

Burke CONNECTION

Don't Be Mine

NEWS, PAGE 3

Anne Marie Saunders, 12, aims her toss through the target as one of several activities for area youth during the Be My Anti-Valentine program at the Burke Centre Library on Feb. 13.

State Honors
NVCC Professor

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Cook Seeks
Braddock Seat

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 19-25, 2009 VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 7

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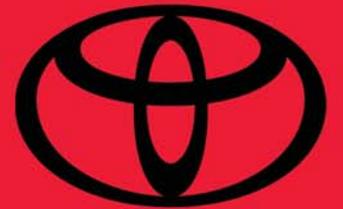
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PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Love Stinks

Local youth celebrate Anti-Valentine Party.



Michelle Reader, 12, left, and Emily Clanton, 12, both of Burke, make a slingshot contraption that was used to fling candy hearts through a target for prizes during the Be My Anti-Valentine program at the Burke Centre Library on Feb. 13.

Emily Clanton and Sarah Mehaffey, 12, try their slingshot to hurl heart candies through the target.

Cook Runs in Braddock

Kings Park civic leader tries to make jump to county board.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

During a small gathering at Braddock District School Board member Tessie Wilson's house Feb. 15, John Cook seemed at home fielding questions about everything from parking problems around George Mason University to illegal immigration.

If elected, Cook, the Republican nominee for Braddock District supervisor, hopes to have similar informal meetings with his constituents regularly.

The candidate enjoys the town hall meetings that Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and other supervisors use to gain input from residents but thinks a more relaxed setting for meeting with citizens would be help-

"The police say the communities with the most block parties have the least crime."

— John Cook

John Cook (R)

Age: 45
Neighborhood: Kings Park, 10 year resident

Hometown: Delhi, N.Y.

Family: Wife and four children (19, 8, 6 and 3)

Education: Gettysburg College, graduated magna cum laude with a degree in political science (1985); The George Washington University, law degree

Community Activism: Kings Park Civic Association president, softball coach, active in the Virginia Bar Association



ful for him as a county board member.

"People will be able to come in and talk about what they want to talk about. It will give people an opportunity to come in without a structured program," said Cook.

The Republican faces at-large School Board member and Democratic candidate Ilyong Moon in a special election March 10. Bulova, the former Braddock District supervisor, triggered the contest when she won the county chairman race Feb. 3. As Braddock supervisor, Cook

SEE CIVIC ACTIVIST, PAGE 6

Domestic Quarrel Ends in Death

Wife shot and killed, husband recovering at Inova Fairfax.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Police say a couple's bitter argument over their upcoming divorce apparently led to a struggle with a gun that wounded both of them. The husband lived, but the wife died of a shot to her torso. Police have identified her as Margaret Ann Teague, 58, of South Run.

In a Feb. 16 affidavit for a warrant to search the couple's home at 7209 Laketree Drive in Fairfax Station for evidence, homicide Det. Daniel Bibeault of the Criminal Investigations Bureau detailed what happened.

The incident occurred on Monday, Feb. 16, around 10:30 a.m. Shortly afterward, the county 911 Center received a call from the home.

"The male caller stated that he and his wife had been shot," wrote Bibeault. "The caller further stated that his wife was in an upstairs bedroom and she was not breathing. [He] stated that the weapon was lying next to them."

Both police and county fire and rescue personnel responded to the home and found the woman dead in an upstairs bedroom. The male victim was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital for treatment of an apparent gunshot wound.

Homicide Det. Brian Colligan met with the male caller at the hospital and, according to the affidavit, the man, 59, told him

SEE DOMESTIC, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY ROBBIE/THE CONNECTION

Charity Gala Jerry Gordon of Burke, Elizabeth Murphy of Oakton and Bob and Robin Thurman of Oakton attend the annual Valentine Pops Gala Friday, Feb. 6, at the McLean Hilton. The event was a fund raiser for the Fairfax Symphony. Robin Thurman works at BAE Systems of Arlington. Gordon is a member of the board of directors of the Fairfax Symphony.

2004 L.B. Grad Wins Pageant

Fair Lakes resident Ashley Dixon, 23, was crowned the new Miss Virginia International 2009 (for ages 19-29) on Sunday, Feb. 15 in Chester, Va., at the Cultural Center of India facility. The competition took place in conjunction with the 2009 Mrs. Virginia International (ages 21-56) and Miss Teen Virginia International (ages 13-18) and Little Miss Virginia International (ages 7-12).

"It was kind a surprise because they were great girls," said Dixon of her competitors. "They each had great platforms. They were very accomplished. I was surprised that I was the winner."

The daughter of John and Debbie Dixon of Longwood Knolls in Burke ran with an environmental awareness platform. She plans to shed light on how to prevent negative impacts on the environment, such as purchasing eco-friendly cleaning products and turning off lights.

Dixon was inspired to enter her first pageant after her friend Tina Montgomery of Arlington won last year's Miss Virginia International title. She competed in an onstage interview, fitness wear, fun fashion wear and evening gown competitions.

The winners from all 50 states win an all-expense paid trip to compete in the national competition on July 20-26 in Chicago.

Ashley is a 2004 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary and graduated from GMU with an English major last December.

Her hobbies include music and she plays flute, piccolo, tenor sax and piano. She plans on pursuing a degree in law.



Ashley Dixon

Three More Rams Commit

Three Robinson football players signed letters of intent last week to attend Division I-AA schools. Wynton Fox, a running back, committed to Robert Morris University on Friday, Feb. 6, and Ryan Holder, a defensive end, committed to Georgetown while on a visit the weekend of Feb. 11-13. Offensive guard Kevin Bell committed to the University of Dayton Monday morning, Feb. 9. Fox ran for 913 yards and nine touchdowns this past season, while Holder posted 62 tackles and three sacks. Bell, a 6-foot-2, 230-pounder possesses both size and speed.

— JASON MACKEY

NEWS

State Award for Eckerlin

NVCC biology professor has taught for more than 40 years.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Dr. Ralph P. Eckerlin, 71, of the Ravensworth Farm area of Annandale has received the 2009 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and Dominion. Twelve faculty members from Virginia's public and private colleges and universities received the award, the highest honor bestowed upon faculty in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The award recognizes excellence in teaching, research, knowledge integration and public service.

In his 38th year at Northern Virginia Community College, Eckerlin, a longtime biology professor, is the only community college faculty member to receive the award this year.

"My job is to try to make the difficult stuff more understandable. And yet, we have to maintain a standard, otherwise our degree doesn't mean much," said Eckerlin.

He teaches the advanced human anatomy and physiology courses as well as general biology, and an overwhelming majority of those people are not even science majors.

NOVA President Robert G. Templin Jr. congratulated Eckerlin on behalf of the College. "We are very pleased Dr. Eckerlin was selected for this prestigious honor. Throughout the years, Ralph has consistently demonstrated his strong commitment to teaching while also pursuing significant research in his field. His dedication was confirmed by the many letters of recommendation written by students and colleagues in support of his

nomination," Templin said.

"He's committed to teaching. He does a good job at it," said Dr. Alfred Gardner, curator of North American Mammals at the National Museum of Natural History. He's known him for better than 20 years. "He's fairly low key but he's earnest."

A colleague of Eckerlin for 42 years, Walter Bulmer recommended him for the award. "He's a very dedicated person to his profession. He's one of those kinds of people who stays at the school until 7:30 at night and he's there 7 days," he said.

"His students seem to like him. He always gives them extra help."

As a co-author of the biology laboratory manual in use at the Annandale Campus, Eckerlin has influenced the education of thousands of students.

"I enjoy what I do and what I do mostly is teaching," Eckerlin said. "I have been a professional teacher for more than 40 years and it is still a pleasure to get up in the

morning and go to work. At the community college, we see the broadest spectrum of ages and abilities. The challenge for me is to try to reach all of them."

Believing hands-on training to be an important learning tool, Eckerlin has led or co-led several student trips to study tropical biology in such places as

SEE ECKERLIN, PAGE 5



Dr. Ralph Eckerlin

"My job is to try to make the difficult stuff more understandable."

— Dr. Ralph Eckerlin, NVCC
Biology Professor

Teens Find Second Chance

ChalleNGe Academy targets at-risk youth.

BY ROB WILE
THE CONNECTION

When Burke teenager Julie Santiago got caught skipping school last June, it seemed like the breaking point in what she described as a long line of misdeeds.

A native of Puerto Rico, Julie, 16, had already been expelled from the Catholic high school she'd enrolled in while living with her stepfather in San Juan. In January 2008, she re-enrolled at Robinson Secondary School after moving back in with her parents in Fairfax. But from May to June of that year, Julie said, she would call the school pretending to be her mother to excuse herself from classes.

"I was going clubbing in D.C., doing drugs, my weight had gone up," Julie said. "I was lost, I didn't

know what to do with my life. I would have been 19 when I graduated — I couldn't do it."

