

# Fairfax's Festival Of Lights and Carols

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

'This Has Been  
A Great Ride'

NEWS, PAGE 9

Holiday Fun

CALENDAR, PAGE 8

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## News

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**The Citizens Police Academy is designed to give participants a glimpse behind the badge.**

### Citizens Police Academy Accepting Applications

Interested in learning more about local law enforcement? The Citizens Police Academy is designed to give participants a glimpse behind the badge and to provide information about training, policies, and the many units and divisions within the Fairfax County Police Department.

FCPD is now accepting applications for the Spring 2020 session that will meet from March 5 to May 9, 2020 and the Fall 2020 session that will meet from Sept. 17 to Nov. 21, 2020.

Students will learn about

- ❖ Police training (including weapons and driving)
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Classes are held on ten consecutive Thursday nights, from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Graduation is held on a Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes rotate to various police department facilities around Fairfax County. Due to the popu-

larity of the program, all participants are required to attend at eight out of ten classes in order to successfully graduate.

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The Fairfax County Police Department seeks people from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds when selecting participants for its Citizen Police Academy. Candidates from different ethnicities, professions, cultural backgrounds, orientations, age groups, and communities throughout Fairfax County are encouraged to apply in order to enrich class discussions and strengthen community relationships.

This program is not an accredited certification course to become a sworn police officer. For information regarding employment as a police officer or about the paid police academy, visit Join Our Team page.

For more information, call 703-246-4315 or e-mail at [CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**The Fairfax County Police Department seeks people from a wide variety of cultures and backgrounds when selecting participants for its Citizen Police Academy.**

2 ❖ FAIRFAX CONNECTION ❖ DECEMBER 12-18, 2019

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**Shirley Ginwright, chairman of the Communities of Trust, presents a plaque to Sharon Bulova (in purple) while Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, Police Chief Ed Roessler, MPO Wayne Twombly and Major Dean Lay, look on.**



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/  
THE CONNECTION

## 'This Has Been a Great Ride'

**Community bids farewell to Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t's the end of an era in Fairfax County: When the Board of Supervisors reconvenes in January 2020, Sharon Bulova will no longer be at its helm. She's retiring after serving 31 years on the Board, including the past 10 years as its chairman.

And Monday evening, Dec. 9, friends, family members, county officials and staff, plus longtime colleagues and associates, gathered at the county Government Center to bid her farewell. The event was filled with speeches, plaques, standing ovations and – like Bulova, herself – genuine feelings of warmth and goodwill.

She began her tenure on the Board as Braddock District Supervisor and, for 20 years, she also chaired the Board's Budget Committee. Her accomplishments are many, including helping to found the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail line and overseeing the huge Tysons Corner redevelopment and the opening of the Silver Line.

Also significant was Bulova's establishment of the Communities of Trust in December 2014 with then county NAACP President Shirley Ginwright. Bulova embraced police reform and established a commission which led to the Police Civilian Review panel and the independent police auditor.

Now, though, Bulova is stepping down to be able to enjoy the extra hours she'll have in her life, as a result of leaving this demanding, time-consuming job leading a complicated county of 1.1 million people. Among the things she plans to do are visit her daughter in Seattle and travel to France.

Meanwhile, fellow Democrat Jeff McKay, former Lee District supervisor, was elected to succeed her as Board chairman.

After all the presentations and glowing words from everyone else on Monday, Bulova addressed the crowd gathered in the Government



**From left are past Board of Supervisors Chairman Kate Hanley and retiring Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.**

Center forum. She thanked everyone she's worked with and said how glad she was that people in Fairfax County truly care about their local government. She also noted that she's comfortable leaving her post now because she knows she's leaving it in good hands.

Lastly, Bulova stressed how proud she's been to have served these past three decades in local government. "This has been a great ride," she said. "Local government is where the rubber hits the road. It's been a wonderful journey, and I appreciated the opportunity to make it with all of you."



**Past and present Board of Supervisors members honor Sharon Bulova (in purple) for her three decades of service to Fairfax County.**



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Cutting the ribbon on the new H Mart at 11200 Fairfax Blvd. in Fairfax City.**

## Store's Message: 'All Are Welcome Here'

**City helps celebrate new H Mart's opening.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith speeches, drummers and happy smiles all around, H Mart recently celebrated the grand opening of its new grocery store at 11200 Fairfax Blvd. in the City of Fairfax. Moving from its former location across from Paul VI High School, it replaced the former Giant Foods store that had been in that spot off Route 50 for many years.

H Mart's new store is 60,000 square feet, and this popular Asian supermarket offers a wide array, including produce, meat, seafood, groceries, housewares, ready-to-cook items, a food-court and even a branch of the Paris Baguette bakery.

The grand-opening event featured a VIP tea for City of Fairfax officials and other dignitaries, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, speeches and a performance by traditional Korean drummers. The store then officially opened to an eager public.



