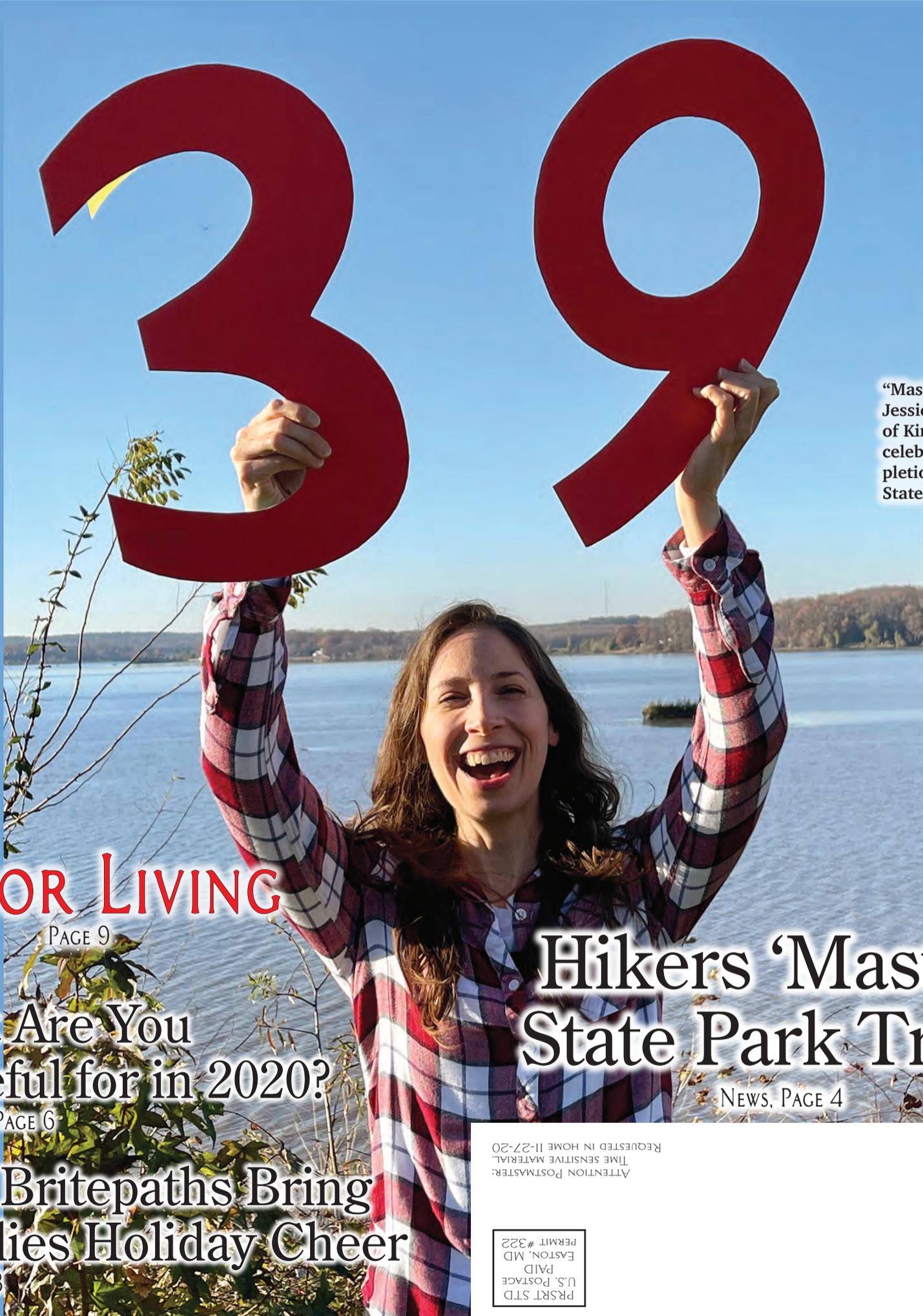


# CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



“Master Hiker”  
Jessica Bowser,  
of Kingstowne,  
celebrates com-  
pletion of her 39  
State Park quest.

## SENIOR LIVING

PAGE 9

### What Are You Grateful for in 2020?

VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 6

### Help Britepaths Bring Families Holiday Cheer

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Hikers ‘Master’ State Park Trails

NEWS, PAGE 4

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.  
REQUESTED IN HOME 11-27-20

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EASTON, MD  
PERMIT # 322

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



vs.



**We didn't fit the mold,  
so we broke it!**

REDEFINING ASSISTED LIVING

## DISCOVER THE PROVIDENCE

DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE

READY TO REDEFINE  
WHAT ASSISTED LIVING  
MEANS TO YOU?

Tuesday, December 1 through Sunday, December 6  
9:00am-6:00pm

Immerse yourself in invigorating wellness, join the vibrancy of local culture, and merge a spirited lifestyle of unexpected luxury with innovative care when you join us at The Providence. Meet us at the Leasing Gallery for a safe and socially distant private one-on-one tour and discover why our Assisted Living is unlike anything you've seen before.

**Please RSVP 571-396-0500 by November 27 to reserve your private consultation and tour. Prefer to meet virtually? Call us to schedule a live virtual video meet and greet on the platform of your choice.**



### BREAKING MOLDS AND RAISING STANDARDS

#### The Providence Assisted Living

- Fine Dining Restaurants
- All-Day Dining
- Comfortable Seating on Rooftop Terrace
- Fully-Stocked Bar (Liquor License)
- Watermark University Classes
- Indulge Spa & Salon
- Vitality Fitness Center
- Valet Parking
- Concierge Services

vs.

#### The Other Guys

- Cafeteria-Style Dining
- Set Meal Times
- Sitting on a Bench
- Wine Occasionally
- Bingo
- Beauty/Barber Shop
- Walking the Halls
- Self-Parking
- Make Your Own Reservations



THE PROVIDENCE

FAIRFAX

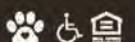
THE ELITE COLLECTION

Leasing Gallery: 8280 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Suite 600 • Fairfax, VA 22031

Residences: 9490 Sprague Avenue • Fairfax, VA 22031 • 571-396-0500 • watermarkcommunities.com

ASSISTED LIVING • THE BRIDGE • MEMORY CARE

A SILVERSTONE/WATERMARK RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



# NEWS

Currently the Liberty View signs are still at the corner of Beulah Street and the Franconia-Springfield Parkway, although the mixed-use project is not happening and Monument Realty does not own any of the land anymore.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/  
THE CONNECTION

## Land Acquired Near Springfield for New Inova Medical Campus

Changes coming to area close to the metro and town center.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

A piece of land that was slated to be a housing area called “Liberty View,” is now the property of the Inova Health System and they are planning a 21-acre medical campus to serve the residents of Franconia, Springfield, Mount Vernon and Lorton. The spot for the new hospital is a parcel of unoccupied land between the Inova Healthplex – Franconia/Springfield, and Beulah Street, providing proximity to the metro, the Franconia-Springfield Parkway and I-95.

