

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

Celebrating Erin Peterson

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Church To Host International Showcase

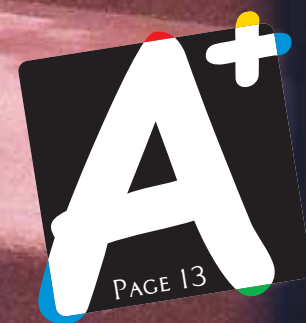
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Investing In Fairfax

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Challenging A Child's Mind

A+, PAGE 13



Mount Olive Baptist Church
vocalist Sonya Williamson
performed Sunday, April 13,
at the Gospel Celebration of
Life, honoring the life and
legacy of Erin Peterson.

ROUNDUPS

Three Charged with DWI

Police officers from the Sully District Station patrolled Fairfax County last Friday, April 11, searching for drunk drivers. As a result, they charged three drivers with DWI and issued six summonses and 22 warnings.

Police Seeking Robbers

Fairfax County police are looking for two men who robbed a victim, April 11, around 4:30 p.m., in the 13900 block of Sawteeth Way in Centreville. Police say the victim was walking on a path when they assaulted and took cash from that person. The first suspect was described as a black, in his 30s, about 6 feet 3 inches and bald. The second suspect was described as black, in his 30s, about 6 feet tall, with a medium build.

Gas Station Is Robbed

Fairfax County police are seeking the person who robbed a Centreville gas station last Saturday, April 12, around 5:05 p.m., in the 14700 block of Lee Highway. According to police, a man entered the gas station and implied to an employee that he had a gun. He demanded cash, received it and fled. The suspect was described as white, 25-30 years old, about 5 feet 9 inches to 6 feet tall and weighing 165-180 pounds.

WFCCA Quarterly Meeting

The West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) will hold its quarterly meeting Monday, April 21, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly.

Sully District Council Meeting

An update on projects in the Westfields Corporate Center is the topic for the next meeting of the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations. It's set for Wednesday, April 23, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, April 24, from 5 p.m. to dusk, at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. (The inspection may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather). Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Drug Take-Back April 26

People wanting to get rid of prescription or non-prescription drugs in a safe way may bring them to the Sully District Police Station on Drug Take-Back Day. It'll be Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the lobby of the station at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. People are asked to scratch out any personal information on the bottles and boxes. This event is completely anonymous, with no questions asked.

Recycle During Electric Sunday

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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NEWS



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

These Korean youth did precision drumming during last year's celebration.

Music, Dancing, Food and Fun

Centreville International Showcase will be April 26.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Celebrating the community's cultural diversity, the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) presents the Centreville International Showcase. A lighthearted evening of music, dance, food and friendship is slated for Saturday, April 26, from 6-9:30 p.m., at Centreville United Methodist Church.

The church is at 6400 Old Centreville Road in Centreville, and the festivities will take place in the gym. The theme is "One Centreville, One Community, One World," and the event will highlight food and entertainment from around the globe.

"Living, shopping and dining out in Centreville is a true international experience," said CIF Executive Director Alice Foltz. "The International Showcase reflects the amazing opportunities we have to share our lives and traditions, right in this region." The idea, she said, is "to bring the community together for a family-friendly evening of fellowship and fun."

Traditional foods from Guatemala, El Salvador, Korea and other countries, including pupusas from Two Amigos restaurant in Chantilly, will be available for purchase all evening, as will American snacks. And performers will present music and dance from China, El Salvador, India, Korea, Guatemala and Mexico.

There'll also be a 50-50 raffle and a silent auction that includes one of the CLRC's green garden boxes. The event is free, but donations will be accepted to help support the CIF and the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC), which the CIF established and runs. Fundraising will also be accomplished via the food sales, raffle and silent auction.

Food and music will start at 6 p.m.; dancing be-

gins at 6:45 p.m. "Dancers and singers with colorful costumes from many traditions will provide us with a beautiful evening," said Foltz. "This is a cruise around the world, without leaving home."

Back by popular demand, Sanjana Srikanth will perform two traditional Indian dances, including "Bharathnatyam;" Alberto Ramirez, original, contemporary, Guatemalan pop songs; Maehwa Dance Group, traditional Korean dance; Guatemalan Folk-

SEE CHURCH, PAGE 5



Javier Vasquez and Molly Maddra performed a traditional, Guatemalan dance at the 2013 event.

Celebrating Erin Peterson

Community remembers her life and honors her legacy.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For most people, April means springtime, sunshine and the earth reborn in colorful flowers. But for those who lost a loved one in the April 16, 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech, it's also another reminder of that tragedy.

Centreville's Celeste and Grafton Peterson are in the latter category because their only child, Erin, a 2006 Westfield High grad, was one of the 32 who died that day. And each April, they celebrate her life and legacy with a Gospel program at Mount Olive Baptist Church.

To continue their daughter's dedication to education and to helping the less fortunate, they established the Erin Peterson Fund in May 2007, and the Gospel Celebration of Life raises money for it. This year's event, the seventh annual, was Sunday, April 13. The theme was "Keeping Hope Alive: The Seven Faces of Erin – Daughter, Sister, Friend, Mentor, Visionary, Peace-maker, Inspiration."

"Erin Nicole Peterson was not only a loving daughter and a vivacious presence in her friends' lives," said the Rev. Eugene Johnson. "Erin was a child of God, so she was a positive influence in the lives of others. She was an ambassador — woven in the fabric of humanity and crosscut with the faith of our savior, Jesus Christ."

Several musical groups performed during the program, including youth who sang moving and uplifting songs. And interspersed among them were three former teammates of Erin's on Westfield's basketball team. Each spoke about the impact she had on them and others.

"She was a visionary — someone who can see the world in a different way," said Kaitie Clarkin. "She was that friend you could confide in and who would give you everything



Voices of Tomorrow (Today)

she had to help you. And in the locker room, after a loss, she would always calm things down when things got testy. She was just a wonderful person."

