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Mount Pernon Gazette

Home LifeStyle
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Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

Environment Expo Examines Local Challenges

Event gets participants involved.

BY MIKE SALMON THE GAZETTE

n Fairfax County, there are three main types of ticks, but only one type — the deer tick — is linked to lyme disease. The others could carry an assortment of germs, so preventing a bite in the first place is an important step with ticks, said Andy Lima with the Fairfax County Health Department. Ticks were just one of many environmental concerns at Mount Vernon's first Environment Expo held at Walt

Whitman Middle School on Saturday, Nov. 10. "We're trying to get people to help themselves," said Lima.

The tick table was one of 20 informational booths spread around the room at Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck's expo that focused on everything from rainfall runoff to stream health, litter, plastic drinking bottles and global warming.

"It's all of the above, efforts to improve our environment," Storck said, "it's absolutely one of my passions, one of my commitments."

The Mount Vernon District edges up against the Potomac River, and has eight major streams that empty into it so pollution from all points upstream



The red dye is effective in showing the downstream flow.

potentially end up in Storck's district. He holds annual clean ups, and has volunteer groups helping out, but it continues. "Our challenge is Little Hunting Creek, lot of stuff flows down hill," Storck said. "We're here to help people understand all that," he

Will Friedman, a teenager on Storck's environmental committee, was at the expo with Patrick Martinez, a Boy Scout from Troop 996, to demonstrate how things flow downstream. They had a model, and used water, trash bits, dye and gravity to demonstrate this. "We show people how pollution gets in the waterways," Friedman said. Martinez is working on an environmental merit badge.

Alexandria resident Sue Allen found little things will help, so she was thinking about using her own coffee cup when she hits the coffee shop, using her own bags and other "small things that make a difference," she said.

Accotink Creek is an "impaired stream," that flows into Mount Vernon, and Dave Lincoln was there to highlight the problems and had a plastic animal made of water bottles to help. "One of our biggest problems is high chlorides from salt run-off in the winter," he said. Lincoln is a member of Friends of Accotink Creek and is part of the "Salt Management Strategy," working group.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Storck, Will Friedman and Scout Patrick Martinez demonstrate how items flow downstream.

100th New Build Habitat for Humanity Northern Virginia builds for the future.



HITT volunteers assist in the Habitat construction.

By Ashley Claire Simpson The Gazette

he average American spends almost 40 percent of their take-home pay on housing, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the cost of living in Northern Virginia isn't average.

"We have a real problem in Northern Virginia with gentrification," said Jon Smoot, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Northern Virginia (Habitat NOVA) said. "Home prices go up three to five percent every year while people on fixed incomes don't have a way to cover those cost increases. This lack of

affordable housing is detrimental Area Mean Income (AMI). Habito the community."

This problem has Habitat NOVA in overdrive as they execute their mission to turn lower income residents into first-time homeowners. With the help of volunteers and a small staff, this non-profit organization renovates and builds homes expressly for Northern Virginians living on 40 to 80 percent of the

tat NOVA also issues interest-free mortgage loans for the homes they renovate and build, thus sparing Habitat homeowners roughly 50 percent of standard costs.

Since 1990, Habitat NOVA has made housing affordable for hundreds, constantly expanding their community of new homeowners.

SEE 100TH NEW, PAGE 3

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News



Students gain direct experience with science, technology, engineering and math at STEM Fest.

STEM Fest Inspires Students

Event presented by nonprofit Magic of Mothers.

BY LEE ELLIS

ucknell Elementary School's cafeteria transformed into a scene of experiments, exploration and enlightenment on Saturday, Oct. 27, as hundreds of students and community members enjoyed STEM Fest — a celebration of science, technology, engineering and math - presented by local nonprofit Magic of Mothers. The free event gave students direct experience with STEM subjects through fun, interactive and hands-on activities. Many participants left with evidence of their newfound knowledge in the form of bouncy balls, mini catapults, marshmallow-andtoothpick bridges, and samples of colorful slime created at activity stations.

Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck, representing the Mount Vernon District, toured STEM Fest and said, "Educational programs like the Magic of Mothers' STEM Fest present vital educational enrichment for youth and residents, alike. These events offer fun, creative opportunities to explore and learn. Through the collaborative efforts of Magic of Mothers, STEM Fest participants and contributors share their knowledge with the hope of sparking a lifelong interest in building valuable STEM skills."

Karen Corbett Sanders, the chair of the Fairfax County Public School Board, visited STEM Fest which took place at one of the Title I schools in the Mount Vernon District she currently represents.

Local South County High School (SCHS), Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) and George Mason University students and graduates coordinated STEM Fest. Preetisha Nepal a 10th grader from SCMS and Omaid Naskai a 11th grader from SCMS helped with planning and advertising the event. Gaurav Sharma, currently pursuing business in GMU, played a vital role in business and managing finances. Avyuk Dixit a Sophomore at TJ is a techie and is associated with the organization for eight years now. He is the technology and Robotics guru who shares his passion for technology with the community youths and offers free classes for the students who are eager to learn STEM.

Current students earned community service hours by running activity stations.

Bruce Wyman of 3D Me (its3Dme.com), who also teaches in FCPS, dazzled students by printing 3D objects during the event.

Dr. Swathi Reddy of All Smiles Orthodontics supplied funding for the event plus handy multiplication chart cards as takehome goodies. The charts helped students tackle math puzzles independently at an activity station.

By collaborating with business innovators, community leaders, educators, industry experts — and local youths and families — Magic of Mothers (MoMs) has hosted a variety of STEM events including Hour of Code, math clubs and contests, and science fair activities — all supported by a cadre of volunteers.

The TJ Technology Partnership Foundation (TJPF), a nonprofit foundation supporting the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), provided a grant for consumables used at STEM Fest.

Jane Ritt, the STEM outreach and administrative coordinator for the TJPF said, "The TJ Partnership Fund is excited to support STEM educational opportunities, like Magic of Mothers' recent STEM Fest, in our local community. The TJ Partnership Fund aims to encourage students interested in STEM to explore their passion and build skills that will prepare them to succeed in advanced STEM education and beyond. The TJPF thanks Magic of Mothers for putting on a wonderful event, and looks forward to future STEM Fests."

100th New Build

From Page 1

On Wednesday, Nov. 14, Habitat NOVA's next CEO Build Day, a group of local CEOs were scheduled to "raise the walls" of the non-profit's 100th new build, a single-family home in the Fairfax County section of Alexandria.

"The main message of CEO Build Day is that affordable housing is a vital investment in the community's infrastructure," Smoot said. "Housing is the number one social determinant for success, affecting health, longevity, the ability for people to make contributions to the economy, and so on. The CEOs and presidents of eight different corporations will be out there with us on Nov. 14 – all from companies that support Habitat. They'll be putting on hard hats and work gloves and framing walls. It's a great opportunity to raise awareness of how housing affordability is actually smart business."

The eight executives scheduled to be on site are leaders from Freddie Mac, HITT Contracting, JBG Smith, Leidos, the National Association of Federally Insured Credit Unions, The PenFed Foundation, Streetsense, and The Craddock Group.

"We decided to make this 100th new build a military veteran home because we purchased the land at a steep discount from an Air Force Vietnam veteran," Smoot said. "This is for a local Marine Corps veteran who did three tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. It's exciting to everyone involved that we got the property from a veteran for an extremely reasonable price and now we're giving something right back to another veteran."

Smoot added that, in addition to the 100 (and counting) newly constructed homes that the Habitat NOVA team will have under their belt, they have also renovated dozens more structures across the area.

"I really hope all these CEOs feel good about their involvement with Habitat and the work they do for affordable housing," Smoot said. "Freddie Mac will often fund their employees to be out and serving the community, so as the corporate sponsor of this CEO Build Day, they'll bring a team of volunteers. We'll have plenty of people to keep working after the CEOs have to go back to work."

Drew Mucci, president of HITT Contracting, plans to keep working long after the walls are raised.

"This will be my first Raise the Walls event, but I'm really looking forward to it," Mucci said. "My background is as a professional builder, so I know I'll be the one waiting to see if we can stay there longer and keep going until we absolutely have to stop. That's how I'm built, and that's how most people at HITT are. We have a sense of community strongly ingrained in our culture."

With a healthy amount of affordable housing projects, HITT is a general contractor that naturally aligns with Habitat NOVA.

"We've been supporters for years," Mucci said. "It's a great fit because we take great pride in what we build, and affordable housing is at our core. I immediately saw CEO Build Day as a unique opportunity to work alongside peers who share important values and goals. I think is an awesome concept to show the public how each firm wants to connect to the community, and the importance of working together to confront an important issue."

Habitat NOVA invests a lot more than blood and sweat into these families, too. The organization remains an important ally long after the new homeowners get the house keys.

"Part of those sweat hours are financial literacy and training," Smoot said. "Owning a home is a completely different animal than renting, so we give them a lot of training on budgeting and financial literacy during those 400 hours to make sure they are successful. We provide a home warranty for a year and our valued partners work with the families for after-purchase continued literacy. We are not only interested in getting people in a home, but also making sure they stay in a home."

"We are busy," Smoot said. "We are a bit strange because we are a general contractor, a lender, an educator, and an advocate. Through all that, we do about four projects a year – condos, townhomes, single family homes, just about anything. We build Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and sometimes Thursdays, so we spend three to four days onsite per week. Our team includes a construction staff of three and, where we really thrive is with our sandlot group, made up of about 30 construction volunteers who can build from blueprint to finish."

If only, Smoot said, there were a few extra hours in a day for Habitat NOVA take on more. "We have a lot of applicants, and the demand is so high, it just breaks my heart," Smoot said. "The stories and the perseverance of these families to make it is unbelievable. It is unbelievable what they have to sacrifice for their families. We are a lender, so we carefully vet all of our applicants, choosing is really hard. They must be legal Virginia residents with good credit scores and good work histories."

As important as it is to eliminate some of the heartbreaking stories he hears as a result of unaffordable housing, Smoot insists that Habitat NOVA's work benefits so much more than the individual families served.

"Businesses have a hard enough time attracting and retaining good employees, and housing costs are a huge deterrent to keeping good employees," Smoot said. "Then, traffic gets worse and major arteries are clogged because people can't live where they work. Businesses need to be in the game politically and economically."

Clearly, at least a few businesses are already in the game.

