

# Musical with A Message

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## Saxophone Concerto at Mason

NEWS, PAGE 14

Singing the words,  
"There's something in the glade  
there," are (back row, from left)  
Lexie McEntire, Drew Bondy,  
Claudia Caceres and  
Joshua Reiter and  
(front row, from  
left) Maddy Branley  
and Emily Bubeck.



## Home LifeStyle

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## Come, Make a Visit to 'Almost, Maine'

NEWS, PAGE 3



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# Come, Make a Visit to 'Almost, Maine'

Fairfax High presents a romantic, slice-of-life comedy.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of nearly 40, Fairfax High presents the romantic comedy, "Almost, Maine." It tells stories about love and the ups and downs of everyday life in a place that never quite became a town, hence the name Almost.

"I'm super-impressed with the kids' talent and their reaction to my style of direction, which is new to them," said Director Erich DiCenzo, in his first year at the school. "I communicate to them as one actor to another. I talk to them about who their characters are, their feelings and why they're that way."

Doing so allows the students to



The cast and crew of Fairfax High's slice-of-life play, "Almost, Maine."

uncover their characters' real motivations and the truth behind their words. They know DiCenzo has high expectations for them and they've risen to the challenge. He even describes them as "college-level actors creating real moments onstage. So this show feels

like you're watching a sitcom or a scene from a movie."

Since playwright John Cariani wrote such a "beautiful, relevant script," said DiCenzo, his actors were "eager to begin rehearsals because of the words they had to work with, and they wanted to

perform it well. The story reminds us of the importance of love and the connections we make with other human beings, and how powerful those connections can be."

Junior Caroline Silas, who plays Glory, said the action unfolds via

several vignettes. "You meet the characters, connect with them quickly and fall in love with them," she said. "Everyone in the town is connected in some way. Glory's a free-spirited, friendly, young woman who always acts on her whims. She wanted to be somewhere new and ended up in Almost."

Glory sets up camp in a repairman's (played by Z.J. Jang) yard, and Silas said they work so well together that "it seems natural and real. When I saw this play last year, I immediately loved Glory; I like playing cheerful scenes and fun characters. The show will make the audience laugh and cry. It's so heartwarming, I think they, too, will want to move to Almost, Maine."

Stage manager is senior Vicki Clinch, who works with the actors to ensure the playwright's message comes across. During the performance, she said, "For every light and scene change, every sound and every mike going on and off, I'll communicate with the tech crew and tell them when to do it."

SEE FAIRFAX HIGH, PAGE 7

## Musical with a Message

Journey 'Into the Woods' with Woodson High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairytale characters come to life, but in different and unexpected ways in Woodson High's upcoming musical, "Into the Woods."

Full shows are Friday-Saturday, Nov. 15-16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 presale at [www.wtwdrama.org](http://www.wtwdrama.org) and \$12 at the door. Children's matinee (act one only, plus cast meet-and-greet) is Saturday, Nov. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

There's a cast and crew of 35, plus a 12-person pit orchestra and, "We have a super-smart cast really connecting with their characters. They worked on their music over the summer and came back to school really prepared," Director Terri Hobson said.

In the story, the baker and his wife want a child, but the witch put a spell on them so they can't have children. But she'll reverse it if they go into the woods and do her a favor. "While trying to do it, they encounter familiar fairytale characters," said Hobson. "By the end of act one, all is well. But in act two, they need to be careful what they wish for."

Since Stephen Sondheim's songs are "intricate and complicated, with clever words," Hobson said her thespians are doing an "amazing job [acting them out]. They're all talented vocalists with a

great grasp of their characters."

**THE CREW BUILT** trees, towers, ramps and bridges for the scenery, and the costumes and makeup will round out the ambience. Adding in the acting, said Hobson, the audience will "really become engaged in this wonderful, well-told story."

Student Director Faith Johnson, a senior, works on blocking, organizes rehearsals and helps the cast tell the story through songs. "I'm usually onstage acting, so this is a rewarding and interesting experience," she said. Junior Lara Taylor choreographed the show and portrays the witch. "People generally don't like her," said Taylor. "But she has a strong sense of what's right for her and her daughter. She doesn't have much connection with the human world, except for Rapunzel, who she's raised as her daughter."

"She's challenging vocally because of her big songs and solos, and she's a complex character with lots of moral conflicts," continued Taylor. "I have to find her human aspects, so I put myself in her shoes to see why she does what she does. But it's fun and even has a song, 'The Greens Rap,' where she's rapping about her garden." Taylor also likes the number, "Children Will Listen." She sings different versions of it, illustrating both the witch's and story's development. She said people will see well-known characters "in a more human light and identify with what they're going through."

Playing the baker is senior Joshua Reiter. "He grew

SEE JOURNEY, PAGE 5



Rehearsing a scene from Woodson High's "Into the Woods" are (from left) Maddy Branley, Emily Bubeck and Joshua Reiter.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



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## NEWS

# 'It's a Slapstick Comedy – It's Going to be Hilarious'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**S**ure, Paul VI is performing "A Dickens Christmas Carol: A Traveling Travesty in Two Tumultuous Acts." But instead of being a serious drama about a miser named Scrooge, it's a rollicking comedy about a theater troupe trying to perform that play while chaos is breaking out all around them.

"Their show's past its prime, the actors are tired of doing it and Bettina, the leading lady, phones to say she's sick and won't be able to go on," said Paul VI Director Katherine Miller. "She plays Mrs. Cratchit and thinks they'd never do the play without her. But an understudy replaces her and, when Bettina returns, she tries to take back her role by force – while the play's in progress."

**THE CURTAIN RISES** Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, Nov. 22-23, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5, students and senior citizens; \$10, adults; and \$25, family of four at the door or via [www.PaulVI.net](http://www.PaulVI.net) (and see link to show).

There's also a short performance called "The Drama before the Show," prior to the main event. "It's a backstage story about putting on a play," said Miller. "Even though I double-cast the main show, I had so many talented students that I wanted to involve as many as possible."

So the audience will see sound checks, makeup skills and set-building. "My real tech people are playing themselves," said Miller. "They're phenomenal and I wanted to highlight them."

The main play has a cast and crew of more than 50. "It's a slapstick comedy and each actor plays many roles," said Miller. "There are quick costume changes, confusion and pandemonium. It's going to be hilarious and the audience will enjoy all the twists and turns. The actors never speak to each other as people; the whole time, they're performing 'A Christmas Carol.'"