Monument Realty owned 12 acres of the land, and had plans underway for a mixed-use development consisting of five buildings for the property, but as the economy developed this year the way it has, Inova looked toward expanding their health care facilities. They acquired the remaining twelve acres of land from Monument Realty and its New York-based partner, Atlas Capital Group.

**THE ACQUISITION** of the additional real estate is part of Inova’s emerging plan to enhance services, thereby more fully meeting the growing healthcare needs of the eastern region of Northern Virginia, including Franconia, Springfield, Mount Vernon and Lorton in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria. While Inova is committed to continuing to provide emergency and inpatient services in Alexandria and Mount Vernon, the expansion of the Springfield site affords a unique opportunity to serve the broader region more comprehensively.

“This additional land provides unlimited opportunity for programs, services, and facilities that support our mission to provide world-class healthcare to every patient we have the privilege to serve,” said J. Stephen Jones, MD, FACS, Inova President and CEO. “We are steadfast in our commitment to serve our communities, and we are confident that increasing the availability of care in our eastern region is an important next step for our patients, our region, and for Inova.”

The Healthplex facility, which is a few hundred yards away from the site, “will continue serving the community through the development of this project,”



Circled here is the 21-acre site that Inova recently purchased.

said Melissa Poretz Riddy, the Inova Government & Community Relations Director for the Eastern Region. Riddy did not say what will happen to the Healthplex when the new medical campus is up and running in a few years.

Details on the new medical campus, including program and facility scope and size will be finalized in the coming months, Inova said. While initial concept development is underway, Inova anticipates the facility planning, regulatory, and construction processes will take place over the next several years. Inova will be filing land use applications with Fairfax County next year to seek approval for the project. It is located in Lee District, and county Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) is supporting any improvements in that area. “I am committed to working with both INOVA, as well as the surrounding community, to address any necessary infrastructure improvements that might be identified as this development progresses,” Lusk said.

**TRANSPORTATION** to the new medical campus will be spearheaded by the proximity of the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station, but for those who are walking, it is about a 20-minute hike. A shuttle service, or an extension of the TAGS buses to operate on a more frequent schedule could be the answer here but it is too early to tell at this point. Supervisor Lusk wants TAGS to be a part of it. “As this project advances, I will insist that the existing service is expanded to include additionally developed locations,” Lusk said. Inova is on board with that too. “We’re in the beginning phases of this project and we will work collaboratively with Fairfax County on the transportation and access considerations for the site through the development process,” said Riddy.

## Help Britepaths Bring Families Holiday Cheer

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

For people struggling to pay for food and rent, it’s tough to think about the holidays without a sense of sadness. So Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths is doing what it can to help, but it needs the community’s assistance to make Thanksgiving and Christmas a happy one for 500 local families in need.

Due to the pandemic, Britepaths and the social workers who refer families needing help won’t be able to directly deliver food and gifts to the recipients. So instead of people sponsoring families, as in past years, Britepaths is requesting donations of money and gift cards.

It will mail an average of \$100 in gift cards to each family referred to it, enabling these families to purchase food for Thanksgiving and the December holidays, as well as buy gifts for their children. And monetary contributions in any amount will help Britepaths purchase these cards. For more information – or to arrange for gift-card delivery to the office – contact Vanessa De La Rosa at [vdelarosa@britepaths.org](mailto:vdelarosa@britepaths.org) or 703-273-8829, ext. 888.

Donate at <https://britepaths.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=6>. Checks payable to Britepaths may be mailed to Britepaths, 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Write “Holiday” on the memo line. Or mail gift cards to Britepaths that may be used at Walmart, Target and major grocery stores such as Aldi, Safeway, Giant and Lidl.

“The holidays will be so different for all of us this year, and especially challenging for families who are struggling from lost income, illness and other effects of the pandemic,” said Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. “It’s a heartwarming feeling to know your act of kindness can make such a big difference for our neighbors at a profoundly difficult time.”

Staff at Fairfax County Public Schools with which Britepaths



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Lisa Whetzel

“The holidays will be so different for all of us this year, and especially challenging for families who are struggling from lost income, illness and other effects of the pandemic.”

— Britepaths Executive Director Lisa Whetzel

partners referred families needing assistance. Locally, these schools include Lanier Middle, plus Daniels Run, Providence, Fairfax Villa and Eagle View elementaries.

“Donations of funds or gift cards are greatly needed to ensure that all families will receive assistance,” said Whetzel. “We hope community members will be inspired to make the season brighter for hardworking families who may otherwise go without holiday meals and presents for their children.”

Britepaths is in its 36th year of providing help and a way forward for individuals and families, throughout the county, who’ve fallen on hard times. Whetzel said the organization is grateful to the Walmart in Fairfax City for sponsoring its Holiday Program efforts in the local area.

# Hikers 'Master' State Park Trails

BY SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

Love our parks and being outdoors? Looking for a fresh air challenge? The Virginia State Park's "Trail Quest Program" could be the adventure for you.

Participants earn levels of recognition by accumulating unique state park visits, leading to the title "Master Hiker," by completing visits to all 39 Virginia state parks. Nancy Heltman, Director of Visitor Services for Virginia's Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, found "...the program gets people to new places," exploring beyond the nearest park that they might visit often.

Under the "Quest" program, registered participants earn badges after visiting their first, fifth, tenth, and twentieth state park. Completing a visit to all the parks earns the final badge and the designation "Master Hiker." There is no time limit on the amount of time taken to complete visits. A few people have done all visits in the same year, like Eileen Loftus, who visited all 38 parks in 2019. Some, like

Jessica Bowser, Kingstowne, have spread visits over a longer period. Jessica completed her final visit, to Holiday Lake State Park, in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest, on Nov. 17, about five years after beginning her challenge.

Bowser began her park quest at nearby Mason Neck where eagles are plentiful, and completed her quest hiking around Holiday Lake, enjoying the trail around the lake and being celebrated by park staff. Her favorite park? She acknowledges the difficulty of choosing as they are all different, but names New River Trail State Park in Southwestern VA, for its 57 mile trail along the scenic and historic New River, with tunnels and numerous bridges adding interest. How does it feel to complete the quest? Bowser described feeling bittersweet...elated but a bit sad that the 39 park adventure is finished. She adds, "The good news is that there are more state parks coming... it's not over."

Since the program's inception in 2010, 132 people have attained the "Master Hiker" level. The 43 hikers who completed the program in 2020 was double the 2019



Eileen Loftus attained Master Hiker status in 2019, when there were 38 State Parks in the system.

number. Heltman attributes the increase to the "surge of individuals we found enjoying visits to the outdoors."

Those interested in joining the 7,145 registered participants can sign on at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/trail-quest](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/trail-quest). And perhaps start by planning to OptOutside as



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Virginia's newest Master Hiker, Jessica Bowser, of Kingstowne, reflects on her journey through 39 state parks.

an alternative to shopping over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, when the state parks offer a photo

contest sweetener (see <https://vasp.fun/2020Optoutside> for Nov. 26-29 contest information).

Remodeling your kitchen?  
**Make sure it's Nicely Done!**  
Call (703) 764-3748, or stop by our showroom for a free design consultation!

