

# 'Really Strong Dancers, Powerhouse Singers'

NEWS, PAGE 12

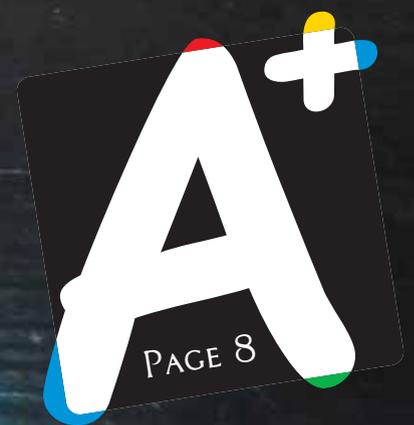
Striking catlike poses are (from left)  
Fairfax High senior Logan Floyd, playing  
Bombalurina, and Marshall High's  
Delaney Conway, playing Demeter.

## Garza Proposes \$2.5 Billion Schools Budget

NEWS, PAGE 8

## Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws

NEWS, PAGE 3



## NEWS

# Chocolate Lovers Valentine Features 'Old' Fairfax High

The annual Chocolate Lovers Festival valentine this year features the original Fairfax High School building, drawn by Fairfax artist Jackie Liedl.

Each valentine includes a coupon for five \$1 pogs for use at the Taste of Chocolate, which takes place Feb. 1-2, 2014 in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. The limited edition valentines cost \$5 through Jan. 31, 2014. If supplies last, valentines will be sold for \$7 during the festival at the Taste of Chocolate in Old Town Hall.

The original Fairfax High School building was constructed in 1935 on Lee Highway (now Fairfax Boulevard).

Student growth and technological advancements led to the construction of the

"new" Fairfax High School facility on Old Lee Highway and Rebel Run in 1972. Currently, the building houses Paul VI High School.

Valentines are available now from:

❖ City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street, Room 316 (City Manager's Office; 703-385-7855); open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, excluding holidays

❖ Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street (703-385-8414); open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding holidays

For information about the 2014 Chocolate Lovers Festival, visit the Chocolate Lovers Festival website at [www.chocolatefestival.net](http://www.chocolatefestival.net) or call 703-385-1661.

# Brooke Hardin to Lead Development and Planning Department

The City of Fairfax announces the appointment of Brooke Hardin as the city's director of the Community Development and Planning Department. Hardin, who has served as the city's Planning Division chief since 2011, will begin his role immediately.

He spent nearly a decade with the City of Richmond, Va., finishing his service as that city's deputy director of Planning and Development Review Department.

He also worked in economic development for Isle of Wight County, Va., and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Hardin, who lives in the city, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in government and politics from George Mason University and a Masters of Science degree in urban and regional planning from Virginia Tech.

The City of Fairfax Community Development and Planning Department provides oversight for all city land use — residential, planned development, commercial or industrial uses — including zoning, planning, design review, site plans and demographics.

Hardin replaces David Hudson, who retired in December 2013 after nearly 30 years of service with the city.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SATURDAY/JAN. 18

**Dog adoption event.** 12- 3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Mem. Hwy., Fairfax. 703-817-9444 [hart90.org](http://hart90.org)

**Teen Advisory Board Meeting.** 3 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. TAB meets once a week to help shape the library's young adult collection, programming and outreach projects.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 19

**Our Children: Fostering, Mentoring and Adoption in Virginia.** 3-5 p.m. Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Rd., Clifton. Coordinator of Fairfax Families4Kids will talk about their work at the local and state level working and advocating for the welfare of children and specifically with fostering, mentoring and adoption. We will hear how we can become involved and make a difference in the lives of children.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 19, 26 - FEB. 9, 16, 23

**"Religions & Cultures of the Middle East",** six-class series taught by Johnnie Hicks of George Mason University, formerly of the Tehran American School in Iran. 3-4:30 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434

Bath St., Springfield. 703-451-2900.

### TUESDAY/JAN. 21

**Music Together.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Enjoy singing, movement and instrument play with music teacher Miss Shannon. Ages 8 months-4 years with an adult.

**Pohick Evening Book Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 22

**Animal Crackers.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Develop your child's early literacy skills with stories, songs and activities about animals! Age 3-5 with adult.

**Pohick English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills. Adults.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 23

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with others and improve your skills. Adults.

### MONDAY/JAN. 27

**Pohick Prose Society.** 7 p.m. Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Help with using eReaders, tablets, computers and mobile devices to access library eBooks. Adults.

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## Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws

State legislators turn attention to ethics in wake of McDonnell gift scandal.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s members of the Virginia General Assembly convene for the first time since last February, legislators are stampeding to introduce ethics legislation in response to the gift scandal which engulfed then Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R).

The revelations last spring about numerous undisclosed gifts and purported loans from businessman Jonnie Williams to McDonnell — including a \$6,500 Rolex watch engraved to the “71st Governor of Virginia” and \$35,000 in gifts and catering for his daughters’ weddings — shined a spotlight on Virginia’s porous financial disclosure laws.

McDonnell, who remains under federal investigation over his relationship with Williams, pointed to various loopholes in existing state law as reasons for not disclosing gifts, noting that state law requires only the disclosure of gifts directly to officeholders, and not their families.

Following the principle cited by Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis that “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants,” state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax) has introduced an ethics reform package which he says “makes the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) a centerpiece.”

**PETERSEN’S BILLS** would increase disclosure, limit contributions and gifts, prohibit the use of private law firms for state business, and create an ethics commission, ideally with subpoena power, to hold legislators accountable and increase transparency.

“The era of Rolexes, lake-house vacations, and \$150,000 loans must end,” Petersen said. “For far too long those of us who serve in Richmond have relied on super-sized political contributions to fund our campaigns. That is a part of our current flawed culture. Working Virginians don’t see campaign donations larger than their yearly incomes as ‘no strings attached.’ They see a transaction.”

Petersen’s package of ethical reform bills takes its place alongside several others announced last week, including a bipartisan reform package unveiled Tuesday, Jan. 7, by House Majority Leader M. Kirkland Cox (R-Colonial Heights) and House Minority Leader David J. Toscano (D-Charlottesville).

Under the Kirkland-Toscano bill, reforms include:

- ❖ A \$250 cap on tangible gifts to officials and their immediate family members



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), sitting, confers with a colleague during last year’s General Assembly session. After the session ended in February, it was disclosed that federal and state authorities had launched an investigation regarding gifts given to then-Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) and his family. The investigation served to heighten public awareness of Virginia’s lax financial disclosure laws.**

from lobbyists or people with business before the state.

- ❖ A ban on solicitation of those gifts.
- ❖ The requirement that family members’ finances and gifts be disclosed.
- ❖ The creation of an ethics commission that would serve as a resource, providing legislators guidance on issues that may pose a conflict of interest.

