

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 8



# Springfield CONNECTION

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Harvey Lawson, Jr. of Springfield gets help from chief election officer Allyn Hammel pulling voter registration information.

## 'Crazy' Lines on Election Day Morning

NEWS, PAGE 3

Who Did You  
Vote for and Why?

VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 4

Broadway Hit  
Performed at Hayfield

NEWS, PAGE 10

NOVEMBER 10-16, 2016

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# Clinton and Kaine Carry Virginia, Trump Seizes Key Battlegrounds

**Comstock, Connolly,  
Beyer re-elected;  
meals tax voted down;  
bonds voted up.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith final numbers still coming in from around the country, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump carried a strong lead early Wednesday morning over Democrat opponent Hillary Clinton.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, however, the former First Lady, U.S. Senator and Secretary of State picked up a victory over Trump. According to Virginia Department of Elections unofficial results, Clinton carried Virginia with 48.2 percent, 1,742,105 votes, to Trump's 46 percent, 1,662,777 votes. Libertarian Gary Johnson received three percent of the vote, just over 109,000.

Fairfax County played a key role in that Clinton win, registering a 63.8 percent vote for Clinton over 30.3 percent for Trump.

Newly re-elected Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) attended a Democratic Party of Virginia event in Falls Church, hosted by Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D).

"In delivering Virginia for Secretary Clinton and Senator Kaine tonight," Connolly said in a statement, "Virginians sent a clear message that we will not tolerate the hateful rhetoric that sought to divide us."

But with Trump grabbing hold of multiple swing-states including electoral college heavyweights Ohio, Florida and North Carolina, he controlled a commanding lead over Clinton nationally going into the early morning. That was much to the surprise of many pollsters who had Clinton leading early in some of those battlegrounds.

"It's pretty clear there's a chunk of the electorate in the U.S. which is significantly alienated," said Virginia state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). "It's mind-boggling you could vote for someone who's an acknowledged sexual assaulter. The rest of world looks to our country to be a beacon of democracy — mature and responsible. Donald Trump would be harmful to how people practice politics in the U.S."

**SUPERVISOR** Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said: "A lot of people are dissatisfied with government," he said. "In the end, the people have spoken."

In the U.S. House of Representatives 10th District race, incumbent Republican Barbara



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Center, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) announces Hillary Clinton a winner in the Commonwealth over Republican challenger Donald Trump.**



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**(From left) Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova, Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) attend the Fairfax County Democratic Committee election night party at the Waterford at Fair Oaks.**

Comstock defeated Democrat challenger LuAnn Bennett 53.3 percent to 46.3 percent.

Incumbent Gerry Connolly (D) in the 11th District ran unopposed and received 87.39 percent of the popular vote. Incumbent Don Beyer (D-8) was re-elected with more than 68 percent of the vote.

"I thank the voters of Virginia's 11th district for once again giving me their trust and sending me back to Congress," Connolly said in a statement. "I love what I do and I love representing the people of Northern Virginia. It's been the greatest privilege of my life."

Also on the ballot for Virginia voters were two Constitutional amendments, plus in Fairfax County, a referendum on the meals tax and a trio of bonds items.

The first amendment, known as "right to work," essentially ensures a citizen is allowed to work in a job without being required to join a labor union. That measure

was voted down in Virginia 53.5 percent to 46.5 percent. Fairfax County went slightly further, voting it down with 55.8 percent of votes.

"I was very happy it didn't pass," said Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) who represents much of the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County. "It shows Virginians don't like to mess with our Constitution. And unions are still quite respected by our electorate."

Question two, a property tax exemption for spouses of policemen and firefighters killed in the line of duty, passed overwhelmingly with 79.5 percent of the vote, or 2,575,064 votes.

The proposed Fairfax County meals tax was defeated by a margin of 55.8 percent to 44.2 percent.

**MEALS TAX** referendum would have allowed Fairfax County supervisors to enact up to a four percent tax on prepared foods and beverages. Opponents called the tax

## Unofficial Election Results

Source: <http://results.elections.virginia.gov/>

### PRESIDENT

#### Virginia Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	1,904,700	49.46%
Donald J. Trump (R)	1,722,045	44.72%
Gary Johnson (L)	115,330	2.99%
Evan McMullin (I)	52,538	1.36%
Jill Stein (G)	27,138	0.70%

#### Fairfax County Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	354,486	64.41%
Donald J. Trump (R)	157,547	28.63%
Gary Johnson (L)	15,649	2.84%
Evan McMullin (I)	10,366	1.88%
Jill Stein (G)	4,551	0.83%

### U.S. CONGRESS

#### Member House of Representatives (08)

Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D)	245,775	68.36%
Charles A. Hernick (R)	98,123	27.29%
Julio Gracia (I)	14,617	4.07%

#### Member House of Representatives (10)

Barbara Jean Comstock (R)	203,411	52.67%
LuAnn L. Bennett (D)	181,314	46.94%

#### Member House of Representatives (11)

G. E. "Gerry" Connolly (D)	233,552	87.65%
Write-in	32,922	12.35%
Unopposed		

#### Fairfax County Meals Tax

No	286,543	53.69%
Yes	247,139	46.31%

regressive and said it would negatively impact more families than it would benefit. Supporters pointed to the 70 percent of revenue generated by the tax promised to go directly to Fairfax County Public Schools as the system struggles to find money to pay teachers competitively.