- Family Owned
- Licensed & Insured
- Part of your community since 2003

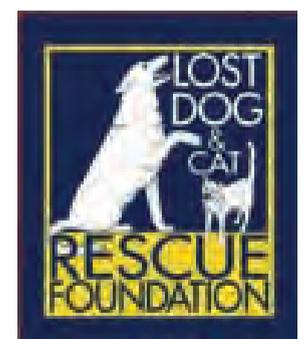
[www.NicelyDoneKitchens.com](http://www.NicelyDoneKitchens.com)

**NICELY DONE**  
Kitchens and Baths  
8934 Burke Lake Rd.  
Springfield, VA, 22151  
Located in Kings Park Shopping Center

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

## Adopt Donate Volunteer

Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.



[lostdogandcatrescue.org](http://lostdogandcatrescue.org)

# Fairfax City's Elf Hunt for Small Business Saturday

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Small Business Saturday is this coming Saturday, Nov. 28 – and the City of Fairfax is showcasing its small businesses with a citywide Elf Hunt. But this year, instead of hiding the elf inside their stores, business owners will incorporate them into their storefront window displays.

Each participating business will have an elf and QR code displayed in their window, and the code can be scanned to verify the elf was “found.” The code also links to those businesses’ Websites and will provide ways to support them online, plus information on specials.

Residents and visitors will have from Nov. 28 through Sunday, Dec. 13, to find 10 or more elves. People doing so will have their names entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards to the Fairfax City business of their choice.



second year. Its Office of Economic Development and Economic Development Authority are partnering on this effort with the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the Old Town Fairfax Business Assn.

The City’s traditional, hard-copy Elf Hunt cards will be available for those who visit participating businesses in person, since many will be offering in-store specials for the day. These cards will list the businesses; and after each in-store visit, the business will stamp the card confirming the customer’s elf find.

The cards will be available at Fairfax City’s welcome station, this Saturday, from 10 a.m.-noon, at Old Town Square, 10415 North St. There, people may also pick up morning treats and hot cocoa and receive a free Small Business Saturday canvas tote, stickers and more.

Stressing the importance of shopping local during a time when many small businesses are hurting, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Rose said her organization is “happy to once again partner with Fairfax City’s Office of Economic Development to encourage patronizing our local businesses and bringing our businesses and community together.”

“Our businesses in Old Town have invested in our community and support our activities,” added Old Town Fairfax Business Assn. Executive Director Shannon Duffy, “We are here to support them; they are our champions.”

**THIS IS AN OUTDOOR EVENT**, but visitors who’ve been diagnosed with COVID-19, are awaiting test results or show any symptoms of the virus are asked to stay home. To ensure the health and safety of the public, the Fairfax City Economic Development Office will be implementing comprehensive COVID-19 protocols to mitigate the spread of the virus.

There’ll be temporal temperature checks upon entering a store, plus limited occupancy, and attendees are asked to wear face coverings. Hand sanitizer will be available, social distancing between patrons will be required, and the entrances and exits will be monitored for one-way traffic.

For more information about Fairfax City’s Small Business Saturday Elf Hunt, go to [fairfaxcityconnected.com/elfhunt2020](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/elfhunt2020).

**“Our businesses in Old Town have invested in our community and support our activities. We are here to support them; they are our champions.”**

— Old Town Fairfax Business Assn. Executive Director Shannon Duffy

“Because of the pandemic, Small Business Saturday is more important than ever,” said Assistant Economic Development Director Danette Nguyen. “While this day brings attention to the importance of shopping local, it has never been more needed.”

“Supporting small businesses is about supporting our communities,” said Nguyen. “We urge everyone to get out to shop and dine at City businesses. And when residents do that, they help ensure the survival of our City’s small business community and directly impact City neighborhoods.”

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY** is celebrated annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Founded by American Express, it’s a nationwide event that began in 2010 to encourage people to patronize their local, neighborhood businesses and bring more holiday customers to them.

Fairfax City is participating for its

## Fairfax Water

### NOTICE OF WATER RATES AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

December 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2020, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water’s offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA. The meeting will also be available online for remote attendance. For more information, visit [fairfaxwater.org/meeting-schedule](http://fairfaxwater.org/meeting-schedule).

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2021, include the following:

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,320 to \$4,400<sup>†</sup>.
- An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$18,030 to \$19,610.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,370 to \$1,430<sup>†</sup>.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$14.40 to \$14.85<sup>†</sup>.
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.33 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.85 to \$3.90.
- An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$49 to \$50.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
- A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 104% to 102%.
- An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$39 to \$40.

<sup>†</sup>Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$196 million budget for calendar year 2021\*. Water sales are expected to provide \$168.9 million and the remaining \$27.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

– \$1,000s –		
Category	2020	2021
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$59,083	\$61,352
Power and Utilities	10,730	10,815
Chemicals	7,869	7,928
Purchased Water	5,014	8,364
Supplies and Materials	5,507	5,784
Insurance	1,230	1,100
Fuel	535	700
Postage	586	620
Contractual Services	13,779	14,102
Professional Services	1,336	1,298
Other	2,296	2,452
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>107,965</b>	<b>114,515</b>
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,313)	(10,763)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,652</b>	<b>\$103,752</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,358,365
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$38,400,000

\* Fairfax Water’s Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at [fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://fairfaxwater.org/rates).

Those wishing to speak at this hearing (in person or remotely) or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

## Northern Virginia Joint Transportation Meeting

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 6-8 p.m.

[www.virginiadot.org/novatransportationmeeting](http://www.virginiadot.org/novatransportationmeeting)

You are invited to participate in a virtual joint public meeting held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI), Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and Virginia Railway Express (VRE). According to Virginia Code, these organizations shall conduct a joint public meeting annually for the purposes of presenting to the public, and receiving public comments on, the transportation projects proposed and conducted by each entity in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia).

The virtual meeting will begin with a brief presentation followed by a public comment period. During the presentation you can learn about various transportation initiatives, including:

- Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- VTrans Draft Mid-term Transportation Needs
- NVTA's FY2020-2025 Six Year Program; TransAction; COVID-19 analysis; and the Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P) in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia
- NVTC's Commuter Choice program

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the meeting will be posted at [www.virginiadot.org/novatransportationmeeting](http://www.virginiadot.org/novatransportationmeeting). The team of VDOT, DRPT, OIPI, CTB, NVTA, NVTC and VRE representatives will make a presentation beginning at 6 p.m. highlighting their transportation programs and receive public comments about Virginia's transportation network for about an hour after the presentation.

**Give your comments** during the joint meeting after the presentation concludes or submit your written comments by **January 4, 2021** by mail to Ms. Maria Sinner, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or email [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Northern Virginia Joint Transportation Meeting" in the subject line.

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



## Learn About Advertising in the Connection and Digital Options!

Advertising in the Connection and upcoming special sections:

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

or call **703.778.9431**

## OPINION

### What Are You Grateful for on Thanksgiving 2020?

By MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

#### Jeff McKay, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

"In 2020 I'm grateful for the residents of Fairfax County, who have shown so much compassion and empathy during these difficult times. We are lucky to live in Fairfax County and part of that is because of the people who live here. A lot has changed since I first took office at the beginning of year, but care for the community wasn't one of those changes. Residents stepped up to support their neighbors and so many volunteered their time this year. 2020 has been challenging, but I have so much hope for the future."

