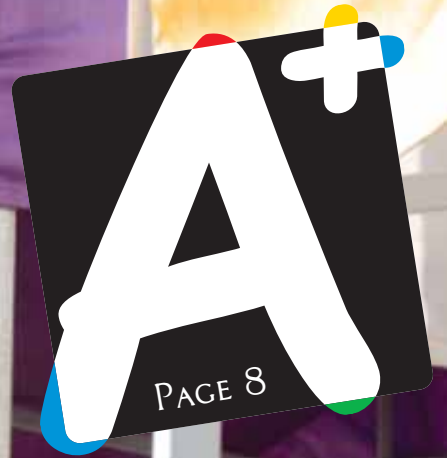




# Burke CONNECTION

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## Winter is Coming, So are Farmers

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Fairfax County SAT Scores  
Above Virginia, National Levels

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Fair Winds Launches  
'Buy a Vet a Beer' Campaign

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## Fairfax County SAT Scores Above Virginia, National Levels

**School system average hides achievement gap.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n average, Fairfax County Public High Schools performed better on the SAT college placement exam in 2016 than the Commonwealth of Virginia overall average.

Virginia students also outscored the national numbers, according to data released last week by the Virginia Department of Education and the College Board, the organization that publishes the SAT.

The two groups reported 65 percent of Virginia public school graduates took the SAT. Of that number, they said 45.2 percent earned the College Board benchmark for college readiness.

By achieving a combined score of 1550 — including critical reading, math and writing scores — the College Board believes those students stand a 65 percent chance of holding a B-average during their first year in college.

Virginia's 65 percent beat the national average of 37.3 percent of SAT-takers reaching the benchmark.

"While the overall performance of Virginia students compares favorably with that of their nationwide peers, the wide achievement gaps visible when we dig deeper into the data remind us that outcomes are not improving for far too many students of color," Virginia Board of Education President Billy K. Cannaday Jr. said in a statement. "Narrowing and ultimately closing these gaps is the state board's top priority."

### 2016 SAT

School	Test Takers	Critical Reading (Mean)	Math (Mean)	Writing (Mean)	Combined Score (Mean)
Annandale High School	319	506	524	490	1520
Bryant Alternative High School	3	-	-	-	-
Centreville High School	437	546	570	537	1653
Chantilly High School	506	558	585	542	1685
Edison High School	291	504	510	484	1498
Fairfax High School	475	535	550	518	1603
Falls Church High School	218	508	521	481	1510
Hayfield Secondary School	367	515	516	499	1530
Herndon High School	324	540	556	525	1621
Lake Braddock Secondary School	536	561	573	539	1673
Langley High School	369	614	633	604	1851
Lee High School	234	491	505	480	1476
Madison High School	377	596	608	585	1789
Marshall High School	340	564	578	557	1699
McLean High School	420	601	623	597	1821
Mount Vernon High School	238	471	468	448	1387
Mountain View Alternative High School	4	-	-	-	-
Oakton High School	471	581	600	569	1750
Quander Road School	1	-	-	-	-
Robinson Secondary School	522	564	577	544	1685
South County High School	412	532	550	516	1598
South Lakes High School	358	558	571	542	1671
Stuart High School	243	498	506	485	1489
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	442	720	761	717	2198
West Potomac High School	312	525	534	512	1571
West Springfield High School	445	564	560	535	1659
Westfield High School	465	539	552	518	1609
Woodson High School	487	587	600	568	1755
FCPS AVG		551.12	565.24	535.68	1652
Virginia Public Schools		516	513	493	1522
United States		487	494	472	1453

ALL DATA FROM VDOE AND THE COLLEGE BOARD

**THE FAIRFAX COUNTY AVERAGES** top Virginia in each category, aided by uncommonly high scores from the magnet Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, which requires its own test and application process for admission.

Jefferson comprised more than 63 percent Asian students for the 2015-2106 school year, 1.5 percent African American, 2.23 percent Hispanic, 25.43 percent Caucasian and 7.4 percent other, according to Fairfax County Public Schools.

Langley High School also posted averages of above 600 in each SAT category.

The majority of Langley's student body in 2015-2016 was white, with just over 65 percent. Asians were second with 23.47 percent, next Hispanic and other each with about 5 percent, and black with less than a percent.

JEB Stuart High School is an example where in each category it was above the national average but below the Virginia and FCPS averages. Stuart also had about 100

fewer test-takers (243) than the FCPS average (343).

Stuart was half Hispanic in 2015-2016, followed by 22.97 percent white, 13.8 percent Asian, 10.26 percent African American and 2.29 percent other.

Mount Vernon was the only FCPS school with average scores consistently below the FCPS, Virginia and national averages.

In 2015-2016, Mount Vernon's student body was made up of 41.68 percent Hispanic students, 27.6 percent African American, 19.59 percent white, 6.28 percent Asian and 4.85 percent other.

Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon representative to the Fairfax County school board, said West Potomac has seen a gradual increase in scores thanks to a PTSA-sponsored SAT prep program.

Students have the opportunity to take a mock exam for \$20, get an assessment based on their results of which areas they need help in, and then enroll in a prep course through the PTSA.

**THIS YEAR** is the first cohort at West Potomac that will have had that opportunity.

"You have so many test prep organizations today that are really working with kids to get those scores up but a lot are expensive," Corbett Sanders said.

The program has expanded and allowed students from Mount Vernon High School to come over and take part as well.

"It's one of those eye-opening things," she said. "It's just not fair for kids who can't afford it, but the schools and parents together are taking ownership, to make sure our kids get this opportunity too."

Corbett Sanders noted Fairfax County Public Schools offers online SAT prep as part of the Adult and Community Education program. That information is available here at: <https://aceclasses.fcps.edu>.