"It was an uphill battle from the start," Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said from the Fairfax County Democratic Committee election night party at the Waterford at Fair Oaks.

"People have spoken again," said Herrity, who was strongly against the proposal. "They're not ready for another \$100 million tax on top of the \$100 million we put on them earlier this year. ...

"This wasn't a Republican or Democrat issue," Herrity continued. "We need to grow our commercial tax base and spend more wisely. Just like 1992, it sends a message to the Board of Supervisors and school board we need to get the spending under control."

Each of three Fairfax County bond items passed with more than 60 percent of the vote, including transportation, parks and facilities, and human services and development bonds.

"People have always been supportive," of the bonds, Bulova said. "It's a reflection of our careful budgeting of debt service."

For more results, see [results.elections.virginia.gov](http://results.elections.virginia.gov/)

SEE 'CRAZY' LINES, PAGE 4



By 10:17 a.m., chief election officer Allyn Hammel said her team of election officers had already processed 1,280 in-person voters at West Springfield High. She said the addition of new Ipads to help officers sign voters in sped up the process dramatically.



## 'Crazy' Lines on Election Day Morning

**Ipads, communication keep things moving quickly.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

At 5:45 a.m., Colleen Dewing was queued up for a lifetime first: voting. The West Springfield High School senior needed to fulfill her civic duty early in order to take a shift right away at the senior class' annual bake sale outside the school.

"You hear, 'My vote doesn't count,'" around school, Dewing said. "But it's cool I can have say. Not a lot of people know what's being discussed, but you can make a difference locally. If you complain, you've got to vote."

Dewing said her teacher Mr Spicer encouraged her to register, and to know what she was voting for. Her dad also "made me research, the Meals Tax, the park bond."

As a result, she said, she wasn't anxious about the experience at all. "It was interesting," she said.

Dewing was one of about 156 people in line at West Springfield High School's precinct when the poll doors opened at 6 a.m. on Nov. 8.

"It was crazy," said chief election officer Allyn Hammel. "A lot of excitement, a lot of first-time voters. Everyone has been nice, even on their way to work."

By 10:17 a.m., Hammel said her team of election officers had already processed 1,280 in-person voters. She said the addition of new Ipads to help officers sign voters in sped up the process dramatically.

Around southern Fairfax County, election officials had similar experiences.

At Silverbrook Elementary School in Fairfax Station, assistant chief election officer Krystyna Kolesar said the opening line stretched from the school's entrance down around the building to the parking lot.

"It's been crazy busy," Kolesar said, "but good energy, very positive."

Chief election officer at Silverbrook Mary Brown said they kept the line for about an hour before things died down. But things moved smoothly and quickly thanks, she said, to what she saw as good communication from Fairfax County as to what voters needed to bring with them to the polls and what to expect when they arrived.



**West Springfield High School Seniors work their annual Election Day bake sale on Nov. 8.**

At 6 at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax, chief election officer Teri Ayers said there were 168 voters in line.

Ayers, with five years at her post, said the advanced search capabilities and covering for misspellings afforded by the check-in Ipads have "really seen a line cut-down."

By 11:30 a.m. with 1,656 voters processed, Ayers' operation still ran somewhat of a line. But she said she was still encouraged by their ability with the Ipads and paper ballots to move people through the process quickly.

Outside the Robinson precinct, supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) mingled with voters on one of several stops over the course of the day.

Cook said his impression of the election day turnout and emotion was "all very positive."

"The ugliness is not reflected out here," he said. "It's festive, like it ought to be. That's a good sign."

## VIEWPOINTS

**Who did you vote for?  
What mattered most to you in  
this election? Did you support  
the Meals Tax?**

—TIM PETERSON



**Winston Marcus of Springfield**

Voted for Clinton, supported the Meals Tax. "I voted because of her experience, and the opportunity to participate in another first for this great nation. In favor of the Meals Tax, I think we're fortunate to live in a county that provides so much for so many. For these important programs and services, it's worth having a little money come out of my pocket."



**Colleen Dewing, West Springfield senior**

Voted for Clinton, supported the Meals Tax. "She was more open to the younger population. She reached out, made more of an effort."