"HITT is a family-owned company headquartered in Falls Church and we've been here for more than 80 years," Mucci said. "We really understand firsthand the costs of living in this area. We understand the positive impact that Habitat has, and it's our responsibility as a business rooted here to do our part to give back."

Focusing on Gun Violence

Faith-based discussions raise awareness.

By Sana Mahmood

embers of both the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) VA Islamic Center and the Mount Vernon Uni tarian Church (MVUC) gathered on Saturday, Nov. 3, to meet their neighbors and discuss the issues pertaining to gun violence at MVUC. The event strived to open up a community-led discussion in an effort to counter the intense current political climate surrounding the issue.

Fifty-four members from MVUC and 46 members from ICNA gathered to enjoy a meal and listen to religious speakers from both communities.

"The American strategy of preemptive strikes against its enemies is not making us safer, so I ask our government to now try to be preemptive in peace," said Naeem Baig, ICNA director of Interfaith Alliances.

Rev. Chris Buice, minister of Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, encouraged similar thought-provoking statements, emphasizing the importance of peace and acceptance. Following the speeches, the words of both speakers led discussions amongst attendees.

"I think the two things that had the most impact on me were learning more about the horrendous statistics in regards to gun violence and the importance



A hunded people gathered to discuss gun violence at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church.

of finding more ways of counteracting the current focus on protection by this administration with a constant emphasis on prevention," said Sue Lamb, a member of the MVUC community.

Mount Vernon High School Muslim Student Association (MSA) members were also involved in the discussion. "Good things happen when good people get together. Tonight, we learned that in order to move a mountain, we must first move stones. Coming together to raise awareness around gun violence will slowly but surely make the change that this country needs," said Sameer Islam, Mount Vernon High School senior and MSA member. The sentiment of raising awareness and preventing gun violence was shared by all of the high schoolers in attendance.

"Thoughts and prayers won't stop a speeding bullet. We need to do our part to stop it first," said ICNA member Hina Munir.

Before leaving the event attendees took part in signing letters to send to their representatives, voicing their support for a greater emphasis on gun control and a priority to be placed on reducing gun violence.

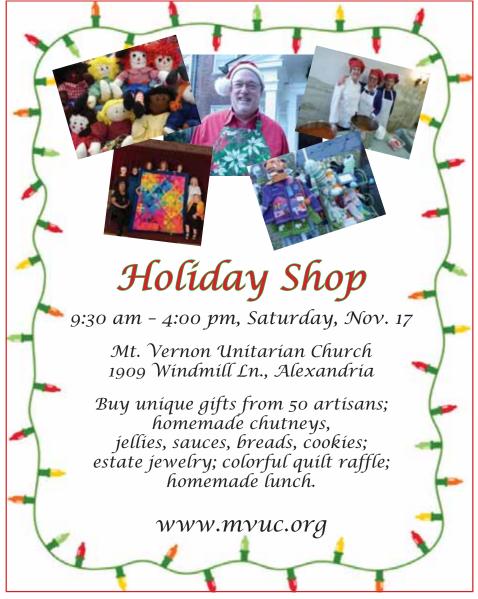


Photo courtesy of Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce

Grand Opening

McAlister's Deli at 7704-A Richmond Highway held a grand opening on Monday, Nov. 12, with more than 50 people waiting in line for the sandwiches, soups, stuffed spuds and sweet teas at this new fast casual restaurant. Representing Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce at the ribbon cutting were (from left) Josh Toth, Capital Bank; Joel Bernstein, ECCA Payroll; Sonja Caison, The Cleaning Authority; McKaye and Scott Darling and their children, McAlister's Deli; Taylor Holland, chief of staff to Supervisor Jeff McKay; and Stan Koussis, Andrews Federal Credit Union, along with key staff of the new business.





Crime

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

BURGLARY: 2600 block of Arlington Drive, between 6 a.m. Nov. 10 and 9 p.m. Nov. 11. The victim reported two computers and cash stolen from their

BURGLARY: 2500 block of Belleview Avenue, Nov. 9, between 7 a.m. and 9:45 p.m. A resident discovered someone had entered the home through an unlocked window and stole money from the home.

BURGLARY: 3100 block of Furman Lane, Nov. 5, between 6:15 a.m. and 5:41 p.m. A resident reported someone entered their home and took property.

BURGLARY: 7524 Richmond Highway (Fashion K City), Nov. 5, 2:37 a.m. Officers responded to an alarm and found a teenager inside the store. While checking the area, officers found two other teens who were involved in the burglary and had stolen property in their possession. Burglary petitions will be sought.

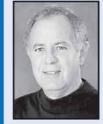
STOLEN VEHICLE: 2200 block of Huntington Avenue, 11/03/18, 10:48 p.m. Officers found a car running in the parking lot with a person in the passenger seat. An 18-year-old man from Maryland was found a short time later and determined to be the driver of the car. He was charged with possession of stolen property and possession of mari-

BURGLARY: 8000 block of Ashton Street, Nov. 3, 9:25 p.m. The victim was

in the basement when he heard a loud noise upstairs. He went upstairs to see what it was and found a window air conditioning unit on the floor and saw a man dressed in dark clothing. When the suspect saw the victim, he ran away. Money was taken from the home.

INDECENT EXPOSURE: 5300 block of Tessie Terrace, Oct. 8, 12:15 p.m. A woman saw a man that she didn't recognize in her apartment building. She asked him to leave the building, and he exposed himself to her before running away. The suspect is described as a black male, 6'0", 190 pounds, wearing an orange hooded sweatshirt, and

SEE CRIME, PAGE 21



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Public Meetings Fall Transportation Meetings: Updated Schedule

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a public comment period. At the open house you can learn about various transportation initiatives, as well as Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, and the VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment and Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and discuss your ideas and concerns about Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a public comment period, where you can provide comments about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted at the meeting and may also be submitted via email or online at www.CTB.Virginia.gov.

Updated Schedule: Area Public Meetings will be held at the dates, locations and times listed below:

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.*

NOVA District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030

Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 4 p.m.*

Fredericksburg District Office Auditorium 86 Deacon Road Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Fall meeting materials will be available at: http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/ beginning October 15, 2018.

*Please note that these dates have been changed from previous listings.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov.

You may send comments on rail, public transportation, and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov.

Comments will be accepted until December 13, 2018.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, its services on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

OPINION

Half Might Be Perfect

Amazon's "second headquarters" in Arlington will bring benefits to Fairfax County.

would split its much-discussed "second headquarters" between New York City and Crystal City in Arlington. Amazon will invest \$5 billion and create more than 50,000 jobs across the two new lo-

cations, with more than 25,000 employees each in New York City and Arlington. The new locations will join Seattle as the company's three headquarters in North America.

Amazon's investments in each new headquarters will spur the creation of tens of thousands of additional jobs in the surrounding communities. Hiring at both the new headquarters will begin in 2019.

EDITORIAL "These two locations will allow us to attract world-class talent that will help us to continue inventing for customers for years to come," said Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon, called the world's wealthiest human. "The team did a great job selecting these sites, and we look forward to becoming an even bigger part of these communities."

"This is fantastic news for our region," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "We look forward to welcoming Amazon as our newest corporate neighbor."

There are no companies in Northern Virginia 15 years based on the incremental growth of

mazon this week announced that it with close to as many employees as Amazon will have over the next 5-10 years. Inova Health Systems is the only company with more than 10,000 employees.

But the Pentagon, likely one of Amazon's closest neighbors in Arlington, has 26,000 employees.

Fairfax County Public Schools has 24,137 full-time employees, dispersed around the county. Fairfax County government employs more than 12,000.

The 25,000 Amazon jobs in Arlington will pay better on average than most local govern-

ment jobs, with an average wage of more than \$150,000. Those employees will live with their families all over the Northern Virginia and DC area.

Amazon will receive performance-based direct incentives of \$573 million based on the company creating 25,000 jobs with an average wage of over \$150,000 in Arlington. This includes a workforce cash grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia of up to \$550 million based on \$22,000 for each job created over the next 12 years. (Amazon will only receive this incentive if it creates the forecasted highpaying jobs.) The company will also receive a cash grant from Arlington of \$23 million over

the existing local Transient Occupancy Tax, a tax on hotel rooms.

Amazon will invest in 4 million square feet of office space, with the opportunity to expand to 8 million.

Fairfax County and the Commonwealth were very cautious in the incentives packages that were offered to Amazon, said Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Economic Development Authority in Fairfax County.

"The clear conclusion was that, over time, the returns in terms of tax base would more than offset the offering," Gordon said. "Those discussions were based on assumptions about the increased demand for public education and other public services versus the returns to the

The Commonwealth of Virginia will benefit in terms of income tax generation because of the much higher-than-average income levels that Amazon will pay. Localities do not collect income tax in Virginia.

But, "local governments will benefit from the increases in the real estate tax base and taxes on the business' equipment," Gordon said. "Historically, companies have contributed far more to the tax base than they take in the form of public services and that helps to reduce the tax burden for residents."

I personally will resist the "rebranding" of Crystal City to "National Landing." It's still National Airport, and it's still Crystal City.

- MARY KIMM

We Need Answers

By Scott Surovell STATE SENATOR (D-36)

n Nov. 17, 2017, coming home from work around 10 p.m., I saw police lights at the end of Alexandria Avenue where it intersects with Fort Hunt Road in the Mount Vernon area near my home. I assumed there was an accident.

The next morning, I learned that an accountant from McLean, Bijan Ghaisar, had been shot by two U.S. Park Police officers after he drove away after being rear-ended by an Uber driver on the George Washington Memorial Parkway near Slater's Lane. Very little about the Park Police's official story made sense to me the next morning.

About two weeks later, I sent a letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) asking a series of questions. I received a cursory response.

About two months after the incident, the Fairfax County Police Police officers again drew their Department (FCPD) released a dash cam video of the incident starting near Dyke Overlook on the George Washington Memorial

Ghaisar driving down the Parkway slightly over the speed limit trailed by two U.S. Park Police cruisers. Anyone who drives the Parkway knows that without adequate shoulders there are few places to

Mr. Ghaisar stopped his car on the hill up to Morningside Lane and the officers drew their guns and shouted commands. Ghaisar then drove away at a normal rate of speed. As he drove away, one officer slammed the butt of his pistol on Ghaisar's trunk in frustration while shouting at him.