“What we have really tried to do here is take the best parts of our current system, which is fairly strict reporting accountability, and in targeted areas, we’ve really tried to beef that up and really get at some of the problems,” Cox said at a news conference in Richmond last week with Republican and Democratic leaders.

Petersen said his proposals differed significantly from the House bill.

“I’m not overly impressed by the ‘bipartisan compromise’ announced in the House this week. My package has teeth. My intention is to change the culture, not just close the loopholes,” Petersen said in an interview on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

“The other issue that’s part of my proposal is making FOIA the centerpiece,” Petersen said. “I think my FOIA bill is critical for bringing more transparency to this process. That’s a huge difference, because without that it’s really hard to know what’s going

on and it’s for people and the media to investigate.”

Petersen said he wants his ethics commission to have subpoena power, which would give the group the authority to compel lawmakers to testify and produce evidence, or face a penalty for failure to comply.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, more than 40 states have similar ethics commissions, most with subpoena power.

Petersen said he has long been bothered by the lack of financial transparency in Virginia, and the ensuing erosion of the public’s trust.

**WHEN REPORTS ABOUT THE ROLEX** surfaced last July, Petersen sent a letter to the governor asking him to “come clean on this matter” by explaining the gifts, denying the reports, or resigning from office. He became the first Virginia lawmaker to suggest McDonnell’s resignation in the wake of the deepening controversy over the lavish gifts.

“For too long, we’ve said ‘hey, we’re honorable gentleman, we can police ourselves.’ Unfortunately, there have been too many recent incidents to contradict that,” Petersen said.

“That’s why I’ve introduced four bills that

### What Petersen’s Ethics Package Would Do

- ❖ **SB212:** FOIA for General Assembly members and staff - SB212 removes the General Assembly’s exception from the Virginia FOIA act. This bill repeals the 2013 General Assembly FOIA exemption act (HB1639), patroned by Del. Tag Greason (R-Potomac Falls).
- ❖ **SB218:** Limits on Campaign Contributions and Gifts - SB218 Limits General Assembly members and Executives in the Commonwealth to a total of \$2,000 in gifts per year. All gifts over \$50 will continue to be itemized and reported. “Super-sized” campaign donations will be limited to \$20,000 per individual donor per candidate.
- ❖ **SB220:** Prohibiting the Use of Private Law Firms for State Business - SB220 requires the office of the Attorney General to contract local city or county attorneys, rather than private counsel, when it experiences a conflict of interest. This bill will remove the incentive for private law firms to exploit the current law and over-bill the state on a public matter. This bill was brought about due to the ongoing attorney’s fees charged by two firms employed by Attorney Gen. Ken Cuccinelli’s office to defend Gov. Bob McDonnell, reportedly more than \$780,000.
- ❖ **SB219:** Establishment of the Virginia Ethics Commission - SB219 requires that all loans, gifts, and statements of economic interests disclosures shall be filed with the Virginia Ethics Commission. Currently these disclosures are filed to the clerks of each house. The Virginia Ethics Commission will be a body independent of both houses, comprised of both former legislators and distinguished independent citizens whom have never held office. The commission will be able to make recommendations for disciplinary proceedings against legislators found in violation of disclosure laws to their respective house, where members will vote on any disciplinary action.

For more information on these bills, go to:

- <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+SB212>
- SB220 (Petersen)  
<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+SB220>
- HB1639: (Greason, 2013)  
<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?131+sum+HB1639>
- SB218 (Petersen)  
<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+SB218>
- SB219 (Petersen)  
<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+SB219>

will increase the public’s right to know, limit campaign contributions to \$20K per candidate from a single donor, end the soaking of taxpayers by white-shoe law firms, and start a truly independent and distinguished ethics commission that includes everyday citizens to hold legislators accountable.”

But Del. Dave Albo (R-42) said he wasn’t overly impressed with Petersen’s bills, and he supports the bipartisan compromise.

“The bipartisan House proposal includes an ethics commission, so I don’t know why Senator Peterson thinks that his ethics commission is better,” Albo said Friday, adding that it’s unrealistic for state lawmakers to impose certain campaign contribution limits.

“If a bill could be crafted that would equally limit [all campaign contributions], then I would support it. But it has to be a level playing field,” Albo said.

“It takes a long time to start earning back the trust that you have lost, and as Virginians, and as public officials, we need to start now,” Petersen said.

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Poster for buses for Just Ask sex trafficking prevention campaign.

# Fairfax County Launches Sex Trafficking Prevention Campaign

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

In order to raise awareness to the fact that sex trafficking can happen anywhere, even in Fairfax County, a new prevention campaign and website raising awareness of this issue launched on Jan. 13.

The Fairfax County police partnered with Fairfax County Public Schools and the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services to launch the "Just Ask" Prevention Project, which includes a website and is intended to increase awareness of sex trafficking in Fairfax County.

"Obviously we prosecute and we do the enforcement efforts, but if we can prevent it, that is a better option for us," said Bill Woolf, lead detective of the Fairfax County Police Department human trafficking unit. "The best method of prevention is to raise awareness."

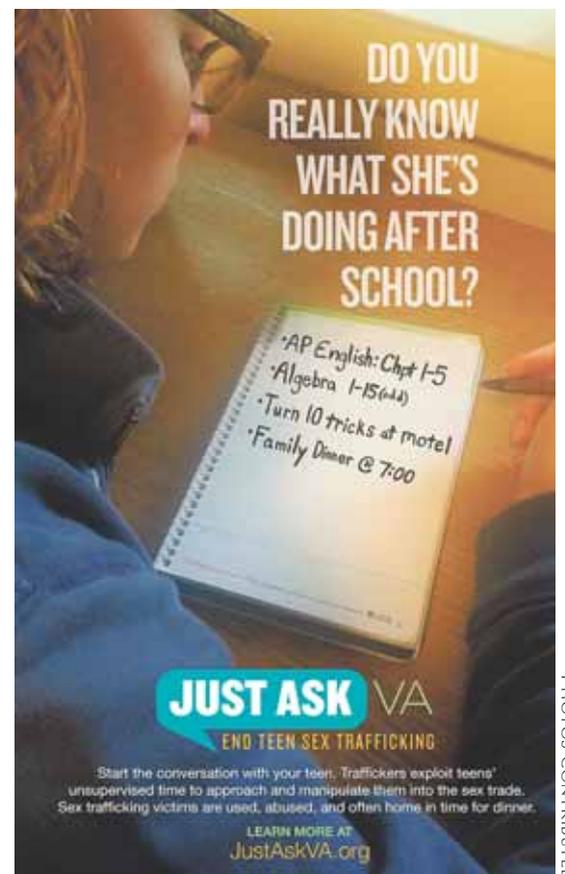
Woolf said the unit is focusing their efforts on combating juvenile sex trafficking.

