

Alex Nicopoulos
and Doug Klain as
Dolly and Horace
in Fairfax High's
musical, "Hello,
Dolly."

'A Sweet Story From a Simpler Time'

NEWS, PAGE 10

Fairfax County Budget
Reflects 'Increasing Needs,
Decreasing Revenues'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Collecting for
Those in Need

NEWS, PAGE 9

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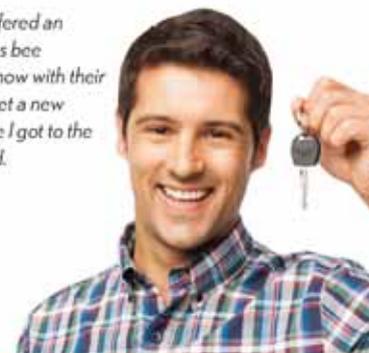
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Budget Reflects 'Increasing Needs, Decreasing Revenues'

Supervisors approve one-cent increase in property tax rate.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

By a 9-1 vote, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a one-cent increase in the property tax rate during its FY2014 budget mark-up session on Tuesday, April 23, which means the average homeowner will pay about \$216 more next fiscal year.

The tax rate increase equals \$20.6 million in additional revenue for Fairfax County.

THE MARKED-UP BUDGET includes a real estate tax rate of \$1.085 per \$100 of assessed value, a one-cent increase from the \$1.075 rate in FY 2013. The increase is less than the

two-cent increase proposed by County Executive Edward Long on Feb. 26.

"This budget is a responsible fiscal plan that reflects our current difficult economic situation," said Fairfax County BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). "It helps to restore structural balance as we continue to struggle with increasing needs, decreasing revenues, and the impacts of sequestration and economic uncertainty."

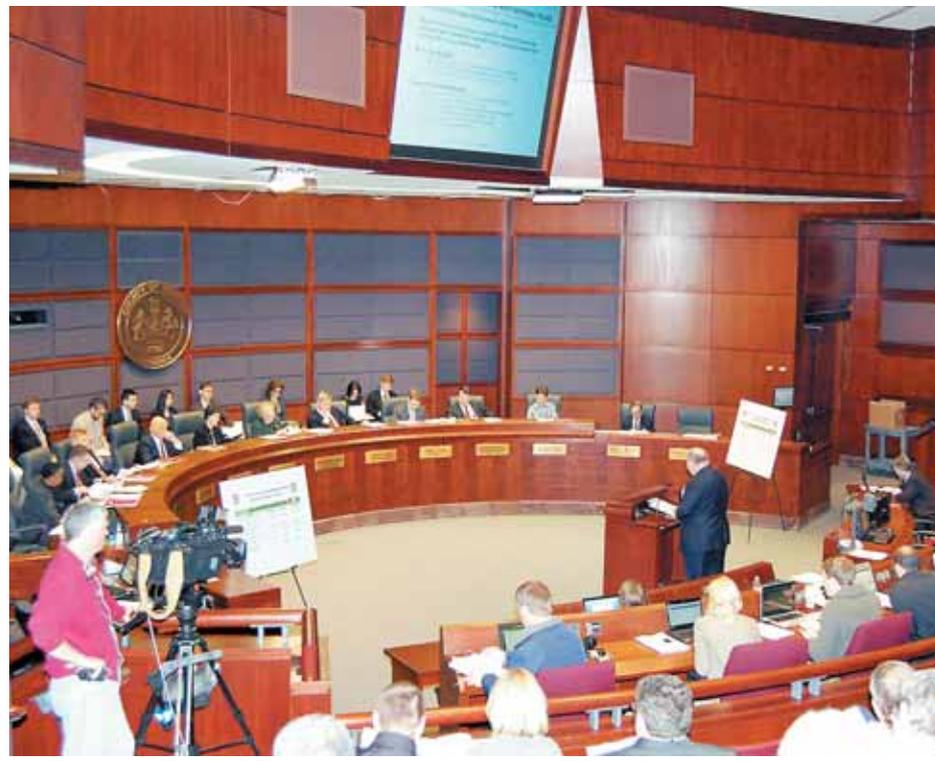
Braddock Supervisor John Cook joined his

colleagues in supporting the "compromise" budget, the first time the Republican has voted for the budget since 2010.

"It was a tough vote. There are no good, simple answers to the position the county is in. We need economic growth to keep what we have and when it stalls out, that's a problem," Cook said after the vote Tuesday.

Cook strongly criticized the Federal Government's inaction, and noted the impact that had on the Fairfax County budget.

"We should have had an 8 percent growth in commercial real estate this year. Instead we had 0 percent. We



Media and the public attend the first FY2014 budget presentation by County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. on Feb. 26.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

"We as a board spend a lot of time talking about helping people in need, I can only say that when it came time to tax them, they were sadly forgotten."

—Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield)



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova



For the first time since 2010, Braddock Supervisor John Cook voted to approve the budget.



Springfield Supervisor Pat Herry was the lone dissenter in the boards 9-1 vote for the FY2014 budget.

"Had I voted no, the final rate would have been higher."
—Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

could have done better, adding that the one-penny increase translates into a 4.5 percent increase on the average homeowner. He noted that increased assessments for townhouse and condo owners mean those residents will see a \$700 increase in their tax bills.

"For the first time in recent memory, our citizens are seeing significant tax increases at all three levels of government," Herry said. "Our furloughed residents do not have the option of raising revenue, they must make difficult cuts in their family's budgets and that is what we should be doing."

Herry said that many Fairfax County homeowners are struggling as they try to navigate an uncertain future.

"I am disappointed that yet again we have balanced the budget on the backs of our homeowners," Herry said. "We as a board spend a lot of time talking about helping people in need, I can only say that when it came time to tax them, they were sadly forgotten."

Cook said he advocated to keep the tax rate at FY2013 levels, but decided that he could be more effective working with his colleagues rather than simply voting no on any proposed tax increase.

"Had I voted no, the final rate would have been higher," Cook said. "By being involved, I was able to successfully exert some leverage on the board to help get the final rate reduced by one penny. Despite some misgivings, I believe this budget is a difficult compromise in a difficult year. That is why I supported it."

IN THE BUDGET, the board reaffirmed its commitment to work with employee groups to develop and refine an overall pay structure that invests in our workforce and helps in recruiting and retaining high quality employees.

"Our employees have continued to provide quality services to our residents with professionalism and dedication, even in the face of pay freezes and tough economic times," Bulova said. "Their efforts have not gone unnoticed by this body. The creation of a fair and sustainable compensation package for implementation in FY 2015 is a critical element in the long-term stability of the county workforce."

