

# Fairfax Connection

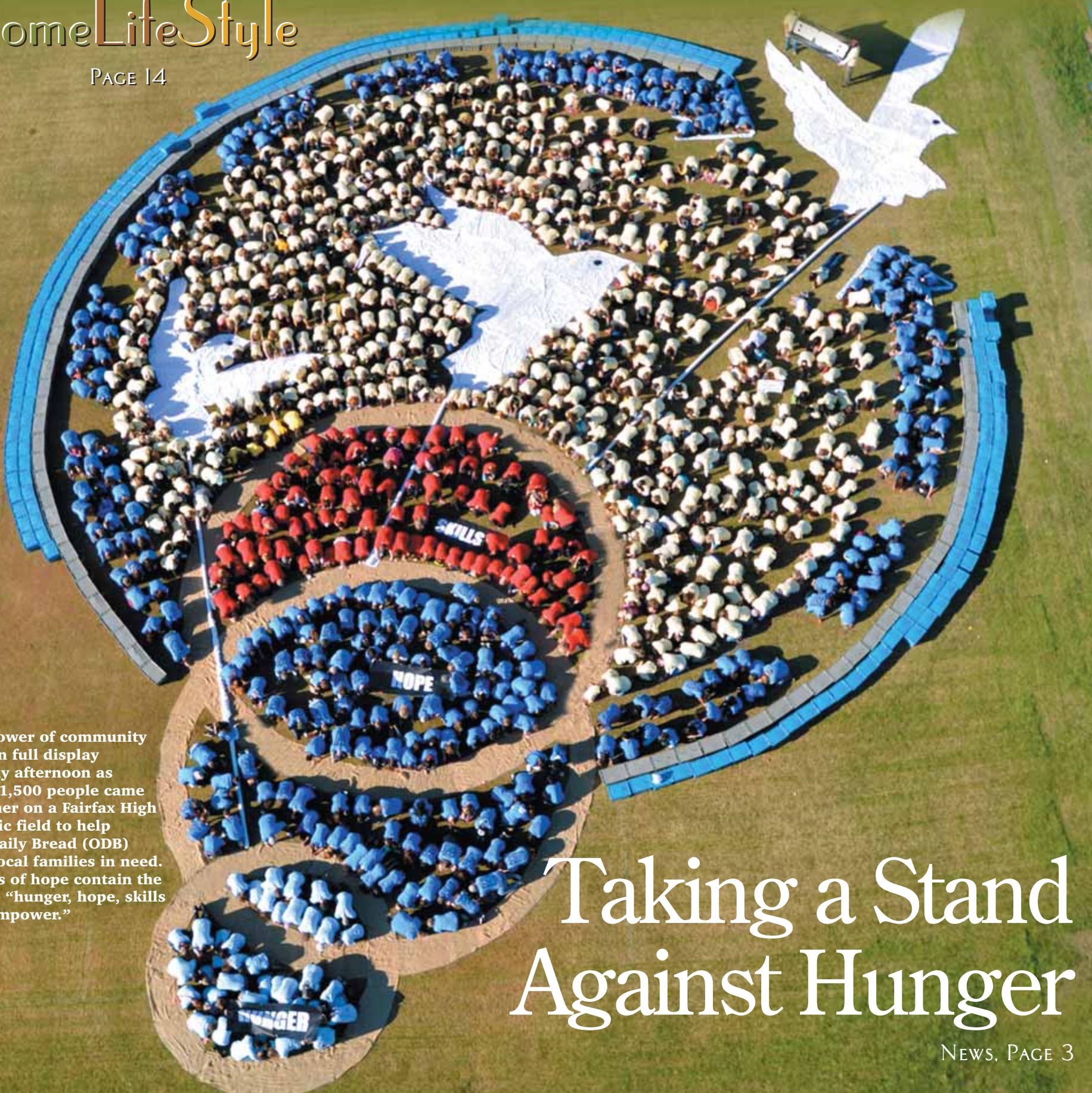
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## Fairfax County to End Veteran Homelessness

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The power of community was on full display Sunday afternoon as some 1,500 people came together on a Fairfax High athletic field to help Our Daily Bread (ODB) feed local families in need. Circles of hope contain the words "hunger, hope, skills and empower."

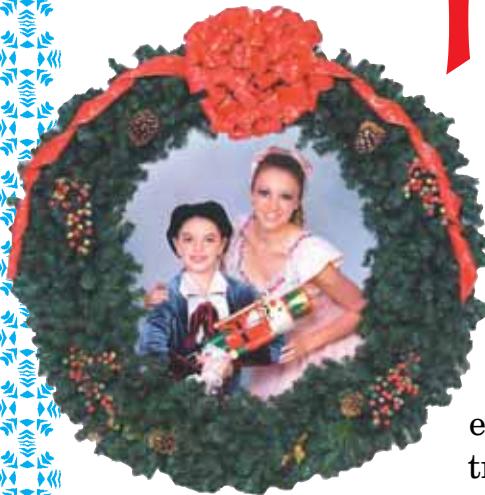
## Taking a Stand Against Hunger

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Some of the many members of The Big Give team that participated in the event.

Members of Brownie Troop 4904 showed their spirit.

## Taking a Stand Against Hunger

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he power of community was on full display Sunday afternoon as some 1,500 people came together on a Fairfax High athletic field to help Our Daily Bread (ODB) feed local families in need.

Wearing red, blue and yellow T-shirts, they created a living design to take a stand against hunger in Fairfax County and were photographed from 100 feet up by Art for the Sky's Daniel Dancer. But even more importantly, they brought with them 11,143 pounds of food (valued at about \$19,150), plus \$3,050 in grocery-store gift cards and cash donations.

"We are so thankful for everyone's generosity in helping their neighbors in need," said ODB executive director Lisa Whetzel. "Our hope is that this event will bring awareness to the fact that, in our very affluent community, we have neighbors who suffer from hunger insecurity – meaning they don't know where their next meal is coming from. We want to ignite the conversation about why people are hungry. And we'd like to inspire community members to think about what they can do to help create an environment where everyone can thrive."

The Nov. 8 event was ODB's fifth annual Complete the Circle FoodRaiser and was held jointly with the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC). The donated food, cash and gift cards will help feed the people served by both organizations.

Participants included individuals, families, companies, faith congregations, scouts, youth groups and various community organizations. And, said ODB spokeswoman Heather Webb, each person contributed at least three, nonperishable food items or a

grocery gift card to "complete the circle of giving and hope."

**THE EVENT** attracted people from all over the county, as did the festivities prior to the photo shoot. Young musicians from the School of Rock in Vienna entertained, local nonprofit Parties 2 Inspire led children's activities and Cox Farms in Centreville provided refreshments.

Among those taking part in the event were Centreville's Brian Clifford, son Mason, 6, a first-grader at Centre Ridge Elementary, and one of Mason's SACC (School Age Child Care) teachers, Nancy Holsopple. All were on a 25-member team from the school's SACC program. "Mason was interested in helping out, so we wanted to foster that in him," said his dad.

"This is something our entire SACC cluster does, so we wanted to participate," said Holsopple. "In SACC, we try to instill in our kids a sense of community. So we collected almost 100 different food items and brought them with us. But together, all eight Centreville SACC clusters collected 800 items to donate."

Stone's Cove KitBar, a restaurant in Oak Hill, also brought a team. "We support local nonprofits in the community," said team member Sonia Rana. "We made a financial donation."

Meanwhile, Vienna's Vince Curcio was part of a Fairfax/Centreville group of about 100 friends and family members called The Big Give. It comprises 18 families from Fairfax, plus four other groups, including 40 children and parents. "We collected 20 bags of food just in our 18 families," said Curcio on Sunday. "And before coming here



(From left) are Nancy Holsopple with Mason and Brian Clifford.

today, we made lasagna and delivered it and some beverages to the Fair Oaks Fire Department."

"Then we gave food, a bed and toys for a companion dog belonging to SafeSpot of Fairfax," added his wife, Christie Curcio. "It helps abused children and provides a safe spot for them to go." The next stop for the members of The Big Give was ODB's FoodRaiser.

"We did this Complete the Circle event last year, too," said Christie Curcio. "It was my niece Hannah's birthday, and she wanted to do this for her birthday. We're doing it again this year to give back to our

## Community helps fill Our Daily Bread's food pantry.

community because that's what Our Daily Bread does."

And Hannah, 11, was there on the field with her dad, Curcio's brother, Brian Silman of Little Rocky Run. He was participating in the FoodRaiser because "it's helping people within our community; we're making sure we're taking care of our own."

"People always need help and, if we're ever on the other end of it, I'd want people to help our family," continued Silman. "We have the ability to do so, and I want our children to see that it's important to help people who are in need."

Whetzel finds it "incredible to think that, in wealthy Fairfax County, there are 67,000 people who don't know where their next meal will come from. Many of them are children, and it's heartbreaking to think of how their parents must feel when they work so hard to make ends meet, but have to put their kids to bed with empty stomachs. Participating in Complete the Circle is a joyful way for community members to come together to be part of the solution to the very real problem of hunger and need in our midst."

