

# Fairfax High Presents '9 to 5'

ENTERTAINMENT,  
PAGE 12

Fairfax Serving  
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**CONNECTION**

Playing the three  
secretaries in  
Fairfax High's "9 to  
5" are (from left)  
Emily Ennis,  
Caroline Silas and  
Amanda Harvey.

Opening Doors  
to Hope  
NEWS, PAGE 3

Fairfax County  
Honors 'Superheroes'  
NEWS, PAGE 3

Inside



**Summer Camps**  
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PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION



Amanda Andere, the executive director of FACETS, addresses a crowd of over 500 people gathered at the organization's Opening Doors breakfast on April 24.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addresses a crowd of over 500 people gathered at the FACETS Opening Doors breakfast on April 24.

# Opening Doors to Hope

Previously homeless individuals share stories at FACETS Opening Doors Breakfast.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

FACETS clients Carol Brown and Sandara Perry, sharing their stories to a crowd gathered at the FACETS Opening Doors breakfast on April 24, confirmed the unfortunate fact that homelessness and poverty do exist in Fairfax County.

But because of the help of FACETS, a Fairfax-based organization seeking to end poverty, and its many supporters and volunteers, the two were able to get back on their feet and are looking forward to a bright future.

Carol Brown was a nurse for 27 years who became sick and was unable to work. She was forced to spend her savings on medical needs and lived in her car when she wasn't in the hospital.

"I lost my place, I lost my savings. It was very difficult, very scary," Brown said. "It can happen to anybody."

Brown, who is planning to return to work as a nurse after she regains health, said that without FACETS and the help of Latoyl Whittington, she wouldn't have known what to do.

"All homeless people are not on drugs, they aren't alcoholics-it can happen to anyone. FACETS helped me get out of the car and get into a place. They truly are there to help people," Brown said.

After being homeless for nearly four years, Sandara Perry, 29, recently moved into permanent housing through the FACETS TRI-



Carol Brown, a FACETS client, speaks about her experiences with homelessness at the Opening Doors breakfast on April 24.

UMPH II program, which provides permanent homes for chronically homeless individuals.

Perry told the audience gathered at the breakfast that she grew up in a poor family and was put into foster care after her mother fell into addiction. She also faces health problems of her own and has experienced abusive relationships. Without FACETS, Perry said, she wouldn't have her apartment, or her goal of returning to college to study art.

"I had no clothes except the clothes on my back. I had nothing. I had no support at all. And then I ran into FACETS," Perry said. "Without the support of FACETS, I would still be on the street. I would not be standing here today if it were not for the help and support of FACETS."

The answer to homelessness and the solution to ending poverty is not more temporary shelters, but permanent housing, advocates say.

"We know the answer to the urgent question of how we end homelessness is not more temporary shelter, it is not more tempo-



Sandara Perry, a FACETS client who just moved into TRIUMPH II housing, shares her story at the FACETS Opening Doors breakfast on April 24.

rary housing, it is a permanent, affordable place to live that will allow mom and dad to get ready for work in their own bathroom, a kid who has been doing his homework in a motel room to have his own quiet place, and a veteran living in the woods for over 15 years to have the dignity of a bed to sleep in," said FACETS executive director Amanda Andere.

A home not only changes clients' lives, but saves their lives, Andere said. "Our community's most important and urgent question is how do we go from charity to change? How do we go from help to giving people hope? How do we turn that hope into working with others to realize the dreams we all have for ourselves?"

According to the results of the 2014 point-in-time count of homeless individuals in Fairfax County, on January 29, 2014, there were 1,225 people who were homeless in the county, a reduction of 125 people from the 2013 count. However, more permanent housing is needed in order for this reduction to continue at this rate.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

Kat and Anna Hayes, middle, receive the Family Volunteer award from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for their service with the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program in Clifton.

## Fairfax County Honors 'Superheroes'

22nd Annual Fairfax County Service Awards presented.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

Maybe they don't wear capes and flashy uniforms, but local volunteers are superheroes.

That was the theme for the 22nd Annual Fairfax County Service Awards, where more than 100 volunteers were recognized for their work with breakfast Friday, April 25, at The Waterford in Springfield.

More specifically, this year's theme was "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Impact," which was reflected in the comic book-inspired table decor and introductions by master of ceremonies Jeff Goldberg, Virginia Bureau Chief for ABC7 and News Channel 8.

"You make this a better place to play, to live and to work," said Volunteer Fairfax Executive Director Jeanne Sanders. "Every year, this is the most humbling event."

In addition to the 16 competitive awards, the organization

recognized volunteers who contributed more than 100 volunteer hours. According to a fact sheet, seven individuals clocked between 100 and 249 hours, 25 contributed 250 to 499 hours, six made between 500 and 999 hours and three clocked in more than 1,000 hours last year.

In all, 164 people nominated for awards donated more than 122,500 hours outside of their work and school hours.

Winners of the competitive awards were:

- ❖ Patti Schule - Adult volunteer under 250 hours
- ❖ Ashleigh Soloff - Adult volunteer over 250 hours
- ❖ Friends of Richard Byrd Library - Adult volunteer group
- ❖ Doris Crawford - Senior volunteer
- ❖ Food for Others - Volunteer program
- ❖ Jonah Basl - Youth volunteer
- ❖ Cherry Blossom chapter of the National Charity League - Youth Volunteer Group

SEE SERVICE, PAGE 5



Bill Shuttleworth, left, receives his Community Champions award from Lee District Supervisor Jeffery McKay, right.



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BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

**SLEEP advocates gather at a school board public hearing. The Fairfax County School Board is examining options for later start times, to be implemented in 2015.**

## School Board Examining Later Start Times

High schools could start as late as 9:15.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Two years after the Fairfax County School Board adopted a resolution in favor of later start times, exhausted teenagers are one step closer to getting a full night's sleep.

The Children's National Medical Center recently presented the school board with options for later start times, of which the school board selected four for public discussion. The new start times could be implemented as early as the 2015-2016 school year.

The four options, which include start times as late as 9:15 a.m., will be discussed at public meetings in the area in May and June. The most expensive option, at \$7,645,208, requires 60 additional buses. The least expensive option would require 25 additional buses at \$2,759,749. The school board is expected to vote on these options in the fall.

"Given all our research and discussion with stakeholders over the past 12 months, our team strongly believes that later bell changes for Fairfax County Public Schools can be achieved at a reasonable cost in the 2015-16 academic year," said Judith Owens, director of sleep medicine at the Children's National Medical Center.

In Virginia, 72 of 95 counties start high schools past 8 a.m. Members of SLEEP in Fairfax, which has been advocating for later start times since 2004, say that the 7:20 a.m. start time of high schools in Fairfax County is having a devastating effect on students' health and well-being.

"The middle 67 percent of students who fall into the normal category of sleep need would benefit, which is a large, large percentage," said Daniel Lewin, associate director of the pediatric sleep medicine program at the Children's National Medical Center.

Earlier this year, the school board passed a motion recommending that Superintendent Karen Garza identify savings from the 2014 annual bus route review and earmarks those savings to offset the possible cost of implementing later high school start times.

"This has been an evolution, and it will continue to be," said Jeffrey Platenberg, assistant superintendent of facilities and transportation services for Fairfax County Public Schools.

After the researchers from the Children's National Medical Center presented the options, school board members voiced their concerns and opinions. Dranesville district School Board member Jane Strauss voiced her concern that the later start times could cause extra-curricular activities to start early in the morning. Other members were

concerned that some options still left school starting too early.

"The one that has high school starting at 9:15, in my view, that is the only one that is either scientifically honest, or politically honest, because that's the one that actually moves high school times later. The other ones are poking at the margins," said school board member Ted Velkoff (at-large.)

According to Owens, the studies show that bedtimes would remain the same, but if the start times change by an hour, students receive an additional hour of sleep.

"This change can be accomplished in school districts such as Fairfax that are large and complex," Owens said.

**"The middle 67 percent of students who fall into the normal category of sleep need would benefit, which is a large, large percentage."**

—Daniel Lewin, Children's National Medical Center



# Service Awards Presented

FROM PAGE 3

- ❖ Ana and Kat Hayes - Family volunteer
- ❖ Roberto Quinones - Integrate individual
- ❖ St. Stephen's United Methodist Church - Integrate group
- ❖ John Bauer - Fairfax County volunteer
- ❖ Ready to Read Volunteer Program - Fairfax County Volunteer Program
- ❖ BB&T - Corporate Volunteer Program
- ❖ Sharon Page - RSVP Northern Virginia Award
- ❖ Nicholas Hartigan - Rising star
- ❖ Ramona Watson Morrow - Lifetime achievement

"Upon hearing my name announced as the award winner, I was shocked and still trying to process that announcement, when the award was handed to me on stage," said Page, of Herndon. "When you volunteer, you never think about being recognized in such a big way for the help you give to people."

She is the senior co-coordinator for the Hogar Immigrant Services English as a Second Language program at the St. Joseph's



BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

**The founders of Amy's Amigos pose with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.**

Catholic Church Parish in Herndon.

Hartigan was also surprised to have won an award — the Rising Star award. As the founder of Reston Young Professionals, he provides young Restonians the opportunity to volunteer in their community. He was nominated by Reston Historic Trust board member Lynn Lillenthal.

"I thought it was kind of cool," he said. "I do a lot in the community and it's nice to be recognized once in a while."

He said several people spoke to

him at the end of the ceremony with hopes to connect with his group.

Schule, of Herndon, said she began volunteering once a week at the Cornerstones Hypothermia program with his Floris United Methodist Church group serving meals. Five years later, she volunteers about 25 hours a month to the program.

"It was quite an honor, and I'm inspired to work even more with Cornerstones," she said.

— REENA SINGH



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# Police Warn Residents: Beware Money Scams

Scammers identifying themselves as deputy sheriffs are calling Fairfax County residents and claiming they failed to appear for jury duty and must pay a court fee to avoid arrest. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office is in no way associated with this scam. Sheriff's deputies will not call people asking for money nor threatening them with arrest.

Anyone receiving a threatening phone call related to jury duty should hang up immediately. Do not give out personal information, including Social Security number, bank account or credit card numbers, passwords or any other identifying information. Regularly monitor all monetary accounts and always use strong passwords.