The Board of Supervisors will adopt the FY2014 Budget on April 30. The FY2014 Budget Mark-up as well as other background materials is posted at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/.

Highlights of the package include:

- ❖ Increases the Real Estate Tax Rate by one cent, from the current \$1.075 to \$1.085 rather, than the advertised two cent increase;
- ❖ Increases property taxes by approximately \$216 on the average household;
- ❖ Closes a projected budget shortfall of \$169 million;
- ❖ Includes \$20.52 million in county agency reductions;
- ❖ Creates an \$8.1 million reserve to address the impact of sequestration and federal cuts;
- ❖ Transfers to Fairfax County Public Schools total \$1.89 billion or 52.7 percent of total county disbursements. The 2 percent increase is less than the school board's budget request, but provides funds to address their projected increase in the student population;
- ❖ Provides no increase in compensation for county employees, with the exception of longevity step increases included in the advertised budget;
- ❖ In addition, the total number of county staff positions will be reduced by 41, which includes the elimination of 83 positions, offset by 42 new positions.

wouldn't be in this circumstance if that growth had occurred. The commercial drop isn't because our businesses aren't ready to do business, it's because they are waiting for the Federal Government to do something," Cook said. "It is a bipartisan failure of the White House and Congress, of Democrats and Republicans."

Cook called the Fairfax County budget a

"true compromise."

"Not one person on the board got everything he or she wanted. In tough economic times it's important for us all to come together and craft a budget together. That's what we did this year and for that reason I voted for it."

But Supervisor Pat Herry, one of three Republicans on the board, said the board

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Sean Rizzo

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO BRING A THIRD PARTY TO YOUR APPOINTMENT.

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

City of Fairfax police participated in a Police Unity Tour fundraiser on Tuesday, April 16, at Coyote Grille in Centreville. Ruffled off was this Washington Capitals jersey. Holding banner (back row, from left) are City of Fairfax Police Officers Robert Mignon (K-9) and Jay Tolan (patrol). (Front row, from left) are Kristine Castro, Coyote Grille; federal agent Kevin Whalen; U.S. Park Police Officer Lisa Marie Weisbaum; and Randall Henderson, Coyote Grille.

Raising Money for Police Unity Tour

The Police Unity Tour (PUT) is a 230-mile bike ride, May 10-12, and City of Fairfax police officers ride with Fairfax County's PUT Chapter IV. The event raises money and awareness for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial fund and the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, D.C., honoring and remembering officers who've died in the line of duty.

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Hot Exhaust Causes \$231,500 House Fire

A house fire April 10 in the Fairfax Center area caused an estimated \$231,500 worth of damage. Fairfax County fire officials say it began accidentally when the hot exhaust of a riding lawn tractor ignited nearby dry ground cover. Flames then quickly spread, catching the home's siding on fire, as well. The single, adult male occupant was

home when the fire broke out and escaped unharmed, but he was displaced by the incident. In addition, three firefighters received non-life-threatening injuries battling the blaze, and one was flown to the Washington Hospital Burn Center for treatment. Firefighters responded that afternoon, around 12:35 p.m., to a single-family home at 5105 Pheasant Ridge Road. Upon arrival,

firefighters encountered heavy smoke and fire coming from the garage and rear of the two-story structure. They conducted an aggressive exterior and interior attack, bringing the blaze under control in approximately 45 minutes. Firefighters also acted quickly to contain the outside brush fire that was rapidly moving to trees and other nearby homes. The incident commander struck a second alarm

and another special alarm to ensure the protection of these other homes. Fire officials say the garage posed a significant hazard to firefighters because of the storage of gasoline and vehicles in and near the garage. The home also contained several combustible items that hampered firefighting efforts.

—BONNIE HOBBS

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New Superintendent Named

Karen Garza selected as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.

The Fairfax County School Board unanimously approved educator Karen Garza of Texas to be the next superintendent of the 181,000 student district at its April 18 school board meeting.

For the past four years, Garza has been the superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. She will succeed retiring Superintendent Jack Dale on July 1, 2013. Her four-year contract runs through June 30, 2017, and she will earn \$265,000 in her first year.

"I'm thrilled that we have been able to finalize the appointment and contractual arrangement with Dr. Garza," said Ilyong Moon, Fairfax County School Board chairman. Moon said several school board members visited Lubbock early last week and "all of us came away extremely impressed with the community's observations regarding Dr. Garza's tenure as its superintendent."

"I could not be more pleased with the outcome of our extensive search process for a new superintendent," said school board member Ryan McElveen (at-large.) McElveen said one of the primary characteristics the community hoped to see in a new superintendent was the willingness to engage with the community.



Garza flew to Fairfax last Thursday to accept the appointment in person, and toured several schools on Friday, meeting with teachers, students and administrators.

"I am very humbled and excited to be selected by this board," she said. "It is truly an honor and a privilege to join such a renowned school system." Garza said she will be "responsive and accountable" to all FCPS stakeholders and will support efforts already underway to provide FCPS students a world-class education.

"As superintendent, I plan to be very visible. The best part of my day will be when I'm in schools to be with children and to better understand the needs of our schools," she said.

Prior to her role in Lubbock, Garza served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country. As chief academic officer, the district's second position to the superintendent, Garza was responsible for both instruction and facilities for more than 200,000 students.

"She comes to Fairfax County with a deep commitment to openness and engagement and is eager to work collaboratively in the best interest of all students," Moon said.

The school board will begin planning a series of transition activities and public meetings for Dr. Garza before she begins her tenure as FCPS superintendent on July 1.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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OPINION

Connection Guide to Parks Wins 'Best in Show'

Investigative reporting, in depth coverage, education writing, photography, art, design, sports, garner Virginia Press Association honors.

The Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association, with winners announced on Saturday, April 20, in Norfolk.

The Connection project, *Insiders Guide to the Parks of Fairfax County*, published in our *Newcomers and Community Guides*, won a top honor of Best in Show for Art. The project also won first place for informational graphics. Spearheaded and researched by Jean Card, who also designed the pages, with photography by Craig Sterbutzel and map design by Laurence Foong, *Insiders Guide to the Parks* led judges to say: "This is chock-full of information. It probably leaves readers with no unanswered questions. Colors and typography work well together. The down-page photo and text wrap features are nice touches."