"About 60 percent of our case load is juvenile sex trafficking. The sexual trauma that these kids endure really has life-long effects," Woolf said.

**IN AN EFFORT TO RAISE AWARENESS** on sex trafficking and ways it can be prevented, a working group was formed to figure out how to best tackle this issue.

"The end product was this 'Just Ask' prevention campaign, and there are many facets to this campaign," Woolf said.

According to Woolf, traffickers often keep young girls in the cycle of violence and make them feel like they have no escape, which is why awareness is important.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

There'll be posters for buses, schools and other locations in support of Just Ask campaign.

"The theme is just ask - if you are a parent, just ask your teen. If you are a friend, just ask. If you are an

SEE CAMPAIGN, PAGE 5

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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# NEWS

## Campaign

FROM PAGE 4

educator, ask the student. That is the essential theme to this campaign. It's all about the open dialogue that we think is really going to impact in a positive way the reduction of sex trafficking in Northern Virginia. If we talk about it, people are aware of it, they know what they're looking for, and they know where to turn," Woolf said. Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity has also been educating people in his district about the fact that sex trafficking can happen in Fairfax County.

"One thing I have been trying to do is to raise awareness that this is out there. We actually have gangs that are recruiting our young girls to go into sex trafficking," Herrity said. "I'm not a detective, but one thing I can do is raise awareness and educate our population on the dangers." Part of the campaign includes the addition of sex trafficking education materials for Fairfax County Public School students, which the school board approved at their Jan. 9 meeting. "This is an area where we have come to realize that, where as we might like to think it can't happen here, it does, and it has, and it's a very serious issue," said Mason District School Board member Sandy Evans. "The media we have created here in FCPS will go a long way to raising awareness and hopefully protecting our young people who are victims of sexual trafficking at very young ages."

**SEVERAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS** encouraged the public to watch the videos, which other school districts also want to use.

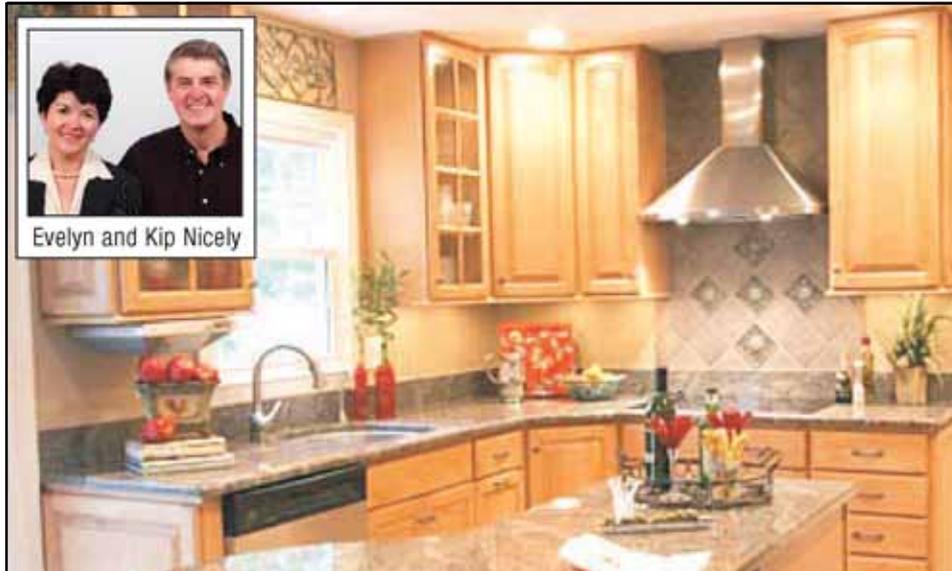
"There are school systems around the United States that are just absolutely anxious to get this videos from us, so what we are doing is not only helping Fairfax County, it is helping school systems across the United States," said Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin.

Springfield School Board member Elizabeth Schultz was the only board member who voted against approving the material.

"Frankly, I think with the degree of the sensibility of this material, something like this should be opt-in, not opt-out," Schultz said.

Will Ashe, the school board student representative, worked with the filmmakers on this project and was also part of the Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Committee. "We need to make sure as many people as possible know about this," Ashe said.

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# OPINION

## From Late Night Comedy to Your Bedroom

### Why the General Assembly matters more in Virginia than most states.

**T**he Virginia General Assembly began its annual session last week on Jan. 8.

The actions of the Virginia General Assembly matter more to localities than it would in many other states. In Virginia, localities have only the power specifically granted by the General Assembly, the Dillon rule.

So, for example, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County in Maryland recently voted to increase the minimum wage in those localities. They didn't need permission from Maryland General Assembly to do so. Arlington and Alexandria might be inclined to follow suit (the District government also voted to increase the minimum wage) but do not have that power.

The General Assembly limits how localities can raise revenue, what kinds of traffic regulations they can implement, whether they can control where guns are allowed, whether school districts can begin classes before Labor Day, and much more.

Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria sent their members of the Northern Virginia delegation of state senators, all Democrats, and delegates, overwhelmingly Democrats (13-5), to Richmond, where the House of Delegates is overwhelmingly Republican and control of the Senate is still up in the air pending special elections.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) filed HB536 which

would "increase the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.25 per hour effective July 1, 2014, and to \$9.25 per hour effective July 1, 2015, unless a higher minimum wage is required by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act." It isn't likely to see the light of day.

#### EDITORIAL

Anyone can watch the Virginia House of Delegates or Senate on streaming video when either is in session, and the Virginia General Assembly proved last year that it can be worthy of national attention for entertainment. It is in fact well worth tuning in once or twice or more. Visit <http://viriniagenralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for video links.

Legislators will consider literally thousands of bills between now and March 8.

Some quite random examples of proposed legislation from local delegates and senators:

❖ Del. Dave Albo (R-42): Driving while intoxicated; refusal of blood or breath tests. This bill would allow a person who has been arrested for driving while intoxicated and who has refused to submit to a blood or breath test be given another opportunity to consent to testing after the arresting officer has advised the person of the consequences of his refusal.

❖ Del. David Bulova (D-37): One bill would allow the employment of lights for the observation of deer (spotlighting) for certain activities authorized by the Department of Game and

### See for Yourself

Visit <http://viriniagenralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for live video links, information on who your legislators are and how to track bills. Every resident is represented by one state delegate and one state senator; look up your and email to be placed on their mailing lists. Consider attending their local meetings.

Inland Fisheries. Another would provide that property used in connection with certain crimes associated with human trafficking is subject to forfeiture to the Commonwealth.

❖ Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has proposed the repeal of last year's hybrid tax, plus a bill that would place a cap on the compensation that may be paid to a special counsel appointed to handle certain legal matters where it would be improper or uneconomical for the Attorney General, or the Attorney General is unable, to handle such matters. That cap would be the same as allowed for a court appointed attorney, a very small amount.