Ghaisar exited the Parkway after the stone bridge and turn west onto West Boulevard Drive and then left onto Alexandria Avenue. As Ghaisar approached a Fairfax County Police cruiser partially blocking Alexandria Avenue at Fort Hunt Road, Ghaisar slowed, stopped and then began to slowly move his car around the right side of the FCPD cruiser after the Park

The Park Police officers then suddenly fired nine shots into Ghaisar's vehicle striking him four Parkway. The video showed times in the head. Thanks to a re-



Last week, one hundred Mount Vernon residents joined Bijan Ghasair's family in a candlelight vigil at the shooting site. The Ghaisar Family is holding another vigil on the one-year anniversary of their son's death on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 6 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial. More at www.facebook.com/wearebijan/

port issued by FCPD two weeks ago, we now know that the police found no weapon. We also know that the U.S. Park Police officers violated official chase and weap-

While the U.S. Park Police took the positive step of referring the matter to the FBI for an independent investigation, neither the Park Police nor the FBI has released a report. Arlington County has not released the 911 tape. It is very troubling that as the oneyear anniversary approaches, we still do not know the names of the officers who shot Ghaisar, their explanation for the shooting or whether any de-escalation measures were used.

Mr. Ghaisar leaves behind two grieving parents and a sister who still have no explanation for why their family member was killed, despite their numerous requests.

A community's faith in law enforcement requires transparency in SEE ANSWERS, PAGE 22

Mount Vernon Gazette

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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OBITUARY

Patricia Sarah Gibson

Patricia Sarah Gibson — known to her family and friends as Trish — died on Oct. 27, 2018 at age 63 from a rare form of cancer. She died peacefully at the home of her daughter in Boulder, Colo., surrounded by her family, her final wish.

Trish was born on July 28, 1955, in Rockville Centre, N.Y., daughter of the late Francis S. Murphy and Patricia Blazey Murphy. The

family moved to Washington, D.C., in 1967, where Trish graduated from Wilson High School and attended American University. She and her husband, Campbell (Cam) Gibson, were married in 1979, and, except for four years in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (1979-1981 and 1993-1995), made their home in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County.

Trish was active in numerous

community and school activities, starting with the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center in Alexandria, where one year she was in charge of the Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Subsequently, she volunteered for the United Community Ministries (UCM) in the Mt. Vernon area, where she cochaired the Capitol Steps fundraising event for many years. At West Potomac High School,

Trish was president of the parents' association for the Wolverine marching band. She worked for 14 years at the American Horticultural Society in various positions and retired as director of Buildings and Grounds. Her last volunteer activity was at the USO at Fort Belvoir.

Trish's other interests and hobbies included gardening, knitting, bowling, and her 9:30 class at Trident CrossFit.

She had a lifelong fondness for England, especially inn-to-inn walking tours.

Trish was known to her many friends for her warmth and generosity and for helping others in times of need. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother.

In recent years, she doted on her four young granddaughters (the "Grand Girls") and loved knitting



for them and did Facetime with them nearly every day.

She is survived by her husband, Cam, of Alexandria; by her daughter Nicole Christensen, son Trevor Gibson, son-in-law Eric Christensen, daughter-in-law

Maura Dudley, and granddaughters Harriet Christensen, Campbell Christensen, Simone Gibson, and Lilla Gibson, all residents of Boulder, Colo.; and by her three siblings, Dano Murphy of Bethesda, Md., Barbara Murphy of Washington, D.C., and Charlotte Murphy of Mt. Airy, Md., and their families.

A memorial service for Trish will be held early next year. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions in her name be made to the Semper Fi Fund of the U.S. Marine Corps.





Connecting Business and Community

Find local businesses at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org 703-360-6925

Monthly Networking

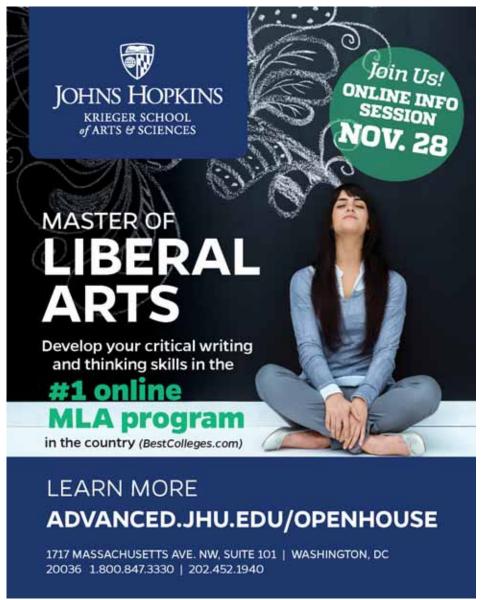
Second Thursday Business Breakfast 2nd Thursday of each month 8:00 am to 9:30 am Belle Haven Country Club

MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 6821 Richmond Highway / Alexandria, VA 22306



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OPINION

Before Thanksgiving

BY PAUL KRIZEK STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

e all know our nation's Thanksgiving story. But, did you know that here in Virginia there is a tradition that takes place the day before Thanksgiving that goes back three and a half centuries?

That day is a historic one as it is the day when the Pamunkey and Mattaponi tribes present a deer and turkey to the Virginia governor as part of a 341-year tradition as their tax tribute. The Mattaponi

COMMENTARY

and Pamunkey have reservations dating back to colo-

nial-era treaties beginning in 1658. Then the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation included providing tribute to the Crown, now replaced by the Commonwealth. The treaty originally required the tribute to be paid in beaver skins. The provision reads: "That every Indian King and Queen in the Month of March every year, with some of their Great Men, shall ten-



der their Obedience to the R i g h t Honourable His Majesties Governour at the place of his Residence, where ever it shall be, and

then and there pay the accustomed Tribute of Twenty Beaver Skins to the Governour."

Three years ago, I introduced a joint resolution HJ 347, passed unanimously by the General Assembly, to designate the day before Thanksgiving as Indigenous People's Day in Virginia even though across the country you can find Indigenous People's Day or often called, Native American Heritage Day, on Oct. 8. However, in my conversations with local Virginia tribal leaders, they decided celebrating Indigenous People's Day the day before Thanksgiving is the best way to recognize Virginia tribes and their historic and current contributions to our Commonwealth.

See Indigenous, Page 21



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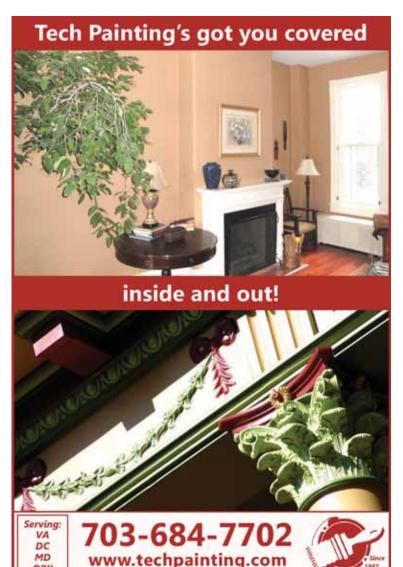
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HomeLifeStyle

Details Sunday, Dec. 16, from 12-4 p.m. Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C.

For more information and tickets visit: childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason or email lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com.

Lighting Up the Season

Event teams young patients with designers and artists.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

ome of the area's most talented tastemakers are donating their time and creativity to benefit a local hospital. From feathers and yarn to seashells and tree branches, local interior designers and artists are creating holiday trees, mantel and table displays, wreaths, menorahs and artwork for the second annual Light Up the Season fundraising event for Children's National Medical Center on Dec. 16.

Designers were paired with children who are patients at Children's. Throughout the creative process, the artistic creations unfolded as the patient-designer relationships grew. "Our design was inspired by the warmth of the holiday season, the onset of winter, and the magical imagination of 7-year-old Johnny our patient ...," said Jeff Akseizer of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria. "In our interview with him, his mind exploded with all the colors, textures, and characters he loves to see at the holiday season, his favorite being the Grinch. "

Akseizer is creating a holiday tree with designer Jamie Brown, also with Akseizer Design Group. "Johnny is a true inspiration," said Brown. "He plays wheelchair basketball and sled hockey. We took much of the spirit from our interview with him and plugged it into our creative minds to come up with something that would surely wow."

The holiday decor will be created to reflect the personality and spirit of each child. "My patient artist, Savannah, inspired my wreath design for this year's event," said designer Mary Biletnikoff. "She is a sweet, 6-yearold girl who loves to draw, make snow angels and snowmen she celebrates Christmas and loves Christmas lights," she said. "My wreath is named 'Savannah the Snow Girl' and is a modern day

take on the traditional snowman. I chose this theme because girls need to grow up knowing that they are strong, kind, smart and creative just like my patient artist.

"My patient partner loves fun, color and sparkle, so we created a vibrant wreath that reflects her personality," said Wendy Danziger of Danziger Design in Bethesda.

From traditional colors to hues that stretch the imagination, ideas for creating festive designs will abound at year's event, says Biletnikoff. "I hope that visitors will be inspired to incorporate some fun and lightheartedness in their own home," she said. "If you are decorating for the holidays, I want people to consider elements that make them smile and maybe even chuckle. Design is about incorporating what you like, not what you think you should have.'

"When decorating for the holidays, let your imagination take over and don't be afraid to combine elements that may at first seem unlikely companions," said Sarah Hayes of Sarah Hayes Design, who created a console table display with her 17-year-old patient. "And, as Caoilinn and I would both agree, the more twinkle lights, the merrier."

"Also, make decorations together with and for your children so they can be a part of the fun," added

Offering hints at what awaits those who visit the

displays, Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley Flowers in Alexandria said, "I have teamed up with a sweet ... patient to create a classic, woodlands-inspired holiday tree Along with my crew of talented volunteers, we've designed dozens of handmade wreaths that will adorn the tree along with beautiful glass and felt ornaments This tree will bring our theme — Over the River and Through the Woods — to life."

"We're inspired by our É patient partner who loves horses, unicorns, magic, pink, and purple," added Rachel and Charles Gang of Helen Olivia Flowers, also in Alexandria. "She lives in the country with her family so being outdoors is a part of her life. We're incorporating nature, plants, and pastel colors into our enchanted design."

Metallic animals, feathers and other natural elements are what designer Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors and Marika Meyer Textiles in Bethesda is using to create a safari-themed tree. "We'll incorporate some my Marika Meyer Textiles to create the garland and tree skirt using a custom colorway," she said. "It will be a festive and fun way to celebrate the holidays."