A multi-part series on immigration spearheaded by Victoria Ross won first place for in-depth or investigative writing. The Connection devoted multiple pages in multiple editions for multiple weeks to exhaustive reporting on immigration. "This entry clearly stood out above the rest in this category," said judges of Ross's work. "The author portrayed an excellent mix of data and human stories in covering all of the facets of this topic. It was obvious she spent a great deal of time working on this in-depth series. This was extremely comprehensive, well rounded and objective. This was not just reports, numbers and data but a terrific compilation of human stories, personal experiences, challenges and a great deal of hope." See the entire immigration package at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/.

Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three awards for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division, one circulation category above the Connection papers. Nicholas Horrock won first place, In-depth or investigative reporting, for a multi-part series on Potomac Yard. "Great reporting job and extremely thorough," said judges.

Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet, won second place also for In-depth or investigative reporting for *Guns From the South*. Michael Lee Pope, won third place in the same category, for *Looking Behind the Numbers*.

Kenneth Lourie won first place for Column Writing. Judge's comment: "An exceptionally friendly, down-home writing style. The best of the group without a doubt."

Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, first place, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics.

Nikki Cheshire, an intern for the Great Falls Connection, garnered a first place award for her dramatic breaking news photo, a helicopter rescue at Great Falls Park. See the award winning photo at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for public safety writing in the Centre View and sec-

ond place for public safety writing in the Fairfax Connection. Judges said: "Although the cases featured in these entries were sensational, which made them interesting in and of themselves, the writer maintained the readers' interest by her excellent storytelling ability. The stories not only conveyed facts but also emotion. The coverage was comprehensive and thorough with no questions left unanswered."

Alex McVeigh won first place for Education Writing, first published in the Oak Hill-Herndon Connection.

Photographer Deb Cobb won first place for an online slide show of coverage of daily patrols on the water in the Mount Vernon Gazette. See it at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/galleries and search for Daily Marine Patrols. Cobb also won first place for general news photo for her photo of "Freezin' for a Reason," the polar bear plunge into Lake Anne.

Mike Pope won first place for breaking news for coverage of "New Leadership at Gunston Hall."

Pope also won third place for continuing coverage for "Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening" in the Mount Vernon Gazette, and third place for Mount Vernon Health, Science and Environmental Writing Portfolio.

The staff of Great Falls Connection won second place for overall excellence (general makeup). Judges said: "Although the tabloid format and general design has a 'features' feel, this is a beautiful paper. The text, use of color and section delineation makes it very easy to read and follow both news and features. All cover selections draw you in."

Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story for Memorial Day. Judge's comment: "A variety of great photos neatly presented helps tell the story of this important day."

Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo Santiago Valdez. Judge's comment: "Great Exposure."

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing. Judge's comment: "Think you can't say much in two words? This entry disproves that. I particularly like 'Bovine Intervention' with the subhead 'Del Ray's Holy Cow, ACT partner for local charities."

Louise Krafft won second place for picture story or essay for her coverage of the Mount Vernon High School graduation.

Jean Card won second place for page design in the Mount Vernon Gazette.

The Mount Vernon Gazette won second place for special section for the August *Insiders Edition*, *Community and Newcomers Guide*; and third place for special edition for the *Children's Gazette*.

Mary Kimm won third place, editorial writing, for a package of education editorials.

Find all of the award-winning coverage at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, under Awards.

AWARD WINNERS

SPECIAL AWARD: BEST IN SHOW, NON-DAILY ARTWORK

❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County.

FIRST PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Victoria Ross, Springfield Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting, Immigration
- ❖ Nicholas Horrock, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Potomac Yard
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County
- ❖ Nikki Cheshire, Great Falls Connection: Breaking News Photo, Rescue at Great Falls
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Mount Vernon Gazette: Online Slideshow, Daily Patrols Take to the Water
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Reston Connection: General news photo, Freezin' for a Reason
- ❖ Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Arlington Connection: Column Writing
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection: Education Writing, The Human Element of Learning
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection: Multimedia News Report, Secret Police
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Business and Financial Writing
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Breaking News Writing

SECOND PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Guns From the South
- ❖ Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Page Design
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Fairfax Connection: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette: Picture Story or Essay, Mount Vernon Graduation 2012
- ❖ Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story, Memorial Day
- ❖ Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo, Santiago Valdez
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Column Writing
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions: Insider's Guide.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll and Geovani Flores, Great Falls Connection: General Makeup.

THIRD PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting: Looking Behind the Numbers
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Page Design
- ❖ Laurence Foong, The Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing; five editorials about education
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Arlington Connection: Sports Feature Photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Picture Story or Essay, Celebrating the Irish.
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Multimedia News Report, Schools in Crisis
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Feature Series or Continuing Story, Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Health, Science and Environmental Writing.
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Arlington Connection: Sports Writing.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Jean Card, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong and Stuart Moll, Alexandria Gazette Packet: General Makeup.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions, Children's Edition.

MDDC

The Potomac Almanac, a Connection Newspaper located in Potomac, Md., competes in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and won at least six press association awards, which will be formally announced on May 17 at the MDDC Press awards luncheon. Susan Belford, John Byrd, Laurence Foong, Ken Moore (2) and Staff were named as winners.

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Collecting for Those in Need

GMU student coordinates care campaign for domestic abuse shelter residents.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Joy Tharrington, a senior psychology major at George Mason University (GMU) and starting forward on their women's basketball team, has been coordinating an effort with her teammates and members of the track and field teams to collect small, but comfort-providing items for the women and children being protected at Artemis House, the county's only crisis domestic violence shelter, run by Shelter House, Inc.

"I took Dr. Angie Hattery's class, Social Dynamics of Family Violence, last semester," said Tharrington. "It was a real eye-opener." Hattery is GMU's associate director of Women and Gender Studies. In addition to her teaching experience, Hattery has authored books and papers on related topics, volunteered and supported the volunteer efforts of students on ending violence toward women and children, promoting gender and racial understanding and equality.

Hattery suggested to her students that in their travels they consider bringing back unopened shampoos, soaps and other hygiene products. During a team trip to New Mexico during the Thanksgiving break, Tharrington remembered Hattery's suggestion and returned to class with dozens of mini-bottles.

THARRINGTON, her teammates, and members of other GMU sports teams have been on a roll ever since.

"Sometimes people don't help out because they think they don't have time, or it will be too difficult. This is something everyone can easily do," remarked Tharrington. "It's such a small thing to do, but you can really make someone feel better—even yourself." Dr. Hattery agreed. "The students sometimes get overwhelmed by some of the topics we explore in this class," she said. "I found that giving them this avenue to help makes for a win-win situation. It doesn't require hours of their time but it does help them empathize and offers a way to make a positive impact on people who are at a really low point in their lives and need everything we can do to support their dignity and self-esteem."