**Korean drummers performing at the grand opening ceremony.**

"I congratulate H Mart President Brian Kwon and his remarkable team on repurposing this building for its new store on Jermantown Road and Route 50 [Fairfax Boulevard]," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "High-quality, grocery stores that offer diverse products are key to the City's economic development. H Mart's commitment to the City has been longstanding, and its relocation

SEE H MART, PAGE 7



**From left, H Mart payroll specialist James Chu, Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Wilson and Fairfax Police Chief Erin Schaible in front of the Paris Baguette bakery.**





**Strikers walking by the Capitol Hill, including Annabelle Dennen, 14, Great Falls and Cate Coetzee, 14, Great Falls.**



**Strikers on the streets of D.C.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## ‘Fridays for Future’ Protests Continue

### Great Falls youth join the strike.

Outside of the Library of Congress, strikers and a golden retriever sit in playing protest music. Their colorful signs read “School Strike For Climate” and “Fridays For Future.” It is a scene that repeats itself every Friday. The group was of many ages and were from Maryland,

DC, and some from our Great Falls community. Some have come after a day in school, some have skipped school to be present.

They are striking, as they do every Friday, with the DC branch of Fridays For Future, an international organization founded by Greta Thunberg. They are there to demand action

on the climate crisis as demanded by science, and they have vowed to come back every Friday until they see it.

It is a cold December day, but that doesn’t deter them. As the light fades over Washington, two strikers take their shoes off and dance on the sidewalk to Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start The Fire.”

—CATE COETZEE

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Supporting ‘Less-fortunate Others’

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the opinion piece titled “Commentary: Helping Families Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Fairfax County” (Connection, November 20-26, 2019).

As this county is known for its high rank among the richest in the nation, it was pleasing to see awareness brought to the issue of wealth disparity and struggling families in Fairfax.

The rapid growth of industries generates peril for the working-class as individuals view their financial shortcomings as a personal problem rather than a public issue of a sick society. Responsively, the efforts of Cornerstones and Britepaths seemingly work to combat the negative consequences of inequality and economic instability that our capitalist system produces.

The reflecting words of client “Denise” brought an insight into the new feeling of hope provided by the extra allowance from EITC. This hope effectively propelled her and other recipients alike toward

more rewarding opportunities and, eventually, upward mobility. Her comment that “conversations about social support programs are not hypothetical political statements; they are decisions that impact real people”, really weighed on me. My wish for fellow readers is that they think back on how they might’ve undermined the experiences of “less-fortunate others” in the past.

**Jessica Sarmiento**  
Herndon

### Time for Community to Come Together

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article titled “Opinion: Editorial: Give Locally” (Connection, November 20-26, 2019).

In NOVA, and especially in the area where I live, the disparity between household incomes can be staggering. It becomes especially salient during Christmas time, when you see people posting pictures of the piles and piles of Christmas presents stacked underneath their tree, and boasting of their “haul” on Christmas morn-

ing, when there are families just a few blocks away struggling to even buy their children one or two gifts. So many people are so far removed from their neighbors and their communities that they don’t realize or refuse to acknowledge the issue.

It is incredibly sad to me that there are so many underprivileged students in an area filled with so much wealth, as well as the elitism of certain areas in our community. I hope that our community can come together and provide for those who are in need this holiday season, take some of the burden off of these struggling families, and facilitate a more inclusive and interconnected community for the years to come.

**Molly Van Trees**  
Centreville

### Karma

To the Editor:

Virginia Republicans should now consider what they’ve done to folks like John & Renee Thoburn and Lt. Col Oliver North, (Ret) when thinking about this lost elections. Maybe they should make the song by Tim McGraw, “Humble and Kind” an integral aspect of their character. You were respon-

sible for destroying the lives of John & Renee, and you chose to vote for Marshall Coleman, a throw away vote, rather than a decorated Marine/Vietnam Veteran/and your own Republican nominee - Ollie. Now you get to sit in your much deserved time out chair and watch as the Orchestra of the Democratic Party enjoy their well deserved victory. I doubt you learned your lesson about arrogance, but at least now you’ll be on the sidelines of change while those much more deserving as you now take the lead in Virginia.

**Dave Minyard**  
Vienna

**Write** The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.  
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## WEEK IN FAIRFAX

### DeMarco Not Seeking Re-Election

Currently in his fourth term on the Fairfax City Council, Michael DeMarco announced Tuesday night that he won't be seeking re-election next May. "I'll remain in the City, but my focus will turn to the arts and entertainment area," he said. Indeed, DeMarco and Josh Anderson are already hard at work on preparing Earp's Ordinary on Main Street to become the City's newest restaurant and live-entertainment venue.

After the announcement, Councilman Sang Yi thanked DeMarco for his long service to the City. Mayor David Meyer also expressed his appreciation, telling DeMarco his new venture "will let you use your gifts and talents in a new way, so all the best."