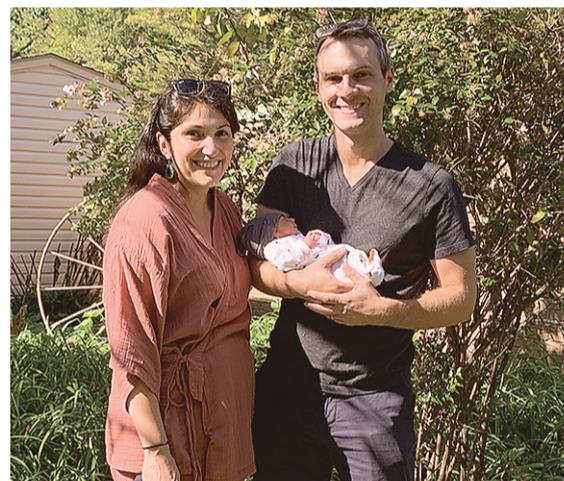


#### Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield)

"This Thanksgiving, I am very grateful for the health of my family and me. I am also thankful for the heroes in our community, the police, fire and first responders that are working to keep us safe in challenging times, those serving at home or abroad, our County staff who continue to re-



spond to COVID, the teachers that are doing the best they can for our children, and our residents for their support of our businesses and those in need as they struggle to make it through the pandemic. I wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving whether you are celebrating it with family or virtually."



#### Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D-Braddock District) with wife Yvette and newborn son Mateo.

"While 2020 has been a trying year, I feel enormously privileged to have so much to be thankful for. On Sept. 30, Yvette and I welcomed our first child, Mateo. Both mom and Mateo are healthy and doing great! I'm also thankful for the solidarity and community spirit displayed by my constituents in the Braddock District throughout the pandemic. It has been incredible to see the generosity they have displayed to help those in need, especially during our record-setting Stuff the Bus food drives!"



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

#### Supervisor Pat Herry participating in the Stuff the Bus campaign.



#### Karen Corbett Sanders, Fairfax County School Board Member Mt. Vernon District

Thanksgiving 2020 is bittersweet. The year has been filled with loss, uncertainty, and disruption for our students, families and staff. During these unprecedented times, it's more important than ever to reflect on what we're grateful for. This Thanksgiving, I'm thankful for the incredible dedication our teachers, administrators, and staff have demonstrated since March. I'm also thankful for our dedicated community and non-profit leaders who have come together and supported our families in need.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



#### Supervisor Daniel Storck (D-Mt Vernon) with his family

"I am grateful for the many friends I love and have loved. The places I have seen and can see, even if I can't visit now. People who love without judging and care for others that do. On a personal note, I am grateful for my amazing wife with her beautiful blue eyes and smile, my two healthy and entertaining grandbabies, getting to spend time with my spunky and earthy mom, and for family and friends who are there for each other no matter what. I am also thankful for the earth, our communities, neighbors and, of course, my staff, who sustain me and support all of us."



PHOTO BY FCPS

#### Laura Jane Cohen, Fairfax County School Board Member Springfield District

This year has been a reminder of how easy it is to take the familiar for granted. This year I am grateful for: The sound of my kids running down the stairs; The way my youngest stands next to me just to see how much taller he is; My kids' teachers; Patience, grace, and kindness from unexpected places.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

#### Megan O. McLaughlin, Fairfax County School Board Member Braddock District

This year, more than ever, I am deeply grateful for the love of family and friends and the opportunity to serve such a highly engaged community. These two things fuel my strong conviction that 2021 will bring brighter days, and collectively our community will solve its most pressing challenges.

# What Are You Thankful for on Thanksgiving 2020?

The Connection asked people encountered outside, just enjoying nature or waiting in line for services: "What are you thankful for in 2020?" As you think about how you would answer, does it surprise you that "family" was a recurrent theme in the answer we heard from your neighbors?

— SUSAN LAUME



Tom Storer, insurance agent, Lorton: "My family's health."



Thomas Lee, engineer, Centerville: "That I'm alive and healthy and my family is all healthy."



Tia, Therapy Dog, Springfield (thru interpreter): "Having my human with me almost all the time, and a lot more time in the parks. Although I miss reading with kids at the library and other work, I've noticed how glad people are to greet me outside on the trails this year."

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION



Grace Musser (right), college student, Alexandria; with sister Kate, high school student: "Definitely family. That we can still be together even though we are distanced. And Joe Biden."



Lillian B, IT manager, Springfield: "Life. For my family though we're separated. That pandemic should bring people closer to friends, family, and even strangers since we're all going through it together. To have my job which wasn't affected by Covid. Just for life."



Marie D., nurse, Lorton: "That people appreciate their neighbors more. Health care workers are much more appreciated. That 150 million people voted ....and wish people would pay more attention to that."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

**JCC** JUBILEECHRISTIANCENTER  
 "Loving People to Life"  
 Worship Gathering - Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM  
 Sunday School 10:10 AM  
 Sun. Evening - Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM  
 Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM  
 Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult  
 Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups  
 Visit our Website: jccag.org  
 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax  
 Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170



To Advertise Your  
 Community of Worship,  
 Call 703-778-9418

Same Company, Same Employees,  
 Same Great Value - Now Celebrating 20 Years!

## TWO POOR TEACHERS Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



- Electrical (ELE)
- Gas Fitting (GFC)
- Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVA)
- Plumbing (PLB)
- Residential Building (RBC)

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed  
 Since 1999



Free Estimates **703-999-2928**

Check if your contractor is licensed at the state level  
<http://www.DPOR.virginia.gov>

Visit our website: [www.twopoorteachers.com](http://www.twopoorteachers.com)

## You Can Make a Difference



Cats benefit from being in a foster home. We need long- and short-term fosters for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own.



## Consider Fostering

visit our website,  
 click on Participate

Adopt/Donate/Volunteer at [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org)

Park Authority Area 4 Maintenance Operations crew members, Roger Bundt, driving dump truck, and Jai Wortherly, operating the bobcat cab, team up.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/  
THE CONNECTION

## Teamwork in the Park

**W**eekend volunteers removed invasive vines from around a historic building at Laurel Hill Park's Central Green (see Connection, Nov 19, 2020). Then, Park Authority Area 4 Maintenance Operations removed the piled debris from the park on Nov. 18. Natural debris from yards and parks is processed at the landfill into mulch, either leaf or wood mulch, which is available free to county residents for use in yards and gardens.

