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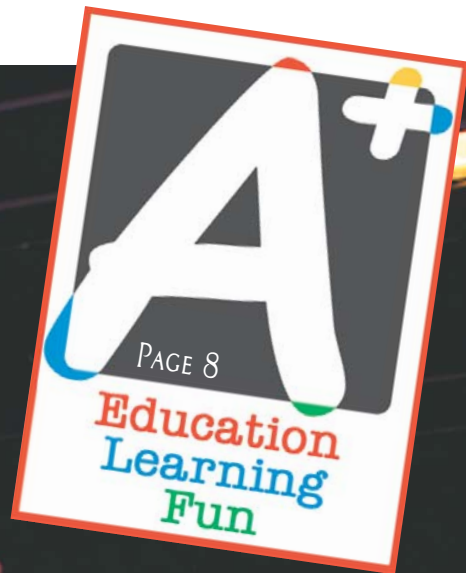
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APRIL 19-25, 2012

Alarm Over Shelters' Fire Code

Fairfax County officials respond to concerns about fire code violations at local shelters.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Spring fever hit the region early this year. Last week's record-high temperatures had residents flocking outdoors to play, bike, jog and picnic.

With the promise of more summery weather this weekend, it may seem like an odd time to be concerned about freezing temperatures and hypothermia.

But on Friday, April 13, Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) sent an email to leaders in the faith community inviting them to a hypothermia prevention information session on Sunday, April 22.

According to county officials, the session is an attempt to quell concerns and rumors raised by some church leaders that the County's Fire Marshal will shut down their hypothermia programs next winter because of fire code violations.

On Tuesday, county officials stressed their longstanding support of Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, and promised to work with each house of worship to address concerns about code violations.

"I have been working with County staff to make sure safety concerns that arose during this program year are addressed before the 2012-2013 program begins," Bulova said in the email announcing Sunday's session. "I am committed to finding solutions that do not put undue burden on houses of worship but still provide adequate safety for the vulnerable population that relies on the Hypothermia Program during the winter months."

On Monday, April 16, the Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria sent out a press release stating the county will close 18 of 36 churches that host a hypothermia program. "Nine churches will not be allowed to bring the homeless in from the cold under any circumstances. An additional nine require extensive work to correct code violations that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," Kincannon said in the release.

Bulova said that currently four houses of worship may be affected by their inability to comply with fire codes, not 18.

"We'll find out at the meeting on the 22nd exactly what is being suggested and what kind of costs it would/could entail. The county's fire marshal is concerned that – even with the best of intentions – space where the homeless are sleeping shouldn't be a place where they are trapped and unable to exit in case of a fire," Bulova said.

More than 1,000 residents seek shelter through Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program each year. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

"The Hypothermia Program is unique," Bulova said. "It is a true partnership between the faith communi-

Fast Facts about Hypothermia Prevention Program

❖ During the 2010-2011 winter season, approximately 1,025 residents sought shelter through Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, in partnership with other agencies.

❖ During the 2011-2012 winter season, partners opened their shelters to "no turn-away" status on Nov. 1, even if the weather was not at freezing temperatures.

❖ FACETS' Hypothermia Prevention Season is Nov. 21 through March 17. FACETS served more than 219 clients last season.

❖ Volunteers of America Chesapeake (VOA) Baileys Crossroad's Hypothermia Program served more than 442 clients last season and an additional 84 clients in their other winter seasonal programs for a total of 526 clients.

❖ Reston Interfaith's Embry Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS) operates three separate winter programs. The ERCS Winter North County Program and winter seasonal programs served over 298 clients last season.

❖ The Homeless Healthcare Program (HHP) has four nurse practitioners from the Fairfax County Health Department providing free flu shots during Hypothermia Prevention season.

For more information on Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/partnerupdate/partnership-highlights-hyposeason2011-12.htm>

ties in Fairfax County and county government."

She said that many of the county's churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months.

"County agencies such as the Community Services Board, the Police Department, and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness partner to make the program successful," Bulova said.

"Our shared goal is to prevent deaths, and people who are homeless deserve both shelter from the elements and a safe place to stay. Fire and building codes don't discriminate, and they are intended to protect everyone," said county spokesman Merni Fitzgerald.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said other localities, such as Richmond and Virginia Beach, have en-

countered the similar issues because the fire code is a state-wide set of regulations enacted by the General Assembly but enforced by local jurisdictions.

"The hypothermia program is one of the really good things we have in the county, both because it helps those in need and it's a great example of businesses, non-profits and the faith community working together," Cook said.

"We are deeply grateful to the faith community and nonprofits that partner with us in the fight against homelessness. They have given their own time, facilities and resources during the past seven years, preventing deaths from hypothermia, providing case management to hundreds of clients, and moving individuals into permanent housing," Fitzgerald said.

"The Hypothermia Program is unique. It is a true partnership between the faith communities in Fairfax County and county government."

— Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

(From left) are Hollow Trunk board members Shriram Sundararaman, TJ; Shannon Parker, Fairfax High; Sarah Haug, Westfield High; Priya Khanna, Westfield; Christina Kim, Fairfax; Wills Johnston, TJ; Diana Saffarini, Chantilly High; Miles Ransom, Chantilly; Noor Siddiqui, Robinson Secondary; and Maddie Welch, Chantilly.

Raising Money to Educate Children

Project LIFE 2K/5K is Sunday, April 22.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Priya Khanna is still in high school, but she's the chairman and CEO of a nonprofit organization, The Hollow Trunk. Comprising students from Westfield, Chantilly, Fairfax and Thomas Jefferson high schools, plus Robinson Secondary, it raises money for worthy causes.

The Hollow Trunk is currently raising funds to educate poor children in India. So this Sunday, April 22, at 8 a.m., it's holding a 2K/5K Fun Run/Walk, outside the Cub Run Rec Center. Cost is \$25 for the 5K; \$20 for the 2K. Walkers are welcome in both events; registration information is at www.thehollowtrunk.com. Race-day registration begins at 7:45 a.m.