Along with its status as the second wealthiest county in the nation, Fairfax County currently boasts one of the highest high school graduation rates in the country — 92.8 percent.

But for those Fairfax County teens who have struggled to complete high school, whether because of a learning disability, delinquent tendencies or some other cause, any kind of reprieve from their troubles can be welcome.

For Julie and several other teens in Northern Virginia, their break came with a daily 5:30 a.m.

"It helped me get in shape. It gave me a life again."

— Julie Santiago

SEE CHALLENGE, PAGE 18

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NEWS

Domestic Dispute

FROM PAGE 3

"he had been arguing with his wife at their home over their pending divorce."

"A handgun was introduced into the argument and his wife [allegedly] shot him," wrote Bibeault. "They continued to struggle over the handgun and his wife [reportedly] discharged the weapon a second time, resulting in her sustaining an apparent, fatal gunshot wound."

"We're treating it as an isolated incident. Both parties had gunshot wounds to their bodies."

— Mary Hulse, FCPD

"I didn't know the family personally, but we all had the same group of friends," said Christina Mergens, Wilkey's friend

"It really catches you off guard," said Wilkey. "It makes you step back and think a bit. It makes me wonder why people would do such a thing."

Police are describing the incident as domestic in nature.

Detectives and crime scene technicians processed the scene and are attempting to determine the exact course of events.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County

Police at 703-691-2131.

Dr. Ralph Eckerlin

FROM PAGE 4

Mexico, Central America, the Bahamas and the West Indies, providing experiences that are unusual for community college students.

As a parasitologist with numerous interests, Eckerlin has described four new species of parasites: a protozoan, a louse and two fleas. He has also published on ticks, nematodes and trematodes.

Eckerlin is also a prolific writer. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals, has contributed three book chapters and edited a volume of contributed papers for a book on Appalachian Biogeography for the Virginia Museum of Natural History. He has been a member of the editorial board for the journal "Comparative Parasitology" for 24 years and served that publication as editor for five years.

Eckerlin doesn't just belong to 14 professional organizations, he has an extensive record of service to those groups. In addition to serving as president of the Entomological Society of Washington, Helminthological Society of Washington, Virginia Association for Biological Education and the Tropical Medicine Association of Washington, he readily shares his expertise with many professional committees.

Eckerlin has a doctorate in parasitology from the University of Connecticut. When he's not teaching, he enjoys travelling to Alaska, Australia, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and Costa Rica. He and his wife Mary live in Annandale and have two daughters, Laura and Linda.

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The laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay. This is very important. Because of bacterial contamination, many of you have had old fillings replaced with either new fillings, or in many cases, with crowns--and sometimes even root canals!! The reoccurrence of decay under fillings is a primary reason so many root canals are needed. Since this new laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay, and since many dentists now use 'bonded' filling materials enriched with fluoride, the chances of ever having recurrent decay under that new filling are much lower.

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Civic Activist Pursues Supervisor's Seat

FROM PAGE 3

said constituent services and strengthening neighborhoods would be his top priorities.

"The police say the communities with the most block parties have the least crime," said Cook.

It is the job of the district supervisor to cater to the smaller aspects of community life, like potholes. If residents are complaining about a dangerous intersection in their neighborhood, Cook, as Braddock supervisor, would be the first person out there looking at morning traffic to see what could be done, he said.

"It is very important that a supervisor be responsive. That is the job of the individual supervisor. The only person we have in our government system who responds to problems like that is the county supervisor," said Cook.

As president of the Kings Park Civic Association for the past three years, Cook approaches problems and the supervisor position from a community-oriented perspective. A leader in his community, the Republican already handles a lot of questions about the "small stuff."

If a problem occurs with ivy growing over the sidewalk in his neighborhood, Cook is the person his neighbors contact to deal

with the problem, he said.

"I field those calls now that the supervisor fields," said Cook.

IN HIS ROLE as civic association president, Cook has proved to be a man of action.

His neighborhood organization has grown from 380 members to up over 600 since he took over as leader. Cook has also helped find workable solutions to many of his community's problems and irritations over the past few years.

When the Royal pool closed in his neighborhood, Cook was able to arrange for the Fairfax County Park Authority to buy the property, so that it would not sit vacant and unused like another empty pool in Kings Park West, he said.

Cook was also pro-active about combating overcrowding and illegal boarding houses that started to crop up in Kings Park.

He volunteered Kings Park for a county pilot program to revitalize older neighbor-

hoods. Cook also brought residents together to draw up a neighborhood vision statement, in which they outlined what they wanted to see happen on their community streets.

The candidate reached out to members of his community from different ethnic backgrounds to make sure they were involved in local activities. He helped make households aware of county zoning and property regulations.

"The number of illegal boarding houses in the county has doubled over the last two years but, in Kings Park, it has gone down," said Cook.

For the most part, people who are in violation of the zoning code want to come into compliance and keep up their property. Instead of calling the county authorities, neighborhoods should take matters into their own hands and contact their neighbors about a potential problem, said Cook.

Other cases exist in which people are willingly engaged in illegal activity and the

county needs to act. While shadowing a county zoning enforcement team, Cook said he saw a house where the property owner had divided a basement into seven or eight units and was charging \$400 per room per month.

"There were 21 people living in this ramblar and none of them knew each other. ... That is appalling. It is unacceptable," said Cook.

"You have one of these houses on your block and it ruins the whole street," said Cook, who wants to see the number of zoning enforcement officers doubled.

EVEN with his focus on neighborhood problems, Cook has given a lot of thought to countywide issues as well.

Cook said he would not vote for a budget in which citizens, on average, would have to pay more in residential real estate taxes than they did last year. He also wants to focus on increasing the county's commercial tax base so that less of a financial burden falls to homeowners in general, he said.

"You have to keep your residential property taxes down so that people want to live here," said Cook.

On affordable housing, Cook said he does not think the county should be buying up foreclosed properties. Instead, that money

SEE JOHN COOK, PAGE 16

"The number of illegal boarding houses in the county has doubled over the last two years but, in Kings Park, it has gone down."

— John Cook

IHFR Foundation Awards Scholarships

Two high school seniors each received \$10,000 college scholarships from the In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation, at the fourth annual In Hope Freedom Rings Foundation Scholarship Awards ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at the Café at the Gatehouse Administrative Center in Falls Church.

Dr. Jack D. Dale, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, presented the scholarships to Thanh (Mary) Ta of Lake Braddock Secondary School and Abhishek (A.J.) Jain of Falls Church High School. The recipients were selected based on financial need, academic performance, extracurricular activities and a written essay.

Mary is described by her school counselor as a student who uses "her passions, beliefs and talents to get the most out of life." She had a difficult childhood following the death of her father; however, this tragedy has been the motivation for her optimism. She is known for saying, "When life throws me lemons, I deal with it. I believe that dwelling in the past will not lead to anything positive."

Mary is involved in the school orchestra, the Key Club and honor society while maintaining over a 3.9 grade point average. Her goal is to join the Peace Corps

after college and then pursue her passion — teaching history.

A.J., who is intending to pursue a career in engineering, is the founder and president of his school's science club, a member of the National Honor Society since his sophomore year and a member and later president of the National Math Honor Society. He also founded the school's recycling program.

The Foundation was started four years ago by local business owner Margo R. Friedman, a former teacher, who wanted to give back to the community. Her dream was to help young people continue their education.

EACH YEAR, Friedman participates as a sponsor and recruits from the local business community other sponsors who share her goal of helping students attend college. This enables her to award the scholarships with 100 percent of the donations going to the scholarships.

Eight area businesses contributed the \$20,000 for the two scholarships. The businesses are: CouponsToGo.com; Cropp-Metcalf Air Conditioning, Heating, Plumbing & Security; F.W. Harris Heating, Cooling & Plumbing; Hadeed Oriental Rug Cleaning; Virginia Tire & Auto; Papa John's Pizza; Prince William Home Improvement; and Glen Buco, West Financial Services, Inc.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

IHFR Foundation Scholarship recipients Abhishek (AJ) Jain of Falls Church High School and Thanh (Mary) Ta of Lake Braddock Secondary School are joined by Margo R. Friedman, president of IHFR Foundation; Mitchell Cropp of Cropp-Metcalf, Barry Miller of F.W. Harris, Joe Hadeed of Hadeed Oriental Rug Cleaning, Myron Boncarosley of Virginia Tire & Auto, Andrew Freitas of Papa John's Pizza and Glen Buco of West Financial Services. Scholarship sponsors not present were CouponsToGo.com and Prince William Home Improvement. AJ and Mary each received scholarships of \$10,000.

