

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton  
**CONNECTION**

South County Seniors Matthew Yamamoto, 17,  
and Katie Murray, 18, act out a scene as British  
Marxist professor Max and his wife Eleanor  
from Tom Stoppard's "Rock 'n' Roll."

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FEBRUARY 14–20, 2013

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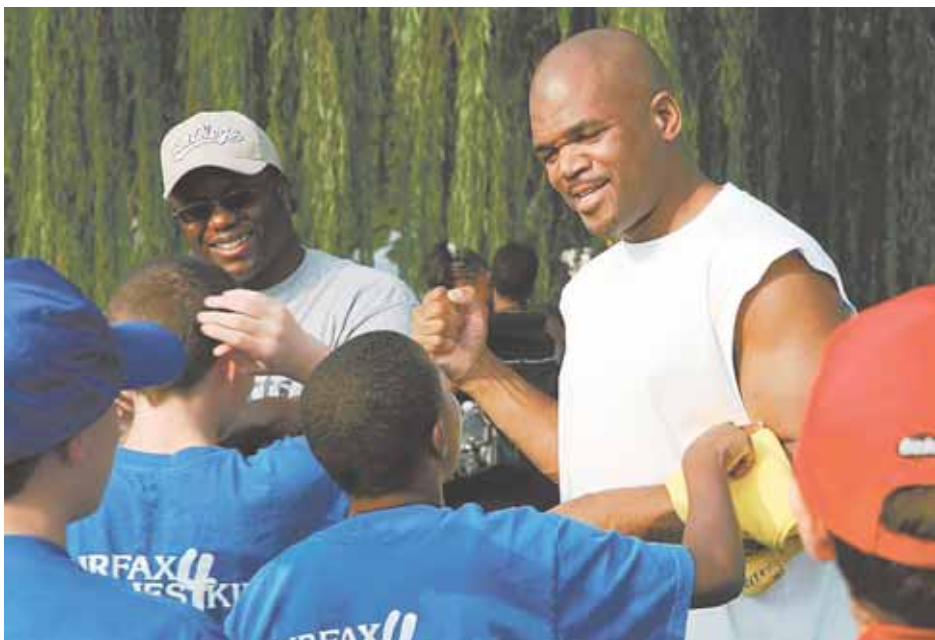






## THE COUNTY LINE

During a fundraising walk in 2006, youth in Fairfax Families4Kids were greeted by rapper Run DMC, who grew up in foster care. Pastor Dan Rhodes (left) organized the event.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOAN BRADY

# A Positive Reflection

Joan Brady gives foster children needed exposure.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

*The last in a series.*

On Monday, Sept. 10, 2001, Joan Brady of Great Falls had just started a three-month sabbatical from her job with an Internet company. Newly-married, Brady, who was 36 years old at the time, was exhausted from 80-hour work weeks in a rigid corporate environment. She wanted time that fall to contemplate what to do next with her life.

The next day provided answers and a sense of urgency. It was Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

The terrorist attacks, and the moving stories of heroism and tragedy on 9/11, indelibly left their mark. Brady, like many Americans, was inspired to do something new, to take more chances, to change direction.

"After that tragic day, it was hard to imagine going back to a job that had seemed critically important, but now felt largely meaningless," she said.

She thought she might become a social worker or a teacher, a job where she could make a difference in other people's lives. She decided to volunteer as a homework tutor at a group home for foster children.

As she struggled to find a way to motivate her students, she began "bribing" them with her photography. "Some teachers gave kids candy in exchange for completing homework assignments. I thought I'd try taking their photos and giving them copies," Brady said.

Their reaction to having their photos taken surprised her.

"It made me realize that they didn't have pictures of themselves, other than the one snapshot for their official file," Brady said. "I came to understand the connection between their having their picture taken and self-esteem."

According to child development experts, photos say "I'm important in this family." They show a child he or she is meaningfully connected to others, and provide a visual symbol of nurturing, love and caring. Foster children, who are frequently shuffled from one home to the next, rarely have family photos.

"In those days, I actually wasn't a professional photographer, just a gal with a point and shoot digital camera, trying to get through a three-month commitment I had made," Brady said. "I took pictures of the kids in the group home, mugging for the camera, playing basketball, bike riding, playing on the playground and occasionally holding up a good report from school."

She gave her students little \$1 photo albums she purchased at Michaels so they would have a place to store their photos.

She realized just how important the photos were to her students when she showed up at school one day and learned the photo albums had caused some trouble.

"It turned out that the kids weren't allowed to take anything to bed with them and several had been caught taking their little photo albums that we were filling with pictures to bed with them," she said. "It was in that moment that I realized I was doing something more than getting through the three-month commitment that I had made to be a homework tutor. I stayed on well beyond my three-month commitment."

By 2004, she combined her love of photography with her ability to connect with children and started Joan Brady Photography. She also began photographing foster children featured on Wednesday's Child. During a shoot in 2005, she met Beverly Howard, the director of a small Fairfax County foster-mentoring program called Fairfax Families4Kids.

In Fairfax County, about 400 children are in foster care, and about 20 children, most of whom are 14 and older, are in the Fairfax Families4Kids program. According to

Howard, these children are considered more difficult to place in adoptive homes because they are typically teens who have a range of special needs. Mentors provide one-on-one support and participate in monthly group activities.

"I got involved with the program when I met Beverly Howard, the director. She is a force of nature, a person no one can say no to. I have learned so much from her and have been so inspired by both her wisdom and her spirit," Brady said.

She became the group's volunteer photographer, shooting the children during their outings with mentors. Many of the children, especially the girls, didn't like to be photographed. They thought they were ugly, unworthy of a photographer's time.

In one photo, Kenny, a 14-year-old from Reston who was recently adopted, is high in the air, all legs and arms, about to make a powerful slam dunk. In another photo, Serena, 17, flashes a warm smile, her face framed in a cascade of long brown curls.

"Serena is a really interesting story. She's a tough girl whose initial reaction of 'don't take my picture!' evolved into 'take a picture of me!' and 'How come there aren't more pictures of me in the book!'" She is such a sweet and thoughtful girl," Brady said.

Howard said Brady's photos capture the children's creativity and give them a positive reflection, something most of them have never had. She said the children are empowered by getting their photos taken.

"Joan sees well beyond the labels that so



Fairfax Families4Kids hosts a number of events for foster youth and mentors. In the photo, a 14-year-old boy in the program is getting his face painted at a Fairfax festival.

## Consider Mentoring

Fairfax Families4Kids is actively seeking mentors to connect with older children in foster care, those most at-risk for homelessness. To find out more about the Fairfax Families4Kids program or to become a volunteer or mentor, contact Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the Fairfax Families4Kids program at 703-324-7518.

many of our youth have gathered along their journey in foster care," Howard said. "She can see the gifted artists, the aspiring scientists, the comedians, the athletes, and the beautiful children waiting for an opportunity to bloom."

## Becoming an Advocate

Brady doesn't look like a fighter. She is petite, quick to laugh, and looks younger than her 48 years. But spend five minutes with her, and one quickly finds out how passionate and relentless she is about Fairfax Families4Kids.

