

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Oak Hill Herndon ♦ Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX BALLET CO. OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8, 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

The Nutcracker, Inspiring Spectacle

HOLIDAYS, PAGE 8

Parnes Honored

PAGE 2

Cornerstones Provides

THANKFUL, PAGE 3

Give Locally

THANKFUL, PAGE 5

The Nutcracker: Fairfax Ballet performers dancing the Waltz of the Snowflakes during a previous show. Dec. 18-19, with the Fairfax Symphony, at GMU's Center for the Arts. For ticket information, go to www.fairfaxballet.org.

NOTICE OF WATER RATE AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

December 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021, 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 proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2022, include the following:

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,400 to \$4,510[†].
- A decrease in the Local Facilities Charge from \$19,610 to \$19,400.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,430 to \$1,480[†].
- An increase in the Account Charge from \$40 to \$41.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$14.85 to \$14.95[†].
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.33 to \$3.46 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- A decrease in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.90 to \$3.85.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the changes in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
- An increase in the Overhead Charges for (Labor) from 102% to 103% and a decrease for (Materials) from 13% to 12%.

[†]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 \$208 million budget for calendar year 2022*. Water sales are expected to provide \$180.1 million and the remaining \$27.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2021	2022
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$58,379	\$63,585
Power and Utilities	10,597	10,795
Chemicals	7,637	8,688
Purchased Water	6,863	8,013
Supplies and Materials	4,984	5,272
Insurance	1,157	1,214
Fuel	680	753
Postage	585	618
Contractual Services	11,737	12,526
Professional Services	1,254	1,249
Other	2,243	2,740
Sub-Total	106,116	115,453
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,763)	(10,949)
Total	\$95,353	\$104,504

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,484,307
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$47,922,000

*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.

Visit fairfaxwater.org/rates to view a copy of the proposed changes.

Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029.

Written comments to can be sent to 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 15, 2021, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

COMMUNITY

'Working Together, We Make Our Community a Better Place'

Jeff Parnes honored for decades of volunteer work.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For years, Chantilly Highlands resident Jeff Parnes was involved in the Fairfax Federation's Citizen of the Year program. As its president, he emceed its annual awards banquet; as past president, he organized it.

But on Nov. 14, he was one of 12 people honored by the Federation, celebrating the best of citizen activism in Fairfax County. These awards recognize people whose voluntary contributions of time and talent resulted in major accomplishments enhancing the quality of life for county residents.

Parnes has been a consummate volunteer since moving here more than 40 years ago. And at the Federation's 70th annual banquet, he received the organization's Citation of Merit for his work in transportation, plus his other volunteer activities.

Braddock District Transportation Advisory Commissioner Kevin Morse nominated him for the award; and accompanying Parnes to the ceremony were his wife Daria and son Adam.

"In 2020, I decided to retire from the Citizen of the Year process," said Parnes. "So it was a pleasant surprise to find that, this year, someone had nominated me for the honors that, for almost 13 years, I'd been helping hand out."

"When I listened to the descriptions of the work done by the other honorees, I realized that our county benefits immensely, in many ways, from the often-unnoticed and little-acknowledged efforts of our residents," he continued. "Many members of our community want to give back, and they pick a need that they see unmet and do what they can to fill that hole – which we may not realize exists. Working together, we make our community a better place."

Parnes said the Federation's Citizen of the Year process enables these usually unheralded volunteers to be recognized by those they serve, and by the community, as a whole. "I'm glad I was able to help raise awareness of these volunteers when I was involved in this process," he said. "And I'm humbled to be on the receiving end, this year."

His citation reads as follows:

"Jeff Parnes has worked tirelessly as an advocate for the transportation needs of the residents of Fairfax County, Northern Virginia and our entire region. He served on the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) for 17 years and was Chairman from 2010-2020.

"Since 2010, Jeff has advanced integrat-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM PARNES
Jeff Parnes holding his award.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM PARNES
From left, Jeff Parnes thanks the attendees for honoring him, while Mike Frey and Bill Barfield, Federation past president, look on. Frey is the former Sully District Supervisor who appointed Parnes as Sully District Transportation Advisory Commissioner in 2004.

ed, regional, transportation improvements as a member of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board Citizens Advisory Committee. [Also] since 2010, he's served as Transportation Chair for the Fairfax Federation, which he served as president from 2007-2010 and in many other roles over 18 years.

"Jeff served the Sully District Council of Citizens Assns. for four decades and the Dulles Area Transportation Assn. for two decades. His interest, passion and advocacy span from individual, local, transportation improvements to visionary, long-range, multi-jurisdictional, multimodal connections. If a group wants to plan better transportation, Jeff will show up.

"For his commitment to constructive, civic engagement and his past and present outstanding efforts to improve transportation in all its forms, for all of us, the Fairfax Federation is honored to recognize Jeff Parnes with the 2020 Citation of Merit."

A write-up on the Federation's Website explained that Parnes made "real and practical

SEE JEFF PARNES, PAGE 10

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS



Scott Plank, CEO of War Horse Cities, one of Reston National Golf Course owners, walks down the Thanksgiving Day Food assembly line, carefully packing items for Cornerstones, but his box rips apart unexpectedly. Plank accepts the challenge with a smile, retrieves the items, and repacks a new box.



A small section of the 1,500 food boxes that needed to be folded, filled, closed, and stored ready for distribution on Saturday.



Volunteers pack chips and oil as part of the food boxes.

Memorable Holidays for Families in Need

Thanks to Cornerstones and their supporters.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Cornerstones successfully responded to the local surge in need and helped neighborhood families through two of its seasonal efforts, the Thanksgiving Food and Gifts for Kids drives. Due partly to Cornerstones' strong network of fiscal, in-kind, and service partners and volunteers, the task proved far-reaching, reverberating throughout the community.

Over 200 volunteers stepped forward to help the nonprofit human services organization. Their efforts enabled Cornerstones to distribute 1,500 nonperishable food and fresh produce boxes, valued at a reported \$50 a box totaling \$75,000, plus a \$25 gift card to a local grocery store for neighbors in Northern Virginia struggling to make ends meet, according to a spokesperson for the nonprofit.

In addition, gift cards specifically chosen to fulfill a child's wish would also be provided. For the entire week leading up to Thanksgiving, Cornerstones staged a warehouse-style operation in the parking lot and community room of Saint John Neumann Catholic Church in Reston for the massive intake of food items and gift cards.

"It is very important to have food available, especially during the holidays, for all those families in need. We have seen an increase in prices, and families are having a tough time getting the food to their tables," said Cornerstones' Program Manager Minnie Orozco. She added that it was equally critical for families to have fresh fruits and veg-



Nate King, donations and drives coordinator at Cornerstones, shows an assortment of the \$25 local grocery store gift cards families will receive as part of the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

etables. According to Orozco, Cornerstones was to receive produce donations from FRESHFARM on Wednesday and delivery from Capital Produce on Friday.

FRESHFARM is a nonprofit organization that raises funds from shoppers and community members to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers at the market, giving them to their gleaning partners. FRESHFARM's website showed their Nov. 17 Reston FRESH food drive schedule gleaned by Food Rescue US. This effort supported Cornerstones' philanthropic efforts and, through FRESH's purchase, supported local farmers who earn additional revenue as they head into the winter months.

