



Mayor Justin Wilson, second from left, is joined by other officials and a sign language interpreter during the Nov. 20 annual holiday tree lighting ceremony in Market Square.

Let There Be Light

Santa lights 40-foot holiday tree.

Hundreds gathered in Market Square Nov. 20 as the city welcomed the return of the lighting of the annual holiday tree.

Following last year's virtual ceremony, the enthusiastic crowd welcomed Santa as he arrived via

SEE SANTA LIGHTS, ON PAGE 6



Will James enjoys the festivities with son Ryan Kim-James.



Kathryn, Daniel and Declan Johnson enjoy the Nov. 20 holiday tree lighting ceremony in Market Square.



Children of all ages enjoy the tree lighting ceremony in Market Square.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



A 40-foot holiday tree is illuminated with 38,150 LED lights at the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony Nov. 20 in Market Square.

Operation Warm

New coats help children in need.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

More than 750 new coats were distributed to Alexandria families in need Oct. 30 as part of the Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue annual coat drive in partnership with the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority and the national nonprofit Operation Warm.

Coat distributions were held at the Charles Houston Recreation Center and Samuel Tucker Elementary School.

"We have always held this event prior to Halloween because we know that having a new coat while out trick or treating would mean the world to the kids," said organizer and Firefighters and Friends founder Willie Bailey.

ARHA volunteers joined firefighters in the distribution of coats to children in the community.

"We always look forward to partnering with other organizations in the city to ensure that children have a new coat for the winter," said ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew. "We believe that every child, regardless of circumstances, deserves

to feel warmth and the confidence that comes from the gift of something new, made just for them."

Bailey, a lifelong resident of the Del Ray community, founded the nonprofit more than 20 years ago.

"The gift of a brand-new coat or shoes empowers children by sparking self-confidence in a way that second-hand clothing cannot," Bailey said. "The gift of a new coat can help students attend school, socialize with their peers and play outside with pride. Lastly, a brand-new coat offers hope to both children and their parents, reminding them there are those in their community that care about their

SEE OPERATION, ON PAGE 6



Volunteers gather as part of the annual Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue coat drive distribution Oct. 30 at Samuel Tucker Elementary School.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. For more than 40 years, our Associates have lived in and supported Alexandria, helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

#WeAreAlexandria



Old Town | \$5,995,000

A rare offering, the Potts-Fitzhugh-Lee House resides on a half-acre double lot. Beyond the grand entry, the main level offers an oversized great room, stately dining room, and gourmet kitchen. The unique, expansive primary suite boasts a custom dressing room and spa bath. The home features 5 additional bedrooms and 4 bath. Equally impressive, outside the home, the verdant garden awaits. 601 & 607 Oronoco Street
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www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Old Town | \$4,150,000

Spectacular 3 bedroom, 3 full and 2 half bath waterfront home offers distinctive living quarters with incomparable breathtaking Potomac River views from all levels plus a 35' boat slip and attached 2 car garage. This exquisitely elegant residence features generously sized rooms enriched by 4 gas fireplaces, deep moldings, custom millwork, and refined finishes throughout. 2 Wolfe Street
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www.BabsBeckwith.com



Rosemont | \$759,900

Three level stone townhouse with two bedrooms and two baths in a great location! Walkable to metro, shops and restaurants in Del Ray and Old Town. Fabulous screened porch overlooks the large rear yard. Fully finished walkout lower level. 6 E Linden Street
Betty Mallon 703.989.8548
www.BettyMallon.com



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Charming, turn key, bright and cozy condo offers everything you need. New wood floors throughout, open kitchen with upgraded range, fridge, and washer/dryer combo. The sizeable bedroom offers two closets and comfortable carpeting. 602 Bashford Lane #2211
Kristen Jones 703.851.2556
www.KristenJones.com



Glover Park | \$279,000

Rarely available charming 1-bedroom condo in Glover Park, with laundry in-unit, parking, and only steps to Wisconsin Avenue. Completely updated kitchen with stainless appliances, granite counters, and bar window into the spacious living area. 3520 W Place NW #100
Mike Makris 703.402.0629
www.MikeMakris.com



Alnor Heights | \$699,000

A single family home situated on a quiet cul-de-sac nestled among pricier properties! Enjoy entertaining with a huge 21 foot long living room and a 17x10 foot dining room. Gleaming hardwood floors throughout this 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home. 56 Cockrell Street
Suzanne Morrison 703.863.3110
www.SuzanneMorrison.com



Bearings South | \$197,000

Welcome to the Bearings South condominium community in the SE quadrant of Old Town Alexandria! There is plenty of room in this top-floor studio, with granite countertops, hardwood floors, and spacious walk-in closet. 922 S Washington Street #302
Melissa Rosario 919.518.7288
www.EnjoyLivingHere.com



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Great new price for a completely updated condo with all new windows! New kitchen with gorgeous granite counter-tops, new white cabinets, stainless steel appliances and flooring. One of the best units in Columbia Knoll! 750 S Dickerson Street #314
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Giving Thanks



Henry Dorton, Commander, American Legion Post 24 – “With so much divisiveness in the world today, the one thing we can all agree on is to be thankful for those troops who are protecting and serving this country and for those who have served in the past.”



Charles Nelson – “I am thankful for everything. I am on this side of the dirt while so many of my friends are gone. We buried my niece last week and she was only 56 years old. But I’m an old man – I’m 90 years old and I thank the Lord every day just for being here. Thank you, Jesus.”



Wilder Estrada, hair salon owner – “I am thankful for the help I have had and that my friends and family did not get COVID. Everybody made it through 2020 healthy and happy and hopefully we finish this year the same way.”



Jacqueline Kennedy – “I’m thankful for getting a position at the National Gallery of Art and for family and precious friends. I also know that our nation is healing. It’s been a very tough time for the last year or so but I believe it’s healing and I am grateful to see that come into existence in 2022.”

Residents share their reasons to be grateful.

As Thanksgiving approaches, feelings of gratitude abound. Following a greatly scaled back and in many cases virtual celebration last year, family and friends cautiously embrace the return of in-person gatherings and the traditional Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot.

“I am 90 years old and thank the Lord every day just for being here,” said retiree Charles Nelson.

Added resident Jacqueline Kennedy, “It’s been a very tough time for the last year or so but I believe [our nation] is healing and I am grateful to see that come into existence in 2022.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic is still a concern, the availability of a vaccine for most children and adults has helped reverse the isolation and loneliness that prevailed over last year’s Thanksgiving Day holiday.

“I am grateful for my family and my friends,” said Marybeth Norris. “I know it’s what everybody says but it’s so true.”

— JEANNE THEISMANN

SEE RESIDENTS SHARE, PAGE 7



Gordon Kromberg and Marybeth Norris – “I am grateful to live with this woman in this country at this time with my friends that I have,” said Kromberg.

Added Norris, “I am grateful for my husband, my family and my friends. I know it’s what everybody says but it’s so true.”



Margaret Janowsky, owner Del Ray Cafe – “I am thankful for my wonderful husband, my fantastic kids, our amazing Del Ray Cafe family and staff and our amazing friends and extended family. And I am thankful for the Del Ray community as a whole for all their support.”

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT
GAZETTE PACKET



Chief Stores Officer Robert Hammack, left, watches store manager John West cut the ribbon to officially open the Total Wine & More at Potomac Yard Nov. 10. Also in attendance are Mayor Justin Wilson, Total Wine District Manager Michael Whatley, vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, and council members Canek Aguirre and Amy Jackson.

Sip, Sip, Hooray!

Total Wine opens in Potomac Yard.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The long-awaited Total Wine & More opened its doors at Potomac Yard Nov. 10 with a grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting that also served as a fundraiser for local nonprofit Together We Bake.

Located at 3901 Richmond Highway, the Potomac Yard location is the second in Alexandria for the wine and beverage superstore following the West End location on Little River Turnpike.