"Actually, [fighting for children] started when I became a court appointed special advocate for a 9-year-old boy in foster care from DC in 2002. And yeah, I was surprised ... surprised that doing what was right by children was something that most often required a fight," she said during a recent breakfast.

"This is not just mentoring. Beverly has created a family, a family where one would not otherwise exist. It's a family where kids are loved unconditionally, which, in my experience, is very rare for children in foster care who are most often judged by their

SEE MENTORS, PAGE 15





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Union Mill Elementary School students, in Lorton, make Valentine's Day cards for area nursing homes.

## Union Mill Says 'We Love You'

As part of Union Mill Elementary's community outreach efforts, the school Parent Teacher Association asked students to make Valentine's Day cards and drawings for nursing home residents for Valentine's Day, Thursday, Feb. 14. The school collected the Valentines on Friday, Feb. 8, and parent volunteers delivered them to area nursing homes in time for Valentine's Day.



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South County Seniors Alex Hargitt, 18, and Matthew Yamamoto, 17, act out a scene as grad student Jan and his professor-mentor Max from Tom Stoppard's "Rock 'n' Roll."



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The rock concert set serves as a common background for both Prague and Cambridge, as South County seniors Alex Hargitt, 18, and Matthew Yamamoto, 17, act out a scene as grad student Jan and his professor-mentor Max from Tom Stoppard's "Rock 'n' Roll."

# South County Presents 'Rock 'n' Roll'

English teacher leads an all-senior cast and crew in Tom Stoppard play.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

The South County High School senior thespians are rocking out ... to British playwright Sir Tom Stoppard. For the second year in a row, South County English teacher Dan Deiter is directing a cast and crew comprising exclusively fourth-year drama students. Last year the outgoing class put on Woody Allen's 1966 play "Don't Drink the Water." This weekend the curtain rises on Stoppard's historically grounded "Rock 'n' Roll."

**A MUSICALLY ENHANCED PORTRAYAL** of rock music's relationship with socialism in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union—the play's scenes span from Prague in spring of 1968 to the Velvet Revolution in 1989. Deiter thought the work was a good fit for the cast size and male-to-female ratio, in addition to being a challenging community-builder.

"It's an opportunity for them to have something that's just theirs, a send off," said Deiter. "And establishing it as an annual thing, it's something the underclassmen can look forward to."

Deiter himself is a guitarist as well as a stage manager for Washington, D.C.'s Keegan Theater, where his girlfriend Megan Thrift is a company member. She handed him the script for "Rock 'n' Roll" after the couple had been watching Samuel Beckett's political play "Catastrophe."

Czech reformer and playwright Václav Havel has a major influence in both works, and Deiter's interest in him caused Thrift to suggest Stoppard as an option for the senior production. The complex musical-political connection was an instant draw.

"Somehow Stoppard manages to combine so many different things in one world in a play," he said. "We have the political struggle—Czechoslovakia and the Soviet

Union. We've got the lead character Jan's personal quest to save rock and roll and free the country from oppression, and he finds there's something else you've got to fight for too."

Jan, played by 18-year-old senior Alex Hargitt, is a doctoral student infatuated with Pink Floyd, Syd Barrett and Czech underground flagship group Plastic People of the Universe. He manages to escape his oppressive Czech homeland for the more free and enlightened climes of Cambridge, England, by convincing the government he is a proper communist scholar.

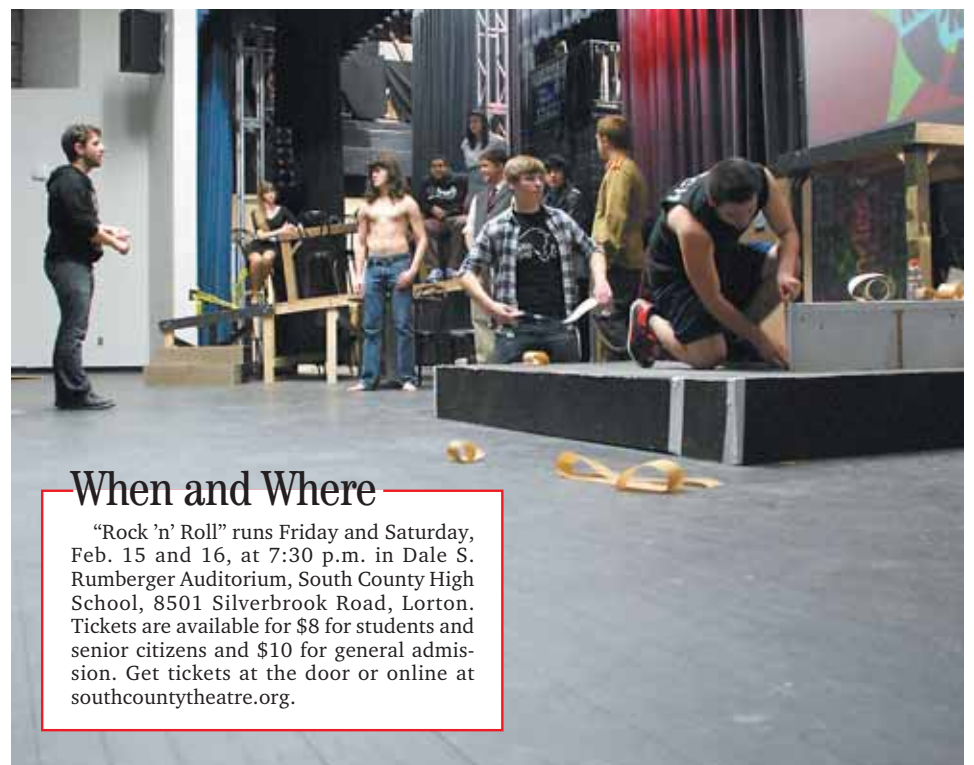
**BUT AFTER A TRAGIC STRETCH** of abandoning his Marxist mentor-professor Max (played by Matthew Yamamoto, 17), being imprisoned and seeing Prague become occupied with Soviet tanks, Jan returns home to rescue both his mother and socialism.

The audience will see Jan and the rest of the characters grow and change as the play progresses through several decades and locations. (Deiter has cleverly staged it as a live gig itself, with projections, rock concert lighting and Lou Reed's raspy cooing piped in to bridge Prague and Cambridge.)

Both actors and their characters explore the profound connections between the brain and the mind, in the context of war and revolution. And ultimately, "you learn you can't stew on your defeats," said Hargitt. "But you can't be stubborn; you have to be willing to listen to other people around you, to not be ignorant."

Eighteen-year-old Katie Murray plays Max's wife Eleanor in the first act, who embodies some of the play's key metaphysical philosophy. Dealing with terminal cancer, she's "trying to make the most of the time she has," said Murray. "She is strong, impatient and focused on the idea she is not what her body is—she's mind, soul, what she believes in."

According to Yamamoto, the dense script



## When and Where

"Rock 'n' Roll" runs Friday and Saturday, Feb. 15 and 16, at 7:30 p.m. in Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium, South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Tickets are available for \$8 for students and senior citizens and \$10 for general admission. Get tickets at the door or online at [southcountytheatre.org](http://southcountytheatre.org).

