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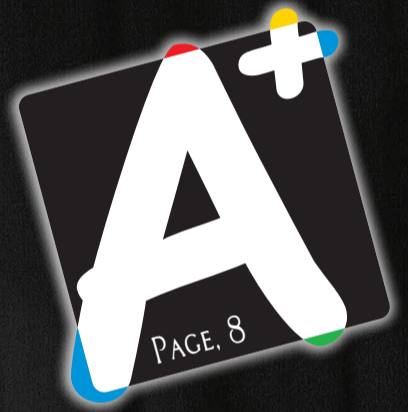
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# Fairfax CONNECTION

Hannah Black (Millie) and Eric Tysarczyk (Jimmy) perform a dance number from Woodson's upcoming musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie."



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APRIL 18-24, 2019

ONLINE AT [WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Charity Basketball Game Helps Lamb Center

## Mosby Woods takes on Providence Elementary School at Fairfax High School.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**T**alk about a fun night. The excitement at Fairfax High School was absolutely electric on Thursday, April 11, 2019 during the sixth annual charity basketball game between the Mosby Woods Mustangs and Providence Elementary Panthers. About 1,000 people, mostly elementary students and their parents, helped raise \$1,000 for the Lamb Center, a charity that does outreach for the poor in Fairfax. Organized by Mosby Woods teacher Taylor

Gaddy, the game ended with a score of 67-40, with Mosby Woods winning.

According to Gaddy: "The No. 1 thing is to raise funds for charity and for the community. Also, this shows the students selflessness, which is one thing we talk to the students about all the time — selflessness and doing for others, and this can encourage those conversations to take place, so it's a win-win all the way around."

About 50 volunteers helped stage the event, including teacher basketball players and cheerleaders. And during the halftime break, several student groups from both schools gave spirited performances. "The kids really enjoy seeing their teachers in a different environment like this and doing something good for the community as well," Gaddy added.

Added Mosby Woods Principal Mahri Aste: "This is a fantastic community event for both of our schools, Mosby Woods and Providence, and we're so happy to come together as a school community to



**Mosby Woods Elementary School Principal Mahri Aste with Providence Elementary Principal Dan Phillips at the charity basketball game on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at Fairfax High School.**

play this game so that all the proceeds could go to the Lamb Center, which helps the homeless in our area."

Providence Elementary Principal Dan Phillips added: "We love the opportunity to get together with our Mosby Woods friends. Some of our students who go to the Advanced Academic Center at Mosby Woods have siblings at our school,



**Debbie Key, Providence Elementary Music teacher, leads the Sixth-Grade All-County Chorus students from Mosby Woods and Providence Elementary schools.**



**About 1,000 fans cheered on the charity basketball game between Mosby Woods and Providence Elementary Schools.**

so it's just a great partnership. We love them. We love their principal and we love doing the whole thing for charity as well."

At-Large School Board Representative Ryan McElveen added:

"I think it's great to see our community engaged in this broad, wide-ranging event with faculty, parents, students, all involved in supporting efforts in our community."

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## Public Weighs in on Budget Priorities

**Schools, market rate adjustments, affordable housing, immigrant services dominate public response.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n Thursday, April 12, at 4:27 p.m., Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chair Sharon Bulova brought down the gavel that ended her last Budget Public Hearings – a circumstance not lost on many of the 150 or so speakers who addressed the board over the three days of public testimony.

Most of the speakers, even those who attended to express objections to County Executive Bryan Hill's Advertised Fiscal Year 2020 Budget, took part of their precious allotment of speaker's time to thank Bulova and fellow retiring board members John Cook (Braddock), Cathy Hudgins (Hunter Mill) and Linda Smyth (Providence).

The proposed Budget was presented to the board by the County Executive on Feb. 19, without seeking any increase in the current residential tax rate of \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed property value. Even without a tax rate increase, the average homeowner's tax bill would still rise by approximately \$150, since the average residential assessment would increase by almost 2.4 percent because property values are increasing.

Since then, there have been numerous town hall budget meetings around the county, allowing residents from the nine magisterial districts to hear more and ask questions of county staff and their own district supervisors.

**THE PUBLIC HEARINGS** began on Tuesday, April 9, around 4:30 p.m. just after regular board business was concluded. Over the course of three days, there were dozens of pros and cons argued in regards to the overall budget of \$8.86 billion.

Representatives from unions, councils, organizations, civic associations, social services, nonprofits, parks, environmental groups, and private citizens came before the board. Most were there to bring light to their cause and to request additional financial support, or reconsideration where funding had been cut or reduced.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Board chair Karen Corbett Sanders was the first speaker of record, providing lengthy testimony describing the achievements of the school system and its importance to the welfare of the county, thanking Hill for a budget that includes the FCPS full funding request, and urging the board to vote their approval when the final budget comes before them on May 7.

The \$2.35 billion transfer to the school system, up more than \$86 million over last year, comprises almost 53 percent of the county's general fund budget. The total



**A contingent of supporters of Fairfax County Parks attended the budget hearings, praising the current support of the board and encouraging future funds and endorsement.**



**Halleluiah! Finally something to sing about during the Budget Public Hearings. Musical director David North of Oakton brought a portion of his Mosaic Harmony choir to illustrate the power of music and song as he thanked the board for their support of the Arts in Fairfax. North got board members on their feet and clapping along with the choir.**

number of students in the school system for 2018-19 was 188,018, about 1,000 students fewer than projected.

Kevin Hickerson, president of Fairfax Education Association (FEA), and Kimberly Adams, the president-elect of FEA were pleased that the budget included the full amount of funds requested, to include wage increases for teachers, but expressed concern that the funds would not allow such increases for support personnel.

The Fairfax County Council of PTAs also supported the Advertised Budget and applauded the new era of collaboration between the FCPS School Board and the County, but urged the board to “think into the future.” In her testimony, Council president Jane Miscavage said the needs of the county's schools were only growing, especially in the areas of “special education where we face a shortage of teachers, in mental health issues among our students, in the areas of safety and security and in

the need to reduce class sizes, to name just a few.” Miscavage says that today's budget responses are promising, but will fall short of future needs. “The time to plan is now.”

Others who support the school's piece of the budget pie asked for funding beyond wages, reporting that schools in the county need physical improvements and upgrades to maintain the premier status of education that is conducted within their walls.

Tina Williams with the Federation of Teachers urged the board to find the means to fund universal Pre-K, and to restore pay rates for substitute teachers.

**ARTHUR PURVES**, representing the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance, presented an argument against the monies directed toward the FCPS, saying that school and other county employees earn more than the average private sector worker in the region and “without such a generous pension and benefits package.”

Purves questions why the school system needs \$114 million more to “serve 1,000 less students in the coming year.” He presented several statistical charts to defend his statements that Fairfax County schools “are not providing the education they say they are. Where is the excellence [in the SAT-related numbers he offered]? Where is the equity?”

The other “elephant in the room” as it was described by Randy Crueller, Vice Chair of the Fairfax County Employee Advisory Council, is the gap between the expected 2.51 percent Market Rate Adjustment for county employees, including law enforcement and first responder personnel, and the actual 1 percent MRA included in Mr. Hill's budget.

