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For Train Lovers

COMMUNITY, PAGE 18

Beth Gamble of Burke and her son Eric, 3, watch an N scale train rumble down the track Sunday at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/THE CONNECTION CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

Dispute Ends In Tragedy

NEWS, PAGE 3

ICE Agent In Bribery Case

NEWS, PAGE 3

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NEWS

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.

"The male caller stated that he and his wife had been shot."

— Det. Daniel Bibeault

"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."

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.

SEE SHOOTING, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Police guard the area around 7209 Laketree Drive in Fairfax Station where the shootings occurred.

7 1/2 Years in Jail for ICE Agent

Clifton's Gerardo Chavez received bribes while an ICE special agent.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For a while, Clifton's Gerardo Chavez, now 46, lived the good life. He had risen high in the ranks of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials and was a supervisory special agent and attaché in Caracas, Venezuela.

But when Chavez gave in to financial temptation, he threw it all away. He lost his job, his family, his home, his reputation and, as of last Friday, his freedom, when he was sentenced to 7 1/2 years in federal prison for receiving bribes as a public official and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering.

"He steered about \$2.86 million [in U.S. government contracts] to a Venezuelan company [known as Blicar] so it could put armor on vehicles used by ICE there and in other countries," said Judge T. S. Ellis III during Chavez's sentencing, Feb. 13, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria. "He received \$171,000 in kickbacks from the company owner, and this money was sent to the defendant's bank accounts in

Laredo, Texas or to his brother-in-law's bank accounts in Palm Desert, Calif."

Chavez served in Caracas from August 2003-August 2007 and, if the FBI and Inspector General's office hadn't exposed his illegal dealings when they did, he was earmarked to receive another \$87,000.

"We're talking, roughly, \$250,000 in unreported income which he used to make purchases of real estate [in California] and to go toward renovation of his house in Clifton," said U.S. Attorney Neil Hammerstrom Jr.

WHEN ELLIS QUESTIONED Chavez's motives, he stood and, voice breaking, said, "There's nothing I can say to change what I did. I committed a crime.

The money is all gone."

"Why did you do it?" the judge asked again.

"I think I was in a place where, unfortunately, I got carried away, being there in that environment," Chavez said.

But Ellis believed otherwise, saying, "I'm suggesting

you did it because it's nice to have a lot of money — and it's greed. We all want that, but you succumbed to the temptation."

Crying, Chavez said, "I lost my career — something I did well for 23 years. I lost my law-enforcement retirement, my home, car, wife, kids. I've disgraced my family — which is the worst part. I know

SEE CHAVEZ, PAGE 5

McKay, Bulova Ask To Revisit BRAC 133

Send letter to President Obama.

BY CHUCK HAGEE
THE CONNECTION

Trees have been clear-cut, bulldozers have moved substantial dirt, and, the first signs of serious construction are underway.

But, all that has not stopped Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee) and Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) from writing a letter to President Barack Obama seeking to reverse the U.S. Army's decision to relocate 6,400 personnel of the Washington Headquarters Services agencies to Alexandria's Mark Center. McKay and Bulova are still touting the GSA Warehouses in Springfield as the better site.

Known as BRAC 133, the 6,400 personnel is the final contingent in the overall plan to relocate 19,300 jobs to Fort Belvoir as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Report. In addition to BRAC 133, 8,500 personnel would be based at Fort Belvoir's Engineering Proving Grounds just off the Fairfax County Parkway in the Lee District, 3,400 personnel will be on the main post, divided between various entities and the new DeWitt Army Community Hospital and 1,000 personnel will be based at Belvoir's Rivanna Station in Charlottesville, Va.

The acreage at Mark Center, when fully developed and constructed for BRAC 133, would become a part of Fort Belvoir. The requirement, that any BRAC territory become part of the mili

SEE BRAC 133, PAGE 16

Man Charged with Burglary

Fairfax County Police believe a church employee who was fired from his job returned to burglarize and steal from that church. Accordingly, they've charged Nelson Alcocer, of 11400 block of Fairfax Station Road with grand larceny, embezzlement and burglary with intent to commit larceny.

In a Jan. 29 affidavit for a warrant to search Alcocer's home for the missing church property, police Det. D.E. Middlebrooks explained the case against him. He wrote that Alcocer was employed as the grounds supervisor at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Annandale until September 2008, when the priest there terminated him "due to work-performance issues."