South County English teacher and Director Dan Deiter addresses the all-senior cast and crew before a rehearsal of Tom Stoppard's "Rock 'n' Roll."

and emotional, subversive and complex subject matter were imposing, but not unwelcome, hills to climb. "In almost every line, you'll find something where you have no idea what you're saying," he said. "You have to research, figure out what you're saying and why you're saying it. I learned at least 16 new words by reading this script."

"It's definitely not like the other plays we've done," echoed Whitney Turner, 18. "It's no 'Beauty and the Beast.'" In Act I, Turner plays young Esme, a prototypical flower child; in the second act she returns as Esme's daughter Alice, still rebellious and "tossed into this crazy family dynamic, just trying to keep the peace," she said.

To help unpack and emphasize the importance of the thicker moments in "Rock 'n' Roll," the actors strategically control their dialogue speed, according to Turner: "You really have to go slowly and take in every word. Every

word contributes to the meaning."

**ATTEMPTING TO SIMPLIFY** the method of performance may be these young actors' greatest service to Stoppard's multi-layered, emotionally charged text. Though he presents an inextricable link between rock music's expressiveness and the sociopolitical upheaval of the time, there is still a need to value the art for what it is: simply beautiful art.

Hargitt recalled an agitated musician from the play being interviewed by a journalist: "Why don't you write about the album, not about how it's a symbol of the resistance? These people are about doing what they want."

And all these seniors want to do is rock. The crew includes set design by Joe Carlton and Jon Alderson, light design by Robert Helvey and stage management by Robert Helvey and Stephen Henderson.



## SCHOOLS

### Washington Capitals' Slapshot Cheers Union Mill On to Health

The Washington Capitals mascot Slapshot visited Union Mill Elementary on Thursday, Feb. 7, to deliver a message of fitness, fun, and nutrition to all UMES students. Using music, dancing and games, Slapshot and his buddy DJ Jarrod led two enthusiastic "Feeling Great" assemblies about the importance of eating the right foods and playing for 60 minutes a day.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The Washington Capitals mascot Slapshot shared his enthusiasm for fitness and nutrition with Union Mill Elementary School children on Thursday, Feb. 7.

DJ Jarrod and Washington Capitals mascot Slapshot agree that fitness, fun and nutrition are good for Union Mill Elementary School students.

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**THE CONNECTION**



# OPINION

## On Transportation

Compromise, in the works, should include indexing the gas tax to inflation.

Virginia needs more options, not fewer, in developing revenue to pay for roads and transportation. Compromise on a plan to increase transportation revenue should not include making Virginia the only state in the nation without a gas tax. The current, ridiculously low gas tax should be indexed to inflation. The last thing the commonwealth needs is to do away with an existing, major source of money for roads.

Sen. Dick Saslaw proposed raising the tax, now 17.5 cents a gallon, by five cents each of the next two years and then indexing it to inflation. At the least, the tax should be indexed to rise with inflation from its current level.

Possible proposals to cut the tax in half along with increases in the sales tax miss the point, but are still far preferable to eliminating it.

The gas tax is a user fee. It raises money for roads from people and businesses who are using the roads, including drivers who pass

through Virginia from out of state.

We agree with Del. Scott Surovell, who says: "Funding roads exclusively with sales taxes disproportionately burdens the elderly who drive less than others and people who do not own cars."

## Medicaid Expansion Progresses

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce said it well when it issued a statement in favor of the commonwealth embracing \$10 billion in federal money to expand the number of people eligible for health insurance under Medicaid:

"Northern Virginia businesses and taxpayers are already paying for health reform through new taxes levied by the Affordable Care Act. If we do not take advantage of Medicaid reform [and expansion], roughly \$10 billion in Virginia taxpayer dollars will go to the federal government to fund coverage extension in other states. If the General Assembly approves the reform and extension plan, nearly all those taxpayer dollars will remain in-state where they can be put to good use for the benefit of the commonwealth, its businesses and its citizens."

## Call for Photos for Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish at the end of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 21.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo and of your pet, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name). We also welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, and drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

To see our last pet edition, visit:

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Burke.pdf>

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Fairfax.pdf>

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Lorton.pdf>

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Residents from Springfield, Burke, Fairfax or Fairfax Station, should send submissions to: [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com).

# Sex Trafficking in Our Backyard

Northern Virginia is seeing increasing numbers of reported cases of sexual trafficking.

BY TIMOTHY D. HUGO  
STATE DELEGATE (R-40)

A couple of years ago, I became aware that sex trafficking of children was not solely an international issue, but one that was happening in our own backyard. Unfortunately, the truth is that it is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, in the United States and, yes, here in Virginia. In 2011, I began working with Shared Hope International. This organization strives to prevent sex slavery, restore victims of sex trafficking, bring justice to vulnerable women and children, and strengthen Virginia's laws.

Since that time, the fight against human trafficking has become a top priority of mine. I am committed to fight against those who would do harm to our young people by enacting harsher penalties to those convicted of these horrendous crimes and by increasing public awareness.

According to the Polaris Project, a leading organization in the global fight against human trafficking, over 100,000 children alone are victims of the sex trade in the



United States each year. It ranks Virginia seventh in the nation in the percentage of calls received reporting human trafficking. This is not a top ten category that any state seeks. Northern Virginia itself is seeing increasing numbers of reported cases of sexual trafficking occurring in massage parlors, online escort services, and gang-related activities among other avenues. Just last year, members of a Fairfax-based gang were arrested for soliciting Fairfax County high school girls for sex trafficking.

Virginia lawmakers have responded and enacted several pieces of legislation including my HB 1898, which raised the penalty for abducting any individual for the purposes of prostitution or abducting a minor for child pornography. In addition, the General Assembly currently has before it my HB 1606, which would stiffen the penalty for soliciting a minor for prostitution. I will continue to look for ways to make Virginia one of the least desirable states for those who seek to harm our young people.

I am not alone in combating this evil. I will continue to work closely with Governor McDonnell, Attorney General Cuccinelli, my colleagues in the General Assembly, Shared Hope International, the Polaris Project, the Richmond Justice Initiative, law enforcement agencies and others to increase awareness of this issue and to institute harsher punishments for those who seek to harm young people for financial gain.

Corporations are also participating in efforts to battle human trafficking. Just last year, AT&T granted the Richmond Justice Initiative \$25,000 to develop educa-

tional programs to help prevent human trafficking in the Richmond area.

I believe there is no worse crime than one committed against a child. I am dedicated to ensuring child sex traffickers remain behind bars longer for such horrific behavior, so that no child falls prey to those who seek them harm.

One child taken from his/her home, one young person falling prey to this evil, is one too many.

If you would like additional information on this issue, please contact me at 703-815-1201 or [delthugo@house.virginia.gov](mailto:delthugo@house.virginia.gov)

*The writer is a majority caucus chairman at the Virginia House of Delegates.*

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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# Home Life Style

The owners of this Fairfax Station master bathroom decided to turn their outdated space into a modern, spa retreat.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
RJK CONSTRUCTION

## Home Remodeling Projects Continue to Rise

Updating kitchens and bathrooms are homeowners' priorities.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Home remodeling projects continue to rebound, and kitchens and bathrooms are at the top of the project list, according to a new report for the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

"I was personally surprised [by] the number of really high-end projects, like those over \$150,000," said Nikki Golden, NARI spokeswoman.