❖ Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) proposes to create the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, which will be established and operated by a new division within the State Corporation Commission.

❖ Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for the owner of a website to both post an arrest photo and solicit, request, or accept money for removing the photograph.

❖ Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) proposes to require drivers and passengers to wait for a reasonable opportunity to open vehicle doors on the side adjacent to moving traffic, an effort to prevent the "dooring" of bicyclists.

## Education, Transportation, Mental Health

BY DAVID BULOVA  
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION



### Del. Bulova unveils his legislative priorities.

**G**reetings from Richmond! The 2014 General Assembly is now in full swing. In addition to considering nearly 2,000 bills, we will adopt Virginia's biennial budget, which must be balanced as required by Virginia's constitution. Thanks to everyone who has contacted me about issues throughout the year. This session I have introduced 13 bills and several budget amendments. Below is a summary of issues and initiatives I will be working on during the 2014 session.

❖ Transportation – Last year's transportation funding package passed with strong bi-partisan support and is already generating significant revenue to fix local and regional transportation bottlenecks such as the I-66 corridor. Several legislators, however, are looking to repeal the package. Protecting this landmark accomplishment is a top priority.

❖ Standards of Learning – There

has been mounting concern that Virginia's Standards of Learning have resulted in "teaching to the test" at the expense of critical thinking skills. I am thrilled that I have been appointed to the new Educational Reform Subcommittee of the House Education Committee, which will consider how to reform the SOLs.

❖ Education Funding – It is not your imagination! The difference in the cost of living between Northern Virginia and the least expensive part of the state is a whopping 66 percent. To make up for this difference, our region has traditionally been given additional cost-to-compete funding for education. Unfortunately, the Governor's introduced budget proposes to eliminate this funding for school support personnel, which would result in a loss of \$20.7 million for our region. Restoring this funding is a priority for the Northern Virginia delegation.

❖ Bridge to Kindergarten – Quality early childhood education is a key predictor of future educational success. This year I have introduced a budget amendment to provide classroom readiness skills to disadvantaged children who have not had a preschool experience. This initiative is based on a successful pilot program at Daniel's Run Elementary.

❖ Ethics Reform – Several events this past year placed a harsh spotlight on Virginia's relatively lax ethics and transparency laws. We got started on the right track when the Democratic and Republican caucuses announced the framework for a bipartisan ethics reform package. However, I am pushing for more to be done and have introduced House Bill 271 to increase transparency by requiring that gifts be reported on a more frequent basis. Currently, gifts are only reported once a year after the elections.

❖ Health Care – There is broad

bi-partisan support to make changes to our mental-health system in the wake of the stabbing of Senator Creigh Deeds and the suicide of his son. We will also consider whether to expand Medicaid.

❖ Human Trafficking – For the past several years I've been pleased to be part of a bipartisan coalition to fight human trafficking in Virginia by increasing penalties and giving law enforcement the tools they need to prosecute traffickers. This year I have introduced House Bill 767 that allows police to seize the assets of a trafficker, similar to what is already allowed for drug runners.

I invite you to share your thoughts by filling out my 2014 Constituent Survey. Also, mark your calendars for my annual Town Hall with Senator Chap Petersen on Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m., at Fairfax City Hall. More information on both can be found at [www.davidbulova.com](http://www.davidbulova.com).

Fairfax  
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**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.

**Annual Valentine's Day Banquet.** The Family Ministry of the Greater Little Zion Baptist Church is sponsoring their annual Valentine's Day Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 15. from 6:30 to 11 p.m. All couples and singles are invited to fellowship to enjoy an evening of dining, music, dancing and featured entertainment. The theme for this night of extravaganza and celebration of Valentine's Day is "The Joy Of Love" (Song of Songs 4:10). Location: Waterford Receptions at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Cost: \$55 per person. Contact Deacon Anthony Bazemore or Deaconess-Elect Terri Bazemore at 703-764-9111. Reservations and payments are due by Feb. 10.

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

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

## FREE REMODELING & DESIGN SEMINARS!



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# Creating Books with Children

Experts say helping little readers become authors can deepen a love of reading.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**K**.J., 8, and his sister Kalina, 3, love reading books, particularly books they've written themselves or with their mother. In fact, K.J. is an avid reader of both homemade and traditionally published books, and his sister is following in his footsteps.

"When they were younger, I took pictures and copied them on a home printer," said their mother, Holly Karapetkova, an associate professor of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. "Once they were older, they illustrated the books or chose the item they wanted to include like for a specific letter in an alphabet book."

Karapetkova and other researchers said that creating books like this with children is not only easy and

inexpensive, it's one of the best ways to help them develop a love of books and reading, which Karapetkova said is one of the greatest gifts a parent can give a child. "Reading is one of the fundamental ways that we interact with the world and particularly with knowledge," she said. "As a college professor, I find that my students who can read well can also think well and write well. They are thinkers on a much deeper level. Research has shown that reading makes you more contemplative, builds patience, concentration, and you have to use your imagination."

**MAKING YOUR OWN BOOKS** stretches the imagination. M. Susan Burns, Ph.D., a member of the early childhood education and human development and family sciences faculty at George Mason University says there are a few

things that parents should keep in mind when making books with their children, however.

"Parents need to make it a positive experience," she said. "Children need to have books available [on topics] that are of true interest to them. When a book is being made with parents, it may not be engaging if the book is only of interest to the parent."

"Sometimes it gets sickening to have your kid tell you another princess story or another train story, but it is really important though to go with the child's interest," she continued. "You can take a little bit of a twist on the story by maybe adding a map that shows the places where the train might go."

Children may also want to turn to real-life for their books. "Children love to create stories based on their own experiences, and begin to develop a love of art and literature at an early age," said Sharon Fishel, ArtReach director for the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. "Parents can foster the link between drawing, writing and reading by having their child draw pictures of



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLY KARAPETKOVA

**K.J., 8, and his sister Kalina, 3, make books with their mother, Holly Karapetkova, a professor of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. Experts say making books with children can help them develop a love of reading.**

their daily routine or special events, such as field trips, family outings or unplanned adventures."

When creating a homemade book, the text doesn't have to be original either. "You can take a familiar song and adapt the lyrics," said Karapetkova. "For example, a book about a daily routine can say 'This is the way we brush our teeth, brush our teeth, brush our teeth early in the morning.'"

The techniques for young children are a little different. "You want a little one to engage with a

book," said Fishel. "A parent-child idea is nice. We do a lot of parent-child workshops here [at the McLean Project for the Arts] where one parent does one side [of the page] and child does the other."

