



Fairfax CONNECTION

WELLBEING

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Robinson associate principal Tracey Phillips and principal Matt Eline greet students as they walk in on their first day Sept. 6.

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Car Show is Huge Success

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Colorful Balloon Sculpture 'Opened People's Hearts'

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

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PEOPLE



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Father Francis Peffley wows parishioners at Saint Mary of Sorrows by juggling flaming torches.

New, Juggling Priest at St. Mary

There’s a new priest at Saint Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church – and he juggles. Indeed, during the church’s annual, Labor Day picnic on Monday, Sept. 5, Father Francis Peffley showed off his juggling talent for the parishioners. Church member, Del. David Bulova (D-37), was among those enjoying the show.

“While Father Peffley juggled tennis rackets and basketballs, he really wowed the crowd when he juggled machetes and torches,” said Bulova. The active, new priest also enjoys golfing, scuba diving, bowling, playing billiards, collecting baseball cards and traveling to various pilgrimage sites and shrines.

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Members of the Robinson Secondary School Drumline perform a cadence while students enter school for the first day on Sep. 6.

Class Action

Students return, principals stress inter-student encouragement.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

South County High School senior Dominique Butler remembers skipping class as a freshman. But when she saw how it was affecting her chances at going to college, she turned things around. When she saw freshmen from her neighborhood on the first day of school, she made sure they wouldn't make the same mistakes she did.

"I helped them out," Butler said during lunch on Sep. 6. "It feels good to encourage them to go to class." This year, the senior is attending West Potomac academy in addition to South County to study music and computer technology, where she produces her own beats and records under the moniker "DJ Spinderella."

Butler's fellow senior Hermela Gebremariam similarly shepherded some underclassmen who looked lost, even inviting them to eat with her and her friends at lunch.

"I was a freshman once," she said. "I like seeing how I could help younger students. It's better to be nice than mean."

THE TWO SENIORS were already embodying a new inter-student standard for behavior called "Stallion Nation." Last year, a new student council drafted the code and plans to roll it out for all students this year.

Principal Matt Ragone said the new code is based on students having positive expectations for and of each other.

"I'm so proud of them for coming up with this," Ragone said. "It's also about getting the non-student government voices to be heard. And it's about the culture of the school."

Facilitating and empowering students to be both independent successfully and as cheerleaders for each other was a theme across high schools.

At Robinson Secondary School, the en-

tire incoming seventh grade class first met separately in the auditorium to learn the fight song fast while the rest of the student body assembled in the gymnasium.

With the marching band blaring, flag dancers twirling and older classmates cheering them on, the school's youngest students then rushed the gym — a cacophonous swell of students building relationships.

Robinson associate principal Tracey Phillips organized the pep rally, which was the first day's main event following welcome activities outside the school that included cheerleaders, drumline and faculty effusively greeting students on their way in.

"It's a big place and can be overwhelming," said Phillips, herself Robinson graduate. "We want to be an inclusive place for all the kids, somewhere fun and exciting where they can find something they love."

In a similar vein, Lake Braddock Secondary School principal Dave Thomas said he is "most proud of all the opportunities our kids have."

From JROTC and animation to weightlifting to broadcast journalism, "our kids can really find a niche with some cool studies we offer."

Thomas was also proud of the continued use of a class period where students can go for help, or to help each other, called "Bruin Block."

The block he said will be crucial for both students and the nearly 40 new teachers in the building this year to overcome challenges and be successful. One of those challenges is a larger student body of 4,270, the most since the late 1980s by Thomas' account, that is requiring teachers to use all rooms for six to seven periods a day.

ANOTHER SCHOOL with students and faculty contending with more structural growing pains is West Springfield High



(From left) Robinson Secondary School seniors Sarah Diluccio, Ana Rodas and Marissa Charland are ready to board the bus to Chantilly High School Academy for animal science coursework while senior Anna Pohlmann is off to Fairfax High School Academy for advanced musical theater.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

VIEWPOINTS

Robinson Students Discuss: What are you most looking forward to this year?

On the first day of school at Robinson Secondary (from left) senior Lisa Zangla is looking forward to being done, senior Nina Navarro is planning to finish strong and sophomore Courtney Zangla just wants to have a good year.



Ana Rodas, senior: "Taking my second year in animal science at Chantilly Academy. It's very hands-on, and you get to practice dog-grooming and learn anatomy of horses, reptiles and other small mammals."



Anna Pohlmann, senior: "Amping up my musical theater experience with the advanced course at Fairfax Academy. I did 'Into the Woods' last year and think this will be helpful for college auditions."

School. A three and a half-year renovation began over the summer: With a parking lot being torn up for a new third-floor extension, they've lost 249 spots and classroom space for 42 percent of students.

Students have been forced to find alternative places to park, as well as take classes in one of 54 trailers in a village behind the school now known as "Sparta."

But even with all this going on, principal Mike Mukai said the students are taking it in stride.

"The kids are so resilient," he said. "It's all about adjusting, being prepared and flexible."

Mukai described the student culture as

being "open and accepting," and caring for others. He referenced a day last fall when the WT Woodson High School football team played a game against West Springfield the same night as a chemical fire in a Woodson classroom injured several people.

West Springfield students spontaneously wore white and created a sign saying "We Are All Woodson" for the game.