When the owners of a Fairfax Station home decided to turn their outdated master bathroom into a modern spa retreat, they added a black granite vanity, matching shower bench and custom glass shower doors. "This master bathroom has been completely transformed into an oasis," said Fairfax-based contractor Robert Kalmin of RJK Construction. "Immediately as you walk in, you are greeted by a large double vanity. The cabinetry door style is Centennial from Bertch Bath. Two mirrors with matching trim are hung above each sink and add continuity."

Kalmin, who is also a board member of the Washington-region's National Association of the Remodeling Industry chapter, said that a creative use of lighting helped set a relaxing, spa-like tone. "Three sconce lights add direct lighting and flare to this bathroom," he said. "The Key West soaking tub ... would make anyone jealous. A unique feature in this bathroom is the extra cabinet that is adjacent to the bathtub. It adds extra storage space and creates more countertop space for decorative items like candles."

**WHEN IT COMES TO** kitchens, NARI says homeowners are expressing a desire to expand. For example, when the owners of a Reston home decided to remodel their kitchen, they removed a wall that separated the kitchen from the living area and cre-

ated a open, free-flowing space that allowed for casual entertaining.

"Removing a partition wall allowed us to bring out a peninsula into the living area, expanding the kitchen and providing the opportunity for additional cabinetry, countertop space and a bar top," said Suzanne Kalmin of RJK Construction. "The [cabinetry] creates a contrast in the kitchen. The door style is a full overlay, called Pembroke and the finish is 'Raven' on cherry wood."

The homeowners wanted a durable counter surface so they chose quartz. In addition, "a section of butcher block next to the cook-top serves as a convenient prep space for cutting vegetables or bread," Suzanne Kalmin added. "This kitchen is packed with professional grade appliances, [including] a Viking professional cooktop and oven-microwave combination."



**The owners of this Reston kitchen chose stainless steel appliances to create an earthy but luxurious atmosphere.**

The homeowners chose stainless steel appliances to strike an earthy but luxurious tone, she continued. "[They] are complemented by the stainless steel backsplash ... behind the range and between the countertop and bar of the peninsula. A staggered glass natural stone combination tile is featured in the backsplash. The front of the bar is covered with a staggered natural stacked stone."

To complete the project, the wood flooring the adjacent living room was refinished to match the flooring in the remodeled kitchen to create a seamless finish.

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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is February 22.



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# OPEN HOUSES

## SATURDAY/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 & 17

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

### Burke

6308 Swan Landing Ct.....\$609,000...Sun 1-4.....John Hilton.....Century 21...703-599-1351

### Centreville

13849 Wakley Ct.....\$349,900...Sat 1-4.....John Hilton.....Century 21...703-599-1351

### Fairfax Station

6321 Barsky Ct.....\$729,900...Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX...703-503-4365

### Kingstowne/Alexandria

7619 Kingsbury Rd.....\$499,990...Sun 1-4.....Emmett Dingley.....Fairfax...703-915-9301  
7572 Cross Gate Ln.....\$469,950...Sun 1-4...Tom & Cindy & Assoc...Long & Foster...703-822-0207

### Lorton

9269 Blu Steel Way.....\$992,500...Sun 1-4.....Bob Lovett.....RE/MAX...703-690-0037  
6830 Tiddle Way.....\$699,000...Sun 1-4.....Beckie Owen...Long & Foster...703-328-4129  
7203 Lyndam Hill Cir.....\$639,950...Sun 1-4...Tom & Cindy & Assoc...Long & Foster...703-822-0207

### Manassas

14916 Yolanda Ln.....\$375,000...Sun 1-4....The Applegate Team...Long & Foster...703-451-5818

### Springfield

6421 Wainfleet Ct.....\$529,000...Sun 1-4.....Joe Frangipane...Long & Foster...703-628-4430  
7262 Linden Tree Ln.....\$449,950...Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert...703-862-8808  
8469 Canyon Oak Dr...\$334,900...Sun 1-4.....Melissa Vahdati.....Exit...571-437-9770  
8665 Maple Glen Ct.....\$325,000...Sun 1-4.....Monique Craft.....Weichert...703-451-7253

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Steve Hogan at 703-778-9418 or e-mail the info to [shogan@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:shogan@connectionnewspapers.com)  
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 p.m.

# Lorton Community Action Center

LCAC currently provides food for 175 families in the Fort Belvoir/Lorton area on a weekly basis. Help us help those in need by donating the following items:

- Canned fruit, canned non-green veggies, beans, rice, cereal, and mac n' cheese
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- Donation address: 9518 Richmond Highway, Lorton VA 22079
- Mailing address: PO Box 154, Lorton VA 22199

703-339-5161 x 120 ~ [www.lortonaction.org](http://www.lortonaction.org)

LCAC would like to thank The Connection Newspapers for their support.

**Lorton Community Action Center**

**CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

# Home Life Style Last Minute Valentine’s Day Ideas

Subtle accents for the most romantic holiday of the year.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Still looking for Valentine’s Day home accents? Local design experts say it is not too late to add touches of romance in time for Cupid’s big day.

Laura Smith of the Dandelion Patch in Vienna and Reston, suggests chocolate-scented candles, soaps and shea butter. “They are very pretty and you could put them in a guest bathroom and the candles in the living room,” she said. “They smell delicious — almost edible.”

Next on her list is a napkin box with cupcake napkins and paperweights. “They are perfect for entertaining, but also beautiful enough to leave out all year round,” said Smith. “Napkins and weights can be changed out to make this perfect for any event or time of year.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DANDELION PATCH

**Chocolate-scented soaps and candles are a delicious way to celebrate Valentine’s Day, says Laura Smith of the Dandelion Patch in Vienna and Reston.**

Judy Philactos of Periwinkle Gifts recommends miniature glass hearts displayed on a tiny serving tray. “Feather heart wreaths also make nice displays,” she said.

When it comes to Valentine’s Day bouquets and centerpieces, floral designer Evelyn Kinville of Behnkes Florist in Potomac, Md., says there

are plenty of options. “While Valentine’s Day is almost exclusively rose-based, it doesn’t have to be,” she said. “There are French tulips, which are larger and longer-stemmed than traditional tulips. You can use hyacinths, fragrant hybrid lilies and freesia.”



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

**Heart wreathes are a simple and stylish way to make one’s home reflect the most romantic day of the year.**

# How Does Your Garden Grow?

Capital Home and Garden Show set for Feb. 22-24 at Dulles Expo Center.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
CENTRE VIEW

Since Punxsutawney Phil didn’t see his shadow on Groundhog Day earlier this month, spring might be around the corner. But whether one believes in folklore or not, the winter chill will soon give way to warm weather blooms.