Crueller was joined by numerous representatives of Fairfax County employees of every level and every job description in denouncing this decision. Even candidates seeking to fill the seats of the outgoing board members' seats – like Alicia Plerhoples who has set her sights on the chairmanship of the board, and James Walkinshaw, running for Braddock District Supervisor - expressed support for a fully funded MRA in remarks for the record.

Plerhoples and Walkinshaw were also just two of dozens who hammered home the need for more affordable housing in Fairfax County.

Mary Paden, chair of the South County Task Force for Human Services, warned the supervisors that “gentrification” could push many lower income residents out of the county “that they work in and that their tax dollars have helped grow,” especially in areas like the Route 1 corridor. Paden says all of the expensive efforts to improve the area, widening Route 1 and investing billions in local development will “certainly benefit some, but harm many more without equal investment in affordable housing.”

Members of the Community Action Advisory Board echoed those concerns, including Elethia from Reston. “I am a CAAB member, but I speak for myself today,” she said. Elethia is worried for the county's senior residents like herself who more and more are being forced to sacrifice other essentials in order to pay for housing.

On the topic of funding legal services for immigrants in detention, the speakers were often passionate in their views.

Several groups and individuals pleaded for the \$200,000 to fund such legal services, while others strenuously objected to using taxpayer's dollars to provide services they say are not offered to legal residents and citizens of the county.

The public hearings are over, although there is still time for residents to make their opinions known via the county's website. The Board of Supervisors Budget Committee meets on April 26 to discuss possible changes to the proposed Budget, then will hold their Budget mark-up meeting on April 30 before final adoption at the Board meeting on May 7.

# Singing, Tap Dancing and Romance Galore

## Fairfax High presents musical comedy, “Good News.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A 1920s musical comedy in a college setting, “Good News” is Fairfax High’s upcoming show and Cappies entry. It will be presented over two weekends, starting April 26.

“This show was first introduced to me at my own performing-arts college, and I instantly fell in love with it,” said Director Erich DiCenzo. “It’s a classic, Broadway production where song, dance and humor take center stage.”

Featuring a cast and crew of 54, the story takes place at Tait College in New England. The star football player fails his astronomy test, so he gets tutored by a student named Connie. She helps him pass his test so he can play in the school’s big game and, along the way, he falls in love with her.

“The cast is a special group of students who were hand-picked since the talents needed for a show like this are heightened because of its style, comic timing and – above all else – tap dancing,” said DiCenzo. “And most of these kids have owned their tap shoes less than a year, but they’ve quickly become young professionals, mastering intricate choreography and rhythm.”

He said the audience will be surprised that, “Even if they haven’t seen ‘Good News’ before, they’ll perk up with every number. And it’s because they’ll recognize the songs – such as, ‘Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries’ and ‘The Best Things in Life are Free’ – but just didn’t know what show they were from.”

**THE SCENES** take place all over the campus and quad, including the college library, locker rooms, astronomy classroom and football stadium. And, said DiCenzo, “The crew has done an incredible job building a multi-level, stationary set that allows for imaginative staging and creativity.”

As for the costumes, girls will be adorned in handsewn-and-designed, 1920s daywear and flapper dresses, and the boys will be decked out in authentic, 1920s football uniforms, complete with leather helmets.

“I’m excited to introduce a new show to our already supportive community,” said DiCenzo. “And I hope they’ll enjoy it as much as I did when I first worked on it in college.”

Playing tutor Connie Lane is freshman Madeleine Tyler. “She’s a nerdy, book-loving girl who loves astronomy,” said Tyler. “And like so many other people on campus, she dreams about having someone to love her. She can have a sarcastic tone, at times, but is comedic and playful about it. She’s smart and selfless, always doing things for



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERICH DICENZO

**Clockwise from top are “Good News” cast members Seth Strong, Kamila Adamecyk, Marin Bronaugh, Eli Nygaard, Sierra Kaplan and Madeleine Tyler.**

## To Go

Show times are Friday-Saturday, April 26-27, and Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 2, 3, 4, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 28, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$10 via [www.fxplayers.org](http://www.fxplayers.org).

others, and her close friend is the astronomy professor. Connie thinks she knows the type of person she wants – until she meets football star Tom Marlowe.”

Tyler loves her role because “Connie’s such a dreamer, and I like playing an ingenue like that,” she said. “My favorite song is ‘The Best Things in Life are Free,’ which Tom and Connie sing together. I love the acting we do with it because they’re falling in love during the song, and the music’s very pretty.”

The show actually contains three romantic stories; besides Tom and Connie, the other two couples are the astronomy professor and the football coach, and two students named Babe and Bobby. Tyler said the audience will enjoy watching these romances unfold. “They’ll also like the array of music from slow numbers to upbeat and jazzy, 1920s style, and the fun and up-lifting dances,” she said.

Senior Matt Sikes portrays Marlowe. “When he meets Connie – who’s also the cousin of his current girlfriend – he finds something that isn’t football to fall in love with,” explained Sikes. “He’s pretty chill; he knows he’s a good athlete, but he’s modest about it. He’s also a kind, friendly per-



**Eli Nygaard and Madeleine Tyler are in Fairfax High’s musical, “Good News.”**

son who accepts everyone for who they are.”

Sikes said it’s a great experience playing Tom. “I’m more of a nerd, so it’s enjoyable to explore something different,” he said. “It’s cool being the center of the college’s attention because I’m normally in the background, in real life.”

He especially likes the song, “Lucky in Love,” which Tom and Connie sing. “It’s really uptempo, and Connie and Tom start

to realize they like each other,” said Sikes. “But they’re interrupted, and it ends with him looking back at her, trying to regain that feeling.”

Sikes said people will love the show’s energy. “Almost everyone’s happy, and the excitement builds toward the big, football game at the end,” he said. “And we play a lot of the jokes to the audience. They’ll also get the 1920s references to, for example, the stock market crash and other things that happened then. They’ll also love the dynamic between the couples.”

**PORTRAYING ASTRONOMY PROFESSOR** Charlotte Kenyon is senior Marin Bronaugh. “She’s Connie’s mentor, is extremely intelligent and ambitious and knows what she wants,” said Bronaugh. “But she also has a soft side and is ready to love someone. I enjoy playing her because a lot of what she says about women – such as women having careers and being empowered – is relevant to right now. I love that about her.

“And although she seems unapproachable, she’s actually very fun,” continued Bronaugh. “It just takes awhile to break through her outer shell. My favorite song is ‘Cream in my Coffee,’ which her love interest, Coach Johnson, sings to her. It’s a tap number, upbeat and lively, and a fun-to-do, romantic, partner number.”

She said the audience will love the show because “Each number tops the one before. The love stories are sweet, and the big ensemble numbers – both tap and jazz – are huge and super-fun.”

Sophomore Mikhail Goldenberg plays football Coach Bill Johnson, who’s determined to win the big game against Colton. “He and Professor Kenyon were in a relationship, 15 years ago, and things progress between them once they meet again,” said Goldenberg. “He’s a little stubborn, but a sweetheart, and always has good intentions. He comes off as a bit gruff, but he’s soft inside.”

Goldenberg said it’s one of his favorite roles because “The coach is a mature character and gives me the opportunity

to try something new. And it’s fun tap dancing during ‘Cream in my Coffee.’”

