

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton  
**CONNECTION**



# Full Of Pep

NEWS, PAGE 4

On Saturday, March 19, girls from the Springfield/South County Youth Club Cheerleading Program took part in an end-of-season Winter Pep Rally at Lake Braddock Secondary. Performing here are, from left, Hannah Griffin, Angela Biddison and Elena Booher. Assistant Coach Katie Linder, a senior and varsity cheerleader at South County Secondary School, provides support.

## Campaign Kick Off

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## Non-Profits On Chopping Block?

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 13

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## Herrity Goes Green To Kick-off Campaign

Republican incumbent has St. Patrick's Day theme for kick-off party.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Pat Herrity swore he would never run for public office. But the eldest son of longtime Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chairman Jack Herrity, who died in 2006, remembered something his father said to him about public service.

"He would tell me that you can't make anything happen unless you have a seat at the table," Herrity said. "Public service is in my blood. I grew up with it and the only way to get things done is to have a seat at that table. I am all about getting things done."

Herrity, who was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2007, kicked off his campaign for a second term on Wednesday, March 16, with an Irish-themed event at the Springfield Golf and Country Club. The event, which drew a crowd of about 300 constituents and Republican elected offi-

cials, included Irish performers, hundreds of green and white balloons and St. Patrick's Day decorations.

"My father always said our future success is not preordained," he told the crowd of about 300 people, including Del. Dave Albo (R-42), Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk John Frey and U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10). "So, I am asking the voters for another term

so that I can continue my work to ensure that Fairfax County remains the best place ... to live, work and play."

Herrity's father, who served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1971 to 1987, was credited with overseeing the county's boom years, and the pivotal transformation of Fairfax County from a sleepy suburb to one of the metropolitan area's

most dynamic economic hubs. Jack Herrity advocated for the construction of Interstate 66, the Dulles Toll Road and the Tysons Corner technology corridor.

In his introduction of Herrity, Wolf told

**"Public service is in my blood."**

— Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)



DONATED PHOTO

**Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) launched his campaign for a second term.**

guests Wednesday that Pat Herrity inherited many of his father's traits, including a "bulldog attitude of taking issues on. ... The apple has not fallen far from the tree."

As one of three Republicans on the 10-member board, Herrity promised to con-

tinue his efforts to give homeowners tax relief by pushing for more cuts in County Executive Anthony Griffin's proposed FY 2012 budget of \$3.3 billion.

"We've made some progress. Taxes on the average homeowner in 2011 budget were \$4,713, lower than when I took office, but to not be able to cut more than 1 percent out of a \$3.3 billion budget is just wrong," he said. "Even with all of our hard work over the past 3-1/2 years, we still have government run amok in Fairfax County."

During his speech, Herrity said transportation would continue to be one of his top priorities.

"Our residents spend far too much of their time stuck in traffic. As a transportation advocate for the last 25 years, I have pushed to make common-sense transportation solutions a county priority," he said, noting that he has helped ease congestion by supporting extended HOV hours, opening shoulder lanes and ramps on Interstate 66 and supporting Beltway HOT lanes.

Herrity also said he would continue to fight for strong neighborhoods. "There has been a lot of focus on Fairfax becoming more urban. While I believe we should urbanize in certain corridors of the county, it is our suburban neighborhoods that make

SEE HERRITY, PAGE 7

## What's in a Name?

New South County Middle School will offer plenty of choices.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Every parent of a 'tween in the Lorton area knows that Fairfax County Public Schools plans to open a new middle school — South County Middle School — in September, 2012.

But the real question is what will it be named? Most of the county's 26 middle schools are named after poets and authors.

Robert Frost and Rachel Carson are already taken. So are Carl Sandburg and Henry David Thoreau. Forget literary superstars like Mark Twain and Edgar Allen Poe. Taken.

So, how about famous literary and historic Virginians, such as Carter Braxton, Willa Cather, Westmoreland Davis or Moses Ezekial?

"In most cases the principal works with the community to name the school, select a mascot, school colors, etc. It is a fun process," said Fairfax

County School Board member Elizabeth Bradsher (Springfield). The selection of the principal is scheduled for the fall of this year.

Jane Lipp, principal of South County Secondary School (SCSS), said the selection process for the new principal involves input from a school-community interview panel, School Board members, Cluster V Assistant Superintendent Betsy Fenske, and Superintendent Jack Dale.

The school, located on 40 acres at 8700 Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton, will have approximately 1,300 students. Halley, Laurel Hill, Newington Forest and Silverbrook elementary schools are feeder schools, and Gunston Elementary School is a split feeder to South County and Hayfield secondary schools.

