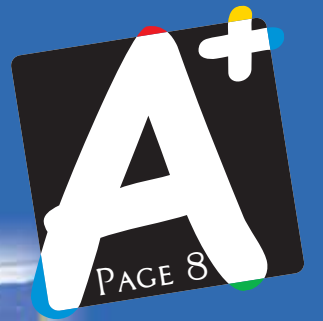


Top row: Bassam Ghali, Michael Koellner, Molly Wise. Bottom row: Christina Dougherty, Nicky Solares. For these Robinson students, choir is more than just an elective. Along with the rest of their class, they have been practicing for months in preparation for the World Choir Games in July.



ROBINSON CHORUS

Robinson Choirs Prepping for World Choir Games

NEWS, PAGE 3



Area Writers Shine at
Crime Authors Book Fair

NEWS, PAGE 2

Tax Burden Targets
Low-Income in
Northern Virginia

NEWS, PAGE 4



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was expecting.

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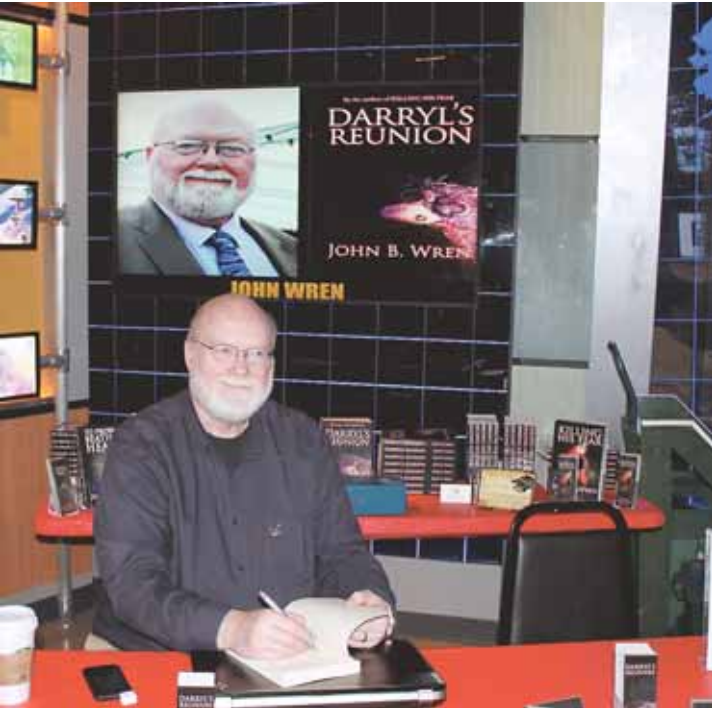
“You gotta be prepared for any kind of shot hit your way.”

Connor McCormick
Future tennis phenom



News

John B. Wren, who lives on the outskirts of Burke in Bonnie Brae, signs a copy of his book “Darryl’s Reunion” at a book fair for crime writers at the National Crime and Punishment Museum in Washington, D.C. on April 12.



PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Area Writers Shine at Crime Authors Book Fair

Fairfax County residents share insight at National Crime and Punishment Museum.

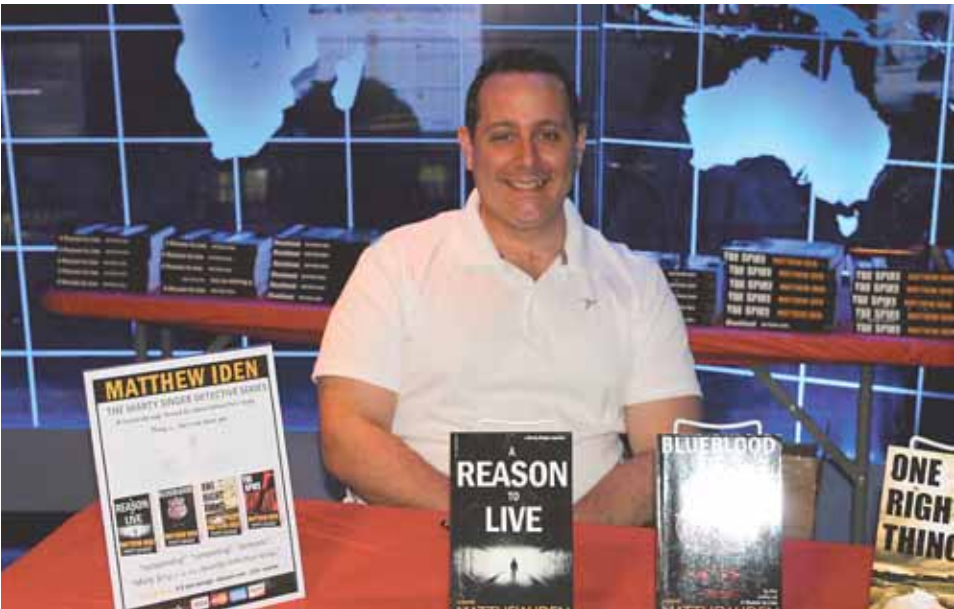
BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

For Fairfax County resident John B. Wren, writing crime novels is addictive. Creating problems, or the mystery, making people curious and creating solutions, is enjoyable for him. “It’s so much fun,” he said. Wren, who has been writing since 2009 and lives in Bonnie Brae on the outskirts of Burke, joined other local writers from throughout Fairfax County at the Crime Authors Book Fair at the National Crime and Punishment Museum in Washington, D.C.

HIS FIRST BOOK is “To Probe A Beating Heart” and is about the life of Averell

Danker, a serial killer. The ideas for his books come pretty easily, Wren said. “It’s just a matter of cracking out all of the meat in between,” he said. Wren keeps his writing realistic, and with minimal cursing. “If I had to depend on car chases and stuff like that to make something sell, I better get back to engineering,” Wren said. “I try to keep the language so that my mom can read it. She’s 94. If I stepped out of line she’d kill me.” As an engineer, Wren was used to simple, technical writing. Now, it’s a matter of making the words flow. “You have to put flowers in the garden. I could build a tree, but it’s putting the flow-

SEE CRIME, PAGE 11



Rose Hill resident Matthew Iden, who is best known for his Marty Singer detective stories, signed books at the April 12 Crime Authors Book Fair in Washington, D.C.