In other cases, scammers call and say they're from the court or law enforcement and the person

can avoid a warrant if they pay a fine. But law enforcement will never ask for money to avoid prosecution. Or scammers will demand money to not cut off electricity or for bond money for an arrested grandchild. City of Fairfax police urge residents to:

- Contact the court if there's any doubt.
- Be skeptical if someone asks/demands payment with a Green Dot Moneypack, Western Union, or any

electronic wiring service.

- Report suspicious or harassing calls to police at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/120413citizenreportingsystem.htm>

- Remember, once money has been wired/sent, it's impossible to recover.

- For more information, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/financialcrimes/commonscams.htm>.

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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/MAY 3

**Dog Adoption.** 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444 or for more information visit [hart90.org](http://hart90.org)

## TUESDAY/MAY 6

**Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax. For individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer's. This program is for anyone who would like to know more about what legal and financial issues to consider and how to put plans in place.

**Healthy Community Design Summit.** 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Kena Conference Center, 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Participants will examine how economic health, environmental health and public health are essential building blocks for a thriving community. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healthy-community-design-summit-tickets-10854180145>.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 7

**Free Dual Seminar.** 7 - 8:30 p.m. 12700 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 120, Fairfax. Simplified Stock Investment Management and 1031 Tax-Free Property Exchanges. Register by calling 703-969-4966 or email [UnRulyDog@gmail.com](mailto:UnRulyDog@gmail.com).

## SATURDAY/MAY 10

**Dog Adoption.** 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444 or for more info. visit [hart90.org](http://hart90.org)

## TUESDAY/MAY 13

**Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax. For individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer's. This program is for anyone who would like to know more about what legal and financial issues to consider and how to put plans in place.

## ONGOING

**Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers.** The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email [gparsons3@cox.net](mailto:gparsons3@cox.net).

**Online Scavenger Hunt.** Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. [www.fxva.com/online-ambassador](http://www.fxva.com/online-ambassador).

**Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

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# Show for Mothers and Others At Epicure Cafe

The Harried Americans - a group of D.C. metro area singer/songwriters and friends - tackle motherhood with the show, "Now About Your Mother...A Variety Show for Mothers & Others" on Saturday, May 10, 6 to 8 p.m. at the Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax.

This 'Almost Mother's Day' show features singer/songwriters Chris Anderson, Suzanne Brindamour and Jeff Smith, with special guests, pianist Roddy Barnes, storyteller Noa Baum and comedienne Missy Gryniewicz. Plus the Harried American "Hassle-Free Players" - emcee Ron Goad on percussion and

Doris MacDonald, keys and violin.

The Harried Americans believe that Mother's Day should be fun, funny and poignant. Just like being a mom...so the show is designed for adults (not children.) Tickets are free (suggested donation \$10) but seating is limited so reserve tickets early at: <http://harriedamericans.com/roadshow-events/> For more information call: 1-888-268-8637 or visit the Harried Americans web site: <http://harriedamericans.com>

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# OPINION

## Trending in the Right Direction

**Commitment to ending homelessness shows progress, but more affordable housing is needed.**

On one night in late January, local jurisdictions in our area fanned out to count the number of people who were literally homeless. Fairfax County released its numbers last week; Arlington and Alexandria will do so in the near future.

In Fairfax County, the commitment in 2010 to end homelessness in 10 years has resulted in significant progress, even in the wake of the great recession. The number of people literally homeless decreased by a third from 2008 to 2014, from 1,835 to 1,225 counted this year.

Many non-profit organizations have partnered to prevent homelessness one family or individual at a time for those on the brink and to house chronically homeless individuals. There is so much still to be done.

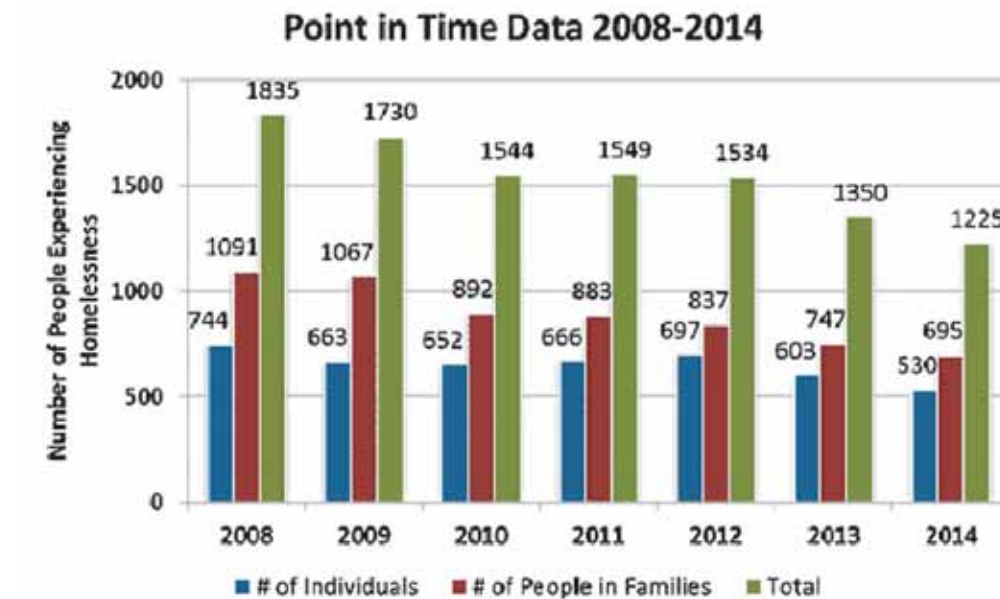
On the night of Jan. 29, 2014 there were 1,225 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community, a 9 percent reduction from January 2013, or 125 fewer people.

The 2014 point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness includes people who are described as “literally homeless,” those who are in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, or unsheltered and living on the street at one “point in time.” It does not count the individual who might be homeless but is sleeping on a friend’s sofa or the family squeezed into an uncle’s “spare” bedroom after being evicted from their own apartment.

Two sentences from the county report are worth repeating, even if they are obvious:

“The results would be even more substantial if additional housing options were available. The reduction in homelessness will not continue at the same pace in the future without significant increases in the availability of affordable housing.”

A year ago, the coalition of partners committed to ending homelessness embarked on the local piece of a nationwide effort to provide housing for the chronically homeless people in our community. There were an estimated 150 such individuals, living in the woods and in cars and on the street, in the county, and a year later, FACETS and others met this



**Point-in-time data on the number of people literally homeless 2008-2014.**

year’s milestone of bringing 50 such individuals into housing. These are people who need a continuum of services get on their feet.

Despite the good news on the steady decline, the past few months have been marked by push-back from some residents about allowing more affordable housing in the form of efficiency apartments and by several members of the Board of Supervisors expressing lack of support for even the concept of providing more affordable housing.

This misguided attitude on the part of some county leaders ignores the fact that this region cannot be economically vibrant if there is no place affordable to rent even for households who make \$50,000, never mind the households that get by on less than half of that.

Two full-time \$10 an hour positions yield \$40,000 a year. Last year, a family needed an annual income of \$56,472 to afford to pay the \$1,412 per month rent on the “fair market rate” for a two-bedroom apartment in Fairfax County. Rents have continued to rise.

Many working families living in Fairfax County struggle financially, balancing choices every month between rent, transportation, food, medical costs and other expenses that are not optional.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.CO



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

**After being homeless for five years, Sandara Perry, left, recently moved into permanent housing with ongoing support provided by FACETS. Perry grew up on Route 1 in Mount Vernon, and was placed in foster care while her mother struggled with addiction. Without support to make the transition from foster care, Perry struggled with alcohol and abusive relationships. She shared her story at the FACETS annual breakfast last Thursday, April 24, and she is pictured here with FACETS Executive Director Amanda Andere.**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Fighting for Tigers

To the Editor:

As a senior at Penn State University, I am taking a course on human geography and sustainability. As a citizen of Virginia, I am concerned. There is an international issue that is threatening one of our greatest, most majestic creatures in the world, and we are not doing enough to protect and preserve them. While

the tigers that we nobly admire at the National Zoo are safe and secure, the wild tiger population of Southeast Asia is being poached to near extinction. As my class has taught me this semester, it is our duty as human beings to sustain the environment for future generations, thus making it our duty to put an end to the illegal poaching and trading of tigers throughout the world. While it is simple to adopt an “out of sight, out of mind,” mentality with these creatures, the rapidly declining tiger

population will directly impact our future generations here in the Washington, D.C. area. If we want our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to admire the majesty of a tiger, we need to take responsibility for human action and strive for change. The keeping of tigers for pets, the illegal hunting, the black market for tiger bones - these are all actions of humans that are directly contributing to the inevitable extinction of the tiger population. But how can we help? We aren’t the ones

buying tiger bones for ancient medical practices, or poaching tigers in the wild. We are, however, the ones with the significant financial and political means to end this global epidemic. As an American, I urge you to donate to organizations such as World Wildlife Foundation, write letters to your congressmen, and generate as much attention for this issue as possible. We must fight for the tigers.

**Allison Baker**  
Oakton

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

**Amna Rehmatulla**  
Editorial Assistant  
703-778-9410 ext.427  
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

**Victoria Ross**  
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027  
vross@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

**Karen Washburn**  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422  
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

**Andrea Smith**  
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

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

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





## NEWS

### Citizens Honored

On Sunday, April 27, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Association held their 64th Annual Awards Ceremony. Braddock District resident Jan Hedetneimi was named the 2013 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. Tena Bluhm and Kathy Kaplan were awarded a citation of merit for their work in their communities. The Federation also awarded Congressman Jim Moran, Delegate Jim Scott and Congressman Frank Wolf with a special gratitude award for their public service to Fairfax County.



From left — Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) with the 2013 Citizen of the Year Jan Hedetneimi and Chairman of the Braddock District Council of Community Associations Bill Barfield.