## Buddy Bench at West Springfield Elementary

The Buddy Bench project at West Springfield Elementary came up at the end of last school year during a meeting between Dr. Kelly Sheers, Principal and Sara Fairchild, Counselor. They thought that this would be a good project for the Peer Mediators in the 2016-2017 school year.

The Buddy Bench will be located in playground area. Our students will be taught to keep an eye out and include anyone that is on the Buddy Bench.

Fairchild took the idea to the Peer Mediators and it was mentioned that funds were available for the bench but that they could also fundraise money if they'd like. They were so excited to raise money so they began to brainstorm all sorts of ideas. When student, Anne, came up with the Coin Wars, the students agreed that was the way to go. Fairchild and the Mediators worked together to solidify the

rules and what the prize should be. The point system was simple. Penny = 1 point, Nickel = 5 points, Dime = 10 points, Quarter = 25 points. They came up with a way to market it on the school news and Facebook page.

The children really pushed their peers to bring in coins and spread the word. The outcome was wildly successful. The grade level winner of the Coin War was sixth grade having 37,346 points. In total the students raised more than \$1,200. The bench will be on playground soon for all students to enjoy. For more information see [buddybench.org](http://buddybench.org)

**West Springfield Elementary students raised more than \$1,200 for the Buddy Bench in the school's playground.**



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## News



PHOTO BY JOHN NASH

**Volunteer and career staff at Station 414 with guests, including Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova, Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Chief Richard Bowers.**

## Burke Firefighters Dedicate New Fire Engine

Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department dedicated its new fire engine during its open house on Saturday, Oct. 15. Pictured are volunteer and career staff at Station 414. Joining in the dedication were Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova, Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Chief Richard Bowers. Staff, volunteers and community members got to participate in a long-standing tradition in the fire service, and helped "push in" the new engine into the station.

Thousands of area residents visited the station on Saturday, learning about fire safety, touring various

apparatus, trying a driving simulator, testing their firefighting skills on an obstacle course, and learning how to become a volunteer with the station.

The Pierce Velocity Pumper replaces an engine that has been in service since 2001 with approximately 150,000 miles. Last year, the engine ran 1,832 all-purpose (both fire and medical) calls.

BVFRD is a non-profit organization, and actively fundraises to help pay for operating expenses, including the cost of purchasing new apparatus and equipment. The engine cost nearly \$700,000 to purchase, and will be financed with community donations, bingo and hall rental revenues.

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## PEOPLE



Christopher Falck



Falck exhibited at last weekend's 19th Annual Bethesda Row Arts Festival.

# Creating Art Full of Wonder

**Christopher Falck of Burke sees his pictures as 'sculpture disguised as a photograph.'**

BY VICKI AVERSA

Burke resident Christopher Falck grew up with parents who enjoyed collecting art. They exposed him to books about magic and art where he discovered the world created by artist M.C. Escher and the beauty captured by photographer Ansel Adams. His father enjoyed cameras and let Falck play with his 35mm Chinon as a child. It was easy for Falck to imagine a career in the arts.

Though Falck pursued a career in another field, he began to do some soul searching around the birth of his first child and the approaching retirement of his father. Falck's father had decided to buy a large format camera. While holding his newborn and thinking about how he could enrich his children's lives with art, Falck decided to buy his own large format camera.

**FINDING TIME** to shoot photographs, around his day job and family commitment, was challenging but Falck managed to take numerous pictures over two years. He focused on landscape and architecture in a traditional style, and took photos of downtown Washington, D.C. and other places while on family outings.

Once he started scanning in the negatives, Falck was blown away by the resolution of large format. He got excited about the idea

of selling his art and researched the business. "The 'take away' in every book was always 'do something unique,'" notes Falck. "Everyone is unique, so putting yourself into your art is more important than mastering what's been done before."

So, while expecting his second child, Falck thought about how he could take all the influences from his life, merge them together and put his identity on paper. He started to experiment, fusing the photographs he took with other art forms. He had to break enough rules to innovate, so where most photographers would think a print was too abused to keep or sell, he would consider that his starting point.

Soon, Falck began to show friends and family what he called a "sculpted photograph" and they loved it in a way he knew was genuine. "When people see my art and ask me what it is, I usually tell them it's a sculpture disguised as a photograph," explains Falck. "The magic part is how I play with perception. From a distance the work appears to be a framed photograph, but up close the depth becomes surreal, like 3D without the glasses."

Adds Falck: "I imagine it like a scene in Harry Potter where the pictures of people on the wall are unexpectedly interactive. The art also becomes subject to the basic principles of origami, where the entire surface becomes a game of give and take. The

photograph starts flat and, as I reshape it with mountain and valley style bends into three-dimensions, I've got to think about what that does to the rest of the image, while focusing on what really brings it to life."

**AFTER RESEARCHING** art and finding nothing else like his work, Falck took the plunge and decided he would start selling his art. "I wanted people to have an experience like the one you have discovering magic as a kid, where you have a sense of wonder all of the sudden from seeing something inexplicable," he notes.

Today, at arts festivals like last weekend's 19th Annual Bethesda Row Arts Festival

(<http://www.bethesdarowarts.org>), Falck receives the reward he has always desired - to create a shared experience unlike any other and to inspire others. "People often get drawn in as they walk up to a piece, thinking there is something unusual going on," explains Falck. "Then they pull their friends or family in to take a look, so they can have the same experience of watching someone see my work for the first time."

Forever grateful for his parent's inspiration and support, Falck looks forward to passing that love of art on to his children and others. Until then, he aims to make as much art as he can. More information about Falck is available at <http://sculptedphotography.com>.

## Amanda Nelson of Burke Named Summer Research Scholar

Denison University student Amanda Nelson from Burke, graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, was chosen as a 2016 summer research scholar in a program funded by the Laurie Bukovac Hodgson and David Hodgson Endowed Fund. Nelson is one of 107 students who spent their summer conducting in-depth research Optogalvanic Spectroscopy of La I Hyperfine Structures at Denison or off-campus. The faculty-led programs include undertakings in the sciences, humanities, social sciences and the arts.