Playing Elyot are Brendan McAlevy and junior Joey Arzeno. "Elyot's a seasoned actor, but in Mexico, not on Broadway," said Arzeno. "He's almost past his prime, so this is the only show he could get. But he's still a good, experienced actor. He's energetic, but the fast costume changes and the females fighting affect his acting."

Arzeno loves his role because he gets to play many different roles. "So I have to change my voice, posture and way of acting, on a dime," he said. "In one scene, I play four different characters without leaving the stage." He said the audience will like "seeing the characters butt heads during the show, and it's funny watching them struggle through all their roadblocks."

Junior Maddy Whitfield shares the role of Bettina with Elinor Curry. "She's the diva who doesn't want the show going on without her or someone else playing her role," said Whitfield. "So she comes into the



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHERINE MILLER

**From left: Magali Palmer-Young directs carolers Bobby Kelleher, Sarah Giuseppe and Joey Arzeno, while Tommy Kelleher plays trumpet and Max Snyder and Isabella Whitfield chat.**

show screaming. She's the star of every show and loves the limelight – being the center of attention, having the biggest part and the most elaborate costumes. She's loud and obnoxious and causes a ruckus backstage."

**IT'S THE FIRST TIME** Whitfield's played a diva and such a physical role. "Bettina's larger than life and makes everything a drama," she said. "It's a good learning experience for me as an actor." Whitfield said this show is "something the audience won't expect. They'll be surprised at all the physical comedy, plus the tension between the actors onstage. There are lots of funny moments."

Portraying Sir Selsdon Piddock (who plays Scrooge in the traveling show) are Jacob Rozmajzl and senior Spencer Loessberg. "He's a big ham who's acted for a long time and tries to overshadow everyone else onstage during the show," explained Loessberg. "He's self-centered and full of himself; he's also overly dramatic and emotional, so it's easy to tell what he's feeling."

This is Loessberg's second year acting, so he's excited to get a lead role. "Selsdon's overwhelming and obnoxious, so it's fun playing somebody so different from me," he said. Loessberg said the audience will enjoy the theater troupe's dynamic. "People's personalities are amplified off each other," he said. "And the energy coming from the actors makes it fantastic."

Sharing the part of Cordelia, Bettina's understudy, are Sarah Giuseppe and Evelyn Lockwood. "When Bettina doesn't show up, Cordelia gets to play her role for awhile," said Lockwood. "But once Bettina arrives, things go south really fast. Cordelia had to work her way up in the theater, so she's more worldly and rough than Bettina. If someone pushes her, she'll push back."

Lockwood likes playing Cordelia and all the roles that actress portrays because there's a lot for her to do in the show. Similarly, she said there's something happening onstage all the time to capture the audience's attention. "For example, if someone's giving a monologue, there'll be a fistfight behind them," she said. "And right before the end of the show, there's a big event the audience will talk about, the rest of the night."



## News

# Journey 'Into the Woods'

FROM PAGE 3

up without parents and had to raise himself," said Reiter. "He runs the bakery with his wife and is extremely dependent on her. He stops at nothing to get a child, but tries to remain moral. He's a real person who makes mistakes like humans do."

Calling the play "incredibly well-written," Reiter loves his challenging role. "The baker goes through such an extreme arc, maturing and changing," explained Reiter. "It's great playing someone layered, well-rounded and more like a human than a character."

His favorite song is "It Takes Two," which he sings and dances with his "wife," Emily Bubeck. "This show's music is incredible and teaches the audience about compassion and being mindful of what they say to their children," said Reiter. "Every character's from a different financial background but, in the woods, they're equal."

Classmate Bubeck describes the baker's wife as "a sensible woman who really wants to be a mother. She's maternal and loving and looks out for people. She's my favorite character I ever played because she's so real – everyone knows someone like her. She also has flaws, so it's fun showing that, no matter how put together someone seems to be, everybody has weaknesses."

Bubeck also likes her solo, "Moments in the Woods," showing her character's vulnerability, "but in a way that makes you admire her." She said the audience will enjoy the "awesome" set and "interesting and complex plot. Everybody will take away something different from this show."

Sophomore Drew Bondy plays Jack in the beanstalk, who's perceived as not smart. But as he becomes a man, said Bondy, "He develops skills and people respect him more. He comes out of his shell when he goes up into the sky and meets the giants. I like this role because of Jack's transformation; it's fun showing those new qualities."

**BONDY'S FAVORITE SONG** is "Giants in the Sky" in which Jack "learns things about himself and sees a whole, new world outside his base – and that's when he transforms." Overall, he said, "Besides the amazing music, the audience will enjoy the show's messages about 'greed and being careful what you wish for.'"

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# OBITUARY

## Allie Johnson-King, 108, Dies

Allie Johnson-King was born on Christmas day, 1904, in Alabama. She had been a resident of Fairfax County since moving from Ohio in 2002. She passed away on Oct. 18 at the age of 108-years-old. She was a faithful Christian and worshipped with the University Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Fairfax Church of Christ in Fairfax, where her memorial was held on Thursday, Nov. 7.

Johnson-King was always service oriented. She worked as a domestic for many years and later served as a volunteer at the Cleveland Sight Center for over 30 years until well into her 90s.

She also spoke at local schools sharing her wisdom and encouraging students to continue their education. Johnson-King was honored in 2009 by Black Women United for Action to lay the wreath during their annual slave memorial commemoration ceremony at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate.

Johnson-King leaves to celebrate her life one daughter, two sons-in-law, 14 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous great-great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Allie Johnson-King



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## NEWS

# Fairfax High Presents 'Almost, Maine'

FROM PAGE 3

I love it and hanging out with my theater friends."

But her favorite thing is set construction and, for this show, scenes take place on porches, a bench, outside and at a bar called the Moose Paddy.

"We're building a raised, double-sided, rotating porch," said Clinch. "I love working with power tools and with my hands and teaching the tricks of the trade to the underclassmen."

Sophomore Renee Rozell portrays Marvalyn. "She's a bit of a tough girl and a gossip," said Rozell. "She has a lot of issues, but can't vocalize them; so, instead, others go to her for help. But some of her issues come out as she gives advice, so she's not always helpful."

