

## Army Museum Marks One Year with Veterans Day Events

BY MIKE SALMON  
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

**T**he American veteran's recognition has followed a long, tumultuous path through the years, including in 1932 when 17,000 veterans and others camped on the Mall in Washington, D.C. to get some support from the government after World War I. The protestors were ousted by soldiers on horseback and tanks, but a message got through and led to the first GI Bill in 1944, and then the establishment of Veterans Day in 1954.

This story was part of the "Commemorating and Honoring Veteran Service Through History," presentation at the National Museum of the U.S. Army on Veterans Day 2021, which also marked the one-year anniversary of the museum.

"After World War I, there's a movement about national recognition," said John Curran, who gave the presentation along with Jacob Henry. Both Curran and Henry are on their way to West Point to teach history, but are temporarily part of the museum's anniversary and Veteran's Day celebration. "It's a brief overview of the way the nation has commemorated the Army," he added.

Kevin Hillegas was a Veteran's Administration official who was visiting on Veterans Day with his wife for the first time. The



Kevin Hillegas, a Veterans Administration official and museum contributor, visited for the first time with his wife last week.

VA's task is to help veterans with education and housing assistance, but also psychological assistance if they need it. He said that around 200,000 people get out of the mili-

tary every year, but only 30,000 contact the VA for assistance. The VA wants to change that. "After they separate, we touch bases with them three times," he said.

The National Museum of the United States Army is located on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, just off the most eastern part

SEE ARMY MUSEUM, ON PAGE 8



Michael McGrath, the director at the Noman M. Cole Plant explains the procedure.



Stainless steel is everywhere in the new building.



Laurel Xiao displays an award the Noman M. Cole Plant received for past achievements.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET

## South County Water Now Treated by UV Lights

UV physical disinfection system is good for the environment.

BY MIKE SALMON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**M**illions of gallons of waste water go through the Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant

in Lorton, and it now gets treated with ultraviolet lights, saving money, wastewater and wildlife in Pohick Bay. The UV process is a physical disinfection system that generates photons that penetrate microbial DNA to deactivate bacteria and leave it unable to

reproduce. This is an improved process from the old chemical (sodium hypochlorite) disinfection system.

"This is the latest in our capital improvement project," said Michael McGrath, the director at the plant.

The water comes into the plant, gets zapped by the 1000-watt ultraviolet lights, and flows back through pipes that go under Old Colchester Road, down Pohick Creek and eventually back into Po-

SEE SOUTH COUNTY, PAGE 8

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OPEN SAT 11/20 & SUN 11/21, 2-4PM



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## HISTORY

# Fairfax County's History Shapes Us Today

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
GAZETTE PACKET

Fairfax County has a “storied history.” “The lives of those who came before us still affect us today,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly told attendees of the 17th Fairfax History Conference held online on Nov. 6.

The annual conference, titled “We Are Fairfax County,” was sponsored by the Fairfax County History Commission, chaired by Cheryl Repetti. Vice-Chair Lynne Garvey-Hodge emceed the meeting, dedicated to late John Rutherford, a County Park Authority archaeologist who died on Oct. 4, 2021. The morning session examined the county’s Native American history; the afternoon, African American history, including the historic Gum Springs community in Mount Vernon.

County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay opened the meeting, commenting that “our diversity is our greatest strength.” He cited the Board’s creation of an equity task force to evaluate “what systems are obstacles to equity and how structural racism has made some populations more vulnerable than others.” He also said that the county has created a Confederate Names Task Force to examine renaming of Lee Highway (Route 29) and Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50).

“Symbols matter,” he said. “Our symbols and policies must make everyone feels welcome and heard.”

### Native American Heritage

No one knows when the first Native Americans were in Fairfax, McKay said, but they were here 11,000 years ago.

When English soldier Captain John Smith explored the Potomac River’s shorelines in 1608, he encountered towns and villages.

The English called the people they encountered the Dogue and drove them out of the region by 1675. Today’s Dogue Creek bears the tribe’s name.

Rose Powhatan, a Pamunkey/Tauxenent Native American historian, told conference attendees that Algonquin was the original language of Fairfax County and that her ancestors called the land “our fertile country.”

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Too many people in the area talk about Native Americans in the past tense, a notion she called “a misconception,” adding, “We are still here. Although the English stole our fruit and cut down our trees, our roots are still here.”

She noted that there are 5,000-year-old petroglyphs at Great Falls. The site of today’s National Zoo in Washington, D.C.,

she said.

Her mother’s family was in the King William County Pamunkey tribe, part of the Powhatan Paramountcy of 32 Indian nations when the English arrived. The Pamunkey tribe became Virginia’s first federally-recognized tribe in 2016. The federal government recognized six more Virginia tribes in 2018.

Dr. Brad Hatch, a member of Virginia’s Pa-

1980s. Hatch teaches people how to make eel pots, to preserve this traditional craft of his people. Eel pots are “entangled with the Patawomeck identity,” he said.

He also described how Native Americans constructed and used carp pens, u-shaped structures of rough-cut lumber supported by rails and used to catch fish in tidal creeks, like Powell’s Creek in today’s Prince William

County, Aquia Creek in Stafford County and Potomac Creek in Stafford and King William Counties. They were in their heyday from the 1940s to the 1970s, he said. Chesapeake Bay watermen also used carp pens until around 1980. Anglers removed the trapped carp with a seine, a kind of net. Carp pens are gone, but they illustrate how indigenous people adapt to changing times, Hatch said.

“Fishing connects all of us across cultures,” Hatch said. “Since time immemorial, we’ve relied on

waters of rivers and creeks. They shape our culture. We continue to be haunted by waters.”

### Awards

The History Commission gave two distinguished service awards, one to Jeff Clark, Fairfax County Public Schools, who produced over 200 videos and other documents on the history of the county’s public schools.

Another award went to Maura Keaney, a Laurel Ridge Elementary School fifth-grade teacher, whose students prepared the successful nomination of a historical marker honoring Ona Judge, an enslaved African American woman who escaped from George and Martha Washington in Philadelphia in 1796 as they prepared to return to Virginia. Officials unveiled the new marker at Mount Vernon on Juneteenth, June 19, 2021.

Garvey-Hodge announced that the History Commission is developing a research inventory of materials on the histories of African American communities.

It will include buildings, cemeteries, street names, road markers, family records, oral histories and more.

The conference was the first of a four-part series chronicling the people who have called Fairfax County home.

Information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/about-us>

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ NOVEMBER 18-24, 2021 ♦ 3



Patawomeck eel pot maker Brad Hatch making an eel pot in 2019.

PHOTO BY LAUREN MCMILLAN



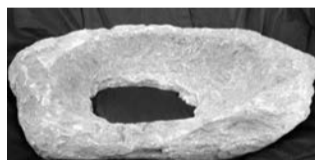
Four eel pots made by Patawomeck eel pot maker Herman Green around 1940.

