

Alex Berglie, 3, of the Newgate neighborhood in Centreville, tries the French horn. Sharie Stegeman is a flute player with the City of Fairfax Band.

Committed to  
'Never Give Up'  
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'He's  
Forever  
Lost to Us'  
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# Cymbals And Cicadas

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# NEWS



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

The O'Brien family stands in front of the City of Fairfax Band. Jay O'Brien is the man behind the bank behind the concert. He is president of the Northern Virginia Market of Sandy Spring Bank. He is pictured with his family, from left, daughters Meggie, Katie and Kerrienne, and his wife Sally.

## Cymbals and Cicadas

### City of Fairfax Band

What do banks, balloons and bassoons have in common? The Fairfax City Band, of course. On Thursday July 15, the Fairfax City Band and Sandy Spring Bank treated young and old to the band's annual Children's Concert at the City of Fairfax's Veterans' Amphitheatre. With musical selections from classics like the musical Mary Poppins to a hilarious rendition of Randy Newman's "Short People" performed by special guest John Lyon, guests enjoyed ice cream donated by former City of Fairfax Council Member Patrice Winter and got to play instruments in the Orchestra Petting Zoo. For more information about the band go to [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org).

**Jennifer Weston tries her hand and the bassoon, watched by her daughter Maddie. They are from the Kingspark West neighborhood of Fairfax.**



**Irania tries out the flute, assisted by flute-player Jody Stein. Irania is from the Bronx in New York City. She is visiting Fairfax for two weeks as part of the Fresh Air Fund. She is staying with the Kronlage family in the Rutherford neighborhood of Fairfax. For more information go to [www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org).**



### SATURDAY CONCERTS

The Fairfax Corner Summer Concert Series runs through Aug. 28, with performances every Saturday, from 6-8:30 p.m.

#### JULY

- 17 - Second Wind
- 24 - Bad Hair Day
- 31 - Ska Face

#### AUGUST

- 7 - Naked Blue
- 14 - Powerful Quiet Fire Soul Show
- 21 - The Merchants of Cool
- 28 - International Children's Festival Preview Event



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Local singer and songwriter Alexe Colbus will open at Fairfax Corner's summer concert series July 24**

## Natural Music Talent

### GMU graduate performs locally while finishing her second album.

BY ELISE AMYX  
THE CONNECTION

Although 22-year-old singer and songwriter Alexe Colbus never had a piano lesson, musical talent came naturally to her.

"When I was younger, my dad played a lot of instruments," said the Fairfax native. "I get it from [him]. I was born with music somewhere inside of me."

Colbus has always been passionate about singing. At 13, she began teaching herself Christmas carols on the piano. "I wasn't being forced, I did it on my own," she said.

During her high school years at W.T. Woodson in Fairfax, Colbus sang the national anthem at school events like pep rallies and later for a packed stadium at the Patriot Center. "Big crowds don't scare me," she said.

Colbus began writing her own songs at 16 and recorded her first song later that year. She describes her style as pop-soul, similar to Alicia Keys. "I don't even listen to the radio these days. I love old soul music, classic rock and blues," Colbus said.

Today, she is working with a producer as an independent artist. Recently graduated from George Mason University with degree in finance and economics, her main focus is managing her second album, expected to finish in October.

On July 24, Colbus is open-

ing for Second Wind at Fairfax Corner's summer concert series where she has performed for the past two summers. The concert series is produced by Fairfax Corner in partnership with Celebrate Fairfax, featuring a variety of local bands on Saturdays, from 6-8:30 p.m. "[It] is a great place to spend a

**"I was born with music somewhere inside of me."**

— Alexe Colbus

Saturday evening under the stars, listening to the music of some of the hottest local acts," said Lindsay Groom, Fairfax Corner marketing manager.

Barry Feil, president of Celebrate Fairfax, said when he aims to book artists that "kids will be able to dance to, what parents will be able to sing along to."

Tim and Genae O'Connor of Fairfax took their 16-month-old daughter Kendal to the July 3 concert in Fairfax Corner. Two a cappella groups, Snow Day and Euphonism, sang popular radio hits and classic rock cover tunes.

"It's great. The weather is beautiful and it's very kid friendly," said Genae O'Connor.

"Fairfax Corner is really fun, this [will be] my third time playing there and there are always people out," said Colbus. "I'm just super psyched to play for people."

Colbus is also co-headlining with two other artists on July 21 at Jammin' Java in Vienna. To preview the music on her upcoming album, visit [www.myspace.com/alexecolbus](http://www.myspace.com/alexecolbus).