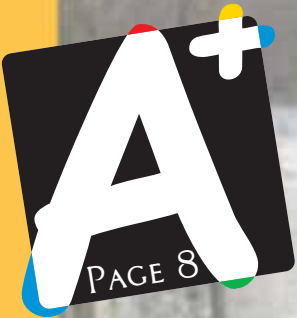


Kim and James Reno of Lorton are training for the Ride to Conquer Cancer and are hoping to raise \$5,000 each. All of the funds raised go to cancer research at Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, Sibley Memorial and Suburban Hospitals.

'Ride to Conquer Cancer'

News, PAGE 3



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PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

**Families, Community
Advocate For Special
Education Graduates**

News, PAGE 3

Challenging A Child's Mind

A+, PAGE 8

A Message from Fairfax Kids:

Thanks Gerry!

Supervisor Gerry Hyland Supports Strong Kids & Schools



When Fairfax students and teachers needed a leader, Supervisor Gerald "Gerry" Hyland was there for them. Hyland has taken the lead in supporting our schools with the funding they need. That means:

- Smaller class sizes
- Support for teachers
- Personal attention for students

Supervisor Hyland values education and knows that to keep Fairfax County strong, we must have the best schools, effective public safety and strong property values.

Contact Gerry and thank him for looking out for our kids and teachers:

703-780-7518

mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax County Federation of Teachers
Teachers Care!



Paid Advertisement

Advocates for Fairfax County special education graduates gather at the public hearing on the budget on April 10.



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Families, Community Advocate For Special Education Graduates

Supporters gathered at Fairfax County budget hearing on April 10.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Diana Martin, a Fairfax Station resident, was already losing sleep thinking about how she was going to balance the post-grad needs of her daughter Kenzie with her husband's chemo and medical care.

Now, she is even more concerned as funding for the programs that help special education graduates from Fairfax County Public Schools is included on a list of possible further reductions that County Executive Ed Long presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 18. In early March, the Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation showing their support for the inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The \$1.3 million for day support and employment programs helps special education students like Kenzie transition into adult life after graduating from high school. If the program is cut, 74 special education graduates will have no funding for these necessary services.

PARENTS LIKE DIANA who are counting on that funding to ensure their children retain the skills they learned in school testified at the budget hearings on the FY 2015 budget at the Fairfax County Government Center on April 10.

"In a matter of months, I fear all the skills she has worked so hard to gain would slip away," Martin said at the budget hearing. "She needs daily reinforcement that being at home all day cannot provide."

Springfield resident Lynn Ruiz, director of community relations at the Arc of Northern Virginia, spoke about her daughter Lydia's need for a transition program after she graduates in June.

Lydia, who has Down syndrome, has been on the waiting list for a Medicaid waiver for 12 years. Although Lydia still hasn't received a waiver, her mother was relieved when she found out that the graduates would be funded in the FY 2015 budget.

Lydia was accepted into a job training program, which will help her achieve her goal of securing a job at TJ Maxx, where she wants to work so she can buy the fashionable clothes she sees in magazines.

But, Ruiz was forced to worry again when the program was included on the list of possible cuts in March.

"We were jerked back to having to fear for June," Ruiz said.

Rikki Epstein, executive director of the Arc of Northern Virginia, said hopes were dashed when families saw the proposed cuts.

"The families who had been able to breathe a sigh of relief after years of worry and start making plans for the future are now crestfallen, and back at the drawing board, playing the waiting game," Epstein said at the hearing.

Epstein previously noted the irony in the proposed elimination of funding for special education graduates in order to provide more funding for schools.

"We simply cannot afford to pay for school supports today by taking away funding for a meaningful life after graduation. Our students deserve the jobs and opportunities we have prepared them for over the last 22 years," Epstein said.

Ken Garnes, chairman of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, urged the Supervisors to retain the funding for the programs in the budget.

"Our students deserve the jobs and opportunities we have prepared them for over the last 22 years."

— Rikki Epstein, executive director of the Arc of Northern Virginia

WITHOUT THE FUNDING, students will have nothing to do but sit on the couch, said Lucy Beadnell, director of advocacy at the Arc of Northern Virginia.

She said many parents have called, concerned with their options for their children after they graduate.

"A number of parents were asking me, 'do I quit my job to stay at home with them?' And I don't have the answer to that," Beadnell said.

Joyce Jones of Lorton said she was really disappointed when she found out the program for special education graduates might not be funded. She said she isn't sure what she is going to do for her son Marcus if the funding for special education graduates is cut.

"It's really concerning to me, especially because he's about to graduate. It almost brings me to tears. I'm the sole provider. We really depend on these services for him," Jones said.



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Kim and James Reno, of Lorton, enjoy a ride at Burke Lake Park. The two graduated from West Springfield High School and are now training for the first annual Ride to Conquer Cancer.

Lorton Residents 'Ride to Conquer Cancer'

Kim and James Reno, West Springfield High School graduates, hope to raise \$5,000 each.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

West Springfield High School graduates and current Lorton residents Kim and James Reno are putting in long hours training for the upcoming Ride to Conquer Cancer.