Michael Horanski, the choir director at Robinson Secondary School, directs the Robinson Singers as they rehearse for the World Choir Games.



The Robinson Singers and Select Women's Ensemble are the only choirs from Virginia headed to the World Choir Games in Latvia this July.

Robinson Choirs Prepping for World Choir Games

Two ensembles from Robinson will travel to Latvia this summer.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

After a Skype session with composer Sydney Guillaume, members of Robinson Secondary School's choral group Robinson Singers were ecstatic.

"It was just so exciting because he knows exactly what he wants it to sound like," said junior Molly Wise. "It was so cool to have the composer teach us and to take the time to help us."

Guillaume is the composer of "Twa Tanbou," one of the pieces Robinson Singers will be performing at the World Choir Games in Latvia this summer.

Michael Horanski, the director of High School Choral Activities at Robinson, said it was an amazing session and great learning experience.

"On the surface, you hope that the composer is pleased with the work you have done with their composition to make it true to their musical ideas. It was fascinating to hear specific feedback directly from the composer of what he wants the piece to sound like," he said.

Robinson Singer members say the song, which is an upbeat piece written in Creole, was difficult to learn and took a lot of outside practice. It's 26 pages long and is different from anything they've ever done before. But when they arrive in Latvia this summer for the World Choir Games, all of the hard work will be worth it.

Robinson Singers and Select Women's Ensemble, another choir at the school, will join 25 other groups from across the United States in Latvia. The choirs from Robinson are the only ones in Virginia who will be participating in the games.



The Robinson Singers recently practiced for the World Choir Games as Sydney Guillaume, the composer of "Twa Tanbou," one of the pieces the group will be performing this summer, listened and gave advice via webcam. Here, the group poses as Guillaume takes a photo through Skype.

More than 400 choirs from across the globe will be at the World Choir Games, something that is exciting for Robinson

Singers.

"I think it'll be great to hear choirs from all over," said junior Nicky Solares.

During the end of the first week at the closing ceremony, the students will join 7,000 other people from around the world in a performance that will be broadcast on Latvian television.

"I can't think of a better way to end the trip," Horanski said.

Horanski is looking forward to his students being exposed to choral music from around the globe.

"Music is something that truly unites people regardless of language, politics, economic status or ethnicity and they will have the opportunity to experience this first hand."

— Michael Horanski, choir director at Robinson Secondary School

"Music is something that truly unites people regardless of language, politics, economic status or ethnicity and they will have the opportunity to experience this first hand," he said.

The Robinson Choral Department has been planning the trip for at least a year. The most challenging part, Horanski says, is planning and finances.

"I am really fortunate to have enthusiastic students and supportive parents in our program. We are continuing to work on raising funds so I can help the students as much as possible with expenses," Horanski said.

Anyone interested in helping can visit www.robinsonsings.org. The World Choir Games are July 9-19 in Riga, Latvia.

SCHOOL NOTES

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.

Five Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have received national awards for their writing from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Three of the students received Gold Medals, the highest form of recognition.

Aline Dolinh of Oakton High School received the American Voices Medal, the equivalent of the best of show award, for her poetry, "Accent Marks, Exorcism, Model Minority, Second-generation."

National winners include:

❖ Melissa Halbrook of Woodson High School, Gold Medal for humor, "Kim Jung-Un's New Clothes."

❖ Emma Hastings of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), Gold Medal for short story, "Sight Without Vision, Vision Without Sight;" and Gold Medal for writing portfolio, "I Sing Of."

❖ Jean Jeon of Herndon High School, Silver Medal for novel writing, "Strain."

❖ Sara Warrington of TJHSST, Silver Medal for Journalism, "Overcoming Intolerance."

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a 91-year old program of the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers, will honor the winners at a special ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Friday, June 6.

Tax Burden Targets Low-Income in Northern Virginia

Average tax burden for low-income workers is highest in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Families that are struggling to make ends meet in Northern Virginia are the target of local governments in Northern Virginia, which has the highest tax burden in the region for low-income workers. Wealthy people face the highest tax burden in Prince George's County and Montgomery County. But here in Virginia, poor people face the biggest tax burden in Arlington, according to a new study by the Office of Revenue Analysis in the District of Columbia. Alexandria ranked second, and Fairfax County ranked third.

"People of color and low-income people are being pushed farther and farther out," said Jon Liss, founder of Tenants and Workers United. "The whole anti-immigrant backlash from 2006 to the present in Prince William was against the influx of people of color, particularly immigrants, being priced out and taxed out of this area and moving

MAJOR STATE AND LOCAL TAX BURDENS FOR A FAMILY OF THREE RESIDING IN SELECTED WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA JURISDICTIONS
CALENDAR YEAR 2012

TAX	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	MONTGOMERY COUNTY	PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY	ALEXANDRIA	ARLINGTON COUNTY	FAIRFAX COUNTY
\$25,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	(319) 1/	(172) 1/	(172) 1/	144	144	144
Real Estate	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095	2,095
Sales and Use	721	554	558	661	657	592
Automobile	213	394	456	428	503	212
TOTAL	2,710	2,871	2,937	3,328	3,399	3,043
RANK	6	5	4	2	1	3
\$50,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	1,179	1,349	1,301	1,123	1,130	1,103
Real Estate	1,197	1,739	2,229	2,079	1,969	2,239
Sales and Use	945	731	743	801	797	710
Automobile	257	502	584	554	697	264
TOTAL	3,579	4,321	4,857	4,557	4,593	4,316
RANK	6	4	1	2	3	5
\$75,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	2,410	2,540	2,807	2,200	2,210	2,181
Real Estate	2,082	2,609	3,343	3,118	2,953	3,359
Sales and Use	1,434	1,138	1,159	1,244	1,236	1,095
Automobile	458	931	1,096	1,035	1,320	810
TOTAL	6,384	7,219	8,406	7,597	7,719	7,445
RANK	6	5	1	2	3	4
\$100,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	4,157	4,518	4,426	3,393	3,389	3,352
Real Estate	2,968	3,479	4,458	4,158	3,937	4,479
Sales and Use	1,589	1,255	1,277	1,351	1,343	1,184
Automobile	551	1,012	1,178	1,087	1,377	825
TOTAL	9,265	10,263	11,339	9,989	10,046	9,840
RANK	6	2	1	4	3	5
\$150,000 INCOME LEVEL						
Income	7,534	8,027	7,888	5,624	5,595	5,553
Real Estate	4,738	5,218	6,687	6,237	5,906	6,718
Sales and Use	2,340	1,889	1,925	1,968	1,949	1,719
Automobile	543	1,405	1,702	1,692	2,517	1,433
TOTAL	15,155	16,539	18,201	15,521	15,967	15,423
RANK	6	2	1	4	3	5

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.
1/ Negative numbers result from a refundable Earned Income Tax Credit.

down there."

