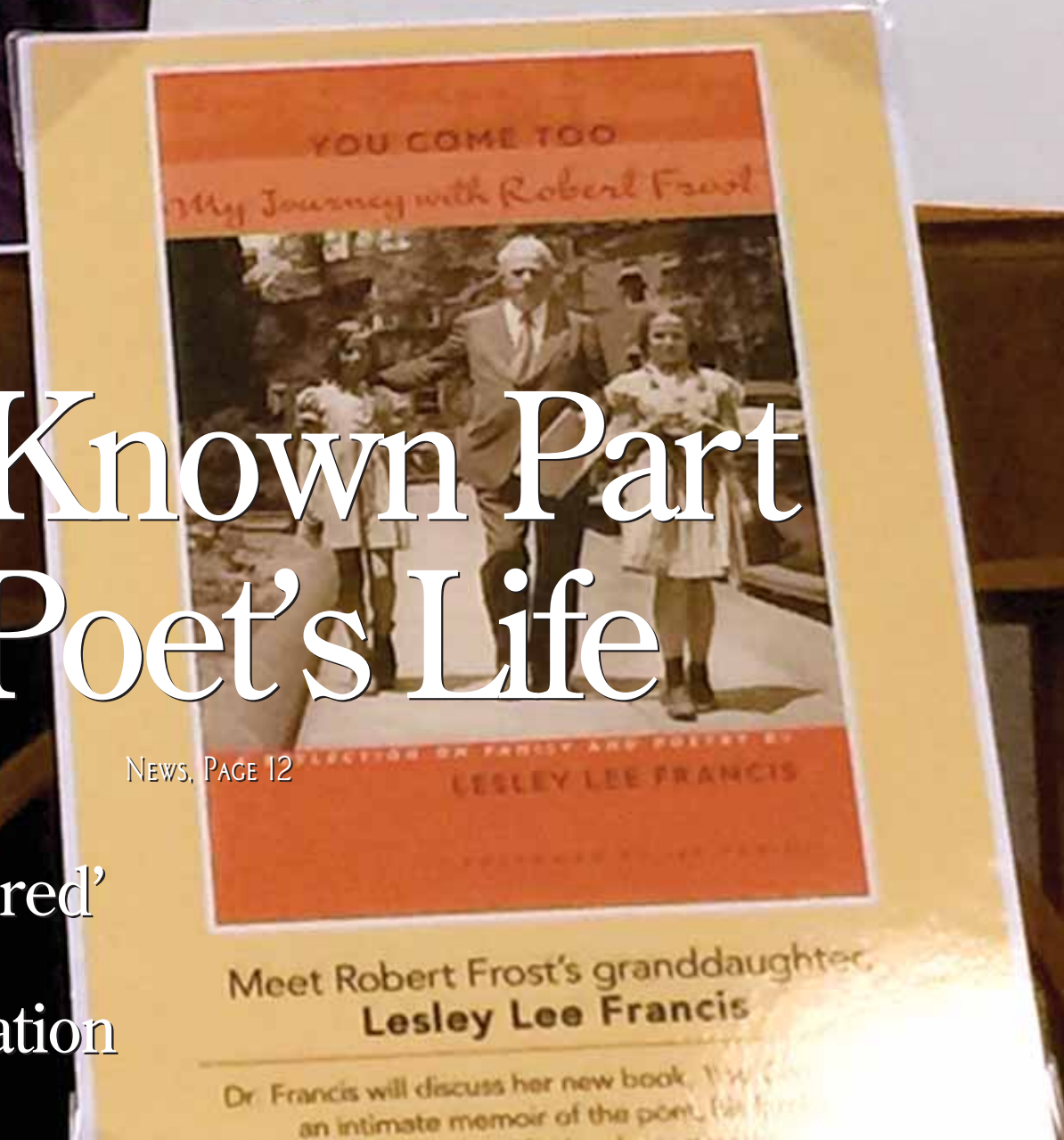


Dr. Lesley Lee Francis, granddaughter of Robert Frost, lecturing to members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the Fairfax Lord of Life Lutheran Church Oct. 12; poster shows cover of her new book, 'You Come Too: My Journey with Robert Frost.'



Less Known Part Of Poet's Life

NEWS, PAGE 12

Lamb Center: 'Where Hope Is Restored'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Revolutionizing Education

NEWS, PAGE 5

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY DAVE RYAN



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2017

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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Fatal Pedestrian Crash in Fairfax Area

Crash Reconstruction detectives are investigating a fatal crash that occurred on Saturday, Oct. 15 in the area of Prosperity Avenue and Morningside Drive. An investigation determined around 8:50 p.m., a 2015 Toyota Corolla was traveling northbound on Prosperity Avenue. Around the same time, a 46-year-old Fairfax man was outside trying to catch his dog that was running loose. Unexpectedly, the man walked into the roadway, in front of the car. The driver was unable to avoid the pedestrian, James C. Kim, and struck him. Kim was transported to the hospital where he later succumbed to his injuries — according to FCPD Public Affairs Bureau. The driver, a 23-year-old man, remained on scene. Neither alcohol nor speed appear to be contributing factors. No charges have been placed at this time.