He was ordered to return all the church property that was assigned to him, including a mobile phone. Middlebrooks wrote that Alcocer acknowledged possession of the phone and said he'd return it, but reportedly did not.

The detective stated that the new grounds supervisor, Bill Kennedy, conducted an inventory of the maintenance/repair equipment owned by St. Michael's and discovered "a large amount" of it missing. "The estimated property loss was \$5,000," wrote Middlebrooks. "The missing items included two chainsaws, plus a radial arm saw, infrared temperature gauge, backpack blower, trimmer, safety light, power washer, tile saw and hammer mill."

The detective and Alcocer spoke during the week of Jan. 19, and Middlebrooks said Alcocer denied having anything belonging to the church. But when they spoke, a week later, the Fairfax Station man allegedly admitted what he'd done.

"He [reportedly] advised [me] that he returned to the church without authorization in December and removed a power washer," wrote Middlebrooks. "Alcocer said he planned to repair [it] and then use the item for his own, financial gain because he was without a job."

The detective then arranged for Alcocer to return the power washer to Kennedy on Jan. 29. But, he wrote, "Alcocer failed to show for the scheduled meeting and, to date, neither the stolen power washer, valued at \$2,000, nor the mobile telephone have been returned."

On Jan. 30, police arrested Alcocer and charged him with the three offenses. He was released from the Adult Detention Center on \$10,500 bond and has a March 24 court date.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Connolly Votes For Economic Recovery Package

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) joined other Democrats in the U.S. Congress in voting for the \$800 billion economic recovery package President Barack Obama signed into law earlier this week.

"All of us can nit pick, but the county is in the worst economic mess we have seen in 70 years. ... I thought the bill was very thoughtfully crafted to address some of the innovative parts of the economy that have been starved for investment," said Connolly of the bill that has been criticized by Republicans.

The new congressman said he personally met with 15 economists, including conservatives who worked for President Ronald Reagan that said the country needed a stimulus package in order to rebound from the current recession.

"They told me 'you must act and you must act now,'" he said.

Connolly was particularly pleased about the expansion of "weatherization" projects that the economic stimulus money would allow to take place. Increased "weatherization" of American homes means that the country as a whole would become more energy efficient and U.S. residents would not only save money on their utility bills but also reduce their impact on global warming, he said.

Connolly was also excited about money in the package set aside for growing mass transit and broadband access across

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 10

Top Dog in Big Apple

Champion Felicity's Diamond Jim still stars as a therapy dog.

BY MARTY VAN DUYN
DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

James was on his best behavior in the Ballroom of Manhattan's Affinia Hotel the Saturday evening before the Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) Dog Show. But for the Certified Therapy Dog, who lives with Teresa and Allen Patton of Fairfax Station, good manners are second nature.

Champion Felicity's Diamond Jim, or James, won the 2007 Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) Best in Show title. On Feb. 7, the English Springer Spaniel joined a slate of other renowned Best in Show "Top Dogs" for the benefit of WKC's Angel on a Leash Therapy Dog organization.

In an unprecedented event, James joined the 2008 winner, Beagle Uno; the 2006 winner, Bull Terrier Rufus; the 2002 winner, black Poodle Spice; and the 2001 winner, Bichon Frise J.R.

Likening the event to a Hall of Fame for Dogs, David Frei, communications director for the Westminster Kennel Club, said: "Never in our history have we gathered this kind of collection of past winners together for an event."

Sporting his patriotic collar given to him by President Bush during his visit to the White House, Uno announced his arrival to his adoring fans with his trademark Beagle howl.

Bichon Frise J.R. was wrapped in his owner's arms as Spice struck a model Poodle pose. And although Bull terrier Rufus displayed a calm demeanor as he stood by his owners' sides, he was happy to retreat to his kennel along the wall after the excitement was over.

Meanwhile Fairfax Station's own champion English Springer Spaniel James sat in quiet regal splendor, but was keenly aware of Teresa Patton's absence when she left him with Kellie Fitzgerald. Although he was accustomed to being with his exclusive handler, having resided with Fitzgerald in Bear, Del. for more than two years prior to his WKC Best in Show win in 2007, it was evident that his heart belongs to his owner. James strained to keep her in sight as she walked across the room.