The USATF-certified course starts in the rec center's parking lot, goes down Stonecroft Boulevard, loops around Conference Center Drive and returns on Stonecroft to the start. The top three male and female finishers will receive gift cards donated by local merchants and restaurants. All participants will get commemorative T-shirts.

The Hollow Trunk was established in 2009 and, since then, has donated almost \$2,000 to the Alzheimer's Association, more than \$4,000 to the Red Cross' Haitian Relief Efforts,

nearly \$1,000 to INOVA Fairfax Children's Hospital and about \$1,000 to CrisisLink, a suicide-prevention and awareness organization.

The Hollow Trunk is also helping educate a young girl in Afghanistan. "We selected her through an application process," said Khanna, a Westfield senior. "We bought her a laptop and are funding four years of online education for her."

In April 2011, The Hollow Trunk launched Project LIFE (Leading Initiatives to Foster Education) to help improve educational and recreational facilities for children throughout the world.

The first Project LIFE fundraiser was last year's 2K/5K, and it yielded more than \$2,000 for the Casa Guatemala Orphanage for structural renovations and to furnish teaching and recreational supplies. This year's beneficiary will be the Social Outreach Foundation (SOF), a school that provides primary education for underprivileged children in India.

She's hoping lots of people register for the race or donate to The Hollow Trunk. "Our goal is to raise \$5,000," said Khanna.

Those unable to participate, but wanting to contribute to the project, may make tax-deductible donations. Send checks payable to The Hollow Trunk to 5428 Chandley Farm Circle, Centreville, VA 20120.

For more information about The Hollow Trunk or to become a Project LIFE sponsor, go to www.thehollowtrunk.com or email thehollowtrunk@gmail.com.

THE COUNTY LINE

Restoring Funding for Human Services

Residents, agencies testify to need for community services.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

After three years of deep budget cuts and declining revenue, Fairfax County is showing signs of fiscal equilibrium as property values and revenues begin a slow uphill climb.

But human service agencies in the county are still feeling pinched by three years of cumulative cuts to their budgets, shrinking state and federal dollars, and increased demand on services.

More than 30 agencies and individuals showed up to testify during last week's public hearings on the proposed \$6.7 billion fiscal year 2013 budget to deliver a unified message to the Board of Supervisors.

"The proposed cuts in human services funding are relatively small dollar amounts," said Frank Blechman, vice chair of the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services (AHS), who testified before the board on Wednesday, April 11, "but the impact these cuts will have on programs and the vulnerable families and individuals who need them will be severe."

County Executive Anthony Griffin's proposed budget assumes no increase in current real property tax rates; however, the AHS - a non-partisan partnership that advocates for dozens of local public and private human service providers - urged board members to adopt the county's advertised tax rate 1-cent tax increase to \$1.08 per \$100 of assessed value, which would add nearly \$20 million to the budget coffers.

To avoid raising tax rates, Griffin has proposed a 2013 budget with approximately \$3 million in various human services cuts, including:

- ❖ Eliminating the Adult Dental Program (Savings: \$50,000) - This program provides discounted basic dental care to low income adults. According to AHS, eliminating the program will result in 500 adults not receiving services. Instead, says AHS, they will have to seek care at the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic, which has a waiting list of six months to 4 years.

- ❖ Reduce home-based care funding (Savings: \$300,000) - These services are provided to low-income adults to help them continue independent living in their own homes. In fiscal years 2010 and 2011, funding for this program was cut by a total of \$1.7 million. To deal with that reduced funding, the County's Department of Family Services has tightened screening and services. According to AHS, the proposed fiscal year 2013 cut would lead to a waiting list for services.

- ❖ Decreased funding for Student Assistance Programs (Savings: \$99,500) - These services, offered through the Community Services Board (CSB), provide year-round school-based alcohol and drug screening, assessment and early intervention. This reduction eliminates one position and, says AHS, will cause 81 youths to be shut out of the program.

"Funding human services is never easy," Blechman said, joking with supervisors that they could afford to demonstrate their "profiles in courage" during a non-election year by approving the county executive's advertised tax rate to fund "unmet human service needs."

"This is the year to turn the corner from survival mode to growth," Blechman said.

Several supervisors indicated their support of restoring funding to human service programs.

"These programs serve the homeless, the elderly, people suffering with drug and alcohol addictions, young and old residents with serious physical and mental disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and many other county residents who need help from their community," said supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

"Because of their circumstances, many of these people live in poverty," Foust said, adding that Fairfax County has a number of active non-profits and faith-based groups providing services.

"But the sheer numbers of residents needing help means the county must play a large role in ensuring that needed services are provided," Foust said.

While Fairfax County's poverty rate is better than most — 5.08 percent in 2011^o — it still translates to nearly 63,000 people living below the poverty level, according to county officials.

The Alliance for Human Services provided board members with a list of budget recommendations regarding the proposed cuts as well as restoring certain other programs cut in prior years.

AHS acknowledged that Griffin's proposed budget does include some increases in several human services programs.

"We can't stress enough how important it

Recommended Funding Increases

Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services recommended funding increases in FY 2013 Budget include:

- ❖ Partners in Prevention Fund, which funds various organizations, including Safe Dates programs run by FACETS, The Lorton Community Action Center, United Community Ministries and Reston Interfaith - **\$400,000**
- ❖ Additional funding for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool. During 2011, more than 119,000 people in 61,300 households was served - **\$448,534**
- ❖ Restoring funding for Access Fairfax - \$75,000
- ❖ Restoring funding for two Computer Learning Centers - **\$90,000**
- ❖ Restoring funding for the Department of Family Services Rent Relief Program - \$275,000
- ❖ Restoring funding for seven School Health Aide Substitutes - **\$110,997**



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Human Service Advocates testified before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during a public hearing on Wednesday, April 11, urging the board to increase funding for community programs that serve the homeless population and other vulnerable residents. From left, Kerri Wilson of Reston Interfaith; Gerald Poje of Reston Interfaith; Kathy Albarado, Governing Board of Office to Prevent and End Homelessness; Cheryl Simpkins of United Christian Ministries; Conrad Egan, Governing Board of Office to Prevent and End Homelessness; Michael O'Reilly, Governing Board Chair of Office to Prevent and End Homelessness; Amanda Andere of FACETS; Meredith Magwire of Habitat for Humanity and Judith Dittman of Alternative House.

is to approve the county executive's recommendations for increased human services funding. Anything less will further weaken the human services net that is already frayed," Blechman said.