PHOTO BY BRAD HATCH



Patawomeck Waterman Arthur “Barefoot” Green’s Carp Pen, ca. 1960.

PHOTO BY DANIEL KENNEDY



was once a part of quarry, she said, and her great-grandfather from Fairfax County worked there.

“Tauxenent was our main village,” Powhatan said, believed to be near the mouth of the Occoquan River. Today’s Tauxemont community in Mount Vernon was named after this village. The indigenous concept of homeland means “your village is looking out for you, a continuing tradition today,” she

tawomeck tribe and Dahlgren Naval Base’s cultural resource manager, described two traditional fishing crafts.

The first, eel pots, are woven, white oak, basket-type traps, 21 inches tall, eight inches at the base and six inches at the top. The smaller end has a wood cork and rope that attaches to a line with 50 or so pots. Native Americans dipped them in tar to blacken and preserve them and increase their appeal

**“We are still here. Although the English stole our fruit and cut down our trees, our roots are still here.”**

— Rose Powhatan, Pamunkey/Tauxenent Native American historian

said. John Smith did not venture very far beyond the Potomac River and visit inland villages. Today’s highways were preceded by waterways, “our ancient highway system,”

because eels are attracted to dark colors, Hatch said. Eels would swim into the baited pots and become captured. Records have documented use of these eel pots until the



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## OBITUARY

# J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge

Political consultant dies at 83.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Kenny Klinge was just 26 years old when he began a career in Virginia politics as precinct captain for Barry Goldwater's presidential campaign in 1964. He went on to help shape the political fortunes of many Republican candidates, including President Ronald Reagan. On Oct. 27, the man known as a patriarch in Virginia GOP politics, died at his retirement home in Basye, Va. He was 83.

"I had the opportunity to meet and begin my admiration for Kenny Klinge in 1976 when I was a green rookie chair of Young Virginians for Reagan," posted former Governor George Allen in an online tribute. "Kenny was always a steady, shrewd leader in any competitive and tense operation from Ronald Reagan's to my campaigns. He was a revered and loved person."

John Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge, was born in Arlington Aug. 4, 1938, to Henry John and Bernice Klinge. He developed a passion for politics and as an expert on transportation issues served as both a Special Assistant and Deputy Assistant Secretary to two Secretaries of Transportation during the Reagan Administration.

Klinge is credited with the modern expansion of Reagan National Airport while serving on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and the successful efforts to expand Metro Rail out the Dulles Corridor during his tenure as Chairman of the Dulles Corridor Task Force.

"Kenny had so much to offer," said Maj. Gen. Keith Meurlin, president of the Washington Airports Task Force. "He was a great Board Member at MWAA and I so much enjoyed the opportunity to work with him and accept his guidance and advice."

His transportation expertise was respected across party lines as then-governor Mark Warner appointed Klinge to chair the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority in 2002.

Klinge served as Executive Director of the Republican Party of Virginia (1973-1975), Regional Political Director of Ronald Reagan campaigns (1976, 1980, and 1984), and National Political Director of the National Republican Campaign Committee (1987-1989).

As Executive Director of the RPY, he partnered with the late Dick Obenshain to lay the foundation for the electoral successes of Governors' Mills Godwin and John Dalton. He served as a senior leader for the winning campaigns of Governors' George Allen and Jim Gilmore, as well as Representative Tom Davis.

Prior to retiring to the Shenandoah Valley, Klinge and his wife Jean were longtime Al-



Political consultant J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge died Oct. 27 at the age of 83.



J. Kenneth "Kenny" Klinge speaks to a group of young Republicans as Ronald Reagan's Virginia Campaign Coordinator in March of 1976.

exandria residents with Jean running unsuccessfully for Alexandria City Council in the 1980s.

In retirement, Klinge volunteered as the Precinct Captain of the Orkney Precinct in Shenandoah County. He enjoyed playing

golf, late night poker games and sharing his skills as a natural raconteur with family and friends.

Klinge is survived by his wife of 44 years, Jean Campbell Klinge; sons Michael (Shari) and John (Mel); broth-

ers, Charles (Georgia) and Jonathan (Connie); grandchildren, John Klinge (Kylie) and Holly (T.J.); great-grandchildren, Jackson, Spencer, and Lincoln; and stepdaughter, Kendra Cipollina. A celebration of life was held Nov. 4 in Basye, Va. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Orkney Spring Fire and Rescue Squad, 922 Orkney Grade PO Box 374 Basye, VA 22810.

"Kenny Klinge was a blessing in my life and for the advancement of freedom and opportunities for all," Allen added. "We will all miss Kenny's wisdom but will be grateful for his positive influences in our lives."

**"Kenny was always a steady, shrewd leader in any competitive and tense operation."**

— Former Governor George Allen

## COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY CAROLYN GAMBLE

**National Park Service Volunteer Coordinator Trudy Roth; Friends of Dyke Marsh Board members, Meg Jonas and Carolyn Bednarek.**

## Cleaning Up Microplastics They Get Into Waterways

On Nov. 13, 21 volunteers cleaned up trash along the Potomac River shoreline at Belle Haven Park and in Dyke Marsh. The group focused on small or micro plastics and styrofoam pieces, and collected 16 bags of trash in two hours. Small pieces of trash are typically difficult to collect, but important because birds, fish and other wildlife mistake them for food and eat them, which can be lethal.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

**The day before, a volunteer found this huge piece of styrofoam in Dyke Marsh. Styrofoam breaks apart into smaller and smaller pieces.**

### HOLIDAY CALENDAR

#### NOV. 27 TO DEC. 19.

##### **Holiday Lights on the Farm.**

Fridays thru Sundays 5:30 to 8 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. What is "Holiday Lights on the Farm"? It's where you tour Frying Pan Farm Park in the safety and warmth of your car and see an amazing display of holiday decorations lighting up the 135-acre park. The cost is \$20 per private vehicle. Or you can take the tour on a tractor-drawn wagon ride with up to 20 of your family or friends for \$150 per group. Last year this event sold out, so get your tickets early at <https://bit.ly/FPLights>.