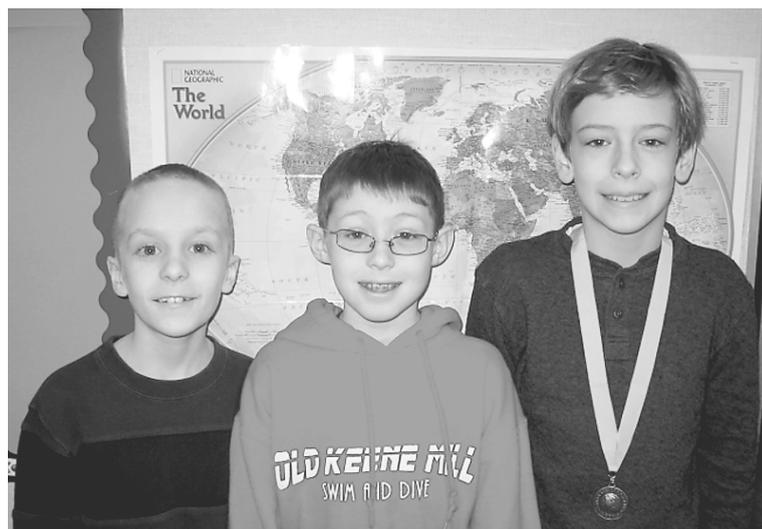
CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Students from Lake Braddock Secondary School traveled to the Walt Disney World Resort to take part in the Disney Youth Education Series Program (Y.E.S.) Disney's Animation Magic at Disney's Hollywood Studios on Jan. 22. Each year, groups from around the world travel to Walt Disney World to take part in one of the several Disney Y.E.S. programs offered. Areas of study include career discovery, life management, physical science, natural science, history, arts and humanities. The programs use the resources of the Disney Parks to bring real world examples to the learning experience.

Robinson Secondary's DECA 2008-09 public relations campaign is focused around teen drinking and driving and is planning activities to educate the school and community on how serious and dangerous it is. The school has conducted school-wide assemblies, with a 15-minute clip of the HBO movie, "SMASHED: A Toxic Tale of Teens and Alcohol," guest speakers talking about their experiences with drinking and driving and how it still affects their lives everyday, and a mock crash to get the students of Robinson even more aware of this serious cause. The campaign's goal is to inform teens about how dangerous it is to drink and drive.

Burke residents Clayton Bradley, David Jones, Jennifer La, Michael Marketti and Carson Rubenstein have graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Burke residents Jared Anderson, Aaron Lawrence and Carson Rubenstein have been named to the fall 2008 president's list at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.



In January, 10 finalists from Cherry Run Elementary participated in the National Geographic Bee. The top three finishers were, from right, Chris Stankiewicz, first; William Soldow, second; and Julian Beecher, third.

Sarah S. Tatlonghari of Burke has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pa.

Chase Borkowski of Burke has graduated cum laude from James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Burke residents Clayton Bradley, Jin-Ah Chang, Kathleen Duffy, Joshua Eflin, Yasmin Elgibali, Lauren Fisher, Stephanie Galing, Valerie Gibbs, Julie Ha, Stacy Hernandez, Brittany Jennings, Justin Joyce, Omar Khoury, Patrick Kumor, Morgan Lenihan, Kelly Maguire, Antonio Olivieri,

Brooke Postlewaite, Beckie Root, Mark Salesses, Mary Sullivan and Jessica Taylor have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Jonathan Austin Kilbourn of Burke was named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Hampden-Sydney College. Kilbourn is a graduate of Robinson Secondary School and the son of Donna and Timothy Kilbourn of New England Woods Drive in Burke.

Kyle M. McGuire of Burke received a bachelors of science degree in health promotion on Jan. 16 from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Va.

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half
fought.

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Cervantes

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CALENDAR

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703-917-6459 OR BURKE@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

To have community events listed, email
southcalendar@connectionnewspapers.com
or call 703-917-6459 with questions.
Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks
prior to event.

THURSDAY/FEB. 19

Friday Morning Music Club, 11 a.m.
at Old Town Hall, 3999 University
Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS
or www.fairfaxarts.org.

Young Dubliners. Rock and Irish
music. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets
\$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the
Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road,
Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Mae, Shirock and The Daylights.
Rock. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227
Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-
1566 or jamminjava.com.

Marvelous Mittens, 10:15 a.m. at
Pohick Regional Library, 6450
Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Snow
time stories. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-
644-7333.

Let's Hear It for the Girls, 7 p.m. at
Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake
Road, Burke. Mother-daughter book
discussion group. Age 9-11 with
adult. 703-978-5600.

Reading Across the Centuries, 7
p.m. at Pohick Regional Library,
6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke.
Writer and university instructor
Wendi Kaufman facilitates discussion
of "The Natural" by Bernard
Malamud. 703-644-7333.

Afternoon Reading Group, 1 p.m. at
the City of Fairfax Regional Library,
10360 North St., Fairfax. "Reading
Lolita in Tehran" by Azar Nafisi.
Adults. 703-293-6227.

Make New Friends, 10:30 a.m. at
Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds
Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and
activities about friendship. Age 2-5
with adult. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/FEB. 20

"A Raisin in the Sun," 7 p.m. at
James Lee Community Theatre,
2855-A Annandale Road, Falls
Church. Angela Hansberry's 1959
play about a family's experiences in
Washington Park. For tickets, contact
Nomikka Hunter at 703-324-555.
\$5. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec.

Luke Brindley. Acoustic/rock. 8 p.m.
\$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave.
N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or
www.jamminjava.com.

Jonathan Edwards, folk singer. 8
p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$24. Wolf
Trap Foundation for the Performing
Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-
WOLFTRAP.

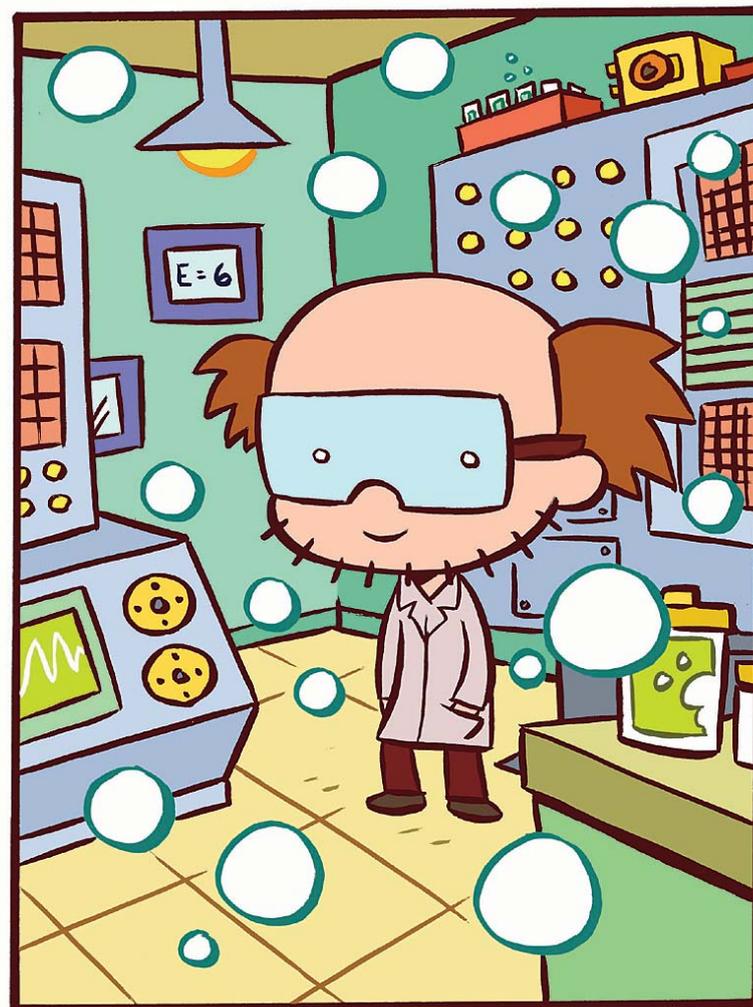
**L.A. Theatre Works and "The
Great Tennessee Monkey
Trial,"** 8 p.m. at George Mason
University's Center for the Arts on the
Fairfax campus of George Mason
University, at the intersection of
Braddock Road and Route 123.
Tickets are \$19-\$38. Charge by
phone at 888-945-2468 or at
www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**"Making Connections Arts
Marathon,"** a 24-hour festival of
theater, art, music, film and dance
activities starting 8 a.m. at George
Mason University's Fine Arts
Building, Performing Arts Building
and the Johnson Center, on the
Fairfax campus at the intersection of
Braddock Road and Route 123. Free.
703-993-8898. Visit www.gmu.edu/cfa
for a schedule of specific events.

**"A Hill of Magic Beans or Here's
Looking At You Jack,"** presented
by Lake Braddock Storybook Theatre,
7 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary
School, 9200 Burke Lake Road,
Burke. Storybook favorites Humpty
Dumpty, Pinocchio, Rapunzel and
Rumpelstiltskin join Jack to fight the
giant in the sky. Tickets \$3. 703-426-
1070.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Second City National Touring



Robbert Bobbert and the Bubble Machine brings
powerpop for little boys and girls to Jammin' Java on
Saturday, Feb. 21.