On Friday, April 19, it was time to deliver the donations. Tharrington, Dr. Hattery and Liz Ryan, GMU assistant athletic media relations director, piled the



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER

GMU senior Joy Tharrington, Dr. Angie Hattery and Artemis House Director Laly Goodmote carry in the donated items of hygiene products for the shelter residents.

boxes of donated items in to the car and headed out to the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax, one of three shelters operated by Shelter House. Joe Meyer, deputy director of Shelter House and Laly Goodmote, the director of Artemis House, were among those on hand to gratefully receive the donations. The items will be sorted at the Hanley Shelter and later brought to the families at Artemis House. "For our client's safety, Artemis House is at an undisclosed location," noted Meyer. During the visit, the GMU contingent received a tour of some of the shelter's facilities and a few of the young residents seemed delighted to get down on the floor and "help" Tharrington sort the hundreds of mini-bottles.

Meyer and Goodmote could not thank the GMU group enough for their generosity. As Meyer commented in the Shelter House press release, "With this donation, Artemis House will be able to provide those basic needs to those in such critical need."

OVER 200 WOMEN AND CHILDREN walk through our doors every year. It is people like Joy and institutions like GMU that make Fairfax County a community that cares!"

Joy Tharrington will be graduating in a few weeks, but she says she will take this experience with her. "And I think I have someone lined up to take over next season and keep the donations coming," she added.

For more information about Shelter House, visit their website at www.shelterhouse.org.

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'A Sweet Story From a Simpler Time'

Fairfax High presents musical, "Hello, Dolly."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Rousing music and a tender romance in turn-of-the-century New York—Fairfax High's FX Players bring it all to life in the musical, "Hello, Dolly."

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, May 3-4 and May 10-11, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 5 and 12, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door and \$10 at www.fxplayers.org. (Sign-language interpreters will be at the May 10 performance).

"It's a sweet, innocent story from a simpler time, and I think something in all of us yearns for that simplicity and peace," said Director Wendy Knight. "It's about Dolly Levi, a matchmaker who takes control and arranges things. She does this for Horace Vandergelder, and he has no idea it's going on. And I think every married couple in the audience will identify with it."

It's the school's Cappies show and the cast and crew of 35 have been rehearsing since January. "They're so talented; we have great voices and actors," said Knight. "And I'm letting the kids add in their own extra comic elements, which are awesome."

The four student costumers "have been working from sunup to sundown, making and modifying the girls' costumes from old prom dresses," said Knight. "There are lots of ribbons, lace and layers of petticoats, blouses, jackets and skirts. We even have a crew making 60 fancy hats with birds, feathers, flowers and lace. Each ensemble member has at least four outfits and Horace and Dolly have even more."

THE SCENES take place on the streets of New York and in Vandergelder's feed store in Yonkers, a hat shop, restaurant and courtroom. Playing the lead is senior Alex



Posing in character are (back row), from left, Marissa Kovach, Will Park, Doug Klain and Alex Nicopoulos; (middle) Jo Coenen and Amanda Harvey; and (front) Derek Yost and Margaret Murphy.

Nicopoulos, who describes Dolly as "extremely dynamic in every way. She's a wonderful human being who can be manipulative, at times. But in the end, it all turns out well because she has a master plan."

Nicopoulos said Dolly's "exuberant and in everyone's business. She's nosy, but inspiring to the other characters. She's a widow getting back into life, herself, and it's such an honor playing her. It's terrifying, but also one of the greatest experiences I've had in high school theater. I have lots of freedom to interpret this role the way I want to. The comedic moments make this story and Dolly's right in the middle of it."

Her favorite song is "Hello, Dolly" because "It's the most fun I've had in a musical number. And I get to dance with the entire cast of boys—who are fawning all over her." Calling the show "family-friendly and uplifting," Nicopoulos said, "It's happy-go-lucky and romantic, so people will be excited about it. They'll cheer on the characters as they go through all their obstacles."

Portraying Vandergelder is sophomore Doug Klain. "He's a classic misogynist," said Klain. "He runs a hay-and-feed store and is comfortable with his life. He's a widower and a lonely guy, but doesn't necessarily realize it and is adamantly against being with Dolly. So it's fun playing with that dynamic and being a mean guy. I'm humbled to have a lead as a sophomore and I'm excited to do it."

Klain likes "It Takes a Woman," the song he sings with the ensemble. It epitomizes his misogyny about how women are subservient and bring men all the good things in life. It's funny and explains his character."

He said the audience will en-

joy seeing "all the different ways Dolly messes with everybody's lives and then makes it all better. It's a show they'll walk away from with big smiles on their faces."

Senior Margaret Murphy plays Minnie Fay, the assistant at the hat shop. "She's 17 and lots of fun; she's also innocent and hasn't seen the world or experienced love," said Murphy. "Then she and Irene (Deanna Payne), the shop owner, meet Barnaby and Cornelius, Vandergelder's clerks, and they have an adventure together."

"I love the way Minnie's mind works," continued Murphy. "She sometimes thinks in non sequiturs, but she's really lovable, and I'm enjoying playing a light and airy role. My favorite song is 'Motherhood March' with the two couples and Dolly and Horace. We're trying to divert Horace's attention so he won't realize Cornelius and Barnaby are in New York."

She said the show's a classic the audience will be familiar with and able to relate to. And, she added, "It's fresh and happy and they'll be rooting for the characters to find love in the end."

PLAYING Vandergelder's niece Ermengarde is junior Amanda Harvey. "She's desperately in love with an artist her uncle doesn't approve of," said Harvey. "She's also exceedingly weepy and emotional and cries all the time. It's hard to wail and dance at the same time, but it's fun because she's so 'out there.'"

Harvey likes the song, "Put on Your Sunday Clothes," because "it's the one time my character gets to be free with her boyfriend, without her uncle around." Overall, she said the audience will like the show's catchy, upbeat music and endearing characters.

"We have a whole range, from the crotchety miser to the bubbly shop girl, an overly emotional teenager and sheltered men finally taking a stand to have lives of their own," said Harvey. "And everything's pulled together by Dolly in a pretty, humorous and melodic package."



(From left) Rachel Ingle, Mady Hanton, Hannah Sikora and Katie Mahon-Kuzin rehearse a number from Robinson's "Hairspray."