**THROUGH COMPLETE THE CIRCLE,** added LCAC executive director Linda Patterson, "We can put a face on those who face hunger daily in Fairfax County: Sara, the single mom of four; Ava, the homebound senior; or Jim and Eve, the senior couple living off their Social Security. The donated food, household items and gift cards will enable both LCAC and ODB to help the hundreds of families we see each month who struggle to feed their families. [By participating], we all can make a difference to families in our community."

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# NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity; Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay; Congressman Gerry Connolly; Jinx Hazel Arts awardee Earle C. Williams; Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova; president and CEO of the Arts Council Linda S. Sullivan; Arts Awards Event chair Richard Goldberg; and Arts Awards Event sponsor Daniel A. D'Aniello**

## Arts Awards Presented

**Public-private partnerships, innovation, and collaboration emerge as strong themes during 2015 Arts Awards ceremony.**

**O**n Friday, Oct. 30, the Arts Council of Fairfax County presented its fourth annual Arts Awards to a full house. The Arts Awards honorees and guest speakers delivered inspirational speeches to over 400 guests from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. The 2015 Arts Awards were presented to Earle C. Williams (Jinx Hazel Arts Award); Rebecca Kamen (Arts Achievement Award); Vienna Jammers (Emerging Arts Award); and Richard Hausler of Insight Property Group LLC (Arts Philanthropy Award).

A common thread ran through the Arts Awards ceremony this year as honorees and elected officials hailed public-private partnerships and civic collaboration as drivers for enhancing communities and lives.

Linda S. Sullivan, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County, said, "The Arts Council is proud to shine a light on the extraordinary contributions made by artists, arts organizations, and the civic leaders who support them. It was great fun to share this year's awardee achievements with over 400 attendees."

Both the Center for Education at Wolf Trap and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton are products of public-private partnerships and collaboration serving as arts destinations in their communities and the region. STEAM pioneer Rebecca Kamen's ability to bridge the arts and education with chemistry, neuroscience, and astrophysics and the Vienna Jammers, who have reached out to new audiences using global percussion music, demonstrate how the arts can be used as a catalyst and connector.

Each awardee referenced their own beliefs about the arts and source of inspira-

tion during their acceptance speeches.

According to Earle C. Williams, 2015 Jinx Hazel Arts awardee, who led a successful capital campaign that resulted in the building of the Center for Education at Wolf Trap, the arts are a necessity: "The arts are important to Fairfax County and an integral part of the soul of a community. There is no replacement for it."

Richard Hausler, 2015 Arts Philanthropy awardee provided the vision and seed funding in the planning stages to the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. He said: "The Workhouse is a gem anchored by artists, studios, and activities. It is a place which enriches [the community] and brings people together from different backgrounds."

Rebecca Kamen, 2015 Arts Achievement awardee, stressed how she overcame the challenges of dyslexia by developing new means of seeing and perceiving environments and relationships.

"My ability as a contemporary visual artist to connect, transform, and ripple out has impacted others in exciting and extraordinary ways. What appeared to be a learning obstacle at a young age has turned into an incredible opportunity in terms of creating new bridges of understanding between the fields of art and science."

David L. Reynolds Jr., artistic director of the Vienna Jammers, 2015 Emerging Arts Awardee, shared his group's core belief with the audiences: "Besides giving children a comprehensive musical experience, the Jammers aim to share their art with as many people as possible, and in doing so enrich the quality of life and build community."

The Arts Awards have been held annually in late October since 2012.

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# Garza Presents Budget Task Force Report to School Board

**Transparency and methodology of budget review questioned.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza is attempting to scale a towering projected budget shortfall for Fiscal Year 2017. On Nov. 9, she presented School Board members the report of budget cuts recommended by a 36-member task force she summoned earlier this year.

A dozen of the task force members were appointed by the School Board, the rest are representatives from civic associations, teachers associations and other county staff.

Garza instructed the team to make recommendations specifically for the 2017 budget with six criteria in mind: the number of students impacted, effect on employees and students, disruption to the system, permanent cuts instead of “one-time” cuts, magnitude of the cut and student outcomes especially on the core instruction.

“No one — including the Task Force members — wants to enact significant budget reductions that will impact classroom and student programs,” Garza said in a statement. “Their involvement in the process guarantees that a wide variety of voices and suggestions were heard and seriously considered.”

**THE REPORT** from the task force includes dozens of ideas for cuts and how those were supported by task force members, as well as employees, students and the community, based on input from the “UserVoice” program, outreach meetings, budget meetings with School Board members and the online Budget Proposal Tool.

The sets of cuts are divided into two groups — one set that would cut \$50 million from the projected budget and one that would cut \$75 million — and cover a wide area: Some examples are increasing facility use fees and student parking fees, increasing class sizes, eliminating foreign language immersion programs and eliminating Level IV Advanced Academic Program centers in favor of offering that advanced curriculum at each local school to reduce student transportation costs.

Garza admitted though the recommendations are just that, and far from final decisions, inevitable cuts would negatively impact essentially everyone involved with Fairfax County Public Schools.

“Reductions will be unavoidable unless we receive sufficient revenue to meet our expenditure requirements,” Garza said in her statement. “As I’ve said all along, we cannot cut our way to excellence.”

The recommendations were ranked by the percent of agreement among voting mem-



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**Members of the Fairfax County School Board meet at the school system headquarters where superintendent Karen Garza presented a report from the FY 2017 Budget Task Force.**

bers of the task force. Two members of the task force abstained during voting on the recommendations: George Becerra, appointed by At-Large School Board member Ilryong Moon, and Mindy Carlin, representing the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

A representative from the chamber said Carlin would not be available to comment personally.

Becerra, who currently serves on the Board of Supervisors and School Board joint Successful Children and Youth Policy team, said he wished the task force had conducted its meetings publicly rather than in private, and that they had been provided with more comprehensive program evaluation information on which to base their decisions.

According to the task force report, “Due to time constraints, the Budget Task Force was unable to review programmatic evaluations for every potential item and option.”

“How good that program is to a child, it’s not up to me, it’s up to the system to quantify it,” Becerra said. “Right now, I don’t have that information in front of me. If you’re going to cut your own family budget like this, I think there’d be a divorce in my family real quick.”

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity sent out a statement on the day of Garza’s presentation, also critical the task force failed to review the school’s supplemental retirement system, outsourcing or the “functions of the many ‘teachers’ that do not spend time in the classroom.”

“The School Budget Task Force missed the mark,” Herrity said in the statement.

The task force report did explain that employee compensation, health insurance and retirement are among items being reviewed and studied, so they weren’t included in the online budget tool.

Kimberly Adams, president and task force representative for the Fairfax Education Association, did vote, and said her organization is “not supportive of the majority of the recommendations as they stand now.”

Adams said the whole task force objec-

tive being focused on what to cut rather than where else to make up revenue was “hard to hear” from the perspective of educators.

“But you have to cut \$50 million out of the system, they have to find it somewhere,” Adams said. “We have to pick the best bad choices out of that list. Nothing very palatable. Raising fees for students is not something I want to see happen, but is it a less impactful way to cut money out of the budget?”

Matt Haley, who was appointed to the task force by School Board member Jane Strauss (Dranesville) and chosen to chair the group by Garza, said the meetings were kept private to encourage more open discussion by task force members.

“We felt it was important for them to be able to share how they felt and what was feasible, possible, without being questioned on every statement by their constituents,” said Haley, a retired strategy consultant with Accenture.

Haley said that no program evaluation information in existence was withheld from the task force. “There was no less data available to us than is available to the School Board or Board of Supervisors,” he said. “We looked at everything that’s been studied. We had hundreds of questions fed through a staff answered for us. We have a lot more detailed information than just about any group has had in the past, though it is possible more analysis could be done.”

Adams agreed she would like to see more evaluative data in the future. “We had to assume every program is doing what it’s supposed to do, meeting their goals,” she said.

Garza will make her formal budget presentation to the School Board in January 2016. The School Board is scheduled to make their final decision on the proposed budget and vote at the May 26, 2016 meeting.

**FOR GARZA’S PRESENTATION** and the full report from the task force, visit the Fairfax County Public Schools online document-sharing program at [www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A3KSVY653B27](http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=A3KSVY653B27).

## Artist Teacher Exhibition Opens at Workhouse Arts Center

The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Fine Arts Office, in collaboration with the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, presents the Artist Teacher Exhibition, an art exhibition recognizing the creative endeavors of FCPS artist-teachers, beginning Saturday, Nov. 14.

FCPS art and music teachers were invited to submit original works for consideration. This year, 179 original works of art and music were submitted by 80 fine arts teachers. Juror Peter Winant, director of the George Mason University School of Art, selected 53 artworks by 40 artists to be included; 10 music compositions by five musicians were selected to be played in the gallery during the exhibition. The exhibition will be open through Sunday, Dec. 6, at the Workhouse Arts Center, with a reception from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14.