She enjoys playing Marvalyn. "Her scene has lots of jokes and slapstick humor," said Rozell. "And I love how, in rehearsals, we really take the time to go into depth with the character work. The au-

dience will like the quirky characters and will be able to relate to their stories."

Playing Chad is senior Daniel Serpati.

"He's a young man who's tired of dating and is ready to take the next step," said Serpati. "He's done the same routine every day and is feeling lost, but he's ready to find himself. It's a fun role because so many fantastic things happen to him, yet they seem so natural onstage. The scene explains how everyone goes through the same feeling of falling in love."

Calling "Almost, Maine" a funny show, Serpati said, "Each scene will make people feel uplifted. You can't help but smile. There's a story for everyone in the audience where they'll think, 'I know what they're feeling.'"

Show times are Friday-Saturday, Nov. 22-23, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 24, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5, students and senior citizens; and \$10, adults, at the door or via [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org).

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# OPINION

## Proof Every Vote Matters

Elections have consequences, including very close races.

EDITORIAL

**T**uesday morning, a full week after an Election Day that included races that were more suspenseful than anticipated (and also many races that were foregone conclusions), we are probably more than a month away from certifying the winner of the Virginia Attorney General race.

At press time, the State Board of Elections reported, unofficially, that Mark Herring (D) had 1,103,610 votes with 49.89 percent of the vote; Mark Obenshain (R) had 1,103,493 votes with 49.88 percent of the vote. The 5,152 write-in votes are huge in a race that at one point had Obenshain ahead by 15 votes.

The process of canvassing or verifying the

vote has been revealing, including a malfunctioning voting machine that had more than 2,000 votes uncounted in Fairfax County, a voting machine in Richmond that hadn't been counted at all and many smaller errors. Human error and computer error are to be expected.

It will make a difference which man is elected as Attorney General. The current Attorney General, Ken Cuccinelli, demonstrated the influence that office can exert on many fronts, from academic freedom and scrutiny to the challenge of health care reform to implementation of environmental regulations to investigations of the household staff of the Governor's mansion.

Del. Tom Rust (R) won reelection by just 57 votes, with 50.1 percent of the vote over Jennifer Boysko with 49.74 percent. Del. Barbara Comstock (R) won reelection with 50.64 percent of the vote over Kathleen Murphy (D) who received 49.19 percent, a margin of less than 500 votes. All results are still unofficial.

Consider another close race, in November 2007: then state Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37) won re-election by less than one-half of a percentage point, with an edge of just 92 votes out of 37,185 ballots cast, beating Democrat Janet Oleszek. Approximately 32 percent of registered voters in the 37th District cast ballots at the polls in that election.

Retiring Del. Jim Scott was elected in 1991 with a margin of a single vote.

Just a few of many examples that prove that every vote really does matter.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Library Reorganization Deserves More Work

BY SHARON BULOVA  
CHAIRMAN/FAIRFAX  
COUNTY BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS



**I**n September, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors called for the suspension of a major reorganization proposed to our Fairfax County Public Library system. The suspension was requested in order to provide more opportunity for outreach to concerned library employees and patrons so that proposed changes could be explained, evaluated and vetted among stakeholders. The Connection Newspaper has covered this issue.

As our nation and Fairfax County have struggled with the effects of the Great Recession and its lengthy aftermath, we have needed to make reductions to the many services and programs the county provides. Throughout this time, our Board has sought to maintain taxes at a level that is affordable for our community. I applaud our County staff for proposing efficiencies and reorganizations during this time that have helped us maintain high quality services that also save taxpayers money.

Over the past few months, I have received a number of letters, emails and phone calls regarding the proposed library reorganization as well as the "floating collection" and issues around the discarding of books. I believe, based

on the feedback I have received, that the reorganization as proposed was too much for the organization to absorb. Many of the ideas contained within the plan, however, have value and should continue to be explored.

Our shared goal is to make sure our libraries continue to be the vital and vibrant places that our community can enjoy and rely upon well into the future. The quality of our collection and the services we offer should reflect the standards Fairfax County residents expect.

I would like to thank members of the Library Board of Trustees and library staff for their efforts during the past few months as they have conducted a series of discussion forums on the proposed changes. I understand the meetings have been constructive and have included some spirited debate. I especially want to thank Deputy County Executive Dave Molchany for his personal investment of time and energy to assist library staff with ensuring a thoughtful and insightful process. Our Board has asked for a progress report from the Library Board of Trustees to be presented at our Board meeting on Nov. 19 and I am looking forward to hearing directly from them.

During these recession years, library systems around the country

SEE BULOVA, PAGE 12

## See You on the Train

### Proposed VRE System Plan is good news for commuters.

BY SUPERVISOR  
JOHN C. COOK  
(R-BRADDOCK)



**F**airfax County's vibrant economy keeps unemployment and taxes low, while allowing us to provide world class services for our residents. But, as we are all too aware, with growth comes serious traffic congestion, which diminishes our quality of life and could impair our economic future.

Help is coming as new transportation money from the State will help us repair and improve our roads. In addition we are building a more robust transit network.

The Virginia Rail Express is already a smashing success, serving up to 20,000 trips per day riding on the two lines — The Fredericksburg line which parallels I-95 and the Manassas Line, which parallels I-66. The service is clean, safe, efficient, and, most importantly, on time upwards of 95 percent of trips. It's time to think about expanding rail service on VRE, helping take more cars off the road, reduce emissions, and improve the quality of life of Virginians.

The VRE Operations Board, of which I am an executive committee member, will consider adopting a "system plan" next month that aims to increase ridership by 30 to 50 percent, eventually serv-

ing up to 30,000 trips per day. VRE hopes to do this by adding two more cars onto each train, adding two new trains, and increasing the number of trips in both directions. The result would be a more robust transit system for Northern Virginia. Better connections to existing and new bus routes will also make VRE a more viable option for workers in Tysons and even Reston.

The need for expansion and VRE's ability to expand are perfectly in sync. VRE is paying off a significant amount of debt this year, giving us significant debt capacity for new projects. I've worked hard, along with my colleagues on the Capital Committee of the Operations Board, to draft a new set of financial principles that ensure VRE is expanding in a fiscally prudent way. Total debt will not exceed the level recommended by our outside financial advisors and VRE will establish new operations and maintenance reserves. These reserves will ensure that VRE can maintain, and eventually replace, the new cars and locomotives it purchases without causing future fiscal crises. We believe the new VRE financing principles could serve as a nationwide model for fiscal prudence in transit systems.