**Michael DeMarco**

### Helping Those in Need

Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths is seeking volunteers to sponsor local families in need by providing a December holiday meal and/or gifts for children under 18. Britepaths also has a great need for cash donations and gift cards to grocery stores or Target/Walmart to assist those who are not sponsored. Register and learn more at: [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org), contact 703-273-8829 or email [sryan@britepaths.org](mailto:sryan@britepaths.org).

### Meet with Del. David Bulova

Del. David Bulova (D-37) invites constituents to meet with him informally, this Saturday, Dec. 14, from 9-11 a.m., at Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main St. in Fairfax. They're invited to talk about issues of

interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting their community. The format is casual, and no appointment is needed.

### Gala to Support Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing

While there will not be a Hearing Loss Connection of Northern Virginia (HLCnova) meeting in December, many HLCnova members will be attending the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRHC) 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala 2019 on Dec. 14, 2019, at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax, from 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person, black tie optional, and still available to anyone who wishes to come to this fundraiser event that includes a silent auction, a multi-course dinner and many entertainers.

For more information visit [nvrhgala.org](http://nvrhgala.org)

### Help Britepaths Help Others

Because the community's support, Britepaths has helped 7,000 families in need this year. But now, it needs help itself. This Fairfax-based nonprofit is experiencing an uncharacteristic drop in individual donations, leaving it with a \$100,000 funding gap.

So in a direct appeal to the community, Executive Director Lisa Whetzel said, "We are at risk of turning away families in crisis, and we may need to disrupt or discontinue services for our current clients. So if it's in your heart and budget to give, please make your gift before Dec. 31 to help us meet the need. And please share this message with your family, friends and colleagues."

Make a donation at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/fcG/> or send a check to Britepaths at 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030.



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# HOME LIFE STYLE

**Erica Burns of Erica Burns Interiors designed a holiday tree that features bright colors, sparkling materials, and soft and textured finishes to engage the senses.**

PHOTO BY  
RICHIE DOWNS/  
ASICO PHOTO



## Lighting Up the Season

**Holiday designs to benefit Children's National Hospital.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**H**oliday trees donned with a wide array of décor that ranges from musical instruments and fairies to dollhouses and mice will be on display to raise money for charity later this month. "Light Up the Season," the annual event that highlights creative collaborations between Children's National Hospital patients and notable area artists will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C.

As part of the project, patient-designer teams created custom holiday trees, mantelpieces, menorahs and dollhouses — all available for purchase — with proceeds going to Children's National to support programs that improve the health and well-being of children across the Washington, D.C. region.

Inspired by the children's Christmas book, "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies," the tree created by Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria features mice decorating the holiday tree while under a whimsical snowfall.

"Through a child's eyes mice are symbols of youth and innocence with their resourceful courage, adorable curiosity, and their perspective of seeing the world from a different point of view, just like children," she said. "We have embraced them in children's literature for decades because of the lessons they teach, the values they instill, and playfulness they leave in our hearts."

Using a recording of "O Tannenbaum" and musical-themed ornaments, Potomac, Md. designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman, assembled a melodious creation. "During our get-to-know-you session, I discovered that my partner is quite the musician," she said. "He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided

to make our tree a musical tree."

Taking inspiration from their patient-partner's love of animals, the design team at Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill, created a display that includes a dollhouse and a fully decorated 7.5 foot tree with a modern farmhouse vibe.

"Our team had a lot of fun decorating ... we added lighting, wallpaper, area carpets, wood furniture and soft furnishings," said Harvey. "We even decorated it with tiny wreaths and Christmas trees complete with tiny presents. Our tree includes a selection of hand-made clay ornaments. Each ornament is stamped with a different animal and attached with a simple satin ribbon."

Keeping the modern farmhouse theme continuous, the Harvey team combined green, plaid, white, silver and natural wood tones to complement the animal ornaments. "We are presenting our patient with a barnyard animal farm, which is decorated with the same theme, as our gift for inspiring us to create holiday decor that can be enjoyed for many years," said Harvey.

Fairies and folklore were the basis for the Christmas tree created Sandra Meyer of Ella Scott Design in Bethesda. The patient's predilection for all things mythical was brought to life in a tree

filled with flowers, fantasy and mythical fairies in nature-themed setting. "Fairies have a long history [of] symbolizing kindness and a desire to help humans," said Meyer. "Light Up the Season" is a fairy-like event that exists to help others."

Light Up the Season will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. Tickets for the event are \$50 per child (ages 16 and under), \$85 per adult and \$250 for a family of four (package includes two adults and two children 16 and under). For more information, visit [www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason](http://www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason) or email [lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com](mailto:lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com).



## NEWS

# H Mart Opens in Fairfax City

FROM PAGE 3

to this spot is an affirmation of its confidence in our community.”