### Protecting Driver's License Information Becomes Law

Del. David Bulova's legislation (House Bill 1072) to protect personal information on driver's licenses was enacted into law during the reconvened session of the General Assembly on April 23. The new law, which will be effective on July 1, limits the ability of a business to electronically scan the bar code on a driver's license and then store and use that data. State Sen. David Marsden (D-37) carried the companion legislation (Senate Bill 40), which has also been enacted into law.

Many retailers have begun to electronically scan the bar code of a driver's license to verify age or identity. By doing so, the retailer is given access to all of the information that is contained on the card. This includes the holder's name, address, date of birth, DMV customer number, height, gender, and whether the holder is an organ donor or has any license restrictions.

House Bill 1072 ensures that the personal information that is contained on a driver's license can only be used for very specific purposes and that the merchant cannot store or disseminate the information

to a third party unless it is for one of the reasons in the bill.

"Once your personal information is stored in someone else's database, you lose control over what happens to that data. The recent problems with Target and the release of credit card information is a reminder of that fact," said Bulova (D-37). "Most people would have a real problem with a business that insisted that it needed to photocopy your driver's license, without any restrictions whatsoever, when checking your license to establish age or identity. Today, scanning technology allows a business to collect personal information on literally thousands of customers. That information can then be used for something that has absolutely no relationship to why it was collected in the first place."

Bulova added, "This is an opportunity to protect Virginians before the practice of driver's license scanning becomes a widespread problem. I am grateful that my colleagues in the General Assembly had the foresight to pass this bill before widespread problems occurred."

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## Cancer had act one. Isabel received the encore.

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“I’m Isabel  
and I like  
to dance.”

Isabel Doran  
Promising ballerina



## NEWS

**Brianna Camp, a senior at Robinson Secondary School, received an award for her piece of art that she submitted to the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs Fair Housing Art/Poster and Essay Contest.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON GARROTT

# Area Students Recognized In Fair Housing Contest

**Sharon Garrott of Lake Braddock and Brianna Camp of Robinson win awards.**

BY JANELLE  
GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**urke resident and Lake Braddock junior Sharon Garrott and Robinson senior Brianna Camp were recently recognized for their submissions to the Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission competition.

This year's theme was "Fair Housing: Opening Doors to Equal Opportunity." Garrott was selected as a winner in the literary category for her poem, "Battle Within these Walls." Brianna Camp won the contest's art category with her painting. "What most stuck out to me in that list was the physical handicap. So I thought about what it would be like if the house you were living in wasn't equipped for whatever handicap you might have," Garrott said. "I wrote a poem about a man who was a war veteran and he had lost both of his legs in combat, and was living in a home that made life really difficult for him, and he was unable to go about his daily tasks without feeling challenged every day."

Garrott's neighbor Nancy Gastrell, a retired teacher, said that she found Garrott's poem to be thoughtful and thought-provoking. "She is a really hard worker and an excellent student," Gastrell said. "They are both very thoughtful students."

Garrott said the physical handicap aspect stood out to her because she recognizes and emphasizes with the difficulty these individuals can have with accomplishing everyday tasks.

"On a lesser scale, I had a knee operation," Garrott said. "I remember trying to



COURTESY OF BRIANNA CAMP

**Sharon Garrott, a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, received an award for her submission to the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs for a poem about fair housing, which was the theme of this year's contest.**

get myself into the shower shortly after getting the surgery, and how it became the biggest challenge just to balance myself. It was surprisingly difficult."

Garrott said she enjoys writing when she can, and is taking AP Language and Composition.

"I think it comes easily to me most of the time," she said. "When I was writing this poem, I just tried to imagine myself in a situation and to use as much descriptive language as I can."

In the process of participating in the contest, Garrott and Camp learned more about fair housing and its importance in Fairfax County.

"I researched it because I didn't really know too much before this competition," Camp said. "I learned more about how this problem is affecting people in our area."

At a luncheon sponsored by the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights, Garrott said she heard from people of various minorities talk about racism within housing complexes in the area.

"The fact that actually happens in real life is kind of shocking—that people can be so biased over something that really shouldn't matter," Garrott said.

Camp said one reason she decided to enter, and a reason she thinks equality is important, is her "invisible illness" called Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), a form of Dysautonomia.

"An invisible illness means you don't look sick on the outside but you are. I have dealt with discrimination in the past from this so that contributed to the idea for my art piece," Camp said.





PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Wearing period dresses are (from left) Denise Wierzbicki, Debbie Page-Maples and Naomi Arlund; standing is Drew Pallo, portraying Gen. Samuel Cooper of Lee's Lieutenants.

# Looking Back at Yesteryear

Visitors flocked to Historic Blenheim on Saturday, April 26, for the 14th annual Civil War Day.



Children on a haystack cover their ears before the cannon goes off.



Adele Air talked about Civil War medicine.



Sue Sodomini dressed as and spoke about famed nurse Clara Barton.



Anna Sodomini sews a blouse by hand.



Members of Carpenter's Battery, in the 2nd Corps of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, fire a cannon for the crowd.



Jeff Dunkelberger (on left) portrayed the village blacksmith.



Civil War re-enactors with the 17th Virginia infantry receive a rifle lesson.



The group, Home Front, performs Civil War songs.





**All tied up:**  
Rehearsing  
“9 to 5” are  
(from left)  
Emily  
Ennis, Doug  
Klain,  
Caroline  
Silas and  
Amanda  
Harvey.

PHOTO BY  
BONNIE HOBBS/  
THE CONNECTION

# Fairfax High Presents ‘9 to 5’

## Secretaries vs. boss in 1970s musical.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 65, Fairfax High presents the musical comedy, “9 to 5,” and first-year Director Erich DiCenzo can hardly wait. “It’s my first Cappies show and we’re the first high school in Fairfax County to do this play,” he said. “I wanted to bring something fresh to Fairfax.”

Rated PG because of risqué language, it’ll burst upon the stage Friday-Saturday, May 2-3 and 9-10, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 4 and 11, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org) or \$15 at the door. “It’s relevant to the audience because of the movie and to the students because it was on Broadway five years ago,” said DiCenzo. “It’s set in a 1970s workplace. Three secretaries are fed up with the glass ceiling at their company, so they take matters into their own hands. They kidnap their sexist boss and make changes to the office.”

There’s a 12-person orchestra, plus more than 200 costumes. “They’re in bright, cheerful colors to match the show’s peppy tone and message about women’s empowerment and how spreading positive energy can change lives for the better,” said DiCenzo. “It’s an escape from reality, and the audience will leave happier than when they came in.”

**DESPITE THE CHALLENGE** of playing iconic roles that huge stars portrayed in the movie and play, he said his actors are doing so “effortlessly. They’ve embodied their characters, are extremely funny and have great chemistry among themselves. So it’s a joy to see them creating all this happiness onstage.”

Junior Doug Klain portrays Franklin Hart III, CEO of Consolidated Inc. “As the three women fantasize about killing him, he asks them if it’s because he’s a ‘sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot,’” said Klain. “He’s comfortable with a workplace that’s like an ‘old boys’ club’ and doesn’t want to change it.”

“Hart’s like someone everyone knows, so it’s fun creating this character,” continued Klain. “I get to bring out a strong reaction to him by both the audience and my fellow actors. And in one scene, I’ll even be lifted up in the air via a garage-door opener.”

He likes singing, “Here for You,” because “it’s so crude and Hart’s fantasizing about secretary Doralee.” Klain, too, said the show will leave people smiling. “It’s so hopeful, it’ll just make them feel good,” he said. “And they’ll be surprised to see such Broadway quality on a high-school stage.”

Playing Doralee Rhoades is senior Emily Ennis. “She’s essentially Dolly Parton – big hair and chest, and a big heart, too,” said Ennis. “She’s from Texas

and is sexy, sweet, sassy, strong, confident and faithful to her husband, despite her boss’s advances.”

Ennis likes portraying Doralee because “she has some of the best lines in the show, especially when she’s threatening to harm her boss. Her favorite song is “Change It,” which she sings. “It symbolizes a shift in the office from a plain, dull, boring place to something with color, energy and excitement,” said Ennis.

Noting that Parton wrote the music for “9 to 5,” Ennis said the show has “great lyrics and infectious songs. And the sets, costumes and choreography [by DiCenzo and Andrea Heininge] add that something special.”

Junior Caroline Silas portrays secretary Violet Newstead, senior supervisor and a widowed, single mother. “She’s worked at Consolidated 15 years and never gotten a promotion,” said Silas. “She’s a completely independent woman who’s on top of everything; she runs things and is very businesslike.”

Calling this her favorite role in seven years of acting, Silas said, “Violet’s serious and a strong female character; but it’s also fun to see her crazy side come out. I love working with my two co-stars, Amanda and Emily; we’ve become good friends offstage, too, and it shows in our performances.”

Silas likes singing, “One of the Boys,” because “it’s Violet’s time to shine and you see a big change in her. And I love the six, different styles of music within that one song.” Overall, she said, “It’s a feel-good show. Students will enjoy it, and adults will see things they remember from the 1970s, so it’ll be a blast from the past for them.”

**PLAYING THE THIRD SECRETARY**, Judy Bernley, is senior Amanda Harvey. “Judy’s meek and goes through an enormous transformation over the course of the show,” said Harvey. “She’s a remnant of the 1950s housewife who follows orders and doesn’t cause trouble. She’s never worked before, but has to now because her husband left her and ran off with his secretary.” Harvey, too, likes her role because “Judy’s funny and exceedingly naïve. She does stupid things, but she’s sincere – and that’s what makes her so funny. She goes from being weak to sometimes exasperating, but someone you can respect.” Harvey’s favorite number is “I Just Might,” sung by the three secretaries. “You see both how broken Judy is and how strong she can be,” said Harvey. “You also see a different, more vulnerable side of the other two secretaries.”

She described “9 to 5” as “the quintessential, real-life, happy ending. The show’s peppy and exciting, but realistic in its way. The precise choreography definitely stands out, as does the magnitude of the vocals. Almost all involve groups, and an exceptional range of music styles is represented throughout the show, so there’s something everyone will enjoy. Every person onstage radiates life and will really enliven the audience.”



Jewels like this will be sold at the 4th Annual Fairfax Fine Art Festival on May 2-3 at Fairfax Corner, 11901 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. Watch as Grand Commons Avenue blossoms into an extraordinary outdoor art gallery showcasing the original handmade work of artisans from 17 states.