SEE COOK, PAGE 12

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### THURSDAY/NOV. 14

**EBooks.** 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Learn how to browse the collection, check out books, and download to PC, Mac, and eBook readers. Call the library to schedule an appointment. Adults.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 15

**Reading Buddies.** 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Grab a book, grab a buddy! Teen volunteers available as reading buddies. Ages 3-8 years.

### MONDAY/NOV. 18

**Introduction to Creative Writing.** 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Six week writing workshop led by graduate students in George Mason University's Sally Merten Fellows creative writing program. Bring your ideas, laptop, or pen and paper. Adults.

### TUESDAY/NOV. 19

**EBooks.** 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Learn how to browse the collection, check out books, and download to PC, Mac, and eBook readers. Call the library to schedule an appointment. Adults.

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# Taj Mahal at Mason

## World Blues Concert at George Mason features blues legend Taj Mahal, daughter Deva Mahal with Fredericks Brown, and Vusi Mahlasela.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ckinley Morganfield, a.k.a Muddy Waters, famously sang, “The blues had a baby, and they named it rock and roll.” He likely wasn’t referring to Grammy Award-winning blues icon Taj Mahal and his daughter Deva, though she hasn’t disproven the concept. In her group/duo Fredericks Brown, she takes after her father’s creative slant on the traditional American style and incorporating soul, the Pacific islands and of course rock, into a unique, self-described “pop soul” sound.

Both Mahals, Fredericks Brown and African folk singer-poet-activist Vusi Mahlasela will take turns expressing their takes on the blues Friday, Nov. 15 at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall.

For Taj and Deva, it will be a Virginia homecoming. Deva kicked off her first international tour with her father in Charlottesville just a few years ago.

Now on the World Blues tour, Deva and Fredericks Brown are more major players. “It’s nice to see the progression,” she said. “It’s nice to see growth from the time, the work you put in.”

After spending time in New Zealand, Deva has been a working musician in Brooklyn since 2007. She and Steph Brown, the other half of Fredericks Brown, initially met in New Zealand but didn’t begin making music together until they both wound up in New York. Their musical chemistry was immediate; though crafting the band’s eventual sound took some time.

“It was kind of like putting a puzzle together,” Deva said, of incorporating the various influences of roots music, soul, blues, Hawai’i (Deva’s childhood home) and New

Zealand. “All of those elements come out of us naturally.”

As their sound has been solidifying — they released the album “Glass House Mountains” this year — the New York music scene has been a crucible for development and inspiration.

“It makes you work harder than you’ve ever worked before,” Deva said. “There’s a million great musicians in New York. The life of a working musician is really hard, it’s not something that’s handed to you. And it should be hard — you should have to fight for it, so that you make really good music.”

Deva believes great music, such as the globe-trotting takes on the blues she, Taj and Mahlasela have offered up on this current tour, can truly bring people together. “People are more and more interested in taking control of what they listen to,” she said. “To bring them music from all over the place — music is the one thing that unites everyone and is expressed everywhere. It makes people feel connected in a way.”

She has seen the effect Mahlasela — known in his South African homeland as “The Voice” for his support of the anti-apartheid movement — and his soulful yet nimble guitar-picking has on crowds. “Vusi is so heartwarming,”



PHOTO BY JAMES BLAKESBERG

**Grammy Award-winning blues icon Taj Mahal brings a worldwide spectrum of blues music to the George Mason University Center for the Arts concert hall.**

### Where and When

World Blues featuring Taj Mahal, Vusi Mahlasela and Deva Mahal with Fredericks Brown takes place Friday, Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Tickets \$46, \$38, \$23, or 1 free ticket with GMU student ID. For more information visit [cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/1449/](http://cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/1449/).

Deva said. “He’s turned the entire audience into children, singing them lullabies.”

“People have come up to us with tears in their eyes,” she

SEE TAJ MAHAL, PAGE 13

## Washington Symphonic Brass Presents Bach and Classic Rock

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**S**urely, neither Johann Sebastian Bach nor John Lennon ever expected their music to be performed by a 17-member ensemble of brass and percussion only — much less on the same program. Rather than roll in their respective graves, the two visionaries would probably applaud accomplished trumpeter and George Mason University music faculty Phil Snedecor’s creative reimagining of their iconic works for the Sunday, Nov. 17 concert “Washington Symphonic Brass: From Bach to Classic Rock.”

Snedecor co-founded the WSB in 1993 with the late National Symphony Principal Trombonist Milton Stevens. At first, the goal was simply performing literature for brass ensemble. Over time, said Snedecor, “We morphed into something else. It was our de-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED KELLY

**Phil Snedecor and the Washington Symphonic Brass break out the powdered wigs and ripped jeans for a concert combining classical and classic rock.**

sire to make ourselves relevant to the musical community. If you’re just a regular brass ensemble, why should people go hear you? People can go hear a military concert, and they’re very well done.”

To boost their originality, Snedecor began arranging music for the group that was never intended for brass ensemble. To just play down a more traditional piece

of music wasn’t enough — they needed to stand out and showcase the multi-faceted talent of the ensemble’s membership.

A recent Celtic concert involved a harp, an Irish singer and a bagpipe. “There was nothing published for that,” said Snedecor. “I had to kind of figure that out. But I’ve got some of the best brass players in the world.”

SEE BACH AND ROCK, PAGE 13

## Home LifeStyle



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HELEN OLIVIA FLOWERS

**Charles Gang, owner of Helen Olivia Flowers in Old Town Alexandria, creates fall centerpieces using full-sized pumpkins as vases.**



**Charles Gang and his team of designers often create colorful combinations of flowers and fruit in rich hues at Helen Olivia Flowers in Old Town Alexandria.**

## Creating a Feast for the Eye

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hile a menu of turkey and gravy will satisfy the belly this Thanksgiving, a well-designed centerpiece that reflects the warm hues of fall will be a feast for the eyes.

From vivid floral arrangements that spring from gourds to tables piled with seasonal produce, local floral designers say that when it comes to creating Thanksgiving table décor as tantalizing as the meal itself, the options are vast.

Charles Gang, owner of Helen Olivia Flowers in Old Town Alexandria, and his team of designers often create colorful combinations of flowers and fruit in rich hues. “As far as fall arrangements, we’re [using] fruit like apples and pears, we’re seeing mini pumpkins in arrangements,” he said.