The Thanksgiving Food Drive engaged



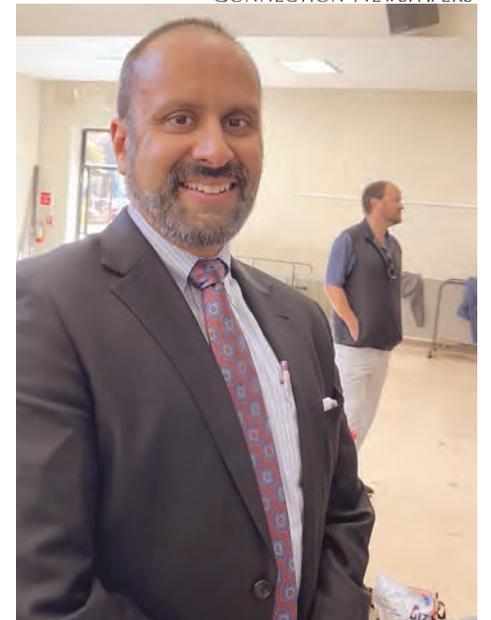
Minnie Orozco, program manager, Urgent Needs and Life Skills, Cornerstones

individuals, corporate teams, and members of various organizations from the community, to help with Cornerstones' food and gift card sorting, packing, loading, and distribution. On Tuesday, Nov. 16, Scott Plank, CEO of War Horse Cities, one of Reston National Golf Course owners, and Charles Kapur, president and CEO of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, were on hand to help.

"Today, we are pulling a tremendous amount of donations from so many different people into a box that makes for a beautiful meal for [clients] of Cornerstones," Plank said.

Kapur added, "We're proud of the connection we have in serving the community, and any opportunity we have in partnering with Cornerstones, we're going to take advantage of it."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



Charles Kapur, president & CEO - Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce

Other groups volunteering that day included Collabera, Inc., Weller Development Company [developer/owner of Reston National Golf Course], and Verity Commercial, LLC, according to Saira Sufi, volunteer and community engagement manager at Cornerstones.

Tuesday's volunteers were tasked with folding the donated flat boxes used for the food drive delivery and filling them with items assembly-line style. The gift cards and produce items would be added later.

On Saturday morning, Nov. 20, after a marathon week of sorting and packing, Cornerstones distributed the 1,500 food boxes and gift cards as part of their Thanksgiving and Gifts for Kids drives, and also opportunities for families to share in the joy of the holidays.

Happy Thanksgiving 2021

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



Tomorrow is the formal day set aside for the secular holiday Thanksgiving. For many that means food, and I love the foods associated with Thanksgiving. It is a time of generosity as many people and groups make sure that everyone has something to eat at least on that day. For others the meaning of Thanksgiving may be the retail sales that come with bargains that are offered the day after Thursday on "Black Friday."

As I have every year and this year as I am Chairman of the Jamestown-Yorktown Board of Trustees, I must proclaim that some believe that the first Thanksgiving occurred on December 4, 1619, when Captain John Woodlief and 35 Englishmen landed at what is now known as Berkeley Plantation. They immediately fell to their knees as the charter under which they were sailing required giving thanks to the good Lord for their safe passage from what had been a rough

voyage and for the thousands of acres of pristine lands on which they were going to settle. More than a year later at Plymouth Settlement a festival occurred that included settlers and indigenous people in what is more often referred as the first Thanksgiving.

In neither instance has there been an appropriate recognition of the role of indigenous peoples who lived for thousands of years on the soil for which the first colonists were offering thanks. In the Virginia instance there was no mention of the indigenous people who had occupied the land for as many as 15,000 years before their arrival and of the tens of thousands who lived there when the English arrived.

Thanksgiving as a holiday on the fourth Thursday of November dates to a proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln on October 3, 1863. Even in the midst of a civil war, Lincoln reminded the nation of "the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies" under the "providence of Almighty God." Lincoln found

that "a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity" had not "arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship" and "the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase in freedom ... the gracious gifts of the Most High God."

While we may continue to note the early celebrations in our history referred to as Thanksgiving, it is important that they be remembered within the context of the larger historical period in which they occurred. Within the more honest and complete view of our current history, the spirit of Lincoln should be with us as we celebrate Thanksgiving this year. Our institutions of democracy have been tested over the recent past as seldom before, and the threats to health and safety have been graver than ever before in our lifetime.

We need to remind ourselves and others that the blessings we ultimately enjoy are not simply of our own making but are as Lincoln reminded us "the gracious gifts of the Most High God" — by whatever name we may call that spirit!

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Things Change During Brief Absence

BY JOHN LOVAAS



INDEPENDENT
PROGRESSIVE

When we left for Europe on Oct. 30, fall was slowly starting. Tree leaf colors were disappointing, mostly greens, browns, with few yellows and even fewer sugar maples hinting at red. But, fall election campaigns were in high gear in Virginia and in the neighboring Lake Anne Condo Association.

That's how it was as we settled into a long flight across the pond. We were excited, looking forward to a grand river cruise that had been cancelled due to the pandemic in 2020. Our destination was Amsterdam. There we'd board a ship bound for Budapest via the Rhine, Main, the Rhine-Main-Danube canal and Danube Rivers, a journey through 67 locks over 2,000 kilometers (1243 miles).

To fly and get aboard our ship required proof of Covid 19 vaccinations and a negative test for the virus. While cruising, masks and daily spit tests were required. And, port stops along the way required vax certificates, plus masks.

But all the forms, documents and checks were worth it this time! We felt that all precautions kept us and people we met safe. Unlike a cruise last summer, this time we were permitted to experience the people and communities along the way, both on guided tours to magical sites and villages as well as during free time to venture out on

our own as long as we were on board ship by sailing time!

Scenery along the rivers was beautiful, a journey through time and exotic cultures. Our first stop was Kinderdijk, a 300-year-old Dutch community of 19 windmills built to keep lowland farming lands dry by pumping excess water UP through sluices to a tributary of the Rhine. It's now a UNESCO World Heritage site. From here we sailed up the Rhine past Arnhem (where a pivotal WWII battle portrayed in the film "A Bridge Too Far" took place) to Cologne, Germany, the site of perhaps the most striking Gothic Cathedral (see photo) in the world, a structure spared by allied bombers which leveled the rest of the city.

The 40-mile Middle Rhine region from Koblenz to Bingen was captivating, with 28 strategically placed medieval castles built between 1000 and 1371 along the river. Alongside the castles are the famed Rhine vineyards, most planted in horizontal rows, but some curiously running up and down the hillsides. This portion of the Rhine was one continuous photo op for our ship's 32 passengers!

After we toured Nuremberg, the center of the Nazi movement and postwar trials of their war criminals, our ship transited the 171-kilometer



The Cologne Cathedral- the largest Gothic Church in Northern Europe with its twin steeple towers, each 515 feet high. As seen from our ship on the Rhine River at night.



Interior of St. Stephen's colorful Gothic/Romanesque Cathedral looking towards its baroque High Altar. Originally built in the 11th century, St. Stephen's has suffered several major fires over its nearly 900 years.

Let Us Know Your View

Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors.