According to Bradsher, the two-story building is expected to have many state-of-the-art and environmentally-

SEE SOUTH COUNTY, PAGE 5

## Budget Plan Includes Cuts to Area Non-Profits

Fairfax County non-profit agencies worried programs may be on chopping block.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

A coalition of local non-profits is lobbying county officials to preserve the \$3.3 billion budget unveiled by Fairfax County Executive Anthony Griffin on Feb. 22, calling additional proposed cuts a "perfect storm" of funding disasters.

"For many of us, we're losing stimulus dollars from the federal government and facing potential cuts in the proposed federal budget, while also suffering cuts in state funding," said Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS, an organization that serves low-income residents.

"If the budget is drastically changed, it would greatly impact the work we do providing necessary human services. It would be the 'perfect storm' of events that will devastate many of our community's most vulnerable residents," said Andere.

Fairfax County's advertised budget, which reflects increased property tax revenues resulting from rising property values, would make available an additional \$30 million in discretionary spending.

Andere said devoting a portion of those funds to human service agencies would soften the impact of looming state and federal cuts.

But members of NonProfit NoVA, a coalition that advocates for the nonprofit sector in Northern Virginia, said they are worried the \$30 million in unallocated revenues would evaporate after attending the March 15 Board of Supervisors budget committee meeting.

According to Andere, who also serves on the executive board of NonProfit NoVA, the meeting had officially adjourned when members learned that the board had instructed staff to provide a list of additional program reductions that could be considered by the board as part of its budget deliberations.

In particular, supervisors discussed a possible reduction in property tax rate, and Griffin released a list of additional funding cuts on March 17.

The suggested reductions, scattered across a wide swath of county government,

SEE NON-PROFITS, PAGE 4

# Non-Profits

FROM PAGE 3

will affect many clients of non-profits, Andere said, adding that many programs could be drastically altered or shuttered completely.

“When you layer on state and federal cuts, it’s a grim-looking picture,” said Shannon Steen, executive director of Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services, an agency that helps the working poor, disabled and the elderly. “It’s because of all the uncertainty at the state and federal level that we advocated strongly for the budget that was originally presented. It was a safety net that may not be there for our clients.”

Several directors of area non-profits, including Andere, met Friday, March 18, to discuss the ramifications of diminishing funds, and to launch a public awareness campaign to preserve local funding levels.

Members have posted budget information on several agency web sites, including [www.fairfaxalliance.org](http://www.fairfaxalliance.org), asking the public to attend budget hearings and speak out against additional budget cuts. Residents can also find out information about the potential budget cuts at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy\\_2012\\_budget\\_reductions.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/fy_2012_budget_reductions.pdf).

“Further cuts are not just nipping and tucking, they would have a major impact, especially because the economic recovery is so fragile. Organizations can recover, but families can’t,” said Ann Zuvekas, chair of the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services (AHS), an organization that represents non-profit agencies, civic groups, religious congregations and other human service providers.

Zuvekas, a volunteer and retired Fairfax County homeowner, said she understands the tough decisions the Board of Supervisors faces every budget season.

“But the Board wisely rejected the same proposed cuts for Fiscal Year 2010 and 2011, when the economy was in serious trouble and when county revenue had dropped, causing a major funding shortfall,” she said. “It would be a shame to make these drastic cuts in human services now, when the local economy has improved and revenue has stabilized.”

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said the board is looking at several options as the debate on the budget unfolds, and he supports budget reductions that would reduce the tax burden on homeowners. “From my perspective, I’m sympathetic to human services, but I’m also sympathetic to our tax payers,” he said. “We need to make sure we’re focusing our resources in the most efficient way for those who can’t help themselves.”



Cheerleading Squad 11 tosses pom-poms into the air.



All-Star cheerleaders Delaney Fetzer, front, and Brooke Kincaid show their spirit. Delaney and Brooke are sixth grade students at Sangster Elementary School.