In fact, Gang suggests creating arrangements using full-sized pumpkins as vases. “We’re doing a lot of rustic hydrangeas, a lot of roses in deep orange and germini in a variety of colors like orange and violets,” he said.

Floral designer Laurie Diver, of Conklyn’s Florist in Alexandria and Arlington, often uses glass cubes and bubble vases as a receptacle for her arrangements. “Flowers in orange, gold and maroon are great for fall,” she said. “I also like to use hydrangeas that are green tipped with burgundy edges and lilies in rust, yellow and orange.”

David Hicks, owner of Conklyn’s, doesn’t shy away from unconventional flowers. “We have a wholesale shop that is open to the public,” he said. “Two or three times per week, we import flowers from South America like kangaroo paws [a tubular flower] that come in



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONKLYN'S FLORIST

**Floral designer Laurie Diver of Conklyn’s Florist, in Alexandria and Arlington, often creates arrangements with orange, yellow and gold flowers nestled in glass cubes.**

bronze and rust and cottage yellow that come in bronze and yellow.”

Another surprise for fall, says Diver, are tulips. “We usually don’t see them again until spring, but now we have an assortment of parrot tulips in orange, yellow or a combination of both with tattered edges that look very artsy.”

Great Falls-based designer Alison de Wit of Distinctive Floral Designs, who isn’t afraid to add a harbinger of spring to her autumn arrangements either, said, “A lot of spring flowers are available from Dutch markets.”

She also combines traditional flowers with modern varieties. “You can combine a traditional hydrangea with a chartreuse spi-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Great Falls-based designer Alison de Wit of Distinctive Floral Designs adds a hint of spring to her autumn arrangements with flowers from Dutch markets.**

and unusual floral combination.”

Floral designer Rachael Rinaldi, of Reston Floral Design in Reston, combines dried oak leaves with chrysanthemums in orange, burgundy, yellow or magenta. “Every fall, mums in rich colors are popular.” Hicks has seen a recent spike in the number of consumers who want to create budget centerpieces at home. “You can take eight to 12 blooms of cymbidium orchids in green and orange and put the elongated stems in a glass cylinder with some curly willow to give it contrast,” he said.

Hicks also suggests that those who want simple elegance “gather four hydrangeas and put them in a square glass container with rocks at the bottom and you have a simple and elegant centerpiece.”

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Bulova

FROM PAGE 8

have had to reduce hours, cut services or even close library branches; Fairfax County is not alone in this struggle. Libraries across the country have also been exploring innovative ways to contain costs while at the same time maintaining or even improving services to meet the needs of their residents.

I am confident that Fairfax County will prove to be a leader in achieving this goal. This issue has served to energize those in our Fairfax County community who appreciate the value our outstanding library system affords us. Thank you for rallying to support our libraries!

Cook

FROM PAGE 8

These exciting changes will bring VRE service to more commuters and help support our economic growth. Sound fiscal planning will ensure responsible measures so VRE will be financially sound decades into the future. All this has been accomplished by dedicated public servants who

came together, setting partisan politics aside, to address the common good. See you on the train!

*Supervisor John C. Cook (R-Braddock) has served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and on the VRE Operations Board since 2010. Currently he serves as Secretary to the Board's Operations Committee and Chair of its Audit Committee.*

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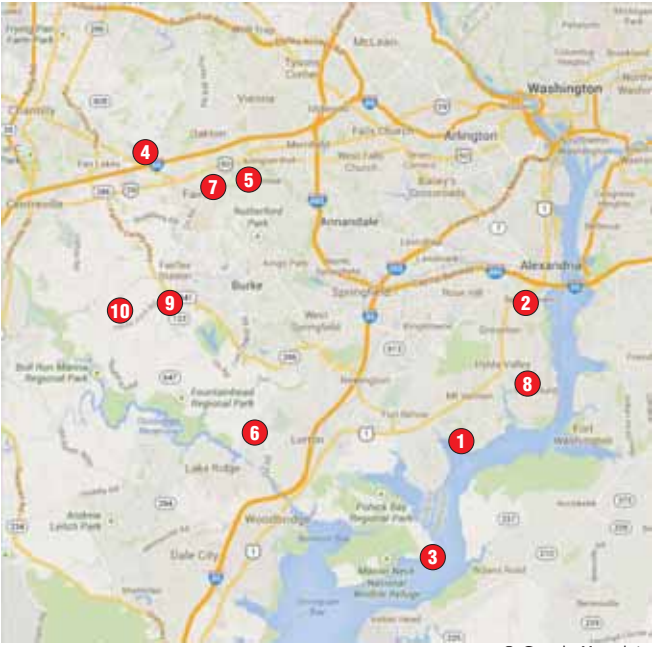


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## NEWS

Deva Mahal and Steph Brown make up Fredericks Brown, with a fresh sound that incorporates blues, roots music and sounds from the Pacific islands.



PHOTO BY SHERVIN LANZ

# Taj Mahal Comes to Mason

FROM PAGE 10

continued. “You have no idea what that meant to me,” they said. “You just touched me in a place I forgot existed.” When you know they needed it, it connected, it reminded people we’re all human.”

Together with her father and Mahlasela, Deva and Fredericks Brown will invite the audience to redis-

cover American blues in a global context, and help them redefine what the style can be.

“Traditional blues music is an incredible form that should be preserved,” said Deva. “Taking that and expounding upon that in a way that comes out natural though is a beautiful thing. You can’t just say it’s one thing, but you can feel it.”

## Bach and Rock at Mason

FROM PAGE 10

a blast from 20 to 40 years past, including songs from Chicago, Wings, Boston, Kansas and the Beatles.

That initial performance led to the WSB performing the songs on tour, and eventually recording a CD: “Classic Rock for Brass”, released earlier this year. Then GMU Director of Artistic Programming Tom Reynolds and Snedecor hatched the idea of combining music from the classic rock CD with actual classical arrangements for a special concert that called for powdered wigs, rock show lighting and smoke effects.

“It will be this transformation,” said Snedecor, describing how the audience will first hear arrangements of Bach and Respighi, before an intermission and total atmospheric change. “This is not like any brass concert they’ve ever seen, ever.” Nothing on Sunday’s program, which features special guest musicians and former members of the acclaimed Canadian Brass ensemble Joe Burgstaller and Martin Hackleman, was originally written for brass. That’s very much by design.

