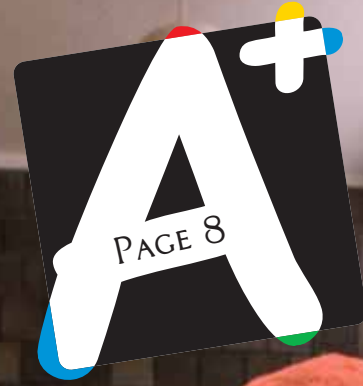




# Burke CONNECTION



## Feeding Mouths, Feeding Souls

News, PAGE 4

(Top right) Amy Upgren and her young son (bottom right) Max Luther of Burke measure food material into one of the Stop Hunger Now bags in the Burke Presbyterian Church sanctuary on Sept. 18.

### First Lady Campaigns for Hillary Clinton

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### Superintendent Garza Resigns

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NEWS

# Roadside Protest for McKenna and Martinez

The Northern Virginia chapter of the group Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) organized a demonstration at 4 p.m. on Sept. 14 along Lee Highway in Fairfax, calling for justice for Natasha McKenna and Giovanny, or Jovany, Martinez.

McKenna died after being tasered several times while in custody of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in Feb. 2015.

Martinez, whose first name Fairfax County Police write as "Jovany," died after being shot by MDS Patrick McPartlin the Sheriff's Deputy last month.

McPartlin was one member of the five-man SERT team that attempted to transport and ended up forcefully restraining McKenna before she experienced a health crisis.

He was assigned to duty at the hospital and responded to a call for backup from Inova security. Martinez had already attacked guards and, FCPD said, was advancing on McPartlin with a sign post raised in the air when the deputy shot him several times.

The protest, which occurred during rush



PHOTO COURTESY OF SURJ NORTHERN VIRGINIA  
**The Northern Virginia chapter of the group Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) organized a demonstration at 4 p.m. on Sept. 14 along Lee Highway in Fairfax.**

hour at where Highways 29 and 50 meet in Fairfax, also called for the resignation of Sheriff Stacey Kincaid.

—TIM PETERSON

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## A 'Lifelong Record of Public Service'

## First Lady campaigns for Hillary Clinton at GMU.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**E**xcitement filled the air when First Lady Michelle Obama addressed an enthusiastic crowd, last Friday, Sept. 16, at GMU's Johnson Center. Speaking on behalf of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, she urged everyone to vote and called Clinton the only qualified candidate in the race.

"This job is hard, and the issues that cross a president's desk are never easy or black and white," said Obama. "So we should demand a president who's going to take this job seriously, study and understand the issues and have superb judgment. We need someone who's steady and measured — because when you're making life-or-death, war-or-peace decisions, a president can't just pop off."

She said what's needed is a compassionate and unifying person who'll be a role model for children — "Someone who's not just in this for themselves, but for the good of this country. The presidency doesn't change who you are; it reveals who you are. And the same is true of a presidential campaign."

"If a candidate is erratic and threatening, traffics in prejudice, fears and lies on the trail, has no plans to implement their goals, if they disrespect their fellow citizens — including folks who've made extraordinary sacrifices for our country — that is who they are," said Obama. "That is the kind of president they will be."

"A candidate is not going to suddenly change once they get in office — and at that point, it's too late," she said. "They're the



**First Lady Michelle Obama waves to the crowd at the Johnson Center, George Mason University on Friday, Sept. 16.**

leader of the world's largest economy, the commander in chief of the most powerful military force on earth. With every word they utter, they can start wars, crash markets, change the course of this planet."

**IN THIS RACE**, said Obama, only Clinton can be trusted with these responsibilities

and has the qualifications and temperament for the job. "We've seen her character and commitment over the course of her entire life," said Obama. "After law school, she advocated for kids with disabilities, and for quality childcare as a senator; and she fought for children's health care as first lady."

She also said Clinton is one of the few people in the world and, "clearly, the only person in this race who has any idea what this job entails. And she believes she has an obligation to use her many talents to help as many people as possible. That is what dedication and love of country look like."

"Hillary has been a lawyer, a law profes-

sor, first lady of Arkansas, first lady of the United States, a U.S. senator and secretary of state," continued Obama. "I'm inspired by her persistence and consistency, by her heart and her guts, and by her lifelong record of public service. No one in our lifetime has ever had as much experience and exposure to the presidency — and, yes, she happens to be a woman."

At that point — as it did several times during her speech — the smartphone-wielding, photo-snapping crowd erupted into loud applause. But there was more. Obama said being president isn't anything like reality TV.

"It's about whether the candidate can handle the awesome responsibility of leading this country," she said. "Ask yourself which candidate has the experience, maturity and demeanor to handle the job. Which candidate's words and actions speak to the future we want for our country? And who has the values we share, like inclusion, opportunity, service and sacrifice for others?"

Obama also warned the crowd that elections aren't just about who votes, but who doesn't. "And that's especially true for young people like you," she said. "In 2012, voters under age 30 provided the margin of victory for [President] Barack [Obama] in four, key, battleground states, [including] Virginia. And without those votes, he would have lost the election."

She stressed, "Your vote does matter. In 2012, Barack won Virginia by about 150,000 votes — a difference of only 31 votes per precinct. In Florida, the difference was 6 votes per precinct. So each of you could swing an entire precinct just by getting yourself, your friends and family out to vote."