Other designers participating in Light Up the Season who are in the area include Lauren and David Liess of Lauren Liess in Great Falls, Wendy Danziger of Danziger De-

sign in Potomac, and Sascha Roth of Urban Country in Bethesda.

All of the holiday trees, mantelpieces, wreaths, menorahs and artwork on display will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit Children's National. Light Up The Season will be on Sunday, Dec. 16, from 12-4 p.m. at Four Seasons Hotel Washington, D.C. Family activities include holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, musical performances and visits from Santa. Tickets for the event are \$50 per child 16 and under, \$85 per adult for the family and \$250 per family of four (two adults and two children 16 and under).

For more information, including how to purchase tickets and how to be a sponsor, go to childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason or email lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com.



A mixture of dark red and white flowers along with holiday greenery and black and white ribbon are elements that designer Mary Biletnikoff will use to create a wreath for Light Up the Season.



Photo courtesy of Marika Meyers Marika Meyer Textiles will be used to create the garland and tree skirt for a holiday tree that Meyer is designing for Light Up the Season.

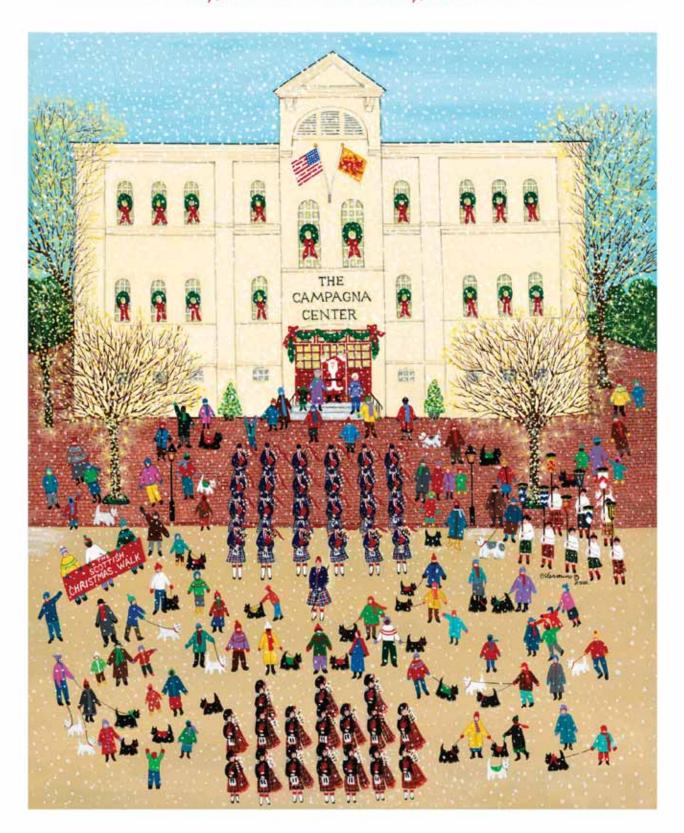
THE CAMPAGNA CENTER

PRESENTS

48TH ANNUAL

SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

Friday, November 31 and Saturday, December 1



Celebrating Alexandria's rich Scottish heritage and tradition of giving.

2018 EVENTS

HEATHER & GREENS SALE

Presented by McEnearney Associates

Decorate your home with greenery and traditional Scottish heather while supporting The Campagna Center. Order online at campagnacenter.org.

TASTE OF SCOTLAND

Presented by The Goodhart Group

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 6:30PM - 10:30PM

The Atrium Building, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

This elegant evening features a robust Scotch tasting menu, including a variety of Scotches direct from Scotland distilleries, and decadent catering by local hotspot, Society Fair.

THE SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE

Presented by Mazda North American Operations

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 11AM

Old Town Alexandria

For the 48th consecutive year, we proudly present The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Enjoy marching units filled with the magnificent tartans of Scottish Clans, the stirring sound of Scottish bagpipes and drums, Scottish dancers, reenactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries, classic cars, Santa Claus, and much more.

HOLIDAY HOME TOURS

Presented by Christine Garner, Weichert Realtors

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 12:30PM-4PM

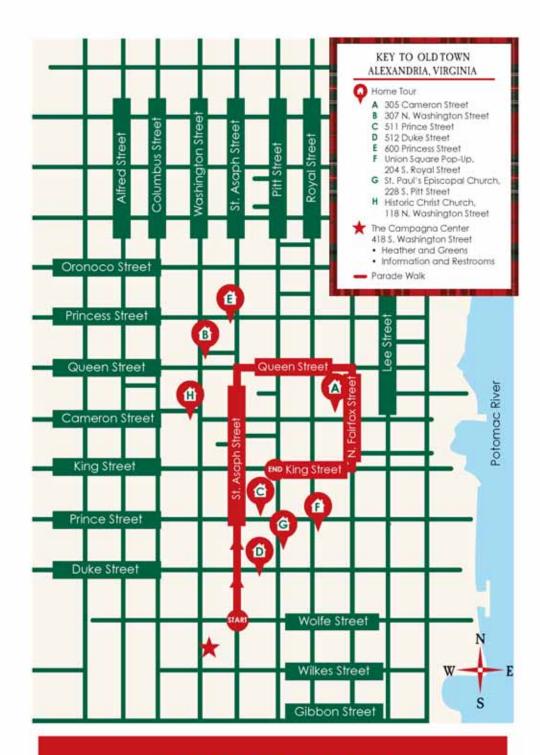
Explore Alexandria's history by touring some of Old Town's most splendid homes, decked-out by acclaimed interior designers and local florists. While you tour the homes, guides will fill you in on fun facts and interesting historical tidbits.



SCOTTISH WALK GRAND MARSHAL, FIRST LADY OF VIRGINIA



Pamela Northam is the wife of the 73rd Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam. She is a former pediatric occupational therapist and award-winning science educator who has dedicated these four years to using her professional experience to advocate for quality early childhood education. She serves as the Chair of the Administration's Children's Cabinet, which is focused on coordinating the work of state agencies and stakeholders to better serve Virginia's children.



TICKET PURCHASES -

Proceeds from all events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefit The Campagna Center's core education programs.

TASTE OF SCOTLAND

6:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Patron Pair: \$290 Individual Patron: \$180

\$50 of each Taste of Scotland ticket is not tax-deductible

HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

12:30 PM - 4:00 PM

General Admission: \$40

TICKET PICKUP AT YOUR FIRST HOME TOUR STOP

For more information on The Campagna Center and Scottish Walk Weekend, or to make a purchase, visit campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend.

2017-2018 SELECT PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- All 5 of TCC's early childhood sites up for reaccreditation were accredited this year. Nationally, only 6% of early childhood programs across the country have earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- We recognize school readiness goes beyond the classroom; wellness plays a big role in school success. So our Family Services Providers work with families to ensure children in our program have health insurance and a primary medical and dental provider. By the end of the 2017/2018 program year, 93% of children had a health insurance provider, primary medical provider, and dental provider.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Our Campagna Kids and Wright to Read programs offer affordable, enriching activities and learning opportunities like literacy tutoring, homework help, spring and summer break camps, and before and after school care.
- 91% of parents report that their child has benefitted from Campagna Kids program activities.
- 88% of children in the Wright to Read program report that "reading is easier" and they enjoy reading more since joining Wright to Read.

HIGH SCHOOL

- TCC's Building Better Futures program helps teens develop leadership skills through mentoring, academic tutoring, community service, college planning, and externships with local businesses.
- 93% of Building Better Futures students were promoted to the next grade level; 94% of seniors will be starting college in the fall of 2018, attending Bridgewater College, George Mason University, Virginia Tech, Old Dominion University, Marymount University, Liberty University, Virginia State University, and Northern Virginia Community College.

ADULTS

- TCC's New Neighbors program helps immigrants become self-sufficient members of the community. With ten levels of English instruction, access to city services, and on-site child care, New Neighbors provides a safe place where people from many cultures build skills and friendships while learning English.
- 97% of New Neighbors students report that learning English has helped them develop a greater sense of self-confidence and independence.

BECAUSE OF YOU, IN THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR:

A total of 2,673 enrollment opportunities were offered to children and adults across our programs.

501 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers discovered the joy of learning through our Early Childhood programs.

1,109 children had a safe place to learn and play after school. They had homework help, reading assistance, and whole lot of fun in our Campagna Kids and Wright to Read programs.

Building Better Futures presented 135 youth with externship opportunities, tutoring sessions, enrichment activities, and college preparation and application assistance.

232 adults and 75 children advanced their English language skills, made friends, and were warmly welcomed by our New Neighbors program.

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

This year, you can give the gift of a great education.







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THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

AN ALEXANDRIA TRADITION

Proceeds from all events of the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend benefit The Campagna Center's core programs. Your support of our programs advances our work to educate and enrich Alexandria's students, from cradle to career. With your help, each year we make strides toward three distinct goals: ensuring that children enter school ready to learn, supporting the academic and social success of children and youth, and helping adults in our programs realize goals that foster self-sufficiency. Your generous gifts to The Campagna Center reach more than 2,000 Alexandrians each year, enabling them to learn, grow, and thrive!

THANK YOU TO THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S 2018 SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WEEKEND WALK SPONSORS

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Mount Vernon Gazette

(sponsors listed as of 11.8.18)

Special thanks to the Junior Friends of The Campagna Center for the coordination and planning of The Campagna Center's Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend. Our great appreciation also extends to our friends at the City of Alexandria and to the members of the St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C. Cover art by Patricia Palermino.

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: "Connecting
Threads." Through Nov. 25 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit features the work of regional artists showcasing traditional and nontraditional ways to manipulate fiber and highlights narratives where textiles and fiber trigger nostalgia. See the exhibit and donate new towels for Carpenter's Shelter from Nov. 2-25. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/

connecting-threads.

Art Exhibit: "Pattern+Texture."

Through Dec. 2, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, Alexandria. Photographer Pete McCutchen captures mesmerizing patterns found in rock, ice, and sand, transforming natural scenery into abstract, alternate realities. Presented in monochrome and printed on metallic paper, McCutchen's photographs bewitch the eye with their ability to evoke twodimensional patterns; jagged rocks become houndstooth; sand dunes pose as pinstripes. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market.

Wednesdays, 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Every Wednesday (through Dec. 19), 15 local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/farmersmarkets.

Dollhouse Exhibit. Through December, Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Alexandria. Exhibit "Our Alexandria" Dollhouse Collection. The exhibit captures some of the forgotten businesses, people, and institutions that made African American families strong – church, school, and family. Other exhibits are also on site. Suggested admission \$3 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/ museums or call 703-746-4356. **Open for Tours.** Through December.

