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PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY-JO MANNEY

# Fairfax Station **CONNECTION** Clifton & Lorton



At Fair Winds in Lorton, the  
Business in the Brewery  
event -- on Small Business  
Saturday -- attracted many.

## Small Business Saturday Defies Soaking Rain

NEWS, PAGE 3

## One-Lane Underpass Now Seeing Backups

NEWS, PAGE 12

## Holiday Season with 'Man of La Mancha'

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

PAGE 10

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## Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018, 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, 2019, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,150 to \$4,260<sup>1</sup>.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$13,420 to \$15,285.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,260 to \$1,300<sup>1</sup>.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.94 to \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge for meters larger than a standard 5/8" residential meter<sup>1</sup>.
6. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$45 to \$48.
7. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
8. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$36 to \$38.

<sup>1</sup>Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$183.2 million budget for calendar year 2019<sup>1</sup>. Revenues are expected to be \$183.2 million in 2019. Water sales are expected to provide \$158.3 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-\$1,000s -	
	2018	2019
Personal Services and Employee Benefits	\$ 55,934	\$ 57,584
Power and Utilities	10,755	11,102
Chemicals	6,958	7,532
Purchased Water	7,810	7,155
Supplies and Materials	5,261	5,444
Insurance	955	1,075
Fuel	700	728
Postage	603	612
Contractual Services	12,481	12,974
Professional Services	1,001	1,065
Other	2,428	2,505
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>104,886</b>	<b>107,776</b>
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,248)	(10,380)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 94,638</b>	<b>\$ 97,396</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,988,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,337,000

<sup>1</sup> Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at [www.fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates). A copy of the proposed budget can be found at [www.fairfaxwater.org](http://www.fairfaxwater.org). Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

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

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

## PEOPLE

### Historic Pohick Church Minister Receives Award

Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Costa of the Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild received the Bronze Good Citizenship Medal from President Ernie Coggins of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution at the conclusion of a program that honored seven veterans living at the Sunrise at Mount Vernon assisted-living facility in Alexandria on Nov. 10. After honoring the esteemed veterans of our armed forces for Veterans Day, the Bronze Good Citizenship medal was awarded by the chapter for Reverend Costa's service to the residents, to the local SAR, and for supporting Revolutionary War-era history programs in the area.



### Burke Student Earns American Heritage Girls Award

Theresa M. Morthland of Burke earned the Stars & Stripes Award, the highest recognition that American Heritage Girls offers to girl members. The award requires a great deal of time, sacrifice and devotion to achieve.

In addition to living out the American Heritage Girls creed and oath, award recipients complete a number of requirements, including earning a total of 16 merit badges; holding a leadership position in their troop for a minimum of six months; planning, developing and providing leadership to others in a service project lasting more than 100 hours; writing a life ambition/spiritual walk essay and résumé; and passing a Board of Review.

Morthland chose to serve the Church of the Nativity Catholic School by designing and building an elevated sandbox with an innovative design so preschool children in wheelchairs and children with tactile difficulties can play in the sand with their friends. The sandbox has become a focal point in the playground and with multiple classes of children. She worked with multiple schools before actual construction, making presentations to each administration to seek approval. She also made a presentation to the parish's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 seeking and ultimately receiving their financial support to complete the project.

Morthland served as the troop's Senior Troop Leader, Closet Coordinator, and earned multiple awards, such as, the Harriet Tubman Level Award, Dolley Madison Level Award, and the Mary, the First Disciple Religious Medal.

A member of Immanuel Bible Church's American Heritage Girls Troop VA1115,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Theresa M. Morthland of Burke.**

Morthland is the 448th girl nationally — and the 37th girl in Virginia — to earn the Stars & Stripes Award. She will be recognized in a court-of-honor ceremony at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17, at Immanuel Bible Church in Annandale.

She is the daughter of Sam and Michele Morthland of Burke and the family attends the Church of the Nativity Catholic Church in Burke. She graduated Lake Braddock Secondary School in June where she was active in the Color Guard. She currently attends West Virginia University as a Freshman in Forensics Biology. She was recognized by the college with both academic and leadership scholarships.

American Heritage Girls Inc. is a national character-development organization for girls ages 5 to 18 that embraces Christian values and encourages family involvement. For more information, go to [www.americanheritagegirls.org](http://www.americanheritagegirls.org).

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# OPINION

## Call for Children's Connection 2018

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good friend?

❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

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

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

location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2018.

You can see last year's editions by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at

[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com).

For Arlington, Potomac, CentreView, Chantilly, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, email to Steven Mauren, [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

### EDITORIAL

## Bringing People in from the Cold

This year 36 churches will be host sites for the hypothermia program.

BY JOE FAY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FACETS



Fifteen years ago, two Fairfax men froze to death during the fall. At the time, FACETS was a nonprofit that was primarily serving meals to the county's homeless in partnership with several churches. FACETS' leaders knew that feeding people only to send them back into the extreme cold was not a great answer for the growing number of people who were homeless in the community.

That winter FACETS responded by offering temporary shelter in conjunction with its partner churches, the Lamb Center, and Salvation Army to get people in from the cold. The first year, these hypothermia shelters rotated to several different churches and only opened when the temperatures dropped below freezing. Soon the centers were serving up to 60 people on cold nights.

The program has evolved as the region's population has grown. In 2006, FACETS worked on policies and procedures with the county and formally began managing central Fairfax's Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program. This year 36 churches will be host sites for the program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

These faith community partners rotate when opening their doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to welcome people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and preparing the space. Other volunteers are planning menus. Unique partnerships have formed as a result of the program as Christians, Muslims, Jews, and more join together to help the homeless and in the process learn about each other.

The effort also matured beyond just providing safe haven. Guests now receive life-changing

case management. By interacting with guests at the shelters, FACETS' case managers are able to address their needs in a very personal way by gaining their trust and connecting them with housing solutions and critical services. They also receive a variety of services from the county.