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SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 5

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Where to Give Locally

❖ Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact info@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

❖ Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore, Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, and Chantilly, focusing on character and academic success. <https://www.bgcgw.org/club-page/fairfax-county-region-our-impact/>

❖ Britepaths Britepaths is working to assist 500 Fairfax County area families who might otherwise go without holiday meals and gifts for their children. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. [Britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org) <https://britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program>

❖ Centreville Immigration Forum, a safe, organized center where residents and contractors can negotiate work arrangements with day laborers. Centreville Square Shopping Center, 5944 Centreville Crest Ln, Centreville, VA 20121. Phone: (703) 543-6272 website: www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org and email contact@theCIFva.org

❖ Closet Of The Greater Herndon Area is a nonprofit thrift shop in downtown Herndon. The Closet recently awarded over \$20,000

in grants to seven local non-profit organizations: Cornerstones, Fellowship Square, Herndon-Reston FISH, Meridians Recovery, Mobile Hope of Loudoun, South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry, and Herndon Woman's Club in support of Wreaths Across America. The Closet is a source of low-cost clothing and household necessities and also gives away clothing at no cost to truly needy individuals. 845 Station Street Herndon, VA 20170 (703) 437-7652. Email TheClosetInc@verizon.net Web: theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/

❖ Comfort for America's Unformed Services (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. Mailing address: 4201 Wilson Blvd., #110-284, Arlington, VA 22203, CFC #33011, Phone 703-591-4965, cause-usa.org

❖ Committee for Helping Others (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Coming up, holiday bike drive. 703-281-7614, www.cho-va.com

❖ Community Foundation of Northern Virginia www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in our region. Your gift helps us make grants in our focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists www.cfnova.org/for-donors/donate-now

❖ Cornerstones, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-

9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.

Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. www.cornerstonesva.org.

Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.

❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low income families. www.echo-inc.org.

❖ FACETS helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of donations and volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities.

Donations will be accepted at FACETS' main office (10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax VA 22030) between 9am - 5pm.

Contact Haylee Davis at hDavis@facetscares.org.

703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) FISH provides funds and volunteers to serve the needy and elderly in the greater Fairfax City area of Fairfax County. FISH responds to requests for life's necessities: food, clothing, financial assistance for delinquent

SEE WHERE TO GIVE, PAGE 6

Compton Road Shared-Use Path Fairfax County

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Thursday, December 9, 2021, 7 p.m.

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

Find out about plans to construct a ten-foot-wide shared-use path along northbound Compton Road (Route 658) from the Bull Run Special Events Center Access Road to just south of the I-66 bridge, and from just north of the I-66 bridge to a connection with the existing Cub Run Trail. The project also includes widening the Compton Road bridge over Cub Run to accommodate the new shared-use path. The portion of the shared-use path under the I-66 bridge is being constructed separately as part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project.

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/ComptonRoad>. The project team will make a short presentation beginning at 7 p.m. and answer questions for about an hour after the presentation.

Review project 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 703-259-2907 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, a Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE) is being prepared under an agreement with the Federal Highway Administration. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be included in the PCE.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **December 20, 2021** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Ms. Hong Ha, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Compton Road Shared-Use Path" 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.

State Project: 0658-029-461, B652, C501, P101, R201

UPC: 115604

Federal: CMAQ-5B01 (106)

In case an alternate date is needed, the meeting will be held Monday, January 10, 2022 at the same time.

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 4

ometer Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, a major engineering feat completed in 1992 connecting the Rhine to the Danube, and the North Sea to the Black Sea. One of the canal's many locks elevated the ship fully 80 feet to the top of the continental divide after which we began a gentle decline down to the Danube.

The Danube would take us ultimately to magnificent Vienna, Austria, and opening day of its most fabulous Christmas Market, and to Budapest, Hungary with its spectacular Par-

liament building glowing gold in Pest on one side of the Danube, the Buda Castle of Kings on the other. Here we ended our wonderful journey.

BACK HOME in Reston fall had indeed arrived. Trees now flaunted their full fall colors, including the reds and oranges so absent when we left. Also, the election results were in. The neighborhood Condo election proved a pleasant surprise with the reformist opposition sweeping all three open Board seats (a majority) despite the County's putting its hand on the scale in favor of a slate backed

by the entrenched ones, i.e., allowing our Community Center's outsized vote share to be cast by the incumbent slate. The worst news is the outcome of Virginia's election. A slick Donald Trump clone upset Terry McAuliffe, a popular former governor when he left office. The new governor brought with him an assault weapon brandishing Lt. Governor and a heavy-duty conservative AG. The Democrats also lost the House of Delegates majority to the dark tide. The good news is that Youngkin, the new hero of Trump's cult, may be campaigning for the top US job in a few months.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Members of the Herndon High School Class of 1970 gather at the school for a tour on the occasion of their "50 + 1" Reunion.

Herndon HS Class of 1970 Celebrates '50 + 1' Reunion

COVID postpones 2020 event.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

It took a year to celebrate, but the Herndon High School Class of 1970 had the best time at their 50 (+1) Reunion. Alumni and guests kicked off the Class of 1970's Reunion weekend on Sept. 24 with a tour of their newly renovated alma mater. It wasn't quite a walk down memory lane with the possible exceptions of recognizing some outbuildings on the football field.

The 54-year-old building looked nothing like the school the Class of 1970 attended from 1967. Major renovations and additions have been underway since early 2018.

Joe Saunders of Hughes Group Architects took the Class of 1970 and others on a nearly hour-long tour, up and down steps and down long hallways. Tourgo-

ers happily sat down and settled in at the desks in the science lab when the opportunity arose.

Saunders explained some of the LEED aspects of the new school, such as how the building harvests daylight. "You got all that bright daylight out there and especially from noon on," said Saunders pointing at rows of ceiling lights not illuminated near the windows.

Following a private tour of the Herndon Depot Museum at 5 p.m., the group was off for dinner at the Mediterranean Breeze Restaurant & Sports Bar. Saturday night was the big dinner event at the Marriot at Worldgate. The weekend concluded with a picnic on Sunday at Bready Park.

Wanda Mitchell, one of the event organizers, said, "We were so disappointed in 2020 when the planning of our 50th Reunion had to stop because of COVID. In April 2021, when things were improving, we decided we could go ahead and start planning again, but we'd call it our 50th (+1). A great time was had by all with lots of reminiscing, catching up, and best of all, lots of laughs."