“We’re doing something different than anyone else is doing,” said Snedecor.

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# CALENDAR



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Carrie Koffman

## Saxophone Concerto at Mason

**Soloist Carrie Koffman brings 'melting tone and touching sensitivity.'**

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) and music director Christopher Zimmerman will perform a concert of both familiar and new works on Saturday, Nov. 16, 8 p.m., at the George Mason University – Centre for the Arts Concert Hall. American composer Larry Alan Smith's Saxophone Concerto is presented in its Virginia and D.C. area premiere, with soloist Carrie Koffman whose "melting tone and touching sensitivity" have drawn audiences to this unfamiliar symphonic instrument. The concert opens with the irresistible Peer Gynt by Edward Grieg, and concludes with Rachmaninov's

popular but always entrancing Symphonic Dances which also prominently features the sensuous sounds of the saxophone.

"The Symphonic Dances is a particular personal favorite of mine," Maestro Zimmerman said. "Rachmaninov takes us on a powerful, utterly transfixing musical journey, one that takes all his musical genius and a lifetime to express."

Tickets and flexible subscription packages are now available for purchase at [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org) or by calling 703-563-1990.

The FSO continues its commitment to the students of Fairfax County by offering its Student Passport Club. Concert tickets for all students ages 6-18 are just \$5, and members of the club receive a stamp in their passports for attending, gifts from local music stores and special program notes with an activity sheet to accompany each concert. Student Passport Club members receive an invitation to the FSO's annual instrumental petting zoo.



Maestro Christopher Zimmerman

To have community events listed, send to [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416 with questions. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication; we recommend submitting your event two weeks ahead of time. To see more entertainment events, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

### THURSDAY/MONDAY/NOV. 14-DEC. 16

**"Page Turners."** Daily, at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The exhibit highlights visual artists who are also illustrators, to run concurrently with the 8th annual Northern Virginia Jewish Book Festival. Features Valerie Brown, freelance photographer with images from her "Capital Splendor: Gardens & Parks of Washington, DC," Ian Frank, architect and artist, Katherine Janus Kahn, illustrator of the Sammy Spider series and Ziz, a gigantic bird of Jewish mythology and The Ladysmiths: 16 of the group of local female metalsmiths' jewelry creations. 703-323-0880 or [www.jccnvarts.org](http://www.jccnvarts.org).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 16

**Carrie Koffman, Saxophone.** 8 p.m. Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, 3905 Railroad Ave., Fairfax. The internationally renowned saxophonist performs Grieg's "Peer Gynt: Suite No. 1," Larry Alan Smith's "Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Strings," and Rachmaninov's "Symphonic Dances." Price to be determined. 703-563-1990 or [www.fairfaxsymphony.org/](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org/).

**Holiday Express Boutique Craft Sale.** 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., at St. Mary of Sorrows Church hall, 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax. Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts, Sweet Shop, Cafe, Silent Auction, Raffle. 703-426-8092.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 15-JAN. 5, 2013

**100 Under 200: 100 Artists Exhibiting Work Under \$200.** McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Free flowing and ever changing; the exhibit will have new art on view each week.

### SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 17

**Holiday Express Boutique Craft Sale.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. St. Mary of Sorrows Church hall, 5222 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax. Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts, Sweet Shop, Silent Auction, Raffle. 703-426-8092

### THURSDAY/NOV. 21

**"The Miracle Worker."** 7 p.m. South County High School is located at 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. The story of Helen Keller and her dedicated teacher, Annie Sullivan. Tickets: \$8 general admissions; \$6

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 27

**The Fresh Beat Band,** 6:30 p.m., at the Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. The band from the Nick Jr. series of the same name performs. \$46.70-\$165. <http://patriotcenter.com/>.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 28

**Thanksgiving Day Church Service.** 11 a.m. Christian Science Church, 3725 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring family, kids, and friends (before feast and football games) for a Thanksgiving church service.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 29



PHOTO BY AARON FARRINGTON

**Vusi Mahlasela performs soulful, blues-based, world music at George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax on Friday, Nov. 15 at 8 p.m. Home for Dinner Closing**

**Reception.** 6-9 p.m., Nov. 29, in the Vulcan Gallery, Community Action Space, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) and the Workhouse Arts Center are collaborating on the exhibition filled with arts that helps raise awareness about hunger and homelessness in southeast Fairfax County. Home for Dinner will showcase how community members can make a difference; bring canned food as a donation. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

**Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition.** 10 & 11:30 a.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. This whimsical production is a 35-minute interactive, non-verbal show, which features two adult actors and a musician. Geared towards children ages 2-6. Tickets: \$8 for children & adults

**Annual Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert.** 10 a.m. W.T. Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

### THURSDAY/DEC. 5

**Annual Holiday Tunes for Tots Concert.** 10 a.m. W.T. Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

**Annual Holiday Tunes for the Young at Heart.** 7 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School Gymnasium, 9525 Main Street, Fairfax. Tickets: \$3 per person. Questions: 703-764-5820

### SATURDAY/DEC. 7

**Festival of Lights and Carols.** 11 a.m., 12 p.m. or 1 p.m. Sherwood Community Center. 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$6 per child for ages 10 and under. 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov)

### FRIDAY/DEC. 13

**One Night Stands.** 8 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. In concert, one night only, featuring solo cabaret performers from the DC area. Two performers each night, each performing a solo 45 minute set. Tickets: \$15-25.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**2nd Saturday Art Walk.** 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The 2nd Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse showcases the diverse work of more than 100 visual artists in a unique historic venue, creating an atmosphere that encourages visitors to immerse themselves in the

richness of this creative community. **Cecil Ray Comedy Club.** 7p.m. Workhouse Arts, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Host Cecil Ray leads the proceedings in a night of laughter with guest comedians from the mid-Atlantic region. Tickets: \$20-30.

### ONGOING

**First Fridays at the Clifton Art Guild.** 6-9 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 C Main St., Clifton. Enjoy a wine tasting and mix and mingle with the Art Guild of Clifton artists. 703-830-1480 or [www.artguildofclifton.org/](http://www.artguildofclifton.org/).

**Saturday Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. [church@sovgracefairfax.org](mailto:church@sovgracefairfax.org) or [www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com](http://www.FairfaxSaturdayMarket.com).

