 at noon-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Set your intentions for 2018 while walking Unity's indoor labyrinth. Free. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org/events.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an

breakout sessions on handling stress and anxiety, positive family time, substance use, and learning disabilities. County and non-profit groups were invited to have resource tables for the participants.

BRADDOCK NIGHTS:

This summer marked another successful run of Braddock Nights Free Concerts at Rutherford and Lake Accotink. Next summer the Rutherford event series will shift back to Royal Lake Park.

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COMMUNITY CHAMPION:

This award was given to David Curtis, a dedicated volunteer with the Truro Homes Association Stream Team. Curtis was recognized at the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards on April 21 for his dedication and commitment to the Turkey Run Stream Restoration Project. This award is given annually by Volunteer Fairfax to members of the Fairfax community who make a real difference in the lives of their neighbors.

independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Maariv minyan at 7:30 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays from 9-11:15 for K-6th graders and Mondays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for 3rd-6th graders. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreyim.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6 p.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, offers

LORD AND LADY FAIRFAX:

This year I awarded the Braddock District Lord and Lady Fairfax titles to Mary Cortina, Vice Chair of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board and current at-large member of the Planning Commission, and Kevin Morse, Chairman of the Braddock Road Task Force and my appointee to the Transportation Advisory Commission. These individuals demonstrated outstanding volunteerism and service to their community.

TRAIN SAFETY PUBLIC SAFETY EVENTS:

As Chairman of the Public Safety Committee and father of six, I take the safety of our youth very seriously. After a tragic local accident, I hosted a train track safety event that educated the public, especially teens, on the dangers of trespassing on railroads. The press event happened in September at the Burke Centre VRE Station and featured Police Chief Ed Roessler, Fire Chief Richard Bowers, and VRE CEO Doug Allen.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY & COORDINATING COUNCIL:

As Chairman of the Domestic Violence Prevention Policy & Coordinating Council, I chaired four Quarterly meetings with a diverse group of individuals, including judges, police chiefs, the sheriff, heads of non-profits and many others. We are committed to reducing incidents of domestic violence in our county.

DIVERSION FIRST:

I also had the honor of attending several meetings on Diversion First throughout the year as part of the county leadership team. This year we focused on reforms to get treatment faster for those entering the criminal justice system due to mental health challenges.

This month I represented Fairfax County at the National Association of Counties one-and-a-half-day peer exchange on county behavioral health and criminal justice issues, hosted in Maricopa County, Ariz. This event brought together county leaders from across the country who visited Maricopa County to learn about its efforts to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail from Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

Early Morning Service at 8 a.m., Sunday School at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Bible Study at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

Faith Communities in Action meets the first Wednesday of every other month from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

One of the Braddock Road Multimodal Study community information meetings was held on June 26 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Community's input helped shape the intersection improvement options.

ROYAL LAKE DREDGING:

Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services completed its 12 month dredging and restoration project in July.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS:

On July 16, I hosted a Battle of the Bands at Lakeside Park. Nine local bands competed for a spot on the 2018 Braddock Nights calendar. Approximately 300 people came out to listen, mingle with neighbors, and enjoy the food trucks: Doug the Food Dude, Nitro's Creamery & Colonial Kettle Corn, with water donated by Glory Days. St. Stephens United Methodist Church brought home the winning title with its Youth Band. Stay tuned for their appearance in 2018's Braddock Nights Line Up!

PARENT RESOURCES TOWN HALL:

In October I hosted a Parent Resources Town Hall Meeting on Raising Teens in the 21st Century. The half day program centered on the County's Youth Survey, Warning Signs of Teens in Trouble and had

NEWS

Local Man Indicted On Murder Charge

Police say he allegedly struck pedestrian twice with his car.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Believing he was the one who struck and killed an elderly woman with his car, Fairfax County police in April charged Kenan Ozcan, 32, of Fairfax, with felony hit-and-run. Now, however, he's been indicted for murder in connection with her death and is slated to stand trial in March.

