Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

# Landfill Decision Deferred to April 3

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Susan Walsh, a realtor in Springfield, enjoys the festivities at the Clifton Café's Fifth Anniversary Celebration with her dog.

# Clifton Café Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

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Photo by Janelle Germanos/The Connection

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Photo contributed

**Rep. Gerry Connolly speaks at his 20th annual St. Patrick's Day Fete.**

# Connolly Kicks Off His 2014 Campaign

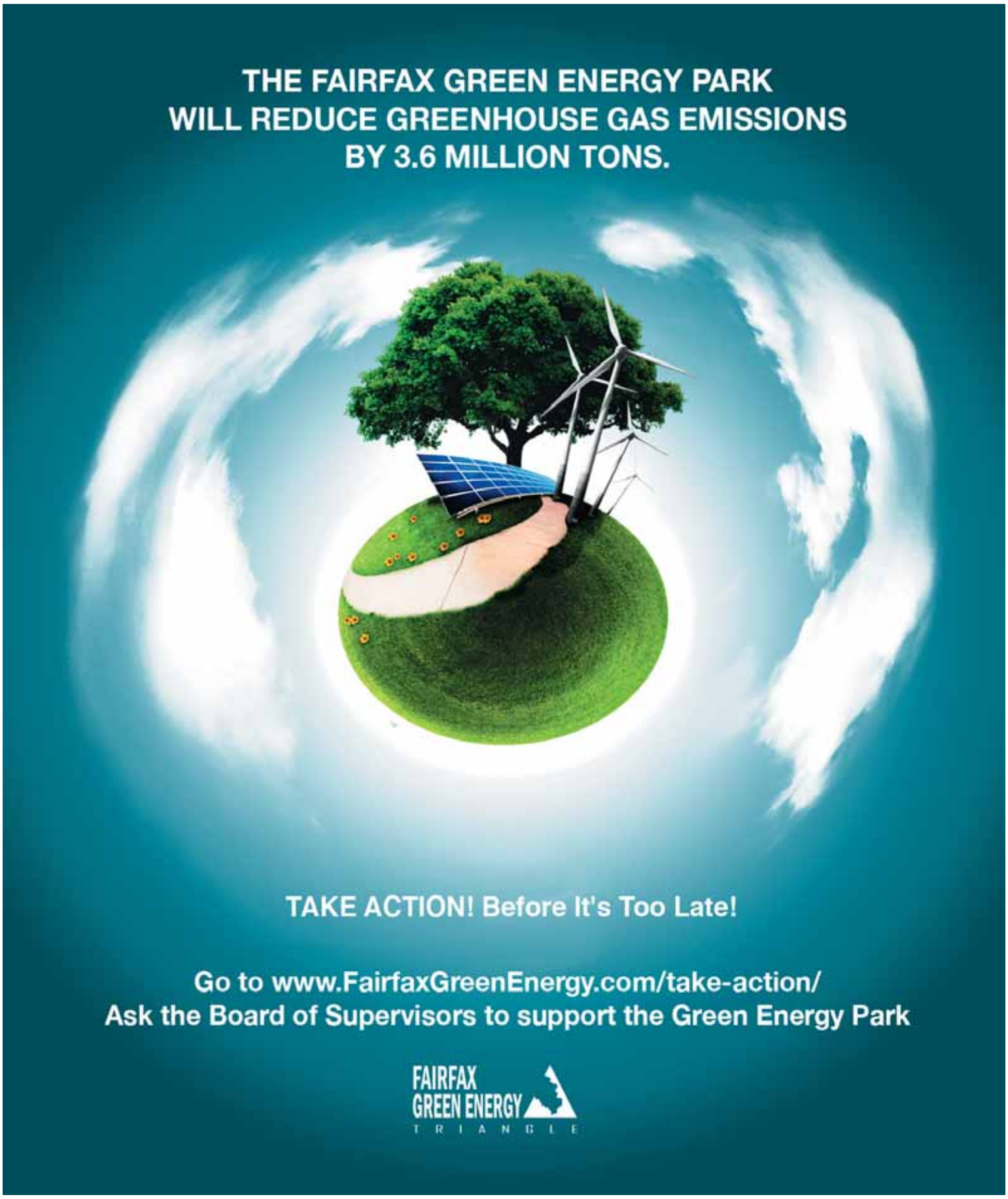
Pledging to continue to fight on Capitol Hill for the values and rights of Northern Virginians, Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) kicked off his campaign for a fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives Monday night before a packed house of supporters at his 20th annual St. Patrick's Day Fete. More than 1,000 supporters from Fairfax, Prince William, and across Northern Virginia defied the aftermath of the region's latest snowfall, which dropped between 5 and 10 inches across Fairfax, to attend Northern Virginia's largest annual Democratic gathering.

Introduced by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Connolly praised the assembled Democrats, elected officials, and candidates for "transforming the political landscape of Virginia." Connolly reaffirmed his commitment to a woman's right to choose, access to health care, and equal protection under the law for all Americans. He also reiterated his support for federal workers and "ensuring that the right to vote is universal, early, easy, and for everyone." Many attendees cast their votes in a straw poll measuring support among the 11 Democrats seeking the Democratic nomination to succeed retiring Rep. Jim Moran as Virginia's 8th District congressman. Don Beyer topped the field, followed by Charniele Herring, Lavern Chatman, and Adam Ebbin.

Beyer, the former lieutenant governor and Ambassador to Switzerland, garnered 34 percent of the vote from the assembled Democrats for the 8th Congressional District nomination followed by Herring, a Virginia delegate and former state Democratic Party chair with 13 percent, Chatman, the former NoVA Urban League president with 12 percent, and Ebbin, a state senator, with 11 percent.

Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille and Virginia Delegates Patrick Hope and Alfonso Lopez each received 7 percent of the votes cast, while talk show host and lawyer Mark Levine got 6 percent. Candidates Satish Korpe, Bruce Shuttleworth, Nancy Najarian, and Derek Hyra each received 1 percent or less.

Connolly was joined on stage by Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring, Fairfax County supervisors, state senators and delegates, and many other elected officials and candidates from across Northern Virginia. Attendees at the annual event dined on a full spread of traditional Irish fare and enjoyed Irish music at the annual event which began two decades ago as a small gathering in Connolly's backyard when he first ran for a seat on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The event has grown to be the largest annual political event in Northern Virginia. An army of dedicated community activists, assisted by the Fairfax County Fire Fighters and others, come together year after year to help plan and stage the event on what Connolly calls his "holiest day of the year."



Lorton/Fairfax Station/Clifton Connection Editor Kemal Kurspahic
703-778-9414 or south@connectionnewspapers.com

# Landfill Decision Deferred to April 3

## Group to discuss a compromise is now underway.

By Janelle Germanos
The Connection

On March 13, the Fairfax County Planning Commission was set to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on whether EnviroSolutions should be permitted to continue dumping construction debris at their landfill in Lorton until 2040.

However, at that meeting, the Planning Commission deferred the decision to April 3 in order for a group to be established to discuss the issues at stake between those on both sides of the debate.

The motion to defer the application was made by Earl Flanagan, the planning commissioner for the Mount Vernon district.

Photo by Janelle Germanos/The Connection

**The future of the construction debris landfill in Lorton, owned by EnviroSolutions, is being discussed by community members and officials in Fairfax County.**

Flanagan said that he attended a meeting of the South County Federation on March 11 in which 200 community members gathered to voice their opinions about the landfill.

Tim Sargeant, an at-large member of the Planning Commission, and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova were also in attendance and met to discuss the application.

"Chairman Bulova then announced that she and [Mount Vernon] Supervisor [Gerry] Hyland will form a group including community, staff and the applicant members, to investigate alternative solutions to the current application. Commissioner Sargeant and I agreed," Flanagan said at the meeting.

South County Federation president Nick Firth said he was called by Hyland and asked if he would be open to the possibility of finding a compromise to the application. "I think this has gotten larger than anybody anticipated, and I think maybe at this point they are trying to look for a solution that is good for all," Firth said. "I don't know where this is going and I don't have any idea of what anyone is willing to talk about."

Firth said he hopes to find a solution to the current agreement, which requires closure of the landfill in 2019 and the construction of a park.

"The community did compromise. We compromised in 2006. Our last compromise is not being honored, not only by ESI, but also by the county Board of Supervisors," Firth said.

On March 13, the same day as the decision to defer the application, Firth said he received pro-EnviroSolutions' flyers in his mailbox and has gotten more than 200 emails from community members who also received the flyers.

The record will remain open for written comments on the EnviroSolutions application.

According to Conrad Mehan, EnviroSolutions' director of government relations, the compromise group met for the first time on March 17.

"Sharon Bulova set this group up, and I think it's a very healthy exercise," Mehan said. "We're looking forward to trying to find some common ground with the opposition."

According to Troy Manos, Bulova's communications director, the group was set up to try to help both sides reach common ground.

"We may not come to any agreements, and if so, we'll agree to disagree," Mehan said.

# Community Welcomes Homeless Into New Homes

## FACETS TRIUMPH II Housing is part of the 100,000 homes campaign.

By Janelle Germanos
The Connection

As part of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, FACETS welcomed 18 previously chronically homeless individuals into housing on March 18 at a housewarming celebration.

"These are the days that I love, love, love my job because we get to celebrate welcoming home 18 people who have been homeless for many years and finally have housing. We are so excited about that," said Amanda Andere, the executive director of FACETS.

100,000 Homes is a national movement to house 100,000 chronically homeless individuals. Last year during the 100,000 Homes Fairfax Registry Week, FACETS joined several other organizations in going out into the community and interviewing homeless people.

"I'm so proud today to say a year later, we didn't just go out and talk to people and create a registry list, we created a plan, we took action. We had a goal of housing 50 of our most vulnerable in our community. With our partners in the room today, we housed 45 people," Andere said. The 18 previously homeless individuals moved into housing this month by FACETS are now part of TRIUMPH II Housing, funded by a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant.

By Janelle Germanos/The Connection

**FACETS executive director Amanda Andere stands with Sandra Perry in Perry's new apartment.**

**Sandra Perry poses in her new bedroom at the FACETS TRIUMPH II Housing program. Perry shared her story of homelessness at a housewarming celebration on March 18.**

Organizations such as Gracing Spaces have helped to furnish apartments that are part of TRIUMPH II Housing.

"It just helps them get a first leg-up and a fresh start," said Kathie Baumgart, director of Gracing Spaces.

Andere said that while programs like shelters are important, the community needs to focus on providing permanent housing for those who are homeless.

"If we want to make change in our community, we have to figure out how we are going to end homelessness and that is through moving people into housing," she said.

Sandra Perry, 29, a FACETS client who just moved into TRIUMPH II housing, shared her story at the housewarming event.

Perry, who grew up in the Mount Vernon area, says her family had alcohol addictions, which led to Perry entering the foster care system.

"I pretty much had to find my own way. I am a product of an addict," Perry said.

Although she has faced homelessness and used to sleep in the woods, Perry said she is making the best of her situation.

"Without the people in FACETS and the other organizations that are helping these people, honestly I wouldn't be standing here right now," she said. "People do appreciate everything you guys are doing. I'm very grateful."

Perry welcomed attendees of the housewarming event into her apartment, which was decorated and put together thanks to Gracing Spaces.

David Vernon also opened his new apartment up to visitors.

"I really like it here," Vernon said.

Andere said FACETS is growing and moving in the right direction.

"Five years ago when I started at FACETS, we had just spent a year moving nine people into housing. And then we moved in 10. Just this last month, we moved in 18," she said.

