



# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 28, 2024



A circuit court judge has ruled that the decision to pull Virginia out of a successful climate program known as RGGI, or the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, was unlawful

## Judge: Youngkin's No to RGGI Is Unlawful

At the crossroads, the anti-climate agenda ratcheted down a notch, preserving benefits of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE GAZETTE

Circuit Court Judge Randall Lowe of the 27th Judicial Court of Virginia issued a decision on Monday, Nov. 18, overturning Gov. Glenn Youngkin's repeal of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI, ruling that it "is unlawful and thereby null and void."

RGGI is a market-based program — an agreement between 11 states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the power sector by 30 percent by 2030.

"We just got a huge climate win for Virginia," posted the petitioner in the suit, the Southern Environmental Law Center, after learning of the decision. The Southern Environmental Law Center represented the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals in

the case.

According to the Law Center, in three years the program functioned in Virginia, it dropped Virginia's power plant emissions by 22 percent and generated new funds. The state received \$827 million to help Virginia communities plan for and become more resilient to floods, and also helped low-income households

reduce their energy bills.

The primary sources of electricity sector emissions, the burning of fossil fuels used to generate electricity in power plants, are coal and natural

gas. Coal historically has been the largest contributor to emissions. Its usage has been declining in recent years while natural gas usage has increased slightly. Petroleum and non-biomass waste are also sources of electricity sector emissions (power plants).

SEE RGGI, PAGE 3

**The "only body with the authority to repeal the RGGI Regulation would be the General Assembly."**

— Judge Randall Lowe

## Electric Utilities Required to be Carbon-free by 2050

Dominion Power Proposing Electric Plant Fueled by 'Natural Gas.'

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

According to the Virginia Clean Economy Act, electric utilities in the state are required to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2050, meaning electricity generated must come from carbon-free sources, and this applies to major utilities like Dominion Energy and Appalachian Power Company. In Virginia, Dominion Energy is proposing a new electricity plant, about a two-hour drive from Fairfax County in Chesterfield, fueled by natural gas. That means methane and oil.

It is part of a more extensive proposed buildout of methane gas-fired power plant facilities across six Southern states. "Energy-related greenhouse gas emissions account for the majority of all anthropogenic emissions — about 80 percent of which are in the USA and the European Union, for example. Just 20 percent of final energy consumption is in the form of electricity, but the generation of electricity is responsible for over 40 percent of all energy-related emissions," according to world-nuclear.org.

Utilities across the United States, including Dominion Energy facilities "are much cleaner than they were decades ago," with reduced reliance on coal use for electricity generation. Methane gas has lower emissions than coal when it is burned. To produce the same amount of electricity, natural gas plants typically emit near-

ly 100 percent less particulate matter, an air pollutant harmful for health, and nearly 50 percent less CO<sub>2</sub>, a potent heat-trapping gas, according to the U.S. Energy and Information Administration.

However, natural gas plants still produce air pollution emissions, are noisy, transport gas through pipelines, are located more often than not in underserved communities, and leaks "are common," at gas wells and pipelines, according to Dr. Lucas RF Henneman, an Assistant Professor in the Sid and Reva Dewberry Department of Civil, Environmental, and Infrastructure Engineering at George Mason University College for Science at George Mason, Virginia Climate Center.

**Natural Gas, Still a Fossil Fuel**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Looking back to June 7, 2023, when Gov. Glenn Youngkin praised the State Air Pollution Control Board's repeal of RGGI, he stated that the Office of the Attorney General had "confirmed the State Air Pollution Control Board has the legal authority to take action on the regulatory proposal using the full regulatory process."

Youngkin also said, "We need to ensure Virginia has a reli-

SEE NATURAL GAS, PAGE 3

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ACM ATLANTIC COAST MORTGAGE

# Judge: Youngkin's No To RGGI Is Unlawful

FROM PAGE 1

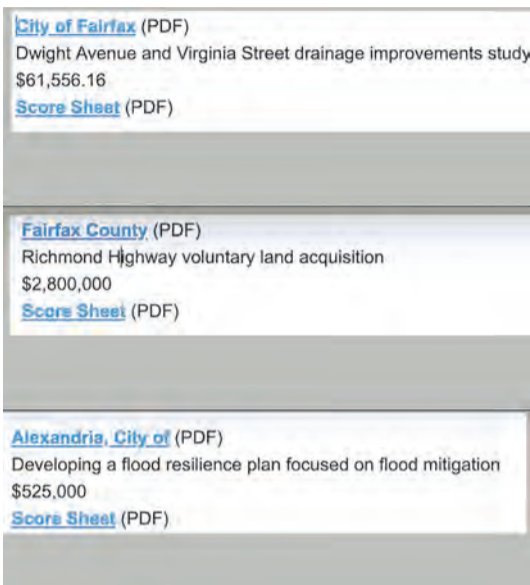
Judge Lowe wrote that the “only body with the authority to repeal the RGGI Regulation would be the General Assembly. ... If Respondents had merely amended the RGGI Regulation in ways that were not inconsistent with the RGGI Act, it is doubtful that their authority to do so could be challenged. But that is not what happened here.”

In 2023, the State Air Pollution Control Board voted to repeal Virginia's participation in RGGI as directed by Governor Glenn Youngkin in Executive Order Number Nine (Jan. 15, 2022).

In a Nov. 20 release, Senate of Virginia Majority Leader Scott A. Surovell (D-34) said that the ruling “affirms that only the state legislature has the authority to reverse its actions.” RGGI programs brought millions of dollars into Virginia to increase energy efficacy and storm resiliency efforts to address climate change.

The issue surrounding RGGI is multifaceted. RGGI requires power producers in Virginia to purchase carbon offsets from auctions managed by the interstate compact. Youngkin wrote in a release dated June 7, 2023, on the State Air Pollution Control Board's vote to repeal the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) regulation, as directed by his Executive Order 9, that “the cost of those offsets are fully passed on to power customers who have zero choice because of the Commonwealth's regulated utility model.”

In 2020, Virginia established the Community Flood Preparedness Fund. The Virginia Resources Authority partners with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in administering the Fund. It provides financial assistance to localities to reduce the impacts of flooding in the Commonwealth, with an emphasis on projects that align with local, state and federal floodplain management standards, local resiliency plans, and the Virginia Coastal Re-



SCREENSHOT DCR VIRGINIA

**Proceeds from the sale of carbon allowances went into the Community Flood Preparedness Fund, benefiting Virginia communities including Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax, and the City of Alexandria.**

silience Master Plan. RGGI raised 45 percent of the Fund's revenue from 2021-2023.

The impact of Hurricane Helene's catastrophic winds and rainfall across Virginia is a reminder that climate change is here. Two Virginians died in the hurricane. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership estimated that the storm had direct and indirect economic impacts of more than \$2.0 billion in the Southwest Virginia region.

“Unfortunately, [Youngkin's] decision has now cost Virginians over \$200 million dollars of funds that could have been appropriated in the last two years to protect the Commonwealth against flood damage like what just happened in Southwest Virginia because of Hurricane Helene,” said Surovell.

According to the Virginia Conservation Network, “This pollution reduction program (RGGI) drives down greenhouse gas emissions, which improves air quality and public health while also bringing in desperately needed revenue to help Virginia's



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
**Jason S. Miyares, Attorney General of Virginia**



**Sen. Scott A. Surovell**



**Del. Rip Sullivan**



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**Gov. Youngkin assesses storm damage caused by Hurricane Helene in Damascus, Virginia.**

families with flood protection. RGGI raised over \$372.5 million over the first three years of Virginia's participation to fund the only statewide source for community flood resiliency funding.”

Local jurisdictions in Northern Virginia are among the Round 4 Grant Funds (Announced March 2024). City of Alexandria developed a flood resilience plan focused on flood mitigation \$525,000. Fairfax County Richmond Highway voluntary land acquisi-

tion \$2,800,000 Score Sheet. They are currently accepting applications through the WebGrants portal until Jan. 24, 2025.

The Virginia Conservation Network and its over 160+ network partners, such as Wetlands Watch, safeguarding wetlands and shoreline buffers that provide natural resilience against rising seas and storms, and the Environmental Defense Fund, have scored one for flood protection, air quality,

SEE RGGI, PAGE 14

**“The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cooperative cap-and-trade program designed to reduce carbon emissions from the power sector. Virginia's participation in RGGI is mandated by the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act of 2020, which also directs the proceeds from the sale of carbon allowances into the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF).”**

— Wetlands Watch

## Natural Gas, Still a Fossil Fuel

FROM PAGE 1

able, affordable, clean, and growing supply of power by embracing an all-of-the-above energy plan that includes natural gas, nuclear, renewables and the exploration of emerging sources to satisfy the growing needs of Commonwealth residents and businesses.”

Renewable energy sources emit little to no greenhouse gasses, making them the cleanest energy resources available.

The growth of AI is pressing the growth of data centers, and that fuels the demand for electric plants turning toward natural gas.

Growth in AI and data centers “is a tailwind for natural gas,” according to Alan Armstrong, CEO of The Williams Companies, Inc., which handles approximately one-third of the natural gas in the U.S.