Last year 283 guests were given shelter from the biting cold. More than 3,800 people volunteered 33,000 hours last season to care for these guests who are homeless. By the end of season, 41 of these people had left homelessness behind and were housed.

This year's Hypothermia Response and Prevention Program began the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and runs seven nights a week through April 1. With the projected cold and forecasts of a very snowy winter season, demand is expected to grow.

To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit us at [www.FACETSCares.org](http://www.FACETSCares.org).

*FACETS is a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness.*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Protecting Our Diversity

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for publishing the article about the Fairfax For All coalition's recent activities ("Advocating for Immigrant Protection").

As the daughter of two immigrants, immigration policy has al-

ways been important to me — especially as the debate over deportation and ICE has escalated. My parents were fortunate enough to be able to immigrate legally, and have been citizens for about 10 years, but in examining the data I've come to see that that's most likely to do with the fact that they are white and had college degrees. Our town is so beautifully diverse,

and I believe that we're losing an important part of our culture when immigrants are scared to participate in the community for fear of deportation.

If what Fairfax For All says is true, then there is an entire group of people in our town who are being excluded from important decisions, prevented from seeking medical attention, and afraid to participate

in the community — all out of fear. I'm learning just how important these relationships to the community, or social ties, are. They allow individuals a sense of purpose and help them to feel assimilated into this community that we like to profess as being so diverse.

**Emma Steinhobel**  
Herndon

Fairfax Station,  
Lorton & Clifton  
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# BULLETIN

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

## HOLIDAY DONATIONS

**Blanket and Coat Drive.** Through Dec. 8. Organized by NOVA Relief Center, blankets and coats will be sent to refugees in three camps in Jordan this winter. Blankets and coats should be new or gently worn. Monetary donations are also needed and may be made to NOVA Relief Center online and at some drop-off locations. For drop-off sites or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit [novareliefcenter.org](http://novareliefcenter.org).

**Holiday Basket Donation.** Christmas baskets by Dec. 17. Preparing a special holiday meal and joining one's family around the table to give thanks are visions that come to mind when we think of Christmas dinner. For many families and individuals, enjoying a special holiday meal when finances are tight is just not possible. Visit [www.koinoniacares.org/holiday-baskets.html](http://www.koinoniacares.org/holiday-baskets.html) for suggestions and to sign up to donate a basket.

**Food for Fines.** Nov. 1-30. Fairfax County Public Library will be hosting a food drive called "Food for Fines." Canned goods and other non-perishable items collected during the drive will be donated to Food for Others, food pantry and food rescue that serves Fairfax County. Each item donated will erase \$1 from a patron's overdue fines up to a maximum of \$15. Customers may donate even if there are no fines accrued. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/food-fines](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/food-fines) for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9



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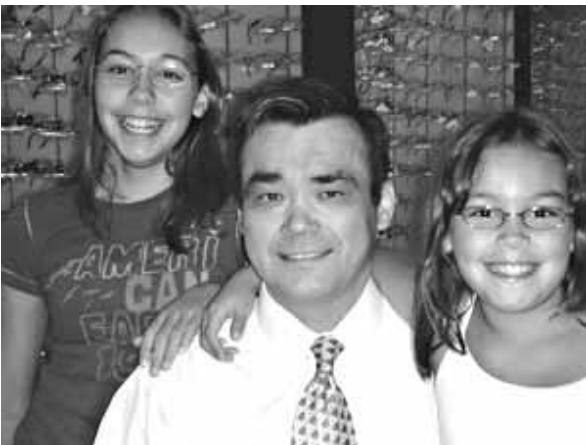
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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



BY ROB CUEVAS/COURTESY PROVIDENCE PLAYERS



PHOTO COURTESY PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

**Ebenezer (portrayed by David Whitehead) in the Providence Players production of Rob Zapple's adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.**

**Roxanne Waite portrays Mrs. Cratchit in the Providence Players production of Rob Zapple's adaptation of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.**

# Holiday Story of Redemption and Love

Providence Players present Rob Zapple's adaptation of 'A Christmas Carol.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
 THE CONNECTION

### Where and When

For its Holiday Season production, the Providence Players are presenting a special adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" with an American Depression era setting. The Rob Zapple adaptation is directed by Beth Giles-Whitehead. She cast more than two dozen actors to bring the show to vivid life along with live Bluegrass music.

Zapple's "A Christmas Carol" is set during a bitter cold December 1933, in a down-on-its-fortunes St. Louis neighborhood. Times are hard. People are out of work and have lost hope. An unemployed Shakespearean actor and his manager run out of gas. The townsfolk agree to supply them with gas if they tell them the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim. "The story of Ebenezer Scrooge's redemption and turn to love and service for others will always need to be heard no matter how many Christmas seasons come and go," said Barbara Gilles-Whitehead, Providence Players director. "Our production will provide audiences the opportunity to see this familiar story through a different lens." Tiny Tim is played by Caden Mitchell (Mantua Elementary School), who said: "Tiny Tim is a really giving boy who wants to help everyone around him, even though he is one that needs help himself, due to his illness and disability. I like how much he loves everyone and they love him."

Talia Cutler (Kilmer Middle School) plays the Ghost of Christmas Past. "The ghost of Christmas Past has immense power and magic. She is a very different character than

what I normally play," Talia said. Bob Cratchit is portrayed by Daniel Lavanga: "Cratchit is so utterly devoted to his family. He would do anything for them, including putting up with Scrooge's abuse day in and day out. And yet he is not a bitter man." Roxanne Waite plays Mrs. Cratchit: "The moral of the importance of putting other people above material trappings, the power of interpersonal relationship, and redemption are timeless. It's important to be reminded of such themes and we can always use a good dose of it."