Company. Improv. 7:30 p.m. at The
Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap
Foundation for the Performing Arts,
1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-
WOLFTRAP.

Luke Brindley. Acoustic/rock. 8 p.m.
\$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave.
N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or
www.jamminjava.com.

**Robbert Bobbert and the Bubble
Machine**, powerpop for little boys
and girls. 11 a.m. at Jammin' Java,
227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. \$15. 703-
255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Microsoft Access, 2:30 p.m. at the
City of Fairfax Regional Library,
10360 North St., Fairfax.
Introduction to creating, modifying
and mastering databases using
Microsoft's Access program. Age 13
and up. 703-293-6227.

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, 8
p.m. at the George Mason Center for
the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of
George Mason University at the
intersection of Braddock Road and
Route 123. A pre-performance
discussion, free to ticket holders,
begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's
Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$19-\$38.
Age 12 and under, half price. Charge
by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit
www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**The Northern Virginia Country
Western Dance Association**,
7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle
School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls
Church. Dancing lessons begin at
7:30 p.m. with open dancing from
8:30-11 p.m. \$12 per person. 703-
860-4941 or www.nvcwda.org.

Author Jessica James will sign
copies of "Shades of Gray: A Novel of
the Civil War in Virginia" 12-4 p.m.
at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee
Highway, Fairfax. 1-800-545-7950.

**Spring Flowering Trees and
Shrubs**, 10 a.m. at Merrifield
Gardens Community Hall, 8104 Lee
Highway, Merrifield. Wayne Boyland,
Plant Specialist, will show the many
different types of trees and shrubs

that are available to brighten a
landscape. 703-560-6222.

Bonsai, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens
Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee
Highway, Fairfax. Learn about the
ancient art of bonsai. Using
specialized techniques, bonsai can be
formed and sculpted into miniature
versions of their full-sized
counterparts. 703-968-9600.

Luke Mitchem CD Release Party, 7
p.m. at Coffhouse, 8433 Lee
Highway, Merrifield.
info@COFFHOUSE.com.

**3-on-3 Adult Basketball
Tournament**, 6-10 p.m. at the Mott
Community Center, 12111 Braddock
Road, Fairfax. Single or double
elimination tournament depending
on the number of teams entered.
Open to adult basketball teams, co-ed
teams encouraged. This is a 3-point
competition. Winning team gets
trophy; other prizes to be awarded.
\$25 entry fee per team. Dept. of
Community and Recreation Services,
703-278-8605.

Jazz & Tap Dance Festival, 8 p.m. at
Northern Virginia Community
College Annandale Campus Theatre,
8333 Little River Turnpike,
Annandale. \$20 adults, \$17 students
and seniors in advance; \$23 adults,
\$20 students and seniors at the door.
www.jatdf.org or 1-800-595-4TIX.

**"A Hill of Magic Beans or Here's
Looking At You Jack,"** presented
by Lake Braddock Storybook Theatre,
1 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary
School, 9200 Burke Lake Road,
Burke. Tickets \$3. 703-426-1070.

SUNDAY/FEB. 22

**Second City National Touring
Company**. Improv. 7:30 p.m. at The
Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap
Foundation for the Performing Arts,
1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-
WOLFTRAP.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR



Folk singer Jonathan Edwards will perform on Friday, Feb. 20 at The Barns at Wolf Trap.

FROM PAGE 8

Drumline Live, 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A free pre-performance discussion begins at 6:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Age 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

An Evening with Fred Eaglesmith. Roots rock. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Local Matinee with Thomas and

Black Bird Lewis, 2 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Jazz & Tap Dance Festival, 4 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$20 adults, \$17 students and seniors in advance; \$23 adults, \$20 students and seniors at the door. www.jatdf.org or 1-800-595-4TIX.

Jubilee Christian Center will show "Fireproof" at 6 p.m. A PG movie with Kirk Cameron about a firefighter fighting to save lives and his marriage. The movie is free, and refreshments will be served afterwards. Nursery, Youth and

Children's activities will be available. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Open Mic Night with Ron Goad. 7 p.m. \$2. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Monday Movies, 3:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Join us for a movie based on a book and say which was better. Age 6-18. 703-978-5600.

Inova Blood Drive, 2 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults. 703-293-6227.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

Inova Blood Drive, 1:30-7:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. For appointments call 1-866-256-6372. 703-644-7333.

Book Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Victory Red, Ringleader, Tami D'mar and Rana Mansour, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566.

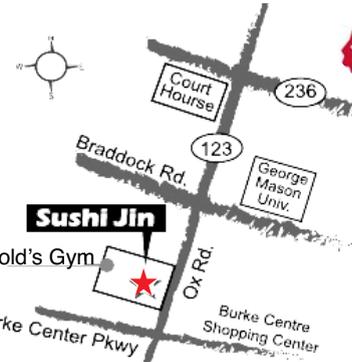
THURSDAY/FEBRUARY 26

Our Daily Bread's Empty Bowls Fund-Raising Dinner, a soup and bread dinner to raise funds to feed the hungry in Fairfax County, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. \$25 donation includes a handcrafted ceramic bowl; \$10 for children. Reserve at 703-273-8829 or info@ODBfairfax.org.

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Saturday 12:00 pm ~ 10:30 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm ~ 9:30 pm

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CRIME

Activities reported by the West Springfield District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Feb. 13.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY

7600 block of Allman Drive. A man attempted to break into a home in the 7600 block of Allman Drive on Friday, Feb. 6. The victim, a 42-year-old Annandale woman, heard a noise outside around 11:15 p.m. and discovered a man standing outside her window. He fled when he saw her. The suspect was described as Hispanic, in his 20s. He was about 5 feet 2 inches tall and 140 pounds. He wore a gray hoodie, jeans and a red cap with a black stripe on it.

LARCENIES

8000 block of Athena St. GPS unit stolen from vehicle.
7800 block of Winona Court. Cologne, phone charger and hubcap stolen from vehicle.
5800 block of Banning Place. License plate stolen from vehicle.
Burke Manor Court/Old Burke Lake Road. Bread stolen from vehicle.
5700 block of Burke Towne Court. GPS unit stolen from vehicle.
8100 block of Hatteras Lane. Power washer stolen from residence.
7400 block of Little River Turnpike. Money and checks stolen from apartment.
4900 block of King Solomon Drive. Wallet and keys stolen from business.
8000 block of Steeple Chase

Court. GPS unit and camera stolen from vehicle.
7800 block of Winona Court. Cologne, phone charger and hubcap stolen from vehicle.

VEHICLE THEFTS

8500 block of Milford Court. 1995 Honda.
6300 block of Tall Trees Lane. 2000 Isuzu Rodeo.

Activities reported by the Franconia District of the Fairfax County Police Department through Feb. 13.

BURGLARY

7400 block of Foxleigh Way. Police

responded to a burglar alarm activation from a home in the 7400 block of Foxleigh Way on Friday, Feb. 6 around 1:52 p.m. They discovered that a door had been forced open but nothing appeared to be missing from inside. The victim, a 48-year-old Alexandria woman, was not home when the incident took place. No suspect information is available at this time.

7000 block of Backlick Road. Fire Station 422, located at 7011 Backlick Road, was burglarized on Wednesday, Feb. 11. Around 4 a.m., a fire alarm inside the station activated and personnel went to investigate. They discovered that someone attempted to break into an ATM machine but were not able to

get any money. Police responded and further investigation revealed that the suspect also went into an office and moved several things around but apparently took nothing.

LARCENIES

7000 block of Beverly Lane. Generators stolen from residence.
7800 block of Bold Lion Lane. Seat stolen from vehicle.
6600 block of Cottonwood Drive. Purse stolen from vehicle.
4400 block of Elan Place. Wheel and tire stolen from vehicle.
7200 block of Sipes Lane. Cellular phone stolen from vehicle.
6900 block of Villa Del Rey Court. Bicycles stolen from residence.

CLASSES

MISCELLANEOUS

The Workhouse Arts Center, a program of the Lorton Arts Center, has a variety of beginning, intermediate and advanced visual arts and performing arts classes. Drawing, painting, glass, ceramics, fiber arts, photography, creative writing, dance, theater and film. 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. 703-584-2900 or www.lortonarts.org.
Colorful World, a small minority women-owned education consulting organization in Springfield providing diversity education consulting, training and resources, offers several classes at the center, 7001 Loisdale Road, Suite C-215, Springfield. For more, visit www.colorfulworld.com or call 703-778-9910.

Join the Wakefield Chorale. Practice is Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke, and meet in the lecture hall/multipurpose room, number B-167. No audition is required, come any time. 703-451-7917.