Natural gas is cheaper than other polluting fossil fuels like coal or oil and “cleaner” in comparison. However, natural gas is still methane, still a fossil fuel, and still not “clean energy,” nor renewable energy.

Natural gas is composed of 70-90 percent methane. It is a potent greenhouse gas and a significant contributor to global warming, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency, although cleaner than coal.

SEE NATURAL GAS, PAGE 15

# Winter Fest Coming to Springfield

## Commuter Garage makes its debut as event venue.

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE GAZETTE

At the Sept. 14 ribbon cutting for the new \$63.8 million, six-level, Springfield Multi-Use Parking Garage, commuters were introduced to the new garage and told there would be more good things planned for the space. (See Mount Vernon Gazette, Sept 5-11, 2024, pg. 7),

On Dec. 8, the first of those more good things happens. The garage is making its debut as an event venue, as Fairfax Connector holds its second annual “Winter Fest” event on-site.

Santa Claus will be on-hand ready to pose for selfies in his specially designed Santa bus. Those in need of a quick word with the jolly elf, or photo proof that “Yes, Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus,” can sign up for a free visit and photo time slot at [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D-4CA5A62EA4FC1-46282213-winterfest#/. The event is free for all; with advance separate tickets required for entrance to the event and to visit Santa. Get both tickets at the same link shown above.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D-4CA5A62EA4FC1-46282213-winterfest#/)

In addition to visiting the Santa bus, attendees may join in games, do crafts and get face paintings. Or enjoy complementary hot cocoa or coffee from Duck Donuts; kettle corn from Colonial Kettle Corn; and cookies with Mrs Claus. Multiple



Springfield’s new commuter garage has multiple uses and includes future community event space on the ground floor and on roof-top park area.



Fairfax Connector buses are wrapped with three holiday themes ahead of their “Winter Fest” celebration at the Commuter Garage on Dec. 8

food trucks will be on site for food purchases. The event opens softly with quiet time, at 9:30 a.m. for neurodivergent children, and families seeking sensory-friendly time. The event opens to everyone at 10 am.

To get in the holiday mood, Fairfax Connector is sparkling its noel spirit beginning this week with three holiday themed-wrapped buses. Buses have not been this colorful since the Connector’s SpookyBus spirited around its routes celebrating Halloween last

month. Spot one of the hard-to-miss holiday buses and post its picture on Fairfax Connector social media (Facebook, X, or LinkedIn) using #ConnectorHoliday, before Dec. 31, for the chance at a random prize drawing; a \$50 SmarTrip card.

The new garage facility, at 7039 Old Keene Mill Road, was funded by the Federal Highway Administration under its Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program, and the Fairfax



Northern Virginia Transportation Authority’s chief executive, Monica Blackmon, cut the ribbon with Franconia Supervisor Rodney Lusk and Board Chairman Jeff McKay, among others, to open the commuter garage on Sept. 14

County Commercial and Industrial Tax. The structure includes over 1,000 free parking spaces; a bus transit center, with seven bus bays; short-term parking for pick up and drop off, and a pedestrian bridge over Old Keene Mill road. It brings Springfield’s “slug lines” back to life; and has bicycle racks and storage. Additionally, it is designed with a focus on safety, including well-lit areas, surveillance cameras, and on-site security.

Parking is free to encourage use of the bus system and ride sharing, in order to reduce the number of Single Occupancy Vehicles on the road, ease congestion, lower emissions and improve air quality. Those using the secure bike room pay an annual membership. EV stations are available on site, as a convenience, with charging paid by EV users. At the ribbon cutting, Supervisor Rodney Lusk said the garage “supports all forms of travel; is flex-

ible, sustainable, and convenient; providing transportation choices for everyone in this community.”

“Slugging” is a Springfield ride sharing tradition, helping cars meet the HOV-3 requirement to ride the Express Lanes of I-395 for free. Carpool passengers may park their cars on an upper level of the garage, then hop a ride in cars queued for one of three destinations, in D.C. or the Pentagon.

The facility also has two flexible event spaces intended for future use by community groups, County agencies and private vendors. These public spaces include a street-level open plaza, and a roof-top park. Lynn Krolowitz, with the County’s transportation department explains, “We are working with other county agencies to establish these relationships and will announce any programs when finalized.” Space availability is expected sometime in 2025.

# Guinness World Recognition Includes West Springfield Senior

## Local teen’s Titanic record not sunk yet.

By SUSAN LAUME  
THE CONNECTION

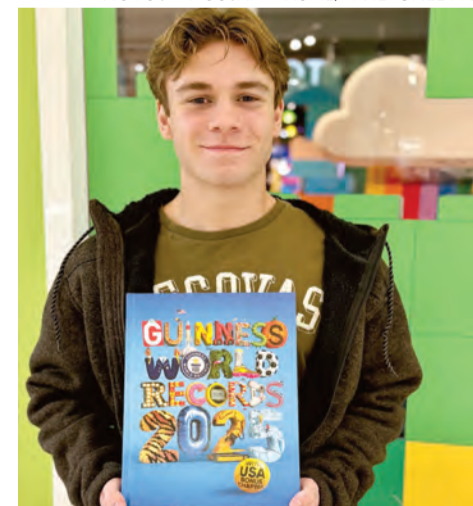
The excitement of achieving a world record often can be quickly supplanted by the ambitions of the next record trier. But for our local Guinness World Record holder, Sebastian Haworth, two years after his successful attempt, is still the fastest LEGO Titanic builder in the world. And to add to his prestige, the teen was selected from 66,000 active record holders as a featured record-holder in the Guinness World Records 2025 edition.

The West Springfield student describes his reaction about his latest Guinness recognition as, “a little surprised.” Now in his senior year, Haworth is busy checking college possibilities, and competing in cross country and track and field, for his school’s team. He is also finishing up the paperwork documenting his Eagle Scout project. He built standing garden beds at the St. Martin de Porres Senior Center in Alexandria, and leveled gardens there. He says of record setting, “I wouldn’t do it again because of the long process and I have no time now.”

Haworth has an eye toward pursuing an

SEE LOCAL TEEN’S, PAGE 5

“Guinness World Records 2025” includes a photo of Haworth’s 8 hour, 42 minute, 12 second building completion.



Sebastian Haworth highlighted in Guinness 2025 record book.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE GAZETTE

# Local Teen's Titanic Record Not Sunk Yet

FROM PAGE 4

engineering degree at the United States Air Force Academy, or Virginia Tech. And although he doesn't have time for large LEGO models, he still enjoys a smaller building kit.

In the two years since his record achievement, the Titanic model's 9,090 piece count has been supplanted as the second largest LEGO model by a new Eiffel Tower LEGO kit with 10,001. LEGO's World Map remains the largest model ever issued, with 11,695 pieces.

In 2025's edition, Guinness features additional record-holders in their renowned annually published collection. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the record journal. Haworth shares the limelight with a varied

collection of celebrities, including: Taylor Swift, with multiple records, including Most Album of the Year Grammys (4); Diana Armstrong, for longest fingernails on a pair of hands (4 feet 6.7 inches); LeBron James, for most NBA points (40,036); Barbie, for best selling doll, (lifetime estimate, more than 1 billion); Sweetie, for the longest tail on a miniature horse (5 feet, 11 inches); and another Virginian, Border Collie Leonard Lee, for most basketball slam dunks by a dog in one minute (22) set in Chantilly.

For more on Haworth's record setting effort, see The Connection, "West Springfield Freshman Set Guinness World Record," May 26, 2022; and "It's Guinness Official, January 19, 2023.



While maintaining a busy school and volunteer schedule, Haworth hopes to find time to complete a much smaller LEGO model.



Haworth and his achievement join seventy years worth of world records.



Haworth's record summary is included on a double page edition with other brick masters.

PHOTOS BY  
SUSAN LAUME  
THE GAZETTE

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# Thankful for Team MVD

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK

What a wonderful year it's been in our community! I am truly grateful for family, friends, health, the privilege of serving each of you and especially Team MVD, who answer your questions, host great community events, work to connect you with County services and so much more. This year, I thought it would be meaningful for you to hear directly from the team about what they're thankful for in working for you.

**Christine Morin** – “Over the past 15 years, I've had the privilege of working alongside passionate community members to help shape our community. I am truly grateful for the relationships we have built and the collaborative spirit of our residents. Contributing to projects like the Lorton Community Center and Library—where it's heartwarming to see children at the playground and engaging in classes—has been especially rewarding. Additionally, the revitalization of Richmond Highway, the development of Liberty and the Workhouse master plan, and the visioning and redevelopment of the Original Mount Vernon High School reflect our commitment to creating a vibrant community that serves everyone. I'm thankful every day for the trust our residents place in us and that together we are able to make a meaningful and lasting impact on our community. Thank you!”