The tragedy occurred April 14, shortly before 10:15 a.m., near the intersection of Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Highway) and Rugby Road in Fairfax. The victim, Maria Amaya de Ascencio, 75, also of Fairfax, was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to police, investigation determined that she was crossing Rugby Road on foot, trav-



Ozcan

eling eastbound, when she was struck by a car reportedly driven by Ozcan. They also say the car hit her twice.

"A 2016 Dodge Dart traveling southbound on Rugby Road struck [Ascencio], then turned around and struck the victim a second time, before leaving the scene," said police after the incident. "Crash Reconstruction and Homicide detectives responded to investigate. They are looking into the possibility the victim was intentionally run over. It does not appear the victim and suspect were known to each other."

Reporter David Culver of NBC-TV, channel 4, interviewed some of the victim's family members following the tragedy. According to them, he said, Ascencio had gone

SEE OZCAN, PAGE 11

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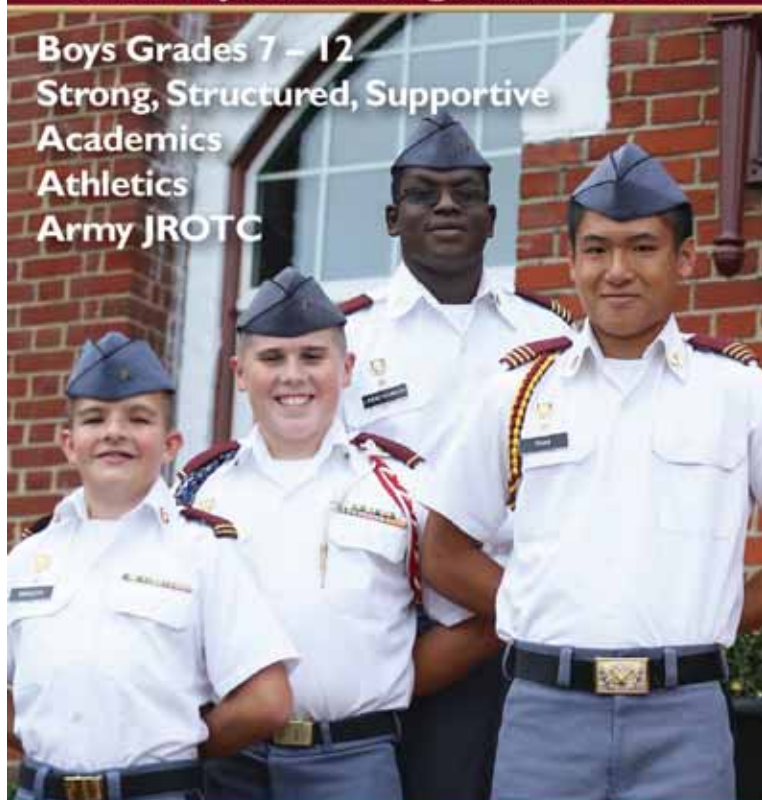
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OPINION

Merry Christmas

Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

The pages of the Connection Newspapers (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) have been full of holiday spirit beginning before Thanksgiving. Group and individual efforts to help the needy, holiday parades, Santa arriving by boat, Santa arriving by horse-drawn carriage, Santa arriving at the Malls, tree lightings, Menorah lightings, stories of giving, secular celebrations, religious celebrations. Shopping locally. Giving locally. Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

EDITORIAL

Matthew 7:12: “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 25:35-40:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one

of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

SO LET US SHARE the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is

come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Editor's Note About the Rest of 2017

This is our last regular edition of 2017. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children's Issue, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. We have more submissions from local students than ever, and so some children's and teens' artwork and writing will spill over into the first week of the new year.

Our next regular edition will publish Jan. 3-4, 2018, with deadline for content and advertising of Dec. 30 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can reach the editors

at editors@connectionnewspapers.com and sales/marketing/advertising at sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

Find digital replica editions of recent papers at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

Past issues of the Connection back to 2008 are available at connectionarchives.com/PDF/Advertising information, Special Section details here www.connectionnewspapers.com/advertising

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Islam Recognizes Jesus As a Prophet

To the Editor:

I want to wish all my Christian friends Merry Christmas. I would also use this opportunity to highlight that Islam recognizes Jesus (peace be upon him) as a Prophet. Muslims believe that Jesus was a prophet who was given a special message — the Gospel — to convey to all people. This message both confirmed what was taught in the Torah and foretold the coming of Prophet Muhammad. Thus,

Jesus has a vital and unique role to play in the Muslim faith.