## 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.

the hopes and dreams of her father. [www.jcnavarts.org](http://www.jcnavarts.org).

### FRIDAY/MAY 2-SATURDAY/MAY 3

“Pride & Prejudice.” Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. [www.wtwdrama.org](http://www.wtwdrama.org) to purchase tickets.

### THURSDAY/MAY 1

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Season Preview Event.** 7 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Tickets: \$10.

### FRIDAY/MAY 2-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.

### THURSDAY/MAY 1-SATURDAY/MAY 3

**William Shakespeare’s “Antony & Cleopatra.”** May 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 2, at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 3, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Rd., Burke. Tickets are \$11 at the door, and also available online at [Lbtheatre.com](http://Lbtheatre.com).

### FRIDAY/MAY 2—SUNDAY/MAY 18

“Failure, A Love Story” Play. Performances: April 25-May 18. Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Call 1-800-494-8497 or [www.thehubtheatre.org](http://www.thehubtheatre.org). Note: For ages 10 and up.

### FRIDAY/MAY 2

**Cinder-Rachella.** 7 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Set in a magical Jewish summer camp, a naïve young girl is teased and called Cinder-Rachella. Her only comfort is a book that contains

### FRIDAY/MAY 2-SATURDAY/MAY 3

“The Producers.” 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



PHOTO BY HELEN PAFUMI/HUB THEATRE

From left: Tia, Shearer, Carolyn Kasner, Maggie Erwin in Hub Theatre’s production of “Failure: A Love Story.” The play runs through May 18 at John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax.



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Silverbrook Road, Lorton. A musical performed by South County High School students that will provide laughter and comedy. PG- 13. General admission at the door is \$12 and \$10 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets can be purchased in advance at southcountytheatre.org.

## FRIDAY/MAY 2, 3, 9, 10

**"Be Our Guest."** 7:30 p.m. May 3 and 10 at 1: 30 p.m. Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Step into the enchanted world of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. For tickets please visit NVPlayers.com.

## FRIDAY/MAY 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

**"9 to 5: The Musical."** 7:30 p.m. May 4 & 11 at 2 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Based on the 1980 hit movie, this new musical is the story of three unlikely friends who conspire to rise up against their tyrannical and sexist boss and find there's nothing they can't do — even in a man's world. Outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic. PG-13. Tickets are \$10 online at www.fxplayers.org, and \$15 at the door.

## SATURDAY/MAY 3-SUNDAY/MAY 4

**4th Annual Fairfax Fine Art Festival.** 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday. Fairfax Corner, 11901 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. Watch as Grand Commons Avenue blossoms into an extraordinary outdoor art gallery showcasing the original handmade work of artisans from 17 states.

## SATURDAY/MAY 3

**West Springfield Baseball Fest and Alumni Game.** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Faculty playing a spirited game of softball starting at 10 a.m., the first pitch of the WSHS Baseball Alumni game being thrown at 12 p.m. Carnival games, bounce house, dunk tank, raffles and a silent auction.

**Movie Magic.** 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Northern Virginia Chorale will present favorite songs from the silver screen. Purchase tickets online at: www.northernvirginiachorale.org or call 703-239-2180. Adults - \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door; Students (12-24 years) - \$10; Children under 12 years are free.

**Model Train Show.** 12-5 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Admission is \$4 for adults 16 and over; \$2 for children 5-15 and free for Museum members and children under 5.

For more information on the Museum events, www.fairfax-station.org. 703-425-9225.

**Cabaret and Comedy in Fairfax City.** 7 p.m. Fairfax City Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax.

**Cinder-Rachella.** 11 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Set in a magical Jewish summer camp, a naive young girl is teased and called Cinder-Rachella. Her only comfort is a book that contains the hopes and dreams of her father. www.jccnvarts.org.

## SUNDAY/MAY 4

**Model Train Show.** 12-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. www.fairfax-station.org.

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# Martin Leads SoCo Softball over Lake Braddock in 13-Inning Thriller

**Bruins pitcher Flesch allows just one hit, strikes out 19.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

In a battle of the top two teams in Conference 7, South County pitcher Rebecca Martin shut out the Lake Braddock softball team for 12 innings, only to have Bruins hurler Ashley Flesch answer every step of the way.

Frame after frame, Martin and Flesch matched one another with goose eggs on the scoreboard during a memorable pitching duel.

While Martin's right arm had kept the Stallions alive against the undefeated Bruins, it was her bat that would put an end to the Thursday night marathon.

With two outs and a runner on first in the bottom of the 13th, Martin doubled to deep left, driving in the game's only run as the Stallions defeated the Bruins 1-0 at South County High School.

Martin's walk-off knock was South County's only hit of the night against Flesch, who suffered the tough-luck loss. Flesch, a senior right-hander, walked one, hit two batters and struck out 19 in 12 2/3 innings prior to surrendering Martin's game winner. Flesch threw 154 pitches, including 112 for strikes, and tossed a first-pitch strike to 27 of 42 batters faced.

**MARTIN, A SENIOR RIGHT-HANDER,** received a no decision, allowing eight hits in 12-plus shutout innings. She walked five, hit one batter and struck out 13. She threw 183 pitches, 119 for strikes. She threw a first-pitch strike to 34 of 52 batters faced.

"Ashley is such a great pitcher," Martin said. "It's always really fun whenever we play Lake Braddock because it's always such a close game. You have to really focus hard and not make any mistakes. If you miss one pitch or throw it right down the middle, that's going to give up the game, so you have to really keep focused for the entire game."

South County improved to 12-1 overall, including 5-0 against conference opponents. Lake Braddock dropped to 12-1, 5-1 against conference foes.

After throwing 12 shutout innings, Martin allowed a leadoff triple to Lake Braddock left fielder Danielle Newman in the top of the 13th. South County head coach Gary Dillow opted to replace Martin with junior right-hander Riley Wilkinson, who started the game at first base.

"[I] just felt like we needed to change it up there [after] the triple," Dillow said, "and just show them something a little different because they had been up so many times against Rebecca tonight."

The move paid off as Wilkinson struck out right fielder Emma Rakaowski, retired shortstop Amanda Patterson on a comebacker and struck out third baseman and leadoff batter Patty Maye Ohanian to leave Newman stranded at third.



**South County pitcher Rebecca Martin shut Lake Braddock out for 12-plus innings on April 24.**

"She had a phenomenal finish," Martin said.

While Wilkinson earned the win with a clutch relief appearance, Martin did the heavy lifting for South County in the pitcher's circle. It wasn't the first time in her career she was locked in scoreless, extra-innings duel. As a freshman, Martin threw a 12-inning, one-hit shutout against West Potomac in the 2011 Patriot District championship game. On that night, she struck out 17 and needed 178 pitches to out-duel then-Wolverine senior Morgan Maniglia as the Stallions won 2-0 at West Springfield High School.

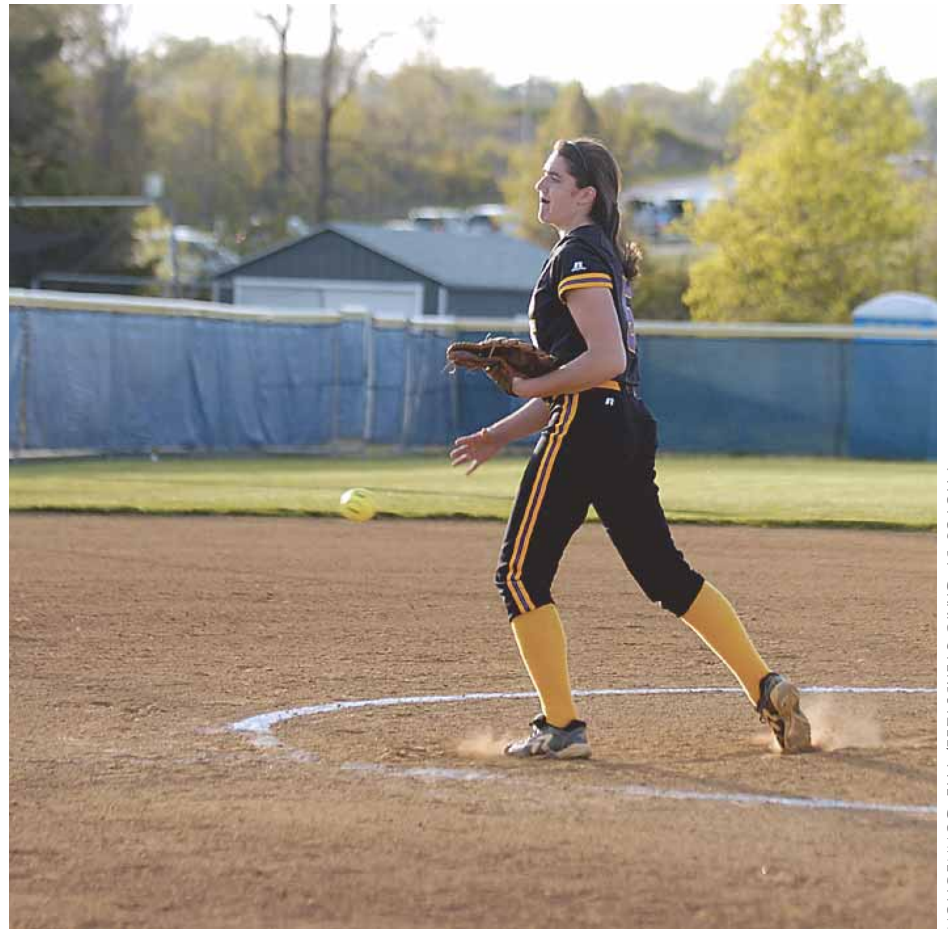
Martin said the experience as a freshman helped with her mental approach.

"[Martin] just competed her butt off," Dillow said. "She pitched a great game. [The Bruins are] one of the best teams in the state, I think, easily, and she held them to no runs through 12-plus. ... The ball is always moving. She doesn't throw much of anything straight. ... She just keeps people off balance, she hits her spots and she just competes."

Martin pitched well, but the Bruins had their opportunities.