Of the almost 2,900 homeless people in Fairfax County, 14 percent are chronically homeless. As the 100,000 Homes Campaign moves forward, organizations like FACETS are working to house these chronically homeless individuals.

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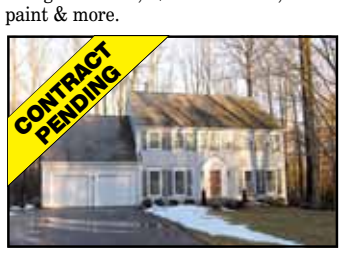


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# Faith

*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.*

**Mothers and daughters**, come together to enjoy Bingo, crafts, games, refreshments and more. Bring your favorite teacup and wear your best tea party hat for special contest categories. The cost is $25/couple with an extra $5 for each additional sibling.

The Tea is Saturday, April 5, from 2-4 p.m. at Burke United Methodist Church. There will also be a silent auction with a portion of the proceeds to benefit SHARE - Share Her Annual Real Expenses - a Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital program that provides funding for Girl Scout campsites, leader training and financial aid.

For reservations contact Sandy Latta at 703-495-0063 or slatta@fourthwave.com. Reservations close March 29.

**The Cancer Treatment Centers of America,** sponsored by the Cancer Support Team, Ministry of Greater Little Baptist Church, Fairfax, will present "Restore: The Journey Toward Self Forgiveness & Physical Health" on Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. This is a free event. To RSVP, call the church at 703-764-9111 or email Cancer Support Team Ministry at cstm@glzbc.org

The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Michael Barry author of the Forgiveness Project and Director of Pastoral Care at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in Philadelphia, Pa.

**The Effects of Mass Incarceration: A Public Forum on Criminal Justice Sentencing Reform** will be held on Sunday, April 6, 2 - 4 p.m. at Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Drive, Burke. The panelists include state Sen. Dave Marsden, the Sentencing Project's Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Fairfax's Deputy County Executive David Rohrer. They will engage these concerns: the United States has more people in jail than any nation in the history of the world. Unintended consequences of this Mass Incarceration are especially devastating to poor communities of color. Young African-American Men are more likely to go to jail than to college. Many drug offenders are discriminated against in housing, voting and education after they have served their sentences. How do we minimize the human costs of the Drug War and Mass Incarceration and fix this crisis? For more info got to www.accotinkuuc.org - or call 703-503-4579 and ask for Reverend Scott Sammler-Michael

**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 or www.fbtministries.org.

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Photo contributed

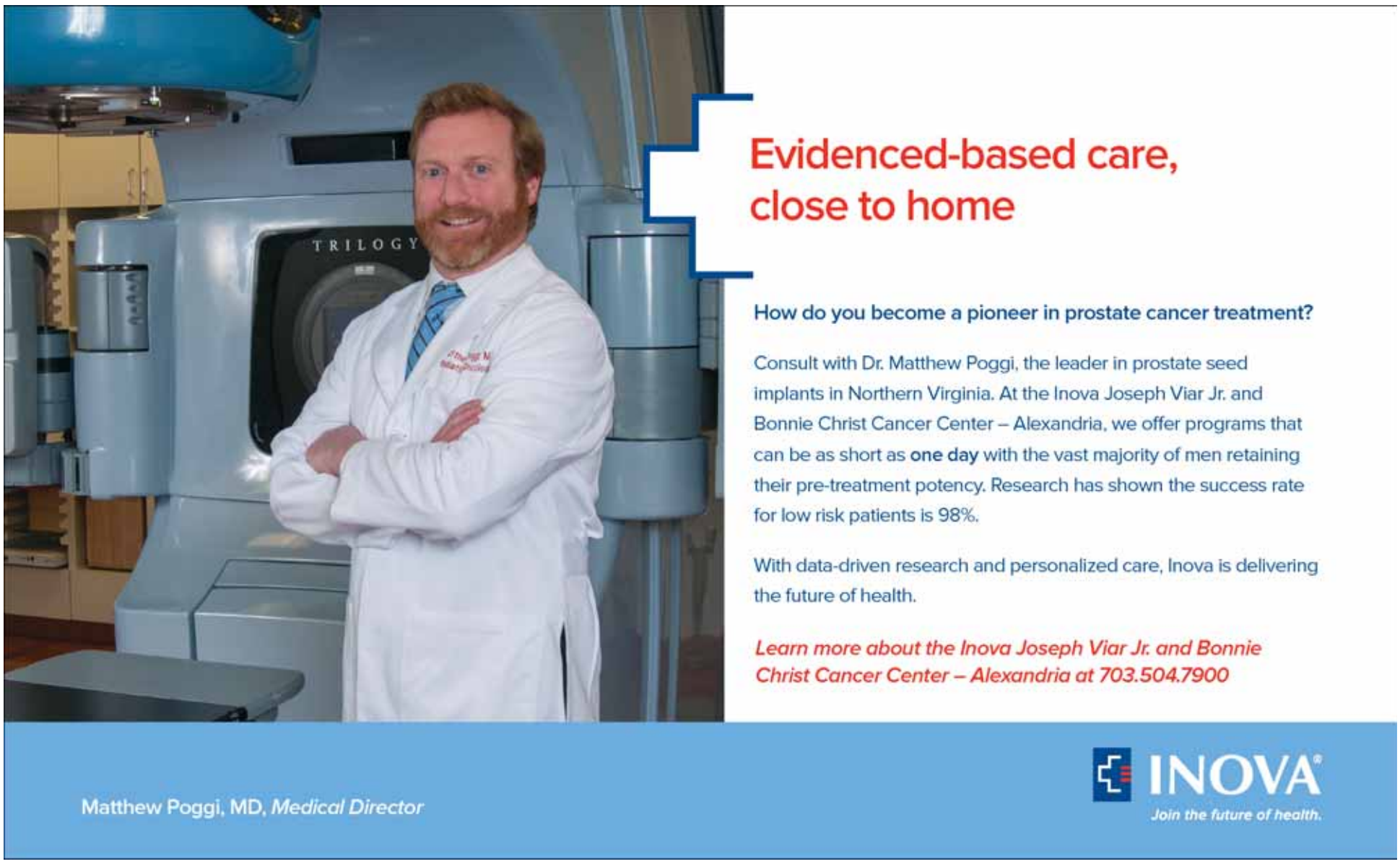
**Annandale High School students who work at the student run credit union there, from left: Edwin Munoz, Doreen Tetteh, Tony Nguyen, Sergio Martinez, Dominic Maier, Monica Bentley (business teacher and faculty liaison), Issac Kebede.**