If the thought of getting a spring garden ready is enough to make you crawl back into your own hole, the Capital Home and Garden Show might offer inspiration. Justin Cave, of HGTV’s “Ground Breakers” and Tim Carter, who gives residential construction advice in his nationally syndicated column, “Ask the Builder,” are scheduled to headline the show. Set for Feb. 22-24, at Chantilly’s Dulles Expo Center, the event will offer homeowners more than 500 vendors pedaling the latest in home and garden services and products.

Cameron Ashburn who lives in Arlington is planning to attend.

“I’ve never had luck creating a nice yard because I have a brown thumb instead of a green one,” he said. “I’ll probably end up hiring a landscaper, but it’ll be good to see what’s out there.”

Peter Hogarth of Merrifield Garden Center in Fair Oaks, Merrifield and Gainesville, has attended the show in the past. “Some vendors set up displays that are designed to look like an outside landscape setting,” he said.

Those attending the show will have an opportunity to see presentations, attend seminars and get expert advice on everything from building an outdoor kitchen to creating water gardens.

“Typically customers look at patios and landscape and displays of different plants,” said Bill Mann of Behnke’s Nursery in Potomac, Md.

The show will run from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23 and from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24. Tickets may be purchased online at [capitalhomeandgardenshow.com](http://capitalhomeandgardenshow.com).



PHOTO COURTESY OF MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

**From water gardens to outdoor kitchens, homeowners will be offered ideas aplenty at the Capital Home and Garden Show.**

# Capital Home and Garden Show

**Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly**  
Friday, Feb. 22: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 23: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Sunday, Feb. 24: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
**Tickets** (single tickets valid for one day of show):  
On-site adult admission \$10; Online adult admission \$7  
Children 6-12 years-old admission \$3  
Children 5 years and under free  
For more information visit [www.capitalhomeandgardenshow.com](http://www.capitalhomeandgardenshow.com).

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**Fairfax Station/South Run** \$839,950  
**Multiple Offers Received**  
Immac home on wooded 1/2+ acre w/ sunny 2-story foyer, sunrm w/ vaulted ceilings & 3 walls of windows, eat-in kit w/ new granite & SS refrigerator, library, large deck, walkout bsmt w/ extra windows, new dual zone HVAC & carpet, fresh paint, loaded w/ moldings & walk to park.

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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

December 2012 Top Sales

1 3722 Highland Place, Fairfax — \$1,925,000



3 3435 Fawn Wood Lane, Fairfax — \$1,175,000

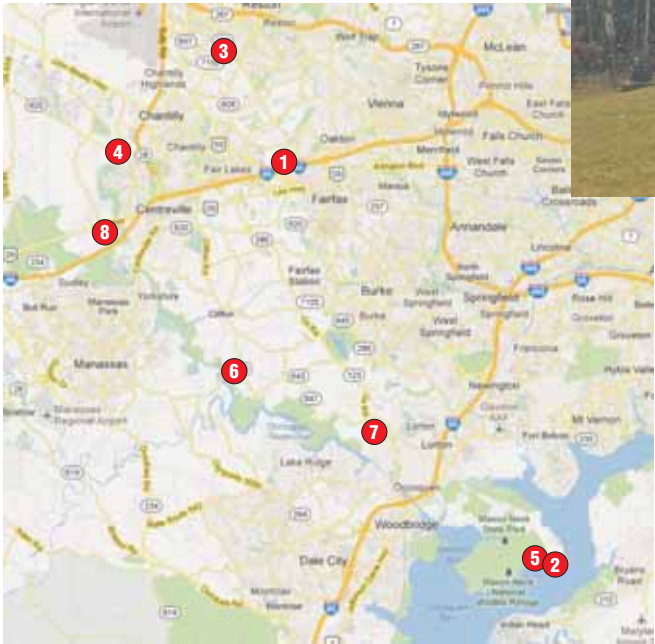
8 6728 Cedar Spring Road, Centreville — \$870,000



4 15039 Braddock Road, Centreville — \$960,000



6 12500 Old Yates Ford Road, Clifton — \$960,000



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Address .....	BR	FB	HB	.....	Postal	City .....	Sold Price ..	Type .....	Lot AC ..	PostalCode .....	Subdivision .....	Date Sold
1 3722 HIGHLAND PL .....	5	..	5	..	3	FAIRFAX	\$1,925,000	Detached	2.03	22033	FAIRFAX FARMS	12/16/12
2 5933 RIVER DR .....	3	..	3	..	3	LORTON	\$1,700,000	Detached	0.65	22079	HALLOWING POINT RIVER	12/21/12
3 3435 FAWN WOOD LN .....	4	..	4	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.83	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	12/28/12
4 15039 BRADDOCK RD .....	9	..	6	..	0	CENTREVILLE	\$960,000	Detached	7.22	20120	CUB RUN	12/03/12
5 6103 CHAPMAN RD .....	4	..	3	..	1	LORTON	\$899,000	Detached	0.66	22079	HALLOWING POINT RIVER	12/20/12
6 12500 OLD YATES FORD RD .....	5	..	5	..	3	CLIFTON	\$886,000	Detached	1.00	20124	BULL RUN	12/07/12
7 9043 JOHN SUTHERLAND LN ...	4	..	4	..	1	LORTON	\$879,780	Detached	0.83	22079	OCCOQUAN OVERLOOK	12/14/12
8 6728 CEDAR SPRING RD .....	5	..	4	..	2	CENTREVILLE	\$870,000	Detached	5.01	20121	THE WOODS AT BULL RUN	12/21/12

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# NEWS

From left, school board member Pat Hynes; Del. Charniele Herring; former State Senator Patsy Ticer; former Board of Supervisors Chair Kate Hanley; Del. Eileen Filler-Corn; Virginia Million Mom March Chair Martina Leinz; Fairfax County Democratic Committee Vice Chair South Ruth Miller; school board member Tammy Kaufax, former State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Hats Off to Democratic Women of Clifton

DWC celebrates eighth anniversary in style.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Fine millinery was on full display as the Democratic Women of Clifton gathered on Sunday, Feb. 10, to celebrate its eighth anniversary in style. The theme of this year's party was "Hats Off to Democratic Women!" and members complied by donning an assortment of colorful chapeaus—from the classic fedora, brim snapped and businesslike, to the romantic cloche and the whimsical Victorian.

Gathering in the home of member Gretchen Klimoski of Clifton, members mingled with honored guests to share appetizers, beverages and lively conversation.

DWC Membership Chair Chris Randon welcomed high-powered women from Northern Virginia: Delegate Charniele Herring (D-46), Chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia; Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41); Fairfax County School Board members Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill district) and Tammy Kaufax (Lee district); Kate Hanley, former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and secretary of the commonwealth; and former Virginia State Senators Patsy Ticer and Mary Margaret Whipple. Randon talked about the early history of the DWC and recognized Hanley for having attended the first meeting of the DWC in 2005.

**THE WEEK OF VALENTINE'S DAY** has special significance for DWC members. In February of 2005, 100 women met in the Clifton Town Hall to organize the Democratic Women of Clifton



**The Democratic Women of Clifton celebrated their eighth anniversary in style with the theme "Hats Off to Democratic Women" on Sunday, Feb. 10, at the home of Gretchen Klimoski of Clifton.**

(DWC). The group now boasts a membership of more than 400.