**BUT IT'LL TAKE EFFORT**, said Obama. "It's not enough to come to a rally; you also have to register to vote and then come out and vote," she said. "Roll up your sleeves

SEE FIRST LADY, PAGE 5



**From left: GMU students Sabiha Chowdhury, a freshman from Fairfax; Sabrina Hannan, a junior from Fairfax; Shezia Khan, a senior from Ashburn; and Saba Khan, a freshman from Ashburn, got in line at 9 a.m., well before the doors opened at 1 p.m., in order to secure a good spot near the stage to hear Michelle Obama speak.**



**Audience members capture the event on their cellphone cameras.**





**Dozens of volunteers, both from the church and the community, manually measuring out and filling food packets of a fortified rice-soy meal to be delivered to a yet to be announced poverty-stricken city elsewhere in the world.**



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**(Top right) Amy Upgren and her young son (bottom right) Max Luther of Burke measure food material into one of the Stop Hunger Now bags in the Burke Presbyterian Church sanctuary on Sept. 18.**

# Feeding Mouths, Feeding Souls

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s Nancy Rosene of Fairfax screeched clear packing tape across the top of a cardboard box filled with dozens of meals worth of dried and dehydrated food, she was highly conscious of where she was and what she was doing.

On the other end of the sanctuary at Burke Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept. 18, dozens of volunteers, both from the church and the community, were manually measuring out and filling food packets of a fortified rice-soy meal to be delivered to a yet to be announced poverty-stricken city elsewhere in the world.

"I'm taking the effort of all of these people and putting it into this small box," Rosene said. "And thinking of where this box is going, what's waiting on the other end."

"From this little suburban place in Burke," she continued, "where sometimes life is a little too easy, maybe we can make it easier for just a small time for someone else."

Burke Presbyterian called the event "Food Truck Ruckus: Make Some Noise About World Hunger." True to the name, three food trucks were set up in the church parking lot, along with games for children and adults, a wacky photo booth, and then tents with information on some of the church's other food-related ministry.

For example, there was a collection being taken up for the church's Kibwezi partnership with an orphanage in Kenya.

Jeffrey Willard of Lorton is a member of the church's "Fun Team" committee that helped organize the event.

"It's all about supplying food to the hungry," he said. "We want to feed them, but feed ourselves too."

Carol Ann Cunningham is a community life elder with the Fun Team and coordinated the Ruckus. She said a major part of the afternoon was meant to be intergenerational.



**(Right) Lake Braddock Secondary School junior Jennifer Yan delivers completed food packages to be boxed for shipment.**

"We have people from ages two to 85," Cunningham said. "They're teaching and learning about service."

Amy Upgren and her young son Max Luther of Burke measured material into one of the bags together in the sanctuary.

"It feels good to make the food packets," Luther said. "I like to help hungry people so they won't starve."

The group providing all the materials is national non-profit Stop Hunger Now, which acts as an intermediary between churches,

schools and corporate groups of volunteers and then humanitarian organizations on the ground that make sure the meals get delivered and not resold or discarded.

The church pays all the costs to volunteer through Stop Hunger Now, who could just as well package all the food using an automated system in a warehouse.

"But the goal is for volunteers to do it themselves, be part of the process," said Joe Gautier, program manager with Stop Hunger Now. "Fifty percent of the job is awareness."

## Volunteers pack 10,000 meals at Burke Presbyterian Church.



**Burke Presbyterian Church co-pastor Jarrett McLaughlin (left) gets a wrap from Springfield resident Sabrina Maheu of Springfield-based food truck Doug the Food Dude at the Food Truck Ruckus: Make Some Noise About World Hunger event held at the church on Sept. 18.**

Every time the packaging group — which turned over with new volunteers every half hour, three times — reached another 1,000 meals, one volunteer got to take a turn banging a large gong.

On the day, the group packaged 10,000 meals.

"Church is all about doing what you can with the people you've got, when you can," Burke Presbyterian co-pastor Jarrett McLaughlin said. "It's as much about what you believe as what you do."



# First Lady Comes to GMU, Campaigns for Clinton

FROM PAGE 3

and get to work; knock on doors, make calls and get people out on Election Day.”

She also told them to remember what’s at stake. “The choice you make on Nov. 8 will determine whether you can afford college tuition and whether you can keep your health care when you graduate,” said Obama. “You will decide whether we have a president who believes in science and will fight climate change, or not. You will decide whether we have a president who honors our proud history as a nation of immigrants, [and one] who thinks women deserve the right to make their own choices about their bodies and their health, or not.”

“At a time when incomes are rising by thousands of dollars, when millions of people are being lifted out of poverty, is now the time to change direction?” she asked. “Americans are fundamentally good folks and want the same things. We [believe] you work hard for what you want in life and don’t take shortcuts, and you treat people with respect, even if they look or think differently from you.”

“When someone is struggling, you don’t turn away or take advantage,” continued Obama. “You do what you can to help, because that’s what we do in America. We live in a country where a girl like me, whose great-great-grandfather was a slave, can go to some of the finest universities on earth — and where a biracial kid from Hawaii, named Barack Obama, the son of a single mother, can become president.”

She said this nation deserves a president “who can see those truths in us, who believes each of us is part of the American story and [that] we’re stronger together. We deserve a president who can bring out what’s best in us — our kindness and decency, our courage and determination, so we can keep on passing down those blessings of liberty to our children.”

“Hillary Clinton will be that president,” she said. “So from now until November, I’m going to work as hard as I can to make sure Hillary and Tim Kaine win this election, [but] I need your help. Virginia will make the difference in this election. Are you ready, Virginia?”

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# OPINION

## Epidemic Is Here, Recovery Is Possible

**Prescription opioid and heroin epidemic awareness week is Sept. 18-24.**

BY TISHA DEEGHAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FAIRFAX/FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES  
BOARD

GUEST EDITORIAL

**O**pioid use disorder and addiction to heroin is a disease that is devastating families across the United States, and Fairfax County is not immune. Fairfax County police report that in 2015 there were 77 heroin overdoses in the county, 12 of which were fatal. As of May 2016, Fairfax County's Emergency Medical Services was reporting an average of 10.17 patient contacts per month that were suspected overdoses of heroin or other opioids.

In recognition of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, and in collaboration with state and federal partners, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) joins the community in recognizing and remembering those lost due to opioid use disorder and in encouraging strength and courage for those who are seeking help.