— SUSAN LAUME



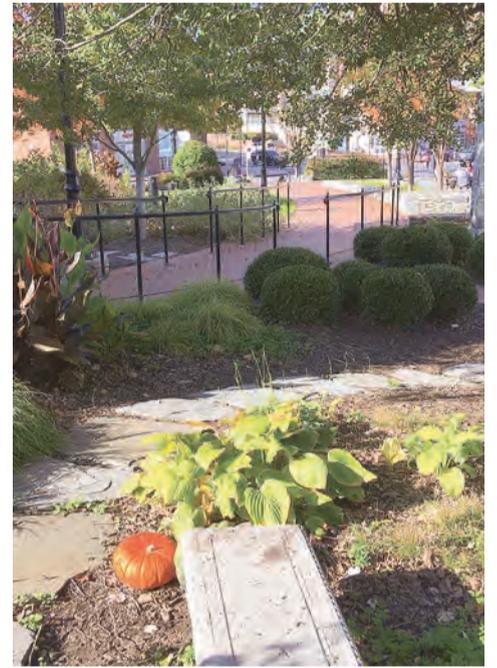
Volunteers gathered invasive vine pulled from fencing and trees into debris piles large enough to obscure bobcat equipment.



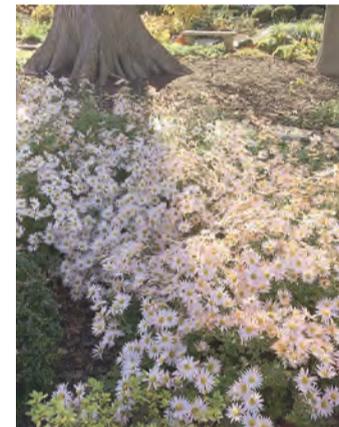
Jai Wortherly skillfully maneuvers debris into a truck bed for Bundt's transport to the nearby landfill.

## A Peaceful Garden with Vibrant Colors

**T**he Kitty Pozer Garden, next to Fairfax City's Old Town Square, was named after the avid gardener and longtime resident of the oldest house in the City. Adjacent to the garden, it's 208 years old and now a museum called the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House. Both Historic Fairfax City Inc. and the Fairfax Ferns Garden Club preserved and revitalized Pozer's garden.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



### AREA ROUNDUPS

#### Firefighters Collecting Toys for Tots

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is participating in the National Capital Region Fire and EMS Departments' 2020 Toys for Tots campaign. Fire stations are now accepting toy donations through Sunday, Dec. 13. Because of the pandemic – and to minimize contact with the firefighters and paramedics – collection boxes will be outside every station's front door, each day, until 8 p.m. for toy drop-offs.

Gifts must be new and unwrapped; toys used as weapons will not be accepted. Checks or money orders must be made payable to Toys for Tots. Toddlers through youths age 17 will receive gifts. Because of COVID-19, the need is even greater this year, than usual, so the firefighters are hoping the community will be as generous as possible.

#### Help Britepaths Feed Local Students

During COVID-19, nonprofit Britepaths is working with staff and volunteers at its partner schools to help them provide food for students in need. In Fairfax, it's feeding children at Daniels Run, Providence and Little Run elementary schools, Front and Lanier middle schools and Fairfax High. But it can't do it without the community's help. Cash donations are the most useful and allow Britepaths to provide gift cards to assist schools actively providing food support to their families in need.

To donate, go to <https://britepaths.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=14> or mail checks, payable to Britepaths, to Britepaths, 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Write "Food4Thought" and the designated school's name (if any) on the memo line.

## SENIOR LIVING

# Seniors and the Flu

Getting vaccinated can reduce hospital visits and admissions during anticipated shortage due to COVID-19.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hile shopping for dinner on a recent Wednesday afternoon, Roger Whitehead spotted a sign near the pharmacy of a grocery store near his home in Alexandria.

"It was easy. Once I'd picked up my groceries, I stopped by the pharmacy before I got in the check-out line," said Whitehead, 65. "I filled out some paperwork and rolled up my sleeve. It took about 30 seconds."

To stave off an onslaught of emergency room visits as a result of both the flu and COVID-19 cases, particularly for the elderly, local health officials, are underscoring the importance of the flu vaccination. While it differs from year-to-year, flu season is typically at its peak from December through February. Getting a flu shot can reduce the risk of being hospitalized.

"Older people with certain health conditions, in particular, are at high risk of serious flu complications," said Kurt Larrick, Assistant Director, Arlington County Department of Human Services. "The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated."

It's not too late to receive a vaccine and an option for seniors is Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent, licensed only for those over the age of 65. "It is es-



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

pecially important this year," said Dr. Travis Gayles, Montgomery County health officer. "[It] can also save health care resources for the care of patients with COVID-19."

Those over 65 are especially likely to get dangerously ill from catching the flu. "The flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 are both spreading disease this flu season," said Shauna Severo, Director of Fairfax County Health Services. "As the incidence of COVID-19 increases the healthcare system could be overwhelmed treating both patients with the flu and patients with COVID-19."

Local jurisdictions launched campaigns to facilitate access to the flu vaccine and to increase awareness among those who have not yet received it. "Arlington has partnered with other Northern Virginia jurisdictions on the Stay Well Nova Campaign, which is providing education, outreach, and resources around flu vaccine," said Larrick.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated against the flu every year, especially people who are at high risk.

### FOR MORE FLU INFORMATION

- ◆ Fairfax County: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/flu>
- ◆ Alexandria: [alexandriava.gov/Health](http://alexandriava.gov/Health)
- ◆ Arlington: Stay Well Northern Virginia Campaign <https://www.staywellnova.com>
- ◆ Inova Flu Services <https://www.inova.org/our-services/inova-well/medical-wellness/immunizations>
- ◆ Montgomery County, Md.: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/flu.html>
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

## Holiday Celebrations COVID Style

Dealing with separation from family and friends.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he decision to spend holidays away from loved ones can be a necessity during the coronavirus pandemic. For those who're accustomed to celebrating the season with large family gatherings, the solitude that comes with COVID-19 can be a difficult adjustment.

"First, acknowledge that this is going to be a different kind of holiday," said licensed psychologist Denise T. Dewhurst, Ph.D., Professor of psychology at Montgomery College. "Reach out to someone else you know who is also alone. Even a brief phone call benefit both of you."

A little forethought into how one's time will be spent will offer structure and can help manage feelings of loneliness, advises Dewhurst. "For some, this may be watching television, or reading. For others, it might be a hobby or craft."

"Work on creating something, maybe baking, art projects, family genealogy project, a journal about your life," added therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW.

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

"Take a virtual tour of somewhere you would like to visit."

Practice gratitude, suggests Dewhurst. "Remind yourself of things you do have to be thankful for," she said. Connect with family members virtually. Talking to one person or one group at a time might allow for better conversations, she said.

Video conferencing with family and friends, particularly during a meal, can allow one to simulate being together in person. "Talking and seeing others' faces is second best to being there and definitely will feel more like you're part of things than not," said psychiatrist Gail Saltz, MD, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the NY Presbyterian Hospital Weill-Cornell School of Medicine. "Make a dish that matches the dish of where you would normally be going. Eating the same food, while having conversation increases the enjoyment and sense of being together."

Put on a mask and take a socially distanced walk or other outdoor activity, says Saltz. "It may not be the sit-down meal, but a safe masked, distant outside walk can provide some time together," she said.