Cedar Avenue. The juvenile reported that the man approached her with an unknown object in his hand. The girl threw a lawn chair at the man and ran to her home while the man fled on foot. A search of the area by police failed to locate the individual. The female juvenile reported that the same man had approached her on Oct. 13 at her bus stop located at Cedar Avenue and Chain Bridge Road. The man spoke to her briefly before she boarded the school bus. The girl was not injured in either encounter. The man is described as white, in his fifties or sixties, heavy set, with a gray beard and wearing all black clothing.

Anyone having any information regarding these incidents or the identity of the male subject is asked to call City of Fairfax Police at 703-385-7924.

City of Fairfax Police Seek Information on Suspicious Subject

City of Fairfax Police are seeking the public's assistance in identifying a male subject who approached a female juvenile while she was waiting for a ride to school. The suspicious event occurred about 8:15 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 17 in the 10500 Block of

Saturday Morning Coffee with Delegate David Bulova

On Saturday, Oct. 22, Del. David Bulova (D-37) will continue a tradition started in 2006 by holding informal office hours to take place from 9 to 11 a.m. at Jireh Bakery and Café. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and to ask questions about legislation affecting our community. The format is casual and no appointment is needed.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 5

NEWS

‘A Place Where Hope Is Restored’ Community celebrates the Lamb Center’s blessings.

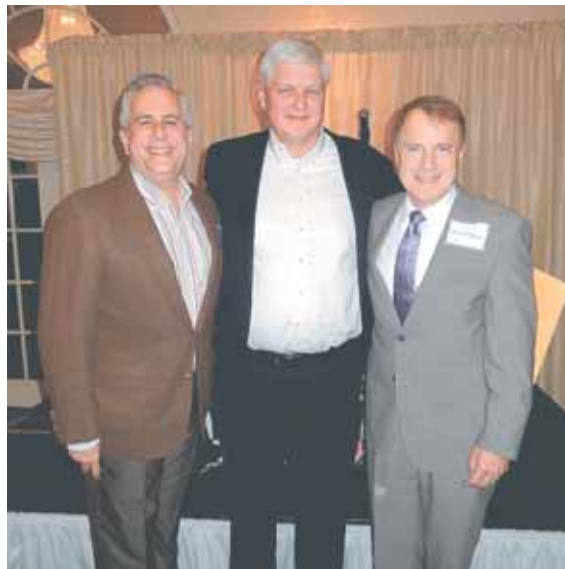
BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Each year, the Lamb Center in Fairfax holds a celebration banquet to acknowledge and appreciate its many blessings. This year, more than ever, it has a great deal to celebrate, and it did so last Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Waterford in Fair Oaks.

Serving the poor and homeless for more than 20 years, it’s a daytime, drop-in shelter offering hot meals, showers, laundry services, and recovery and employment counseling. The guests come from all walks of life. Many have mental illness, some are veterans and still others have simply fallen on hard times – but they’re all welcome.

“The hardest part about being homeless is being ignored,” said Lamb Center Executive Director John MacPherson. “But we get to know everyone by name.”

The Lamb Center began in 1992 in a tiny pawn shop, moving in 2000 to a rented, 3,200-square-foot building at Fairfax Circle. But since it’s open six days a week and serves about 150 people/day, it



(From left) are Councilman Michael DeMarco, Lamb Center Executive Director John MacPherson and Councilman David Meyer.

needed more space. So it started fundraising to build a larger place of its own. The dream eventually became reality and, in May, the Lamb Center moved into its new, two-story, nearly 10,000-square-foot home at 3160 Campbell Drive.

AT LAST WEEK’S BANQUET, Fairfax City Councilman David

Meyer gave the opening remarks. “The elected leadership and professional staff of our City are deeply and unanimously committed to the mission of the Lamb Center,” he said. “We dedicate ourselves to be full partners with you in helping to change lives and offer new possibilities for the least among us in our community.



Dave Larrabee thanks the volunteers.

“To be advocates for the poor and those who are marginalized, ignored, exploited or forgotten is not an easy road to travel,” he continued. “When Martyn Mimms first led the Truro congregation to establish the Lamb Center, everyone involved was a learning disciple. But the commitment was there; and as this ministry grew in size

and scope, a deeper spiritual understanding took root among those early, faithful volunteers and staff. And over the years, the ministry became more focused, effective and far more ecumenical.”

Then when the building campaign was underway, said Meyer, “Extraordinary generosity, beyond expectation and measure, affirmed that what’s occurring at the Lamb Center is vitally important for our future as a community.” Noting the Feb. 13 beam-signing ceremony at the construction site, he said center volunteers wrote on the steel beams Scripture passages and the names of people who’d died.