The CSB is here to help; resources are avail-

able to treat opioid addiction, and recovery is possible. See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/heroin-opiates/opioid-treatment-options.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/heroin-opiates/opioid-treatment-options.htm)

Many people, including drug users themselves, have mistaken beliefs about drug addiction and recovery. These ideas stem in part from notions that continued drug use is voluntary and that a person's inability to overcome addiction stems solely from character flaws or a lack of willpower.

Substance abuse treatment comes in a variety of forms. For people who seek help for opioid addiction, treatment should start with a thorough assessment of their history of opioid use, prior treatment history, if any, and existence of any co-occurring mental illness. The treatment plan would be based on this assessment and could include medication-assisted treatment along with other services designed to support their recovery, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, education about addiction, engagement of family and friends, and building a recovery-based support system.

If you or someone you love needs help to

overcome drug dependence, call the CSB at 703-383-8500. CSB staff will help you find appropriate treatment and recovery resources. Anyone seeking help can also come to the Merrifield Center for a walk-in screening, with or without an appointment, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

You can help, too. Enroll in CSB's REVIVE! program, a free course that teaches non-medical personnel to administer the life-saving opioid-reversal medication naloxone. CSB staff has trained more than 640 people so far this year and classes are scheduled throughout the fall. Participants report that the training has saved lives. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/revive](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/revive)

Learn more about substance use prevention at these upcoming events, sponsored by CSB partners:

- ♦ Attend one of the Chris Atwood Foundation's presentations entitled "Addiction: The Taboo Subject," scheduled for Sept. 24, 9-11 a.m. and Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m. Hear personal stories of addiction and recovery and learn how to recognize and respond to substance misuse at Lord of Life Lutheran, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton, VA 20124.

- ♦ Parents who want to be more involved in youth substance use prevention and education can attend Fairfax County's Unified Prevention Coalition's Sept. 26 "Taste of UPC" Fall Kick-Off event. See [www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Opposing Meals Tax

To the Editor:

I am strongly advocating against the proposed meal tax to be on the Fairfax County ballot Nov. 8. If approved, an additional 4-percent tax would be added to every prepared-food and restaurant meal across the county, in addition to the existing 6-percent sales tax.

Proponents claim that most of the tax burden will be carried by visitors to the county. Nothing could be further from the truth. The tax will unfairly impact those who can least afford to pay it such as the most vulnerable segments of our society including low-income and fixed-income residents (senior citizens, young people, students, single moms and busy families where both parents work).

The proponents have indicated that a portion of the additional tax revenue is designated for Fairfax County Public Schools. This is just more of the usual smoke and mirror deception from the Fairfax County School Board and the Board of Supervisors as they have avoided providing any specifics as to where and how this estimated \$100 million in new tax revenue will be spent. Does anyone tracking this issue really wonder why this is the case?

Plain and simple the proposed meals tax is a regressive sales tax

that hits low- and middle-income working individuals and families the hardest, targeting a single industry. With 40,000 food workers in Fairfax County alone, this will impact the small, family restaurants much harder than the large chains.

Informed voters should oppose the meals tax and demand more accountability from those entrusted with billions in tax revenue annually.

**Thomas Bognanno**  
Springfield

## Deceptive Question

To the Editor:

I decided to study the Fairfax County Meals Tax Referendum and was shocked to see how biased the question is worded.

The ballot question begins: "For the purpose of reducing dependence on real estate taxes..." This is bound to cause confusion. Many voters will read that phrase to mean if they vote for the meals tax, real estate taxes will be reduced.

This is a crafty deception by the Board of Supervisors.

The truth is that if the Meals Tax passes, it will lessen the proportion of tax revenue that comes from property taxes because you have more tax revenue coming from somewhere else — the Meals Tax. That's how it allegedly less-

ens the "dependence."

If the Board wanted to be transparent, they'd write the question to say: "For the purpose of establishing a new tax on top of all the other taxes you already pay..." Further, they could disclose that they've raised property taxes by 26 percent over the last four years, and that the 4 percent Meals Tax would come on top of the state's 6 percent sales tax for a whopping 10 percent total tax. Don't fall for the deception. Vote against the Meals Tax this November.

**Billy Valentine**  
Fairfax

## Meals Tax: Vote 'No'

To the Editor:

I write today to ask for support for working families in Fairfax County by recommending against the proposed increase in the Meal Tax. This tax increase will impact the hard working parents in the Fairfax County who often eat out to spend quality time with their children and will also greatly impact the low income residents in our county.

Please let your readers across the county know to vote against this additional tax on Nov. 8.

**Renate Eschmann**  
Fairfax

## Veterans ID Card: Long Overdue

To the Editor:

Our veterans have sacrificed much to protect us. It is only fitting that we help protect them as best we can on the home front. That is why I write today about a bill that was signed into law and was co-sponsored in the House by Congresswoman Barbara Comstock: the Veterans ID Card Act. This legislation allows for a universal ID card that proves military service, allowing veterans easier access to the services and resources they need after leaving the military. We owe them that much.

One of the most important goals of the bill is a reduction in identity theft for veterans. Our vets will no longer have to carry around multiple documents and forms of identification to verify their veteran status which can often subject those documents to duplication, misplacement or theft. Identity theft is a problem all too many of us face these days, but before this legislation our veterans were placed unnecessarily at higher risk.

My father was a veteran, of World War II and of Korea. His

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
**burke@connectionnewspapers.com**

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Tim Peterson**  
Community Reporter  
703-314-0789  
[tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com)

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Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
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**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
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**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)







PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

From left, Fairfax County Board of Elections chairman Stephen Hunt, BOE secretary Kate Hanley, BOE vice chairman Seth Stark and general registrar Cameron Sasnett explain some of the changes voters can expect in the November 2016 general election.