At 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House is open for tours Friday through Monday, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.) Not open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. To learn more about National Trust Sites, visit

savingplaces.org/historic-sites.

Sparkle and Glow: Holiday Show. Through Jan. 6 at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, located in Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Free admission. The Gallery shines with holiday spirit - unique gifts to give, lovely pieces to wear, and enchanting and decorative works for the home. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Nonthemed work may also be exhibited.

www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com. Still Life Alive. Through April 2, 2019, 9-5 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Patricia Uchello One Woman Art Show, featuring 100 original oil paintings of flowers, fruit, landscapes and seascapes. Uchello's work has been collected by IBM, the International Monetary Fund and more. Email pmuchello@aol.com or visit www.patriciauchello.com.

Pick-Up Hockey. Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-



The quilt "Sum Times" made by the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church Quilters, will be raffled at the 56th annual Holiday Shop, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17 at 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Tickets are \$1 each.

Holiday Shop

Featuring 50 artisans in fiber arts, photography, wood, paper, metal, glass and clay; orchids; crafts from around the world. Country Kitchen with famous chutneys, cakes, pies, cookies. Hot lunch. Quilt raffle. Saturday, Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.mvuc.org.

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/ or call 703-768-3224.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15

Historic Pohick Church Christmas Mart. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pohick

Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The Parish House and the Vestry House will be transformed into a festive Christmas atmosphere with rooms filled with Attic Treasures, a Consignment Shop, fresh baked goods, homemade candy and apple butter, and frozen casseroles made by the women of Pohick Church. Booths will feature the work of artisans showcasing handmade jewelry, stained glass, Christmas decorations and many other crafts. Colonial-attired ladies will serve luncheon at three sittings The Docent Guild will be leading tours of the historic colonial church and the Golden Dove Gift Shop will be open. Admission to the Christmas Mart is free. Visit www.pohick.org or call 703-339-6572.

The Georgetown Saxatones A Cappella Concert. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Get ready to rock the house with everything from alternative to pop to soul with the Georgetown Saxatones. As Georgetown's only community service a cappella group, they are passionate about sharing their music in support of worthy causes. Proceeds to benefit the Saxatones' preferred charity: the D.C. Autism Society. Tickets \$15. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Sortie of the Beaujolais Nouveau.

7:30-10 p.m. at The Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Join the Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee and the Office of Alexandria, and participate in the world's largest wine party. On Beaujolais Nouveau Day, parties are held throughout France to celebrate the first wine of the season. Celebrate the first taste of the 2018 harvest in the company of fellow French enthusiasts and Sister City supporters. While guests enjoy the new flavor of the 2018 Beaujolais speaker Jessica Outer of Uncork'd Events will explain the significance of Beaujolais and the current release. Cost of \$40 per person supports ACSCC programs. Call 703-746-4994 or visit alexandriava.gov/Shop.

NOV. 15-JAN. 6

Art Exhibit - Re: Vision. Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. In Re:Vision, Elizabeth Casqueiro reflects on the emotional content of immigration and what it means to push forward with a new life while remaining pulled by the old. Using as springboard two sets of images that represent these conflicting dynamics, namely retro comic books and lifestyle ads, she investigates the power of visionary myth to propel and restrain, the relinquishing of the precious as a condition to move forward, and the struggle to reconcile who we are, how we are perceived, and who we want to become. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/NOV. 16

Cape Science. 4 p.m. At James M. Duncan Jr. Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Free. Mixed Reactions explores the changes, featuring one of the most exciting areas of chemistry: combustion. Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org.

Eco-Justice Reading. 7 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Great Del Ray Poetry Reading's featured poets will

include contributors to "Ghost Fishing: An Eco-Justice Poetry Anthology," published by the University of Georgia Press. The anthology is described as a "gathering of poetry at the intersection of culture, social justice, and the environment." Featured Ghost Fishing poets include: Jennifer Atkinson, Alan King, Katy Richey, and Amy Young. Visit

www.facebook.com/DelRayPlayers. **Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Third Friday Community Dance with the Mount Vernon Swing Band; live music conducted by Owen Hammett. Cost is \$4 at door. Open to the community. Call 703-765-4573; TTY:711.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 16-18

"Shrek - The Musical." Hours are Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Join Mount Vernon Community Children's Theater for "Shrek - The Musical." Featuring 46 area youth ages 8-18. Hilarious and charming – fun for the whole family. \$14. Visit www.mvcct.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Tour de Mount Vernon. 8:30 a.m. Starting and ending at Fort Hunt Park in Mount Vernon with Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck. This has been rescheduled. Register today to ride or volunteer. More information at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

mountvernon. **Holiday Shop.** 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Featuring 50 artisans in fiber arts, photography, wood, paper, metal, glass and clay; orchids; crafts from around the world. Country Kitchen with famous chutneys, cakes, pies, cookies. Hot lunch. Quilt raffle. Visit www.mvuc.org.

Walking with Washington Tour. 10

a.m.-noon at the Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St., Alexandria. Free. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history. No reservations required. Call 703-379-7460 or visit www.washingtonbirthday.com.

Dinorock Production Puppet Show. 10 and 11:15 a.m. At Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Dinorock Production puppeteers will explore characteristics that human babies and dinosaur babies share, using award winning music and dynamic puppetry. Reservations per show are \$5 for all ages (adults and children). Children must be accompanied by at least one adult. To purchase tickets online, visit www.alexandriava.gov/ webtrac. Contact Cheryl Anne Colton, Regional Program Director, at 703-746-5565, email cherylanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.

Kids Krafts. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. At Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St., Alexandria. Create and take home craft projects inspired by early firefighting history. This program is for ages 5-8 and their work on crafts and visit the historic firehouse together. It is not a drop-off event. As space is limited, prepurchased timed tickets are required. Thirty-minute sessions start at 10 a.m. and are offered every half-hour with the last session starting at 1:30 p.m. Tickets: \$5 per child includes a

craft kit and museum admission. \$2 for adults. Purchase tickets at alexandriava.gov/Shop or call 703-746-4994.

Portside History. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria waterfront, 1 King St., Alexandria. Free. Explore Alexandria's waterfront history through free hands-on activities and pop-up displays presented by the Office of Historic Alexandria. On Nov. 17: Preserving Ice – Enjoy cold beverages? Love ice cream? Discover how Alexandrians preserved ice before the invention of home refrigerators. Visit www.PortsideInOldTown.com.

Make Old-Fashioned Toys. 1-2 p.m. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Make simple toys to take home and play games like those the children who once lived at Historic Huntley enjoyed. A special children's house tour and scavenger hunt are part of the fun. The program is designed for participants age 4 to adult. Cost is \$7 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

American Girl Talk. 1:30-3:30 p.m. or 2:30-4:30 p.m. At Mount Vernon Estate, Alexandria. American Girl author Valerie Tripp brings Felicity to Mount Vernon. Listen to "Martha Washington" and Valerie Tripp, author of the first American Girl book Felicity, as they share the story of their collaboration for the book. The menu includes tea and 18th-century desserts. Tickets: \$36/adult, \$20/youth Visit www.mountyernon.org

youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Alexandria Cider Festival. 2-6 p.m.

At Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington
St., Alexandria. Enjoy a selection of
ciders from more than 12 Virginia
cideries. Ticket includes tastings, a
souvenir glass, live music and fun fall
activities. Food trucks will also be onsite. Additional tasting tickets and
tasting lectures available for
purchase. Dress for the weather—this
event is outdoors. \$45. Visit
www.visitalexandriava.com/fall.

SUNDAY/NOV. 18

MIN-Contemporary Flute and

Guitar Duo. 1 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Returning to the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association at the Athenaeum for a fall concert is one of this region's finest chamber music ensembles, "MIN \sim Contemporary Flute and Guitar Duo" featuring flutist Saïs Kamalidiin and guitarist, Rick Peralta. "MIN" will engage the audience with music from many diverse styles and genres including baroque, be-bop, blues, bossas, ballads, broadway and beyond. Visit www.nfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Speaker David O. Smith. 3-4:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Mount Vernon at home hosts David O. Smith, who will speak on Pakistan, India and the Future of Afghanistan. Free. During 31 years of active duty service in the U.S. Army, David spent 22 years dealing with politico-military issues in the Near East and South Asia, retiring as a colonel. Visit http://www.mountvernonathome.org/.

Opening Reception - Re: Vision. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. In Re:Vision, Elizabeth Casqueiro reflects on the emotional content of immigration and what it means to push forward with a new life while remaining pulled by the old. Using as springboard two sets of images that represent these conflicting dynamics, namely retro comic books and lifestyle ads, she investigates the power of visionary myth to propel and restrain, the relinquishing of the precious as a condition to move forward, and the struggle to reconcile



Capitol Steps UCM Benefit

This evening of comedy and musical satire is always a crowd pleaser — so make your reservations now. No matter who or what is in the headlines, The Capitol Steps tackle both sides of the political spectrum and all things equally foolish. More than 350 guests and community leaders enjoyed the performance last year at the Madison Building. A fundraiser for the United Community Ministries. Sunday, Nov. 18, 5 p.m. At the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulaney St., Alexandria (Madison Building). Tickets: \$80; reserved table seating includes appetizers, beer, wine. Sponsorships start at \$500. Visit www.ucmagency.org for tickets.

who we are, how we are perceived, and who we want to become. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Capitol Steps UCM Benefit. 5 p.m. At the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulaney St., Alexandria (Madison Building). Tickets: \$80 reserved table seating includes appetizers, beer, wine. Sponsorships start at \$500. This evening of comedy and musical satire is always a crowd pleaser – so make your reservations now. No matter who or what is in the headlines, The Capitol Steps tackle both sides of the political spectrum and all things equally foolish. More than 350 guests and community leaders enjoyed the performance last year at the Madison Building. A fundraiser for the United Community Ministries. Visit www.ucmagency.org for tickets.

MONDAY/NOV. 19

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts. Residents will

collect shoebox gifts at drop-off locations serving Alexandria participants. The Samaritan's Purse project, partnering with churches worldwide, will deliver these gifts to children affected by war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine. Participants can donate \$9 per shoebox gift online through "Follow Your Box" and receive a tracking label to discover its destination. Those who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement. Call 410-772-7360, or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.