**Sunday Farmers Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the parking lot at the intersection of West and Main Streets behind Wells Fargo Bank in Fairfax. Every Saturday there is fresh produce, goods and wares at the market. [church@sovgracefairfax.org](mailto:church@sovgracefairfax.org) or [www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com](http://www.FairfaxSundayMarket.com).

**Fairfax Mosaic Wednesday Night Freshbikes Rides.** 6:30 p.m., at Fairfax Mosaic Freshbikes, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Weekly bike rides leave from the Fairfax Mosaic store, the newest addition to the Freshbikes family of stores in the area. [www.freshbikescycling.com](http://www.freshbikescycling.com).

**Northern Virginia Shag Club.** 6:30-10 p.m., at the Elks Lodge Fairfax, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Dance for two hours every Wednesday with free beginner lessons starting at 7:30 p.m. and dancing preceding and following; no partners needed. \$4. [www.nvshag.org](http://www.nvshag.org).

**Join Jewish War Veterans of the USA.** The Burke Post E 100 at 5712 Walnut Wood, Burke, invites Jewish veterans and servicemembers to join. 703-209-5925.

**NVSC Dance.** 6:30-10:30 p.m., at the Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Beginner lessons at 7:30 p.m. and a buffet dinner preceding from 6:45-8 p.m.; cash bar available. No partners needed. \$4; \$5 additional for buffet dinner. [www.nvshag.org](http://www.nvshag.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**Jeffrey Siegel, "The Power and Passion of Beethoven."** 8 p.m., Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. The acclaimed pianist performs Beethoven's "Rage Over a Lost Penny," "Sonata Pathétique," and "Farewell Sonata" as part of his Keyboard Conversation series. \$20-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on Feb. 11, 2014. [HyltonCenter.org](http://HyltonCenter.org).



## NEWS

# Attraction and Desire Meet in 'Café Variations'

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**S**eductive romance is in store as "Café Variations" explores how longing for love, finding love, and even losing love makes us visible to ourselves in unexpected ways. Melding works of inventive playwright Charles Mee with lush Gershwin music into a series of connected vignettes is what Anne Bogart, artistic director of the renowned SITI Company has accomplished.

When asked about SITI, Tom Reynolds, director of Artistic Programming, Mason Center for the Arts said the company "has a history of presenting innovative and interesting theatrical works." The company "focuses on ensemble and collaboration, so there is rarely a 'star' or even a lead character in their works, but the real star is the way in which all of the actors work together to communicate with the audience."

"Café Variations' is a play about the very delicacy of relationships; we want it to be very personal and appealing to an audience," said Bogart. The production is designed around the spoken language of the characters as they take journeys into the mysteries of personal connections, choreographed movement and a verdant Gershwin score that helps glue the production together as a "very humane piece," Bogart noted.

The play takes place "in a cafe we would all like to discover and know in our neighborhoods; a place where people meet and anything can happen; not just a place where everyone is plugged-in, yet unconnected with each other," Bogart added. The social life cafe setting will evoke a place, style



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BROSILOW

**From left: Barney O'Hanlon and Deborah Wallace in the production of "Café Variations."**

and a way of life. It is a place where people are dressed-up, going out to enjoy and be attentive to one another.

The one-act production has a six-member, multi-cultural cast with several actors playing multiple roles (variations). In "Café Variations" characters explore different emotions and aspects of impressionistic moments, including conflicts.

As we know, joy is not just for unlined youth. Bogart indicated that the actors are of various ages; the production shows that falling in and out of love is for everyone. After all, love at any age can help find within us unexpected inspired energy. The fire of "Romeo and Juliet" is not just for teenagers.

"We invite everyone to come and enjoy," Reynolds said. It will be "an exciting and interesting audience experience," he added.

Love can be an inspired struggle at times; SITI's "Café Variations" gives a new outlook to the exciting and astonishing struggle that love can be.

## When & Where

SITI Company's "Café Variations" at the Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Friday, Nov. 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$44, \$36 and \$22. Visit the box office (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).



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**From left: Stephen Duff Webber and Ellen Lauren in foreground. Barney O'Hanlon in background.**

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# SPORTS

## Running on Her Own

West Springfield's Alcorta posts 3rd-best time in Burke Lake history.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Caroline Alcorta started competing in cross country in 2011 as a sophomore at West Springfield and quickly became one of Virginia's top high school harriers. She finished eighth at the VHSL state meet as a sophomore and placed second as a junior in 2012.

While her first two seasons in cross country were successful, Alcorta ran in the shadow of Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase, a two-time state champion who now competes for Stanford University. While Alcorta wasn't able to catch Chase with championships on the line, the Lake Braddock star provided Alcorta with motivation.

With Chase having graduated, Alcorta, now a senior, is the one out in front of the pack. With no one to chase, Alcorta has to rely on her own training and mental toughness to push her through races. During the 6A North regional meet, however, she had some additional motivation.

**COMPETING IN HER FINAL RACE** at Burke Lake Park, Alcorta won the region championship on Nov. 6 with a personal-best time of 16 minutes, 31 seconds. It was the third-best girls' time in the history of the course.

"One of the nice things about Burke Lake is that you run it enough times that when you get to your very, very last one your senior year, sometimes the great runners will do something pretty special," West Springfield head coach Chris Pellegrini said. "I told her [before the race], 'You're on this list pretty high, but today is your rest-in-peace moment. Where are you going to sit forever?' So she went into the race very motivated."

Last year, Chase won the region title with a time of 16:42, which at the time placed her in a tie with Hayfield's Melissa Dewey (2004) for the third-best time in course history. Alcorta finished 11 seconds faster, just missing the second-fastest time of 16:30.7, set by Annandale's Aimee Harms in 1985. Langley's Erin Keogh set the course record with a time of 16:09.7 in 1985.

"It's senior year," Alcorta said. "I



**Lake Braddock senior Hannah Christen finished runner-up at the 6A North girls' regional cross country meet on Nov. 6 at Burke Lake Park.**

kind of wanted to make my mark [by] leaving it all on the course. This is my last time racing here ... [so I wanted to make] it memorable."

Alcorta said not having anyone to chase has been different, yet rewarding.

"I kind of miss having someone that you know will push the pace out in front of you, but it's kind of nice knowing that you can do it by yourself," she said. "There's obviously a lot of competition in the field, already, too, so just the fear of getting caught ... really helps you."