He also likes the opening song, ‘Good News,’ because “It’s a flashy, tap number with all the characters in their college spirit-wear. It has both powerful and softer, impactful moments and sets the scene for the show.” All in all, he added, “People will enjoy ‘seeing a show they haven’t seen before and getting a glimpse of the 1920s jazz era.’”

# BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

Lee District; Mason District; Mt Vernon District; and Springfield District. Free. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/o/naacp-fairfax-county-12397167937](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/naacp-fairfax-county-12397167937).

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Holy Week at Kings Lutheran Church**, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. All are welcome. Visit [www.kofk.org](http://www.kofk.org) or call the church office 703-378-7272.

- ❖ **Maundy Thursday**, April 18 – 7 p.m.
- ❖ **Good Friday**, April 19 – 12:15pm and 7pm
- ❖ **Easter Sunday**, April 21 – Festival Worship, 8 and 10 a.m.
- ❖ **Dulles South Easter Sunrise Service** – 7 a.m. at Brambleton Golf Course Pavilion.

**Holy Week at St. Mark's Lutheran Church**, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. Visit [www.stmarks-elca.org](http://www.stmarks-elca.org).

- ❖ **Holy Thursday** – 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (English)
- ❖ **Good Friday** – noon and 7:30 p.m. (English) and 6:30 p.m. (Spanish)
- ❖ **Easter Sunday**, April 21 – 6:30 a.m. (Spanish); 8:30 a.m. (English); 10:30 a.m. (English). Potluck Easter breakfasts served between services.

**Holy Week at Historic Pohick Church**, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Call 703-339-6572 or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

- ❖ **Maundy Thursday**, April 18 – Maundy Thursday Liturgy and Holy Communion at 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Good Friday**, April 19th – Good Friday Observance at noon-2 p.m.
- ❖ **Easter Sunday**, April 21 – Festival Holy Eucharist at 7:45, 9:15, and 11:15 a.m.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**District Supervisor Candidate Meet and Greet**. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Meet the candidates who are running for the Fairfax Board of Supervisors: Braddock District;

## FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**Application Deadline.** Leadership Fairfax is now accepting applications for its premier professional leadership development programs – Leadership Fairfax Institute and Emerging Leaders Institute. The 10-month programs begin September 2019. Classes meet once a month and participants work outside of class to plan and implement projects. Limited scholarships available. Applications are due April 19. Call 703-752-7555 or visit [leadershipfairfax.org](http://leadershipfairfax.org).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**Holy Meditation Retreat.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Holy Saturday Meditation Retreat: Spend the day in noble silence, meditating and creating a space to be still and listen. Donations accepted. Register at [unityoffairfax.org/events](http://unityoffairfax.org/events).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 21

**New Thought Easter.** At Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. New Thought Easter Service: 6:15 a.m. outdoors on the Labyrinth (weather permitting), 9 and 11 a.m. An Easter egg hunt for the younger members of the Unity community will follow the 11 a.m. service. Free. Visit [unityoffairfax.org](http://unityoffairfax.org).

**Easter Sunday Service.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Road, Springfield. Harvester Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). All are welcome. No charge; offering will be taken. Visit [www.harvesterpca.org](http://www.harvesterpca.org) or call 703-455-7800 for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply, and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 02/15/2019, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in AR, CT, DC, FL, GA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, SC, TX and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. 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# OPINION

## Supporting Immigrant Families, Community

**Comprehensive change — not one-time funding — needed to support Fairfax County immigrant families and community members.**

BY MARY SUPLEY  
FAIRFAX FOR ALL

Fairfax County residents in deportation proceedings are not guaranteed access to free legal counsel. According to Department of Justice data, such legal representation dramatically increases the likelihood that an individual will have a hearing, be released from detention, and be granted relief from deportation.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is considering limited, temporary, one-time funding for legal representation for county residents in deportation proceedings. Without also enacting a policy that ends the county's voluntary collaboration with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), this proposal is merely a band-aid that would offer assistance to fewer than 1 percent of the people who need it. A band-aid on a wound that the Board of Supervisors and Sheriff Stacey Kincaid deepen every day as they put more people into the

arrest-to-deportation pipeline.

Currently, more than 11,500 county residents are in deportation proceedings. This is because Fairfax County voluntarily collaborates with ICE in the detention and deportation of its residents and visitors. This collaboration harms migrants residing in Fairfax County and weakens our community. Every day that county leadership fails to act, more people live in fear and more residents are detained. Data from Syracuse University's TRAC program show that Fairfax County ranks 13th in the country for its compliance with voluntary detainer requests issued by ICE (view data directly at [bit.ly/detainer-compliance-rates](http://bit.ly/detainer-compliance-rates)).

While funding for legal representation would be commendable, it's not enough. By itself, this proposal alone offers more comfort to the politicians who want to appear to stand with our immigrant neighbors than it does to people vulnerable to those politicians' policies. Real and lasting change will only come by ending the county's voluntary collaboration with ICE.

In late 2017, attorneys working in concert with the Fairfax for All coalition drafted the Ordinance to Protect Equal Justice for All. This countywide policy, which would end this racist collaboration and create some equity for our immigrant neighbors, will:

1. Prohibit the county from being involved in civil immigration enforcement;
2. Limit the collecting and sharing of information with ICE;
3. Expand the list of documents that are acceptable as proof of identity; and
4. Establish permanent funding for legal representation for county residents in deportation proceedings.

The complete ordinance can be read at [fairfaxforall.org/pledge](http://fairfaxforall.org/pledge).

It is long past time for Board Chairman Sharon Bulova, the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, and other officials to end the county's voluntary collaboration with ICE. A collaboration that furthers the criminalization, incarceration, and deportation of valued Fairfax County families and community members.

*Fairfax for All is a coalition of grassroots, civil rights, immigrant rights, and faith-based organizations dedicated to building sanctuary in Fairfax County. Visit [fairfaxforall.org](http://fairfaxforall.org).*

## Fully Fund the MRA to Support Our Community

BY TARRENCE TAYLOR  
FAIRFAX COUNTY RESIDENT AND  
EMPLOYEE

Frontline Fairfax County employees work hard every day to make our community a better place for all people.

We are nurses, educators, librarians, first responders, parks staff, sanitation workers, engineers and more. We are your friends, family and neighbors. And we want what everyone wants: the ability to make a difference, financial security, and a better life for our kids.

Unfortunately, the proposed Fairfax budget breaks the county's promise to workers like me by not funding the agreed-upon Market Rate Adjustment.

The Market Rate Adjustment is similar to a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), and it is intended to help employees keep up with the high cost of living in this area, as well as to keep up with our neighboring counties. That's why the Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a pay plan which includes a yearly Market Rate Adjustment.

The agreed-upon formula says the MRA should be 2.51 percent this year, but the proposed budget only offers 1 percent. That is simply not enough.

The Market Rate Adjustment is not just a number to me. I'm the father of seven wonderful children, and I've made a promise that nothing will get in the way of them achieving a college education. That's why I've worked hard my entire life.