Where to Give for Local Impact

FROM PAGE 5

rent, mortgage, utility bills, gasoline, and prescriptions. 703-222-0880 fairfaxfish.org/

- ❖ Food for Others Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org. Food for Others distributes food to more than 1,800 local families in need each week. Drop off food at our Merrifield Warehouse,

2938 Prosperity Ave, Fairfax, VA 22031. Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 5pm. www.foodforothers.org

- ❖ Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Each year, nearly 5,000 pets, including cats, dogs, small mammals, reptiles and livestock, come to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter funds important needs throughout the Shelter such as behavioral training and dental or medical care beyond

what the shelter's budget can provide. generalinfo@ffcas.org 571-212-9858 www.ffcas.org/

- ❖ Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, friendsofguesthouse.org/

BRIEFS

Winter Coat Closet Donations Dec. 11 and Jan. 8

There are two more opportunities to donate to the Winter Coat Closet, which is a partnership between the Hunter Mill District office and Cornerstones to provide (new/gently used) coats, as well as (new only) hats, gloves and scarves to neighbors in need. Please drop off your donations on Dec. 11 and Jan. 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr., Reston. Learn more, including Coat Closet distribution dates. <https://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/winter-coat-closet/>

Donate to Elf Store Through Dec. 10

The Cathy Hudgins Community Center at Southgate and the Reston Teen Center are collecting donations through Dec. 10 for the Elf Store event. Through donations of new or gently used items, staff create a store-like environment where young residents can select a free gift for special adults in their lives. Donations can be dropped off at the Cathy Hudgins Community Center at Southgate, 12125 Pinecrest Road Reston. Suggested donations include jewelry, scarves, picture frames, candles, tea towels, robes, nail polish, home goods, DVDs, ties, gloves, sports items, wallets, flashlights, tools, shaving kits, gift cards, as well as wrapping paper, gift bags and tissue paper.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

[From bottom left] Wanda Mitchell,* Sandy Hatton Jenkins,* Nona Gallop Garrison,* Kim Croson, [From top left] Steve Mitchell ('69), Nathan Hearn,* Bobby Jenkins,* Jack Garrison,* and Kenny Croson*.*[*Denotes HHS Class of 1970; not pictured Zoe Hearn].

- ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at www.habitatnova.org.

- ❖ Herndon-Reston FISH (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises since 1969. 703-437-0600.

- ❖ Homestretch, to empower homeless parents with children to attain permanent housing and self-sufficiency by giving them the skills, knowledge and hope they need to become productive participants in the community. Since 1990 Homestretch has helped over 2,000 families achieve permanent housing and self-sufficiency. 303 South Maple Ave, Suite 400, Falls Church, VA 22046 Phone: 703-237-2035 homestretchva.org

SEE WHERE TO GIVE, PAGE 7

COMMUNITY

Where to Give for Local Impact

FROM PAGE 6

❖ Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.

❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.

❖ NAMI Northern Virginia (National Alliance on Mental Illness) works to raise awareness and provide education, advocacy, and support programs for people living with mental illness, families, students, educators, law enforcement, and the public throughout our neighborhoods. Many excellent programs. NAMI Northern Virginia serves Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, and Loudoun www.nami-northernvirginia.org/ HelpLine: (571)458.7310, Email: info@nami-nova.org

❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, (571) 482-4770 . www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ Neighborhood Health, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. The organization partners with its patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. It has 10 clinics throughout Arlington and Fairfax counties. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org

❖ New Hope Housing, ends homelessness in Northern Virginia by providing housing, offering hope, and building community. We currently offer various Housing Programs, and Support Services. 8407E Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA 22309 www.newhopehousing.org/how-to-help/donate/

❖ Northern Virginia Family Service. The organization provides the essential building blocks for financial, emotional and physical well-being, serving as leaders and innovators for the Northern Virginia community. Every year, it empowers 35,000 individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. www.nvfs.org Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. 571-748-2500

❖ OAR rebuilds lives and breaks the cycle of crime with opportunities, alternatives, and resources for offenders and their families to create a safer community. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 250, Fairfax, VA 22030, WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

703-246-3033. OAR needs volunteers and financial donations. oar-nova.org/donate

❖ Our Neighbor's Child (ONC) volunteers are preparing for delivery of holiday gifts for children from financially struggling families in western Fairfax County – predominantly in Centreville and Chantilly. www.ourneighborschild.org/

❖ Pathway Homes providing non-time-limited housing and supportive services to adults with serious mental illness and co-occurring disabilities in Northern Virginia. Founded in 1980, Pathways currently serves more than 400 adults in community-based homes in Northern Virginia. www.pathwayhomes.org

❖ PRS, Inc. is a non profit providing mental health, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Seeking to change and save lives in our community by empowering hope, safety, recovery, wellness, independence and community integration.. PRS also provides crisis counseling and connection to supports CRISISLINK When crisis calls, we answer 24/7 Call: 800-273-TALK [8255] Text: "CONNECT" to 85511 <https://prsinc.org/>

❖ Rebuilding Together Arlington/Fairfax/Falls Church (Rebuilding Together-AFF) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that makes critical repairs at no charge for low-income homeowners and nonprofit organizations. Our volunteers make homes safe and healthy, and they help seniors age in place. Since 1988 we have repaired 2,273 homes and non-profit residential facilities in our area and mobilized 69,081 volunteers to do the work. We believe in safe homes and communities for everyone. 10723 Main Street, #135, Fairfax, VA 22030; Phone: 703-528-1999

<https://rebuildingtogether-aff.org/>

❖ Second Story — Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. second-story.org.

❖ SHARE of McLean is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff that has been helping for more than 50 years. We are supported by donations from local religious congregations, community

organizations and individuals. Our food and clothing room is housed in space donated by the McLean Baptist Church. Our year round and seasonal programs include family emergency financial assistance, food pantry, used clothing room, recycled furniture, back-to-school supplies and refurbished laptop computers. During the holidays, we also provide our neighbors in need with grocery cards and gifts.

Main Message Center: (703) 229-1414 info@shareofmclean.org

www.shareofmclean.org

❖ Shelter House provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. It is our mission to get families back into stable housing in order to provide them the opportunity to continue their journey to self-sufficiency. www.shelterhouse.org

❖ Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000-plus mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org

❖ Tahirih Justice Center, 703-575-0070, www.tahirih.org, Legal services, public policy advocacy, and education for immigrant women and girls.

❖ TAPS, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, 3033 Wilson Blvd., Third Floor, Arlington, VA 22201, Call 24/7 800-959-TAPS (8277) The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors offers compassionate care and resources to all those grieving the loss of a military loved one. Make a donation to support surviving military families and loved ones. You can also make a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. www.taps.org/donate

❖ Touching Heart in Herndon is a nonprofit organization focused on how to enlighten, excite, and educate children about how they can experience the true joy that comes from helping those in need. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.

❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA 20151 in Chantilly. email Assistant Food Pantry Manager/Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Culbertson at dculbertson@wfcma.org and put Holiday Food in the subject line. wfcma.org/

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'Bringing Holiday Magic to the Community'

Fairfax Ballet Co. presents the 'Nutcracker.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast of 53, the Chantilly-based Fairfax Ballet Co. presents the iconic "Nutcracker," Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 27-28, at 4 p.m., at Fairfax High. Joining its dancers are students from Chantilly's Russell School of Ballet, plus special guest artists, to bring this merry, holiday dream to life.

"Performing Thanksgiving weekend is a great start to the holidays and getting into the holiday spirit," said Andrea Cook, FBC's artistic director and choreographer. "It's a family-friendly production with attention paid to small, technical details, as well as to the costumes and set. And astute audience members will notice little hints of act two throughout the party scene in act one."

"We're excited to see the growth our dancers have shown during rehearsal, as well as our younger dancers stepping into more advanced roles," she continued. "And this year, we've redone our battle scene between the mice and soldiers and added more dancers as icicles in the 'Waltz of the Snowflakes.'"

In addition, the Land of the Sweets is now more diverse, inclusive and culturally sensitive. "We highlight the sweets, instead of the lands they've traditionally represented," said Cook. "We've renamed the sweets and removed some of previous 'Nutcrackers' cultural stereotypes."