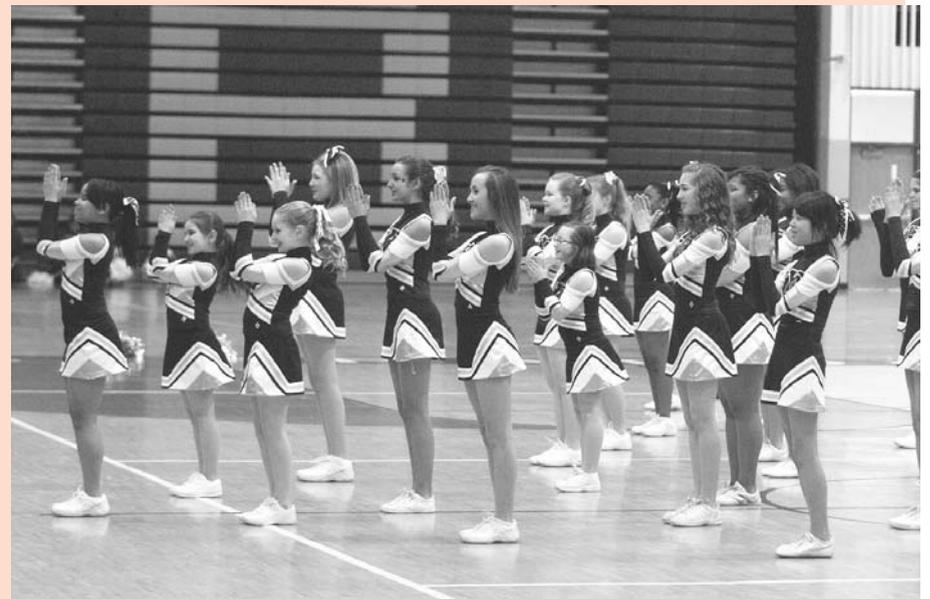
## Showing Their Spirit

### SYC cheerleaders end season with Pep Rally.

Girls from the Springfield/South County Youth Club Cheerleading Program wrapped up their season on Saturday, March 19, with a Winter Pep Rally at Lake Braddock Secondary.

At the event, Cheer Commissioner Rosemary Florez retired from the program after nine years of commitment and dedication. Eleven-year-old Delaney Fetzer, a sixth grader at Sangster Elementary, was also named SYC’s Cheerleader of the Year for 2010-11.

During its winter season, more than 180 cheerleaders from first through ninth grade took part in the program. On Saturday, each cheer squad performed a dance routine and a couple of cheers for family and friends.



All Star Cheer squad begins their routine during Saturday, March 19’s end-of-season Winter Pep Rally at Lake Braddock Secondary.



At the March 19 end-of-season Winter Pep Rally, girls from the Springfield/South County Youth Club Cheerleading Program received medals for their hard work.



Outgoing SYC Commissioner Rosemary Flores speaks to the crowd at Lake Braddock Secondary School’s gym.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

# South County Middle School

FROM PAGE 3

sound design features, including automatic temperature controls, natural and high efficiency lighting, storm water filtration systems, solar hot water systems, energy efficient and quiet mechanical systems low flow toilets and high reflective roofs. It will have 40 classrooms.

"Parents in the South County area are excited because this completes the work of several generations of parents who have advocated for schools in the South County area to respond to the needs of the many students in the area. It has been a long road for the residents," said Bradsher, who added that the school continues to create a more vital sense of place for Lorton.

"The area has gone from Lorton prison farmland to a community which is a destination for many families," Bradsher said. "This school completes the work of the communities that have worked for 10 years to bring schools to an area where at one time there were none and students were transported to Alexandria for grades seven through 12."

Once SCMS is open, South County Secondary School will revert to a high school as originally planned, and the middle school will be the only school that sends students to South County High School.

"This school community is excited about having a new middle school as it will provide additional space

and resources for our students, staff and families," said Lipp. "The middle school site will house the seventh and eighth graders and the high school will include grades nine through 12."

Neal McBride, the external affairs liaison for Newington Forest Community Association and charter member of the SCMS Solutions Group, the group that spearheaded the effort to get the new middle school off the ground, said that it is particularly important to the community that the School Board bring back the Lorton Valley area into the South County pyramid.

"Right now, our main effort is to get it open, and make sure all communities are properly represented," said McBride, who has been a Lorton resident for 30 years and will have a granddaughter, Allie Zorro, attending the new middle school. "The ultimate goal is to provide a good, solid education, and to make sure the Lorton area is a high-quality area."

FCPS staff members intend to ask the newly-formed Facilities Planning Advisory Council (FPAC) to consider the scope of an appropriate boundary planning process and plan to make a recommendation to the Fairfax County School Board in spring 2011 for any community boundary study, if needed, in late 2011 or early 2012, according to a Dec. 14, 2010 news release by FCPS.

For updates on the progress of SCMS, or to see design renderings, go to <http://www.fcps.edu/cluster5/SouthCountyMS/index.html>.

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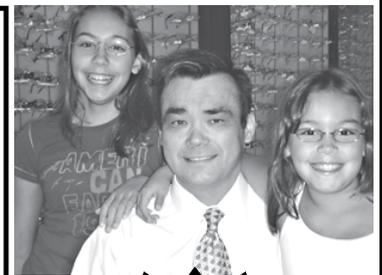
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# OPINION

## Opportunity about To Be Squandered

Once-a-decade redistricting offers a chance to do it right; no one with power seems interested.

**H**ave you seen what our political districts look like? It's as if the clown who makes balloon animals has gone mad. And it could be amusing if it didn't matter so much.

