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Political Discussion

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Inaugural Party For Young People

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JCCNV Rally For Israel

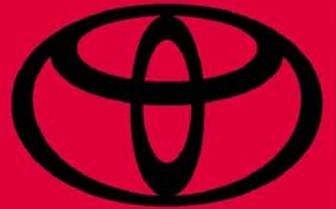
NEWS, PAGE 3

Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) discusses a variety of issues his office is working on in the state assembly during a public meeting in Springfield with several other local politicians on Saturday morning.

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION
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The children move onto the dance floor to celebrate the upcoming inauguration.



Special guest Gary Durdin of 'CSI' with his mother Selma Durdin and nieces: Jurneer, Lyric, Nyla and Thandi.

Local Jews Gather in Support of Israel

Northern Virginia Jewish community turns out as ceasefire and pullout of Gaza begin.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

Waving Israeli flags, hundreds of members of the region's Jewish community listened to a score of speakers urging them to support Israel and acknowledge the support of its American allies.

The crowd filled the gymnasium at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia on Little River Turnpike in Fairfax Sunday, Jan. 18. The rally, which featured speakers from several national advocacy groups, was organized in support of Israel two days after an announced ceasefire and pullout plan from the Gaza strip.

Howard Kohr, executive director for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee

(AIPAC) and Northern Virginia resident thanked U.S. Sens. Mark Warner (D-Va.) and Jim Webb (D-Va.) along with newly sworn-in U.S. Rep. Gerry Conolly (D-11) for their support.

Despite what Kohr called "condemnations throughout Europe and the world", the United States had been a "shining light" to Israel.

Outgoing U.S. President George W. Bush (R) has been an outspoken ally of Israel during his eight years in office. Steve Stone, chairman for the Northern Virginia branch of the Jewish Community Relations Council, thanked Bush, along with President-elect Obama and the U.S. House of Representatives for overwhelmingly supporting a Jan. 10 resolution supporting a ceasefire on Israeli terms.

All Ages Dance

Black Women United for Action hosts Pre-Inaugural Youth Ball for area youth.

In honor of the 44th President of the United States of America, President-Elect Barack Obama, the friends of Black Women United for Action presented the Thandi James Pre-inaugural Ball

on Sunday evening at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott.

For more information on BWUFA programs and activities call 703-922-5757 or visit www.bwufa.org

An Invitation

Dear Sasha and Malia,

My name is Thandiwe Kara Durdin-James from Los Angeles, Calif. I am 11-years old. I have two sisters, and two brothers.

When your father won the election it was a miracle for our country. While my Aunt Sheila and I were talking about coming to the Inauguration Ceremony I told her that I thought that children should be allowed to come to

the Inaugural Ball. I feel that kids don't get to attend Balls and I know that deep down they really want to. Aunt Sheila, who is the president of Black Women United for Action and the members of the organization thought that it would be a great idea.

I am so proud to announce that on Jan. 18, 2009 the Thandi James Pre-Inaugural Youth Ball will be held at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott for young people ages seven to 18 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Children will be coming from all over the country.

We wish to extend to you both a cordial invitation to be our guests. If your mother cannot come then maybe your grandmother could come. Then my grandmother who made our gowns could meet your grandmother. We would love to be able to share with you the celebration of your father becoming our President. It will be so much fun.

It would be an honor if you could come and make this a special night.

With love,
Thandiwe



Thandiwe James

Rafael Harpaz, director of public affairs for the Israeli Embassy said the Israeli bombing and subsequent Jan. 3 invasion into Gaza, following weeks of intensified rocket attacks by Hamas from Gaza, was designed to dismantle the capability for further rocket attacks.

"I think our army learned important lessons from the 2006 [Lebanon] war," said Harpaz. "We surprised Hamas, and I think it was a major success."

He also praised Israeli humanitarian efforts.

"Show me one [other] country in the world that sends trucks of supplies to its enemies," said Harpaz of the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Stone said Israel had been "confronted

by cowards and evil men" bent on their destruction.

"We must never waver or question that what we are doing is right," said Stone.

Stone later added: "People are dying, and we do not relish that."

"I think our army learned important lessons from the 2006 [Lebanon] war."

— Rafael Harpaz, director of public affairs for the Israeli Embassy

MANY AT the rally were supportive of Israel. Ofer Saban, an Arlington resident and Israeli-native, said rockets fired from Gaza struck a mile and a half from his home. He said he supported Israel's deci-

sion to go to war and urged the Palestinian people to stop supporting Hamas and "be good neighbors."

"The situation is impossible over there.

SEE CANDLES, PAGE 14

Albo Goes to Richmond

Del. Dave Albo (R-42) headed down to Richmond last week to participate in the 2009 Virginia General Assembly session, which started Jan. 14. Here are a few of the legislative bills he plans to introduce:

❖ **Drunk Driving** – Albo has introduced a bill that would allow the blood alcohol test that determines whether a driver is drunk to be submitted into court if they are taken by hospital staff. Currently, the test results can be disregarded in some cases if they are not taken by a police officer

❖ **In-state Verses Out-of-state University Students** – This bill would require all Virginia colleges and universities to increase their in-state undergraduate enrollment by 1.3 percent each year until they hit a ratio of Virginia residents verses non-Virginia residents of 80 percent to 20 percent. Albo said he is concerned about the amount of out-of-state students coming into Virginia state schools, particularly when admissions to some undergraduate programs is so competitive.

❖ **Teenage Driving** – Albo wants to require that parents attend at least two hours of driving education school with their teenage child. He said some exceptions could be made for parents who have multiple children so that they would not have to go through the same class several times.

Albo said he is concerned about the number of young driving deaths in Northern Virginia and hopes that more parental involvement would help deal with this problem.

“I pass by three roadside memorials on my way to my office every day and they are all for teenagers. If parents and kids have to take the class together, they might learn together,” said Albo.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Hearings Set for HOT Lanes

A joint presentation to the public by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Fluor-Transurban, company under contract for HOT Lanes construction, will take place from Feb. 9-11. The public meetings are designed to educate and inform citizens about specifics of the construction and tolls as well as to gain feedback from residents about the plan.

Construction work on the HOT Lanes, already underway in some areas, will take place on Interstate 95 and Interstate 395. Young Ho Chang, project manager for ATCS, a transportation and engineering consulting firm, said that in surveys conducted through the south county area, Interstate 95 was listed as a priority.

The work will expand existing HOV lanes from two to three and add the length of the lanes from its original stopping point in Dumfries to Spotsylvania.

“Once we have HOT Lane system in place we'll have a seamless HOV system that connects [Interstate 95] with [Interstate 495], [Interstate 66] and Dulles Toll Road,” said Chang, while speaking to the South County Federation at a meeting Tuesday, Jan. 13.

Chang, speaking on behalf of VDOT and the companies, said the project has “no public money”, and that VDOT was expected to receive \$195 million of payment from private partners looking to design, build, operate and manage the lanes.

Chang said they partnership hopes to finalize the process this year, and cautioned that the changes would not be happening in the immediate future.

“We're at the very beginning of the project. Fall next year is when it becomes a real project,” he said.

The public meetings will take place Feb. 9 at Potomac High School in Dumfries, Feb. 10 at Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield and Feb. 11 at Minnie Howard School in Alexandria. Meetings will begin as an open house with staff before a formal presentation at 7 p.m. After the presentation VDOT and private contractors will take formal testimony from residents and later provide a response.

NEWS

Quest for Road Funds

Delegates seek more revenue to fund region's transportation needs.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

To say that transportation is an important issue for Fairfax County and Northern Virginia residents would be to understate the matter. Run a Google search for the worst traffic in the nation and the Washington Metropolitan region will consistently rank in the top five.

Forbes Magazine ranked the area first overall in its 2008 “America's Most Congested Cities” feature. National Traffic Scorecard ranked it fourth overall. In that 2008 study, portions of both Interstate 495 and Interstate 66 within Fairfax County were listed among the 10 worst bottlenecks in the region. Seven roads within Fairfax County ranked in the top 25.

Like many representatives at the current Virginia General Assembly in Richmond, Dels. Tim Hugo (R-40) and Dave Marsden (D-41) are looking for ways to bolster transportation funding for the region. Both have proposed or are planning to propose legislation during the session which aim to address the traffic situation in Northern Virginia over the short and long term.

Hugo has proposed a bill that would stipulate any additional funds designated by the state to the Northern Virginia Transportation District Fund be used to pay the necessary matching fees in order to receive money from a \$3 billion federal funding package for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). In 2008, outgoing U.S. Rep. Tom

Davis (R-11) sponsored an amendment authorizing the Treasury secretary to finance capital and preventative maintenance projects at WMATA. In order to become eligible for the federal money, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Maryland must each offer \$50 million in matching funds. Hugo said his bill would help ensure that Virginia met those requirements.

“Because what we can't do is leave 3 billion federal dollars on the table. That would be a tragic mistake,” he said.

Hugo's bill, proposed on Jan. 14, is currently being reviewed in a House finance subcommittee. He said he did not anticipate much resistance to the legislation.

“I'm very hopeful considering that [a similar bill] passed the house 92-2 a few years ago. I'm very hopeful we can do it again this year,” said Hugo.

A bill offered by Marsden would seek to address what he believes is a disparity in state funding for new road and bridge construction. According to Marsden, the Commonwealth Transportation Board gives maintenance construction of existing Virginia roadways priority when doling out revenue from the state gasoline tax. As a result, Northern Virginia is left out in the cold when it comes to new trans-

portation projects.

“If you're in Southwest Virginia, you're not worried about new construction. You're perfectly fine,” said Marsden. “The rest of the state is feasting, if you will, on our construction dollars.”

Marsden's bill, referred Jan. 14 to the House transportation committee, would mandate that funding for new construction in the Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads highway construction district at least match funding for maintenance construction in those

SEE ROAD FUNDS, PAGE 22

“The rest of the state is feasting, if you will, on our construction dollars.”

— Delegate Dave Marsden (D-41)

McKay Floats Parking Fine Hike

Lee District supervisor to chair Board legislative committee.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
THE CONNECTION

Is Fairfax County “subsidizing parking violators?” That was the question posed by Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee) to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during its first meeting of the new year last week.

“In these challenging times, we need to use every tool at our disposal to ensure we don't fall prey to the law of unintended consequences. I specifically refer to our county parking ticket collection,” he said.

Most parking offenses are set by the County Code at \$40 with an extra \$20 penalty for late payment, according to McKay. “We may have reached the point where the cost of issuing a ticket — the salary of the police officer and associated administrative costs —

is higher than the actual fine,” McKay said.

To bring the amount of the fine more in line with those costs, McKay requested that staff review the current fees and “report to the board on which of those fees can be increased to both provide a higher level of deterrence and to fully cover the costs of county enforcement and collection.”

He said, “My budget advisory group has been working hard ... to find ways to raise county revenues — starting with moving our fines and fees into a more realistic balance.”