## Changes in Voting from 2012

Electoral board highlights key dates and procedure updates.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Clinton or Trump? Meals Tax or no Meals Tax? These are just a two of the weighty decisions on the ballot for this fall's election. To help people prepare for this cycle, leaders of the Fairfax County electoral board held a meeting with media to highlight some changes from the 2012 Presidential election.

As with most Presidential years, the board is expecting high voter turnout, but no higher than the 80 percent that was seen in 2012. The roughly half a million voters that made it through 243 precincts (the most in the Commonwealth of Virginia by more than 150) in 13 is a strong showing they think will repeat itself.

The board reports 650,846 active voters out of a total of 728,086 registered voters. To date, 15,654 absentee voting mail-in ballot applications have been approved. It's estimated there will be more than 100,000 absentee voters.

Mail-in and in-person absentee ballot voting begins with a ceremonial opening of the polls at the Fairfax County Government Center Friday Sept. 23 at 8 a.m.

BOE secretary and former Board of Supervisors chairman Kate Hanley reminded voters that, "Absentee votes do count," and encouraged people to mail their ballots early. The mail-in absentee return deadline is 7 p.m. on Nov. 8, while the final day for in-person absentee voting is Nov. 5.

The board members addressed concerns over the election somehow being rigged or tampered with by outside forces.

"It's a completely paper-based system," explained general registrar

### Additional Key Dates and Deadlines

Oct. 1: In-person absentee voting begins at ten satellite locations around Fairfax County  
Oct. 17: Voter registration deadline  
Nov. 1: Deadline to apply for absentee ballot by mail  
Nov. 8: Election Day and mail-in absentee ballot return deadline  
Nov. 14: Provisional ballot deadline (extended due to Veterans Day holiday Nov. 11)

trar Cameron Sasnett. From the check-in Ipad to the ballots to the electronic counting machines, "it's never connected to the internet, a completely secure system. At the end of the day, it's still a paper ballot with a pen."

The county purchased a new integrated voting system in 2014 and first used the machines countywide for the Nov. 4, 2014 election. They scan the paper ballots, count and save them, but also save the ballots themselves in case they're needed again.

"We'll have a paper trail, a big paper trail," Hanley said, "that speeds up the process at the polls."

Speeding up the voting precinct rooms in general are still a goal of the board's.

After piloting Ipad with electronic poll books to more rapidly check in voters in the presidential primary, those devices will now be in every precinct.

In addition, there will be slightly more heavy staffing across the county.

"We'll be staffed to make election day as efficient, effective and fair as possible," Hanley said.

They also said there will be ongoing communication with precinct captains so they can respond in real-time to any voting or security issues.

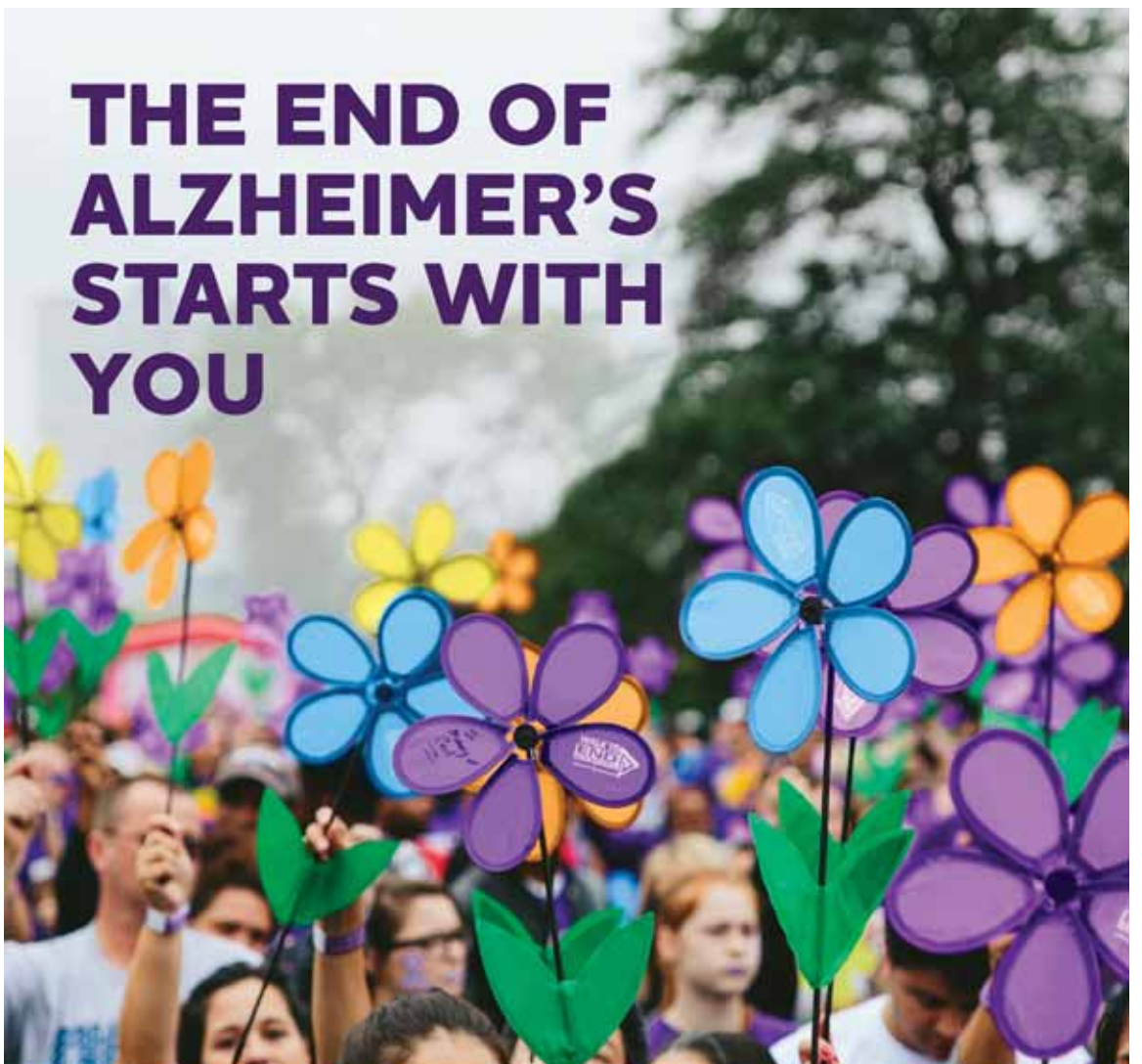
For more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm).

