

(From left) are Javier Killifer  
(Mr. Darcy) and Lara Taylor  
(Elizabeth Bennet) in  
Woodson High's production  
of 'Pride and Prejudice.'

# A Classic Romance Comes to the Stage

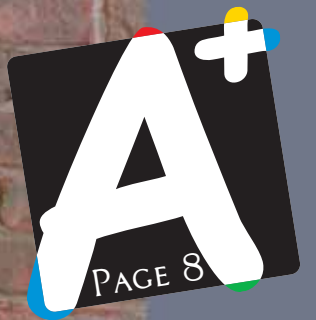
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## In the City of Fairfax, Appearance Matters

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# Fairfax County Police Advocate for Pay Raise

Department is struggling to recruit and maintain officers.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**N**early 350 Fairfax County Police officers appeared at a public hearing on the Fairfax County budget on April 10, advocating for an increase in pay.

The police filled the auditorium, leaving standing room only. Several police testified before the Board of Supervisors, advocating for pay raises and parity with other public safety departments, such as the firefighters, who are seeing an increase in pay this year.

"The consistent neglect of our department has created a large disparity within our agency and the region," said Mike Scanlon, president of the Fairfax Fraternal Order of Police, at the hearing.

The frozen pay scale, which has been frozen the longest of any jurisdiction in the National Capital Area, Scanlon said, has made it difficult for police officers to afford living in Fairfax County.

**ONLY 29 PERCENT** of sworn police officers live in Fairfax County, said Joe Woloszyn, president of the Fairfax County chapter of the Virginia Division of the Southern States Police Benevolent Association, at the hearing.

Pay has also made recruiting difficult, with many potential candidates and previous Fairfax County police officers leaving for jurisdictions that offer more money.

"The lack of consistent pay parity and fair compensation has hurt morale and the ability for this department to maintain its employees," Scanlon said.

The police academy is only able to be filled to a 46 percent capacity, Woloszyn said.

"When we got into this profession, there were no illusions that we would become rich doing it. But we did expect and we had it relayed to us that we would be taken care of. However, this has not been the case," Woloszyn said.

The budget for the past five years has been distracting for police officers, according to Sgt. Tom Harrington, a representative of the Fairfax County Police association

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



School Resource Officer Rich Barron and Mike Scanlon, president of the Fairfax Fraternal Order of Police, were among the hundreds of police officers who attended the public hearings on the Fairfax County budget at the Government Center on April 10.

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION



Police officers filled the auditorium and lobby of the Fairfax County Government Center during the public hearings on the budget on April 10.

Woloszyn says all Fairfax County citizens should be concerned.

"At this rate, it will become even more difficult to handle calls for service, especially for a department that is already stretched thin and has such a low officer per capita ratio. Clearly the lack of success in recruiting is a direct link to the stagnant salary and broken promises," he said.

**THE RECENT END** of the Department of Justice hiring freeze, Harrington says, will lead to a further loss of officers and potential recruits.

"I'm here to tell you, that a Fairfax County, college-educated police officer with three to six years of service and experience is going to be at the top of a recruiting campaign for any federal law enforcement agency," Harrington said. According to Woloszyn, about 85 percent of the police in Fairfax County have college degrees. Sean Corcoran, president of the Fairfax County Coalition of Police, said that many officers feel a sense of betrayal due to the pay freezes.

"There are still many who want to be Fairfax County police officers

and serve their community, but even their resolve is waning," Corcoran said.

Harrington said that 15 years ago, the department had more officers who viewed their role as a police officer as a career, taking every opportunity to excel and not viewing the position as just a way to get a paycheck, but as a position that gave them a sense of pride.

"Unfortunately, the last five years has produced officers who view this department as a job, in large part due to the reality of the salary freeze," Harrington said.

According to Woloszyn, a large number of officers are expected to leave the department in 2014.

Although the police advocates said they felt betrayed by the county, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said the county is very appreciative of their service, and said she wants to work with the officers to make sure they are being properly acknowledged. "These have not been easy years. We do appreciate you. We appreciate the work that you do. We recognize that you put your lives on the line for us, for our community," Bulova said.



The Historic Blenheim House will welcome visitors during Civil War Day, April 26.