**Ben Ellison of Burke**

Voted for Trump, did not support the Meals Tax. "I wanted Joe Biden. Then WikiLeaks showed too much, how the media helped [Clinton], how there's corruption from the Democratic National Committee. With Obamacare, I've lost three healthcare plans because of premiums and deductibles going up. I oppose the Meals Tax — the county has passed raises, increased pensions, and it's clear we have a spending problem over a revenue problem."



**Ishrat Hossain with her son Shair, both of Burke**

Voted for Clinton, supported the Meals Tax. "Race relations, education and healthcare mattered to me. Obamacare was OK, and she has a concept of fixing it."



## WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

### Anita's Brings New Mexico to Springfield

On Nov. 2, New Mexico-style bar and grill Anita's added a Springfield location to its northern Virginia collection that includes restaurants in Ashburn, Burke, Chantilly, Fairfax, Herndon, Leesburg and Vienna.

The weekend after the official opening, the Springfield location hosted a live mariachi band on Nov. 4 and 5 in the evenings.

The Springfield Anita's is located in the Ravensworth Shopping Plaza at 8015 Braddock Road (and I-495). For more information visit [www.anitascorp.com](http://www.anitascorp.com).

—TIM PETERSON

### Help Feed Hungry Families

Fairfax-based nonprofit Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread) is seeking community members to sponsor families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area. Sponsors are matched with an individual or family with demonstrated need, and may opt to provide a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal, and/or gifts for children under 18. Cash donations and gift cards are welcome to assist those who

are not sponsored. Britepaths is expecting to have 3,000 households on its assistance list. A great family, company or group holiday service project. Register and learn more at: <http://britepaths.org>. Contact 703-273-8829 or [hpassist@britepaths.org](mailto:hpassist@britepaths.org).

### Bread Swap Challenge at Great Harvest

Great Harvest Bread Co locations will be swapping their bread for the public's on Nov. 10, 11 and 12 as part of the "National Bread Swap." The bread company is raising awareness of hunger in local communities and donating bread to food banks and charities.

Any loaf of bread from someone's home can be exchanged at a Great Harvest for any fresh loaf of theirs.

The trade-in bread can be opened or unopened. All unopened outside loaves and all unused Great Harvest bread will be donated.

Great Harvest Bread Co in Burke is located at 6030 Burke Commons Road, Suite, G. In Lorton, Great Harvest is located at 9000 Lorton Station Boulevard. For more information visit [www.greatharvestburke.com](http://www.greatharvestburke.com).

—TIM PETERSON

SELECT NIGHTS | 5PM - 9PM  
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*Fairfax City*  
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**Saturday, November 19, 2016**  
10 AM-5 PM

**Sunday, November 20, 2016**  
10 AM-3 PM

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# OPINION

## Coming: Children's Connection 2016

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be?

### Editor's Note

Eight of the 15 Connection Newspapers go to press during the day on Tuesdays, including earlier this week on Election Day. Reporters visited polling places and filed photos and short stories during the day on Election Day, election results were not yet available when this paper went to press. See next week's papers for more insight.  
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.
- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.
- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD or flash drive to: Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 2. The Children's Connection will publish the last week of 2016.

You can see last year's editions by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to the paper closest to you:

McLean@connectionnewspapers.com  
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## After the Elections

BY KENNETH R.  
"KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



As I write this column the final votes of this election year will not have been cast and hence not tallied. The winners and losers are not yet known. Whether voters in my district took the recommendations in my *Voter Guide 2016* or made different judgments will only be known as the final votes are counted the day before this column appears in print.

Regardless of who the new president is and who controls the Congress there is much work to be done. Suddenly the realities of significant issues become clearer than the simplistic slogans of campaigns might suggest. There are no easy answers to ever-increasing tensions in many parts of the world, to the rising cost of health care and its lack of availability to too many people, to major inequities in wealth and opportunity among the people of our country and among the nations of the world, to crumbling infrastruc-

ture—to name just a few! The greatest challenge of all may be the sharp division of opinion apparent during the election season on the role government should play in responding to these needs. Complicating any reasonable discussion of the differences of opinion is the lack of trust of governmental institutions and politicians felt even more strongly after the rough and tumble of this election season.

While the only state level elections this year were special elections to fill vacancies, the tenor and outcomes of federal elections are likely to have an impact on how business is conducted in the 2017 session of the General Assembly beginning in January. If the extreme right is successful in this year's elections, those that are in the General Assembly may feel emboldened to continue to oppose taking federal health care monies, to adopt additional restrictions on abortions, and to pass laws that discriminate against LGBTQ citi-

zens. While Governor McAuliffe will still be around to wield his veto pen, there could be many protracted debates on social issues. On the other hand, if Democrats are successful in capturing the presidency and one or both houses of Congress, moderate Republicans in Virginia may feel less need to insist on hard lines on many issues as we have seen in the past. After all, Virginia will elect a new governor and House of Delegates in 2017, and both parties will want to side with the prevailing political winds.

