

MOUNT VERNON VOICE

Vol. 16 No. 39

Happy Chanukah Mount Vernon, Lee, and Alexandria

December 6, 2017 50 Cents



Campagna Center Hosts 47th Annual Scottish Christmas
The Campagna Center hosted its 47th annual Scottish Christmas parade Saturday through the streets of Old Town Mount Vernon. Center President and CEO Dr. Tammy Mann, right, of the board of directors, marching. In addition to the parade, the center hosted a Taste of Scotland Friday and Christmas sales on Friday and Saturday. See more photos on page 10.

Surovell Looks Ahead to Session Sees a 'Very Different' Environment in Richmond

By STEVE HUNT
Staff Writer

'Light Up the Season' Event Benefits Children's National



Staff photos/Steve Hunt



Area designers joined forces Dec. 3 to create magical holiday trees and scenes that were raffled off to benefit the young patients at Children's National. The event at the Georgetown Four Seasons Hotel featured Santa, food, entertainment, cookie decorating and more. Left, Dr. Bear attended. Above, Safari Santa's Alexandria designer Susan Nelson with daughter Lily. Above right, trombones George and Sean worked with Alexandria designer Victoria Sanchez on a sparkly tree. Below right, kids made cards to send to hospitalized youngsters.



The Rite-Aid pharmacy in the Hollin Hall area was robbed shortly after 10:30 a.m. Tuesday. Two males entered the store and weapons were used. Additional information was available as cameras rolled to the scene minutes after the robbery. An officer spoke to an apparent witness who said he saw the robbery. Passersby were told the store was closed. The pharmacy that was robbed. By 3:30 p.m. the store was open. See more photos on page 10.



Home on Cameron



Surovell Predicts a Very Different Richmond Session in 2018

Surovell from Page 1

For example, he said Medicaid expansion in Virginia is "likely" and regarding his efforts to make hands-free phone use while driving mandatory, he said, "I think I have a shot at that." He also expressed frustration that while texting while driving is illegal, using a cell phone for other things while driving is not. "Right now you can play 'Angry Birds' while driving," Surovell said. "We need to fix that." And Surovell has high hopes for Democrats' future in Virginia and nationwide saying long-term predictions show "there's a wave

coming." "I'm very optimistic," he said. "Our President is not doing them any favors at all." Locally, Surovell outlined the future of Richmond Highway which has been his priority since before becoming an elected official. He provided an update of what's happening on the corridor, occasionally asking Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck who was in attendance for assurance in that what he was saying was the most current information. At Huntington, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has approved a major expansion at

Riverside Apartments which includes 767 new units on top of what are parking lots now as well as upgrades to the existing buildings, stormwater infrastructure, multimodal connections and parks resulting in "a lot of new people." At Huntington Gardens on North Kings Highway adjacent to the Huntington Metro Station, residents approved a "sell out" to "level the place" resulting in 3,500 new units within the decade on the 19-acre tract. "This is coming," commented Surovell, describing it as "a huge project." At North Hill opposite Lock-

heed Boulevard in Hybla Valley, Surovell noted that the community has been "fighting about this for 30 years" with plans calling now for 219 multifamily units, 60 units for seniors, and 195 for-sale townhouses. That is, Surovell added, with the possible elimination of tax credits supported by the Trump administration, "if the federal government doesn't screw it up." That also goes for the possible elimination of historic tax credits for the original Mount Vernon High School in the Mount Zephyr area which is slated for a major renovation.

In the Fort Belvoir area and south, Surovell said the U.S. Army Museum slated to open in 2019 "is going to be an amazing museum." Regarding Gunston Hall on Mason Neck which is raising \$75 million for a 20-year master plan, Surovell commented "they're trying to turn Gunston Hall around. It's a neat place with a lot of big plans." And as far as "who's in charge?" of the Virginia legislature coming into the General Assembly session all Surovell could say is "I don't know." "Stay tuned is all I can say."