**Camela Speer** – “I have served you as Supervisor Storck's Communications Director and Environmental Lead for 7 years, with this past year also serving as his Deputy Chief of Staff. I also have lived in Lorton for more than 25 years. I often say my favorite thing about what I do is getting to communicate about my com-



munity to my community. I am also grateful in my new role to pursue other passions, like bringing new public art displays. Recently, I had an opportunity to tour the District with Arts-Fairfax looking at all the amazing opportunities we have along the Richmond Highway corridor to improve access and strengthen our sense of community through various forms of art and community engagement.”

**Peyton Smith** – “I've had the privilege of serving you for almost 3 1/2 years, while also living in the District. I truly enjoy making a positive impact on our community and engaging with residents on a variety of issues. Outside of work, I'm passionate about biking and coffee roasting, and in our community I'm especially thankful for the Mount Vernon Trail, which I consider the Cultural Spine of our District. The Trail not only offers beautiful scenery but also connects us to the many incredible tourism opportunities in the area, including the Mount Vernon Estate, Grist Mill, Woodlawn – all with-

out the need of a car!”

**Maddie Alvarado** – “I am thankful for the opportunity to be able to live and work in Fairfax County. After being the Office Manager and Health & Human Services Liaison for almost 3 years, I have come to understand that Fairfax County consists of a diverse community of people that can help us all grow to be better versions of ourselves. I have enjoyed not only the food that comes from having a diverse community, but also the culture and arts that they bring. I am thankful that I work with a team that embraces people for who they are and the great things that they bring to Fairfax County. In the Mount Vernon District, I am thankful to everyone who creates such a wonderful place to live, eat and gather to create a place we can call home. Our residents are the reason we can say that the Mount Vernon District is truly ‘The One.’”

SEE THANKFUL, PAGE 10

# Constitutional Amendments — Putting it to the Voters

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

On Nov. 13, my colleagues and I on the Privileges & Elections committee (which is responsible for legislative matters related to elections, campaign finance, constitutional amendments, approving interstate compacts, confirming gubernatorial appointments, and more) met to hear testimony and vote to advance three proposed constitutional amendments for the upcoming 2025 legislative session.

These amendments include HJ1, the fundamental right to reproductive freedom, HJ2, restoration of rights for returning citizens, and HJ9 enshrining marriage equality.

As each of these amendments were “continued,” or deferred, to 2025 during last year's session, last week was the deadline for the House Privileges and Elections to

take action on these amendments before next session. We heard from dozens of Virginia citizens who traveled to Richmond or joined us online to give testimony on these critical amendments, and I want to extend my gratitude for your advocacy and making your voices heard.

❖ **HJ1: The Fundamental Right to Reproductive Freedom**

In response to the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 Dobbs decision, which overturned federal protections for safe and legal abortions, this constitutional amendment aims to reestablish the right to reproductive freedom for Virginians. This measure, championed by Leader Charniele Herring, was reported out of the Committee by a vote of 12-9 and will be considered by the full House during the 2025 Session.

❖ **HJ2: Restoration of the Right to Vote**

This proposed amendment to Virginia's Constitution seeks to restore constitutional rights, includ-

ing the right to vote, to individuals reentering society after incarceration. It aims to create a clear and

SEE AMENDMENTS, PAGE 10

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**NOTICE OF WATER RATE AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

December 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024, 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, 2025, include the following:

- An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,800 to \$4,930\*.
- An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$22,910 to \$24,290.
- An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,830 to \$1,840\*.
- An increase in the Account Charge from \$47 to \$48.
- An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$15.60 to \$16.55\*.
- An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.84 to \$4.03 per 1,000 gallons of water.
- An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$4.10 to \$4.15.
- An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$57 to \$58.
- An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
- An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge Inspection Fee from \$46 to \$47.

\*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 \$240 million budget for calendar year 2025.<sup>1</sup> Water sales are expected to provide \$209 million and the remaining \$31 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2024	2025
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 66,956	\$ 74,371
Power and Utilities	14,667	14,630
Chemicals	15,970	16,910
Purchased Water	7,713	9,013
Supplies and Materials	6,871	7,401
Insurance	1,507	1,558
Fuel	776	890
Postage	620	642
Contractual Services	12,667	14,194
Professional Services	1,191	1,940
Other	2,605	3,168
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>131,543</b>	<b>144,717</b>
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(11,014)	(12,005)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 120,529</b>	<b>\$ 132,712</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$49,871,656
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$43,885,000

<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 can be viewed on our website at [fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://fairfaxwater.org/rates).

Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Jessica Love at 703-289-6029. 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 11, 2024** to be included in the record of the public hearing.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Guest House celebrated their 50th anniversary on June 6. Guest House provides a residential program with individualized support services including job assistance and counseling for formerly incarcerated women with non-violent offenses.

## Where To Give Locally in Alexandria and Mount Vernon

Local nonprofits serve critical roles in the community, and they need your help.

A September, 2024 survey by No Kid Hungry Virginia showed that more than three-quarters of Virginians (78%) say groceries have become harder to afford in the last year and 62% of families have had to decide between purchasing food and paying for another essential bill, such as rent, utilities, gas or home or car repairs. Parents of students are more likely to sacrifice healthy foods in response to costs, with 55% buying less or no produce or 54% buying less or no protein. Nearly half of Virginians (42%) report at least one sign of food insecurity, such as not having enough to eat, eating low-quality food or eating a limited variety of food due to cost. Two-thirds (68%) of Virginians would worry about their ability to afford food if faced with an unexpected \$1,500 expense.

The need extends beyond hunger.

There are literally thousands of ways to give locally. Here are a few ideas. Please let us know what we have missed and any corrections. Send corrections or updates to [mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com) with "Give Locally" in the subject line.

❖ **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](http://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](http://aliceskids.org) 703.746.8108 [contact@aliceskids.org](mailto:contact@aliceskids.org)

❖ **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](http://www.ucmagency.org)

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

❖ **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

# Turkeys Indoors and Out



A male or tom turkey.

PHOTO BY LARRY MEADE



Two tom and two hen turkeys.

PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT



Turkey in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve.

PHOTO BY DIXIE SOMMERS



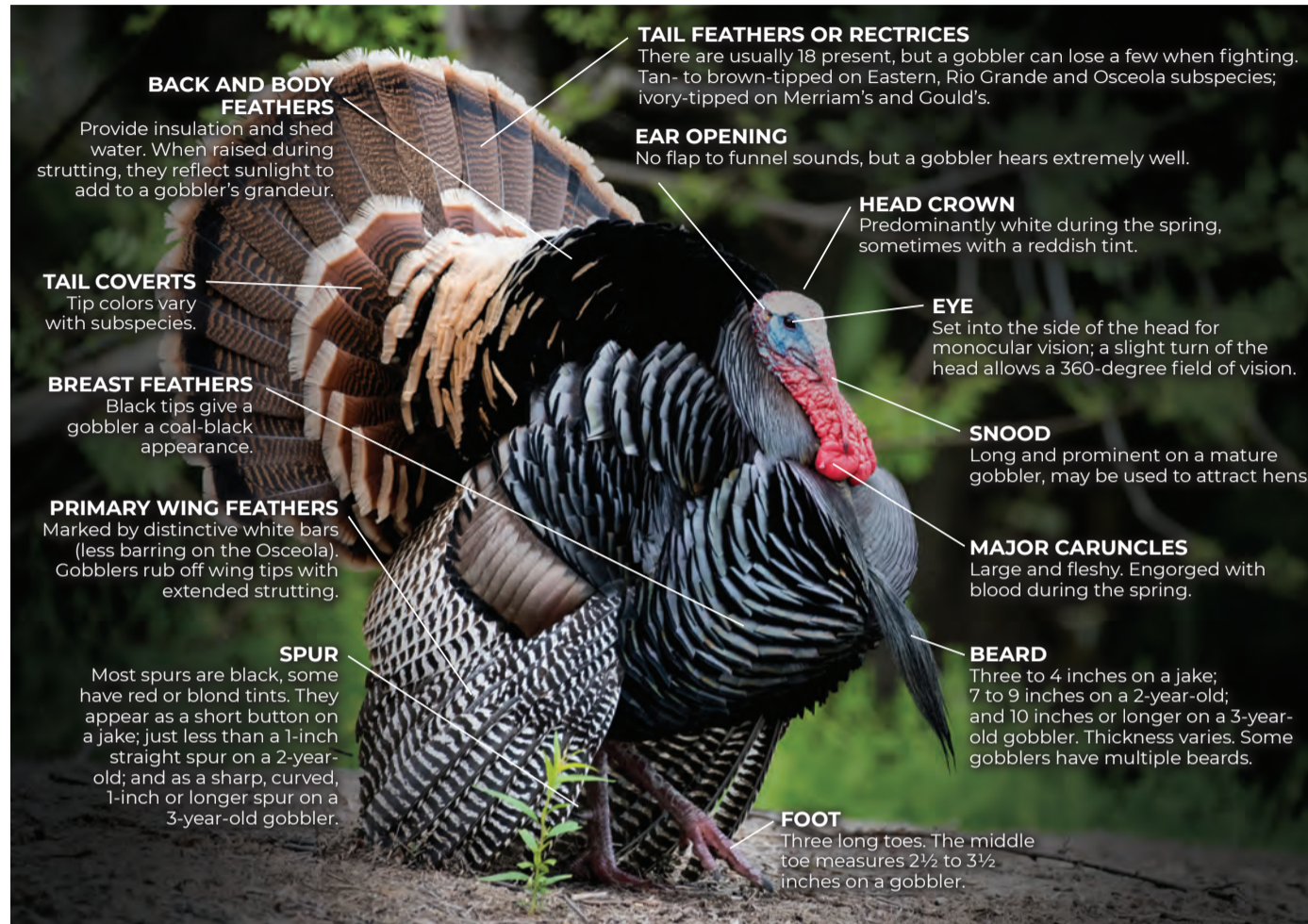
A Quander Road family is in the Thanksgiving mood.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



## Know Your Wild Turkey

Considered among the **grandest of game birds**, the American wild turkey has many characteristics that distinguish it from other fowl. The unmistakable snood, caruncles, head coloring and beard truly set it apart.