"I'm so proud of the work our students and faculty are doing," Mukai said, highlighting their enrollment is up more than 100 from what was predicted in the spring. "No one chose to come here because they drove by and thought, 'What a beautiful building.'"

From left - As Mayor Steve Stombres addresses the crowd, City Councilman Jeff Greenfield, event Chairman Jim Chesley and wife Jennifer, and Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) applaud.



Thousands thronged to the Labor Day Car Show in the City of Fairfax, making it a huge success.

Car Show is Huge Success

The Clifton Lions Club Labor Day Car Show was Monday, Sept. 5, in the City of Fairfax. "It's a great show and I'm thrilled with the turnout," said Mayor Steve Stombres.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The American Legion Post 177 Color Guard in front of the fire station.



Glen Wright checks out this spiffy, 1934 Ford at the Labor Day Car Show in Fairfax.



Lisette and Steven Owens check out the engine of a 1971 Mustang.



Dan Deitz stands by his kit car of a 1965 Cobra.



Attendees look appreciatively at this 1923 Ford T-Bucket hot rod.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Registration Opens for Citizens Fire & Rescue Academy

Want to learn more about the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department? Want to participate in a fun-filled nine-week program that will show you what firefighters and paramedics do every day? You can now apply to the Citizens Fire & Rescue Academy; applications will be accepted until Sept. 9, or until the class of 25 is filled. The Academy will begin Sept. 22, and will meet for nine consecutive Thursdays, from 6 to 9 p.m. at various locations in and outside the department. Each session will cover different aspects of the organization, providing an in-depth overview of the department and its uniformed and civilian workforce. Program topics include: fire suppression, emergency medical services, training, recruitment, special operations, and other interesting topics. To sign up for the free program, you must be 18 years of age and apply online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Jonathan Whittington, Kathryn Herring, Emma Zettlemoyer, of Springfield; **Bridget Ray and Kirsten Chase**, of Burke; received \$2,000 scholarships from the Scholarship for Military Children Program in July 2016.

Jane Gibbins-Harding, of Springfield, was named to the dean's list at Bethany College for spring 2016.

U.S. Air Force Airman Brian A. Zamfino graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Zamfino is the son of Joanne and Joseph Zamfino of Springfield. He is a 2015 graduate of West Springfield High School.

Thomas Miskimins, of Fairfax, graduated with a master of arts, in Spring 2016 from the University of New Haven.

Jordan Ecker, of Fairfax, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Caroline Dickson, of Fairfax, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at the University of Maine-Orono.

Allison Righter Moore, and **Sarah Ann Hughes Cushing-Spiller**, of Springfield, is on the dean's list at Hollins University, for the 2016 spring semester.

James Butler, a Lake Braddock Secondary School graduate, was inducted into the Naval Academy Class of 2020 on June 30, 2016.

Kyle Austin Walsh, of Fairfax, and **Abigail Lynn Lackey**, of Springfield, were named to the honors list for the 2016 spring 2016 semester at Averett University in Danville.

Katherine Marie Hough, of Fairfax Station, is on the dean's list at George Mason University for spring 2016.

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OPINION

Back to School

Conversation and listening:
top priorities for back to school.

Don't be afraid. Asking questions with respect and listening to the answers is one of the most important things we can all do as we head back to school.

Parents, go ahead and ask your students what they think about what's happening at school, what their plans are. Listen to the answers. Parents, go ahead and ask teachers about expectations, motivations and their philosophies and approaches on teaching. Attend back-to-school night if you can. Figure out how you will communicate with teachers.

Students, indulge your parents for five minutes a day. Answer a question or two. Share something interesting that happened during the day. Try to tell them why some things make a difference to you.

GRATITUDE: An excellent way to help wrestle back-to-school concerns into perspective is to count blessings and consider how to help someone wrestling harder things.

Hundreds, possibly thousands, of students headed back to school this week in Northern Virginia are experiencing homelessness. In Fairfax County, you can find ways to volunteer to help homeless students by contacting the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, 703-324-9492.

SAFETY: We do know to slow down in school zones, watch for darting pedestrians, stop for school buses with flashing lights. Buckle seatbelts. But probably the most important

conscious step you can take for safety on the roads around schools and everywhere else is to resolve not to engage in distracted driving. Put your phone down. Students, talk to your parents about this; they could be at risk.

Favorite Back-to-School Headline (from Fairfax County): "Learn About School Lunches and Deer Management in the Latest News." Turns out deer management is not being incorporated into venison burgers in school lunches.

Why Do Some Want Virginia To Be One of the Most Repressive States?

Two states allow absentee voting from prison.

Clearly that is not where we are headed in Virginia. But the restoration of voting rights moves Virginia towards the mainstream.

Virginia is one of four most restrictive states with lifetime bans on voting for those convicted of felonies.

Fourteen states automatically restore voting rights once the individual's term of incarceration is over, and two states allow absentee voting from prison.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe deserves praise for his efforts to restore voting rights for former felons who have served their sentences. He has

been thwarted at every turn by Republican members of the General Assembly, who don't appear to be done with their efforts to prevent people who have paid their "debt to society" from returning to normal, engaged lives in the community.

"If we are going to build a stronger and more equal Virginia, we must break down barriers to participation in civic life for people who return to society seeking a second chance," McAuliffe said. "We must welcome them back and offer the opportunity to build a better life by taking an active role in our democracy."

Earlier this year, the Maryland General Assembly restored the vote to all convicted felons immediately upon their release from prison. Previously, people convicted of felonies in Maryland had to complete all parole and probation before they were able to vote.