James, like other dogs on the dais, has served as a Certified Delta Society Therapy Dog. But he is also a co-ambassador for WKC's Angel on a Leash and like Uno has traveled around the country in support of the organization.

According to Teresa Patton, although winning Westminster was a thrill, the real satisfaction has come from the therapy work that James has accomplished. "He is one of 20 celerity spokes people for the Alzheimer's Association," she said. "After winning Best in Show in 2007, he also appeared with David Hyde Pierce and Phyllis George at the Top of the Rock."

As a spokes dog for Alzheimer's, James has raised



PHOTO BY MARTY VAN DUYN/DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

BIS BISS CH Felicity's Diamond Jim (CD, RAE) or 'James' as family and friends know him snuggles comfortably next to Teresa Patton in the lobby of the Affinia Manhattan Hotel. The 8-year-old English Springer Spaniel from Fairfax Station participated in a benefit event for the WKC Angle on a Leash Therapy Dog program.

about \$14,000 for the cause and had completed two Memory Walks in Washington, D.C. He is a regular visitor to The Virginian, a multi-level senior care facility in Fairfax with an Alzheimer's wing.

The Pattons have also shown James at the Harrisburg Kennel Club and have worked with English Springer Spaniel Rescue. James also visits pediatric oncology care units at children's hospitals and makes several visits annually to the Ronald McDonald House.

When James took Best in Show at Westminster, he took the Triple Crown of Dogs in one year. Prior to his February 2007 WKC win; the liver and white dog won Best in

Show at the AKC National Championship on Dec. 3, 2006 in Long Beach, Calif. He also won the English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association National Specialty.

Although he's no longer working the conformation show ring, James, 8, has kept in shape participating in Rally and Obedience competitions. Once a winner always a winner, he has earned several Rally titles and recently achieved his first Obedience title.

This was the Virginia champion's second return visit to Westminster. In 2008, he participated in a benefit for the Angel on a Leash and also signed "pawtographs" for his fans at the NBC store.

Details about James' accomplishments and endeavors can be found at www.felicityenglishspringers.com.

"Never in our history have we gathered this kind of collection of past winners together for an event."

— David Frei

Chavez Sentenced

FROM PAGE 3

you're obligated to send a message to others. I only ask that you leave me hope to be reunited with my kids within a reasonable amount of time. There's no excuse and no explanation."

Defense attorney Joseph Rosenbaum said that, during his client's long and mostly distinguished career, he went from border-patrol agent to special agent, worked in internal affairs, was stationed at the Mexican embassy, headed a multi-agency office and supervised 250 employees. "When the search warrant was served on his home, Mr. Chavez spent four days with the agents, laying out this story, and is continuing to cooperate with the U.S. government," said Rosenbaum.

However, noted Ellis, "I understand that [Blinicar official] Perez — the main person he could help [incriminate] — is beyond the reach of this court."

Still, argued Rosenbaum, "[Chavez] has given \$340,700 to the government, \$217,000 from the sale of property in California and, from the sale of a residence in Clifton, the government should receive \$93,000." He said Chavez also forfeited \$6,700 from his bank accounts and sold a Hummer for \$24,000 and gave that money to the government, too.

"He's given to the government twice the amount he received in kickbacks," said Rosenbaum. "This shows his remorse and rehabilitation have already begun. He knows he's going to prison, and this [also] resulted in a divorce and his wife and two, teen-age children moving to Albuquerque, N.M."

"He had a great career, on the fast track," Rosenbaum told Ellis. "He made bad choices, but has accepted responsibility. Look at him as a whole and fashion a sentence that's reasonable and just."

BUT, COUNTERED Hammerstrom, "This is a defendant who knew better. He went from border patrol agent all the way to ICE headquarters. But this behavior wasn't an aberration, when you look at all the bribes he took." The prosecutor said the deal to armor the vehicles was struck in August 2003 and, "For four years, [Chavez] received these payments and was supposed to get another \$87,000 from Perez, the president of Blincar, for future contracts."

— Gerardo Chavez, convicted of federal crimes

"We have no doubt this defendant would have continued receiving bribes and getting more money," said Hammerstrom. "Blincar was the gift that would have kept on giving, had it not been exposed."