Guest professional artists from Ballet Des Moines, husband and wife Logan and Amelia Hillman, will dance the roles of the Cavalier and the Sugar Plum Fairy. Logan performed with FBC as a young dancer so Cook's "thrilled that he's able to return as a principal dancer in this production." GMU senior Carlos Martinez will portray both the Nutcracker Prince and the Soldier Doll.

As the Cavalier, Logan Hillman is the Sugar Plum Fairy's dance partner. "He's princely and elegant," said Hillman. "She has turns, big jumps and lifts, and I'm there to do the magic and help her look weightless. I'll enhance her moves so, for example, she can do more pirouettes with my help than on her own."

He said their dance at the end of the show "is a spectacle and should inspire the audience. She's in a beautiful tutu and I'm in a matching jacket and white tights. This dance is what everything else in the show has been building to, and that's why ballet schools bring in professional dancers to perform these two roles."

Dancing since age 10, this is Hillman's ninth year as a professional. "Ballet can be difficult, so it's challenging," he explained. "It's easy to learn, but impossible to master. Originally, I was excited dancing onstage. But now, it's more important to me how the audience feels because of my performance."

"I love dancing this part because much of what I do is modern, contemporary dance. But this is classical ballet, and I get to show off my training." He said this production is visually appealing and is "the real 'Nutcrack-



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY KESTEL

Logan and Amelia Hillman will be the Cavalier and Sugar Plum Fairy. Here, they're performing for Ballet Des Moines.

er' experience in all its elements. It's an annual tradition, and audiences will see new dancers, long-time professionals and maybe even future professionals."

The Sugar Plum Fairy is Clara's inspiration and the last person Clara visits on her journey. "In ballet, it's an iconic role – someone young ballerinas look up to," said Amelia Hillman, who'll dance this part. "She personifies such glamour, beauty and grace, and I try to bring that to the role. It's special because ballerinas do 'Nutcracker' their whole lives, and it's one of the first productions they see. And they make their way through the ranks of the roles over their career."

Now 27, Amelia Hillman has danced since age 9 and never tires of this show. "The music's beautiful; and every time we're onstage, there are new kids in the show and new people in the audience," she said. "And I love bringing that magic to the community. It's a pillar of the holiday; and for people seeing ballet for the first time, we want it to be a really positive experience."

She said dancers continue choosing their

craft. "It's a part of myself I don't think I could be without," said Hillman. "It's a unique outlet for expression where I can continually grow. There are always new things to explore, and I love sharing what I have with the audience. Art enriches our lives; and when you leave the 'Nutcracker,' you feel lighthearted and uplifted."

Portraying Clara is FBC's Heather Qian. "Clara's 12 – young, innocent and a bit naïve," said Qian. "She's imaginative and dreams the whole story. I'm super excited to play her – it was my dream role when I was younger, so it's a dream come true. The older girls who did it were so good, and I wanted to be just like them."

Her favorite number is "Arabian" because "the choreography is really cool – it's mesmerizing to watch." Qian said the audience will especially enjoy this show's dancing and see that "everybody's worked so hard and there are awesome people performing."

FBC's Nicole Shortle is the Snow Queen. "She guides Clara through the Land of Snow, and it's as if everyone is dancing in-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX BALLET CO.

Fairfax Ballet performers dancing the Waltz of the Snowflakes during a previous show.

To Go

Purchase tickets at <https://fairfaxnutcracker2021.bpt.me/>. Certain group discounts are available in advance; for more information, email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-665-9427. This show will also be performed, Dec. 18-19, with the Fairfax Symphony, at GMU's Center for the Arts. For ticket information, go to www.fairfaxballet.org.

side a snow globe," said Shortle. "I like the whole corps of dancers being together onstage. And I love the music because everything connects, even though some parts are slow, and others are loud and exciting. 'The Waltz of the Snowflakes' is one of my favorite parts of the show because it's so pretty. We all wear tiaras and snow is falling down."

Shortle said the show's seasonal aspect will appeal to audiences. "We all look forward to it every year and put forth our best efforts," she said. "The costumes are gorgeous, and the dancers plus the backstage crew make the magic happen. And this is our first, live show since the pandemic, so we're really excited."

CALENDAR

FRIDAY/NOV. 26

Reston Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting.

11 a.m. At Market Street in Reston Town Center. Reston Town Center launches the season with the annual Reston Holiday Parade celebrating its 30th year. The one-hour, half-mile parade along Market Street also welcomes the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in a horse-drawn carriage. After the parade, enjoy Mini-Train rides until 4:30 p.m. The Clauses will return for the Fountain Square Tree Lighting at 6 p.m.

Afterward, on Market Street, horse-drawn carriage rides continue from 6-10 p.m.

NOW THRU NOV. 30

"The Artist's Palette." At Great Falls Studios Gallery, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. "The Artist's Palette" features the work of members of NOVA Plein Air Artists.

NOW THRU JAN. 2, 2022

LuminoCity Festival. 6-9 p.m. At Roer's Zoofari, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The LuminoCity Festival, immersive light display expe-

rience, unforgettably spectacular night of lights. The festival includes African, Asian, Arid, and Ancient-themed exhibits of spectacularly lit art displays set up in the zoo's walk-through area. www.roerszoofari.com.

NOW THRU DEC. 12

"Secret Things." Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons. "Secret

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Things,” a deep and heartfelt story of truth, discovery, and romance imbued both with gorgeous magical realism and fascinating true history of Sephardic Judaism in the American Southwest. General admission tickets are \$50. Senior (65+) tickets are \$47. Student, educator, and military tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage.org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

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>.

SATURDAY/NOV. 27

Irish Dance Streaming. 11 a.m. Via Zoom. Enjoy your Thanksgiving leftovers while watching a “Best of Foley Academy of Irish Dance 2021” compilation video via Zoom. It features performances from the Reston Founder’s Day event, the Foley Academy Spring Recital, Ballyshaner’s Irish Festival in Old

Town Alexandria and the Reston Multicultural Festival. Register at: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8506729>

SUNDAY/NOV. 28

Celtic Music. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring IONA. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.oldbrogue.com - \$20 general admission.

SUNDAY/NOV. 28

“The Elf on the Shelf.” 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7740 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Music and dance that transports audiences to the North Pole to glimpse the magical lives of Santa’s Scout Elves. Tickets start at \$32.95 with VIP packages available for \$87.95 at CapitalOneHall.com.



WEDNESDAY/DEC. 1

“Joy to the World: A Christmas Musical Journey.” 7 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A multi-genre recording artist and instrumentalist, Damien Sneed is a pianist, vocalist, organist, composer, conductor, arranger,

producer and arts educator whose work spans multiple genres. “Joy To the World: A Christmas Musical Journey” will take the audience through Sneed’s original arrangements of gospel, jazz and classical favorites. Tickets are \$30/\$20. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org.

DEC. 1, 4, 5

Play Auditions. Reston Community players are having auditions for “A Delightful Quarantine.” Audition Dates: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 6:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4, 3 - 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with possible callbacks by invitation only. 266 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Advanced sign up via Signup Genius through link Reston Community Players’ website is recommended, but walk-ins will be accepted too. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Auditioning roles for all ages and ethnicities including two children’s parts. Performances will be Feb. 25 through March 12, 2022 in Reston. Visit www.restoncommunityplayers.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 2

A Magical Cirque Christmas. 7 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7740 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Experience the enchantment of Christmas as Magical Hostess Lucy Darling takes you through an evening of dazzling performers and breathtaking cirque artists. Visit CapitalOneHall.com.