McKay also announced that he will chair the board's Legislative Committee, replacing former Board Chairman Gerald Connolly, now a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and will move up from co-chair to chair of the Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Committee. He will continue to chair the Transportation Committee.

“I am very pleased to have these assignments. They cover issues of key importance to Lee District and Fairfax County. These are critical areas in these difficult times when we are buffeted by the national and state financial meltdown,” McKay said.

Mulligan Rd. Work Under Way

Fort Belvoir road not set for use until 2011.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
THE CONNECTION

After nearly 7 1/2 years, the replacement for Woodlawn Road, permanently closed following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, is now under underway. Work on the long-awaited Richmond Highway/Telegraph Road connector officially commenced Jan. 5 when the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a notice of construction.

The closure of Woodlawn Road, due to security concerns associated with Fort Belvoir, has irritated residents and local officials. It was one of the factors cited by both Inova Mount Vernon Hospital administrators and the Southeast Health Planning Task Force as a contributing factor to the hospital's revenue shortfall.

Both Supervisors Gerald Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) and Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee), as well as McKay's predecessor Dana Kauffman, have sought approval of a replacement road. It has been a primary topic of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) discussions since that process began in 2005.

UNTIL ITS CLOSURE, Woodlawn Road was widely used by area traffic as a route between Telegraph Road and Richmond Highway through a portion of

Fort Belvoir. Since then, traffic has had to use Telegraph Road to its intersection with the Fairfax County Parkway then to the latter's intersection with Route 1. This has resulted in traffic entering Route 1 well south of the Woodlawn Road intersection with Route 1, immediately north of Fort Belvoir's Pence Gate.

The new road, presently designated Mulligan Road, will parallel the north side of Woodlawn Plantation and intersect with Route 1 at the latter's intersection with Route 235, Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

TO BE DONE in two phases, construction on Phase I is scheduled for completion the summer of 2010. Opening the road to the public will not occur until Phase II is completed in 2011, according to Jack Van Dop, senior technical specialist, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, FHWA.

"Phase I includes rough grading, drainage and bridge construction for a 1.7 mile, four-lane road with accommodation for on-road bicycle use and a trail, from Pole to Telegraph roads, just south of Hayfield Secondary School," Van Dop said.

"Phase I construction will be limited to Fort Belvoir property. However, paving and connections to Telegraph and Pole roads as well as opening the road to the public will not occur until Phase II is completed," he said. Widening Telegraph Road from Beulah Street to Leaf Road will also be completed as part of Phase II.

FHWA recommended the following for new

SEE AFTER, PAGE 7

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Franconia District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Jan. 16.

FELONY HIT AND RUN/ AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/ DRIVING ON SUSPENDED/ ARREST UPDATE

Samantha Butler, 31, of the 8200 block of Springwood Meadow Lane in Lorton, was arrested on Friday, Jan. 2 for fleeing from the scene of a crash that occurred near Cardinal Forest Lane and Gunston Corner Road on Tuesday, Dec. 30. During the incident, she injured the driver of the other vehicle with her car. Butler was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where she was charged with two counts of felony hit and run, one count of aggravated malicious wounding with a class two vehicle and driving on a suspended license.

LARCENIES

- 6000 block of Amherst Ave.** Computer storage/information device stolen from vehicle.
- 6500 block of Amherst Ave.** Dealer tag stolen from vehicle.
- 7300 block of Ardglass Drive.** iPod stolen from vehicle.
- 6600 block of Backlick Road.** Dealer tag stolen from vehicle.
- 6900 block of Braddock Road.** Pack of cigarettes stolen from business.
- 6900 block of Bradlick**

- Shopping Center.** Beer and cigarettes stolen from business.
 - 7000 block of Brookfield Plaza.** Bottle of wine stolen from business.
 - 6500 block of Edsall Road.** Purses stolen from vehicle.
 - 6000 block of Flanders St.** Money stolen from vehicle.
 - 6000 block of Keble Drive.** Delivery package stolen from residence.
 - 7800 block of Lewis Chapel Circle.** Delivery package stolen from residence.
 - 7300 block of Mallory Circle.** Delivery package stolen from residence.
 - 7800 block of Morning View Lane.** Purse stolen from vehicle.
 - 7200 block of Old Keene Mill Road.** Bottle of wine stolen from business.
 - 9900 block of Richmond Highway.** License plates stolen from vehicle.
 - 7000 block of Spring Garden Drive.** GPS stolen from vehicle.
 - 6400 block of Springfield Plaza.** Two bottles of liquor stolen from business.
 - 5600 block of Vine St.** License plates stolen from vehicle.
 - 6400 block of Warren Point Court.** Delivery package stolen from residence.
- VEHICLE THEFTS**
- 5200 block of Bradgen Court.** 1993 Jeep Cherokee.
 - 7900 block of Timarand Court.** 1996 Dodge Caravan

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PEOPLE



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

A teacher's aide reads to Key Center School student Hifsa Rehman.



Forestdale Elementary fourth-graders Kimberly Matamoros and Samiha Mohammed read to Key Center students.



Forestdale Elementary fourth-graders Matthew Stewart and Gabriel Perez read to Key Center students.

Books 'n Buddies

Peer partnership fosters reading between Key Center, Forestdale Elementary.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

In the Books 'n Buddies program, Debbie Cully asks her special needs children if they would like to read a story. Their excited body language gives the answer, but because some of them cannot speak, she passes around a button that they push that answers "yes" or "no".

Sitting around a conference table at Forestdale Elementary School, fourth-graders Samiha Mohammed and Kimberly Matamoros take turns reading "The Vanishing Snowman" to a group of five Key Center School students. The interactive book calls for students to pull off their favorite colors and stick them on a Velcro board. The children shout squeals of joy as they identify the red snowman, green snowman, purple snowman and stick them onto the board.

Debbie Cully is spearheading a reading partnership between Key Center School's special needs students and Forestdale Elementary fourth-graders where the two groups interact with each other as peers while learning social skills, communication, kindness and self control.

"We do a lot of adapting stories" said Cully. "They'll have to find something in the story so they can interact, or make a choice with the books. A red snowman or a blue one, whether they're learning their colors or numbers, just so they can interact with the stories."

Matthew Stewart and Gabriel Perez take turns reading the book "Snappy Little Snowtime," a pop-up book that shows a picture of, say Rudolph, and then ask the children to point to their noses. Some can easily find their noses, but others need help from the parent aides.

In the book, "The Jacket I Wear in the Snow," special needs children Paul McCarter and Vincent DiBenedetto take turns placing articles of clothing back in the book. "Who has the red scarf?" That would be Mathani Mazyck, who then proudly puts it back into the book. "Who has the zipper?" Paul McCarter puts it back into the book.

"We thought it would be really nice for

our elementary students to be able to socialize with other students the same age," said Cully, the resource and community coordinator at Key Center School. The school already has a similar program with Lee High students; they wanted to do the same on the elementary level.

"It's just kind of fun to hear the other students their age speak to them," she said. "Some times I think they pay attention better."

For the fifth year, the program enables the Key students to be integrated into an elementary activity twice a month as the groups meet during the remainder of the school year. It's good for the Forestdale students who

act as mentors, while building self-esteem through reading and helping students with disabilities, as well as building leadership skills.

"It's nice to see them take the student's hand and say, 'You feel it; it's really soft or it's really rough.' They're not afraid to in-

teract with our students," said Cully.

When asked what she enjoys most about mentoring the Key Center students, Kimberly Matamoros said: "I like doing this to make them get excited to read a book." Describing herself as a bibliophile, she just finished reading "Twilight.."

"I like making them excited like Kimberly," said Samiha Mohammed.

Gabriel Perez said he enjoyed showing them the pictures.

Key Center also takes students to community sites like Wal-Mart, K-Mart, McDonald's and Springfield Mall, where the students learn how to interact with the public and learn communication and social skills, as well as life skills such as paying for purchases.

The ultimate goal for the Books 'n Buddies program is inclusion in the community by promoting positive interactions between elementary age students.

"We try to go through a question time afterwards just to make the Forestdale students as comfortable as possible with our students," said Cully. "I'm sure they know our students are a little bit different. They're just like you, they want to learn, but they go at a different pace."

"It's just kind of fun to hear the other students their age speak to them."

— Debbie Cully, resource and community coordinator at Key Center School

MILITARY NOTES

Air Force Airman Sanam Kureshi has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the niece of Michelle Thompson of Angus Court, Springfield, and the daughter of Lauretta Thompson of Lee Valley Drive, Springfield. Kureshi is a 2008 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School.

Army Reserve Pvt. Jennifer R. Saunders has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. She is the daughter of Apolinaria Robes of Middlesex Ave., Springfield, and cousin of Magdalena Salazar of S. Wayne St., Arlington. Saunders is a 2004 graduate of Wakefield High School.

Laurain C. Hackett has graduated from the Army ROTC Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as Operation Warrior Forge, at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. She is the daughter of Gordon B. and Yumi Hackett of Rolling Spring Court, Springfield, and a 2005 graduate of West Springfield High School.

COLLEGE NOTES

John Steger of Springfield, a junior majoring in history and political science, is the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Echo Company First Sergeant for the 2008-09 academic year.

Melanie Sandoval of Springfield, a senior majoring in psychology at Marymount University, has been

named to the 2008 "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities."

Cody A. Waisanen of Springfield has received a bachelor of science degree in biotechnology from Minnesota State University of Mankato.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

State Sen. George Barker (D-39) visits with local residents before the start of a public legislative meeting at the Franconia Government Center in Springfield on Jan. 17.

The Subject Was Politics

Lawmakers update Lee District residents Saturday morning.



Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock) and several other local and state politicians discuss a variety of issues while participating in a public meeting with over 50 local residents at the Franconia Government Center on Saturday morning.

After 7 Years, Work Starts

FROM PAGE 5

Mulligan Road, now known as Old Mill Road, to reduce its environmental and historical impact as well eliminating the need to take and residences or businesses:

- ❖ Realign Old Mill Road with Mount Vernon Memorial Highway at the intersection of both with Route 1,
- ❖ Shift Mount Vernon Memorial Highway away from the Woodlawn Plantation stables property,
- ❖ Reduce the amount of land required from the Woodlawn Plantation National Historic Landmark by 2.24 acres,
- ❖ Add two lanes and a median for better turning access, and
- ❖ Add a new entrance driveway to

Woodlawn Plantation.

Two of the key aspects of the plan are: The transfer of 2.5 acres at Fort Belvoir's existing Woodlawn Gate to the owners of Woodlawn Plantation and that the entire project is designed to minimize environmental impact to the surrounding area including Huntley Meadows Park.

"The ultimate project will include the construction of a four-lane divided roadway with a median on a new alignment, construction of new bridges and large culverts at stream crossings/wildlife passages" and an array of other work, according to FHWA. The project will be funded by the Defense Access Roads Program, in conjunction with other federal, state and local sources, according to FHWA.