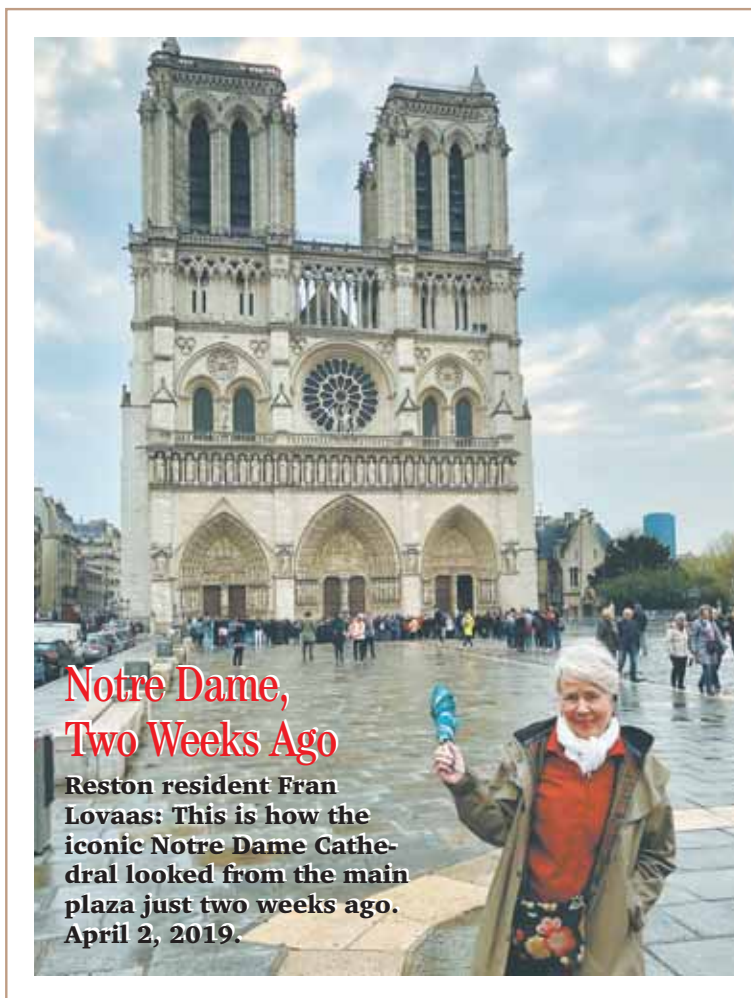
However, if the county does not keep its promise and fully fund the Market Rate Adjustment, then I may not be able to keep my promise to my kids.

Not fully funding the Market Rate Adjustment also hurts the local families who use our services to get ahead, because it keeps us from recruiting and retaining the quality workforce we need.

We are losing good employees every day. Employees gain experience and training here in Fairfax, and then leave for the surrounding counties that pay more. That costs us money and time, as we are forced to constantly train new employees.

Fully funding the Market Rate Adjustment will help keep the experienced employees that we work hard to train, right here in Fairfax County, helping Fairfax County families.

The Board of Supervisors has an opportunity to do something about this. It is their job to make changes



**Notre Dame,  
Two Weeks Ago**

**Reston resident Fran Lovaas: This is how the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral looked from the main plaza just two weeks ago. April 2, 2019.**

to the budget to ensure it meets the needs of our community.

Please join us in calling on Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax Board of Supervisors to fully fund the Market Rate Adjustment so that our community can

continue to be a wonderful place to live, work and play.

*Tarrence Taylor is a Fairfax County employee, resident and taxpayer, and a proud union member of SEIU Virginia 512.*

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# OPINION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

One of the homes used for transitional housing.

## Never Losing Sight of Ending Homelessness

By JOE FAY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FACETS

When Richard lost his sight, his long career as a handyman came to an end. What began was a journey into homelessness.

Despite his skills and dedication, blindness prevented him from continuing in the building maintenance field. As his funds ran low, Richard, who is now 58, struggled and found himself moving from shelter to shelter around the county and sleeping in other places not meant for habitation. Then he was referred to FACETS, a Fairfax nonprofit working to prevent homelessness, and resided for some time at FACETS' Linda's Gateway Woodbine House with five other men who were medically and physically vulnerable.

Linda's Gateway is a program meant to help people transition to permanent housing. Working with a FACETS case manager, residents receive budget counseling, housing location services, connection to community resources, basic needs and transportation assistance. All FACETS programs operate using a "Housing First" approach, focusing on first getting people into housing and then working with a case manager to address barriers to housing stability, career development, child care, medical assistance and other basic needs.

Working with his case manager Ruben, Richard

pulled his life back together and now lives independently in his own apartment through FACETS' permanent supportive housing program. He is still helped by Ruben who checks in with him and makes sure he can get to medical appointments and is hopeful and more confident.

With the second largest homeless population in the region, homelessness is a real problem in the Fairfax County-Falls Church community where nearly 1,000 people are homeless. A majority of these are in working families with children. Some like Richard are single and also facing challenges. FACETS connected nearly 400 single adults with life-saving services last year.

Richard will be joining several other FACETS' clients to share his courageous story about overcoming homelessness at FACETS' Hope in Bloom Breakfast.

The free event on April 25 at 7 a.m. at Fairview Park Marriott provides an opportunity to learn more about neighbors in need and meet fellow community members who are helping end homelessness in the region. Attendees will be uplifted and inspired and discover how we can ensure everyone has a place to call home in our county.

If you have an interest in learning more about the effects of poverty in Fairfax County, we encourage you to join us along with other community, business and political leaders at this 8<sup>th</sup> annual breakfast. Register at [www.FACETSCares.org](http://www.FACETSCares.org).



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Opportunities for community service and/or religious education are some of the reasons that parents might consider switching a child from public to private school.

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## Making the Leap from Public to Private School

Signs that a public school isn't meeting your child's needs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Elizabeth and Kent Hillegass noticed that their 6th grade son's grades began to drop while the number of times they received notices from the school regarding his misbehavior had increased. He was also having challenges socially.

"He was really unhappy, the other kids made fun of him, he didn't have any friends and to top it off his grades were awful," said Elizabeth. "I would lie awake at night crying because I felt helpless."

After a series of neuropsychological tests, the Hillegasses learned that their son had ADHD. The testing psychologist advised them to see an education consultant who helped them determine that a quiet school environment with small class sizes would best suit their son's needs. The Hillegasses ultimately decided to send their son to a private school with a student-teacher ratio of 10 to 1.

"We've always been supporters of public education, but the class sizes and noisy environment were too overwhelming for him," said Kent. "It was like he was lost and unable to focus when he was at school. He couldn't sit still and pay attention in classes and was always getting into trouble, which made him feel ostracized, like he was the bad kid in school."

A parent's decision to move a child from public to private school can be based on factors that run the gamut from smaller class sizes to tuition that can cost as much as \$50,000 annually. Although it's a choice that should not be taken lightly, there are signs that it might be time to make the change if it's possible, say education consultants.

"I suggest to parents that they focus on the needs of their child, not on the prestige that they think a private school holds or the sticker on the back of your car that lets everyone know that your child attends a certain school," said Kim Hardy who was the education consultant to the Hillegass family. "There's a range of factors that parents should take into consideration."

The first, advises Hardy, is whether their child is

happy and well adjusted. "If a child is bored or frustrated at school, not just because their grades aren't good and they've given up, but there are also cases where students are making straight As without much effort and are bored because they aren't being challenged."