MEANWHILE, for all Virginia voters, the deadline to register to vote for the Nov. 8 general election is Oct. 17. You can verify your voter status at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. This is especially important to do if you have moved or have not voted recently.

In person absentee voting begins Sept. 23.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

#It's an important election, with Virginia playing a critical role in the outcome of the race for U.S. President. There will also be many important local issues on the ballot, along with the races for U.S. Congress.

Suicide Loss Support

BY LAURA MAYER
DIRECTOR, PRS CRISISLINK

When I was 15 years old, I received my first "membership card" to suicide loss. I got the platinum membership card because not only was my loss to suicide, but it was also a parent.

As an adolescent this was one of those memberships that made people walk the other way and talk about you quietly. At 15 I was told my father was in a "better place," and he was no longer in pain. People also told me that he was selfish and a horrible person. I had to pick one set of beliefs to survive.

I picked the set that described his loss as one that relieved him from pain and he was better now. Little did I know, this increased my risk for suicidal thinking substantially. For the next five years, I would struggle with my own thoughts of suicide.

At 20, I lost my best friend to suicide and everything changed.

This was not supposed to happen again, and I needed to do something different. I became motivated to stop the thoughts I had, stop the losses in my community and make my world a better place to live.

I got involved with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and then CrisisLink. When I became a volunteer, I found an entire community in which suicide was openly discussed and people shared experiences like me. I found a place where I could take these horrible experiences and find meaning and energy to "do something."

Now, I am the program director of PRS CrisisLink, a McLean-based nonprofit that helps people with mental illness and those facing life crises. Every day, I am able to do something to help others either through training new crisis workers, speaking in the community or providing suicide prevention training. In addition, I manage a region-wide hotline and textline to provide an outlet



Laura Mayer

to help people cope with emotional trauma, personal and family crises. Right now, I am spearheading PRS' #MindsMatter, a social media campaign to encourage the community to pledge to do something that raises awareness about suicide prevention. This effort kicks off National Suicide Prevention Week, which takes place this week.

I wouldn't wish this club mem-

bership on anyone; but for me, the membership is a now an honor because I make a difference, and the work I do matters.

To contact our 24/7 crisis hotline or textline, call 1-800-273-TALK [8255] or text "Connect" to 85511. If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer crisis worker, please contact Lauren Padgett, lpadgett@prsinc.org, 703-531-6351.

Fairfax
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SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 5

Anna Kormis, of Springfield, graduated from Emory and Henry College in spring 2016.

Kyle Austin Walsh, of Fairfax, graduated from Averett University in June 2016. was among the 261 students to receive diplomas during Averett University's May 7 Commencement,

Megan R. Seymour, Megan F. Cummins, Thomas S. Cohen, of Fairfax, **Joshua D. Harlowe, Samantha E. Kinde, Melissa A. Schwartz**, of Springfield; **Sean C. Baird**, of Fairfax Station; graduated from Boston University in spring 2016.

Helene J. Decosse, Alexis J. Fahrney, Jessica M. Ochoa, of Fairfax, are on the dean's list at Boston University for spring 2016.

Seth Lehman, Thet San, of Fairfax, graduated from Furman University in spring 2016.

Luke Hartman, Natalie Heinitz, of Springfield, graduated from Manhattan College in spring 2016.

Maria Larrazabal Carrillo, of Fairfax is on the dean's list for May 2016 at Iowa State.

Kayse McGough of Fairfax is on the dean's list for May 2016 at St. Mary's College.

Jared Rondeau of Clifton, graduated May 2016 Triple Major in Physics, Mathematics, and Chemistry from Emory and Henry College.

Moriah Dreisbach, of Fairfax, is on Union University's president's list for spring 2016.

Irene Martinko, of Springfield, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

James F. Agnew, Kyle T. Deivert and Nathaniel Oliver, of Fairfax, are on the dean's list at Hampden-Sydney College.

Cameron Kisailus, of Franconia, graduated from Gonzaga College High School. He will be attending the University of Pittsburgh.

Michael Gerlach's, of Fairfax Station, is on the dean's list at James Madison University for spring 2016.

Kara Anne Crennan, an alumna of West Springfield High School Class of 2011, graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in June 2016.

Liana Ruiz was awarded the Virginia Credit Union Scholarship of \$2,500. She will graduate from Robinson High School in June 2016 and will attend Virginia Tech in the fall.

Ketty Klimchuk, of Fairfax, is on the spring 2016 dean's list at Johnson State College in Vermont.

Abdullah Al Nouman, of Fairfax, graduated with a master of science, biomedical sciences from Iowa State University in spring 2016.

Robel Teffera, of Fairfax, graduated in spring 2016 with a bachelor of science in international business from Quinnipiac University.

May 2016 Oregon State University graduates from Burke include, **Kimberly L. Ogren**, doctor of philosophy, geography; **Jacob M. Sage**, bachelor of science, cum laude, construction engineering management.

Jennifer S. Richards, of Lorton, graduated with a bachelor of science, earth sciences from Oregon State University in May 2016.

Jeffrey A Renner, of Fairfax is on the dean's list for spring 2016 at Baylor University.

Alexandra Hoenscheid, of Springfield, received the University of Mary Washington Alumni Award upon her graduation in May 2016.