The DWC also recognized several women for their contributions to various Democratic causes in Northern Virginia: Ruth Miller, vice chair south of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee; and Martina Leinz, Virginia chairman of the Million Moms March. Others honored were Jane Touchet, chairman of the Democratic Women of Lake Ridge; Pixie Bell, former secretary of the Democratic Party of Virginia; Janet Carver, a member of the 2008 and 2012 Electoral College; Becca Durr, deputy finance director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; and Tina Hone, former Fairfax County School Board member.

"Everyone attending the celebration then removed their hats in a salute to all of these special guests," said Jane Barker, co-founder and current chair of the DWC. "It was a fun moment."

Barker addressed the members and guests and praised the accomplishments of the DWC in its dual mission of educating women about political issues and creating a forum for discussion and political action. Barker further congratulated members for their outstanding support of two service projects during the recent holiday season. The DWC was a large con-

tributor to the toy and coat drive sponsored by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue. In addition, members of the DWC contributed more than \$3,600 to Our Daily Bread, the local non-profit organization that provides food and other services to area families in need.

"It's great to celebrate with women who continue to make our community, our commonwealth, and our politics better with never-ending, thoughtful, positive involvement and giving," Barker said. "Their enthusiasm and commitment continues to make a difference today with this terrific turnout to celebrate our distinguished Democratic women. We are energized to grow and improve this year as we advocate for important issues and work for Democratic candidates and elected officials."

**THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING** of the DWC will focus on the environment. That meeting will be held on March 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Clifton Community Hall. A candidate forum is also being planned for the spring in anticipation of the coming statewide elections.

The DWC is open to all Democratic women in Northern Virginia. Anyone interested in joining may email [cliftonwomendems@aol.com](mailto:cliftonwomendems@aol.com) or visit the website at [www.democraticwomenofclifton.org](http://www.democraticwomenofclifton.org).

### AREA ROUNDUPS

## Lorton Incendiary Event Investigated

Police and fire department personnel responded to the report of an apparent explosion and fire at 9504 Richmond Highway in Lorton on Wednesday, Feb. 6, at about 10:30 a.m. The fire was extinguished quickly and one adult male victim was ground transported to a local hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

The preliminary investigation indicates that some sort of incendiary event occurred inside the business and that one black male was observed running from the scene. It is possible that this subject sustained injuries from the fire.

Police helicopter and K9 units responded to check the area. Crime scene technicians and homicide detectives also responded and are conducting the follow up investigation in conjunction with the Fire Marshall's Office. That office will ultimately determine the origin and cause of the fire.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## Pjammin for Kids with Cancer

Union Mill Elementary is participating in Pjammin for Kids with Cancer on Friday, Feb. 15. Students and staff members are invited to donate \$1 or more to wear their pajamas to school that day; all funds raised go to support the American Childhood Cancer Organization. Contact principal Kathy Case at [kgcase@fcps.edu](mailto:kgcase@fcps.edu).

## Combat Paper on Exhibit at Workhouse

Observe the military experience through the eyes of veterans at Combat Paper, a one night exhibition on Friday, Feb. 15, 8-10 p.m. at Workhouse Building W-4, Studios 407 and 408. The Workhouse is hosting this culminating exhibition after a one week intensive workshop of art making, beginning with veterans cutting their uniforms to make paper at Ft. Belvoir and ending with art on the walls at the Workhouse. The Combat Paper Program seeks to build a supportive community of veterans by deconstructing, reclaiming and communicating military experiences through art. Veterans deconstruct the past by making paper from the uniforms and reclaim and communicate their experiences by printing images and words on the paper. Art will only be on view for one night, and a presentation of writing will also be given at the reception.

## Seussical at Robinson

Seussical, the upbeat musical based on the story of Dr. Seuss' Horton from Horton Hears a Who, will be performed at Robinson Secondary by middle school drama students Feb. 15-17. This family-friendly show that focuses on a message of preserving childhood innocence and believing in the impossible will include 55 middle school students as cast members and more than 50 middle and high school students working on the crew. Directors Amy Hard and Katie Jenkins have run Robinson's summer theater programs together; Jenkins is a former student of Hard's. Tickets can be purchased online in advance or at the door. Shows will be performed at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 15 and 16, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 16 and 17. Contact Katie Jenkins at 703-447-9982 or [kajenkins@fcps.edu](mailto:kajenkins@fcps.edu).

## Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy

Area residents wanting to learn more about the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department may now have the chance. They may participate in a nine-week program showing them what firefighters and paramedics do every day.

Applications to the first-ever Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy will be accepted until Monday, Feb. 18, or until the class of 25 is filled. The free program is open to those at least 18 years old. The academy will begin March 28, meeting for nine consecutive weeks, from 6-9 p.m., at various locations.

Each session will cover different aspects of the organization, providing an in-depth overview of it and its uniformed and civilian workforce. Program topics include fire suppression, emergency medical services, training, recruitment and special operations. Apply at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa).



# 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/FEB. 15

### Combat Paper: One Night

**Exhibition.** 8-10 p.m., at the Workhouse, Building W-4, Studios 407 and 408, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse hosts a culminating exhibition after a one week intensive workshop of art making, beginning with veterans cutting their uniforms to make paper at Ft. Belvoir and ending with art on the walls. www.workhousearts.org.

### Totally Laughable: Risque Not

**Raunchy.** 8:30-10:30 p.m., at Kilroy's Sports Bar and Restaurant, 5250 Port Royal Road, Springfield. Comedian Jim Pate headlines, with six other comedians performing as well in a 21-and-up comedy night produced by Timothy Hill and Wes Martens. www.kilroys.com.

## MONDAY/FEB. 18

### George Washington's Birthday

**Service.** 8 a.m., at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The colonial church of George Washington holds a commemorative service to mark the national observance of the first president's birthday; the service will use the same Order for Morning Prayer from the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer as the guide for the service as Washington and other founders did. \$10 per person; \$25 per family. 703-339-6572 or www.Pohick.org.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 17

### Display and N Gauge Trains.

## Second Saturday Art Fills Workhouse

Held every second Saturday of the month from 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, are a slew of opening receptions. On Saturday, March 9, the openings are: City Works by the Art Monkeys in Building W-4, which features personified U.S. cities; Women's Suffrage in Building W-5 by Julia Dzikiewicz features paintings with a beeswax-based, highly textural paint that explore women's struggles through theme and story-emphasized images; A Scarf for All Season in Building W-6 by Joan Hutten is a wall scarf inspired by the seasons, made out of fiber materials on a sewn grid; Building W-7 features artist Kim S. Joy in her Bits & Pieces jewelry show; and Jen Athanas' Think Spring exhibit is in Building W-9 and features works created by all artist in Building 10 as well. www.Worhousearts.org.

p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRACK members will have a display and N gauge trains running. \$3 for adults; \$1 for children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

**Marduk.** 5-11:30 p.m., at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Marduk plays on their "Voices From the Dark" tour with Moonspell, Inquisition, The Foreshadowing, Deathwolf and Helgardh. \$20. www.empire-nova.com.