Regarding Erin's relationship with her parents, Clarkin said, "They were each other's best friends — and I wonder where her parents get their strength from, after all that's happened. But they're still being parents, helping Erin realize her dream through the foundation."

Jessica Honesty called Erin "a walking angel in the flesh — a touch of heaven at its finest. When we played basketball, I was always hard on myself, trying to be the best, but she always reassured me, gave me confidence and told me I didn't have to be perfect. She was a pure leader on the court and the sweetest and most caring individual off the court. She was there for me when-

ever I needed a friend."

Carly Greenlief spoke next. "I was the youngest on the team and Erin made me feel welcome. I also knew her as a friend and neighbor; and even when she went to college, she still called and checked on me. And when she came back home for a visit when I was still in high school, she took me out for ice cream and helped me talk through some problems."

"Erin had the type of personality that could take a bad situation and make it better," continued Greenlief. "She was also so kind and, even if she didn't know you, she'd treat you as a friend. And I know she's still up there mentoring and guiding me and helping me make the right decisions."

At the program's end, Celeste Peterson stepped to the podium. She acknowledged the presence of her parents, sister and other



Celeste Peterson

relatives in the audience and told the crowd, "I'm truly humbled by your attendance because Erin meant a lot to Grafton and I."

"Gospel means good news, and we hope we brought that to you today," she said. Peterson also noted that, through the Erin Peterson Legacy Initiative, University of Mary Washington freshman Richard De Lima will be receiving a \$1,000 scholarship to return to that school in the fall.

"It's been seven years since I heard Erin's voice, or she took up too much room in the bed or was the boss of the TV — and I miss her," said Peterson. She then thanked her family for supporting her, this past seven years — "for being there for me and crying with me when all I could do was cry."

She thanked Team Erin, the group that put on the annual celebration, plus the

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 7



Mount Olive's Unspoken Praise Mime Ministry



Kyriakos Praise Team

Advocates Urge Supervisors to 'Invest in Fairfax'

Coalition of schools, government employees, parks, libraries and human services gather at budget hearings.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

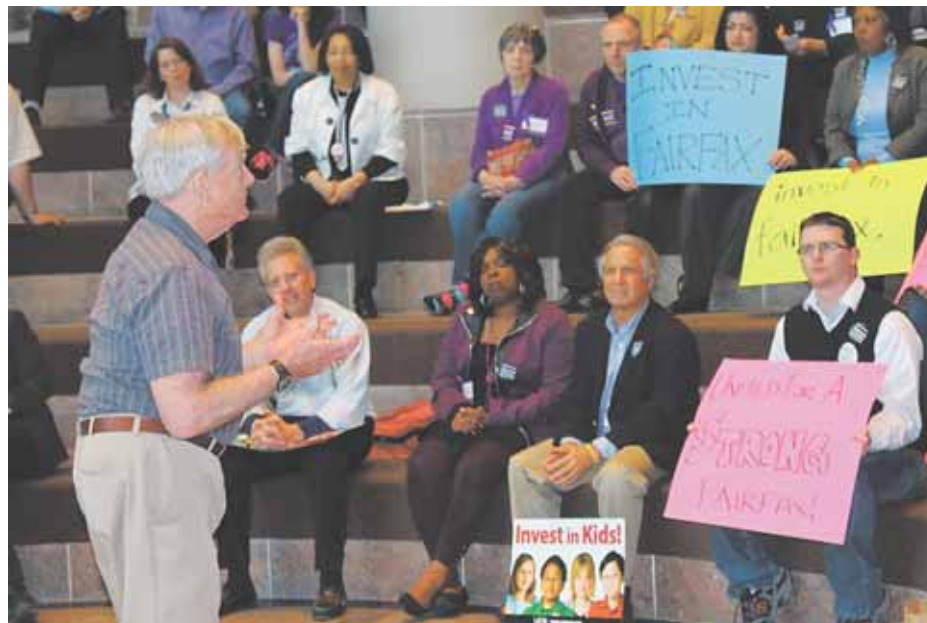
Invest in Us, Invest in Fairfax." That was the rallying cry last week at the Fairfax County Government Center as advocates for schools, libraries, parks, government employees and other human services gathered in support of more funding in these areas.

The rally occurred during the second day of the budget hearing, in which concerned citizens were able to speak in front of the Board of Supervisors, voicing their opinions on the FY 2015 budget.

For members of the newly formed "Invest in Fairfax" coalition, the message is clear: More funding is needed to keep Fairfax County a high-quality community.

The group is a new coalition of teachers, county employees, human service employees, firefighters and more working to ensure Fairfax County remains a world-class place to live.

"We feel that we're at a tipping point, not just at the schools, but in the county," said Kimberly Adams, president of the Fairfax



Former Del. Jim Dillard speaks to a crowd gathered at the "Invest in Fairfax" rally during the Fairfax County budget hearings on April 9.

Education Association. "We think that if we don't continue to fund services at an adequate or high enough level, we're going to start to lose."

"INVEST IN FAIRFAX" is worried that the decline of the school system will keep businesses and families from moving to Fairfax. It's the high-quality schools, libraries and other public services, they believe, that attract families and businesses to Fairfax in the first place.

"When we lose that world class school system, we're really in trouble," Adams said.

Adams says that teachers are leaving the school system in search of better opportu-

nities elsewhere. Their workload has increased while their pay has remained stagnant.

County services as a whole, the coalition argues, are not adequately funded.

"This is the first time we've seen them advertise a tax rate of two cents. We want them to take it to the limit," Adams said.

Yvonne Wallace, vice president of the Fairfax County Employees Union, wants the Board of Supervisors to recognize the value in government employees. She says government employees are behind other jurisdictions in terms of pay, and that many employees have moved to these neighboring areas for the better pay.

Wallace is hoping for a pay raise, and payment plan for all S-Scale government employees. The lack of funding, she says, is frustrating.

"I think it says that they don't really value the employees that we have here. Hopefully they won't leave us out of the budget," Wallace said.