Pleased with the new store and H Mart’s relationship with Fairfax, Kwon said, “We were able to open here and create this beautiful market because of all the support we’ve had here from our friends, neighbors and the City for 17 years.”

Attendees also included Fairfax City Council members Michael DeMarco and Sang Yi, Police Chief Erin Schaible, Assistant Fire Chief Andrew Wilson, City Treasurer Tom Scibilia, Economic Development Director Chris Bruno, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Chairman Doug Church, Asian American Chamber of Commerce President and founder Cindy Shao, H Mart Marketing Manager Sam Kim, plus John Sabo and Mary Valenta with Fairfax’s Economic Development Authority.

Inside the store’s food court, Schaible said, “I’m always looking for places for lunch; I’ll have to try this. It’s like a food adventure.”

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Meyer said, “When you come in this store, you’ll see a remarkable transformation of this space. Some 29 percent of Fairfax residents were born in another country, and this store’s message is that all are welcome here. I encourage all our citizens to become customers of H Mart.”

“Bringing in new businesses makes the City a better place to live, work and, now, eat,” added Church. “Welcome, H Mart.”



**H Mart customers check out the store’s fresh produce.**



**Part of the Market Eatery food court inside the new store.**

Speaking on behalf of her organization, Shao said, “We bring our warmest congratulations and wish your business many years of future success. It’s great to see you representing the Asian and international communities.”

Councilman Yi said H Mart is “part of the Fairfax City family. I think we’re one of the best cities in the region for businesses. Grocery stores provide the food our families eat, and a lot of my paycheck goes to H Mart. This store opening is also symbolic because of our strong, Asian American population here. But it’s a grocery store for everybody, and I’m so proud to be here today; congratulations.”

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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## ONGOING

**Shir HaLev, the Community Jewish Chorale of Northern Virginia.** Rehearsals are held select Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m. at Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax. The Chorale is a friendly, welcoming, adult volunteer choir. Membership in the group is open to all, members of Congregation Olam Tikvah and other Northern Virginians. Their repertoire consists mainly of Jewish liturgical music and also some contemporary Jewish music and some secular showtunes, too. Visit [carolboydleon.com/shir\\_halev](http://carolboydleon.com/shir_halev) for more.

**Burke Farmers Market.** Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. A great selection of fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, and dairy. All vendors make their own food or grow it locally within 125 miles. Call 703-642-0128 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke) for more.

**Give the Gift of Original Art.** Now thru Jan. 5. At Torpedo Factory Artists at Mosaic, 2905 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 – 7 p.m. Reception celebrating small businesses, Nov. 30, 5 to 8 p.m. You can find extraordinary fine art that makes great gifts this holiday season — the work of highly-acclaimed Torpedo Factory Artists — at their satellite space in Merrifield. Beautiful paintings, fine-art photographs, one-of-a-kind jewelry, scarves, ceramics and much more will be offered. Plus you can get an early start on your holiday shopping. Artists Sonne Hernandez and Greg Knott are in residence during this show.

**PJ Party + Santa's Arrival.** At Springfield Town Center, Springfield. Welcome Santa with a Pajama Party. Get in the holiday spirit with caroling, hot coco and watch as Santa arrives in style with Fairfax police and fire. Santa's visiting hours will be as follows: Now through Dec. 13; Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Dec. 14 thru Dec. 23: Monday – Saturday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Christmas Eve: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## NOW THRU DEC. 20

**Fairfax City Elf Hunt.** 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Takes place Fairfax City-wide, start point: Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Locate 10 elves in Fairfax City businesses, get a stamp from each business confirming that you found the elf; share the Fairfax City Elf Hunt card with us at [economicdevelopment@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:economicdevelopment@fairfaxva.gov). Once you have submitted your Fairfax City Elf Hunt card, you will receive a Fairfax City car magnet and have your name entered into a drawing for a \$250 cash prize. Completed cards must be received by Dec. 16 to be eligible. Free to participate; patrons are encouraged to purchase items when they visit businesses. Visit the website: <https://fairfaxcityconnected.com/2019/10/08/elfhunt/#prettyPhoto>

## DEC. 13-22

**ETAP's "Finding Santa."** 12 show times over 2 weekends, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:30 p.m., 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. At Richard J. Ernst Theatre, Annandale NOVA Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Encore Theatrical Arts Project presents a new holiday musical, "Finding Santa." Cost is \$19-\$26. This song and dance musical features over 30 performers, creative choreography, elaborate sets, over 165 costumes, and over 16 musical numbers. Come see all the glamour of a Broadway-style show right here in Northern Virginia. Appropriate for audiences of all ages Visit the website: [www.Encore-tap.org](http://www.Encore-tap.org)

## FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**Vienna Boys Choir.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. There is no sound more celestial than the angelic voices of the Vienna Boys Choir, who return for their annual holiday concert to celebrate the magic of the season. The world's foremost children's choral group performs a delightful program of classical masterpieces, contemporary pop favorites, Austrian folk songs, and beloved Christmas carols with their signature old-world charm and youthful vocal purity. Tickets are