#### NOV. 19 TO JAN. 2

**Ice & Lights: The Winter Village** at Cameron Run, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Open nightly 5 to 10 p.m.; January 8 to February 27, 2022 (ice skating only), open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring an ice rink, multiple new holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming, a retail area, food, music and more. Admission: \$9 for general admission to Village; \$22 for village admission and skating; beginning January 8, \$14 for ice skating; free ages 2

and under. Visit [novaparks.com/events/ice-lights](http://novaparks.com/events/ice-lights)

#### FRIDAY/NOV. 19

##### **Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.**

6-8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean, in the Plaza. Tysons Corner Center will kick off the 2021 Holiday Season with its annual tree lighting ceremony. The ceremony will include a special appearance from Santa, community performances, live music complimentary s'mores, hot chocolate station, kids crafts, outdoor specialty pop-up market featuring mall retailers, holiday sips, giveaways, and more.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 20

##### **City of Alexandria Tree Lighting.**

6 to 7 p.m. At Market Square, 301 King St., Alexandria. Join Mayor Justin Wilson and a host of friends for the lighting of the city's 40-foot Holiday Tree at City Hall. Santa arrives at Market Square via the King Street Trolley to help light the tree, then will circle the block, waving at visitors as he passes on his way back to the North Pole. Enjoy a welcome from the Town Crier and a bit of live music to set the festive mood. Visit [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 20

**"Snow Globe Series" Concert.** 8 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax

St., Alexandria. The Alexandria Choral Society announces its return to live performances with a series of free, outdoor holiday pop-up concerts throughout the city of Alexandria, beginning with a kick-off outdoor performance. Accompanied by pianist Wei-Han Wu, ACS will perform a flurry of seasonal favorites from around the world, like 'Daa Naa Se (Oh, Give Thanks)', 'S'vivon', 'Silent Night', 'Ose Shalom', 'Riu, riu, chiu,' and 'Christus Natus Est.' Additional pop-up performances will take place on November 23 at John Carlyle Square Park, November 30 at Casa Chirilagua/Four Mile Run Plaza and December 7 at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden. All concerts begin at 8 p.m. Visit [alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://alexandriachoralsociety.org)

#### NOV. 20-21

##### **Old Town Alexandria Cookie**

**Crawl.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday; 12 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Kick off the holidays early during Old Town Business's annual Old Town Cookie Crawl. Receive a commemorative tin and stop

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 10



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## Redistricting Process Should Involve the Public

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

Last week, I reported on the status of the state legislative and congressional redistricting process which has now moved to the Supreme Court of Virginia because the Virginia Redistricting Commission failed to adopt maps.

On Friday, the Supreme Court effectively disqualified all three Republican nominees to serve as special master over the redistricting process because of their conflicts of interest and partisan ties. Specifically, the Court noted that the Republican Caucuses had not advised the Court that one nominee had received a \$20,000 payment from the Senate Republican Caucus two months ago and had an express conflict. The other two nominees were unsuitable as well. A second nominee received \$5,000 per month from the Republican National Committee. The third Republican nominee has participated in putting together some of the most notorious, court-rejected and illegal racial gerrymanders in American history and lacked credibility according to a federal judge.

The Court ordered the Republican Caucuses to submit three new nominees by Nov. 17. One Demo-

cratic nominee indicated he did not want to serve in this process so the Court ordered the Democrats to submit an additional name.

Once the Supreme Court announces the two special masters for the process, the special masters are required to produce maps within 30 days for the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate and Virginia's 11 congressional districts.

At this point, it is not clear how much public comment will be allowed either before or after the maps are published. The Senate Democratic Caucus has proposed that the Court hold one public hearing before the maps are drawn to consider legal questions and four regional hearings after the maps are published so that the public can provide comments.

There are several legal points in dispute which resulted in the stalemate at the Virginia Redistricting Commission. First, Virginia law requires districts to be drawn in a way that does not "unduly favor" any political party. Notwithstanding the fact that the last election was decided by 70,000 votes of 3.6 million cast, Virginia has been



Surovell

"unduly benefit" the Republican party.

Second, current law requires maps to be drawn giving consideration to "communities of interest." There are questions about the exact legal standard to determine what a community of interest is for purposes of creating district boundaries. There are also questions regarding the relative weight masters should give to other variables such as compactness, continuity, jurisdiction splits and especially racial composition. Most districts in Northern Virginia are not majority white, including the 36th Senate District. Due to ambiguity in recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions, there is a lack of clarity regarding the masters' responsibility to maximize majority non-white districts.

Redistricting is a fundamental process that will determine who

represents you for the next 10 years in the state Senate, House of Delegates and the United States Congress. The new districts will have a significant impact on the policies adopted in this state and country for the next decade. It is critical that Virginia conduct this process in a fair and transparent fashion and I am confident, especially with the Virginia Supreme Court's recent actions, that the special masters will try to be fair.

However, the special masters will not know all of Virginia well or the nuances of our communities. I strongly believe that even though this process has moved to the courts, the public should have a clearly defined role and provide input.

However, understandably, I have found most people who do not follow this every day need to see a map before they can comment. In the coming weeks, there are likely to be proposed maps and opportunities for comment. I encourage you to participate. The Supreme Court has ordered that anyone wishing to comment can send an email to Redistricting@vacourts.gov.

If you have any feedback, please email me at scott@scotturovell.org.

## 35 Years Fighting Family Violence

BY: DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

This past week I made the following remarks before the Board of Directors of the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia and I hope that you will find them of interest.

"I am extremely honored to be a recipient of the Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) 35th Anniversary FACT Award. Thank you so much for this recognition. I want to thank the Chair, Allison Lawrence, and the board of directors and the executive director, Nicole Poulin, for all of the hard work that FACT (as the Trust Fund is affectionately called) does. Indeed, I would like to thank all of the many dedicated Virginians who have served on the board since its inception. Without them we wouldn't be here today. Imagine a Commonwealth without FACT these past 35 years. It would be a much grimmer place for too many victims of family violence, and the local community based agencies, and statewide and regional networks, working without FACT support. Instead,

FACT has provided millions of dollars of donated funds focusing on efforts to address family violence prevention and treatment from children to the elderly.

Fighting to prevent and address family violence has always been at the forefront of my mind, both in my legislative work as a Delegate and in my professional career as a nonprofit attorney. That includes work with a charity dedicated to empowering domestic abuse survivors and their families and finding them safe places to live. Indeed, one of the bills I introduced and passed strengthens the penalty on those who use technology like low jack and even smart phones to track their victims. For too long judges could only slap these criminals on the wrist with a small fine. Now they can be incarcerated, and this allows their victims to find new safe housing with less fear of being discovered.

I was honored to also serve on the Family and Children's Trust Fund as a Trustee for eight years



Krizek

appointed by two Virginia Governors, Governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. And to see what FACT is doing today with its new initiatives focusing on trauma-informed care and oversight of the Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee exciting and makes me proud of my early service on this important board.

While my time on the board at FACT has long ended, I remain strongly supportive of its mission and to finding a dedicated source of revenue to replace the dwindling tax check off and way too competitive license plate income. Back in my day as a board member there were only a handful of these license plates that produce revenue for charitable causes. Now there are hundreds! In my current role as a member of the Appropriations and General Laws Com-



mittees, I was proud to be able to negotiate for a portion of funds

SEE 35 YEARS FIGHTING, PAGE 7

### Let Us Know Your View

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A Connection Newspaper



## NEWS

# Children's & Teens' Connection 2021

Please send all submissions via email by Friday, Dec. 3. This edition publishes Dec 15.

During December of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, families, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish every kind of artwork that can be submitted to us as a jpeg, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

Pandemic planning has made for a short deadline, and, like everything else, the 2021 Children's Connections will be different than in the past.