“Those inscribed passages serve as the spiritual cornerstones for the Lamb Center’s ministry,” said Meyer. “That day was also a time to remember the early, long-serving volunteers, including Jim Conklin Sr., John Petersen and Vic and Joan Meyer. And while those passages and names are now covered up behind the walls, they provide the ministry with continuing, spiritual nourishment.”

Today the Lamb Center is supported by volunteers from a variety of churches, synagogues and

SEE LAMB CENTER, PAGE 4



Ruby Ledbetter at the podium.



Patti Staples shares her story.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
Patti Brown with Stephan Bolling.



(From left) are Patti Brown and Verena Sample.

Four People Share Their Own Stories They tell how the Lamb Center changed their lives.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

During the Lamb Center’s banquet last week, the center’s assistant director, Patti Brown, said the guests inspire her every day. Four of them then shared their stories with those attending the event.

❖ Ruby Ledbetter received her college degree in social work in 1985, married and became the mother of eight children – one with a severe dis-

ability. But her husband died in 2000 and, by 2006, she was homeless. Then, after working 23 years as a social worker for Washington, D.C. Public Schools, she lost her job in 2010.

“I came to the Lamb Center for prayer meetings, Bible study and meals,” she said. “I now work with Arlington Public Schools and help in my community. I’m a valuable member of society, and I’m here today because of your love and support.”

❖ Patti Staples said no one makes a conscious decision to be-

come homeless. “It’s through a series of unexpected events and bad decisions we make,” she explained. She and her husband hadn’t worked in several years and they had a daughter to care for. After they were evicted, she said, “A friend took us, embarrassed and hopeless, to the Lamb Center.”

“We were treated as guests, with love and respect, and welcomed with open arms,” said Staples. “So we kept coming back. We were able to rent a basement apartment and went to the Lamb Center once a week. One day, I was there when

a man from the 29 Diner came in looking to hire someone, and he hired me – and I’m still there, a year later.”

❖ Stephan Bolling had been incarcerated, and a condition of his parole was to go to the Lamb Center every day. “It grew on me,” he said. “If you ever want to see some real-life angels, go to the Lamb Center. Later, after my girlfriend died in my arms, I returned there. If it wasn’t for them, I don’t know where I’d be.”

❖ Verena Sample was a former guest who now works at Macy’s

and is a Lamb Center volunteer. “I was once on the streets and in a drug environment,” she said. “But I learned to set goals. And now I talk to young people at the Lamb Center, sharing my story, so hopefully, they won’t go the same way I did.” Addressing the crowd, she said, “Thank you, because you all are the shepherd and I’m the sheep that you lifted up and pieced back together.” Then, giving a prayer, Brown said, “Bless our guests that they’ll continue to soar on wings of eagles.”

Fairfax County Tax Delinquent Real Estate



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Parcel 1 (Improved): (Cole) 6057B Arlington Blvd., Falls Church; Mason District; Boulevard Square Condos, Unit 10; Tax Map #0514-14-0010; Acct. #408234982

Parcel 2: (Nguyen) 6418 Columbia Pike, Annandale; Mason District; River View Heights, Lot 20; 9,526 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0613-12-0020; Acct. #408273783

Parcel 3: (Ox Group) 9333 Lee Highway, Fairfax; Providence District; Hatmark, 17,906 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0484-01-0002; Acct. #408216571

Parcel 4: (US Bank) 6801 Custis Parkway, Falls Church; Providence District; Mason Terrace, Lot 450; 20,437 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0504-05-0450; Acct. #408230100

Parcel 5 (Improved): (Walsh) 9111 McNair Drive, Alexandria; Mt. Vernon District; Woodlawn Manor, Lot 27; Sec.1; 21,780 sq. ft.; Tax Map #1101-05-0027; Acct. #408435007



Parcel 1



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NEWS

Lamb Center Counts Its Blessings

FROM PAGE 3

other community organizations. "It's an example of what can be achieved when differences are set aside, a spirit of unity is embraced and we all work together," said Councilman Meyer. "The Lamb Center is a model for the entire nation." He then thanked everyone who's supported the center, encouraged them to continue and presented a \$5,500 check from his own church, Fairfax United Methodist.

Next, Lamb Center Board Chairman Kelly Johnson spoke of the momentous things that happened to the center over the past year, from the new facility's groundbreaking in October 2015 to its official grand opening in June. On that day, \$500,000 was still needed to pay off the \$4.5 million building cost. But at the end of that event, an anonymous couple pledged the remaining amount.

Still, the Lamb Center always needs funds to continuing providing for its guests. So during the banquet, Johnson said, "Tonight is all about the programs we want to put in place for our guests. We're now supported by over 100 churches, and we give you all our heartfelt thanks."

Noting how their volunteers stay for years, she added, "I've done the Tuesday afternoon Bible study since 2008, and I'm still considered the new Tuesday volunteer. She then thanked the center's sponsors, volunteers, staff and building committee for all their hard work.

Dave Larrabee, the center's operations director, said the guests feel comfortable at the Lamb Center. "The power of community takes away the scariness of being in a new place," he said.