**BACK AND BODY FEATHERS**  
Provide insulation and shed water. When raised during strutting, they reflect sunlight to add to a gobbler's grandeur.

**TAIL FEATHERS OR RECTRICES**  
There are usually 18 present, but a gobbler can lose a few when fighting. Tan- to brown-tipped on Eastern, Rio Grande and Osceola subspecies; ivory-tipped on Merriam's and Gould's.

**EAR OPENING**  
No flap to funnel sounds, but a gobbler hears extremely well.

**HEAD CROWN**  
Predominantly white during the spring, sometimes with a reddish tint.

**EYE**  
Set into the side of the head for monocular vision; a slight turn of the head allows a 360-degree field of vision.

**SNOOD**  
Long and prominent on a mature gobbler, may be used to attract hens.

**MAJOR CARUNCLES**  
Large and fleshy. Engorged with blood during the spring.

**BEARD**  
Three to 4 inches on a jake; 7 to 9 inches on a 2-year-old; and 10 inches or longer on a 3-year-old gobbler. Thickness varies. Some gobblers have multiple beards.

**FOOT**  
Three long toes. The middle toe measures 2½ to 3½ inches on a gobbler.

**TAIL COVERTS**  
Tip colors vary with subspecies.

**BREAST FEATHERS**  
Black tips give a gobbler a coal-black appearance.

**PRIMARY WING FEATHERS**  
Marked by distinctive white bars (less barring on the Osceola). Gobblers rub off wing tips with extended strutting.

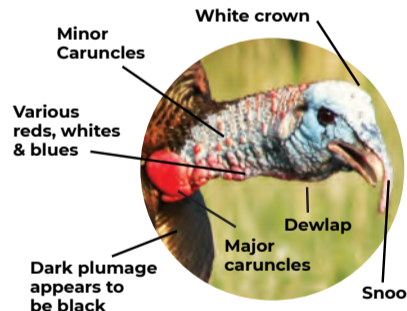
**SPUR**  
Most spurs are black, some have red or blond tints. They appear as a short button on a jake; just less than a 1-inch straight spur on a 2-year-old; and as a sharp, curved, 1-inch or longer spur on a 3-year-old gobbler.

## Know the Difference Between Hens and Gobblers

It's easy to distinguish a gobbler from a hen by differences in their **size, color, heads and other characteristics.**

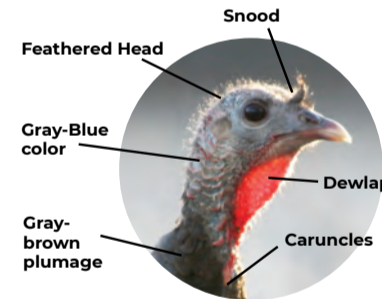
### Gobbler

The gobbler is most easily recognized by the long beard growing from his chest and the pronounced spurs, sometimes as long as 2 inches, found on the back of his legs. A gobbler appears larger, darker, shinier and more colorful than a hen. His head can alternately appear red, white and blue. He often "puffs up" and struts during spring to attract hens for breeding.



### Hen

The hen's overall look is for concealment and protection. She is smaller and more drab than the colorful gobbler, so she can sit on her nest well camouflaged. Likewise, her head has more feathers to add to her camouflaged appearance.



The American wild turkey now thrives in 49 states, Canada and Mexico thanks to the efforts of state wildlife agencies, the NWTf and its supporters!

### The National Wild Turkey Federation

Fairfax County has a "very low density" of turkeys, 0.26 per square mile, DWR surveys show. High-density counties, like some in southeastern Virginia, have 0.92 turkeys per square mile.

Last year, Dino Grandoni wrote for the Washington Post, "Once-common [bird] species, like the turkey, are becoming less common, a distressing signal about the way humans are warming the planet and altering the environment."

Asked about turkey population trends, "The turkey story is a bit complicated," emailed Mike Dye,

a DWR upland gamebird biologist. "Reproduction indices have been down across the eastern portion of the range for quite some time and survival data indicates that our turkeys may have a tough go of it as an adult."

Turkeys use closed canopy forests and open fields, but he explains that the scrub, shrub and early successional habitats that turkeys need to nest and raise their young are declining. "If we don't have an abundance of that habitat, turkeys will not be able to flourish," he wrote.

He said that DWR officials have some "concerns with decreased productivity in portions of the

state." He has seen swings in populations over fairly short periods of time, citing localized habitat changes and local weather patterns during nesting and brood rearing season.

He summarizes that DWR data show stable populations. "But if we look through the larger landscape context, we see turkeys doing well in some areas while struggling a bit in other areas. Overall, the population changes often offset and we see stable population metrics, but may be seeing some localized population concerns."

### Franklin's Favorite

When eyeing that plas-

tic-wrapped, supermarket butterball, it's hard to realize that many adult turkeys in the wild are actually quite beautiful.

Their iridescent dark copper, bronze, red and green feathers shine in the sun. A male's droppings are j-shaped; a female's, spiral-shaped. And NWF offers, "They reach up to 55 mph flying and 25 mph running."

Perhaps it was intriguing facts like those that led American Revolutionary leader Benjamin Franklin, in comparing the turkey to the bald eagle, to dub the turkey, "a much more respectable Bird," ever boldly at-the-ready to attack a "Grenadier of the British Guards."

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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### The "Grandest of Game Birds"

The National Wild Turkey Federation has this description of Meleagris gallopavo, the North American wild turkey's scientific name: "Considered among the grandest of game birds, the American wild turkey has many characteristics that distinguish it from other fowl. The unmistakable snood, caruncles, head color and beard truly set it apart." Turkeys also have wattles, hocks, shanks and spurs, anatomical terms that send many people to the dictionary. See graphic

Virginia's wild turkeys weigh around 17-19 pounds. They typically mate in the spring and the females, called "hens," lay eggs in mid-April. Their young hatch in early June. Turkeys gobble to announce their presence, according to Josh Honeycutt in Outdoor Life. They also cluck, cackle, yelp and purr, he notes.

In the early 20th century, turkeys vanished from two-thirds of



A male turkey displaying.

PHOTO BY RANDY STREUFERT

Virginia and hit a population low between 1880 and 1910. Managers took several steps to increase the population.

Virginia's turkey population is around 180,000 today, reports the state's Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), with the highest densities in the Tidewater, South Mountain and South Piedmont regions of the state. There are around seven million turkeys in North America, according to the National Wildlife Federation.



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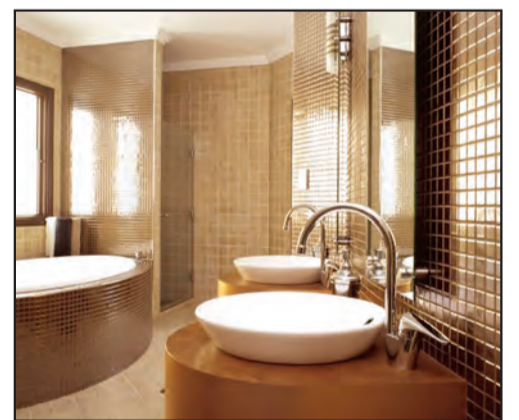
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# Thankful for Team MVD

FROM PAGE 6

**Cassidy Donaghy** – “Working with Team MVD for almost 2 1/2 years as Supervisor Storck’s Communications, Events and Community Outreach Coordinator, I have had the privilege to help bring you newsletters such as this one and work on major events like our Tour de Mount Vernon and the Ides of Bark, to name a few. As someone who grew up in the Mount Vernon District, I’ve loved watching this community grow and evolve over the years. Being part of projects at the Lorton Community Center and Library and watching the renovations come together at Original Mount Vernon High School is especially meaningful to me. I can remember visiting the Lorton Library for summer camps before the renovation, learning to swim at the Mount Vernon Rec Center and volunteering at the Lorton Community Action Center in its previous location. Seeing these places transformed and thriving today is incredibly exciting, and I’m thankful to be part of it all.”