It is essential that all political leaders learn from this election

cycle and do what we can to help mend divisions in our state and in the nation. One thing we can do is listen. Senator Janet Howell and I will have our annual public meeting to talk with voters on Monday, Dec. 19, 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Reston Community Center at Lake Anne Plaza. Come and tell us what is on your mind and offer your suggestions as to what we should do in the upcoming General Assembly session. Also, my constituent survey is on my website, [www.kenplum.com](http://www.kenplum.com), and I encourage you to complete it. After all, the elections are over: time to get back to work.

### VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**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/](http://www.-fairfaxcounty.gov/)

[www.-fairfaxcounty.gov/](http://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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm). Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

## Springfield CONNECTION

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PHOTOS BY ASHTON SPRING

Actresses in an action pose outside, from left, Jane Schwartz, Eila Nash and Tessa Chaplin.

# West Springfield Drama to Present 'She Kills Monsters'

A play that brings a story about bullying, acceptance, and tolerance to life.

BY NATALIA MEGAS  
THE CONNECTION

The play that's got drama students at West Springfield High School thrilled about this new season is the fantasy role-playing comedic romp, "She Kills Monsters," an audacious endeavor by the school's drama director Bernie DeLeo who's bringing acclaimed young playwright Qui Nguyen's 2012 story about bullying, acceptance, and tolerance to life.

Drama students like Erin Downs and Jessica Moore share their peers' sentiment. "I'm definitely looking forward to opening night and everyone's reaction," says Erin Downs. "It will be great to see what we've done with it," adds Jessica Moore.

DeLeo couldn't be more proud to bring a modern play with themes that resonate with the students' current lives.

"Students are enthusiastically behind the play... more so than some overdone chestnut from the 1930s," he says.

"She Kills Monsters" tells the story of Agnes Evans as she leaves her childhood home in Ohio following the death of her teenage sister, Tilly. It's Tilly's fatal car accident that puts Agnes on the journey toward getting to know her



The Warrior Grrrls from the Dungeons & Dragons-like game within "She Kills Monsters" - from left, Jane Schwartz, Eila Nash, Delaney Fetzer and Tessa Chaplin.

dead sister through playing Tilly's mock-Dungeons and Dragons game and achieving closure, says DeLeo. DeLeo points out that the play is really about two sisters trying to connect and about kids in search of their identity. "I hope they relate to the play and appreciate its message of inclusion and tolerance, and its celebration of nerd culture."

**THE CAST AND CREW** of 54 students, part of West Springfield's theatre department Spartan Theatre Company, who fundraised for the play, have been practicing since the end of September. But for some, rehearsals started a lot

sooner. As soon as DeLeo told the students about the play this past summer, senior Delaney Fetzer, 17, who plays the female lead of Agnes Evans, read the play and immediately knew she wanted to be a part of it.

"I watched a bunch of versions online [of the play]," she says. She even talked to her sister about what it's like being the older one. "I tried to get as comfortable [with the role] as possible."

DeLeo, who has a Masters in Playwriting from Rutgers University and has been teaching drama at West Springfield High School for five years, and brings more

SEE MONSTERS, PAGE 15

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Originally a circa 1935 Great Falls dairy barn, Bill and Brenda Bosch began converting the structure into their personal residence in 2007.



To make room for the larger master suite, Chris Arnold at Foster Remodeling Solutions devised a way to eliminate an obstructive bearing wall by installing an 8" x 17' steel beam attached to concealed vertical supports. To reinforce the rustic design theme, the exposed beam is wrapped in reclaimed barn board. The floors are also old barn wood milled to specification.

## A Design Solution as Big as a Barn Door

Master bath renovation explores themes from Great Falls' bucolic past.

BY JOHN BYRD

Talk about rustic charm. In 2007, Bill and Brenda Bosch purchased what boutique remodelers sometimes refer to as a "barn conversion" — specifically, a spacious modern home which, five years earlier, had been constructed inside the exterior of a 1935 dairy barn.

With its metal roof, stucco siding and silo, the 5,800-sq-ft., five-bedroom Great Falls residence exuded nostalgic references to the community's bucolic past.

Getting the house to owner requirements, however, entailed a commitment.

For starters, the second level primary living area (formerly, a hay loft) was too dark and poorly finished, and offered only limited views of the splendid setting through re-purposed skylights. An early renovation effort focused on "gutting" the kitchen, dining room and family room, and introducing a more appropriate glazing solution that included dormer windows in key locations.

More recently, as the children moved on to college, Bill and Brenda Bosch began to see the house from an empty-nester's perspective.