# Promoting Financial Literacy

As the National College Athletic Association launches its annual national basketball tournament, students at more than two dozen Northern Virginia high schools kick off a March Madness of their own. Instead of scoring baskets, they are scrambling to sign up the most new members this month to their school's student run federal credit union in a competition sponsored by Apple Federal Credit Union.

Students who work at an Apple-affiliated school credit union meet the relatively new Virginia financial literacy requirement passed in 2009. This year's high school juniors are the first class required by law to take at least one course in economics and personal finance in order to graduate.

"Apple wants to make financial literacy not only valuable but fun for the kids," says Apple Vice President Robert Sowell. "So the March Madness competition is a way to do that. It allows students to be creative and come up with marketing/advertising plans."



# Opinion

# Income Gap Alive and Well

## Statistics make life in the area sound idyllic, but many families are left out in the land of plenty.

Northern Virginia is a place of wonder and plenty. So says the New York Times this past week in, "Income Gap Meet the Longevity Gap," (March 15, 2014).

Fairfax County is cited as place whose residents "are among the longest-lived in the country," and compared to McDowell County, W.Va., where residents have one of the shortest life expectancies. In Fairfax, "men have an average life expectancy of 82 years and women, 85, about the same as in Sweden. In McDowell, the averages are 64 and 73, about the same as in Iraq."

If you are reading this, chances are that the Connection was delivered to your single family home in an affluent neighborhood. In fact, many of us do live in the Northern Virginia described in the New York Times. All it takes is money.

"In Fairfax, there are ample doctors, hospitals, recreation centers, shops, restaurants, grocery stores, nursing homes and day care centers, with public and private entities providing cradle-to-grave services to prosperous communities."

But here is where the crack in the wall appears: "The jobs tend to be good jobs, providing health insurance and pensions, even if there is a growing low-wage work force of health aides, janitors, fast-food workers and the like."

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 49,000 of the 185,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized or free meals. In Fairfax County, more than 100,000 people lack health insurance, including 35,000 who could be covered now at no cost to themselves or the state if they lived in West Virginia because West Virginia has embraced the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, so its poorest residents do have access to health care. Not so in Virginia.

In Northern Virginia, we have our own income gap, and likely our own longevity gap. In Northern Virginia, we have a health care crisis. In Northern Virginia, we do have an affordable housing crisis.

Tens of thousands of working poor people in Northern Virginia, families with at least one full time job, cannot afford to rent an apartment. Earnings of at least $1,100 a week would be required to afford market rate rent in Fairfax County according to the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. But the county's 50,000 retail workers, for example, average about $635 a week according to the Virginia Employment Commission. The county's 40,000-plus food service workers average $415 a week. Even the county's 38,000 local government employees average $950 weekly, a stretch in this area.

To read the story in the New York Times, go to www.NYTimes.com and search "income gap."

— Mary Kimm,
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

# Celebrating Inclusion

## Board of Supervisors Names March Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Inclusion Month.

By Supervisor John C. Cook
(R-Braddock District)

The Board of Supervisors has designated March "Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Inclusion Month" in Fairfax County. Both those with disabilities and those without have their lives enriched when people with disabilities are fully included in the community. This special month seeks to help those with disabilities find ways to be involved in the community, and bring awareness to others of these engaged neighbors.

On March 29, a special movement of inclusion will take place. In Fairfax County and in communities across the country, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will spend time doing things they love out in the community. The ARC, an organization that advocates for and serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our area, explains that this "simple day out and about is designed to help raise awareness and generate some conversation about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This one-day movement will serve to harness our collective power to gain allies, foster understanding, dispel myths and encourage a greater understanding among people without a disability." The ARC of Northern Virginia provides many resources to people with disabilities in our area including support for families, employment programs, and leisure and recreational programs.

An organization here in Braddock that also offers services for adults with life-long disabilities is SPARC (Specially Adapted Resource Club). By providing a different solution for long-term care, SPARC helps parents answer the difficult question "What will my adult child with disabilities do after high school graduation? The club focuses on offering life-skill and vocation skill development as the club members learn to become self-advocates. Demand for these services is so high that the club has a waiting list of individuals that would like to join.

In addition to the great resources available through the ARC of Northern Virginia and SPARC, Fairfax County offers opportunities for community involvement for individuals with disabilities. The County assists these community members through increased transportation, training, community advocacy, and more. The John Hudson Internship Program is a great example. This paid internship program in Fairfax County Government is for college students and recent graduates with disabilities, and is accepting applications through April 13.

All of these organizations seek to empower individuals as they move toward a more independent life. Whether or not intellectual or developmental disabilities directly affect your family, this is a community issue that affects all of us. I am confident through these initiatives and more we can develop strong partnerships to improve lives, so let's continue the discussion here in Fairfax County about steps we can take to make our area more inclusive. We should use this celebration as an opportunity to strive for an inviting and engaging community.

For more information on The ARC of Northern Virginia please visit www.thearcofnova.org. For more information on SPARC please visit www.sparcsolutions.org. For information about resources available for those with disabilities in our area, please visit the Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/ltccc/.