DEC. 2-FEB. 19

New Art Exhibits. At McLean Project

for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. MPA will open its two newest exhibitions on Dec. 2, 2021. Give and Take: Building Form (Emerson Gallery) will feature abstract wood sculpture by Emilie Benes Brzezinski, Rachel Rotenberg, Foon Sham, and Norma Schwartz, while the Atrium Gallery will feature Intersectional Painting: Works by Sheila Crider. Both exhibitions run through Feb. 19, 2022. Visit www.mpaart.org/ or call 703-790-1953 for gallery hours.

FRIDAY/DEC. 3

Christmas: with Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith. 7 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7740 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Ring in the holidays with Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith, Grammy winning Christian artists. They’ll lift you into the spirit of the season. Visit CapitalOneHall.com.

DEC. 3-5

Tysons Library Book Sale. At Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Tysons Library Friends Quarterly Book and Media Sale. Dates: Friday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Half Price or \$10 per bag sale. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. 703-338-3307

DEC. 3-18

A Child’s Christmas in Wales.” Presented by Vienna Theater Company, Vienna. This holiday season, experience a musical celebration of

Welsh poet Dylan Thomas’ iconic story, A Child’s Christmas in Wales, the “never to be forgotten day at the end of the unremembered year,” when songs are sung, cakes and sweets are abundant, and the frozen city parks are laden with mysteries and adventures for wild boys and girls to explore. Performance Dates and Times: 7 p.m.: Fridays and Saturdays: Dec 3, 4, 17, 18; 2 p.m. matinees: Sunday Dec 5, 19; and 10 a.m. matinee: Saturday, Dec 18. Tickets: \$15/\$10. Visit <http://www.vien-natheatrecompany.org>.

DEC. 3-19

“Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some).” At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Santa Claus, Rudolph, the Grinch, and just about every other seasonal character you can think of make an appearance in this racy comedy that will have you laughing all the way to the New Year. <https://www.nextstoptheatre.org/>

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Breakfast with Santa. 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Food Court, Level 3. Families can enjoy some personal time with Santa by enjoying the center’s long-standing ‘Breakfast with Santa’ tradition. This must-attend event will feature a complimentary catered breakfast, kid entertainment, and a variety of family-friendly activities. <https://www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events/Details/558775>

THE CONNECTION Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Potomac ALMANAC

Children’s & Teens’ Connection 2021





During the last weeks 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. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children’s Connection (including Children’s Gazette and Children’s Almanac) is a long-time tradition.

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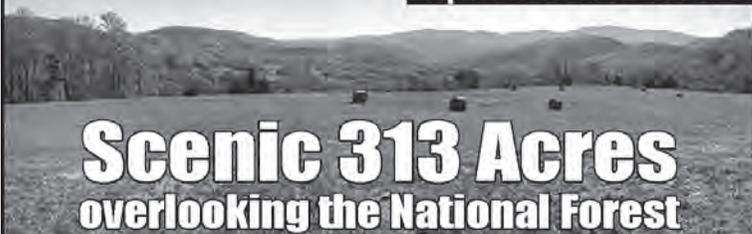
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COMMUNITY

Jeff Parnes Honored for Decades of Volunteer Work

FROM PAGE 2

efforts to serve his community. As TAC chairman, he'd engage VDOT and county transportation staff from real-world experience. He literally 'walked the walk' in questioning staff about bus routes, paths and trails because he'd stood at bus stops trying to read signage that wasn't helpful in getting him to his destination. He could relate firsthand where it was safe and unsafe to bike to work because he'd done it."

But that's not all he did. Parnes also served on a slew of other organizations, including the Greenbriar Community Assn. Land Use Committee; Fairfax Center Area Study Task Force; Route 50 Corridor Planning Task Force; Sully District Council of Citizens Assns., 1992-present; Greater Washington 2050 Task Force, 2007-2010; Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Transportation Planning Board, 2010-present; and WMATA's Bus Transformation Project and Blue/Orange/Silver Corridor Study.

"From an early age, I was a volunteer," said Parnes. "As a teen, I was an Eagle Scout. And in college, I joined Alpha Phi Omega, the national service fraternity, which sponsored projects serving our college and local communities. Eventually, I received a Distinguished Service Key in recognition of my efforts. After college, I was Scout master to my former troop."

Moving to Chantilly's Greenbriar community in 1980, he became involved in land use and transportation. "Our house was at the end of a private drive

along Greenbriar's eastern boundary, and I wondered what would be built there when the land redeveloped," he explained. "To have some input into the answer, I joined the community's land-use committee, eventually becoming its chair."

"I found that Fairfax County listened to its residents, and I was welcomed to the table with other stakeholders – some of whom, unknown to me at the time, were the movers and shakers of the county's development community," said Parnes. "With Daria's support – without which I could never have spent so much time away from home – I became involved in the county's various efforts to control and influence its future growth."

"Looking back over 40 years when the county population nearly doubled, from about 600,000 to almost 1,145,000 people, residents provided a counterbalance to the unbridled growth that would have happened, had the developers had their way."

Parnes learned to give back from his mother, Marion. He recalled her getting the names and badge numbers of bus drivers who went beyond the call of duty so she could praise them to their supervisors.

Remembering her lessons, he later became chair or president of the many organizations he joined, including his homeowners' association, the Sully District Council of Citizens Assns., the Fairfax Federation, his local professional organizations, TAC and others. Said Parnes: "I worked for a living, but I lived through my volunteer efforts."

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

History Revisited

Local African-Americans in their 80s and 90s say Rittenhouse verdict shows that Jim Crow is still alive and well.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The memory of being told that her father was dead is still vivid in the mind of 89-year-old Kit Lewis. He had been lynched and was found hanging from a tree. The men who murdered him were not charged with a crime, says Lewis, who lives in Alexandria, but was born in Mississippi. Learning that Kyle Rittenhouse had been acquitted of murder after claiming his actions were in self-defense, conjured up memories of her father's murder.

"I thought those days were behind us," she said. "That verdict goes to show that our lives are not valued and are not equal to those of white. If a black man had done that and claimed self-defense, he would probably have been sentenced to life behind bars."

African-American octogenarians and nonagenarians, who came of age in the 1920s and 30s, often feared for their lives and freedom because of a justice system that placed a much higher value on the lives of whites than blacks. They now fear for the lives of their children and grandchildren, and say that Kyle Rittenhouse's acquittal proves that the justice system that they experienced as young men and women is still in place.

After 87-year-old Ethyl Norris's daughter passed away from breast cancer, leaving behind two young children, Norris began raising them. Marvin and Carmyn are now 21 and 19 respectively. Both of her grandchildren, who are now in college, are planning to drive home for the Thanksgiving holiday. Norris has mixed emotions about grandson traveling this year. While she loves to see him, she always worries when he's driving on the highway.

"Marvin is a smart, educated and talented young man, but because he's 6'2" and black,

some people, when some people look at him, especially the police, they will see him as a threat," said Norris, who lives in Vienna. "He's doing everything right. He graduated from high school, made good grades, is still making good grades and wants to go medical school when he graduates. But the cards are still stacked against him."