Knitting. The Yarn Barn offers a variety of knitting workshops on Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., and Saturdays 8-10 a.m. Call for classes and schedule. 9413-C Old Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-978-2220 or www.geocities.com/theyarnbarnonline.

LANGUAGES

English Classes. Free English classes for adults Saturdays from 5-6:30 p.m. Free testing to determine which level students should be in. Text is \$20. Classes in Trailer Rooms 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B at Christ Church, 8285 Glen Eagles Lane, Fairfax Station. Contact debbie-tim-mccrory@cox.net.

English Classes. Registration is in session for English classes for adult foreign nationals. The classes are offered in 16 locations in Northern Virginia. Childcare is available at some locations. \$20 processing fee. Scholarships available. Check www.eslim.org for class locations and schedules or call 703-841-0292 and leave a message. Calls will be returned in English, Spanish, Korean, or Vietnamese.

The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) helps adults learn to read, write, speak and understand English through one-to-one tutoring programs and English classes. LCNV offers eight tutor training workshops to prepare volunteers. No teaching or foreign language skills are required. \$35 training fee. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road in Falls Church. Call 703-237-0866 ext. 111 or visit www.lcnv.org.
Lord of Life Lutheran Church is offering English classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. at 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Cost \$35. School-age childcare provided. 703-323-9500 or www.lordoflifelutheran.com.

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SAT./SUN. FEBRUARY 21 & 22



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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Springfield

8691 YOUNG CT.....\$510,000.....2/22 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Joel Lutkenhouse.....703-425-8000
7741 CARRLEIGH PARKWAY.....\$549,900.....Sunday.....Re/Max.....Bruce & Tanya Tyburski..703-239-2525
8691 YOUNG CT.....\$510,000.....2/22 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Joel Lutkenhouse.....703-425-8000
9004 TEDDY RAE CT.....\$459,900.....2/22 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Elizabeth Barthle.....703-425-2300

Kingstowne

5902 CHEVELL CT.....\$429,000.....2/22 1-4.....Coldwell Banker.....Donnan C. Wintermute.....703-518-8300
5306 SANDYFORD ST.....\$549,900.....2/22 1-4.....Weichert.....Joseph Davis.....703 549 8700
5716 MARBLE ARCH WAY.....\$500,000.....2/22 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Gerald Staudte.....703-425-8000
7367 CRESTLEIGH CIR.....\$329,000.....2/22 1-4.....Howe Real Estate..Byron Howe.....703-642-0892

Burke

5750 LAKESIDE OAK LN.....\$331,200.....2/22 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Barbara Gynn Johnson..703-790-1990
9262 SPRUCEWOOD RD.....\$274,950.....2/22 1-4.....Weichert.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....703-862-8808

Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill

7701 ROSE GATE CT.....\$1,200,000..2/22 1-4.....Keller Williams.....Diane Lenahan.....703-618-3858
7706 LAKELOFT COURT.....\$819,900.....Sunday.....Re/Max.....Bruce & Tanya Tyburski..703-239-2525
9269 BLU STEEL WAY.....\$998,900.....Sat/Sun.....ReMax.....Bob Lovett.....703-407-4700
8506 OAK CHASE CIRCLE.....\$799,900.....Sat/Sun.....ReMax.....Bob Lovett.....703-407-4700
7707 PORTERS HILL LN.....\$569,000.....3/1 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Susan Borrelli.....703-216-2620
7101 PARK POINT CT.....\$724,950.....2/22 1-4.....Weichert.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....703-862-8808
11715 WINTERWAY DR.....\$1,250,000..2/22 1-4.....Keller Williams.....Diane Lenahan.....703-283-7328
7701 ROSE GATE COURT.....\$1,200,000..2/22 1-4.....Keller Williams.....Diane Lenahan.....703-283-7328
11451 QUAILWOOD DRIVE.....\$1,325,000..2/22 1-4.....Keller Williams.....Diane Lenahan.....703-283-7328

To add your FREE Realtor Open House listing:
Springfield/Kingstowne, Burke, Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill
Contact: Tammy Johnson 703-868-1461
tjohnson@connectionnewspapers.com
Chantilly/Oak Hill, Centreville/Clifton, Fairfax
Contact: Karen Washburn
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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/FEB. 19

Independence Day Celebration Committee, 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7858.

City of Fairfax Republican Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-3273-2824.

Western Fairfax Republican Women's Club, 6:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

Guest speaker will be Del. Tim Hugo (R-40). www.wfrc.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Congress on Your Corner with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), 1-3 p.m. at the Oakton Library's Meeting Room No. 1 at 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Connolly will be available to meet one-on-one with area residents about legislative and community issues. He will be accompanied by constituent service representatives who assist residents on matters involving federal agencies. 703-256-3071.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m. at

City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7930.
School Board Work Session, 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3500 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-385-7910.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7935.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Panel Discussion on Reforming the Redistricting Process in Virginia, 10 a.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Panelists will include Dr. Michael McDonald from George Mason

University and the Brookings Institute, and State Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36). Also invited are State Sen. Kenneth Cuccinelli (R-37) and a representative from the Virginia Redistricting Coalition. Discussion admission is free. Reservations required for lunch. 703-658-9150 or www.lwv-fairfax.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 26

Community Appearance Committee, 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7995.

Destination Fairfax Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7850.

MONDAY/MARCH 2

School Board Meeting and Work Session, 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7935.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County, 8 p.m. at Fairfax County Economic Development Authority headquarters, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. County licenses and permits, state workforce service and training programs and federal financing and certification resources. Register at www.FairfaxCountyEDA.org/sb_seminar.htm.



REBUILDING A BRIDGE

I-495 HOT LANES PROJECT UPDATE: MAJOR CONSTRUCTION COMING TO BRADDOCK ROAD

As part of Virginia's five-year-long I-495 HOT lanes construction project, the Braddock Road (Route 620) bridge—which passes over the I-495 Capital Beltway—will be demolished and completely rebuilt.

Although Braddock Road will remain open throughout the entire project, motorists traveling through the area should expect delays when construction begins in late February.

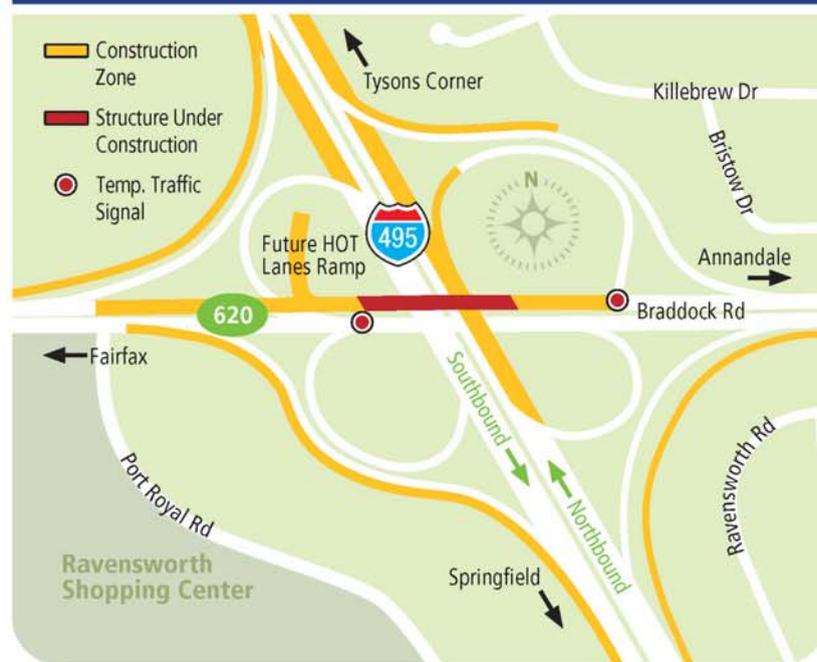
Drivers—what to look for now:

- All traffic will shift onto the eastbound Braddock Road bridge, which will be modified to provide two lanes of traffic in each direction during construction, so be prepared for lane shifts
- Temporary traffic signals will be installed for I-495 south traffic exiting to Braddock Road east, and for I-495 north traffic exiting to Braddock Road west
- The westbound Braddock Road bridge will be completely demolished and replaced, a process expected to take about one year
- Demolition work will take place from 9:30 p.m.–5:00 a.m. for about six weeks, so expect multiple Beltway lane closures in both directions near the Braddock Road interchange during overnight work hours
- Expect eastbound delays of about 6–8 minutes in the a.m. peak hours, and westbound delays of about 10–20 minutes in the p.m. peak hours

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Robinson Girls Steal Show

Girls swim and dive glides past Fairfax; Robinson boys fall to upstart Oakton.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Winner of the past six Virginia AAA state titles, the Robinson boys swim and dive team has garnered its share of attention. On Saturday night, Feb. 14, at Oak Marr RECenter, members of the Robinson girls team turned the spotlight on themselves.