The study included the average tax burdens for five different income levels, starting at a family that earns \$25,000 a year and ending with a family that earns \$150,000 a year. The families at each income level are assumed to own a single family home, although those in the \$25,000 are assumed to live in rental housing and own a vehicle. The combination of income tax,

sales tax and automobile tax hit people at the bottom end of the scale hardest

"There is no deliberate policy to impose a disproportionate tax burden on the lowest income residents," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center of State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. "Rather, it's a lack of state-delegated authority to use other kinds of taxes, which would provide greater options to create a more

responsive tax policy in each of these two booming jurisdictions."

ARLINGTON RANKS the highest for families that earn \$25,000 — a very low income for families who live inside the Beltway. The median household income in Arlington is about \$103,000, which means the study was looking at families who are struggling to make ends meet in a county where most families pull down salaries that are about four times larger. County officials say the tax burden tells only part of the story. Arlington leaders say the county offers a number of significant services to low-income residents, including public education and housing support.

"I believe we are the only Northern Virginia locality still providing housing grants to lower income families and seniors," said Jay Fisette, chairman of the Arlington County Board. "We provide four to five times the level of support to help make housing affordable as do our closest Northern Virginia neighbors."

As people earn more money, the tax burden decreased on Arlington residents. The same is true of people who live in Alexandria, which ranks second overall for people who are at the bottom end of the earnings

SEE TAXES, PAGE 5

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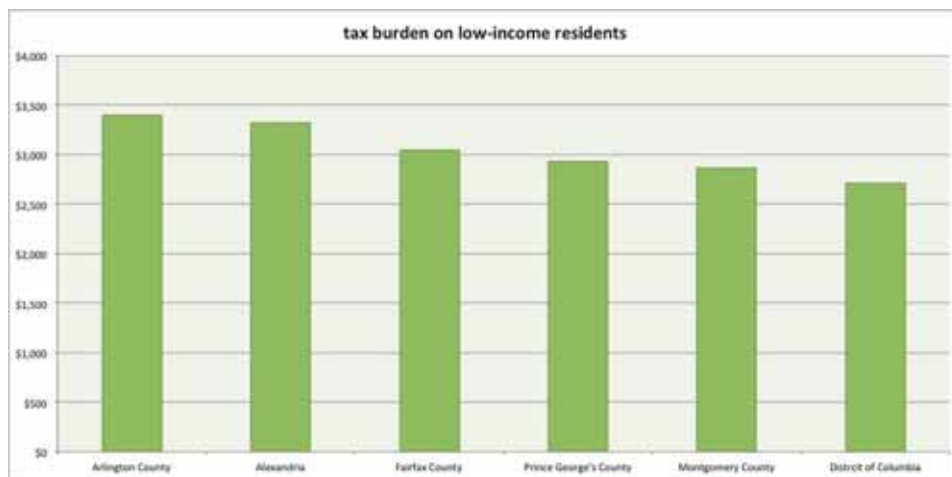
"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

burke@connectionnewspapers.com
Or to mail photo prints, send to:

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"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St.,
Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.



Taxes Target Low-income Workers

FROM PAGE 4

scale. Alexandria also has the third highest tax burden among families with a \$50,000 and \$75,000 income level, and the fourth highest tax burden among families with a \$100,000 or \$150,000 income level. Residents in the District of Columbia have the lowest tax burden in all five of the income brackets.

“Talk to people in D.C., and they wish they had better services — EMS service, for instance, better police response times, more recreation centers,” said Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille. “So it’s what you invest in and reinvest in in terms of providing outreach and services to your taxpayers.”

“We reside in a low-tax state. So there is both a greater burden on local governments to raise taxes than in Maryland, but limited state authority on what kinds of taxes may be levied.”

— Frank Shafroth, director of the Center of State and Local Leadership at George Mason University

VIRGINIA HAS A reputation as a low-tax state, so the relatively high tax burden on low-income people is counter-intuitive. For example, the Washington-based Tax Foundation ranks Virginia as the 25th lowest among states levying an individual income tax. When the organiza-

tion looked at state and local income tax collections, though, it ranked Virginia as the 11th highest nationally.

“We reside in a low-tax state,” said Shafroth. “So there is both a greater burden on local governments to raise taxes than in Maryland, but limited state authority on what kinds of taxes may be levied.”

Among the Northern Virginia jurisdictions that were part of the D.C. government study on tax burdens, Fairfax County had the lowest tax burden in all income brackets. That means that Arlington and Alexandria impose a greater tax burden on their residents than in Fairfax County. But as families earn more money, the tax burden decreases in Fairfax County.

“Saying that Fairfax has a lower tax burden than Arlington is like saying that Mount McKinley is not as high as Mount Everest,” said Arthur Purves, president of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance. “Fairfax County’s tax burden and spending is still way too high.”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon needs a volunteer knitting instructor to assist with an existing knitting class on Thursday mornings. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Franconia, Reston, McLean and Falls Church. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

The Sully Senior Center,

5690 Sully Rd., Centreville needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults, for one hour two days per week. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Wakefield Senior Center, 8100 Braddock Rd., Annandale needs an experienced canasta player, Spanish-speaking interpreters, and certified instructors for Dance, Zumba Gold, and Pilates. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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OPINION

Celebrate Earth Day

Get outside with your family, participate in group activities, or just walk in your favorite park.