The books children and their parents create don't have to be fancy, however. "When I've made books like this with my children, we've taken photos, we cut out pictures from magazines, glue sticks, something to put the picture onto," said Burns. "You can make those

books fun by using artifacts. If you're doing a book from your beach trip, your child may want to put some sand in the book, but it is important to have a child initiate it."

"As a college professor, I find that my students who can read well can also think well and write well. They are thinkers on a much deeper level."

— Holly Karapetkova, Ph.D., Marymount University

ing a child with an area dedicated to their work and ideas. All children need is blank paper, coloring crayons or markers, and a quiet place to work, preferably at a table that is their size. Elementary-age children should be provided paper that has a blank section at the top and lines on the bottom.

"For preschool age children," Love said, "parents can ask their child to dictate or describe in order the illustrations. Parents should describe what they are writing while the child watches them transcribe their ideas to the paper. This reinforces that language can be printed."

Experts add that it's important to emphasize that mistakes, corrections and changes are OK. "I usually say don't let them erase what they write or draw 150 times. It is not about perfection," said Fishel.

Burns agrees. "In books for pleasure you don't want to make big corrections," she said. "It's the relationship with parents that will make it positive."

Love suggests that parents display their children's books. "Writing and reading go hand in hand, and through supporting the writing process, parents are enhancing their child's ability to be a more effective and efficient reader. Writing together helps to expand a child's vocabulary, encourage creativity, activate prior knowledge, and build self-esteem."

Even "folded paper, bound with a pencil becomes a writer's journal," said Karapetkova. "You can also take plastic zip-lock bags, punch holes in the bags, fill them and they become bath time books because they are waterproof."

Fishel suggests sticking with the basics: "Composition book, crayons, colored pencils. Go to a crafts store [and get] bags of origami papers or printed pattern papers," she said, noting that "each part of it can come a lesson plan. Get a patterned piece of paper and explore with your child what makes that a pattern. Don't assume that your child knows."

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS** at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac create their own books as part of the elementary school curriculum. Jordan Love, head of the Lower School, said that parents can "create a writing center at home by provid-

# Garza Proposes \$2.5 Billion Budget for FY 2015

Proposed Fairfax County public schools budget would cut 731 positions, increase class size.

By JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the Jan. 9 School Board Meeting, Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza released the proposed budget of \$2.5 billion for FY 2015.

The budget proposal requires an additional \$98.1 million, or 5.7 percent increase compared to FY 2014, from Fairfax County, which the school system says is due to uncontrollable factors such as enrollment growth, retirement rate increases and the structural deficit. The FY 2015 proposed budget is an increase of \$59.4 million from last year's approved budget.

"We had some significant cost drivers that affected our budget moving forward," Garza said at the school board meeting.

According to Garza, enroll-

**Schools Superintendent Karen Garza speaks at her Listening Tour on Dec. 7 at Cooper Middle School in McLean. Garza has proposed a \$2.5 billion budget for FY 2015.**



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBARD/THE CONNECTION

ment growth has created a strain on the school system due to the resources needed to address this growth. Other costs factors include a retirement rate increase of \$38.9 million, as required by the state, and health insurance increases of an estimated \$23.9 million.

**THE PROPOSED BUDGET** also includes an increase of step bonuses for employees who are eligible, totaling \$41.0 million. There has been one step increase for employees in the past five years.

In order to address these cost increases, the budget includes re-

ductions and savings of \$96.5 million, which includes the elimination of 731 positions.

The reductions include the elimination of 82 positions from central support, 180.5 positions from school support, which includes assistant principals, technology specialists, school clerical employees, custodians, and the elimination of the administrative intern program. The elimination of 468.7 classroom positions is also included in the proposed budget and will be done by increasing class size and cutting down on needs-based staffing, instructional assistants, and the career and transition program.

"Some of that we believe can be mitigated by annual growth and annual attrition, but it is significant. It is a significant number of positions," Garza said.

The proposed budget also includes an addition of \$4.2 million in fees for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests.

According to Garza, the Board of Supervisors has spent a great deal of time meeting with the school board regarding the budget.

"I'm very hopeful and optimistic, having met with them numerous

times, as we all have, that there will be a shared solution and that they will partner with us as we move forward to protect our great schools," Garza said.

Garza said at the meeting that the school board has taken a shared approach in the FY 2015 proposed budget.

"As we look to FY 2015, our approach has been a shared approach. As I mentioned earlier, we had a projected significant shortfall. As we visited with the Board of Supervisors, we felt like after having visited with them and really surveying the lay of the land, we knew that we were going to have to look forward to solving this through a shared approach, recognizing that we're going to need their help in helping protect our schools moving forward, but at the same time, that we're going to have to make some difficult decisions as a system, very painful ones," Garza said.

Garza said at the school board meeting that she knows the school system is asking a lot of the Board of Supervisors. The budget is dependent on the

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 12

## The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras 2014 - 15 Season

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## Route 29K/N Metrobus Changes

Washington Area Metro Transit Authority (Metro) has made the following changes to Metrobus Route 29K/N, which affects City of Fairfax riders:

- ❖ The 29N will extend from Fairfax Circle to Vienna/Fairfax-GMU station. This change will connect the Little River Turnpike corridor to the Orange Line and provide connections to additional Metrobus and Fairfax Connector routes.
- ❖ There'll be 12 additional weekday trips in each direction.
- ❖ The time between buses will improve to 30 minutes between Northern Virginia Community College and King Street-Old Town station (60 minutes on each route).
- ❖ Service will run later in the evening on weekdays.
- ❖ The 29N will run all day during the week. For more information, call 202-637-7000.

door; \$6 reserved tickets are at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/521540>. It's being put on by the theater class, Robinson Production Co., and is based on a tale by Hans Christian Andersen.

## Needed: Chocolate Cakes, Sculptures

The City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee is looking for professional and amateur chefs of all ages to participate in the Chocolate Challenge, Feb. 1-2, as part of the Chocolate Lovers Festival.

Works and tastes of art will be submitted for the area's most talented chefs and chocolatiers to judge in several categories.

Obtain an application from the Chocolate Lovers Festival website, [www.chocolatefestival.net](http://www.chocolatefestival.net), or call 703-385-7858. Applications are due by Jan. 27.

## Robinson Offers 'Snow Queen'

Robinson Secondary presents the children's show, "The Snow Queen," Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 25, at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 in advance at the main office, \$7 at the

## Bulova, Petersen Town Meeting

Del. David Bulova (D-37th) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34th) will hold their annual town meeting Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9-10:30 a.m., at the Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax.



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**CALENDAR**

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**FRIDAY/JAN. 17- SATURDAY/JAN. 18**

**"Cats."** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School 3501 Reber Run, Fairfax. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" Ticket sales for \$14.13 & \$6.25 on line at: [fxdance.ticketleap.com](http://fxdance.ticketleap.com)

**SATURDAY/JAN. 18**

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. Harris Theater, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$25-60. For information call 703-563-1990 or visit: [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).