Our once-a-decade exercise in partisan hubris is about to unfold. Next week we'll likely see proposals that seek to protect Democratic seats in the Virginia Senate, Republican seats in the Virginia House of Delegates. The status quo in Fairfax County will get another 10-year term. Virginia's incumbents in Congress will get some reassuring padding, even if it means districts that look like boa constrictors that are digesting a couple of meals and have been run over by a car in one or two places.

We are not likely to see districts that best represent residents. No one with power is talking about how to draw lines that increase voter participation and citizen involvement.

Political districts should be drawn by a non-partisan commission that looks at providing communities with representation that works. What works is keeping communities of inter-

est together, so that one town or community is encompassed in some of its political districts. Each resident is represented locally by one member of Congress, a state senator, a state delegate, and then by a county board or city or town council.

The Democratically-controlled Senate and Republican-controlled House of Delegates appear to have a gentleman's agreement in place to focus on their own branch of the legislature and not interfere with each other's lines. So Democrats will gerrymander the senate lines and Republicans will gerrymander the delegate lines.

In Northern Virginia, many of these districts sprawl and crawl out like amoebas to capture a given precinct if it will help or hurt partisan balance. Instead districts should be designed for good representation, shared high school boundaries, shared land use concerns, shared traffic challenges, shared public safety concerns. It's unrealistic to think that part-time legislators will be able to master the nuances

crepancies and reactive methodology of the institutions (FCPS and the School Board) behind the two initiatives (Clifton Elementary closure and 21-schools SW boundary changes).

The School Board voted to close the only school in an area of approximately 40 square miles in Southwestern Fairfax. This left 366 students to be re-located. Bear in mind that the School Board has been harping incessantly for at least the last year about the need to

**LETTERS** solve overcrowding issues located in more central and northeastern, higher density areas of the county. Just last April, the School Board approved a panel of parent-teacher organizations to examine enrollment at 21 schools to address overcrowding at Annandale High School and Poe Middle School, as well as a potential new elementary school. Then last fall, the board started the Southwestern Boundary Community Meetings to figure out how to relieve elementary school overcrowding across 21 schools with an added strain, re-locate 366 students. Would you all be so kind to tell me how closing a school in an area not affected by overcrowding helps solve overcrowding in the areas of most urgency?

In the Feb. 7 hearing, there may not have been enough people at first glance. But it cannot be underscored enough that there were

11 PTA presidents attending who provided testimony in representation of their associations. They represent more than half of the affected residents and 17,500 students in 21 schools encompassed by the study. It cannot be argued that there's apathy. These 11 parent-teacher associations have also issued a request for the study to be halted until all their questions are answered.

FCPS and the School Board presented three options for evaluation, then added a fourth and asked for input on a modified fourth which would make it a fifth option.

Only 72 hours before the vote they are scrambling to re-measure program capacities and building capacities in at least one school. The school in question appeared with an 835-design capacity, had at least four different capacity numbers when considering CIP numbers and appeared with a 1,016-design capacity and 734 program capacity on February 2011. Transportation questions remain un-answered. Transferring students from brick & mortar schools to cramped trailers in other schools is unacceptable.

So please draw your own conclusions about the efficacy of FCPS and the current slate of School Board to solve our school systems problems. As for me, I sincerely hope that the lack of attendance is not veiled cynicism, a reflection of giving up on elected officials

and needs that spread out across three or more jurisdictions, as some delegate districts do.

Delegate districts in particular are the smallest unit of representation for many people, with about 80,000 residents to be included in the newly drawn districts. These districts can and should focus compactly on communities.

Meanwhile, in Fairfax County local government, the likely outcome of redistricting will be the status quo, with nine supervisor districts, even though Fairfax County's population has grown by more than 10 percent and so could easily support another district. An additional district would allow for elected officials, both supervisors and school board members, to focus on a smaller number of residents, roads, schools and issues. Fairfax should also consider adding a couple of at-large seats in the future to balance the power of a single supervisor.

Arlington's county board is elected entirely at-large, but should consider changing to have some political districts that could broaden representation for minorities — ethnic minorities, economic minorities and political minorities.

No one actually making decisions seems to be interested in creating districts that best represent the residents of the districts.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

and taxpayer funded agencies that have their own agenda.

**Lin-Dai Kendall**  
Fairfax Station

## Brain Injury Recovery

To the Editor:

Our hearts go out to all touched by the tragic shooting of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.). This incident raises many issues: gun control, access to public officials, effectively identifying mental stability, etc. But the one thing that hits home for everyone is that anytime, anywhere anyone may suffer a brain injury. Generally, the recovery process is long and challenging and measured over years. It's tough not just on the patient, but also on their friends and family. To make matters worse, insurance typically only covers a small portion of the services needed for the patient's full recovery.