Agreeing, Stephanie Carl, a homeless-outreach social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs, called it a "safe, warm and welcoming environment for veterans seeking help. They can sign up for many different services, all under one roof."

For example, she said, "One veteran came there for fresh clothes and to do his laundry and we were able to connect him to Veterans Administration representatives. The Lamb Center is a place where hope is restored; people come for small things and leave with a miracle." Tara Ruszkowski is a Board member, but volunteers in the kitchen on Wednesdays.

QUOTING former Board Chairman Mary Petersen, she said, "It's doing, not preaching, that brings people together. My son Jack volunteered here with his Confirmation class in eighth grade and said, 'This place is amazing; these people are just like us.' So I visited and became a volunteer, and now Wednesdays are the highlight of my week."

"The community of our volunteers, guests and staff keeps us together at the Lamb Center," continued Ruszkowski. "And that's often what's missing in the lives of the homeless. Our guests have names and aren't invisible; they come with stories of brokenness, not just hope. And if we're going to do something about homelessness, we've got to do it together."

"Our volunteers touch the lives of so many people and discover they're blessed by being there," added Larrabee. He then thanked God "for what You are doing in this community, the generosity of this community and the transformation we've seen in the lives of ourselves and our guests."

RECYCLE
YOUR CARTONS
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FROM PAGE XX

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NEWS

Revolutionizing Education

Local company, scientists address the demand for more computer-science education across K-12 and universities.

BY KARINA VERLAN
THE CONNECTION

The Washington Business Journal recognized Scriyb, LCC as the Best Innovation of 2016; a great stepping stone for a local company with a lot of promise.

"I think that it is an early validation by Washington Business Journal that we are one of the up and coming start-ups, and that the technology scene is alive and well in this area," Scriyb CEO, Chris Etesse, said. "This bodes well for our community and region."

Chris Etesse, a founding member of Blackboard, has joined the efforts of creator of Scriyb, George Mason University Professor, Dr. Scott Martin, Founding Director of the Virginia Serious Game Institute (VSGI) and Mason Computer Game Design Program, to help the company tackle a big problem on a national level: the demand for more computer-science education across K-12 and universities.

Martin developed Scriyb to expand GMU's game theory courses, after finding that the demand for teachers and classroom space was much higher than available resources.

"It is hard to recruit faculty to teach with the current tools or tools 3-4 years ago," Martin said. "It's a lot more work than a live class, because there is no interaction with the students."

TEACHERS experienced high drop-out and fail rates

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE XX

Jireh Cafe, is located at 13848 Lee Highway, Centreville. Del. Bulova is also happy to arrange individual appointments on specific issues or concerns.

Bulova represents Virginia's 37th House District, which includes the City of Fairfax and portions of



Dr. Scott Martin, creator of Scriyb, LLC, is the Founding Director of Mason's Computer Game Design and Virginia Serious Game Institute (VSGI).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

with asynchronous classes, with little to no interaction with the students, or between students. Research today shows that peer to peer learning is stronger than teacher to student.

This is what makes Scriyb so revolutionary: the classes are in a live online, cloud-based classroom platform, which offers a number of benefits. First, it allows for one teacher to teach thousands of students in real-time, which is recorded and automatically archived for later review.

"What it does, is it allows more people to learn," Martin said. "There are a lot of problems in education. What Scriyb can do is erase culture, race and sex to transform education for the better."

In other words, Scriyb tackles the daunting problem extending STEM education, providing relevant information that textbooks usually can't keep up with; while also removing the social-economic, race and gender biases that serve as barriers to modern education.

As Etesse put it, "We're really starting to scratch the surface on learning science and personalizing 'smart' education."

"One of the biggest challenges is the need for companies and K-12 education, community colleges, and higher education to work together," Harris said. "I don't think there's enough collaboration among those entities for it to be efficient." Harris believes that rather than creating new STEM programs, we should be figuring out the ones that are working and finding ways, such as Scriyb, to expand those resources to overcome challenges.

"I think that [Scriyb] is really going to change the paradigm for federal technology because not only can you use it successfully in K-12, but it also seamlessly transitions for courses in higher education, which has been a challenge to overcome," Harris said. "It is going to change the dynamic of education."

Fairfax County. He serves on the General Laws, Education, and Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources committees. He is also a member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the State Water Commission, the Joint Commission on Health Care, and the Housing Commission.

For more information visit www.davidbulova.com.

Chantilly High School's
7th Annual Haunted House
Saturday, October 22nd
Tickets \$10 per person

1pm to 5pm (less scary) or
6pm to 10pm (for braver goblins)
4201 Stringfellow Drive

Purchase online at
www.CHSHauntedHouse.com
or at the door.
Proceeds benefit the CHS girls soccer and field hockey teams.

Jersey Mikes and Guapos will both have food trucks on site.

Learn to Pray and Heal
by Nate Frederick, C.S.

Come explore the how-to of spiritual healing. Learn to have more faith in Life, understand God as Love itself, and express Love in a way that heals.