Featured artist-teachers include: Sharlene Abraham of Fairfax High, Keith Beale of Robinson Secondary, Ashley Birkmaier of Laurel Hill Elementary, Julie Brodzik of Churchill Road Elementary, Bill Burke of Centreville High, Lauren Carpenter of Providence Elementary, Laura Cawley of Lynbrook Elementary, Sheena Custer of Virginia Run Elementary, Anna Dee of Stuart High, Lisa Devore of Stenwood Elementary, Heather Dilatosh of Fairfax High, Colleen Dolinger of Wakefield Forest Elementary, Tracy Dumais of Virginia Run Elementary, Erin Fillers of Greenbriar West Elementary, Justyne Fischer of South County High, Elaine Florimonte of Westfield High, Caty Forden of Glen Forest Elementary, Deirdre Forgione of Woodson High, Sally Gilliam of Mount Vernon High, H. Sarina Haris of Waples Mill Elementary, Adam Hatchl of Oakton High, Rob Hawkins of Holmes Middle, Jason Hutto of Holmes Middle, Kathleen Kendall of Irving Middle, Timothy Kloth of Parklawn Elementary, Jacob Kohut of Lorton Station Elementary, Bethany Mallino of Wolftrap Elementary, Rory Marcaccio of Centreville High, Marielle Mariano of Groveton Elementary, Jayne Matricardi-Burke of Woodson High, Cynthia Mirabile of Cub Run Elementary, Tammy Morin of Herndon High, P.J. Naber of Fairfax High, Nicholas Natalie of Beech Tree Elementary, Danielle O’Brien of Glasgow Middle, Amy Ordoveza of Rose Hill Elementary, Kate Patsch of Fort Hunt Elementary, Scott Saylor of South County High, Angelika Schafer of Aldrin Elementary, Meghan Shelton of Fort Belvoir Elementary, Susan Silva of Oakton High, Ramandip Singh of Halley Elementary, art resource teacher Carol Trost, Mary Wehle of Terraset Elementary, and Jonathan Weiner of Westlawn Elementary.

The Workhouse Arts Center, McGuire Woods Gallery, is located at 9601 Ox Road in Lorton.

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Fairfax Chamber Calls for Innovation Nominations

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (Fairfax Chamber) announced that the application period for the 2016 Greater Washington Innovation Awards is now open through Jan. 22, 2016.

Now in its second year, the Greater Washington Innovation Awards is an event celebrating the thought leadership, innovation and creativity of the individuals and organizations in select industries in the Greater Washington metro area. The Innovation Awards span across a variety of industries and includes products and services.

Awards categories include: Tech Innovator of the Year, Public Service Innovator of the Year; Professional Service Innovator of the Year; Hospitality, Tourism and Entertainment Innovator of the Year; Health and Life Sciences Innovator of the Year; and Marketing and Advertising Innovator of the Year.

To learn more about the 2016 Greater Washington Innovation Awards, visit <http://www.fairfaxchamber.org/innovation-awards.html>.

### Volleyball Complex in Burke Lake Park Named for Sports Leader

On Saturday, Nov. 14, the Sand Volleyball Complex at Burke Lake Park will be named in honor of David Lacey. Lacey has been the Sully District Representative to the Fairfax County Athletic Council for more than 23 years, beginning his tenure in 1992. He has served as both chairman and vice chairman of the Athletic Council, dealing with topics such as facility allocation policies, the Park Needs Assessment and potential tournament sites in Lorton. Public is invited to attend. 703-324-8662.

Lacey has a passion for the game and was instrumental in getting Fairfax Adult Volleyball Council to build the four sand volleyball courts at Burke Lake Park. The Park Board approved the naming of the complex in Lacey's honor at its meeting on Oct. 14.

Through the years, Lacey has helped numerous youth organizations throughout Fairfax County start their youth volleyball programs, including the Vienna Youth, McLean Youth, Springfield Youth and Braddock Road Youth organizations.

Burke Lake Park is located at 7315 Ox Road in Fairfax Station.

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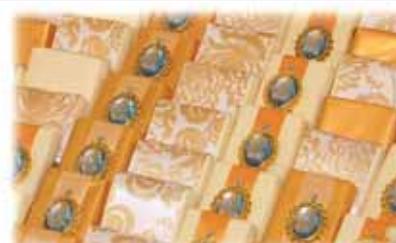
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#### DECEMBER

12/2/2015 ..... Wellbeing

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# OPINION

# Veterans Day in Virginia

Fairfax County and other localities embrace effort to end veteran homelessness this year, while veterans contribute much to the economy.

Virginia is home to about 690,000 veterans, more than 60 percent of them from the Gulf Wars. There are more than 12,000 veteran-owned businesses in Fairfax County alone, and more than a third of those businesses are categorized by the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority as professional science and technology.

In 2014, according to the Census Bureau, the median income of veterans in Virginia was more than \$50,000, while for non-veterans, the median income was \$29,909. Only 5.5 percent of veterans in Virginia live in poverty while that number is 11.4 percent for non-veterans in 2014.

Clearly the location of the Pentagon in Arlington, and being adjacent to the nation's capital would mean more veterans, and higher attaining veterans would settle here. Veterans contribute significantly here in Northern Virginia.

## EDITORIAL

At the same time, some veterans experience significant challenges; consider that half of all veterans under 35 experience a period of unemployment in the 15 months after leaving service.

At the last Point in Time Count of people who are literally homeless in January 2015, there were 46 homeless veterans in Fairfax County, 12 in Alexandria and 19 in Arlington (with 408

literally homeless veterans in the District of Columbia). Forty-five percent of these homeless veterans were employed.

Coordinated efforts from local, state and federal levels have reduced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the region. Between 2011 and 2015, the region counted 138 fewer homeless veterans (19 percent reduction), using access to additional dedicated housing resources, such as HUD-VASH vouchers.

Now there is a nationwide effort, called the Mayor's Challenge, to end homelessness for

veterans this year. Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have all signed onto this challenge.

Elsewhere in this paper, we report on Fairfax County's coordinated efforts to end homelessness for veterans by the end of next month. This effort will likely be judged successful by the fact that, even though more veterans will experience housing crises, the systems will be in place to get any newly homeless veterans back into housing quickly.

A task force has been meeting every other week in Fairfax County, identifying veterans by name and coordinating efforts to get them the services they need to get them into housing. Sometimes that is help with a security deposit and a few months rent. In other cases, chronically homeless veterans need significant support to successfully move into permanent housing. But this year, every effort is being made to meet those needs.

"We celebrated a lot this year," said Vincent Jenkins, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston. "Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Childish Debate

To the Editor:

Even at 11 years old, I read the news. I watch the presidential debates, as well as certain news programs. Even at 11, I am worried for my future. That is why I write. My wish in writing this letter is to show how steep the hill I fear our country is going down. It doesn't have to be that way.

I believe that I am a fairly po-

lite person. I apologize in advance if I am insulting any person's beliefs, or who people think is honest and trustworthy for the role of president. But, with no sugar-coating, the presidential debate of Wednesday, Oct. 28 was purely childish. It was more like my sixth grade classroom than what I thought a presidential debate would be like. In fact, if we spoke like that in school, speaking over each other, having no respect for others, not to mention the attacking of questions instead of an-

swering them, we would be in great trouble. Do we want the next leader of the United States of America to be rude, impolite and interrupting? We do need a leader that demands action, but also acts with kindness and compassion. If these are our future leaders, my peers and I, the children, the future, could be left in a large mess, maybe even too large to fix.

Often children are forgotten in matters like this. I asked my Dad how a child can speak up about

this since kids cannot vote. He said to try a letter to the editor of a newspaper, so that is what I'm doing. I am eternally grateful for our current country, and even good places have problems, but if this is our future, this country's future is looking dark. Although I can't vote, I can stand. I stand for a real leader. A real president.

Shailey Pratt

Fairfax Station  
White Oaks Elementary School  
- Sixth Grade

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**The Sully Senior Center in Centreville** needs a certified personal trainer. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**The Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax** needs a Computer Lab Assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Meals on Wheels** needs drivers, coordinators, and co-coordinators for routes throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria** needs a volunteer to help with fish aquarium upkeep and instructors for the following classes: Basic Guitar, Italian, Pottery and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-

5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs an Art Instructor and certified instructors for the following classes: Chair Exercise, Zumba Gold and Pilates. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean** needs instructors for the following classes: Line Dance, Zumba Gold, Certified Arthritis Exercise, Square Dance, Basic Guitar, Art and Basic Spanish. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Italian, Country Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop, African

Style Dance and Mosaic Art or Jewelry Making. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

**The Herndon Senior Center** needs Social Visitors and a Baked Goods Table Manager. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Korean Meals on Wheels** needs drivers to deliver meals. (Speaking Korean not required.) For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria** needs a Bingo Caller/Assistants, Word Activity Assistants, a licensed beautician, a front desk volunteer and social companions. (English and Spanish-speaking social companions needed). For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Vietnamese Meals on Wheels** needs drivers in Annandale to deliver meals. (Speaking Vietnamese not required.) For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

SEE VOLUNTEER, PAGE 9

# Fairfax CONNECTION

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# NEWS

## FACETS Hosts 'A Taste of Fall'

**F**ACETS is hosting its 16th Annual Taste of Fall with FACETS, an evening filled with food, fun, entertainment, and a live and silent auction to raise funds to help families and individuals in Fairfax County who are suffering the effects of poverty including homelessness. Attendees can sample food and drink from a variety of Fairfax-area restaurants, wineries and breweries.