For 2021, please send a curated collection of art from your class. We will do our best, but we are unlikely to be able to print every item submitted. Please include the first and last name of the student with each submission.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email. Writing should be submitted in .docx format or in google doc. If you are sharing a google doc with us, please turn on link sharing so that anyone with the link can edit the document and share with kimm.mary@gmail.com. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions, but different ideas are welcome:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome. Holiday themes are also encouraged.

aged.

- ❖ Short answers, 100-200 words on: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal or food or toy? Describe a good friend. Describe one of the best gifts you've ever given or received. Discuss a hobby or sport that you are involved in. Your opinion about any topic.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist or writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

Please send all submissions via email by Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. The Children's & Teens' editions will publish on Dec. 15, 2021.

You can see the 2019 editions (pre-pandemic) by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scrolling down to Children's Edition. You may also see the 2020 editions at the bottom of this email.

Email submissions for the Children's Editions to kimm.mary@gmail.com.

For advertising, please email Debbie Funk at [deb-funk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:deb-funk@connectionnewspapers.com).

**Mary Kimm**  
Editor and Publish

## 35 Years Fighting Family Violence

FROM PAGE 6

gathered from future casino revenue in the Commonwealth to go towards the Family and Children's Trust Fund, and efforts to include funding proposals to benefit FACT in the Governor's budget each year.

This past year has been difficult for each of us, but even more hardships have been faced by families who do not experience peace at home. FACT's mission to support at-risk families is more important now than ever.

It was my State Senator, the late Joseph V. Gartlan from my home of Mount Vernon, who first put forth legislation to create the Family and Children's Trust Fund in 1986; and, as a young man he took me under his wing and brought me to Richmond to learn how the General Assembly works. Years later I asked Governor Warner to appoint me to the FACT board not just because of its importance and its potential, but because it was Senator Gartlan's legislation that created it. Joe Gartlan was a great man who served in the Senate for 28 years and chaired what was then called the Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee. He was a giant in the human services world and left a legacy of empathy and compas-

sion I endeavor to follow and continue as I serve in the House of Delegates, now entering my 4th term. I still have 20 more years to go to get to Senator Gartlan's record.

Thank you again for this honor. I am truly humbled to receive it and I will never stop fighting to support your life affirming efforts to strengthen Virginia's families and the positive impact FACT is making on our communities across the Commonwealth."

You can support FACT's mission to amplify community programs and initiatives focused on the prevention and treatment of family violence and the protec-

tion of children through funding and awareness by purchasing one of their revenue-sharing license plates. The Kids First license plate that I have on my family's car is \$25 per year, in addition to the regular annual registration fee. FACT receives \$15 from each one, each year. There are three other FACT plates, with a star, heart or hand symbol, which are also \$25 per year. The revenue from these three plates is split between FACT and the Virginian Department of Health's Safe Kids Coalition. A portion of your specialty license plate fee may be tax deductible. Buy one for your vehicle today and show Virginia that you put "Kids First."

### Sign up for

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## Thanksgiving Day Family Run



Register at [MountVernonLeeChamber.org](http://MountVernonLeeChamber.org)

November 25  
8:00 am  
Kingstowne

Bring canned goods for local food banks



## VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

### Richmond Highway (Route 1) Speed Limit Study Fairfax County

#### Virtual Public Information Meeting

**Tuesday, November 30, 2021, 7 p.m.**

<https://www.virginiadot.org/Route1SpeedLimitStudy>

**Find out** about a study assessing the 45 MPH speed limit on about eight miles of Richmond Highway (Route 1) between Belvoir Road/Meade Road and I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway) to improve safety for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit users.

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the virtual meeting is available at <https://www.virginiadot.org/Route1SpeedLimitStudy>. The study team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

**Review** study information and meeting details on the webpage above or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call ahead at 703-259-2752 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

**Give your comments** during the meeting, or by **December 10, 2021** via the comment form on the study website, by mail to Ms. Tien-Jung "Tina" Ho, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to [meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Richmond Highway (Route 1) Speed Limit Study in Fairfax County" 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.

*In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2021 at the same time.*

# South County Water Now Treated by UV Lights

FROM PAGE 1

hick Bay. The water that flows into the bay is 99.999 percent germ free, McGrath said, and is compliant with the Clean Water Act.

Previously, the chemical disinfection system required 200 yearly tanker truck deliveries of chemicals, and \$750,000 annually in chemical costs eliminated with the new UV system. An existing large pump station associated with the old disinfection system is no longer needed either, so this saves about 846,000kWh of energy per year, saving greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing 100 cars from the area roadways, Fairfax County said. The price tag of the new system is \$87 million. The reclaimed water is not suitable for drinking but it doesn't go to waste. Some of the reclaimed water goes to water the Laurel Hill Golf Course and several little league fields in the area, McGrath said.

## Water Activist

The Noman M. Cole Jr. Pollution Control Plant opened in 1970 and currently treats water for the southern part of Fairfax County. The Alex Renew water treatment plant in Alexandria also uses a UV system, and then other parts of Fairfax County get water treated at the Upper Occoquan Sewage plant, and Blue Plains plant in Washington, D.C.

This Fairfax plant was named after Noman Monroe Cole Jr., a nuclear engineer, civic ac-



Dealing with ultraviolet lights requires special equipment.

tivist and past chairman of the Virginia Water Control Board, who died in a ski accident in 1997. Locally, he was a driving force behind the 1971 Occoquan Watershed Policy and was involved with area sewage treatment plants. In recognition for his efforts to clean up the Potomac River, he received a 1974 "Man of the Year," award from the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and



Strict safety rules are important around the plant.

a 1975 "Save Our Stream," award from the Izaak Walton League.

## Clean Output

### Impacts Chesapeake Bay

Scientists at George Mason University have been conducting a study of Gunston Cove over the last 30 years, looking at the nutrient load flowing into the Potomac River watershed from the Noman M. Cole Plant. Although the flow of water through the plant has remained relatively consistent, the levels of phosphorus dropped significantly in the early 1980s, and the amount of nitrogen dropped significantly since 2000.

As a result of these actions at the plant has led to the increase in the amount of submerged aquatic vegetation in Gunston Cove which provides habitats for fish and the organisms they consume. With more vegetation, the overall diversity of the fish population increased, the report stated.

There has also been a significant decline in chlorine and ammonia from the plant, which has allowed fish to recolonize the tidal Pohick Creek. This area is used as a spawning ground by species such as chad. The improvement of water quality has contributed to positive changes in the Chesapeake Bay, GMU said.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE PACKET

# Army Museum Marks One Year with Veterans Day Events

FROM PAGE 1

of the Fairfax County Parkway. It opened to the public on Nov. 11, 2020 but the Army temporarily closed it about a month later as a COVID-19 precaution, and it re-opened on the Army's 246th Birthday, June 14, 2021.

Inside the 185,000-square-foot museum, there are 11 galleries full of tanks, guns, helicopters, uniforms and multimedia programs that tell the story of the US Army. There are 1,389 artifacts and 70 cast figures in the five-story building.