**Neon Summer, 30x40, acrylic on canvas, by the Art Monkeys, is part of one of the exhibits featured at the Workhouse Second Saturday Art Walk, on Saturday, March 9.**

## SATURDAY/FEB. 23

**Speed Stacking Tournament.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Heming Court, Springfield. Single and double (parent and child) cup stacking competitions held concurrently with prizes; food for sale to benefit the school \$4. 703-658-5563 or semetz@fcps.edu.

## SUNDAY/FEBRUARY 24

**Purim Fest.** 5-8 p.m., at Ohev Yisrael Messianic Jewish Congregation, 8196

Terminal Road, Suite 0, Lorton. Celebrate Esther's obedience to the Lord resulting in the salvation of the Jewish people; games, prizes, story, food, and cake walk. 703-550-0888 or www.ohevyisrael.org.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 2

**The Broken Spell.** 1 p.m., at the Workhouse in the W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A children's theatre performance that tells the story of the princess that keeps falling asleep until her parents try to fix it by spell. However, it doesn't work and true love must be found. \$12 for adults;

\$8 for children. www.workhousearts.org.

**Springfield Art Guild Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m., at Northern Virginia Community College, Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center—Building CE 2, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. The Springfield Art Guild, in collaboration with the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community Colleges, presents a month long exhibit and sale in the Ernst Auditorium lobbies.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 8

**Josh DeWeese Ceramics.** 7-9 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Josh DeWeese, assistant professor of art at Montana State University, Bozeman, and former resident director of the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts in Helena, Mont., exhibits ceramic piece that have been thrown then altered, using pottery as an expressive art form in a contemporary context. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

**Saawariya: Dinner and a Movie Night.** 8 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre in the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Film, dinner and soft drinks make it an arts experience to savor; the Bollywood masterpiece directed by Sanjay Leela, inspired by Dostoyevsky's White Nights, shows. Reservations (indicate dietary needs). \$39 per person. www.workhousearts.org.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 9

**2nd Saturday Art Walk.** 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 16

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks V.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman performs J. Strauss' Emperor Waltz and Tick Tack, Pizzicato, Trisch-Tratsch Polkas and Overture to Die Fledermaus; R. Strauss' Suite from Der Rosenkavalier, Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks and Salomé's Dance. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**2013 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.** 8 a.m.-10 p.m., at Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism and the awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service. Nominations/online application are due: Feb. 4 by 4 p.m. 703-246-3825 or www.volunteerfairfax.org.

## SATURDAY/MAY 11

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks VI.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman, tenor Brennen Guillory and soprano Joni Henson perform Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod," Tristan und Isolde and Prelude to Act 3, Lohengrin; Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Overture to I vespri siciliani, Love Duet Finale Act I Otello, "Dio ti giocondi, O Sposo" Otello, "Dio mi potevi, scagliar" Otello, Willow Song Otello and "Libiamo," La Traviata. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

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# THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTO BY ELLEN ZANGLA

Joan Brady is an award-winning photographer whose images have appeared in many publications.

## Mentors Seen as 'Family'

FROM PAGE 4

worst behaviors with a blind eye turned toward their attributes."

Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, a champion of the program, was quick to praise Brady's role in the program.

"While the mentors and volunteers are definitely the heart of FF4Kids, Joan Brady is definitely its soul," Frey said. "I can't imagine where the program would be without her."

Neither can anyone else connected to the program.

In 2009, when the program was in danger of being eliminated because of across-the-board cuts in the county budget, Brady marshaled an army of supporters, launched a "save the program" blog, and cajoled, begged and nagged officials to keep the program. (In 2010, the program, fueled primarily by the work of the mentors and volunteers, cost about \$133,000 in a social services budget of more than \$200 million.)

Brady appeared before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during the budget hearings. Her plan was to let the program's youth speak directly to the supervisors.

County staff said no. That answer was not acceptable to Brady.

"That's when we began fighting. I may have led the effort, but it was very much of a group commitment," Brady said. "We knew that these kids were virtually invisible to the community. We knew that they could not stand up for themselves. We wrote letters and emails and met individually with members of the Board of Supervisors. We went directly to the Human Services Council, writing to them as well."

Supporters scheduled their testimony so that they had a block of time, and they coordinated their speeches so that each of them covered a different aspect of the program.

And Brady made sure supervisors heard from the children, by having supporters read comments from their audio testimony.

Molly Pell of Fairfax spoke about adopting one of the children in the program, and included the comments of a youth she mentored

"None of us in this room can fully understand what Families4Kids means to the youth involved, but I believe one of our youth stated it best, when she

told us:

"[If I didn't have FF4Kids], I would lose my mind ... I would lose my sanity. I wouldn't be able to function much. Cause even now I don't have very much. I get teased on at school. I get teased at the place where I'm supposed to call home. If I lost here ... it would be like there was no reason to do anything anymore."

In their short lives, so much has been taken from these youth. Please don't take away Fairfax Families4Kids," Pell said during the hearings.

"We stood together as unified members of the community," Brady said. "We achieved a stay of execution during those budget hearings in 2010."

### Being Part of the "Family"

Brady is an award-winning photographer whose images have appeared in many publications, including "The Washington Post," "NYTimes.com," "Washingtonian" magazine, "Children's Voice" (the magazine of the Welfare League of America) and "O Magazine."

She is justifiably proud of her work, and will talk about it when prompted.

But she quickly steers the conversation back to the children, and how much difference mentors make in the lives of foster children. What she is not always quick to talk about is that the children in the program consider her an important part of their "family," too.

During a celebration for mentors last month, Jorge, 17, stood up to address the group: "I don't have a mentor, but Joan is always there for me ... I check in with her and she checks in with me, nagging me about school and work," he said. "I know she cares."

"Honestly, I probably am in touch with him every week-and-a-half, and I think he usually checks in and when I respond, I do totally nag," she said, laughing. "Ok, I do follow the kids on Facebook, so occasionally I check in to admonish, but it's not much."

"But see. Just that tiny bit of interaction he has with me—something that I hadn't even noted—makes a big difference for him. It just takes a tiny bit of attention to make a difference," Brady said. "That's why I want the story to be about what's really important: the children, definitely not me ..."

## FAITH NOTES

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

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield, holds a prayer service followed by a fellowship reception on World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 1, at 7 p.m. 703-764-0872.

**Knollwood Community Church Fellowship Center**, 10000 Coffey Woods Road, Burke, holds a 12-week Stretch Your Faith-themed yoga class series from Tuesday, Feb. 19, to Saturday, May 16, on both Tuesday evenings from 6:15-7:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:45 p.m. All levels are welcome; bring a yoga mat, towel and optional yoga strap and blocks. The first class is free. \$72 (one day per week) or \$8 drop-in rate. 571-239-3416, [sandyro@holyyoga.net](mailto:sandyro@holyyoga.net) or [www.facebook.com/holyyoganova](http://www.facebook.com/holyyoganova).