Among the expected participant: U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11), State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison, FACETS Executive Director Margi Preston, clients and more than 300 guests.

Participating restaurants, wineries, breweries include: Austin Grill, Willie T's, PJ Skidoos, Hard Times Café, BlackFinn Ameripub, The Auld Shebeen, Coyote Grille, Giardino Italian Restaurant, Caribbean Cor-

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FROM PAGE 8

**The Little River Glen Senior Center in Fairfax** needs a Computer Lab Assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Italian, Country Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop,

ner-Fairfax, Glory Days Bar and Grill, TGI Fridays, Paradise Springs Winery and Hops Restaurant and Brewery.

A Taste of Fall will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, starting at 7 p.m., with program starting at 8:30 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax.

A Taste of Fall helps support FACETS' life changing services. FACETS works throughout Fairfax County to help impoverished men, women and children succeed by offering a full spectrum of services, such as basic needs and financial assistance, counseling and outreach, educational enrichment programs, and permanent and supportive housing.

Tickets are \$50 and include tastings of all food and beverages, including wine, beer and sodas.

Register online at [www.FacetsCares.org](http://www.FacetsCares.org) or get tickets at the door or call 703-352-3268.

African Style Dance and Mosaic Art or Jewelry Making. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Korean Meals on Wheels** needs drivers to deliver meals. (Speaking Korean not required.) For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

www.fairfaxholidayshow.com'. The Parks & Recreation City of Fairfax logo is in the bottom right corner, along with social media links for App Store, Google Play, Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest."/>

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**Holiday Craft Show**

**Saturday, November 21, 2015**  
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10 AM-3 PM

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## VETERANS DAY

# Fairfax County To End Veteran

BY MARY KIMM  
THE CONNECTION

Jameel Mubaarak of Reston is a 63-year-old Army veteran and mechanical engineer, a former Reston homeowner. He served in the Army in Europe during the Cold War, and among many positions since, worked for Bechtel on the Silver Line and for NASA at the Goddard Space Center.

But a layoff, divorce and a short-sale on his home left Mubaarak homeless, for a time living in a hotel.

Then last May he had a stroke.

"I never thought I would be homeless, but you never know," he said.

Vincent Jenkins, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston calls Mubaarak "the Historian," for his recall of Northern Virginia events, and professorial narrative.

Mubaarak is ready to move out of the homeless shelter and into housing, and as part of a national effort to end veteran homelessness, he'll be looking at possible apartments next week.

In December 2014, Fairfax County joined the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, a nationwide effort with a tight deadline — the end of this year. In Fairfax County, it's an effort that will in all likelihood be successful.

"At the end of the calendar year, will we have functionally ended veteran homelessness in Fairfax County?" said Tom Barnett, program manager with the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. While some veterans here will still experience housing crisis, there will be systems in place designed to get them into housing quickly.

Functionally ending veteran homelessness, according to the Mayors Challenge, means

that every community has a sustainable, systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. That's the mantra for ending and preventing homelessness for all: Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring.

Veterans made up 46 of the 1,204 people who were homeless on Jan. 28, 2015 in the 2015 Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness. A dozen to 15 veterans become homeless every month, but because of ongoing collaboration, most are "rapidly rehoused." While 96 veterans came

**"At the task force meetings, we celebrated a lot this year. Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed."**

— Vincent Jenkins, director, Embry Rucker Shelter, Reston

logical changes might not be visible. We can't turn our backs on people who have been affected that way."

Of the 46 veterans identified in the Point in Time count in January, 15 were chronically homeless. Housing people who have been chronically homeless is not a quick transition; it requires supportive housing and ongoing services. Someone is identified as chronically homeless if they have been continuously homeless for a year or more and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the last four years, a sequence of events that often comes with untreated illnesses, mental health is-

sues and/or substance abuse.

A task force consisting of representatives from nonprofits like FACETS, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Service and Cornerstones, plus the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Community Service Board, the health department and other partners has been meeting every other week since the county joined the challenge. At the meetings, the partners discuss the individual veterans they are seeking to house by name, and focus attention and resources on overcoming challenges.

"At the task force meetings, we celebrated a lot this year," said Vincent Jenkins of Cornerstones, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston. "Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed. ... Fairfax plays really well together. We are really trying to make a major dent in homelessness, and we are doing that."

The "tremendously impactful" tool of choice is the VASH voucher, said Barnett. The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program combines rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Once a veteran has been approved for a housing voucher and gets into housing, Veterans Affairs deploys a team to help with transition from the shelter to housing, one of the benefits of the nationwide challenge.

The effort to end homelessness for veterans comes with a different level of community support, too.

"In the community, there is so much en-

ergy and interest to end homelessness for veterans who have served our country," said Dean Kline, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Partners and community groups are engaged "because of their passion for helping veterans who have served our country."

**NOT ALL VETERANS** who are experiencing homelessness are ready to accept housing, but ongoing outreach by local nonprofits ensures continuing progress. Sometimes it takes years simply to identify that someone is a veteran if that individual is resistant to sharing information.

One man now in line for housing hovered for eight years at the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter on Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir. While he would seem pleasant, when anyone tried to engage him or ask questions, he became verbally aggressive and expressed anti-government sentiments, said Tonya Golden, director of Programs for Single Adults at New Hope Housing. He was part of the overflow shelter program, operated in a trailer outside the main building, coming for food and shelter.

"He was resistant to service," Golden said.

"We never knew he was a veteran."

**"In my heart, I feel like I have a lot to give."**

— Richard Davis, single dad, was living at the Kennedy Shelter by Fort Belvoir

needed, he made reference to his service. New Hope Housing submitted his name to Veterans Affairs, discovering that he served 14 years including in Vietnam, was honorably discharged and entitled to benefits.

Now he's qualified for a VASH voucher, is working with housing case managers and will move into an apartment with supportive services soon.

Most veterans who arrive at a shelter do not have the critical documentation they need.

New Hope Housing opened Veterans House, a home with case management services for four veterans, where the veteran doesn't have to sign a lease.

"We take veterans who have challenges leasing up, so it's in our name," Golden said. "These are the clients that we work with, they are ready to move forward. ... There's no judgment."

Clients who have criminal records or other issues that might prevent them from being approved for a lease still need housing.

Golden is a military spouse, her husband is career army, a lieutenant colonel. They lived for a time on Fort Belvoir. "We've been doing this for a long time," she said. "It's personal for me that our soldiers are connected to the services they are entitled to."

**THE DAILY ROUTINE** for Richard Davis, a veteran and a single dad: Davis sleeps at



FILE PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

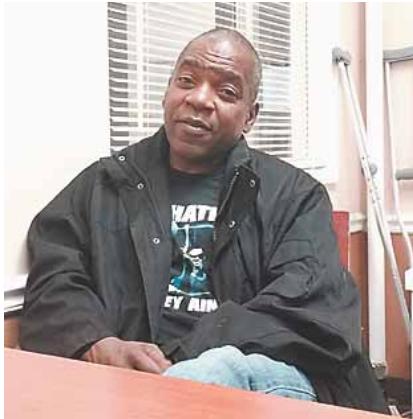
**In February 2013, volunteers looking to interview chronically homeless people found encampments like this scattered around the area, usually near major shopping areas, but sometimes in isolated fields. Not all encampments had tents for people to sleep, often found were old couches and sleeping bags, or temporary shelter made of cardboard, plastic and scrap pieces of wood.**

Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm)

## Details

Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm)

# Homelessness



PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

**Richard Davis, a single dad and veteran who has been chronically homeless, moved into a three-bedroom home with his children last week with supports from New Hope Housing.**

the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir, while his two young children sleep at a nearby friend's house. In the morning, Davis gets his children ready for the day, drives his son, 4, to a program that addresses the son's intellectual disabilities and then Davis cares for his daughter, 2, who has health issues. He picks his son up in the afternoon, and later, after he gets his children dinner and puts them to bed, he heads back to the shelter to sleep.

At least that was the routine until last Thursday, when New Hope Housing was able to place him in permanent supportive housing with three bedrooms for him and his two children.

Davis served in the Navy. Then he served 25 years in prison, and was released in 2008.

"With a 25-year gap, no one is going to give you the kind of job you need to take care of yourself," Davis said. He worked three jobs at one time, but still didn't earn enough to support his family. And now the full time care of his children presents other challenges.

Davis trained as a paralegal in prison. "I have five habeas corpus briefs under my belt," he said. But when he applied for jobs at law firms when he was released, his prison record kept him from employment.

Davis speaks in a deep voice that reflects the sense that he expected more of himself. He describes himself as "disheartened" by his lack of accomplishment since being released in 2008. He's educated and well-spoken. It's clear that his children bring him joy, and that now getting this part right means the world to him.

"You know you have aspirations when you're younger. You have goals. And you're not really achieving them. I'm dealing with my mortality now," he said. "I have 10-11

**So many people just need help with a security deposit and a few months rent. But some need more support."**

— Barbara Schultheiss, FACETS

He told her, "If it wasn't for the FACETS program I'd be dead."

Schultheiss asked him why he left the Navy. "Being on a ship with a bunch of guys, it just got old," he said.

But after that, he couldn't get a job that would pay the bills.

