

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 25, 2021



Members of historically Black fraternities and sororities volunteered to assemble and distribute Thanksgiving meal kits.



Families volunteered together to help pack and distribute holiday meal kits.

Project Give Back Donates 400 Thanksgiving Boxes

The air was cold but the spirit was warm on Saturday morning (Nov. 20) at the Gum Springs Community Center, where volunteers from Northern Virginia Project Give Back congregated to pack and distribute Thanksgiving food boxes for local families.

"Given the pandemic last year, we were limited and only able to distribute gift cards. This year, we are back in action, with real, nutritious food going out to the people who need it," said Walter Smiley,



Walter Smiley, Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and Project Give Back organizer.

Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and event organizer. "We have been doing this a long time and each year the need grows. We are appreciative of all the people who come together to donate time and money to make this happen."

Food boxes featured frozen turkeys, fresh vegetables, stuffing mix, ground turkey and gift cards. Project Give Back partnered with local community volunteers and organizations to identify local families in need and bring the food to them. The organization also packed two

U-Hauls full of food kits and made personal deliveries.

Project Give Back invited the Fairfax County Health Department to participate in the event. Their Mobile COVID-19 Testing Clinic was on-site to provide testing to attendees and volunteers. With winter holiday gatherings ahead, many took a COVID-19 test in advance of getting together with families this week.

Volunteers with the Fairfax County Health Department's Stronger2 initiative were also on site to help

measure the health needs of the local community in the local neighborhood. Stronger2 aims to improve health literacy among local African-American, African and Hispanic communities. Several historically Black fraternity and sorority members who participate in Project Give Back also serve on Stronger2. Stronger2 volunteers from Fundación Los Niños de María helped attendees complete needs assessments. The data will be used to establish and deliver public health programs in the community.

Northern Virginians Aid Afghan Evacuee Family

Support Crosses Three Continents

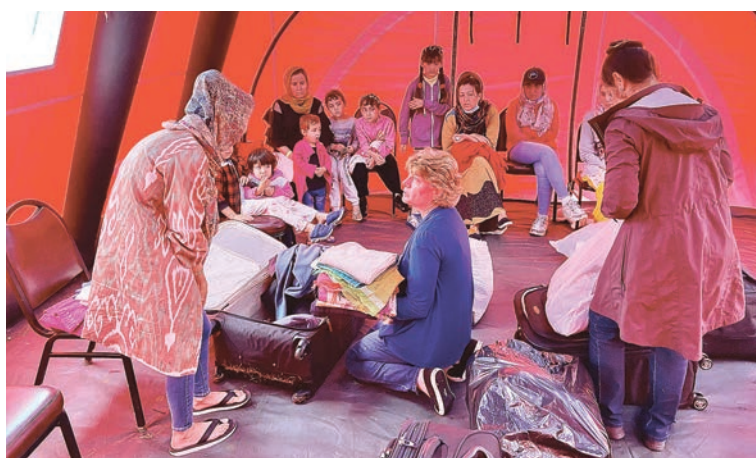
BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

This is the story of one family's successful evacuation from Afghanistan to escape the brutal policies and actions of the Taliban. It's also the story of how groups of northern Virginia residents made the evacuation possible in the face of shrinking hope and rising danger, and how they helped one family start their journey to freedom and safety.

There are many Afghan fam-

ilies whose stories are similar to this family's and many neighbors who felt the call to help. Situated so close to the global seat of power that is Washington D.C., many residents in our area are among those involved in high profile events. What makes this story different is that local people took on the role that the government could not, making the ultimate difference in the lives of many who aided the U.S. in time of war.

MEET THE FOX-GREENS, both career Army veterans now residing in Alexandria. Ron Green served in Afghanistan in the 528th Special Operation Support Battalion from 2000-2003; his wife served in Kandahar in 2005-06. The Northern Virginia couple, together with others, organized a core group of veterans after a plea from friend



Cynthia Fox (center), of Alexandria, visits with members of Afghan refugee Javi and family at Quantico, bringing donations of clothing and other essentials.

and fellow veteran Thomas Koppen. Koppen's Afghan translator, Javid, who served in support of U.S. troops through 2017, had called seeking assistance. Javid's

long period of application for a Special Immigrant Visa, begun in 2016, had not been finalized. Dangers and pressures were building in the final days of U.S. troop with-

drawal. Javid was desperately worried for his safety and his family's.

The Special Immigrant Visa program is available to people who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission authority as a translator or interpreter in Iraq or Afghanistan.