IN HER TESTIMONY to the Board of Supervisors on April 8, Adams stressed that all citizens benefit from a strong public school system.

"I've heard the refrain that citizens on a fixed income cannot afford any more taxes. Well, ladies and gentleman, my income has been fixed for the past five years," Adams said, citing increases in health care and retirement service costs.

Steven Greenberg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, donned a Darth Vader mask and cape while playing "Imperial March" during his testimony.

"All of the debate over this budget is hurting all of our morale. It brings out the dark side in all of us. Especially our teachers," Greenberg said.

Greenberg, while advocating for full funding of the school system, also voiced his support for Fairfax County government employees, parks, libraries and other human services, demonstrating the interconnectedness of the new "Invest in Fairfax" coalition.

"We are all employees of this county," Greenberg said. "I'm here to advocate for the schools, yes, but I'm here to advocate much more for children."

The Board of Supervisors will formally adopt the budget on April 29.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Forty-eight Fairfax County Public Schools students won awards at the Virginia SkillsUSA Conference held last weekend in Roanoke. A total of 15 students earned gold medals, 18 students earned silver medals, and 14 students earned bronze medals. These Chantilly Academy students earned gold medals: **Samantha Silvers**, American Spirit; **Mathew Ludden**, Carpentry; **Aubree Hunter**, Culinary Arts; **Katelyn McConville**, Esthetics; **Juliana Rosa**, Student of the Year; and **Heidi Graupp**, Veterinary Assisting. Students who earned gold medals are eligible to compete at the SkillsUSA national competition, scheduled for June 22-27 in Kansas City, Mo.

Pooja Arora, a junior communication sciences and disorders major, and **Akram Abdou**, a freshman engineering major, were among 55 James Madison University students recently participated in LeadershipU, a one-day conference that helps to equip new and current student leaders with skills to prepare them to better lead their organizations. The conference was held February 1 of this year by the Student Activities and Involvement office along with JMU's fraternity and sorority life.

Heehyun Moon, 17, of Centreville,

won the Fairfax County Park Authority's T-shirt design contest for the agency's 2014 Take Back the Forest campaign, which recruits volunteers to remove invasive plant species and replace them with native plants. Moon is an eleventh grader at Centreville High School. Moon received a \$50 gift certificate from the outdoor co-op REI for her winning design, which will appear on the Park Authority's website and on t-shirts that will be given to Take Back the Forest volunteers during April and May. Moon's design displays a leafy, invasive vine winding around the words "Take Back the Forest."

Jennifer Urban was recently initiated into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Urban is pursuing a degree in Communication Disorders at James Madison University.

Fairfax County Public Schools won nine first place awards at the regional competition for National History Day, held recently at Mount Vernon High School. The two best entries in each category and in each age division have qualified to compete in the Virginia History Day contest on Saturday, April 26, in Williamsburg.

First place winners included Westfield High School students: **Zainab Calcuttawala** and **Swetha**

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Living Stations of the Cross

Each year at Saint Timothy Catholic School in Chantilly, its 8th grade National Junior Honor Society create and perform the Living Stations of the Cross: Jesus' final steps before he was crucified.

Church To Host Centreville International Showcase

FROM PAGE 2

loric Dancers; and the Korean Harmonica Ensemble from Korean Central Presbyterian Church and St. Paul Chung Catholic Church in Chantilly will perform traditional Korean and international songs.

"They'll be performing folk music from around the world," said Foltz. "This special group has performed at the event for three years, offering both Korean and international favorites."

There'll also be about 30 minutes of salsa dancing for everyone, around 8 p.m., with a Latino dance instructor, plus what's billed as "a dramatic, surprise dance from around

the world."

To see the latest acts that have signed up for the upcoming international celebration, go to www.centrevilleinternationalshowcase.org as plans for the showcase continue to grow.

Organizing the silent auction is the local teachers' sorority, Alpha Delta Kappa. Items up for bid will include four dinners at Genghis Grill, two dinners at Picante, dinner at Coyote Grille, a home concert (cello and piano) by cellist Maria Baylock, a golf game with Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully), a food basket from Trader Joe's and a week at a cabin in the Tuscarora Mountains near Gettysburg/Chambersburg, Penn.

Also looking forward to the showcase is CLRC Director Roberto Fernández. He said it's really going to be something special and he hopes area residents will come and join the festivities.

"This event has become a tradition for promoting Centreville's cultural diversity and is a wonderful way to meet neighbors," he said. "Each year we can all learn a bit about other cultures, try great new dishes and feel closer as a community. The workers at the CLRC feel proud that they started this tradition and that the community has made it its own festival."

THE CIF ORGANIZED in October 2010

and opened the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) in December 2011. It got Centreville's day laborers off the streets, gave them a safe place to meet employers for jobs and ensured that they got paid for their efforts. The workers are also taking English classes at the center and learning new skills.

Most of them are immigrants from many countries in Latin America and Africa, and about 15 percent are American-born. The CLRC is the only walk-in job center in the local area. It charges no fees and is supported entirely by donations from foundations, churches and individuals. No government money is involved.

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 2

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of Ramen Noodles, spaghetti sauce, fruit juice, canned vegetables (no green beans), cooking oil, canned pasta, sugar, flour and canned fruit and meat. Also needed are diapers in sizes 5 and 6, toothpaste, deodorant and baby

wipes. (WFCM clients cannot purchase toiletries with food stamps).

Bring all items to WFCM's food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center.

Thrift-store needs include spring and summer clothing, quality shoes and like-new houseware. The store is at 13939 Metrotech Drive. In addition, Thrift Store volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts

Saturdays, anytime between 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Drive Seniors to Appointments

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and link to Volunteer Solutions or email VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

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TIME 11:00am - 2:30pm
LOCATION Fairfax Dining Room

\$70 for adults,
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This Easter enjoy an award-winning brunch at our newly renovated, spacious Fairfax Dining Room. You and your family can all celebrate over delicious, gourmet offerings prepared by our talented chefs.