Thet San, of Fairfax, is on the dean's list at Furman University in South Carolina for spring 2016.

Natalie Heinitz, of Springfield, received Manhattan College's Gunn Alumni Medal during the 2016 commencement.

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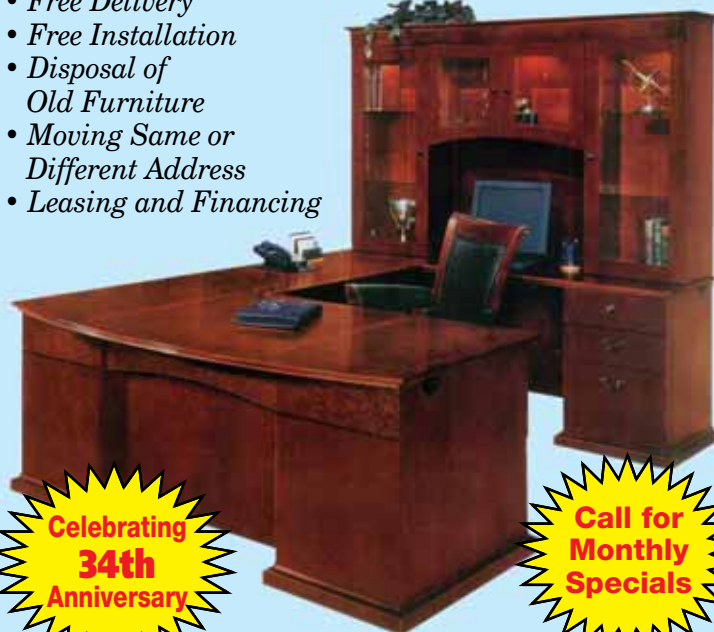
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A Dryness Study

Inquiring about Vaccines

Strategies for asking another parent if their children are vaccinated.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As a new parent, Joy Baatin admits to being protective of her young son. In addition to guarding her son from household hazards such as electrical outlets and chemicals, she wants to protect him from catching a contagious disease from an unvaccinated playmate. But it's not easy to talk to other parents about vaccination, since it has become a controversial topic.

"I won't be so bold as to ask another [parent]," said Baatin, of Bethesda. "I respect that it's a matter of choice. But I wouldn't knowingly let my son play with a child who hasn't been vaccinated."

Like Baatin, many parents of young children feel uncomfortable bringing up this question. However, researchers point to outbreaks of measles in recent years. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that there were 189 cases of measles in 2015 and 52 in 2016 as of Aug. 15.

For that reason, it is a good idea for parents to become informed about which of their children's friends have been vaccinated, particularly for children with weakened immune systems or infants who are too young to be vaccinated. The importance outweighs the awkwardness of raising this question, and it need not be a difficult conversation to begin.

"I think it's important to recognize that, particularly when it comes to decisions about how to raise our children, certain issues are going to be sensitive," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "It's also important to recognize that we all have different perspectives and opinions."



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

Have your children's playmates had their vaccinations?

Approaching this topic with genuine interest in learning another parent's point of view can help quell any discomfort about engaging in this conversation. "Asking what they think about vaccines to get their opinion is a nice way to start the conversation," said Lorente. "It allows you to begin from a point of curiosity rather than judgment."

In addition to withholding judgment, maintaining an open mind and keeping conversations light-hearted and straightforward is key. "If you are able to actually avoid passing judgment and respect another parent's perspective and point of view, that will come across in a conversation," said Karen Bronco, LCSW, a psychotherapist in Arlington.

Lorente's personal experience in discussing vaccines with one of her friends reinforced her belief that parents should educate themselves about vaccinations before having a discussion on the topic.

"My friend said that she wasn't going to vaccinate her kids," said Lorente. "I asked her what she'd read about vaccines so that I could understand her point of view. As a

professional, I like to look at authoritative sources when it comes to making decisions for my children. With social media it's getting harder and harder to determine what those sources are, but I start with well respected organizations such as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)."

Informed decisions can be made after educating oneself about the scientific research and debunking myths about vaccines, Lorente said. One reason that parents might choose to forgo vaccinations is the now discredited belief that there is a link between vaccines and Autism spectrum disorder. The CDC highlights multiple studies which show that there is no link.

Researchers say that it is helpful for parents of vaccinated children to know if their child's playmates have received their vaccinations. "There is still some slight risk even if your child is vaccinated, as no vaccine is 100 percent effective," said Tony Yang, ScD., associate professor of Health Administration and Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research shows vaccination re-

Parents: It's Time to Immunize

Documentation of immunization is required for children entering kindergarten and sixth grade and for new students transferring into Fairfax County Public Schools. The Fairfax County Health Department offers school required immunizations from your health care provider and at the Fairfax County Health Department's five clinics. To shorten your wait, call ahead to make and appointment.

Parents should bring the child's immunization record and insurance card to the clinic. Without an immunization record in English, the child may need to restart his or her immunization series.

Clinic Phone Numbers and Locations

❖ Herndon-Reston District Office (HRDO) 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Suite 100 Reston, VA 20190 703-481-4242, TTY 711

❖ Joseph Willard Health Center (JWHC) 3750 Old Lee Highway Fairfax, VA 22030 703-246-7100, TTY 711

❖ Mount Vernon District Office (MVDO) 8350 Richmond Highway Suite 233 Alexandria, VA 22309 703-704-5203, TTY 711

❖ Springfield District Office (SDO) 8136 Old Keene Mill Road Suite A100 (Cary Building) Springfield, VA 22152 703-569-1031, TTY 711

❖ Annandale District Office (ADO) 7611 Little River Turnpike, #400E (East Wing) Annandale, VA 22003 703-534-8343, TTY 711

duces the probability of infection substantially, but not perfectly."