"This is our 227th store and second here in Alexandria," said Matt Indre, senior manager of public affairs for Total Wine & More. "We are in 27 states and last year alone we partnered with over 13,000 local charities."

Founded in 2012, Together We Bake is a workforce training and personal development program for underserved and underrepresented women. The program uses the food service industry to teach women marketable job skills, provide hands-on experience and help them gain self-confidence to achieve self-sufficiency.

During its opening weekend, Total Wine & More donated 10 percent of its wine sales to Together We Bake.

"Total Wine is very active in supporting the communities where they are located," said Together We Bake founder Stephanie Wright. "They had heard about Together We Bake and what we were doing and wanted to give us some support. We are very grateful to them for reaching out to us."

The 18,000 square-foot property is the former home of Pier 1 Imports, which closed in early 2020. The grand opening event featured



A beer vendor pours a sample for a customer at the Nov. 10 grand opening of the Potomac Yard Total Wine & More.



Customers learn about wines during the grand opening of Total Wine & More Nov. 10 at Potomac Yard.

wine and beer tastings, live music, gift bags and local food.

Total Wine & More carries wine, beer, cigars and accessories. Wine samplings are conducted Thursdays-Saturdays.

Typical locations carry more than 8,000 different wines from around the world as well as more than 2,500 beers. The Potomac Yard location includes specialty beers from Alexandria's Port City

Brewing.

"Together We Bake is an integral part of the Alexandria community," Indre said. "They do special work in providing an education and jobs to less fortunate women. We believe in their mission of empowering women and are glad they accepted our offer to partner during our opening weekend."

www.totalwine.com

Togetherwebake.org



Jane Hughes and Total Wine & More Senior Manager of Public Affairs Matt Indre Nov. 10 at the Potomac Yard Total Wine & More grand opening.



Peter Goldman, Maggie Stauffer, Sarah Goldman and Jon Miller at the Nov. 10 grand opening of Total Wine & More at Potomac Yard.



Port City Brewing Company founder Bill Butcher, right, talks with customer Jon Miller at the grand opening of Total Wine & More Nov. 10 at Potomac Yard.

City Retains Top Bond Ratings

S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service have reaffirmed the City of Alexandria's top bond ratings of 'AAA' and 'Aaa,' respectively, before the City's planned sale of \$156.9 million in general obligation tax-exempt and taxable bonds to fund various capital projects and land acquisition costs, and refund select outstanding bonds for debt service savings.

"Both agencies recognized the City's extensive efforts related to environmental, social and governance factors or Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks, including our flood mitigation projects, the electrification of the bus fleet and budget and policy initiatives that address income and racial inequities," said Mayor Justin Wilson.

Alexandria has maintained the highest grades from both major bond rating agencies since 1992, which enables the City to pay very low interest rates for the life of bonds issued to fund major projects. The interest rate for the City's most recent bond sale, in 2019, was slightly more than 2.2%

over a 20-year period for \$21.50 million of tax-exempt bonds.

In reaffirming the City's bond rating, Moody's reflected a stable outlook for the City, noting its "financial position is sound and has had moderate growth in reserve and liquidity levels in recent years. Alexandria's fixed costs are manageable and will remain so despite future borrowing plans." Moody's also cited the City's "adherence to comprehensive fiscal policies" as a credit strength, as well as the City's ESG (environmental, social and governance) Credit Impact Score of 1 which is the highest attainable score.

S&P recognized the City's "very strong resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Timely management action underpinned this resilience and helped the City to achieve surplus results in fiscal years 2020 and 2021." S&P also stated that the City's strong economic growth "will help Alexandria continue implementing its comprehensive capital improvement plan (CIP) and will allow the City to continue cash funding a significant share of its capital needs."

Alexandria Woman Dies in Head-on Crash

A 61-year-old woman died Monday morning, Nov. 22, following a crash that occurred at 5:56 a.m. on the Fairfax County Parkway at Ox Road. Elizabeth Wallgren of Alexandria was the driver and lone occupant of a 2013 Honda Civic traveling northbound on the Fairfax County Parkway. Preliminarily, detectives determined Wallgren lost control of the vehicle, crossed over the grass median and struck a 2014 Subaru Crosstrek driving in the southbound lanes, resulting in a head-on collision. Subsequently, the driver of a 2013 Chevrolet Van, also driving southbound, crashed into

the Subaru. Wallgren was pronounced deceased at the scene of the crash. The driver of the Subaru was taken to the hospital with injuries not considered life-threatening and the other driver remained on scene.

Preliminarily, detectives from our Crash Reconstruction Unit do not believe that speed and alcohol are factors in the crash, which remains under investigation.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

Winter Shelters Open

The City of Alexandria's overnight winter shelters for individuals and families experiencing homelessness are open in two locations. Carpenter's Shelter runs the winter shelters (also called hypothermia shelters) to provide guests with a warm, clean and safe environment away from the elements and cold temperatures at night.

During November, and between April 1 and April 15, shelter operating status depends on the weather. Shelters are open nightly from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., between Dec. 1 and March 31, regardless of weather conditions.

The winter shelter located at 2355-C Mill Road provides services to single adults, and Carpenter's Shelter, located at 930 N. Henry St., provides services to families only.

For both locations, staff and guests will have their temperature taken, will be asked standard COVID-19 symptom questions, and will be required to wear face masks, maintain 6 feet of distance and use hand sanitizer for the duration of their stay. Guests will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water when entering the facility and staff will sanitize all high-touch areas throughout the shelter often.

Winter shelter staff provide transportation

to and from the shelters at the following locations and times:

- ❖ City Hall (301 King St.), 6:20 p.m.
- ❖ Braddock Road Metro Station (Kiss & Ride), 6:30 p.m.
- ❖ Christ House (131 S. West St.), 6:40 p.m.

In the mornings, guests at the Mill Road shelter will be transported to David's Place, the Carpenter's Shelter day program.

Residents interested in supporting neighbors experiencing homelessness are invited to join The Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness (PPEH) <https://www.alexandriava.gov/dchs/info/default.aspx?id=76061>.

Alexandrians are also encouraged to check on neighbors, via telephone or video chat, who may be at risk of hypothermia and to keep pets indoors as much as possible. Visit the City's website for more information on how to stay safe during the winter season and for other weather-related closures and information.

Visit [alexandriava.gov/49636](https://www.alexandriava.gov/49636) to learn more about shelters and operating status, and services for those who are homeless at or email ppeh@alexandriava.gov.

SEE WINTER SHELTERS, PAGE 7



HOLIDAY MAGIC. HISTORIC STREETS.

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run
Now-January 2

Alexandria Shop Small Week
November 26-December 2

Mount Vernon by Candlelight
November 26-27;
December 3-4, 10-11 & 19

**Campagna Center's 50th Anniversary
Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend**
December 3-4

**"A Christmas Carol" at
The Little Theatre of Alexandria**
December 3-18

Holiday Festival at Torpedo Factory Art Center
December 4

**Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights
sponsored by Amazon**
December 4

Del Ray Holiday Tree & Menorah Lighting
December 5

Christmas Market and Holiday Craft Show at Carlyle
December 11

First Night Alexandria Festivities & Fireworks
December 31

For even more holiday events and things to do, check out:

Visit [AlexandriaVA.com/Holidays](https://www.AlexandriaVA.com/Holidays)

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Santa Lights 40-Foot Holiday Tree



Santa waves to the crowd as he arrives for the holiday tree lighting ceremony Nov. 20 in Market Square.

FROM PAGE 1

the King Street Trolley wearing a custom suit in honor of the city's upcoming Scottish Walk Weekend. Bellowing Ho! Ho! Ho! as he worked his way through the crowd, Santa joined Mayor Justin Wilson and other elected officials in lighting the 40-foot tree illuminated by 38,150 LED lights.