- ❖ CSB's Infant and Toddler Connection: One of Griffin's recommended increases that generated emotional testimony was the \$823,456 for the CSB Infant and Toddler Connection, which provides families screening and programs for children with possible developmental delays.

Lisa Arlt Escoto of Vienna brought her daughter Elena, 5, who has a neuro-genetic syndrome that causes severe global delays, seizures and drastically limits speech.

"I was shocked to learn that the (proposed budget) does not include increased funding for the Infant and Toddler Connection," Arlt Escoto said.

She said she and her husband were working in China for the U.S. Consulate when they discovered Elena was severely developmentally delayed and required immediate intervention therapy. So the couple returned to Fairfax County to get Elena the help she needed.

"I was already feeling overwhelmed and terrified by the discovery of Elena's disability, and being unable to find private therapists who didn't have a one or two-year wait list nearly drove me over the edge," she said.

When one of Elena's doctors referred her to the ITC, Arlt Escoto said it was a lifeline for her and her daughter. "They provided several therapy programs as well as a mom support group ... I am convinced that without ITC, Elena would not be nearly as functional as she is today." °

SEE SUPERVISORS, PAGE 10

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PHOTO COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE STUDIO

Marieke Georgiadis and Jason Krage in the Workhouse Theatre for Young Audiences' production of 'Home.'

American Premiere At Workhouse Center

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A rare opportunity presents itself, as the Workhouse Theatre for Young Audiences is producing an American premiere of an original work written specifically for younger children. For the next several weeks, "Home" written by British playwright Lizzie Allen is being staged.

"Home" is the story of two foot-loose travelers; Florrie and Todd, who are friends and searchers. They are looking for a place to call home as they journey over a year through

the seasons. According to director Caren Hearne, "Home" is full of imagination and magic, live action and puppetry with original music.

The characters use their imaginations to build a fanciful world of their own design as they learn "Here is where you are. There is where you are not." As the script says, a home should have "a proper roof and a proper floor."

Playwright Allen is known in England for her work in the arts for early childhood education. She also has a great interest in puppetry. "Home" is aimed at children under 7 years of age.

To construct all that the characters build on their journey together, Florrie and Matt use the most every day objects that children see in their own home like cardboard boxes. They arrange

and rearrange the boxes just as young children do, with their creativity as their guide.

"Imagination is key" to the production said Hearne. "Its characters are so endearing and there is great chemistry between the two actors. The production has no restrictions on the imagination that children in the audience can use. It even has the opportunity for the actors to improvise with the audience"

The two cast members are Florrie (Marieke Georgiadis) and Todd (Jason Krage). Both mentioned the "wonderful improvisational nature" of the show. Each perfor-

mance is expected to be different based upon audience participation.

"We turn cardboard boxes into almost anything from telescopes to dinosaurs, houses to hats," said Georgiadis. "We want to help to foster the imagination of the audience."

Todd, a Herndon native, said the play "allows for creativity by the audience, since there are actor and audience interactions in some scenes." The children in the audience even get to name some characters in the play. We just want to take what the audience feeds us use in the show."

Local musician Alex Aucoin composed the original music. His work underscores the action, including a scene as a puppet plays a piano.

Where and When

"Home" at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Performances through May 5. Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets: \$8 children under 12 years old, \$12 adults. Call 703-584-2962 or visit www.workhousearts.org.



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OPINION

Every Day Is Earth Day

BY DANIEL WHITE
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, I asked fellow Nature Conservancy staff from Maryland, D.C. and Virginia to offer their favorite ways of going green. Here are some responses that can help you save money, energy and maybe even the planet. To share your tips for living green every day, join us at facebook.com/dc.md.va.nature.conservancy.

THE RUN DIARY

Arlington's Kate Hougen, our marketing director, invites anyone who cares about the environment and healthy living to join her on Team Nature: "the team shares tips like how to recycle your running shoes, and raises money for environmental causes, join us and run for a healthier you, and a healthier planet." For more info, visit us online at nature.org/rundc.

HANG 'EM DRY

New mother Kristin Bramell, a fundraiser in Bethesda, prefers to air-dry her laundry: "Why not save energy by using a clothesline at least for your large items? I put up a clothesline in my backyard and love to hang my towels, sheets and t-shirts outside. It takes just five minutes, and there's nothing better than that fresh, natural smell. Now that the weather's nice, I'll probably start hanging up my cloth diapers too!"

THE THRIFTERS

Philanthropy Coordinator Karen Schuyler, who lived in Alexandria prior to settling in Barboursville, shops for clothes at thrift stores: "It's very green since the clothing is being used again, thus saving the energy costs in growing and harvesting plant-based fibers, as well as saving energy in the production and transport of new factory-made garments. Most exciting

of all, it's like a treasure hunt and you never know what you'll find."

INSPECT YOUR GADGETS

Lyle Solla-Yates of Charlottesville manages our technology systems and suggests responsible recycling and purchasing of electronics: "Goodwill has partnered with Dell to recycle computer equipment, making them a good place to bring old equipment and to pick up used equipment that still works for a great price. When you do buy, choose greener electronics or consider a smaller device. You can do a lot more now with less machine, which can save money, hassle and the environment."