**Diego Rodriguez Cabrera** – “Hey there, I’m Supervisor Storck’s Transportation, Parks, and Housing Liaison. This is my second round having the privilege to work for Supervisor Storck, as I served as his Latinx Outreach Coordinator in 2020-2021. I’ve lived along Richmond Highway all my life, and this community holds a special place in my heart. I am incredibly thankful for the work I do and the impact it makes on people’s lives, especially with our most vulnerable populations. Whether it’s connecting people to County resources, educating community members on the various ongoing of the District, or advocating for our residents, our work is essen-

tial to ensure no one gets left behind. One of my favorite places in the District is Grist Mill Park. I have been going there since I was a kid, and it is home to our Mount Vernon Nights Summer Entertainment Series. It’s a wonderful place to gather with family and friends on a hot summer day to share a picnic, play frisbee, or attend a summer concert!”

**Shirley Short** – “Through my work as a retired firefighter and volunteering with this office and the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce, I’ve had the pleasure of meeting many dedicated County personnel and business owners who have welcomed me with open arms and become valued friends. As a constituent, I am incredibly thankful for the many agencies and resources that are available to me. And as always, I am thankful for my family.”

I’m thankful for Team MVD and their unwavering dedication to serving our community. Every day, they strive to make a difference in the Mount Vernon District, by working on projects like the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, “The One,” or by addressing community concerns such as reducing truck parking on local roads. Some of our other key ongoing efforts include the renovation of the Mount Vernon Rec Center, scheduled to open in Spring 2025, Lorton Visioning 2040 and Original Mount Vernon High School, set to open in Summer 2026. Additionally, we are working to support small businesses through the Fairfax Founders Fund and Green Business Partners. I wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving, and as always, I’m very thankful to be able to represent you and serve our community!

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Man Arrested for Woodlawn Assault & Robbery

Detectives from FCPD Criminal Investigation Division have charged a man after he assaulted and robbed a victim in Woodlawn, according to police.

On Nov. 22, at 3:58 p.m., officers responded to the 8200 block of Richmond Highway in Woodlawn for a robbery. The victim reported that a suspect approached her with a knife, pushed her to the ground, and took her handbag. The victim was not injured and the suspect fled prior to officers arriving. Officers located the suspect nearby and he was taken into custody after a short foot pursuit.

Marlon Cardenas, 36, of no fixed address, was charged with Robbery, Possession of Schedule I/II Drugs, and Obstruction of Justice. He is being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center on no bond.

Detectives are asking anyone with information regarding this incident to call our detectives at our Mount Vernon District Station at 703-360-8400. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477)

### Woman Sentenced to 2 Years for Embezzling \$1M+

A Warrenton woman was sentenced Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024 to two years in prison for wire fraud involving pilfering of over a million dollars from homeowner associations (HOAs) she managed.

According to court documents, in 2012, Rose

Kasande Bailey, 60, formed Rosewood Management and Consulting Services, LLC, a property management company in Fairfax that specialized in property management for HOAs. As of March 2023, Rosewood provided management services to over 70 HOAs in Virginia, including properties in Lorton, Reston, Falls Church, and Leesburg. The HOAs contracted with Rosewood to collect dues from residents to maintain and repair the properties and common areas.

Rosewood maintained two operating bank accounts, while each HOA opened one or more bank accounts into which dues and fees were deposited. Bailey maintained signing authority over all Rosewood accounts as well as HOA accounts. Rosewood was required to receive HOA board approval for any single unbudgeted disbursement in excess of \$1,000.

In May 2018, Bailey began transferring funds from certain HOA bank accounts to Rosewood bank accounts to cover expenses that were not approved by HOA boards. The illicit transfers, totaling approximately \$1.1 million, were used to cover Rosewood payroll and business rent expenses, credit card payments, Bailey’s personal expenses, and payments on business loans associated with Bailey acquiring a new HOA management firm.

When HOAs requested updates on their operating accounts, Bailey provided altered bank statements to conceal the transfers. Prior to the discovery of Bailey’s theft, one of Rosewood’s HOAs decided to seek new management. To account for her illicit transfers, Bailey provided falsified bank statements and transferred \$600,000 from other HOA bank accounts to make the departing HOA whole.

# Constitutional Amendments

FROM PAGE 6

transparent process for restoring voting rights to those with felony convictions, fostering fairness and inclusivity in the electoral system. In 38 states, individuals with felony convictions regain voting rights automatically after serving their prison sentence or completing parole or probation. Two states and Washington, D.C., never revoke voting rights. In contrast, Virginia currently requires residents to petition the Governor to have their rights restored. This measure, introduced by Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, also reported out of the House Committee on Privileges and Elections by a vote of 12-9 and will be considered by the full House during the next Session which begins in January.

## ❖ HJ9: Marriage Equality

Same-sex marriage has been legal in the United States since the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015. However, our Virginia Constitution still contains obsolete language that defines marriage exclusively as a union of a man and a woman. HJ9 recognizes as lawful a marriage between two adult persons and thus puts Virginia in alignment with federal definitions of legal marriage. This resolution, carried by Dele-

gate Mark Sickles was reported out of the Committee on a bipartisan basis of 16-5 and will also be considered by the full House.

The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections and the full Senate will also consider similar constitutional amendments.

As I discussed in a previous column, making any change to the constitution is lengthy and cumbersome by design to prevent the adoption of frequent or impulsive amendments. First, an amendment must be proposed by the House of Delegates or Senate and agreed to by the majority of the members in each chamber. If any of the three aforementioned amendments pass both Chambers during the 2025 session, the House of Delegates must undergo an election in November 2025. These newly-elected or re-elected members must then pass identical amendments during the 2026 session. Only then can the amendments be printed on ballots for voters to decide during the November 2026 election. Virginia voters will then have the opportunity to vote on reproductive rights, marriage equality, and restoration of voting rights in the November 2026 elections. Stay tuned for more as these amendments move through the legislative process, and you can hopefully look forward to seeing these questions on your ballot in No-

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. [www.volunteeral-alexandria.org](http://www.volunteeral-alexandria.org)

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralalexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

Join Friends’ Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make sure

the City’s most vulnerable residents have a chance to thrive, then consider joining the Board of Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center. The Friends Board is an all-volunteer group of residents that oversees the administration of one of Alexandria’s top mental health charities. Friends has no paid staff, so Board members, working on average 10 hours per month, share the day-to-day work needed to accomplish its goals. Interested candidates should email [FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofAMHC@gmail.com).

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by par-

# COMMUNITY

## Where To Give Locally

FROM PAGE 7

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.alexandriainimals.org,** Pet adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, education, wildlife management, community service and outreach. See pages 14-15 for more.

❖ **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.

❖ **Bethany House, 6121 Lincolnia Rd #303, Alexandria, VA 22312; 703-658-9500; http://www.bhnv.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 affordable housing, youth education, adult education, bilingual staff assistance.

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

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

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

❖ **Hopkins House, 703-549-8072, www.hopkinshouse.org,** 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/friend-

softheAMHC

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

❖ **Just Neighbors** is dedicated to serving and supporting the immigrant community by providing high-quality immigration legal services to low-income immigrants, asylees and refugees. https://www.justneighbors.org/

❖ **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

❖ **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

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

joyable 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

❖ **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/

❖ **Potomac Riverkeeper Network** works to protect the public's right to clean water in our rivers and streams; to stop pollution; to promote safe drinking water; to protect healthy river habitats; and to enhance public use and enjoyment. 3070 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. (202) 888-2037 www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org

❖ **Potomac Conservancy, 962 Wayne Ave, Suite 540, Silver Spring, MD 20910; 301.608.1188; potomac.org,** seeks to improve the Potomac River's water quality by building an impassioned base of river advocates to impart change at the local level. www.potomac.org

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

❖ **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.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

**OCT. 31 TO DEC. 8**  
**Susan J. Goldman Exhibit.** At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Artist talk, Saturday, November 30, 1 p.m.

**OCT. 24 TO DEC. 21**  
**"A Focus on Nature."**

At Coldwell Banker Realty, 310 King Street, Alexandria. Art exhibit featuring the nature-themed photographs of Steven Halperson and mosaics of Nina Tisara. Steven Halperson, Tisara Photography, has over 30 years' experience in portrait and event photography. For this exhibit, he is returning to his roots in fine art photography and making use of digital camera software to create strikingly beautiful images. Nina Tisara retired from the photography studio in 2007 and began creating intricate mosaics which are now widely exhibited and collected. Nina is the founder of Living Legends of Alexandria. A portion of all sales will be donated to the Coldwell Banker Realty Cares Foundation, a program that helps support selected nonprofits in Alexandria and throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. For additional information, contact Rachel Carter, RCarter@cbmove.com or Nina Tisara, Ninat@ninatisara.com.