Reminisce about past holidays and envision those that lie ahead. "Spend a part of the day looking at photos privately of those you love and remembering fun and close times you have had together," said Saltz. "Keep in mind that when this is over, you'll resume making more memories together."

BURKE / FAIRFAX / FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON / SPRINGFIELD ❖ NOVEMBER 26 - DECEMBER 2, 2020 ❖ 9

**Inside or out...**

**...Tech Painting's got you covered!**

Serving:  
VA  
DC  
MD  
OBX

**703-684-7702**

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

Since 1987

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

**Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide 2020**

Shopping season is here, and The Connection Newspapers and Digital is your key to reaching those shoppers. We offer targeted and effective combinations of 15 high income markets with the most trusted and best read local news.

Our upcoming editions include the Holiday Entertainment and Gift Guide, Home for the Holidays and the Children's Edition, so give us a call about rates and ad sizes at 703-778-9431.

**THE CONNECTION** Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Potomac ALMANAC

[email\\_advertising@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:email_advertising@connectionnewspapers.com)

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 the event.

## Announcements

**LeafFilter**  
GUTTER PROTECTION

✓ **INSTALLS ON NEW & EXISTING GUTTERS**

BEFORE LeafFilter | AFTER LeafFilter

MADE IN THE USA | ACCREDITED BUSINESS | LIFETIME WARRANTY | A COMPANY OF ALHS

## Announcements

**15% OFF** YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE\*

**AND!**

**10% OFF** SENIOR & MILITARY DISCOUNTS

**+**

**5% OFF** TO THE FIRST 50 CALLERS!\*\*

Promo Number: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE **1-877-614-6667**

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

\*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. \*\* Offer valid at estimate only. CSLB# 1035795 DOPL #10783658-5501 License# 7656 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 128344 License# 218294 License# 603 233 977 License# 2102212986 License# 2106212946 License# 2705132153A License# LEAFNW822JZ License# WV056912 License# WC-29998-H17 Nassau HIC License# H01067000 Registration# 176447 Registration# HIC.0649905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 366920918 Registration# PC6475 Registration# IR731804 Registration# 13VH09953900 Registration# PA069383 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H

## Legals

**ABC LICENSE**  
DRINKLOCAL LLC trading as BUNNYMAN BREWING, 5583 GUINEA ROAD, FAIRFAX, VA 22032-4046. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a BREWERY LICENSE to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. SAMUEL GRAY, MEMBER/MANAGER. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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

## Legals

**NOTICE OF SALE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Unit# 3012 Gia Savage

According to the lease by and between the listed tenant and TKG StorageMart and its related parties, as-signs and affiliates IN ORDER TO PERFECT THE LIEN ON THE GOODS CONTAINED IN THEIR UNITS. THE MANAGER HAS CUT THE LOCK ON THEIR UNIT AND UPON CURSORY INSPECTION THE UNIT(S) WAS FOUND TO CONTAIN: Mattress, Box Spring, Bed Frame, Chairs, Trash Can, Bench ITEMS WILL BE SOLD ONLINE VIA [WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM](http://WWW.STORAGETREASURES.COM) OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF ON 12/16/2020. AT THE ADDRESS LISTED BELOW TO SATISFY OWNERS LIEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE STATUTES. TERMS OF SALE ARE CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ALL GOODS ARE SOLD IN "AS IS CONDITION. BUYERS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN LOCKS. SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO OVER-RIDE ALL BIDS. ALL ITEMS OR SPACES MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE ON THE DATE OF THE SALE.

TKG StorageMart #1851  
11325 Lee Highway  
FAIRFAX, VA 22030  
703-352-8840 option 2

## Announcements

## ESTATE SALE - LOG HOMES

**PAY THE BALANCE OWED ONLY!!!**

**AMERICAN LOG HOMES IS ASSISTING JUST RELEASED ESTATE & ACCOUNT SETTLEMENT ON HOUSES.**

**4 Log Home kits selling for BALANCE OWED, FREE DELIVERY**

- 1) Model # 101 Carolina \$40,840...BALANCE OWED \$17,000
- 2) Model # 203 Georgia \$49,500...BALANCE OWED \$19,950
- 3) Model # 305 Biloxi \$36,825...BALANCE OWED \$14,500
- 4) Model # 403 Augusta \$42,450...BALANCE OWED \$16,500

**BEFORE CALLING: VIEW at [www.loghomedream.com](http://www.loghomedream.com)**  
Click on House Plans

**NEW - HOMES HAVE NOT BEEN MANUFACTURED**

- Make any plan design changes you desire!
- Comes with Complete Building Blueprints & Construction Manual
- Windows, Doors, and Roofing not included
- NO TIME LIMIT FOR DELIVERY!

BBB A+ Rating

\*OFFER NOT AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN LOG HOME DEALERS\*

**SERIOUS ONLY REPLY. Call (704) 602-3035 ask for Accounting Dept.**

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

## Announcements

**Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator**

**SCHEDULE YOUR FREE IN-HOME ASSESSMENT TODAY!**  
**844-947-1479**

**FREE** 7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Offer valid August 24, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Special Financing Available  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*Terms & Conditions Apply

## Announcements

**Orange County Public Schools**  
Orange County, Virginia

**SEEKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:**  
**Special Education Teacher**

The Orange County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, disability, status as a veteran, genetic information or any other characteristics protected by law in its employment practices or educational program and activities. Compliance inquiries should be directed to the Director of Human Resources, 200 Dailey Drive, Orange, VA 22960 or by phone at 540-661-4550.

**Candidates must apply at [www.ocss-va.org](http://www.ocss-va.org)**

## Announcements

**LAND AUCTION** Fri. Dec. 11  
Bid live or online!

240 Keatts Ln, Danville, VA

Pittsylvania County, Virginia  
**417 Acre Farm** on the **Sandy River**  
Majority in fertile farmland & pasture. 2 homes, 3 ponds, 1.6mi of river front. Offered in 3 tracts.

TRFAuctions.com | 434.847.7741 | VAAF501

## Announcements

**GENERAC**

## Announcements

**Orange County Public Schools**  
Orange County, Virginia

**SEEKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:**  
**Special Education Teacher**

The Orange County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, disability, status as a veteran, genetic information or any other characteristics protected by law in its employment practices or educational program and activities. Compliance inquiries should be directed to the Director of Human Resources, 200 Dailey Drive, Orange, VA 22960 or by phone at 540-661-4550.

**Candidates must apply at [www.ocss-va.org](http://www.ocss-va.org)**

## Announcements

**LAND AUCTION** Fri. Dec. 11  
Bid live or online!

240 Keatts Ln, Danville, VA

Pittsylvania County, Virginia  
**417 Acre Farm** on the **Sandy River**  
Majority in fertile farmland & pasture. 2 homes, 3 ponds, 1.6mi of river front. Offered in 3 tracts.