When Green's friends recognized there was no existing system within the State Department or Department of Defense that could coordinate with these allied families like Javid's, the veterans organized. They took on the task of getting the interpreter and his family out of danger. In what Fox described as a "spider web" of contacts, including those from her service in Kandahar Province and

SEE NORTHERN, PAGE 10

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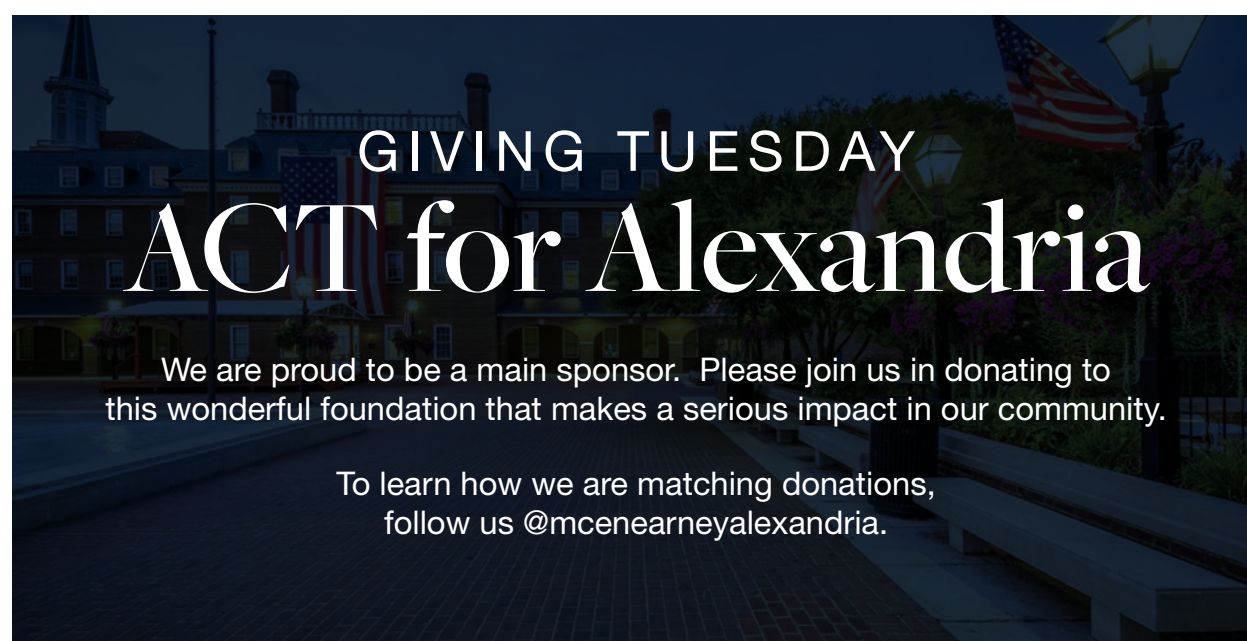


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BIG TREES



PHOTO BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



PHOTOS BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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. E. Brockman in *Trees of North America*. “From the human point of view, trees are a multipurpose 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 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 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

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THE AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF DELIA SULLIVAN



BY JOHN A. MCCREARY

Historic Tulip Poplar tree zat Mount Vernon Estate

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” command 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'



PHOTO BY GEORGE LEDEC

Cathy Ledec and a swamp chestnut oak tree in Huntley Meadows Park.

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

Trees provide ecological services. 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

SEE BIG TREES, PAGE 9

Why Care about Trees?

Many suburban and urban native trees

HOLIDAYS



Deck the Malls

On Nov. 20, Belle View Shopping Center launched the winter holiday shopping season by installing new banners across the parking lot. The red welcome banners came down and holiday banners went up.

PHOTOS BY
GLENDA BOOTH



STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY



The Students, Faculty and Families of Stratford Landing Elementary School Say THANK YOU to all of our SPONSORS of the 2021 Rock 'n Run!



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The Rock'n Run is Stratford Landing Elementary School's biggest fundraiser of the year! All proceeds go directly to meeting the needs of our teachers and students.



A week later, in the Kingstowne parking lot, the circle of tire marks are a reminder of the street racing incident.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON\CONNECTION

Street Racers Strike in Kingstowne

Tire marks remain long after the motorists fled.

BY MIKE SALMON
GAZETTE PACKET

The parking lot in Kingstowne became a meeting place for street racers in the over-night hours of Saturday, Nov. 13, and the reckless swagger and loud mufflers rang out before the police to put a lid on it all.

There is a ring of tire marks in one section of the lot where the donuts took place.

Bill, shopping cart attendant at Giant saw all the action while collecting carts from the lot.

“Bunch of kids doing donuts, cops were trying to chase them down,” he said.

According to the police, officers were called to the area for reports of 100-200 cars driving recklessly with a large crowd gathered. Officers worked to disperse the crowds, and two minor crashes occurred. No injuries were reported. Officers are currently working through the investigation, reviewing any video and photo evidence, the FCPD said.