Ebenezer Scrooge is played by David Whitehead, who said: "I love the change that Ebenezer takes from coldness and disdain to compassion and gratitude. There is no other story like it, it lifts my spirits just playing it."

The Providence Players production of Zapple's "A Christmas Carol" will remind audiences that even during the most desperate of times, there is hope with community and family to help shelter you.

The Providence Players production of Zapple's "A Christmas Carol" will remind audiences that even during the most desperate of times, there is hope with community and family to help shelter you.

The Providence Players production of Zapple's "A Christmas Carol" will remind audiences that even during the most desperate of times, there is hope with community and family to help shelter you.

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# Holiday Season with 'Man of La Mancha'

Workhouse presents the musical for its holiday season production.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith stirring songs such as the iconic "The Impossible Dream," transformation and redemption are the heart of the moving musical, "Man of La Mancha." Inspired by the characters and adventures of the unlikely Spanish knight Don Quixote, created by Miguel de Cervantes, the multi Tony Award winning "Man of La Mancha" will be produced on the intimate stage at the Workhouse Arts Center theater with live musical accompaniment including flamenco guitar and percussive rhythms.

Under the musical direction of Merissa Driscoll, and direction and choreography by the veteran Workhouse team of Jeffrey Davis and Mary Payne, "Man of La Mancha" aims to provide audiences beauty in darkness and despair. It provides opportunities for self-reflection and renewed faith in finding hope, peace and reaching for the stars- following your own 'Impossible Dream," said Joseph Wallen, director, performing arts, Workhouse Arts Center.

Featured actors and singers in "Man of La Mancha" include Mary Payne portraying Aldonza, the woman with a tough exterior and gentle heart who wants to believe the stories she hears. John Hollinger is playing Cervantes and Quixote.

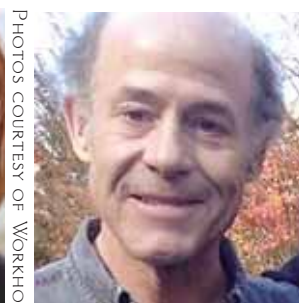
It is Hollinger who sings the iconic lyrics about marching for "a heavenly cause."

"I am I, Don Quixote, the lord of La Mancha, my destiny calls and I go...And the wild winds of fortune will carry me onward, Oh whithersoever they blow ... Onward to glory I go!"

"Man of La Mancha" is set historically in the period of the Spanish Inquisition. Author Cervantes is thrown in prison with a wicker trunk containing his belongings. His fellow prisoners doubt his ability to defend himself. They put him on a "mock trial" before he appears before the authorities. Cervantes



**Mary Payne** portrays **Aldonza** in the Workhouse Arts Center production of "Man of La Mancha."



**John Hollinger** portrays **Don Quixote/Cervantes** in the Workhouse Arts Center production.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

### Where and When

Workhouse Arts Center presents "Man of La Mancha" at W3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Building W3, Lorton. Performances Dec. 15 to Jan. 13, 2019. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. plus New Year's Eve performance. Tickets: \$20-\$35 (Note: Ticket prices may increase, based on demand. Advanced purchase recommended). Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org) or call 703-584-2900. Note: On Monday, Dec. 31, there will be a special performance that includes admission to a post-show New Year's Eve Countdown Party with music, tapas-style desserts and complimentary champagne toast to ring in 2019 in the McGuireWoods Gallery. Special pricing and after-party for New Year's Eve performance. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org) or call 703-584-2900

imagines a brave knight named Don Quixote and his trusty squire Sancho Panza. What follows is a play-within-a-play as objects in the wicker basket turn into a set, and his fellow inmates perform.

"Looking at the heart of the story, 'La Mancha' is a very appropriate or this time of year, of reflection," said Wallen. "Our Workhouse production will be a very personal experience as no seat is further than 50 feet from the stage. We want our guests to have the sensation that they are in the environment of the world of the production."

Inviting patrons to the performance Wallen added that the entire "La Mancha" team and crew aims to provide "an engaging evening on a cold winter night for the audience."

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

**Toys for Tots Donations.** Nov. 28-Dec. 8 at PaperMoon, 6315 Amherst Ave., Springfield. PaperMoon, a gentlemen's club in Springfield, will collect new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. Call 703-866-4160 or visit [www.papermoonvip.com](http://www.papermoonvip.com) for more.

**Toys for Tots Drive.** Through Dec. 10. Area Sheehy Auto Stores will collect new and unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Sheehy's Toys for Tots drop-off locations include:

- Sheehy Volkswagen of Springfield, 6601 Backlick Road, Springfield
- Sheehy Ford of Springfield, 6727 Loisdale Road, Springfield
- Sheehy Subaru of Springfield, 6571

Backlick Road, Springfield  
Patriot Harley-Davidson, 9739 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax

**Christmas Wish Donations and Volunteers.** Koinonia is now accepting donations of unwrapped Christmas gifts so that their clients can pick out gifts for their families. This year Christmas wishes will be held at Franconia United Methodist Church from Dec. 10-12. Donations will be accepted through Dec. 10. Visit [www.koinoniacares.org](http://www.koinoniacares.org) for a list of suggested toys and gift cards. Volunteers needed Dec. 9-12, call 703-971-1991.

**Sponsor a Local Family.** Through Dec. 14, Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread) is seeking volunteers to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with an individual or family with

demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a December holiday meal, and/or gifts for children under 18. Cash donations and gift cards are welcome to assist those who are not sponsored. A wonderful family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org). Contact 703-273-8829 or [jwalton@britepaths.org](mailto:jwalton@britepaths.org).

**Toy Drive.** Through Friday, Dec. 14 at local Weichert, Realtors offices. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. To find a local office, go to [www.weichert.com/offices/](http://www.weichert.com/offices/).