"When we lose the honest services of our public servants, we lose a great deal," said Ellis. He also noted that these vehicles "were not really well-armed," after all.

"Right," said Hammerstrom. "The government's cost for replacing [them] was \$5 million. There was also deception in the information [Chavez] provided the GSO about these vehicles. Had he not done this, perhaps the two other competitors might have won the contracts."

Addressing Chavez, the judge commented on his "remarkable career" and called him a person of intelligence and ability. But, he said, "Public corruption is truly a cancer on the body politic, and we need a sentence that stands as a beacon, a deterrent and a warning to other public officials that corruption will not be tolerated."

Ellis then sentenced Chavez to 90 months in prison on the bribery charge and 60 months on the conspiracy charge, running both sentences concurrently and placing him on three years supervised release afterward. However, at Rosenbaum's request, he allowed Chavez to delay surrendering to authorities until May 12, so he could attend his daughter's high-school graduation, May 10.

In addition, Ellis ordered Chavez to perform 100 hours of community service, "perhaps, talking to groups of young people about resisting temptation and making the right decisions. Mr. Chavez, if you'd made a conscious decision to live an honest life, then no amount of temptation could have altered that."

"I've disgraced my family — which is the worst part."

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Schools Float Second HQ Building Proposal

Supervisors will discuss project at Feb. 23 meeting.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools has revived a proposal to purchase a second building for its central office staff after initial efforts to acquire the property stalled last fall.

According to school staff, the new office building would allow the school system to consolidate many of its central administration functions on one Merrifield campus and could result in cost savings.

But following a closed door meeting in September, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors rejected the school system's first plan for building acquisition. Several said they were skeptical that the \$110 million purchase was fiscally prudent, particularly in the current economic downturn and as the county faced a projected \$650 million budget deficit.

"The deal that was presented before I felt very strongly was something we should not do. I thought they were paying too much for the building," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

On Feb. 23, school officials will return to the supervisors with a new, cheaper plan to purchase the property at 8111 Gatehouse Road. In a matter of months, the cost of the project has gone from \$110.1 million to \$94.5 million and the savings estimate associated with the project has grown from \$22.2 million to \$62.2 million over the next 30 years, they said.

ACCORDING to the school system, these additional savings were realized primarily because the owner agreed to drop the price of the building from \$52 million to \$45 million. Officials have also agreed to scale back their renovation plans for the building from \$58.1 million to \$49.5 million by eliminating plans to acquire new furniture, add parking and improve traffic flow on the site at this time.

The school system had also identified one more leased building, the Instructional Center Support Systems warehouse, which could be vacated if the school system moved into the new Gatehouse property. The rent on the warehouse is currently about \$502,000 annually and could go toward covering the cost of the building purchase instead, said officials.

Since school officials brought forward the proposal this fall, the number of positions that would be eliminated as a result of the move has also increased from 18 to 28. By



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

The school system is coming back with a proposal to purchase this building for administrative purposes.

cutting 10 more jobs, the school system would gain an extra \$2 million annually in cost savings, according to documents explaining the merits of the building purchase.

YET SEVERAL PEOPLE, including at least two supervisors, are still skeptical of the plan. They question the merits of the school system's business case and wonder whether purchasing administrative offices during the county's worst financial crisis in history is politically palpable.

Many argued that too much of the discussion about the building's purchase has taken place out of the public eye in "back rooms." Some critics said that the school board should have conducted more outreach to the public on the project.

"I would think spending \$100 million would be something that they would want the community to respond to. I don't see why they can't take this out to the community before making a decision on it," said Michelle Menapace, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D) said she is attempting to make the dialogue over the building purchase more transparent. Instead of having conversations about the project behind closed doors, the supervisors and school officials will discuss the new building acquisition proposal in public Feb. 23.

"I think it is appropriate and long overdue for us to have that discussion out front," said Bulova, who added that holding a public hearing on the project did not seem necessary.

The supervisors are unlikely to vote on the proposal directly after hearing the school system's presentation next week and would probably make a final decision about the building at a later meeting. In the mean-

time, Bulova said the school system has set up meetings with community stakeholders to brief them on the revised building purchase plan.

"I encouraged presentations to be made to as many community organizations and groups as possible," said Bulova.