TUESDAY/NOV. 20

Germanic French Ancestors. 1-3 p.m. At Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Ph.D. genealogist John Philip Colletta will speak about the special challenges of researching ancestors of Alsace, Lorraine, and Elsass-Lothringen. Free, open to public. Email publicity@mvgenealogy.org or visit www.mvgenealogy.org. Lions Club Dinner. 7 p.m. At Pema's

ions Club Dinner. 7 p.m. At Pema's Restaurant, 8430 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The Mt. Vernon Evening Lions will be hosting their dinner meeting. Come and learn how the Lions support our community. Social at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7 p.m. Contact Andrea Corsillo at 703-960-4973.

NOV. 20-DEC. 23

"Christmas at the Old Bull &

Bush." At MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Admission is \$55. The Old Bull and Bush Public House is alive with British music hall songs and carols, corny jokes and funny sketches, tuneful melodies, sing-a-longs and sausage rolls. Celebrate the holidays with Florrie Forde, the most famous music hall star of the era, and her troupe of British performers. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.MetroStage.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 21

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. At James. M. Duncan Jr. Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Free. "Behind the Beautiful Forevers." The Duncan Book Discussion Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month. Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org. Visit alexlibraryva.org

FRIDAY/NOV. 23

Tree Lighting Ceremony. 6 p.m. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Kick off the holiday season at the 2018 City of Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event will begin with a welcome by the Town Crier and remarks from Mayor Allison Silberberg, followed by a performance by Santa's Frosty Follies from the Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, the lighting of the tree, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visit

www.alexandriava.gov.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 23-24

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Join Mount Vernon's residents and visitors for a festive evening tour. The experience begins in the Ford Orientation Center, where visitors enjoy the sounds of the holiday season and view spectacular Christmas trees highlighting the lives of the Washingtons and their home. Visitors will be guided into the 18th century for a lantern-lit tour of the historic area, where they will see the Slave Quarters and the Blacksmith Shop. Inside the Mansion, Martha Washington and other Mount Vernon residents will welcome visitors into their home and share stories of past Christmases. Tickets: \$25 adult, \$17 youth (ages 6-11). Visit

mountvernon.org/candlelight. **Holiday Shopping.** Through Old
Town Alexandria. Returning this year is Alexandria's alternative Black Friday experience on Nov. 23, with one-of-a-kind deals at more than 50 locally owned boutiques in Old Town and Del Ray, plus the Old Town Boutique District's first-ever Plaid Friday. On Alexandria's Small Business Saturday, Nov. 24, shoppers will be treated to free parking at parking meters, the Elf Prize Patrol and special in-store activities at more than 50 boutiques in Old Town and Del Ray. Alexandria Restaurant Partners' offering 10 percent off at all ARP restaurants (Vola's Dockside Grill, Mia's Italian Kitchen, The Majestic, Joe Theismann's Restaurant & Bar and Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap) when you present a receipt from a local small business. Visit

SATURDAY/NOV. 24

Small Business Saturday. More than 50 independently owned boutiques in Old Town Alexandria and Del Ray will offer special in-store activities. The Elf Prize Patrol returns from 11

a.m.-1 p.m. treating shoppers in Old Town and Del Ray with surprise giveaways. Other highlights include free parking at parking meters, popup musical performances by The Alexandria Singers and the Alexandria Citizens Band from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., a postcard pop-up from Penny Post, special activities at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, handson arts activities by the Mobile Art Lab and holiday tunes and cheer by DJ Josh Goldman. VisitalexandriaVA.com/SmallBusinessSaturday.

Christmas Tree Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. At 110 Callahan Drive, in the Amtrak Parking Lot, Alexandria. The Alexandria Police Youth Camp Christmas tree sale begins. The lot will be open daily until they run out of trees, which will likely take three weeks. They have purchased more trees than ever before because they may be faced with an additional \$10,000 bill to transport the kids to camp next summer; the goal is to cover that cost in additional tree sales. The youth camp has been operating for more than 70 years and this fundraiser is the largest, helping to cover approximately 50 percent of the summer camp operation. The tree sale runs from Mon.-Fri., 4-8 p.m.; and Sat. and Sun., 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet with Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore's special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.

Wetlands Nighttime Hike. 4:15-5:45 p.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. On the "Hot Cocoa Wetland Night Hike" look for signs and listen for sounds of beavers, owls, deer and other nocturnal winter animals. \$9 per person. Designed for participants age 6-adult, and children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The program will be canceled in the event of inclement weather. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SUNDAY/NOV. 25

Museum Store Sunday. Free to browse. Visit favorite historic Alexandria museums on Museum Store Sunday for unique and historically inspired gifts with special offers, seasonal refreshments and more. Participating museum stores include the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Alexandria Black History Museum, Fort Ward Museum, Freedom House Museum, and the Carlyle House. Visit www.VisitAlexandria.com/MuseumStoreSunday.

MONDAY/NOV. 26

Loan Sharks or Lenders of Last

Resort? 7:15 p.m. At The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Part of the Agenda:Alexandria program, which falls on the fourth Monday of the month. Programs are \$5 each or free with your \$35 membership, payable on-line at www.AgendaAlexandria.org/sign-up page or at the door by check or

page or at the door by check or credit. All are invited to a preprogram dinner if desired. Dinner is 6:45-7:15 p.m., prices starting at \$32 with reservations by the Friday prior



Traditional Thanksgiving Buffet \$19.50 Adults/\$7.95 Kids 12 and under The Best in Family Dining An Alexandria community fixture for more than 100 years, the Royal Restaurant offers the best in Greek, Italian and American cuisine. Enjoy burgers, steaks, prime rib, chicken, seafood, pasta and full salad bar complete with special children's menu items.

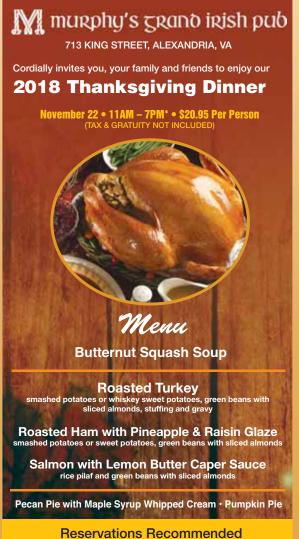
Contact us about Holiday Food fit for a king on a family budget

www.RoyalRestaurantVA.com ~ Award-winning wine menu ~ Major credit cards accepted









Catering & Event Locations

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703-548-1616

703-548-1717

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11AM - 7PM, FOLLOWED BY OUR LATE NIGHT MENU.



4 Restaurants Serving A Thanksgiving Feast

By Hope Nelson

on't feel like cooking this Thanksgiving Day? Have unexpected guests — or unexpected lastminute cancellations? Alexandria's restaurants have you covered. Pick up the phone or hop online to make a reservation at one of dozens of eateries just waiting to roll out the holiday feast.

Joe Theismann's

The venerable sports pub near the King Street Metro transforms into a holiday haven for Thanksgiving. Seatings are available all afternoon and into the evening for a

Appetite

three-course prix fixe menu that offers both standards, such as turkey breast and prime rib, as well as alterna-

tive offerings, such as crab cakes, salmon and eggplant Parmesan. Start things off with a salad or appetizer; end on a sweet note with pumpkin, pecan or apple pie. 1800 Diagonal Road. Noon-9 p.m. \$29; \$15 for children 12 and under. Reservations recommended.

Brabo Brasserie

The restaurant adjacent to the Lorien hotel is pulling out all the stops for a festive, upscale Thanksgiving dinner. Each course is served family-style, just like at home – only probably unlike home, diners will get to taste the likes of pressed beet terrine, baked salmon Riviera, duck a l'orange and nearly a half-dozen desserts. 1600 King St. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. \$75. Reservations recommended.

Carlyle Club

Enjoy your turkey with a side of jazz during the Carlyle Club's feast. Start off with lobster bisque or salad, move on to turkey with all the fixings (or sea bass with mango salsa) and then top it off with pumpkin or apple pie a la mode. The dulcet sounds of the Satin Doll Trio will provide a soundtrack for the occasion. 2050 Ballenger Ave. Noon-4 p.m. \$55. Reservations recommended.

Virtue Feed & Grain

The options are abundant at Virtue's holiday dinner. Start off with a spiced butternut squash and apple soup, a quinoa salad, spinach artichoke dip and more; then feast on turkey breast, prime rib, salmon, or pasta puttanesca. Pumpkin and bourbon-pecan pie await your dessert decision. 106 S. Union St. Noon-8 p.m. \$29 (\$18 for kids 12 and under). Reservations recommended.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

to the program. Visit www.Agenda:Alexandria.com.

TUESDAY/NOV. 27

Snacks & Self-Expression. 3:15 p.m. At Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Free. Teens find their inner artist using the mediums of painting, sketching, collage and more. Plus snacks. They'll bring the supplies, teens bring the inspiration. For teens (grades 6-12). Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org. Or visit the website: alexlibraryva.org.

alexlibraryva.org. **Preserving Heritage.** 7 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Free. Victoria Vasques and Marty Abbott will discuss the work being done to preserve and support learning of indigenous languages of North America. Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28

Building Relationships. 6 p.m. At Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Free. This workshop will help attendees to experience MLK's call to develop "understanding with the enemy and release those vast reservoirs of goodwill that have been blocked by impenetrable walls of hate." Contact Anton Murray at amurray@alexlibraryva.org. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29-SATURDAY/DEC. 1 Alexandria Community Nutcracker. At West

Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Celebrating its 10th year, the Alexandria Community Nutcracker – in collaboration with The West Potomac Academy Program – will once again delight guests of all ages with the holiday classic, "The Nutcracker." This season's four performances will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29; 6:30 p.m. on

Friday, Nov. 30; and 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1. Cost is \$10-\$25. Visit www.alexandrianutcracker.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30-SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market. Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and more. Plus FUNdraising 2019 wall calendars, cookbooks, and upcycled tote bags to support Del Ray Artisans. Free admission. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2018.

NOV. 30-DEC. 15

"Adventures with Mr. Bear." At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Presented by Arts on the Horizon. One winter afternoon, a young girl and her favorite stuffed animal, Mr. Bear, play a game of hide and seek which evolves into a series of exciting adventures. \$10. Performance Schedule:(Friday, Nov. 30 - 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 1 - 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 6 at 10:30 a.m.; Friday, Dec. 7 at 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Thursday, Dec. 13 at 10:30 a.m.; Friday, Dec. 14 at 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Purchase tickets at www.artsonthehorizon.org/mr-bear-2018.html.