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

## ONGOING

**Red Cross Fundraiser.** Through Saturday, Dec. 15 at Craffthouse, 11861 Palace Way, Fairfax. All three Craffthouse locations in Northern Virginia are donating 10 percent of all bottled beer purchases to the American Red Cross – California Wildfires Fund to assist those affected by the wildfires in California. Call 703-825-1811 or visit [www.craffthouseusa.com](http://www.craffthouseusa.com) for more.

**Pop-Up Art show.** Through Dec. 16 at Gallery 57, 11899 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. Emerging Artists Initiative and the Peterson Companies are partnering to bring an artistic and creative facet to the Fairfax community. A new pop-up art gallery at Fairfax Corner Center will exhibit paintings and sculptures by four resident artists in vacant retail space. Free. [director@eaiinc.org](mailto:director@eaiinc.org) or visit [eaiinc.org](http://eaiinc.org)

**Glass National 2018.** Through Jan. 13 at The Workhouse Arts Center, Vulcan Gallery, W-16, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center presents its 3rd Annual Glass National exhibition. Glass National is a juried exhibition which promotes and displays the breadth of contemporary glass artwork being created throughout the USA and Canada by highlighting both functional and sculptural works. This year's juror is artist and educator Carmen Lozar, director of the Merwin and Wakeley Galleries at Illinois Wesleyan University. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/event/glass-national-2018](http://www.workhousearts.org/event/glass-national-2018).

## Founding Artists Exhibition.

Through Feb. 3 at The Workhouse Arts Center, Vulcan Muse Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center presents a group exhibition highlighting Studio and Arches artists that have been a part of the organization for its 10-year span. In honor of their dedication and support, the exhibition will survey their works in various mediums including painting, sculpture, fiber, glass, precious metals, and mixed media. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org) for more.

## Second Saturdays.

6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

**Smoke Free Bingo.** 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 29

**Genealogy Workshop.** 6:30-9 p.m. at Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Anna Maria Fitzhugh Chapter, NSDAR, will have a Genealogy Workshop. Prospective DAR members will receive assistance with the application process. Contact 703-690-7136 for more.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 29-DEC. 2

**BalletNova presents The Nutcracker.** Thursday-Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1 and 5 p.m.; Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. at George Mason High School Theatre, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. BalletNova's Nutcracker has become a holiday tradition. BalletNova presents a brand-new production of the holiday classic with new



## BalletNova Presents The Nutcracker

BalletNova's Nutcracker has become a holiday tradition. BalletNova presents a brand-new production of the holiday classic with new costumes, new characters and new choreography. The Sugar Plum Fairy is being danced by Willa Frantz, of Fairfax. Thursday-Friday, Nov. 29-30, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 1, 1 and 5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 2, 3 and 7 p.m. at George Mason High School Theatre, 7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. \$18-42. Call 703-778-3008 or visit [www.BalletNova.org](http://www.BalletNova.org) for more.

IMAGE BY  
RUTH JUDSON /  
ELIZABETH LUCREZIO

costumes, new characters and new choreography. The Sugar Plum Fairy is danced by Willa Frantz, of Fairfax. \$18-42. Call 703-778-3008 or visit [www.BalletNova.org](http://www.BalletNova.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 29-DEC. 1

**Holiday Book Sale.** Thursday, 3-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. More than 10,000 like new books in all categories, most at \$2 or less, plus loads of CDs, DVDs and special gift offerings. Over 3,000 children's books, too. Funds raised will pay for our children's programs and more. Free admission. Email [rbfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rbfriends@gmail.com) or call 703-451-8055.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 30-SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**The Pajama Game.** Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. at Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church. A musical based on the 1953 novel "7 1/2 Cents" by Richard Bissell. \$7. Visit [www.fchsdrama.org](http://www.fchsdrama.org) or [www.itickets.com/events/408638.html](http://www.itickets.com/events/408638.html).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**Holiday Extravaganza.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Santa arrives at 8:30 a.m. courtesy of the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department kicking off the Candy Cane Kids Fun Run for kids age 12 and under. At 9 a.m., 170 vendors featuring all sorts of handcrafted items will offer everything from handmade glass ornaments and jewelry to soaps, lotions, clothing, and holiday décor. Cookies with Santa, free, 9:30-12; Fairfax Co Sheriff, Child ID and fingerprinting, free, 9-3; Santa's Book Emporium, 9-3. Proceeds benefit the SCHS All Night Grad Party, PTSO, Band Boosters and Athletic Boosters. Free, \$3. Visit [www.southcountypthso.org](http://www.southcountypthso.org).

**Tyler's Mission Fundraiser.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Tyler's Mission, in partnership with

Beyond Batten Disease Foundation 501(3)(c), strives to raise awareness and funding for research, treatment and a cure. Tyler's Stars will be holding a fundraiser during the South County Holiday Extravaganza. Visit [www.defeatbatten.org](http://www.defeatbatten.org) to learn more about Tyler and Batten Disease.

**Advent Festival.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Open to all and designed with busy families in mind. Includes a Fair Trade Christmas Market, Christmas Concert (11 a.m.), Food Trucks, DIY Advent craft stations, free coffee and cookies and more. Free admission. Visit [ststephensfairfax.org](http://ststephensfairfax.org).

**Christmastide at Gunston Hall.** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Holiday activities start with a visit from Santa to games and crafts for all ages. The evening hours provide a romantic holiday experience by candlelight as visitors sample period food in the kitchen and explore the grounds. \$15 for adults; \$10 for children. Visit [www.gunstonhall.org/](http://www.gunstonhall.org/) or call 703-550-9220.

**Joyful Music in Clifton.** 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30 p.m. at Clifton Primitive Baptist Church, 7200 Main St., Clifton. Art Guild of Clifton presents Quest Singers in three holiday music programs, opening this festive season. Tickets not required. Free will donation sustaining Art Guild scholarship program appreciated. Horse parade at noon. Holiday Homes Tour, 4-7 p.m. Call 703-830-8466 or visit [www.artguildofclifton.org](http://www.artguildofclifton.org).