When a brain injury patient has trouble with regaining language skills (speech, writing, understanding the written or spoken word), the Vienna-based nonprofit organization the Stroke Comeback Center [See more at [www.strokecomebackcenter.org](http://www.strokecomebackcenter.org)] may be a great resource for patients and their families.

**Sheri Singer**  
Fairfax

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# NEWS

## Herrity

FROM PAGE 3

Fairfax County great.”  
Judy Kirk, a hostess at Milano’s Restaurant in Springfield for nine years, said she will support Herrity this fall. “I think he’s very ethical. When you ask him a question, he gives you direct answers. He’s a fine citizen, and he has represented the citizens here very well,” Kirk said.

Although several candidates are hovering to challenge Herrity in the general election, no Democrat has officially declared to run against the Republican incumbent, according to Rex Simmons, Fairfax County Democratic Committee Chairman.

“We don’t even know what the districts will look like,” Simmons said. If Democrats do have two or more viable candidates, a primary is likely and Democratic voters can select their candidate on Aug. 23.

Liz Bradsher, current member of Fairfax county School Board and a previously Republican-endorsed candidate, applied to join the Democratic Party in the Springfield District. She said she is still mulling over whether to enter the race.

“I’m still uncertain as to whether I will run as a Democrat, or whether I will challenge Mr. Herrity. I’m in the process of fact-finding and reviewing the two-party system,” she said on Monday.

“I really think that people want someone who will support them and work for them and not just say something and not follow through. That means you must get along with those you work with, so you can help your constituents. And you must be able to work for the greater good and not respond to a small, vocal minority,” said Bradsher.

Simmons added that Springfield District residents deserve a full-time representative.

“No sooner than Pat Herrity had been elected in 2007, he immediately declared he was running for another office, and when he lost his bid to be chairman of the Fairfax County Board to Sharon Bulova (D), he said he would be running for another office. I don’t know how he can look the voters of Springfield in the eye, and say he would like to be their supervisor for four more years,” Simmons said.

“All I can say is that I’ve been able to get a lot done in 3-1/2 years, and I look forward to another four years serving the citizens of the Springfield District and Fairfax County,” Herrity said.

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### Summer Web Internships Available

Educational internships available for enthusiastic college students to join our new website launch team. This is an exciting opportunity to help develop content and sections for our new website, due to launch in late spring. Throughout the summer, we’ll be adding specifics to our entertainment and events sections, creating special projects and content, and exploring new media. Internships are unpaid, but offer an unusual chance to work with award-winning editors while developing first-rate online presence. Internships require a commitment of at least six weeks, 16-40 hours a week. Please e-mail a statement of interest and a resume to [internship@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:internship@connectionnewspapers.com).



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**Directions to Sun Design:** From I-66 East take the Fairfax County Pkwy/VA-7100 exit - Exit 55A towards Springfield. Left on Burke Centre Pkwy. After the second light, make your first left. Follow the road behind the Kohl’s department store. We are located in the offices directly in front of you at: 5795B Burke Centre Parkway, Burke, VA



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# Buy a Pretty Dress, Help Save a Life

**Fashion show will raise money for childhood cancer research.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**n upcoming, charity fashion show in Centreville is called Runway for Another Day for one simple reason.

“All the money we raise from the runway event will hopefully help a child live to see another day,” said event organizer Alyson Pollard.

All proceeds go to Band of Parents, whose children have a cancer called neuroblastoma, and will help fund research and treatments for this currently incurable disease. For 1998 Robinson Secondary grad Pollard, who now lives in Little Rocky Run, it’s also a way to help her brother, Nick Franca, 21, who’s been battling it since 2005.

Besides that, she added, the fashion show promises to be exciting and entertaining. “It’s going to be a truly magical afternoon, perfect for a mother-daughter day out,” said Pollard. “It’s full of fashion and fun, and the icing on the cake is that it’s for such a great cause.”

Runway for Another Day is slated for Sunday, April 3, from 2-6 p.m., at the Chantilly Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road. There, women and teens will have a chance to buy everything from prom gowns to semi-formal and everyday dresses at bargain prices. Tickets are \$25, presale only, and space is limited; call Pollard at 703-946-3416.

The runway show will feature some 35 of the top evening gowns and prom dresses “because they’re the most entertaining to look at,” said Pollard. “Then they’ll be sold, silent-auction style.”

Overall, though, about 150 dresses will be on display and available for purchase. They’re divided evenly between formal wear and all-occasion dresses. Several classic, little black dresses will sell for \$30, and everyday dresses and sundresses for teens and adults will range from \$25-\$30; these will be on clothing racks throughout the room.