Sunday October 23 at 2 p.m.
Sherwood Community Center
3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

NATE is a spiritual adventurer who's traveled the globe sharing healing insights, exploring new cultures and performing music. As a media producer, Nate launched and produced the award-winning Daily Lift podcast, as well as the Time4thinkers Weekly Musician for his church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston. Now as Christian Science practitioner he's doing what he loves most--praying with others and experiencing first-hand the healing power of God's love.

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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-secular 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.

affordable housing."

We fully expect a portion of the funds raised by the meals tax will be used for this important priority.

Michael L. O'Reilly

Chairman, Board of the Fairfax Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness

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Vote Yes: Immigrant Families Rely on Schools for More Than Education

BY ALFONSO LOPEZ
DELEGATE (D-49)

Fairfax County Public Schools are more than just a place to learn. Growing up in Burke, I saw firsthand how our schools created a sense of community and neighborhood camaraderie.

Schools are where we could go to borrow a book, where we could watch and play sports, and where we could perform a play or listen to a concert.

Schools are where we gather for community events and festivals. For many of us, schools are where we will exercise our civic duty, and vote in November.

They are a promise to everyone in our neighborhood that regardless of racial, ethnic, or economic background, you are a part of our community.

This is especially true for Fairfax County's immigrant and new American residents. Education is essential to realizing the commitment of the American Dream — that if you work hard, and play by the rules, you can have an opportunity to achieve a better life. Fully funding our schools is critical to fulfilling that promise of opportunity and uplifting Fairfax families.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting Meals Tax

To the Editor:

I'm writing to encourage Fairfax County voters to support the county meals tax referendum on the ballot in November. The proposal would impose a 4-percent tax on ready-to-eat prepared food and beverages at restaurants and stores. Seventy percent of the money raised would support the Fairfax County Public Schools; the remainder would cover other expenses like police, fire, rescue, and human services. Supporting our schools is essential to maintaining our quality of life in Fairfax County. Good schools make Fairfax County a desirable place to live and do business and they raise the values of our homes. More specifically, the meals tax would allow

the county to make teacher salaries competitive with those in neighboring jurisdictions. It would also allow the county to address increasing school class sizes, which make teaching less effective and which make our schools less attractive to prospective teachers.

The meals tax is also an alternative to a further increase in Fairfax County property taxes. The \$100 million per year it would raise would more than cover the increase in real estate taxes from 2015 to 2016 (caused by increasing property assessments). According to the county budget summary, that increase cost the typical homeowner \$184.81. Such a further increase could be staved off by shifting a small portion of the tax

In fact, immigrant families rely on schools for more than just education. The wraparound services that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provide informs families about county services, involves them in the larger community, and brings families that might otherwise be isolated through language or cultural barriers into our Fairfax family.

That's why I support investing in Fairfax and voting "yes" on the 2016 Fairfax County meals tax referendum.

The meals tax will bring in millions of dollars for our schools. This money will be used to hire and retain the best quality teachers, keep class sizes low, and maintain the best specialty programs in the state, such as art, music, and ESL classes.

Without a meals tax, our schools will continue to experience budget shortfalls. Without a meals tax, Fairfax will struggle to hire and retain the best teachers, and FCPS will continue to struggle with increased class sizes.

Luckily we have a choice. Vote Yes on the meals tax to support our schools.

Alfonso Lopez represents Fairfax and the 49th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. He also serves as the Minority Whip.

obligation from property owners to other taxpayers (including those from outside Fairfax County).

Finally, the meals tax would be a small burden. It would amount to 20 cents on a \$5 meal and \$2 on a \$50 meal. Most of the other jurisdictions neighboring Fairfax County have a similar meals tax: Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax City, and the Towns of Vienna and Herndon. Yet most of us patronize restaurants there. Thus, the meals tax would not threaten the businesses of the restaurants in Fairfax County. That's why I support the proposal.

Sean Barnett
Annandale

VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 7-8 p.m.** Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

30th Annual Northern Virginia Dementia Care Consortium Caregivers Conference, Friday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The conference "Gems: A Treasure Chest of Ideas" will have speakers and resources on topics important to caregivers. The \$30 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials, and certificate of attendance. First Baptist Church of

Alexandria, 2932 King St., Alexandria. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Caregivers Conference.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, Nov. 16, at noon** at the Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