Town Crier Ben Fiore-Walker opened the festivities and was joined by an ensemble from the Alexandria Citizens Band, who entertained with holiday music. The



A father gives his son a bird's eye view of the holiday tree lighting Nov. 20 in Market Square.

band, one of the oldest community bands in the country, was led by Alexandria resident Mike Evans.

As a COVID precaution, there were no official photos with Santa

although more than a few selfies were taken around the jolly visitor as children of all ages gathered to kick off the holiday season.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



Mayor Justin Wilson, right, listens as Santa welcomes the crowd to the holiday tree lighting ceremony Nov. 20 in Market Square.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Operation Warm

FROM PAGE 1

well-being and future."

Sponsors for the event included: Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority; Operation Warm; Firefighter & Friends to the Rescue; Jack Taylor Toyota Dealership; InSpire-Lit (New Books); Department Progressive Club; Alexandria Department of Parks and Recreation; Caring Angels Therapy Dogs; and George Mason Athletics.

The pandemic has fueled the need for more financial support, something Bailey hopes

will come from the Alexandria community.

"A huge shout out to the non-profit Operation Warm, but as the number of families and children in need continues to grow, we need more to sustain this effort," Bailey said. "We need more people to join our team to keep kids warm each winter."

To donate, visit <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/operation-warm-inc/join-firefighter-friends-to-the-rescue-and-fairfax-county-fire-rescue-department-to-give-coats-to-kids-in-need>.

"We believe that every child, regardless of circumstances, deserves to feel warmth and the confidence that comes from the gift of something new, made just for them."

— ARHA CEO Keith Pettigrew

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.

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 Kingstowne 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.

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, USAITF-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 sup-

port 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

NOW THRU THANKSGIVING

The 15th Annual Alexandria Film Festival is going on now through Thanksgiving Day. They've listed 14 more of this year's films along with links to film trailers and ticket sales. Visit: <https://watch.eventive.org/festival2021>

NOW THRU 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.

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

Wreaths Across America. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Alexandria National Cemetery, 1450 Wilkes Street, Alexandria. Join the VFW, scouts, and cadets in posting holiday wreaths on 4,300 Veterans' graves. Help

populate all graves, donate wreaths \$15 at <https://wreath-sacrossamerica.org/VAANCA>

BECOME A SPONSOR FOR SCOTTISH WALK WEEKEND!

The Scottish Walk Weekend is coming back to Alexandria on December 3-4, and you won't want to miss a moment. Sponsorship of this beloved tradition guarantees you a place of honor at all the weekend's festivities: Patron-level tickets to the Taste of Scotland whiskey-tasting fundraiser on Friday December 3, an invitation to the Dignitaries Breakfast on the morning of Saturday December 4, waived registration fees to march in the parade, and recognition on all Scottish Walk promotional materials.

Make sure to purchase a sponsorship by Thursday, November 18 to be included in all promotions in local newspapers and online publications. Visit the website: <https://www.campaigncenter.org/event/the-scottish-christmas-walk-week-end/>

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA OPENS WINTER SHELTERS

The City of Alexandria's overnight winter shelter services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness are open in two locations. Carpenter's Shelter runs the winter shelters (also called hypothermia shelters) to provide

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Residents Share Their Reasons to be Grateful

FROM PAGE 3



Jackson Fannon – “I am thankful for my dog, my friends and my family.”



PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Richie Safren, with granddaughter June Rae Safren and grandnephew Elan Medina – “I’m thankful for my family, who I love very much, and my grandchild and my grandnephew. I am thankful that we are all healthy and happy and I am proud and grateful to be an American.”



Elizabeth and Robert Harris – “I am thankful for my family and for all my patients,” said Elizabeth, a physical therapist. Added Robert, “I am thankful for the new opportunities that lie ahead for my family and for the health of our newborn.”

Winter Shelters Open

FROM PAGE 5

If you see someone who looks in need of housing support, there are options.

❖ They can call 703.746.5700 or text 703.346.5599 or walk-in for services at 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. during business hours. Staff will support them by identifying the next steps in assisting them with their current situation. Once screened, individuals will be added to the waitlist and referred once a bed is available at Alexandria Community Shelter or Carpenter’s Shelter. During the winter months, let them know about the City’s

Winter Shelter Program run by Carpenter’s Shelter (703.548.7500), which is open daily from 7 p.m. - 7 a.m. through March 2021.

❖ If you aren’t comfortable engaging in conversation, contact Alex 311 to report your observations; please refrain from taking photos of residents experiencing homelessness out of respect for their privacy.

Your report will be sent to DCHS staff, who will go out and speak to the person within 24-48 business hours and offer available support and resources.

Northern Virginia Joint Transportation Meeting

Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

- Virginia’s Multimodal Project Pipeline Program
- NVTA’s updates to TransAction and the FY2022-2027 Six Year Program; the NVTA Transportation Technology Strategic Plan; and the Regional Multi-Modal Mobility Program (RM3P) in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia
- NVTC’s Commuter Choice program
- DRPT’s funding opportunities, Six-Year Improvement Program and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRRA)
- VRE project updates

The meeting will be held as a **virtual/online meeting**. Information for accessing and participating in the meeting will be posted at <https://www.virginiadot.org/novatransportationmeeting>. The team of VDOT, DRPT, OIPI, NVTA, NVTC and VRE representatives will make a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. highlighting their transportation programs, regional collaboration and receive public comments about Virginia’s transportation network.

Give your comments during the joint meeting after the presentation concludes or submit your written comments by **January 7, 2022** by mail to Ms. Maria Sinner, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference “Northern Virginia Joint Transportation Meeting” in the subject line.

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



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<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

Where To Give Locally in Alexandria and Mount Vernon

Many nonprofits in the city and nearby need your help to continue to rise to the need during the dual health and economic crisis of the pandemic, plus helping families for the holidays.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally, financially, food and other goods, volunteer time. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed.

Where to Give Locally

❖ **ALIVE!** Alexandria; 2723 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302; 703-837-9300; **ALIVE!** serves thousands Alexandrians annually with shelter; low-cost early childhood education and childcare; financial help for rent, utilities, medical care and other critical needs; emergency food; and deliveries of donated furniture and houseware. www.alive-inc.org

❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp) aliceskids.org P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity or heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. It helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area and beyond through small acts of kindness. Alice's Kids aliceskids.org 703.746.8108 contact@aliceskids.org

❖ **At Home in Alexandria (AHA)** is a nonprofit village that builds and sustains a 55+ community to successfully navigate aging. Together, we share activities, programs and services, including access to needed assistance. Our vision is for AHA to be an advocate for older Alexandrians to live safe, active and connected lives. AHA is a membership organization, which means you pay an annual membership fee that, in turn, entitles you to request services from AHA for an entire year. These services include transportation, errands, technical support, light maintenance, organizing and decluttering, short-term

pet or lawn care, and much more. 3139 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22305-2669 (703) 231-0824 Email: aha@athomeinalexandria.org Website: www.athomeinalexandria.org

❖ **Animal Welfare League of Alexandria**, 703-746-4774, www.alexandrianimals.org, Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education, wildlife management, community service and outreach.

❖ **ACT for Alexandria**, 703-739-7778, www.actforalexandria.org, Nonprofit and donor services, Alexandria's community foundation.

❖ **Alexandria Tutoring Consortium**, 703-549-6670 ext. 119

<https://alexandriatutors.org/>, Tutoring for Alexandria City Public Schools kindergarten and first grade students who are struggling to read. Mission: To help Alexandria City Public School students read on or above grade level by the end of kindergarten and first grade.

❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. The organization has reshaped its Weekend Food For Kids program to assist the struggling families of the students we serve. Contact info@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org

❖ **Bethany House**, 6121 Lincoln Rd #303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-9500; <http://www.bhnhv.org/>; Bethany House provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding DC metro communities.

❖ **The Campagna Center**, 703-549-0111, www.campagnacenter.org, Educational and social development programs for children, teens, and adults.

❖ **Carpenter's Shelter**, 703 548-7500, www.carpentersshelter.org, Homeless services and programs including education and case management.