**LAKE BRADDOCK** left 16 runners on base, including seven in scoring position. The Bruins loaded the bases with one out in the 10th, but Martin got out of the jam with a strikeout and a fly out to left field.

"We lost it because we stranded those runners," Lake Braddock head coach George Rumore said. "We definitely stranded more runners than they did. Then we had the girls at third base with less than two outs and we just couldn't get them in, so there's your



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Lake Braddock pitcher Ashley Flesch struck out 19 and surrendered just one hit in 12 2/3 innings against South County on April 24.**

**"It's always really fun whenever we play Lake Braddock because it's always such a close game. You have to really focus hard and not make any mistakes. If you miss one pitch or throw it right down the middle, that's going to give up the game, so you have to really keep focused for the entire game."**

**— South County pitcher Rebecca Martin**

ball game right there."

While Lake Braddock had several chances to score, South County had just three batters reach base against Flesch prior to Martin's walk-off hit.

Shortstop Jade Williams was hit by pitches in the fourth and 13th innings, and came around to score the winning run. Right fielder Carley Kastner drew a leadoff walk in the seventh. Kastner put a charge into a ball in the 12th inning, but flew out to deep left, just a few feet shy of the fence (220 feet).

"[Flesch] was great," Rumore said. "Rebecca Martin was great, too. Both pitchers did an outstanding job, there was no question."

Flesch went 2-for-3 at the plate with a pair of singles. She reached base in five of six plate appearances, drawing three walks. Center fielder Jenna Edwards went 2-for-5 with a pair of singles. Second baseman Katherine Plescow, catcher Caroline Jones and Rakowski each had one hit for the Bruins.

Jones hit the ball hard several times dur-

ing the contest but fell victim to solid South County defense.

With runners on first and second and two outs in the sixth, Jones lined a 0-2 pitch to the left side, but Stallions shortstop Williams snagged the line drive to keep the game scoreless. Jones flew out to deep left in the eighth inning and, with a runner on first and one out in the 12th, Jones again hit the ball hard to the left side of the infield, but South County third baseman Caitlin Maglich made a nice pick and threw to second base for a force out.

"We're fine," Rumore said. "We've each got to play each other three times, probably, so we're fine. Nobody expects to go undefeated. It takes a huge effort to do that."

The Stallions and Bruins were scheduled for a rematch on April 29 at Lake Braddock Secondary School, but the game was postponed due to inclement weather.

"They're a great team and it's so much fun playing against them," Dillow said, "because we always have epic games."



## SPORTS

# West All-Stars Win Cap Classic

Lake Braddock's Gregorits, Woodson's Stynchula score in double figures.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**W**.T. Woodson head coach Doug Craig convinced the West all-stars to play unselfish basketball prior to their matchup against the East all-stars at the 41st Annual Capital Classic.

The result was an early offensive explosion and one more victory in the prep basketball careers of nine Northern Virginia athletes.

The West all-stars scored 46 points in the first quarter and built a 33-point first-half lead en route to a 126-115 victory during the second of three games at the Capital Classic on April 26 at T.C. Williams High School. Eight of the nine athletes on the West roster scored in double figures, led by a 25-point performance from Herndon's Brandon Alston, who earned game MVP honors.

"We told them before the game, just everybody share the ball with each other because everybody here can play," said Craig, who coached the West all-stars after leading Woodson to a second consecutive region championship. "If we share the ball, everybody will score, everybody will look good and we'll get a 'W.'"

The West roster was composed of athletes from Northern Virginia schools, including Lake Braddock's Will Gregorits, Woodson's Andy Stynchula and Edison's Marcus Brumsey, Jr. Gregorits, whose Bruins finished 6A North region runner-up and reached the state tournament this season, scored 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. He will play next season at the University of the Sciences, a Division II school in Philadelphia.

"We played great," Gregorits said. "No one on the team was really selfish and that's what really helped us win. Everyone was willing to share the ball and they didn't care about the individual part of it. It was a lot of fun."

What is the 6-foot-7 Gregorits most looking forward to about playing in college?

"The physicality," he said. "I can't wait for that side of it. This year, a major part of my game was to get more physical and I've al-



**Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits scored 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the West all-stars during the 41st Annual Capital Classic on April 26 at T.C. Williams High School.**



**Woodson senior and West all-star Andy Stynchula goes up for a dunk during the 41st Annual Capital Classic.**



**Woodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig led the West all-stars to a 126-115 victory over the East all-stars during the 41st Annual Capital Classic.**

ready started that aspect of it. I can't wait to get up there and just bang around." Stynchula, who was part of two region championship teams at Woodson, scored 10 points for the West all-stars.

"It's always nice when one of your kids gets rewarded with an all-star game appearance at something like this," Craig said. "Andy had a great career for us at Woodson and I'm real proud of him. He played well tonight, too, I thought."

Brumsey finished with 10 points and five assists.

Bishop Ireton's Patrick Moseh scored 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the West. Moseh

played his freshman season at Lee High School before transferring to the private school in Alexandria. He will play college ball at Wheeling Jesuit University.

"I thought I was rusty but I think I did a good job," Moseh said. "... When I was a freshman, I never imagined I'd be here. I think the transition to the WCAC ... helped me be more aggressive."

Earlier in the day, the North all-stars defeated the South 109-106. Robinson's Joe Bynum was named to the South team, but did not play due to injury.

The U.S. all-stars defeated the Capital all-stars 139-134 in the main event.

**Chris Zimmerman,  
Music Director,  
Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
FAIRFAX SYMPHONY  
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## 'Carmina Burana' At Mason Stage

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Choral Society join forces to present 'a compelling piece of music.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he heat of musical fire is arriving soon thanks to the combined artistic forces of Fairfax County's own Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) and Fairfax Choral Society (FCS). Together, the partnership will bring musical and vocal hip and cool into our own backyard. Both Fairfax-based organizations have been entertaining audiences in the area for over five decades.

Now, add sizzling, sultry and dramatic to what is in store as the FSO and FCS reach-out to current audiences familiar with their work and to new audiences who are unfamiliar and want to take a look.

"Fairfax can and does produce entertainment at the very highest level - you don't need to look elsewhere for outstanding performances and great experiences," said Christopher Zimmerman, music director, FSO. On May 10 at the Center for the Arts, the FSO and FCS will bring the "enormity of their performing forces" to stage the famous "Carmina Burana," said Douglas Mears, artistic director, FCS. If you don't recognize that name, remember the music underscoring the recent Hershey's Spreadable Chocolate television advertising or excerpts heard in films ranging from "Excalibur" to "Natural Born Killers" to the trailer for "Glory," even an episode of "Glee."

Carol Orff's "Carmina Burana" is an exciting and very dramatic piece. It is a "roller coaster ride from start to finish," said Mears. It is "a fantas-

### Where and When

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and Fairfax Choral Society performing at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, May 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25-\$60. General information visit: [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org) or [www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org](http://www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org) or call 888-945-2468 for tickets.

tically compelling piece of music." There will be hundreds of vocalists and musicians singing and playing live to enthral audience members.

"Carmina" has a wide variety of musical styles. "It has a tremendous drama and sense of momentum to it, it feels like something amazing is about to happen," said Zimmerman. Mears called it "a wildly exuberant and ecstatic musical setting of the poetry of wandering medieval monks, who believed that in both life and love, man is the pawn of capricious fate." Paired with "Carmina" will be a performance of Argentine musician Astor Piazzolla's delightful "The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires." This work was revolutionary in bringing jazz elements into traditional tango when written in 1965. It is music with multiple tempos and energy; impatient and melancholy, calm and vigorous, mirroring the urban setting and seasons that are Buenos Aires. Internationally renowned violinist Guillermo Figueroa will join the FSO to perform with own special "flair" noted Zimmerman.

There will be something for everyone as the rafters of the Center for the Arts shake and tremble.



# VDOT Holds Six-year Improvement Plan Hearing

Public input sought on transportation improvement plan.

By ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

It was Northern Virginia's turn last week when Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) held a public hearing at the offices of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in Fairfax. The CTB is conducting meetings throughout the state to garner public opinion before their scheduled June vote on the state's Six-Year Improvement Plan 2015 - 2020 (SYIP). Various entities have held numerous meetings in recent months, particularly since HB 2313 — the first comprehensive transportation funding bill in the state for more than 27 years — passed in the General Assembly last year. Those meetings were often standing-room-only affairs, could witness dozens of citizens lined up to comment on particular projects or to suggest others, and frequently got a bit heated.

The April 24 CTB hearing featured more representatives from local jurisdictions and organizations than individual citizens. More praise and invitations for cooperation may have been heard than in the past and there was less of the "stop sign on this corner, please! wishlist" atmosphere that marked many of the open transportation meetings of late. There were even several acknowledgements of VDOT's efforts to keep Virginia roads clear and safe during the recent long, snow and ice-filled winter.

Not to say that those who spoke for the record weren't there to support the projects of particular interest to their constituents, or that there weren't some negative comments on parts of the plan or on the process.

**LAYNE INTRODUCED** the attending members of the CTB as well as guest panelist Martin Nohe, chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, who noted that his inclusion shows the level of cooperation being fostered between the state and the region. Layne summarized the agenda and the discussion on the table. Recently passed HB 2 received a large share of Layne's remarks. The new law, which takes effect on July 1, mandates a prioritization process for transportation project selection. "Congestion mitigation is the most heavily weighted factor by law when analyzing projects to be selected and funded in urban areas," Layne said. Other factors include economic development, accessibility, safety and environmental quality. "HB 2 is designed to inject more objectivity, to help ensure that the funds are used wisely," he added. Exempt from the scoring process would be projects already under way, and those funded by revenue sharing.



**Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne hosts the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) public hearing at the Virginia Dept. of Transportation offices in Fairfax.**



**David Snyder, in his role as vice-chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, addressed the Commonwealth Transportation Board. To read Snyder's testimony go to [www.thinkoutsidethecar.org](http://www.thinkoutsidethecar.org).**



**Douglas Stewart represents the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club at the Commonwealth Transportation Board's public hearing.**



**Members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board listen to the public's comments Six-Year Plan 2015-2020.**

Layne warned that there were challenges ahead. "We may not get this all right the first time. And there is the threat looming in August with about \$1 billion in federal funds up for re-authorization." He commented that most in the room had probably heard something about a budget scuffle going on in Richmond, referring to the state's budget impasse, largely over the inclusion of a full rollout of Medicaid, which the Governor supports but House Republicans oppose. "What we are working with here are mostly non-general funds, so they will not be significantly impacted by the budget discussions."