The Qur'an mentions Jesus, or *Isa*, 25 times, but differently each time. The Qur'an explains that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary (19:20-21) and is “highly honored in this and the next world” (3:45-47). Thus, he is called *Isa ibn Maryam*, or Jesus son of Mary. The Qur'an also refers to him as *ruh min Allah* (“Spirit from God”), *mushia bi'l baraka* (“the Messiah—someone blessed by God”), *kalimah min Allah* (“Word from/of God”), and *rasul* (Prophet-Messenger) of God.

It is part of my faith to accept Jesus as a pious and righteous

man. He, like all Prophets of Islam, brought a message of peace, love and brotherhood for the world. While Christians and mainstream Muslims are still waiting for the second coming of Jesus (peace be upon him), tens of millions of Ahmadi Muslims have accepted Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian as the Messiah, who claimed in 1889 to have come in the spirit of Jesus to reform the world.

Nevertheless, the holiday season is a source of joy and celebration for all Christians. Please accept my humble wishes for the season. I would end my note by reaffirming that Jesus (peace be upon him)

is not only the beloved of Christians, but also of all Muslims.

Sumra Zafar

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Virginia

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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ENTERTAINMENT



“The Nutcracker”

On Thursday and Friday, Dec. 28 and 29, The Virginia Ballet Company is presenting its 68th annual production of “The Nutcracker.” Shows at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. This is a full-length, professionally-staged ballet. \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, seniors and students at VABallet.org. Email vbcoffice@vaballet.org or call 703-249-8227 for more.

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

ONGOING

Santa’s Flight Academy. Through Dec. 24, at various times at at Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Santa surrounded by a space motif. Visit www.santaexpresslane.com.
“Peekaboo! A Nativity Play.” Through Dec. 24, 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre, New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. The Hub Theatre presents “Peekaboo! A Nativity Play.” Call 703-674-3177 or visit www.thehubtheatre.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 21

Friday Morning Music Club. noon-1 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.fmmc.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 24

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

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 28-29

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

FRIDAY/DEC. 29

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 30

Early New Years Party. 11 a.m.-noon at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Ctr. All ages. Come out a few days early to celebrate the New

Year with arts and crafts and a count down to noon. Call 703-339-4610.

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

SUNDAY/DEC. 31

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

TUESDAYS/JAN. 2-FEB. 13

Art Lessons for Youth. 5:15-6:15 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor. 8 years and older. Visit www.czartlessions.com. Call 703-250-6930.

TUESDAYS/JAN. 2-FEB. 13

Drawing Plus Color Class. 6:15-7 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing and watercolor. Visit www.czartlessions.com. For 5-8 yrs. Call 703-250-6930.

FRIDAY/JAN. 5

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

SATURDAYS/JAN. 6-FEB. 17

Art Lessons for Youth. 9:15-10:30 a.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin drawing and watercolor. 8 years and older. Visit www.czartlessions.com. Call 703-250-6930.

SATURDAYS/JAN. 6-FEB. 17

Art Workshop for Teens/Adults. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Instructor Carol Zeitlin, drawing, watercolor, Chinese Brush & portfolio development. Visit www.czartlessions.com. Call 703-250-6930.

MONDAY/JAN. 8

Funday Monday. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive,

Fairfax. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts. Funday Monday will offer a variety of children’s activities and entertainment in Old Town Hall. Free. Call 703-385-7858.