**A Cathedral Brass Christmas.** 6 p.m. at Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. The Cathedral Brass will present "Christmas Cheer!" – a festive program of holiday favorites. The Cathedral Brass is a 23-player symphonic brass ensemble. Free. Visit [www.livingsaviorlutheran.org](http://www.livingsaviorlutheran.org) or [cathedralbrass.org](http://cathedralbrass.org) for more.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 1-2

**Holiday Arts and Crafts Show.** Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Audrey Moore

Recreation Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. One of Northern Virginia's longest running arts and crafts shows with plenty of great gifts to choose from. Top-quality handmade arts and crafts will be offered by 100 of the area's finest artisans. Admission is \$2 per person; children ages 12 and under are free. Door prizes. Call 703-321-7081

## SUNDAY/DEC. 2

**Christmas Musical: "Here Comes Heaven."** 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Jubilee Christian Center presents "Here Comes Heaven," composed of adults, youth, and children. There will be a reception with refreshments after the 11 a.m. service. The event is free. Call 703-383-1170 or visit [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org) for more.

**Concert: for King & Country.** 6-10 p.m. at Eagle Bank Arena, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Two-time GRAMMY Award winners for King & Country Christmas tour. Joining the duo on tour is Zach Williams. \$28., \$40., \$42.5 Reserved, \$78.50 VIP. Call 703-993-3000 or visit [www.TheConcertSpot.com](http://www.TheConcertSpot.com)

## TUESDAY/DEC. 4

**Burke Historical Society Research Seminar.** 7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Preserve heirloom photographs and documents – photographs, letters, ledgers, and more. Virginia Room librarian Chris Barbuschak will share preservation techniques to use at home. Free. Email [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com) or visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org)

## THURSDAY/DEC. 6

**Winter Wonderland.** 4-7 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join us Insight Memory Care Center in celebrating the season at their Winter Wonderland Holiday Party with treats, drinks, holiday cheer, and to celebrate the families, supporters, volunteers, board and staff members who support Insight. Visit

[www.insightmcc.org](http://www.insightmcc.org) for more.  
**Holiday Open House.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Join Supervisor Storck, his staff and members of the Mount Vernon District Boards, Authorities and Commissions for a holiday open house. Enjoy an evening of refreshments, get to know the staff and tour the office. Consider supporting those in need by donating to the Blanket & Coat Drive for Refugees sponsored by the NOVA Relief Center. New or gently used coat and blanket donations can be dropped off at the Mount Vernon District Office until Friday, Dec. 7. RSVP by Dec. 1, appreciated but not required. Call 703-780-7518.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 7

**Holiday Benefit Concert.** 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Celebrate the holiday season with candlelight and carols with hammered dulcimerist, Karen Ashbrook and friends Paul Oorts, Eileen Estes and Jamie Sandel. Free admission. All donations will go to Fairfax Area Community Emergency and Transitional Services (FACETS) and Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) to help people in need. Childcare provided. Reception to follow. Email [foma@standrews.net](mailto:foma@standrews.net) or call 703-455-2500 for more.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 7-8

**The Pajama Game.** Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. at Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church. The Pajama Game is a musical based on the 1953 novel "7 1/2 Cents" by Richard Bissell. \$7. Visit [www.fchsdrama.org](http://www.fchsdrama.org) or [www.itickets.com/events/408638.html](http://www.itickets.com/events/408638.html).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 8

**Winter Open House.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Celebrate the season with crafts, activities, seasonal music with a recorder ensemble and light refreshments for the whole family. Children can join Kingsley's Winter Reading Club by reading five books between Dec. 8 and Feb. 2 and receive a prize. Free. Call 703-978-5600.

**Art & Crafts Marketplace.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Santa and his elves will be on duty for picture taking; gift wrapping available (all sizes welcome); vendors with something for everyone; babysitting for parents while shopping; food for sale; 50/50 raffle; drawings hourly and an auction. Contact Carrie Holmes, Chairperson at 571-205-9083 or Bob Gaylord, LBSS PTSA Second Vice President at 703-338-3033.

**Night in Bethlehem.** 6-8 p.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Experience a live recreation of the Christmas Story. Free to the community and includes a living Nativity, manger petting zoo, crafts, and hot cider. Call 703 971 5151 or visit [www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 15

**Jazz Brunch and Vendor Expo.** Vendor Expo, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Jazz Brunch, noon at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. Fairfax County NAACP offers a Jazz Brunch and Business and Vendor Expo, featuring more than 40 vendors. Shop for holiday gifts and stay to enjoy the jazz brunch celebration. Proceeds benefit

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY CARLA OLIVO

**Stan the Stallion and Santa get ready to run a previous Candy Cane Kids' Fun Run.**

## Holiday Extravaganza

Santa arrives at 8:30 a.m. courtesy of the Lorton Volunteer Fire Department kicking off the Candy Cane Kids Fun Run for kids age 12 and under. At 9 a.m., 170 vendors featuring all sorts of handcrafted items will offer everything from handmade glass ornaments and jewelry to soaps, lotions, clothing, and holiday décor. Cookies with Santa, free, 9:30-12; Fairfax Co Sheriff, Child ID and fingerprinting, free, 9-3; Santa's Book Emporium, 9-3. Proceeds benefit the SCHS All Night Grad Party, PTSO, Band Boosters and Athletic Boosters. Saturday, Dec. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Free, \$3. Visit

scholarships and advocacy efforts. Jazz Brunch, \$65; expo admission is free. Visit [www.fairfaxnaacp.org](http://www.fairfaxnaacp.org).