**SUNDAY/JAN. 19**

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 2 p.m. Harris Theater, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$25-60. For information call 703-563-1990 or visit: [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).  
**"Cats."** 2:30 p.m. Fairfax High School 3501 Reber Run, Fairfax. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" Ticket sales for \$14.13 & \$6.25 on line at: [fxdance.ticketleap.com](http://fxdance.ticketleap.com)

**MONDAY/JAN. 20**

**Give Together.** Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. A day of volunteering for families and friends.

**TUESDAY/JAN. 21, 28**

**"Song & Character Study:" An Audition Workshop for High School & Adult Students.** 6-8 p.m. Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. High School and Adult actors and singers are invited to join CFTC for a four week class on song and character study. Each week will feature a master class setting where students will bring a song to workshop with the class. Instructors will assist the student with delivering text as a song, with emphasis on combining of acting and singing skills in a well-rounded performance. Cost: \$40 per student. \$65 for two people in the same family, \$90 for three or more people in the same family. [www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org](http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org)

**THURSDAY/JAN. 23**

**Mrs. Green's Natural Market.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. 12995 Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax. Brand New, natural & organic, One-stop fresh food market. [www.mrsgreens.com](http://www.mrsgreens.com)

**THURSDAY/JAN. 23- SATURDAY/JAN. 25**

**I Never Saw Another Butterfly.** 7 p.m. The Sovereign Grace Home School Co op Main Auditorium, 5200 Ox Rd, Fairfax. The play tells the unforgettable story of a young Jewish survivor of the Holocaust during World War II. \$7 for adults; \$5, students 3-17. [www.facebook.com/jubileecampaign.org/funds/tabitha-orphans-fund](http://www.facebook.com/jubileecampaign.org/funds/tabitha-orphans-fund)

**THURSDAY/JAN. 23- FRIDAY/JAN. 24**

**Annie Get Your Gun.** 7:30 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This entertaining musical tells the fictionalized story of the life of Annie Oakley (1860-1926), a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and her romance with sharpshooter Frank Butler. Tickets



PHOTO BY BARRY WHEELER/COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Attend the next performance of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with Conductor Chris Zimmerman on Jan. 18 and 19 at the Harris Theater at George Mason University.**



PHOTO BY PEGGY PRIDEMORE

**Some members of The Fairfax Academy cast rehearsing the musical "Cats." Performances begin Jan. 17 at Fairfax High School.**

\$10. <http://lakebraddockchorus.squarespace.com> for information and online ticket sales

**FRIDAY/JAN. 24**

**Messages of Hope.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A Chris Lavelle Film, will be shown. A film event that will touch your soul, this documentary is based on Suzanne's true story of transformation that has captivated audiences. Participants can ask questions about the afterlife, hear the rest of the story, and get books signed following the discussion. Cost: \$10.

**FRIDAY/JAN. 24- SATURDAY/JAN. 25**

**"Cats."** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School 3501 Reber Run, Fairfax. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on TS Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" Ticket sales for \$14.13 & \$6.25 on line at: [fxdance.ticketleap.com](http://fxdance.ticketleap.com)

**SATURDAY/JAN. 25**

**Springfield Burke Relay for Life Scrapbooking/Crafting Event.** 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. West Springfield High School cafeteria, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Complete your craft projects in the New Year—photo albums, jewelry, Valentines. Cost includes lunch, door prizes, silent auction and shopping showcase. Suggested donation \$40 for full day, \$25 for half day. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. To register contact Leslie Carlin at 703-866-4862 or Anne Wardinski at 703-764-9687.

**Making the Connection.** 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854

Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Participants will learn how to open themselves to higher levels of guidance, creativity, inspiration and love. Cost \$35.00 each Saturday presentation - morning or afternoon.  
**"Heart Gifts" New Evidence of Our Interconnectedness.** 1:30-4:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Suzanne Gesemann, former Aide to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and now acclaimed spiritual author, will tell the gripping story of a very special soul called "Wolf", who in his short time on earth, walked two worlds at once - the physical and non-physical. His story reveals the interconnectedness of the two worlds and the messages he left behind are amazing gifts to us on how to bring peace, balance and greater love into life. Cost: \$35.00 for this afternoon session.

**Annie Get Your Gun.** 2 and 8 p.m. Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. This entertaining musical tells the fictionalized story of the life of Annie Oakley (1860-1926), a sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, and her romance with sharpshooter Frank Butler. Tickets \$10. <http://lakebraddockchorus.squarespace.com> for information and online ticket sales.

**Anna Balakerskaia & Friends.** 8 p.m. George Mason University, Harris Theatre, Fairfax. An evening of chamber music featuring the music of Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Shostokovich and Rachmaninov. Anna Balakerskaia, piano, with guest artists Zino Bogachek, violin, Philippe Chao, viola, Brendan Conway, violin, Claire Eichhorn, clarinet, Dasha Gabay, piano, Igor Zubkovsky, cello. 703-819-6669

# Fairfax Academy Hosts MCT Festival

**Eight annual MCT Fest displays students' talents, leadership.**

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Students enrolled in Fairfax Academy's Music Computer Technology (MCT) class impressed parents and teachers by hosting and performing original compositions at the Eighth Annual MCT Fest on Jan. 8 in Fairfax.

Thanks to student leaders like Cameron Welke, a senior at Fairfax High School who served as manager for the festival, and MCT Instructor Christopher Johnston, a Lorton resident known as "Mr. J." by his students, event attendees enjoyed a variety of musical styles at the festival.

According to Johnston, there are five goals of the MCT Fest, including presenting original music, allowing students to run an event, promoting awareness of the academy in the community, helping students gain networking skills, and fundraising.

Although the weeks leading up to MCT Fest were somewhat stressful for Johnston and his students, due to snow days and school delays, the festival still went smoothly.

"I didn't sleep well that week at all. I slept great the weekend after. I caught up on all the sleep that I wasn't able to get because so many things can go wrong," Johnston said.



**Members of the Fairfax Academy Music Computer Technology (MCT) class at their annual MCT Festival performed original compositions. The MCT Fest featured a variety of musical performances.**

In addition to managing the event, Welke performed twice during MCT Fest. He played guitar at the beginning with Ben Alter, the other student manager, and then played violin as part of a chamber ensemble.

As a student manager, Welke began preparing and organizing the event in August.

"It's really a lot of figuring out what needs to get done, who can do it, who will do it and how to get them to go on and do it," he said.

Welke enjoys having Johnston as an instructor and looks forward to coming to class every day.

"He's really a gem in the educational system. He's the one teacher that I've never come into class where he has not been excited to be here and excited to teach us about something new. He knows the programs like the back of his hand and he really and truly loves what he does," Welke said.