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OPINION

Watch Them Live Two steps for more openness in General Assembly.

This year for the first time, Virginians can check in on what their state representatives are up to without a trip to Richmond.

The House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia will offer live streaming video of the 2009 Legislative Session, broadcasting from each chamber every day of the session.

The daily broadcasts will begin when each body convenes.

The 2009 legislative session Virginia General Assembly convened on Jan. 14, and will run 45 days.

Go to <http://legis.state.va.us/>. Links for streaming video and also an audio only option, are appropriately front and center.

More than one-third of all legislation proposed in the Virginia General Assembly dies in

subcommittee. And in previous years, the votes of the subcommittee members were not recorded. There was no accountability for legislators who "tabled" proposals that were important to Virginians.

EDITORIAL

This year, subcommittee votes will be recorded and available on the General Assembly's Web site. It's an important step.

Smoking Restrictions

Gov. Tim Kaine (D) is promoting legislation that would ban smoking in restaurants in Virginia. We support his efforts.

Secondhand smoke kills 1,700 Virginians per year, according to the Virginia Department of

Health. Levels of secondhand smoke are up to five times higher in restaurants than in homes with smokers, according to the American Lung Association.

If the General Assembly doesn't pass legislation banning smoking in restaurants, it should at least allow localities the power to restrict smoking within their borders.

Constituent Viewpoints

The House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia operate a toll-free message center to accept calls from citizens who want to express an opinion on legislation. The messages are relayed to the members' offices as requested. Call the Constituent Viewpoint line at 800-889-0229.

Setting Priorities

To the Editor:

A hallmark of good government, certainly in the way it serves taxpayers, is how it sets and maintains priorities. In that highly important regard, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who is seeking the chairmanship of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in the Feb. 3 special election, is doing an excellent job.

That's why it was so distressing to read a letter to the editor in the Dec. 20 edition of the Connection ["Supporting Bulova."] In a shameful example of political falsity, it sought to take Mr. Herrity to task over proposals for a senior center in South Run Park, solar panels on homeowners' association property and a Fairfax history commission. The letter was deceptive; nothing less.

The fact is that Mr. Herrity, a well-regarded chief financial officer with an extensive career of saving financially troubled corporations and, therefore, the jobs of their employees, has been working hard on a number of issues in an effort to correct Fairfax County's own financial difficulties.

That's not an easy task, given Fairfax County's colossal budget deficit of at least \$650 million projected for fiscal 2010, in part tied directly to our County Board majority's costly and chronic fondness for misplaced priorities. These have included spending millions of tax dollars on government housing for people with incomes of up to \$99,000 a year, subsidizing residences for people with annual incomes up to \$200,000, and building a luxury office building for school administrators while our schools desperately need major renovations, including replacement of trailer classrooms.

Resolving this budget crisis is not a walk in the park. Mr. Herrity is spending many long hours closely analyzing the county budget to determine where cuts can be made. He is concentrating his attention on the time-consuming task of finding inefficiencies and wasteful spending in the budget.

Meanwhile, the County Board's majority is content with a meat-ax approach to reduce spending by imposing a 10 percent cut across the board for all county agencies. Obviously, this comes nowhere near resolving the deficit, nor does it promote efficiency or eliminate waste in government.

An alternative, of course, would be to increase real estate taxes to offset the deficit, but that could mean increasing the residential real estate tax rate by 30 cents or more for each \$100 of assessed valuation. Consider what that would do to homeowners' already outrageously high tax bills averaging twice what they were only seven years ago. In Mr. Herrity's view, that's wholly unacceptable.

Steve Matthews
Fairfax

Impact of New Start Times

To the Editor:

As both an employee with Fairfax Schools (office assistant at Bonnie Brae Elementary) and a parent of children in the system ('08 LBSS graduate and a sixth grader at Ravensworth Elementary), I am hoping that the School Board's move to realign school start times will not happen.

As the mother of a teenager, I realize that adolescents need their

sleep. However, I also know that they will push the limits of whatever parameters are applied to their hours of activity. Hence, the change is unlikely to achieve its intended objective.

In addition, I am concerned about how the change in start times will impact a high school student's ability to work or participate in extra-curricular activities. Postponing their start time moves back the time at which they can begin their participation in out-of-school and after-school activities, increasing the number of students that will be out and about after dark (or reducing the number of students that are allowed to participate in activities for this same reason).

The impact to other schools and the younger children also makes the high school start time change a poor idea. First, it implies families will now have to wake elementary school students in time to catch buses at 6:30 a.m., meaning that 6 and 7-year-olds will need to be up as early as 5 a.m. to wait at a bus stop in the dark. Given that it tends to be more difficult to change a young child's sleeping pattern, the result is that the change will reduce their nightly sleep.

Susan Merrill
Burke

Facts Ignored

To the Editor:

With an important election just a short ways off, it is interesting that the causes of some of Fairfax County's most serious problems are ignored by this paper.

In 2007, there were 14 murders in the county; in 2008, there were 22 and county policies contributed mightily to the increase. In addi-

tion, the public schools are spending between \$350 million-\$400 million needlessly which is much of the country's fiscal shortfall but you refuse to report on that either. I know why, but as a so-called unbiased news staff why don't you tell your readers why you won't report the true facts?

Christopher Thompson
West Springfield

Vote for Change

To the Editor:

Several years ago the rallying cry for election was "it's the economy stupid." Fast-forward to Fairfax County 2009 and the cry is "it's the budget stupid" or more to the point "it's the budget deficit stupid". The county has a predicted deficit of at least a \$650 million revenue shortfall in FY 2010. How did this happen? Easy when you have unbridled expenditures that way outpace inflation and growth in county residents. Who did this — Sharon Bulova, Gerry Connolly and the Democratic majority on the Board?

Now we have a special election Feb. 3 to fill the vacant chairman's seat. We have a choice and in my mind an easy one. Choose Bulova and her 16 years of running the county budget (the one that will be \$650 million short) or Pat Herrity, a new face with excellent financial experience as a corporate CFO that deals with government budgets everyday.

It is time to get rid of the waste in Fairfax County. These are complicated times and we need leadership to accomplish this tough task. So vote for a change Feb. 3. Vote Pat Herrity.

Joe Nash
Fairfax Station

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SCHOOLS

A local group of Eagle Scouts will help students, parents and staff members create a new outdoor classroom at Springfield Estates Elementary on Saturday, Nov. 8. A sketch of the proposed 30-square foot classroom was created by art teacher **Kathleen Kendall**. Workers will landscape the area with mulch, and plants will be added later. The school's PTA donated money to purchase the supplies for the event.

On Monday, Nov. 10, **Betty Shepard**, author of "Virginia: An Alphabetical Journey Through History," will be making an all-day appearance at Browne Academy. Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) will speak at Browne on Wednesday, Nov. 12, on patriotism and citizenship. The visits from Shepard and Sickles coincide with Browne Academy's 2008 Book Fair theme, "Patriotism & Politics: Awareness, Participation and Citizenship."

Students and teachers at **Washington Irving Middle School** conducted a mock election on Oct. 22 and 23. Students used an online voting system as they participated in a mock election program sponsored by the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI), a national civic education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. With millions of students expected to vote nationwide during the two-week voting period from Oct. 20-30, the YLI Mock Election is the largest secure, student-only online mock election in the nation.

Irving students have learned about the 2008 election in several different classes by watching debates, making posters and speeches, as well as brochures advertising candidates and spreading the word about the Mock Election.



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LOCATION & DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, February 9, 2009, 5-9 p.m.
(Snow Date: Thursday, February 12)
Potomac High School
3401 Panther Pride Drive, Dumfries, VA 22026

Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 5-9 p.m.
(Snow Date: Thursday, February 19)
Robert E. Lee High School
6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150

Wednesday, February 11, 2009, 5-9 p.m.
(Snow Date: Wednesday, February 18)
Minnie Howard School
3801 W Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302

(In the event of inclement weather the public hearings will be held on the scheduled snow dates. Please call the INFO line at 1-877-395-95VA to confirm)

Stop by anytime between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. to visit displays and learn more about the proposed project. A presentation begins at 7 p.m. to be followed by public comments. Those wishing to speak for up to three minutes may register at the door.

Find out about the latest design plans for the proposed high occupancy vehicle, bus, and high occupancy toll lanes between the Pentagon and Garrisonville Road. Virginia Department of Transportation and Department of Rail and Public Transportation project managers will be available to answer your questions.

Project information may be viewed at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway, Chantilly VA, 20151 or VDOT's Megaprojects Office, 6363 Walker Lane, Suite 500, Alexandria VA, 22310 and at 86 Deacon Road, Fredericksburg, VA, 22405. Property impacts and relocation assistance policies, and tentative construction schedules are available for your review at these locations and will be available at the public hearing. You may also call toll free 1-877-395-95VA or visit our Web site at www.vamegaprojects.com.

Give your written or verbal comments at the hearing or submit them by February 21, 2009 to Ronaldo T. Nicholson, P.E., Regional Transportation Program Director, 6363 Walker Lane, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA, 22310. You may also e-mail your comments to: Meeting_Comments@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "I-95/395 HOV/Bus/HOT Lanes" in the subject heading.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division, 14685 Avion Parkway, Chantilly, VA 20151-1101 or (703) 383-2341 or TDD 711.

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UPC 70849 - 0095-96A-107, P101; UPC 70850 - 0095-966-109, P101
UPC 77616 - 0095-966-101, P101,
C507, B624, B629, B632, B633, B634, B680, B682

Get Out and Enjoy Yourself

Springfield Connection continues its countdown of 101 Fun Things To Do.

Mixing Politics and Drinks

Drinking Liberally in Lorton
Glory Days Grill
 9459 Lorton Market St.
 Lorton

A network of left-leaning progressives meets the first Wednesday of the month for liberal fellowship at 7 p.m. at Glory Days Grill, 9459 Lorton Market St., Lorton. RSVP requested to Lorton@drinkingliberally.org.

Buy Bushels in Burke

Burke Farmer's Market
 5671 Roberts Parkway
 Burke

Featuring fresh produce and meats, this farmer's market is held on Saturdays through the end of October, from 8 a.m. to noon. Visit www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/farm-mkt.htm for more information.

Celebrate Springfield

Springfield Mall
Lake Accotink Park
 and Various Locales in Springfield

Each June, the Springfield community throws a party for itself. The annual, four-day event includes a pet parade and a Heritage Festival at Lake Accotink Park. The long-weekend culminates in the Cardboard Boat Regatta, in which amateur sailors of all ages venture out onto Lake Accotink in their homemade boats. It's a soggy, but enjoyable voyage for all.

Find Food Fit for a Kingstowne

Kingstowne Farmer's Market
Kingstowne Towne Center
 5955 Kingstowne Blvd.
 Alexandria

Located near the Uno Chicago Grill, this farmer's market is open on Fridays through the end of October, from 4-7 p.m. Call 703-642-0128 for more information.