FCPS Chief Operating Officer Dean Tistadt added that many major county organizations, including the local federation of civic associations and chamber of commerce, had endorsed the previous plan.

"These are not groups that were going to support anything we put in front of them," he said.

STILL, THERE are some groups and supervisors who said it is not likely that they will be talked into supporting the purchase of a building for central administrators under any circumstances.

"I don't understand why anybody would think it was a good thing to do," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

Herrity questions much of the school system's analysis of the cost savings the project would achieve.

Some of the cost savings show up because the building purchase has only been compared to one other option — the construction of a new administrative building, said Herrity. According to the Springfield supervisor, the financial picture, and savings, could change drastically if the building purchase was compared to other scenarios — such as maintaining the status quo.

The school officials' numbers also assume that the school system would have to continue leasing office space for the same price it currently does if officials did not have the opportunity to move into the newly purchased building. But many of the school system's leases are up for renewal next year and it is likely officials could negotiate better rates at that time, said Herrity.

And though the price of the building has come down, Herrity added that it is still too high. The property's present owners paid \$45 million for the building in 2006 and the school system should not be paying the

exact same price in 2009, when the commercial real estate market is in decline, he said.

"Their financial model is off. They are making the numbers work to justify what they want to do," said Herrity of the current proposal.

Scott Chronister, who helps lead the Fairfax Coalition of Advocates for Public Schools (Fairfax CAPS), agrees with Herrity. He is concerned that many of the cuts to bring the project's cost down will reappear in future years.

Chronister said he anticipates the traffic changes that were originally planned as part of the project will be completed at a future date and that the school system will eventually purchase new furniture for building, even if they took out those expenses in their recent proposal.

"We are going to pay for those traffic changes as a result of [the project.] They are just taking it off the books and not reflecting it in the project right now so they can show some additional savings," said Chronister.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM had predicted its first administrative building, Gatehouse I, would save them over \$20 million. Instead, the building ended up reducing costs by \$10 million, in part because they were unable to eliminate as many positions as they had originally planned.

"The first cost savings weren't what they said they were going to be," said Herrity.

Tistadt said the school system is likely to "realize" most of the costs savings that they had originally slated for the first administrative building project when they purchase the second office building.

At the request of Herrity and other supervisors, the school system will also present "status quo" and "lease" options along with the building purchase and building construction scenarios next week, he said.

But the school system also has pressing facility needs that would make the purchase of second administrative building advantageous, said Tistadt. The school system intends to convert many of the smaller office buildings where central office workers are currently housed into schools sites to deal with the county's growing student population, he said.

Some of the supervisors still think the administrative building purchase will be a tough sell to the public in a year when county residents are being asked to make large sacrifices in other areas of the budget.

"I think [the project] is a concept that has come at the completely wrong time. The perception of this matters. When you are increasing class sizes and cutting police services, I don't see how you can agree to purchase a new office building for administrators," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

"I just don't know that this is the right time to invest \$100 million in an administrative building. It definitely sends a wrong signal," said Foust.

Shooting Fatality

FROM PAGE 3

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 "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. We're in the process of notifying the next of kin," said public information officer Mary Hulse, of the Sully District Station at the crime scene.

Neighbor Robert Wilkey stopped by because he knew the couple's 19-year-old son. They had graduated from Lake Braddock together in 2008.

"I'm short for words right now," said Wilkey. "It's just really shocking. I couldn't believe this happened. I give my condolences to the family. It's just really shocking."

Wilkey described the community as very close-knit, a place where one could go to bed without locking your doors, he said.

"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.



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7741 CARRLEIGH PARKWAY...\$549,900Sunday....Re/Max.....Bruce & Tanya Tyburski..703-239-2525
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9269 BLU STEEL WAY.....\$998,900Sat/Sun....ReMax.....Bob Lovett.....703-407-4700
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Contact: Karen Washburn
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.**

CALENDAR

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

South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (SFCC) Kick-Off Meeting, 6-9 p.m. at Pane è Vino Restaurant, 9020 Lorton Station Blvd., Suite E, Lorton. SFCC brings together diverse business and civic leaders in Lorton, Laurel Hill, Newington, Fort Belvoir, South Springfield, Burke, Fairfax Station, Clifton, Occoquan and Woodbridge. Monthly meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, in the Media Center. All interested parties are invited to consider membership. www.SouthFairfaxChamber.org.