Before opening the floor to testimony on the SYIP, several of the panelists provided facts and figures about current or upcoming projects for regional transportation improvements. Charles Kilpatrick, the state's new Highways Commissioner noted \$700

million underway today, while newly appointed director of the state's Department of Rail and Public Transportation Jennifer Mitchell outlined spending allocations for VRE capital funds, the new Potomac Shores station, and other transit station improvements, including the allocation of 80 percent of the \$365 million for transit and rail work next year.

Some of the speakers to address the CTB panel included:

state Del. Jim LeMunyon, (R-67), whose comments included the need to fully fund and move forward with the I-66/Route 28 expansion and improvements, and to avoid any options that put more traffic on to Route 50.

Loudoun County Board Supervisor Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian District) said the county felt "blindsided" by some of the proposals in the SYIP Draft that would sig-

nificantly cut certain funds for road maintenance and improvement. Volpe also wanted the CTB to know that with the Draft only becoming available on April 18 — six days prior to the hearing — the timing of its release made any real review and analysis virtually impossible and that further review and commentary would be forthcoming.

David Snyder, vice mayor of Falls Church and the vice-Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) read a statement for the record, presenting an economic case for increased and sustained funding for transit in Northern Virginia.

"This is a whole new generation today. They want transit that isn't cars and highways," he said. Snyder outlined "core capacity investments" that "will remove

SEE CITIZENS, PAGE 18



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### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF CLIFTON MAY 13, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. The purpose is to consider amendment and revision of the Signs regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, found in Chapter 9, Article 2 General Regulations, Section 9-14 of the Code of Town of Clifton, Virginia. The proposed revision is available for review on the Town website <http://clifton-va.com> under the Town Council - News from the Council drop-down menu. A hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to express their views with respect to the proposed amendment and revision of the Signs section of the Zoning Ordinance.

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## Citizens Debate Transportation

FROM PAGE 16

35,000 cars from the road.” The NVTC was all in favor of a metrics system to evaluate projects, but stated that “the calculation of trips in the operating formula unfairly excludes trips made by tourists and many trips taken from airports, and uses a formula that only counts trips made by Virginians who live in Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) jurisdictions. Snyder said that the NVTC would continue to work cooperatively to see these issues addressed in the final version of the SYIP.

Arlington County Board member Mary Hynes, like Snyder, urged the CTB to emphasize the multi-modal approach to project approval. “Walking, biking, and transit for Arlington are not optional,” said Hynes, “to ensure the economic health of all the region, as well as the quality of life of Arlingtonians. With the highest job density and the second highest population, Arlington is unique, acting as something of a funnel for people on the move through and to and from Arlington.”

**THE REPRESENTATIVE** from the citizens’ organization “Arlingtonians for Sensible Transit” was there to protest the planned Columbia Pike Streetcar project, calling it a “staggering waste of money,” and seeking more buses to handle the area’s traffic needs.

The citizens of Vienna also worry that their quality of life and the “Main Street Village” they have worked for years to protect are being endangered by any plans that don’t place transit over more cars, especially as the Tyson’s Corner development continues. Vienna Vice-Mayor Carey Sienicki was there to represent the Town.

Bob Chase, president of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance voiced appreciation for all the hard work put in to date, but cautioned that the “plan is an enigma to the average citizen,” citing difficulty in wading through the VDOT website, the 55 pages of Northern Virginia projects and all of the related information and articles. Chase also stressed that it was important not to lose a sense of urgency as a result of the passage of HB2. “We’ve already been waiting a real long time,” he reminded the panel.

As the meeting concluded, the audience was reminded that VDOT was still conducting additional hearings, and that public commentary was most welcome for consideration. If unable to attend one of the public hearings, contact information is available on the website at [www.vdot.virginia.gov](http://www.vdot.virginia.gov). Comments must be received by June 2 to be considered prior to the vote on the SYIP. Also on the website is a list of all the projects being considered for approval in the current SYIP. Click on Northern Virginia as the “District” for the projects database.

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**Mickie Shea 703-503-1817**



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**Nancy Basham 703-772-2066**



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**Fairfax** **\$999,000**  
Beautiful elegant home! 5 bedroom/4.5 bath with sweeping open floorplan, dramatic dual waterfall staircase and abundance of windows. Superb kitchen, bright morning room, amazing fully finished walk-up basement are some of the features that make this home outstanding.  
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# Choosing a Summer Camp

Now is the time to register for summer camp; nearly infinite choices.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Many families with school age children will plan to have their children spend some of the much-anticipated summer season in camp. If you haven't yet selected camps for your children, now is the time.

"Popular classes and programs always fill early," said Kevin Rechen, camp director of Summer at Norwood in Potomac, Md.. "Families that are choosing a camp based on a specific program or class should register as soon as they can."

Whether you choose a traditional day camp, a specialty camp or a sleep away camp, the Washington, D.C. region has a multitude of offerings. The array of options can be overwhelming for some parents, but summer camps can be an important part of a child's development.

"Summer camp is an opportunity for children to develop social skills with their peers," said Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. "Camps give the benefits of social interaction in a more relaxed setting."

When selecting a camp, there are factors that parents should keep in mind. "When parents are looking for a camp they should try to find a camp where they're comfortable with the facility, the programming and counselors and staff," said Rechen.

"Developmentally, as children get older they get more specialized in their skills and interests," said Gulyn. "Summer camp is an opportunity to hone in on those skills. Go with the child's interest and skills and further develop those because they are an important part of a child's identity."

Specialty camps can help children develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

For example, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria offers camps that include Quadcopters and Video Editing, MiKiDo Mixed Martial Arts, CSI Detective, Hunger Games, Civil War, Fantasy Battle Gaming, Filmworx Movie Making, Eco-Adventures, Junior Musical Theater, Zoology, [and] Junior Veterinarian, said Linda Stratton of SSSAS.

**OTHER SPECIALTY CAMPS** include cooking camps, yoga camps and sports camps that run the gamut from tennis to hockey.

At George Mason University, high school juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to attend a camp that will give them a



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

**Campers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center find something interesting while exploring the creek.**



MADEIRA SCHOOL PHOTOS

**Activities from summer camps held at Madeira School in McLean.**

head start on college. "It's not your parents' summer camp," said Sudha Kamath. "Mason is giving high school juniors and seniors the chance to take some rare classes for college credit, covering everything from insects that crawl underground to objects that spin through outer space."

Cathy Evans, director of special projects at George Mason University said, "Subjects include astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, environmental science, ethics, global affairs, health behav-

ior, history, mathematics, nutrition and public speaking. The sky's the limit as students explore topics like 'Stars, Galaxies and the Universe' and 'The Ecosphere.'"

Camp Greenway at The Madeira School offers three options for two-week camp sessions, said Laura Temple, spokeswoman for school in McLean, Va. "Water sports, games, team sports, music, arts and crafts, and MAD Science are all part of the daily action for campers."

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers

camps nature camps that are designed to immerse children in the outdoors. "We want the children to connect with the world around them," said Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority.

"When they leave camp, we hope that they have a deeper appreciation for the world around them for and the environment." You don't need to be a resident of Fairfax County to attend the camps, Pedersen said.

**ANOTHER OPTION** is sleep away camp, which can sometimes be a nerve-wracking but rewarding experience for both a parent and a child.

How does a parent know that their child is ready for to make this leap? "It is going to vary from child to child and family to family," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington.

"I think if a child has spent time having sleep overs with friends and has done ok, and is independent and feels comfortable sleeping at friends' houses then it should be fine."

Garofalo suggests that the first sleep away camp experience should be brief.

"I think you want to do a shorter experience to get them ready. The first summer, send them to a four-day camp to test the waters. Their first experience should be at a camp that is close to home. Don't send them to a camp in California the first time."

An open dialog between parent and child is key. "Explain to the child that they are going to be on their own and tell them what will be expected of them," said Garofalo. "Parents can prepare their children and have an honest conversation about what will happen at the camp."

Those who think they can't afford the cost of summer camp should research financial aid options.

"Many summer camps offer financial aid and there are foundations that give grants for camps," said Rechen.

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# Local Farm Provides Fresh Food for Underserved

Arcadia hosts mobile market and camp for children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

For many, spring symbolizes fresh flowers, new beginnings and baseball, but for those who work at Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, located on the grounds of the Woodlawn Estate in Mount Vernon, spring means another season of working to ensure that all members of the community have access to fresh, healthy food.

"All of our programs start up again in spring," said Morgan Maloney, farm education manager.

Arcadia runs a camp where children from ages 6-11 get to experience life on a farm and learn about the source of their food. Arcadia officials are raising money to offer financial assistance to those who need it.

"Campers spend most of their time in our educational garden," said Maloney. "One fourth of the farm is specifically designed for that age group and is called the groundhog garden."

"I am really excited because we have 30 farm camp scholarships, but we still need more money to make it happen for families who would not be able to send their children to camp," said Hess.

She is passionate when she talks about her mission to ensure that all children are able to attend a camp where they are safely immersed in the outdoors. "This camp counteracts nature deficit disorder," she said. "There are no electronics. The children are sweaty and happy. They have a lot of inde-



PHOTO BY GENE BUONACORSI

**Arcadia runs a camp where children from 6-11 years old get to experience life on a farm and learn about the source of their food.**

pendence and freedom to make choices."

Arcadia offers other educational opportunities for children. "In the spring when school is in session, I am running field trips," said Maloney. "Kids come to the farm for purpose of hands-on learning."

"We have efforts going on right now to expand all of the organization's services," said Hess.

**OTHER PROGRAMS**, which advance Arcadia's mission and serve the community, include the Arcadia Farm, which serves as an example of environmentally and economically sustainable growing practices; the Mobile Market, which distributes fresh, affordable food to underserved D.C. area neighborhoods; the Food Hub, which provides services that support and promote

local sustainable farms, and the Farm to School program, which provides healthy, local food for school meals as well as hands-on food and farm education.