'You Can't Stop the Beat' "Hairspray" takes the stage at Robinson Secondary.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Robinson Secondary's Cappies production is "Hairspray," and Director Chip Rome is more excited about this show than he's been about any show in "quite some time."

Calling it "an energizing, upbeat show," he said it tells people, "It doesn't matter if you've been marginalized; you have every right to be happy and successful."

This musical comedy bursts upon the stage Thursday-Saturday, May 2, 3 and 4, and Friday-Saturday, May 10-11, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 via www.RobinsonDrama.org.

Featuring a cast and crew of nearly 100, plus a 20-piece orchestra, they've rehearsed since January. "There's so much singing and dancing that the cast has been working hard on the sheer volume of production numbers, and it's paying off," said Rome.

It's set in 1962 Baltimore, so Rome searched extensively for the right person to play the lead role of Tracy, plus extra students for the story's diversity. "I'm glad we pulled in some new actors," he said. "It's an incredibly talented cast."

Scenes take place in Tracy's home, the Corny Collins TV show, the record shop, the Hefty Hideaway Dress Shop and Wilbur's joke shop. The boys wear ties and tucked-in shirts and the girls are in knee-length dresses.

"People will love the show's optimism," said Rome. "The audience will be on its feet dancing by the end and will leave feeling empowered and wonderful."

Playing high school sophomore Tracy Turnblad is junior Hannah Sikora. "Tracy's extremely positive and driven," said Sikora. "She's a dreamer who wants to be famous and be seen on the Corny Collins

Show, singing and dancing. She also has a huge crush on Link Larkin and obsesses over him."

Sikora loves her role, but says it requires lots of stamina. "I'm hardly ever offstage and there are lots of lines, exits and entrances to remember, so it's a marathon," she said. "But Tracy's so peppy that it's refreshing to play someone so happy and be around that joyful energy."

HER FAVORITE NUMBER is "Without Love," which Tracy sings with her friends Penny (Katie Rogers), Link (Jamie Green) and Seaweed (Ivonte Milligan). "It's fun for all four of us to sing together, and it has a great message about being young and in love," said Sikora. "And the lyrics are really clever and funny."

She said the audience will enjoy the show's catchy music with great beats. "Lots of people are familiar with this show, and I think we do it justice," said Sikora. "The audience will enjoy hearing those songs they know and love."

As in the "Hairspray" movie with John Travolta, senior Jackson Viccora dresses as a woman to portray Tracy's heavysset mother, Edna. "She's a hot, young thing underneath a lot of layers," he said. "She's a little reserved but, once convinced to pull back the curtain a bit, she's a ton of fun and a blast to be around."

Viccora said it's physically tough playing a woman, "because of the fat suit I have to wear; and, mentally, getting into a woman's mindset. I'm definitely enjoying it, though; it's helped me get in touch with my feminine side." He especially likes the song, "Timeless to Me," which Edna and her husband Wilbur (Spencer Boyd) sing together, because "you can really feel the love between them."

He said the songs "won't leave the audience's heads and they'll



(From left) are Jackson Viccora (as Edna) Zachary Blake (as owner of the Hefty Hideaway Dress Shop) and Hannah Sikora (as Tracy).



(From left) Hannah Sikora and Ivonte Milligan perform a dance number from "Hairspray."

like the show's message about being yourself, accepting others for who they are and seeing past superficial details."

Senior Ivonte Milligan portrays Seaweed J. Stubbs. "He's a friendly, carefree teenager who loves to dance," said Milligan. "He also cares about equality and doesn't see the need for segregation. He's black and falls in love with Penny, a white girl—which he could get in trouble for, back then. But he fights for her."

Milligan likes his role because Seaweed's "so energetic and has suggestive dance moves and a funky persona that everybody accepts." His favorite number is his first solo, "Run and Tell That," because "it asks why can't blacks and whites just be together? It's an upbeat, joyous song." Milligan said the audience will like the show's "lightheartedness and will leave the theater with happy hearts and a great message of unity."

Junior Jamie Green plays teen heartthrob Link Larkin. "He's the budding Elvis on the Corny Collins TV show," said Green. "He's dating the shallow Amber; then he and Tracy meet and click. He's privileged, but he matures; and when he meets the black people, he

learns to stand up for what's right. He's fun to play because he's so confident and gets to show off and act like a superstar."

"Cooties" is Green's favorite number because "it's the meanest, most obnoxious song I've ever heard—and the funniest thing to not take seriously." Besides the show's singing and dancing, he said the audience will like the romantic couples' chemistry and "how funny Tracy's parents are together."

PORTRAYING Motormouth Maybelle is senior Michael Lamar in another gender-bending role. "She's the typical African-American mother of the early 1960s," he said. "She loves the Motown sound and runs her own record shop. She's loud and the life of the party; she's big, blonde and beautiful." He's normally shyer than Maybelle's large, brash personality demands, but he likes playing her because "she's so loving and willing to fight for what's worthwhile." Lamar said the musical's makeup and hair are well designed and the costumes are "gorgeous." Noting that "this show's so well-crafted, he said it shows that, "without love, life wouldn't be as much fun as it is."

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Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, or "The Trocks," is a ballet where talented male dancers play both male and female roles to give the classical art an entertaining edge. See the show at GMU Saturday, May 4, at 8 p.m.

CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/APRIL 25

AFTA Women's Book Club. 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the American Turkish Friendship Association, 3949 University Drive, Fairfax. Come to discuss a series of imaginary letters written to Lady Mary Montague, wife of an English ambassador to Turkey in 1716-1718, entitled "Yes, I Would Love Another Glass of Tea," by Katharine Branning; light refreshments served. <http://bit.ly/Xamija>.

Free History Program. 7:30 p.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Historic re-enactor, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, portrays Mrs. Robert Walker, a suffragist from Baltimore. She will talk about the effort to secure voting rights for American women. Then, Bob Beach, architect, describes the plans for a permanent memorial to their struggles: the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

The Robinson Crew Team Annual Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Burke Nursery and Garden Center at 9401 Burke Road, Burke. The sale includes annuals, perennials, stones, hanging baskets, shrubs, trees and master gardener/landscaping design; flyer required. www.robinsoncrew.org or contact Kay Billings at plantsale4crew@gmail.com.

Artist Talk/Walk. 4-6 p.m., at The Mason Hall Alumni Gallery in Mason Hall, GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. An artists' talk from Patrick Sargent and Erwin Thamm who have collaborated the past three years on a "multilayered narrative of our heroes"; among the work produced are silk screen layered over woodwork portraits of Andy Warhol, J Edgar Hoover and Paul McCartney. www.facebook.com/gmu.soa.