To the area residents, the police reports conflict with what they saw, say several people on social media.

“We wondered about that. We saw cars with license plate details covered up,” said Jeannine Deem Purdy on Facebook.

Nicole Glynn Miller listened on a scanner that seemed to indicate more than just a traffic incident. “A cop told the entire world listening to the police scanner that they had fireworks thrown at them and beer bottles,” she wrote. There were no arrests according to police.

There were questions flying around about tickets given out, police officers being outnumbered and the stories changing up by officials, or developing.

Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) issued a “Full Statement on the Kingstowne Street Race Disturbance,” as he called it.

“I am aware of the event that occurred in Kings-



A police vehicle from nearby parks in the center of the donut tire marks.

towne last Saturday where a crowd of over a hundred people were engaging in an unsafe car meet-up. As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, I take instances like what occurred Saturday extremely seriously. I am pleased with the immediate response of the Fairfax County Police Department, and I commend them on their ability to disperse the crowd without further escalation or injuries. As the investigation continues, I’m personally committed to advocating for any resources that FCPD, and specifically the Franconia Station, require to prevent any such future disturbances,” it said.

Lusk also issued a statement from Captain James Krause, Commander of the Franconia District Station:

“We will continue to work with our business owners as well as other County partners to prevent and deter similar incidents from happening in the future. Our officers monitor social media platforms for events throughout the County. Commanders at each district station allocate resources to address any concerns that may be posed to our community.” They urged anyone that sees dangerous driving behavior in progress to call 911 or the non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.

Reports of using cars and motorcycles recklessly are coming in from other areas too. According to posts on a gossip website, street racers have used Cinder Bed Road in the Newington area, or they would “meet at the shell in Burke and run on 123.”

In July, there was an intersection blockage at Fourth and Tangey streets S.E. in Washington, D.C., where the drivers did donuts in the intersection, blocking traffic. There is a film of this on YouTube. “These people are just testing the limits of what they can get away with,” said one comment.



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A Tale of Two Claras in the Nutcracker

Juggling the roles makes for a whirlwind weekend at Metropolitan Arts School.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The Nutcracker story is full of timeless characters that play out the story in similar fashions, but each with a special aspect that sets it apart from year to year. At the Metropolitan School of the Arts in Kingstowne, there are two young women playing Clara, one of the main characters, and the two dancers are having the time of their lives at Metropolitan while playing the same character.

"We do work together, but we want to make it unique, so we do our Clara's different," said Sara Yoon, a Clara for the next few weeks along with Meghan Ong, the other Clara. In the first weekend in December, the show is on two times a day, and the Claras switch for each show, taking on different roles when they're not Clara. Meghan's other role is a snow soloist while Sara's is an Arabian soloist.

"We are dancing the whole final act without a break, it's very tiring," said Meghan.

One thing they have in common is the love of dance and their dedication to the Metropolitan. Sara, age 16, is in her 10th year performing the Nutcracker at Metropolitan and Meghan is

in her fifth year. They both have made friends through the dance studio, gained skills in dancing and discipline, and now get a chance to

If You Go ...

The Nutcracker

Dec. 4-5 at noon and 5 p.m.
Rachel M Schlesinger
Concert Hall and Arts Center
NOVA Alexandria Campus
4915 East Campus Drive,
Alexandria
\$28 Adults,
\$26 Seniors and Students

show what they've learned on stage in a main role in front of a live audience.

"My parents put me in dance to get all the energy out, and I stayed with it," Meghan said.

All this running around, dancing, singing and working with others is part of the training. At Metropolitan, some graduates go on to bigger and better things in dance. Some enroll in performance colleges, and beyond. One former student, Brianna Latrash, had roles on the dance team at Kings Dominion one summer, and on Broadway.

It all starts with a roll in a performance like the Nutcracker though. "It keeps them inspired and they go on to bigger things," said Jackie Doherty at Metropolitan. "Even the younger ones, it keeps them inspired."

Over the summer, both Sara Yoon and Meghan Ong attended ballet school out of the area. Megan did five



The Nutcracker at Metropolitan has it all — Clara, Sugar Plum Fairies, toy soldiers, snowflakes, and the Nutcracker to enchant with this holiday classic.



Nutcracker star Meghan Ong with the promotional poster of her as Clara. The posters in the lobby will be on the girls walls at home following the event.

weeks at a ballet school in Florida, while Sara attended Ellison Ballet in New York.

The two Claras have their sights set on

bigger things in the future, even while they're still in high school.

Sara is a student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, and inspires to be like Miko Fogarty, a star ballerina who is now in medical school.

Meghan is a freshman at Edison High School who looks up to Misty Copeland, a dancer who is "breaking the ballet stereotype, so fun to watch," she said.