NOV. 30-DEC. 16

LTA's "A Christmas Carol." At 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. The Little Theatre of Alexandria rings in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable, bitter old miser travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Tickets \$20. Call 703-683-0496 or visit

www.TheLittleTheatre.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. The Mount Vernon High School PTSA presents their 2018 Holiday Market. Accepting vendors. Learn more at Facebook.com/MVHSHM or email ptsaholidayfest@gmail.com.

Christmastide at Gunston Hall. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. A full day of holiday activities starts with a visit from Santa to games and crafts for all ages. The evening hours provide a romantic holiday experience by candlelight as visitors sample period food in the kitchen and explore the grounds by candlelight. \$15 for adults; \$10 for children. Visit www.gunstonhall.org/ or call 703-550-9220.

Brunch With Santa. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Skip the lines at the mall and bring the family to Pinecrest's new indoor golf studio. Meet and take pictures with Santa while enjoying a family friendly brunch. Santa will be making his way around to mingle with families, take requests for holiday wish lists and give out goody bags before he heads back to the North Pole. \$12 for ages 3 to 12; \$14 for ages 13 and up. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Email fcpapinecrestgc@ fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-941-

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. "Why the Sun & Moon Live in the Sky," retold and illustrated by Niki Daly. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

48th Annual Campagna Center
Scottish Christmas Walk
Parade. 11 a.m. Dozens of Scottish
clans dressed in colorful tartans
parade through the streets of Old
Town, joined by pipe and drum
bands from around the region, as
well as terriers and hounds. The
parade, which takes place rain or
shine, begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe
Streets and concludes at Market
Square with a massed band concert.
Parade admission is free. Call 703549-0111 or visit
www.CampagnaCenter.org/

ScottishWalkWeekend.

Ship Biscuit Ornament Making. 1-4 p.m. At Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., #327, Alexandria. An almost completely intact ship's biscuit from the 18th century was found in Alexandria last year. To commemorate the discovery, visitors are invited to make their own ship's biscuit. Each biscuit will be stamped with the year and then baked at home to track its preservation. No registration required. Call 703-746-4399 or visit www.AlexandriaArchaeology.org.

19th Annual Holiday Boat Parade
of Lights. 5:30 p.m. At Alexandria
City Marina, Cameron Street.
Alexandria's waterfront shines as
dozens of brightly lit boats cruise the
Potomac River for the Alexandria
Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.
Parade viewing areas include:
Founders Park (351 North Union
St.), Alexandria City Marina (0
Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1A
Prince St.), Shipyard/Harborside
Park (1 Wilkes St.), and Ford's
Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Call



Featured Poet William Heath reads his works at recent Great Del Ray Poetry Reading.

Eco-Justice Reading

Great Del Ray Poetry Reading's featured poets will include contributors to "Ghost Fishing: An Eco-Justice Poetry Anthology," published by the University of Georgia Press. The anthology is described as a "gathering of poetry at the intersection of culture, social justice, and the environment." Featured Ghost Fishing poets include: Jennifer Atkinson, Alan King, Katy Richey, and Amy Young. Friday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m. At St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Visit www.facebook.com/DelRayPlayers.

703-746-3301. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/

Holidays on the Avenue in Del

Ray. 6 p.m. At Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at Mount Vernon Avenue and E. Oxford Avenue, Alexandria. Kick off the holidays with a visit to Del Ray for the annual holiday tree lighting, featuring a special appearance by Santa Claus who will lead carols and sit for photos with children. Continue the celebration and start your holiday shopping with a stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be illuminated by thousands of luminarias. Pick your favorite in the neighborhood business association's annual Christmas tree decorating contest. Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.VisitDelRay.com

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 1-2

Watercolor Exhibition and Sale.

Saturday, 4-7 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Sixty local artists will exhibit and offer for sale their original watercolor paintings at the 26th annual exhibition of Famous Artists of the 21st Century.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Holiday Sweater Run. 8 a.m. Meet at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Followed by brunch at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. at Chadwicks, 203 Strand St., Alexandria. Join Pacers Running, the City of Alexandria and Chadwicks at Waterfront Park for a run. All paces are welcome, and no ticket is required to join the run. Come out in your holiday finest (running shoes strongly encouraged). The run route will take you south through Old Town on Union Street and then connect to the George Washington Memorial Parkway Trail. There will be different turnarounds options from 4 miles up 20 miles. Call 703-836-1463 or visit www.RunPacers.com.

Del Ray Holiday Pop-Up Market. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. At the Pat Miller

11 a.m.-3 p.m. At the Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at Mount Vernon Avenue and E. Oxford Ave., Alexandria. Find the perfect gift at this pop-up market featuring local artisans and at-home entrepreneurs. Call 703-683-2570 or visit www.VisitDelRay.com.

Messiah Sing-Along. 4-6 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St. This year, sing all choruses (parts 1, 2 and 3) accompanied by the Amadeus Orchestra. The audience is the chorus, led by the Fairlington United Methodist Church Choir with Dr. Louise Wilson, conductor. Free. Visit bit.ly/messiahsing-along.

MONDAY/DEC. 3

Poetry Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. at
Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron
St., Alexandria. "Building Cultural
Bridges" with Wendi R Kaplan, Poet
Laureate. At these workshops, poetry
can be read and written. The Poet
Laureate and literary programs are
part of the Office of the Arts, a
division of the Alexandria
Department of Recreation, Parks and
Cultural Activities. The workshops
are free; to register, RSVP at
poet@alexandriava.gov or contact
Cheryl Anne Colton at 703-746-5565
or cherylanne.colton@
alexandriava.gov, or visit
www.alexandriava.gov/Arts.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 7-9 Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market.

Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Different artists each weekend. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and more. Plus FUNdraising 2019 wall calendars, cookbooks, and upcycled tote bags to support Del Ray Artisans. Free admission. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/holiday-market-2018.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

Children's Holiday Magic Show.

6:45-8 p.m. at Holiday Inn-Carlyle, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Four amazing magicians magicians. Free with non-perishable food item or new toy. Donations made to Salvation Army Alexandria Citadel. Put on by local magicians club, IBM Ring 50. Call 703-347-5540 or visit ibmring50.org/holidaymagic.





Traditional Thanksgiving Buffet \$19.50 Adults \$7.95 Kids 12 and under



The Best in Family Dining

An Alexandria community fixture for more than 100 years, the Royal Restaurant offers the best in Greek, Italian and American cuisine. Enjoy burgers, steaks, prime rib, chicken, seafood, pasta and full salad bar complete with special children's menu items.

Food fit for a king on a family budget

Contact us about Holiday Catering & Event Locations!

734 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314



703-548-1616

RoyalRestaurantVA.con

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Shrek – Aidan White, Donkey – Avery Johnson, Fiona – Kendall Huheey, Gingy – Eli Swanson, The White Rabbit – Lydia Lopez, and Pinocchio – Charlie Russell.

Shrek The Musical

Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre presents "Shrek The Musical" starring 46 local youth from more than 22 area schools. An unlikely hero, Shrek finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside the wisecracking Donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. "Shrek the Musical" is irreverent fun for the whole family and proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre. The show will be performed Nov. 9-18 at Bryant Alternative High School Auditorium, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Show times are Nov. 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 7 p.m.; and Nov. 11 and 18 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$14/per person online at www.mvcct.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

Community Shopping Event. 7-9 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 519 King St. Every gift purchased will provide special needs assistance to an Alexandrian – a child, teen, adult, or older adult – of limited means who is striving for recovery and wellbeing with help from the City's mental health services. Enjoy light refreshments, music, free giftwrapping, and a great selection of handcrafted items made by artisans from over 38 countries. The more items purchased, the greater the help to those in need. Email FriendsoftheAMHC@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet with Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore's special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.

"Chips for Charity" Fundraiser. 7
p.m. at The U.S. Patent and
Trademark Office, in the Madison
Auditorium, 600 Dulaney St. The
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Military Association is hosting a
"Chips for Charity" to raise funds for
Serve Our Willing Warriors (SOWW).
SOWW is a local non-profit charity in
Haymarket that provides no-cost
retreats and other programs that
positively impact the lives of
wounded, ill, or injured military

service members and disabled veterans. Open to the public. \$30 for players, \$20 for non-players. Tickets can be purchased at ptomilitaryassociation.org/chips-for-charity.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9

Metropolitan School of the Arts

Nutcracker Ballet. 1 and 5 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, NOVA Alexandria campus. The Metropolitan School of the Arts Nutcracker Ballet showcases a worldclass, international principle guest dancer, Brooklyn Mack, who performs the role of Cavalier. Tickets are \$26-\$28 at

www.metropolitanarts.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 11

Del Ray Artisans Benefit. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; performance, 8 p.m. at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Little Theatre of Alexandria performance of "A Christmas Carol" to benefit Del Ray Artisans. \$45. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/christmascarol.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Alexandria After Work Concert

Series. 6-8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington and The Office of Historic Alexandria sponsor a concert on the second Friday of the month with locations rotating between the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, Lloyd House, and The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum. \$15 suggested donation for the musicians, light refreshments available, and a cash bar. Visit www.fsgw.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet with Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore's special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 14-16

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market.
Friday, 6-9 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday,
11 a.m.-6 p.m. at 2704 Mount
Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers
handmade fine arts and crafts from
local artists. Different artists each
weekend. Choose from wall art,
pottery, photography, jewelry, glass,
and more. Plus FUNdraising 2019
wall calendars, cookbooks, and
upcycled tote bags to support Del Ray
Artisans. Free admission. Visit
DelRayArtisans.org/event/holidaymarket-2018.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

Photos with Santa. 12 p.m.-3 p.m. At Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Hooray for Books! and Visit Alexandria will present photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Advance reservation is required. To reserve a 10-minute slot for a child to meet with Santa, make any size donation to the bookstore's special Santa account, which will be used to provide books, toys and games for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program's Holiday Party. Visit www.Hooray4Books.com.









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OPINION

Indigenous People's Day

Next year I hope to introduce legislation designating Indigenous People's Day as a state holiday. Currently, there are six states and 55 cities that celebrate it as a recognized holiday. It is time that we join them to take the lead on this important date and fully recognize the contributions of Native Americans to our Commonwealth. Designating Indigenous People's Day as a state holiday will allow us to highlight the culture and history of our Native American community.