Pellegrini said coaches have worked for years with Alcorta on sticking to her own race strategy.

"That was actually something that we worked on a lot for the last three years, which is being self-sufficient and running your race," Pellegrini said. "Win or lose, you've got to run your own race. ... You've got to make them come get you and if they earn it, I'll shake their hand, too. ... She's been running her own race and becoming very self-sufficient, very confident and being able to hold her own pace and it's something we've been waiting for as coaches, to see her develop into that."

**AS A TEAM**, West Springfield placed third with a score of 113, earning the Spartans a berth in the state meet. Oakton won the region title with a score of 66. Washington-Lee placed second (92), Lake



**Robinson senior Macey Schweikert placed fifth at the 6A North girls' regional cross country meet on Nov. 6 at Burke Lake Park.**

Braddock finished fourth (118), Robinson was fifth (148) and Battlefield finished sixth (192). The top six teams advances to states.

West Springfield senior Katie Kennedy finished 20th with a time of 18:21. Ana Suarez, a junior, finished 28th (18:44), sophomore Reagan Bustamante finished 32nd (18:53) and sophomore Abby Snyder was 38th (19:09).

Alcorta and Pellegrini praised Kennedy for competing despite an ankle injury.

"She's a real trooper," Alcorta said. "... I'm really proud of her. She really stepped up today. She could have not raced but she knew we might not make it to states."

Pellegrini said Kennedy had to "hop" the last mile.

"I am not comfortable racing someone that's that hurt, but I give her a lot of credit for doing it for



**West Springfield senior Caroline Alcorta, left, won the 6A North region girls' cross country championship on Nov. 6 at Burke Lake Park. Oakton's Allie Klimkiewicz placed third.**

the team," Pellegrini said. "It was unglamorous ... but without her, that's a 70-point swing."

Lake Braddock senior Hannah Christen finished second (17:19), followed by Oakton's Allie Klimkiewicz (17:21), Lake Braddock's Katy Kunc (17:35) and Robinson's Macey Schweikert (17:39).

Robinson's Lauren Berman finished 10th (17:55).

In boys' action, Robinson and Lake Braddock were among the six teams to qualify for states, finished fourth and fifth, respectively. Chantilly won the event with a score of 100. Battlefield (107) placed second, followed by Osbourn Park (111), the Rams

(136), the Bruins (138) and Oakton (142).

Lake Braddock junior Ryan Corbett placed third with a time of 15:09. West Springfield sophomore Owen Buck finished sixth with a time of 15:24, improving from 14th place during the final 400 meters.

"[Buck]," Pellegrini said, "ran out of his skull."

Oakton's John Stoney won the event with a time of 14:54. South County's Alec Jones finished seventh with a time of 15:25.

The VHSL Group 6A state meet will be held on Friday, Nov. 15 at Great Meadow. The girls' race is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and the boys' race will start at 11:15 a.m.

### Playoff Football Pairings

The Group 6A and Group 5A VHSL football regional playoffs begin Friday, Nov. 15.

\*In 6A North action (all games are at 7:30), Centreville (10-0) earned the top seed and will host No. 16 South Lakes (5-5). Lake Braddock (10-0) is the No. 2 seed and will host No. 15 Chantilly (5-5).

No. 3 Westfield (8-2) will take on No. 14 Hayfield (5-5). No. 4 Washington-Lee (8-2) will host No. 13 Stonewall Jackson (6-4). No. 5 Langley (8-2) will host No. 12 Battlefield (6-4).

No. 6 Patriot (8-2) will face No. 11 Robinson (7-3). No. 7 Yorktown (8-2) will host No. 10

Fairfax (7-3) and No. 8 South County (8-2) will host No. 9 T.C. Williams (7-3).

\*In 5A North action (all games are a 7 p.m., unless specified), No. 1 Massaponax (10-0) will host No. 16 Edison (3-7) and No. 2 Stone Bridge (8-2) will take on No. 15 Lee (2-8).

No. 3 Briar Woods (9-1) will host Potomac Falls (4-6), No. 4 Tuscarora (8-2) will host No. 13 Mount Vernon (3-7) and No. 5 North Stafford will take on No. 12 Thomas Jefferson (4-6).

No. 6 Mountain View (7-3) will host No. 11 Potomac (4-6), No. 7 Broad Run (7-3) will face No. 10 Freedom (PW) and No. 8 Falls Church (7-3) will host No. 9 Albemarle (6-4) at 7:30 p.m.



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## Fairfax Water

### NOTICE OF WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2013, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2014, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,500 to \$9,750.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,050 to \$1,090†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$35 to \$36.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$9.20 to \$9.80†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.29 to \$2.42 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.45 to \$3.55 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
9. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$44 to \$45.
10. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$17 to \$20.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

## 21 Announcements

## TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX

### REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due  
**December 5, 2013**

### LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid a 10% late payment penalty and interest charges, payment in full must be made in person or postmarked by close of business on  
**December 5, 2013**

Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

### IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a bill you are responsible for paying real estate taxes by  
**December 5, 2013** to avoid late payment penalties

For Additional Information, please call 703-385-7904

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## News

### Two School Employees Charged

After a joint investigation by Financial Crimes Unit detectives and Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) human resources, two school employees were each charged with embezzlement and money laundering.



Sonya Swansbrough



Bethany Speed

Police identified the arrestees as Sonya Swansbrough, 46, of Woodbridge, principal at Poe Middle School, and Bethany Speed, 38, of Burke, an administrative employee at Jeb Stuart High School. Police began an investigation after being contacted by FCPS in late September 2013.

The allegations involved falsifying timesheets for personal financial gain. An investigation determined that these incidents began as early as May 2010 and officials believe over \$100,000 may have been embezzled.

Police also charged a third individual, Brenton Rusnak, 20, of Radford with receiving stolen property in connection to this case. Rusnak is Swansbrough's son. The investigation is ongoing.

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

### Volunteers Needed for Dogs Adoption Events

Volunteers needed to hold dogs at adoption events, Saturdays 12 to 3 p.m. Must be 18 or over. Held by Homeless Animals Rescue Team at Petco, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Mem. Hwy, Fairfax, Va., 22033. Call 703-691-HART or <http://www.hart90.org/> for more information.

Also need foster homes for dogs and cats.

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