**NOV. 1 TO DEC. 1**

**Del Ray Artisans "\$100 & Under" exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Showcases members' artwork all priced at \$100 or less. The art is sold on an art-to-go basis. The gallery walls are packed with great art at prices all art-lovers can afford. Opening Reception: Friday, November 1, 7-9pm. Open Thursdays 12-6pm, Fridays 12-9pm, Saturdays & Sundays 12-6pm. Closed Thanksgiving Day. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

**NOV. 10 TO DEC. 10**

**Pope-Leighey House Tours.** 12-1 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. By 1941, the year Pope-Leighey House was completed, Frank Lloyd Wright had studied Japan for almost a half-century. He had become a serious collector of woodblock prints--even writing a book on the subject--and had won acclaim for his design of the Tokyo Imperial Hotel, one of the few buildings to survive the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. On this special tour, visitors will discover how the famous American architect incorporated his love of Japanese art, architecture, and philosophy into Usonian homes, and how this East Asian influence shines in Wright's Pope-Leighey House.

**FRIDAY/NOV. 29**

**Plaid Friday Alexandria.** Alexandria's 50 Small Business Black Friday returns for another holiday season to highlight and celebrate Alexandria's iconic array of independent businesses. Known as the top destination for locally owned retail, 50 participating businesses are asking customers to shift their shopping this holiday season by kicking off Black Friday shopping at Alexan-



Plaid Friday Alexandria takes place on Friday, Nov. 29, 2024 in Alexandria.

dria boutiques for steals and deals on Friday, November 29. Several participating businesses will open at 6 a.m. For more details on participating businesses and special offers, visit [plaidfridayALX.com](https://plaidfridayALX.com).

**SUNDAY/DEC. 1**

**8th Annual Old Town Tuba Christmas.** Presented by WMPA - Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. 3 p.m. At Market Square/Old Town Farmers Market by City Hall, Alexandria. Free. Christmas carols and holiday tunes with tubaists of all ages. Free.

**MONDAY/DEC. 2**

**Annual Holiday Party.** 6-8 p.m. At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 100 W. Luray Ave., Alexandria. Friends of Guest House welcomes you to join in the annual holiday party. This is an opportunity to enjoy a community meal with the board, staff, and women of Guest House. If you volunteered in the past year, supported them with a financial gift or would like to join the mission in the future, you are welcome to attend!

**TUESDAY/DEC. 3**

**Yoga Nidra.** 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Experience Pope-Leighey House in a unique way through Yoga Nidra, a type of guided meditation that allows participants to achieve deeper states of relaxation. Cost: \$25. Visit the website: <https://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/upcomingevents/2024/12/3/yoga-nidra>

**DEC. 6 - 8**

**Alexandria's iconic holiday weekend.** Taste of Scotland. Friday, Dec. 6. The 53rd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade is Saturday, Dec. 7, followed by the 24th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. <https://visitallexandria.com/holidays/biggest-weekend/>

**FRIDAY/DEC. 6**

**Taste of Scotland Event.** 6:30-10:30 p.m. At The Atrium, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Campagna Center and partners will celebrate the Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend from December 6 - 7, 2024. This holiday party always occurs on the Friday before the Scottish Christmas Walk parade and offers guests the chance to sample Scotland via its distinct spirit, Scotch, as well as to enjoy delicious catering, music, and entertainment, with all proceeds

supporting the nonprofit's work. For the past 50 years, Campagna Center, which is committed to improving the lives of Alexandria's children and families through a variety of impactful programs that promote learning and growth for everyone, has embraced the Scottish-filled event as tradition. Visit the website: <https://www.campagnacenter.org>.

**DEC. 6-21**

**Holiday Tours.** 5-7:30 p.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Tour the Pope-Leighey House during special evening tours and see the home decorated for a mid-century holiday. Tours are offered Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, with tours every half hour between 5 and 7 p.m. Space is limited, advance registration is recommended. Cost: \$20. Visit the website <https://www.woodlawn-popeleighey.org>

**DEC. 6-22**

**29th Annual Holiday Market.** At 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans 29th Annual Holiday Market offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Plus 2025 wall calendars support Del Ray Artisans nonprofit. Free admission. Holiday Market is the first three weekends in December (Dec 6-8, Dec 13-15, Dec 20-22). Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Details: [DelRayArtisans.org/holiday-market-2024](https://DelRayArtisans.org/holiday-market-2024)

**SATURDAY/DEC. 7**

**Holiday Parade Day.** Alexandria's two signature holiday parades starting with the 53rd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade sponsored by Wegmans at 11 a.m. followed by the 24th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sponsored by Amazon at 5:30 p.m., with riverside festivities for the whole family starting at 2 p.m.

**SATURDAY/DEC. 7**

**Fall Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen Street, Alexandria. The Friends of Barrett Library will hold their annual Fall Book Sale. Come browse a great selection of fiction, nonfiction, and children's books, as well as DVDs and CDs.



The 8th Annual Old Town Tuba Christmas takes place on Sunday, Dec. 1, 2024 in Alexandria.

Prices are \$3 for hardbacks, \$2 for paperbacks, and vary for special volumes and collections. Info: (703) 746-1703.

**SATURDAY/DEC. 7**

**Used Book Sale:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Selection of over 20,000 gently used children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs and large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional>.

**SATURDAY/DEC. 7**

**Support Youth Musicians.** WMPA - Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association. 3 p.m. At Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Join both the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and the Washington Metropolitan Concert Orchestra as they perform. The program offers a variety of music: Hoffmeister Viola Concerto, Mvt. I - Isaiah Reed, soloist Seitz Viola Concerto, Mvt. I - Tate Commission, soloist Capriol Suite - Peter Warlock Slavonic Dance in C - Furiant - Antonin Dvořák. Free.

**SUNDAY/DEC. 8**

**Holiday Dreams Orchestra Concert.** 3 p.m. At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Street, Alexandria. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic performs with the Alexandria

Choral Society. Duke Ellington's "Nutcracker Suite" headlines, under the baton of Music Director Anna Binneweg. This concert promises to transport the audience into a realm of festive delight, "Holiday Dreams" offers a captivating blend of seasonal cheer and musical charm. Grace-Evangeline Mason's "The Imagined Forest" sets a magical tone, weaving together melodies that evoke the spirit of the holidays. Tickets \$35 adults, \$30 seniors, 18 & under just \$5.

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

**At Joe Theismann's Restaurant.** 8 a.m. Located at 1800A Diagonal Road, Alexandria. Dates: Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. This holiday season, create unforgettable memories with Breakfast with Santa in the enchanting Old Town Alexandria at Joe Theismann's Restaurant. Start with a festive family-style breakfast featuring delectable options like french toast, smoked salmon, and tater tots. Children will love the take-home treats and a magical moment meeting Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo. Adults can indulge in bottomless Prosecco bellinis or classic mimosas for \$15. Babies join for free, while kids are \$29.50 plus tax and adults are \$53 plus tax.

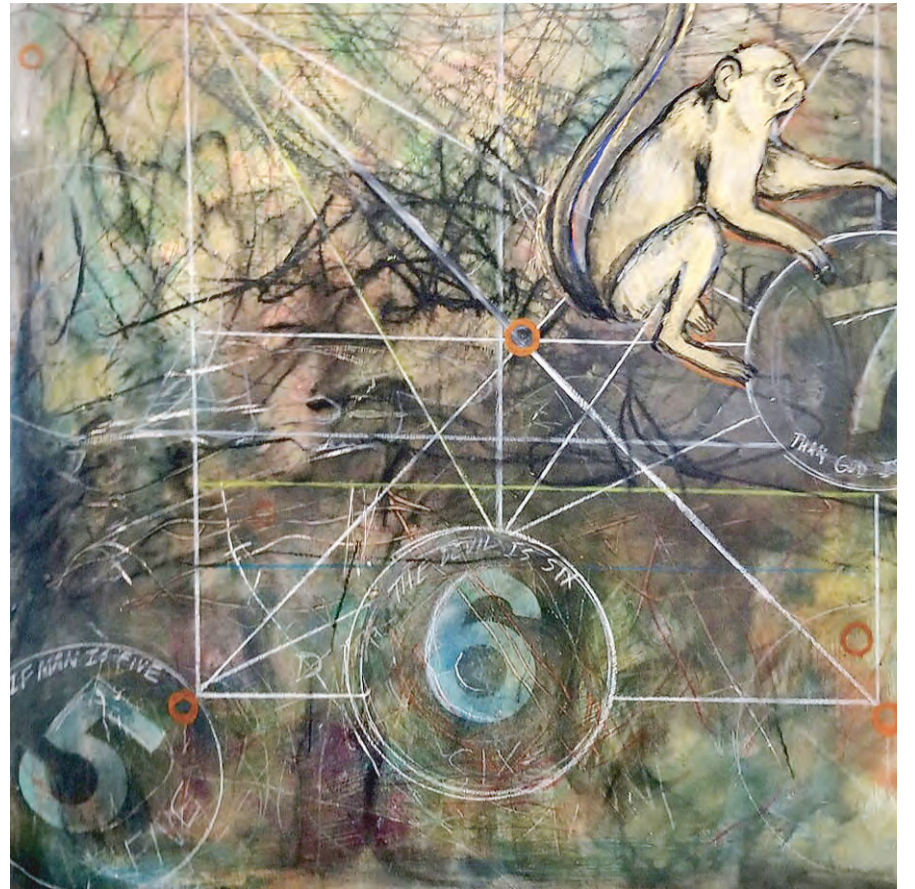
**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

**At Mia's Italian Kitchen.** 8 a.m. Located at 100 King Street, Alexandria. Dates are Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. Celebrate the season with a festive breakfast feast featuring a delicious spread served family-style, including breakfast pastry & bagel

# ENTERTAINMENT



The Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library is holding a Fall Book Sale on Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024 in Alexandria.