## Museum Gets County Recognition

In October, ArtsFairfax presented to the National Museum of the United States Army the Jinx Hazel Award, ArtsFairfax's highest honor. "The museum documents an important part of our history and culture, opening the door through first-hand accounts of missions,



A POW outfit from the Vietnam War is displayed in the museum.

leadership, and military life. The National Museum of the United States Army is one of our nation's

outstanding new museums and cultural assets, and we are proud to have the museum in Fairfax

County," ArtsFairfax said.

Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay (D) presented the award.

The museum is part of an effort to increase the tourism attractions in the southern part of Fairfax County.



Jacob Henry, left, and John Curran told the story behind Veterans Day.

PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

## BULLETIN BOARD

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.

### NOV. 5 TO DEC. 10

Jingle Bell Kids Toy Drive Collection. At Quander Road School, 6400 Quander Road, Alexandria. Personal Development Class Service-Learning Project Holiday Toy Drive for Kids in Nearby

Shelters; "Gifting Community Kids for the Holidays. Ages: Toddlers -14 years old. Types of Items to Donate: Board/Card Games, Puzzles, Art supplies, Coloring/Activity books, Various Books, Stuffed animals, Dolls and Toy Cars/Trucks.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 18

Business Breakfast. 7:30-10 a.m. At Belle Haven Country Club, Alexandria. The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce along with SFDC will host a special presentation on the economic development

on Richmond Highway and provide updates from important industries for what they anticipate in 2022. A panel of industry insiders will provide updates on their economic sector. Visit [www.MtVernon-Lee-Chamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-Lee-Chamber.org) or call 703-360-6925.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 25

CAN the Bird 5K. 8 a.m. The race begins and ends in the Walmart parking lot, 5885 Kingstowne Boulevard, Alexandria. All ages can enjoy a run around Kings- SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

# Puller Institute, Applications Open

The sixth annual Puller Institute is now accepting 2022 applicants.

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) created the Puller Institute to honor his predecessor, State Sen. Elizabeth "Toddy" Puller who served in the Virginia General Assembly for 24 years. Sen. Puller was an avid fighter for the citizens of Virginia and this program is dedicated to her years of hard work for the 36th District.

Over a decade ago, Mount Vernon Delegate Kris Amundson created her Young Leader Program. Her program was designed to introduce top high school students in the Mount Vernon area to the Virginia State Government process. After Delegate Amundson's retirement, Surovell continued the program and renamed it the Amundson Institute in honor of Amundson's commitment to Mount Vernon's young leaders. The Puller Institute is modeled on the same program.

"Since the creation of this program, I have met multiple young leaders from the Northern Virginia region with different backgrounds, passions and interests.

They have been an excellent source of inspiration for some of my past legislation and always offer a unique insight into issues within their community along with possible solutions. This is a rare opportunity and I am pleased that I am able to continue it another

year," Surovell said.

Students will have a chance to watch the law-making process in action; attend General Assembly sessions of both chambers; watch committee hearings; meet policy makers and cabinet officials; and tour historic state buildings. After their trip, the selected students will complete a personal project that they will then present to Surovell in the Spring. These projects are based on an issue that the students are both passionate about and pertain to the 36th District.

In the past, students have met with Gov. Ralph Northam, Secretaries of Education Ann Holton and Atif Qarni, Former Del. Kris Amundson, Former Del. Chris Saxman, political journalists, advocates and lobbyists. They also attended various committee meetings, and toured the Virginia State Capital and the General Assembly Building.

High school juniors and seniors from all parts of the 36th Senate District are encouraged to apply. You can see if you live in the 36th District by visiting [whosmy.virginia-generalassembly.gov](http://whosmy.virginia-generalassembly.gov). For more information on The Puller Institute and to apply for the 2022 session, please complete the application here: <http://bit.ly/2022PullerInstitute>

The deadline for applicants is Dec. 8, and the Richmond program will take place Sunday, Jan. 23 – Tuesday, Jan. 25.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

towne Center and the Kingstowne Lake. Medals will be awarded for first, second and third places for overall men and women runners, plus best runner with a dog, and best runner with a stroller. First, second and third place medals will also be awarded for these categories: 12 years and under; 13-18 years; and master runners 50 years and older. Donations of canned goods will be accepted for local food banks. Bring the family for a fun Thanksgiving Day morning run. Register for early bird prices at [www.MountVernonLeeChamber.org](http://www.MountVernonLeeChamber.org).

## WALKING GROUP

Let's Walk! Let's Walk! is a community walking initiative whose goal is to achieve and maintain optimal health through walking. The members consist of women who are retired or work from home and want to connect with others who share common interests, life experiences and fitness goals. The group meets

at 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at a central location on Fort Hunt Road and walks for approximately 1 hour weather permitting. Contact information: 703-780-1145 or email: [ecenglish@cox.net](mailto:ecenglish@cox.net).

## ONGOING

Local, farm-fresh produce – including strawberries and asparagus – and more will be featured at the now-opened McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon Farmers Market. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through Dec. 22), 16 local farmers and food producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles.



## Public Notice

### Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struc Id	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Posted Date
MONTGOMERY	12355	787	DRY VALLEY RD./ROUTE 787	MEADOW CREEK	10/28/2021
DINWIDDIE	6063	631	CLAIRBORNE RD.	HATCHER RUN	10/23/2021
CARROLL	4640	620	FOREST OAK RD./ROUTE 620	CROOKED CREEK	10/22/2021
SCOTT	16924	796	GILLENWATER LOOP	BIG MOCCASIN CREEK	10/20/2021
LUNENBURG	11609	626	DOUBLE BRIDGES RD.	LEDBETTER CREEK	10/12/2021

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

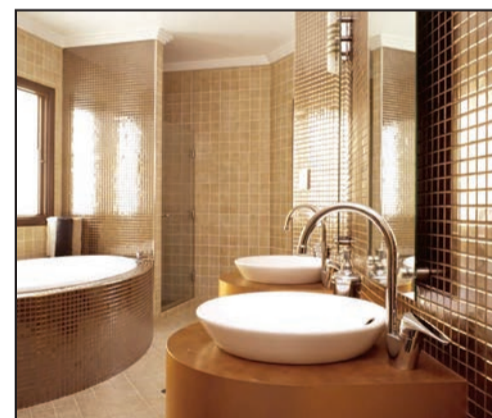
Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact, [haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov](mailto:haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov).