When the accommodations that a school can offer don't meet the needs of one's child, that's another clue that a change is necessary, suggests Arlington-based education consultant Rita Fetters.

"Some children need to be in a classroom with a low student teacher ratio so that teachers have time to redirect students who have trouble staying focused," she said. "Other students need a lot of exercise and outdoor activity to release energy so that they can focus better in class. Public schools may not be able to offer that."

The Heights in Potomac, Md. builds activity and exercise into each school day including outdoor recess and a challenging physical education program that not only releases energy, but teaches important life skills.

Fetters says some parents make the change because they want specialized opportunities that a public school might not offer.

"If religious education is important to a family, that is certainly one reason to leave a public school," she said. "If a family wants their child to be involved in public service beyond what is required to graduate, they might choose a private school that has community service built in to the curriculum."

One such school is St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School (SSSAS) in Alexandria, Va. "Our school offers religion classes and weekly chapels," said Mandi Sapp of SSSAS. "We also have a ton of service-learning opportunities that students ... do throughout the year, including global service trips offered in Middle and Upper School. We have done a lot of work with ALIVE (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically) in Alexandria."

If a child is unhappy and asks repeatedly to change schools, Fetters believes that is a reason to give serious consideration to academic switch.

"At the end of the day, parents have to take a long, hard look at their child and their family," Fetters said. "They have to find the best school for their family, not the one that's most prestigious or most popular. Does what the school offers as a whole align with your family's values and your child's needs. Whether it's public or private, that's what a parent must determine."

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# Daniels Design & Remodeling Wins Contractor of the Year Award

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) Metro DC Chapter named Daniels Design & Remodeling, in Fairfax 2019 Capital Contractor of the Year winner in the Residential Exterior Over \$200,000 category of its annual awards competition at their “Evening of Excellence” held in February at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna.

Contractors from the Metro DC area vie for Contractor of the Year Awards each year. Judging is based on problem-solving, functionality, aesthetics, craftsmanship, innovation, and degree of difficulty by an impartial panel of industry experts. NARI Metro DC named 84 Capital Contractor of the Year winners from the 2019 competition, with 12 team members. Several Capital CotY winners were also named NARI Regional winners and will advance to the final competition of being named a National winner.

Each year NARI Metro DC presents Capital CotY awards to members who have demonstrated outstanding work through their re-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANIELS DESIGN & REMODELING

Photos “before” and “after” illustrating Daniels Design & Remodeling award-winning work.

modeling projects. The entries of this year’s competition totaled more than \$26 million worth of remodeling projects.

Daniels Design & Remodeling has created award-winning remodeling projects in the Northern Virginia area for more than 20 years. The boutique architectural home remodeling firm consistently wins awards, such as COTY (Contractor of the Year), Best of Houzz, Angie’s List Super Service, Guild

Quality, Virginia Living Top of the Trades & Best of Virginia awards and many others, for both the customer service provided as well as their pioneering designs.

Some of the projects homeowners look for (illustrated in photos above) include: Improving the curb appeal of their home, enhancing the space of their breakfast room area, and enlarging their kitchen, which necessitates the exterior addition and renovation.

They wanted minimal maintenance and maximum sustainability.

The firm added square footage to the existing structure at the home’s rear exterior, solved water drainage issues, and improved the aesthetic look of their home—especially in the rear portion. Daniels Design & Remodeling replaced all visible exterior finishes of the house except for the brick fireplace, including windows, ga-

rage door, siding, cornice, paint, shingles, gutters and light fixtures to durable and low maintenance products.

They changed the rooflines to enhance the aesthetic of the rear of the house, to match the style and detail in the front.

Visit Daniels Design & Remodeling at [www.danielsremodeling.com](http://www.danielsremodeling.com), or reach them by phone at 703-239-2700.

## FAIRFAX HISTORY DAY

**Saturday, April 27 ★ 10am - 5pm**

**Hayrides ★ House Graffiti Tours**  
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**19th c. Living History ★ Blacksmithing**  
**Early Photography ★ Courthouse Records Display**  
**Pony Rides ★ Music**

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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: Collect.** Through April 26 in the McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The COLLECT! 2019 exhibition features more than 70 original works of art generously donated by the community of artists at Workhouse Arts Center. This year's collection includes painting, sculpture, fiber art, jewelry and more with subject matter varying from traditional figuration, natural landscapes, bright and bold abstraction, eclectic clay wares to conceptual collage. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org) for more.

**Dynamic Dimensions: Layered Meanings in African Art.** 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily, through April 29, in the Buchanan Hall Atrium Gallery, Fairfax Campus, George Mason University. Led by African art historian Dr. LaNitra Berger, students participating in Objects and Archives in Art History: Curating an Exhibit, spent two months using the Fine Arts Gallery as a laboratory in which to discover the essentials of researching and curating an exhibition. Students learned about provenance, original functionality, and the formal features of African art, in addition to valuable technical skills needed to put together an art exhibition. Visit [www.facebook.com/Dynamic-Dimensions-Layered-Meaning-in-African-Art-403224373588514](http://www.facebook.com/Dynamic-Dimensions-Layered-Meaning-in-African-Art-403224373588514), or call Naomi Arlund, student curator, at 703-993-8756.

**Art Exhibit: [Land]scape.** Through May 19, in the Art Lab Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Curated by GMU MFA Candidate, Emily Fussner. The [Land]scape exhibition asks visitors to engage the notion of landscape on multiple levels. Featuring a range of painting, photography, mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, and video works, the exhibition itself becomes a landscape revealing a strata of emerging art practices. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org) for more.

**Group Exhibition: Degrees of Honor.** Through May 19 in the Warrior Way Gallery, 1st Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Degrees of Honor is a group exhibition surveying the works of artists addressing the concept of honor in different perspectives. Explore works with expressions of separation, pain, loneliness, turmoil, stories and memories. Featured artists include Rene Vincit, Gene Moty, Karen Chin and Christa Turpin. The Warrior Way is an exhibition space designated for artwork by active duty, retired and veteran service members. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org)

**Floating Garden.** Through May 26, in the Vulcan Gallery, 2nd Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Toronto-based Artist Amanda McCavour creates experiential, immersive environments that represent places in her memory. Her three dimensional, embroidered art installations are made up of fabric designs that float within the space. Motifs included in her works are flowers, birds, plants and replications of living room furniture. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org)

## FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**Plazapalooza Music Festival.** 1-10 p.m. at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Music Productions Club of GMU hosts a free on-campus day of music featuring student bands and local musicians – 15 acts perform on the Sub 1 Quad (Rain Location: Lecture Hall). Free. Email [cweinrot@gmu.edu](mailto:cweinrot@gmu.edu) or visit [www.facebook.com/MusicProductionsGMU](http://www.facebook.com/MusicProductionsGMU)

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

**Various Chamber Ensemble Concert I.** 7 p.m. in the deLaski Performing Arts Building, A323, Music Studio, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Join the Mason Chamber Ensemble as they present a variety of works. Free and open to the public. Free and open to the public. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/various-chamber-ensemble-concert-i](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/various-chamber-ensemble-concert-i) for details.