Nelson worked with Professor Steven Olmschenk on "Optogalvanic Spectroscopy of La I Hyperfine Structure."

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# OPINION

## No to the Meals Tax

A food tax is not a silver bullet.

BY PAT HERRITY  
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

I have been opposed to the meals tax from the start, but what has concerned me most over the last several months has been the tactics used to try to convince our residents to vote for it and the county's failure to deal with its spending problems. I would like to offer some clarity on these points and why I am against the meals tax.

The proponents of the meals tax insist the tax is for teachers' salaries and tax relief. In fact, the ballot language referencing schools and tax relief was selected because it was the language that passed in other counties in Virginia and according to one supervisor "we need to use the language that will get it passed." In reality, the Board of Supervisors will decide in April during the budget process how much funding goes to schools and then the School Board will decide how much funding goes to teacher raises and class size reductions. Despite the Board of Supervisors fully funding the School Board's funding request last year, the funds were not focused on fixing our teacher salary issues.

If it passes, the meals tax will just be an additional \$100 million tax on top of the \$100M in taxes the board passed earlier this year (over my opposition). In the last five years, real estate taxes alone have increased 25 percent and skyrocketed by \$565 million. As I have debated proponents of the meals tax over the last several months, there has been almost universal acknowledgement that Fairfax County has a spending problem. For example, Fairfax County offers its 35,000-plus county and school employees and administrators' unparalleled and unsustainable pensions and pre-social security benefits that even surrounding jurisdictions do not

pay. Despite my efforts to address this and other spending problems, there is no plan in place to address these unsustainable costs and benefits. The meals tax is a bad way to kick the can of addressing our spending problems down the road.

The meals tax is also bad way to address a spending problem because it is a regressive tax that targets a single industry and disproportionately hits those who can least afford it — the elderly, single working parents, young students, and people without other options. It is not a white tablecloth restaurant tax; it is a food tax. The meals tax would be on top of the current sales tax resulting in a 10 percent total tax on any prepared food, including the rotisserie chicken from the grocery store, the fountain drink from the convenience store, your morning coffee, and your food truck purchases. It is also a tax on a single industry — one that only has a 3 percent profit margin on average. This means the meals tax will result in the government making more money off of a restaurant than the restaurant itself makes in profit. This is fundamentally wrong. Restaurants not only provide thousands of young adults with their first job, they also give back to the community through sponsorships and donations.

Fairfax County voters have a decision to make. Do we settle for budget deficits and tax increases year after year, or do we send a message that enough is enough and it is time to address spending issues? I sympathize for those who support the tax; the Board of Supervisors and School Board have led them to believe that the meals tax is some sort of silver bullet to their budget and teacher salaries woes. Simply put, it is not.

*Pat Herrity represents the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness Supports Meals Tax

After careful consideration, the Fairfax – Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness has decided to fully support the proposed 4 percent Fairfax County Meals Tax.

Seventy percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to our Fairfax County Schools. Our schools have an integral role in

identifying and assisting our homeless and at risk youth as part of our homeless service system. Providing additional funding for the schools only makes sense.

Thirty percent of the funds raised by the tax will go to the county's general fund to be used for priorities as identified by the

## Yes to the Meals Tax

Reduces dependence on property tax.

BY PHILLIP A. NIEDZIELSKI-  
EICHNER

As a businessman here in Fairfax and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board, I write on behalf of a coalition of thousands of homeowners, parents, teachers, firefighters, police, friends and users of our libraries and our parks and recreation facilities, and those who belong to churches and non-profit organizations working to ensure that Fairfax County also protects those in need [www.yesmealstax.org].

Here since 1988, I have always valued Fairfax's pragmatic approach to local government services; i.e., we will pay for the cost of an excellent education system and high-quality services as long as the cost is reasonable and affordable.

Hit with the double whammy of the great recession and the federal budget sequestration fiasco, the Board of Supervisors and School Board did what they had to do under the circumstances — they cut costs and reduced services.

The county reduced annual expenditures by \$300 million and eliminated 700 jobs; for the school system, \$500 million and 2,100 jobs.

The maintenance backlog has grown to over \$150 million in recreation and park facilities alone.

We are spending less in real dollars per pupil this year than in 2008. We are losing our best teachers to surrounding jurisdictions, because salaries are no longer competitive in the region. Class sizes are larger.

Economic recovery has been slow. While home values have grown modestly, vacancies in office buildings are at a 25-year high and revenue from commercial property tax is at historic lows.

Compounding our challenge, state funding — particularly for schools — continues to decline, with a funding shortfall for K 12 education climbing to more than \$1 billion annually since 2009.

With 65 percent of county revenue now being generated by residential property tax, homeowners are carrying a substantial and growing share of the cost of services.

Without a more diverse revenue base, we risk school system excellence and we risk the caliber of county services that underpin our quality of life. In an article earlier this year, the Washington Post characterized this reality as Fairfax "fraying around the edges."

This is the setting for the meals tax referendum before us on Nov. 8.

Five great things will happen by approving the meals tax:

1. \$100 million will be generated. Almost a third of this revenue — \$28 million — will be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax.

2. Seventy percent of the revenues will be directed to the school system to help stem the loss of our best teachers and reduce class size.

3. Our quality of life will be strengthened by addressing unmet police and firefighter needs and those of our libraries and parks.

4. The backlog in county and school facility and infrastructure maintenance needs can be reduced, while also preserving our AAA bond rating.

5. Our tax base will be more diverse, relieving property tax pressure on homeowners.

Incredibly, Fairfax can do these great things by paying pennies-on-the-dollar when we eat out. Few of us ever notice paying Arlington County, Fairfax City, Falls Church and Vienna when we eat in their restaurants, yet we do.