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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.fcrrp3.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

No Justification for County Tax Increase

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Sharon Bulova, chairman, Board of Supervisor and Michael Frey, Sully District Supervisor:

We want to protest the increase in the current rate to \$1.1275 from the previous \$1.1060. We feel there is no justification for this increase. We have had increases in our real estate taxes that have almost doubled the inflation rate for the last seven years as noted on the chart below.

In the past seven years, as you can see by this chart, our real estate taxes have increased from \$5,752 to a projected \$7,570 for 2014 for a whopping 24.0 percent increase. For the same period of time, inflation increased 13.1 percent as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (they re-

ported for the first two months of 2014 a rate of 1.3 percent, 1.5 percent for 2013, 2.1 percent for 2012, 3.2 percent for 2011, 1.6 percent for 2010, minus 0.4 percent in 2009, and 3.8 percent in 2008). These statistics show that our real estate taxes have increased almost twice the inflation rate for that seven-year period. This is outrageous. Our current assessment increased this year by 7.1 percent. It appears that with the proposed tax rate of \$1.1275 (which includes the storm water tax) and, as you can see by the chart, our real estate tax could increase this year by 8.9 percent over last year which is almost seven times the current inflation rate.

According to the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance (FCTA), the residential real estate taxes increased \$3,200 between FY2000

and FY2015. This simply means that, during this period, inflation increased 50 percent while the residential real estate increased 133 percent or more than twice the inflation rate. These figures include the storm water tax. How can you really justify increasing real estate taxes more than twice the rate of inflation? For decades, the County Board has been raising the budget and taxes more than twice the inflation rate.

In conclusion, we feel that the rates should be rolled back to \$1.03, the amount needed to offset the increase in residential assessments according to the FCTA. We look forward to your comments.

Charles McAndrew
Linda McAndrew
Oak Hill

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Kaitie Clarkin



Jessica Honesty

Celebrating Erin Peterson

FROM PAGE 3

church members and local community for also giving her strength, when needed.

“Grafton and I hope we’ll see Erin again,” said Peterson. “You’d think, after seven years, you wouldn’t cry as much. You never get over the loss of a child, but you can share your faith with other people so they’ll know what helps you to sustain. I want to see Erin in heaven and I’m living my life so I can.”

Via the Erin Peterson Fund, scholarships are given to graduating seniors at Westfield, Mountain View and Falls Church high

schools.

And grant money goes to Westfield for its Boys Leadership Group Today for Tomorrow, which supports at-risk young men attending that school.

“In total, we’ve given away \$125,900, and I couldn’t have done it without you all,” Peterson told the audience. “So far, we’ve graduated 547 young men through Westfield’s leadership program. They’re mostly minority boys and all of them are either pursuing careers or are in college. We affirmed them and told them we expected more from them and that we have confidence in them.”

Addressing the audience directly, she said, “I appreciate you all and thank you for coming today. And thank you for keeping Erin’s dream and legacy alive.”



A Mount Olive liturgical dancer



Carly Greenlief

PHOTOS BY
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BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

COUNSELORS-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM

The Fairfax County Park Authority is seeking applicants (age 14-17) to serve as Counselors-in-Training (CITs) during the 2014 summer Rec-PAC program. Counselors-in-Training work as part of a team to facilitate activities for children during the summer Rec-PAC program, a structured recreation program with emphasis on leisure skills designed for elementary school children. The cost is \$135 for six weeks of training, but CITs can commit to as little as one week of camp. This year the Rec-PAC program will operate in 50 elementary school locations around Fairfax County on weekdays from June 30 through Aug. 7. During the summer, students will be assigned to a site and work daily from 8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec-pac/cit-volunteer.htm or call 703-222-4664 for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Republican Women's Club. 6:30 p.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Liberty Republican Women's Club

meeting with Del. Jim LeMunyon as guest speaker. Everyone is invited to attend. Social hour from 5:30-6:15. Free. Call 703-378-2519.

eBook Help. 5 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Get eBook questions answered. Bring a tablet or digital reader and library card. Call 703-502-3883.

Diagnosis: Dementia ... Now

What? 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Christi Clark, education and outreach coordinator at Insight Memory Care Center, presents information on how to adjust to life with someone who has dementia. Call 703-502-3883.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

English Conversation Group. 3:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Conversation practice for adult learners of English, led by volunteers. Call 703-830-2223.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20

Easter. Fairfax County Public Libraries are closed for the Easter holiday.

MONDAY/APRIL 21

Registration. Lees Corner Elementary School is gathering information on children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2014 and live within the school's boundaries. Boundary information can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/boundary. Call Mrs. Nolan at 703-227-3500 if you have a child who meets these requirements. Registration will be held 2-7 p.m. Enrollment information and forms will be mailed out prior to the registration. For more information about starting school in FCPS visit www.fcps.edu/parents/start/kindergarten.shtml.

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book. Call 703-830-2223.

Garden Club. 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club presents "Vermicomposting - Want to improve your soil?". Theresa DeFluri, Native Plant Society Member and Certified Interpretive Guide, will display an actual Vermicomposting bin. Meetings generally 3rd Monday each month. Visitors welcome. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com, email

centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com, or call 703-266-9233.

Communication Presentation. 7 p.m. at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. The Western Fairfax County Woman's Club hosts "Effective Communication and Dealing With Difficult People" by Dr. Don Boileau, George Mason University professor. He will illustrate tools for communicating effectively and for handling complicated situations. Free, guests welcome. Visit www.wfcwc.org or email westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 22

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. Call 703-324-8662.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Registration. Lees Corner Elementary School is gathering information on children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2014 and live within the school's boundaries. Boundary information can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/boundary/. Call Mrs. Nolan at 703-227-3500 if you have a child who meets these requirements. Registration will be held 4-7 p.m. Enrollment information and forms will be mailed out prior to the registration. Visit www.fcps.edu/parents/start/kindergarten.shtml.
English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

LRWC Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1p.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Liberty Republican Women's Club meeting yard sale: rain, shine or snow. Call 703-378-2519.

eBook Help. 2 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Get eBook questions answered. Bring a tablet or digital reader and library card. Call 703-502-3883.