Despite having won district titles in 10 of the past 12 years, as well as splitting last year's Northern Region crown with Fairfax, the Robinson girls are often overlooked because of the boys team's perennial success.

But when the boys finished second to Oakton (232-230.5) and the girls cruised to a 301-222 win over Fairfax to claim the 2009 region crown, it was the girls team that celebrated its region championship by swaying to Queen's "We Are The Champions."

"We've been in their shadow for a couple years, so it feels good to come out on top this year," said senior Amanda Kendall, who scored a meet-best 40 points for her team. "But we are really upset [the boys team] got second place."

"Over the years, I feel like they have gotten all the attention because they've won states," said junior Laura Finelli. "But I feel like this year we have a lot of the attention, which is pretty exciting."

Both teams will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state finals, which will take place at George Mason University's Freedom



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Senior Madison Rupp scored 32 points to help the Robinson girls swim and dive team to a Northern Region title Saturday night, Feb. 14 at Oak Marr RECenter.

Center, with the diving finals scheduled for Saturday, at 9 a.m. and the swimming finals the same day at 4:30 p.m.

Kendall was the Rams' top performer, taking first-place honors in both the 50-yard (23.51 seconds) and 100 freestyle (50.98) events. Both times set Northern Region records.

"She's just an amazing racer," said first-year coach Tom Koucheravy. "You ask her to do something, and she doesn't back down from the challenge. She's just amazing in whatever event you put her in."

In addition to Kendall, the Robinson girls were bolstered by the performance of its 400 freestyle relay team (Madison Rupp, Tori Baker, Finelli and Hannah Walden),

which touched the wall in 3:37.27 to take first.

Rachel Canty (200 individual medley, 2:09.46), Rupp (500 freestyle, 5:08.60) and Finelli (100 backstroke, 1:00.14) posted third-place finishes, while the girls team also had the second-place 200 medley and third-place 200 freestyle relay teams.

"All these girls did a great job ... going above and beyond."

— Coach Tom Koucheravy, Robinson Secondary

"All these girls just did a great job, stepping up and going above and beyond," Koucheravy said.

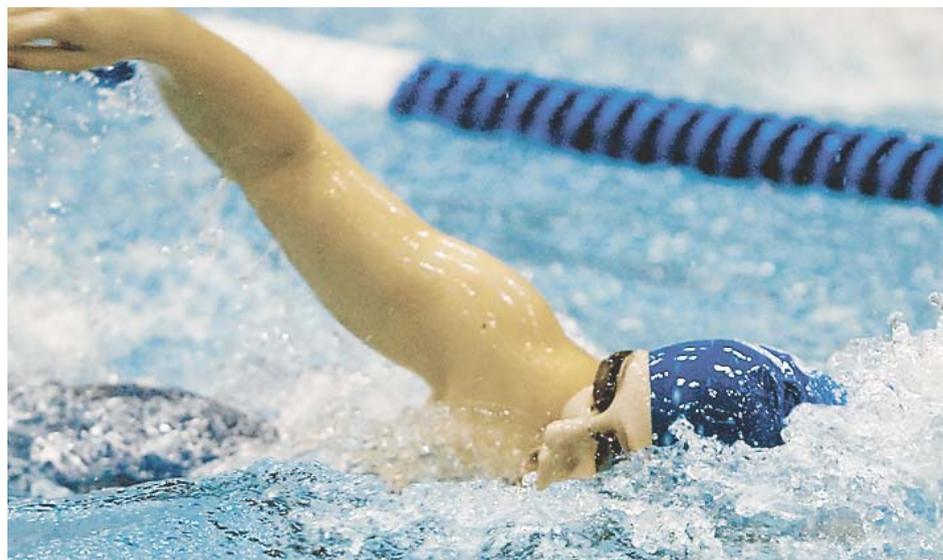
When asked about the boys team's performance, Koucheravy had no complaints. Oakton, which scored a dual-meet win over Robinson on Jan. 9, simply out-swam his team, despite several outstanding performances from Robinson swimmers.

The boys 400 freestyle relay team took second, while the 200 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams each took third. Furthermore, East Carolina-bound senior Geoff Bobsin finished second in the 100 freestyle (46.49) and third in the 50 freestyle (21.45). Cory Bowersox took second on the 1-meter dive (487.10).

"The boys team did great. There's no arguing that," Koucheravy said. "I told every boy that no one can falter, no one can back down. Everybody has to go above and beyond what they can do, and just about everybody did."

But even on a night when the Robinson boys led Oakton by 4 Ω points entering the final relay, it was the Robinson girls team that won its first solo region title since 2005 and 11th overall.

"It was really exciting, especially to win by that much," Finelli said, and especially because the boys didn't win and we won."



The second leg on Robinson's first-place 400-yard freestyle relay team, sophomore Tori Baker helped the group finish with a time of 3 minutes, 37.27 seconds.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Perryman a Coach, Too

During the final round of the Northern Region wrestling tournament this past Saturday at Fairfax High School, Robinson junior Roman Perryman became a part-time coach.

Following his 4-0 win over Westfield's Kyle Arnold, the 135-pound Perryman knelt near the corner of the mat and shouted instructions to his friend and former training partner, 140-pound Ross Renzi of Lake Braddock.

Renzi eventually suffered a 3-2 loss to Jefferson's Mike Howard but not before Perryman did his best impersonation of Bryan Hazard, the Rams' actual head coach.

"I always like cheering on my friends," said Perryman, whose team finished second to Westfield, 220.5-198. "I feel like I can help them ... if they can hear me."

Robinson's other first-place finisher Saturday was 103-pound Jake Smith, who kick-started the final set of matches with a 1-0 victory of Anthony Kotoriy of Langley. Next up for Robinson is the Virginia AAA state meet at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake.

"I thought I wrestled well, almost to the best of my ability," said Smith, who won district and regional titles as a freshman. "It's just another stepping stone to where I really want to be, winning states next week."

George Billy One Step Closer

Lake Braddock senior George Billy suffered an uncharacteristic loss on Jan. 2. But with his pin of Westfield's John Orchard-Hays Saturday, Feb. 14, the 119-pound Billy took one step closer to his final goal of the season.

"I want to face [Colonial Forge's Shane] Gentry again and get my revenge," said Billy, whose 4-0 loss was a part of the Battlefield Duals. Billy beat Gentry, 4-2, in last year's Virginia AAA state title match.

Wrestling at Fairfax High School for the finals of the Northern Region tournament, Billy needed only 2 minutes, 34 seconds to dispose of Orchard-Hays.

"I just went out there, went as hard as I could and tried to get the pin," said Billy, who was named the event's most valuable wrestler, scoring four pins in 8:12 throughout the event.

Next up for Billy and other top-four finishers are the Virginia AAA state finals this weekend at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake.

SPORTS

Bruins Take Advantage

Ask any coach after any sporting event and they won't deny it: home-field or home-court advantage is exactly that, an advantage. But in gymnastics, that advantage has an added level of importance because competitors don't have to adjust to a new set of equipment.

"You're comfortable because you know what to expect," said Lake Braddock coach Ellen Hagan-Bowerman after this past weekend's Northern Region championships, which took place at Lake Braddock. "It's what they practice on every day."

Lake Braddock took advantage of its familiar surroundings with a second-place finish, trailing Chantilly by a score of 144.250-138.775.

The Bruins were led by senior Emily Parillo, who finished second on vault, tied for sixth on bars, first on the balance beam and second on floor. Parillo trailed only Chantilly's Elly Taura for all-around honors, 37.675-37.525.

"I just wanted to hit all of my events," said Parillo, who, along with her team, will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state championships at West Potomac. "The crowd was really good and they helped me a lot."

Rams Finish Fourth

Thanks to a third-place effort from freshman Amanda Famiglietti, the Robinson girls gymnastics team had its most satisfying performance of the season at last Thursday's Northern Region championships.

Famiglietti, who finished second to Chantilly's Elly Taura in the all-around competition at the Concorde



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock senior Emily Parillo finished second to Chantilly's Elly Taura during the all-around portion of the Northern Region girls gymnastics finals.

District meet on Feb. 5, took fourth on vault (9.450), third on bars (9.250), second on the balance beam (9.300) and 20th on floor (8.575).

Her total of 36.575 points trailed only Emily Parillo of Lake Braddock (37.525) and Taura (37.675). Famiglietti will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state finals at West Potomac.

As a team, Robinson finished fourth with a total score of 136.000, trailing Stone Bridge, Lake Braddock and first-place Chantilly, which won its first region title since 2000 with 144.250 points.



Volunteer driver Kim Moden takes Paulette Baird to a doctor's appointment.