## Letters to the Editor

# Commending Election Officials During Sunshine Week

To the Editor:

During this year's Sunshine Week, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area salutes the Fairfax County Electoral Board, General Registrar and employees of the Fairfax County Office of Elections for their transparency and willingness to share information with the public in the follow-up to the 2013 general election.

Their handling of the election reporting, canvass, provisional ballot determinations and recounts in the races for Virginia Attorney General and 33rd District Senate seats exemplified the best principles of open government. The Office of Elections frequently published updates on election reporting problems and the extended provisional ballot determination process, later on providing details about the progress of the

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Fairfax Station, Lorton & Clifton Connection

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**
**To discuss ideas and concerns, Call: 703-778-9410**
**e-mail: burke@connectionnewspapers.com**

**Kemal Kurspahic**
Editor ❖ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

**Chelsea Bryan**
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

**Victoria Ross**
County Reporter
301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

**Bonnie Hobbs**
Community Reporter
703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

**Jon Roetman**
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

**ADVERTISING:**
*For advertising information*
**e-mail: sales@connectionnewspapers.com**

**Steve Hogan**
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
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Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

**Debbie Funk**
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor & Publisher**
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor in Chief**
Steven Mauren
**Managing Editor**
Kemal Kurspahic
**Photography:**
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft, Craig Sterbutzel
**Art/Design:**
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
**Production Manager:**
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**
**Circulation Manager:**
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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## Opinion

# Will the Board of Supervisors Honor A Compact With the Community?

By F Lowell Curtis

A move by EnviroSolutions in South County, including Lorton and parts of Fairfax Station and Springfield, to extend the life of its construction debris landfill by 22 years and dramatically increase the facility's size has led to a growing controversy. The core issue is whether residents can trust the Board of Supervisors to honor and enforce the terms of a past agreement that was made between a corporation, the local community, and the Board of Supervisors.

In 2007 in a hotly contested vote, EnviroSolutions secured the support of the South County Federation, the organization of homeowner associations south of Fort Belvoir, as well as the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors, to increase the height of its Lorton landfill from 290 feet to 412 feet.

To secure that support, EnviroSolutions had to agree to three critical conditions: EnviroSolutions would build trails and a park on top of the new hill, that would become highest point in Fairfax County. It would plant thousands of trees and shrubs on the hill to ensure that the dump became a natural wooded hill. Finally, and most critically, it agreed to a date-certain closing of the landfill on December 31, 2018.

In order to sell the extension proposal as something new, EnviroSolutions has come up with a clever, politically correct transformation of the dump. The company now describes it as a "Green Energy Plan." It proposes installing wind turbines, solar panels, and producing geothermal energy. The reality of this proposal is that the amount of energy produced will be minor, and numerous caveats would enable the company to produce even less than it is promising.

Additionally, bald eagles feed on the dump; there are ten active nests four miles away on Mason Neck, and many more eagles overwinter. Duke Energy recently paid $1,000,000 in fines at two wind farms that killed 16 eagles. Under no circumstance should wind turbines be approved on this site.

At a March 11 community meeting, Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, apparently was taken aback by the overwhelming opposition to the EnviroSolutions application, which she has been strongly supporting. She described EnviroSolutions as "our corporate partner." Bulova has received $32,000 in campaign contributions from EnviroSolutions and its lobbyist, eight times more than the next Supervisor.

When the Board of Supervisors approved EnviroSolutions' application to increase the landfill's height in 2007, South County residents believed that a compact had been negotiated between the company and the community and secured by the Board of Supervisors. If the Board of Supervisors fails to uphold its earlier decision, every homeowner association in Fairfax County should be concerned that agreements they make could be overturned by a well-financed developer.

This facility is simply an ugly dump unchanged by green energy window-dressing. Nothing in EnviroSolutions' new application justifies the Board of Supervisors violating its agreement to shut the landfill down on December 31, 2018.

*The author is former publisher of the Chronicle Newspapers.*

## Letters

From Page 6

recounts, all the while describing the safeguards in place to protect the integrity of the ballot.

That integrity is essential for our system of government to work.

This is why during Sunshine Week we commend the Fairfax County Office of Elections for sharing important voting results and information with the residents of Fairfax County, detailing exactly how their votes in these important elections were counted and protected.

**Jones** and **Helen Kelly,**
Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

Children's National Health System
Just Right

Cancer had act one.
Isabel received the encore.

At 15 months old, Isabel was diagnosed with a tumor on her left kidney. It was growing rapidly and immediate action was required. Isabel's parents turned to the experts who specialize in pediatric cancer. Watch her journey at **JustRightForChildren.com/Isabel.**

"I'm Isabel and I like to dance."

Isabel Doran
Promising ballerina

Photo courtesy of The Madeira School.

**A student at The Madeira School in McLean enjoys art in the school's art room. Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department, says the school's approach to art draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially.**

Photos courtesy of the McLean Project for the Arts.

**Visitors look at art created by students from Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area as part of the McLean Project for the Arts' youth art show.**

# Art Educators, Galleries Celebrate Youth Art Month

## Experts say art can teach valuable life skills.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Brightly colored self-portraits, landscapes dotted with spring flowers and hand-carved sculptures fill a gallery at the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. All of the art was created by local school children. Meanwhile, in Alexandria, parents and tots dip their fingers in glue, clay and paint to create collages, sculptures and paintings.

"It is a true delight to see parents and children making things together in the studio. Joy is found in the stuff they make — the collages, paintings, drawings and sculptures — as well as the more intangible things we build: relationships, confidence, creativity, persistence and the many ways we make meaning through art," said Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Mount Vernon.

These are just some of the local art activities for children. In fact, Youth Art Month is an annual observance held each March to emphasize the value of art and art education. This year's theme is "Start With Art, Learn for Life," which was chosen by the Council for Art Education, a sponsor of Youth Art Month.