If you agree that it is important to keep the best teachers in our classrooms, reduce class size, continue to protect our safety and maintain our quality of life; and finally — if you believe we need to be less dependent on homeowners to pay for all of the above — it is clear that we should vote yes for the meals tax. It's literally a pennies-on-the-dollar solution.

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**Zoran Duric of Fairfax chooses among a vibrant assortment of peppers from Santa Cruz Produce in Montross, Va. at the Burke Farmers Market on Oct. 15.**



**Wayne Rehnborg of Fairfax introduces his grandson Harvey Clare to a large pumpkin from Level Green Farm out of Montross, Va. at the Burke Farmers Market on Oct. 15.**

## Winter is Coming, So are Farmers

### Burke Farmers Market runs until Dec. 17.

While many of the 11 farmers markets around Fairfax County will be closing in the next month, the market in Burke is one of the last two to shut down for the winter.

With Dec. 17 as its last scheduled Saturday of operation, it beats the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon market held at Sherwood Regional Library for longest-lasting. That one wraps up on Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Chelsea Roseberry, farmers market coordinator for Fairfax County, said this is the first year the Burke Market will be open into December. Normally it shuts down shortly after Thanksgiving.

“For some of our more successful markets,” she said, “we’ve been asked by customers and vendors to extend the season.”

Fall, not winter, was in the air however, on a crisp and brilliantly sunny Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Burke market.

Farmers and vendors from around Virginia and Maryland showed off their rainbow of peppers, array of pumpkins, as well as apples, squashes, radishes, tomatoes, dairy products and baked goods.

Political tents were set up a comfortable distance from the interior of the market. There’s also Master Gardener Plant Clinic on-site for horticultural and landscaping questions.

The Burke Farmers Market runs Saturdays, from May 7 through Dec. 17, 2016, from 8 a.m. until noon. The market is located at 5671 Roberts Parkway in Burke, in the parking lot next to the Virginia Railway Express station. More information on Farmers Markets around Fairfax County is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

—TIM PETERSON



**Mayra Garcia, owner of Lake Ridge, Virginia-based celebrateME! custom cakes, confections and event styling business, is at the Burke Farmers Market for her second year.**

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



**Allen Hess with Misty Meadow Farm Creamery based in Smithsburg, Md., discusses dairy laws with Ashley Bensfield of Fairfax at the Burke Farmers Market Oct. 15.**



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**From left, Fair Winds Brewing Company CEO Casey Jones, tasting room manager Jacquelyn Olejniczak and brand ambassador Mike Kuykendall in front of the brewery wall holding ‘Buy a Vet a Beer’ notes.**

## Fair Winds Launches ‘Buy a Vet a Beer’ Campaign

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Some simply say “Thank you for your service.” Others are more personal, listing a name, service branch and years served, or names of loved ones who were killed in the line of duty. Regardless of the content, each note for active duty or retired veterans on the wall at Fair Winds Brewing Company in Lorton comes with the same thing: a free beer and a hearty thanks.

For the second year, Fair Winds is promoting a “Buy a Vet a Beer” campaign for the month leading up to Veterans Day on Friday, Nov. 11.

Either at the brewery or online, anyone of legal drinking age can purchase a beer ahead of time for a veteran to claim during Fair Winds’ expanded hours that Friday. Then they write a corresponding note that creates a more intimate connection with the recipient.

Fair Winds CEO and former member of the U.S. Coast Guard Casey Jones explained last year they were trying to come up with a special way to honor and engage veterans.

“It’s not legal to just give away beer in Virginia,” he said. So the Fair Winds team came up with the idea of “Buy a Vet a

Beer,” as if the honorees and their patrons were just sitting next to each other at the bar.

Last year on a whim they bought a pad of paper for notes to go along with the promotion. Jones said they quickly went through multiple pads.

Overall, they sold 250 beers for vets, with all the proceeds going to a veterans charity.

“We were so taken aback by the generosity of the community,” Jones said.

This year, Jones expects to tally between 350 and 400 beers for vets. Money raised will go to the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, scheduled for the end of March 2017 in Colorado.

“For some, it speaks to them,” Jones said of the veterans response to last year’s event. “For others, it’s just beer.”

Either way, the goal is to get the military and non-military communities together and reflecting on the day of honor and remembrance.

“You definitely get a good set of sea stories going,” said Jones.

Veterans Day is Friday, Nov. 11. Fair Winds Brewing Company located at 7000 Newington Road, Suites K&L in Lorton, will be open from noon until 10 p.m. that day. For more information, visit [www.fairwindsbrewing.com](http://www.fairwindsbrewing.com).

**Either at the brewery or online, anyone of legal drinking age can purchase a beer ahead of time for a veteran to claim during Fair Winds’ expanded hours that Friday. Then they write a corresponding note that creates a more intimate connection with the recipient.**





# Discussing the Election with Children

Local educators offer suggestions for navigating a complicated political climate.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

While Colleen K. Vesely has watched televised debates and political events with her children throughout this election season, an event during which the American Civil Rights movement was discussed stands out. It was a concept her 3-year-old daughter didn't grasp, of course. But Vesely used the moment as opportunity to start guiding her children through this year's election season.

"I asked her to think about what she might do if someone at school was being mean to one of her friends, to which, she promptly replied, 'I'd tell them to stop being mean and that I don't like it,'" said Vesely, an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science at George Mason University. "Elections offer opportunities to consider the importance of service and standing up for democratic principles. ... However, the tone of this general election season is different."

Still, Vesely and other educators say that while election cycles typically offer families a multitude of opportunities for conversations about civics and discussions of democracy, navigating the current political climate requires added dexterity.