SOIL, IT'S GREEN

Brian van Eerden directs our Southern Rivers Program in Richmond and is an avid composter: "Composting helps the environment by reducing solid waste and the greenhouse gas emissions such as methane it produces in landfills. Compost is also a great low-cost source of organic fertilizer for your garden."

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHARES

Jennifer Donovan, donor relations manager in Charlottesville, grows her own vegetables and buys from local farmers: "My family pays a fixed price per month to obtain a CSA share of organic vegetables, beef, chicken and fish. By purchasing food directly from local farmers, you are putting all the proceeds from the sale directly in their pockets. The food I buy locally also tastes much better. We really are what we eat, so eat healthy, local and fresh!"

MR. BEAN

Allegheny Highlands director Marek Smith of Lexington chooses coffee from shade-grown beans: "Growing coffee under the shade of trees in the Central and South American rainforests not only produces a richer flavor, but also helps protect critical wintering habitat for neotropical migratory songbirds such

as scarlet tanagers and cerulean warblers. These same bird species nest here in the broadleaf forests of our Central Appalachians, including Warm Springs Mountain Preserve in western Virginia.

ENERGY AT THE GATES

By following recommendations from a comprehensive home energy audit, Charlottesville preserve steward Tim Sanjule reduced his energy use. "Energy usage of any kind has an impact on our environment. Heating and cooling a house that is not well-insulated or well-sealed will waste your money and precious resources."

MAN ON A HEDGE

Clinch Valley ecologist Braven Beaty of Abingdon says, "If you have a creek on your property, don't mow right up to the bank. Leaving a strip of taller plants and shrubs can help stabilize the bank and provide wildlife habitat. The root systems help keep banks from eroding during high water, and the shade and structure provide shelter and food for fish, birds, salamanders, and other wildlife that need cool, moist areas to live. Try it and see if you don't notice more critters."

LAWN & ORDER

For a lawn that's green in more than color, use less water and fertilizer, says Richmond's Michael Lipford, our Virginia executive director: "A significant amount of nitrogen is put back in the soil if you leave your clippings on the grass. Don't water every day, and don't fret if the grass goes dormant when the heat of summer comes. Using less fertilizer is good for the Chesapeake Bay. Nutrients are the main problem in the bay, and a significant portion comes from residential fertilizers. Use low-nitrogen and low-phosphate fertilizers, fertilize less, and wisely — not before a heavy rain. Many stores now supply low-nitrogen organic fertilizers that can also reduce your carbon footprint."

Why Early Intervention Matters

BY SUPERVISOR JEFF MCKAY
(D-LEE DISTRICT)

It's a parent's nightmare—one day—out of the blue, your princess, your first-born, your two-year-old daughter, loses her ability to speak. There's no identifiable reason and my wife and I were devastated.

This story has a happy ending because, fortunately, we live in Fairfax County. I hope that no one reading this ever needs one of our human services programs, but, should that happen, it's comforting to know that Fairfax County has a commitment to all of its residents, regardless of their abilities.

When this mutism struck, my

daughter was referred to the Infant Toddler Connection (ITC) at the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

I've worked for Fairfax County for more than 16 years but I had never heard of this organization. After months of therapy through the ITC, my daughter recovered her speech and is communicating fluently. In fact, like most four-year-olds, she never stops talking and I have a new appreciation for the voices of young children and for the ITC.

Not only did the ITC change my



McKay

life, but it potentially saved the County a far more costly intervention later. Think about what intense speech therapy would have cost our school system and then compare that cost to the far smaller cost of early intervention.

Alarm bells went off when I heard that the ITC was going to stop admitting early intervention clients because of state budget cuts. As a parent, an elected official, and a taxpayer, I am appalled and more than appalled—I am outraged. Not only are these budget cuts abdication of our moral responsibility to our children but they

are a poor financial decision.

Early intervention is the key to managing or healing developmental disabilities. It's penny-wise and pound-foolish to abolish programs for children, and then a few years down the road, pay a much larger bill for critical services for them when they are older.

As an elected official, I'm in the unique position of hearing about the many excellent services we provide at the local level. As a parent who has used those services, I am profoundly grateful to our taxpayers and their support.

I'm not blind to the financial constraints of the Great Recession and its impact on our state and

SEE INTERVENTION, PAGE 7

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Health and Safety Fair for Adults.
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Over 20 groups on health, wellness, and community safety. Classes, free health screenings and door prizes. kbenton@messiahumc.org or 703-569-9862, ext. 105.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

Fairfax County Animal Shelter Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinic.
2-4 p.m. Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Road, Alexandria. \$12 per pet. Vaccines will be provided for dogs and cats only. Bring proof of current rabies vaccination. No rabies tags will be issued at the clinic; however, 2012 dog licenses will be sold at the clinic for an additional \$10 per dog. All dogs must be on leash and cats in carriers. 703-830-1100.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Helping Children Deal with Emotions. 10 a.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. With Joanne Owens, Director of Care and Counseling at Immanuel Bible Church. Refreshments. \$5. Reserve at MomsOnTheRun4@gmail.com with number of children attending.

Intervention

FROM PAGE 8
local budgets, as well as individuals' budgets. However, cutting preventative programs makes no financial sense. That's like investing in a new car, not making routine repairs, and wondering why a more costly bill for an overhaul has come due.

Virginia has shortchanged our human service needs for a long time and Fairfax County has stepped into the gap and shouldered the costs of providing these services for our residents. Now we need to step up again.

My wife and I may never know why our daughter went mute. We do know, however, that every time our daughter speaks we thank our lucky stars that we can call Fairfax County home. I aim to keep it that way—for all our residents and all our children.

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Back to the Sixties

Robinson presents 'How to Succeed in Business...'

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's been a movie, a Broadway play – currently in revival – and now "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying" is coming to the Robinson Secondary stage.

The action unfolds over two weekends, Friday-Saturday, April 27-28; and Thursday-Friday-Saturday, May 3-4-5; all at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door and online at www.robinsondrama.org. "We've been rehearsing since January and things are going great," said Director Chip Rome. "It's fun and filled with songs and dances; there are numerous, big, production numbers. And the audience will enjoy clever triumph over bureaucracy."