Fine Dining in Clifton

Heart in Hand Restaurant
 7145 Main St.
 Clifton

This restaurant is a wonderful place for any celebration or special occasion. They have special dinners on most holidays and are opened every day but Monday. The Heart in Hand Restaurant also caters and has a cookbook for purchase. The restaurant was originally founded in 1982 to arouse interest in the Clifton area with tea and lunch, but after popularity grew, dinner and holiday meals were added due to customer demand. Many celebrities and distinguished figures have dined there such

as Nancy Reagan and the cast of CATS, and they have catered several notable people as well, including Toni Morrison and Maya Angelo. For catering or reservation call 703-830-4111

Irish Eyes Smiling

Auld Shebeen Pub
 3971 Chain Bridge Road
 Fairfax

Formerly the very popular Ned Devine's — a split in the bar's ownership precipitated the change — this pub has a mix of traditional Irish fare and some great nightlife. There are 14 beers on tap at the pub, which also features some signature dishes like Guinness beef stew and a breakfast platter that includes eggs, sausage and black-and-white pudding. The bar also has a basement that features dancing and music. Call 703-293-9600 for more information.

Peruse Fresh Produce In Fairfax

❖ **Fairfax Farmer's Market**
Van Dyck Park
 Fairfax

❖ **Downtown Coalition Farmer's Market**
 10500 Main St.
 Fairfax
 703-430-6164

Take a long lunch break and visit the Fairfax Farmer's Market. The market is open on Tuesdays through mid to late November, from 8 a.m. to noon. It's located off Old Lee Highway in Van Dyck Park. The Downtown Coalition market is Saturdays from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. through the end of October.

Shop Tysons Corner Center

1961 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, Va. 22102
 1-888-2Tysons

One of the premier shopping malls on the East Coast, Tysons Corner — features two malls in Tysons I and Tysons II — has over 250 stores, including Nordstrom, Bloomingdale's, Hecht's, Lord & Taylor, L.L. Bean and Banana Republic.

Get Crafty for the Holidays

Annual Holiday Craft Show
Fairfax High School
 Fairfax
www.fairfaxva.gov

Conducted annually at Fairfax High



FILE PHOTO

Captained by Jeff Aftergut, team Piece of Cardboard's canoe design brought them success during the 2008 Cardboard Regatta at Lake Accotink. The event ends the annual Springfield Days Festival.

School, the Holiday Craft Show takes place on the third Saturday of November from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and third Sunday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission to last season's event was \$5 per day or \$8 for a 2 day pass with

no charge for under 18. The show features over 200 vendors and dozens of tables with different holiday crafts, plus food for sale and (in previous years) the opportunity for children to get their picture taken with Santa Claus. Call 703-385-7858 for more informa-

tion.

Enjoy a Night Out At Fairfax Corner

Monument Drive and Government Center Parkway
 Fairfax

Fairfax Corner is a great area with a large collection of shops and restaurants, not to mention a movie theater, a gym for children, and a studio for painting your own pottery. Fairfax Corner also hosts tons of events including their summer concert series held every Saturday from 5 to 8 p.m. There are also various other events throughout the year that can be found on their Web site at www.fairfaxcorner.com.

Visit Georgetown

Bordered by the Potomac River, Rock Creek and Glover Park, Georgetown's heart is located on M Street and Wisconsin Avenue in North West D.C. It's home for high-fashion stores, outdoor bars and restaurants, boat races, as well as some embas-

sies.

Other landmarks include Dumbarton Oaks, where the United Nations was outlined in 1944, and the oldest structure in D.C. — Georgetown Old Stone House. It is also the place where the movie 'The Exorcist' was filmed in 1973. The film's famous staircase scene was located between Prospect Street and M Street.

Celebrate the Holidays

Festival of Lights & Carols
Old Town Hall
 3999 University Drive
 Fairfax
www.fairfaxva.gov

During the month of December, the City of Fairfax becomes a winter wonderland with lights, decorations, caroling, musical performances and activities for the whole family. Santa pays a visit to Old Town Hall for a Saturday morning children's breakfast. St. Nick stays through the festival to meet with children. Visitors may partake in hot mulled cider while warming their hands by the Yule log.

Ring in the New Year

First Fairfax
Old Town Fairfax
www.fairfaxva.gov

This annual event offers family friendly fun on the night of Dec. 31. Events last year included ice-skating, carriage rides, comedy shows, laser light shows and areas specifically designed to entertain children of all ages. Food vendors are on hand, and the only fees the festival charged last year were for food purchases and skate rentals. Because a number of streets are closed for the event, shuttle buses are offered from both

SEE 101 THINGS, PAGE 11

101 THINGS

FROM PAGE 10

George Mason University and Fairfax High School.

Celebrate at Burke Centre

Burke Centre Festival
6060 Burke Centre Parkway
Burke

The annual fall festival in Burke takes place on Sept. 12-13 this year, from late morning to about 5 p.m. This family-friendly affair features food, rides, games, and giveaways. There's live entertainment, and a large arts and crafts show with dozens of antique vendors. In the past, the festival has included live animal shows, wine tastings and local radio personalities.

Sort Out the Mixing Bowl

VDOT Mega Projects Information Center
Springfield Mall
Springfield
www.vamegaprojects.com

The Virginia Department of Transportation operates an information center about several projects its working on in Northern Virginia, including the Interstate 95 Fourth Lane Widening Project and the High Occupancy Toll Lanes Project on the Beltway. A public information center is located in the Springfield Mall, right next to the DMV. The center is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It has a model of the Springfield Interchange, aerial photos of the area, as well as road maps and travel guides for all of Virginia. It's a great place to get caught up on major improvements to local roads, and for any kid-at-heart that still yearns for those days in the sandbox with a Tonka truck.

Learn about Fairfax

Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center
10209 Main St.
Fairfax

Located in the former Fairfax Elementary School, the Visitors Center offers information about restaurants, transportation and lodging as well as natural attractions and special events for those new to the city and those that have been here a while. The Museum offers exhibits about city history. In the spring and fall, Museum staff members conduct walking tours of Old Town Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m., except New Year's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. The Museum is open half a day on Christmas Eve. Call 703-385-8414 or toll free 1-800-545-7950.

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De-Legitimizing Israel"**

Thursday, Feb. 19, Noon-2pm

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Contact Pam Wiener (703) 537-3061 • PamW@jccnv.org



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CALENDAR

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION ASSISTANT EDITOR PAULA FRIEDRICH
703-917-6459 OR SOUTH@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/JAN. 22

Vrrroom! 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and activities about cars. Age 2-5 with adult. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Preschool Storytime, 1 p.m. Stories, songs and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

'Oliver!,' 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. www.hayfielddrama.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

Lunch Bunch, 12 p.m. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

Hit By Pitch. 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

Winter Night Hikes, 7:30-9 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Search for owls and other night creatures. Suitable for age seven and up. \$5 adults, \$3 children under 16. Prepaid reservations required. 703-569-0285.

George Mason University's Potomac Arts Academy, 2009 High School Honor Band Festival, 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. High school band students will perform with the United States Navy Band. Free admission. jkilken1@gmu.edu or 703-993-1607.

'Oliver!,' 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. www.hayfielddrama.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 24

VITA Tax Assistance, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$42K. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Professional Bull Riders Fairfax Invitational, 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. All-Time Bull Fighting Champion Rob Smets will be master of ceremonies. Adult tickets \$20-\$65, children 2-12 years \$10, available at 703-573-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Hit By Pitch. 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

Winter Chills and Thrills, 1-3 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park & Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd.,

Alexandria. Discover how wildlife copes with winter. For children age 5-10 with adult. Cost is \$4 per child. 703-768-2525.

Winter Night Hikes, 7:30-9 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Search for owls and other night creatures. Suitable for age seven and up. \$5 adults, \$3 children under 16. Prepaid reservations required. 703-569-0285.

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EMO Soldiers Festival, with Blessed By a Brokenheart, Love Hate Her, Karate High School, Agraceful, Kiros and Boys Will Be Boys. 1 p.m. Tickets \$13 in advance, \$15 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Chinese New Year Celebration, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Dewberry Hall, George Mason University, Fairfax campus. \$6 adults, \$2 seniors and children. Dance and calligraphy demonstrations and silent auction. New World Bilingual Institute, 703-978-7905 or www.nwbi.us.

LeadFoot and more. 10 p.m. Tickets \$5. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Asian Community Service Center Chinese New Year Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Lunar New Year Parade, live performances, children's games, table tennis competition, Chinese language and cooking workshop, Asian food and more. 703-868-1509 or www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org.

Concerts from Kirkwood, 'Jazz in January' by the GMU Faculty Jazz Combo, 3 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. Free. Donations accepted. 703-451-5320 or www.kirkwoodpres.com.

'Oliver!,' 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. www.hayfielddrama.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 25

Professional Bull Riders Fairfax Invitational, 2:30 p.m. at the George Mason Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. All-Time Bull Fighting Champion Rob Smets will be master of ceremonies. Adult tickets \$20-\$65, children 2-12 years \$10, available at 703-573-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Pianist Jeffrey Siegel, 7 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts. Mendelssohn's Songs



PHOTO BY MIKE BRENNEMAN/PBR

Ryan Dirteater at the New York PBR on Jan. 11. The Professional Bull Riders Fairfax Invitational will be at the George Mason Patriot Center Jan. 24-25.

Without Words, Grieg's Lyric Pieces, including Wedding Day at Troldhaugen, Stravinsky's Circus Polka, Brahms' Rhapsody in E-Flat, Sibelius' Evergreen, Granados' Spanish Dance and Ginastera's Sonata. Tickets are \$19-\$38. Age 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. The Center for the Arts is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Karaoke. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

Asian Community Service Center Chinese New Year Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Lunar New Year

Parade, live performances, children's games, table tennis competition, Chinese language and cooking workshop, Asian food and more. 703-868-1509 or www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org.

Clifton/Fairfax Station Area Transition in Place Services Open House, 3-5 p.m. at the Clifton town Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Diane Mauthé at mauthé5@cox.net or Nancy Simmons at nancysimmons@cox.net.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Stretch Your Mind Games and Activities, 1:30 p.m. Brain teasers, games and more. Age 6-12. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Origami for Beginners, 4 p.m. Hands-on workshop on the Japanese art of folding paper. Age 8-12. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

Writer's Group. 7 p.m. Read material aloud for feedback. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Open Mic Night. 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27

Computer Tutoring, 3 p.m. Adults. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

- Book Discussion Group**, 7:30 p.m. Call for title. Adults. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.
- Snowy Tales**, 10:30 a.m. Winter stories. Age 13-23 months with adult. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.
- VITA Tax Assistance**, 6-8 p.m. IRS-certified volunteers. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Adults. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

- The Killers**, 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$45, through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.
- Mother-Daughter Book Club**, 7 p.m. for girls age 9-11 and their mothers. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.
- Practice Your English Conversation Group**, 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.
- Book Group for Older Adults**, 2 p.m. Big Stone Gap by Adriana Trigiani. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.
- Kingstowne Library Writers Peer Review Group**, 7 p.m. Review peers' works and receive in-depth feedback on your own work. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

- Stories and Science**, 4 p.m. Stories,



Watch for owls and other night creatures on a Winter Night Hike at Lake Accotink Park on Jan. 22.