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# Homework Overload

Some educators say less can be more, stress balance when it comes to homework.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**P**aula DeMarco dreads one time of day the most: weekday evenings at 5:30. It's the time she has set aside for her children begin their homework. That means no screen time, music or other distractions.

"When my son entered fifth grade last year it was like running into a brick wall," she said. "We were in shock by how much more homework he had than when he was in the lower grades. It was stressful and there were a lot of tears shed — both mine and his."

For many parents and students, homework can be anxiety inducing, especially when there's a lot of it, when it's intense, when there's pressure to succeed and when it's used as a measure of accomplishment.

In fact, a study published in the Journal of Experimental Education in 2014 found that students in high-achieving communities who spend excessive amounts of time on homework are more prone to more stress, physical health problems and a lack of balance than students who have moderate amounts of homework. Researchers found that students felt obligated to choose homework over other interests. As a result, they didn't know how to find balance in their lives.

Homework in a competitive environment that doesn't leave time for hobbies or sports can also put a strain on family relationships.

"Homework becomes stressful because parents take on the role of homework police," said Ann Dolin, president, Educational Connections Tutoring in Fairfax and Bethesda. "It's a role they never envisioned and they don't want, but before they know it, their relationships with their children become defined by academics."

Dolin points to the "Ten-Minute Homework Rule," guidelines approved by the National Education Association, which recommend 10 minutes of homework per grade level. A first grade student, for example, would have 10 minutes of home-



PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLIS SCHOOL

**Faculty and staff at the Bullis School have restructured the way they assign homework to foster a feeling of success, confidence and independence.**

work each night, while a fourth grade student would have 40. Any more than this would be counterproductive.

"I have known first graders who've had an hour or and hour-and-a-half of homework," said Dolin. "That is unrealistic."

**"If a parent is having to interact with their child over homework, it's not an independent assignment."**

— Margaret Andreadis,  
Bullis School, Potomac, Md.

Locally, Margaret Andreadis, lower school principal at Bullis School in Potomac, Md., says administrators and teachers at her school have restructured the way they assign homework to focus on quality over quantity.

"We've scaled back to emphasize our purpose for homework: teaching students goal

setting and time management," she said. "We're not using homework as busy work. Our philosophy has been to create a balance between academics, life at home with family and activities like sports."

Students at Bullis often have choices over their homework assignments, and their tasks are designed to foster a feeling of success, confidence and independence.

"The emphasis is on small successes. We want students to feel good about themselves," said Andreadis. "If a parent is having to interact with their child over homework, it's not an independent assignment."

This homework structure can actually create balance in the lives of students, she said. "I think the stress comes from kids wanting to get things perfect and parents wanting their children to be successful," said Andreadis. "Kids need time that is unscheduled so that they can be creative, find new passions and be kids."

Researchers say unstructured play, reading, and other child-initiated activities have as many benefits for children as academ-

ics. "Children learn conflict management skills, develop imagination and creativity, self-regulation of time and interest, and independence," said Shannon N. Davis, associate professor of sociology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research has shown that children who are given time to play in an unstructured manner, read or otherwise determine how they spend their time are much less likely to say, 'I'm bored' when they have free time. They know how to entertain themselves rather than needing an adult to structure their time for them."

Navigating that course, deciding how much independence to give children when it comes to managing free time and their homework, while at the same time making sure they have the support they need to succeed can be challenging, parents and educators agree.

"I don't think these two areas are mutually exclusive. We want our kids to take ownership of their priorities, but they need some foundational knowledge in order to make these choices from an informed perspective," said Sean Aiken, head of school at BASIS Independent in McLean. "We need to empower our students to make some of these decisions early on and then allow them to experience the consequences."

Parents' roles should be setting students up for success, recommends Andreadis: "Giving them a quiet place to study, checking in with them, asking, 'What's your plan for homework tonight?' Helping the child make the decision but letting the child actually make it. Be hands off as much as possible."

Some educators acknowledge that a relaxed approach might push parents, particularly those in high-achieving communities, outside their comfort zones. "This involves some risk taking on the part of us as parents and educators, but I think the benefits are worth it," said Aiken. "We need to pair that with a lot of support and discussion about why academic achievement matters, specifically that we are learning things in order to make connections and ask questions about the world around us."

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# SCHOOLS

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.

**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.



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# CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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

**Batting Cage Occoquan Regional Park** 9751 Ox Road Lorton. Open through Oct. 30 Occoquan offers a baseball/softball batting cage, for hitters of all levels. Pitching machines offer other pitches like curveballs. Cost: 14 balls \$1.50 Team Rentals Per Cage: 30 min. \$18 60 min. \$34 <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/occoquan-regional-park/things-to-do/batting-cage>

**Kayak Rental Occoquan Regional Park** 9 - 6 p.m. daily through Sept. 30 This park offers hourly and daily kayak rentals for those interested in exploring the river. Kayaks are launched from shore and are available in one or two seat configurations.

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

**Rock the Block!** 6:30 p.m. Every fourth Friday through Oct. 28. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Concert series. Food is available for sale. Bring chairs and blankets to sit on. Kids – wear swim suits and bring towels. Enjoy the new spray pad. No Pets allowed except service animals. [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov).