TRFAuctions.com | 434.847.7741 | VAAF501

## SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Small Business Saturday Elf Hunt.

Fairfax City's Office of Economic Development, Economic Development Authority, the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, and the Old Town Fairfax Business Association are partnering together to rally the city to support and celebrate small businesses on Small Business Saturday. Instead of hiding the elf in stores, businesses will incorporate them into their storefront window displays. Each participating business will have an elf and QR code displayed in their window that can be scanned to verify the elf was "found". When the QR code is scanned, not only will it verify the elf was found but links to participating business websites will be included along with ways to support them online and information on specials. Traditional hardcopy Elf Hunt cards will also be available for those who visit participating businesses in-person, as many of them will be offering in-store specials for the day. The traditional Elf Hunt cards will list each participating business and when you visit in-store, the business will stamp the card confirming your "find". Traditional Elf Hunt cards will be available at our "Welcome Station" on Saturday, November 28 from 10:00 am to noon at Old Town Square, 10415 North Street. Residents and visitors will have from Saturday, November 28 through Sunday, December 13 to find ten or more elves. Participants that find 10 or more elves, will have their name entered into a drawing for the chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards to their Fairfax City business of choice. Visit [fairfaxcityconnected.com/elfhunt2020](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/elfhunt2020).

## STARTING JAN. 26, 2021

On-Line ESL Classes. 7-9 p.m. Free on-line ESL classes will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 PM, from January 26 to April 1, 2021. Must register online December 10, 2020 at [www.lordoflifeva.org](http://www.lordoflifeva.org) Class size limited. Free.

## DEC. 1 TO JAN. 21

Citizenship Test Preparation. 7-8:30 p.m. Free On-Line Citizenship Test Preparation classes. Register at [www.lordoflifeva.org](http://www.lordoflifeva.org). We will use ZOOM software. For permanent residents who are eligible for citizenship. Sponsored by Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax and Centreville.

# CONNECTION

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

@BurkeConnection

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](http://connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Santa at Springfield Town Center. Santa and his reindeer will be arriving at Springfield Town Center on Nov. 6 to kick-off the holiday season. In an effort to create touchless experiences and accommodate varying levels of visitor comfort, Santa will be available at Springfield Town Center via numerous experiences and offerings: Picture with Santa; Virtual Experience; Family Pet Photos on Mondays; Family Photos and Visits with Santa. Reservations are required for all Santa and photo offerings.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 28

PlayaBowls Reston Opening. 12-8 p.m. At Reston Town Center, 1820 Discovery Street. Reston, next to PR Barbers. The first 50 people who order will get their bowls on us! So make sure to line up early. Visit the website: [playabowls.com](http://playabowls.com)

## SUNDAY/NOV. 29

Home for Holidays. 2-5 p.m. Online sponsored by Unity of Fairfax. This year's holiday season is going to be different. How do we create a holiday season that's meaningful and joyful... even if we spend it alone? In this 3-hour retreat, they explore this together. Cost: \$45 (or sliding scale). Visit the website: <https://home-for-the-holidays-2020-11-29.eventbrite.com/?aff=cnnews>

## NOV. 29 TO DEC. 3

Virtual Chanukah Bazaar. 8 to 10 p.m. Treasures Judaica Gift Shop is offering a virtual catalog of Chanukah products. Extending through the end of Chanukah, this site will capture your contact information and order. Pay by credit card directly through the website safely. Contactless pick-up will be by appointment in the Temple parking lot. Visit the website: <https://sisterhood-treasures-judaica-shop.shoplightspeed.com>

## NOW THRU DEC. 15

BUMC Holiday Marketplace. Burke United Methodist Church is hosting an online Holiday Marketplace. Proceeds will benefit our Cambodia ministry and the preschool. Includes links to many local crafters. Visit [www.burkeumc.org](http://www.burkeumc.org)

## MONDAY/NOV. 30

UFC 4 Challenge. 3:30-6:30 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, McLean. In the octagon, there can only be one winner. The OFC is hosting a UFC 4 challenge and McLean's best fighter will win a UFC-themed prize! Show us your MMA skills and may the best fighter win. To register, call MCC at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit: [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## DEC. 4 AND DEC. 11

Centrestage Spotlight. 6-8 p.m. Virtual Event. Centrestage Spotlight is a virtual show that will feature songs, monologues and scenes performed by Theatre Centreville students. Audience members will receive a link so the show can be enjoyed virtually. The first show can be viewed between Dec 4th and Dec 7th. The second show can be enjoyed Dec 11th through Dec 14th. To purchase tickets, go to <https://www.theatrecentreville.com/wpa/>

## FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Drive-In Movie. At Tysons Corner Center. Friday, December 4 – Elf from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. Each night, the fun will kick-off at 5 p.m. (movie starts at 7:30 p.m.) and will last until the movie has concluded with food available from participating eateries as well as some live entertainment, trivia, and music prior to the show. Tickets for Elf will be released the week of November 23rd. Reservation required, with a donation of \$10 or more to Food for Others, a local nonprofit providing food to neighbors in need.

## DEC. 4-6

Capital Craft Fair. 12 to 5 p.m. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. A Showcase of Artistry and Craftsmanship - The Capital Craft Fair will feature

works of art and fine crafts presented by more than 100 juried artists. Artists will offer a wide variety of handmade art in several mediums. Cost: \$10 Adults (in advance) \$12 (at the door). Visit the website: <https://hubs.la/H0y-gJs0>

## SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. 3 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, CenterStage, Reston. Cost is \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston. Mark Brutsché brings his unique spin on this childhood favorite that will be fun for the whole family. Visit the website [www.restoncommunitycenter.com/ptas](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/ptas).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Cookie Cutter Creation - 3D Printing Workshop. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. Get into the holiday STEM spirit and explore the world of 3D design to create your very own cookie cutter. In this virtual workshop, the STEM educators will take you through the process of designing a 3D cookie cutter on TinkerCad. Cookie cutters will be printed on the Children's Science Center 3D printer and available for pick up on Friday, December 18 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday, December 19 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Cost is \$25. Visit the website: <https://www.childsci.org/events/diy-workshop-cookie-cutter-creation>

## SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Pancake Breakfast. 9:30-11:30 a.m. At Turner Farm, 10609 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Turner Farmhouse Foundation invites the community to come to its Pancake Breakfast and Fundraiser. Come tour the grounds, visit the milk house and enjoy pancakes, coffee, tea and hot chocolate. They are raising funds to work on the Retreat House, and will start construction once the Special Exception application is approved. Contact Sarah Kirk, [skirkbtr@gmail.com](mailto:skirkbtr@gmail.com), 703-403-3072.

## DEC. 5 AND 6

Festival of Nativities. 5-8 p.m. At Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6219 Villa Street, Franconia. Celebrate Christmas at an open house event to view nativities from around the world. This will be a wonderful way to focus on the true meaning of Christmas as the holiday season begins. To promote the health and safety of volunteers and guests, they ask that you sign up for a window of time to attend. Details and the registration link can be found at: [www.festivalofnativities.com](http://www.festivalofnativities.com)

## DEC. 5 AND 6

McLean Holiday Art & Crafts Festival. The 2020 McLean Holiday Art & Crafts Festival, produced by the McLean Community Center, is being broadcast live this year at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6. Founded in 1982, the popular juried show features an exceptional group of regional artisans. Admission to the show is free; however, registration is required. This year's festival includes high-quality, traditional handcrafted works by established and seasoned artisans as well as innovative concepts by a number of new artists who are exhibiting. There will be pottery, glass, jewelry, holiday decorations, mixed media, fashion accessories, wood, fine art, artisanal foods, and more, all on display and all for sale—just in time for the holidays. Call the center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or visit the website at [www.mcleancenter.org/special-events](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events).