*The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.*

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# HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

by all 25 retailers on the crawl to receive a cookie at each location. It's fun for the whole family and a great way to explore Old Town's walkable shopping district. Admission: \$35 registration fee. Visit [oldtownbusiness.org](http://oldtownbusiness.org)

## SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

**Waterfront Art Market.** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center's waterfront entrance, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Visit the Waterfront entrance at Torpedo Factory Art Center to discover new artwork from a rotating lineup of the Art Center's studio artists. Find paintings and photographs to jewelry and wearables, then step inside to browse the three floors of the Art Center for even more original art for purchase. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org)

## THURSDAY/NOV. 25

**46th Annual Turkey Trot.** 9 a.m. Race begins at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Participate in the return of DC area's premiere turkey trot. The Flat, fast, USATF-certified five-mile course starts and ends at George Washington Middle School. The Alexandria Turkey Trot offers a generous cash and gift prize purse to the winning runners. Please support ALIVE!, a nonprofit organization serving Alexandria's needy, by bringing two nonperishable food items (cans, boxes) on race day. Admission: \$20 per adult; \$15 for youth ages 13-20; \$5 for children under 13; \$10 for race t-shirt. Visit the website: [alexandriaturkeytrot.com](http://alexandriaturkeytrot.com)

## NOV. 26-27; DEC. 3, 4, 10, 11, 19

**Mount Vernon by Candlelight.** At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Take a candlelit guided tour and learn about holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Visit with Mrs. Washington and other 18th-century residents of Mount Vernon in a 45-minute

candlelit tour of the Mount Vernon estate, followed by a reception. Hear stories of Christmases past from costumed character actors portraying Washington's family, friends, and enslaved or hired staff. Admission: \$36 for adults (ages 12 and up); \$28 for youth (ages 6-11); for members, \$26 for adults; \$18 for youth. Visit the website: [mountvernon.org/candlelight](http://mountvernon.org/candlelight)

## NOV. 26 TO DEC. 2

**2nd Annual Alexandria Shop Small Week.** At various locations throughout Alexandria. Kicking off with Plaid Friday: Alexandria's Small Business Black Friday and Small Business Saturday, Alexandria Shop Small Week is an opportunity to show your support for the D.C. region's largest destination for independent boutiques with seven days of deals and promotions including Museum Store Sunday, a small business Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday, an Alexandria Shop and Stay giveaway at @VisitAlexVA on Wednesday and a new Moonlight Merriment event on Thursday. Visit the website: [visitalexandriava.com/holidays/shop-small-week](http://visitalexandriava.com/holidays/shop-small-week)

## SATURDAY/NOV. 27

**Hometown Holidays at Port City Brewing Company.** 7 p.m. At Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria. On Small Business Saturday, 30 Alexandria-based makers will take over the Port City parking lot. Come take care of all your holiday gift giving needs, and sip while you shop. Visit [portcitybrewing.com](http://portcitybrewing.com).

## DEC. 2, 3, 9, 21

**Museum Shopping Evenings at Carlyle House.** 5 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House Museum Shop, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Enjoy shopping small and local. Stop by the Carlyle House Museum Shop for wonderful holiday gifts. An assortment of Virginia made items, ornaments, soaps, and more are available for purchase. Visit [novaparks.com](http://novaparks.com).



The 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary

# Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade

Friday, December 3rd, & Saturday, December 4th, 2021



Join us in kicking off the holiday season and celebrating the rich history of the Alexandria community with our 50th anniversary events. Funds raised support our educational programs for children and families from cradle to career!



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# Culture Shock of Private School Competition

Those unaccustomed to hyper-competitive education feel intimidated by the admissions process.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
GAZETTE PACKET

**S**chool tours, applications, teacher recommendations, test prep tutors and on campus visits. These are some of the topics of conversation in families who are in the midst of the independent school admissions process. For Sandy Adams, it conjures up memories of the time when her children had to adjust to a new academic environment. She and her family moved three times in six years, each time experiencing the shock of adapting to a new private school admissions process.

"During my children's elementary, middle, and high school, I moved my three children into three private international schools in Europe and Asia," said the Potomac mother of three adult children. "My top advice for parents is: Be open minded and flexible."

Those who are new to the Washington region can be caught off guard by the hyper-competitive independent school admissions process here. Families who were accustomed to a laid-back environment where school choices are plentiful and acceptance rates are high can experience culture shock. There are strategies for navigating the process and snagging a seat in the private school of your choice, say local education consultants.

Perseverance and expectation management are the top coping mechanisms that education consultant Alex Ross believes will make the process less intimidating.

"For parents unaccustomed to the rigors and ultra-competitive environment of certain private schools, their knee jerk reaction when they're being thrown into such an environment is to shut down," said Ross, an education consultant who serves clients in Alexandria and Arlington. "They see nothing but the obstacles and throw up their hands, thinking their children will just have to settle for public school."

To be truthful, though, the toughest school to get into in the region is a public school, Thomas Jefferson. And the social environment and whiff of celebrity in other public schools in Fairfax County, Arlington and Montgomery County can match many private schools. The list of super talented and now famous people who graduated from the public schools in those areas, or the Alexandria City High School, is daunting.

Still Ross believes that dedication and determination can increase the chances of being accepted to the school of your choice. "My best advice would be to stay the course and acknowledge the investment you're

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



A private school graduation from before the pandemic.

**"Yes, the path to admission into such exclusive schools is tougher, but it is worth it in the long haul. Staying the course always pays dividends."**

— Alex Ross

making in your children," he said. "Yes, the path to admission into such exclusive schools is tougher, but it is worth it in the long haul. Staying the course always pays dividends. Study after study shows that students coming out of private schools get admitted into more prestigious universities and ultimately are earning higher salaries."

Self-acceptance is necessary when navigating an unfamiliar and daunting process. "You have to be comfortable with your child going to school where other students may be wealthier, more socially connected, or have celebrity parents," said Great Falls education consultant Chris Perry. "If you are not comfortable, your child won't be comfortable. If you are intimidated, your child will be intimidated. If you feel inferior, your child will feel inferior."

Taking time to attend open house events or take a tour of a school can put families at ease, continued Perry. "Putting a positive spin on a big change can set your family up for success by making it an adventure, rather than just a stressful, arduous move across the country or to a hyper-competitive school," he said.

For those who experience financial roadblocks, Ross says, "Don't be shortsighted. Even though many people will tell you that you're too late to the game to get in, there are always side doors. You never know where a well-timed donation, political favor, or act of volunteering might catapult your son or daughter into the admissions line."

When selecting a school, the most important factors are finding an environment that is a good fit socially and academically, says Perry.

"The thing to ask yourself is, are you in love with the education your child will get at this school? If you are not, then you shouldn't go," And if you are truly in love with it, then nothing else, not money, not social status, not celebrity, should matter."

Obituary

Obituary



## Joseph Thomas Shamburg, Jr., 58.

Of Alexandria and Madison, Va. passed away in Jacksonville, Fl. on October 29, 2021 following complications from heart surgery. He was also preceded in death by his father, Joseph Thomas Shamburg, Sr.; and grandmother, Dorothy Kendrick Spicer.

Joey graduated from Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria and was voted the most valuable player on his baseball team as a pitcher. Joey was a seasonal warehouse employee with Remedy Solutions, Inc. in Jacksonville, Fl. He was an avid fan of the Washington Redskins and the Washington Nationals. He enjoyed going fishing with his two dogs and longtime friend, Renae Lamb.