Earth Day is April 22, observed April 19-27 and beyond. Fairfax County offers many useful and educational ways to enjoy the day. Don't miss the chance to get outside, observe the developing spring weather, flora and fauna. Here are some of the opportunities:

Environmental Film Festival, Sunday, April 20 through Thursday, April 24, Cinema Arts Theatres: 9650-14 Main Street, Fairfax. Each day, networking will begin at 3:30 p.m. and films begin at 4 p.m. The public is welcome to join in discussion on film topics and how they relate to Fairfax County. Students throughout the County have been encouraged to submit 2-5 minute films which will be shown throughout the Festival in between feature films and will be rebroadcast on Cox Communications local Channel 74 following the Festival. Environmental nonprofit organizations like the Audubon Society, Lands and Waters, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will be at Cinema Arts for the daily networking sessions at 3.30 p.m.

http://www.fcrpp3.org/wp-content/uploads/green_inspirations.pdf

Cub Run RECenter for Earth Day, Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m.-noon, 4630 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly: "Nike Reuse-a-Shoe Program," bring old, worn-out athletic shoes to Earth Day. Nike Reuse-a-Shoe will grind them down to create a new material called Nike Grind which is used to make sports courts, turf fields, tracks and more. Activities include: planting, weeding, mulching, watershed clean-up, crafts for kids and bring questions for Master Gardeners. What to bring: water bottle, sunscreen, hat, garden gloves and bug repellent. Age: 5 - adult

(ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult).

Springfest, April 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton: pony rides, plant sales, climbing wall, bounce house, petting zoo, face painting, two shows by Billy B, Reptiles Alive!, Under The Sea. 9-11 a.m. Stream Cleanup and Tree Planting with Occoquan Regional Park. Donate toothpaste, toothbrushes, cereal and rice to Lorton Community Action.

Invasive Management Area Volunteer Program is a community-based project designed to reduce invasive plants on our parklands. This volunteer-led program gives residents an opportunity to protect plants and wildlife of Fairfax County's forests while spending time outdoors, meeting new people and restoring natural habitats. Key components of this program are habitat restoration and a long-term commitment to the park. Many workdays planned during Earth Week, April 19-26, including in Vienna, McLean, Springfield and Burke. Virginia's Annual Invasive Plant Removal Day is May 3. To sign up, contact IMA Coordinator Erin Stocksclaeder at 703-324-8681

Fairfax County Biological Stream Monitoring: Aquatic forms of insects (called "benthic macroinvertebrates") live on the bottom of rocks and debris lying in the streambed. These small organisms play a big role in helping Fairfax County staff monitor the health of a stream. Data collected by volunteers is incorporated into a number of different water quality reports, including the Stream Protection Strategy Baseline Study. Join the hundreds of existing volunteers in collecting this important information and make a difference in the

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 11, 2014, and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.) You can upload photos and information directly to our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

health of Fairfax County's streams! If you are interested in becoming a monitor, email the coordinator or call 703-324-1422, TTY 711.

Electric Sunday, April 27 and May 18, I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax 22030: Fairfax County residents can recycle televisions, computers and peripheral devices — including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials — and unbroken fluorescent light bulbs and tubes on Electric Sundays. There is no charge for Fairfax County residents to participate in Electric Sunday; however, you may be required to show proof of residency.

Help Create A Bee-Friendly Landscape, seedling sale: The trees and shrubs in this year's seedling sale will help provide habitat for bees and add beauty to your landscape. The 2014 Shrub and Small Tree Package includes 10 seedlings for \$16.95. The Tree Package includes six seedlings sold for \$11.95. A full, nonrefundable payment must accompany your order by Monday, April 28. Orders may be picked up on Friday, May 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., or Saturday, May 3, 9 a.m.-noon. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School Budget: Different Perspective

To the Editor:

"Challenging discussion on the Fairfax County FY 2015 Budget" is another attendee's perspective on the Lee District Feb. 26 meeting at which the FCPS and Fairfax County budgets were presented. I was present at this meeting along with recent letter to the editor author Terry Atkinson "Toxic Debate on School Budget," Connection, April 3-9). I walked away from this meeting with the impression that our residents and officials want to be part of the solution to build a stronger Fairfax County. Although sometimes vocal about their frustrations, they were not part of a "toxic debate."

This forum was an appropriate place for homeowners to relay their concerns about increased real estate assessments. It was an appropriate place for a FCPS volunteer, a FCPS employee and par-

ent to address their elected officials and public servants who were outlining 2 complex, co-dependent financial plans. Other residents asked questions pertaining to the Human Services and Public Safety budgets. Many of those commenting prefaced their remarks with appreciation for the hard work put forth by all these officials.

A discussion on shared resources (fuel purchases, building and vehicle maintenance) between county government and public schools took place.

Examples of shared program development (SACC and a Pre-K reading program at John Marshall Library) also occurred. Another resident asked about ways everyone could help identify new revenue sources.

Another wondered about the value of engaging our surrounding counties in a dialogue to brain-

storm ideas on solving funding challenges.

One of the homeowners who expressed dismay over his assessment said he has no intention of moving- one could surmise that he is invested in our county and wants to remain so, regardless of his increased property tax burden. Another resident spoke of his securing of computer equipment for one of our schools.

We need to meet the demands of all Fairfax County residents. Listening tours took place among smaller subsets of interest groups prior to the formal presentations of these budgets. We need to do more of those. We need to find different ways to dialogue with the business community, government employer bases, citizen action committees, volunteers and elected officials.

We are all trying to achieve the same objective- we are not trying to pit one set of residents' needs

against another. Unfortunately, with a still recovering economy and housing market, an overall population growth rate of 5.7 percent and a school population growth rate of 7.9 percent and a return to our county coffers of only 19 cents on every dollar we turn over to the state, we are faced with a shortage in revenue and an ever growing lists of needs.

Those attending the Feb. 26 Lee District Association of Civic

Organizations Meeting understand all these challenges and are looking to work with their elected officials and county public servants to increase revenues and fully fund all our county needs. That's what I took away from this meeting. We can accomplish so much more if we respectfully interpret each other's input and listen and learn from each other.