But for now, the two Claras will concentrate on their roles with the rest of the Nutcracker cast, mentally preparing and honing their art for this holiday classic. On the wall, the two Claras are featured in posters in costume. They both look back

on the photo shoot with a smile. In October, a professional photographer came in, and



Nutcracker star Sara Yoon with the promotional poster of her as Clara.

the final product is very professional.

"I was a little nervous, but it was a fun process," said Meghan.

"Our moms were there," Sara added.

SENIOR LIVING

History Revisited

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

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKETT

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."

Mini-Grants for Youth-Led Projects to Reduce Stigma of Mental Illness

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) is once again offering mini-grants for youth-led projects to reduce stigma among their peers, with support from the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia which is funded by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. In addition to the goal of reducing the stigma around mental illness, the mini-grants also aim to promote help-seeking behaviors. While mental health concerns and disorders are common, frank discussions about them are not a common occurrence. Suicide is the third leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24.

These mini-grants will fund youth-

planned, youth-led projects within Fairfax County, Fairfax City, and Falls Church City, to be completed by August 15, 2022. A total of \$6,000 is available, for requests not to exceed \$1,000 each.

Proposals are due Monday, Nov. 29, 2021 and awards will be announced Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. For more information on the program, some ideas from previous awardees, and how to apply visit the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) website <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/sites/community-services-board/files/assets/documents/2021-2022%20youth-led-mini-grant-rfp.pdf>



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

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WHERE TO GIVE LOCALLY

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.bhmv.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 Uninformed 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, Preschool 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

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 9

Let Us Know Your View

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

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A Connection Newspaper



WHERE TO GIVE LOCALLY

FROM PAGE 8

to help members stay safe, secure, 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/ HelpLine: 571-458.7310, Email: info@nami-nova.org

❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, (571) 482-4770. Work with 450+ nonprofit partners across the region, partners who distribute an average of 88,000 meals daily. Together, provide more than 30 million meals every year. www.capitalarea-foodbank.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://volunteeralexandria.org>; Volunteer recruitment and placement, court-referred community service placement, community awareness events, and volunteer management training.

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF WATER RATE AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

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

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2022, include the following:

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

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

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

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

-- \$1,000s --		
Category	2021	2022
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$58,379	\$63,585
Power and Utilities	10,597	10,795
Chemicals	7,637	8,688
Purchased Water	6,863	8,013
Supplies and Materials	4,984	5,272
Insurance	1,157	1,214
Fuel	680	753
Postage	585	618
Contractual Services	11,737	12,526
Professional Services	1,254	1,249
Other	2,243	2,740
Sub-Total	106,116	115,453
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,763)	(10,949)
Total	\$95,353	\$104,504
Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:		
Debt Payment	\$42,484,307	
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000	
General Fund	\$47,922,000	

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

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

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

Written comments can be sent to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

Mount Vernon Area's Big Trees

FROM PAGE 3

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 prop-

erty 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.mountvernontrail.org).

Thanksgiving Day Family Run



Register at MountVernonLeeChamber.org

November 25
8:00 am
Kingstowne

Bring canned goods
for local food banks



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Northern Virginians Aid Afghan Evacuee Family

FROM PAGE 1

Kuwait, several groups connected to help each other in their mission, including some still on active duty in Afghanistan.

Communications in Afghanistan required encryption to avoid leading the Taliban to the hidden families.

Over several harrowing days and nights, the family, six girls under the age of ten, six women, and six men, reached the airport and were safely airlifted to Germany. Their escape included narrowly missing the suicide bombing at Kabul International Airport.

Javid's was not the only family aided by the group.

"Our efforts to date have successfully rescued 12 translators and their families. This is great news, but the work continues," according to the group's Go Fund Me. "There are many others our group is working on getting out of Afghanistan including interpreters who directly supported Special Operations, Medical Professionals, and workers who supported an Afghan Orphanage all of whom are in fear for their lives for working with US Forces. Many more still in harm's way, trying to get out of Afghanistan."

Read more at <https://gofund.me/b5cf1eb0>

MEANWHILE IN GERMANY, at U.S. Air Force, Ramstein Air Base, another northern Virginia couple, Colby and Linsey Wise were also heeding the call to help. The Wise family, formerly of Falls Church, had been in Germany for four years with Colby's company, providing Defense Department support. Ramstein Air Base was designated to receive evacuees airlifted from Kabul as a point of departure to the U.S. and other countries.