The first level master bathroom was plainly still unacceptable. With its circa 1990s white ceramic tile, tiny vanity and walk-in shower stall, the design was like something out of a builder-grade starter home.

Moreover, at 90 sq. ft., it was cramped and pinched, offering no opportunities for such upscale necessities as built-ins for toiletries and towels, a showering option for every whim, unhurried zones to dry-off and re-acclimate, and (especially) a breathtaking view of classic Virginia countryside.

Views, in particular, ranked high on the couple's wish list.



The interior to the new master bath is a study in textural and tonal contrasts. Porcelain tile flooring. Mirrors framed in polished nickel. Plantation shutters. The door to the commode is reclaimed barn door mounted on antique rollers.

"We wanted to see our beautiful surroundings from the bed, but this wasn't feasible," Bosch said.

The problem: the southwest corner of the house where the master suite was located was wrapped around 80-year old post-and-beam supports that held up the second floor. Given the critical structural consideration, the original master bedroom had been configured into an L-shape (sleeping quarters with a sitting room addenda). Moreover, under the existing plan, one entered the bathroom through an equally-size sitting room, an arrangement which Bosch saw as wasted space.

"We wanted to reconfigure the rear corner quadrant of the house to improve both the space plan and the view fields," Bosch said, "I just wasn't sure how to do it."

Enter Chris Arnold of Foster Remodeling Solutions, the firm that had successfully renovated several aspects of a friend's home over a 10-year period.

As Arnold recalled: "We were asked for ideas for a sweeping interior makeover, but nothing could

"Brenda and I can occupy the new bathroom at the same time," Bosch said, "which was difficult before."

Meanwhile, at 21 square feet, the "curbless" walk-in shower — fitted out with a bench and personal cubbies — boasts many cutting-edge amenities, including a programmable control that remembers each user's preferred water temperature.

Consistent with the broader design goals, the shower now features a window with an adjustable screen that affords a panoramic view of wooded back acreage.

The interior itself is a study in textural and tonal contrasts that reinforces a softly relaxed ambience.

The porcelain tile flooring — which Arnold found after careful research — is an exact match for natural blue stone. As an added nod to personal comfort, the flooring is heated via electrical coil integrated into the underside of the tile itself.

Other design details, explore themes from the 1930s and earlier. Period cabinetry provides drawers and shelving for towels and personal toiletries. Quartz counter surfaces and mirrors framed in polished nickel help to balance the light and dark contrasts. The scones are early-electric Edison-style replica with an exposed filament.

"The project has allowed us to express our creativity," Bill Bosch said. "That's what really makes a home special."

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. For information call 703/550-1371, or [www.fosterremodeling.com](http://www.fosterremodeling.com).

John Byrd  
(byrdmatx@gmail.com or [www.HomeFrontsNews.com](http://www.HomeFrontsNews.com)) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.



PHOTO BY COURTNEY THOMAS

Velvet pumpkins are a favorite holiday accessory of Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke.



PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER

An arrangement of wildflowers, such as this one by interior designer Anne Walker, adds a natural touch to a holiday tablescape.

## Setting a Holiday Table

Local tastemakers offer suggestions for creating festive tablescapes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As Thanksgiving draws near, thoughts of table settings and holiday décor abound. In the midst of a flurry of activity — from shopping to chopping and roasting the perfect turkey to creating seating charts — it's easy to let holiday décor and tablescapes become an afterthought. The right accessories, however, can set the tone for a festive gathering.

"Decorating for the holidays in my house is always done with candles, fruit and flowers," said interior designer Gretchen Fuss of Gretchen Fuss Works of Art and Interior Design. It's "festive but simple."

Look to nature, advises Anne Walker of Anne Walker Interior Design, because some of the best holiday decorations are found not at a store, but in your own backyard. "Holly branches in a big white vase make a beautiful centerpiece," said Walker. "Pinecones in a ceramic bowl or galvanized steel bin can add interest to any otherwise empty corner."

"Placing greenery in unexpected locations like a chandelier can also bring another interesting element to the tabletop," agreed Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors and Marika Meyer Textiles.

A local produce stand can also serve as inspiration for autumnal décor. Mini pumpkins, for example, can be used as place cards, suggests Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Simply write each guest's name on a small pumpkin or gourd and place at each seat," she said. "Finish off each place set-

ting with a chocolate turkey tied up with a festive bow. [This] lets the food be the star."

Hollowing out a large pumpkin and using it as a vase to hold flowers for a centerpiece helps keep the autumnal theme consistent, she adds. "Keep things simple," said Thomas. "Scatter gourds or acorns down the middle of the table and add some seasonal candles in your favorite candlesticks."