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

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.

Lunch Bunch, 12 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch, listen to stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce 11th Annual Mardi Gras Casino Night, 7-11 p.m. at the Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road in Springfield. Advance tickets \$55, at the door \$65. 703-866-3500.

Winter Night Hikes, 7:30-9 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Reservations required. Adults \$5, under age 16 \$3. 703-569-0285.

"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.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

VITA Tax Assistance, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Weekend Pohick Rangers, 10 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. First of a five-part program on decomposers, mammal tracking, freshwater ecosystems, nocturnal wildlife, reptiles and more. Reservations required. For ages 9-12. \$75. 703-451-9588.

Sherlock Bones, 1-3 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Skulls, skeletons and self-guided activities. Free. 703-768-2525.

Wonderful Wetland Waterfowl, 2-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Look for green-winged teals, pintails, swamp sparrows and more. For age 9 and older; children must be accompanied by an adult. \$6 per person. 703-768-2525.

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for



The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Eleventh Annual Mardi Gras Casino Night will be Friday, Feb. 20 at the Hilton Springfield, with prizes, food and fun. Area restaurants and caterers will be featured.

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.

Second Annual Monopoly Tournament, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Glory Days Grill, 9459 Lorton Market St., Lorton. All proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia. Entry fee \$25, including breakfast and lunch. First prize \$500. Contact Ron Kowalski at 1-888-495-6207 or www.lortonmonopoly.com.

Men's Praise Movement Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Rd, Springfield. Free, for men age 16 and up. menspraise.blogspot.com or e-mail ronkronz@gmail.com

SUNDAY/FEB. 22

Open House, 2-4 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Park programs, natural resources, park and community history and more. Free. 703-569-0285.

Sherlock Bones, 1-3 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Skulls, skeletons and self-guided activities. Free. 703-768-2525.

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.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Rolling Valley Elementary Kindergarten Information Sessions, 10:30 a.m. at Rolling Valley Elementary School, 6703 Barnack Drive, Springfield. For parents of students who will be 5 by Sept. 9. 703-923-2700 or CerryChechile@fcps.edu.

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

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

VITA Tax Assistance, 6-8 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500

Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

It's Mardi Gras Time! 4:30 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Celebrate Mardi Gras, its foods and traditions. Age 13-18. 703-339-7385.

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

St. Andrew's Church Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at 6509 Sydenstricker Road in Burke. Funds are raised to help youth mission trip to repair homes in Elmira, N.Y. for people with limited finances. The church youth cook and serve the meal, usually wearing Mardi Gras costumes. Contact Lisa Wakeley at lisaw@standrews.net.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

Practice Your English, 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults. 703-339-4610.

Kingstowne Library Writers Peer Review Group, 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Review peers' works and receive feedback. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Mother-Daughter Book Club, 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book club for girls age 9-11 and their mothers. Call for title. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/FEB. 26

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

Stories and Science, 4 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories, activities and an age-appropriate science experiment. Age 4-6 with adult. 703-971-0010.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

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

SAW Songwriters Showcase, hosted by Margot MacDonald. 7 p.m. at Coffhouse, 8433 Lee Highway, Merrifield. info@COFFHOUSE.com.

Hike: Early Signs of Spring, 4:30-6 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN

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.

TUESDAY/FEB. 23

Clifton Town Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Hall. 703-923-3500.
The Republican Women of Clifton, 7 p.m. at Clifton Elementary School, 7010 Clifton Road, Clifton. John Brownlee, Ken Cuccinelli and David Foster speak about Virginia's Attorney General. 703-449-7751.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Clifton Town Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Hall. 703-923-3500.

TUESDAY/MARCH 10

South County Federation Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Southcountyfederation.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 31

Clifton Town Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Hall. 703-923-3500

TUESDAY/APRIL 7

Clifton Town Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Hall. 703-923-3500.

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

South County Federation Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Southcountyfederation.com.

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FROM PAGE 4

the country. He said both transit and broadband could create new opportunities for economic development, possibly in remote parts of the United States.

"I was living here before the Metro opened and I personally have seen the transformation that can take," said Connolly. **NEWS BRIEFS**

The local congressman expects some of the stimulus money to be used to complete the Fairfax County Parkway and hopes to see some of the "new start" transit projects dollars go to "phase II" of the Dulles rail project, which would extend the line into Loudoun County.