**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](http://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](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

**Plant Clinic.** 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays Sept. 30 Lorton Farmers Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. [fairfaxgardening.org](http://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](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise.** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St.,



**Laura Ellen Scott, author of "The Juliet"**



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

## 'Fall for the Book' Returns to Mason, Area

"Fall for the Book" annual festival will be held at George Mason University's Fairfax Campus, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, and venues throughout the region 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/](http://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/>



**Art Taylor, moderator, "Fall for the Book"**



**Garrett Peck author of "Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C. The Civil War and America's Great Poet"**

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. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**EXERCISE PROGRAM** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 am year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. 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](mailto:RSVP.Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**Smoke Free Bingo** (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining

**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](http://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](http://www.fbcspringfield.org).

**Clifton Presbyterian Church**, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. and Cup of Fellowship at 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided from 9:45-11:15 a.m. Christian education for all ages is at

## Plan Ahead Burke Events

### SATURDAY/OCT. 8

**Fall Festival in Old Town Historic Fairfax.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. What started out as a small market for artisans has grown to a festival with over 400 arts, crafts and food vendors, children's activities and entertainment for all ages. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/fall-festival>

### SUNDAY/OCT. 9, 2016

**Clifton Day.** 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Town of Clifton, corner of Main Street and Chapel Road. The town's annual arts and crafts fair. Visit: <http://www.cliftonday.com/>

### FRIDAY/OCT. 21

**Superintendent's Revenge 2016.** 10 a.m. Twin Lakes Golf Course, 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Obstacle-filled layout. \$160 per team. [Roberta.Korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Roberta.Korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 21-23, 2016

**Annual Craftsmen's Fall Classic Art & Craft Festival.** Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Features original designs and work from hundreds of talented artists and craftspeople from across America. Visit [http://www.gilmoreshows.com/craftsmens\\_classics\\_chantilly\\_fall.shtml](http://www.gilmoreshows.com/craftsmens_classics_chantilly_fall.shtml)

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 22-23

**Fall Harvest Family Days.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Enjoy autumn activities including wagon rides, wheat treating, 18th-century dancing demonstration, and straw bale maze, and more. Included in estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 2

**Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County, Part I (1859-part of 1863).** Preservationist and former Topographer, Ed Wenzel, will discuss his recent book at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Doors open at 7 p.m. Forum begins at 7:30. Copies of Wenzel's book will be available for purchase and signing. The Forum is free and open to the public. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](https://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR). 703-425-9225.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 5-6

**Cox Farms Pumpkin Madness.** 10 - 5 p.m. Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Come out and smash, throw, and launch those old pumpkins. Bring back your used Jack-o'-lantern...We'll help you recycle it. Last admission 4 p.m. Visit: <http://www.coxfarms.com/fallfestival.aspx>.

### TUESDAY/NOV. 8, 2018

**Election Day. General election.** Visit [www.sbe.virginia.gov/](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/) and [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm)

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[www.fairfaxvd.com](http://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>

**First Sunday Jazz Brunch** 11 - 2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at **Bazin's on Church** 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit: <http://www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/>

**Stories From Strawberry Park** 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesdays in **Mosaic - Strawberry Park** 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. 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/>

**Singers wanted for the Celebration Singers.** A women's show choir performing at various community sites in Northern Virginia. Do you love to sing? Make new friends? Bring joy to others through music? Come join us. Practice is held 10:30 am – 2:30 pm, starting again in September on Wednesdays in Burke. Contact: Barb Male, 703-250-5294, email [barbdmale@yahoo.com](mailto:barbdmale@yahoo.com) or Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485, email [gparsons3@cox.net](mailto:gparsons3@cox.net).

## FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

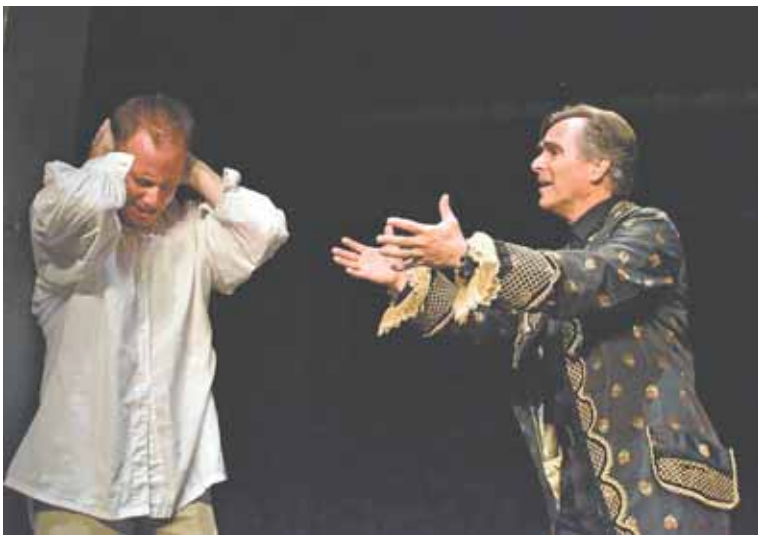
**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and

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](http://www.fbtministries.org).

**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.



## ENTERTAINMENT



From left — Mike Rudden (Mozart) and David Whitehead (Salieri) rehearse a scene from 'Amadeus.'