Local art educators are using the month as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of art education and raise awareness about the important life skills it can build.

"We believe art is important to study for its inherent value, but art also promotes life skills, including creativity, problem solving, determination, concentration, collaboration and confidence," said Samantha Marques-Mordkofsky, education and outreach manager for the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington. "Regardless of what field a child pursues later in life, these skills will translate and he or she will be better rounded because of … art. We also offer multidisciplinary classes like Book Illustration, Amazing Architects & Engineers, and Murals: Big Art, Big Ideas where students have the opportunity to master technical skills in art while simultaneously learning about other subjects."

"What our art educators have known for many years research is now confirming," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "Art helps develop critical thinking and reading skills. Art education is vital because it builds concentration, motivation and confidence."

Jorge Luis Somarriba, art teacher and artist-in-residence at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., says the school is a community of artists. "We believe in a process-oriented and child-centered philosophy," he said. "Art nurtures self-confidence through self-discovery and personal visual expression. Art education is instrumental in the holistic development of a human being: spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. Art making develops the right brain, empowering individuals to become creative, problem-solvers who may think 'outside the box.'"

Experts said art education also develops self-expression and an appreciation for the work of others. "Elementary school students create art with such unbridled enthusiasm for painting, drawing and creating things," said Dabney Cortina, communications director for the McLean Project for the Arts. "I think it's because they haven't been told that there is anything wrong with how they create art. Currently going on is our youth art show featuring Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area. It is incredible to look at. You see the talent they have. It is totally amazing."

Eileen Lyons, chair of the Fine Arts Department at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., said that the arts are a vital part of the school's curriculum. "Arts education helps students learn how to solve problems in unique ways and it deepens their overall learning experience," she said. "Through collaboration and cross-curricular projects, teachers at Holy Child work closely together to engage students in the arts on many different levels. Art teachers collaborate with language, social studies, English and geometry teachers to bring deeper meaning to learning."

For example, said Lyons, on a recent trip to the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., art and French teachers worked together to bring the Van Gogh Exhibition to life in both English and French.

Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department at The Madeira School in McLean suggests art education might not be taken as seriously as other disciplines. "Schools in general have been responding to trends that you need more science and math education and have been teaching to tests. Not at Madeira, but at some other schools, art education has diminished," she said. "We look at arts as a process. Our students learn to work effectively with others. Our approach draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially. They develop cognitive growth, so they learn to see how parts relate to a whole."

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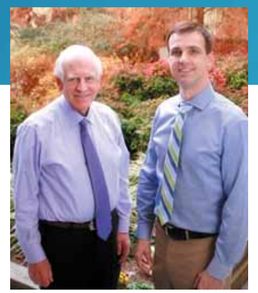

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**Community members enjoy the nice weather at the Clifton Café's Fifth Anniversary Celebration on March 15.**

# Clifton Café Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

The European-style café has been serving Clifton since 2009.

The Clifton community enjoyed food, drinks, live music and good company at the Clifton Café's Fifth Anniversary Celebration. The café, which opened in 2009, is popular for its homemade crepes and delicious coffee.

**Michael Soule of Springfield plays at the Clifton Café's Fifth Anniversary Celebration.**

**The Clifton Café opened in 2009 and has become a staple for many Clifton residents.**

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS THE CONNECTION

# Calendar

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

### THURSDAY/MARCH 20

**"Death at The Devereux."** Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre, show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are $35. The Clifton Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's.

**Annie Jr.! The Musical**. 7 p.m. Kings Glen Elementary, 5401 Danbury Forest Drive, Springfield. Tickets cost $4 in advance and $5 at the door. Call 703-239-4000 today to purchase tickets in advance.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 21-SUNDAY/MARCH 23

**"The Sound of Music."** Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Join in and watch the all time classic musical with family and friends. Tickets are available at the door or at HTTP://GSPSOUNDOFMUSIC.BPT.ME

### FRIDAY/MARCH 21

**"Death at The Devereux."** Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre, show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are $40. The Clifton Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 22

**The Annual Antiques & Trinkets Appraisal Show.** 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Verbal appraisals given by six appraisers. $5.00 admission (1 item included), $3.00 each additional item (limit 2).

**Shining Night: A Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen.º**2:15 p.m.ºThe Angelika Film Center in the Mosaic District, 2911 District Avenue, Fairfax.ºScreening of this award-winning documentary film, including a post-film discussion with Mr. Lauridsen. Tickets $20 at the door or $18 in advance onºwww.fairfaxchoralsociety.org

**"Death at The Devereux."** Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre, show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are $40. The Clifton Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's.

**The Fairfax Symphony Up Close and Personal.** 8 p.m. GMU Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of English composer Benjamin Britten, set in a framework of works traditional and modern.

**Gershwin, By George!** 8 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. In 1914 a sixteen year old named George Gershwin quit high school to become a "Tin Pan Alley song plugger." Oneºhundred years later, we celebrate this American icon's contribution to the world of music, in an all-Gershwin programºfeaturing his many songs and symphonic work, produced during his tragically short but prolific career.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 23

# Baking a Difference for Children

## Icing Smiles to be featured at cake show in Fairfax.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

**An Elmo cake and cupcakes brighten a child's day.**

Icing Smiles, an organization that provides custom cakes for critically ill children, will be highlighted at The National Capital Area Cake Show at Fairfax High School.

The event will be held Saturday, March 29, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, March 30, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The school is at 3501 Rebel Run in Fairfax; ticket information is at www.cakeshow.org/.

A national nonprofit, Icing Smiles has been selected as the show's featured charity. The organization brightens the birthdays of children fighting cancer and other critical illnesses by providing custom-made birthday cakes for them and their siblings.

During the two-day show, there'll be classes, demonstrations and contests open to the public. The competitions include an "On Broadway"-themed wedding cake contest and a "Head to Toe" category. And for its first time, Icing Smiles will work with the show's host, the Virginia Chapter of the International Cake Exploration Societé (ICES), on the live cake challenge.