MONDAY/APRIL 28

Kindergarten Registration. 2-4 p.m. at Virginia Run Elementary School, 15450 Martins Hundred Drive, Centreville. Virginia Run Elementary will hold kindergarten registration. Forms will be available on-site. A child is eligible for kindergarten if the child reaches his or her fifth birthday on or before Sept. 30, 2014. Call the school at 703-988-8900.

Kindergarten Orientation/Registration. 2:15 p.m. at Greenbriar East Elementary, 13006 Point Pleasant Drive, Fairfax. Greenbriar East Elementary will be having their Kindergarten Orientation/Registration. Call 703-633-6400.

"Building the Brain." 6:30 p.m. at the Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. Mark Finley presents "Building the Brain." Free, open to the community. Contact iCAD Project Manager Michael Carrington at mcarrington@nvcc.edu or 703-257-6555.

TUESDAY/APRIL 29

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

Kindergarten Registration. 4:30-6 p.m. at Virginia Run Elementary School, 15450 Martins Hundred Drive, Centreville. Virginia Run elementary will hold kindergarten registration. Forms will be available on-site. A child is eligible for kindergarten if the child reaches his or her fifth birthday on or before Sept. 30, 2014. Call 703-988-8900.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

eBook Help. 1 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Get eBook questions answered. Bring a tablet or digital reader and library card. Call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/MAY 2

Kindergarten Orientation. 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Poplar Tree Elementary, 13440 Melville Lane, Chantilly. Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30 and live within the school's boundaries are eligible for Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 school year. Call 703-633-7400 if more information is needed.

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PALM SUNDAY ~ April 13 ~ 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ April 17 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Living Dramatization of the Last Supper with Communion

GOOD FRIDAY ~ April 18 ~ 7:30 p.m. ~
"The Seven Last Words of Jesus"

EASTER MORNING ~ April 20

Outdoor Sunrise Service at CPC 6:30 a.m.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos welcome.

ONGOING

Easter Bunny. Bunnyville will be located in the lower level of the Fair Oaks Mall's H&M wing, opposite Charming Charlie and Payless ShoeSource. Bunnyville will welcome visitors Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. and Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. through Saturday, April 19. Fair Oaks will be closed on Easter Sunday, April 20. All children who visit the Easter Bunny at Fair Oaks' new Bunnyville will receive a gift from the Bunny just for visiting. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com or call 703-359-8300.

High School Musical. "Little Shop of Horrors" at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Runs May 2-10, 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sunday. \$10 with valid student ID; others \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Girl Scout Day Out. 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Scouts can practice skills while exploring the history of Sully. Hear stories, play games, sample sweets and more. No badges will be completed, but components of several badges will be offered. \$16/scout. Tours for adults are \$5. Reservations must be made by March 26. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully or 703-437-1794.

Game Zone. 2 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Video games and food provided for teens. Call 703-830-2223.

Storytime. 2 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy program with stories and activities for children age 3-5 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Friends of the Library. 6-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14220 St. Germain Drive. The Friends of the Centreville Library will hold an open house to recruit volunteers to support the May Used Book Sale. Volunteer opportunities are available April 26-May 7. No experience necessary. Call the library at 703-830-2223 or visit friendsofcentrevillelibrary.blogspot.com or www.facebook.com/centrevillefriends for more.

The End (Or Is It?) Book Club. 7:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A book discussion for 5th and 6th grade students. Call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Customer Appreciation Day. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Dickey's Barbeque Pit, 11199-F Lee Hwy., Fairfax. Roland Dickey will give away copies of his new cookbook, with radio broadcast and discount sandwiches. Call 703-865-4333.

Boy Scout Day Out. 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Scouts can practice skills while exploring the history of Sully. Hear stories, play games, sample sweets and more. No badges will be completed, but components of several badges will be offered. \$16/scout. Tours for adults are \$5. Reservations must be made by March 26. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully or 703-437-1794.

Ready for School Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime program for children age 4-5 who are ready to be on their own without caregivers or siblings. Call 703-502-3883.

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000

Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Kaleidoscope Adaptive Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories, songs and movement for families and children on the autism spectrum and those who have other developmental challenges. For all ages. Call 703-502-3883.

Chocolate Bunny Adoption. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road. Shelter visitors will receive a chocolate bunny, a packet of information on rabbit care and a certificate for a half-off adoption fee on a rabbit or guinea pig, which can be used through April 19. Open Tuesday-Friday, noon-7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. To see available pets online, visit www.fairfaxcounty.com/animalshelter to see available pets online.

Eggstravaganza. 1-3 p.m. at Fairfax Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway (grassy area behind building). Jubilee Christian Center is having its annual Eggstravaganza for children 11 and under. There will be an egg roll, moonbounce, games, face painting, and door prizes, and activities are free. Call 703-383-1170 or visit www.jccag.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20

Easter. Fairfax County Public Libraries are closed for the Easter holiday.

MONDAY/APRIL 21

Bouncin' Babies. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Frying Pan Farm at the Library. 2 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Meet and learn about a small farm animal, hear a story and take home a craft. For students in kindergarten through 6th grade. Call 703-502-3883.

Kinder-budds. 2:15 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Book buddy discussion group for kindergarteners. Call 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/APRIL 22

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with stories, songs and activities. Age 2 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Wheee! 11 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. High octane storytime for children ages 3-5 with adult. Call 703-830-2223.

Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy program with stories and activities for children age 3-5 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

PTA Fundraiser. 5-9 p.m. at Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax. Centreville Elementary School's very own staff rock band, The Flock, will perform at the

fountain stage. Chipotle, California Pizza Kitchen, Potbelly and Ben & Jerry's will donate a portion of their proceeds to the school's PTA. Color Me Mine is also offering a special deal from April 21-25 —mention CES PTA when you make a reservation. Contact event CES event coordinator, Lee R. Kaiser at LRKaiser@fcps.edu with questions.