THIS EXUBERANT MUSICAL features a cast and crew of 70, plus

a 25-member orchestra conducted by Jackie Geldert. Suzy McCarthy is the vocal director and is choreographing the show with Susan Brock.

"We have a strong, talented cast," said Rome. "We had 90 people audition, called back 75 and cast 54. Carys Meyer has a gorgeous singing voice, and Morgan Miller's contrasts beautifully with hers."

The story's set in the 1962 "Mad Men" era, with costumes and hairstyles to match. "J. Pierpont Finch starts as a window washer and takes advantage of the corporate world and all its characters we see in 'Dilbert,'" said Rome. "And in the meantime, the girl gets her man. So it's a real, feel-good musical, watching the characters we've come to love triumph at last."

Set designer is Tim Cook, former Robinson theater student and GMU grad who now works in the college's theater department. The

set is a series of levels illustrating Finch's climb up the corporate ladder at the World Wide Wicket Co.; so each time he's promoted, his office is on a higher level.

Playing Finch is senior Josh Israel, who'll attend NYU this fall as a theater major. Describing Finch as "the eagerest beaver of them all," Israel said his character is likeable, has a positive attitude and is willing to do whatever needs doing. "But at the same time, he's very ambitious," said Israel. "He manipulates most of the people in the company to bend them to his will and rise to the top."

Israel enjoys "showing how Finch gets his way to be able to hold the power. To be this crafty guy who thinks on his feet and solves problems quickly is fun." His favorite song is "Grand Old Ivy," Finch's duet with his boss, Mr. Biggley, played by Kyle Lynch. "Kyle and I

have fun interacting with and playing off each other in that song," said Israel. "There's a lot of energy on stage and I try to make him laugh."

He said the audience will especially love the musical's finale, "Brotherhood of Man," sung by all the males because "it's pretty spectacular." The show, itself, said Israel, is "a classic, romantic comedy. Everybody in the cast has a great relationship with each other, and it definitely shows on stage."

Junior Carys Meyer portrays Rosemary, who's in love with Finch. "She's a secretary at the company and is also ambitious," said Meyer. "She seems to be the typical ingénue, but does everything she can to try to win Finch over. She wants to be a housewife, raise a family and live in the suburbs; she goes after Finch because she sees his potential."

Meyer likes her character's songs, plus the fact that "Rosemary knows what she wants, but is easily swayed and influenced. And her emotions switch quickly



Company employees are desperate when they discover there's no coffee left during the "Coffee Break" number from Robinson's production of "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying."



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

between anger, love and excitement." Meyer's favorite song is "Paris Original," which she sings with the other female cast members. "Something surprising happens during the song, so I play completely opposite emotions during it."

Calling the show upbeat, lively and funny, she says the audience

"will have a really good time cheering for Finch, and the dancing and choreography is really good."

Playing Bud Frump, J.B. Biggley's nephew, is senior Jason Rath. "He got his job through his mother, J.B.'s sister, and when he's unhappy at work, he complains to his mother," said Rath. "He wants

to work in the company, even though he has no experience. He's out for his own gain. He's the 'villain,' working against Finch, but I think of him as the hero because Finch is going about things unethically."

Rath likes his role because "Frump's an adult, but so childish, and pouts a lot. He disrespects

other people's authority, so it's fun to see how far I can take his sense of entitlement." Rath particularly likes "The Company Way (Reprise)" number. "Frump sings it to Twimble, head of the mailroom," said Rath. "Frump's justifying to him how he's changed and deserves to succeed Twimble in his job. But Frump doesn't believe

what he's saying."

OVERALL, said Rath, "It's going to be a high-energy production. We do a good job of highlighting the moments in business that are weird and don't make sense, but people go along with, anyway. And that's what makes this show a farce about the business world."

Senior Morgan Miller portrays Smitty, Rosemary's best friend and fellow secretary. "She's outgoing and outspoken and has strong opinions," said Miller. "She's almost living vicariously through Rosemary, but enjoys helping her get what she wants. I relate to Smitty since she's strong about her objective and always knows what she's doing. And it's fun how she's a third party to the romance between Rosemary and Finch and helps orchestrate it."

Miller's favorite song is "Coffee Break" because "it's really exaggerated, which makes it funny. When everyone comes to get coffee, it's all gone, so they totally freak out and overreact." She said the audience will like watching the romance between Rosemary and Finch and the funny storyline between Biggley and Frump. "There are lots of stories going on, and that makes it interesting," said Miller. "The audience will also love the quick quips, the dancing and all the show-stopping numbers."

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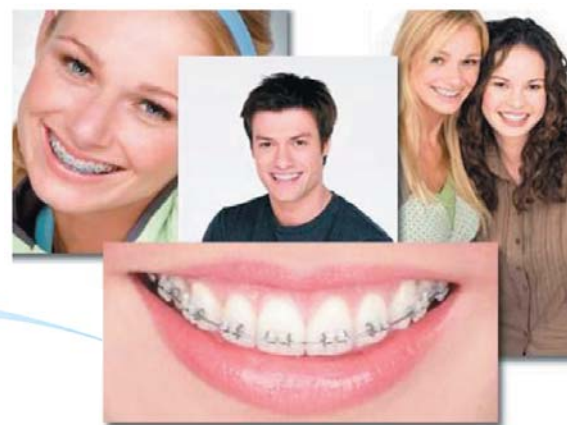
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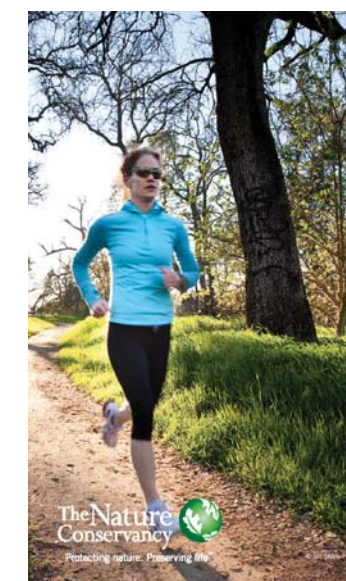
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Supervisors Urged to Restore Funding

FROM PAGE 4

"I support a big chunk of those cuts being restored. Some are totally unacceptable, like ITC," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

McKay said that the county's Infant and Toddler Connection touched his family in a profound and personal way. When his daughter Leann was 2 1/2, she stopped talking. At the time, she was attending the Bryant Early Learning (BEL) Center day care program in Alexandria, which referred her to the ITC. Through ITC, McKay's daughter received intense speech therapy for six months, and she completely regained her ability to speak. McKay said she is as chatty now as any four-year-old.