As with other difficult conversations, such as asking the parents of one's child's playmates whether they own a gun, the approach and attitude parents take can make the difference between a stressful or productive conversation.

"These are all important questions and I think if we address them with an 'it takes a village' mindset and think that we're all in this together, the conversations go a lot better," said Lorente.

5K Run To Benefit Food Bank

Food for Others will hold a 5K and a 1-mile fun run on Sept. 10 to benefit the Northern Virginia food bank. This is the third annual Tysons 5K run. Last year there were about 300 participants and they raised more than \$26,000. The event will begin at Tysons Corner Mall (by Bloomingdales) at 8 a.m. Registration is \$35 for the 5K run and \$30 for the 1-mile fun run.

Walk-in registration is 7:15 a.m.-7:45 a.m.; credit cards will also be accepted at the race. Food or monetary donations are also welcome. A truck will be there to accept food donations. Prizes will be awarded to the top 5K finishers in each of 4 age categories as well as the fastest corporate team. Since 1995 Food for Others has provided a safety net in Northern Virginia for those needing emergency food and the growing number of working poor who are unable to make ends meet. Food drives provide most of their non-perishable food. Food for Others is located on Prosperity Avenue in Fairfax.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

WELLBEING

Walk to Prevent Suicide

Walk supports survivors of suicide loss and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The Out of the Darkness Walks are American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's largest fundraiser, producing millions for suicide prevention programs, and works to unite those who have been affected by suicide, and create communities that are "smart about mental health."

Out of the Darkness Walks connect hundreds of thousands of people to raise awareness and funds that allow the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) to invest in new research, create educational programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss.

DETAILS

Walk Date: Sept. 24, 2016
Walk Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035
Check-in/Registration Time: Sept. 24 at noon
Walk in registration available noon-2 p.m.
Walk Begins: 2 p.m. Ends: 4 p.m.
Contact: Leigh Boswell, 571-259-0721, Karrieboswell@aol.com

Online registration closes at noon the Friday before the walk. However, anyone who would like to participate can register in person at the walk from the time check-in begins until the walk starts. Walk donations are accepted until Dec. 31.

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Walking to End Alzheimer's

Northern Virginia
walk set for Sept. 25

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Paula Dierkes was growing up in Arlington, she would often hear family stories of a grandfather who sat on his front porch screaming at his neighbors and asking for his shotgun. She recalls a grandmother who shut out her family, literally, by closing doors and windows when they came to visit.

"As a child, I thought they were just grumpy, old people," said Dierkes. "But looking back, I realize that it was probably Alzheimer's."

Dierkes' mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and now lives in the memory care unit of a Fairfax nursing facility. "She is this woman I see, who looks like my mom, but it's not my mom," said Dierkes. "It's not the same woman who I would go to crafts fairs with and have coffee with. That's what's so sad about this disease."

Ilissa Belanger lost both her mother and mother-in-law to Alzheimer's. "My mother-in-law had it for 10 years before she died," said Belanger who lives in Fairfax. "Shortly after, my mother was diagnosed and suffered with it for five years. So it was back-to-back. The experience makes you realize how devastating it can be on your loved ones."

Patty Schuebel of Great Falls says her father has been living with Alzheimer's for nearly seven years. "It's been quite eye-opening to go through this journey with him," she said. "You don't really understand how horrible this disease is until it affects you directly."

It is personal experiences like these that have led Dierkes, Schuebel, Belanger and thousands of others to join the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia, an event designed to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Held each year in September, World Alzheimer's Awareness Month, more than 600 communities around the country join the effort. This year, the Northern Virginia event will be held on Sept. 25 at the Reston Town Center in Reston.

"The walk brings the community together to support each other and to raise awareness about Alzheimer's and offer support for families going through it," said Belanger.

Participants form teams to honor a loved one affected by the disease.

Schuebel is the captain of her team, "Steps for Dad." This will be Belanger's ninth year joining the event with her team, "Walkers for Miriam and Anita."

Dierkes' team is called the "Baldinelli Battlers."

"We may have this disease genetically in our family," said Dierkes. "So we're fighting this together and working to get the word out and raise awareness and money."

Each walker will also join a ceremony to honor those affected by Alzheimer's disease. Known as the



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTY SCHUEBEL

Participants join last year's Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia.

2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia

SUNDAY, SEPT. 25

Time: Registration at 1:30 p.m (Program at 2:30 p.m. (Walk at 3 p.m.

Route Length: 1 and 2 miles

Location: (Reston Town Center(, 11900 Market St., (Reston, VA 20190(

Contact: (Sonya Amarte(, 703-766-9025 samarte@alz.org

Promise Garden Ceremony, the experience gives walkers an opportunity to receive a promise flower and write a personal message on it. Colored flowers used for ceremony represent the diverse reasons participants join the walk.

Blue represents someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. Purple is for someone who has lost a loved one to the disease. Yellow represents someone who is currently supporting or caring for someone with Alzheimer's. Orange is for everyone who supports the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

"I would love to be able to give my kids the gift of saying 'I know an Alzheimer's survivor,' said Dierkes. "We're looking forward to that day when

there is a treatment, or better yet a cure, for this wicked disease."