## APRIL 19-MAY 25

**The Full Monty.** Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theater. Based on the cult hit film of the same name, The Full Monty, a 10-time Tony Award nominee, is filled with honest affection, engaging melodies and the most highly

## George Mason Friends Book Sale

Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and more at the George Mason Friends Spring Book Sale. Come early for the best selection, then come back on Sunday for half-price bargains. Thursday, April 25, 3-9 p.m.; Friday, April 26, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, April 28, noon-5 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Free admission. Visit [georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com](http://georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com) or call 703-813-6616.

### Visitors browsing at the George Mason Friends Book Sale



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON FRIENDS



PHOTO BY JORDAN INGRAM

### Abby Rasheed and the Sundry Collective perform at Plazapalooza 2018.

## Plazapalooza Music Festival

Music Productions Club of GMU hosts a free on-campus day of music featuring student bands and local musicians – 15 acts perform on the Sub 1 Quad (Rain Location: Lecture Hall). Friday, April 19, 1-10 p.m. at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. Email [cweinrot@gmu.edu](mailto:cweinrot@gmu.edu) or visit [www.facebook.com/MusicProductionsGMU](http://www.facebook.com/MusicProductionsGMU) for more.

anticipated closing number of any show. Due to mature language and situations, this production is intended for adults and not suitable for younger audiences. \$20-\$35. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 9-11 a.m. at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Join Franconia UMC for an Easter Egg Hunt for toddlers to 12th grade. The festivities start at 9 a.m. with breakfast and Easter egg hunting starts at 10:30. Free. Visit [franconiainc.org](http://franconiainc.org) or call 703-971-5151.

**Model Classic 2019.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Northern Virginia Modelers Chapter, International Plastic Modelers Society presents an annual exhibit of scale models, an educational and fun event for the entire family. The event features a display of hundreds of museum quality scale models; a modeling contest, with over 80 categories; model kit, book and supplies vendors; raffle prizes; demonstrations; and a make and take event for children. Adults, \$8; under 18 free; \$10 per family; contestants, \$10 (includes admission). Visit [www.novaipms.org](http://www.novaipms.org) for more.

**Pet Adoption Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet

Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet)

**Easter Eggstravaganza.** 1-3 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Jubilee Christian Center is sponsoring its annual Easter Eggstravaganza, in the grassy area behind the Fairfax County Government Center. The event is free, including egg rolls, moon bounces, face painting, games, and door prizes (at 1:45 and 2:45 p.m.). Call 703-383-1170 or visit [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org) for more.

**Parsons Dance.** 8 p.m. at the Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. New York City-based Parsons Dance is internationally celebrated for creating and performing American modern dance that is positive, life-affirming, enriching, and accessible. This ensemble has spread the joy of dance in more than 447 cities, 30 countries, and five continents. A pre-performance discussion with a member of the company begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. Family-friendly. \$48, \$41, \$29. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/parsons-dance](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/parsons-dance) for tickets.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

**Lysistrata.** 8 p.m. at deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Lysistrata persuades the women of Greece to withhold sexual privileges from their husbands and lovers as a means of forcing the men to negotiate an end to the Peloponnesian War – a strategy, however, that inflames the battle between the sexes. \$20 adults, \$10 students, staff, seniors and groups. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/lysistrata](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/lysistrata) for tickets.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 25

**Mason Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band.** 8 p.m. at the Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. The Mason University Wind Symphony, led by composer-conductor Mark Camphouse is a select ensemble comprised of outstanding wind, brass, and percussion players in the School of Music and the University. The ensemble's mission is to study and perform the best literature available for wind band, while emphasizing soloistic and orchestral performance practice. \$12 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 youth through grade 12. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-wind-symphony-and-symphonic-band](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/mason-wind-symphony-and-symphonic-band) for tickets.

**The Wolves.** 8 p.m. at deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. A timely play about a girls' indoor soccer team that illuminates with the unmistakable ping of reality the way young selves are formed when innate character clashes with external challenges. \$20 adults, \$10 students, staff, seniors and groups. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/the-wolves](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/the-wolves) for tickets.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 25-28

**Huge Book Sale.** Thursday, 3-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Thousands of books, CDs, DVDs, and more at the George Mason Friends Spring Book Sale. Come early for the best selection, then come back on Sunday for half-price bargains. Free admission. Call 703-813-6616 or visit [georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com](http://georgemasonfriends.blogspot.com)

## FRIDAY/APRIL 26

**Valor Awards.** 8:30 a.m. at the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Fairfax County first responders will be honored at the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Valor Awards Breakfast. The event recognizes police, fire and sheriff deputies in the Greater Springfield area who selflessly serve and protect residents and businesses in the local community. To register, visit [www.springfieldchamber.org/events/details/valor-awards-5760](http://www.springfieldchamber.org/events/details/valor-awards-5760).

**Girl Scout Daisies.** Noon-1 p.m. at Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. With so many new experiences to conquer and lessons to learn, a trusted partner and all-things-girl expert like Girl Scouts can be exactly what a girl needs to succeed in and out of the classroom. Learn more about Girl Scout Daisies, to play games, to sing songs, and more. Free. Contact Cheryl Osborne at [cosborne@gscnc.org](mailto:cosborne@gscnc.org) or 703-372-4341.

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

**Lysistrata.** 8 p.m. at deLaski Performing Arts Building, A105, TheaterSpace, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Lysistrata persuades the women of Greece to withhold sexual privileges from their husbands and lovers as a means of forcing the men to negotiate an end to the Peloponnesian War. \$20 adults, \$10 students, staff, seniors and groups. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/lysistrata](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/lysistrata)

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 26-28

**The Medium and Suor Angelica.** Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Harris Theatre, on GMU's Fairfax Campus. Two one-act operas: Menotti's The Medium and Puccini's Suor Angelica. \$20 adults, \$15 seniors, \$5 youth through grade 12. Visit [cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/opera-the-medium-and-suor-angelica](http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/opera-the-medium-and-suor-angelica) for tickets.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**ECHO Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-noon at St. Bernadette Catholic School Gym, 7602 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Huge Yard Sale featuring table after table of fashion accessories, toys, home decorations, kitchen utensils, more. Proceeds benefit ECHO, an all-volunteer organization aiding people in need in the community. Admission free. Call 703-239-1678 or visit [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org).

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Concert ‘Inspiring the Next Generation’

### Introducing 2019 Fairfax Symphony All Stars: Sharon Bulova Young Artists’ Program.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) will be presenting an innovative concert featuring the 2019 Fairfax Symphony All-Stars. The All-Stars feature outstanding high school students from across Fairfax County. Each student receives personalized mentoring from FSO musicians, and the opportunity to perform side-by-side with the FSO.

In addition, honoring Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova’s long dedication and support of arts education, the FSO has named its music education program, the Fairfax Symphony All-Stars: Sharon Bulova Young Artists’ Program.

The 2019 All-Stars will perform in a collaborative performance with the FSO featuring program of Holst’s The Planets, Jonathan Leshnoff’s Starburst, and

Smetana’s The Moldau under direction of FSO Maestro Christopher Zimmerman. During the concert, Chairman Bulova will conduct the encore movement of “Jupiter” from Holst’s The Planets.