"It was one of those eye-opening moments when you appreciate that much more where you live. It's such a small budgetary item, and I'm glad most people never need these services," McKay said.

"But it was a lifeline for us." McKay said alarm bells went off when he learned that the ITC was going to stop admitting early intervention clients because of budget cuts, especially when referrals to the agency are up 38 percent in the past two years.

"When I saw it on the cut list, my jaw dropped... I am more than appalled; I am outraged," McKay said. "Not only are these budget cuts abdication of our moral responsibility to our children but they are a poor financial decision."

Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) said individual testimony that demonstrates the value of the county's human services programs is always compelling.

"It absolutely matters when people are courageous enough to come before us to share their personal stories and experiences," Bulova said.

"It is also important for us to identify efficiencies and delivery methods that best leverage our county investments in human services programs and services," Bulova said.

"Ultimately, our job is to listen, care and weigh all of the options," said Supervisor Linda Smyth, (D-Providence). "We always end up with more requests than money. We're in a much better place than most of the country, but that doesn't mean people are not still hurting."

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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

NOVA-Annandale Symphony

Orchestra. 8 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Directed by Christopher Johnston. Hebrides Overture by Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 1 by Bizet, Sleepy Beauty Waltz by Tchaikovsky, three rag times by Scott Joplin, and selections from Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite. Reception to follow. Adults \$15, seniors and teens \$10, children free. 703-569-0973.

Terrific Trucks. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about trucks. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Celebrate Clifton's 110th

Birthday. 2 p.m. At the Gazebo, Clifton Town Park, Clifton. Bench dedication, cake, beverages and more. michellestein@cox.net.

Celebrating Japanese Art and Culture.

11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Bonsai and Ikebana demonstrations, the art of the Edo period, vegetarian sushi making and the art of anime. Screening of the film "5 Centimeters Per Second." Traditional Japanese children's games and crafts. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

A Skylit Drive. 8 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.empire-nova.com.

Mike Rose: The Magic of a Book.

10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Magician Mike Rose uses magic tricks, mind reading stunts and lots of audience participation. All ages. 703-971-0010.

Perennial Day.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about perennials, take home a free plant. Tours, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. 703-690-6060 or www.heatherhillgardens.com.

"Home."

10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Studio 3 Theatre for Young Audiences, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The story of footloose travelers, Florrie and Todd, searching for a home of their own. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

Cars For A Cause.

11 a.m.-5 p.m. George Mason University Parking Lot K, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Car show, horsepower challenge, children's activities, trophies, raffles and prizes. Proceeds benefit the Isabel Warrior Princess Foundation (raising funds for a child diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma) and the Children's National Medical Center. \$15. www.teamunclassified.com.

Northern Virginia 2012 Holocaust Commemoration.

2-5:30 p.m. Geshar Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat, readings, music, commemorations and more. 703-893-4007.

MONDAY/APRIL 23

Preschool Storytime.

10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories, songs and fingerplays. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

Hidden Pond Monday: Turtles.

2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Discover



Molly Keeter as Glinda the Good Witch with Brittany Morgan as the Wicked Witch. Based on L. Frank Baum's book, "The Wizard of Oz" will be performed at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road in Springfield, at 7 p.m. on April 27-28 and May 4-5. There will also be a 2 p.m. ASL interpreted matinee performance on May 5. Evening shows are \$10 adults, \$5 age six or younger and age 65 or older, with the May 5 ASL performance \$8 general admission. mjlevesque@fcps.edu.

who's hiding in that shell. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center. Age 6-12. 703-451-8055.

TUESDAY/APRIL 24

Eclectic Readers. 1:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The Power of Myth by Joseph Campbell. Adults. 703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Learning English. 10:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Bee Healthy! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A puppet show for the whole family on how to Bee Healthy. Presented by the Fairfax County Health Department. 703-249-1520.

Fun with Ones. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Books, songs and rhymes. Age 1 with adult. 703-451-8055.

Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Fenwick Fellow Lecture and Reception. 2 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center Instruction Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With Dr. Michael Chang, 2010-2011 Fenwick Fellow, on "Service at the Manchu Court: The Young Kangxi Emperor and His Personal Advisors." Refreshments served. 703-993-2491 or dhogan1@gmu.edu.

Learning English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

BC Friends Membership Meeting. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. With Robert Dorr, author of Mission to Berlin.

703-249-1520.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice your English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

"Oklahoma!" 7 p.m. Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Rogers & Hammerstein's musical drama. Adults \$8, students and seniors \$6. 703-924-8014 or www.edisondrama.com.

Preschool Storytime. 11 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Moose on the Loose! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about moose. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Friday Friend's Book Club. 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The Day of the Pelican by Katherine Paterson. Age 8-12. 703-249-1520.

"Wizard of Oz." 7 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Based on L. Frank Baum's book. \$5-\$10. mjlevesque@fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Public Reception: 2012 Congressional Art. 2-4 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A touring exhibition of Virginia high school art submitted for the Annual Congressional Art Competition. The exhibit will be open April 13-29. www.workhousearts.org.