When Marvin is driving, Norris has warned him to wear a shirt or sweatshirt with his college logo and place his school books on both the front and back seat of his car. His driver's license, car registration and insurance card are kept on the sun visor.

"I want him to be able to get those documents with his hands visible at all times," said Norris. "If he's stopped by the police, I pray that doing those things will keep him from becoming another victim of police brutality or arrested for something that he didn't do."

Whether folks will admit it or not, everyone knows that Rittenhouse's verdict shows that black men are guilty until proven innocent, but white men are given the benefit of the doubt."

Always ask for a receipt and a bag when making a purchase is a lesson 92-year-old Hattie Jackson of Silver Spring tells grandchildren and great grandchildren. "I don't care about reducing waste, saving and protecting the environment. I am more concerned about saving the lives and protecting my babies, protecting from the police and judges."

"If a white man walked out of a store without a bag or receipt, a policeman would believe him when he said trying to avoid waste and save the planet," said Jackson. "But if my black grandsons walk out of the same store without a receipt to prove they paid for it, they might end up handcuffed in the back of a police car. It's not fair, but it's real. Rittenhouse is just more proof that Jim Crow is still alive and well."

"It's not fair, but it's real. Rittenhouse is just more proof that Jim Crow is still alive and well."

— Hattie Jackson, 92

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NOV. 22 TO DEC. 11

Toys for Tots Drop-Off Sites. At Mathnasium of Reston, 1424 N. Point Village Center, Reston. Also at Mathnasium of Centreville, 5959 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville. The Mathnasiums will be participating in the Quantico, VA's Toys for Tots campaign. They will be collecting new, unwrapped toys in our center lobby during listed business hours. Curbside drop off available upon request (571) 401-1056. Hours are Monday - Friday: 12-7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Visit the website:

www.mathnasium.com/reston

FRIDAY/NOV. 26

Virtual Turkey Burn. 8 a.m. to noon. Get together with family, friends, relatives and workout partners for the Fairfax County Park Authority's second-annual virtual Turkey Burn 2021. All regularly scheduled Healthy Strides Community Classes will not be held on Thursday, Nov. 25 or Friday, Nov. 26, 2021. Instead, it will be the second Virtual Turkey Burn. Sweat a little, stretch a little and have fun.

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"Cancerependipity"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It seems clear that being re-diagnosed with thyroid cancer after initially being diagnosed with non-small lung cancer, stage IV is a good thing. As to whether it's a beneficial thing, 10+ years past my original lung cancer diagnosis remains to be seen. Some damage may have been done and the presumptive friendliness of thyroid cancer (often referred to as "the friendly cancer" because of its cure rate) no longer applies to me, given the miscellaneous damage I've referred to in previous columns: kidney damage being the most significant. Still, according to my oncologist, thyroid cancer is better to have than lung cancer.

'Better' might mean less traumatic (physically, emotionally, psychologically), and let's be brutally simple: less "terminal" as well - by a long shot. So when my newly referred doctor, an endocrinologist (specialty is thyroid, among others) confirmed that my existing diagnosis had changed to papillary thyroid cancer, and suggested that I might never have had lung cancer, a wave of relief swept over me. However, I subsequently learned, as I have shared previously with you regular readers, that I'm still in serious trouble and that my life expectancy is not at all what I hoped. Though the change in diagnosis certainly looks great on paper and the treatment is very manageable, the previous 10 years of mostly infused, toxic chemotherapy has left its mark. Among a number of other life-changing effects, because of the kidney damage, there's only certain medications and dosages I can take.

Rewind to the first attempt to eradicate my thyroid cancer, surgery. I had a thyroidectomy: usually an out-patient operation with the patient back home that same day. The surgery was to remove my thyroid glands and parathyroid glands - and presumably kill any remaining cancer. This surgical operation occurs after the patient goes on a strict no iodine diet for 30 dirty days prior to the procedure. This is because thyroid cancer cells contain iodine and the medicine injected at the hospital contains radioisotopes specifically engineered to kill anything with iodine in it. The less extraneous iodine, the more the iodine attaches to its intended target: the thyroid cancer cells. My operation was scheduled to last two hours. It lasted seven-plus hours. Why? Because the cancer had been allowed to grow untreated for so long (due to the evolving diagnosis), it embedded itself under my collarbone and despite the doctor's best efforts to remove all the cells (he said this was the longest thyroidectomy he had ever performed), he couldn't. That was the purpose of the radioisotopes: to kill any remaining cancer. However, because the radioisotope dose I received was one-third that normally prescribed dosage - due to kidney considerations, the one-third dosage was insufficient to kill the remaining thyroid cancer cells. Thus, I am now left with papillary thyroid cancer that is in effect, incurable. At this juncture, after the surgery and radioisotope injection, there of course is medication to take: Lenvimo. It's a daily pill with side effects, of course, but nothing compared to the side effects from the heavy-duty chemotherapy I had been on for years (every three weeks at the Infusion Center). Unfortunately, and this is where we get to the nub of the issue, the medicine has a two to three year window. As of now, I'm about 15 months into my window. And as you might imagine, this scenario is hardly common in the cancer trial world. To quote my friend Winslow: I'm bereft." Or to use my own expression: "I'm s.o.l."

Nevertheless, I see no advantage to marking the calendar. I'm lucky to be alive. If I had been asked at any time during my lung cancer daze if I would trade lung cancer for thyroid cancer, knowing what I've learned, absolutely, I would have made the trade. Though the trade was never proffered - or possible, obviously, I still have been impacted by the future considerations.

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

HOLIDAY CALENDAR

HOLIDAYS IN THE MOSAIC DISTRICT

At 2910 District Ave., Fairfax.
 Santa at Mosaic -- Nov. 26 to Dec. 23
 Holiday Toy Drive -- Nov. 26 to Dec. 13
 Santa on Relay Shuttle -- Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.
 Menorah Lighting -- Dec. 5 at 5 p.m.
 Santa's Motorcade -- Dec. 17 at 5 p.m.

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>.

NOW THRU 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

FRIDAY/NOV. 26

Reston Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting. 11 a.m. At Market Street in Reston Town Center. Reston Town Center launches the season with the annual Reston Holiday Parade celebrating its 30th year. The one-hour, half-mile parade along Market Street also welcomes the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in a horse-drawn carriage. After the parade, enjoy Mini-Train rides until 4:30 p.m. The Clauses will return for the Fountain Square Tree Lighting at 6 p.m. Afterward, on Market Street, horse-drawn carriage rides continue from 6-10 p.m.

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

SUNDAY/NOV. 28

"The Elf on the Shelf." 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7740 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Travel to the North Pole to glimpse

the magical lives of Santa's Scout Elves. Tickets start at \$32.95 with VIP packages available for \$87.95 at CapitalOneHall.com.

TUESDAY/NOV. 30

Clarendon Menorah Lighting. 6 p.m. At Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington. Come out for the Clarendon Menorah Lighting and Community Celebration as you experience the festival of lights. There will be a lighting of a giant 9-foot Menorah, lively music, hot Potato Latkes (pre-packaged), Hot Cocoa, Donuts, (Pre-packaged) Chocolate Gelt and Dreidels for all.