He is survived by his mother, Dona Spicer Shamburg of Madison; a son, Wesley T. Shamburg and wife Sierra of Culpeper, Va.; one brother, Dale Shamburg and wife Amanda of New Kent Co., Va.; nephews, Tyler, Joshua, Austin Shamburg; great-nephew, Brayden Shamburg; and aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Spotlight on the 15th Annual Alexandria Film Festival

By DENNIS D. McDONALD

One great thing about film festivals is that they enable audiences to view a real diversity of films under one roof. While the 15th annual Alexandria Film Festival (AFF) is once more this year virtual -- and roofless -- the independent films streaming now through Thanksgiving (<https://festival2021.eventive.org/films>) exemplify diversity in tone, length, topic, and polish. Here are a few that I've liked so far:

**"Ala-Kachuu – Take and Run"** is a beautifully produced short film about a young small-town woman from rural mountain-locked Kyrgyzstan. She dreams of escaping her childhood home for independence and an education in the country's capital. She gets her chance but is soon kidnapped and returned to a small village. There she is forced by custom to marry a local guy. Things do not go well. She repeats

attempts an escape. Part of the "Superwomen" showcase of AFF films, what distinguishes Ala-Kachuu is excellent acting, extraordinary scenery, and very tight editing and dialogue.

**"The Proposal,"** a Russian film comedy that is part of the International showcase group of films, tracks the hoops a young suitor must jump through when his beloved demands a unique and non-traditional marriage proposal. Talk about a "tough audience" as we watch what the young man goes through to get her to say yes!

Delicate and emotionally engaging, the Moroccan film **"Ultimate**



Ala-Kachuu – Take and Run



Ultimate Ink



The Proposal



Departure

**Ink,"** also part of the International showcase, follows an elderly calligrapher who runs a small shop that inscribes stone plates containing cemetery epitaphs.

He draws the contents of each epitaph in Arabic. His young assistant then chips the letters into flat stone plates. One day a mysterious visitor leaves an order for an epitaph for a man with the same name as the old man. We follow a small cast through narrow passages, alleyways, and labyrinthine walkways as the mystery of this strange epitaph unfolds. What could have been photographed as dark and shadowy instead is a study in classic image framing, brilliant color balance, and detailed but unshowy camera movement. Much thought and sensitivity have gone into the production of this short film and it shows.

**"Departure,"** a short film in the Sci-Fi-Ish showcase, is an intensely emotional tale about life, death, love, loss, and remembrance. The themes are familiar, including that nagging eternal question, "What if you could do it all over again?" Some of the acting is a bit underwhelming but that does not prevent the film from having an emotional impact especially for anyone who has experienced loss, or tragedy, or major upsets. The dialogue is carefully crafted. This is a fantasy more than a sci-fi film but in some ways it reminds me of how Denis Villeneuve's movie "Arrival" dealt with family tragedy.

Alexandria resident Dennis D. McDonald, a volunteer with the Alexandria Film Festival, writes occasional film reviews at [www.ddmcd.com/movies](http://www.ddmcd.com/movies) and can be contacted via email at [ddmcd@ddmcd.com](mailto:ddmcd@ddmcd.com).

## CALENDAR

### NOW THROUGH-DEC. 12

Fall Salon. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria. Torpedo Factory Art Center is encouraging people to bring home original work from local artists this fall with two major offerings dedicated to making art buying simple and affordable. Target Gallery's next group exhibition, Fall Salon, features 70 works by artists from the greater metropolitan region, all priced at \$1,000 or less. Art Fest—Sunday, November 14, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.—brings this collector's spirit out of Target Gallery and throughout all three floors of the Art Center. Tickets start at \$15 with access to the 3rd floor Art Lounge with expansive Potomac views, a live art project, and beverages to enjoy while you relax. Music will be spun all day by DJ One Luv.

### THURSDAY/NOV 18

Lecture: What Made George Washington

Tick? With Prof. Peter Henriques. Doors open at 7 p.m., Lecture starts live and online at 7:30 p.m. At Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum and Virtual. While recognizing him as the most important figure in American History, Professor Peter Henriques takes issue with the traditional image of George Washington as a selfless leader. Rather, his portrait of George Washington reveals a more complicated - and interesting - man who was both self-effacing and wildly ambitious, with a desire for public adulation that he never fully acknowledged, perhaps even to himself. Cost is \$12 per person, \$10 OHA volunteer or \$6 virtual only.

### NOV. 19-DEC. 17

MVUC Holiday Shop. Virtual. At 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Unitarian Church's 56th Holiday Shop is virtual due to Covid. Vendors include Papazian Design, Late Bloomers, Bead Therapy, Deerhawk Art, The Bathing Raven Candle Company, Recycled

bag Lady, Jane's Crafts, Nina Tisara Mosaics. Information: [mvuc.org](http://mvuc.org). Visit us at [bit.ly/MVUCHoliday](http://bit.ly/MVUCHoliday).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #219, 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Offering a variety of antiques and vintage items, practical, as well as creative and handcrafted items such as lavender sachets, pottery, holiday decor, handcrafted soaps, and much more! 25 + vendors. Visit the website: <https://mount-vernnonfleamarket.wordpress.com/>

### SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Bach Consort Performance. 7-8:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria. Josquin des Prez (c.1450/55-1521) was among the most important composers of his era and, like Bach, a master of counterpoint. He was held in especially high esteem by his contemporaries—a reputation that

continues to the present day. Cost is \$40. Visit the website: [bachconsort.org](http://bachconsort.org)

### SATURDAY/NOV. 20

Snow Globe Series Concert. 8 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria. Accompanied by pianist Wei-Han Wu, ACS will perform a flurry of seasonal favorites from around the world, like 'Daa Naa Se (Oh, Give Thanks)', 'S'Vivon', 'Silent Night', 'Ose Shalom', 'Riu, riu, chiu,' and 'Christus Natus Est.' Contemporary works like Morten Lauridsen's 'Sure on this Shining Night,' Eric Whitacre's 'Glow,' and Dan Forrest's 'Gloria in Excelsis' - as well as a few exuberant holiday carols - round out this family-friendly winter program.

### SUNDAY/NOV. 21

Outlandish Tours at the Apothecary Museum,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

## APPETITE

# Restaurants To Be Thankful For on Thanksgiving

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**h, Thanksgiving, that time of family togetherness and feasts that leave leftovers for days and days. Sometimes – perhaps especially coming out of pandemic-induced hibernation – families would rather focus on the food and fellowship and not so much on the cooking and clean-up. For those times, not to worry: The Alexandria restaurant corps has you covered. From takeout to dine-in, here are some of your best bets for staying out of the kitchen this year.

### From Politics to Pastry

In need of a dessert (or three)? You'd better hurry. The deadline is this Friday to place your order for Pennsylvania Dutch shoo-fly molasses pie, chocolate chunk scones, Parker House rolls or multigrain rolls. Prefer the hands-on approach but have no idea where to start? The company is also hosting a virtual scone-making class this Sunday. Email [frompoliticstopastry@icloud.com](mailto:frompoliticstopastry@icloud.com) to reserve your spot (or your dessert!).