**VETERANS WHO HAVE** recently been in service have been in an environment where they have had one important job, protecting the country, and their basic needs like

more years. I'm living for my children. It's my responsibility to turn out good human beings.... I want them to be able to go to Dad and to know they will answer to Dad. They are the love of my life."

"In my heart, I feel like I have a lot to give," Davis said.

**NOT ALL VETERANS** in need of housing are men.

One woman veteran who had served in the Army for three years, emerged struggling with mental illness. She stopped taking her medication, and got into trouble with law. She was receiving services from Northern Virginia Family Services, and was one of the homeless veterans discussed by name at the task force meetings, said Barbara Schultheiss, program director of Services for Single Adults at FACETS in Fairfax.

"So many people just need help with a security deposit and a few months rent," Schultheiss said. "But some need more support."

FACETS operates permanent supportive housing, and when a vacancy opened up there, Schultheiss coordinated her move into a new apartment.

"She's very independent, and she loves her apartment," Schultheiss said. But she also talks about Vladimir Putin as her husband, and dances around her living room with his photo. In her new home, she'll get case management services to help keep her in housing.

There is evidence of long-term success, too.

One Navy veteran lived 17 years in the woods, and has now lived in FACETS housing for seven years with support after serving in the Navy with awards.

"He comes with his own slew of medical problems," said Schultheiss, who was his case manager in 2008, and helped track down his service record.

He told her, "If it wasn't for the FACETS program I'd be dead."

Schultheiss asked him why he left the Navy. "Being on a ship with a bunch of guys, it just got old," he said.

But after that, he couldn't get a job that would pay the bills.

**Each homeless veteran has a story, and a path to housing.**



**The Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway.**



**The overflow services trailer on the grounds of the Kennedy Shelter.**

Of more 462 people surveyed, 10 percent were veterans.

Veterans who have lived outside for an extended period are also more likely to be resistant to services.

At the Embry Rucker Shelter, staff uses the "BOLO" protocol as part of their outreach efforts. That's "be on the lookout." They know which veterans they need to reach, and when one of them comes in the door for a bagged lunch or anything else, outreach staff is alerted so someone can come to interact.

While Vietnam-era vets who are homeless are more likely to be among those that are extra resistant to coming indoors, their advancing age sometimes makes them more willing. Homeless veterans of any of the Gulf Wars are more likely to be dealing with PTSD, but also are more likely to be able to jump right back into housing after a crisis with some financial help, said several homeless advocates.

"Their symptoms are related to the trauma they experienced in war," said Greg White, chief operating officer at Cornerstones. "Their coping mechanisms include alcohol, substance abuse.

"One guy who had been living out in the woods told me about the adjustment he had to make to living in a house," White said. Sometimes people who have moved into housing still come back to the shelter, or even the woods, to visit. "Those social connections mean a lot to them."

Outreach during the very cold months when chronically homeless are more likely to come to the shelters, and also the Health Care for the Homeless programs offer opportunities for outreach that can eventually lead to enough trust for veterans to give information that will help get them into housing.

While some veterans are chronically homeless, living with physical disabilities or mental health issues that can be barriers to moving into new homes, it's a shortage of affordable housing that is still the biggest barrier to ending homelessness, for veterans and others. Many veterans are severely rent burdened, said White and others. Even when they can find a job, it's rare they can find employment that will pay enough to cover their needs.

**Elaine Alvarez as Mimi and Jason Slayden as Rodolfo in Virginia Opera's "La Boheme."**



PHOTO BY  
LUCID FRAME PRODUCTION/  
COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

# Timeless Masterpiece of Broken Hearts

## Virginia Opera's "La Boheme" at Center for the Arts.

By DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**S**oon, Northern Virginia audiences will be able to be transfixed by Puccini's mesmerizing masterwork "La Boheme." It is so much more than a mere musical tale of a penniless poet and a destitute, ill seamstress who fall in love and suffer through heartbreak and tragedy.

Fueled by a sumptuous score, "La Boheme" has hypnotized audiences for over a century. It is one of the most frequently performed operas in the world. "La Boheme" is the next Virginia Opera offering to grace the Center for the Arts stage.

Virginia Opera has a cast of "the very best of the best singers" to perform "La Boheme," said Adam Turner, principal conductor and artistic advisor, Virginia Opera. The setting for "La Boheme" will be "fresh and new" with the production taking place in the winter of 1938-39 Paris on the cusp major hostilities of WWII. Moving the setting to pre-war Paris is expected to make it even "more relatable" for modern viewers, whether Baby Boomers or Millennials.

The four principals include world-class singers who "have experience in their roles from productions around the country" making their Virginia Opera debuts. The Virginia Opera production will feature the Virginia Opera Chorus, a spe-

### Where and When

Puccini's "La Boheme" performed by Virginia Opera at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Nov. 14, at 8 p.m. and Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$48-\$98. Call: 888-945-2468 or visit: [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu). **Note:** Sung in Italian with English supertitles. There will be a pre-performance discussion led by Dr. Glen Winters.

cial 12-voice children's chorus and the superb Puccini score performed by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. A quick guide to "La Boheme." The opera takes audiences into the unconventional Bohemian world of two doomed lovers: poet Rodolfo (Jason Slayden) and seamstress Mimi (Elaine Alvarez). Along with another freethinking couple, Musetta (Zulimar López-Hernández) and Marcello (Edward Parks), the opera follows them through many a magical up-and-down. All starting with the imagery of a blown-out candle.

López-Hernández invited audiences of any age and opera knowledge, "to give themselves over; to have an 'OMG' moment as the production affects them." Haven't we all learned "life lessons from having an experience that we can grow from" just as her character Musetta does as she tries to make sure that Marcello pays attention to her.

As the passionate Marcello, Parks invited audiences to an opera that is "a romantic story that is so accessible with characters who are real."

"La Boheme" will leave audiences "awestruck as it blooms and builds."

"La Boheme" is full of dreams, love, longing and sadness. It is what "Rent" was built on. Let it charm you.

# ENTERTAINMENT



**Chanticleer, hailed as "the world's reigning male chorus," performs at George Mason's Center for the Arts on Saturday, Nov. 28.**

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### ONGOING

**FCPS Art Teachers Exhibition.** Nov. 14-Dec. 6. W-16 McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Join for the exhibitions by the FCPS best art teachers. Discover the breadth of talent found in FCPS as you view works by art teachers. The exhibit will feature various media, unified by the artist's passion to educate. [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org). 703-585-2900.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 14

**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 [www.robinsonpta.org](http://www.robinsonpta.org).

**FCPS Teachers Exhibition Reception.** 6-9 p.m. W-16 McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Discover the breadth of talent found in FCPS as you view works by art teachers. The exhibit will feature various media, unified by the artist's passion to educate. The exhibition runs from Nov. 14-Dec. 6. Free. [workhousearts.org](http://workhousearts.org). 703-585-2900.

### Little River Glen Senior Center and Community Day

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Call 703-503-8703 for more information.

**Humane Society of Fairfax County Open House.** 2-4 p.m. Humane Society of Fairfax County, 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Tour our inviting adoption center, share autumn refreshments and meet the gorgeous cats/kittens, rabbits, guinea pigs and other adorable adoptables. 703-385-7387.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 14-15

#### Holiday Express Boutique Craft Sale.

Saturday, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Sunday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Mary's of Sorrows Church Hall, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Handcrafted, one of a kind items for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Sweet Shoppe, Cafe, Silent Auction, Raffle. 703-426-8092 or 703-978-4141.

### SUNDAY/NOV. 15

#### Table Top N Gauge Model Train.

1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Table Top N Gauge model trains will be on display and running. Free for museum members and children under 4. \$2 ages 5-15, \$4 16 and older. [jhill6712@aol.com](mailto:jhill6712@aol.com).

**"La Boheme."** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Virginia Opera, the Official Opera Company of the Commonwealth of Virginia, brings Puccini's classic tale of love and loss. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

### TUESDAY/NOV. 17

**Wagging Tales and Dogfish Ale.** 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Dogfish Head Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Join Guiding Eyes

for the Blind's Dominion Region for this family-friendly fundraiser featuring great food, live music, a raffle and silent auction, local personalities throughout the day, and lots of Guiding Eyes puppies. Fifteen percent of all food and beverage proceeds will be donated to the nonprofit. Free. 703-307-0611.

### MONDAYS/NOV. 16 AND 23

**Journaling Classes.** 5-6:30 p.m. Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Class in cultivating and expressing a grateful heart with two journaling workshops. During the second session, a Thanksgiving banner or centerpiece will be constructed to encourage family members or visitors to share their gratitude list. Register 703-385-7858 or visit <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/recreation-classes-and-programs/adult-classes>.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 20

**Autumn Acoustic Show.** 7:30-10 p.m. The Hub, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. featuring four Mason student performers. A fun and cozy night of original singer-songwriters. Hosted by the Music Productions Club of GMU. Free and open to the public. [cweinrot@gmu.edu](mailto:cweinrot@gmu.edu).

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 21-22

**24th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show.** Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. George Mason University, The Hub Ballroom, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$free to \$6. <http://www.novamineralclub.org/events/2015-show>.