All four competition cakes will then be donated to local hospitals, and an Icing Smiles child will take part as a judge to select the winning cake.

Since delivering its first cake in 2010 to Violet, a 6-year-old girl battling brain cancer, Icing Smiles has provided cakes to more than 3,500 children throughout the U.S.

"We understand that the simple things, like a birthday cake, are luxuries to a family battling illness," explained Tracy Quisenberry, founder and executive director of Icing Smiles. "What we provide is so much more than cake – we serve up a reason to smile."

Icing Smiles works with a national network of specialty cake bakers and matches them with eligible children in all 50 states, Canada and Holland. Its goal is to offer – through a cheerful cake, beautifully decorated with representations of what makes each, particular child happy – a temporary escape from the worry of illness.

Seeing, for example, their favorite playthings, sports heroes or cartoon characters on a cake, enables the recipients to just enjoy being children, instead of patients. The cakes also create a positive memory during a difficult time for a family.

Basically, said Quisenberry, "Memories have magical powers. Long after the cake is gone, the memories linger – memories of the kindness of a stranger, the art of the design, the sweet smells of a special treat, the smiles and laughs – a normal, childhood experience so often stolen from these children. [So] we are baking a difference."

For more information, go to www.icingsmiles.org.

**Northern Virginia's Premier Party-Planning Expo.** 12-4 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. If you're planning a milestone celebration, the NoVA Simcha Expo is your all-in-one shopping experience. Free admission and free parking. Everyone welcome. Vendors include: DJs, photographers, photo booth, entertainment, venues, invitations and decorations, caterers, make-up artists, event planners and more! 703-323-0880.

**The Fairfax Symphony Up Close and Personal.** 2 p.m. GMU Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of English composer Benjamin Britten, set in a framework of works traditional and modern.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26-SUNDAY/MARCH 30

**6th Annual Used Book Sale.** Hours March 26 8 a.m. – 4p.m.; March 27. 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.; March 28 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; and March 30 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Over 10,000 neatly sorted gently read books will be offered for sale at prices from $0.50 to $2.50. On March 30, all books are $5 a bag.

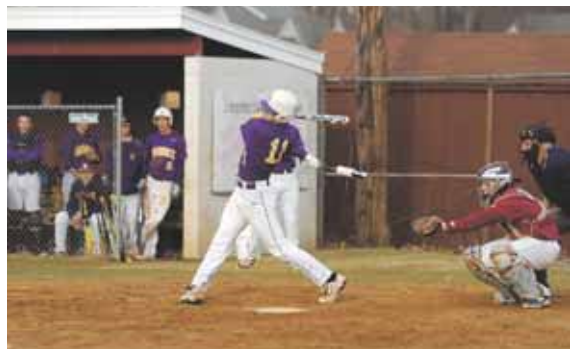
# Lake Braddock Baseball Looking for Missing Pieces

## Bruins graduated five Division I players from last season.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

**Senior right-hander Joe Darcy enters the 2014 season as the ace of the Lake Braddock pitching staff.**

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection



**Lake Braddock junior Nick Neville will move up in the batting order this season and pitch for the first time in years.**

The Lake Braddock baseball team entered the 2013 season in a cloud of uncertainty, with several key athletes battling injuries. The Bruins managed to right the ship, however, winning the Northern Region championship and reaching the state semifinals.

One year later, the Bruins again face a sense of uncertainty. This time, graduation, not injury, is the culprit.

Lake Braddock, a perennial Northern Virginia power two years removed from winning its first state championship, enters the 2014 campaign having graduated five Division I players from last year's team. Gone are pitcher Thomas Rogers (North Carolina), outfielder Alex Gransback (VCU), catcher Garett Driscoll (George Mason), and infielders Alex Lewis (Longwood) and Mitch Spille (Radford). Pitcher Nick McIntyre went to Division III Mary Washington.

The Bruins return a solid group of talented athletes, but the team has more holes to fill than usual.

"We've got a talented core back, it's just at the level we're used to playing, it's going to take nine guys and we're trying to figure out who our best nine are right now and where they fit in and where they're going to play," head coach Jody Rutherford said. "In the past three or four years, we needed to find one, two, three pieces. This year, we're looking at five pieces that we need to find."

**SENIOR SHORTSTOP** Jack Owens, who will play collegiately at East Carolina, is Lake Braddock's top returning player. Owens is working his way back from an injury to his right wrist, but said he should be fine.

"What we lost were good, all-around baseball players — hitters and pitchers," Owens said. "Trying to fill their positions is something we can't do, but we can find other ways to win. … We'll always find ways to win. If it's not hitting home runs and hitting doubles, it will be bunting and dribbling balls between infielders."

Junior infielders Nick Neville and Evan Eschenburg, and seniors Ryan Henderson (outfield) and Joe Darcy (pitcher/outfield) will provide Lake Braddock with strength at the top and in the middle of the batting order.

"Our top of the order is pretty good," Rutherford said. "It's just as good as it has been the past couple years. [It's all about] finding who is going to produce at the bottom of the order. That's what separates your offense from other [teams]."

Rutherford said senior Ian Reilly and junior Matt Supko have a chance to be contributors in the Bruin lineup.

> "In the past three or four years, we needed to find one, two, three pieces. This year, we're looking at five pieces that we need to find."
> **— Lake Braddock baseball coach Jody Rutherford**

On the mound, Darcy, a 6-foot-2, 200-pound right-hander, transitions into the role of staff ace. Darcy gained experience as a starting pitcher last season and has "established himself as the go-to guy right now," Rutherford said.

"Offensively, we're just as good as any other year," Darcy said. "The only area that we lack, really, is pitching, which, we're all trying to step up and be better pitchers and help our team win."