Ravenous Readers. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Book discussion group for teens. Refreshments provided. Call 703-830-2223.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

Duplo Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Duplo play storytime helps develop and reinforce early literacy skills for children ages 3-5 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Baby ArtsPlay. 7-7:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Music, drama and movement program to encourage self-expression and imaginative play. Families are expected to attend all 10 classes in the program. Children must be registered to attend. Birth-4 with adult. Call the library at 703-502-3883 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Lego Block Party. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos provided; come show off building skills. For children in grades 3-6. Call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Bouncin' Babies. 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 4 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Step Out with the USO. 7-11 p.m. Support the Dulles USO lounge and members of the armed forces at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott on Aviation Drive. There will be food, dancing, cash bar, silent auction and raffle. \$35/person. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/step-out-with-the-uso-at-dulles-tickets-10454099493.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Lego Mania. 12:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in kindergarten through second grade can show off their Lego-building skills. Call 703-502-3883.

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at PF Chang's in Fairfax Corner, 4250 Fairfax Corner Ave. Fixed price dinner followed by movie of your choice at Fairfax Corner 14. 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 for more.

14th Fairfax Civil War Day Historic Blenheim Saturday, April 26 ★ 10am – 5pm

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Westfield junior Emma Lark, left, reaches in against Centreville senior Baylee Gillmore during an April 3 match at Westfield High School.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Girls' Soccer Roundup

The Westfield and Chantilly girls' soccer teams will return from spring break with winning records, while Centreville looks to bounce back from a lopsided defeat.

Westfield defeated Herndon 2-1 on April 9, handing the Hornets their first loss while improving to 4-1. The Bulldogs have also beaten Fairfax, Washington-Lee and Centreville. Their lone loss came against Lake Braddock.

Westfield will host West Springfield at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 21.

Chantilly improved to 4-2 with a 3-2 victory over Oakton on April 9. The Chargers have beaten Lake Braddock, West Springfield and Robinson, but lost back-to-back games against Forest Park and Battlefield.

Chantilly will host South County at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22.

Centreville came out on the wrong end of a 7-1 final score against Robinson on April 9. The loss dropped the Wildcats' record to 2-3, including 0-2 against Conference 5 opponents. Centreville defeated Lake Braddock and Hayfield, and lost to Woodson and Westfield.

Centreville will travel to face McLean at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22.

Chantilly Boys' Lax Holds Off Churchill to Remain Undefeated

The Chantilly boys' lacrosse team improved to 7-0 with a 12-11 victory over Churchill (Potomac, Md.) on April 14 at the Robinson spring break tournament. Churchill is the two-time defending MPSSAA 4A/3A West region champion from Montgomery County.

It was the Chargers' fourth game of the season decided by two goals or less.

Chantilly has also won close games against Robinson (7-5), Dominion (8-7), and New York's Hamburg High School (9-7).

The Chargers played a pair of tournament games on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. Chantilly will travel to face South County at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22.

Centreville Boys' Lax Splits Games

The Centreville boys' lacrosse team hosted two games last week, a victory against JEB Stuart and a defeat against 2013 state champion Chantilly.

The Stuart game was a rousing 17-6 win on April 8 in which the Wildcats took immediate control with a 5-1 first quarter. Goals were made by Matthew Laurence, Kyle Cannon, Corey Spriggs, Carson McEver, and Danny Meador. Second quarter goals were scored by David Hyde, Brian Yoo, Kyle Richbourg (2) and another by McEver.

Centreville spread the scoring in the second half, with Tommy Bowden and John Tarver getting into the action while Cannon and Hyde both scored a second time, and Spriggs earning a hat trick with 1:15 left to play.

The defense of Ben Kandel, Britton Lee, and Aidan Barnes was solid throughout the game. Goalies Kent Roy and PJ Wilkerson split time to total four saves for the game.

Hosting Chantilly on April 10 was the other side of the coin as Centreville was downed by a score of 10-4. Both teams were patient, controlling the ball for long stretches during the first half, which ended with the Wildcats leading 3-2. Two of those goals were made by Danny Meador, including one that resulted in a pile-up of players at the crease, and the third was by Kyle Richbourg on a fast left-handed shot.

The third quarter was all Chargers as they ripped five goals over a five-minute span. Chantilly stayed hot in the fourth, scoring three more times. The final score came on a goal by Richbourg, who received a nice pass from Cannon following a clear in which he sprinted the length of the field. Despite the loss, Wildcat goalie Roy had a stellar showing, making 16 saves.

Rocky Run Triumphs in State Tournament

The Rocky Run Middle School Chess Team found itself in a three-way tie for first place in the 2014 Virginia Scholastic K-8 Chess Championship.

Rocky Run was declared the Virginia State, K-8 co-champion along with Joyce Kilmer Middle School and Greenbriar West Elementary School. Alvin Cao, the school's top rated player, led the way with 4.5 points (out of a possible 6), winning the 11th place individual trophy. Rishabh Krishnan had his best result ever at a state championship and went home with the 15th place trophy. Maggie Luo took home the 19th place trophy.

The K-8 tournament was a two-day test of wits and endurance. There were six rounds of play with each round lasting about 2 hours.

Four hundred and five players competed in five sections at the tournament in Roanoke; 115 players competed in the K-8 section.

Tie break points were used to award team trophies.

Although considered the state co-champion, Rocky Run was awarded the third place trophy because its tie break points were lower than both Kilmer's and Greenbriar West's.

Besides having the strongest, slow-time-control, K-8 players in the state, Rocky Run also has a collection of blitz (i.e. fast-time control), K-8 players. Rocky Run won second place in the K-12 Blitz championship behind Thomas Jefferson High School. Alvin Cao won third place in that event.