Spring Faire. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet items and more. Free admission and door prizes. Sponsored by the Woman's Club of Springfield, all profits benefit Bethany House to help victims of domestic violence. dianaleehooper@aol.com.

Community Coffee House. 6-9 p.m. Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hoes Road, Springfield. Local musicians, coffee and desserts. Free admission. info@sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org

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Hendrix Keeps Lake Braddock Softball Undefeated

Bruins beat South County in battle for first place in Patriot District.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock's Amanda Hendrix experienced big-game nerves during the Bruins' April 17 showdown with South County for first place in the Patriot District softball standings. As the innings passed and Hendrix labored, she grew angry. But when the contest was over and the freshman had managed to maintain her composure for eight innings, No. 10 felt relief from previous pressure.

Hendrix tossed a complete game during her third consecutive start in the pitcher's circle, holding South County scoreless after the third inning as the Bruins remained undefeated with a 3-2, eight-inning victory at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The southpaw surrendered 11 hits and allowed at least one South County baserunner to reach scoring position in five of eight innings, but managed to work her way out of several jams.

At the plate, Hendrix grounded out in her first at-bat, but later drove in the Bruins' first run with a sixth-inning triple into the right field corner.

"I know a lot of these [South County players] and it was pretty nerve-wracking," Hendrix said. "I kind of had to get mad in the later innings. I think I held on pretty

well. ... The biggest pressure that I've experienced so far would be this game. We faced West Potomac [on April 13], which is our second-biggest rival, and then we faced South County. From here on we start over again, so we're playing a lot of the easier teams we faced. For me, the pressure has gone down immensely as of now."

Hendrix, used primarily as the team's designated player this season, moved to pitcher after starter Ashley Flesch suffered a muscle strain in her (right) pitching forearm. Hendrix threw a no-hit shut-out against Annandale in her first start on April 11, and blanked West Potomac two days later. Things didn't go smoothly against South County, but she found a way to get the job done, stranding 10 Stallion baserunners while throwing 73 of 107 pitches for strikes.

"She hung in there," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "All her pitches weren't working, so we had to make an adjustment with that and she just had to be tough. With all your pitches not working, you've got to be tough, you've got to be mentally and physically tough and hang in there and that's what she did. She showed a lot of character."

Lake Braddock scored the winning run in the eighth inning without a ball leaving the infield. Three walks loaded the bases and fresh-



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock freshman Amanda Hendrix earned a complete game victory against South County on April 17 in Burke. Hendrix has filled in for injured starting pitcher Ashley Flesch.

man Emma Rakowski hit a two-out grounder to the left side of the infield. South County third baseman Caitlin Maglich made a diving stop and attempted to tag the Bruin baserunner headed to third, but the ball popped loose and everyone was safe, ending the game.

Lake Braddock improved to 12-0 and sits atop the district standings with a 7-0 record. South County, which entered the game with 11 consecutive wins, dropped to 11-2, with a second-place district mark of 6-1.

While Hendrix earned the win



South County pitcher Rebecca Martin took a no-hitter into the fifth inning against Lake Braddock on April 17.

on Tuesday, it was South County pitcher Rebecca Martin who dominated the early innings. The sophomore right-hander took a no-hitter into the fifth inning before Lake Braddock's Katherine Plescow reached on a one-out infield single. The Bruins broke through the following inning, tying the score at 2-all with three extra-base hits. First baseman Anna Delaney led off the frame with a double to center and, two batters later, Hendrix put the Bruins on the board with a triple down the right-field line. The following batter, Jenna Edwards, tied the score with a triple to left-center.

After popping out to shortstop in her first at-bat, Edwards, one

of five freshmen in the Lake Braddock lineup, said she moved up in the batter's box to neutralize the late movement on Martin's pitches.

"I had laid off a few of her [junk pitches], like rise balls," Edwards said. "I saw one that was right down the middle after I moved up and I just ... hit it."

Martin pitched 6-plus innings, allowing five hits and two earned runs while walking three and striking out five. She was pulled after facing one batter in the sixth and re-entered to face one batter in the eighth. Senior Kyra Ketch suffered the loss in relief despite working her way out of a difficult spot in the bottom of the seventh, retiring three straight Bruins with two runners on base.

Singles by Martin, Elyssa Dunn and Riley Wilkinson, along with a Lake Braddock error gave South County a 1-0 lead in the second. The following inning, Stallions catcher Haylea Geer drove in a run with a double down the right-field line. But that would be it for South County, which had runners on second and third with no outs in the fifth but failed to score.

"We had a couple chances early in the game to score some runs and we didn't," South County head coach Gary Dillow said, "and I think that was really the difference in the game."

Lake Braddock will host Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 20. South County will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on April 24. The Bruins and Stallions will meet again on May 10.

Rams Reach .500 Mark in Baseball

Robinson gets Concorde wins over Oakton and Westfield.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson Secondary baseball team reached the .500 record mark this past Tuesday night, April 17 when the Rams defeated host Oakton, 6-4, in a Concorde District game played in the Vienna area.

It was the second district win in a row for Robinson, which had also won a road game at Westfield High, 3-1, last Friday night, April 13.

Robinson, with the latest wins, stood at 6-6 overall and 2-1 in district play. The Rams lost their dis-

trict opener last Tuesday, April 10 to visiting Centreville, 5-4.

Robinson coach John James said his team has seen its ups and downs thus far this spring.

"Our season so far has been a learning process," said James. "We've done things well at times and not so well at times. We're just trying to find some consistency in our approach."

The Centreville game was a game that could've gone either way, and Centreville got the job done when they needed to. Give them credit."

Robinson, over the recent spring break, competed in a tournament

at Osbourn Park High School in Manassas where they went 2-2. The Rams defeated Wakefield High (National District) in its first game at the Osbourn Park tournament, 11-1, on March 31, but lost their next game to the tourney host team Yellow Jackets, 3-1, later that same day.

In its next game at the tournament on Tuesday, April 3, Robinson lost to Battlefield High (Manassas), 4-3. But in their second game that same day, the Rams defeated Stone Bridge High (Liberty District), 6-4.