Erin Bloom, the career experi-

ence specialist at Fairfax Academy, said that Johnston's passion for teaching makes the class enjoyable for the students.

"He's very passionate about not only teaching but about each one of them. Individually he's so passionate about every single child in the class," Bloom said.

Welke has noticed the attention Johnston gives to each student during class.

"Actually, his one shortcoming might be that it's impossible to get him by yourself because he's always off working with somebody. And when he works with somebody he really focuses on what they're doing and tries to make it the best so it can help them become a better musician as a result of it," Welke said.

The students also enjoy their instructor's jokes, which were recited during MCT Fest.

"The students did a wonderful job. It's a huge undertaking," Johnston said.



**Cameron Welke, a senior at Fairfax High School and a student at Fairfax Academy, performs at the MCT Fest on Jan. 10. Welke served as a manager for the festival.**



**Lorton resident Christopher Johnston, the MCT Instructor at the Fairfax Academy, performs at the Eighth Annual MCT Fest. Johnson has been teaching the class since it started in 2000.**

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# 'Really Strong Dancers, Powerhouse Singers'

Fairfax Academy presents the musical, 'Cats.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of nearly 85, the famed musical, "Cats," will burst upon the Fairfax High stage in a show that promises to be a treat for both the eyes and ears.

A production of the school's Musical Theatre and Dance academies, it's directed by Mike Replogle, director of the Musical Theatre Academy, and choreographed and produced by Andrea Heining, who heads the Dance Academy. There's also a 25-person pit orchestra.

"It's a difficult show to do because there's no script, just a musical score based on T.S. Eliot's poems," said Replogle. "But Andrea and I enjoy working together and couldn't think of a bigger song-and-dance show than 'Cats.' And between our two classes, we can sing, dance and act it."

**IT'S THE SECOND-LONGEST-RUNNING** show on Broadway, logging some 8,000 performances, and is about a tribe of cats. "All cats have to earn their nine lives by serving the tribe or learning something to teach to the next generation," explained Replogle. "And in each vignette, each cat pleads their case for why they should be renewed." They've been rehearsing since October; but since the Fairfax Academy draws students from 20 different schools, scheduling rehearsals proved challenging. "But things are going well," said Replogle. "Some 80-90 percent of the kids in my Musical Theatre Actors Studio class want to do this in college and/or professionally, so they work hard and are very talented – same thing with the dance students."

Calling Andrew Lloyd Webber's music memorable, Replogle said, "Most of it is vic-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The cast after performing the song, "The Naming of Cats," during a rehearsal.

torious, uplifting and fun. And Andrea's really outdone herself and has created some beautiful dances. Because the actors are portraying cats, the set's an oversized end of an alley with trash, tuna cans, broken windows and a fence."

Woodson Theater Director Terri Hobson and her family are instrumental in the show's look. Her son designed the set; daughter, costumes; husband, lights; and she designed the props and set décor. Appreciative of their help, Replogle said FCPS's theater teachers "really help each other out, when we can."

He said the makeup is also spectacular. "Each cat's face will illustrate their personality," said Replogle. "I hope people leave here remembering why they liked this show so much in the '80s."

Fairfax senior Marissa Kovach plays Grizzabella. "She was the snobby, glamour cat when she was younger, but left to do her own thing and is shunned when she returns," said Kovach. "All the cats hate her and are mean to her. As she got older, her talent dwindled and she was alone, with no one to help her. She regrets what she did and wishes she had another chance. In her song, 'Memory,' she's on her last legs, pleading with them to listen to and learn

from her and accept her back."

Kovach says it's been her "dream role" since she saw "Cats" as a child. "But I never thought I'd have the opportunity to play it, so I was ecstatic because it's so complex and challenging," she said. "And 'Memory' showcases both my voice and acting skills. It's powerful for the audience to watch and me to portray." The audience will love the show, she said, because "so many talented people are contributing to the production. And all the cats wear unitards painted like cat fur and the makeup will be amazing."

Oakton senior Shanelucas Ramsey and Woodson junior Lara Taylor play burglar cats Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer, respectively. "They're not bad, just mischievous," said Taylor.

"They're the neighborhood punks," added Ramsey. "Mungojerrie's cocky, but not particularly brave. But he's definitely goofy and weird. He's a cool cat who enjoys causing mayhem. I love playing him and doing the song and dance we have together. My cat has no boundaries; he's fun, energetic, cheerful and carefree."

Taylor said they "don't hold back" and actually embrace acting like cats. "We're open to just going for it and giving 100 percent," she said. "If we give our all, we know

the audience will relate to it more." For example, Ramsey gets down on all fours, arches his back and focuses on making his motions catlike.

**IN THEIR SELF-TITLED NUMBER**, said Taylor, "We do lots of physical things, besides singing. Rather than being slinky cats, we're athletic, energetic, funny and in-your-face."

"I've never had a role with vigorous dancing and singing at the same time," said Ramsey. "It's an upbeat, character song and comic relief to what's going on." He said all the show's musical numbers will wow the audience because "we have some really strong dancers and powerhouse singers. But I think the highlight is the dancing."

"The costumes are all airbrushed and unique, and every one is different," added Taylor. "That, plus the songs, dances, makeup and characterizations of the cats will make it an experience the audience will really enjoy. It's great for kids, too, with different meanings for multiple generations."

Fairfax choir teacher Luke Frels plays Old Deuteronomy. "He's the old, wise cat who's made it through his nine lives," said Frels. "He's revered, respected and loved among all the cats. I'm enjoying it; I get to move slowly and act older. I have two old cats, so I've been watching them."

Frels saw "Cats" on Broadway in 1998, but hasn't acted in a musical in years. So, he said, "It's humbling being onstage with all these kids who are very good at all they do – and some are my students. The audience will especially love hearing the songs, 'Memory' and 'Rum-Tum-Tugger,' and the set's awesome."

**SHOWTIMES** are Friday-Saturday, Jan. 17-18 and 24-25, at 7:30 a.m., and Sunday, Jan. 19 and 26, at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 presale at <http://fxdance.ticketleap.com> or \$15 at the door. Saturday, Jan. 18 and 25, at 2:30 p.m., with the Young Artists Series, shorter performances with \$5 tickets and special activities for children.

## Schools Budget Requires Tough Choices

FROM PAGE 8

Board of Supervisors increasing the county transfer by \$98.1 million.

The FY 2015 projected beginning balance, used to prepare the budget, was \$48.5 million.

The school board's revenue assumptions include \$375.9 million in state aid, \$171.7 million of state sales tax, \$42.0 million in federal aid, and \$66.6 million in tuition payments from City of Fairfax and other revenue.

The projected FY 2015 student enrollment is 187,994 stu-

dents.