**City of Fairfax Holiday Craft Show.** Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Over 200 juried crafters and gourmet food vendors. \$5, \$8, free for under 18. Free shuttle bus. [www.fairfaxholidayshow.com](http://www.fairfaxholidayshow.com). 703-385-7858.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 21

**Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India.** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. By combining traditional Indian and Western instruments, "The Spirit of India" presents Indian music and dance as it has never been heard or seen before. Seventeen professional artists, including outstanding musicians, singers and dancers, lead a musical journey to Mumbai and beyond, filling the stage with vivid colors, mesmerizing movement and hypnotic rhythms.

888-945-2468. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

### SUNDAY/NOV. 22

**Hands On Activities Day.** 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Activities include demonstrations and actual use of 100 year old

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# CALENDAR

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telegraph sets, display of Civil War telegraph insulators, viewing the operation of the railroad "crossing guard" equipment, and building and painting model train scenery. Free for museum members and children under 4. \$2 ages 5-15, \$4 16 and older. jhill6712@aol.com.

**23rd Annual Burke Area CROP Hunger Walk.** 1:30 p.m. Living Savior Lutheran Church, 5500 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Walk 6K/3.7 miles or shorter Golden Mile to support local and global efforts to fight world hunger and bring disaster relief to victims of recent disasters. Proceeds benefit international relief and development efforts of Church World Service and local Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) in Springfield and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) in Chantilly. Nonperishable food will be collected for ECHO. Free. ekringer@aol.com.

**Cantors Cabaret: From Bimah to Broadway.** 7 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Features Jewish and Broadway music, ranging from the classical Hazzanot of Israel Alter to Broadway's "Annie Get Your Gun," from the songbooks of cantorial favorite, Sol Zim, to Yiddish icon, Molly Picon. \$18-\$32. www.jccnvarts.org. 703-537-3000.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 26

**Turkey Trot for Parkinson's.** 9 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. 5K Run/Walk and One-mile gobble wobble to benefit the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. www.WestSpringfieldRunning.com.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 28

**Baby Canvases Five.** 7-10 p.m. Olly Olly, 10417 Main St., 2nd Floor, Fairfax. Baby Canvases Five is a one-night event featuring miniature artwork measuring 3" x 3" or smaller by an ever expanding and extraordinary roster of local artists. Free. <http://www.ollyolyllyart.com/> exhibitions. 703-789-6144.

**"A Chanticleer Christmas."** 8 p.m. George Mason Center for the Arts, 4373 Pond Drive, Fairfax. An evening of ancient hymns, venerated sacred songs, contemporary classics, gospel spirituals and treasured American and European carols, all performed with Chanticleer's lush harmonies and impeccable technique. \$32-\$54, half-price for children and youth through grade 12. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 29

**"The Sturgeon Queens."** 11:30 a.m.-

2 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Filmmaker Julie Cohen will be on hand following the film for a discussion and Q & A. \$26, includes light brunch. RSVP by Nov. 22. 703-323-0880. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols.** 11:30-7 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, 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 [www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols) for times and locations.

**Lunch with Santa.** 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Have lunch with Santa. \$6. Parents free. Ages 10 and under. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for ticket information or call 703-385-7858.

**A Celtic Christmas with Síor-Óg.** 7:30 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts sponsors the seventh annual Christmas concert. Adults \$5.00 and Children 12 and under free. [www.fairfaxarts.org](http://www.fairfaxarts.org).

**Santa's Workshop.** 1-5 p.m. Springfield Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Come out to Santa's Workshop for crafts, cookie and cupcake decorating, storytime, a cake walk, letter writing to Santa and more. Additional fee for refreshments and photos with Santa. \$5. Children 12 and below. amitchem@live.com.

## SATURDAYS/DEC. 5, 12, 19

**Donuts with Santa.** 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. W-16, Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Santa is returning just in time for the holidays! Join Santa and his helpers for a special experience at Donuts With Santa. Each ticket holder will enjoy two doughnuts and a choice of juice or coffee while Santa and his Elves read a classic Christmas story and lead a fun-filled family sing-a-long. \$20. [workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). 703-585-2900.

## SATURDAYS/DEC. 5, 12, 19, 26

**Children's Theatre: "The Nutcracker."** 1-2:15 p.m. 3-4:15 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Presented by Mestey Films Productions. LIVE onstage! Playwright Vianlix Mestey produces an original re-telling of the favorite holiday story in play form! Running time 75 minutes with one intermission, appropriate for all ages. \$9-\$13. [workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). 703-585-2900.

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# HomeLifeStyle

## Bracing for Winter

BY JOHN BYRD

A fall/winter home maintenance checklist is popular staple for home and garden journalists this time of year. But problems occurring after the basics have been checked may indicate more systemic issues are developing.

David Foster, who has operated Foster Remodeling Solutions for over 35 years, says his firm's Home Improvement Services Division starts to get notably busy this time of year as homeowner's assess their home's response to lower temperatures, higher levels of precipitation. A look at recent case histories spotlights the range of issues a homeowner may confront in the cooler weather ahead:

### WHY INSULATION MAY FAIL

All Craig Mattice knew as temperatures dropped last winter was that his original mansard roof was plagued with ice dams and his 10-year-old, 600-square-foot addition was so cold that the pipes had frozen. Adjusting the thermostat did not improve the situation. What had gone wrong?

"After living in the house for over 25 years, the chill was a surprise," Mattice said. "It wasn't just that the winter has been colder than usual ... it was beginning to look like a larger problem — particularly in the new wing, which was 5 degrees colder than other rooms."

To determine the cause of ice-clogged gutters, Mattice turned to Foster who had done home improvements for his son.

"The damming was literally the tip of the iceberg," Foster said. "When I inspected the attic, it was clear that the envelope was not adequately sealed, insulated or ventilated, which is why the upstairs had been too hot last summer."

Add to this the fact that prior to 1980, local building code required less thermally resistant insulation than the current R-38 standard and the outlines of a common problem with older production homes began to emerge.

"It's not unusual to find that the existing insulation just isn't the best application for some of our coldest days," said Foster. "Also, different parts of a house can call for different insulation strategies."

Since the goal for the Mattice attic was to increase R-value, Foster rearranged the old insulation—adding soffit baffles to improve ventilation. The larger technical solution, however, was to blow in R-25 fiberglass, which raised the attic's thermal resistance to R-44.

"One of the benefits of fiberglass is that it wraps everything... creating an airtight insular envelope," Foster said. "This makes all aspects of the home's heating and cooling more efficient."

The more recently completed family wing was another matter. The homeowner's addition was built over an unheated crawl space. The HVAC duct was not even connected in the kitchen.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Before and after remodeler David Foster converted Joan Davanzo's screen porch into a year-round sun room. The feature Davanzo most appreciates this time of year is how fluidly it opens to early autumn's balmy breezes. All the windows are casement-style which can be independently adjusted to let in cross breezes.**

"An appropriate insulation strategy starts with forensics," Foster said. "Where is a wall, ceiling or roof exposed to outside conditions? Is it difficult to regulate temperatures in different parts of the house? These are some basic questions we begin with."

Given challenges inherent in insulating rooms built over an unheated crawl space (which also must support air circulation), Foster re-engineered the entire thermal equation: fiberglass batts were removed and sprayed-in closed cell foam was then applied to the underside of the floor system.

This elevated the thermal value to R-20 while providing a draft-free, airtight seal to the kitchen floor. To accommodate for summer conditions, Foster added ventilation to the crawlspace and attic.

So how do the upgrades perform?

"Beautifully," Mattice said. "The house is noticeably tighter, and the new wing is much more comfortable. We're ready for cooler weather now."

### A LEAKY ROOF AND FAILING GUTTERS

Steve Piper of Alexandria called in Foster (who had previously re-configured several of his home's interior rooms) to offer some perspective on a worsening leak.

"I knew we had a leaking problem before meeting David," Piper said. "But the situation had gotten worse — and I wasn't sure what to expect from roofers. Finally, it occurred to me to ask David for his assessment."

Foster traced the problem to inappropriate and poorly installed flashing, which was allowing water to seep into siding and under roofing shingles. His prescription: a re-shingled roof, a new gutter protection system and attic ventilation equipped with an

electronic thermostat.

"It's important to address the whole problem when the system has failed," said Foster. "This is a plan that not only eliminates the leaking, but functions much better in all seasons."

### A SAGGING FRONT PORCH

Jeff Hage of Franconia came to Foster when he noticed one of the posts to a front porch was sagging.

Foster, who had finished an interior for Hage a few months before, quickly recognized that the whole roof had settled, making it impossible to stop the worsening deterioration by simply replacing the corner column.

"When the problem becomes structural, you have to remake the basic supports,"

the remodeler said. "In this case that meant raising the porch roof and realigning posts and beams."

### WINDOWS THAT KEEP OUT THE COLD

There's a lot of short-sightedness associated with window replacements. Homeowners with drafty homes procure state-of-the-art insulated windows only to have them installed with inadequately sealed window jambs.

But windows can be particularly challenging if the larger interest is gaining a beautiful view.

Joan Davanzo of Vienna wanted a year-round sunroom with an unusual amount of glass on wall surfaces.