**Congregation Adat Reyim presents Zemer Chai Songs for Chanukah on Sunday, Dec. 15.**

## Celebrate Chanukah with Zemer Chai Songs

Sunday/Dec. 15, 7 p.m. At Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Zemer Chai, The Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital, returns for the first time in more than a decade, to Northern Virginia. The Pozez JCC and Congregation Adat Reyim are proud to welcome this unique Chanukah celebration. The concert, filled with songs of hope and determination, includes melodies dating back 1,000 years as well as songs from the current music scene and in between. The 40-member choir also includes a clarinet, flute, tof (drum), bass and piano. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$36 at the door; Active or retired military discount \$20/\$30 Purchase tickets at <https://zemerchai.bpt.me>



**The U.S. Army Chorus puts on a concert on Saturday, Dec. 14 at Westwood Baptist Church in Springfield.**

## U.S. Army Chorus Concert

Saturday/Dec. 14, 3-5 p.m. At Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The U.S. Army Chorus will perform a free community concert. Don't miss your chance to hear The U.S. Army Chorus when they return to Westwood Baptist Church for an afternoon of holiday nostalgia that is sure to enhance your patriotism and Advent preparations. Contact [usarmyband.com](http://usarmyband.com) or the church at 703-451-5120.

\$55, \$47, \$33. Visit the website: [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**VRE Santa Train.** Burke Centre VRE Station, 10399 Premier Court, Burke. The 75-minute excursions begin as early as 8:09 a.m. and as late as 3:55 p.m. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves will be on board listening to children's holiday wishes and handing out goodie bags. Santa Train tickets can be purchased beginning Nov. 25. Half of the tickets will be sold online and the other half will be available for purchase at five locations. Each location sells tickets only for the train station that corresponds to its location. VRE recommends creating an account before tickets go on sale to expedite the checkout process. Tickets are \$5 in person and \$6 online. Details about online ticket sales and vendor locations can be found at <http://vrespecialevents.org>. Visit [www.vre.org](http://www.vre.org).

**Toy Drive.** 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. At PaperMoon Springfield, 6315 Amherst Ave., Springfield. Since 1947, the goal of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots initiative has been to bring the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children. To help Toys for Tots fulfill its annual mission, philanthropic dancers from PaperMoon Springfield are hosting their annual holiday toy donation drive. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off Sunday through Friday from 12 p.m. to 2:30 a.m., or Friday and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. at the gentlemen's club, at 6315 Amherst Ave, Springfield. The drive goes through Dec. 14, wrapping up with a black-tie party. Visit the website: [papermoonvip.com](http://papermoonvip.com)

**Santa Critters & Craft.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. At Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Come one, come all to meet Santa and his merry band of critters this holiday season at Hidden Pond Nature Center. Bring your camera to take a picture with Jolly Saint

Nick, his elves and their animal friends at the Santa's Critters & Craft program. Cost is \$10 per child. Call 703-451-9588 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-pond).

**U.S. Army Chorus Concert.** 3-5 p.m. At Westwood Baptist Church, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The U.S. Army Chorus will perform a free community concert. Don't miss your chance to hear The U.S. Army Chorus when they return to Westwood Baptist Church for an afternoon of holiday nostalgia that is sure to enhance your patriotism and Advent preparations. Contact [usarmyband.com](http://usarmyband.com) or the church at 703-451-5120.

**Community Nativities Festival.** 5-8 p.m. At Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6219 Villa Street (corner of Franconia Rd & S. Van Dorn St.), Franconia. Join in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ as you enjoy an evening of community nativity displays and hymns of Christmas. Free. Visit the website: [https://www.festivalofnativities.com/](http://www.festivalofnativities.com/)

**Annual Christmas Musical.** 6 p.m. At Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. The Ministry of Music and Performing Arts of Greater Little Zion Baptist Church in Fairfax presents its Annual Christmas Musical, No Ordinary Night, a special service to celebrate the birth of our Savior in narration, music, song, and dance. Featured will be the Greater Little Zion choirs and praise dancers, along with a special performance by recording artist and renown pianist, Bro. Jeff Corry. Free. Call 703-239-9111.

**NVRC Gala and Showcase.** 6-10 p.m. At Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Gala to benefit the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC) with a cocktail hour, dinner, a silent auction and a showcase of deaf and HOH talent. Cost: \$125. Visit the website: [www.nvrcgala.org](http://www.nvrcgala.org)

**American Festival Pops Orchestra.** 8 p.m. At George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Just hear those sleigh bells jinglin' as the American Festival Pops Orchestra ushers in the season with its annual holiday concert. A beloved tradition at the Center, the uplifting evening includes treasured classics like Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride", "A Christmas Festival," and a rousing carol sing-along. Maestro Anthony Maiello leads Northern Virginia's very own pops orchestra and special guest artists in a cherished holiday celebration. Tickets are \$55, \$47, \$33. Visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu).