Use the election season to facilitate conversations in a way that is relatable to children based on their age and experiences, advises Vesely. "By ... discussing the different issues ... parents with school-age and older children can use the election season as an opportunity to expand their children's thinking in relation to current social issues and history," she said. "Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills with real-life issues by helping them critique candidates' opinions" as well as "understand different points of view on a variety of issues and develop their persuasive arguments." This is an exercise Vesely has used with her own children.

"During primary season, my 6-year-old and I watched a number of the candidates' speeches," she said. "We talked about the issues and each person as a human being. ... I offered reasons as to why I admired (some of) the candidates."

Focusing on citizenship and character is a strategy Vesely advises parents to use with children who are preschool-age and younger: "Parents might discuss what it means to be a good citizen in their home," she said. "For example, helping put away



PHOTO COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT

**The election season offers students such as those at BASIS Independent School in McLean an opportunity to learn about the political process.**

their toys when they are done playing, being nice to their classmates, helping their friends and teacher."

Similarly, local schools are developing creative ways to fit the Nov. 8 election into their lesson plans. For example, "since students are only in middle school for one presidential election, Norwood School takes advantage of this opportunity to help students begin to understand how to go about comparing candidates' positions on basic issues, and also to help them understand how the presidential election process works," said Michele Claeys, associate head of school and head of middle school, Norwood School in Potomac, Md.

To help students learn to understand issues and evaluate and compare candidates, teachers work together to create age-appropriate mini-lessons about candidates' positions on a small number of issues. "Students will explore and discuss — not debate — the issues, and learn how to find additional information on their own if they are interested," said Claeys.

On Election Day, middle school students will participate in a mock election designed to help them understand how the electoral process works. They will be divided into groups of different sizes with different numbers of electoral votes, representing each of the 50 states. "After both the real and mock elections, teachers will use the results to illustrate how the process works," said Claeys. "Throughout these lessons, our emphasis will be on respectful dialogue and consideration of multiple perspectives and experiences."

Educators at BASIS Independent School in McLean are teaching students about the political process by linking it to the selection of the school's mascot. By allowing students to choose a symbol to represent the school, teachers hope to initiate a broad conversation about awareness, empathy and other values.

"Especially for our younger students, conversations about how a mascot represents the qualities and values of our school serves as a good metaphor for the more serious representation in political contexts," said Sean Aiken, head of school. "Some students prefer traditional mascots to give our school a sense of familiarity and camaraderie. Some want less common mascots to set us apart from other schools and celebrate our individuality."

The lesson will involve the entire student body. "We ask our older students to generate ideas that take even our youngest 3-year-olds into account so we can unite as a whole school and not just play to specific 'special interests,'" said Aiken.

"The exercise serves as an impetus for posing thought-provoking questions to the students," says Aiken. "Should we identify ourselves as humorous, serious, fierce?" he asks. "What will happen if the greater numbers of students in the middle school prefer a mascot that the much smaller number of sophomores do not prefer? Should we use some sort of delegate system or stick with popular vote? How will we feel if our top choice for mascot ultimately is not selected, and what is the appropriate response to that feeling? Does our choice of mascot represent not just our current community but those who will join us in the future?"

## SCHOOL 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.

**Vocal musicians from 12 Fairfax County public schools** have been named to the Virginia Honors Choir for 2016. This select choir is open only to the top 125 singers from around the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is the highest honor a choir student can attain during his or her high school career. Thirty-one Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students were selected for the choir, and five students were named as alternates. The choir will perform at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) convention to be held

**"Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills ...."**

— Colleen K. Vesely, Ph.D.,  
George Mason University.

The activities, says Aiken, open the door for conversations about fairness and frustration in ways that are meaningful and age appropriate, and that can be put into the context of the current election season. "While our situation as a brand-new school is somewhat unique, the idea of mascot representation weaves through our whole society and could certainly be used to frame a conversation between students and their families about tone, identity and cooperation," he said.

Parents should also be aware of the ways the election is affecting their own emotional states and thus their families. "As I watch the presidential debates and continue to read the media coverage of the election, I find myself in an agitated and anxious emotional state," said Vesely. "This heightened emotional state with feelings of stress and agitation can spill over into family relationships, leaving us less present and sensitive in our interactions with our children and partners."

Choose the information children are exposed to thoughtfully and be prepared for questions, say experts. "The 2016 general election season [has been] described by some as dark and more negative than any of the recent past elections," Vesely said. "We want to encourage our children's participation in the political process, but ... it can sometimes be ugly and hurtful."

Shielding children, says Vesely, doesn't mean ignoring negativity entirely, however. "Parents should be prepared to talk through what children might hear from other children on the playground or at school," she said. "Parents ought to pay attention to ... their children's emotional states ... especially after viewing or discussing election-related media. As parents, we can look for teachable moments in which we might express notions of treating others how [we] want to be treated."

at the Omni Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Nov. 17-19. FCPS students named to the 2016 Virginia Honors Choir include the following students from our area schools: **Woodson High School:** Megan Humes, Caroline Grass, Jacob Lamb, Lucas Valdes, and Marc Manaloto and **Hayfield Secondary School:** Jessica Pressley.

**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.



# Advice from the Pros

Local private school admissions directors share wisdom they'd offer to their own children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

From interviews to essays to standardized tests to open houses, the season for submitting independent school applications is underway. For families vying for a spot at the area's most elite schools, the process can be fraught with anxiety, stress and confusion as parents and students wade through the myriad academic options in the Washington, D.C., region.

Admissions decision-makers at five local private schools share advice that they might offer their own children, underscoring the importance of finding the best fit rather than trying to fit into a top school if the environment might not match a student's personality.

**Matti Donkor, interim director of enrollment management at The Madeira School in McLean:**

"Enter the process very open-minded. I don't believe in saying, 'This is the one school for me.' I believe in knowing the core things that are important to you like the school's community, culture and traditions, but also in understanding that you might find those characteristics in a variety of schools. I


think students and families should be engaged in the [application] process. I think we do the school visit and that is the only interaction you have with the school. Find out what else is happening on campus, connect with other students and alumni. Really take the time to understand the culture of the school and whether it appeals to you."