## Come, Take a Trip to 19th Century Fairfax Civil War Day is April 26.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**ntebellum Virginia will come to life during Fairfax Civil War Day. Featuring wagon rides, cannon firings, house tours and a soldier encampment, it's set for Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway in Fairfax.

Attendees will even meet special guests dressed as Clara Barton, Gen. James Longstreet, Gen. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee, Col. John S. Mosby, Union nurse Marilla Hovey and a Yankee schoolmarm.

A brick farmhouse built by Albert Willcoxon around 1859, just before the Civil War, Blenheim contains one of the largest and best-preserved examples of Civil War inscriptions in the U.S. – a veritable diary on its walls, giving glimpses into a typical soldier's life during the Civil War. It's a national treasure because of the more than 120 signatures, artwork, games, thoughts and poetry that Union soldiers scrawled on the home's walls in 1862-63 when they occupied the Fairfax courthouse area.

The 12-acre estate features historic buildings and beautiful views whisking visitors to a bygone era. Blenheim also illustrates the Civil War's effect on local residents such as the Willcoxon family. House inscriptions and pictographs are reproduced and discussed in detail in the replica attic with full-scale images on display in the Civil War Interpretive Center. Visitors may meet Civil War re-enactors, the 17th Virginia Infantry, "Fairfax Rifles," and there'll be a beginners' boot camp, too. A variety of activities

will include demonstrations of blacksmithing with an 1862 traveling forge and the firing of a Howitzer cannon artillery gun. The event includes the program, "Freed: Portrayals of African-American Women," displays of fashionable antique accessories and jewelry, the Black Horse Cavalry, and Marion Dobbins discussing "African-American Contraband Camps."

Talks will be given on Civil War railroads, medicine, slave life and soldiers. And an exhibit of the works of famous German-American caricaturists Thomas Nast and Adalbert Volck will be displayed in the Civil War Interpretive Center. Red, Hot and Blue will have food for sale, and there'll also be live, period music and dancing. The City of Fairfax purchased the Blenheim house and its surrounding land in 1999. And guided tours of the home's first floor and its famous soldier graffiti will be offered on Civil War Day from 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Admission is \$5, adults; \$3, children ages 3-12; children age 2 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the restoration of the Historic Blenheim Estate. Free parking and shuttle service, including handicapped access, will be available at Fairfax High, 3501 Rebel Run.

The City of Fairfax, Historic Fairfax City Inc. and the 17th Virginia Infantry, Company D "Fairfax Rifles" are putting on this event. For more information – including directions and a schedule of events – go to [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) or call 703-591-0560.

Blenheim is closed Sunday-Monday, but is open to the public Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., with guided tours of the first floor available at 1 p.m. Admission is free.



# Achievement Gap Addressed at Budget Hearings

Admissions to Thomas Jefferson, cuts to Summer School, later start times discussed.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**O**f the 487 students admitted to the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, only 10 are black. Eight of these students are Hispanic.

This is even though 177 black students and 214 Hispanic students applied for admission to the school.

"Unless you actually believe that black and Latino children have some type of intellectual deficiency that prevents them from competing for admission to TJ, you have to believe there is a failure in the Fairfax County Public School system in terms of preparing these students to adequately compete for admission to TJ," said Tina Hone, former school board member and founder of the Coalition of the Silence (COTS), at the FY 2015 budget public hearing on April 8.

**COALITION OF THE SILENCE**, an organization that advocates for the needs of minority students, is behind the 2012 complaint to the United States Department of Education that Thomas Jefferson discriminates against minority and poor students.

Admissions to Thomas Jefferson are disproportionate to the number of kids in Fairfax County who ought to be in the school, Hone said at the hearing.

"COTS kids, that's African American kids, Latino kids or poor kids, make up 30 percent or more of the Fairfax County school system," Hone said.

Cuts to summer school and needs-based staffing, Hone said, are detrimental to minority and poor students.

"If you really care about closing the achievement gap, you've got to have summer school. For COTS kids, it is the mechanism that prevents the loss of learning that is then reflected in the next school year," Hone said.

More time in school, including the restoration of full-day Mondays and a modified calendar, is what COTS kids need in order to close the achievement gap.

"The more time COTS kids are in school, the more you will see a closing of the achievement gap and the development of a student body that can successfully compete for admission to Thomas Jefferson High School," Hone said.