She also recommends decorative pumpkins, especially velvet pumpkins: "Add some luxe to your Thanksgiving décor with velvet pumpkins. Made with stems from real pumpkins, each one is unique. Group a few on an entry table or sideboard or add some to your table décor."

An easy way to change up your everyday dinnerware and make a statement is to upgrade your salad plates. "An interesting salad plate sitting on top of your dinner plate can add a pop to your tabletop,"



PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER

Fresh-cut holly branches and pumpkins are two items that interior designer Anne Walker uses to create a festive table.

said Meyer. "Custom napkins can also bring color or pattern to the tabletop."

"Magnolia or boxwood wreaths are a perfect option to welcome your guests."

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# Broadway Hit Performed at Hayfield

Hayfield Secondary's Dramahawks rock out to production of School of Rock.

BY ALEXANDRA TECCO  
THE CONNECTION

**H**ayfield Secondary School's first mainstage show of the year features School of Rock, a production with a large cast, complex music and dynamic choreography to ensure the rock musical will wow. Rehearsals were high energy, kids singing in the halls, practicing dance numbers, headbanging and throwing the iconic horns gesture as they rocked out. The play is based on Jack Black's movie School of Rock where rocker Dewey Finn gets kicked out of his band and poses as a substitute music teacher, introducing his students to hard rock.

School of Rock is still running on Broadway so the chance to perform and see the show off-Broadway is unusual. Rights to perform a show are usually released once it's no longer running, explained Pat Mitchell Hayfield Theatre Director. Hayfield students got to see the play on Broadway during a trip to New York City last year, which has made them more excited to perform it now themselves, said Mitchell.

For the actors, the rock musical is also a chance to expand their range. Although



Hayfield Dramahawks rehearsing "Stick it to the Man," the anthem from School of Rock led by fake substitute teacher Dewey Finn played by Jackson Miller, 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

lead singer of the band, started listening to Green Day, Sleeping with Sirens and others to explore the "rock and roll crazy" vibe. "I'm trained classically so this angsty heavy metal is very different," Hoang said.

Many of the young actors get to play kids they easily relate to, explained Creed Bauman, 8<sup>th</sup> grader, who plays Freddie in the onstage band. "We get to be outgoing and rambunctious," said Cam Bauman, 8<sup>th</sup> grader and the guitarist. The Baumans are two in the band that is seen onstage. The actors cast in the onstage band had to learn the instruments since most had little to no experience in playing them.

That is one of the difficulties to overcome before their first show. The self-directed pit orchestra, including three pianos, the band on stage and the accompanying singing must all mesh. Students are creating their own choreography since those rights didn't come with the show. Set pieces ranging from classrooms to rock concerts also must be constructed. Then there is the sheer number of people involved in the production, 54 in the cast, 7 in the pit and 10-20 techs. It's ambitious.

The final song rehearsed that day was the musical's anthem, "Stick it to the Man." Excited chatter filled the space before everyone sat down in specially constructed school desks with wheels, allowing them to be moved easily. The number delivered on the promised enthusiasm and the energy and sheer sense of fun was contagious.

Hayfield Dramahawk's School of Rock shows at 7 p.m. on Nov. 17-19 and Dec. 1-3. A 2 p.m. matinee will be held on Dec. 3. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

most of the kids play the students at the school, some play the adults. "I've tapped into a different part of myself," said Shannon Flack who plays Principal Mullins. An example is the way Flack channels her mom to "...learn to be more proper than a teenager."

The singing is also a change of pace. Trish Hoang, 11<sup>th</sup> grader who plays Tomika, the



The onstage band: Dewey Finn played by Jackson Miller, 11<sup>th</sup> grade; Katie, the bassist, played by Abby Stockton, 10<sup>th</sup> grade; Lawrence, the keyboardist, played by Teagan Chirinos, 10<sup>th</sup> grade; Zack the guitarist, played by Cam Bauman, 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Freddie the drummer, played by Creed Bauman, 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

PHOTOS BY SHANNON FLACK

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

**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 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**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).

**Rudy Guernica Landscapes Exhibit** Mon. - Sat 9 - 9 p.m. Sun. 9 - 8 p.m. Reston Community Center 2310 Coltz neck road, Reston. Through Nov. 30.