Elizabeth Murphy
Springfield

Burke
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LETTERS

Prohibit Fracking

To the Editor:

In "Residents Concerned About 'Fracking in Our Backyard'" (Connection, April 3-9, 2014), readers may wonder how pollutants entering the Potomac River 200 miles upstream in the George Washington National Forest could still be toxic in Fairfax County. After all, wouldn't the chemicals be diluted by the water in the Potomac? The answer depends on the pollutants and the flow of water. Take just one of the potential pollutants, benzene, a known human carcinogen toxic in drinking water at any concentration greater than five parts per billion. Based on published concentrations of petroleum distillates like kerosene or petroleum naphtha used in fracking fluid and the benzene content of these distillates, there could be enough benzene in the fracking fluid injected into a single natural gas well in the George Washington National Forest to pollute 84 billion gallons of water. The median flow rate of the Potomac River near Washington, D.C. is seven billion gallons per day. If this petroleum distillate from just one of the estimated 250 wells forecast to be drilled in the forest leaks into just one of the many creeks that feeds the Potomac, we would have to hope that the Potomac has a much higher flow rate than the median, that some of the benzene dissipates before making its way downstream or that our water providers could remove the benzene.

We do not want to repeat the mistakes made recently near Charleston, W. Va., where a virtually unknown chemical was stored near the Elk River. As we know, the chemical leaked into the river and contaminated water supplies for 300,000 people. Because of these risks, officials in Cincinnati, which lies 200 miles downriver from the site of the recent West Virginia spill, felt compelled to close their water intake valves as the spill floated by.

Instead of tempting that fate, better to prohibit fracking in the George Washington National Forest.

Linda Burchfiel
McLean

The writer is At-Large member of Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council, and Political Chair, Great Falls Group of the VA Sierra Club.

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Challenging A Child's Mind

Experts say reading is critical to cognitive and emotional development.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Arlington mother Holly Karapetkova reserves time for reading in the schedules of her two young children. It has become such an important part of their daily routine that it is a treasured family activity. It is also vital to her children's development says Karapetkova.

"Reading is an extremely complex mental activity that engages a child's — or adult's — brain much more intensively than television or video games," said Karapetkova, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Literature at Marymount University in Arlington. "When you read, you employ higher-order cognitive skills. You learn to imagine things that you have not yourself experienced."

CHILD DEVELOPMENT and literature experts say that reading helps children develop imagination skills and an ability to learn and think in new ways. It also boosts emotional development.

"You learn to empathize with others, and so you are able to grow emotionally as well," said Karapetkova. "Critical thinking, imagination, and empathy are all qualities that are essential to our nature as human beings, and essential to our success in the world."

Fred Bemak, Ed.D., Professor and Academic Program Coordinator, College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University, says that even a few minutes each day can have a significant influence. "Reading to a child 20 minutes a days will increase their ability to read and think above grade level," he said. "That is just a matter of sitting with a child and reading with them, but it has a such profound influence."

A lack of reading time also makes an impact on children. "When a child doesn't have access to books or when a parent doesn't have knowledge about reading to a child,

that is where we see an achievement gap," said Bemak.

Mary Catherine Coleman, Lower School Librarian and JK-12 Library Department Chair at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said reading offers children a broad view of the world. "I think, and research shows, reading helps to develop children's thinking because it helps to develop a background knowledge about the world," she said. "Reading also helps children to see the world from a different perspective, helping children develop an understanding, empathy and compassion for others and the world. It challenges children to look at events, people and things in a different way."

"When it comes to imagination, books challenge children to create a movie in their minds," said Coleman. "They need to imagine a world, characters and experiences that they are not familiar with."

"Reading challenges children to move beyond what they see in front of them," said Coleman. "It also teaches children how to be storytellers, how to share experiences and fosters creativity."

Karapetkova said that reading is more open-ended than other media and challenges a child's cognitive abilities. "When you read, even when they are pictures, your brain has to do a great deal of work to process information and piece the story together," she says. "In a movie or video game, everything is predetermined and spelled out for you, and there's a lot less room left to the imagination to make leaps and discover things on its own."



PHOTO BY KATIE PEEBLES

Marymount University professor Holly Karapetkova reads with her 4-year-old daughter. Experts say that reading is a complex mental activity that engages a child's brain more intensively than watching television or playing video games.

Karapetkova has experienced this in her own life. "I have found with my older child that one book often leads to another," she said. "We might read something that piques his interest and sends him back to the library for more information, and the information he can find in the library is seem-

Book Suggestions

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE:

"Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library" by Chris Grabenstein
"Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy" by Karen Foxlee
"Capture the Flag" by Kate Messner

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE:

"Doll Bones" by Holly Black
"Under the Egg" by Laura Marx Fitzgerald
"Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin" by Liesl Shurtliff

ingly endless."

The same is not true with television or video games. "When he watches a film or plays a video game, he never says to me, 'I want to find out more about organisms deep under the sea because that's where Spongebob lives,'" said Karapetkova. "But when he reads a book, he asks questions and his curiosity and imagination open up."

Michael Moynihan, Upper School Head, The Heights School in Potomac, Md., believes in eschewing some electronic media and promoting "a renewed culture of reading...[and] conversation".

SO WHICH BOOKS do experts recommend? "Really, anything you and your children enjoy reading together will do the trick," said Karapetkova. "My children are several years apart. My daughter is 4 and my son is 9, and I have been amazed by how much each enjoys the books I pick out together for the other. I'll sit down with my daughter to read 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' or another picture book and my son will stop whatever he is doing to join us."

"And my daughter also enjoys listening to what my son and I are reading aloud together," said Karapetkova. "We've been reading a variety of books this year, including things like Harry Potter and C.S. Lewis, and she listens and grasps part of what is happening. So their interest in each other's books reminds me that children can be drawn to and learn from a great range of books."

Seventeen FCPS Students Named National Achievement Scholarship Winners

Seventeen Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students are among more than 800 students nationwide who have won Achievement Scholarships from the 2014 National Achievement® Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

The FCPS students named National Achievement® Scholars, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Christine Tamir of Annandale High School (undecided).
- ❖ Marvel Elisabeth Onga Nana of Centreville High School (biomedical en-

gineering).

- ❖ Heather Lawrence of Edison High School (political science).
- ❖ Bezawit Yohannes of Hayfield Secondary School (law).
- ❖ Ade Samuel of Herndon High School (chemical engineering).
- ❖ Sarah Gutema of McLean High School (neuroscience).
- ❖ Lani Allen of Marshall High School (writing).
- ❖ Suha Suliman of Robinson Secondary School (pediatrics).
- ❖ Gelila Yitsege of South County High School (neuroscience).
- ❖ Derek Phillips of South Lakes High School (aerospace engineering).