The Ramstein Air Base newsletter told of a growing effort, "What started as a clothing and shoe drive turned into a large donation process to sustain the evacuee population from Afghanistan temporarily housed on Ramstein Air Base, Germany, during Operation Allies Welcome. ... The team received donations valued at \$1.3 million from local and international communities during the evacuation operations. The donation process began on the evening of Aug. 19, 2021, shortly after [the first] evacuees arrived at Ramstein. It dawned on us really quickly that we needed more space. Many of the donated items were not only from the Kaiserslautern Military Community, but they were from the United States, Belgium, France and other countries around the



PHOTO BY LINSEY WISE

Northern Virginians residing in Germany buy out the IKEA store inventory of blankets to contribute to evacuees arriving at Ramstein Air Base.



PHOTO BY LINSEY WISE

A second sort of donations at Ramstein Air Base separated clothing by sex, age and size.



PHOTO BY LINSEY WISE

Three year old Jackson Wise helps pack and load jackets and other warm clothing donated by friends and neighbors of his family for evacuees traveling through Germany.



PHOTO BY JON-PAUL DELANCE

Cynthia Fox brings toys, books and stickers, which the girls particularly enjoyed, to Javid's daughters, Sahar, 5 years old, Kawsar, 3 years old, and Hila 7 years old.

Northern Virginian group organizer, veteran Ron Green (left), of Alexandria, stands with Afghan evacuee Javi on Quantico Marine Base after Javi's escape from Kabul with his family.



PHOTO BY JON-PAUL DELANCE

world. Volunteers collected more than 110 tons of donations."

Linsey Wise described the donation center effort. "The first sort was general sorting (e.g., men's clothes, kids shoes, baby food), the second sort was more specific (e.g., boys clothes size 2T, baby formula, women's small pants). Once sorted, the donations went to a hardened shelter area on Ramstein AB where other volunteers pulled together clothing kits. These kits contained underwear, socks, pants, shirts, scarves, hats, coats, etc. and were handed out to evacuees once they got some essentials from the Red Cross. We tried to ensure that folks had a clean set of warm clothes right away since many people came with only the clothes on their backs."

Linsey added, "Never have I felt the need to give back more than during 'Operation Allies Welcome.' Colby and I literally put our lives on pause [and hired babysitters] so we could volunteer, purchase essential items, and make purchases on behalf of friends, family, and

coworkers back stateside. It was a very humbling and emotional experience, and I feel so lucky to have been a part of this effort and meet some amazing people along the way."

Leaving Ramstein Air Base, Javid and his family were flown to Dulles International Airport, then transported to temporary housing at Quantico Marine Base. After many weeks, they are still at Quantico as they await completion of final processing for the assistance of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), part of the United Nations System, the leading inter-governmental organization providing support for immigrants across the globe. IOM will assist the family in getting to Seattle, where they plan to settle near family members who have been in the

U.S. for some time.

Meanwhile In Virginia, the Fox-Green group has continued to organize donations. Multiple visits to the evacuee family at Quantico included delivery of four truckloads of essentials from donors across Northern Virginia. Fox said that beyond clothing and shoes, they brought books to help entertain the girls and assist them in learning English.

She commented that the family will once again be able to take only a limited amount of belongings with them on the final part of their journey as they fly to Seattle. Fox was complimentary of the work that charities such as Lutheran Social Services are doing to support refugees with transportation, housing, job assistance, mentoring, and other essential needs

beyond what the small local group can manage. The Lutheran's national capital group, with the help of 5,300 volunteers, has assisted 926 Afghan allies to date.

Give to Help Refugees

At a time of the year when many more area citizens will open their hearts to help others in need, these local charities are offering assistance to Afghan evacuees who must start again from nothing:

Lutheran Services, National Capital Area, www.lssnca.org

Afghan Youth Relief Foundation, Chantilly, www.aryl.org

Catholic Charities, Arlington, www.ccca.net

Homes Not Borders, Washington D.C., www.homesnotborders.org

Local veteran sponsored fund, <https://gofund.me/b5cf1eb0>



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

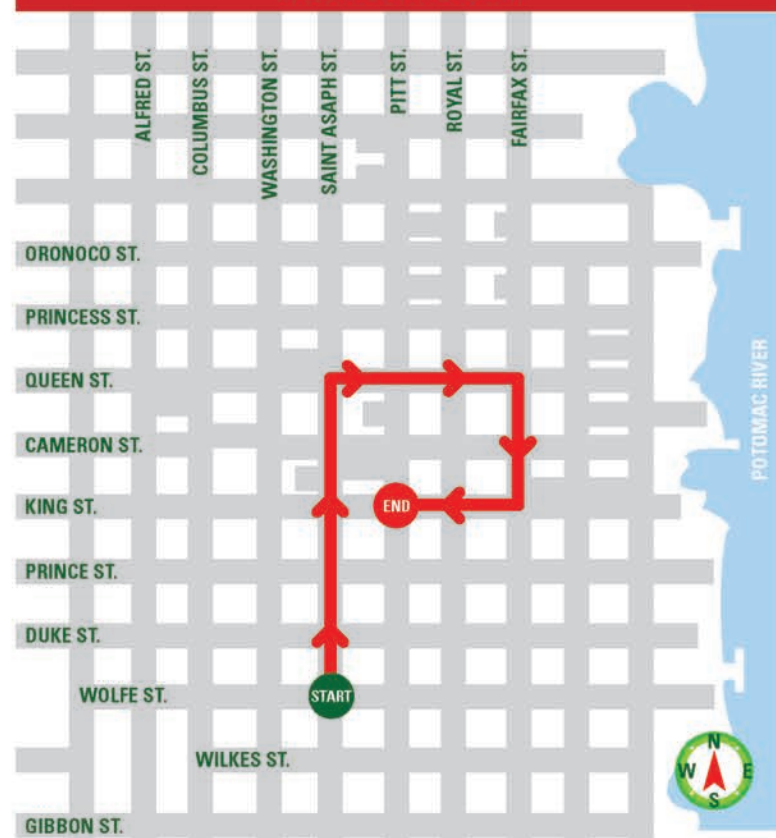
Old Town Alexandria

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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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.

Next Steps for Confederate Names Task Force

Residents react to proposal to change names of Lee and Lee-Jackson Memorial highways.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The public comment period on whether one or both of Fairfax County's highways, Lee, Route 29 and Lee-Jackson Memorial, Route 50, should be renamed ended on Nov. 12. The next step for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' Confederate Names Task Force (CNTF), composed of 28 members and chaired by member Evelyn Spain at their meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 30, is to review the public feedback received and reach their final recommendation.

Recapping the actions since July 2021, the Board charged the Task Force with studying the highway names and recommending to them whether or not to change the names of one or both roadways and provide recommendations on suggested alternative names if such a decision is made. It is noteworthy that if the Board wished to rename one or both roads, they would submit a formal request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and agree to cover the expense of changing the street signs.

According to Tom Biesiadny, director of the Fairfax County Transportation Department, the cost to manufacture and change the signs alone, 171 signs on 14.1 miles of Lee Highway and 55 signs along 8.43 miles of Lee-Jackson Memorial Highway, would cost between \$1 million and \$4.2 million.

The Board asked staff to explain the existing County process for changing the name of a secondary road in a neighborhood; provide information about changing the names of subdivisions for the benefit of citizens interested in making those changes; coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions that are undertaking name change processes and return to the Board with information about those processes; and provide a report about the history of the naming and renaming of the Magisterial Districts. The Task Force solicited feedback through various methods, including an online survey, email, phone calls, in-person and virtual community listening sessions, and paper surveys at Fairfax County Libraries.

At the Confederate Names Task Force community input meeting held virtually on Nov. 1, caller Colin Smith said that during the last 18 months, he'd seen dozens of small businesses close, more than he'd ever seen in the three decades that he lived in the County. "I believe whatever money is being discussed, potentially earmarked for changing street names through signs, should be spent in more appropriate arenas," he said. He named low-interest loans for small businesses, school renovations, and public parks.

David Collier said that he understood there was a cost associated with it, but he considered the names a wrong that has been in place for a long time, and

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Lee Highway sign in Fairfax County

November 15	Recommendation refinement (Development of Options) If the group is recommending changing the names, identify the top 10 alternatives for each road Task small group to work with Chair and staff to develop report	
December 13	Refinement of options and report Narrow down the list of alternative names from 10-5 Adoption of final report	
December 20	Adoption of final language in report, planning for next steps with Board	
January 2022	Meet with Board to share recommendations & report	

Meeting schedule for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Confederate Names Task Force

it was worthy of the investment. As for the historical perspective argument and that people want to cement history, he said, "I think ... sometimes you need to turn the page and move on. It is clear it is offensive to many."

Jeffrey Herron said that he echoed the sentiment that we don't need to spend "our hard-earned tax money to change street names."

Luella Benedetto said that in her estimation, the County should not be naming things after wars and their participants, generals, and so forth at all, on any side.

Pending the Task Force's recommendation at their Nov. 30 meeting, the next steps could be to begin drafting the report and developing a timeline, leading to a meeting in January 2022 with the Board.

As for what other jurisdictions are doing, on July 17, 2021, the Arlington County Board voted to officially rename US Route 29 Lee Highway to Langston Boulevard within the boundaries of Arlington County between North Lynn Street and the City of Falls Church.

Route 309/"Lee Highway"/"Old Lee Highway" should be renamed Cherry Hill Road, according to a resolution approved by the Arlington County Board on Oct. 19, 2021. The Resolution recommends ultimate approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

The Arlington County website states that the name change will not affect USPS mail services. Arlington County will notify USPS directly, and their Address Management System will be updated. Following USPS updates, the name change will be reflected in the address management systems for major delivery services such as FedEx and UPS.