**Pet Adoption Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet) for more.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 16

**Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker.** 4 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Experience this timeless holiday classic with the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and the Fairfax Ballet. Enjoy a winter wonderland of dancing snowflakes, sugar plum fairies and epic battles between heroic toy soldiers and mischievous mice. There will not be a pre-concert discussion for this matinee performance. \$49-\$89. Visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org/nutcracker-1-1/](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org/nutcracker-1-1/) for more.

**BHS General Meeting.** 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Cindy Bennett shares anecdotes from her new book Wicked Fairfax County, recounting events like the typhoid epidemic at Camp Alger, a 1918 murder in Burke, and, of course, the Bunyanman. Free. Email [slawski\\_brian@yahoo.com](mailto:slawski_brian@yahoo.com) or visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 21

**Moscow Ballet's Nutcracker.** 4 and 8 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts

Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Experience Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker during their Dove of Peace Tour, spreading goodwill in over 100 cities across North America during the holiday season. \$28 and up. Go to [www.nutcracker.com](http://www.nutcracker.com) for tickets.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 26

**Holiday Concert.** 6-7:30 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, 2700 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. Featuring local Encore Chorale groups from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, and Reston. Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral program for singers 55+, will present the combined talents of more than 250 Encore Chorales and Encore ROCKS singers in concert. Free, the public is invited and no tickets are required. Call 301-261-5747 or visit [www.encorecreativity.org](http://www.encorecreativity.org) for more.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 27-29

**The Nutcracker.** 2 and 7 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus in the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater. Virginia Ballet Company and School will present its 68th season of the classic Nutcracker ballet. \$30 for adults; \$20 for children, students and seniors at [www.vaballet.org](http://www.vaballet.org). A limited number of general admission tickets is available for the Working Stage Rehearsal on Dec. 26 at 6:30 p.m. (\$10) at [www.vaballet.org](http://www.vaballet.org). The tickets for the Working Stage Rehearsal must be purchased in advance.

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**FAIRFAX STATION.....703-493-8181**

**LORTON.....703-550-2345**

**SPRINGFIELD.....703-913-7272**

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION  
This traffic jam leads up to the one-lane underpass.



The concrete is crumbling in places at the Cinder Bed Road underpass: Changes to the outdated underpass are being studied.

# One-Lane Underpass Now Seeing Backups

Changes to the outdated underpass at Cinder Bed Road being studied.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

Over the last couple of months, Cinder Bed Road has become the detour route for the new bridge that is about half way done over the CSX Railroad tracks in Newington. The detour route was mapped out by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in connection with their Backlick Road Bridge over the CSX Railroad project. During the week, particularly around the rush hours, the traffic backs up on Cinder Bed Road past the Newington Road intersection, causing another delay in a frequently used thoroughfare.

There is a rumor that the underpass will be fixed as part of the bridge project that's going on now but that's only partially true. According to Michael Murphy, a VDOT public affairs spokesperson, there is a study going on concerning a new overpass at that location, and that study is funded by the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) as part of Atlantic Gateway. Whether or not Newington Road is closed during construction of the underpass has not been decided yet; the decision won't be made until the project enters the design phase. The design phase could start as early as 2019, according to Murphy.

The underpass is part of a frequently used cut-through route from the Telegraph Road-Fort Belvoir area to I-95.

Jack Moriarty is a bartender at Fair Winds, a local brewery right next to the bridge. He's seen all the traffic backing up and pe-



Trucks are a big part of the traffic in this industrial area.



When completed, this new VDOT bridge should provide some relief to the Cinder Bed traffic jam.



This detour map on the bridge webpage routes traffic right down Cinder Bed Road to the underpass.

MAP BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

destrians dangerously walking under the bridge. "I'm surprised it's still open," he said. And as far as the increased rush hour backups, "that's good for our business."

Candice Bennett, a Lorton Station community association board member, hasn't heard anything. She recently attended a South County Federation meeting, but it wasn't mentioned. "Nothing about any changes coming to this road," she said.

The \$9.5 million bridge project about a mile down the road from the one-lane bridge is part of the larger Atlantic Gateway improvements, a multi-modal suite of projects focused on the I-95 corridor between Washington, D.C. and Fredericksburg, according to the project website. The new bridge is expected to be opened by spring 2019.

## Cinder Bed

The Newington Road-Cinder Bed Road area can be described as a cross between industrial and warehouse-office park. On the southern end, it ends in a circle, surrounded by warehouses and offices, and on the northern end, there are a few vacant properties, various auto body companies, a Fairfax Water Authority office and the Fairfax County Newington Transportation Facility.

A few years ago, Cinder Bed Road was realigned and a bridge built over the Long Branch stream, eliminating an area that frequently flooded. It is in the Mount Vernon District.

At the dead end on the north end, a bike trail winds around under the power lines, continues along the stream, and goes uphill to the Island Creek community. Plans are in the works to connect the bike trail to the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station.

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# 'The Dance Numbers Are Spectacular'

Encore presents holiday show, 'An Invitation to Christmas.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The dancers of Encore Theatrical Arts Project are kicking up their heels with glee, getting ready for their upcoming, holiday extravaganza, "An Invitation to Christmas." The show runs Dec. 7-16 in the Richard Ernst Theater at NOVA's Annandale campus. In the story, the elves at the North Pole are super-busy with so

### To Go

Show times are: Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 8 at noon, 4 and 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9 at noon and 4 p.m.; Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 15 at noon, 4 and 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 16 at noon and 4 p.m.

Tickets range from \$19-\$26 via [www.encore-tap.org](http://www.encore-tap.org) or 703-222-5511. Location: Richard Ernst Theater, NOVA campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.



Multiple Santa Clauses will entertain during Encore's upcoming Christmas show.

much work to do that they need extra help. So they send out invitations to children selected by Santa to attend Elf-Training School. However, one of the new recruits is a full-grown man, and his classmates wonder why he's there. He does, too, since he thought he was going on a job interview.