- activities and a science experiment. Age 4-6 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.
- Ponderings: Hibernators**, 4:30-6 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8510 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Search for den sites of hibernating animals. Ages 6-10, reservations required. \$5 per child. 703-451-9588.
- Milkweeds, Grasshoppers and Box Turtles**, 7-8:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park & Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Learn why native grasses and wildflowers are important. 703-768-2525.
- FRIDAY/JAN. 30**
- Lunch Bunch**, 12 p.m. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.
- Chop Tank Murphy**, 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.
- SATURDAY/JAN. 31**
- Philadelphia Dance Company**, 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Free pre-performance discussion begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$21-\$42, age 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.
- VITA Tax Assistance**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. IRS-certified volunteers. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

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Chocolate Lovers Festival

February 7th and 8th

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Enjoy the Village Marketplace, Sat 10-6pm Sunday 11am-5pm—
Old Town Village Gallery—a taste of chocolate and wine at The Wine House—on the Sunday sign up to run The Chocolate Mile sponsored by Pacers Running Store

Sit and enjoy a chocolate chip bagel at Panera, a chocolate milkshake at Metro Diner or Potbelly, or a chocolate gelato at Piccomolo.

The Bobcats will be playing their own style of smooth music in the Marketplace 4 pm-6 pm

www.chocolatemile.com

www.oldtownvillage.com

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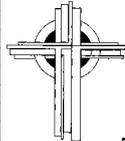
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Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

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FAITH



PHOTOS BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

Rafael Harpaz, director of public affairs for the Israeli Embassy spoke about Israel's goals going into the campaign and what they believe they have accomplished.

Candles Lit for Troops

FROM PAGE 3

Palestinian's shooting from neighborhoods. Israel is no longer over there. They have no claim," he said.

Vienna resident Ilana Gamerman said she appreciated being kept up to date from members of the Israeli government such as Harpaz.

"It was nice to hear from Israeli representatives about what's going on, what Israel is doing and why," said Gamerman.

"Nobody here is pro-war. Israel is defending itself," said Fairfax resident Andrea Rozner.

Rozner accused the U.S. media of not painting an accurate picture of events in Gaza. Gamerman said the reporting of the conflict from the U.S. media has been slanted.

"We feel like the U.S. press is very biased against Israel," she said. "They've been attacked on a daily basis, with terrorists embedding themselves among civilians."

AN ISRAELI mandated ban on reporters entering Gaza during the war has limited independent from information coming out of the war zone.

Officials participating in Sunday's event said the



A candle-lighting ceremony for Israeli troops takes place near the end of the rally Sunday, Jan. 18 at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia on Little River Turnpike in Fairfax.

rally was for peace, but that the purpose was primarily to support Israel's decision to invade Gaza.

"I don't think we're embarrassed to say we're here in solidarity [with Israel]," said Debbie Linwick, assistant director for the Washington branch of the JCRC.

"Our hope is that the ceasefire holds," said Gene Gurman, board member for the JCCNV.

FAITH NOTES

Freed-Up Financial Living Course, beginning Monday, Jan. 26 at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Tools and skills to help control finances, training in biblical financial principles, guidance to identify action steps to reduce expenses, and pay down debt. \$20 for workbook. 703-978-8724.

Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-9862 or

www.messiahumc.org.

◆ **A Community of Contagious Joy**. Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Interactive praise and worship service, Sundays at 7 p.m.

◆ **When Dreams Become Nightmares, Financial Peace in a Troubled Economy**, sermon series at all worship services.

◆ **Financial Peace University**, beginning Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. learn to put together a monthly spending plan, a step by step process for getting out of

debt for good and how to set financial goals. Child care will be provided.

Gan Israel Academy is a Montessori-influenced kindergarten and first grade that emphasizes Jewish elementary learning, located at Chabad of Fairfax, 3939 Prince William Drive, Fairfax. 703-426-1980.

◆ **Gan Israel Preschool Open House**, Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m.

◆ **Jewish Kindergarten Open House**, Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

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6079 DEER RIDGE TRL	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$772,500	Detached	0.24		HIGHGROVE ESTATES
7816 ROSE GARDEN LN	5	4	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$760,000	Detached	0.24		PRESIDENTIAL HILLS
6434 CASPERSON RD	3	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Detached	2.00		BEULAH ROAD
7311 LAUREL CREEK CT	5	5	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$740,000	Detached	0.30		LAUREL CREEK
5316 TRUMPINGTON CT	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$665,000	Detached	0.19		KINGSTOWNE
5316 QUEENSBERRY AVE	6	5	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$635,000	Detached	0.26		RAVENSWORTH
5316 DANVILLE ST	8	5	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$604,786	Detached	0.24		EDSALL PARK
7125 LEESVILLE BLVD	5	4	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$575,900	Detached	0.26		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
8465 CATIA LN	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$560,000	Detached	0.17		THE FOREST AT SOUTHRUN
6712 ORDSALL ST	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$528,000	Townhouse	0.04		KINGSTOWNE
6123 GLEN OAKS CT	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$525,000	Detached	0.16		GLEN OAKS
5449 BROADMOOR ST	5	4	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Detached	0.37		HAYFIELD FARM
6450 SUMMERTON CT	5	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$520,000	Detached	0.21		SPRINGFIELD FOREST
8134 VIOLA ST	4	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$515,000	Detached	0.27		ROLLING FOREST
6218 WINDHAM HILL RN	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Townhouse	0.04		KINGSTOWNE
7114 HEALY DR	9	5	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$476,000	Detached	0.19		SPRINGFIELD PARK
6729 SULLIVAN WAY	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.04		ISLAND CREEK
6727 SULLIVAN WAY	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.04		ISLAND CREEK
5945 NORHAM DR	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.06		KINGSTOWNE
8801 HOODES RD	4	4	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$430,000	Detached	0.21		CHAPEL ACRES
6003 KESTNER CIR	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$430,000	Townhouse	0.04		KINGSTOWNE
7886 AZALEA COVE TER	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$418,000	Townhouse	0.03		HAWTHORNE
7618 DUNSTON ST	6	4	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$415,000	Detached	0.35		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7066 GATTON SQ	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$415,000	Townhouse	0.07		MANCHESTER LAKES
7112 LEESVILLE BLVD	5	5	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$400,000	Detached	0.26		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7915 DONEGAL LN	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$400,000	Detached	0.21		DONEGAL OAKS
8641 BEECH HOLLOW LN	3	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$399,888	Townhouse	0.06		SHADOWBROOK
5507 HEMING AVE	5	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$398,000	Detached	0.30		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7019 CHESLEY SEARCH WAY	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$394,500	Townhouse	0.04		KINGSTOWNE
5530 KINGS PARK DR	4	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$392,500	Detached	0.24		KINGS PARK
6390 DAKINE CIR	3	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$392,000	Townhouse	0.05		JAPONICA
5961 JOFFA PL	3	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$388,000	Detached	0.26		SPRINGFIELD
6725 GREENLEAF ST	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$385,000	Detached	0.51		SPRINGFIELD FOREST
6917 GILLINGS RD	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$385,000	Detached	0.21		ROLLING VALLEY
5415 JULIET ST	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$380,000	Detached	0.25		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7223 BRIARCLIFF DR	3	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$375,000	Detached	0.21		BRAMBLEWOOD
6068 JOUST LN	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$372,900	Townhouse	0.03		KINGSTOWNE
7002 VANCOUVER RD	5	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$360,000	Detached	0.25		WEST SPRINGFIELD VILLAGE
5312 INVERCHAPEL RD	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$357,500	Detached	0.26		RAVENSWORTH
8807 KENILWORTH DR	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$355,000	Detached	0.00		KINGS PARK
8102 BULLOCK LN	3	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$355,000	Detached	0.25		RAVENSWORTH
7910 RICHFIELD RD	4	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$350,000	Detached	0.22		SARATOGA
6024 QUEENSTON ST	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$344,000	Townhouse	0.03		CHARLESTOWN
7404 ESTABAN PL	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$342,500	Detached	0.52		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
5920 ATTEENEE RD	3	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$340,000	Detached	0.25		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
8619 LANGPORT DR	5	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$340,000	Detached	0.25		ROLLING VALLEY
6901 BETHNAL CT #11-08-08	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$333,000	Detached	0.29		FRANKLIN MEWS
7824 SOLOMON SEAL DR	3	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$330,000	Townhouse	0.04		HUNTER VILLAGE
6476 BRICKLEIGH CT	2	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$327,500	Townhouse	0.03		AMBERLEIGH
7208 DONCASTER ST	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$320,000	Detached	0.22		MONTICELLO FOREST
5210 LEEWARD LN	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$316,000	Townhouse	0.03		D EVEREUX WEST
5221 GARNER ST	4	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$310,000	Detached	0.29		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7678 SOUTHERN OAK DR	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$305,000	Townhouse	0.03		SPRINGFIELD OAKS
6744 BOSTWICK DR	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$305,000	Detached	0.25		EDSALL PARK
6826 BEN FRANKLIN RD	5	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$305,000	Detached	0.14		BEN FRANKLIN PARK
6106 DABNEY CT	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$300,000	Detached	0.69		KEENE MILL MANOR
7211 RESERVOIR RD	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$300,000	Detached	0.19		SPRINGFIELD PARK
6016 FREDERICK ST	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$300,000	Detached	0.20		SPRINGFIELD
6607 NETTIES LN #1611	2	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$300,000	Townhouse			CONDO AT ISLAND CREEK
5923 QUEENSTON ST	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$300,000	Townhouse			CHARLESTOWN
6822 BRINDLE HEATH WAY#242	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$299,990	Garden 1-4 Floors			KINGSTOWNE
5229 FORMAN CT	4	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$297,000	Detached	0.27		EDSALL PARK
5800 CHANNING RD	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$295,000	Detached			LYNBROOK
6271 RATHLIN DR	3	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.04		SHANNON STATION
8024 NORTHUMBERLAND RD	3	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.04		SARATOGA TOWNHOUSES
8583 TYROLEAN WAY	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$289,900	Detached	0.06		BURGOYNE FOREST WEST
5215 MONTGOMERY ST	3	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$288,000	Detached	0.30		EDSALL PARK
7317 BEVERLY PARK DR	5	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$285,000	Detached	0.08		BEVERLY PARK
5820 CHANNING RD	3	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$282,000	Detached	0.26		LYNBROOK
6718 ANDERS TER	3	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$280,000	Detached	0.27		EDSALL PARK
5931 AUGUSTA DR	4	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$280,000	Detached	0.30		LYNBROOK
6490 FRANCONIA RD	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.03		SPRINGFIELD SQUARE
6000 AMHERST AVE	3	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$269,000	Detached	0.20		SPRINGFIELD
5815 CHANNING RD	3	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$265,000	Detached	0.22		LYNBROOK
6525 GREENLEAF ST	3	1	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$265,000	Detached	0.53		SPRINGFIELD FOREST
5259 LEESTONE CT	3	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$259,900	Townhouse	0.04		LEEWOOD
7738 TIVERTON DR	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$259,900	Townhouse			CARDINAL SQUARE
6712 CIMARRON ST	5	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$256,000	Detached	0.23		SPRINGFIELD ESTATES
6620 CIMARRON ST	3	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$255,000	Detached	0.26		SPRINGFIELD ESTATES
9067 TIFFANY PARK CT	3	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$253,000	Townhouse	0.09		KEENE MILL VILLAGE
6531 OLD CARRIAGE DR	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.03		LANDSDOWNE
8675 RISING CREEK CT	3	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.06		NEWINGTON FOREST
7227 BONA VISTA CT	3	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$247,500	Detached	0.14		BEN FRANKLIN PARK
8004 NORTHUMBERLAND RD	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$245,000	Townhouse	0.05		SARATOGA TOWNHOUSES
7110 ITTE LN	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$230,000	Detached	0.07		BEVERLY PARK
7305 BYEFORDE CT	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.08		SPRINGFIELD VILLAGE
7002 HIGHLAND ST	3	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$230,000	Detached	0.20		SPRINGFIELD
8060 TRIBUTARY CT	4	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$225,000	Townhouse	0.06		SARATOGA TOWNHOUSES
8108 KINGSWAY CT #273	2	1	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$222,500	Townhouse			CARDINAL FOREST
7209 JILLSPRING CT #22C	2	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$215,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			BENTLEY VILLAGE
6319 HANOVER AVE	3	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$210,000	Detached	0.23		MONTICELLO FOREST
7232 BEVERLY PARK DR	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$207,000	Detached	0.08		BEVERLY PARK
8225 BURNING FOREST CT	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$205,000	Townhouse	0.03		NEWINGTON FOREST
8338 ROCKY FORGE CT	3	1	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$195,000	Townhouse	0.06		NEWINGTON FOREST
7008 ELLINGHAM CIR #50	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$185,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			ETON SQUARE
5808 BRUNSWICK ST	2	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$175,000	Detached	0.24		SPRINGFIELD
8338 WIND FALL RD	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$170,000	Townhouse	0.03		NEWINGTON FOREST
7201 SUMPTER LN	3	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$163,000	Detached	0.12		BEVERLY PARK
8509 BARRINGTON CT #J	2	1	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			TIVOLI
5811 ROYAL RIDGE DR #K	2	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$145,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			TIVOLI
7091 SPRING GARDEN DR#201	2	1	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$132,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SPRINGFIELD GREEN
8507 BARRINGTON CT #T	2	1	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$126,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			TIVOLI