“Ann’s Boutique in Burke Centre donated six, brand-new, designer dresses that average \$300 apiece,” said Pollard. “They’re beautiful dresses and will be on mannequins and available for \$100. Ann’s was amazing to do this for us. They were very helpful,



PHOTO BY HAYAN CRONIN

**Alyson Pollard, whose brother Nick Franca is currently battling neuroblastoma, poses with some of the nearly 150 dresses that will be available for purchase at the Runway for Another Day event.**

willing and supportive of the event.”

“Several sororities at GMU also donated dresses because they’re always having spring and fall formals,” said Pollard. “And we’d be thrilled if people want to make further donations above the asking price. Everything’s tax-deductible because Band of Parents is a nonprofit.”

The models will be GMU and Robinson Secondary students, plus Franca’s girlfriend, Kelly Embley. “We’ll even have some girls modeling who are current survivors of neuroblastoma,” said Pollard. Corsages for the survivors will be provided by A Flower Blooms in Clifton, and The Hair Garage of Clifton is doing the models’ hair.

Pollard was raised in the Town of Clifton and, as a student at Robinson, she helped plan her school’s prom, so she’s excited to be involved with prom gowns again. “If any gowns are left over, I’ll try to offer them to local high-school girls who may otherwise not be able to afford them,” she said.

Besides the fashion show, the day’s fun will also include surprise guests, possibly a sports figure and a musician, refreshments and a raffle of goodie baskets containing

items such as spa packages, prom-night limo deals, plus hair and makeup packages.

Forget Me Not Cakes of Gainesville is providing cupcakes, and four baskets of gift items will be raffled off. Three baskets will be prom-themed and will contain goodies such as Vera Bradley bags, plus gift certificates for limousine rides, spa treatments, hair appointments and makeup. The fourth basket will feature high-end electronics.

In addition, vendors will be on hand with a dazzling array of hot fashion trends and accessories. Clothing, jewelry and makeup vendors will display and sell their wares and will then donate a portion of their profits from that day’s sales or orders to Band of Parents.

Some limousine companies will offer information about their services and will bring their limousines to the event for people to tour. And Bonefish Grill in Greenbriar has provided gift cards for the “swag bags” each attendee will receive.

Sponsoring Runway for Another Day are Village TimeSaver of Clifton, CleanOffice Inc. of Chantilly, Ann’s Boutique of Burke, and Deb Gorham of Long & Foster, Real-

tors. More sponsors are needed, though. Those interested should e-mail Pollard at [runwayforanotherday@gmail.com](mailto:runwayforanotherday@gmail.com).

Pollard’s sister Megan is helping design and coordinate the event. The whole thing is dedicated to Chantilly’s Rachel D’Andrea, who succumbed to neuroblastoma in January at age 3, and they want to raise \$10,000 for the cause, in her name. Those unable to attend, but wishing to donate a dress or money to the cause should phone Alyson Pollard.

“When families are going through the nightmare of caring for a child with cancer, people ask them, ‘What can we do?’” she said. “Sometimes the answer is a meal, sometimes it is a shoulder to cry on. But what if we could offer these families, my own included, hope — hope for a cure and cancer-free days?”

Therefore, she wants a good turnout for the fashion show for two reasons. “We got way more dresses than we ever anticipated, and we want to offer them to people,” said Pollard. “At the same time, the more people we have, the more buyers and the more money we’ll raise for the charity.”

**“We got way more dresses than we ever anticipated, and we want to offer them to people.”**

— Alyson Pollard

**“Several sororities at GMU also donated dresses because they’re always having spring and fall formals.”**

— Alyson Pollard

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## THURSDAY/MARCH 24

**The Drew Kennerley Magic Show.** 4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Kennerley is an experienced 15-year-old magician who performs comedic magic shows for children. Tickets distributed 30 minutes before program begins. Age 6-10. 703-249-1520.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 25

**Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

**"Design for Murder."** 8 p.m. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. A murder mystery by George Batson. Tickets at the door \$15 adults, \$12 youth and seniors. 703-660-2611 or www.acctonline.org.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 26

**Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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**VITA Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49,000. 703-451-8055.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 27

**"Design for Murder."** 2 p.m. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. A murder mystery by George Batson. Tickets at the door \$15 adults, \$12 youth and seniors. 703-660-2611 or www.acctonline.org.

## MONDAY/MARCH 28

**Annual Meeting of the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.** 7:30 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Historical interpreter Jon Vrana provides a view into the life of Silas Burke in Antebellum Fairfax County, and discusses Silas' assorted occupations, including farmer/planter, grist and lumber mill owner/operator, and owner of a house of public entertainment. Free and open to the public. www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 29

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Adults practice and improve their English. 703-451-8055.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

**Learn About Turtles.** 4:30 p.m. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Turtles are some of the most popular wildlife species found around the nature center. Meet some up close and see others out in the wild. For ages 3-6. \$4 per child. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or 703-222-4664.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 31

**"Design for Murder."** 7 p.m. Aldersgate United

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10



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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. A murder mystery by George Batson. This performance is a dinner show. Tickets are available online, \$30 adults, \$25 youth, and must be purchased online before March 25. 703-660-2611 or [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org).