The cast of 24 dancers, plus

adult guest performers Jack Stein and Allen McRae, have been rehearsing since August, and Director/Choreographer Raynor van der Merwe says things are coming along really well. "We had our first, dress rehearsal and, suddenly, the characters came to life," she said. "And many of the performers are triple threats – dancing, singing and acting.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS PHOTOGRAPHY

Encore's dancers always perform a Rockettes-themed number during their shows.

"Besides being a visual feast for the eyes, the show is uplifting – from the story to the music," she continued. "We have lots of new numbers, plus some old favorites. I look for music that might be familiar, but not something people will hear over the radio. So I choose songs that move the story forward, put people in the holiday spirit and let them escape this busy

season for two hours."

**THE SCENES** take place in New York City, Santa's workshop at the North Pole and outdoors in a snow-covered, winter wonderland. And van der Merwe describes the costumes as both "colorful and glamorous."

"Everybody's working hard and SEE ENCORE, PAGE 14

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**Legals**

**JOINT PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CODE  
DECEMBER 3, 2018**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Joint Public Hearing on Monday, December 3, 2019 at the Acacia Lodge, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124, at 7:30 P.M. to review and implement proposed changes to the Town Subdivision Ordinance in the Town Code Chapter 10. The proposed changes are available for review and downloading on the Town's website at [www.clifton-va.com](http://www.clifton-va.com) and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed changes to Clifton's Town Code.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWN CODE  
DECEMBER 3, 2018**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, December 3, 2018 at the Acacia Lodge, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124, to review and implement proposed changes to the fee schedule for the submittal of applications for golf cart registrations in the Town Code Chapter 7. The proposed changes are available for review and downloading on the Town's website at [www.clifton-va.com](http://www.clifton-va.com) and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed changes to Clifton's Town Code.

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**Legals**

**HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT**

**Encore Presents 'An Invitation to Christmas'**

FROM PAGE 13  
has clicked really well," she said. "It's a great unity and, when everything comes together, it's magic. And that's what I love about theater – the community of it. No one does it on their own; the script, choreography, sets and lighting are among the puzzle pieces that must fall into place to make something unique and special. And with a live audience, each performance is different."

Faith Chun, a freshman at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, plays an elf named Cookie. "She loves baking treats and has an energetic personality," said Chun. "She gets excited after making cookies and other baked goods, but is disappointed when they're all gone. It's fun playing her because of her energy, and I'm sometimes that way, too."

Chun's favorite dance is "Rockettes," during which the dancers wear white leotards with white fluff in back and have their hair in high ponytails. "I like that style of dance, with the kickline, and the number has both fast and slow parts," she said. "We have sharp poses, so we have to really be in synch."

Dancing since age 3, it's her seventh year with Encore. "Dancing is always my passion," said Chun. "It makes me happy and is my favorite thing to do. It takes me away from my stress and schoolwork, and I really enjoy doing it." Regarding the show, she said audiences will like "the storyline and the dance styles. It will allow them to connect to Christmas in a different way and is enjoyable to watch."

High-schooler Bea Tremblay dances in the ensemble and portrays a mail carrier. "She delivers the invitations to the kids, as well as to the adult, George Parker," said Tremblay. "She's undercover from the North Pole, so she's in New York street clothes. I wear a U.S. Postal Service hoodie and hat, plus gray slacks. She's a little mischievous and jolly because she knows she's handing out invitations to a magical experience."

Tremblay enjoys taking her character in a humorous direction and working with the other actors and dancers. She especially likes the "Santas" number. "We wear big bellies, wigs, hats, boots and Santa costumes," she said. "It's a high-energy dance, and 26 of us are onstage; and it's so much fun that I'm smiling the whole time."

She's danced since age 10 and is in her fourth year with Encore's performing company. "The company creates a community, and the other girls and I support each



PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS PHOTOGRAPHY

**Dancers rehearse a number from Encore's new show, 'An Invitation to Christmas.'**

other and have formed a family," explained Tremblay. "And it's so nice dancing together without having to compete. We can concentrate on the art and performance quality."

**CALLING THE SHOW** "fun-loving and happy," she said, "We have lots of little kids acting, too, and they're really doing a great job. We've got bright and beautiful costumes, and the set puts you in the Christmas spirit as soon as you see it. We also have cool props, neat vocal numbers and a lot of actors who make it what it is."

Becca Perron, a Paul VI High freshman, plays Digits the elf. "She works in the mailroom and is very serious," said Perron. "She doesn't like her supervisor, Dally, because she bosses her around. Digits also thinks Dally is lazy and she should have her job. She's fun to play because she's not like me, and being an elf is just the best time. I get to be over-the-top and really let myself go."

It's Perron's ninth year with Encore and sixth with its performing company. Her favorite dance is "Rag Dolls" because, she said, "We get to make really funny faces and expressions as Raggedy Anns and Andys. And we especially like it when the kids in the audience laugh."

"As a group, we put so much

passion and love into our shows," she continued. "So when we see a big audience, it's just the greatest feeling. We're well-known for our professional sets and performances that set us apart from other dance groups."

High-schooler Kate Persell portrays Jingles the elf, who supervises the children who've been invited to become elves. "She's really cute, but likes to stay organized," said Persell. "She's friendly with the kids, but snarky with the adult trainee. I enjoy acting, and it's fun to play someone different from my own personality."

She's danced with Encore since third grade and loves the many, different styles of dance. "I can get my energy out, it's a good form of exercise and I do it with all my favorite people," she said. Persell particularly likes the "Once-A-Year Day" number. "All the elves are doing a hectic dance, running around like crazy, getting ready for Christmas," she explained. "There's no resting point, and I love rushing with adrenaline, the whole time. And when we do the final pose, it feels so good."

Persell said the audience will enjoy the storyline because "It's humorous, with the businessman in an elf costume that doesn't fit him. The children in the cast are super-cute and talented, and the dance numbers are spectacular."