## DEC. 14-15

**Winter Wonderland.** Noon to 5 p.m. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. At Winter Wonderland, you can hop a train ride on the Holiday Express, take unlimited spins on the Carolers Carousel, play Gingerbread Man Golf or cook s'mores by the fire. Visit with Santa and enjoy hot chocolate or cider and candy canes. Five-hour passes are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the event day. The park will also be accepting new toys or canned food items for donation. In the evenings, enjoy a magical train ride through a forest decorated with holiday-themed lights and scenes. Celebration Station runs the same weekends as Winter Wonderland, but will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Celebration Station ticket are \$10 each; trains depart every 20 minutes. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake).

**19th Annual Bethlehem Walk.** 3-7 p.m. At Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road, Annandale. Get in the Christmas spirit walking through the narrow streets of Bethlehem. Haggle with shop owners, sidestep tax collectors, avoid the Roman centurions on your way to the manger scene. Hundreds of families make the trek each year to a replica of the holy city, raised by Parkwood Baptist Church as its annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. For nearly two decades, this popular event has been offered at no charge to the Washington Metro community. It features a live nativity scene with animals, Christmas music performances, crafts, games and story times for children. Guests are urged to reserve free, timed, tour tickets in advance at [www.parkwood.org](http://www.parkwood.org). Call 703-978-8160.

**Les Mills Bodycombat Instructor Training.** At South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield. The Les Mills Body Combat Instructor training contains both practical and theoretical components and is designed for participants who are experienced in fitness

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10





Members of the Vienna-Falls Chorus sing, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."



Billie Caya, 2, giggles while feeding a baby goat whose tongue tickles her hand.

# Fairfax's Festival of Lights and Carols

Fairfax City's annual Festival of Lights and Carols was Saturday, Dec. 7.



Girl Scouts from Service Unit 55-6 of Fairfax City sing Christmas carols and Chanukah songs during the Festival of Lights and Carols.



Alison Henderson sells scented, hand-poured candles at the Holiday Market.



Festival attendees toasting marshmallows for s'mores over hot coals.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Holiday Market vendor Beth Nolley offers hand-crocheted, knitted and woven garments.

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Trupti More selling decorative paper quilling at the Holiday Market.



**CALENDAR**

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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DJ COREY PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY FAIRFAX SYMPHONY AND FAIRFAX BALLET

**Ballerinas dance the "Waltz of the Flowers" from the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Ballet 2018 production of "The Nutcracker."**

## Cherished Holiday Tradition Returns 'The Nutcracker' performed by Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Ballet at Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

### Where and When

With a combined more than 110 years as Fairfax County performing arts organization, the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) and the Fairfax Ballet Company are collaborating to present the captivating masterwork, Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."

Along with live musical accompaniment by the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra directed by Christopher Zimmerman, there will be more than fifty dancers on the big Center for the Arts stage from The Fairfax Ballet as well as special soloists and American Ballet Theatre alumni Elina Miettinen (Sugar Plum Fairy) and Sean Stewart (Cavalier) performing original choreography.

"There is a reason that 'The Nutcracker' is so popular. Of all Tchaikovsky's Ballet Pieces—and they are all wonderfully evocative musically—it is perhaps the most imaginative in terms of orchestral color (use of instruments) and variety between "serious" dramatic music and set pieces for dance," said Christopher Zimmerman, Music Director and Conductor,

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Ballet present Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" at Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, George Mason University Campus, 4374 Mason Pond, Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, Dec 21 and Sunday, Dec 22 at 4 p.m. Tickets: \$49, \$69 and \$89. Call 703-993-2787 or visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).

FSO. "With the 'Nutcracker,' Tchaikovsky wrote not only his final ballet, but a piece which synthesizes the best of his symphonic writing and his writing for the stage," added Zimmerman.

"The Nutcracker" story begins on Christmas Eve in the home of two young children, Clara and Fritz.

The family gathers around the Christmas tree. Soon, they welcome the arrival of Uncle Drosselmeier, a toymaker bringing gifts. Audiences will then take in a transition from reality into fantasy with waltzing snowflakes, a handsome prince, and some mischievous mice as the toys come to life for a truly memorable night.

"We're incredibly honored to join the Fairfax Symphony in our fifth production of 'The Nutcracker,'" said Karla Petry, Executive Director, Fairfax Ballet. "Audiences are in for a special treat."

"We are proud to maintain the long standing tradition of our pro-

ductions, while finding unique ways to add new opportunities for our dancers and surprises for our long standing audience members," said Andrea Cook, Artistic Director, Fairfax Ballet. Cook is a Fairfax County native and Chantilly HS alum.