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS** expressed both thanks to Superintendent Garza for increasing transparency and beginning the budget discussion earlier than previous years, as well as concerns for some aspects of the budget.

"I have serious concerns with the budget that has been presented because I personally believe that there is some long term impacts in here that we need to ameliorate," said Dan Storck, the Mount Vernon District School Board member.

Other concerns included class size increase and the elimination of certain positions.

"These are some brave cuts. These are going to be some difficult situations we are going to have Monday going forward," Springfield School Board member Elizabeth Schultz said.

Mason District School Board member Sandy Evans said at the meeting she agrees the step increase for employees is fundamental. "As far as the request for the 5.7 percent transfer, I think that this is modest. It's reasonable. Considering our huge growth and

our huge critical, fundamental needs, I think that our request here is quite reasonable," Evans said.

Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin expressed concern with the 5.7 percent increase in the county transfer at the meeting, based off what the Board of Supervisors has approved in the past.

"This school system has not seen a 6 percent or more increase since 2006. This 5.7 percent increase gives me great pause," McLaughlin said. Some school board members, however, think the request is reasonable, including Vice Chairman

and Lee District School Board member Tamara Derenak Kaufax.

"It cannot simply be stated that education is a top priority, when it has not been adequately funded for several years now. Our system has not. Lip service cannot educate a child. Our uncontrollable increases cannot be ignored. Our enrollment growth, our changing demographics, our rising insurance and retirement rates. These are uncontrollable expenses. Again, don't ignore them," Derenak Kaufax said.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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### 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
TOWN OF CLIFTON  
FEBRUARY 4, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. The purpose is to consider amendment and revision of the Signs regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, found in Chapter 9, Article 2 General Regulations, Section 9-14 of the Code of Town of Clifton, Virginia.

The proposed revision is available for review on the Town website at <http://clifton-va.com/TownCode.pdf> under the Town Council/Legislation drop-down menu. A hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to express their views with respect to the proposed amendment and revision of the Signs section of the Zoning Ordinance.

### 21 Announcements

### 21 Announcements

### 21 Announcements



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January 17 - 19

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Zones 2, 3, 4.....Tues @ noon

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### DEADLINES

Zones 5, 6.....Tues @ 11:00

Zones 1, 3.....Tues @ 4:00

Zone 2.....Wed @ 11:00

Zone 4.....Wed @ 1:00

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### ZONES

**Zone 1:** The Reston Connection  
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

**Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection  
The Burke Connection

The Fairfax Connection  
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/  
Lorton Connection

**Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette

**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South

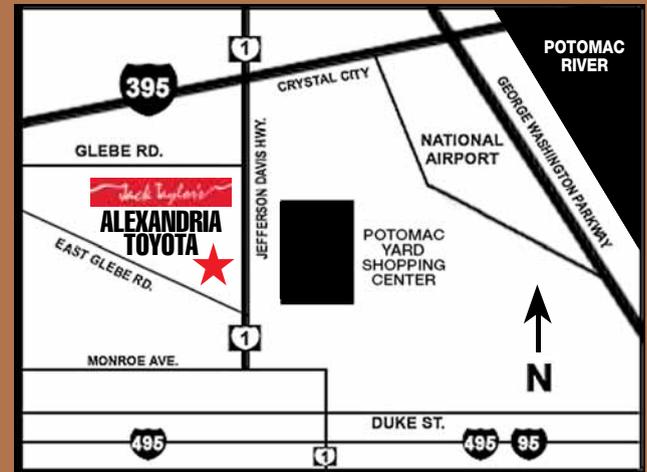
**Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac

**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
The Vienna/Oakton  
Connection

The McLean Connection  
The Great Falls  
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<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>OIL &amp; FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL</b> <b>\$5<sup>00</sup> OFF</b> Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect &amp; adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out. <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>BRAKE SPECIAL</b> <b>\$79<sup>95</sup></b> PADS Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front &amp; rear rotors &amp; drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only. <b>MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</b> <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL</b> <b>\$119<sup>95</sup></b> Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans &amp; SUVs add \$20.00. <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>DETAIL SPECIALS</b> <b>\$39<sup>95</sup></b> Wash &amp; Vacuum <b>\$139<sup>95</sup></b> Hand wash, wax &amp; interior cleaning <b>\$295<sup>95</sup></b> Full premium detail <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL</b> <b>\$129<sup>95</sup></b> INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables &amp; connections. <small>Does not apply to hybrid batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>VARIABLE DISCOUNT</b> <b>\$5.00 OFF</b> with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99 <b>\$10.00 OFF</b> with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99 <b>\$15.00 OFF</b> with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99 <b>\$20.00 OFF</b> with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99 <b>\$50.00 OFF</b> with purchase of \$500.00 Or more <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR \$1<sup>00</sup></b> <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b> GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>12% OFF ANY FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE</b> <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>
<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION</b> Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts &amp; hoses &amp; fluid levels. <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT</b> <b>\$89<sup>95</sup></b> PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy. INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts &amp; shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure. <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>FREE QUICK ALIGNMENT CHECK</b> We will take the guess work out. Stop paying for alignments you don't need. <b>ADJUSTMENTS, \$89.95</b> <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p><b>Service &amp; Parts Dept. Hours:</b> Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm</p>
<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>WINTER MAINTENANCE PACKAGE SPECIAL</b> <b>\$59<sup>95</sup></b> INCLUDES: Install Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of oil, tire rotation, tire tread inspection, set proper tire pressure, battery check (with print-out), inspect brakes, inspect drive belts, check &amp; top off all fluids and check engine coolant/antifreeze. <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</b> <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE <b>FREE QUICK ALIGNMENT CHECK</b> We will take the guess work out. Stop paying for alignments you don't need. <b>ADJUSTMENTS, \$89.95</b> <small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	

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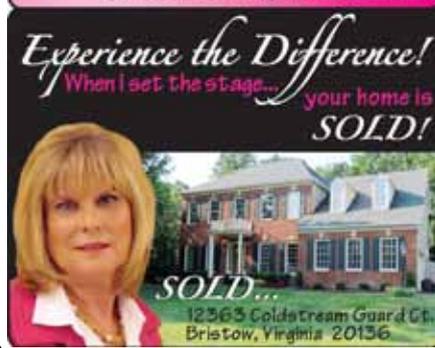
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jon.sampson@longandfooster.com  
jonsampsonrealtor.com  
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### Happy and Prosperous New Year 2014 to all!

Watch this space for some great Properties, coming on the market in February and March when Spring is just around the corner. The excitement is building!

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Kay.hart@longandfooster.com

**Act while the mortgage rates remain low and before prices rise!**  
**I will help you through the process.**



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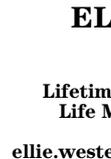
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