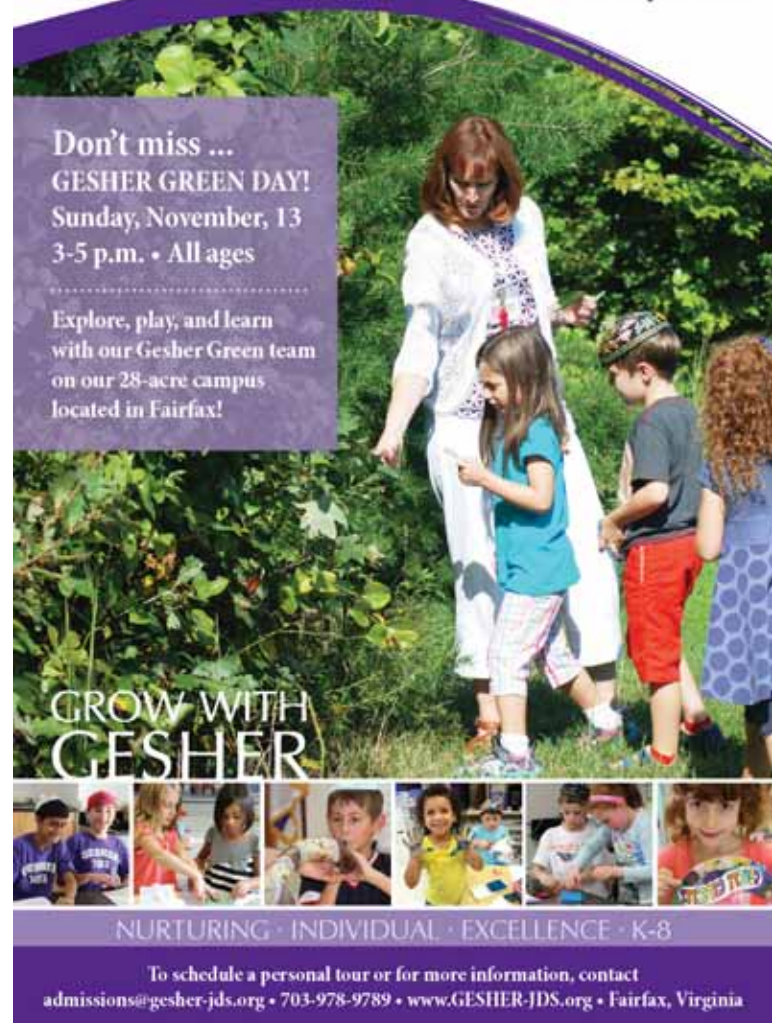
Fairfax County's free Caregiver Seminar/Webinar Series features experts in Medicare, dementia care, mental health and wellness, nutrition and elder law. **Register online at** www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults

and click on Caregiver Support and Respite Programs or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

10 Legal Issues Caregivers Should Know About, Thursday, Nov. 3, 7-8:30 p.m. Caregivers often make health and financial decisions for loved ones. Learn what documents loved ones need in place, if the document age matters, and what happens if the documents fail or can't be drafted. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

When is it More Than Just a Bad Day? — webinar, Wednesday, Nov. 9, Noon-1 p.m. Learn how to identify, cope, and find partnerships to support your family if depressive symptoms hit you or your loved one.

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Meet and Greet

Hofbrau Oktoberfest, Munich Germany 6.3%

First Course: Bavarian Trio

bratwurst slider/ apple cider & caraway slaw/ cornchon remoulade/ **smoked trout crostini**/ horseradish/ caper/ red onion/ arugula/ **mini sea salt crusted pretzel**/ whole grain mustard/ warm beer cheese sauce
Dogfish Pumpkin Ale, Mildon Delaware 7%

Second Course: Fall Salad

frisee/ mache/ arugula/ roasted squash/ spiced pecans/ port poached pears/ sun dried cranberries/ blue cheese/ balsamic
Bold Rock Virginia Draft Hard Cider, Crozet Virginia 4.7%

Third Course: Classic Beef Rouladen

potato & gruyere puree/ sweet & sour braised red cabbage/ crispy shallots/ duck fat gravy
Legend Brown Ale, Richmond Virginia 5.8%

Fourth Course: Crispy Pork Schnitzel (Cordon Bleu)

bavarian spatzle/ bacon/ mushrooms/ pearl onions/ lingonberry/ citrus cream
Great Lakes Oktoberfest, Cleveland Ohio 6.5%

Fifrh Course: Black Forrest Cake

Paulaner Salvator Double Bock, Munich Germany 7.9%

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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



PHOTO COURTESY OF BASIS INDEPENDENT McLEAN

Applying for a slot at one of the area's top private schools, such as BASIS Independent McLean, can be fraught with tension.

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?"

Richard S. Moss, director of admission, The Heights School, Potomac, Md.:

"Teach your child how to make a pros and cons list. Help him or her thoughtfully consider the options. Ultimately, your child needs to know that he is a

valued advisor to the ultimate decision makers: the parents. It's an opportunity for parents to nurture trust. It is a mistake to lead your child to believe that one school is the be all and end all to life's problems. That's a high bar, and, more importantly, you don't want to crush a child's spirit if he doesn't get in."

Michael Cresson, director of admissions, Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington:

"I recommend all students looking at various schools make sure that they are comfortable. Definitely shadow and visit during open houses to get a true sense of the community and school. I tell students to make sure they are comfortable and

"The application process is an opportunity to teach their children the art of dispassionate decision."

— Richard S. Moss,
director of admission,
The Heights School

happy with their choice because they only get to go to high school once."

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. How will the school help you explore your ideas in greater depth? In what areas do you want to improve? I'm always impressed with students who are hungry to know more about the world."