**You can read any  
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15 papers digital  
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FROM PAGE 9

## VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED.

**The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke** needs volunteer drivers for trips to medical appointments (Monday - Friday) and companion shopping (Tuesday, Friday) within the Fairfax-Burke area and in the South County area (west of Route 1, Alexandria). Office volunteers are also needed to work in the SCFB (Olley Glen) office to schedule rides. Bilingual volunteers (English and Spanish) are needed as drivers and office volunteers. Email Shavaun Wall at recruiter@scfbva.org or call 703-323-4788.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 29

**Dyslexia Open House.** 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Join the FCPS Office of Special Education Instruction and the Parent Resource Center for the 4th Annual Dyslexia Open House. Meet Carrie Leestma, FCPS dyslexia specialist, browse exhibit tables, and learn about next steps for FCPS students with dyslexia. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) for more or to register.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 30

**Application Deadline.** The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking a spring intern. Help to support the NVSWCD outreach programs, which reach thousands of people and have a deep impact on many youth and adults. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/spring-internship-2019](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/spring-internship-2019)

**Portrait of an ADHD Graduate.** 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. This workshop will highlight the strengths and challenges of students with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, the effectiveness of parenting as a consultant, and more. Information and ideas for parents of children of ALL ages. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center)

**IEP Transition Plan.** 10 a.m.-noon at Virginia Hills Center, 6520 Diana Lane, Multi-purpose Room #1, Alexandria. Join FCPS Career and Transition Services to learn the importance of the IEP Transition Plan for effective postsecondary planning in middle and high school. Have in-depth conversations with CTS staff. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) for more or to register.

**Blue Christmas Service.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Fairfax. knowledge loss or difficulty during the holiday season. Free. Email [comms@unityoffairfax.org](mailto:comms@unityoffairfax.org), call 703-281-1767 or RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-christmas-service-tickets-52684194845](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-christmas-service-tickets-52684194845).

**Survey Deadline.** The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) has launched an online survey ([fcfpstudy.metroquest.com](http://fcfpstudy.metroquest.com)) requesting feedback from residents on future Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways corridor enhancements, part of the Fairfax County & Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study. FCDOT held three community meetings in Fairfax, Springfield and Reston that featured a presentation on the study and interactive exercises for attendees to provide input on the future of the Parkways. The exercises from the meetings have been converted into an online survey, which will be available for 30 days. Additional comments may be sent to the FCDOT team via the project webpage at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkway](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkway) or by calling 703-877-5600, TTY 711.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**Medicare - Health Fair.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fairfax County Government is offering a free Medicare - Health Fair: Congressman Gerry Connolly's Annual Open Season Workshop for Federal Employees and Retirees. Call 703-256-3071, TTY 711.

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## Mow, Mow, Mow Your Grass ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... Not gently by the stream, and not by yours truly, either. Yet another task that seems beyond this homeowner's ability.

Which is fine by me because the older I get, it seems the less capable I become, and the less inclined I am to risk life and limb in the pursuit of that which that doesn't make me happy. Throw in a lung cancer diagnosis and the last thing my re-wired (figuratively speaking) brain will allow me to do is anything which doesn't put a smile on my face and a bounce in my step. And avoiding yard work ranks up there with most household tasks that a typical able-bodied homeowner takes pride in doing him or herself.

It's not so much that I take pride in avoiding it, it's just that I know my limitations, unlike Hal Holbrook in "Magnum Force."

Sharp objects, mechanical objects and/or electrical/spinning/rotating objects, objects with multiple doohickeys (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), objects which require assembly/reading instructions are all challenging for me. Moreover, none of it fascinates me in the least.

What fascinates me more is the level of interest and passion with which so many of my brethren are engaged in the process; from start to finish.

I just don't get it. Nor have I ever gotten it, and neither do I expect to get it in the future.

Perhaps this total lack of interest comes from the experience of being a life-long renter. Never during my pre-college daze was my family ever responsible for yard work, home repairs (inside or out), or had much of a need for tools, other than the most rudimentary: hammer, screwdriver, pliers, etc.

No power tools. Nothing electrical that required a plug/proximity to an outlet. No plumbing, and of course, nothing like a chainsaw.

My parents were children of the Depression and all they had time for was school, play and some work; yes, even as children. And living in tenement/multi-level housing hardly lent itself to anything but doing what was necessary to survive.

But as my parents so often said: everyone else they knew was experiencing similar hardships so they didn't really realize what they were missing. Tools? Repairs? Amenities? Conveniences? Hardly. Toilet paper was a Sears catalogue cut into squares and hung on a nail in the bathroom down the hall - outside of their apartment.

They didn't have money or time for any of it. What money they earned was for food, rent, utilities and clothes; the most basic of basics.

It is through these experiences that my parents passed on their instincts and priorities to the their two Baby Boomer-era sons. There was ample love, affection and importance of family but not so much time and/or energy for interior and exterior home repairs, yard work, tools and what to do with them/how to use them as well as a variety of other homeowner-type tasks.

As a family of renters, it was never our responsibility. I suppose that was a match made in Depression-era heaven because very little in our family's past prepared us for this new future.

When my father returned from his service in World War II (working in Washington, D.C., actually), he had, unlike Liam Neeson, no unique set of skills. He had to find some vocation/avocation that would provide for his family - which he did, as a salesman.

After living in Dorchester, Mass. for their entire lives (since their parents immigrated to America in the early 20th century), in 1958, my parents moved the family to Newton Centre, Mass. - for the schools. We spent the next 15 years as renters and other than taking out the trash and the rubbish, I did very little to hone my homeowner-type skills.

I wouldn't say I've been stigmatized by this experience, but I learned very little that became useful in the maintenance and upkeep of the 275-year-old home, my wife Dina and I have occupied for the past 25+ years. Other than knowing how to ask for help that is.

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

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