❖ **Center for Alexandria's Children**, 703-838-4381, www.centerforalexandriaschildren.org, Child abuse and neglect and parent support.

❖ **Child and Family Network Centers**, 703-836-0214, www.cfnc-online.org, Provides caring, high-quality, free early education and related services to at-risk children and their families in their own neighborhoods to prepare them for success in school and life

❖ **Community Lodgings, Inc.**, 703-549-4407 Transitional and af-

fordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.

❖ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia**, www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Make grants in its focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists.

❖ **Computer C.O.R.E.** 703-931-7346, www.computercore.org, Adult education, computer training and career development. Email: info@computercore.org

❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed 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

❖ **Hopkins House**, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org, Pre-school academy, family budgeting and literacy, family education and youth summer enrichment camp, Early Childhood Learning Institute.

❖ **Literacy Council of Northern Virginia**, 703-237-0866, www.lcnv.org, Teaches adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking and understanding English.

* **Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center**, an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as a safety net for clients of the CSB who encounter extraordinary or emergency financial needs. More than 98 percent of donations and grants go to direct client support

and co-sponsorship of free public educational programs. bit.ly/friendsoftheAMHC

❖ **Neighborhood Health**, 6677 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22306. Partners with patients to treat the whole person through medical, behavioral health and dental programs. Ten clinics throughout the region taking a leading role during COVID. Participating with all insurance including commercial, Medicare, and Medicaid, 703-535-5568, www.neighborhoodhealthva.org

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Services**, www.nvfs.org, Employment and job training, healthcare, housing, mental health, foster care and Healthy Families. 571-748-2500

❖ **Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)** seeks to provide low-income individuals, senior citizens, and families residing in Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington and other portions of southeast Fairfax County with access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through LCAC's self-sufficiency programs. <https://lortonaction.org>

❖ **Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation** helps homeless pets find their way into loving homes through rescue and adoption. We offer same-day adoptions and two-week trial periods. All pets are spayed or neutered prior to adoption. lostdogrescue.org

❖ **Mount Vernon At Home**, 703-303-4060, www.mountvernonathome.org. Mount Vernon At Home membership helps connect senior members of our community, neighbors helping neighbors with volunteer support. Mount Vernon at Home has stepped up its efforts to help members stay safe, secure,

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 9

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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.

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Alexandria
Gazette Packet

www.AlexandriaGazette.com

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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

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A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



WHERE TO GIVE LOCALLY

FROM PAGE 8

and connected during the pandemic crisis. More grocery shopping and errand services to members; online activities and support for members to access these new technologies; members check in with members by phone regularly; weekly email newsletters with helpful, important and enjoyable items to keep members connected during this time.

❖ 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/ Help-Line: 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. Work with 450+ non-profit partners across the region, partners who distribute an average of 88,000 meals daily. Together, provide more than 30 million meals every year. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ New Hope Housing, ending 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/

❖ Rebuilding Together Alexandria, 703-836-1021, www.RebuildingTogetherAlex.org, Home repair and maintenance for vulnerable veterans, elderly, disabled and families with children.

❖ Senior Services of Alexandria, 703-836-4414, www.seniorservicesalex.org, Support services for elders enabling them to age with dignity.

❖ Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, 703-820-9001, www.scanva.org, Parent education, public education — re: child abuse and court advocacy for abused and neglected children.

❖ United Community, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UC provides housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center. Make a Financial Contribution to support the Holiday Gift Room 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. www.ucmagency.org

Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.

❖ Volunteer Alexandria, 123 N Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-836-2176; <http://volunteerallexandria.org>; Volunteer recruitment and placement, court-referred community service placement, community awareness events, and volunteer management training.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

guests with a warm, clean and safe environment away from the elements and cold temperatures at night. During November, and between April 1 and April 15, shelter operating status depends on the weather. Shelters are open nightly from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., between December 1 and March 31, regardless of weather conditions. The winter shelter located at 2355-C Mill Road provides services to single adults, and Carpenter's Shelter, located at 930 N. Henry St., provides services to families only. Winter shelter staff provide transportation to and from the shelters at the following locations and times:

City Hall (301 King St.), 6:20 p.m. Braddock Road Metro Station (Kiss & Ride), 6:30 p.m.

Christ House (131 S. West St.), 6:40 p.m.

In the mornings, guests at the Mill Road shelter will be transported to David's Place, the Carpenter's Shelter day program.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

HOLIDAY SHARING

TO BENEFIT THOSE IN NEED

The City of Alexandria invites the public to help make the 2021 holiday season brighter for some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including low-income families, foster children, older adults and residents with disabilities.

Through the Fund for Alexandria's Child annual Holiday Sharing Program, sponsors purchase gift cards for eligible families and individuals, then the Department of Community and Human Services staff and volunteers distribute the cards. The community's generosity helps ensure that no Alexandrians are left in need during the holidays. This year, 450 families, 100 older adults and adults with disabilities and 120 children in foster care have registered and qualified for assistance. Residents or groups can

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sponsor an individual or family by registering online by November 29. Monetary donations can be made online via credit card (American Express, VISA, MasterCard, Discover or e-check). Donation checks can be made payable to The Fund for Alexandria's Child or to the DCHS Senior Fund and mailed to Holiday Sharing Program, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301. For more information about Holiday Sharing, email holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov or visit alexandriava.gov/HolidaySharing.

ALEXANDRIA MAILS 2021 SECOND HALF REAL ESTATE TAX BILLS

The City of Alexandria has mailed bills for the second half 2021 real estate tax, refuse fee and stormwater utility fee to all property owners and/or mortgage companies. The 2021 real estate tax rate is \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed value. The first half 2021 refuse fee (billed in May 2021) was \$230.00 and the second half 2021 refuse fee is \$242.11. The first half 2021 stormwater utility fee was \$105.00 and the second half 2021 stormwater utility fee is \$140.00 for a typical single-family home.

Second half real estate tax and fee payments are due Monday, November 15. Late payment penalty and interest will be assessed on all real estate taxes and fees that are not paid or postmarked by the due date. The late payment penalty is five percent of the tax if paid by November 30, 2021, and 10 percent of the tax if paid on or after December 1, 2021, or \$10, whichever is greater. The late payment penalty is 10 percent of the refuse fee. Interest on tax and late payment penalty accrues at an annual rate of 10 percent for the first year and five percent for each year thereafter, beginning November 16, 2021, and continues until the entire outstanding balance is paid. Interest accrues on unpaid refuse

fees at an annual rate of 10 percent and stormwater utility fees at an annual rate of 6 percent, beginning November 16, 2021. There is no late payment penalty on stormwater utility fee.

In-person hours for payments at the Treasury Division, City Hall, 301 King Street, Room 1510, are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. A drop box on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day. Additional information about the City's real estate tax is available on the Finance Department website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

The City of Alexandria is providing residents with assistance to make changes to their Medicare prescription drug plans and health plans during the Medicare open enrollment period, from now through December 7. The Medicare health insurance program—for people aged 65 or older, or under age 65 with certain disabilities or disease—encourages all enrollees to review their plans during this time to ensure the plans meet their needs.

The Virginia Insurance and Counseling Program (VICAP) provides free, unbiased, individualized counseling to help residents understand and navigate Medicare. VICAP counselors can compare plans and help residents understand the benefits. VICAP is based in the City's Department of Community and Human Services and is supported by certified volunteers. Residents can request assistance or more information by calling 703-746-5999. Medicare beneficiaries may also request Medicare Counseling.