- ❖ Anthony Carrington of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (medicine).
- ❖ Cheyanne Rivera of TJHSST (psychiatry).
- ❖ Comfort Sampong of TJHSST (development economics).
- ❖ Shalisa James of Westfield High School (English literature).
- ❖ John O'Connell of Westfield High School (computer science).
- ❖ Tolunimi Oyeleye of Westfield High School (chemical engineering).
- ❖ Tianay Ziegler of Woodson High School (biological engineering).

Each of the students received \$2,500 National Achievement Scholarships supported

by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the NASP with the exception of Allen, whose scholarship is underwritten by the Xerox Foundation.

The National Achievement Scholarship program is a privately financed competition founded in 1964 specifically to honor scholastically talented Black American young people and to increase their opportunities for higher education. The program is conducted by NMSC, a not-for-profit organization. These awards, totaling over \$2 million, are financed by grants from 31 corporate organizations and professional associations, and by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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 April 18 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm
 April 20 - Easter Sunday Celebration at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am
 Sunrise Service at Springfield Golf & Country Club at 6:30 am

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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16 - SUNDAY/APRIL 20
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Presents Built to Amaze Circus. GMU Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$15-\$30. For more information and show timings visit, www.ticketmaster.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19
2014 Lions Club Flea Market. VRE parking lot, 6900 Hechinger Drive, Springfield. Cost is \$20 per space, first come, first serve. Website for rules: sfhostlions.org
Family Fun. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cherry Run Elementary School, 9732 Ironmaster Drive, Burke. There will be free pony rides, moon bounce, balloon clown, petting zoo, hot dog lunch, and of course lots of eggs.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20-THURSDAY/APRIL 24
Green Inspirations Environmental Film Festival. Cinema Arts Theatre, 9650 Main Street, Fairfax. Come celebrate Earth Week at the Green Inspirations Environmental Film Festival.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24
Deep Ocean Exploration: Uncovering Hidden Valleys and Soviet Subs. 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. The secrets of the ocean - whether hidden valleys or clandestine Soviet subs - have been discovered. Dr. Gary Weir, NGA's Chief Historian, will unveil these underwater stories and surprises. If you love the ocean or history, it's going to be an exciting evening.

Forks Over Knives: A lecture by Professor T. Colin Campbell, Cornell University. 7 p.m. GMU, Dewberry Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Lecture about the benefits of a whole-food, plant-based diet. Free and open to the public.
Civil War Northern Virginia 1861 Presentation. 7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. William Connery, local historian and author of Civil War Northern Virginia 1861 and Mosby's Raids In Civil War Northern Virginia will present.



The circus is about to leave town! Catch a performance this weekend with Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey as they present Built to Amaze Circus, running through April 20 at George Mason University's Patriot Center.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25, 26 & MAY 2, 3
"Pride & Prejudice." Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. www.wtwdrama.org to purchase tickets.

RIDAY/APRIL 25- SUNDAY/JUNE 1
The Fantasticks. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Fantasticks is a funny and romantic musical about a boy, a girl, two fathers and a wall. Tickets : \$15.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25
"The Sixth Generation" - Spring 1960s Sock Hop Series. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Attention all Baby Boomers and Bobby Soxers! Join The Sixth Generation for a special concert in 60's Dance Hall Style at the Workhouse Arts Center! \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.
Robinson Crew Team Annual Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Burke Nursery and Garden Center at 9401 Burke Road, Burke. The entire nursery inventory is for sale, including annuals, perennials, stones, hanging baskets, shrubs, trees, and master gardener/landscaping design. www.robinsoncrew.org or plantsale4crew@gmail.com or 703-980-8725.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26
Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. PF Chang's in Fairfax Corner, 4250 Fairfax Corner Avenue, Fairfax.

Cost of \$30 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. RSVP required. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.

2014 Healthy Strides Community 5K/10K. 7:30 a.m. Burke Lake Park. Head on out to Burke Lake Park on April 26 and join the Fairfax County Park Authority for the Healthy Strides Community 5k/10k!! Enjoy a scenic run around the beautiful grounds of Burke Lake Park. The 10k runs along a wooded path and takes runners around the lake. While the 5k follows a scenic tree-lined road through the park. Register here: <http://prcracing.racebox.com/events/register/5224ef94-365c-408a-b417-7f46c0a86524>.

Spring Faire. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. There's something for everyone - jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet, and more. Free admission and door prizes. Proceeds will be donated to Bethany House to help victims of domestic abuse. www.womansclubofspringfield.org.

Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Performing Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) and music director Christopher Zimmerman present Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony.
SpringFest 2014. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. www.springfestfairfax.org.

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.

Easter Services

THURSDAY/APRIL 17
Maundy Thursday Service. 7:30 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. This is a service to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and the beginning of our sacrament, the Lord's Supper. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as He had loved them.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18
Good Friday Service. 7:30 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Good Friday

commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death on the cross at Calvary.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20
Easter Sunday Services. 6, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Join to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

FAITH NOTES

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.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Meeting the Easter Bunny

Siblings Ian, 5, and Katrina, 11, Kloplic of Springfield visit the Easter Bunny during the Vienna Egg Roll event last Saturday, April 12.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION

Crime Authors Share Insight

FROM PAGE 2

ers in the garden that's the trick," he said.

Wren, who enjoys reading Tom Clancy and John Grisham novels, thinks he's getting much better at that process.

"But Ernest Hemingway's place in history is perfectly safe. I am no threat," Wren said.

He's been approached by Andrea Sims, a publicist from Lion's Share Communications, who is reading Wren's books and trying to put them in front of people in Hollywood.

"I am extremely excited about that," Wren said.

His wife, Louis Wren, said she was pleasantly surprised when she read the rough draft for her husband's first novel.

"He wrote this book that had such a good plot. I made a few suggestions, some he took, some he didn't, but I was pleasantly surprised. I didn't think he had it in him," she said.

After "To Probe A Broken Heart," Wren published "Killing His Fear" in 2012 and "Darryl's Reunion." He is now working on two additional books to be finished later this year.

Rose Hill resident Matthew Iden, the author behind the Marty Singer homicide cop series, was also at the Crime Authors Book Fair.

Iden says he wanted his writing to focus on someone who wasn't a typical hero.