“I am humbled by this incredible honor,” Chairman Bulova said. “The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra has always been near and dear to my heart, and is a reflection of Fairfax County’s talented, hardworking and creative community. I have always been inspired by FSO’s outreach to the young people in our community, and I am so excited to be a part of this year’s Young Artists’ Program.”

“On behalf of the Fairfax Symphony Board of Directors, we can think of no better way to honor Chairman Bulova than to name this important program in recognition of her immense support and dedication to arts education,” said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director, Fairfax Symphony. “Inspiring the next generation of young artists is

vital to the FSO’s mission, and this program honors Chairman Bulova’s lasting-legacy of furthering artistic excellence and arts education.

The 2019 Fairfax Symphony All Stars include Abigail Leary, Adam Kurtz, Aislin Carpenter, Anna Paek, Ben Afferton, Caitlyn Clingenpeel, Cole Terpenning, Ethan Grundvig, George Pekarsky, Jacob Fujioka, Justin Park, Justin Vu, Matthew Vice, Michelle Song, Nick Brenner, Olivia Bond, Owen Wetterhan, Paul Cutler Williams, Sophia Leyva and Yilun Zhou.

“I’m always impressed with the students I coach and mentor. They’re always prepared and eager to learn,” said FSO’s Tim Wade, violinist and stage manager. “It’s heartening to know that Fairfax County is so invested in its music programs. The County benefits immensely from the program, as well, as high-quality music programs are an incredible calling card to anyone searching for an



2019 FSO All Star Anna Paek



2019 FSO All Star Yilun Zhou

PHOTOS COURTESY FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

### Where and When

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra presents “Inspiring the Next Generation” featuring the 2019 Fairfax Symphony All-Stars: Sharon Bulova Young Artists at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax Performance on April 27 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$25, \$39, \$53 and \$65. Students: \$15. Tickets call 703-9993-2782 or visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org)



2019 FSO All Star Ben Afferton

excellent school system for their children and themselves.”

“The FSO and our All-Stars are

proud to serve as Fairfax County’s dynamic music ambassadors,”

added Kerr.

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# ‘A Funny, Relatable, Foot-Tapping Show’

Woodson High presents ‘Thoroughly Modern Millie.’

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 70, Woodson High will present the boisterous musical, “Thoroughly Modern Millie.” It’s the school’s Cappies show and will run two weekends, beginning April 26.

“The characters really come to life,” said Director Terri Hobson. “It’s a funny, relatable, foot-tapping and enjoyable show, reminiscent of classic, American musicals. The audience will see the actors having fun, so they will too – it’s contagious.”

There’s a 20-piece, pit band conducted by Woodson alumni Bao Vo, now a teacher, and the music director is Woodson Choral Director Amy Moir. “Things are going great and the cast is amazing,” said Hobson. “We have both experienced and novice dancers, and several learned tap just for this show.”

Set in 1922, the story is about a woman named Millie who moves to New York, aiming to marry a rich man. Portraying her is junior Hannah Black. “She’s independent and strong-willed,” said Black. “She’s also bold, sassy, sarcastic and not afraid to speak her mind.”

At first, said Black, Millie is “emotionally closed-off; but she eventually becomes more open. She came from Salina, Kan., and plans to find a rich man to marry. So she wants to get a job and marry her boss. I love playing her. It’s a dance-heavy musical, which I love, since I’ve done all types of dances with the Virginia Ballet Co. for the past 12 years. And since Millie’s so outgoing, I can tap into her fiery spirit – and whenever I do, it’s an adventure.”

**BLACK’S FAVORITE SONG** is “Forget about the Boy,” her solo with the ensemble and a big, tap number. “It has a lot of energy, and Millie gets so angry and full of passion,” she said. “She and the female ensemble are ranting about how they hate men, so they all bond together.”

She said this show has many layers. “It’s full of comedy, but the audience will also get invested in the characters and their lives,” said Black. “And there are lots of plot twists they won’t see coming. We’re also excited about our set, and our cast is just phenomenal – especially Sara Willcox, who plays [evil] Mrs. Meers, who runs The Hotel Priscilla for actresses. Because Sara’s so good, she really makes you enjoy hating her.”

Black also choreographed all 13 of this show’s dances. “It was tough finding time to choreograph, between school, play rehearsals and dance classes,” she said. “But the cast worked really hard and did an amazing job learning all the moves. I love watching the big, ensemble numbers looking so good; and seeing the end product makes me proud of the entire cast.”

Sophomore Dylan Dipasupil plays Bun



Hannah Black (Millie) and Eric Tysarczyk (Jimmy) perform a dance number from Woodson’s upcoming musical, “Thoroughly Modern Millie.”

## To Go

Show times are Friday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 27, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 3, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 4, at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12, adults; \$10, students and \$5, senior citizens, at the door and via [www.wtwdrama.org](http://www.wtwdrama.org).

Foo, one of Meers’s henchmen. Meers takes in actresses without families, but then drugs them and sells them into white slavery in Hong Kong. “Bun Foo is only helping her so he can make money to bring his mother over from Hong Kong,” said Dipasupil. “He’s hardworking and goal-oriented, unlike his brother, who falls in love with one of the girls.”

He said his character is also headstrong, but compassionate. In fact, he said, “In a song Bun Foo and his brother [played by Gin Choi] sing, called ‘Not for the Life of Me,’ we talk about how there can be more to life than what we’re doing. It’s interesting playing someone who did bad things with good intentions, and he eventually stands up to Meers.”

Dipasupil said the show has “positive messages about life and how people can change for the better. The dances and music are very energetic, and people will enjoy that upbeat style. It also gives people

insight into the 1920s time period through the costumes, as well.”

Portraying Rita, an actress living at the hotel, is freshman Hannah Fidler. “She’s a friend of Millie’s and is lighthearted, ditzy, fun and friendly,” said Fidler. “I like playing ditzy characters because I can add little quirks to her that set her apart from the other actresses there.”

Her favorite song is “Falling in Love with Someone,” because “The two people singing it are really good vocalists and I like their harmonies,” said Fidler. “And their dance is fun to watch because it has lots of flips, lifts and tricks.”

She said the audience will enjoy following the storyline and seeing how everything turns out. “The singers are very talented,” she added. “And they’ll especially love the dancing because Hannah Black is an amazing choreographer.”

Senior Kelly Ward is the stage manager and set designer. Scenes take place in a speakeasy, a jail and the Hotel Priscilla. “We installed four, track walls that are movable and can be rotated,” said Ward. “It enables us to have a variety of different backgrounds for the various scenes. And at one point, three of them are used at once. Two show the sides of buildings on a city street, and the one between them is ostensibly a movie



Singing one of the numbers in “Thoroughly Modern Millie” are (from left) Dylan Dipasupil and Gin Choi.

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
ALEXANDRA JENNINGS

poster of a man’s torso. But when the actors push on his tie and tie clip, the whole wall opens and lets them into the secret entrance of the speakeasy.”

**THERE’S ALSO A HALLWAY UNIT** that does double duty. One side has three doors that open to the hotel rooms. But on the other side of it is the jail, also with working doors, and Ward is pleased with how this turned out, too.

As stage manager, Ward cues all the sound effects, lighting changes, projections and set changes. “We currently have over 100 set changes – which is significantly more than we’ve ever done,” she said. “We also have about 70 projection cues for the videos and pictures projected on a background during the scenes.”