Under state law, the locality bears all costs associated with producing, placing, and maintaining new street signage. Arlington estimated the cost of the renaming to be up to \$300,000.

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)

Police Reports from Mount Vernon District Station

STABBING: 8400 block of Richmond Highway, 11/15/21, 7:16 p.m. After a verbal altercation, a 55-year-old man from Alexandria, produced a knife and cut the victim. The victim was transported to the hospital with injuries that were deemed non-life threatening. Warrants for malicious wounding were obtained for the Alexandria man. This was not a random act, and the offender was known to the victim.

ROBBERY: 7400 block of Richmond Highway, 11/16/21, 1:30 p.m. While investigating an assault, a 31-year-old man from D.C. ran from the scene and ran to a nearby car dealership. At the dealership, he forcefully removed keys from the victim and stole a 2007 Dodge Caliber. No injuries were reported. Warrants for robbery have been obtained against the 31-year-old man.

ATTEMPTED COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 2253 Huntington Avenue (Checks Cashed), 11/17/21, 6:43 p.m. A man entered the business, implied he had a weapon, and attempted to take merchandise. No injuries were reported.

LARCENY/ BRANDISHING WEAPON (KNIFE)/ ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT: 6303 Richmond Highway (Walmart), 11/17/21, 7:07 p.m. Officers responded to the location for a man who took merchandise and was threatening people with a large knife. When the first officer arrived, the 35-year-old man of Alexandria, was outside the business with the knife. Initially, the man refused to obey the commands and approached the officer aggressively with the knife. A CEW was deployed to safely take the man into custody. No injuries were reported, and the man was charged with larceny, brandishing a weapon, and assault on a law enforcement officer.

ATTEMPTED CARJACKING: Pole Road and Sacramento Drive, 11/19/21, 12:02 a.m. The victim, a for-hire driver, dropped off his passenger at his requested destination. The passenger, a 26-year-old man from Alexandria, requested the victim to remain at that location so he could have an additional ride. When the man returned, he displayed a handgun and demanded the victim's vehicle. The victim was able to drive away and was not injured. The man was located near the scene and arrested for robbery.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 24

Free Thanksgiving Gift Basket Give-away. Stop by the Mt. Vernon Farmers Market on Wednesday, Nov. 24 for a chance to win a free Thanksgiving gift basket stocked with products and gift certificates from the market's local farmers and food producers. The Mt. Vernon market is held from 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through Dec. 22) at the Sherwood Regional Library. The drawing for the gift basket will

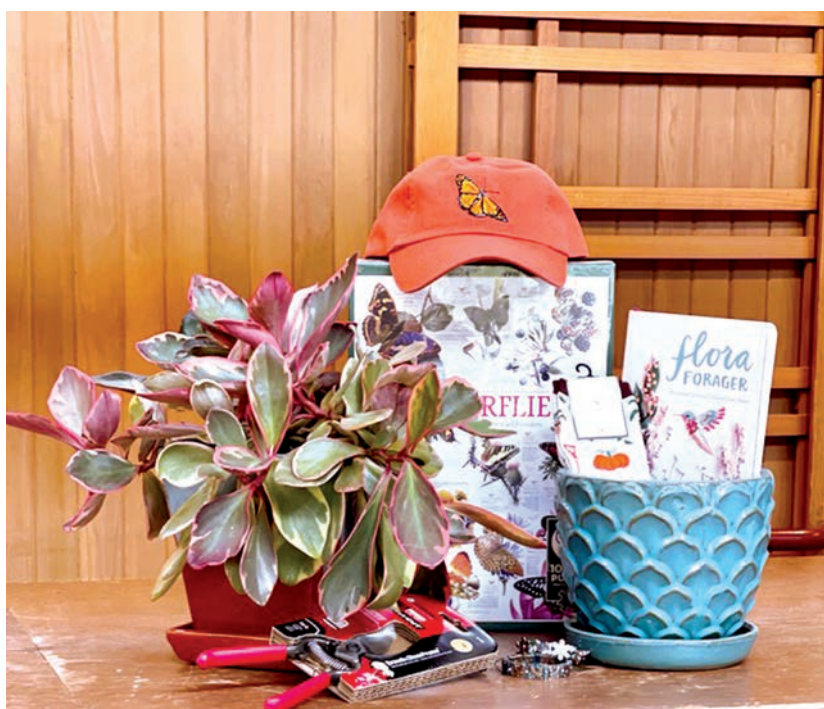
be held on Nov. 24 at 11 a.m.; you do not need to be present to win. While you're at the market, you can pick up all the fixings for your Thanksgiving dinner.