Rutherford said injuries will keep Supko (elbow/Tommy John surgery) and junior Colby Wallmow (torn labrum) off the mound this season. In need of depth, Neville will pitch for the first time in several years.

Neville, a 6-foot-1, 185-pound right-hander, throws a fastball, curve ball and change-up.

"I came up to [Rutherford] this winter and told him that I wanted to pitch," Neville said. "It was just something that I wanted to do to help the team out."

Kevin Haswell, a 6-foot-2, 200-pound junior right-hander, will also pitch for Lake Braddock.

**LAKE BRADDOCK** will open the season at home against Flint Hill at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 20. The Bruins will host Oakton in a rematch of last season's Northern Region championship game at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 22.

"We'll find a way to get it done; we'll have to do a better job of coaching," Rutherford said. "It's easy when you have good players to sit back and take all the credit as a coach. I guess I've got to really actually do some work this year."

Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

**West Springfield senior Amy Berglund will compete in the 10th Suburban Classic girls' basketball all-star game on Sunday, March 23 at Oakton High School.**

# Going to Oakton For All-Star Game

## Edison head coach Dianne Lewis to lead the East team, including Amy Berglund (West Springfield), Amber Bryson (Lee) and Tatiana Torres (Edison).

The 10th Suburban Classic girls' basketball all-star game will be held on Sunday, March 23 at Oakton High School.

The game features some of the top seniors from the 6A North and 5A North regions. There is a 3-point shootout at 2 p.m., followed by the main event at 3 p.m.

The East team, led by Edison head coach Dianne Lewis, includes West Springfield standout Amy Berglund, who led the Spartans to a 25-3 record, a Conference 7 championship and a trip to the state tournament.

The rest of the East roster includes: Amber Bryson (Lee), Tatiana Torres (Edison), Michele Noel (Wakefield), Cami Prock (McLean), Tykera Carter (T.C. Williams), Angie Schedler (T.C. Williams), Samantha Porter (Mount Vernon) and DJ Jean Pierre (Mount Vernon).

The West team is led by Madison head coach Kirsten Stone. The roster includes: Abby Rendle (South Lakes), Caitlin Jensen (South Lakes), Jenna Green (Centreville), Katie Blumer (Centreville), Bailey Dufrene (Osbourn), Arnelle Collins (Freedom-South Riding), Katie Kerrigan (Madison), Kayla Hix (Stonewall Jackson), Nicole Zubovich (Freedom-South Riding) and Alexia Johnson (Broad Run).

Admission is $5, with senior citizens and children younger than 5 admitted for free. Proceeds help to fund the Northern Virginia Women's Basketball Coaches Association scholarship program.

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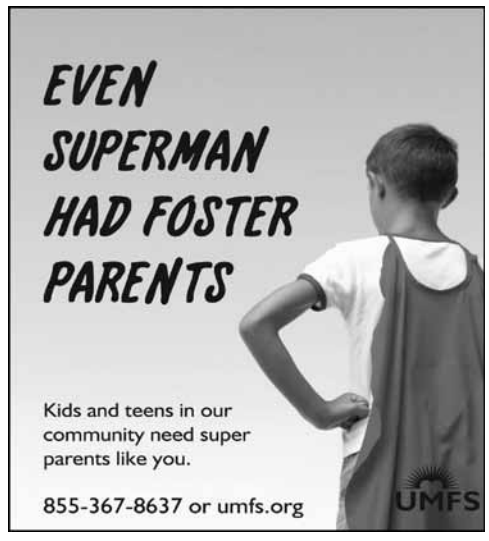


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SCHOOLS

# FCPS Students Earn 27 National Scholastic Awards

Fairfax County Public Schools students earned 27 national awards in the National Scholastic Art Awards program sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Nima Jeizan of Marshall High School earned an American Visions Medal—equivalent to a best in show for the nation—and Elisabeth Hughes of Oakton High School earned a Gold Medal and Best in Grade Award.

Gold Key award-winning entries from the Fairfax region were judged at the national level against winning artwork from across the country where they earned Gold Medals, Silver Medals, American Visions Medals, and Best in Grade Awards. National medalists will be celebrated at an award ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City in May. Select national award winning work will be included in an exhibition in New York, and a traveling exhibition over the coming year.

FCPS winners from our area include:

❖ Ha Nuel Lee of South County High School, Gold Medal for Digital Art, "She Is Ready."

❖ Ji Whae Choi of Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology (TJHSST), Silver Medal for Art Portfolio, "Diversity."

❖ Soyoung Ha of Fairfax High School, Silver Medal for Painting, "Child's Nightmare."

❖ Junyoung Hwang of TJHSST, Silver Medal for Painting, "Reflection."

❖ Jean Kim of South County High School, Silver Medal for Drawing, "Blue Horse."

❖ Jessica Kim of Westfield High School, Silver Medal for Digital Art, "Bat Girl."

❖ Ha Nuel Lee of South County High School, Silver Medal for Art Portfolio, "When He Gives Her The Flower Shoes."

❖ Emely Pascual of Lake Braddock Secondary School, Silver Medal for Drawing, "Grown Up Too Fast."

❖ William Sullivan of South County High School, Silver Medal for Art Portfolio, "Sexualization Of The Virgin."

❖ Jahyun Yang of Woodson High School, Silver Medal for Art Portfolio, "Front Door Neighbors."

## Bulletin Board

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

**FRIDAY/MARCH 21-SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

**City Regional Library Book Sale.** 10 a.m. -5 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books in all categories including art, history, cooking, gardening, foreign language, travel, spirituality, reference, classic and popular fiction. Plenty of free parking.

**SATURDAY/MARCH 22**

**Dog Adoption.** 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. hart90.org

**SATURDAY/MARCH 29**

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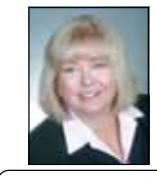

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