Alex Glassman, a self-described COTS student who is in seventh grade at Longfellow Middle School, said at the public hearing on the budget on April 8 that later start times for middle and high school students would also help to close the achievement gap.

"If you are serious about closing the achievement gap, you must support later start times for middle and high schools. Without doing so, you put us in a spiral destined to fail. You widen the gap further and further," Glassman said.

Ameen Al-dalli, a tenth grader at Langley High School, agreed that it is difficult to pay attention in class because he is so tired.

"My lack of sleep has a direct toll on my education and athletics," Al-dalli said at the public hearing.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said at the April 8 hearing that the board has gone on record supporting SLEEP.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**COTS members Sheree Brown Kaplan, Tina Hone, George Becerra and Avis Catchings in 2012. Hone spoke on behalf of COTS children at the budget hearings in Fairfax on April 8.**

"We have offered to work with the school board to help work out the challenges associated with scheduling of athletics and other things," Bulova said. "We are standing ready to work with the school board on this issue."

According to data released by Fairfax County Public Schools, 323 of the students accepted for admission into the school are Asian-American. In total, 2,900 students applied for admission to Thomas Jefferson.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON** has said in the past that they do reach out to minority students interested in attending the school.

Ilryong Moon, the chairman of the Fairfax County School Board, cited the disparity in graduation rates for minority students and an increase in ESOL services for the school system in general at the budget public hearing on April 9.

"The number of students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals has grown by 25 percent to more than 52,000 students next year," Moon said. "More than 1 in 4 FCPS students is eligible for free and reduced-priced meals."

Lee District School Board member and Vice Chairman Tamara Derenak Kaufax spoke to language and literacy issues, as well as the effect poverty rates are having on the school system.

"Fairfax is one of the wealthiest counties in the United States; that is a fact. But there are lesser known truths that we see in our schools, including many of those that I represent in Lee District, that lie in contradiction to this fact," Kaufax said.

According to Kaufax, 20 of the 32 schools in the Lee District, have poverty rates of 40 percent or higher.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**CustomInk Opening Speakers: From left, CustomInk President Marc Katz, Senator Mark Warner, Congressman Gerry Connolly, and Revolution Growth Co-Founder Ted Leonsis display t-shirt at CustomInk Open House reception**

## CustomInk Celebrates Grand Opening

**O**n Friday, CustomInk, the "design online" custom T-shirt company, hosted an open house event at its new Fairfax headquarters. President Marc Katz was joined by special guests Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), and Revolution Growth Co-Founder, Ted Leonsis. The company relocated its headquarters to a 72,000 square-foot location at Mosaic, 2910 District Avenue in Fairfax. Operations at the new location will range from software engineering to design, finance, marketing, customer care and production art. As the anchor commercial tenant for Mosaic, CustomInk will occupy three floors in a location with 50 percent more space than the

company's previous office in Tysons Corner.

After 50 percent revenue growth in 2013, CustomInk plans to continue to expand the company over the next year by creating 95 new jobs in Virginia, in addition to 420 local employees and 600 others around the country. Since its founding in 2000, CustomInk has grown to be a major player in the \$5 billion custom apparel market, with about \$200 million in annual revenues. The company has sold over 50 million shirts. As part of its ongoing expansion, CustomInk recently opened a new production facility in Dallas; expanded to a new location in Reno, Nev., and plans to expand another production facility in Charlottesville.



**Inkers leading tours of their new headquarters facility in Fairfax.**



## Food Drive for JMCAP

A food drive for the James Mott Community Assistance Program, which helps local families in need, will be held Saturday, April 19, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., in front of the Walmart in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center.

## Fairfax City Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Fairfax City Council is Tuesday, April 22, at 7 p.m., at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax. It will include a public hearing on a resolution to spend not more than \$8.1 million for the development and improvement of City-owned downtown properties. These include the Old Town Square Park, East Street parking lot, North Street pedestrian barrier and the Police Department Firearms Training Center on Pickett Road.

## April 24 Candidates Forum

A Candidates Forum for the City of Fairfax Mayoral and City Council candidates will be held Thursday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m., at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. It's sponsored by the City of Fairfax Homeowners Assn.