Some of the Rocky Run players will attend the National Junior High Championship on April 25-27 in Atlanta. Rocky Run's all-girls team will represent the school in the U14 section of the All-Girls National on April 11-13 in Chicago.

Rocky Run's K-8 team: Alvin Cao, Rishabh Krishnan, Maggie Luo, Adityasai Koneru, Diego Gutierrez, Neha Pattanaik, Pranav



Fro left: Rocky Run Middle School Principal Anthony Terrell, Neha Pattanaik, Pranav Karthik, Rishabh Krishnan, Rahil Shah, Aditya Koneru, Diego Gutierrez, Alvin Cao, Maggie Luo, Brian Dickinson and Coach Gary Connors.

Karthik, Rahil Shah and Brian Dickinson. Pranav Karthik, Rahil Shah, Diego Gutierrez and Brian Dickinson.

Crimes Solvers Seeks Public's Assistance in Identifying Car Thieves

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is seeking the public's help in identifying the people responsible for stealing three vehicles — and taking items from at least 10 others — during the overnight hours of Friday, April 4, to early Saturday, April 5, in Centreville.

According to police, investigators determined that the thieves pulled door handles to find unlocked vehicles parked in residential areas. They then stole property and money from them. In three of those unlocked vehicles, the perpetrators also discovered car keys and were then able to steal the vehicles, as well.

Two of them, a 2007 Toyota Solara and a 2010 Toyota Corolla, were later recovered. The third, a 2010 silver, convertible Ford Mustang with VA license plates XAL-8685, has not yet been found.

Detectives hope someone will see it parked in the area and contact police. Criminals often remove the license plates from the stolen car and replace them with stolen license plates from another car. Community residents are asked to look out for suspicious activity in and around their neighborhoods and report it to police immediately.

Police also remind residents to lock their vehicles' doors and not leave items of value in them, including keys.

This advice especially applies to vehicles parked outside.

"Each of these stolen vehicles requires a micro-chipped key, specific to that particular vehicle, in order to operate it," say police. "It's important to note that, if your keys and vehicle are stolen, more than likely the thief now has your house key and address, as well."

Anyone with information about these thefts is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call

police at 703-691-2131. A \$100 to \$1,000 cash reward will be paid for information leading to an arrest. Callers never have to give their names or appear in court.

— BONNIE HOBBS

WHS To Present 'Little Shop of Horrors'

Westfield High presents its spring musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," Friday-Saturday, May 2-3 and 9-10, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, at 2 p.m., in the school theater. Tickets are \$10 in advance at www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com or \$12 at the door. Tickets with valid student IDs are \$10 in advance and at the door.

Directed by Shannon Lynch, this show is a comedic look at how far one man will go for fame, fortune and love. It's based on the 1960 film directed by Roger Corman and takes place on skid row in a florist shop owned by the angry Mr. Mushnik (Zack Walsh).

Mushnik's geeky florist assistant, Seymour (TJ Vinsavich), stumbles across a new breed of plant that he names Audrey II (voice by Eni Oyeleye), after his co-worker crush, Audrey (Samantha Dempsey).

Seymour soon discovers that, instead of

needing soil or water to survive, this plant thrives on human blood. As the shop becomes famous because of the plant in the window, Audrey II transforms into an arrogant carnivore with designs of world domination. Seymour must decide if he can sacrifice it all in order to save the world from this alien plant and its sinister plans.

Featured songs include "Suddenly Seymour," "Skid Row" and "Little Shop of Horrors." Supporting cast members are: Selena Clyne-Galindo, Emily Tobin, Estella Massey (Trashettes), Brandon Sanchez (Orin Scrivello), Andrew Sharpe (Bernstein), Shaina Greenberg (Ms. Luce), Connor Rudy (Snip), and Julian Sanchez (Narrator/Interviewer/Martin). The ensemble includes Porsche Amaya, Ian Booe, Allie Bush, Emily Cervarich, Sarah Damers, Caitlin Egan, Kaley Haller, David Koenigsberg, Evan Kohnstam, Skye Koutstaal, Gabrielle Moses and Ruby Tippl.

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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 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 fami-

lies 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 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.”

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 organization 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

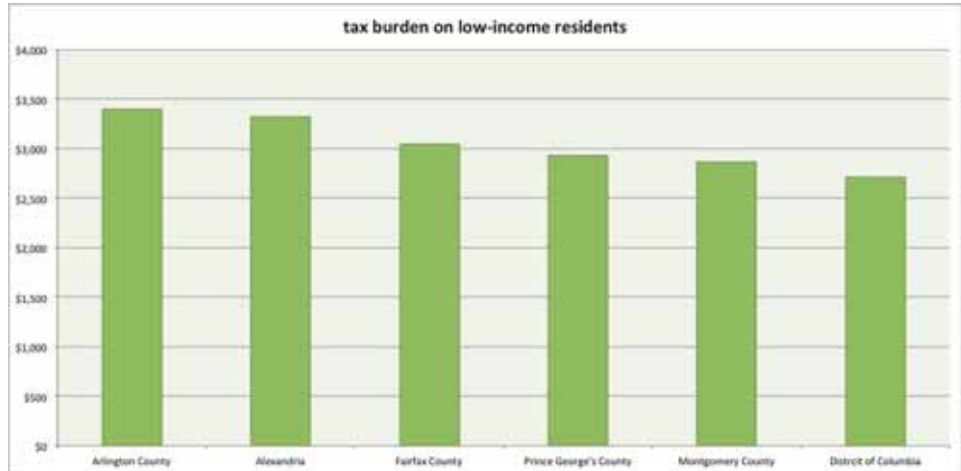
their residents than in Fairfax County. But as families earn more money, the tax burden decreases in Fairfax County.

“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.”

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	3	2	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	3	2	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.



Challenging a Child's Mind Through Reading

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

"Reading to a child 20 minutes a day will increase their ability to read and think above grade level. That is just a matter of sitting with a child and reading with them, but it has a such profound influence."