Honey Brook Farms and Valentine's Bakery & Meats offer locally raised turkeys (they have been taking advance orders so supplies may be limited), and they always sell a variety of other meats, including sausage and broth for stuffing. For

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 20

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 1, 2021 ♦ 15

SHOP LOCALLY



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

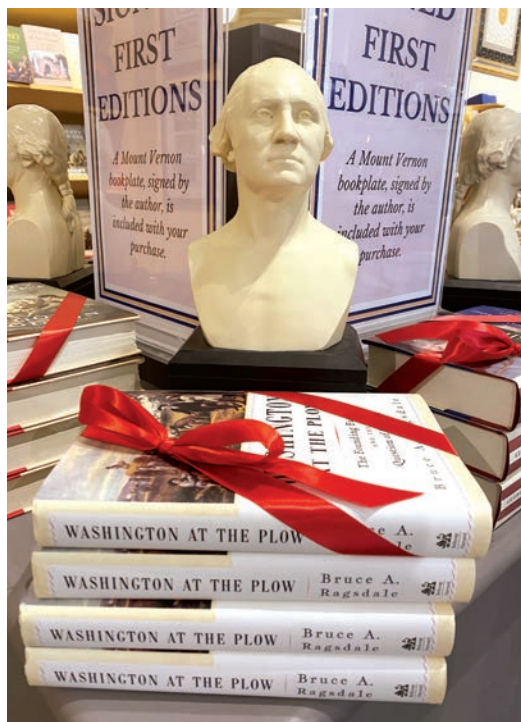
your pet to celebrate Christmas everyday with nutritional honey coated buffalo treats. And since there is no sweeter time than the holidays to treat someone, consider GIVEPET's holiday snacks that let you treat your pet (and a dog in the shelter) with every package purchased. It is hard to resist the 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 ♦ MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ 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

Giving Thanks

Residents share their reasons to be grateful.



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.”

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

SEE RESIDENTS SHARE, PAGE 21



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.”

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

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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 clean skincare Best Life Organics, handmade clay jewelry maker Soultrey,

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 Vines & 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

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THE CONNECTION
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Children's & Teens' Connection 2021

During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette and Children's Almanac) is a long-time tradition.

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.

To submit art, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts, please email kimm.mary@gmail.com.

Advertising Opportunity

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. Brad-dock 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: alexandri-ava.gov/forward

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

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

DEC. 11, 12, 18, 19

Tall Ship Providence Christmas Story Time. At 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. At Tall ship Providence, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Come aboard the tall ship Providence for a special Christmas story time. This year's tale will be “The Christmas Ship,” the true story of the schooner Rouse Simmons, the ship that for years supplied Christmas trees to the people of Chicago by making a dangerous winter

crossing of Lake Michigan. This story is sure to delight young sailors ages 5 to 12. Check in at the Gazebo on the G-H Pier next to Founder's Park. Visit the website: tallshipprovidence.org

DEC. 17-18

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

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 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

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

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 15

an appetizer or alternative to turkey, Arnest Seafood offers impeccably fresh fish, crab cakes, crab dip, oysters and more from the Chesapeake Bay. Another option is empanadas from House of Empanadas. The market's produce vendors—Laurel Grove Farms, Ochoa Produce and Three Way Farms—will have plenty of potatoes, sweet potatoes and other vegetables, while Twin Springs Fruit Farm offers award-winning apples,

cider, vegetables and more. King Mushrooms has a selection of exotic mushrooms to use in stuffings or side dishes. Stop by Grace's Pastries, Great Harvest Bread Co. and Valentine's for breads, rolls and pies for your Thanksgiving table. No. 1 Sons offers a variety of pickles, kimchi and more. Pick up herbs and spices for your feast at Sharkawi Farms' stand. Misty Meadow Farm Creamery sells farm-fresh milk, chocolate milk, cheese, ice cream and cheesecake. To finish your feast, the Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. has a selection

of locally roasted coffees.

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.

ONGOING

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

Sherwood Hall Lane. All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT cards can be used. As a bonus, the market will match up to \$20 per market visit in SNAP dollars for fruits and vegetables. This year's vendors are: Arnest Seafood – crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters. Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch

Residents Share Their Reasons to be Grateful

FROM PAGE 17

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



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.”

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET

“I thank the Lord every day just for being here.”

— Charles Nelson, 90

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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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SHOP LOCALLY

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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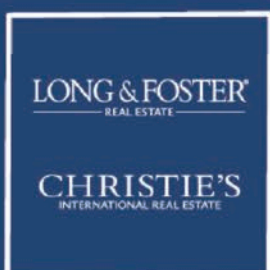
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