Fairfax Ballet principal dancers include Nicole Shortle, age 16, of Oakton, and a sophomore at Oakton High School in the treasured role of Clara.

Carlos Martinez, attending George Mason University, School of Dance will dance as the Nutcracker Prince. Northern Virginia's Aleksey Kurdrin will be Herr Drosselmeier and Philip Smith-Cobbs will dance the Arabian pas de deux.

There will also be more than four dozen dancers and students on stage ranging from 7-19 from Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties.

"From the incredible dancers on stage, live music by our full FSO orchestra, and beautiful, high definition, digital scenery, it's sure to be a magical experience for the whole family," said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director, FSO.

A beloved Holiday season event is coming courtesy of Fairfax's own, Fairfax Symphony and Fairfax Ballet.

### CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8  
classes, in good mental health and physically fit. Classes run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, and students must attend the entire session to pass the module. The registration fee is \$299. Potential instructors should register through the instructor portal at the Les Mills website (<https://lesmills.secure.force.com/>

[instructorportal/Create-Account](http://instructorportal/Create-Account)) or reach out to their local Fairfax County RECenter Fitness Director for more information. Call 703-866-0566 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/south-run](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recenter/south-run).

**SUNDAY/DEC. 15**  
**Choral Lessons and Carols.** 10-11:15 a.m. At St. Andrew's Episcopal

Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Celebrate the holiday season with the sweet sounds of hammered dulcimer, Irish flute, bagpipes, harp-guitar, concertina, and bodhran. Celtic musicians will provide the music for this Advent Lessons & Carols service. A special collection for ECHO and FACETS will be taken. Free. Visit the website: [standrews.net](http://standrews.net)



# BULLETIN

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

## THURSDAY/DEC. 12

### Provide Feedback on Parkway

**Improvements.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a design public hearing on plans for improvements to about five miles of the Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286), including widening the road from four to six lanes between Route 29 (Lee Highway) and Route 123 (Ox Road). The proposed project design also includes:

- ❖ Building an interchange at Popes Head Road and the future Shirley Gate Road extension.
- ❖ Improving the Route 123 interchange and Fairfax County Parkway/Burke Centre Parkway intersection.
- ❖ Providing a continuous shared-use path within the project limits by constructing the missing segment from Burke Centre Parkway to Route 123.

Comments may be provided at the meeting or sent to VDOT by Dec. 23, 2019. E-mail or mail comments to Mr. Sitaram Kodali, P.E., Project Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Coffee with Del. Bulova.** 9-11 a.m. At Main Street Bagel, 10268 Main Street, City of Fairfax. Del. David Bulova (D-Fairfax) will continue a tradition started in 2006 by holding informal office hours to take place from 9 to 11 a.m.. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed. Bulova is also happy to arrange individual appointments on specific issues or concerns. He represents Virginia's 37<sup>th</sup> House District, which includes the City of Fairfax and portions of Fairfax County. Visit [www.davidbulova.com](http://www.davidbulova.com).

**PN Support Group.** 2-4 p.m. At Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. PN Support Group monthly meeting. Share information, experience, hope and news about Peripheral Neuropathy among fellow sufferers. Guest speaker and group discussions. Visit the website: [www.dcpnsupport.org](http://www.dcpnsupport.org).

## TUESDAY/DEC. 17

**Car Seat Safety Check.** 5-9 p.m. at the West Springfield district police station, 6140 Rolling Road. Fairfax County Police Department offers free safety check and install events throughout the year to ensure children travel safely. By appointment only; call 703-644-7377 and press 0 at the recording to schedule. In preparation for appointment, install the seat using the instructions that came with the car seat. Trained officers will review the car seat instructions and car owner's manual to be certain that they are being followed as they should.

**Lions Dinner Meeting.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Lions Club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Guests are welcome to learn about the mission of the Lions Clubs "We Serve," meet club members and learn to help serve the community. Free to first time guests. Email [fairfaxlions@cox.net](mailto:fairfaxlions@cox.net) or visit [www.fairfaxlions.org](http://www.fairfaxlions.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 28

**Messy Church.** 5-6:30 p.m. at St. Peter's in the Woods, 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Join St. Peter's in the Woods for their monthly Messy Church. It's a worshipping community especially geared towards families and young children, but welcoming to all. Bible-themed crafts and activities, casual worship and a free, family-style dinner. Call 703-503-9210 for more. Registration is appreciated, visit [www.stpetersinthewoods.org/events](http://www.stpetersinthewoods.org/events).