MONDAYS/JAN. 8-MARCH 26

Exercise Classes. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. \$30. Call 703-323-4788 or visit www.scfbva.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 10

Earth Fare Opens. 7 a.m. at Fairfax Plaza, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Specialty organic and natural foods grocery store. Visit www.earthfare.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 11

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

FRIDAY/JAN. 12

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 18

Lunch N’ Life. noon-2 p.m. at the Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St. John Cox, who was a guide at the U.S. Capital Building will speak on the history of the building. \$10. Call 703-323-4788 or visit www.scfbva.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 19

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

Sherwood Family Movie. 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Featuring “Smurfs Lost Village.” Participants may bring their own snacks. Britepaths will accept donations of non perishable food. Call 703-385-7858.

Dance Fest 2018. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Harris Theatre at George Mason University, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Dance Coalition presents DanceFest 2018 Gala Performance highlighting 12 member companies. Visit www.virginiadancecoalition.org.

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VDOT Virginia Department
of Transportation

Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Concession Payment Projects

Public Hearing

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

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

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

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

Information related to the following projects will be available:

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

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

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT’s Civil Rights Division at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

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Finding Peace and Joy

Relieving stress and finding meaning in the holiday season.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

When artist Kathryn Coneway is feeling overwhelmed by the stress of the holiday season, she heads outside to find peace and calm in nature.

"I get easily overwhelmed by the crowded parking lots and busy stores," she said. "When I'm feeling overwhelmed, I'll go to Huntley Meadows Park and walk around. The beauty of nature restores me. You're with other people when you're there, but there's still solitude."

From those who are dashing to finish holiday shopping and those who are financially strapped to those grieving a loss or dreading dealing with strained familial relationships, the stretch of time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is often hectic and emotionally charged. Recharging and infusing the holidays with joy and peace might mean redefining the holiday season.

"Research shows increased happiness after thinking of three good things that happened to you today and what caused them," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University. "Also, people report improved mood from doing five kind acts in a day, expressing gratitude, pursuing important goals, and playing sports."

An evening of music and quiet creativity is one method that Elizabeth Rees, associate rector

at Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria uses to recharge during the holiday season. The event called "Healing Arts" is held at the Center for Spiritual Deepening at St. Aidan's. "Sometimes for me, meditative art helps me to get into a different space," she said. "And with instrumental cello and guitar music in the background, it [is] beautiful."

"Moments of quiet and rest and being able to be present in the moment help me to get through the frenzy."

— Elizabeth Rees, Associate Rector, Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church

Visual imagery is another technique Rees employs. "I went to a... prayer-yoga-dance gathering this week, and [the instructor] had us physically pretend to pick up things that we want to let go of or that are weighing us down to place on an imaginary fire," she said. "I loved the imagery: my burdens and distractions going up in smoke along with my prayers rising to God to make space in me for something new."

Coneway uses the season's natural surrounding to inspire her art, which is another way in which she finds joy and relaxation. "The gift of this time of day is the display of light and colors of early morning and evening," she said. "I encourage families to gather around the table and [create] art together. Whether its parents addressing Christmas cards while children are drawing or making a collage out of wrapping paper or tissue paper, I encourage families to work on something together."

Serving others and expressing gratitude are research-driven techniques for finding happiness says Dr. Lois T. Stover, Ed.D., dean, School of Education and Human Services at Marymount University.

"Make holiday cards and send them out. It's fun to drop a word of kindness anonymously to someone in the neighborhood and then tell that person to pass along the idea, leaving words of kindness or gratitude themselves for someone else," she said. "Create an 'I am

thankful for...' wall and cover it with sticky notes that complete the sentence as new thoughts come to mind each time you pass by."

There's plenty of holiday joy that comes without a price tag, suggests Stover. "Drive through various neighborhoods just after dark and exclaim 'Oooh - aah' over homes or other buildings that have particularly fun



Artist Kathryn Coneway and her family spend time in Huntley Meadows Park when they're feeling overwhelmed by the holiday rush.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHRYN CONEWAY



Sylvain Richard, Pat Keithly and Eileen Myers attended a "Healing Arts" event at the Center for Spiritual Deepening at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. Such activities can bring peace and joy during a hectic holiday season.

or beautiful displays of lights," said Stover. "Listen to holiday music in a variety of genres and make play lists of favorites. Sing along loudly. It's hard to feel down while belting out anything from 'Frosty the Snowman' to 'Joy to the World.'"