## Prescription Drug Take-Back

In conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and state and local law-enforcement agencies, Vienna police will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

On Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., residents may turn in their old, expired, unused or unwanted medications.

Prescription drugs, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be dropped off anonymously in the front lobby of City of Fairfax Police Headquarters, 3730 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax.

If an original container is disposed of, people might consider removing any identifying information from the prescription label. Liquid products should remain sealed in their original containers to prevent leakage. Intravenous solutions, injectables and syringes will not be accepted due to associated hazards.



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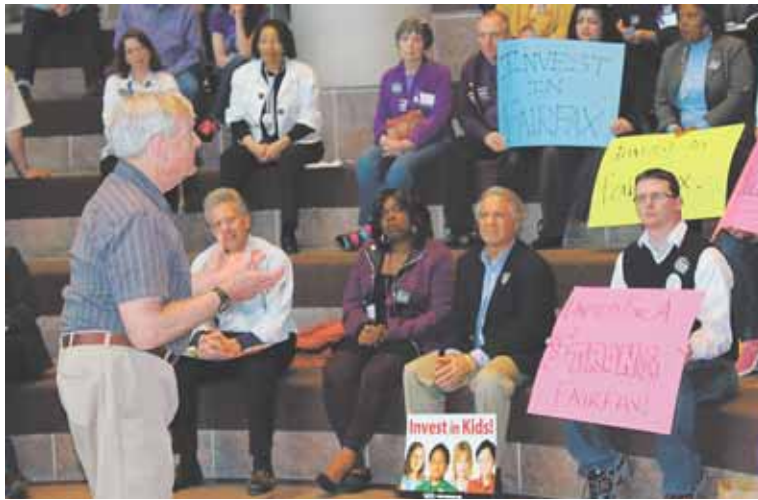
# Advocates Urge Supervisors to 'Invest in Fairfax'

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

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**nvest 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.



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

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

The group is a brand new coalition of teachers, county employees, human service employees, firemen 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 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



**"Invest in Fairfax" advocates gather at a rally during the Fairfax County budget hearings on April 9.**

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 opportunities 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.

SEE INVESTING, PAGE 7

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**Kimberly Adams, president of the Fairfax Education Association.**

## Investing In Fairfax

FROM PAGE 6

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.

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

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# OPINION

## Celebrate Earth Day

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

**E**arth 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](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/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/) or email to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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

Fairfax  
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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 day 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."

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 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

## 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

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

books 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 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.**

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# In the City of Fairfax, Appearance Matters

Four properties are honored for design, landscape.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Part of what makes a city a nice place to live in is the way it looks. And the City of Fairfax recently honored four properties with Commercial Appearance Awards for 2013.

They are the Joshua Gunnell/BBG building, Chick-fil-A center, Fairfax Regional Library plantings and the Community Garden at City Hall. The Community Appearance Committee (CAC) received nominations from the community, and then professional judges considered them and decided on the winners.

CAC Chairman Kirk Holley unveiled them at City Council meeting during which they received certificates for their achievements.

"I congratulate you for owning and/or managing one of the four award-winners this year," he said. "This award exemplifies the pride you place on the appearance and maintenance of your commercial property and our recognition of your civic leadership in keeping Fairfax an attractive place to live and work."

The properties were judged on five, key criteria:

- ❖ Landscape design quality – Balanced, with seasonal interest and appropriate for the business and neighborhood;
- ❖ Building quality – Craftsmanship, materials used and complementary to its setting;
- ❖ Signage, lighting, advertising and display compatibility – Tasteful, inviting, high-quality and integrated to its surroundings;
- ❖ Maintenance of the landscape and building.
- ❖ Sense of place, with a unique and special character.

The library plantings and Community Garden won in the municipal category, and the Joshua Gunnell/BBG building and Chick-fil-A center took top honors in the commercial category.

"A few years ago, the library's building architecture was recognized by both the City Appearance Committee and the regional Community Appearance Alliance," said Holley. But at the time, he said, it was also considered a bit stark and without many plantings or color to liven it up.

That's now changed, said Holley, thanks to partnerships and "some great volunteer effort." He said the judges noted, "This is now a colorful spot – patrons must enjoy sitting out here on a sunny day."