Shepherd's Center Fetes Volunteers

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke (SCFB) recognized over 70 of its volunteers at a recent luncheon. The Shepherd's Center mission is to enrich the lives of seniors in the community so they can continue to live independently in their own homes. John Taylor, a volunteer driver with the Center's Accompanied Medical Transportation Program, was honored with the Silver Thunderbird Award for providing more rides than any other driver, taking older adults, who are no longer able to drive, to medical appointments. Marion Essig was recognized with the Tenacious Telephone Award for her dedication on the Center's phone, handling requests for medical drives and answering questions about other programs and services.

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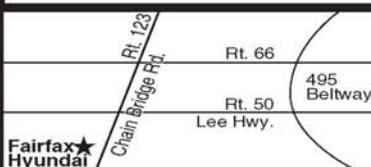
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OPINION

No to Gatehouse II

Superintendent of Schools Jack Dale and other Fairfax County Public school administrators persist in pressing for the purchase of a new, additional building next to its current headquarters.

School Board members and Board of Supervisors members should push back against this proposal.

So far, proponents of buying the 275,000-square-foot building next door to the 210,000 square foot existing headquarters say that this is the only way they can vacate 15 properties.

Vacating those buildings will save millions of dollars they say by terminating leases and avoiding renovations; plus some are needed for new schools. These savings lead proponents to call this program "self funded."

But now that we are in a different economy, local government will have to learn to think differently about such problems.

Leaders will have to find a way to vacate 15 buildings without spending nearly \$100 million, thereby reaping the savings without going into debt for part two of a school Taj Mahal.

There are some 600 employees in Gatehouse I, and plans to move some 700 more to Gatehouse II. That's nearly half a million square feet of top quality office space for administration. There will be no teachers or students in these buildings.

We should note that this proposal comes from good intentions. We hear that camaraderie, synergy and communication have all improved from having a critical mass of administration and services located in a single place. It's a benefit Dale, Dean Tisdadt and others rightly would like to expand.

But administrators of the Fairfax County Public School system do not need office space fit for a top-flight law firm. Space inside Gatehouse I could be reconfigured so that almost all employees had their own cubicles — not offices. A few small conference rooms could make room for private conversations and phone calls as needed.

Many employees already telecommute, or could, on some days, and others spend most of their time in a variety of schools. These employees should share space; a cart for their files and a laptop should enable them to use modular space, greatly increasing the number of workers who could be accommodated inside the existing building.

FCPS also purchased three acres next to Gatehouse I where the original proposal was to build Gatehouse II. Now the proposal is to purchase an adjacent existing building.

EDITORIAL

Setting Record Straight

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to a constituent who was concerned about a vote I made in Richmond that they thought would change the prohibition against legislators raising money during session. This was absolutely not the case. House Bill 1634 would have made it unlawful to attend any charitable or community organization fundraising event during session, even though a legislative campaign would not benefit in any way. These events help build community and help good causes. I often attend these events as a private citizen or benefactor. This bill did little or nothing to reform campaign finance. Therefore, instead, I voted for my good friend, Del. Chris Saxman's (R-20) bill, HB 1635. As amended, this bill would prohibit all gifts to legislators during session, anything from a dinner, to a T-shirt, to a potato chip at a reception. This bill also did not change the prohibition against fund-raising during session, which all members of the House of Delegates adhere to, myself included.

Legislation is very complicated and often good intentions can have unintended consequences. This is why I voted against HB

1634 and for the much stronger HB 1635. House Bill 1635 is real campaign reform.

Please feel free to call me about legislation you have questions about during session. I have been in contact with hundreds of constituents during the General Assembly Session and would like to hear from you.

You can reach me at deldmarsden@house.virginia.gov or 800-889-0229.

It is an honor to represent you and I look forward to seeing you back in the district when I return from Richmond.

Del. David Marsden
D-41

Band-Aid Solution

To the Editor:

The General Assembly has passed its "crossover" date — the date when legislation passed by one chamber must be sent to the other, but we only have half a budget. Literally.

Tuesday last week was crossover, the date for passed legislation to be transmitted from one chamber to the other. Of the 752 bills introduced in the State Senate, 505 were passed and sent to the House of Delegates. In the Senate, we have received the 598 bills that

passed the House. Those bills will now be defeated, passed or amended further. In a bicameral legislature, giving two separate bodies a chance to review bills will hopefully improve the quality of our laws and catch any consequences unintended by the patron of the legislation.

Thursday last week was when the House of Delegates passed a budget, but the State Senate chose not to pass a budget. If you think that's bizarre, it gets even better: The budget for Virginia was supposed to be voted on before the updated tax revenues were known to the legislators. By the time you read this, we should see those numbers (on Monday). Gov. Kaine should have provided those numbers prior to the Thursday budget deadline, but chose not to.

Another factor that held up the Senate's state budget was the federal "stimulus" package. Legislators in Richmond are waiting to see how much of the \$787 billion "stimulus" package will go to Virginia to make up for our budget shortfall. While now inevitable (because they passed the pork-ridden "stimulus" bill) I believe this is bad public policy for a variety of reasons. First, it's a band-aid solution to a significant problem with the Commonwealth's revenue shortfall. Second, it masks the fact that Virginia taxpayers are still paying for the Virginia budget, just with the federal government as a

Almost \$100 million for second school HQ building is pre-meltdown thinking.

Instead, the schools should install modulars (trailers) on the three acres to accommodate any employees who need to vacate the 15 buildings but don't fit inside a reconfigured Gatehouse I.

There are also problems with the process being used in this decision. There have been no public hearings on the subject. And the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider this next week. When we modernize or build schools here, voters get to weigh in by means of a referendum, and Fairfax voters have overwhelming supported school projects. Why don't voters have a say on this, which has been in the works for years?

This way, the schools can save \$100 million twice.

These are just some general suggestions; there are many different ways to do more with less space. And in some cases, it's appropriate to do less with less.

Don't just take our word for it, read the school system's arguments in favor of buying Gatehouse II at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/office.htm>.

— MARY KIMM
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COMMUNITY

John Cook

FROM PAGE 6

should be used to assist high performing county employees to buy homes in Fairfax County. If a county employee with excellent work reviews for five years and wants to buy a home locally, Fairfax should provide some money for the down payment, said Cook.

"Having a police officer or firefighter in your neighborhood is one of the best things that can happen to a community," he said.

Cook also wants the county to use more of its bonding authority to deal with the backlog of street and transportation projects. He said that the Fairfax government couldn't wait for the General Assembly in Richmond to come up with a solution to local traffic problems.

"I would love nothing more than for Richmond to fix the transportation problems, but it keeps going the wrong way. I don't have a whole lot of confidence in Richmond, and I am really not prepared to wait five years for them to do something," said Cook.

One of the candidate's transportation priorities is building interchanges on Fairfax

"I have independents and Democrats who are supporting me."

— John Cook

County Parkway where stoplights currently are. Without the lights, traffic would be able to move nonstop on the thoroughfare, he said.

BULOVA, a Democrat, was the Braddock District supervisor for 21 years. But Cook is optimistic that a Republican who is willing to work across the aisle could win the local supervisor election next month.

"I have independents and Democrats who are supporting me. I think it is important to work with people from the other party. Sharon Bulova and [former U.S. Rep.] Tom Davis (R) always worked with people from the other party," said Cook.

Bulova may also have been a Democrat but Wilson, the Braddock District School Board member, is active in the Republican Party and chair of Cook's campaign.

"I think John would make a wonderful supervisor," said Wilson.

Supervisor Patrick Herry (R-Springfield) performed well in the Braddock District during the recent special election for county chairman. Herry said he is optimistic Cook could take the open supervisor's seat.

"He is a good candidate with deep roots in the community. I did very well in Braddock, even though Sharon had 20 years of experience there. Braddock used to be a swing district and, with the right candidate, it could be a swing district again," said Herry.

"I would absolutely be excited about having another Republican on the board but, more importantly, I would be excited about having someone who understands common sense solutions," Herry said.

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LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T Corporation intends to file an application to construct a cellular telecommunications tower at 4904 Mattie Moore Court in Fairfax, Fairfax County, Virginia 22030. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as Boulevard Estates will consist of the construction of a 50-foot by 50-foot fenced compound that will enclose a 125-foot tall monopole with a four-foot tall lightning rod. A strong-well box and CSC cabinet, and an electric meter and telco board will be installed in the southern corner of the compound. Additionally an 11-foot by 11-foot concrete pad will be installed in the northern corner of the compound. Equipment cabinets and associated equipment will be installed on the concrete pad and an icebridge will extend from the equipment to the monopole. AT&T antennas will be installed on the monopole at a height of 120 feet. Underground power and telco lines will extend southwest and then southeast from the electric meter and telco board located in the southern corner of the compound to an existing utility pole located along Mattie Moore Court. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o markos9@atccassociates.com

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COMMUNITY

ChalleNGe Academy

FROM PAGE 4

wakeup and lots of push-ups. as one of 10 federally funded pilot programs, the Commonwealth ChalleNGe Academy seeks to provide a structured environment for at-risk Virginia teens aged 16-19. Over the course of six months, the teens receive disciplinary and educational instruction at Camp Pendleton, in Virginia Beach. While its Web site describes it as a "quasi-military residential program," officials with the program stressed that it was not "boot camp." The program does not accept felons, and admission is free and voluntary.