Julie C. Lewis, director of admission and financial aid Alexandria County Day School, Alexandria:

"I recommend that families 'Take the time to visit a wide-range of schools, not just the ones your friends' kids attend, to really get a feel for what appeals to you as a family and will work best for your individual child. The Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington's website (AISGW.org) is a fantastic place to start your research and may lead you to a school you were not previously familiar with. Once you've created your list of schools, visit each of them and don't be afraid to ask as many questions as needed to really get a sense of the academic program and school community."

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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 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 Zettlemyer, 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.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

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.

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 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.

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

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

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

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

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. 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: 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.novamentalhealth.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/

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

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. Vienna.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.

Bradley Farm Haunted House Friday & Saturday 6 - 10 p.m. 13159 New Parkland Drive, Herndon. The guided tours are \$5 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/

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, administrator@accotinkuu.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

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
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 crawl station. Admission: \$10 per child, free for adults. 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

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

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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

“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 Niccolls 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@fcacdst.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

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/ 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 to register. 571-214-8799

TUESDAY/OCT.25 & OCT. 26

INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital Auxiliary Handbag and Luggage Sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hospital Atrium 3600 Joseph Siewick Dr, Fairfax, VA 22033 Karen Almquist, IFOH Auxiliary Publicity Chair

THURSDAY/ OCT. 27 - OCT. 30

Mason Musical “The Threepenny Opera” at George Mason University’s Center for the Arts in Fairfax. October 27, 2016 - Oct. 29 at 8:00 p.m. October 29 at 2:00 p.m. Oct. 30 at 4:00 p.m. Who can get ahead? Those with money do in Brecht and Weill’s landmark twentieth century musical, The Threepenny Opera. Set in gritty 1920’s New York City, where prohibition is in effect but speakeasies are open and corruption abounds, the story follows the charismatic antihero Macheath and his exploits for power and wealth.



Jessica and Brendyn Hatfield as Jasmine and Aladdin.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Disney on Ice Returns to Fairfax Oct. 19-23

Disney On Ice presents Follow Your Heart is bringing Disney•Pixar’s record-breaking animated feature Finding Dory to the ice for the first time in this live production produced by Feld Entertainment. The ice-skating extravaganza featuring Disney•Pixar’s Inside Out, Disney’s Frozen and other beloved Disney stories visits EagleBank Arena in Fairfax, Oct. 19 – 23, for 9 performances.

There’s something for everyone in a show that features 60 characters.

Date and Time of Performances:

- ❖ Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m.
- ❖ Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.

❖ Friday, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m., and 7:30 p.m.

❖ Saturday, Oct. 22, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

❖ Sunday, Oct. 23, 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Tickets for Disney On Ice presents Follow Your Heart are on sale now and start at \$20. Tickets are subject to availability, and VIP and Front Row seating is limited. Market pricing applies to all tickets. All seats are reserved, and tickets are available by calling Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at 800-745-3000, via www.ticketmaster.com, and the EagleBank Arena box office. For group rates and information, contact 202-661-5061.

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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PEOPLE

Less Known Part of Poet's Life

Robert Frost's granddaughter shares the story with Fairfax audience.

BY DAVE RYAN
MEMBER OF OLLI MASON

The granddaughter of Robert Frost, probably the favorite American poet of the twentieth century, believes that most biographies ignore an important part of his life, and in her new book, "You Come Too: My Journey with Robert Frost," Dr. Lesley Lee Francis tries to fill this gap with information about the enormous influence several women had on his work and success.

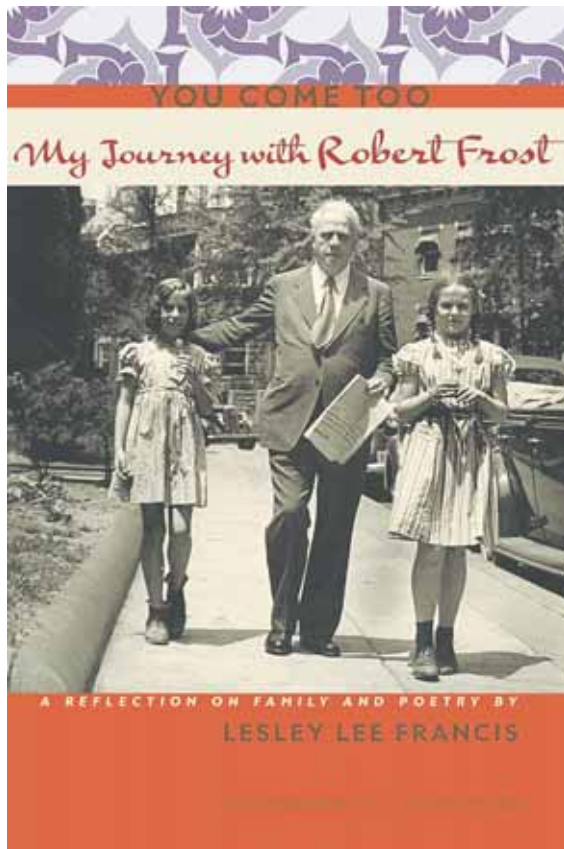
SPEAKING WEDNESDAY at the Fairfax Lord of Life Lutheran Church to members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University, Dr. Francis told of the first big female influence in Frost's life: his mother, Scottish immigrant mystic and imaginative storyteller Isabelle (Belle) Moodie Frost. Frost always hated school (though ironically, he loved to teach) even though his mother was a professional teacher, so she home-schooled him when they lived in San Francisco. What he picked up from Belle, according to Dr. Francis, was vitally important.