Under the guidance of library Branch Manager Kathy Hoffman, The plantings were accomplished via a joint effort of library Volunteer Coordinator Kim Appich; the Friends of Fairfax Library and its president, Barbara Leadbetter; the Fairfax Ferns Garden Club, particularly Nasrin Lescure;



(Back row, from left) Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne and Kirk Holley honored library representatives (front row, from left) Barbara Leadbetter, Kathy Hoffman and Nasrin Lescure for their award.



(From left) are Parks and Recreation Director Michael McCarty, Mayor Scott Silverthorne, CAC Chairman Kirk Holley and Parks Manager Gregg Tonge. McCarty and Tonge were honored for the Community Garden.



The Fairfax Regional Library plantings.



The Community Garden outside City Hall.



The historic Joshua Gunnell/BBG building.



The Chick-fil-A center and its landscaping.

and the Public Works staff, especially Rusty Thomas's right-of-way crew that maintains all the downtown planters.

"The Friends provide some of the funding for the bed plantings and maintenance," said Holley. "And the Ferns Garden Club provides design, planting and maintenance to provide a welcome splash of three-season color at this important intersection in the City."

Regarding the Community Garden outside City Hall, the judges called it well-done

and said its detailing and improvements blend nicely with the site. It consists of 18 plots, each 10x10 feet, where fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs are grown.

The Parks and Recreation Dept. helped design and maintain the garden along with its users. And Affordable Lawn Sprinklers and J.L. Tree Service donated their services for the construction. The judges said, "Spots like this create a sense of place in the City."

As for the Joshua Gunnell/BBG building, it's a successful commercial use that main-

tains its historic façade. Holley said, "This historic building on Chain Bridge Road, opposite the Courthouse, reminds us of what Fairfax used to be like." The judges also noted its "complementary plantings, well-kept masonry and attractive entry and signage." After being nominated the past two years, the Chick-fil-A center was also honored. The judges liked the building's "top-tier" detail and scale, plus the "obvious effort to create an attractive landscape – the cow topiary is fun."

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



# 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 pro-

vided. 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.

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

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

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

**St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic**

**Church**, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

**Kirkwood Presbyterian Church**, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome.

The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

**JCCNV Mother's Circle program**, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children.

Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or H Y P E R L I N K "mailto:LaurieA@jccnv.org" LaurieA@jccnv.org.

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From left —Maggie Erwin, Tia Shearer and Carolyn Kashner in Hub Theatre's "Failure: A Love Story."

## Bittersweet to the Core

Hub Theatre presents area premiere of the 'Failure: A Love Story.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

"Failure, A Love Story" by Philip Dawkins "is unique, funny, whimsical and has so much heart," said Helen Pafumi, Hub artistic director. "It is the kind of piece where you will easily ride an array of emotions as the story unfolds, and best of all, you will laugh... I adore plays that leave you with a pang of joy and pain, that are bittersweet to the core."

The play takes place in 1920s Chicago. It traces the lives and departure of three sisters in the Fall Family. The family lives in a wobbly world and rickety two-story building that is the family's home and clock shop. "I was immediately struck by the playfulness of both language and structure...The play deals in storytelling theatre, with characters onstage directly addressing the audience to relate events that may or may not be re-enacted onstage," said Matt Bassett, the director.

"Luckily, Dawkins has invested all of his characters with a great deal of humor and heart. These are living, breathing people with clearly-defined traits



Helen Pafumi, Artistic Director, Hub Theatre.

and desires. They're also a family, so we have beautiful, complex relationships at play," added Bassett, a teaching artist at DC's National Conservatory of the Dramatic Arts.

Tia Shearer, who plays sisters Jenny June, noted that "playful, poetic theatre is my very favorite kind. I want whimsy, and magic realism, and impossible feats to happen in my theatre!" As well as "spirit" she added. Her character is brave and hard-working, she "seeks adventure... And most importantly, the kind of brave that lets her love and be scared about it."

Michael Kevin Darnall is Mortimer, a young, successful banker. "He can have any and every material

thing he wants, but he's bored with all that and has decided it's time to find himself a wife," said Darnall. "He knows she's out there...he intends to be absolutely ready for her the moment he finds her." However, "he is hardly prepared for what meeting the woman (women) of his dreams will entail and how three unique encounters with love will change him forever."