"Because although I enjoy reading about bullet proof, invincible, Jack Reacher-type heroes, I found myself unable to write them," he said.

Iden's character Mary Singer is a retired D.C. homicide cop struggling with cancer. His life is in shambles, Iden says, but none of that is really his fault.

"I just wanted a normal guy who ran into some trouble and has to work through it," he said.

Iden is currently working on the fifth book in the Marty Singer series. He self-published the books,



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County resident D.A. Spruzen is a fiction and poetry writer and former president of the Northern Virginia Writers Club.

which he said has been an empowering experience.

"Self-publishing is a really good venue for people who are serious about their writing and want to reach an audience," he said.

McLean resident D.A. Spruzen, previous president of the Northern Virginia Writers Club, shared her insight with visitors to the book fair. She is currently working on the third installment of the Flower Ladies Trilogy, which includes "Not One of Us" and "Lily Takes the Field."

"They dispel a lot of myths and stereotypes about people who are mentally disturbed," Spruzen said.

WREN ENCOURAGES aspiring writers to practice writing as much as possible. He's also thankful to be part of the Northern Virginia Writers Club, which has given him a great deal of advice and opportunities.

"Being part of the group is the reason these books are here," he said. "It has been so great. It's just unreal."

Authors Andy Straka, Dan Morse, and Austin S. Camacho also attended the fair. For more information on the authors, visit www.crimemuseum.org/crime-authors-book-fair.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION
Robinson junior Melissa Cook hits the ball during a spring break tournament game against West Potomac on April 12.

Robinson Softball Wins Spring Break Tourney Finale

After dropping three straight spring break tournament games, the Robinson softball team defeated Edison 8-4 on Monday, April 14. The Rams finished the tournament, which stretched across six days, with a 2-3 record.

Robinson started the tourney with an 11-5 win over Osbourn on April 9 at Robinson Secondary School. The Rams played a tournament doubleheader at West Potomac High School on April 12, where the Rams lost to Oakton, 7-6, and West Potomac, 10-0 in five innings.

Sophomore Juliet Pascual started in the pitcher's circle against West Potomac and shut out the Wolverines for the first two innings. However, West Potomac broke the game open with six runs in the third, including five charged to Pascual. Freshman

Emily Sawin pitched in relief for the Rams.

Melissa Cook, Sydney Graf, Haley Clements and Kelsea Sinnett each had a single for Robinson.

On Monday, the Rams played another tournament doubleheader, this time splitting games with Lake Braddock and Edison at Edison High School. After a 17-4 loss to the Bruins, the Rams beat the Eagles, improving their record to 4-8.

Robinson, led by head coach Mitch Hughes, will travel to face Westfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

Lake Braddock Softball Remains Undefeated

The Lake Braddock softball team improved to 10-0 with victories against Robinson and Mount Vernon on Monday.

The Bruins concluded their participation in a spring break tournament by winning



Robinson sophomore Juliet Pascual pitches during a spring break tournament game at West Potomac High School on April 12.

both games of a double header on April 14. The Bruins beat Robinson 17-4 and Mount Vernon 8-0. Lake Braddock won each of its five tournament games, including victories against Oakton (6-0, April 9), Osbourn (5-1, April 12) and Westfield (6-0 on April 12).

Lake Braddock, the 2013 Patriot District champion, has outscored opponents 113-6 in 10 games this season.

The Bruins will travel to face Woodson at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21.

South County Softball Dominating Opponents

The South County softball team's dominance has continued out of state.

The Stallions won the first two games of their trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C., beating Cherry Hill East (N.J.) 8-0 on April 14 and Livonia (N.Y.) 6-0 on April 15. The victories improved South County's record to 8-0. The Stallions have outscored opponents 81-3 and have been scored upon in only one of eight games.

After three more games in South Carolina, South County will return home for a game against Annandale on April 22. The Stallions will host Lake Braddock at 6:30 p.m. on April 24 for a rematch of last season's Patriot District championship game.

Robinson Baseball Off to 8-2 Start

The Robinson baseball team defeated Mount Vernon 4-2 on April 14, improving its record to 8-2.

The Rams opened the season with six straight victories before losing to Oakton, 8-1, on April 10.

Robinson will face McLean at 1:30 p.m.

on Thursday, April 17 at Potomac High School. The Highlanders are also 8-2, including a 16-3 win over Edison on April 14.

Lake Braddock Baseball Drops to 3-5

The Lake Braddock baseball team lost to Stratford High School, 9-4, on April 14 during a spring break event in Charleston, S.C. The loss dropped the Bruins' record to 3-5.

Lake Braddock dropped five of six after starting the season with wins against Oakton and Lee.

The Bruins had two more games scheduled in South Carolina. The team will return to Fairfax County action on April 21 at Woodson.

West Springfield Baseball Wins Sixth Straight

The West Springfield baseball team won its sixth consecutive game on April 15, beating Martinsburg (W.V.) 3-1 in Aynor, S.C.

The Spartans suffered a pair of one-run losses to DeMatha and Robinson to open the season, but responded with a winning streak. After three more games in South Carolina, West Springfield will return home for a game against Woodson on April 22.

South County Boys' Lax Improves to 7-0

The South County boys' lacrosse team defeated Oakton 17-11 on April 14, improving its record to 7-0.

South County, the 2013 Patriot District champion, will host defending state champion Chantilly at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Senior Softball Seeks Senior Players

Northern Virginia Senior Softball (NVSS) is looking for senior softball players. NVSS is a well-organized league that accommodates softball players of various skill sets. Women age 40 or older or a men age 50 or over may join. Playing softball provides an opportunity to start or supplement your physical activity program. It is also an opportunity to meet a great bunch of folks and make lasting friends. Go to <http://www.nvss.org/> for more information.