"There is always a lot of work to do in the off season," said Benjamin Bartley, mobile market director. "It is exciting because we've been able to expand our services each year. We've expanded our number of stops to 10 this year. I feel particularly good about the way that we've gone. I feel pretty prepared for the market season."

"The mobile market is very effective," said Pam Hess, Arcadia's executive director. "They are in the right places, our prices are great, the food is fresh. We get first quality food and bring it to low income people. We don't take leftovers like mushy apples or

## How to Get Involved

For more information on becoming a member of Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, The Arcadia Mobile Market Seasonal Cookbook, the Arcadia Farm Camp, Spring Dinner or any of the organization's other programs, visit <http://arcadiafood.org/>.

### ARCADIA FARM CAMP

- ❖ **Farm** — Campers learn about daily farm life. From morning chores like watering, harvesting, and collecting eggs to planting seeds and tilling garden beds, kids get to be the farmers at Arcadia Farm Camp.
- ❖ **Food** — Campers explore the delicious world of sustainable food through activities like chef demos, taste tests, and hands-on preparation of simple dishes and snacks. Plus, all of the veggies come straight from the Farm.
- ❖ **Fun** — Farm camp combines learning and play in a safe, interactive outdoor environment. Each day includes free time in the Groundhog Garden and Natural Play Space, as well as active, educational games led by experienced staff.

bruised bananas and give it to them."

"It is easy to eat well in this town if you have money," she continued. "One thing we've learned from our customers is that they care about eating healthy, but have less economic power to make those wishes known."

The staff is also excited about their new cookbook, "The Arcadia Mobile Market Seasonal Cookbook," written by Arcadia's culinary educator and mobile market outreach coordinator JuJu Harris.

"We put together seasonal recipes that incorporate ingredients that are WIC (The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) staples," said Bartley. "We are going to be giving these away to those who use food assistance programs. We're looking forward to getting it into the hands of those who it was written for."

# Summer Learning Activities

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When summer vacation begins and school ends in a few weeks, learning doesn't have to take a hiatus. Students can keep their academic skills sharp without entering a classroom or even sitting down with a pencil and paper.

Local educators say opportunities for reading, math, science and history skills are plentiful and none require that children set foot in a school. From a walk in the park to a trip to the grocery store, teachable moments are virtually everywhere.

"There are a thousand ways to do it, but reading is critical," said Marjorie Myers, Ed.D., principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington. "I think the most important thing to do is read in a fun way. Read as a family. Parents can read challenging books to their children. Go to your local library and take advantage of fun ac-

tivities there.

Some elementary schools encourage their students to read and discuss what they are reading with their parents.

Blake M. Giliotti, staff development teacher at Potomac Elementary in Potomac, Md., said, "We ask kids to read and then have discussions with their parent about what they are reading. We don't ask them to do anything written because we don't want them belabored by school work during summer."

The book discussions or questions that parents ask their children about books don't need to be complicated, Giliotti said. "It can also be as simple as saying, 'Tell me about what you are reading.' Engaging in a natural conversation about a book can give you insight into what your child understands and helps build oral communication skills," she said.

**WHEN IT COMES TO** science, Len Annetta, Ph.D., professor of Science at

## Local educators offer tips to keep children learning during the summer.

George Mason University says he and his wife Jennifer spend a lot of time at the Smithsonian museums with their two children, Samantha, 13, and Joey, 11.

"We particularly like the Air and Space Museum," he said. "It keeps them engaged in science. We walk around together and we ask them questions after we leave a museum. When they get home they get to go online and do more research on things that interest them."

There are subtle science lessons to be learned even when taking a summer stroll. "We're out for a nature walk and we see an animal or plant and we start talking about it," said Annetta. "We also look at and talk about grasses and trees and animals."

For parents who don't have a science background, Annetta suggests looking up information on a smart phone during a walk or museum trip.

A shopping trip can also be an opportunity for a math lesson, said Myers. "Take

your children to the grocery store and use actual money instead of credit cards, so the children can see a value for money and numbers," she said. "Give children an allowance so they can make the connection between money and the cost of things they want to buy. Sitting in a class room with fake money doesn't quite get it."

This area offers an abundance of locations for history lessons. "I go out to the battle fields near Manassas," Annetta said. "There are placards that help describe what is going on. There are a lot of local museums that offer the same opportunities."

Keeping a journal is another way to keep skills sharp outside of a structured setting.

"Keeping a travel or camp journal is a fun and easy way to support academic skills," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "A travel or camp journal reinforces writing, geography and social studies and organizational skills."

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)



# Magic of Mothers Host Math Mania

Students age 6-12 compete, share love of math.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Students from elementary and middle schools in Fairfax Station and Lorton practiced their math skills and experienced the excitement of competition by participating in the Magic of Mothers Math Mania competition on April 26.

Magic of Mothers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting STEM education in schools. The organization hopes to bring STEM education to underprivileged students.

"Our mission is to bring education to all kids," said Magic of Mothers founder Shikha Dixit.

STEM education in the United States has not caught up with the rest of the world, and some students are not as highly-qualified for positions. That's why Dixit wants to encourage students to practice and learn more math and science skills.

The group has participated in the FIRST Lego league competition, which introduces STEM con-

cepts to students aged 9-14. They are currently looking for volunteers, as well as students who need sponsoring.

Dixit said the group was moved by participating in a recent STEM fair at Chantilly High School.

"We want Lorton to be known as a STEM community," Dixit said. "We want to lead the students in the right direction."

Dixit stressed that the math competition was not about winning, but about participating and enjoying the love of learning.

Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck was also in attendance. Dixit said Storck has been a great supporter of Magic of Mother's STEM initiatives.

"This type of STEM education is so important," Storck said at the competition.

Dhruv Kapur, a student at Laurel Hill Elementary, said math is his favorite subject.

"It's so much fun. It's a great subject to learn," Kapur said.

Winners of the competition included Vivek Ramakrishna, Pramodini Arulkumar, Abhay



**Dhruv Kapur and Shreya Sharma, students at Laurel Hill Elementary School, volunteered at the Magic of Mothers Math Mania competition on April 26.**

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION



**Akul Dixit, a first-grader who goes to school in Lorton, participated in the Magic of Mothers Math Mania competition on April 26.**

Mathur, Arjun Mathur, Shreya Sharma, Giridhar Ganta, Akul Dixit, Sarayu Jilludumudi, Abhay Mathur, Anshika Govil, Ruhani Prasad and Arjun Mathur.

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## Camps●Notes

### Hiring Staff for Summer Programs

The Fairfax County Park Authority has scheduled open hiring sessions to recruit summer staff for its Rec-PAC (Pretty Awesome Children) program, a six-week structured recreational program for elementary school children that runs from June 30-Aug. 7, 2014. An open hiring session will take place at the Park Authority's headquarters in Fairfax, and another session will take place at Navy Elementary School, also in Fairfax.

Rec-PAC will operate at 50 elementary school locations around Fairfax County on weekdays this summer. Staff will be assigned to a site and work daily from 8:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m. or 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Applicants must be at least age 18 and bring an original social security card and a DMV photo I.D. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec-pac/rec-pac-open-hires.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec-pac/rec-pac-open-hires.htm) for more information and applications.

Open hire sessions are scheduled on Wednesday, May 14, 5-7 p.m. at Navy Elementary school and Thursday, May 29, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on the first floor of the Herrity Building. The Herrity Building is located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035. Navy ES is located at 3500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22033.

For additional information, contact the Rec-PAC office by email at [Recpac@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Recpac@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Summer Reading Programs

Find suggested summer reading lists by grade level on the Fairfax County Public Schools website at [www.fcps.edu/is/summer/reading](http://www.fcps.edu/is/summer/reading).

The Fairfax County Summer Reading Program encourages children and teens to read for pleasure during summer vacation. It is held in cooperation with Fairfax

County Public Schools. The summer reading program runs June 20-Aug. 30. Children from birth to sixth grade read 15 books. Students in grades 7-12 read eight books. Learn more about the Fairfax County Public Library summer reading program [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp).

In order to encourage and support reading achievement, every student who will be entering FCPS grades six through 12 in the fall must read at least one book over the summer. The follow-up in the fall will be determined by each school. The Summer Reading lists contain suggestions for reading; although students may read any other book that is approved by their parents, except where individual schools have issued their own summer reading requirements. Any school-based requirements supercede the County requirement.

Some schools and courses, particularly at the high school level, have additional summer assignments. Parents and students should inquire about summer assignments when registering at the school. Most of these assignments are posted at the individual school web sites.

FCPS students can access online digital books (ebooks): [www.fcps.edu/is/libraryservices/books.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/is/libraryservices/books.shtml)

The Fairfax County Public Libraries have lists of many good books for readers of all ages: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/reading/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/reading/)

Connections reading is designed to assist teachers, parents, and others working with children in selecting books that reinforce the Virginia Standards of Learning in the four core content areas of English, history, math, and science. The books in the Connections database represent a wide variety of books available for children; however, it is not inclusive of all the books available. Remember, not all books are appropriate for use with all children; read and familiarize yourself with a book before you decide to use it with children. <http://itweb.fcps.edu/connections/index.cfm>

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# Ideas for Summer

Avoid those dreaded words: 'I'm bored.'

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Molly McAlister enjoys the freedom of summer, but there are three words she dreads hearing: "Mom, I'm bored." Creating activities to keep her three children busy during the summer is a task she enjoys, but it isn't always easy.

"I love taking the kids swimming or on bike rides, but sometimes I run out of ideas," said McAlister who lives in Centreville.

Many parents allow "screen time" to keep children happy, but it's important to interact with them as well.

"Some parents will give their child an iPhone or an iPad to entertain them," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Interacting with children and being involved with them rather than giving them electronic activities is important. It is important for kids to figure out how to interact with their parents and friends."

"Summer is a wonderful time for parents to get to know their kids and interact with them in a different way," said Garofalo, who lives in McLean.

One way that families can spend quality time together is by creating art, said Dabney Cortina of the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. In addition to summer camps, McLean Project for the Arts offers family workshops where parents and children create art together.