The two-day, 150-mile bike ride will take them through the D.C. area as they raise money and awareness for cancer research. Both Kim and James need to raise at least \$2,500 dollars, but are aiming for \$5,000 each.

All of the money raised goes to doctors and hospitals working with cancer treatment and research at Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, Sibley Memorial and Suburban Hospitals.

Kim, 25, has family members who have battled cancer. She has an uncle still battling cancer, and an aunt who lost her battle to cancer, making the Ride to Conquer Cancer a great opportunity to raise money and awareness.

"It means a lot to me. We kept looking for stuff we could do to make a difference," Kim said.

James, 26, grew up riding a bicycle, and went on a lot of long rides with his father. Kim enjoyed shorter rides and began riding more seriously when James moved back to the area. Since she said she isn't a runner, the two decided to sign up for the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

Under the team name "Ride

to Thrive," the ride will take James and Kim, along with thousands of other bikers from across North America, through the countryside around the Washington, D.C. area on Sept. 13 and 14.

"Every couple of days we try to get out and ride," James said. "Closer to the time of the ride, we're probably going to try to do a single 75-mile ride in one day."

Kim has almost reached the halfway mark for her \$5,000 fundraising goal. James is a little bit further behind.

"I need to get out there and fundraise," he said.

Although they are sometimes sore after the long hours of training, Kim and James are keeping their eyes on their goal.

The race gives Kim and James an opportunity to make a difference, as she said loved ones of those battling cancer often don't know what they can do to help.

"Being able to raise this money and to help with new research and cures means a lot," Kim said.

And, being out in the fresh air is also enjoyable for the couple.

"It's also just the joy of doing 150 miles in two days," James said.

Those wishing to contribute and help James and Kim meet their goal can visit www.ridetovictory.org or call 855-822-7433. Enter Kim Reno or James Reno or their participant ID numbers: 1120582-9 or 1120583-2.



Join Us for Inova HealthPlex - Lorton's First Anniversary "Celebrating the Health and Safety of Our Community"

Hosted by Inova Healthplex - Lorton and Inova Trauma Center

What: A free event with lots to do for the entire family!

- Kids ID – provided by Fairfax County Sheriff Department
- Health Screenings – Blood Pressure, Body Mass Index and Weight Screenings
- Health awareness for young and old
- Safety Wheel (what every child should know)
- Northern Virginia Healthy Kids Coalition
- Kids activities - t-shirt coloring station, inflatable obstacle course, face painting, Moon Bounce and much, much more!
- FREE Hot Dogs and Beverages

When: Saturday, April 26
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(Rain date Saturday, May 3)

Where: Inova HealthPlex - Lorton
9321 Sanger Street
Lorton, VA 22079

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KIDS**
FAIRFAX COUNTY

For more information about
Inova HealthPlex - Lorton, visit
www.inova.org/lortonhealthplex



SPRINGfest Fairfax

www.springfestfairfax.org

Saturday, April 26
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Action Center

News



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MSA Studio director Lesley Shearer with MSA ballet students in blue.

School of the Arts Goes Blue

In support of Autism Awareness Month, Metropolitan School of the Arts is asking all of its studio students to “go blue” now through April 30. Students who wear blue during class, Monday through Friday in April, Metropolitan School of the Arts will donate \$1 for each student that wears blue, per day. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org for a full schedule of classes and registration.

Metropolitan School of the Arts offers pre-professional dance, theatre, musical and vocal studio classes for youth and teens, as well as adult dance and fitness classes, in-

cluding Metro Barre, yoga and Pilates.

“We know autism affects so many young lives and more research is needed to help treat and manage these amazing children,” said Melissa Dobbs, president of Metropolitan School of the Arts of Lorton. “We invite our current and any new students to ‘go blue’ this month, whether it’s blue leotards, hair bands, shirts, scarves, shoes or pants, pick something that works for you and help us give back to a worthy cause,” said Dobbs.

For more information visit www.metropolitanarts.org



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Dr. Jim MacLean
Dr. Diane Nichols
Dr. Kathleen Phillips**

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+ 10% off!

NEW Oral NexGard – No more sticky mess on your dog’s fur!
Get a 6-month supply
+ 10% off!

**Take Advantage
of our Lyme Disease
Prevention Package!**

Including:
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• 1st Lyme Vaccination
• 2nd Lyme Vaccination

**Total Cost
of \$90 –
A Savings
of 50%**



OPINION

Celebrate Earth Day

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mother's Day Photos

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School Budget: Different Perspective

To the Editor:

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

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

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

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

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

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

storm ideas on solving funding challenges.

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

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

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

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

Those attending the Feb. 26 Lee District Association of Civic

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

Elizabeth Murphy
Springfield

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
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AREA ROUNDUPS

11th Congressional District Art Competition

The Workhouse Arts Center will present the 2014 High School Congressional Art Competition for Virginia's 11th Congressional District. The Congressional Art Competition is an annual, nationwide high school arts competition sponsored by the Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. All public, private and home schooled high school students, residing in Congressman Gerry Connolly's 11th Congressional District, were invited to participate.