Another important woman in Frost's life was Susan Hayes Ward, literary editor of the New York Independent newspaper. She featured his poem, "My Butterfly: An Elegy," on the front page of the paper in 1894. This was the first time any poem of Frost's was published outside of school, and confirmed in his mind that he was going to be a poet. Ward published other poems of his, and became close with his family. Just before her death, she scolded Frost about his famous poem, "A Swinger of Birches," because it was about a boy. She thought Birches was a wonderful work, but felt he needed to write a similar poem about a girl. He obliged with a poem called "Wild Grapes."

Another important influence was his wife, Elinor, who Dr. Francis describes in her book: "...Elinor focused her attention on the goal she and her husband had set for themselves, to enjoy a life of poetry together. Elinor had become her husband's number one partner, not as a helpmeet for genius but as a perceptive ear for the beautiful music of his poetry. He shared with her each poem as it was written; in a practical sense, as he stated, 'she had a perfect ear for vowel sounds.'"

Dr. Francis herself has had a distinguished academic career, graduating from Radcliffe with an AB degree and from Duke with a PhD in Romance Languages. She became a professor of Spanish language, literature and history at a number of colleges and universities. She has lectured and published extensively on her grandfather; her biographical study, "Robert Frost: An Adventure in Poetry, 1900 - 1918," is available in paperback.

When asked what Frost was like as a grandfather, Francis merely said: "That's a hard question to answer... He was still working when he died at 88. He had a lot of responsibility... He had to support four children, and three of them had physical and mental problems (his wife Elinor died in 1938)... You couldn't go and just sit on his knee in a nice living room somewhere with a rocking chair."



On the book cover: Robert Frost with Lesley Lee (left) and her sister Elinor, Washington, D.C., ca. 1941-42.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Dr. Lesley Lee Francis, granddaughter of Robert Frost.

OLLI MASON, which sponsored Dr. Francis's talk, provides first-rate educational, social, and cultural opportunities for active seniors in Northern Virginia. More information about OLLI Mason and its events can be found at olli.gmu.edu



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MUSE PAINTBAR

Muse PaintBar studio accommodates private parties ranging from birthday and bachelorette parties to couples' night paint sessions.

Muse Paintbar Uncorks Mosaic Location

Combining painting instruction with a wine bar and restaurant, Muse PaintBar has opened its 20th location in Fairfax's vibrant Mosaic district in early September. Guests in search of creative inspiration and a fun night out can learn from local skilled artists while enjoying a full selection of wine, beer and tapas. Muse Paintbar opens the doors to its Fairfax location in Mosaic District (2910 District Avenue, Fairfax) alongside a variety of restaurants and retail venues hand-picked for the urban, family-friendly shopping hub. Muse's 20th nationwide location will be right at home in the upscale retail and entertainment center, featuring fashion boutiques, an art house cinema, various culinary options and events that bring the whole community together.

With plans for further expansion across the D.C. metropolitan area this summer, Muse has an impressive footprint in the New England and Tri-State areas, boasting locations in New York's Tribeca neighborhood, Glastonbury, Conn. and Providence, R. I., just to name a few.

Muse is the perfect venue for date night, a birthday celebration or a night out with friends, offering a variety of painting sessions each week that are open to everyone, regardless of artistic skill level. The venue is also available for private parties such as charity fundraisers, business social events,

children's birthday parties and bachelorette parties. In addition to standard paint sessions, Muse Paintbar offers couples' night for a more intimate feel where you and your special someone can create complementary paintings to hang side-by-side. Family nights are also available two or three times a month for family-friendly sessions at a discounted price. In most locations, Muse also offers summer camps for kids.

With no artistic experience or supplies needed, Muse provides budding artists with acrylic paint, canvases and an apron while professional local artists guide guests from blank canvas to finished masterpiece that can be displayed at home, work, or even given as a thoughtful one-of-a-kind gift. While working on their brushstrokes, guests can enjoy a great selection of food, wine and beer. Muse also offers gift certificates and private party paintings geared toward a company or guest of honor.

To participate, guests simply visit www.musepaintbar.com, view the online calendar and sign up online. Classes average \$35 per person, but prices may vary for special events or sessions.

Reservations are suggested as most sessions sell out quickly. For more information and a full list of other Muse Paintbar locations visit www.musepaintbar.com or contact the Mosaic District location at 571-290-2700.

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-Andrew Jackson

21 Announcements

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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 Alexandria 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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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.

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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 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.

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.

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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