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-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

TAX MAP ID NO. 065-2-09-0443
Under a power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust from Isa K. Azzouz and May I. Azzouz, as grantors, to John D. Eubank and Timothy E. Lewis, as trustees, for the benefit of Commercial Lending, LLC, a Virginia limited liability company, as beneficiary, dated September 25, 2007 and recorded on November 27, 2007 in Book 19673 at Page 1179 as Instrument No. 2007033933.014 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia ("Deed of Trust"), with an original principal balance of \$20,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the Trustees will sell at public auction at the front door of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, on

APRIL 30, 2014 AT 2:00 PM
ALL THAT REAL PROPERTY AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON situated in Fairfax County, Virginia, and more fully described in the aforesaid Deed of Trust.
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of ten per centum of the sale price will be required of the Purchaser at the time and place of sale. The deposit must be paid in cash or certified funds. The balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash or certified funds within twenty (20) days of the date of sale. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of sale to the date of settlement. The party secured herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit or to pay interest. Purchaser shall settle within twenty (20) days of the date of sale. TIME SHALL BE OF THE ESSENCE WITH RESPECT TO SETTLEMENT BY THE PURCHASER. In the event that Purchaser does not settle as required for any reason, Purchaser shall be in default. The defaulting Purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property, and the deposit shall be forfeited to the Trustees and all of the expenses of this sale (including attorneys' fees and full commission on the gross sale price) shall be charged against and paid out of the forfeited deposit. In the event settlement is delayed for any reason, including, but not limited to, exceptions to the sale, bankruptcy filings by interested parties, court administration of the foreclosure, or unknown title defects, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, ground rent, water and all public charges including electrical, sanitation, and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, are to be adjusted for the current year to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the Purchaser. Cost of all documentary stamps, recordation taxes, transfer taxes and settlement expenses shall be borne by the Purchaser.
The Property will be sold in an "AS IS" condition and subject to recorded covenants, conditions, restrictions, agreements, and senior liens, if any, and with no warranty of any kind (except as required by the Deed of Trust).
In the event that the Trustees are in default for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy at law and in equity shall be limited to a refund of the deposit and the sale shall be considered null and void and of no effect.
Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward.
Trustees reserve the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any and all bids, to withdraw the property from sale at any time before or at the auction, to extend the time to receive bids, to waive or modify the deposit requirement, to waive or modify the requirement that interest be paid on the unpaid purchase money, and/or to extend the period of time for settlement.
Additional terms may be announced at the sale. The Purchaser will be required to execute and deliver to the Trustees a memorandum or contract of the sale at the conclusion of bidding.
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PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 22, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment and revision of the Town of Clifton's Zoning Ordinance resulting from the revision of Section 9-13 of the Zoning Ordinance which contains provisions pertaining to Parking in the Town. The proposed revision to Section 9-13 of the Zoning Ordinance is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.cliftonva.us and a hard copy of the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed amended and revised Section 9-13 Parking of the Town of Clifton Zoning Ordinance.

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-William Van Horne

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Walk through Time in City of Fairfax

This spring and summer, people may learn about the life and personalities of the City of Fairfax by taking 90-minute, guided walking tours through the Old Town Fairfax National Register Historic District.

Some walking tours will include a special visit inside the city's treasured edifice, the old Fairfax Courthouse. It was built in 1800 at the same time the national capital of Washington, D.C. was just taking shape. Attendees will learn the relationship between both cities' founding.

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"The City of Fairfax is a vibrant leaf of U.S. history waiting just for you," said Cultural, Tourism and Marketing Director Jo Ormesher. "It is only steps away on our summer walking tours, to be discussed and explored, led by local citizens who love to share its rich heritage with our visitors."

The 2014 docent-led tours, organized by Historic Fairfax City Inc., are on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. Weather permitting, the dates are: April 19, May 24 and 31, June 7 and 21, July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23, and Sept. 13. Tours leave in front of the Ratcliffe-Allison House at 10386 Main Street.

For reservations and more information, call the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center at 703-385-8414 or 800-545-7950. Cost is \$5, adults; \$3, children 7-12. Children 6 and under are free; family rate is \$15. All proceeds benefit HFCCI's preservation of the City's historic properties. See www.historicfairfax.org/.

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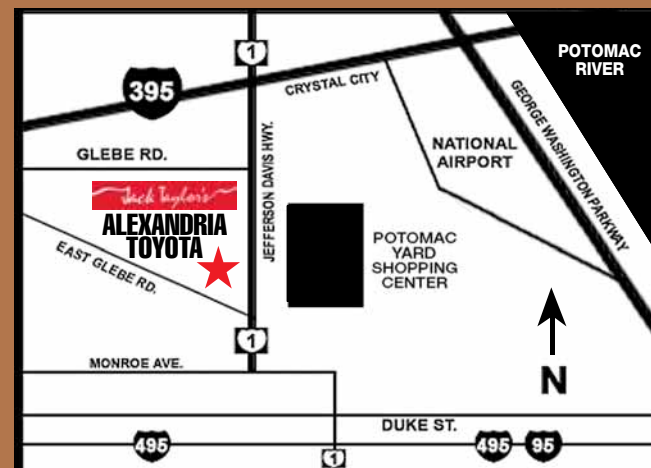
Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices – such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes – including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, April 27, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE VENTILATION SPECIAL

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Includes: Clean condenser fins, check
A/C performance, inspect drive belts for
tension/wear and replace cabin air filter.

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\$139⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement,
24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated,
PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries

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BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR

\$1⁰⁰



**GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE
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PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.**

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\$89⁹⁵

Plastic lenses can
yellow with age,
reducing the vehi-
cle's market value.
Headlight brightness
& the overall safety
during nighttime
driving. The headlight
lens restoration
from us allows you
to shine and restore
headlights to like-
new conditions.



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Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights,
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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL

\$49⁹⁵

Includes: Rotate and balance all
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Grand 8 BR, 7.5 BA 3 fin lvl home on 2 acres * 2-story foyer w/dual curved staircases * Formal liv & din rms * Butler pantry * Eat-in gourmet kit w/SS appliances, granite, island w/prep sink * 2-story fam rm w/stone fireplace * Back staircase * 2 main lvl BR suites * Upper lvl features master suite w/sitting rm, 4 other BRs, 4 BAs & 2nd fam rm * W/O basement w/rec rm, BR, full BA & huge unfinished area.
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AMAZING UPGRADES!!
Gorgeous Townhome backing to woods! High End Brand New Kitchen & Baths, New Carpet and Fresh Paint. Finished 3 lvs, with Walkout Lower Lvl to Private Deck. Main Lvl Bamboo Hardwood Flrs, Eat In Kitchen, Open Floor Plan, LL Rec Room.



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