Medicare Part D plans provide prescription drug coverage. These plan members should ensure that their current plans will cover their medications at an affordable cost. Plan members should ensure that their current plan is still offered and that, if so, it will cover all

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

I-395/Seminary Road HOV Ramp City of Alexandria

Virtual Public Information Meeting

Monday, December 6, 2021, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
<https://www.virginiadot.org/395ExpressLanes>

Find out about plans to convert the 395 Express Lanes and Seminary Road ramp from a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)-only ramp to a High Occupancy Toll (HOT) ramp. This south-facing reversible ramp at Seminary Road falls within the limits of and provides access to the 395 Express Lanes and currently operates as an HOV- and transit-only ramp. Transurban, VDOT's private operator of the 395 Express Lanes, has proposed converting this ramp from HOV to a HOT lanes ramp. The ramp would continue to provide access to the 395 Express Lanes, but would be available to vehicles with fewer than three occupants who pay a toll, and for free to vehicles with three or more occupants.

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/395ExpressLanes>**. The project team will make a presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer period.

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 703-691-6715 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771, VDOT has received guidance from the Federal Highway Administration that if the modification was to proceed, no additional environmental documentation would be required for converting the 395 Express Lanes/Seminary Road ramp from an HOV-only ramp to a HOT ramp. The findings documented in past Environmental Assessments and subsequent Findings of No Significant Impacts from the Federal Highway Administration remain valid.

Give your comments during the meeting, or by **December 16, 2021** via the comment form on the project website, by mail to Mr. Abi Lerner, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "I-395/Seminary Road HOV Ramp" 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: 0395-96A-206, P101
UPC: 108361

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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.

THE
CHAMBER
ALX

STATE OF BUSINESS: ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTED BY TRUIST

December 7, 2021 | 7:30AM-9:30AM
Hilton Alexandria Old Town
Featured panel on workforce
development and strategies!

TICKETS AT THECHAMBERALX.COM



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News

Mount Vernon Area's Big Trees

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE

As winter approaches and deciduous trees shed their leaves, their “bones” stand out, arborists say. Winter is a good time to study some of the big, old trees in the Mount Vernon area. Some loom like giant sentinels, spirits of the forest.

“Trees are too large, too majestic, too important and too much a part of nature to be ignored,” wrote C. F. Brockman in *Trees of North America*. “From the human point of view, trees are a multi-purpose natural resource without equal.”

George Washington's Trees

From January 1785 to the middle of 1786, General George Washington devoted many of his energies to the landscape of his Mount Vernon plantation and sought the most “clever kind of trees (especially flowering ones),” he wrote, “for my walks, groves and wildernesses.” For many trees, he only had to go to nearby forests and transplant saplings to his desired spot.

Today, seven trees from Washington's time still stand, the oldest a chestnut oak. Arborists call the seven trees “witness trees” because they are part of a historic landscape and have remained in place years after key historic events. The historic tree that most of today's visitors see is one of two tulip poplars that Washington, or more likely enslaved people on his estate, planted in 1785 on the west lawn. It is now over 130 feet high.

On National Park Service land



Southern Red Oak at Mount Vernon, being measured by Brent Steury, National Park Service.

PHOTOS BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



The Osage orange tree (*Maclura pomifera*) growing at the American Horticultural Society's River Farm headquarters.

COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

near Mount Vernon's parking lot is a white oak, estimated to be 163 years old about 10 years ago, according to Brent Steury, Natural Resources Program Manager with the George Washington Memorial

Parkway. Nearby is a southern red oak around 150 years old.

River Farm's Big Tree

An imposing osage orange tree
SEE BIG TREES, PAGE 20



Two oak trees on National Park Service property near Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. Person unidentified.



campagna center
PRESENTS

The 50TH Anniversary
Scottish Christmas
Walk Weekend & Parade

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



campagna center
SCOTTISH
CHRISTMAS
WALK WEEKEND

Kicking off the holiday season in Alexandria and celebrating the rich history of our community with special 50th anniversary events.



campagna center

SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND

2021 EVENTS

TASTE OF SCOTLAND

Presented by The Goodhart Group

Friday, December 3, 6:30-10:00 PM

The Atrium Building

227 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

This festive evening features Scotch tastings from a variety of Scotland distilleries and elegant catering for all guests.

Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test administered within the last 72 hours are required for all attendees. Special thanks to our Taste of Scotland sponsors, The Goodhart Group and W.C. & A.N. Miller Development Company!

Taste of Scotland Tickets

Proceeds from all events during the Scottish Walk Weekend benefit the educational programs of Campagna Center.

Sponsor and Patron doors open at 6:30PM.

General admission begins at 8:00PM.



PATRON PAIR

\$375
(2 tickets)



PATRON INDIVIDUAL

\$200
(1 ticket)

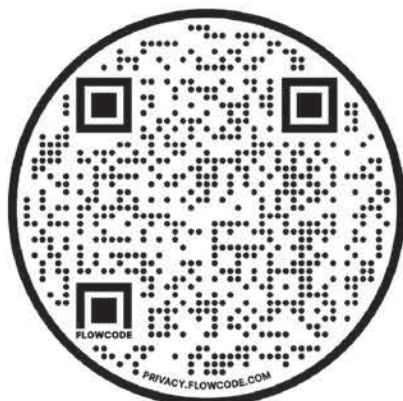


GENERAL ADMISSION

\$150
(1 ticket)

Taste of Scotland tickets are partially tax-deductible.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit campagnacenter.org/event/the-scottish-christmas-walk-weekend or scan this QR code



THE SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE

Saturday, December 4, 11:00 AM

Old Town Alexandria

The Campagna Center is proud to present the 50th Anniversary Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. Enjoy the sights and sounds of this holiday festival, including the traditional tartans of Scottish Clans from across the United States, pipe & drum bands, Scottish dancers, community leaders in education, Scout troops, dignitaries, Santa Claus, and much more!



The Grand Marshal
of the 50th Anniversary
Scottish Walk is
U.S. Senator
Mark Warner!

THE SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK PARADE ROUTE





Since 1945, Campagna Center has served the residents of Alexandria by delivering exceptional educational and social development programs from cradle to career. Together we have been honored to support children and families and continue to deliver meaningful educational services so that everyone in the Alexandria community can thrive, even in the most challenging of circumstances.



Early Childhood

- In 2020, a total of **494** infants, toddlers, and preschoolers participated in our **Early Childhood** programs.
- On average, **77%** of children served met or exceeded expectations across language, literacy, math, physical development, and social and emotional growth.
- **324** families served in Head Start funded programs received a range of social services including emergency food, clothing, shelter, mental health, and other health related services.



School-Aged Children

- In 2020, over **250** elementary, middle and high school students were served across our **Campagna Kids, Building Better Futures, and Wright to Read** programs.
- In **Wright to Read**, **26** students in the early literacy program received an average of **52** lessons this year, for a total of over **670** hours of one-on-one instruction and support provided outside the classroom.
- Despite the challenges of the pandemic, **7** high school students in the **Building Better Futures** program completed career exploration placements (extern-ships) that provided real-world job training and the opportunity to explore career interests.



Adults

- In 2020, our **16** volunteer language instructors spent **2,123** hours working with **New Neighbors** students on their English-language learning.
- **New Neighbors** families teamed up with the **Wright to Read** program for family literacy programs, including monthly Zoom sessions for story time, vocabulary building, and socializing with other Campagna Center families.

Campagna Center was able to go above and beyond the call of our mission during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the extra supports we were able to provide the community in 2020 included:



Delivering over **600 books** into the hands of children during the pandemic so they could continue their love of reading as libraries were unable to serve families in person.



Partnering with ACT for Alexandria to distribute **\$20,000 in grocery store gift cards** to families facing food instability so they would not miss a meal.



Providing more than **40,000 diapers per month** through a critical partnership with the DC Diaper Bank—for a **total of more than 360,000 diapers**.

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

Funds raised during the **Scottish Walk Weekend** support the educational programs of Campagna Center, Alexandria's oldest nonprofit.

With your gift, you can ensure that everyone in our community has the tools they need to thrive. To make a tax-deductible donation to Campagna Center, visit campagnacenter.org/donate.



\$150
would provide 10 books to a **Wright to Read** student and tutor.

\$300
would provide extended care to a child in **Alexandria Head Start** for one month.