**Lisa Knight, director of admission, Flint Hill School, Oakton:**

"Take time to learn about the school community. Shadow for day, attend several [school] community events, go and experience the community for yourself. Notice how you feel when you are on campus. Do you feel welcomed? Are current students and teachers greeting you in the hallways and classrooms? Do they notice you? Can you see yourself growing academically, intellectually and socially there? Are you comfortable with the teaching style and methods? Do you value what the school values?"

**Sean Aiken, head of school, BASIS Independent, McLean:**

"I would advise students not to get too caught up in their resumes and records and instead work to discuss passions and projects that excite and interest them."



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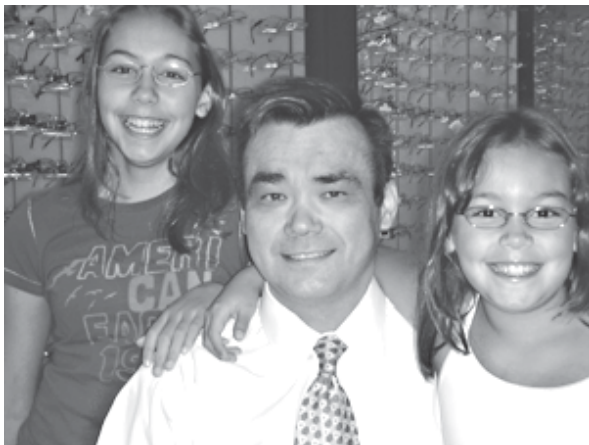
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# CALENDAR

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

**The Pumpkin Patch** will be open October 2 through 31, Sunday through Friday, from noon until 7 pm daily, and Saturdays from 10 am until 7 pm. Located at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, near George Mason University at the crossroads of Rt 123 and Braddock Road and across from the University Mall. A large variety of pumpkins and decorative gourds of all shapes and sizes will be for sale. [www.pumpkinsusa.com](http://www.pumpkinsusa.com)

**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>

**Adventures in Learning Shepherd's Center of Fairfax** 8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. every Monday for 6 weeks, Oct. 3, 2016 - Nov. 7 these events take place at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. start with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge, canasta, and mind games. Bring a brown bag lunch. Cost: \$30 for 6 weeks (Mondays). To register: call 703-426-2824 [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org).

**Senior Line Dancing** 1 - 2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5.00 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**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 or 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).

**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., 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: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 callers, \$1,000 jackpot. [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/>

## THURSDAY/OCT. 20

**Together We Can Stand Up to Bullying** 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services 2334 Gallows Road Entrance 1 – Room 100. Did you know that children with special needs are more likely to be bullied than their peers? Learn ways to help support your child at home and in school. Dr. Sajjad Khan, an experienced clinician and researcher at NeuroScience Inc., will present educational and psychological studies on bullying at this crucial workshop. Register online.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 21

**Wellness Recovery Conference** 8:30 - 2:30 p.m. NOVA Annandale Campus. Ernst Cultural Center 8333 Little River Turnpike Annandale. Have you or someone you care about ever experienced substance use disorder or mental health challenges? Do you want to learn more about recovery, staying healthy, and how to build and grow good relationships? Cost:\$30 703-324-9355 <http://www.novamentalehealth.org/conference.registration>

**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.

**“Mediterranea”** at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 7 p.m.; a discussion follows the film. Friday Night Film Series presents “Mediterranea” as a part of the Third Annual D.C. Immigration Film Fest. Doors open at 7 pm; Childcare is

## Halloween 2016 Preview



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**Thrill-seeking souls enter the eight-acre Clifton Haunted Trail on Oct. 24, 2015**

## Clifton Haunted Trail Returns Oct. 29

**2016 Clifton Haunted Trail is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29, 7 - 10 p.m.** in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. [www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/](http://www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/)

### SATURDAY/OCT.22

**Sully Historic Site Halloween Lantern Light Event** 4 - 7 p.m. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Sully will be hosting a Historic All Hallows Eve program to return visitors to a time before superhero costumes and candy corn. In the 18th & 19th centuries, Virginians celebrated All Hallows Eve with storytelling, fortune telling, and family gatherings. There will be a tour of the historic site and grounds by lantern light. This program is for participants age five to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site)

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 26, 2016

**70th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade** 7 p.m. Maple Avenue, Vienna. “Celebrating 125 Years of the Town of Vienna” come in costume to celebrate Halloween. [Viennava.gov](http://Viennava.gov)

### FRIDAY/OCT. 28, 2016

**Spooktacular.** 6:30-8 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Enjoy ghoulish games, a spooky craft and a children's show. Fee: \$10/child in advance or \$15/child on day of event. [www.herndonva.gov](http://www.herndonva.gov).

**Bradley Farm Haunted House** Friday & Saturday 6 - 10 p.m. 13159 New Parkland Drive, Herndon. The guided tours are \$5 [www.BFHauntedHouse.com](http://www.BFHauntedHouse.com).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 29

**Clifton Haunted Trail** 7 - 10 p.m. in the historic town of Clifton. Admission: Ages 13+ \$15 Ages 12 and under \$10. [www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/](http://www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com/)

### SATURDAY/OCT. 29 - OCT 31

**Roer's Zoofari Trick-Or-Treat 5 - 7 p.m.** 1228 Hunter Mill Rd. Vienna. Roer's Zoofari welcomes families from all areas to a new way of trick-or-treating this year. Kids

provided. Films shown on big screen with surround sound at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court Burke, 703-503-4579; [www.accotinkuu.org](http://www.accotinkuu.org), administrator@acctinkuu.org This is a non-religious event open to the public. Tickets start at \$6 and can be purchased at the door or here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/>