The 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 25. For more information visit http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2016/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr_id=8887&pg=entry or contact(Sonya Amarte(at 703-766-9025 or samarte@alz.org.

"You don't really understand how horrible this disease is until it affects you directly."

— Patty Schuebel, Great Falls



Laura Ellen Scott, author of "The Juliet"



J.K. Daniels, author of "The Wedding Pulls"

Book-lovers Feast Returns

Northern Virginia's "Fall for the Book" set for Sept. 25-30.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

Locally developed and locally curated, the region's annual "Fall for the Book" is a go-to destination for readers and authors alike. What began in 1999 as a 2-day event at George Mason University is now a week-long book festival with something to share with book-lovers at locations throughout the region.

"One of the great things about 'Fall for the Book' is the sense of connection and community that it creates—in several directions: readers connecting with books; readers connecting with the writers behind those books; readers connecting with one another," said Art Taylor (Burke) who will lead talks with mystery writers at this year's festival.

Over 150 authors are expected such as headliners WAMU's Diane Rehm and MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Sandra Cisneros. Both will receive major "Fall for the Book" top awards.

Local authors with a wide array of works and interests will be well represented throughout the festival. Whether fiction, poetry, history, young adult books, sports, children's literature, memoirs or current events there is a session planned. Just about every session is free and open to the public.

Mystery writer Laura Ellen Scott (Fairfax) is a veteran author of three books. Her new mystery "The Juliet" is set in Death Valley revealing darker sides of "The American Dream." For Scott, the annual book festival is "a cultural experience

"Fall for the Book" at George Mason University's Fairfax Campus, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, and venues throughout the region. Event is Sept. 25-30, 2016 Tickets are free except for several special events. For detailed information about the schedule and various venues visit www.fallforthebook.org/ or call 703-993-3986. Note: there is a "Fall for the Book" app at: <http://fallforthebook.org/2014/08/04/festival-launches-smartphone-app/>

not to be missed. It provides the opportunity for an author to explore together with readers. I really like to share my books with audiences. It is so very rewarding."

Poet J.K. Daniels (Falls Church), will read from her debut collection of poems called "The Wedding Pulls." This award winning collection crosses over love, family and myth. For Daniels, "Fall for the Book" is a celebration of writing and reading. "A celebration of amazing, diverse writing that await readers for writing is the art of the imagination."

Historian Garrett Peck (Arlington) will share his book about Walt Whitman; "Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C. The Civil War and America's Great Poet." It chronicles the famous "Leaves of Grass" author's decade in the D.C. area during the Civil War's upheaval. Whitman served as a volunteer "hospital missionary." Peck "encouraged the book festival audiences to be active participants at any and all sessions they may attend."

"Fall for the Book" is a close-by book-lovers opportunity to join company with like-minded fans while listening to readings or interacting with authors.

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

Farmers Market & Food Trucks: 3-7 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 27 at the Fairfax County Government Center front parking lot.

The Farmer's Market at Springfield Town Center. May 7-Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Through November. Corner of Spring Mall and Loisdale roads, Springfield. Enjoy fresh baked goods, produce, vegetables & fruits, meats & cheeses, and a host of other vendors. springfieldtowncenter.com.

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays till end of September. Lorton Farmers Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. fairfaxgardening.org.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

FUN-Exercise. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. mooreffitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

EXERCISE PROGRAM Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax, VA 22032. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Burke Centre Festival will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 11, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Conservancy Festival Grounds, 6060 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Enjoy face painting, food, rides, and other amusements at the Burke Centre Festival. Visit www.burkecentreweb.com

Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: <https://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp>

Stories From Strawberry Park 10-11 a.m. Tuesdays in **Mosaic - Strawberry Park** 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22031. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather and October through April, storytime will be held in Angelika Film Center. Recurring weekly on Tuesday. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/mosaic-district/2326/Ongoing>

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season - April 1 through October 31 - are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shepherd's Center of Western Fairfax needs volunteer drivers for for medical/foodbank appointments. Shepherd's Center serves 50+ residents in Clifton and western Fairfax/Fairfax Station, helping them remain independent and age in place at home. Office help also is needed for coordinating drive requests. More info is at www.scwfc.org or 703-266-3548 or scwfc.office@gmail.com.

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs **Front Desk Volunteers** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. and Fitness Instructors. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

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Marsha Gallagher with the gigantic, rhinoceros habitat she created out of some 1,500 balloons.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

This balloon rhinoceros stood 6 feet tall.

Colorful Balloon Sculpture ‘Opened People’s Hearts’

Raised awareness about rhinoceros poaching.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

At first, a balloon and a rhinoceros don’t seem to have anything in common. But they do in the hands of balloon artist Marsha Gallagher, who crafted a huge sculpture in the City of Fairfax to help raise awareness of rhinoceros poaching in Africa.

The owner of Air O’Dynamic Art, Gallagher normally creates balloon art for parties, farmers markets, picnics and parades. But in the site of the former Fair Trade Winds in Old Town Plaza, she built a huge arch and a rhinoceros in a habitat.

She started constructing this art installation Aug. 10 and finished it two days later, and it was on display through Aug. 14. Altogether, she and some volunteer helpers used nearly 1,500 balloons. The arch spanned 30 feet and was about 12 feet high. The rhino, alone, stood 6 feet tall and had a bird on its back, while a nearby giraffe

nibbled on some leaves.