Five judges will select six winners from the artworks submitted and the winners will be announced at the May 3 artist reception. The top winner in each district will have his or her art on exhibit in the United States Capitol for a year.

Reception hosted by Congressman Connolly will be held on May 3, 2-4 p.m. Join student artists and their families to celebrate the importance of the fine arts in the region.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Friends of the Burke Centre Library Annual Meeting. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

SATURDAY/ APRIL 26

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

CASA Information Session. 11 a.m.-Noon., at Fairfax CASA office, 4103 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 200, Fairfax. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is hosting an information session on advocating for abused or neglected children. 703) 273-3526, x22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org

MONDAY/ APRIL 28

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

WEDNESDAY/ APRIL 30

Book Donation. Robert E. Lee High School Library, 1200 N Coalter St, Staunton. All types of books are welcome—fiction, nonfiction, children's books, cookbooks, college textbooks and more! 703-924-8370.



Easter Brunch Buffet Sunday April 20th

Seatings: 10:00 am, 11:30 am,
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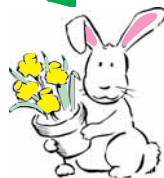
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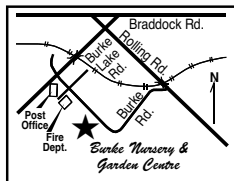
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Challenging A Child's Mind

Experts say reading is critical to cognitive and emotional development.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PHOTO BY KATIE PEEBLES

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

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

Book Suggestions

THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE:

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

FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE:

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


ingly endless.”

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

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


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

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



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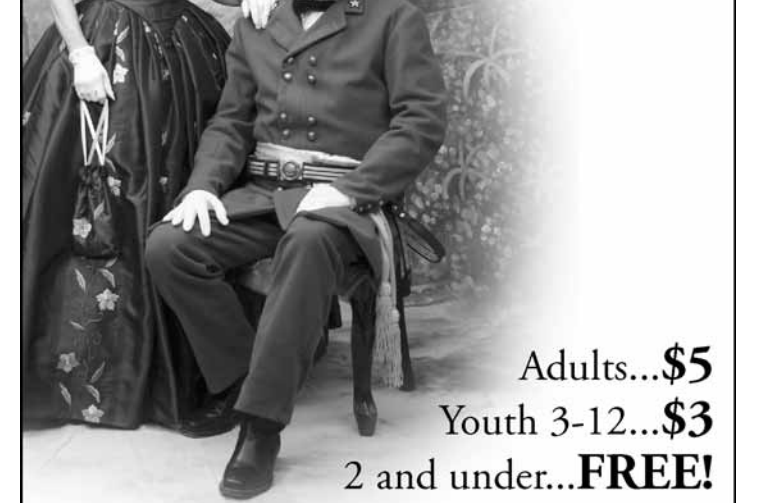
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Seventeen FCPS Students Named National Achievement Scholarship Winners

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

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

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

gineering).

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

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

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

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

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

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

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



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.

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 to purchase tickets.

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 25
"The Sixth Generation" – Spring 1960s Sock Hop Series. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Attention all Baby Boomers and Bobby Soxers! Join The Sixth Generation for a special concert in 60's Dance Hall Style at the Workhouse Arts Center! \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.
Robinson Crew Team Annual Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Burke

Nursery and Garden Center at 9401 Burke Road, Burke. The entire nursery inventory is for sale, including annuals, perennials, stones, hanging baskets, shrubs, trees, and master gardener/landscaping design. www.robinsoncrew.org or plantsale4crew@gmail.com or 703-980-8725.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26
Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. PF Chang's in Fairfax Corner, 4250 Fairfax Corner Avenue, Fairfax. Cost of \$30 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. RSVP required. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.
2014 Healthy Strides Community 5K/10K. 7:30 a.m. Burke Lake Park. Head on out to Burke Lake Park on April 26 and join the Fairfax County Park Authority for the Healthy Strides Community 5k/10k!! Enjoy a scenic run around the beautiful grounds of Burke Lake Park. The 10k runs along a wooded path and takes runners around the lake. While the 5k follows a scenic tree-lined road through the park. Register here: <http://prrracing.racebox.com/events/register/5224ef94-365c-408a-b417-7f46c0a86524>.
Spring Faire. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. There's something for everyone - jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet, and more. Free admission and door prizes. Proceeds will be donated to Bethany House to help victims of domestic abuse. www.womansclubofspringfield.org.

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

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.
Young Artists Musicales. 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.
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/. 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.

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Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

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FAITH

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

Easter Services

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Good Friday Service. 7:30 p.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death on the cross at Calvary.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20

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

FAITH NOTES

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

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

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.

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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 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.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

Robinson junior Melissa Cook hits the ball during a spring break tournament game against West Potomac on April 12.

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 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 tour-

nament 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.

South County Boys' Lax Improves to 7-0

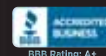
The South County boys' lacrosse team defeated Oakton 17-11 on April 14, improving its record to 7-0.

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



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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BRAKE SPECIAL

\$99⁹⁵

PADS

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MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE

\$159⁹⁹

Synthetic \$10 More

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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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE VENTILATION SPECIAL

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