[mediterranea-tickets-26956413358](http://mediterranea-tickets-26956413358)

### SATURDAY/OCT.22

**1st Annual Forge Brew Works & LCAC Oktoberfest** noon - 6 p.m. at Forge Brew Works 8532 Terminal Road Lorton. Admission: Free. [forgebrewworks.com/beers](http://forgebrewworks.com/beers)  
**Sully Historic Site Halloween**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBYN WITSCHY

**Katie Pline (left) and Keeler Lambertson (right) of Clifton acted in a scene depicting the Salem witch trials, burning and lynching.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBYN WITSCHY

**Clifton residents Aaron and Tracy Kuzemka, Josie Layfield, Alexis Pollard and friends ran a “Children of the Corn” scene during the 2015 Clifton Haunted Trail.**

can trick-or-treat for candy and treats, bounce around in our kids zone, and meet bugs at our creepy crawly station. Admission: \$10 per child, free for adults. [www.roerszoofari.com/](http://www.roerszoofari.com/)

### SATURDAY/OCT. 29

**Howl-O-Ween at Lake Anne, 1-3 p.m.** Plaza Activities. Free. Join us on the Plaza dressed in Halloween flair (adults + pets) for a Howling good time! Dogs, cats, and all types of furry friends are welcome to participate. Pet Costume Contest starts at 1:30 p.m.: Pet Parade, Live DJ, Pet Friendly Beer Garden, Window Decorating Contest, Yappy Hour Specials from 1-5 p.m., Treats, Tricks & More From Local Merchants. [www.lakeanneplaza.com](http://www.lakeanneplaza.com)

### MONDAY/OCT. 31

**Halloween Spooktacular** at Great Falls Village Green and Great Falls Center, 5-7 p.m., with Pet Parade at 4 p.m. (all dogs must vacate the green by 4:50 p.m.) Boy Scout Troop 55 will create some spooky fun for everyone in the Haunted House; The Langley Marching Band performs in the Wells Fargo parking lot; Linda Waitkus of Great Dogs of Great Falls is leading the Pet Parade starting at the Gazebo. Look out for the Great Falls Volunteer Firefighters in the Safeway parking lot.

**Lantern Light Event** 4 - 7 p.m. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Sully will be hosting a Historic All Hallows Eve program to return visitors to a time before superhero costumes and candy corn. In the 18th & 19th centuries, Virginians celebrated All Hallows Eve with

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

storytelling, fortune telling, and family gatherings. There will be a tour of the historic site and grounds by lantern light. This program is for participants age five to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site)

**“Gallant Knights and Fair Maidens”: Ring Tournaments in Fairfax County** 2 p.m. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Historian Jeanne Nicolls will present her research on jousting tournaments, a dominant form of chivalric entertainment, in the antebellum and post-Civil War periods. The tournaments featured men on horseback competing with lances to capture rings. Cost: Free. 703-591-0560.

## SUNDAY/OCT.23

**Annual Road to Success Luncheon** hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority 12 p.m. at the Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Reservations are required for a student and one parent and students are asked to wear business attire. [scholarship@fcacd.org](mailto:scholarship@fcacd.org)

## 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)



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Shenandoah Run in Concert at Accotink

Local band Shenandoah Run, playing “folk music with a kick,” will be in concert Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. at Accotink UU Church, 10125 Lakehaven Ct., Burke. Like a spirited family reunion, nine-piece band, Shenandoah Run, pays tribute to both vintage Americana and contemporary folk, playing covers and some originals and occasionally including a song from the worlds of bluegrass, country or foreign lands. Expect top-notch musicianship and multi-part harmonies that will lure you in for an irresistible sing-along. More information at [www.accontinkuu.org/concerts-at-Accotink](http://www.accontinkuu.org/concerts-at-Accotink). Tickets: \$15.00.

## 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.

## TUESDAY/OCT.25

**Raising Kids for Success** 7:30 - 9 p.m. Oakwood School 7210 Braddock Rd. Annandale. Oakwood School Parenting Series features Occupational Therapist Michele Dausman as she teaches strategies to increase your child’s sense of feeling connected, capable, competent, and courageous. Cost \$10 Visit [www.oakwoodschool.com](http://www.oakwoodschool.com) to register. 571-214-8799

From left — back row: Melissa Knapp, Springfield, as Grace Farrell. and Siobhan Thompson, Fairfax, as Miss Hannigan. Front Row: Brenna Kay, Alexandria, as Annie. Blaise Majewski, Lorton, as Daddy Warbucks. Also featured, Tulio as Sandy.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Northern Virginia Players Present ‘Annie Jr.’

Northern Virginia Players will present their Fall 2016 musical, “Annie Jr.” Based on the popular comic strip, “Annie” tells of a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents who abandoned her on the doorstep of a New York City orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan. In adventure after adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan’s evil ways, befriends President Franklin Roosevelt,

and finds a new family in billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell, and a lovable mutt named Sandy.

Dates and times: Nov. 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 5 and 12 at 1:30 p.m. at Summit Church, 7719 Fullerton Rd. Springfield. For Tickets/Group Sales (available now): <http://www.nvplayers.com/>. Order early for best seating.

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# SPORTS



**West Springfield High School continued to celebrate its 50th anniversary by inducting 21 individuals into its inaugural Sports Hall of Fame at the Waterford in Springfield on Oct. 8.**

## 50 Years of Spartan Star Athletes

**West Springfield names inaugural Sports Hall of Fame class.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**W**est Springfield High School continued to celebrate its 50th anniversary by inducting 21 individuals into its inaugural Sports Hall of Fame.

The honorees, which included five coaches, one contributor, one team and 14 athletes, were recognized at the Oct. 7 Homecoming football game against West Potomac High School. A formal induction luncheon took place the following day at the Waterford in Springfield.

Current West Springfield principal Mike Mukai said the game was “a great atmosphere,” despite the Spartans’ loss to the visiting Wolverines 47 to 40.