Amadeus Director Julie Janson

PHOTOS BY CHIP CERTZOG/PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

# For Season Opening: 'Amadeus'

Providence Players to perform the multi-Tony award winning play.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

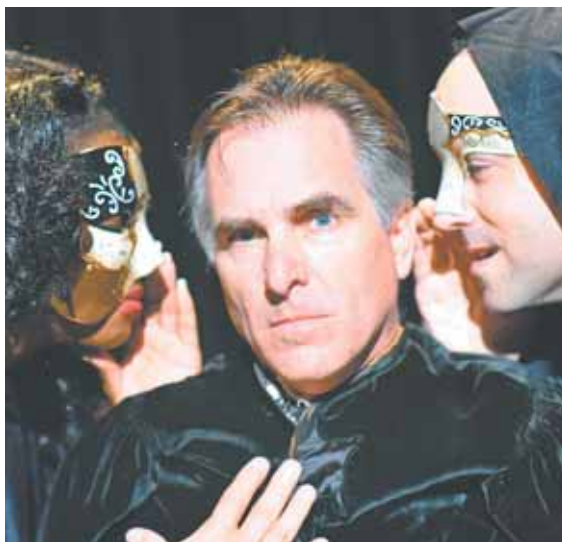
“Amadeus,” the multi-Tony award winning psychological mystery story about legendary composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, is the Providence Players (PPF) opening production for its new season. “Amadeus is filled with great drama, tremendous humor, a touch of mystery and wonderful music. It is a perfect play to kick off the season and reconnect us with our audiences,” said Jayne Victor, Providence Players Board President.

Written by Peter Shafer, “Amadeus” is seen through the eyes of Mozart’s jealous rival Antonio Salieri. Before Mozart’s arrival at the King’s Court in Vienna in 1781, Salieri was the royal court’s acclaimed musician. Then things quickly changed. Recognizing the true genius of Mozart, did Salieri begin to scheme to sabotage his young rival?

“Amadeus” won five Tony Awards including Best Play, and the 1984 film adaptation won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Julie Janson will direct a cast of 13 including newcomers to the Providence Player audiences. “So much of ‘Amadeus’ discusses how Mozart’s music grips you, leaving you gasping for air. I had to share this with the audience.”

Musical director Kyle Keene has been key “to integrating both live and recorded music,” added Janson. Veteran actor David Whitehead, who plays Salieri, is a trained pianist, and Mike Rudden



David Whitehead (center) as Salieri in rehearsal for 'Amadeus' with Debora Crabbe (left) and Bobby Welsh (right) as The Venticelli.

PHOTO BY ROB CUEVAS/PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

## Where and When

“Amadeus” presented by the Providence Players performing at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: Sept. 30 to Oct. 15. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees Oct. 2 and 9 at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$20 Seniors (62+)/Students \$17. Call 703-425-6782, or order online (No Fee): [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org)

(Amadeus Mozart) learned crucial piano pieces noted Janson. “And wait until you hear newcomer Christina Massime sing — she will blow you away.” Massime, an operatic soprano, served as cantor and sang at the historic Mass when Pope Francis visited D.C. in 2015.

## ‘Concert Across America to End Gun Violence’ at Tysons Biergarten

A coalition of gun violence prevention organizations in the DC/ Northern Virginia area have announced participation in the national “Concert Across America to End Gun Violence” on Sunday, Sept. 25.

Music will unite the country as artists from coast to coast rise up in concert to remember the victims of America’s gun violence. Locally, the region will join in music at 5-8 p.m. at the Tysons Biergarten, 8346 Leesburg Pike, just steps from the Greensboro Metro stop. Local and regional artists will perform. Confirmed artists include The Harried Americans, The Glimpses, singer/songwriter Tim White,

The Rockits and the youthful voices of Know1Else, with more artists being added.

Local sponsors include Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence, Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (NoVA Chapter), Reston Herndon Alliance to End Gun Violence and Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Coalition.

Free to all. Cash bar and food—craft beer and pretzels. Rain or Shine. The concert site is child and pet-on-leash friendly (pets outdoors only).

Visit [ConcertAcrossAmerica.org](http://ConcertAcrossAmerica.org) for information on this and other local concerts.

## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

**Jubilee Christian Center**  
“Loving People to Life”  
Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM  
Sunday School 10:10 AM  
Sun. Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM  
Family Night – Wednesday 7:15 PM  
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Visit our Website: [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org)  
4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax  
Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170

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[www.messiahumc.org](http://www.messiahumc.org)

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# FCPS Superintendent Garza Resigns

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County Public Schools superintendent Dr. Karen Garza is resigning, just months after the FCPS board renewed her contract through June 30, 2020.

Garza informed the board in the afternoon on Sept. 19 that her resignation would take effect on or before Dec. 16.

The first woman superintendent of FCPS said she's accepted the position of president and chief executive officer of Columbus, Ohio-based Battelle for Kids, a not-for-profit education organization.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to have served this world class school system since June 2013," Garza said in a letter to the school system. "It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with the dedicated and professional staff who make FCPS the finest school system in the country."

"I extend to you my deepest gratitude for your tremendous support," Garza continued. "I am so proud to have been a part of this outstanding system and this great community. I wish Fairfax County Public Schools much continued success in the coming years."

**GARZA INFORMED** the full board in a closed session following their work session on Monday. Providence District representative Dalia Palchik said there was shock, gasping and crying among the members.

"We feared she would be taken away, but hoped it wouldn't be so soon," Palchik said.

From parents and teachers she's talked to and seen react on her Facebook feed, Palchik summarized "people are devastated."

"This is the best time for us to have stability," she continued. "Teachers are just concerned. She's fought so much for the budget, their salaries. We want to make sure we continue on the track."

Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon District representative to the School Board, said, "I am appreciative of the focus that Dr. Garza has brought to the needs of the schools in Mt. Vernon and her commitment to ensuring that FCPS attracts and retains educational leaders that inspire all of our teachers to create learning environments



FILE PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPS

**Karen Garza**

enabling each of our students to achieve their potential. I wish her well and am confident she will continue to inspire educational leaders in her new role at Battelle."

Kevin Hickerson is president of the Fairfax Education Association, representing teachers, custodians, bus drivers and support staff. He said of the teachers he's talked with and seen react on Facebook, reaction to her resignation has been "overwhelming positive" and that she's definitely going to be missed.