\$500
would provide career counseling to a high school student for a full year.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2021 SPONSORS
FOR THE



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Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette

Sponsorship listing as of November 18, 2021.

Special thanks to the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center for the coordination and planning of the weekend's festivities. Our great appreciation also extends to our friends at the City of Alexandria and the members of the St. Andrews Society of Washington, D.C.
Graphic design by Scholastica Graphic Design, LLC.

History Revisited

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

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

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

FROM PAGE 9

their medications affordably. Members should not assume that plan coverage will remain the same because each year's plan costs and the medication coverage can change.

Medicare Part C, also called Medicare Advantage Plan, provides all the members' care, including drug coverage, at a single cost. The plans may change the fees for doctor's appointments, participating providers, pharmacies and medication. During open enrollment, plan members can select a new Medicare Advantage plan or cancel Medicare Advantage and return to original Medicare with a Part D plan. During open enrollment, Medicare beneficiaries can:

Join a Medicare Prescription Drug plan.

Change from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan with prescription drug coverage.

Cancel a Medicare Advantage plan and return to the original Medicare with a Part D plan.

Switch from a Medicare Advantage plan that does not offer drug coverage to another Medicare Advantage plan that does offer drug coverage.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Aging for more information about the City's VICAP navigation service, Medicare enrollment and counseling.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

ACPS- Help Provide Meals to Children Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide two days worth of breakfast and lunch meals with a snack pack free for any enrolled ACPS student on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Friday distribution will include a meal(s) for Saturday. Volunteers will meet at various schools to assist with packing boxes and loading buses with boxed meals. Then, volunteers will ride the bus along to distribute the meals while on site at a few

ACPS mobile pop-up locations.

Click on each location to sign up: Francis C. Hammond Middle School, TC Williams High School, or Jefferson Houston School. www.volunteerallexandria.org

Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services- Volunteer Guardian

Looking for individuals who can assure the well-being of an incapacitated Alexandrian living in an Assisted Living Facility or Nursing Facility. Volunteer Guardians are appointed by the Court to make decisions for older Alexandria residents who have lost the capacity to understand the consequences of their decisions. The volunteer will visit the resident monthly and follow the person's wishes as much as possible. www.volunteerallexandria.org

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors

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Green Spring Gardens Gift Shop.



Hanukkah gifts from Olde Towne School for Dogs; Menorah Moose.



Holiday gifts at Olde Towne School for Dogs.

PHOTOS BY JANE GAMBLE

Local Gifts for Everyone on Your List

BY JANE GAMBLE
GAZETTE PACKET

This Holiday Season is the perfect opportunity to re-engage with our community and support the small businesses that make Alexandria a vibrant place to call home. Forget the hassles of shipping delays, lost packages, and supply-chain shortages. The act of gift-giving should be a thoughtful experience that enjoyably engages the senses. So why not break the habit of clicking and spending online? The local stores in our community are well-stocked with beautifully curated collections of gifts to delight everyone on your list.

Shopping small allows us to personally connect with neighborhood business owners who are passionate about their offerings and full of suggestions about how best to make holiday wishes come true. So, get out of the house and come discover the treasure shops that line the streets where we live.

Gifts for Four-Legged Friends

The Olde Towne School for Dogs is located in the heart of Alexandria's historic district (529 Oronoco St) and is recognized as a landmark facility for educating dogs and their owners. But did you know they also have a retail space filled with unusual and fun holiday gifts for furry family members? This local business is staffed with helpful employees who have lots of great suggestions for your holiday shopping. The Honey I'm Home Countdown to Christmas Calendar is a delicious way for

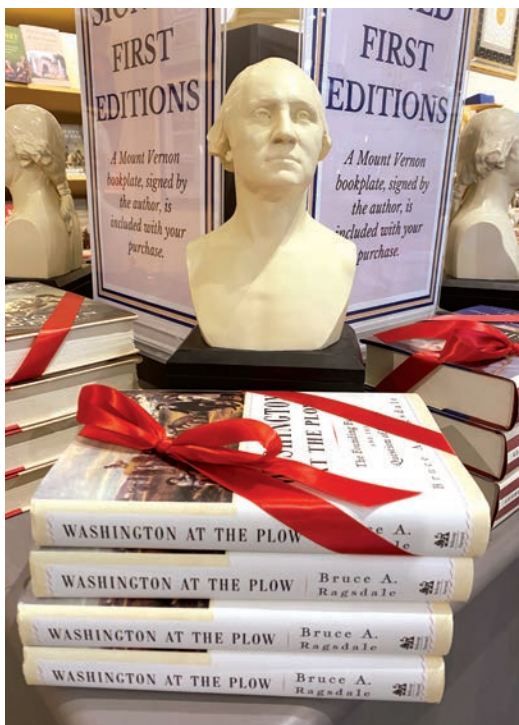
your pet to celebrate Christmas everyday with nutritional honey coated buffalo treats. And since there is no sweeter time than the holidays to treat someone, consider GIVEPET's holiday snacks that let you treat your pet (and a dog in the shelter) with every package purchased. It is hard to resist the cheerful sound of jingling bells, and with the Huxley & Kent's jingle collars you'll be spreading jingling joy on your winter walks. You'll also find Hanukkah options for furry friends. FabDog's Menorah Moose will brighten your dog's Hanukkah and the Cherish Treats from Copa Judaica will keep them entertained for more than 8 days.

Gifts for the Earth-Conscious

Mason & Greens is more than just an inviting and eclectic shopping experience at 913 King Street - it is also a lifestyle that embraces sustainability. Every shopping trip to Old Town should include a visit to this wonderful retail space because it is brimming with items that inspire shoppers to be more mindful of our impact on our world. For the eco-friendly on your holiday list, you will find all things zero-waste and plastic-free at Mason & Greens. Shop compostable wrapping paper, plantable seed cards, vegan advent calendars, plastic-free ornaments and more. With a five cent bag tax taking effect in the City, plus Arlington and Fairfax County beginning Jan. 1, you might be especially interested in a Mason & Greens tote so you can stylishly avoid those bag fees and do better for the planet.

SEE LOCAL GIFTS, PAGE 22

16 ♦ ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET ♦ NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1, 2021



"Washington at the Plow," and many other books for gifts are available at Mount Vernon Estate. Consider giving a membership.



Blue Jays and squirrels love peanuts; peanut wreath from Wild Bird Center.



Re-Design in a Day offers locally made products to pamper the senses.



Mason & Greens is an inviting and eclectic shop that embraces sustainability. 913 King Street

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

4 Restaurants for When You're Sick of Leftovers This Week

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Tired of turkey sandwiches, stuffing salad, turkey tetrazzini and the last of those crescent rolls? Take the family out after the Big Day and give yourself a reprieve from leftovers for at least one meal. Here are four spots just waiting to do the dishes for you for a change.

Hard Times Café, 1404 King St.

Any Alexandrian knows Hard Times, the venerable chili joint on upper King Street. Take visiting family and friends to dive into a piping-hot bowl as well and give yourself a break for the night. Five-way chili mac with a heaping plate of toppings?

APPETITE Go for it. In the mood for burgers rather than another turkey sandwich? You're in the right place. If you're feeling a little plump the weekend after the big Thanksgiving meal, Hard Times also has – what! – salads as well. Go wild.

Elizabeth's Counter, 804 N. Henry St.

Poor old breakfast. It tends to get lost in the shuffle around Thanksgiving, when everyone's bustling about the kitchen trying to



A little light fare from Hard Times Cafe for after Thanksgiving.

get dinner on. Don't let it get short shrift the rest of the week as well. Elizabeth's Counter, long known as a doughnut hub, is an easy way to treat your guests with a sweet beginning over the weekend (and take the

pressure off your own kitchen for a change). Dozens of flavors change nearly daily, so lock in your order online and head over to the shop for pickup. (May as well get some coffee, too, while you're there.)

St. Elmo's, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. and 529 Montgomery St.