For those looking to maintain the religious meaning of the season, Rees suggests daily devotions sent electronically. "I've found

some wonderful daily prayers that arrive each day by email. Just a minute or two of focus on what is deep and joyful and holy help center me for the day," she said. "For me, Ignatian prayer has been speaking to me lately, imagining myself into the stories of scripture. Moments of quiet and rest and being able to be present in the moment help me to get through the frenzy."




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AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 139') on the building at 7617 Little River TPKE, Annandale, VA (20171102). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

ABC LICENSE

Greenspur Inc. trading as Greenspur Inc., 2811 Menlie Dr. Suite D, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Distillery license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mark Turner, Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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News



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

FACETS volunteer Kati Hesford and daughter Frances, 13, help children pick out toys for their siblings.

Shopping in Spirit Of Christmas

FROM PAGE 3

Woods at the start of the event. "We're going to help them shop and do whatever FACETS needs us to do."

"When I was younger, I did a Toys for Tots thing, helping other kids," said Lauren Wright. "So this brings back memories, and I wanted to do it again."

Alexis Barron said she really likes children and being around them. And, she said, "It's always nice to give back, especially at this time of year, so I'm excited to be here." "We travel a lot in our jobs, so we don't get a lot of opportunities to do things like this at home," added Kelly Skahan. "So it's nice to be with a different demographic and do something to impact the local community."

Also hosting tables were Centerpointe Church youth group members C.J. McDonald and Malcolm Vanderiet. "I've been part of the youth group here for a while, and this is a good way to help people," said McDonald. "This really helps out the local neighborhoods, and the kids get to experience what we do here and have a good time."

"We did this last year, and it was such a good experience," added Vanderiet. "It also shows the local community how this church works and that we love Christ. And it's a good opportunity to give back."

Children picking out gifts included 3-year-old Lorelei Graham,



Centerpointe Church member Shirley B. helps wrap gifts.

who selected a teddy bear for her brother Aiden. Nathan Boateng, 9, chose a Barbie doll for his sister, and Nabeel Bhatti, 16, shopped for candles for his mother and a Target gift card for his brother.

HELPING CHILDREN pick out toys for their siblings were FACETS volunteer Kati Hesford and her daughter Frances, a Frost Middle School eighth-grader. "This is the third year I've done it," said Kati Hesford, a Fairfax resident. "And for me, it's the true meaning of Christmas – helping other people experience a little moment of joy and giving that they might not have been able to, otherwise, since they're financially struggling. And they're our neighbors. I'm happy to be here – it gets me in the Christmas spirit."

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News

Ozcan

FROM PAGE 5

for a walk that morning. But when she didn't return, her loved ones called her cellphone, trying to reach her, and the police answered it. Culver said the news of her death devastated them.

In addition, in an unrelated incident a few hours after this one, around 12:45 p.m., officers were called to the 3900 block of Fair Ridge Drive in Fair Oaks. At that time, a 43-year-old woman reported that a man was in the shopping center there, acting strangely.

"She took a picture of him," said police. "He became agitated, then [allegedly] assaulted her and went into one of the businesses. Officers found him inside and took him into custody." Police later identified this man as Ozcan.

"As they were investigating [this incident]," say police, "One officer noticed front-end damage on [Ozcan's] car in the parking lot. Further investigation determined he was also involved in [that] morning's fatal crash."

Police then took Ozcan into custody, transported him to the Adult Detention Center and charged him with both felony hit-and-run and robbery. He was held without bond.

He appeared in General District Court for his preliminary hearing on Oct. 16 before Judge Lisa Mayne. At that time, the robbery charge against Ozcan was dropped, and the hit-and-run offense was certified to the grand jury for possible indictment.

Then on Nov. 20, the grand jury indicted him on a charge of murder. He's scheduled for a jury trial, March 27, 2018, in Circuit Court. Until then, Ozcan continues to be held in jail without bond.