For example, mugshots will be projected to look like they’re on a jail wall. And as the policeman takes someone’s photo, the audience will see and hear the camera flash and then see the mugshot projected. “All these actions involve three cues done at once – and that happens 10 times, because 10 photos are taken,” said Ward. “Being a stage manager is acting through the sound, projections, lighting and set.”

Overall, she said, “This show is impressive. Forty people rehearsed their dancing, singing and acting while sets were built, lights were focused and costumes were sewn. Yet when we bring everything together, it’s so cohesive, it seems like they were never separate.”

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# NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN MOLEK

The Fairfax Academy's Music and Computer Technology students had a full day of hands-on, career experiences during their recent field trip. The first stop was Omega Studios, a professional recording studio in Rockville, Md., and a leader in training professionals for the entertainment industry (specializing in the music, television, radio, video game, and corporate audio industries). It has four, state-of-the-art recording studios. MCT students continued their day at Chuck Levin's Music Center, a longtime, family-run operation featuring a huge stock of musical instruments. Last stop was The House of Musical Traditions in Takoma Park, Md., which stocks unusual folk instruments from around the world.

11th Annual Easter  
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# WEEK IN FAIRFAX

## Fairfax History Day at Historic Blenheim

The second annual Fairfax History Day will be held Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. Admission is \$5, adults, and \$3, children ages 3-12; children 2 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the restoration of the Historic Blenheim house.

This family friendly event focuses on the entire 19th century, and the festivities will include music, dancing, hayrides, games, living-history interpreters and demonstrations of skills such as blacksmithing and beer-making. Historic artifacts will be on display, and visitors may take tours of the Historic Blenheim house, itself.

Free parking and full-accessibility, shuttle-bus service are available at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. There is no parking at the event site. For more information, go to [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) or call 703-591-0560.

### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

#### MONDAY/APRIL 22

**Sleepy Hollow Road Walkway Project Community Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. in the Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Mason District Supervisor Penelope A. Gross and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will hold a community meeting for the Sleepy Hollow Road Walkway Project. FCDOT has changed plans for the project based on community feedback, including the width of walkways, removal of retaining walls, additional sidewalk and pedestrian crossings, and more. Learn more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/sleepy-hollow-walkway](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/sleepy-hollow-walkway).

#### TUESDAY/APRIL 23

**Student Environmental Action Showcase 2019.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) is a regional event welcoming students to amplify the youth voice in environmental problem-solving. Student presenters, green/eco teams, and classroom groups share their projects reducing waste, conserving energy, improving water quality, and preserving natural habitat in their schoolyards and communities. Visit [www.novaoutside.org/events/school-environmental-action-showcase](http://www.novaoutside.org/events/school-environmental-action-showcase) for more.

**Lighting at Hooes Road Park Public Meeting.** 7 p.m. in the West Springfield Elementary School cafeteria, 6802 Deland Drive, Springfield. The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Springfield District Supervisor's office will hold a public meeting to discuss a proposal to install lighting at Hooes Road Park. The proposal also calls for lighting the parking lot and the path leading to the fields. For more information about the meeting, call Mohamed Kadasi at 703-324-8693.

#### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

**Greater Fairfax Community Job Fair.** 1-4 p.m. at Virginia International University, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. An opportunity for employers and prospective employees throughout the region to meet, discuss job opportunities and find employment. Job-seekers are encouraged to complete the optional registration, however walk-ins are welcome. Free. Visit [www.FairfaxJobFair.com](http://www.FairfaxJobFair.com).

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 25

**Award Ceremony.** 7 p.m. at Mason District Government Office, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The Springfield-Annandale Branch of American Association of University Women will distribute awards to local high school juniors for their achievements in promoting inclusion at their schools. All are welcome. Free. Email [wchamnett@gmail.com](mailto:wchamnett@gmail.com) for more.

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## As It Is Happening



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Thankfully I woke up today (duh!) – without the crushing, incapacitating fatigue that I woke up with two weeks ago, post-my-last-immunotherapy infusion.

As I have written previously, I did not alert my oncologist to my bedridden status then or since as I have been trying not to worry that I had crossed some Rubicon-type line concerning my treatment and its side/straight-on effects. Apparently, and I will continue to believe (cling to this belief) that my inability to get out of bed two Saturdays ago was indeed an aberration rather than an actualization, of life in this new Kenny lane.

So here I sit at my desk writing away, fully dressed, teeth-brushed and clean-shaven, all by 8:15 am, pill-popping as I go.

As I recall two weeks ago, when I finally summoned the strength to extricate myself from under the covers to get dressed and attempt to walk downstairs and restart my day (I had gotten up earlier to feed our cats breakfast and give Chino his insulin shot), “The clock on the wall” (clock radio, actually), to quote George Thorogood, said 3:53 p.m. (And other than bathroom breaks, that was all I could muster in the nine hours since I woke up at 7 a.m.)

No pain, just zero energy. It was almost as if I was paralyzed.

Writing back to the present, anticipating this morning, I’ve been a bit apprehensive the last few days – fearful that when I awoke today, I would once again be fighting that terrible fatigue and considering a new reality in my cancer existence.

When my eyes popped open at 6:30 this morning, I was grateful (as my father used to say: “Any day that I wake up is a good day”) and relieved that when I raised my right arm to roll back the covers, I did so with relative normalcy; and even more relieved when I was able to swing my legs out from underneath the covers and onto the bedroom floor where I had no difficulty getting my bearings. Before too long (maybe 30 seconds or so), and after a few deep breaths, I stood up and officially began my day without any further adieu. Although I hadn’t taken any Roloids: “Oh, what a relief it is!”

Dare I say then it will be a normal day, up and at ‘em with nary a hint of fatigue in the forecast.

Rain, however, is in the forecast and given the date on the calendar: April 13, 2019, I have to face an even greater challenge than the fatigue I experienced two weeks ago: clothes shopping.

More specifically, I have to buy a suit, as well as some upgraded good-looking casual attire which my wife, Dina will approve and that Kenny’s budget will tolerate, as I’ll be attending a family wedding and rehearsal dinner beginning May 3, 2019.

One more concern: my weight. It’s not good. It’s the talking-scale-joke-will-one-of-you-please-get-off, bad. But I have no choice. Today’s the day (for availability reasons) or it will be “Good night, Irene.” Is there a tent sale going on anywhere?

You know, now that I think about it – and feel it, I may be feeling a little fatigue.

Maybe it’s not the best day to be trying on ill-fitting clothes ALL DAY. What if I don’t have the manual dexterity to be in and out of dressing rooms, up and down while in them and back and forth to the clothing racks with shoes, slacks, shirts and suits?

What if today is another day in my life – which seemingly began at birth, where I spent hours in the “Husky”/“Portly” departments at Jordan Marsh, Filene’s Basement and Kennedy’s in downtown Boston, trying to find Kenny some “school clothes” that fit, that is excruciating AGAIN? Granted, it wasn’t cancer then as it is now, but for an overweight young boy, it was torture personified and the experience imprinted me for life as a serial-clothes-shopping-hater.

Got to go. Wish me luck. I’ll need it.

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



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