And speaking of coffee, St. Elmo's is a great place to caffeinate the clan (and maybe pick up a pastry or sandwich – we won't tell the others). With treats like cortados and matcha lattes, it has everything under the sun on offer in the coffee department. And whether you're closer to the Del Ray or North Old Town location, no matter! Both outposts will take good care of you.

Makeda, 516A South Van Dorn St.

Sometimes, it's time to venture to another continent to break the American Thanksgiving rut. Makeda's Ethiopian menu has that going for it in droves.

The West End restaurant runs the gamut from vegetarian fare to combinations to all manner of lamb, poultry and seafood. Start off the proceedings with some samosas, pillowy pockets of lentils or meat, and then move on to the main course of your choice (for variety, you can't go wrong with the combination platters). And if you're tired of pie, some baklava is waiting for you to order at the end of the meal.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

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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



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

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



Sara Yoon, grade 11, Metropolitan School of the Arts student, performs in "The Nutcracker" Dec. 4-5 in Alexandria.

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 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

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR, PAGE 20
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ENTERTAINMENT

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 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.

NOW THRU 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. Visit us at bit.ly/MVUCHoliday.

THE HOLIDAYS IN DEL RAY

Nov. 27 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Shop Small Crawl – Celebrate Small Business Saturday with special promotions, giveaways and holiday surprises.

Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. Del Ray Tree and Menorah Lighting.

Dec. 6 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Shops of Del Ray's Holiday Sip & Shop – shop local and enjoy special promotions and complimentary wine and refreshments.

Dec. 8-19 Twelve Days of Wellness – Twelve days of tips and special promotions focused on self-care during the busy holiday season.

Dec. 11 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. 6th Annual Candy Cane Bar Crawl – proceeds benefiting Neighborhood Health.

Dec. 11 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Del Ray Holiday Pop-Up Market at Pat Miller Neighborhood Square.

Dec. 13 from Noon to 1 p.m. DRBA Annual Holiday Luncheon & Star Awards at Lena's.

THURSDAY/NOV. 25

46th Annual Turkey Trot. 9 a.m. Race begins at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. 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

SATURDAY/NOV. 27

Courtyard of Creators. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At The Shoe Hive, 127 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria. To celebrate Small Business Saturday, four local, women-owned small businesses will pop-up at the boutique such as D.C.-based creative jewelry designer Cynthia Spriggs of 3Shades Chic, all-natural skincare Best Life Organics, handmade clay jewelry maker Soultury,

and ballet flats maker Eight Royale. Visit the website: www.TheShoeHive.com

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 and search for George Washington's Alexandria Tour. www.washingtonbirthday.com

DEC. 3-19

Holiday Market. At Del Ray Artisans gallery in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Different artists each weekend. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus, FUNdraising 2022 wall calendars and upcycled tote bags to support Del Ray Artisans. Free admission. First three weekends in December. Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Visit the website: https://delrayartisans.org/event/holiday-market-2021/

TUESDAY/DEC. 7

Author Henry Gee. 7-8 p.m. Virtual event. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. Join in a discussion with author and "Nature" senior editor, Henry Gee, on his new book, "A (Very) Short History of Life on Earth," which takes readers on

an entertaining 4.6 billion year trip through the history of earth. Visit the website: https://alexlibraryva.org/event/5750346

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 8

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Winter Recital. 7:30 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street, Alexandria. Join Alexandria Symphony Orchestra musicians Meredith Riley (violin), Daniel Frazelle (clarinet) and Sophia Kim Cook (piano) for an evening of music and conversation. Enjoy a variety of chamber music followed by a post-concert reception with light refreshments. This recital is presented as part of the Adopt a Chair program. Cost: \$40 Adult • \$5 Youth • \$5 Student. Visit the website: https://alexsym.org/performance/winter-recital/

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Beethoven's 251st Birthday Celebration. 4 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. New Dominion Chorale's Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge will conduct the Chorale and orchestra in Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," from the Finale of Symphony No. 9, the "Kyrie" and "Gloria" from his Mass in C major, and "Creation's Song." Renowned concert pianist Thomas Pandolfi, will perform Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy," composed when Beethoven was 38 years old for solo voices, mixed chorus, orchestra, and piano soloist. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, open seating. Visit www.newdominion.org or president@newdominion.org or call 202- 244-7191.

THE BIRCHMERE

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

November

Fri. 26: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad \$45.00

Sat. 27: Chris Isaak 'Holiday Tour' \$115.00

Sun. 28: Charles Esten \$59.50

Mon. 29: Steve Tyrell \$55.00

Tue. 30: A Peter White Christmas with Mindi Abair & Vincent Ingala \$59.50

December

Thu. 2: Squirrel Nut Zippers "Holiday Caravan Tour 2021" \$45.00

Fri. 3: Chris Botti \$110.00

Sat. 4: Chris Botti \$110.00

Sun. 5: Dar Williams w/ Emily Scott Robinson \$45.00

Mon. 6: Steven Curtis Chapman 'Acoustic Christmas!' \$49.50

Tue. 7: America "50th Anniversary" \$99.50 SOLD OUT!


Wed. 8: Eric Benet \$69.50

Thu. 9: KT Tunstall w/ Haley Johnsen \$45.00

Fri. 10: Maggie Rose "Have A Seat Tour 2021" w/ Them Vibes & Dylan Hartigan \$29.50

Sat. 11: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes \$49.50

Sun. 12: "Seasons Greetings from the Ozone" Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun with Lost Planet Airmen #1 Dr. John Tichy – A Honky Tonk Holiday & Tribute to Commander Cody \$39.50



Children's & Teens' Connection 2021

Advertising Opportunity

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.

With high visibility, this is a great advertising opportunity for every industry, so give us a call about rates and ad sizes at 703-778-9431 or email sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 18

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



Encore Stage & Studio presents "Enchanted Bookshop Christmas" on Dec. 3-5 in Arlington.

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: alexandriava.gov/fortward

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

DEC. 17-18

Civil War Christmas at Carlyle House. 5 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Discover how Christmas was celebrated when the Green family lived at Carlyle House and the Mansion House Hotel was being used as a Civil War hospital. 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. Visit the website: novaparks.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Presents: Home for the Holidays. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. At The

Rachel M. Schlesinger Center for Performing Arts NOVA Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. This December, the ASO brings back the joy of live holiday music that audiences yearned for in 2020. ASO will accompany dancers from Ballet-NOVA with selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. Alexandria Choral Society joins the ASO for choruses from Händel's Messiah and will lead the audience in popular holiday carols. Visit the website: alexsym.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

Caroling on Horseback. Town of Clifton. 1:15 p.m. Caroling and Procession. The route through Clifton will follow Main Street to Chapel Road, then Water Street to School Street and back to Main Street. Costumed judging and sharing refreshments will occur after the procession in the floodplain. Visit www.cliftonhorsesociety.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Presents: Home for the Holidays. 3-5 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria. This December, the ASO brings back the joy of live holiday music that audiences yearned for in 2020. ASO will accompany dancers from BalletNOVA with selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. Alexandria Choral Society joins the ASO for choruses from Händel's Messiah and will lead the audience in popular holiday carols. Visit the website: alexsym.org

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa. 1 p.m. At Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Founders Park (351 N. Union St.) and Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.) Gather along historic Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront for a spectacular show by Waterskiing Santa and his merry crew. Come early to see the pre-show (on jet skis). Visit waterskiingsanta.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 31

Olde Year's Day at Torpedo Factory Art Center. 1 to 5 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. The whole family can celebrate the close of 2021 at Torpedo Factory Art Center. Find hands-on activities, meet artists working in their studios, and get inspired for 2022. Visit the website: torpedofactory.org

FRIDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 12 p.m. to midnight. At various locations throughout Old Town Alexandria. Experience the region's signature New Year's Eve festival of music and more. Enjoy live performances throughout the day and into the evening for kids, teens, adults and seniors. New events include a kick-off at Market Square and a "Battle of the Buskers," leading up to the midnight countdown and fireworks finale over the Potomac River. Visit the event website for a full schedule of events. Visit the website: firstnightalexandria.org

Big Trees

FROM PAGE 10

behind the manor house at River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, is at least 200 years old. Virginia Big Trees, a Virginia Tech website that lists known state champions, says the average lifespan of an osage orange tree is 75 years. The River Farm tree is over 58 feet tall with an average crown spread

of more than 90 feet. The tree is on the Virginia Big Tree Register as an honorable mention, ranked fifth largest among documented living specimens. Osage orange trees have a three to five-inch, green, orange-like fruit that falls to the ground in the fall.