Meanwhile, anyone with information about the fatality is asked to contact the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131, Crimes Solvers via www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text TIP187 plus the information to CRIMES (274637).

BULLETIN BOARD

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

HOLIDAY SOBER-RIDE

Free Sober Rides. The annual Holiday SoberRider program will operate 8 p.m.-4 a.m. each night from Friday, Dec. 15, 2017-Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. Area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's weekly Holiday SoberRide promo codes will be posted at 2 p.m. on Dec. 15, Dec. 23 and Dec. 31 on www.SoberRide.com.

BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give more life by giving blood this December. In December, donations decline but the needs of patients remain steady. During the holiday season, set aside an hour to give the most important gift – give blood and give more life. All those who come to give blood or platelets Dec. 21, 2017, through Jan. 7, 2018, will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767 for locations and schedule of nearby donation opportunities.

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"Suit Yourself, Biscuit"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Talk about a superfluous statement. I was asleep in bed and awoke to find one of our five cats, Biscuit, the oldest at 11+, lying sphinx-like on the front right of our bed. Though it was dark, I could see in his yellow eyes that he was awake.

Wanting to feel a cat against my body, I said, "Biscuit, come here. Come lie against my chest." No response so I repeated the request. This time with a bit more conviction: "Biscuit, come here. I want to feel you next to me." Again, no response. In fact, no reaction whatsoever. So I muttered, without thinking even: "OKAY, Biscuit, suit yourself."

And then I laughed. Of course he's going to suit himself. That's what cats do. I should be grateful he didn't jump off the bed. After all, he was minding his own business.

And that business is the entire philosophy of the feline species captured in two words. If any of you has ever owned a cat and been sensitive to and appreciative of their differences with the canine population, cats don't really come when you call them. Nor do they respond to a million other things you ask of them. If you understand and embrace that behavior, you'll likely begin to see this non-responsiveness as part of their charm.

However, when they do come when you call them, or when they climb uninvited onto your chest while lying in bed or snuggle with you on the couch; oh, how special you feel. And if you don't feel put upon or tolerated and can instead savor the uniqueness of their knead (and do everything you can to encourage its repetition), then you can indeed find pleasure and purpose in that moment, rare though it may be – or maybe not.

Accepting the parameters of the relationship with your cat, and managing your expectations, will go a long way toward understanding what your cat is able to give you. And what cats can give you is companionship and love – on their terms of course. The mere fact that Biscuit is lying on the bed should be enough to make me happy. Expecting that he would rise due to my beck and call, at night, especially while he's cat-napping is unreasonable on my part. Biscuit is not being difficult in the least. He is simply adhering to a non-responsive-type behavior that generations of cats – and generations of cat owners, should be accustomed to, not questioned or even curious about.

As an extraordinarily experienced cat owner (almost 40 years), I should have known better. Yet I couldn't resist the temptation/control the urge to give Biscuit (a cat) the chance to change the course of presumptive cat history and come to me when I asked. The problem is, once in a blue moon – or was that a red moon (it certainly appeared to be above the fold on the front page of The Washington Post the other day), cats will break with historical convention and respond/react/reply in kind with both word and deed. They'll come, they'll snuggle, they'll talk, they'll nuzzle, they might even lick. In fact, they'll do everything they can to endear themselves to you.

But it doesn't happen often or rather it doesn't happen consistently. Yet it remains the goal of every committed (or rather should be) cat owner to make every attempt to induce their cats to succumb to their cat-seducing charms. Like right now, Twinkle, our white, five-and-half-years-old domestic medium hair, is doing everything she can to get my attention. She's walking back and forth across my note pad (as I'm trying to write; I'm busy), she's rubbing her head against my face and using the top of my pen as some sort of head scratcher, she's lying on her left side with as many as four paws outstretched across my left arm as I use it to block her advance and she's talking non-stop.

She's being such a pain, but you have to love them. If you can't appreciate their untimely intrusions and instead expect some kind of predictable dog-like obedience, you need more than "The Cat Whisperer," you need "The Cat Screamer," because it's NOT HAPPENING.

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

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