"She put a lot of chips into the middle," Hickerson said, "with a lot of help from the community and organizations like ourselves we got it done. It will be really tough to replace her and her leadership."

Precious Crabtree teaches K-12 art at Deer

**"We feared she would be taken away, but hoped it wouldn't be so soon."**

— Providence District representative  
**Dalia Palchik**

Park Elementary School in Centreville. She's been a teacher for 21 years and with Fairfax County for 16.

"I couldn't wrap my brain around this was going to happen," she said, on hearing her phone ring with the news while she was shopping for groceries.

"I've had several superintendents in the systems that I've worked. Dr. Garza was different. She was an educator. You could tell from the moment you met her, she was very personable, you could tell she cared deeply. This is really a big loss for our school system."

Crabtree also said she was grateful for the way Garza tackled the budget with the Board of Supervisors.

"[Former superintendent] Dr. Dale had very good intentions but never stood up for us when it came to the supervisors," she said. "I never saw him fight for us the way Dr. Garza did. That's courage."

School Board chair Sandy Evans sent out a letter in reaction praising Garza as "a transformational leader who has had a tremendous impact on our schools, families and most importantly the children of Fairfax County."

Evans highlighted Garza's "vision, candor and grace" in successfully implementing later high school start times, full-day Mondays for elementary schools and reducing elementary school class sizes during her tenure.

"A tireless advocate for teachers, she navigated one of the most challenging budget environments in recent memory, and achieved the largest investment in FCPS teacher compensation in a decade," Evans said.

"Under her leadership, FCPS has embarked on a path that will transform our schools in positive ways that benefit all children, our employees, and our community. The School Board is committed to maintaining this path as we find new leadership."

**AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT** will be named soon by the School Board, Evans said. They'll also go over details of a search process for Garza's replacement in the next several weeks.

"For a county this size, it's going to attract very strong candidates," said Hickerson. "I don't have any worries in a sense we'll find someone good, I just don't know how they'll compare to Dr. Garza."

Palchik likened Dr. Garza to Mary Poppins. "She's come in and moved us in the right direction," Palchik said. "Around the table, all of us, we're just in awe of who she is, how high she's raised the bar for our system."

## Meals Tax Forum to Be Held Sept. 29

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will sponsor a Meals Tax Forum at the auditorium of Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. The moderated forum will feature panelists on both sides of the issue. The panel will also take written questions from the audience. Questions may also be submitted in advance by writing to [league@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:league@lwv-fairfax.org).

"Our League's mission is to educate

voters on critical issues in our county, such as the Meals Tax, and to get out the vote," says Wendy Fox-Grage, the League co-president. During this year's election season, LWVFA is sponsoring many voter drives throughout the county to register voters and inform them about what's on the ballot.

**On the ballot, Fairfax County voters will choose whether to levy a meals' tax.** State law authorizes counties, cities, and towns to levy a tax on prepared food

and beverages, commonly called a "meals tax," subject to certain restrictions. Most counties, including Fairfax County, may levy a meals tax only if the voters approve the tax by referendum.

If approved, the revenues generated will be dedicated to the following purposes:

- ❖ 70 percent of the net revenues to Fairfax County Public Schools.

- ❖ 30 percent of the net revenues to County services, capital improvements and property tax relief.

What is a Meals Tax? A meals tax is a tax on all ready-to-eat prepared food and bev-

erages at restaurants, as well as grocery stores, convenience stores and delicatessens. It would not apply to groceries nor to vending machines. It does, however, include ready-to-eat foods, such as food from the deli counter or salad bar at a supermarket/grocery store. It does include alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages served with a meal. It does apply to prepared foods served at food trucks.

For more about what's on the ballot, visit <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/Ballot2016.html>.



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Police Investigating  
Graffiti at Robinson

On Friday, Sept. 16, Robinson Secondary School staff reported graffiti on the side of a trailer to Fairfax County Police. The report came the same day Robinson had an evening varsity football game scheduled against Lake Braddock Secondary School. “The graffiti was generally vulgar and racist in nature and has been eradicated,” police spokesperson Don Gotthardt said in an email. Gotthardt said one juvenile suspect was identified by patrol from the West Springfield District station and “counseled,” but not technically arrested. He didn’t comment on whether or where the individual is a student. Police continue to investigate the incident and no charges have been filed.

—TIM PETERSON

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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.

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 29**  
**Domestic Violence Response Workshop** 8 - 1 p.m. 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Topic: “First Steps for Clergy & Faith Leaders.” Please join us to learn how to recognize domestic violence, understand challenges, and identify and access victim resources. This workshop will be presented by Fairfax County’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and the FCIA Interfaith Domestic Violence Prevention Committee. Register at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hocode/ereg/registration.aspx?groupid=26](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hocode/ereg/registration.aspx?groupid=26) or call 703-324-3453

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

veterans’ benefits were important to him and to my mother. And I have to report, there were on occasion problems with arranging for the benefits. The problems eventually were resolved, but through a lot of trouble and hassle. This ID Card can help make access to earned benefits easier. This ID Card is especially important to veterans because they are sometimes denied benefits because carrying around complete military records and paperwork is no simple task. This law streamlines the process of receiving what our honorable veterans have earned. This veteran ID card is long overdue. The benefits rightfully provided to veterans are numerous, but unfortunately many have a difficult time getting access to them. This card streamlines these processes, reducing the hassle and difficulties many veterans face in their daily lives. Congresswoman Comstock’s co-sponsorship of this legislation is yet another example of our results oriented Congresswoman doing her job, as was her support of the National Defense Authorization Act. These common sense solutions are proof that Barbara Comstock works for us.

**Wayne Abernathy**  
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Gordon Parks, *Back to Fort Scott* is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: *United, St. Louis, Missouri* 1950, *Gordon Parks (American, 1912–2006)*, gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation

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Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due  
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**LATE PAYMENT PENALTY**  
  
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