## FRIDAY/APRIL 1

**The Virginia Opera: Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

**"Design for Murder."** 8 p.m. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. A murder mystery by George Batson. Tickets at the door \$15 adults, \$12 youth and seniors. 703-660-2611 or [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org).

## Cinematic Tourist Series:

**Japanese Film & Animation.** 7:30 p.m. Gallery W-16, Second Floor, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A screening of the film classic "Rashomon," in Japanese with subtitles. \$5-\$7. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 2

**"Design for Murder."** 8 p.m. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. A murder mystery by George Batson. Tickets at the door \$15 adults, \$12 youth and seniors. 703-660-2611

## Cinematic Tourist Series:

**Japanese Film & Animation.** 7:30 p.m. Gallery W-16, Second Floor, Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton.

[www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 3

**The Virginia Opera: Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."** 2:30 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

**"Design for Murder."** 2 p.m. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. A murder mystery by George Batson. Tickets at the door \$15 adults, \$12 youth and seniors. 703-660-2611 or [www.acctonline.org](http://www.acctonline.org).

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

**American Red Cross Blood Drive.** 1-7 p.m. Silverbrook Elementary School Gym, 9350 CrossPoint Drive, Fairfax Station. Register at [FNA5810@cox.net](mailto:FNA5810@cox.net) or 703-690-5810.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 9

**Volunteers For the 23rd Annual Watershed Clean-Up.** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Clean the park and surrounding roadways. All ages welcome. Meet at the marina to sign in and receive an assignment. Dress for the weather and wear clothes and sturdy shoes that can get muddy. To be held rain or shine. 703-569-0285 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink).

**2nd Saturday Art Walk.** 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

**Russian National Ballet Theatre: "Romeo and Juliet."** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With choreography by Petipa and music by Tchaikovsky. Based on Shakespeare's classic tale of star-crossed lovers and family hatreds. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$27-\$54. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

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Sponsored by the City of Fairfax, Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts, the Fairfax Art League and the Adam Lister Gallery

Artists advance registration is required by Friday, March 25, 2011, and may be done by mail or online. Registration is currently open.

Artists Eligibility: Professional and amateur, at least 18 yrs of age.

You may download the form and see artist's requirements at [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) or [www.fairfaxspotlight.org](http://www.fairfaxspotlight.org). You may also call 703.352.ARTS.



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# Invitation

For parents whose children are entering  
Kindergarten for the 2011/12 School Year

Kiddie Country Developmental Learning Center, 9601 Old Keene Mill Road, will be presenting an overview to assist those parents who are seeking a high quality educational kindergarten experience for their child(ren) on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

This presentation will be conducted by Karen Duffy, Curriculum Specialist and Leigh Ann Kurz, Virginia Licensed Kindergarten teacher. Together Ms. Duffy and Ms. Kurz have a total of fifty-five years of teaching experience between them and are eager to talk with you and answer any questions you may have.

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South County's Julia Kastner is one of two returning starters back from last year's Stallions' team which went to the region semifinals.

## New Look for Stallion Softball

Coach Gary Dillow hopes to carry on Stallions' winning tradition.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

The 2011 South County Stallions' girl's softball team has a much different look than the dominating teams from recent seasons. A year ago, a veteran South County squad went 25-1, captured a fourth straight Patriot District title, and went as far as the Northern Region tournament semifinals before seeing its season end with a 3-0 loss to Robinson.

Last spring's team was coached by Al Thompson, who over five years as head coach took the Stallions from a 2-13 team back in 2006 to a perennial region contender. Two years ago, in 2009, South County captured the region crown and went all the way to the state AAA semifinals.

Gary Dillow, a longtime South County assistant coach under Thompson, was named the new head coach after Thompson stepped down following last season.

"Coach Thompson instituted such a winning attitude here at South County that we are working as hard as we can to continue that tradition," said Dillow.

Dillow takes over a program that graduated seven players from last year's region semifinalist squad. One of those graduated players, Chelsey Dunham, was one of the top pitchers in the state and a dominating district and region force over the past several seasons.

A number of younger, less experienced players are a part of the South County roster this spring.

"We are very young this year, with six freshmen on the team and only two players with any extended varsity experience," said Dillow, beginning his first season as the program's head coach. "I think we have a chance to be a good team by the end of the regular

season, and can hopefully carry that into the district tournament and compete strongly for our fifth straight district title."

The season got off to a nice start for South County, which won at Robinson, 8-3, Friday night, March 18, in its season opener.