Chris Stinson is John N., the unusual younger brother in the Fall family. "He is exceptionally awkward around people," nevertheless he has a heart of gold. For Stinson, "Failure, A Love Story" celebrates "life, loss and love in such a snappy and entertaining

way."

This play "chronicles loss while it so entirely captures the treasure of life," added Pafumi.

### Where and When

Hub Theatre presents "Failure, A Love Story" at John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Performances: April 25-May 18, 2014. Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Call 1.800.494.8497 or visit: [www.thehubtheatre.org](http://www.thehubtheatre.org). Note: For ages 10 and up.



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.

PHOTO BY HELEN PAFUMI/HUB THEATRE

### CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

**FRIDAY/APRIL 25, 26 & MAY 2, 3 "Pride & Prejudice."** Woodson High

School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. [www.wtwdrama.org](http://www.wtwdrama.org) to purchase tickets.

#### FRIDAY/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](http://www.robinsoncrew.org) or [plantsale4crew@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.womansclubofspringfield.org).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

**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](http://www.springfestfairfax.org).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 27

**Jeffrey Siegel, "Mistresses and Masterpieces."** 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. The pianist performs music inspired by composers' major love interests. \$19-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on April 15. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Young Artists Musicale.** 6 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts lobby, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. Piano students and winners of the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association Honors Recitals perform short pieces. Free admission. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Break a Sweat for a Homeless Pet.** 9 a.m. Giles Run Meadow Park, 8400 Lorton Road, Lorton. Registration is \$15 at [www.metrorunwalkspringfield.com/](http://www.metrorunwalkspringfield.com/). This is the second annual Break a Sweat For A Homeless Pet, the area's premier running event for people and their dogs, featuring a five mile, 5K and one mile race to benefit The Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Last year the event raised nearly \$2,000.

Racers are encouraged to run with their dogs in the 5K and one-mile races. The five-mile race is for human runners only. Post-race activities include a hot dog bar with all the fixins', dog photo booth, dog care giveaways, dog agility play, and canine splash pools.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

**A Fragile Trust: Plagiarism, Power, and Jayson Blair at The New York Times.** 4:30 p.m. Johnson Center Cinema, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A Fragile Trust is a fascinating documentary that explores power and ethics, corporate and office politics, race politics, representation, and accountability in the mainstream media. Free admission. <http://fams.gmu.edu/>

**American Women: The Long and Winding Road.** 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Join a discussion with three panelists about the differing ways men and women now think and feel about their work and home life. Should there still be gender-specific roles in contemporary society?

## ONGOING

**Workhouse Farmers Market.** 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Every Thursday on the quad is a producer-only market for discerning shoppers featuring locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry and local foods from breads to salsas and sausages. [www.smartmarkets.org](http://www.smartmarkets.org).

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

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

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# A Classic Romance Comes to the Stage

## Woodson High presents 'Pride and Prejudice.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 100, Woodson High will present the classic, romantic play, "Pride and Prejudice." And there'll be entertainment, both on and offstage.

"We'll have eight ballroom dancers doing the minuet in the lobby before the show, and they'll dance in the background during the play," said Director Terri Hobson. "A live, string quartet will also perform outside and onstage."

The curtain rises Friday, April 25 and May 2, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, April 26 and May 3, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance via [www.wtwdrama.org](http://www.wtwdrama.org) or \$10 at the door; \$5, senior citizens. Matinees (understudy cast) are \$5 for everyone.

Praising her "awesome" cast members, Hobson said things are going well. "They're making great connections to their characters, have wonderful chemistry together and are making good acting choices. The story takes place in early to mid 1800s England and it's going to be fun for the audience to enter that world and time. They'll find people they identify with, and it's partly due to Jane Austen writing characters who are timeless."

**THE BENNETS**, of the "landed gentry," have three daughters, and the eldest, Jane, falls in love with the wealthy Mr. Bingley, but his sister disapproves. His friend, Mr. Darcy, and the middle sister, Elizabeth, initially don't like each other. Later, Darcy falls in love with her, but she has misconceptions of him, so she's prejudiced against him. He's so rich that people discern he's haughty



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTIE MCENTIRE

Posing in character are Faith Johnson, as Lady Catherine De Bourgh, and Lara Taylor as Elizabeth Bennet.

and prideful – but everything works out in the end.