Fairfax County Public Schools is also like to benefit directly, he said.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Local Congressmen Introduce Bill To Ease Returning Fed Workers

U.S. representatives Gerry Connolly (D-11), Jim Moran (D-8) and Frank Wolf (R-10) recently introduced a bill that would remove financial penalties that retirees currently endure if they chose to return to the federal workforce.

Under the current system, people who have left the federal government put their retirement benefits in jeopardy should they chose to return to their old jobs, said Connolly.

"We want to allow some people who expertise we need to return. For example, we need more people who can manage large complex contracts that the federal government out sources and we need to attract some of these people back to the federal government," said Connolly.

"We do not want to penalize people if they are returning to federal service," added Connolly.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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FROM PAGE 8

8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Discover wood frogs, skunk cabbage and more. For ages 6-10. \$5 per child. 703-451-9588.

Springfield Community Theatre presents "The Fantastics," 8 p.m. at The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$15 adults, \$13 students and seniors. For reservations, call 703-866-6238. info@sctonline.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

The Viandante Quartet, 3 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performed by members of the Shenandoah

University Conservancy. Includes opportunities for audience interaction with music professors Clyde Shaw and Doris Lederer. clorange@su.edu or acambel@su.edu.

Frogs, Turtles and Snakes, Oh My. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Meet local critters, presented by Hidden Pond Nature Center. All ages. 703-971-0010.

VITA Tax Assistance, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Memory Cookbook Writing, 2 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Author Kay Karim on crafting and publishing a

family cookbook. 703-971-0010.
Go Fish, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Free one-day trout fishing pass. Learn catch-and-release fishing techniques. For ages 7 and up. \$15 per child, accompanying adult free. 703-569-0285.

Dave Parsons Dance, 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. The company includes Billy Smith, a 2007 George Mason University dance alumnus. A free pre-performance discussion begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Springfield Community Theatre presents "The Fantastics," 8 p.m. at The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$15 adults, \$13 students and seniors. For reservations, call 703-866-6238. info@sctonline.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Liberty Lecture Series: The Battle Over the Constitution: Reading the 18th-Century Constitution in the 21st Century, 3 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Has the Constitution been implemented as the Founders intended, and did they foresee the Constitution responding to evolving social circumstances?

703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org to register.
Studio 4 Galleries Artist's Reception, 2-4 p.m., featuring the works of the thirteen Studio 4 resident artists at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9524 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The exhibition runs March 4-April 26. Visit www.workhousearts.org for a list of Workhouse artists, classes and events. 703-584-2974.
Purim Pulse: A Community High School Purim Party, 5:30-8 p.m. at Congregation Adat Reyim, 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. Purim party for eighth-12th graders, with interactive DJs and dancers, concert lighting, costume contest, American Idol-style contest and more. \$10. www.adatreyim.org.



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.

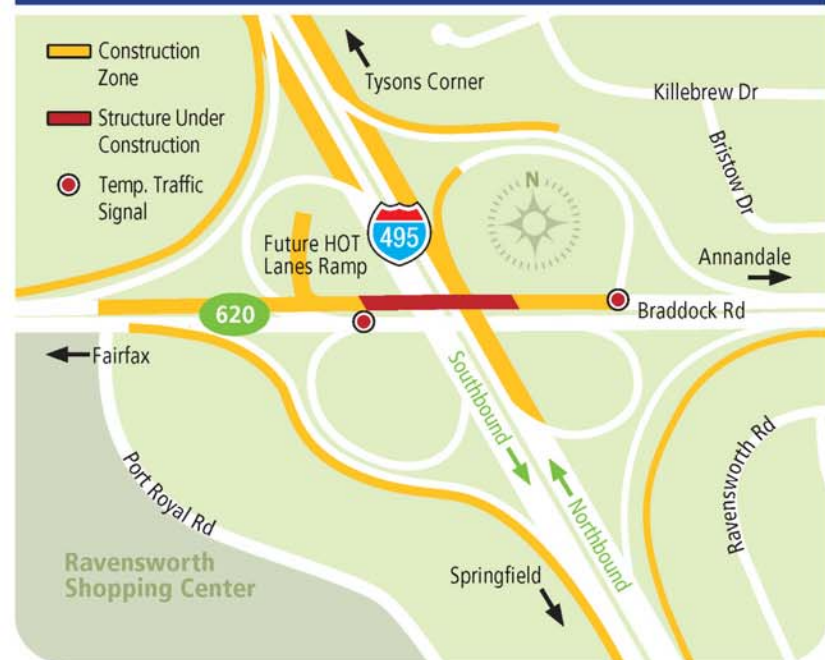
Drivers—what to look for now:

- 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



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 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."