"The whole process of creating is so important to a child's development and it's so important to be with your children and create something together," said Cortina. "I see the smiles as the children and adults put their heads together to create things. I think it's also a wonderful release for adults."

**"Summer is a wonderful time for parents to get to know their kids and interact with them in a different way."**

— Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D

"Let them spearhead a yard sale," Garofalo said. "Kids gather the items, make flyers and put the flyers in everyone's mailbox. They can donate the money to charity so you can tie in a service project."

Spend time in the kitchen. "You and your children can do a lot of baking and donate the items to a homeless shelter," said Garofalo. "With parental approval and guidance, kids can also do dog walking or water flowers for neighbors who are away."

For families who want to spend time in nature, Len Annetta, Ph.D. Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University suggests the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The park, which is home to more than 160 species of birds, has been recognized National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area.

"Our area has so much history," said Annetta. "Most of these place don't cost money but can immerse students in something educational, which is really critical."

**FOR PARENTS** who plan a summer of varied activities, specialty camps as well as parent-child activities are worthy options. Even one or two sessions of week-long specialty camps can add to a child's summer.

Deb Burger of the Potomac Horse Center in North Potomac, Md., said they offer camps where children learn equestrian skills and are given information about the history of horses, breeds, colors, markings, anatomy, horse care and grooming.

"Campers also do horse-related arts and crafts," said Burger. "They have a good time, make friends, increase their love of horses and improve their ability to ride. Kids come from Maryland, Virginian and even overseas."

Tony Castrilli, Director of Public Affairs for Fairfax County says the county is offering nature camps during the summer.

In Alexandria, Morgan Maloney runs the Arcadia Farm Camp for Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture in Mount Vernon. "Campers learn about farm life first hand," she said. Activities include collecting eggs tilling soil and planting seeds.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS** are a great way to spend time and help children learn during the summer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



**Campers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center marvel at a crayfish they netted.**

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# How To Prepare for New SAT

Prepare this summer by reading as many challenging books as possible.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**L**inda Mitchell and her 15-year-old daughter, Alexis, say they don't really know what to expect when Alexis sits for the SAT college admissions exam in 2016, but they're not too worried at this point. Two years is a long time.

"I'm just going to make sure she gets the best education possible," said Mitchell, who lives in Great Falls. "There's nothing else that I can really do at this point."

Local experts said that Mitchell's strategy is wise, explaining that the best way current ninth grade students (and those who are younger) can prepare for the test is to become strong readers and writers.

"It would appear that College Board's recent announcement regarding the redesigning of the SAT will indeed have some impact on how students, mainly current ninth graders, will prepare for standardized tests in the coming years," said Michael R. Hude, a college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. "The best way to prepare for any standardized test is to work hard in everyday coursework and to read as many good and challenging books as possible."

Reading and reading comprehension skills are key. "There are kids today who love to read. They've been exposed to an extensive vocabulary so they aren't afraid of words," said test preparation expert Harriet Broder of Breakthrough Test Prep in Potomac. "If you're a strong reader, you're going to do well on the test."

So how can parents help their children become more effective readers? "I have had students who say they hate reading," said Broder. "One thing that parents can do, for example, for children who don't like to read, is if their child wants to go see a movie, the parent can say 'Read at least two or three reviews about this movie and then tell me why you want to see it.' That is the place to start for non-readers."

Students, said Broder, should also be exposed to a variety of writing styles. "There's no magic SAT fairy dust," she said. "Students should be exposed to different types of writing. They will be able to apply their skills more comfortably."

Broder also said improving reading speed and learning to recognize an author's main point and how the author had developed that point are critical skills. "Kids need to be trained to read to learn the author's thesis," she said. "Some students can read a

chapter in a school book and can answer questions at the end, but they can't tell you the main point the author is trying to make."

Broder said an improved reading ability can be accomplished with "step-by-step ... strategies in critical reading, problem-solving [and] vocabulary development ..."

Officials at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington said they will focus on professional development strategies for teachers so they can help prepare students for the new test format.

"The proposed changes to the SAT will definitely have some impact in the way students prepare for the exam. The elimination of more obscure vocabulary words, free online test prep materials and aligning the test to coincide with what students actually learn in high school will allow students to focus more clearly on what they need to know to do well," said Kristina Herbst, the school's director of college counseling. "Also, the elimination of the penalty for wrong answers will make the test more user-friendly and help eliminate much anxiety over guessing while taking the test."

For those concerned about how the revised test might impact their admittance to their top college choices, officials at Marymount University in Arlington said

## Test Prep

The College Board has partnered with Khan Academy, a not-for-profit educational organization; to provide free, supplemental test preparation resources for those taking the soon-to-be redesigned SAT in 2016. By spring 2015, students will have access to state-of-the-art, interactive learning tools. Those taking the 2014 or 2015 SAT can gain access to hundreds of previously unreleased math, reading and writing questions from real SATs and more than 200 videos that show step-by-step solutions to each question. Visit [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat).

they don't foresee a large adjustment.

"We will need to adjust to the changes in scoring, but otherwise no significant difference at this time," said Francesca Reed, associate vice president for enrollment at Marymount. "When we evaluate applicants, we look at the applicant holistically and consider not only their high school GPA and rigor, but their letters of reference and the level of engagement at their school and/or community. In an age when colleges are considering test-optional admissions, standardized tests will need to demonstrate that they provide admissions offices with resources that otherwise wouldn't have been determined through grades and other requirements."

"The best way to prepare for any standardized test is to work hard in everyday coursework and to read as many good and challenging books as possible."

— Michael R. Hude, The Heights School

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## Musical, Murder Mystery Whodunnit Comedy

### It's 'Curtains' for Robinon's Cappies Play.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A whodunnit, murder mystery, musical comedy, "Curtains" is Robinson Secondary's upcoming Cappies play. Show times are Thursday-Saturday, May 8, 9, 10, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at [www.robinsondrama.org](http://www.robinsondrama.org).

There's a show within the show, and the lead actress of that play, "Robbin' Hood," is murdered on opening night at the end of her performance. So the cast and crew are kept in the theater for questioning because they're all suspects. The story happens over 48 hours as the actors are replacing the lead, rehearsing and fixing their show, while trying to solve the murder.

There'll be a 22-piece orchestra, plus a real cast and crew of 85 that's been rehearsing since January. "We wanted a show that was a little off the beaten path, had a large cast and was light, frothy fun with music," explained Director Chip Rome. "And since it's about the theater, it's particularly fun for us to do and the audience should enjoy it."

**IT TAKES PLACE** at Boston's Colonial Theatre in 1959 and is PG-13 for language, violence and sexual innuendo. Nili Bassman, a former Robinson theater student, was an understudy in the Broadway show directed by another Robinson alumnus, Scott Ellis. So, said Rome, "It's an appropriate show for us to do."

Delighted with his cast, he said, "I have talented people in the leads – and everyone who auditioned for a lead role was so good that they're either a lead or in the ensemble." And for the first time, audiences will see what the backstage really looks like and will watch the stage manager and crew move the sets into position.

"There are numerous costume changes, ranging from formal wear to cowboy duds to pajamas," said Rome. "The audience will like the broadly drawn, fun characters and the plot's surprises. They'll also love the jazzy music, and the dancing is fabulous."

Senior Jamie Green portrays Christopher Belling, "Robbin' Hood's" director. "He's British, egotistical and takes credit for what others do," said Green. "He's witty, but sarcastic. He hated the victim, as did everyone else, because she was mean and not talented. It's fun playing him because he has so much attitude and I have the freedom to decide how to treat the other actors."

Green's favorite song is "In the Same

Boat," a big number that's sung three times because the "Robbin' Hood" composers keep rewriting it. "The final version is amazing and so much fun to watch," he said. "The whole show keeps you on your toes, trying to figure out who's the killer. There's happy-go-lucky, upbeat, square-dancing music and some lyrics have double entendres. And people's priorities to solve the murder get put aside to fix the play they're rehearsing."

Playing the detective's love interest, Nikki Harris, is senior Maddy Ingram. "She's the stereotypical, naïve ingénue," said Ingram. "She loves theater more than anything and is hardworking and passionate about what she does. She's a bit ditz, but there's more to her than meets the eye."

It's Ingram's first lead at Robinson and the most challenging because of her really big dance number. "Nikki has her fun moments, and I like playing a love interest and flirting," said Ingram. "And I relate to her because musical theater's what I want to do, too."

**SHE LIKES THE SONG**, "Tough Act to Follow," because it's cheerful and theatrical and "the choreography's cute and quirky. The show's very clever; it gives an inside view of what theater's like. There are a lot of mess-ups along the way, but the final product is really good."

Senior Spencer Boyd portrays Lt. Frank Cioffi, a Boston police detective trying to solve the murder. "He's a fun character because he's trying to be serious and do his job, but he has a tremendous love of theater," said Boyd. "So he's giddy to be onstage and has to find that balance and stay professional. He also does community theater whenever he can."

Boyd loves his part because "I like playing comedic roles and my character has some great one-liners." As for the audience, he said, "It's a fun show to watch. Everyone has lots of energy and there are great jokes and musical numbers. It's just a good time at the theater."

Playing Georgia Hendricks, half of the "Robbin' Hood" songwriting team, is senior Katie Rogers. "She's mature, but pretty sassy," said Rogers. "Her composing partner is her ex-husband Aaron [Stephen Diggs], so it's tense working with him. But she's also a caring person who comforts the others after the murder. She gets to have married-couple arguments with Aaron and returns to the stage after the murder. She also has a really big, song-and-dance number, 'Thataway,' where people are standing on tables and doing back flips. And it's been so much fun doing that number as Madame Marian in 'Robbin' Hood.'"

Overall, said Rogers, "The audience will love that it's a murder mystery that's funny, campy and lighthearted. And each character has their own back story, so the audience gets to know them throughout the show."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Sharing a fantasy dance are Maddy Ingram and Spencer Boyd in Robinson Secondary's production of 'Curtains.'



Looking for good reviews of their play are (from left) Stephen Diggs, Hannah Sikora, Alex Bulova and Katie Rogers.