**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.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Jackson Harvey, Lights, Camera, Save! national second place winner, with his parents (on Jackson's left), Mr. & Mrs. Harvey and Burke & Herbert Bank representatives (on Jackson's right): Sandra Vasquez, Walter Clarke and Josh Toth. Jackson was a student at Hayfield High School and attended the film academy program at West Potomac Academy. Ms. Mantelli was his film teacher. This year's Lights, Camera, Save! Competition is currently underway, the deadline for submissions is Dec. 1 for more information email [save@burkeandherbertbank.com](mailto:save@burkeandherbertbank.com)**

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**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/>

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 9

**FCIA Network Meeting "How Fairfax County is Strengthening the Relationship Between Law Enforcement and the Community"** 1 - 3:30 p.m. Audrey Moore Recreation Center Club Rooms 1 and 2 8100 Braddock Road Annandale. Please join us for our next Faith Communities In Action (FCIA) meeting which will provide a forum for discussion about how Fairfax County's Communities of Trust Committee is addressing relationships between law enforcement, other public safety representatives and the community. Our panel will include Shirley Ginwright of the NAACP and officials from within Fairfax County's law enforcement and public safety staff. This meeting will involve brief presentations from our panel, followed by a Q/A session with clergy and community members. Please note: The FCIA Network Meeting will NOT take place at the Government Center this November. Please register online via [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) via email at [NCSInterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:NCSInterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov), or by calling 703-324-3453.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 12

**Third Annual Virginia Girls'**  
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

Free Outdoor Film and "The Nighthawks" Concert Opening Night!

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

**Summit 9 - 4 p.m.** at George Mason University's Johnson Center in Fairfax. After two sold out years, She Rocks The World (SRTW) will be returning to host a day dedicated to fostering the power of girls' voices, the Summit is produced for 7th - 12th grade girls and their parents by the organization's 34 local Ambassadors and Leadership Team. Tickets are now available at [www.sherockstheworld.org](http://www.sherockstheworld.org).

**Icelandic Christmas Bazaar 10 - 3 p.m.** American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax. Icelandic candy, viking jewelry, books, hand woven rugs, wool sweaters, skin care products and more. Cost: Free. All are welcome. [www.icelanddc.com](http://www.icelanddc.com)

**The Robinson Marketplace.** 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. 5305 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Shop at over 80 vendors at the Holiday Market, raffle and silent auction sponsored by the Robinson Secondary School PTSA. Visit <http://www.robinsonptsa.org/marketplace.html>

**Holiday Express Boutique Craft Sale,** 10 - 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary of Sorrows Church Hall, 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax. Handcrafted, one of a kind, decorator and gift items for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Sweet Shop, Chili lunch and Cafe (10-4), Silent Auction, Raffle, Questions? Call Lou: 703-426-8092. St. Mary's 703-978-4141.

**American Festival Pops Orchestra at GMU 2 p.m.** at GMU's Center for the Arts 4400 University Dr. Fairfax. The Orchestra will perform a Patriotic Salute to US Veterans. Performed by 60 of the D.C. metropolitan area's finest musicians, this program features patriotic favorites. Cost: \$50, \$43, \$30 <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>

[calendar/227](#)

**Jazz 4 Justice: A Tribute to the Greatest Generation.** 8-10 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts. The Mason Jazz Ensemble (dir. Jim Carroll) joins Ed Weiner, the Fairfax Law Foundation, and the Prince William County Bar Foundation to present Jazz 4 Justice®, an annual benefit concert with a special Veterans Day "Tribute to the Greatest Generation." Open jam session and reception to follow. Ticket available at [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu) \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 13

**An Afternoon with Ambassador Dennis Ross,** 2 p.m. at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The discussion will be moderated by Ron Halber, Executive Director, JCRC of Greater Washington. Ross, a senior advisor to Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama will discuss U.S. Middle East foreign policy challenges. In his newest book, "Doomed to Succeed," Ambassador Ross describes the past and present of America's policies towards Israel, from Truman to Obama's administration. Books will be available for sale and signing. Admission: \$18/ \$15 J member. Contact [Carla.Rosenfeld@jccnv.org](mailto:Carla.Rosenfeld@jccnv.org) for information. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org).

**The Fencers Club of Virginia Event for Service Members and Veterans** noon - 2 p.m. How many pushups can you do in 90 seconds? Join The Fencers Club of Virginia on and Give Back to Veterans and Active Duty Military through the national nonprofit Boot Campaign push up challenge. <https://www.crowdrise.com>

## Plan Ahead Events BFLS

### FRIDAY/DEC. 2

**My Gym Community Event** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, VA 22015. Develop your child's large motor skills with physical exercise and games. Funded by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Age 1-3 years with adult. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

### SATURDAY/DEC. 3

**Creative Writers Group** 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, VA 22015. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Ages 13-18. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

**Holiday Book Sale** 10 - 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, VA 22015. Peruse and shop a selection of gently used holiday-themed books collected by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>

City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols. Time TBA Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Come enjoy live holiday music, hot cider, s'mores by the Yule log, petting farm, ferris wheel, caroling and lighting of the Christmas tree in the winter wonderland. Visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols> for times and locations.