"The Magic Flute" By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. 8 p.m. at Harris Theatre, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Follow the young Prince Tamino in his quest for truth and romantic love, as he encounters a cast of unique characters. General admission: \$20; students, seniors, groups: \$15. 888-945-2468 or visitcfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Model Classic 2013. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at



Of Mice and Men will be at GMU's Center for the Arts on Sunday, April 28.

Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. An educational arts and crafts exhibit with doll houses, model railways, lectures by area historians, scale modeling demonstrations, raffles, children's workshops, a scale modeling contest, and many displays presented by the Northern Virginia Modelers Chapter of the International Modelers Society. \$7 for adults; \$9 per family; 18-and-under, free; \$10 entry free for contestants. www.novaimps.org.

docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dEZQQTZZOTNVHh2fUmfPRjhkT0E6MA#gid=0.

Rashomon. 7:30 p.m., at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Lake Braddock Theatre presents the play based on Akira Kurosawa's award-winning Japanese period drama in which a samurai has been murdered and four witnesses each tell a completely different version of the incident. \$11. 703-426-1000 or www.ibtheatre.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

Of Mice and Men. 4 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Acting Company performs a stage adaptation of the American literary classic, the story of two migrant workers in Depression Era California who nurture a hopeless dream of someday saving enough money to buy a farm of their own. \$20-\$40. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

"The Magic Flute" By Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. 4 p.m. at Harris Theatre, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Follow the young Prince Tamino in his quest for truth and romantic love, as he encounters a cast of unique characters. General admission: \$20; students, seniors, groups: \$15. 888-945-2468 or visitcfa.gmu.edu.

THURSDAY/MAY 2

Turkish Coffee Night. 7-9 p.m., ATFA, 3949 University Dr., Fairfax. Turkish Coffee Night is a monthly gathering with fun activities, Turkish food, and Turkish Coffee. <https://>

FRIDAY/MAY 3

The classic musical "Hello Dolly!" 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. This light-hearted musical features a meddling matchmaker, Dolly Levi, who brings couples together while making sure she herself gets to marry a wealthy half-millionaire. Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart's musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker" is a family-friendly musical full of funny characters and whimsical music. \$10; \$15 at door. 703-219-2200 or www.fxplayers.org.

Rashomon. 8 p.m., at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Lake Braddock Theatre presents the play based on Akira Kurosawa's award-winning Japanese period drama in which a samurai has been murdered and four witnesses each tell a completely different version of the incident. \$11. 703-426-1000 or www.ibtheatre.com.

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21 Announcements

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REAL ESTATE

What Housing Slump?

Real estate experts explain the rise in luxury condominium sales.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When a retired couple decided it was time to leave their sprawling suburban home, they wanted to downsize without giving up luxury. As a result, they purchased a high-end condominium and hired Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design to create a serene and sophisticated space.

"The couple are retired professionals, empty nesters who lead active lives and didn't want the maintenance of a single family home," said Proxmire. "[They] wanted to blend the furniture, accessories and mementoes they had each collected. ... They wanted a home that was elegant, comfortable, and that also allowed them to lock and leave on a moment's notice."

Proxmire's clients are part of rebound in the high-end condominium market. The National Association of Realtors reports that condominium purchases are on the rise, and says that sales are 13.9 percent higher than they were at the same time last year.

David DeSantis, a partner at TTR | Sotheby's International Realty says his company has seen an increase in luxury condominium sales in the Washington region in recent months. "In the past several months we have broken records for high-end condo prices, and we recently sold the most expensive condo ever sold in the Washington region, which was \$7.5 million," he said. "We sold a number of condos at Turnberry Tower in Rosslyn [Arlington]."

COMMUNITIES LIKE the Oronoco in Old Town Alexandria; Market Street at Town Center in Reston, and Quarry Springs in

Bethesda attract those who want both luxury and convenience. "The appeal of these buildings is the fact that you've got these large apartments that are like homes except with a health club and concierge service," said DeSantis. "The close-in suburbs are good places to live. There are good stores, good restaurants and you don't have the issue of a long commute to work."

Realtors say that properties close to public transportation are in demand. "Reston is on fire. The condos are turning very quickly there because the Metro is coming," said Great Falls-based realtor Dianne Van Volkenburg of Long & Foster Companies. "Reston is one of the places where inventory is extremely limited, so you're getting multiples offers over list price."

Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group of McEneaney Associates, Inc. said, "Sales and showings for properties have really picked up across the board in Alexandria City. The Oronoco is all high-end, one-level condos near the Old Town [Alexandria] waterfront and those are selling very well."



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design decorated a luxury condominium for a retired couple who wanted to downsize after selling their suburban home. Real estate experts say high-end condominium sales are on the rise.

Bob Wulff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship and the master's in real estate development program at George Mason University in Fairfax, says there are two primary types of buyers who are drawn to condominiums. "There are first time homebuyers and move-down homebuyers who've sold their large suburban homes," said Wulff. "Move-down buyers are looking for luxury in a walk-able neighborhood that is near mass transit."

DeSantis agrees. "A big portion of those clients are the empty-nester crowd," he said. "Their kids

have graduated from college and they are looking for a lifestyle change. These people were not pinched by the recession, but it also wasn't a good time to sell their big house in suburbs."

In addition to empty nesters, DeSantis says that high-income professional singles and couples often choose luxury condominiums. "Those two groups are leading to the up-tick in sales," he said.

Walter Molony, economic issues media manager for the National Association of Realtors, says the

SEE LUXURY, PAGE 16



PHOTO GALLERY!

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To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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REAL ESTATE

Luxury Condos in Demand

FROM PAGE 15

boost in condominium sales is the result of a stronger economy. "It is part of the rising tide that is floating all boats," he said. "After four years of a sluggish economy that impacted people's confidence, affordability conditions have improved and people have the wherewithal and the confidence to buy. There is less inventory in the low-end market, and there are more buyers than sellers, which is driving demand up."

DeSantis said, "For the most part, the Washington, D.C., area was not hit as hard, so we're coming back faster. One of the things that we've seen in the real estate industry is that there's no shortage of people in this market who have the resources to buy high-end housing. They held off on buying while the direction of the economy ... was unclear, but people are now willing to spend the money that they've had all along."