The Del Ray Artisans "\$100 & Under" exhibit runs now through Dec. 1, 2024 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, Alexandria.

basket, smoked salmon, and scrambled eggs. At Mia's Italian Kitchen, children will enjoy take-home treats and a magical visit with Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo that captures the Christmas spirit. Adults can enjoy bottomless classic mimosas and Prosecco bellinis for \$18. Babies join for free, while kids are \$34 plus tax and adults are \$57 plus tax.

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**At Ada's on the River.** 8 a.m. Located at 3 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. Dates are: Saturday, Dec. 7, 14, 21; Sunday, Dec. 8, 15, 22. Join Ada's on the River for a festive breakfast feast, where you'll enjoy a delicious family-style spread including breakfast pastries, pancakes, yogurt parfait, and tater tots. Children will receive take-home treats and a magical visit with Santa Claus, complete with a keepsake photo that captures the Christmas spirit. Adults can indulge in classic mimosas, bellinis, or Prosecco. Adults can indulge in bottomless Prosecco bellinis or classic mimosas for \$15. Babies join for free, while kids are \$29.50 plus tax and adults are \$53 plus tax.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 12

**Del Ray Holiday Sip & Shop.** Special promotions and complimentary wine and refreshments.

## DEC. 13-15

**Gustave Marche de Noel Gift Market.** New this year, be immersed in a magical new European Christmas market experience in Del Ray during the inaugural Gustave Marché de Noël Gift Market, a weekend chock-full of holiday happenings including the Old Town North Holiday Market & Farmers Market, Christmas Market & Holiday Craft Show at John Carlyle Square and more.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Fine Art Photography, Food and Merriment.** 2-4 p.m. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Studio 312, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Enjoy

light refreshments, the Capital Perspectives exhibition that decks the walls, and an abundance of holiday cheer. This Holiday Open House is also a special chance to wish MEG member Tim Hyde a fond farewell as he gets ready to leave at the end of the year. (Special bonus — you might also meet the two talented artists who'll be joining us in 2025.)

## DEC. 14-15

**Nutcracker Ballet.** At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. At 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. both days. Presented by the Metropolitan School of the Arts. Veronica Quezada, MSA alumnus and part of the International Tour of West Side Story, will play the part of Sugar Plum Fairy, joining a cast of 150 MSA students. Tickets are \$21 to \$35. Visit [www.metropolitanschoolofthearts.org](http://www.metropolitanschoolofthearts.org)

## SATURDAY/DEC. 21

**The Gift of Music.** 7:30 p.m. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. Join the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra with this holiday musical tradition. Celebrate the season with family and friends. Join Conductor James Ross and the Alexandria Symphony for carols, classics, and sparkling holiday favorites. Plus, special guest violinist, Chelsey Green and The Green Project, fuse classical and contemporary, jazz and R&B.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 24

**Waterskiing Santa Show.** 1 p.m. Begins at BARCA Pier, 2 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria. For a sight you have to see to believe, head to the waterfront between BARCA Pier and Founders Park to witness the Waterskiing Santa Show, featuring Santa and his friends gliding along the Potomac River. There is also a rumor the Grinch will try and steal the show at 12:45 p.m. before the show starts. Santa and his pals begin at BARCA Pier at 1 p.m. and ski north to Founders Park before circling back south and finishing at

Ford's Landing.

## CHRISTMAS EVE DINING, DEC. 24

**Ada's On the River, 3 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria.** Open from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Ada's will be serving two delicious Christmas Eve specials, the Chilean Seabass made with cherry tomatoes, asparagus, fingerling potatoes, herbs, and miso brown butter for \$45 or the Prime Kansas City Strip 24 Oz for \$89.

## BARCA Pier & Wine Bar, 2 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria.

BARCA Pier is inviting guests to enjoy two festive specials in addition to their regular menu on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Featured specials include the Catalan Lamb Kebab for \$26 or the Crab Stuffed Jumbo Shrimp for \$27. BARCA Pier will open on Christmas Eve from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and 12 to 9 p.m. on Christmas Day.

## The Majestic, 911 King Street,

Alexandria. Open from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Majestic will offer two special additions to their regular menu on Christmas eve. Guests can enjoy Pan Seared Duck Breast made with butternut squash purée, honey glazed parsnips, and orange sauce for \$35 or Oven Roasted Rockfish made with zucchini, eggplant, red peppers, onions, tomato-caper sauce, and herb oil for \$32.

## Mia's Italian Kitchen, 100 King Street, Alexandria.

On Christmas Eve, Mia's will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., offering two special dishes. Guests can enjoy Veal Chop Parmigiana, made with a pounded and breaded bone-in veal chop, spicy rigatoni pomodoro, melted mozzarella, and saba for \$39, or Lobster Ravioli, featuring Maine lobster, pecorino, lobster sauce, ricotta, and sherry cream sauce for \$29.

## Vola's Dockside Grill, 101 North Union Street, Old Town Alexandria.

On Christmas Eve, Vola's

will be open during regular hours, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., ensuring a smooth and festive transition into the holiday spirit. For \$35 each dish, guests can enjoy two special dishes: Lobster & Spinach Ravioli with asparagus, tomato cream sauce, pecorino romano, and fried sage, or King Salmon with quinoa, confit pearl onions, roasted butternut squash, watercress, and salsa verde. The regular menu will also be available.

## CHRISTMAS DAY DINING, DEC. 25

**Ada's On The River, 3 Pioneer Mill Way, Alexandria.** Ada's will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Christmas Day, offering a three-course prix fixe menu for \$79 per person. The menu features dishes like Preserved Root Vegetable Tartare, Shrimp-Stuffed Halibut, Coal-Roasted Rack of Lamb, and more. For \$29, kids can enjoy options such as White Cheddar Mac & Cheese and Petite Filet Mignon.

## Joe Theismann's Restaurant, 1800A Diagonal Road, Alexandria.

Indulge in a sumptuous Christmas Day Buffet, available from 11:30am to 9pm. The buffet features a Carving Station, a Salad Table, a Bread and Dessert Table, and a Hot Table. Priced at \$59 per person and \$19 for kids, this festive buffet promises a delectable spread to satisfy every palate with dishes like Praline-Sweet Potato Casserole, Spiral Ham, Brioche Stuffing and more.

## The Majestic, 911 King Street,

Alexandria. On Christmas Day from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Majestic will offer a Christmas dinner for \$79 per person, featuring a four-course prix fixe menu with a variety of delicious options. Dishes include Butternut Squash Soup, Crab Croquettes, Roasted Turkey, Truffle Mash Potatoes, and more.

The Majestic will also offer a Thanksgiving Bar Menu with an array of starters, main dishes, sides, and desserts. Children ages 12 and under can enjoy the Kids Menu, which includes three delicious courses.

## Mia's Italian Kitchen, 100 King Street, Alexandria.

Mia's Italian Kitchen, the beloved traditional Italian eatery located at the riverside end of King Street in Old Town Alexandria, is offering a three-course Christmas feast for \$49 per person. The menu includes dishes like Shrimp Fra Diavolo Bruschetta, Lobster Ravioli, Braised Lamb Shank, and more. The restaurant will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Christmas Day.

## Royal Restaurant, 730 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria.

Royal will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., offering its regular menu, along with a new breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu, plus two Christmas specials. Guests can choose between Prime Rib with garlic mashed potatoes, honey-glazed carrots, horseradish cream, and au jus for \$35, or Spiral Ham with mashed sweet potatoes, candied pecans, garlic green beans, and pineapple glaze for \$25.

## Vola's Dockside Grill, 101 North Union Street, Old Town Alexandria.

Spend Christmas Day at Vola's Dockside Grill and enjoy a special three-course prix fixe menu for \$49 per person. The menu includes dishes like Charred Octopus, Pork Shank Osso Buco, Lobster & Spinach Ravioli, and more. Vola's will be open from 11:30am to 10 pm, offering plenty of time for friends and family to gather and savor a festive holiday meal with a beautiful waterfront view.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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**CALENDAR**

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

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**Legals**

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**BULLETIN**

FROM PAGE 10

participating. Visit [www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm](http://www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteers@alive-inc.org](mailto:volunteers@alive-inc.org).

**Volunteer Drivers Needed.** Drivers needed by the American Cancer Society to take cancer patients to treatment in Northern Virginia. To volunteer, call 1-800-227-2345 or go to [cancer.org/drive](http://cancer.org/drive).

**RSVP,** a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

**Mentors Wanted.** Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria's preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for "Space of Her Own," and "Space of His Own," serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit [www.spaceofherown.org](http://www.spaceofherown.org) and [www.spaceofhisown.org](http://www.spaceofhisown.org). For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at [sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov](mailto:sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov) or phone at 703-746-4687.