THE ARTWORK was free for the public to view, but Gallagher also made small, additional creatures, such as balloon monkeys, upon request. In return, she just asked for \$5 donations per balloon for the Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust, which supports Pilanesberg National Park, a wildlife preserve in South Africa. A cash donation was also made available so people could donate a dollar or more to be sent to the preserve.

“They’re losing about 10 rhinos a year at this preserve to poachers who are violating the law by hunting the rhinos there,” explained Gallagher. “They’re using military-style weapons to shoot them. Then they cut off the rhinos’ horns and sell them on the black market. They’re one of the highest-priced items because of their perceived, medicinal value – although the horns are made of the same substances as fingernails and hair.”

She said global balloon artists have a

strong network, and a friend of hers, Guido Vherhoef, visited the Pilanesberg preserve and shared the rhinos’ plight with others. “He’s seen them rescue injured rhinos, with their horns cut off, and save and rehabilitate them,” said Gallagher. “But they can’t be released back into the wild because they’d no longer be able to protect themselves without their horns. So these rhinos are kept on the preserve.”

As a result, Vherhoef started this balloon project with artists in at least 35 countries – including 15 teams in the U.S. – to raise awareness of this situation. And Gallagher got involved.

“We’re all volunteers and make no money from this,” she said. “We purchase our own products; but fortunately, the Qualatex Balloon Co. is sponsoring my build and furnishing the balloons.”

ABOUT THREE WEEKS before Gallagher began building her art display, she started planning it, seeking a venue, finding supplies and gathering a team to help.

“My daughter, who’s a costume designer in New York, gave me tips on how to re-

search what I wanted to create,” said Gallagher. “She said it would help to look at the animals’ musculature, proportions, height and weight.”

Although Gallagher has no art or sculpture background herself, she was able to find the information she needed in books and online. Then she and her husband, T.J. Michael, designed the balloon sculpture. After that, she began building the actual artwork, aided by two other balloon artists and five volunteers who helped twist the balloons to create the foliage because that was the easiest part.

Toughest, said Gallagher, was “conceptualizing what it should look like and getting it together. I’ve never done a build this big that I was in charge of.”

She said the best part was “When people came in to see it and were like little kids. They’d say, ‘I didn’t know you could do this with balloons,’ and it was so much fun. The sculpture also opened up people’s hearts and brought some joy into their lives.”

For more information on the project or to contribute, go to www.theballoonrhinoproject.co.za.

Dan Phillips Named Principal at Providence Elementary

Providence Elementary School named a familiar face as principal on Aug 26. Dan Phillips, a former assistant principal at Providence ES and Daniels Run ES and long-time City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation youth coordinator, was welcomed with enthusiastic applause by school staff in the cafeteria.

Phillips was introduced at a joint announcement with City of Fairfax Schools Superintendent Dr. Peter Noonan and Fairfax County Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Region 5, Dr. Frances Ivey. The staff at Providence ES wel-

comed the selection of Phillips with a standing ovation and had “Team Dan” signs ready.

Phillips is certainly at home in the City of Fairfax schools system. As a resident of the City, Phillips’s two sons are currently in Fairfax City schools. In addition, Phillips was the Youth Coordinator for the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department before he began his teaching and administrative career. Prior to his work at Providence, Phillips was a sixth grade teacher and assistant principal at Daniels Run Elementary School.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARRIE DORSEY

(From left) City of Fairfax School Board Chairman Jon Buttram, Executive Principal, Region 5 for FCPS Rebecca Baenig, Assistant Superintendent, Region 5 for FCPS Frances Ivey, PES Assistant Principal Harry Belch, PES Principal Dan Phillips, PES Assistant Principal Janice Suitte, City of Fairfax Superintendent Peter Noonan, City of Fairfax Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo, and City of Fairfax School Board Member Mitch Sutterfield.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

CafeSole, Inc trading as Cafe Sole, 7127A Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverages Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Son Ae An, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Zone 1: The Reston Connection
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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton
Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls
Connection

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through October 31 – are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shepherd's Center of Western Fairfax needs volunteer drivers for for medical/foodbank appointments. Shepherd's Center serves 50+ residents in Clifton and western Fairfax/Fairfax Station, helping them remain independent and age in place at home. Office help also is needed for coordinating drive requests. More info is at www.scwfc.org or 703-266-3548 or scwfc.office@gmail.com.

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs **Front Desk Volunteers** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. and Fitness Instructors. Volunteer instructor positions **could** lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers.

The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Burke United Methodist Church, 6300 Burke Center Parkway. Contact either Barbara Male (barbdmale@yahoo.com) or Gayle Parsons (gparsons3@cox.net) for more information.

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Rd., Burke, is offering day and evening English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes to serve members of the community who wish to improve their English skills. Class levels offered are based on enrollment needs. Fall 2016 registration takes place Sept. 7—8 and classes begin Sept. 20. For more information call the church office at 703-323-5400. Leave your name and contact information and someone will get back to you.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$90-110. www.redcrossnca.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED as DRIVERS & OFFICE WORKERS Volunteer Drivers are needed for trips Monday - Friday to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Office Workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office Monday - Friday to assist individuals requesting rides and to match an available driver for each request. If you can volunteer your time or if someone you know is unable to get out and needs weekly calls and visits, or you would like to be a caller or visitor, please contact the SCFB office at 703-323-4788.