Huntley Meadows Park

What Cathy Ledec calls "two glorious swamp chestnut oaks" com-

mand attention at Huntley Meadows Park. Ledec chairs the Fairfax County Tree Commission and is president of the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park.

One tree is 93 feet tall and 71 inches in diameter-at-breast-height (DBH), the spot above ground where tree experts take measurements. The second tree is 98 feet tall and 67 inches at DBH.

A 2019 analysis reported that

the trees' exact ages are "nearly impossible to discern." Other reports suggest that the trees were likely planted between 1824 and 1844. Both are also considered to be witness trees. They may have been planted as boundary markers for Huntley, Thompson Francis Mason's summer getaway on a bluff near the park. Mason was the mayor of Alexandria from 1827 to 1830 and grandson of George Ma-

son IV of Gunston Hall.

Why Care about Trees?

Many suburban and urban native trees are threatened by development, air and water pollution, salt de-icers, climate change, invasive vines, intentional destruction and other factors.

Trees provide ecological ser-

SEE BIG TREES, PAGE 21

Big Trees

FROM PAGE 20

vices. They reduce evaporation, enhance ground water restoration and absorb excess nutrients from runoff. Trees are also “carbon sinks,” consuming more carbon dioxide, a greenhouse or heat-trapping gas, than they emit. Trees also absorb other pollutants like ozone, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide. They provide habitat for birds, squirrels, insects and other animals.

For homeowners, trees can provide privacy and windbreaks and reduce glare. Because the leaves of deciduous trees absorb or deflect radiant energy from the sun, trees can lower air conditioning costs.

“Large deciduous trees planted on the east, west and northwest sides of your home create soothing shade from the hot summer sun and reduce summer air conditioning costs by up to 35 percent,” according to the Arbor Day Foundation.

“Healthy, mature trees add an average of 10 percent to a property’s value and landscaping with trees can increase property values as much as 20 percent,” says Fairfax County’s website.

Trees can even provide psychological services, like reducing stress. A University of Illinois study found that hospital patients recovered from surgery more quickly when they could see trees outside their hospital room window.

The Virginia Big Tree Register has over 2,000 trees around the state, documented since 1970. Visit <http://bigtree.cnre.vt.edu/>.

Plant More

Plant NOVA Trees is a five-year campaign launched this year to increase Northern Virginia’s native tree canopy. Visit <https://www.plantnovatrees.org/about>.

The Audubon at Home program of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia has free “ambassadors” who advise property owners on restoring habitats with native plants and trees. Visit <https://www.audubonva.org/audubon-at-home>.

Help Save Trees

Many Northern Virginia trees, including many along George Washington Memorial Parkway, are threatened by English ivy that climbs up the trees. This invasive vine siphons water and nutrients from the surrounding soil, encourages rot and disease and blocks sunlight. To help save trees, email gwmp_superintendent@nps.gov or engage with an NPS partner like the Friends of Dyke Marsh (www.fodm.org) or the Friends of Mount Vernon Trail (www.mountvernon-trail.org).

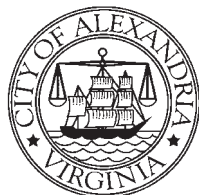
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THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE FRANCHISE ARE ATTACHED TO THE ORDINANCE AND ARE ON THE CITY’S WEBSITE <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Broadband>

THE TERM OF THE FRANCHISE IS NEGOTIABLE BUT SHALL BE FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF 20 YEARS WITH UP TO 3 ADDITIONAL EXTENSIONS OF 5 YEARS EACH.

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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.

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Local Gifts for Everyone on Your List

FROM PAGE 16

Gifts for the Gardener

The one thing that every gardener loves is inspiration for how to make their garden better. Green Spring Gardens, at 4603 Green Spring Road, and the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS), do just that. This public park provides year-round motivation with a wooded stream valley and ponds, a native plant garden, more than 20 thematic demonstration gardens, a greenhouse, a plant and gift shop, a historic house, and a horticultural reference library.

And the Friends of Green Spring is dedicated solely to the support of this special place. A gift membership to FROGS is the gift that keeps giving, because it includes special admission privileges and discounts at 345+ gardens throughout North America, including free admission to Hillwood in DC, and Lewis-Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond.

There is no better gift for a gardener than to treat them to all the benefits of a FROGS membership, all while supporting Green Spring Gardens. While you are at Green Spring Gardens, be sure to check out the gift shop in the horticultural center where you can find garden gift ideas, including gardening caps, pruners, naturalist puzzles, gardening journals, nature-themed socks, house plants, and more. Memberships can be purchased in person, by calling 703-642-5173, or on-line at FriendsOfGreenSpring.org.

Gifts for the Nature Lover

It's hard to wrap up a big blue sky, trees or sunshine, but the Wild Bird Center (3216 Duke St) succeeds in bringing joy to the nature lover in all of us with wonderful gift ideas that can fit in a bag.

Their Clear View Window Feeders are great for introducing children to birding by making it close and personal. Easy-to-fill open trays come in different sizes to fit your needs and the covered roof provides all-weather feeding. A good read for birders and non-birders alike is David Allen Sibley's *What It's Like to be a Bird*. In this book, you will find answers to the most frequently asked questions about the birds we see most often. Sibley's wonderful large full-color illustrations and expertise are a feast for the eyes as well as the mind. And when the cold weather forces us inside, peanut wreaths add festive charm that is appreciated by birds and squirrels who provide entertainment with their silly antics while retrieving their treats.

Gifts for the History Buff

It is hard to beat George Washington's Mount Vernon as a destination for history lovers, and we are so fortunate to have this historic gem in our community. When looking for gifts for the history buff, look no further than the gift shops at Mount Vernon. Consider a signed first edition of *"Travels with George: In Search of Washington and his Legacy,"* by Nathaniel Philbrick, where



PHOTO BY JANE GAMBLE

AM-Mount Vernon porter.jpg
Mount Vernon's rye cask aged porter.

the author argues for Washington's contribution to the forging of America by retracing his journey as a new president through all thirteen former colonies. Or pick up a copy of George Washington's *"Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation,"* a guide for social behavior and good manners that is as relevant today as it was in George Washington's time. An exciting new product is Virginia Porter, Mount Vernon's rye cask-aged porter that bears a beautiful label with George's image. Combined with a can of Mount Vernon salted peanuts, and you can probably make anyone happy, whether they are a history-buff or not. As the best possible gift for the history enthusiast on your list, consider a membership to Mount Vernon, which comes with many benefits and helps to support the Mount Vernon's Ladies Association in their important mission to preserve George Washington's legacy.

Gifts for the Sensory-Connoisseur

For everyone on your list who is exhausted from the pandemic, there is no better time to focus on self-care and Nicole Scott-Howe's charming boutique, Re-Design in a Day, offers locally made products to pamper the senses.

Her inviting neighborhood store offers fragrant soaps, soothing lotions, honey salve, bath teas, rose petal facials, and aromatherapy soy candles, as well as vintage finds and home decor. In supporting this local business, you support the local businesses that Nicole showcases in her store. The Re-Design in a Day store is located in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center, open Wednesday-Sunday.

Be sure to embrace all the wonderful retail opportunities that bring life to our community and support local businesses. Be well, stay safe, and Happy Thanksgiving.

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