VIEWPOINTS

Housing Market Blossoms in Area

—ANDREA WORKER

Andy Krum, ABR, GRI, CDPE/Keller Williams Realty—Reston, 703-679-1700

"This past February, the market bloomed well in advance of the cherry blossoms! Sellers are more than likely dancing on their roofs. With low inventory, prices have been climbing. Not only are most homes selling fast, lucky sellers may see multiple offers—some including escalation clauses as well. For the Reston market, the long-awaited opening of the Wiehle Avenue Metro stop later this year has not escaped notice. More buyers are looking here knowing they can avoid the Rt. 7 traffic or the toll road. Interest rates are still good, but there is competition. Buyers need to do their research and be ready to act when the right home becomes available."



Andrea Karalyos, realtor, REP coordinator, Prudential PenFed Realty—Reston, 703-716-2900

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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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HOME SALES

In March 2013, 76 Fairfax homes sold between \$1,125,000-\$155,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,125,000-\$369,900 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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12222 HARBOR TOWN CIR	1	1	0	FAIRFAX	\$947,500	Detached	0.21	22033	FAIR OAKS CHASE
12971 HIGHLAND OAKS CT	4	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$850,000	Detached	0.22	22033	HIGHLAND OAKS
12978 HIGHLAND OAKS CT	4	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$847,500	Detached	0.19	22033	HIGHLAND OAKS
4719 RIPPLING POND DR	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$790,000	Detached	0.08	22033	GREENS AT FAIR LAKES
3841 HIGHLAND OAKS DR	5	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$749,900	Detached	0.16	22033	HIGHLAND OAKS
12771 ALDER WOODS DR	6	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$741,000	Detached	0.40	22033	FAIR OAKS HUNT
10004 TERRY ST	5	4	2	FAIRFAX	\$700,000	Detached	0.31	22031	FAIRVIEW
12798 LAVENDER KEEP CIR	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$690,000	Townhouse	0.09	22033	RUGBY ROAD
12143 TRIBUNE ST	4	3	2	FAIRFAX	\$607,500	Townhouse	0.03	22033	CENTERPOINTE III
12187 WAVELAND ST	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$590,000	Townhouse	0.04	22033	CENTERPOINTE III
4490 MARKET COMMONS DR#702	3	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$580,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22033	ELAN AT EAST MARKET
12447 RED PATCH LN	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$578,000	Detached	0.07	22033	CARR AT CEDAR LAKES
13134 WILLOUGHBY POINT DR	5	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$559,900	Detached	0.16	22033	FOXFIELD
4637 HUMMINGBIRD LN	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$518,000	Townhouse	0.04	22033	WILLOW OAKS AT FAIR LAKES
4490 MARKET COMMONS DR#PH-05	2	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$516,400	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22033	ELAN AT EAST MARKET
13113 SUMMER RAIN TER	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$477,000	Townhouse	0.05	22033	GREENS AT FAIR LAKES
10305 DABBY ST	5	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$470,000	Detached	0.33	22030	GREEN ACRES
12844 MOUNT ROYAL LN	4	3	0	FAIRFAX	\$470,000	Detached	0.27	22033	GREENBRIAR
4224 MINTSTRELL LN	4	3	0	FAIRFAX	\$470,000	Detached	0.22	22033	GREENBRIAR
13141 MADONNA LN	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$460,000	Detached	0.28	22033	GREENBRIAR
4104 MEADOW FIELD CT	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	\$451,000	Townhouse	0.05	22033	FAIR RIDGE
3924 TEDRICH BLVD	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$450,000	Detached	0.23	22031	FAIRVIEW
12029 LISA MARIE CT	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	\$450,000	Townhouse	0.04	22033	PENDERBROOK
10905 WARWICK AVE	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$445,200	Detached	0.20	22030	FAIRFAX WOODS
13108 PARSON LN	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$445,000	Detached	0.27	22033	GREENBRIAR
10232 STRATFORD AVE	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$440,000	Detached	0.23	22030	LORD FAIRFAX ESTATES
3957 VALLEY RIDGE DR	3	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$439,900	Townhouse	0.05	22033	PENDERBROOK
4113 MAJESTIC LN	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$429,000	Detached	0.29	22033	GREENBRIAR
3212 ADAMS CT	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.04	22030	CAMBRIDGE STATION
3916 EGAN DR	4	3	0	FAIRFAX	\$423,000	Detached	0.24	22030	FAIRCHESTER
3979 BURNING BUSH CT	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$421,500	Townhouse	0.06	22033	FAIR WOODS
10546 ASSEMBLY DR	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	\$421,000	Townhouse	0.04	22030	THE ASSEMBLY
4424 MAJESTIC LN	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$420,000	Detached	0.28	22033	GREENBRIAR
4201 COLLIER RD	4	3	0	FAIRFAX	\$419,000	Detached	0.29	22030	MAPLE HILL
12752 DOGWOOD HILLS LN	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	\$416,500	Townhouse	0.05	22033	BIRCH POND
10102 CAPEWAY CT	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$400,000	Detached	0.41	22030	COUNTRY CLUB HILLS
10222 ANTIETAM AVE	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$399,999	Detached	0.28	22030	MOSBY WOODS
10923 MILBURN ST	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$395,000	Detached	0.19	22030	WESTMORE
3915 ESTEL RD	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$390,000	Detached	0.63	22031	LITTLE RIVER HILLS
4480 MARKET COMMONS DR#114	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$385,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22033	ELAN AT EAST MARKET
13305 HOLLINGER AVE	3	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$385,000	Detached	0.19	22033	CHANTILLY FARM
10831 CREST ST	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	\$380,000	Detached	0.17	22030	WILLIAMS WESTMORE
3931 COLLIS OAK CT	3	2	1	FAIRFAX	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.04	22033	FAIR WOODS
13403 FOXHOLE DR	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.03	22033	FOXFIELD
3729 MAZEWOOD LN	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.05	22033	FOXFIELD
12456 SWEET LEAF TER	3	3	1	FAIRFAX	\$369,900	Townhouse	0.04	22033	FAIR WOODS

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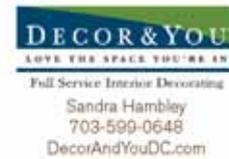
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SPORTS

South County Softball Sends Message to Lake Braddock

Stallions sophomore Yates has 4 hits, 4 RBIs.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Patriot District championship game is nearly a month away, but the South County softball team had something to prove on Tuesday.

Winners of six consecutive district titles, the Stallions entered their latest contest against Lake Braddock looking up at the Bruins in the standings. Lake Braddock, which lost to South County in last season's district final, was undefeated, had outscored its last five opponents 70-0 and beat the Stallions 7-5 during their first meeting this season on April 3.

"We knew," South County head coach Gary Dillow said, "we needed to come in and make some kind of a statement."