I am hopeful that this legislation will pass into law because it is the right thing to do. Native Americans are too often marginalized through a lack of access to education, and with little recognition for the issues confronting them at both the federal and state levels. A knowledge of the history of Native Americans is essential to understanding our history. Their story is the origin story of America yet so few Americans know much about them. There is an overall misinformation and confusion about the 11 staterecognized and seven federally-recognized tribes in Virginia who deserve to have their history and culture acknowledged and appreciated with their own holiday. Below I have listed the 11 state recognized tribes in Virginia. The first seven tribes below are also federally recognized.

- ❖ Pamunkey Pamunkey River/King William
- Chickahominy Charles City County
- * Eastern Chickahominy New Kent County

- ❖ Rappahannock Indian Neck/King & Queen
- ❖ Monacan Indian Nation Bear Mountain/ Amherst County
- ❖ Nansemond Cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake ❖ Mattaponi - Mattaponi River/King William
- Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Courtland/ Southampton County
- ❖ Nottoway of Virginia Capron/Southampton
- * Patowomeck Stafford County

By designating this day as a state holiday it will raise awareness of Native Americans in Virginia and educate the general public on historic and current struggles of these tribes. While having a state holiday will not come close to correcting years of injustices, it is a start. Despite degradation and destruction to their very way of life, loss of land and language, the tribes of Virginia persevered and their culture remains strong. Indigenous People's Day is a day to celebrate the heritage of our Indigenous people, and for both native and non-native to celebrate the many aspects of native culture, both historic and contemporary. I hope that you will consider joining me and visiting the Capitol in Richmond in front of the Governor's mansion on Indigenous People's Day, the day before Thanksgiving, in the morning to witness this important Thanksgiving tradition going back centuries predating the establishment of our nation. To learn even more about Virginia's Indigenous people: https:// www.commonwealth.virginia.gov/virginia-indians/

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Announcements

Announcements

Upper Mattaponi - King William County

From Page 5

boxer style shorts worn over dark colored pants.

CRIME REPORT

NOV. 13 LARCENIES

2600 block of Arlington Drive, pack-

ages from residence 6900 block of Columbia Drive, hose from residence

8500 block of Hyman Way, license plate from vehicle

2300 block of Huntington Avenue,

cigarettes from business 8300 block of Justin Road, keys and

purse from vehicle 8400 block of Lakepark Drive, prop-

erty from residence 3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard,

merchandise from business

3300 block of Lockheed Boulevard, cell phone and keys from location

3200 block of Mount Vernon Memo-

rial Highway, property from vehicle 2800 block of Preston Avenue, wallet

from vehicle 6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

6700 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from location

7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business 8700 block of Richmond Highway,

wallet from location 7500 block of Vernon Square Drive,

property from location 7800 block of Richmond Highway,

cell phone from business 8600 block of Walutes Circle, cash from vehicle

NOV. 9 LARCENIES

5900 block of Grand Pavilion Way, golf clubs from vehicle

2500 block of Parkers Lane, cell

phone from location

5900 block of Richmond Highway, airbag from vehicle

NOV. 8 LARCENIES

6300 block of South Kings Highway, cigarettes from business

NOV. 7

LARCENIES 2700 block of Arlington Drive,

vacuum from residence 2800 block of Arlington Drive, bicycle

from residence 5300 block of Bedford Terrace, personal documents from residence

1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, cash from residence 1600 block of Belle View Boulevard,

merchandise from business 2800 block of Fairhaven Avenue.

money order from residence

7800 block of Southdown Road, wallet from vehicle

NOV. 6 **LARCENIES**

5900 block of Grand Pavilion Way, watches from residence 6300 block of Richmond Highway,

donuts from business

NOV. 5 **LARCENIES**

7900 block of Audubon Avenue, cell phone and wallet from location

2600 block of Arlington Drive, bicycle from location

Fielding Street/Seven Woods Drive, musical instrument from location 7100 block of Groveton Gardens

Road, property from location 3300 block of Lockheed Boulevard,

cell phone from location 6700 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from location

7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8100 block of Richmond Highway, bag from location

8600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business 8800 block of Richmond Highway,

property and cash from location 8800 block of Richmond Highway, shoes from business

NOV. 2 **LARCENIES**

7100 block of Groveton Gardens Road, purse from vehicle

NOV. 1 **LARCENIES**

8300 block of Boone Boulevard, wallet from location

7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Center, liquor from business

6100 block of North Kings Highway, bicycle from location

OCT. 31 **LARCENIES**

2500 block of Huntington Avenue, bicycles from location

3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, beer from business

2600 block of Redcoat Drive, cash

OCT. 30 **LARCENIES**

2800 block of Beacon Hill Road, cigarettes from business

2500 block of Parkers Lane, cell phone from vehicle 3100 block of Southgate Drive, credit

card from vehicle 5800 block of Wyomissing Court, documents from vehicle

STOLEN VEHICLES

5900 block of Berkshire Court, 2010 Tovota Camry

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Airing of a Grievance



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now that I'm back to every-three-week-chemotherapy infusions, getting through the "holiday" season becomes very tricky. One week delay due to unacceptable lab results can have a cascade effect on one's ability to spread any cheer.

And given that I'm scheduled to be infused rather aggressively, a direct result of tumor growth indicated on my most recent CT scan, delaying an infusion to accommodate my non-chemotherapy schedule seems like a non starter. After all, we're trying to keep me alive here.

Therefore, it seems counter-intuitive almost to push my treatment ahead one or two weeks just so I can enjoy a Thanksgiving turkey.

In the scheme of things, enjoying a meal pales in comparison to enjoying a life. And shrinking and/or stabilizing tumors trumps mashed potatoes and gravy. Missing a festive occasion/not being able to taste/eat anything is much less important than beating back my sworn enemy: cancer.

However, considering the unpredictability of my actually-receiving-chemotherapy on the two scheduled infusion dates before Christmas: 11/16/18 and 12/7/18, and the effect of rescheduling one or the other by one or two weeks, depending on lab results, gives pre-holiday chemotherapy infusions a bad name and an even worse connotation.

The patient (in this context, me), is either damned if you do (side effects) and/or damned if you don't (tumor growth, potentially). I need way more than a Festivus miracle.

To invoke Tiny Tim, I need to tiptoe through the tulips, so to speak; to have my chemotherapy infusions allow me to eat/satiate my meals, travel when necessary without having to double-back for chemotherapy (yes, my infusion center is open on Friday, Nov. 23, as well as the day before Christmas and the day after, with their schedule repeating itself for New Year's) and navigate an already challenging five-week turn of events. To be capped off by a Jan. 2 CT scan followed up by a Jan. 11 face-to-face appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results of the January scan.

I can hardly wait. Although I have to, and of course, think about the what-if constantly.

Nearly two months of scheduling twists and turns impacting one's quality of life during the most stressful time of the year: Thanksgiving through New Year's followed by learning one's fate: stay the course or as Yogi Berra said: "Come to the fork in the road and take it." And if I do take it (Immunotherapy), it won't simply be the road less traveled, it will be the road never traveled - by me. Although many other cancer patients have blazed the trail, the prospect of yours truly blazing the next trail (line) scares me, hopefully not to death.

It might not be so bad – and extremely personal, if my best friend's wife hadn't succumbed to her lung cancer within a year or so after being prescribed one of the drugs that my oncologist and I have discussed if my next scan continues to show tumor growth.

I get so emotional at the mere mention of the drug that I can't even pronounce it through my tears. So my oncologist knows my preference and he's content to respect my wishes especially considering that according to his experiences, the drugs are fairly similar in their effect/success.

And since mind definitely matters, keeping me in a positive frame of mind is the goal. But I'm getting way ahead of myself here; it's only November. This discussion won't occur for almost nine weeks, Jan. 11, 2019.

The only problem is, the next nine weeks present challenges unlike any similar period during the year. Throw in a few lab tests, a couple of chemotherapy infusions, a diagnostic scan and few weeks to wait for all of it to shake out and what you're left with is your life hanging in the balance and death rearing its ugly head.

"Cancer sucks" - especially during the holi-

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



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the other issues at hand. Colin Wong/Alexandria

the article.

OPINION

officer-involved shootings. Recent cell

phone, dash camera and body camera vid-

eos have shown the public how officers are

often presented with difficult situations and

are required to make split-second judgment

calls that can be the difference between life

and death and videos provide context. How-

ever, the video that we have seen shows that

the Ghaisar situation presented zero threat

Very disturbing is the complete lack of

transparency by the federal government

about what happened. Congressman Don

If an officer had been shot, the public

would have been briefed that night and

charges would have been announced the

next day. The Turkish Government has pro-

vided better transparency on the Khashoggi

killing than our own government has right

Last week, one hundred Mount Vernon

residents and Bijan Ghasair's family joined

me in a candlelight vigil at the shooting site.

The Ghaisar Family is holding another vigil

on the one-year anniversary of their son's

death on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 6 p.m. at the

Our community deserves answers and I

Please email me at scott@scott

surovell.org with your suggestions and feed-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In the Nov. 1 edition the Mount Vernon

Gazette there was an article titled, "Why

Aren't More People Voting?" by Del. Paul

Krizek. In the article Mr. Krizek states that

Virginia must set an example in the area of

voting rights. Indeed, it is important to set

an example just not for the United States,

but for other countries where people are

discriminated against when trying to go to

the polls. While I believe that Mr. Krizek is

correct in stressing voting laws to allow ex-

cons and early voting, I think he may have

People may feel that they are uninformed

or misinformed, even, on the candidates

and the key issues at hand, and thus they

may feel that they can't make an educated

decision. Others may incorrectly assume

and believe that their vote can't influence

the outcome, or worse off may just feel no

obligation to vote at all. There could also

be individuals who don't think the system

These and other issues contribute to why

people don't vote, and I was curious as to

why these were not at least mentioned in

While I do believe legislation is a step in

the right direction to solve this situation, I

caution Mr. Krizek and others from being

too invested in just that and not examining

is working and just refuse to participate.

missed other key issues with voting.

More

Memorial.

www.facebook.com/wearebijan/

Other Reasons

Behind Not Voting

Answers

to the police or public safety.

Beyer has demanded answers.

here in our community.

Lincoln

back.

intend to get them.

To the Editor:

From Page 6



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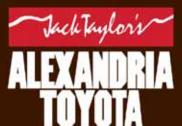
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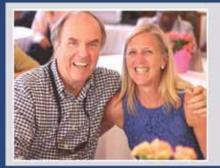
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