To meet the Fairfax County's "wind-bracing" requirements, Foster and team designed a heavy-gauge, all-steel framework for the structure's many large glass panels which is anchored all the way down to the

concrete foundation itself.

Though not visible to the naked eye, the infrastructure allowed designers to extend windows to within a few feet of the floor and mere inches from the corner of the room.

Better yet, the new space can be comfortably occupied throughout the year.

"All the windows are Low-E Argon-filled double pane — state of the art thermal resistance," Foster said.

To reinforce the comforting insularity, however, the contractor applied thermally-resistant spray foam behind the wall surfaces — even drilled holes in the steel columns to accommodate an added infusion.

"It's all about creating a tight structure," Foster said. "That's what keeps outside temperatures out."

That said, the sunroom feature Davanzo most appreciates this time of year is how fluidly it opens to early autumn's balmy breezes. All the windows are casement-style which can be independently adjusted to let in cross breezes. Overhead, two ventilating skylights open electronically (and independently). The skylights are, in turn, equipped with electric blinds and rain sensors.

The new sunroom is accessed by an adjacent family room separated by three French doors, which Davanzo mostly leaves open.

"This is where I spend most of my time when I'm at home," she said.

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. For Information: 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 topics for 30 years.*

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# 'The Original Rom-Com'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**t's not your father's Shakespeare; instead, it's Paul VI High's fresh, lively and modern take on the romantic comedy, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." It is the school's Cappies play and will be performed Nov. 19-22.

Although the scenes still take place in an enchanted forest and in Athens, Greece – complete with stone columns and buildings – the time period has been changed to the early to mid-1960s. And the cast and crew of 50 are having a great time with it.

"The costumes are sixties mod, with stripes, flowers and bright colors," said director Katherine Miller. "And we're playing little snippets of lots of fun, sixties music, including songs from Herman's Hermits, The Monkees, Manfred Mann and The 5th Dimension."

**THE STORY** follows the adventures of four, young lovers and a group of amateur actors. It shows their encounters with woodland fairies, plus a duke and duchess, and illustrates how falling in love can lead to many complications.

Miller set it in the early 1960s because "it was an energetic and visual time that'll be nostalgic for a lot of people. It was pre-Hippies, but had an unrealistic, dreamlike quality for many people. And the set will be ridiculously cool; it even has lots of trap doors with characters popping in and out. We also have some really neat, special effects up our sleeves."

Besides all that, she said, "I have an incredibly talented cast of actors, dancers and acrobats. This is one of Shakespeare's shortest plays and moves very fast. The kids have been able to dissect the language and interpret the lines so the audience will easily understand them. It's a user-friendly show for the whole family."

Junior Caleigh Davis plays Helena. "She's in love with a guy who dumped her for her best friend, so she becomes obsessed with him," said Davis. "She can be sweet and girly at times to people she loves, but she's also stubborn and strong-willed. So when



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EILEEN CURREN

**Playing fairies are (from left) Maggie Norman, Kelly Farmar, Sonya Chinje (Queen Titania), Molly Rodriguez and Meghan Kelly.**

she thinks someone's trying to prank her, she gets upset. She stands up for what she believes in, which makes her idealistic."

Davis is having fun with her role because Helena is "very active and physical. And when she talks nonsense, I use my body and gestures to explain what she's saying. She's a complex and interesting character."

Davis said the audience will love the fight scene, plus the comedy. "They'll also like how it has some real-life aspects in it, like lost love and reclaiming that love," she said. "It's the original rom-com."

Senior Isabella Whitfield portrays Quince, the director of a play that the "mechanicals" – a group of lower-class Athenians – are putting on for the duke's wedding. "She's super-uptight and wants the play to go perfectly," said Whitfield. "But Nick Bottom, one of the actors, keeps undermining her authority by trying to take control of the play, instead of letting her direct."

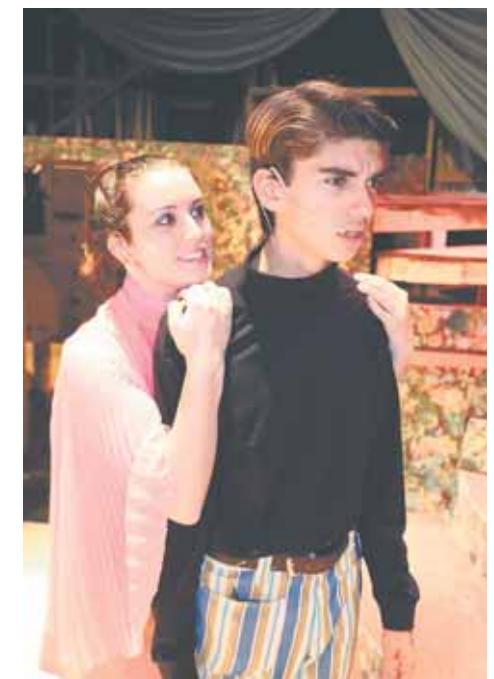
It's a difficult part, she said, because she's never before played an authority figure. But, she added, "I like it because, as a director, I get to boss people around." Whitfield said show attendees will appreciate "how we're

making Shakespeare more understandable and accessible to younger audiences. We're trying to better interpret the lines through our actions and how we say the dialogue."

Playing Bottom is senior J.J. Cummings. "He's a weaver," said Cummings. "He's a normal worker in the Athens streets; he makes carpets and rugs and is a nobody. But he decides to become noticed by joining an acting company with his buddies. He's very boisterous and likes to lead, but isn't that great at it. Overall, he's a good guy, but can sometimes be a jerk."

Cummings loves his role because "Bottom's such an interesting character. He's in everybody's faces, saying, 'Do things my way.' But he acts like that because nobody ever noticed him in his everyday life and he wants people to look up to him."

Cummings says the audience will like the interactions between the main, romantic couples. "Seeing them fight with each other – even though they don't want to – is really entertaining," he said. "And the set is phenomenal because of its tricks and secrets and the way it looks. It has nine, different levels and tiers for the actors to stand on,



**Caleigh Davis as Helena and Drew Goldstein as Demetrius are in Paul VI's play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."**

which gives us more to do while we perform."

**PORTRAYING TITANIA**, queen of the fairies, is senior Sonya Chinje. She lives in the woods, governs nature and tells the other fairies how to maintain the earth. "She's authoritative, definitely knows what she wants and will stop at nothing to get it," said Chinje. "She's a good, female character and is lots of fun. She's also nice and kind to her fairies and is friends with them."

Chinje enjoys her part because "The fairies are all so sweet and I love hanging out with them. And my costume's really cool. I also love the freedom I get playing Titania because I'm able to interpret the role, myself, and how I want her personality to be."

Overall, she said, "The show has lots of surprises and the story takes several twists. Our cast members work extremely well together, and the audience will like seeing this play set in the '60s – which is a big change from the original."

## SCHOOL NOTES

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

Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Va. announced that Cadet Sgeman **Timothy Arndt**, of Fairfax Station, was officially named Fishburne Military School's Cadet Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month for October. Arndt is a junior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Arndt. Cadet Arndt is a squad leader for Band Company, is on the Distinguished Honor Roll, and plays football and baseball.

**Arden L. Scott**, of Springfield, received a Master of Science in Media Ventures from Boston University in Sep-

tember 2015.

**Amanda J. Matteo**, of Fairfax, received a Doctor of Occupational Therapy in Occupational Therapy from Boston University in September 2015.

**Joshua Blaz**, a graduate of J.W. Robinson Secondary School, received the Tyree/Parajon, First Year Merit Scholarship at Denison University. The Tyree/Parajon Scholarship is based on academic achievement, leadership and personal merit.

**William Douglas Krawczak** of Springfield has been recognized by George Mason University on the school's dean's list for his academic achievement during the spring semester. William graduated from West Springfield High

School and is double majoring in English and Economics at George Mason University. Recognition on the George Mason University dean's list is reserved for students who were registered for 12 or more semester hours and received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work.

George Mason University has recognized **William Douglas Krawczak** of Springfield on the school's dean's list for his academic achievement during the spring semester. William graduated from West Springfield High School and is double majoring in English and Economics at George Mason University. Recognition on the George Mason University dean's list is reserved for students who were registered for 12 or

more semester hours and received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work

The Fairfax County Band Directors Association has recognized 16 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students for excellence in solo instrumental music performance as part of the 2015 Fairfax County Band Directors Association Solo Competition. A total of 33 schools were represented; 66 students competed in the event.

The following students were named winners in the elementary school division: **Third place: Maia Trafton (trumpet), Keene Mill Elementary School.**

The following students were named winners in the high school division:

**First place: Hunter Lorelli (basoon), West Springfield High School.**

**Alyssa M. Clark, Caitlyn M. Clark, and Amanda R. Harvey** of Fairfax; **Steven D. Peterson, Richard D. Grant, and Emma L. Gray** of Fairfax Station; **Lauren L. Thomas** of Burke; **Sean K. Troutman** and **Michael R. Deets** of Springfield received scholarships on July 22 from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation at the Truman Crawford Hall at the Marine Barracks Washington in Washington, D.C. The foundation awarded more than \$7 million in scholarship funding to a 2,300 Marine children for the 2015-16 academic year. Of those, 170-plus recipients are from Washington, D.C., Maryland or Virginia.