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-Thomas Fuller

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An expert is someone  
who knows some of the worst mis-  
takes that can be made in his subject  
and how to avoid them.  
**-Werner Heisenberg**

## Still Processing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Off we go — or not — into the wild blue yonder. It seems that my most recent CT scan's results, described as "a little worse" by my oncologist are indeed cause for some reflection and change. (I'm not quite able to say "cause for concern," yet.) As such, to make the most effective change, per my oncologist's orders, I am scheduled for a needle biopsy on the Wednesday this column publishes. This procedure will determine, if there is a match, to the specific type of cancer tumor that I have. (Without boring you with too many details, the short version is that all cancer tumors are not alike. Biomarkers/genetic mutations such as ALK, BRAF, EGFR, NTRK, PD-L1 and ROS1 are the most common, and certain medicines work better against certain tumor types. Variation in the tumor types, such as the ones I've described, is a relatively recent discovery in lung cancer research.)

What this research has led to is another new kind of cancer treatment known as "targeted therapy." This means than rather than "flying blind," to use one of my brother, Richard's, favorite expressions, and employing a one-size-fits-all kind of approach to treatment, oncologists now have specific medicines to infuse when the tumor's genetic mutation is confirmed. Wednesday hopefully, will confirm something. However, researchers have not discovered all the tumor types so it's possible that this biopsy will reveal nothing useful for me and in effect, I'll be back to square one-ish.

As for what 'square-one-ish' means? It means that I'll likely be infusing medicines that previously worked for a time but whose infusions were stopped after they all ran their successful course years ago. As I've been told whenever this change became necessary, cancer cells eventually figure out what's happening to them and then the tumors begin growing. Once this growth is indicated on the CT scan, a new medicine is usually started, and on and on it goes until, apparently now, for me anyhow. "Targeted therapy" offers lots of new medicines. I just need a match. Unfortunately, there's no guarantee the biopsy will provide just such a match. There's only one way to find out. On Wednesday, we will begin to find out. To say I have a lot riding on this determination is the understatement of the year; at least for Team Lourie, it is. If I'm forced to repeat infusions from medicines that stopped working years ago, it'll be "Katie, bar the door," as we say in Boston which means, "Look out!"

I'm trying not to 'look out' though. I'm trying not to look anywhere, except straight ahead. Just because my life may be at stake, is no time to deviate from the norm that has been my modus operandi over the past 11 years. I'm not quite ready to consider that my stage IV lung cancer survival is coming to an end. Maybe it's just staggering and within a week or so, I'll get my bearings again. New medical information getting me new medical treatment is sure to put a bounce back in my step. For the first time in 11 years, to quote George Costanza from Seinfeld: "I'm back, baby." This could be the jolt my body needs to get me through to the next

research level. The Team Lourie strategy has always been for me to try and live long enough to reach the next medical breakthrough. So far, I've benefited from a few: tarceva, avastin and alimta; all miracle drugs according to my oncologist, and here I am, living proof that it has all worked.

Until I hear, post procedure, from my oncologist, in the interim, I am re-experiencing many what-happens-if-and-when emotions that I've not wrestled with for years. Unfortunately, this hospital visit is taking me back to the visit/biopsy I had in Feb. 2009 which confirmed the malignancy in my lungs in the first place. And here I am, hopefully not in the last place, waiting for the results of a biopsy yet again. It didn't work out so good in 2009. I just hope I have better luck in 2019.

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



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OF REPAIR COSTS.**



NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA  
VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF  
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND  
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/20.

*Jack Taylor's*  
**ALEXANDRIA  
TOYOTA**

3750 Richmond Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305



**SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS!  
Have Your Vehicle Checked  
for Open Campaigns/Recalls  
Recall Hotline: 703-684-0710**

**SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:**

Monday - Friday, 6:00am to 7:00pm  
Saturday, 7:00am to 5:00pm

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



**ToyotaCare  
Customers**

**Don't Forget Your FREE Service.**  
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000



**Mile Services**  
Call your ASM for details

**ToyotaCare Plus \$329<sup>00</sup>**  
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

**ALIGNMENT SPECIAL**

**\$69<sup>95</sup>**

Your car's alignment suffers, and can  
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.  
**INCLUDES:** Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts  
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.  
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/20.

**OIL & FILTER CHANGE**

**\$24<sup>95</sup>**

NON-SYNTHETIC

**\$34<sup>95</sup>**

SYNTHETIC

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

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**SIGHT LINE  
WIPER BLADES**

**BUY 1  
GET 1 FREE**

Sight Line only.

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MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA  
TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/20.

**FREE  
BATTERY CHECK-UP**

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

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MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.  
TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/20.

**NEW HOURS SPECIAL!**

**DROP OFF YOUR VEHICLE BETWEEN 6AM & 7AM  
WITH A SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT & RECEIVE  
12% OFF ANY ONE REPAIR.**

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150

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VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/20.



**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

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**BRAKE SPECIAL**

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

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

**MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL**

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**BG VITAL FLUID SERVICE**

**10% OFF** YOUR FIRST SERVICE

**15% OFF** YOUR SECOND SERVICE

Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

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**TRUESTART™ BATTERIES**



**\$129<sup>95</sup>**

**INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION**

**Includes:** 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,  
24 month free roadside assistance.  
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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