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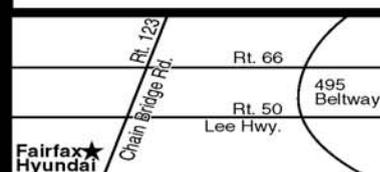
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Millions Flock to National Mall

Large crowds travel downtown to take part in Obama inauguration.



Samuel Huluka of Herndon, Emenet Tefera of Herndon and Yonas Hable of Fairfax listens to President Barack Obama make his Inaugural speech after being sworn in as the 44th President of the United States. The men watched the ceremony on a jumbotron along the National Mall along with the hundreds of thousands of other visitors who couldn't make it close enough to the Capitol for the ceremony.



Marshall Weisiger, Susan Wilson, Lauren Mealy, Caroline Spogli, Emma Holt, Carly Lyerly, Alex Deitz and Maggie Boozer, students from Episcopal High School, try to stay warm while waiting for the start of Barack Obama's Inauguration ceremony on Jan. 20. The girls said that the entire school made the short trip from Alexandria to attend the historic event.



Linda Mensah of Clifton was one of thousands of volunteers from around the region recruited to help volunteer in a variety of capacities during the 2009 Presidential Inaugural week in Washington D.C. While welcoming visitors to the National Mall for the Inauguration ceremony, Mensah said, "I wanted to volunteer so I could give back to my country opposed to my country giving to me."



Chuck Mathewes, Jennifer Geddes and their children Isabelle and Henry, of Arlington, watched the Inaugural ceremony for President Barack Obama on a jumbotron along the National Mall along with the hundreds of thousands of other visitors who couldn't make it close enough to the Capitol for the ceremony.



A Metro train stopped at the Courthouse Metro Station in Arlington was filled to capacity.



An estimated crowd of more than 2 million people lined the streets of Washington D.C. and the National Mall to be witnesses to the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, President Barack Obama. For those who did not have tickets and couldn't watch the ceremony in person, jumbotrons were set-up along the National Mall for the millions of people stretched from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER

West Springfield Searches for Answers

Spartan boys look to forget early-season struggles.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Continuity and disruption are two words that have been spoken frequently around the West Springfield boys basketball program as of late, mainly because the Spartans are looking for more of one and less of the other.

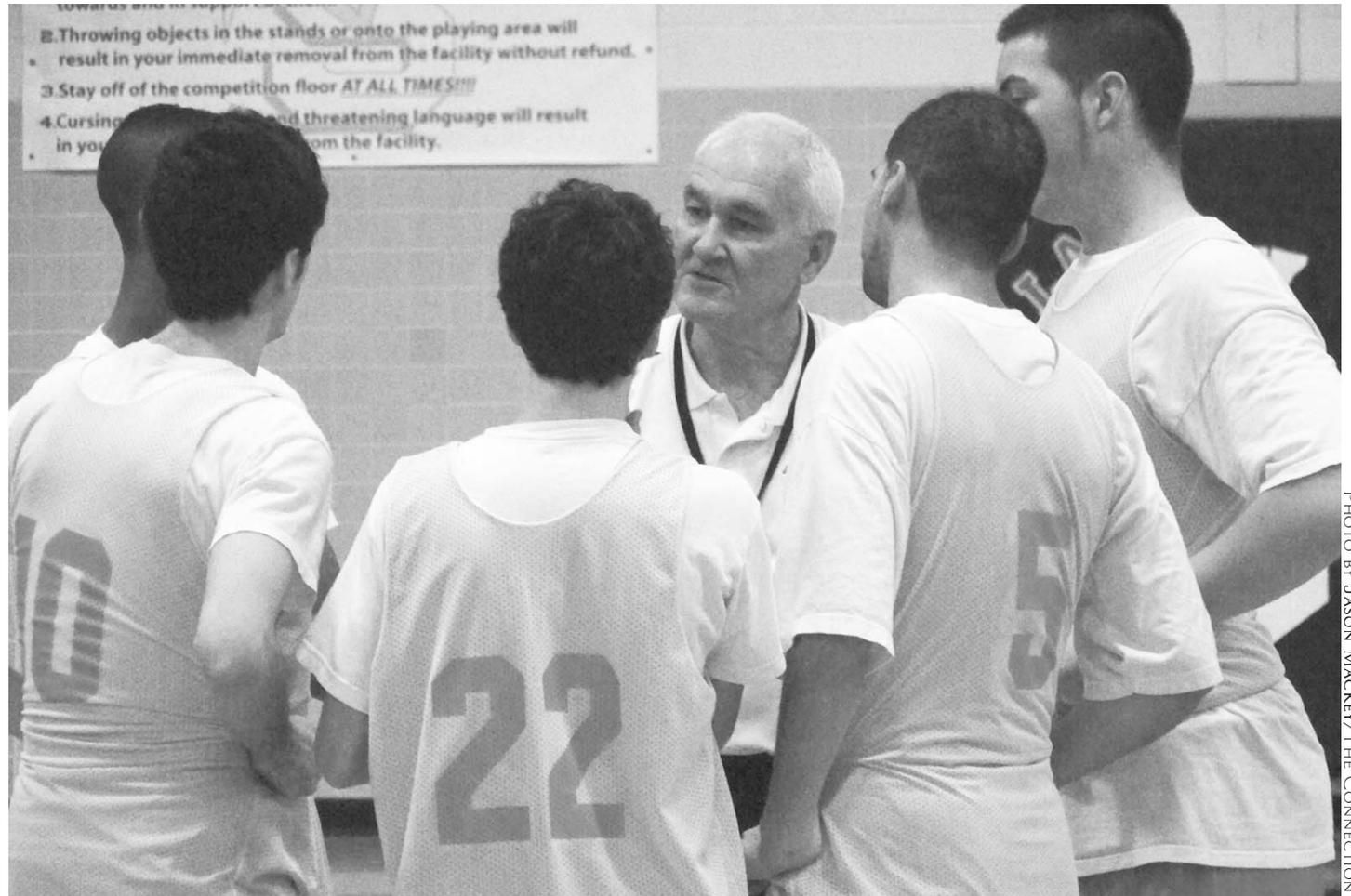
Between injuries, youth and sudden trips out of town, West Springfield coach Dick Wickline has been forced to cobble together a different starting lineup nearly every single game this season.

“There’s nobody that’s lost on the court now.”

— Ali Kazmi,
West Springfield
sophomore

“It seems like when we started to get on a little bit of a roll, somebody gets hurt or somebody misses practice,” Wickline said. “Anytime you have a disruption like that it just hurts your progress.”

But after an uplifting 50-38 win over South County on Friday, Jan. 16, West Springfield (3-10, 1-5 Patriot) is optimistic about its chances to resurrect the season. Against South County, the Spartans started strong, out-rebound-



Coach Dick Wickline, who’s in his 12th year at West Springfield, has been pleased with his team’s progress. ‘We’re young, we’re working hard and we’re getting better,’ he said.

ing and out-hustling the Stallions to build a 16-3 lead after the first quarter.

Last Friday’s win also avenged a double-overtime loss to South County that occurred during the Pohanka Chantilly Classic on Dec. 30. In that loss, West Springfield was outscored 21-7 in the decisive overtime period.

“We weren’t going to come out and lose

to them again,” sophomore guard Ali Kazmi said.

WEST SPRINGFIELD’S lack of continuity started early this season when Bryn Renner announced that he would forgo his senior season to focus on rehabilitating a shoulder injury he sustained during football season. Renner averaged more than 28

points per game last winter and was often West Springfield’s best and only form of offense.

With Renner gone, players such as Kazmi and senior forward Jordan Massey have had to step into starring roles this season. Massey has embraced the spotlight, aver

SEE CRAWLING, PAGE 19

WEEK IN SPORTS

Mason Continues Winning Ways

The George Mason men’s basketball team continued its historic and torrid start to the season with a 71-57 home win Jan. 17 over James Madison University. Mason has now won 23 of its past 24 games at the Patriot Center. With a 14-3 overall record (7-0 in Colonial Athletic Association play), the Patriots have matched their best start in school history, set during the 1983-84 season. The win over James Madison stretched the team’s winning streak over the Dukes to 10 games, and, for the ninth time this year, Mason held an opponent to less than 40 percent shooting (31.6 percent) and fewer than 60 points. In a tilt that ended after the Connection went to press, Mason trav-

eled to Northeastern on Wednesday night.