### Spice Kraft Indian Bistro

Put a spicy flair on your festivities with a trip to Spice Kraft. Whether you elect to dine in or carry out, the restaurant's six-course menu will surely leave you in a dazed and happy state by dessert time. The tone is set early on with an appetizer of "turkey cutlet with Chettinad spice crust," and continues through a tandoor-roasted butternut squash soup, tandoori-roasted turkey and turkey tikka masala and a half-dozen sides. And that dessert? It's pumpkin halwa, a sweet pudding. Toast with champagne, beer or mango lassi and leave the table satisfied. 2607 Mount Vernon Ave.

### Trademark Drink and Eat

It may be well into autumn now, but Trademark is gazing back wistfully to warmer days with its homage to last summer's "Rums of the Caribbean" event. Thanksgiving will feature a turkey brined in the restaurant's "Bright and Stormy Grog Cocktail." Dine in or order to-go; the restaurant will help you out either way with all the fixings.

SEE RESTAURANTS, PAGE 14  
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## "One-Hundred Seventy-Three Minutes"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



That's exactly how long the pre-recorded, artificially-computerized voice said I would have to wait on the phone if I wanted to speak with an actual person. For those of you arithmetically challenged, 173 minutes is almost three hours. Seeing no point in holding that long, I hung up the phone.. EZ-Pass of Maryland is not as easy as I had hoped. Sure the transponder on my car has changed the way I toll around. I only wish I had been earlier to the party. But I waited until the monthly fees were eliminated before I joined. Had I been more on the ball, I would have been sailing through toll plazas up-and-down the east coast years ago. Nevertheless, I'm in the game now (last few years) and enjoying modern technology as it simplifies and eases the occasionally arduous task of driving through tolls - yours truly now being for whom the bell now calculates.

However, I needed to contact the EZ-Pass offices to question a \$25 "replenishment"/charge/debit to my EZ-Pass account. My car/transponder had been sitting in my driveway for most of the last week, undriven by anyone anywhere near a toll. Yet there it was in my email: a courtesy email advising of the \$25 charge/debit to my account. I was curious; having been told recently by my wife, Dina, of an EZ-Pass audit which showed phantom-charges (charges for roads not driven). As a result, I thought I would pursue the questionable debit to my account with a real person. I googled the EZ-Pass phone number and naively called it thinking I might get some satisfaction/resolution. Neither of which I did, but I did get a subject for this week's column.

To be fair-ish, the message does refer the caller to the EZ-Pass website, but that requires the caller to know their account number and password, which of course, I don't. As the message continued however, it spoke to this very circumstance and advised that if one didn't know their account number/password, press #2 I think it was, and then hang on to speak with someone. That's when I heard the 173-minute warning shot fired across my brow. That's when whatever hope I had of a reasonable reconciliation ended. I couldn't justify/tolerate the time it would take to possibly reconcile/credit my account the \$25. I figured my time was more valuable than that so I hung up. Alas, poor Yurik. It was not to be or be at all. I can't think of a more efficient way to solve a dispute in your favor: making callers wait three hours on hold just to talk to a person who might credit back an unnecessary debit into their account. Hardly a guarantee. More likely a definite maybe.

In effect: there's no dispute. There's no discussion and there's no reconciliation. The money's gone and I have absolutely no way/recourse to "replenish" my bank account. Sure, I could call back when the message advises due "to extremely high call volume," but when would that be? Midnight probably, on a weekend. But guess what? There's nobody home at that time. Apparently, the only time to get through to someone is when there's nobody around to be gotten through to. Granted, it's only \$25, but I'm entitled/deserving of an explanation. If I thought of it, I could certainly get paranoid about computers having access to my bank account and/or credit card information. I realize it's the way of the world to provide this information to total strangers/computer programmers, but if I have no real way to settle a dispute of a charge/debit, it makes me rather nervous. Dollars could very well disappear in the interests of whomever has access to the account. If I can't talk to a human being - in less than three hours, then in point of fact, I have no recourse. And no recourse is hardly the stuff from which dreams are made. It's the complete opposite, actually. It's a nightmare, and one from which we might never wake up.

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

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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

105-107 South Fairfax Street, Old Town Alexandria. 11 a.m. to noon. Celebrate the November release of Book 9 of Diana Gabaldon's beloved Outlander series with an Outlandish Tour of the Apothecary Museum. Tour this historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's Outlander series of novels, from cascara to dauco seeds. The tour also touches on the role of apothecaries and women in medicine in the 18th century. Recommended for ages 18 and up. Cost is \$15 per person and advance purchase of tickets is required. Tickets are available through AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop.



The Mt. Vernon Flea Market will be held Saturday, Nov. 20 in Alexandria.

**SUNDAY/NOV. 21**  
Meet the Thirteen. 3-4 p.m. Virtual. At 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Conversations: An Inside Look at the local Vocal Ensemble, The Thirteen, Matthew Robertson, Artistic Director will discuss the ensemble and their remarkable sound. The Thirteen is an acclaimed professional ensemble comprised of vocal and instrumental artists who are vanguards of classical ensemble music. Since its founding in 2012, the choir has been at the forefront of invigorating performances of choral masterworks ranging from early chant to world premieres and the centuries in between. Learn how this ensemble got its start, how they attract world class talent, and what makes this group so unique. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86582608669>. Dial in: 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 865 8260 8669

**SUNDAY/NOV. 28**  
George Washington's Alexandria Tour. 2-4 p.m. At Christ Church, 118 N, Washington Street. Alexandria. Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it! This popular two-hour guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues. To register, visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) and search for George Washington's Alexandria Tour. Visit the website: [www.washingtonbirthday.com](http://www.washingtonbirthday.com)

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### THE BIRCHMERE

All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com). At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com).

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Mon. 29: Steve Tyrell \$55.00  
Tue. 30: A Peter White Christmas with Mindi Abair & Vincent Ingala \$59.50

## 4 Restaurants To Be Thankful For on Thanksgiving

FROM PAGE 13

If you do choose to celebrate at Trademark, belly up for a three-course dinner beginning with soup, salad or bruschetta, then choose between the aforementioned turkey and a pumpkin ravioli, and put the cherry on top (as it were) with a choice of rum pecan pie, carrot cake, dark chocolate torte or a cranberry-apple tart. 2080 Jamieson Ave.

### Ada's on the River

How about dinner with a river view? Ada's has you covered. The restaurant's three-

course dinner is available from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day and features the likes of preserved root vegetable tartare or seared scallops to start; smoky turkey breast roulade, filet mignon or seared halibut as main course; and ginger-blood orange par-fait, pecan cheesecake or pumpkin tart to add a sweet treat. 3 Pioneer Mill Way

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

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**SOLD**

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**SOLD**

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