Volunteer with CASA and Lift Up a Child's Voice **Become a Court Appointed Special Advocate and provide an abused and neglected child with a voice within the confusing child welfare system. Fairfax CASA is a 501(c)3 public charity that provides every child with an open abuse and neglect case in the Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court with a voice. Our goal is to find every child a safe and loving home by reporting to the courts on the "best interest" of the child. While many children have social workers, foster parents, therapists and teachers which change over time, the CASA volunteer is often the only stable adult presence in their life. Join Fairfax CASA in raising awareness about the volunteering opportunities within our organization. Visit www.fairfaxcasa.org for more information about Fairfax CASA.**

Northern Virginia Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association Holds Business Meeting. The Chapter meets the third Thursday each month from 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. Tickets via Eventbrite are \$25 in advance and \$30 cash at the door. Seating is limited. Open to businesspersons working or living in and around Fairfax and Prince William counties. Guests and prospective members welcome. The Northern Virginia Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association embraces positive, energetic and supportive women willing to help themselves and other women succeed both professionally and personally. To register, use <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/abwa-nvcc-welcomes-sherron-washington-from-the-p3-solution-tickets-25778817136>.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.



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Fairfax **\$527,500**
Kings Park West colonial featuring 4 bedrooms, 2.5 updated baths. Beautifully updated kitchen that opens to private patio. Fireplace in step-down family room. Large back yard. Near schools, GMU, shopping, and VRE.
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Fairfax **\$622,000**
Distinguished colonial sits pretty on a lovely lot offering a gracious lifestyle. Be enchanted by the updated kitchen with granite counter tops, gas cooktop & wall oven; the charming family rm with wood stove & built in entertainment center; spacious living & dining rooms; 4 big BRs upstairs; a walkout lower level with rec rm, hobby rm & den; & a 2-car garage with side apron. Huge custom deck too!
Catie, Steve & Associates 703-278-9313



Burke Centre **\$549,000**
Terrific 4 BR, 2.5 BA home on lovely street in sought-after Burke Centre. Updated kitchen, new carpet & spacious deck. Great opportunity!
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Kingstowne **\$529,900**
Completely renovated. 4 BRs, 3.5 BAs end unit townhouse in Kingstowne. New roof, a/c, hwd floors, granite countertop and bathrooms, new kitchen appliances, fresh paint, and ready to move in.
Joseph Dao 703-963-1075



Springfield **\$565,000**
Unique property on serene wooded lot. Commuters dream location. Stunning reclaimed beams. Tons of natural light. New siding, roof, windows, heat pump, hot water heater. Expanded on 2 sides. Beautiful gourmet kitchen. Close to shopping & restaurants. A charming home & must see.
Karen Schiro 703-509-3888



Fairfax **\$625,000**
Beautiful, completely updated 4 level, 4 BR, 3 BA split with remodeled kitchen & family room addition. Hardwoods on ML & UL! Spacious BRs. Deck & lovely fenced yard. Next to Royal Lake Park.
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Fairfax Station/Regency Station **\$975,000**
Beautiful Executive home in gorgeous neighborhood. Features large main floor master suite with walk-out to private backyard.
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Manassas Blooms Mill **\$324,900**
Commuter's dream! Beautiful 3-level townhouse close to VRE! 3BR, 3BA, gourmet kitchen with island, Dining room, huge Living room. Large MBR, laundry on upper level, fin walkout lower level with Rec room & BA 3. Fenced yard with patio. 2 car garage.
Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Fairfax Station **\$1,175,000**
Beautiful custom brick colonial on gorgeous 5 acres with a pool! An elegant, entertaining oasis both inside and out!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Fairfax Station **\$729,900**
Crosspointe Beauty! 4BR, 3.5BA colonial on cul-de-sac! Gorgeous natural cherry top of line kitchen! Elegant new bathrooms. Heated floors. Large finished walkout basement.
David Billups 703-967-8700



Springfield/Newington Forest **\$449,900**
A Little Bit of Heaven Right Here on Earth! It's what's inside that makes it special! Outside is a well-cared-for traditional style home with a fabulous fenced-in rear yard and a large two-tiered deck. Inside is a nearly completely remodeled interior with hardwood floors, granite counters and stainless appliances. 4 BR, 2.5 BA.
Mary Wharton 703-795-0587



Clifton **\$489,000**
Custom 2 BR, 3 BA home nestled on 1.35 wooded acres. Designed with the nature enthusiast in mind with warm hardwoods and walls of windows.
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Alexandria **\$436,500**
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Steve Wharton 703-627-0103



Woodbridge **\$359,900**
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Beth Jones 703-503-1869



Springfield **\$649,900**
Beautiful 5 bedroom home near everything. Part of the West Springfield High pyramid. Built-in bookcases, wood burning fireplace, large kitchen, upstairs laundry and many custom features. Nearly 3,000 square feet!
Marty Dubin 703-862-3455



Gainesville **\$440,000**
Heritage Hunt 55+. Beautifully updated 2 level Turnberry. Finished walkout out lower level! Gourmet Kitchen w/new granite counters, new SS appliances, new paint & carpet, hwdws, Living, Dining, Family room off Kitchen, Sunroom, Deck. LL w/Rec, BR, BA, Workshop, Storage.
Amanda Scott 703-772-9190

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