# South County Football Captures Conference 7 Championship

## Undefeated Stallions beat Lake Braddock in overtime.

By JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

With South County trailing 27-7 and facing fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line in the second quarter of Friday's monumental matchup with Lake Braddock, Stallions quarterback DeAndre Clayton took the snap and handed the ball to running back DeMarcus Ramsey.

Ramsey pushed forward, but the Lake Braddock defense held the 215-pound back short of the end zone. But while it appeared the Bruins had come up with a goal-line stand, an observant Clayton realized the play was far from over.

Unbeknownst to many, Ramsey had fumbled during the play and the ball was lying on the turf. Clayton, who was behind the action, stepped forward, scooped up the loose pigskin and ran around the left end for a touchdown.

"I gave [Ramsey] the ball ... and I didn't hear a whistle," Clayton said. "... I just looked around and saw the ball on the ground. Everybody else stopped, so I picked it up and ran to the side. ... Nobody was paying attention to it."

Clayton didn't give up on the play, which resulted in a touchdown. Despite facing a 20-point deficit on the road, the Stallions didn't give up in the face of adversity, which resulted in a championship.

In a matchup of the last two unbeaten teams in the 6A north region, the

South County defense held Lake Braddock scoreless in the second half and created a pair of late turnovers to force overtime. After holding the Bruins to a field goal, Ramsey's 10-yard touchdown run lifted the Stallions to a 33-30 victory on Nov. 6 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

**SOUTH COUNTY'S** first victory over Lake Braddock since 2011 earned the Stallions an undefeated regular season and an outright Conference 7 championship. South County also earned the No. 1 seed in the region playoffs and will host No. 16 Annandale at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13.

Lake Braddock, the No. 2 seed, will host No. 15 Woodson.

"That's what they do every day — they fight through adversity every day," South County head coach Gerry Pannoni said. "We kind of push them to that brink and they responded and did a great, great job."

South County won a share of the conference title last season, along with Lake Braddock and West Springfield. This is the first season since 2008 that the Bruins didn't capture at least a share of the Conference 7/Patriot District championship.

The South County defense offered little resistance in the first half as Lake Braddock built a 27-14 half-time lead. The Bruins scored on a one-yard run by Lamont Atkins, a 44-yard pass from Kyle Edwards to David Fofi, and a 73-yard scamper by Ibrahim Mansaray. The South County special teams surrendered a 92-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Lake Braddock's Peyton Scott.

The second half, however, was a different story, as Lake Braddock (9-1) failed to score during the third and fourth quarters. Meanwhile, Clayton connected



The South County football team won the Conference 7 championship with 33-30 overtime victory over Lake Braddock on Friday.

with Dillon Spalding for a 30-yard touchdown on fourth down with 6:17 remaining in the third. Spalding's right hand was tangled with a Lake Braddock defender, so the South County receiver reached out with his left hand and made the catch, cutting the Bruins' lead to 27-20.

"I practice that a lot," Spalding said.

After forcing a Lake Braddock punt, South County drove 80 yards in 13 plays, tying the score at 27 on a 6-yard touchdown run by Clayton with 10:43 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Lake Braddock would have two more possessions in regulation and each time the Bruins drove into South County (10-0) territory. Each time, the drive ended with a turnover.

With 8:25 remaining, South County recovered a Lake Braddock fumble at the Stallions 20-yard line, thwarting a Bruins scoring opportunity.

With less than 1 minute remaining and Lake Braddock driving for a potential game-winning field goal attempt, South County defensive back Christian Massie intercepted a pass at the Stallions 12-yard line.

"They dug deep," Pannoni said about the South County defense. "They could have caved at any point — they could have really caved, because [the Bruins] were banging us pretty good. But they stuck in there, they stayed with it, they stayed with the plan and it worked."

Lake Braddock got the first possession in overtime. After incomplete passes on first and second down, senior quarterback Edwards scrambled to his left on third down. South County linebacker Kevin Allen and lineman Saif Khan combined to knock Edwards out of bounds at the 6-yard line, leading to a 25-yard field goal by Bruins kicker Nick Bruhn on fourth down.

South County's possession lasted just one play as Ramsey carried the ball 10 yards into the end zone for the game-winner, which led to the Stallion sideline rushing onto the field in celebration.

"It's something I definitely wanted," Ramsey said. "During the second half, I was just sitting there thinking to myself: 'What can I do to make a difference on this team?' and I just knew I had to bring it."

**RAMSEY** carried the ball 30 times for 157 yards and two touchdowns. He also caught three passes for 44 yards.

"DeMarcus is a horse," Pannoni said. "You've got to ride that horse."

Clayton completed 16 of 25 passes for 233 yards, with one touchdown and one interception. He carried 21 times for 88 yards and a score.



PHOTO BY JEFF MCQUILKIN

Woodson defensive linemen Daniel Trump (6), Joey Barrody (60) and Harrison Spilman have T.C. Williams quarterback Ethan Hall in their sights during Saturday's game in Alexandria.

## Woodson Football Earns Playoff Berth

### Cavaliers to face Lake Braddock on Friday.

By JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**S**econd-year Woodson head football coach Mike Dougherty has stressed to the Cavaliers the importance of competing while trying to turn around a program that went 10-30 in the four seasons prior to his arrival.

After posting a 2-8 record in Dougherty's first season, Woodson fell to 1-6 in 2015 when the Cavaliers were thumped by Lake Braddock, 61-0, on Oct. 16.

"We just laid down," Dougherty said of the Cavaliers' performance during the blowout loss to the Bruins. "We got behind quick and, unfortunately, they reverted back to what I called the 'old Woodson.'" The lopsided loss put the Cavaliers at a crossroad.

"It could have been the end of the season," Dougherty said, "or a wake-up call ..."

Woodson responded with three straight victories to end the regular season, including a 38-14 win over T.C. Williams in the finale on Saturday, Nov. 7, and the Cavaliers secured the program's first playoff berth since 2009. Woodson, the No. 15 seed in the 6A North region, will travel to face No. 2 Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13.

The top 16 teams in the VHSL 6A North region power rankings make the playoffs.

"It shows that the program is changing," Woodson quarterback Jojo Heisley said. "It is going places, it will continue to be going places and this is just

only the beginning."

One of the seniors experiencing the playoffs for the first time is defensive back Sumair Bhatti, who had six tackles and two interceptions against T.C. Williams.

"It means a lot," Bhatti wrote in an email. "No one believed in us, except for us. But that never mattered to my team or discouraged us from going out every Friday night to compete with absolute confidence that we could pull out a victory."

While the Woodson defense limited T.C. Williams to a pair of touchdowns, and senior defensive lineman Tarik Hussein blocked a punt for the special teams, the Cavaliers offense found the end zone five times.

Heisley completed 15 of 24 passes for 252 yards and four touchdowns, with one interception. He also carried 14 times for 70 yards.

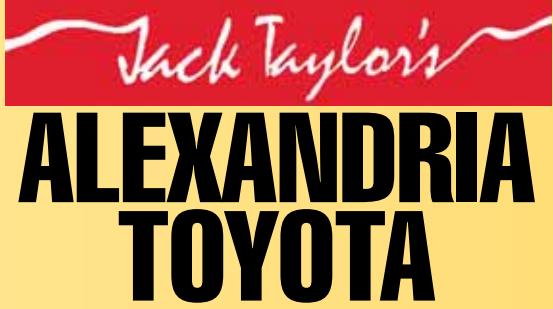
Jack Caldwell caught nine passes for 151 yards and two touchdowns.

Next up for Woodson is a rematch with the Lake Braddock team that blew out the Cavaliers nearly a month ago. The Bruins (9-1) suffered their first loss of the season last week, falling to undefeated South County 33-30 in overtime.

Dougherty acknowledged Friday's game will be challenging for Woodson.

"[We're] playing our best ball right now," he said. "We need to play outside of our heads to compete with Braddock, but I think these kids are up to the challenge." An upset of the Bruins would help the Cavaliers achieve a goal.

"Our goal at the beginning of the season was to win a playoff game," Dougherty said. "It's great we got there but we want to win a game. ... Is it the safe bet? [Probably not], but right now I'm betting on my guys."



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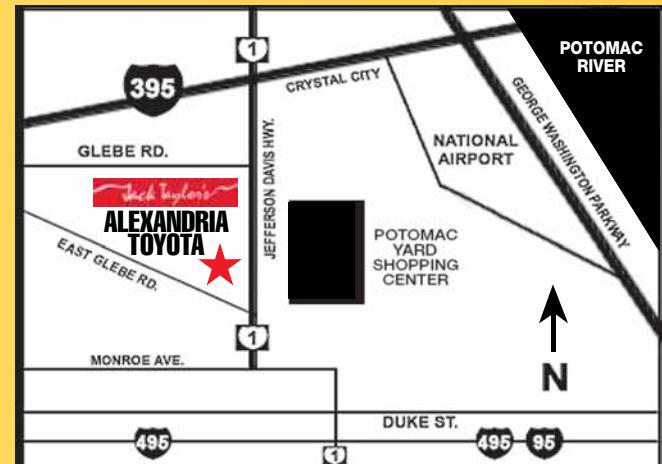
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