South County, going into the Robinson game, had tried twice unsuccessfully to play a scrimmage game at Tuscarora High, a new school in Loudoun County. Poor weather had resulted in both practice game attempts being called off. So Dillow, going into the opener with the Rams, was unsure of what he would see from the new-look Stallions since he had not seen them in a game setting.

"The Robinson game was a pleasant surprise," he said. "Our scheduled scrimmage has been cancelled twice because of rain, so this was our first action of any kind. We hit the ball really well."

**OVERALL, THE STALLIONS** knocked around 11 hits in the victory. Julia Kastner, a senior outfielder, hit a leadoff homerun and finished with two hits.

"That really jump-started our offense," said Dillow, of Kastner's homer.

Alex Brown, a senior second baseman, had three hits in the game with two RBI's.

Both Kastner, who is set to play next school year at Temple University in Philadelphia, and Brown are South County's lone two starters back from last year.

"Those two will be key this season with their experience and leadership," said Dillow.

The coach said four to five freshmen players will be in the team's starting line-up on a regular basis.

"As they get up to speed with the varsity game, I think we have a chance for a successful season," said Dillow, of the progression he hopes to see of his ninth graders.

On the mound in the Robinson win, freshman Rebecca Martin and junior Kyra Ketch both pitched well. Martin went three innings as the starter before Ketch pitched the fourth through sixth innings. Martin came back to pitch in the seventh and final inning. Combined, the duo allowed just four hits. The two Stallion hurlers were backed by a defense that turned a pair of double plays.

## Robinson Baseball Roughed Up Early

After beating Annandale, Rams fall to West Springfield, Woodson.

After back-to-back poor outings by his pitching staff, Robinson head baseball coach Jeff Ferrell kept things positive and showed a sense of humor.

"We still expect to compete for a district title," Ferrell said on Saturday after the Rams were run-ruled by defending state champion West Springfield. "Right now, we're expecting a starting pitcher to get to the second inning."

After defeating Annandale, 4-3, in the season opener on March 16, Robinson lost to Woodson, 9-2, on March 18 and West Springfield, 14-2, in five innings on March 19. Against West Springfield, The Rams' starting pitcher walked the first three batters and allowed four earned runs. He was pulled after throwing a first-pitch ball to the fifth batter of the game, having not recorded an out.

While being outscored 23-4 by Woodson and West Springfield, last season's Northern Region state playoff representatives, Ferrell said he used his entire pitching staff, other than ace Denis Mikush.

"We did have a chance to throw all our pitchers to find out who can do what," Ferrell said. "We didn't throw our No. 1 these two days, but I think we're still going to be pretty good with him on the mound."

Mikush is a right-hander who throws in the mid-80s with a quality curve ball, Ferrell said. Dan Cochrane and Connor Graber have emerged as the top candidates to fill the No. 2 and No. 3 starter roles.

Ferrell also said he expects designated hitter Alex Torres, second baseman Joe Priftis and outfielder Jared Velasquez to be key contributors

Robinson will host Kettle Run on March 26, at 12 p.m.

— JON ROETMAN

## Robinson Boys Tennis Returns 3 Starters

The Robinson boys tennis team begins the season with three returning starters. Senior Tim Ferrell moves into the top singles slot after playing No. 2 last season. Ferrell finished third in the district tournament last year. Also a senior, Michael Cable moves up from the No. 5 spot to play No. 2. The remaining returner, David Smiley, another senior, is starting for the third consecutive year at No. 4. Freshman Aaron Christian has moved up the ladder to take the No. 3 singles position. Senior Dillon Meyer is in the No. 5 position, followed by sophomore Jacob Schreiman. Junior Amit Gupta and sophomore Brian Bui are also close on the ladder and will both get their share of playing time.

At this time, the only set doubles team is Ferrell and Cable at No. 1. There are a number of players under consideration for the remaining doubles positions.

The team has already scrimmaged two of the regional powerhouses. The defending regional champion, Thomas Jefferson, has simply reloaded from last year and defeated the Rams, 7-2, although a number of matches were close. Dillon Meyer at No. 5 was the only singles winner. Robinson traveled to Patriot District champion and rival, Lake Braddock. Seniors Cable, Smiley, and Meyer won their singles matches. Christian and Gupta hung on for a tough win at No. 3 doubles. Although the Rams lost, 5-4, it was a good effort and sets the mark where the team wants to go this season.

Robinson's home opener is on March 24, at 4 p.m., against Oakton.

— ROBINSON HEAD COACH PAUL FISHER

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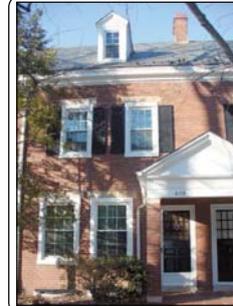
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