AFTER SEVEN INNINGS, the Stallions had sent a message: the path to the Patriot District championship still runs through South County.

Sophomore second baseman Cara Yates went 4-for-5 with four RBIs and junior pitcher Rebecca Martin tossed a three-hitter as South County rolled to a 10-1 victory on Tuesday night at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Yates' two-run triple in the second inning gave South County a lead it would not relinquish as the Stallions drew even with the Bruins in the loss column.

"It just makes a statement," Dillow said, "that we're not ready to let go of the district title yet."

Yates, who batted leadoff for South County as a freshman last season, moved down a spot in the order for the first half of



South County sophomore second baseman Cara Yates finished 4-for-5 with a triple and four RBIs against Lake Braddock on Tuesday night, April 23.



Lake Braddock third baseman Amanda Patterson swings against South County on Tuesday night.

the 2013 campaign, but recently returned to the top of the lineup. She reached base in each of her five at bats on Tuesday, April 23, including four hits.

"When you're hitting one," Yates said, "you know you have to get a hit because as a leadoff hitter, you pretty much determine the momentum of the game, so you have to get it started."

Yates led off the game with an opposite-field single to right. In the second inning, she ripped a two-run triple to center field. Yates singled in the fourth inning, reached on an error in the sixth and hit a deep two-run single to right-center in the seventh.

"She didn't look like a leadoff hitter tonight—she hit at least three balls right to the fence," Dillow said. "She's absolutely seeing the ball great right now and just really driving the ball."

Junior catcher Haylea Geer finished 2-for-4 for South County. Freshman right fielder Carley Kastner went 1-for-3 with two RBIs, senior first baseman Brittnee Haynes was 1-for-3 with an RBI and freshman left fielder Jade Williams hit a triple.

Martin earned the win in the pitcher's circle, tossing a complete game. She allowed one earned run and three hits while walking two, hitting one batter and striking out four in seven innings.

"She pitched really well," Dillow said. "I think she had something to prove. She didn't pitch real well against them the last time we played. It's probably, really, the first off-game I've seen her have in her three years here."

Martin did not allow a hit until the fourth inning, when Lake Braddock sophomore Amanda Hendrix led off with a double. Hendrix also hit a solo home run over the fence in right-center during the sixth inning, and freshman outfielder Danielle Newman had a single.

"We were definitely trying to defend the legacy we have," Martin said about the Stallions' six consecutive district championships.

LAKE BRADDOCK helped the South County cause with six errors.

"We pride ourselves on defense," Lake

Braddock head coach George Rumore said, "and [for] some reason, they just got the jitters, I guess, and they couldn't hang in there on defense."

Rumore downplayed the loss, saying it meant "nothing" in the grand scheme of things.

"We just let it go," he said. "We were 10-0 ... so we just go 10-0 again. So let's just forget it and learn from our mistakes in this game."

Junior Ashley Flesch started in the circle for Lake Braddock and allowed three unearned runs and five hits in four innings. She hit one batter, walked one and struck out two. Hendrix pitched the final three innings.

Lake Braddock fell to 10-1 overall and 7-1 in the Patriot District. The Bruins faced Lee on Wednesday, April 24, after The Connection's deadline. Lake Braddock will travel to face West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

South County improved to 12-1 overall and 8-1 in the district. The Stallions will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Robinson Boys' Lax Beats Centreville

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team beat Centreville 9-8 on Tuesday, April 23, extending the Rams' winning streak to six and improving their record to 10-2 overall and 4-0 in the Concorde District.

Robinson will close the regular season at home against Chantilly at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 26. The Chargers reached the state championship game the last two seasons and three of the last four.

Fairfax Boys' Lax Wins Seven of Eight

The Fairfax boys' lacrosse team is 7-1 heading into this final three regular sea-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team is 10-2.

son games.

The Rebels started 7-0 before losing 14-4 to four-time defending state champion Langley on April 15. Fairfax is 3-1 in the Liberty District.

The Rebels will host Madison at 7:30 p.m.

on Friday, April 26.

Robinson Girls' Soccer to Face Oakton, Herndon

The Robinson girls' soccer team will close its regular season with games against the Oakton Cougars on Thursday, April 25, and Herndon Hornets on May 6. The Rams will travel to face the Cougars and host the Hornets.

Robinson played to a 1-all tie with Centreville on April 17, moving the Rams' record to 6-3-2 overall and 0-2-1 in the Concorde District.

Northern Region Baseball Top 10

The Madison baseball team remained atop the Northern Region top 10 and Vienna rival Oakton is ranked No. 2 in this week's coaches poll.

Defending state champion Lake Braddock is ranked No. 3, followed by Centreville (4), Robinson (5), Yorktown (6), Chantilly (7), West Potomac (8), Langley (9) and South County (10).

T.C. Williams, Stone Bridge, McLean, Westfield and Fairfax also received votes.

The Concorde District has four teams in the top 10, most among the four districts in the Northern Region. The Patriot District has three teams in the top 10, the Liberty has two and the National has one.



Kelly Ann, a 17-year-old Asian elephant with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, shows off her mad basketball skills to students from The Apple Tree School of Fairfax, at the George Mason University Patriot Center on April 11.

Elephant Artist Inspires Youth

On Thursday, April 11, 30 children from The Apple Tree School of Fairfax had the opportunity to paint alongside Kelly Ann, a 17-year-old Asian elephant with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, at the George Mason University Patriot Center. Involved in the Young Rembrandts program, an after-school art enrichment program, the students were thrilled to meet the elephant. Kelly Ann has been with the circus since her birth and is a Renaissance woman who, in addition to painting, is athletic and musical, playing football, basketball, and also the harmonica. This is the first year she has painted with students from Fairfax.



Kelly Ann, a 17-year-old Asian elephant with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, paints with one of her colleagues from the circus during a class with students from The Apple Tree School of Fairfax, at the George Mason University Patriot Center on April 11.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

FAITH NOTES

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.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a Bible Study Fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and Children's Church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100, www.fbtministries.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

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

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

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

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

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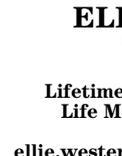
Richard@LNF.com

Service is the difference I provide



Burke Centre \$634,500

This home went under contract in less than one week. Call today for details on other homes in Burke Centre or a market analysis on your home.



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Granite and stainless kitchen for inspired cooking with adjacent family room for casual entertaining. Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, full finished basement, screened porch and lovely landscaped yard. Walk to bus stop, minutes to VRE station. Robinson Secondary School area!

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