**St. Leo the Great Church** in Fairfax offers a program for Catholics who are away from the church, struggling with church teachings or who would like to more fully practice their faith by returning to the Sacraments; the program, Welcome Home, is offered on Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 and March 3 and 10 at 7 p.m. in the St. John Room, 3770 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. [csmith@stleofairfax.com](mailto:csmith@stleofairfax.com).

**Life Water Ministries** in Fairfax offers a retreat, Single But

Not Alone: Christian Women's Retreat 2013 in Chesapeake Beach, Md., with two days of sessions and activities, a concert featuring Troy Sneed, discussions, a zumba class and fashion show, food, and encouragement for women 18 years and older never married or who are divorced or widowed. \$175. 703-425-4321 or [www.lwministries.org](http://www.lwministries.org).

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a Bible Study Fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and Children's Church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100, [www.fbtministries.org](http://www.fbtministries.org)

**Lord of Life Lutheran** offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or [www.Lordoflifeva.org](http://www.Lordoflifeva.org).

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service. 7300 Gary Street, Springfield. 703-451-1500 [www.fbcspgfield.org](http://www.fbcspgfield.org).

**Clifton Presbyterian Church**, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

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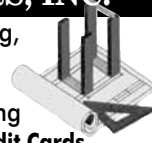
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# SPORTS

## Woodson Girls' Basketball Secures Regional Berth

Cavaliers defeat Lee in Patriot District tournament.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**W**oodson senior guard Keara Finnerty, a first-team All-Patriot District selection, hasn't played in a Northern Region tournament since her freshman season. Senior guard Anna Walker, a member of the all-district second team who played two seasons at Falls Church before transferring to Woodson, has never experienced regionals.

The Woodson girls' basketball team started the season 0-6, not exactly a strong indicator of future success. But the Cavaliers responded by winning nine of their next 10 games and earning a top-four seed in the Patriot District tournament. On Tuesday, Woodson's season of resurgence went a step further as the No. 4 Cavaliers defeated No. 5 Lee 45-32 in the first round of the district tournament at Woodson High School. With the victory, the Cavaliers advanced to the semifinals and secured a berth in the Northern Region tournament for the first time since the 2009-10 season.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Finnerty averages a team-high 18.7 points per contest. The Cavaliers' second-leading scorer, Walker, averages 9.1 and senior Katie Hayes, third on the team in scoring, averages 4.7. Against Lee on Tuesday, Finnerty finished with 11 points, but didn't score until knocking down a 3-pointer with less than 4 minutes remaining in the second quarter. Thanks to sophomore Emma Kirschner, Woodson was able to jump out to an early lead without a major contribution from its primary offensive threat.

Kirschner knocked down a trio of jumpers in the first quarter, helping the Cavaliers to an 8-2 advantage. She finished with nine points and nine rebounds.

"Anna Walker has always been a decent scorer for us, but we've been searching for other scorers," Woodson head coach Patrick Neri said. "Emma Kirschner came out strong and gave us a boost."

Walker led Woodson with 15 points.

The victory improved Woodson's record to 12-11.



**Woodson senior Anna Walker, who played for Falls Church her freshman and sophomore seasons, will make her first trip to the Northern Region tournament after the Cavaliers defeated Lee in the first round of the Patriot District tournament on Feb. 12.**



**Woodson sophomore point guard Eric Bowles was named Patriot District Player of the Year.**

### Woodson Boys Punch Regional Ticket

The top-seed Woodson boys' basketball team took care of business on Tuesday, beating No. 8 Annandale 69-51 during the opening round of the Patriot District tournament at Woodson High School. The Cavaliers advanced to the semifinals and secured a berth in the Northern Region tournament.

With the victory, Woodson reached 20 wins for the second consecutive season, including back-to-back 13-1 regular-season district records. The Cavaliers have won five in a row and 17 of their last 18 games. However, Woodson had won 12 straight at this point last season before losing to T.C. Williams in

the district semifinals and Fairfax in the opening round of the regional tournament.

What is it about this year's team that will help Woodson avoid another late-season collapse?

Multiple Cavaliers answered with a certain 'E' word.

"I feel like this team, we have more experience, more players that have already played on varsity and in situations like this," said sophomore point guard Eric Bowles, who started for Woodson as a freshman. "We just come out and play our game and just have to do what we do to get the win."

— JON ROETMAN

The Cavaliers faced No. 1 West Springfield in the district semifinals on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The district championship game is at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

**Woodson senior Simone Freidman won the all-around title at the Northern Region gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.**



PHOTO BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT/  
THE CONNECTION

## Freidman Wins Region Title

Cavaliers finish fourth at Northern Region meet.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen Simone Freidman was a freshman at Woodson, she watched Herndon senior Maria Hayden shine at the 2010 Northern Region gymnastics meet, winning the all-around title. Freidman hoped to one day experience similar success.

Three years later, Freidman had her chance to excel on the Northern Region stage. She didn't compete in high school gymnastics during her sophomore and junior seasons due to club commitments, but Freidman re-joined the Cavaliers as a senior. She had already won the Patriot District all-around title when she competed at regionals on Feb. 6 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

At the end of the night, Freidman added another championship to her resume.

Freidman captured the Northern Region all-around title, posting a score of 38.350. She placed first on beam (9.85), second on floor (9.55), tied for third on vault (9.6) and finished fifth on bars (9.35).

"It's unbelievable," Freidman said. "I really wanted this. I really wanted to be able to say I have the district title, I have the regional title ... [and] it means a lot as a senior [to be] leaving and making my mark with the title."

"As a freshman, there was one girl named Maria Hayden who won everything. I just remem-

ber looking at her and being like, wow, she's a senior, she made her mark, this is so great. I'm glad to finally be, four years later, [following] in her footsteps."

Woodson finished fourth as a team, posing a score of 141.45. Washington-Lee won its second consecutive region championship, finishing with a score of 147.15. McLean finished runner-up for the second straight year, earning a state berth with a score of 143. Chantilly placed third (142.45).

The top eight individual finishers in each event, the top four all-around competitors and the top two teams advance to the state meet.

Stone Bridge placed fifth (136.275), Yorktown was sixth (132.175), Oakton finished seventh (131.75) and Lake Braddock was eighth (119).

Centreville's Ciara Hoernke and Hayfield's Molly Overstreet tied for second in the all-around at 38.05. Marshall's Morgan Stahl was fourth (37.575). Stahl won floor (9.725) and vault (9.7) and Hoernke won bars (9.9).

Lake Braddock's Whitney King finished fifth in the all-around with a score of 37.55. She finished in the top eight on beam (third, 9.7) and vault (tied for third, 9.6).

The VHSL state meet will be held this weekend at Centreville High School. Team competition will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, and individual competition will start at 12:20 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16.



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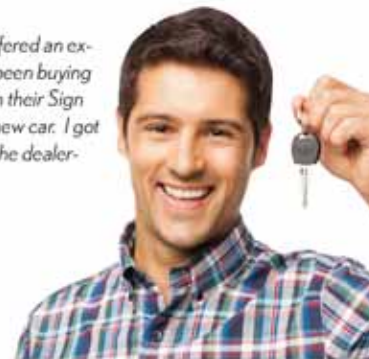
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