## DEC. 5 AND 6

Festival of Nativities. 5-8 p.m. At Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6219 Villa Street, Franconia. Celebrate Christmas at an open house event to view nativities from around the world. This will be a wonderful way to focus on the true meaning of Christmas as the holiday season begins. To promote the health and safety of volunteers and guests, they ask that you sign up for a window of time to attend. Details and the registration link can be found at: [www.festivalofnativities.com](http://www.festivalofnativities.com)

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004

FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

ELECTRICAL	ELECTRICAL
<b>K &amp; D ELECTRIC</b>	
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated	
Recessed Lighting	Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Ceiling Fans	Office 703-335-0654
Phone/CATV	Mobile 703-499-0522
Computer Network Cabling	Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc...	<a href="mailto:lektrkman28@gmail.com">lektrkman28@gmail.com</a>

LANDSCAPING	LANDSCAPING
<b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b>	
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.	
	<b>Summer Cleanup...</b>
	Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.
25 years of experience – Free estimates <b>703-868-5358</b>	
<b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>	

## Patios & Drainage

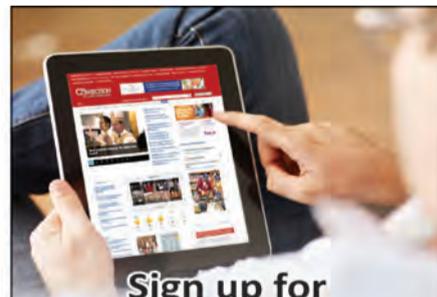
Your neighborhood company since 1987  
**703-772-0500**

## J.E.S. Services

**Free Estimates - Fully Licensed & Insured**

- Planting & Landscaping Design
- Drainage & Water Problems
- Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New
- Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Lay
- Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose
- Retaining walls of all types

*All work Guaranteed*



Sign up for  
**FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION**  
to any or all of our 15 papers  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE)



## A Question of Time



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Let us presume, for the sake of this column, that I only have papillary thyroid cancer stage IV, and that my years as a non small cell lung cancer patient, also stage IV, are over. If true, it begs the question, which I have been asked twice since this recategorization has become - in my circle anyway, public knowledge: how does it make me feel (to no longer be one scan result away from having months to live to now having years to live)? As obvious an answer as it should be: I can't exactly get my mind around it. I keep hearing that "If it's too good to be true, it isn't" advisory in my head. I realize medicine is different, and that's what scares me.

Well, I can't really say I feel as if I have my life back because I never really lived like it was gone. I pretty much - treatments and side effects notwithstanding - tried to maintain my normal life and to continue my routine as well. I didn't stray too far from my well-established dos and don'ts. I didn't write down a bucket list and therefore spent no time pursuing long-standing goals. I just did what I have always done. I didn't want to be controlled by my cancer; doing things, taking trips, etc. just because I had a "terminal" diagnosis. To my way of thinking, that would have been akin to reinforcing a negative: a cancer that was likely to kill me sooner rather than later so I better do such and such or else. Instead, I just lived my regular life and felt no pressure to cross off items on a bucket list before I died. In spite of living life not as if I was dying, but as if I was going to be living, (unlike the country music song that expresses a different sentiment) I survived beyond my wildest timeline: so far, 11 years and nine months after initially being given a "13 months to two years" prognosis.

Fast forward to the most recent - and amazing news: I hadn't miraculously survived non small cell lung cancer after all, I had merely survived a very survivable and slow moving thyroid cancer (that has - or had previously, metastasized to the lung). Though my oncologist still thinks I have two types of cancer, my endocrinologist thinks I only have - and have had, one type, thyroid cancer. The Lombardi Cancer Center head and neck cancer specialist also feels like I have one cancer: thyroid. Her reasoning, after reviewing my medical records was a bit more direct: "if you had lung cancer diagnosed 12 or so years ago, we wouldn't be here having this discussion. You wouldn't be alive." So being alive is proof, a type of proof I suppose, that I've had thyroid cancer all along and never had lung cancer.

Not that I want to be thick-headed but after nearly 12 years of being told that I had lung cancer and living scan to scan every two to three months and anxiously waiting as well for my lab results every three weeks

I find myself unable to let go of the worst case scenario that has been my life since Feb., 2009, and embrace this amended diagnosis. I can't seem to turn off my internal anxiety/fear clock. In fact, it's still stuck in its original position. I'm like an ocean liner headed out to sea. It can hardly turn on a dime and neither can I. Certainly I want to believe it and I don't really doubt the thyroid cancer opinions I've received, but it just seems that having your wildest dreams come true after almost 12 years of trying to accept the reality of your cancer situation/early death is too much good fortune for anyone to imagine/realize. It's the opposite of normal. As much as one might want it to happen, it's just not the way it generally works. I don't suppose doctors hand out terminal diagnosis before giving it extra ample thought. And yet, I'm about to be living proof.

Nevertheless, every day, the shock of it begins to wear off and I can contemplate my future once again. No more will I count the days between scans. No longer will I dread reading my lab work and wondering what it all means. Oddly enough, what it all means is that I'll probably continue/resume my previous life, boring and mundane as it was because, well, it worked for me then so I imagine it will work for me now.

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

# SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR YOUR TOYOTA



**WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA'S PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE**

**BUY 3 TIRES AND GET THE 4TH FOR \$1**



See Service Advisor for details.  
**GOT TIRES?**  
INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95**

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 11/30/20.

**CHECK ENGINE LIGHT DIAGNOSIS NO CHARGE**  
INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

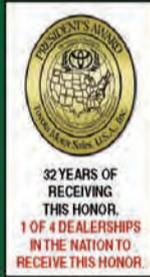
WE WILL RETRIEVE VEHICLE CODES & GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE OF REPAIR COSTS.



NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 11/30/20.

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  
**Now Available** 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.

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 11/30/20.

**SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES**  
**BUY 1 GET 1 FREE**  
Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 11/30/20.

**FREE BATTERY CHECK-UP**  
Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 11/30/20.

**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**

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 11/30/20.

**BG Vital Fluid Service**  
**10% OFF** YOUR FIRST SERVICE  
**15% OFF** YOUR SECOND SERVICE  
Power Steering • Automatic Transmission • Brake System

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 11/30/20.

**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.

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 11/30/20.

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

MAXIMUM DISCOUNT, \$150  
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 11/30/20.

Jack Taylor's  
**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

©SMS Productions, Inc. 1-800-289-7671 #202001025

**TRUESTART™ BATTERIES**  
**SPECIAL OFFER \$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.

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 11/30/20.

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