Robinson entered the spring break with a 2-3 record with its early season wins coming over local rival Fairfax High, 12-11, in the season opener on March 14, and at Kettle Run (Nokesville), 2-1, on March 22. The three early season

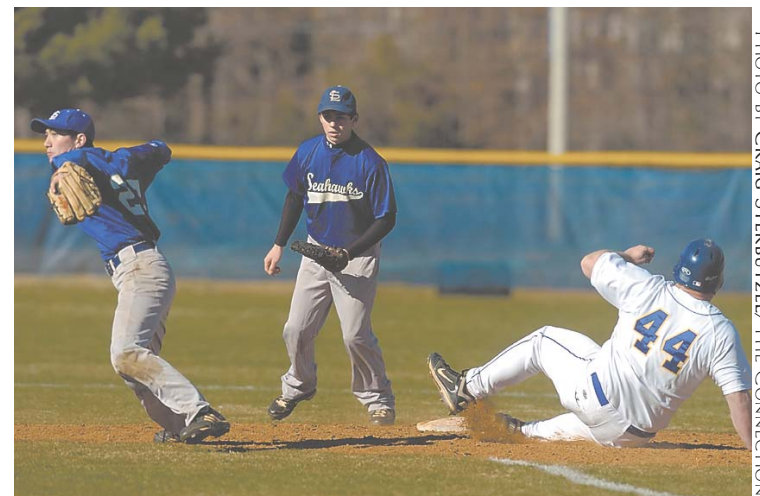


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson sophomore Jake Pinkston makes a slide into second base during a Rams' early season baseball scrimmage game versus South Lakes.

losses came to Northern Region opponents West Springfield, Woodson, and Marshall High Schools.

Robinson is scheduled to play games on both Friday and Satur-

day this weekend. The Friday night game will be a district home meeting versus Chantilly at 6:30. Saturday's game, a non-district game at Annandale High, will start at noon.

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3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, hardwood floors on the main level & new carpet on lower level. Recreation room/bedroom/den & exercise room on lower level with walkout to rear yard. Large country kitchen. Cozy living room fireplace. Relax on the enclosed porch or patio. Beautiful landscaping with decorative fish pond. Minutes to Fairfax County Parkway or Dulles Toll Rd.



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Gainesville \$435,000

Heritage Hunt 55+ 3 lvl beauty - main level master. 3 BR, 3 BA, Gourmet Kitchen w/42" maple cabs & island, corian centers & SS appls, Brkfst

room, Living room w/gas flpl & vault ceiling, Dining room, M/L MBR suite w/2 walk-in closets, Sunroom, Loft & Guest suite, Hdwds, Neutral carpet, unfin W/O LL w/rough in BA, Huge deck. (50+ OK)



Burke \$274,000

This attractive Townhome is nestled on a richly wooded lot. Home features 3 BR'S, 1 1/2 Baths, New Glass Slider steps you out to a private Patio to enjoy your morning coffee, New Carpeting, New Vanity in half bath and much more
Call Sheila Adams 703.503.1895



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Oakton \$1,059,000

Elegance abounds in this spacious 3-level home set on premium lot in the heart of Oakton. Upgraded throughout, this 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath home with brick on 3 sides, beautiful hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, screen porch, 2 car garage makes the perfect home for everyday living or gracious entertaining. Absolutely move-in condition - everything has been done and more!



Fairfax \$499,000

One level living at its Best! This Rambler has it all - updated eat-in kitchen with 42" cabinets & silestone, updated baths, hardwood flooring, new carpeting and fabulous family room addition. Freshly painted throughout with decorator touches! Close to VRE, Metrobus & top-tier schools!



AMANDA SCOTT

703-772-9190

www.AmandaScott.net



Gainesville, Heritage Hunt 55+ (50+ ok) \$489,900
MAIN LEVEL LIVING AT ITS BEST! 2 BR, 3 BA, Grmt Kit w/SS appls, 42" cabs, island, granite, Fam rm, Liv rm, Din rm, MBR w/Calif Clsts, Den, Rec rm, Workshop, frnt & rear Porch, BEAUTIFUL LOT, Irrig sys, 2 car Gar. UPGRADES GALORE!
www.HeritageHuntHomes.com

COMING SOON!
Fairfax Station
5 BR, 3.5 BA brick Rambler with finished walk-out lower level on beautiful 5 acre, flat lot!
Call Amanda for more information!



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Fairfax \$983,500

GREAT HOME/PRIME LOCATION
Large 5BR/3.5BA*Within 1 mile to Vienna Metro*.5 acre*Great Rm* Cozy Fam Rm*eat-in Kit*Slate/Hrdwds/Carpeting/floors *Partially fin basement with Bedroom/full bath/walkout to patio/2 rec rms*3 car garage* By appointment only.
Buzz - 703-850-4501



Clifton \$574,900

Opportunity Knocks!
Mid century, all brick rambler has great bones! 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, semi circular driveway. Sited on 5 gorgeous and rolling acres, existing out-buildings, perfect for horses or hobbies! Priced for the lot value alone, this is a great opportunity to move to Clifton and make this property your own!



C.A.R.O.L
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703-898-5148



Fairfax Station - 10+ acres - \$1,398,000



Clifton - \$749,900

View our current listings at www.hermendorfer.com or call John at 703-898-5148.

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Falls Church \$465,000

Totally Renovated
This lovely 4 BR, 2 BA Cape Cod has been renovated top to bottom. UL finished w/2 BR's and full BA. New Kit w/SS appli, new cabinets and heated Ceramic floor. And much more!

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Warrenton \$599,900

DC Side on 1.4 acres. Picturesque setting for this gracious colonial with over 4500 square finished space. Classic center hall with hardwood floors, first floor library, glorious sunroom and so much more! Finished lower level with walkout to decking and gazebo. Large workshop and kennel with electricity.

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