THURSDAY/DEC. 2

Chanukah on Ice. 6-8 p.m. At Pentagon Row (Outdoor Rink), 1201 South Joyce Street, Arlington. Lighting of a Giant 6-foot Menorah. Eat Dinner: Hot Latkes, Kosher Hot Dogs and Refreshments. Admission: Prepay by November 25th: \$10; After the 25th: \$13 Includes skate rental.

DEC. 3-5

"Enchanted Bookshop Christmas." At Encore Stage & Studio, Gunston Arts Center - Theatre One, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. When an important holiday present disappears at the bookshop, it's up to our come-to-life book characters to solve the mystery of the missing bookmark and save the day — all without giving away their magical existence. Characters include the Nutcracker Prince, Amy March, the Velveteen Rabbit, the Little Match Girl, and even Ebenezer Scrooge himself. Tickets \$15 for Adults, \$12 for Children, Students, Military and Seniors. Concessions are available for pre-order. Tickets are available online at www.encore-stage.org.

DEC. 3-19

"A Child's Christmas in Wales." Presented by the Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation and Vienna Theatre Company. From a story by Dylan Thomas and adapted to the stage by Jeremy Brooks and Adrian Mitchell. Dates: Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 3, 4, 17, 18 at 7 p.m.; Sundays, Dec. 5 and 19 at 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. Visit the website: www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

DEC. 3-4

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. Taste of Scotland: Friday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m. Parade: Saturday, December 4, at 11 a.m. Campagna Center is thrilled to celebrate the 50th Anniversary Scottish Walk Weekend in Alexandria. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was established by Scottish merchants. Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands from around the region, as well as terriers and hounds. The weekend kicks off with the Taste of Scotland Scotch Tasting on Friday evening in the Atrium Building. The parade will depart from St. Asaph St. heading north, head east from Queen St., head south from Fairfax St., and head west from



The Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights will be held Saturday, Dec. 4 in Alexandria.

King Street, ending right in front of City Hall. Admission: Free to view; \$75 registration fee to march in parade; \$200 and above for Taste of Scotland Scotch Tasting. Visit the website: Campagnacenter.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Holiday Festival at Torpedo Factory Art Center. 2 to 8 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Torpedo Factory Art Center joins the fun on Alexandria's most festive weekend of the year. Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive by fire boat around 3:30 p.m. on the Waterfront. Music fills the halls and the waterfront, beckoning people to browse three floors of open artists' studios. Visit the website: torpedofactory.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Old Town's historic waterfront will shine for the 21st annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sponsored by Amazon. Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. at Waterfront Park (1A Prince St.). Parade viewing areas along one mile of the Old Town Alexandria waterfront stretching from Founders Park (351 N. Union St.) to Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.) Boat parade dockside festivities will entertain parade-goers from 2 to 8 p.m. in Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street. Festivities include a pop-up beer garden from Port City Brewing Company. At 3:30 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina before attending the annual Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival. Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities Visit Alexandria-VA.com/boatparade.

SATURDAYS, DEC. 4, 11, 18

Holiday Market and Winter Village at The Parc in Tysons. At 8508 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Save the date to purchase your holiday gifts from local artisans and small businesses.

DEC. 4-5

"The Nutcracker." 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. At The Rachel M. Schlesinger Center for Performing Arts NOVA Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Enjoy this exciting Metropolitan School of the Arts production as Clara fights the evil Mouse Queen and her army of fierce mice to save the handsome and kind Nutcracker doll. On this great adventure, Clara will be transported to a fantastical land where she will meet the dazzling Snow Queen, dancing snowflakes,

the Sugar Plum Fairy and many more wonderful characters. Visit the website: metropolitanarts.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

Living Nativity. 4-6 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. The Clifton Presbyterian Church and Clifton Betterment Association invites the community to its Living Nativity. Park in town and walk to the church. CBA kids holiday gathering. Stop by the barn, after the live nativity scene at CPC, to see Santa and have some hot chocolate by the fire.

BEGINNING DEC. 5

Old Town Boutique District's Holiday Week. At various boutiques throughout Old Town Alexandria. Head into December with the first-ever OTBD holiday week, kicking off Sunday, December 5. Look out for a kick-off event at Hummingbird, tastings, trunk shows and doorbuster deals, and spend the holidays in the most magical place on earth. Visit oldtownboutiquedistrict.com

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

Town of Herndon's Holiday Arts & Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Over 70 artisans and crafts people will exhibit and sell their handmade work at this annual arts and crafts show sponsored by the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation.

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

Community Menorah Lighting at Mosaic District. 5-7 p.m. At the Mosaic District in Fairfax. It's Chanukah time in the Mosaic District — and they're bringing the celebration to all those that join as they light the candles, sing songs, provide entertainment, spin the dreidel and more! This special event is done in conjunction with the JCC of Northern Virginia.

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

Inclusion Committee Chanukah Celebration. 2 p.m. At Temple Rodef Shalom Falls Church. Celebrate the Festival of Lights together! Enjoy making a Chanukah craft, hear a Chanukah story, share traditions, and enjoy some Chanukah music as we gather.

DEC. 10-11

Colonial Holiday Nights at Carlyle House. 5 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Experience the holiday season with Carlyle House focusing on

how the Carlyles and their enslaved workers observed the holidays during the 18th century. Stay tuned for updates about live music. Tours offered of the first floor with timed entry on the hour and half hour. Space is limited and reservations are required. All participants including those under the age of 5 must be registered. Visit novaparks.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Civil War Christmas in Camp. 12 to 4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W.

Braddock Rd., Alexandria. Get in the holiday spirit with a patriotic Union Santa Claus, reenactors in winter camps celebrating the season, period decorations, soldier-led fort tours and kids' crafting activities. Visit the website: alexandria-va.gov/forward

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

"Klezmer Hanukkah" with Seth Kibel and the Klezmet. 7 p.m. McLean Community Center Hanukkah comes early this year, but Seth Kibel and the Klezmet keep the party going with festive Klezmer tunes and a little jazz thrown in. Chag Sameach!

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Herndon Winter Market. 12 to 7 p.m. At 777 Lynn Street, front of Herndon Municipal Center, Herndon. A traditional German-style Christmas Market with a family focus supporting the Town of Herndon and surrounding communities. This is open and free to the public. Visit the website: www.herndonwintermarkt.com

DEC. 11, 12, 18, 19

Tall Ship Providence Christmas Story Time. At 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. At Tall ship Providence, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Come aboard the tall ship Providence for a special Christmas story time. This year's tale will be "The Christmas Ship," the true story of the schooner Rouse Simmons, the ship that for years supplied Christmas trees to the people of Chicago by making a dangerous winter crossing of Lake Michigan. This story is sure to delight young sailors ages 5 to 12. Check in at the Gazebo on the G-H Pier next to Founder's Park. Visit the website: tallshipprovidence.org

DEC. 17-18

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Kick off the holiday season with fireworks overlooking the Potomac River. Tour the Mansion to learn about holiday celebrations during Washington's time with live 18th-century music. See the lantern-lit historic area, the Mansion aglow in beautiful amber light, and the Upper Garden and Greenhouse dazzling in blue and lavender with moving wintry light patterns. Admission: \$60 adult/\$38 youth with mansion tour; \$58 adult/\$36 youth without mansion tour; for members, \$50 adult/\$28 youth with mansion tour; \$48 adult/\$26 youth without mansion tour. Visit mountvernon.org/illuminations