**RGGI**

FROM PAGE 3

and public health, at least for the time being, given Judge Lowe's decision that the "only body with the authority to repeal the RGGI Regulation would be the General Assembly."

A look through the nation's lens of 2024 reveals a resemblance to 2016. President-elect Donald Trump is planning to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement for a second time; he says climate change is a hoax and he will increase fossil fuel production. The United States would be one of the only countries not to be a party to the 2015 pact. Nearly 200 governments made non-binding pledges to reduce their planet-warming pollution.

As for Virginia and RGGI, a spokesperson for Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Christian Martinez, posted, "We respectfully disagree with the judge's decision and will pursue an appeal. [Gov. Youngkin] remains committed to lowering the cost of living for Virginians by continuing to oppose the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which fails to effectively incentivize emission reductions in the Commonwealth. Instead, it functions as a regressive tax, hidden in utility bills, passed on to all Virginians."

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

## DEC. 31, 2024

**30th Annual First Night Alexandria.** 2 p.m. - 12 a.m. Throughout Old Town Alexandria. Experience the region's signature family-friendly New Year's Eve festival of music and more. A community celebration of the performing arts, First Night Alexandria rings in the new year with music, comedy, and dance. This year's celebration will feature a twilight fireworks display at 6 p.m. on Alexandria's waterfront geared to families who want to enjoy the show with their kids and loved ones. First Night Alexandria will also still host an abbreviated encore display of the New Year's fireworks at midnight on the waterfront. Visit <https://visitallexandria.com/events/30th-annual-first-night-alexandria>

## 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](http://www.Birchmere.com).

### NOVEMBER

Fri. 29: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad \$45.00  
Sat. 30: The Manhattans Featuring Gerald Alston \$65.00

### DECEMBER

Mon. 2: Shawn Colvin \$65.00  
Tue. 3: Aimee Mann & Ted Leo Xmas Show ft. Paul F. Tompkins, Nellie McKay & Josh Gondelman \$69.50 SOLD OUT!  
Wed. 4: Aimee Mann & Ted Leo Xmas Show ft. Paul F. Tompkins, Nellie McKay & Josh Gondelman \$69.50 SOLD OUT!  
Thu. 5: Hot Tuna Acoustic \$69.50 SOLD OUT!  
Fri. 6: Chris Botti \$110.00



"A Focus on Nature" can be seen Oct. 24 to Dec. 21, 2024 at Coldwell Banker Realty in Alexandria.

Sat. 7: Chris Botti \$110.00 SOLD OUT!  
Sun. 8: The Musical Box - The 50th Anniversary of Genesis - "Selling England By The Pound" \$59.50  
Mon. 9: Musiq Soulchild \$95.00 SOLD OUT!  
Tue. 10: Musiq Soulchild \$95.00  
Thu. 12: Micky Dolenz of The Monkees: Songs & Stories \$75.00 SOLD OUT!  
Fri. 13: Don McLean "A Starry Starry Night" A Night of Hits & Holiday Favorites \$79.50  
Sat. 14: Southside Johnny & The

Asbury Jukes \$59.50  
Sun. 15: The String Queens "Home For The Holidays" \$35.00  
Mon. 16: A Christmas Brass Spectacular feat. The Capitol Bones All-Brass Big Band \$39.50  
Tue. 17: Tab Benoit w/ Jesse Dayton \$49.50  
Wed. 18: A John Waters Christmas 2024 \$59.50 SOLD OUT!  
Thu. 19: Carbon Leaf "Time Is The Playground Tour" \$49.50  
Fri. 20: Carbon Leaf "Time Is The Playground Tour" \$49.50 SOLD OUT!  
Sat. 21: Pieces of a Dream \$49.50

Sun. 22: Luther Re-Lives 'Holiday Show' starring William "Smooth" Wardlaw \$49.50  
Thu. 26: Tarsha Fitzgerald Prod. Presents VOICES OF MOTOWN Christmas Concert! \$39.50  
Fri. 27: Charles Esten "Love Ain't Pretty Tour" \$59.50  
Sat. 28: A Very MAYSA Christmas \$69.50  
Sun. 29: Bela Dona Band \$39.50  
Tue. 31: New Year's Eve with The Seldom Scene and Tim & Savannah Finch & Eastman String Band -7:30pm- \$49.50



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

The Bowie family dresses up their holiday spirit for an outing to Springfield Town Center; Briana, Sekani (2), Aaron Sr, Aaron Jr. (5), Seauנית (1), & Carla

## Tick, Tick, Tick



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After picking three ticks off myself yesterday afternoon, including one so embedded in my upper right arm, my wife, Dina practically had to dig it out with an "entrenching tool," to invoke a phrase from 1970's comedy troupe, "The Firesign Theater," I am once again reminded of the risk/disease associated with ticks: Lyme disease. Having known a few friends "diseased" with Lyme and likewise having heard and read multiple first-person accounts of life with Lyme, I'd just as soon skip the experience. Moreover, I can't imagine that being an active thyroid cancer patient with kidney issues would likely simplify my treatment. A treatment which has continued for nearly 16 years with ups, downs and all-arounds and has seen me outlive my original "13 months to two years" prognosis by leaps and bounds. 'Leaps and bounds' which likely would have been almost impossible if I had been afflicted with Lyme, on top of my underlying morbidity - as is the medical jargon for complications - now papillary thyroid cancer, with a side of chronic kidney disease, with a GFR at stage 3b, a stage or two above the threshold for dialysis. A possible development which scares the s\*\*\* out of me.

In addition, there's another variable, though hardly unique to me, which increases the likelihood of yours truly being subjected to this very unpleasant experience: Burton the dog. He must go out. We don't have a fenced-in yard. And even though he's almost always on a leash, our neighborhood is very woody and I'm guessing the trees, and all make for a very inviting and hospitable environment for ticks. I don't see much tick-mitigation going on under the power lines behind our house or above the fuel pipeline bordering our property. In short, it's tick central over here and every time I walk Burton (four to five times a day), I feel like there's a ticking time bomb ready to explode - with my name on it, and infect me with this most insidious and hard-to-defeat disease - despite the deet that I'm spraying on myself as I prepare to venture into our "backwoods."

What I really need to do is inject myself with anti-tick venom. Or maybe take the deet internally? Now that Trump is back in The White House - or soon will be, perhaps he'll sign an executive order co-signed with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. authorizing the treatment, so long as Dr. Deborah Birx has not been rehired to lead the newly-authorized tick-elimination group. She might veto this bleach injection-type treatment on the grounds that it's ill-advised, shall we say. Besides, we've all been there and done that during the pandemic, so I don't foresee a repeat of this similar-sounding solution. But Trump has returned/prevalled to be president for another four years and with his hands on the tiller, surrounded by legions of sycophants, there may be very little that anybody governing for the other team, can do. But I semi digress. The issue is Lyme disease and the consequence of animals being vaccinated against it while their human owners are left to fend for themselves and as a result, must constantly look over their body for ticks and be sure to have a ready supply of "Off" on hand.

## Natural Gas

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"Renewable energy sources like wind and solar typically emit 50 grams or less of carbon dioxide (CO2) per kilowatt hour (kWh) over their lifetime. In comparison, coal emits about 1,000 grams of CO2 per kWh, and natural gas emits about 475 grams per kWh," according to a study reported by the World Resource Institute.

According to the "Virginia Clean Economy Act," HB 1526, effective 7/1/2020, introduced by Del. Rip Sullivan Jr. (D), electric utility regulation, environmental goals, electric utilities in the state are required to be completely carbon-free by the year 2045.

Sullivan posted on Nov. 20, regarding RGGI, "This decision is a major victory for Virginians—and the rule of law. It ensures that our Commonwealth is doing everything it can to reduce carbon emissions, fund flood resiliency efforts, and provide energy efficiency programs to low-income communities."

All kidding aside, I don't know why there isn't a Lyme disease vaccine for humans. My dog is vaccinated against Lyme. Why not me? In fact, he's due Jan. 16, 2025, for a renewal. As is said about the goose and the gander, isn't it true that what's good enough/appropriate for the dog is good enough/appropriate for the dog owner? Granted, one wouldn't want to be injected with animal vaccine but is bleach somehow better? Do we take better care of our dogs than we do ourselves? After all, dogs are so dependent on their owners for food, water, and overall health and welfare - not to mention bathroom breaks, that shouldn't us dog owners receive similar preventive treatment to assure our availability? I love my dog and I'm sure he loves me (despite his getting neutered last week), but if I'm unable to provide the same T.L.C. as he's come to expect, we all lose.

Maybe what's needed to guarantee me, and my pet's simultaneous good health/Lyme disease-free existence is for President-to-be Trump to create a new cabinet level department: Dept. of Veterinary Affairs? Perhaps he could fund it with some of the savings that will accrue in the budget with the dismantling of the Dept. of Education? I imagine it would make us pet owners, regardless of party affiliation safe and secure. And isn't that what the government is supposed to do?

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