Once Julie realized she lacked the motivation to complete high school, she considered other options. Through a family friend, she learned of the academy.

Julie enrolled at the end of June and has not looked back since.

Despite the abrupt change in lifestyle, Julie said she fell in love with military-style living. While it may not have been basic training, the cadets, as the teens are called, must still get through a two-week "hardcore" calisthenics regimen that includes running, push-ups, and an obstacle course. For the rest of the program, days begin at 5:30 a.m. with a morning fitness regimen, after which they attend classes and receive instruction in academic, vocational and "life-coping" skills such as conflict-resolution and personal finance. Civics and community service are also included in the curriculum.

By the end of the program, she had gone through a transformation she likened to that of a butterfly's.

"I'd never had that [structure] before, I'd never completed anything," she said. "I learned a lot living there. It helped me get in shape. It gave me a life again. My parents were really proud of me. I got all the trust back."

Retired Col. Thomas Early, the program's director, praised Julie's achievements, which also included earning her GED after moving up five grades in math and reading. "She's quite bright," he said. "She did well." He added that they have taken her on several recruiting trips around the state to promote the program.

Julie's is one of the major success stories of the Challenge program. She is currently attending Northern Virginia Community College and hopes to enlist in the Navy as a nurse. The Academy was just named the best of its kind by the National Guard. Nevertheless, programs like this are limited in how much they can do. While 87 cadets out of 141 graduates completed their GED, 66 of the 207 who initially enrolled never finished the program, whether because they were physically unable or because of disciplinary infractions. The academy appears to have had the greatest success rate for cadets who already displayed natural, if repressed, ability before they entered the

Academy.

Cornell Young Jr. of Herndon had been named captain of his high school basketball team and played middle linebacker and fullback for the football team before he found himself running afoul of the law.

"I went into a store and took a whole bunch of stuff and got caught for it," he said. "I was getting into all types of trouble. I skipped school a lot. I was coming into the house at 1 or 2 in the morning, just stuff I wasn't supposed to do."

Cornell's father, Cornell Young Sr., eventually decided to take him out of school before he entered 11th grade. They chose the Academy after ruling out Job Corps, the free vocational training program, after deciding it would not be a great enough departure from the kind of academic environment in which Cornell had struggled.

"The main thing I wanted him to learn was discipline."

— Cornell Young Jr.

When you're down there, you're isolated, so it's easier to abide by the rules. At home, you've got a little bit more leeway, a little bit more time on your hands. It's easier when you're at home to go back to doing the things you were doing.

For Tara Wilson, the academy seemed like the ideal place to send her son, Robert Locke, Jr., an 18-year-old student with special needs. Robert, however, was unsure. "When he first heard it, the only thing he said was, 'I'm not going into any residential program.' I told him he had no choice."

Wilson recounted how on the first day, parents and guardians waited while Early interviewed their children. Several minutes after Robert went in, her name was called. "When I went up there he was undecided, he didn't know, he was nervous, so we had to talk to the colonel, and he stated that a part of [Robert] wanted to go, and a part of him wanted to be at home. So the colonel talked to him, and he finally made the decision to stay and try."

Despite frequent struggles, Tara Wilson said, Robert wound up being praised by his group leaders for his conscientiousness and willingness to volunteer. Still, Early acknowledged the limits of a program like ChalleNGe for teens in similar situations.

"What we can do is increase his adult basic education scores. In general, it might give him propensity to do well in adult education," Early said. "He can also get a letter of recommendation for something like Job Corps. Just the discipline, organization, physical fitness, it gives you more self-esteem."

Wilson said that, whatever its limits, the program did a commendable job. "When he went in, I didn't know who he was. He wasn't my child, that I'd had," she said. "When he graduated, I had seen a change. It's still going to take time, but I have seen a change."



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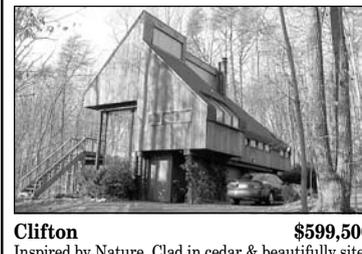
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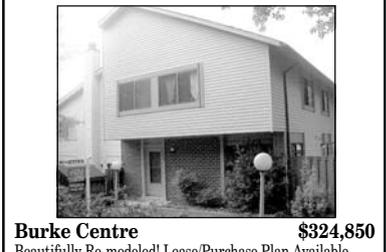
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3/4 acre fenced yard perfect for anything! 2 decks! Beautifully maintained 4 bedroom, 2 full & 2 half bath home. Spacious rec room, computer/den room and store room on lower level. Very generous room sizes throughout. A rare find at this price!
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Fairfax \$460,000
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

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West Springfield \$459,900
4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Family room addition with gas FP. Fully remodeled kitchen. LR has custom built-ins surrounding FP. Hardwood flooring. Spacious deck with hot tub. Cul-de-sac location.



Lorton Station \$569,900
Join the Fun!
Beautiful 4BR, 3.5BA home across from new Lorton Town Center! Gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace, fully-finished lower level, and deck - backs to trees. For 24-hour recorded information, call 1-888-495 6207 x223.



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Fair Lakes Area \$365,000

Stunningly Chic! This attractive 3 bedroom, 3.5 baths townhome has been polished from top to bottom. Gleaming hardwoods, designer paint,

great fixtures, freshly tiled baths, updated kitchen & more. Large kitchen w/plenty of space for table + access to deck for entertaining. This sunlit home has low HOA fees, extra parking, close to transportation & Wegmans!



Fairfax \$325,000 Lovingly Maintained

This beautifully maintained TH features upgraded Kitchen cabinets, newer appliances, separate LR/DR w/SGD to brick patio & fenced yard. Freshly painted, newer carpet, replacement windows, and newer HVAC.



Clifton \$1,999,900

Spectacular double winged Custom Built Williamsburg Colonial on one of the most outstanding 5 acre settings in Clifton. Original owners, built in 1995, so many custom details throughout this gorgeous all brick home. 5bd/6.5ba/4fp, two master suites, one on main level, 3 car garage. Absolutely breathtaking!

For more photos check out www.hermandorfer.com or www.marshawolber.com



Clifton \$1,325,000

Arts and Crafts Colonial with beautiful angles, porches, trim and details! Attention to detail in every home! Four finished levels with over 6000 finished square feet. Built in 2007 with all the upscale touches every homeowner could wish for! 4bd/4.5ba/4fp.

For more photos check out www.hermandorfer.com or www.marshawolber.com



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Introducing Virginia's House and Home Newsletter Updated on the 2nd of each month with expanding statistics - plus timely local and syndicated articles. Available in MRIS (11/10/08-2/10/09) are these detached homes FOR SALE with number already SOLD (since 11/10/08 in parentheses):

Price	Burke	Fairfax Station	Clifton
200-399,000	10(21)	0(0)	0(0)
400-699,000	42(37)	11(8)	21(7)
700-999,000	3(1)	28(8)	18(6)
1,000,000+	2(0)	14(1)	23(5)

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FAIRFAX STATION \$659,900 CREAM OF THE CROP!
Just unpack & settle into this like new home!

Updated from top to bottom including windows, kitchen, baths & much more - 4 BR - 3 1/2 BA - HW throughout main level - Skylights - Finished LL w/walk-out to trees - Not far from Mercer Lake - This one is a 10+ + Call or email ANN WITHERSPOON for your private showing! **703-503-1836 & ann@annwitherspoon.com**



Fairfax \$514,900
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 BRs, 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 \$649,000
Immaculate Crosspointe home on quiet lot, backing to huge wooded common area. New windows, updated kitchen w/ accent lighting, Silstone countertops & additional cabinets. Fantastic addition of sun room & mudroom/laundry room adds plenty of living area & walks out to tiered composite deck. Fully finished walk-up basement with built-in office area.



Fairfax Station \$925,000
Private circular driveway leads to meticulously maintained brick & stone colonial on 5 acres. Level yard, stunning deck w/hot tub, serene setting. 2 story family room, large office, well designed kitchen, sunroom, formal living & dining rooms. Walk-out basement ready to finish the way you'd like.



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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.



Springfield West \$509,900
Almost 1/2 acre
Imagine your own peaceful sanctuary in the heart of West Springfield featuring 5 bedrooms and three full baths. Easy living in this spacious Rambler with a full finished walkout basement, hardwood floors, 1 car garage on a cul de sac. Available for 6 months rental at \$2,395.

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