Junior Lara Taylor plays Elizabeth. "She's intelligent – which wasn't thought to be important in her time period," said Taylor. "She's family-oriented, but strong-willed and independent. Her family has land, but not much money, so it's important that their daughters marry well."

Taylor likes portraying someone not stereotypical. "She's funny and thinks for herself, and I get to play opposite the wonderful Javier Killefer [as Darcy]," said Taylor. "And it's fun when our characters verbally spar with each other."

She said the audience will like the period costumes and the story which made the original book so beloved.

"It's not flashy," she added. "So people can really connect with the

characters' struggles and relationships."

Killefer, a senior, describes Darcy as "tall, brooding and withdrawn from most conversations. So most people think he's aloof or arrogant, but he's actually compassionate – he just doesn't speak unless asked or he believes he has something important to say. His family's rich and he does philanthropy."

Killefer identifies with Darcy because he, too, was introverted before joining theater. "He's really macho and suave, so all the women go, 'Ah, Mr. Darcy,' and it's fun to play someone like that," said Killefer.

He also said the audience will enjoy watching the women bicker with each other: "They pretend to like each other, but they're really making snide remarks disguised as conversation."

**PORTRAYING MRS. BENNET** is junior Mary Anne Callahan. "Her entire life is about setting her daughters up for marriage – it's behind every decision she makes," said Callahan. "She's obsessed with getting them good husbands so they can inherit the family estate. But other people find her annoying."

Enjoying her role, Callahan said her character's naïve because "she doesn't realize people are making fun of her. She thinks she's intelligent, but she's so preoccupied that she doesn't live in reality." Callahan said the actors playing the Bennet family members are close offstage and on, so the audience will see "how much we care about each other. They'll also like the comedic parts of the story and the classic romance."

Hobson had a dialect coach teach her actors a "transatlantic dialect, like Gregory Peck and Katharine Hepburn spoke in the 1930s-40s – elegant, but not British. They've also learned to curtsy, bow and properly serve tea. And their costumes include dresses with empire waistlines for the women and tailcoats with ascots and top hats for the men."

The show's technical director is senior Killian Rodgers. He's also the lighting crew chief. "Lighting captures the different emotions in the different houses," he explained. "For example, the Bennet house will have warm reds and oranges since it's a country estate. But Darcy's aunt's house will have cooler colors, blues and greens, because she's higher class and calmer. Lighting's an art because you have freedom to choose the colors and intensity you want and can add shadows and special effects." Overall, said Rodgers, "It's a great show and people should come see it. Everyone's heard of this story, but not necessarily read the book, so they can see the characters come to life onstage."

## SCHOOL NOTES

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

**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.

**Rabia Hassan** of Fairfax graduated

with a master's degree in criminal justice from Boston University.

**Hannah L. Moody**, of Fairfax Station, graduated from Boston University with a Master of Science in biomedical forensic sciences.

**Martin VanderHoeven**, an Earlham College first-year and son of Marianne Marsolais and Edward VanderHoeven of Springfield, has enrolled at Earlham College.



# 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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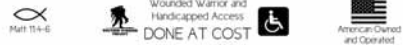
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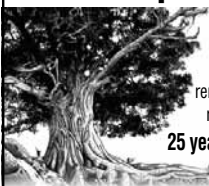


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The Fairfax Station/Clifton/

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Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet

The Mount Vernon Gazette

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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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## 21 Announcements

**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](http://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.

## 21 Announcements

**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:  
PARDO & DRAZIN, LLC  
Russell S. Drazin, Attorney  
4400 Jenifer Street, NW, Suite 2  
Washington, DC 20015  
(202) 223-7900  
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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.

The stories behind these walls are full of human drama and pathos - from the accepting of George and Martha Washington's wills in the 1800s to voting for the Civil War in the 1860s to the suffragettes in the 1900s.

Visitors will see 200 years of architectural styles, including beautiful antebellum houses, while viewing the rising shapes and skylines of the City today. They'll also listen to the legends and the tales of Civil War soldiers and spies, and feel the history all around them.

"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/](http://www.historicfairfax.org/).

## 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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## 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT

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## 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE

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**Includes:** Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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