— Fred Bemak, Ed.D., George Mason University



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.

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."

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 li-

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

brary for more information, and the information he can find in the library is seemingly 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."



PHOTO GALLERY!

"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:

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Or to mail photo prints, send to:

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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 4

Kota in Senior Group Exhibit for "Miep Gies Fights for Rights;" **Maisha Hoque** and **Raisa Hoque** in Senior Group Performance for "Akbar the Great: How a Mughal Used His Rights to Fulfill His Responsibilities;" and **Hayley Seal** in Senior Individual Performance for "The Louisiana Purchase Song."

Monica Rudolph won the Newseum First Amendment Freedoms Award, sponsored by the Newseum, for her Senior Individual Exhibit, "Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, Leading the Way for Women's Voting Rights."

Celina Paudel took second place for Senior Individual Performance.

Third place winners included **Jisun Lee**, **Sarah Lim**, and **Asmita Shah**, Senior Group Documentary; and **Sara Sturm**, **Kellie Cleveland**, and **Skye Koutstaal**, Senior Group Website

Heehyun Moon, 17, of Centreville, won the Fairfax County Park Authority's T-shirt design contest for the agency's 2014 Take Back the Forest campaign, which recruits volunteers to remove invasive plant species and replace them with native plants. Moon is an 11th grader at Centreville High School. Moon received a \$50 gift certificate from the outdoor co-op REI for her winning design, which will appear on the Park Authority's website and on t-shirts that will be given to Take Back the Forest volunteers during April and May. Moon's design displays a leafy, invasive vine winding around the words "Take Back the Forest."

The following Fairfax County Public Schools students were named National Achievement Scholars: **Shalisa James** of Westfield High School (English literature); **John O'Connell** of Westfield High School (computer science); and **Tolunimi Oyeleye** of Westfield High School (chemical engineering).

James Madison University student **Mohammad Qarghah**, of Fairfax, a junior biology major traveled to Arutam, Ecuador to work with Fundecoipa. Fundecoipa is a non-profit community that aims to create sustainable development in indigenous communities. Students on this trip provided assistance to the Shuar Tribe in Ecuador and immersed themselves in the biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest as well as the culture and community of this indigenous tribe.

Amy Wang, of Chantilly, is a member of the Virginia Tech Chem-E-Car team which earned first place in the 2014 American Institute of Chemical Engineering student event held recently at the University of Virginia. This competition tests the ability of the undergraduate team to design, build, and control a vehicle that is both powered and stopped by a chemical reaction. The team will head to the national competition in Atlanta in November 2014.

The following Chantilly High School Economics Team members won the Governor's Challenge in Economics and Personal Finance: **Tim Reid**, **Gopal Hari**, **Drew Glinsman**, and **Jack Skopowski**, coached by teacher **Joe Clement**. Reid is the only student in the history of the Virginia Economics Challenge to repeat as a state champion. Chantilly won the state title in the Adam Smith Division in 2013.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail:
chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com

Dying of Curiosity



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I was completing last week's column ("I Thought I Was a Goner") and thanking my oncology nurse, Ron, in the process, for the excellent care he has provided me for nearly five years now; a week after I wrote a column thanking my Certified Holistic Health Coach, Rebecca Nenner, for the health and fitness-type knowledge she has given me over those same five years; it dawned on me that perhaps my subconscious mind knew something that my conscious mind didn't: that I should move closer to the undertaker like Radar's Uncle Ernest did two days before he died, in the M*A*S*H episode titled "Novacaine Mutiny" from season four.

I don't want to think that, and I certainly don't want to believe it; nevertheless, I thought it an interesting point to address: as a terminal cancer patient, as much as I fight against it mentally and physically, the presumptive death sentence that a "13-month to two-year prognosis" portends is the kind of news that's difficult – make that impossible – to ignore. And as much as I try to defend myself, as you know, with humor, a positive attitude and a variety of self-preservation, defense-type mechanisms – still, at the end of the day (heck, at the beginning and middle, too), I may talk and write a good game, but one's mind often interferes. The trick is knowing whether that interference (subconscious) is real or imagined. I struggle with that assessment every day, as I presume most characterized-as-terminal patients do as well.

As my struggle enters its sixth year, let me assure you, its familiarity has not bred content (nor contempt, either). Though I certainly know the warning signs, the dos and don'ts, and my responsibility in all of it, that doesn't mask – to me, anyway, the underlying reality: lung cancer kills. The survival rates, especially five years post-diagnosis, are in the low single digits. Fairly grim, I admit. Yet I am extremely happy and fortunate to say that I am one of those low-single-digits (and yes, I have been called worse; not much better though, considering my diagnosis). However, I am not in remission and I'm still receiving chemotherapy. In truth, I am an anomaly, an aberration; and expecting that my life continues without any further cancer-related ado seems naive and from most of what I read, fairly unrealistic. Now as much as I try to compartmentalize all these cancer facts and feelings – successfully for the most part, I'd like to add – the reality of my situation does manifest itself from time to time. This column has attempted to identify a recent example, my last two columns, where these facts and feelings may have collided.

Though nothing in my current health – or recent awareness of it (scans, lab work, physical exam, old symptoms, new symptoms persisting/getting worse, etc.) would indicate a change (a fatal flaw, if you will), there are always things with which I am totally unaware that may have changed and perhaps the way I learn about these changes is through my subconscious. I certainly don't know how or when I'll know when I'm at death's door. Perhaps there will be a knock, perhaps not. Still, I can't help wondering – and wanting to know – sort of.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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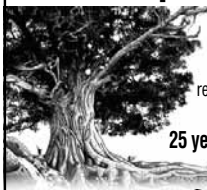


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21 Announcements

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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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TRUSTEES' SALE OF
6312 Mary Todd Court
Centreville, Virginia 20121

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. John D. Eubank and Timothy E. Lewis, Trustees

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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* These statements have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

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Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Radiation Oncology team



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