Youth Soccer Group Seeks Players

The Lee-Mount Vernon Soccer Association (LMVSA) Patriots, a boys U-10 NCSL team, is looking for talented and motivated players, born after Aug. 1, 1998. This is a team of boys who love soccer and have been successful over their first two seasons together, including several tournament wins. The team offers a year-round training program in a competitive, educational and fun environment. If interested, drop by one of the team’s training sessions on Jan. 21 or 28 and Feb. 4 or 11 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Bucknell Elementary School, 6925 University Drive, Alexandria. Contact coach Karl Rosenberg at krosenberg@extron.com for more details.

Haskins Helps Hokies

The Virginia Tech women’s basketball team started the 2008-09 season at 5-0 and West Springfield graduate Laura Haskins was one of the primary reasons why. Haskins has continued to excel under coach Beth Dunkenberger, but the Hokies have hit a bit of a rough patch, losing three straight Atlantic Coast Conference games to fall to 8-8 overall, 0-3 in the ACC.

A senior guard, Haskins leads the Hokies in both steals per game (2.3) and assists per game (4.4). She is one of only three players to have started all of the team’s 16 contests and she’s averaging 5.1 points per game and logs an average of 31.3 minutes a night — second on the team. At West Springfield, Haskins helped the Spartans to four Patriot District titles and two Northern Region crowns. She averaged 13.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, six assists and four

steals per game during her senior year and was named second team All-State.

Woodson Hopes To Shake Slump

Fourth-year coach Doug Craig doesn’t mind using a cliché or two when describing his team’s regular season and comparing it to the upcoming Liberty District playoffs. “It’s just a long process,” said Craig, whose W.T. Woodson boys basketball squad has lost two straight after winning six of its previous seven games.

The Cavaliers fell to 8-6 overall, 4-2 in district play with a pair of losses last week to Jefferson and Langley by a total of three points.

“We just have to find a way to get back on track,” Craig said.

Crawling Out from Under

FROM PAGE 18

aging 14.8 points and 7.5 rebounds per game.

"Last year, I didn't have to worry about scoring that much," Massey said. "I just tried to get in there and rebound because we had Bryn. But since we don't have Bryn and we have a small, young team, I'm just trying to take on the role of scoring and trying to do as much as possible to win the game."

Kazmi, who's the team's second leading scorer at 12.2 points per game, credited the team's new offensive philosophy for the biggest difference.

"There's more chemistry on the court, more people can get in [the game] and more people know what they're doing now," Kazmi said. "There's nobody that's lost on the court now."

"I think they've taken ownership because at times last year they just stood around and watched [Renner]," Wickline said. "Now I think they're enjoying being more of a part of the team instead of just watching."

Standing around and watching has been the second disruption to West Springfield's sought-after continuity this season and that goes for those who actually make it to the game.

Senior forward Jimmy Bradshaw rolled his ankle during a Jan. 9 loss to T.C. Williams, rendering him inactive for the past two contests entering Wednes-

day night's Patriot District battle with Lee, which ended after this edition went to press.

Wickline hopes to have Bradshaw return soon but was less optimistic about sophomore Lawrence Rouse, who was having a breakout year before suffering a concussion during the first South County game. Rouse is still unable to pass the baseline concussion test required for medical clearance.

Sophomore center Hyung-Ju Kim recently went on a family trip and since has been dealing with a charley horse in his thigh, while a few other players missed Pohanka Classic games with non-basketball commitments.

With the players Wickline has had to work with, he has taken a back-to-basics approach. In his

12th year at West Springfield, Wickline has found himself once again emphasizing basic concepts such as breakout passes and how to deal with defensive pressure.

But while he wouldn't mind a little bit of continuity during the second half of the season and without a doubt a few less disruptions, the one thing Wickline has been pleased with has been his team's effort.

"We're young, we're working hard and we're getting better," Wickline said. "We've fallen behind in games, but we haven't quit. ... We're not terribly talented and we're not terribly big, but we've played with a lot of heart and we're pleased with that."

"We're young, we're working hard and we're getting better."

— Coach Dick Wickline

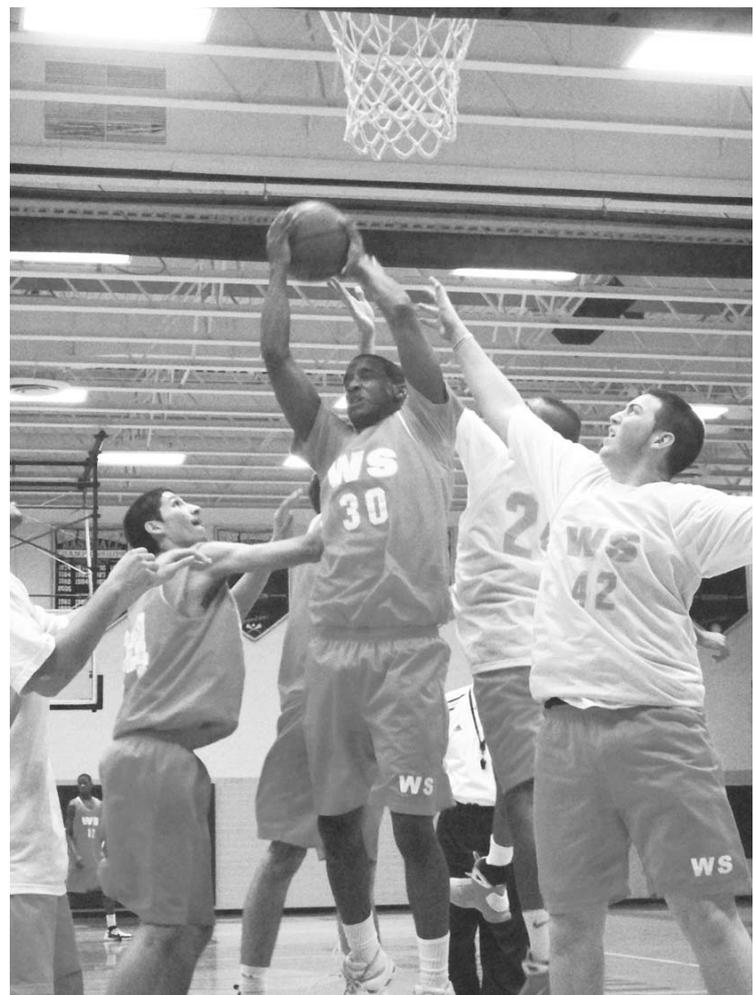


PHOTO BY JASON MACKAY/THE CONNECTION

West Springfield's Jordan Massey grabs a rebound during practice Tuesday afternoon. Massey is averaging 14.8 points and 7.5 rebounds per game this season.

Work alone does not suffice—the effort must be intelligent.

—Charles B. Rogers

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Staci Pinkett and Barbara S. Pinkett, dated May 3, 2006, and recorded June 19, 2006, in Deed Book 18542 at page 696 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

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the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

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Commonly known as 5380 Laura Belle Lane, Fairfax, Virginia 22032.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$17,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

This sale is being made subject to two superior trusts.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
5655 Chelmsford Court, Burke, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Ryan M. Rafferty and Hoai-Thanh T. Le, dated March 25, 2005, and recorded April 7, 2005, in Deed Book 17153 at page 1369 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 87, Section 2, Crownleigh, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5661 at page 662, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 5655 Chelmsford Court, Burke, Virginia 22015.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$10,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.0 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

This sale is being made subject to two superior trusts.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

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David N. Prenskey
Chasen & Chasen
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NEWS

Road Funds

FROM PAGE 4

same districts. He said tough financial times have reduced the overall pool of transportation funding available over the last few years, resulting in little leftover funds for new projects.

"It used to make sense [back then] because we had enough money left over for construction, now we don't," said Marsden. "It means we can't fix our intersections or solve problems on the parkway, things like that."

Ensuring that money allocated for transportation is used for transportation can be another method of wringing the state's budgetary sponge. That's what Hugo aims to do with a bill that would require localities in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads to use revenue from a special commercial real estate tax solely for new road and transit construction. Hugo said he drafted the bill after it was revealed in 2008 that Fairfax County was diverting those funds to pay employees.

"Unfortunately, Fairfax County was doing a bait and switch, and was taking that money for salaries," said Hugo. "And that was not the intended purpose of that bill."

Sometimes, a temporary adjustment of road laws can be a cost-effective way to open up traffic. Marsden has proposed a bill that would allow motorists involved in non-serious accidents on roadways under High-Occupancy Toll Lanes construction. On roads that have no shoulders due to construction, drivers are allowed to move their cars to the nearest designated pull-off area. Marsden's bill stipulates that the requirement "shall only apply when vehicles involved in the crash are capable of movement and the crash does not appear to have caused any bodily injuries." The penalty for noncompliance is a \$100 fine.

"It's just to make sure that when we don't have shoulders we don't have people stopping for minor traffic accidents and clogging everybody up," said Marsden.

Marsden's bill was referred to the House transportation committee Jan. 14.

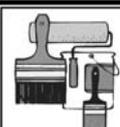
Northern Virginia's traffic woes may receive a boost of federal funding soon as well. With President Barack Obama's (D) federal stimulus plan seeks to pump billions of dollars to state governments for road and infrastructure projects. At a press conference following Obama's Jan. 8 speech detailing the plan, Gov. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) said the state had a backlog of "shovel ready" transportation projects that would be eligible for such funding.

Hugo expressed cautious optimism regarding Northern Virginia's transportation future.

"Obviously, a lot of work has to be done, but I'm hopeful we'll move forward," he said.

Marsden said that almost any transportation improvements in the Fairfax County would benefit his constituents.

"When it comes to transportation, it's hard to think just about your district," he said. "What affects [Dels.] David Bulova and Dave Albo's has as much affect on my district as it does there."