An early highlight of the game was Fairfax County Police delivering the game ball via helicopter. Former Spartan soccer and basketball player Brian Carroll also stopped by in between his own games with the Major League Soccer team Philadelphia Union.

### Hall of Fame Class of 2016

The inaugural West Springfield High School Sports Hall of Fame class of 2016 includes:

Golf State Championship Team 1975  
Missy Bell Bunch (swimming), Class of 1997  
Brian Carroll (soccer, basketball), Class of 2000  
Gayle Freshwater Doane (basketball, softball, tennis), Class of 1974  
Sharif Karie (cross country, track), Class of 1997  
Dave Koesters (basketball, baseball), Class of 1974  
Kara Lawson (basketball), Class of 1999  
Stephanie Loehr (soccer), Class of 1994  
Chip McArdle (wrestling, golf), Class of 1982  
Steve Nobles (cross country, track), Class of 1971

Mukai said there were four teachers from the original 1966 West Springfield staff in attendance, two of which were also members of the 2016 hall of fame class.

“So many came back who wanted to honor coaches,” Mukai said. One of those was former field hockey and girls’ basketball coach Shirley Duncan, who helped shape Title IX legislation.

A special website was created for the hall of fame, which has names, sports and years for each of the inductees. The plan is for it to contain more biographical information as well as a video for each former high school athlete.

Inductees were chosen by a committee that looked at accomplishments after high school as well, but focused first on “what they meant to the school,” said assistant principal Betsy Fawsett, “what an individual mean to the team.”

Next year, Fawsett said, they plan to induct just 15 new members into the hall of fame, and 10 the following year.

Also in the works is an Academic Hall of Fame.

Joe Saunders (baseball, basketball), Class of 1999  
Kathy Schniedwind (field hockey, basketball, softball, track), Class of 1970  
Sheri Susi Nygaard (gymnastics, cheerleading), Class of 1987  
Jamie Warren III (basketball, baseball), Class of 1991  
L.J. Yankosky (basketball, baseball), Class of 1993  
Bob Little, Contributor  
Rob Benton, Coach  
Shirley Duncan, Coach  
Vic Kelbaugh, Coach  
Don McCool, Coach  
Ron Tugwell, Coach  
More information on the West Springfield High School Sports Hall of Fame inductees is available online at [spartanhof.com](http://spartanhof.com).



**Members of the West Springfield High School girls 1991, 1992 and 1993 State Champion Soccer teams are recognized at the school’s Oct. 7 Homecoming game against West Potomac High School.**



**Members of the West Springfield High School boys 1978 State Champion Golf team are recognized at the school’s Oct. 7 Homecoming game against West Potomac High School.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANDID COLOR



**West Springfield High School principal Mike Mukai helps check in guests at the school’s inaugural Sports Hall of Fame induction luncheon at the Waterford in Springfield on Oct. 8.**



**West Springfield High School director of student activities Andy Muir (left) speaks at the at the school’s inaugural Sports Hall of Fame induction luncheon at the Waterford in Springfield on Oct. 8.**



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Catherine Louise Scott Pearson, 90 years  
old, left this world for heaven on September 20, 2016 at  
her home in Alachua, Florida. Catherine was born on April  
4, 1926 to Mamie and Archie Scott and grew up in the Alex-  
andria and Franconia area. She married Samuel T. Pearson  
in 1942. She is survived by her daughter Carole (husband  
Chuck) Page, son Samuel (wife Lynne) Pearson, sister  
June Hoffman 7 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 1  
great great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her  
husband Samuel T. Pearson, parents Mamie and Archie  
Scott, brothers Austin, Robert, William (Sonny) Scott and  
sister Betty Burk. She will be laid to rest at Pohick Church  
with her husband in a private family service. She will be  
greatly missed. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made  
to Just Man Ministry 3246 Snow, Katy, Texas 77493 or to  
Carole Ann Page c/o "Go Fund Me Page."

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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: Unlabeled, St. Louis, Missouri, 1950; Gordon Parks (American, 1912-2006), gallery  
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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.

### MONDAY/OCT. 17 THROUGH NOV. 4

#### Sheehy Auto Stores Fall Harvest Food Drive

Sheehy Auto Stores throughout Washington, D.C.; Richmond, Virginia; and Baltimore, Maryland areas will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Harvest Food Drive. Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, Feeding America's network members supply food to more than 37 million Americans each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors.

Locations include:

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Sheehy Nissan of Springfield 6727 Loisdale Road Springfield, VA 22150  
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Sheehy Ford of Springfield 6727 Loisdale Road Springfield, VA 22150  
Sheehy Subaru of Springfield 6571 Backlick Road Springfield, VA 22150  
Patriot Harley-Davidson 9739 Fairfax Boulevard Fairfax, VA 22031

### TUESDAY/OCT. 25

#### Water Treatment System Maintenance

**Basics** The webinars will be held at 1 p.m. ET. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/?ctreys@ngwa.org> or 800-551-7379, ext. 1554.

### ONGOING

#### Volunteers Needed as Drivers & Office Workers

Drivers are needed for trips Monday - Friday to medical appointments and Companion Shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Office Workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday - Friday) of individuals requesting rides and match an available driver for each request. If you can volunteer your time, please contact the SCFB office at 703-323-4788.

### 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.

#### St Mary of Sorrows Church Landings

Tuesday's 7:30 p.m. 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax, will begin a "Landings" program for returning Catholics and people considering returning to the practice of their Faith. Program started Sept 20th and will run through Nov. 15. Pre-registration required. 703-818-8618 or [annleggio@yahoo.com](mailto:annleggio@yahoo.com).

**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.

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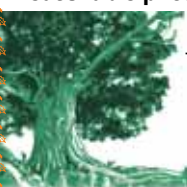
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