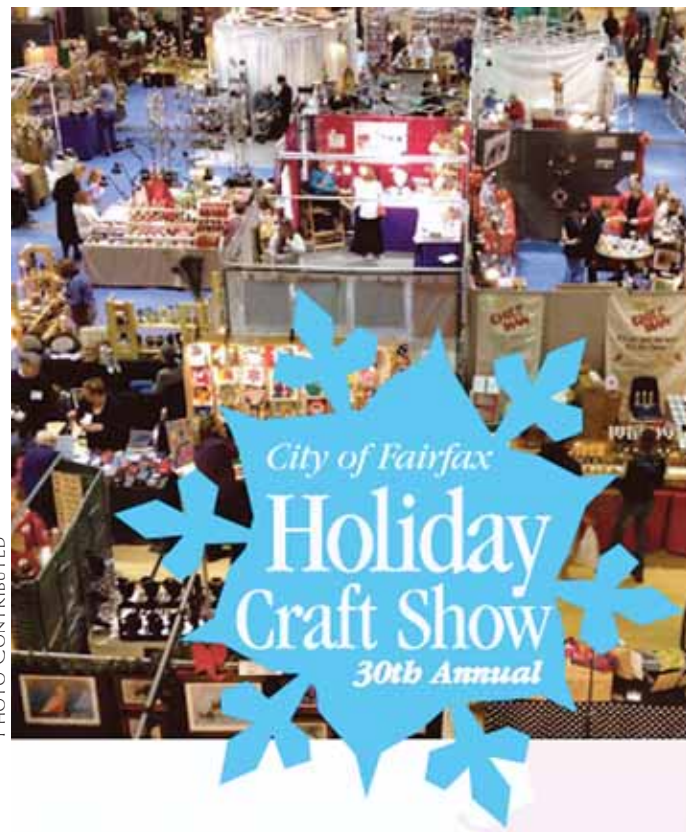


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**The 30th Annual Holiday Craft Show will be held Saturday & Sunday Nov. 19 - 20 from 10 - 3 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax, VA 22030. What started out in 1987 as a very small show has grown to become a premium arts and crafts festival.**

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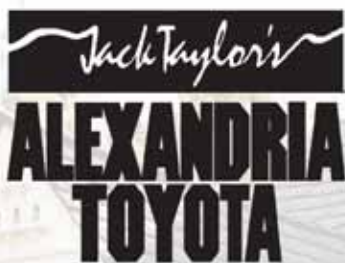
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NEWS

## Monsters

FROM PAGE 7

than 20 years of experience in the entertainment business. He worked for stints as an actor, playwright, screenwriter, TV sitcom writer and independent film producer. He encouraged his students to research their roles for the play by watching nerd movies like "Lord of the Rings," absorbing nerd culture, and playing or reading "Dragons and Dungeons."

"It was important for them to know what this play comes out of," DeLeo explains. "If you haven't seen the films, you have no idea what the play is referencing and affectionately lampooning."

Student director and senior, Rylie Smedley, 17, who also wants to study film, says the play deals with a lot of issues kids go through like bullying, being gay, or losing a family member. She says one way to prepare the actors for their roles was talking about what they had been through personally and why the character role they played connected to them.

For Jane Schwartz, 16, who plays Tilly Evans, preparing for the role meant drawing on prior experience.

"I'm part of the LGBT community. I know Tilly. I feel like I am her. I have a sister, older than me, who doesn't really know me [either]."

The action-packed, heart-pounding adventure, which for a large part takes place mostly in the imaginary world, is complete with stage combat, 90s pop culture-influenced dancing, and elaborate student-made life-size dragon puppets.

Combat scenes were rehearsed with Crystal City's Synetic Theatre, responsible for fight choreography from longtime physical theatre's teacher, Vato Tsikurishvili.

"There are sick dance moves," says Jena Richardson, 16, the understudy for Fetzer, who choreographed the dance numbers in the play.

**THE CHARACTERS** literally fight their demons by "fighting through imagination. It can be empowering," says DeLeo. "It's beautiful." Perhaps the part DeLeo is most proud of is providing a play to students with eight powerful female roles, something audiences don't see a lot of in plays or movies. For most drama theatre departments, in which girls routinely outnumber boys, a play that offers so many roles for women is appealing, says DeLeo.

DeLeo says one of his favorite scenes, among many, is the Fairy Fight scene, in which a tiny, sweet little fairy turns out to be a Battle Boss and takes out Tilly's entire squad using magic, fists and kicks. "Senior Kira Wiggins is not only tiny but she attacks this scene with such gusto and glee. The scene just pops," he says.

Although the play's themes are relatable to teenagers, DeLeo wasn't sure how the adults would take it. "The school was nervous about it... But I made a case for it," he says. Students started responding to the themes and that's when DeLeo knew he had to fight for it.

"Theatre can start a dialogue and I hope we can do that with this play," says DeLeo.

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