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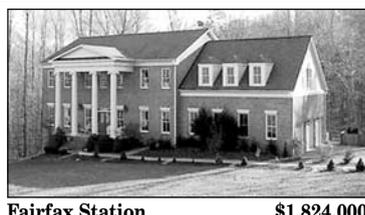
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Fairfax Station **\$599,900**
Beautiful & immaculate home. 4BR, 3.5BA. Remodeled kitchen, sunroom & main level library. Luxurious master suite w/separate soaking tub & shower. Finished walk-out lower level w/home gym, media room & storage. Spacious fenced yard with deck.
Laura Baranek 703-503-1806



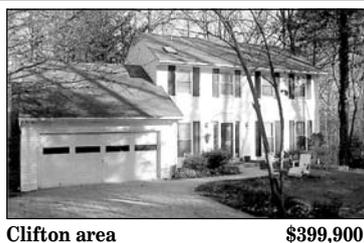
Springfield **\$835,000**
Brand new brick front home! Three levels, 4 bedrooms, 3 car garage, gourmet kitchen, 2-story foyer & family room, separate dining room, formal living room, library, master suite with a luxurious master bathroom. The lower level has walk-up stairs.
Richard Esposito 703-503-4035



Woodbridge **\$625,000**
Gorgeous 4 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial in River Falls Community. Gleaming hardwood floors. Gourmet kitchen opens up to breakfast area, sunroom & two-story family room with gas fireplace. Master Suite with luxury bath, huge walk-in closets & sitting area.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Town of Clifton **\$739,900**
Historic Home!
Charming "Buckhill" built in 1902. Home of Oscar Woody of Titanic Fame. Renovated in 1984. Spacious rooms, built ins, oversized 2 car garage, large kitchen, formal dining room, parlor, extended family room, screened porch, antique fencing beautifully landscaped on almost 1/2 acre lot.
See this property at www.CliftonMLS.com.
Ann Grainger 703-503-1870



Clifton area **\$399,900**
Gorgeous 1.44 acre lot. Updated eat-in kitchen w/cherry cabinets, granite counters, ss appliances, tile flr, family rm w/brick flr, W/O rec rm, crown molding throughout. Updates: triple pane windows, architectural shingle roof, HVAC, doors, recessed lights, baths. 35'x12' screened porch, 20'x15' deck, access ramp, play area, paver brick driveway & walk.
Judy Semler 703-503-1885



Occoquan **\$379,000**
Gorgeous 4-story, 4 BR, 4.5 BA luxury townhome in Occoquan. Fantastic open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, living room with gas fireplace & Master suite. Large 2 car garage, easy access to I-95 and walking distance from shopping & restaurants.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Fairfax Station **\$899,900**
Your Private Retreat!
Looking for a custom built home with tons of charm & the finest in upgrades on a private 3/4 acre wooded lot with a creek? This is it! No detail has been overlooked in this charming "New England" style home w/ \$200,000 in recent top-of-the-line renovations including a "dream" kit, updated BAs, new windows, hrdwd flrs, 3 fireplaces, a fin walkout rec room, screened porch & lovely views from every window!
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066



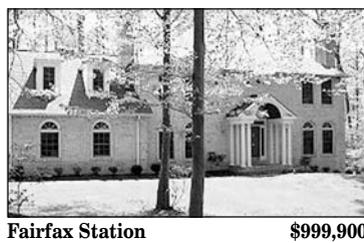
Springfield **\$565,000**
Beautifully updated colonial backing to woods. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen, newer windows, 3 finished levels, walkout rec rm with wet bar, extensive decking with hot tub.
Judy Semler 703-503-1885



Fairfax Station **\$699,900**
Move-in ready 4 level, 3700+sq. ft. custom home on 6+ acres. 4-7 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Hardwoods on 3 levels, in-law suite. Many upgrades & renovations including granite countertops & 42" cabinets in kitchen. 3 fireplaces. All new windows.
Janie Brown 703-801-7997



Fairfax **\$325,000**
Lovingly Maintained
This beautifully maintained TH features upgraded Kit cabinets, newer appliances, separate LR/DR w/SGD to brick patio & fenced yard. Freshly painted, newer carpet, replacement windows, newer HVAC.
Barbara Nowak/Gerry Staudte 703-503-1894



Fairfax Station **\$999,900**
Elegant! All brick updated Colonial tucked away on premium 5 acre lot in the heart of Fairfax Station. Four great sized bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, & 5 fireplaces! A Perfect Home in the Clifton/Robinson School District.
For more pictures see www.hermandorfer.com
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949
Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



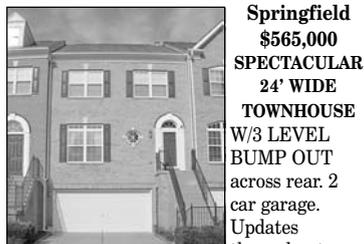
Alexandria **\$219,900**
Sunny & Spacious
Rarely available 913 sq ft, 1-BR condo in Parc East. Remodeled kitchen with cherry cabinets. Closet space galore! Pool and exercise room. Easy access to Metro, I-395, spectacular shops & restaurants at Shirlington, DC, and more!
Barbara Nowak 703-503-1802



Burke **\$469,900**
Foreclosure Opportunity
4 BR, 3 BA SFH on cul-de-sac backing to woods. Hardwood floors on main level. Large kitchen with sliding glass door to deck. Finished lower level with walk-out.
Gerry Staudte 703-503-1894



Fairfax **\$624,900**
Beautiful, move in ready! Located on cul de sac, backing to woods, private 0.9 acres! Hardwood floors, granite kitchen, master suite, updated throughout! Walk out lower level! Friendly sought after neighborhood! Attends Clifton Elementary, Robinson Secondary!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949
Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Springfield **\$565,000**
SPECTACULAR
24' WIDE TOWNHOUSE
W/3 LEVEL BUMP OUT across rear. 2 car garage. Updates throughout—hardwood floors on main level & stairs—9' ceilings—gourmet kitchen with sunroom—1st floor family room—master bedroom with sitting room, and the list goes on!!!
Claudia Callis 703-620-2790



Fairfax **\$475,000**
A haven so close to everything! 4/5 BR, 3BA, tucked away in a tree-lined cul-de-sac setting. Hardwoods, professionally painted, remodeled baths, updated windows, siding, roof. Sought-after neighborhood & schools, close to VRE & metrobus.
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Springfield **\$900,000**
Gorgeous colonial that boasts a spacious family room with FP, large kitchen with center island, Hardwoods on main level. Wonderful Master Suite. 5 Bedrooms, Finished Lower Level. Beautifully Landscaped Yard!
Cyndy Patrick 703-503-1805

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Burke \$329,000
Ready and Waiting For You!
Beautiful 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 3 LVL
Townhouse with new carpet &
paint throughout. Kitchen
remodeled & all stainless steel
appliances. All baths updated.
Fin. LL Rec room w/ W/O.
Convenient to shopping, schools,
and transportation.



Herndon \$634,000
3/4 acre fenced yard perfect for anything! 2 decks!
Beautifully maintained 4 bedroom, 2 full & 2 half bath
home. Spacious rec room, computer/den room and
store room on lower level. Very generous room sizes
throughout. A rare find at this price!



Lorton \$719,900
\$20,000 Price Reduction!
Beautiful home with open floor plan with nearly 4,000
sq. feet. Hardwood floors, gourmet kitchen and more.
Minutes to Ft. Belvoir and I95.
For recorded information call 1-888-495-6207, Ext 230.



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Fairfax near GMU \$460,000
Elegant beauty in sought after neighborhood. Fall in
love as you walk thru the front door with this 4 BR/2.5
BA REMODELED home with new kitchen w/ granite
& SS; bathrooms, fireplace, Brazilian Cherry floors,
fanciful columns & more. Absolutely stunning! Close
to schools, VRE, Metro & shopping!



Alexandria \$519,000
This 5BR, 3.5BA colonial features updated kitchen
with GE appliances, maple cabinets. French door to
sunroom. Hardwood floors on main and upper level. 2
FP. Close to Kingstown shopping and dining, and all
major routes. Also close to 2 military bases.



Fairfax Fairfax Clifton Clifton Fairfax Station Fairfax Station

What Does it Take to Sell in this Market?

We have been successful in getting our listings sold because we understand
the market, know the community and work diligently and creatively to get
your house sold. If you are thinking of making a move, give us a call to dis-
cuss all your options! These sellers are glad they did!



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Straight talk - Solid service.

Available in MRIS (1/12/09) are these detached
homes in Burke/Fairfax Station/ Clifton FOR
SALE, with houses already SOLD (10/12/09+)
in parentheses.
High inventory + low rates = fantastic buys!

Price	Burke	FFStation	Clifton
200-399	11(16)	0(0)	0(2)
400-699	45(30)	14(9)	21(9)
700-999	3(0)	28(11)	20(6)
1,000,000+	2(0)	19(1)	23(5)

Email Subject Line: Buyer's Preview.



Carol G. Ford, REALTOR
GRI, ABR, Member REBAC
Real Estate Buyer's Agent
Council 703-503-4027
Call.ford@longandfooster.com
www.carolfordsellshomes.net



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Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million
Dollar Sales Club
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS
Ann Witherspoon
703-503-1836

Sheila Adams
703-503-1895

Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million
Dollar Sales Club
Life Member,
NVAR TOP PRODUCERS



Updates include windows, kitchen, baths & much,
much more - 4 BR - 3 1/2 BA - HW throughout main
level - Finished LL w/walk-out to trees - Skylites - Not
far from Mercer Lake - Open Sunday 1/25/09 - 1-4 PM.
9112 Wood Pointe Way, Fairfax Station.
CALL ANN WITHERSPOON for a private showing.
703-503-1836 or ann@annwitherspoon.com

**FAIRFAX
STATION
\$669,900**
FIRST TIME
OPEN - NEW
LISTING - This
CROSSPOINTE
beauty is updated
from top to bottom &
looks like new!



Fairfax \$524,900
Gorgeous 4 Level Split in popular Kings Park West, a
quiet neighborhood with lots of charm. The lovely
tree-lined street gives you the feel of country living
close in. This beauty features 4 BR's, 3 Full Baths,
located on a quiet cul-de-sac - Remodeled Kitchen &
Baths, Hardwood floors, Gas Fireplace & much more.
Call Sheila Adams for a private showing 703.503.1895



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Fairfax Station \$985,000
Private circular driveway leads to meticulously main-
tained brick & stone colonial on 5 acres. Level yard,
stunning deck w/hot tub, serene setting. 2 story fam-
ily room, large office, well designed kitchen, sunroom,
formal living & dining rooms. Walk-out basement
ready to finish the way you'd like.



Mason Neck/Harbor View \$980,000
PRICE REDUCTION!
This spectacular luxury waterfront home is immacu-
late! Located on secluded 1.93 acre lot with beautiful
views of Massey Creek and deep water access to the
Potomac River. Access to Community Marina.



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McLean \$329,900
Completely Remodeled!
This home is stun-
ning! Everything has
been done for you
including, Kitchen,
Baths, Windows,
Hardwood floors, car-
pet, Heating and Air
conditioning, hot
water heater, paint
and storm door.
Unbeatable location!
Only minutes to I495,
I66 Commuter lane,
and Tysons Corner
Mall.



Fairfax \$635,450
The Ridges of Glendiloughs' classic colonial on a flat half acre
lot in the prized Woodson Frost school area. Three finished
levels offers 4 bedrooms, updated kitchen with adjacent family
room while a finished basement is perfect for pool and ping
pong as well as a great gathering spot for entertaining.
Virtual Tour: 5267OfalyRd.com

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