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

— Coach Tom Koucheravy, Robinson Secondary

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."

Rams Gymnasts Fourth in Region

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 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.

"We had a great night," Rams coach Megan Smiley said. "We just came out

SEE WEEK IN SPORTS, PAGE 13



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.

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 12

there trying to do our best, and we hit all of our routines.”

South County Swim Shorts

At Oak Marr RECenter Saturday night, Feb. 14, for the Northern Region swim and dive championships, the South County girls team finished 13th with 91 points and the boys took 20th with a total of 32 points. Leading the girls team was freshman MacKenzie Walsh, who scored a total of 25 points; classmate Michael Herrman led the boys with 17. Walsh took sixth in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2 minutes, 14.36 seconds, and later finished seventh in the 100 breaststroke (1:09.46). She also swam the anchor leg on South County's eighth-place 400 freestyle relay team (3:43.98), which also included Alison Smith, Jasmine Arzadon and Courtney Walsh. Herrman, a week after winning a Patriot District title in the 100 butterfly, was seventh in the 100 backstroke (53.76). Both MacKenzie Walsh and Herrman will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state meet at George Mason University.

South County Wrestling Third

Despite not having an individual region champion, the South County wrestling team took third place at this past weekend's Northern Region wrestling tournament. The Stallions, led by a second-place effort from 152-pound Patrick Fitzgerald, totaled 139 points — 81.5 less than first-place Westfield. South County was also helped by fourth-place finishes from Kyle Sanders (130) and Arash Katirai (171), while Patrick Shaffer (103), Matt Cook (119), Weston Lahr (125), Matt Gibson (135), John Fitzgerald (145) and Chris Kichinko (215) were all fifth. Patrick Fitzgerald, Sanders and Katirai will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state tournament at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake.

SCHOOL NOTES

Lorton Station Elementary School is seeking volunteers to serve as presenters for a Career Fair, on Friday, March 20, from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. The goal is to have students interact with a wide variety of professionals and occupational groups, which will help them prepare for future careers. Those interested in participating are asked to call Kellie Lee or Lee Roberts at 571-642-6000.

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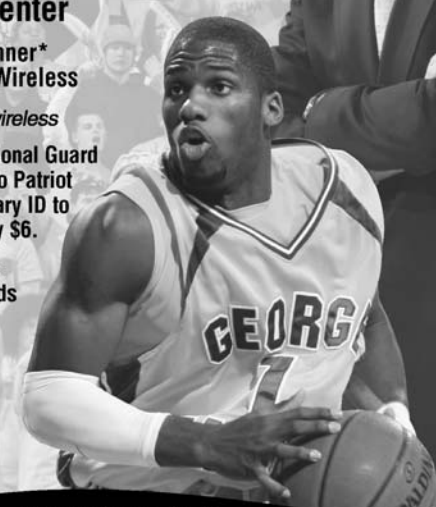

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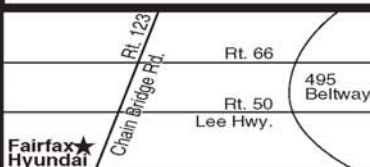
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OPINION

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.

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 middleman. It is also putting a one-time influx of money into the state budget that won't be there next year. Cuts that are being avoided today will be that much more severe in 2010 because much of this money does not (currently) appear to be going for one-time costs and we shouldn't use non-recurring revenue (the "stimulus" money) for recurring budget obligations. This is the kind of thing Mark Warner used to complain about, and now his allies in the State Senate are using the same type of budget policy he used to complain about.

Some good news on the opportunity for citizen participation in the future, as my bill, SB 936,

would put more of Virginia's budget information online for the public to view from their home computers.

If I, as a State Senator, have difficulty getting the budget numbers I want, then the public certainly does not have easy access. SB 936 will be a significant step forward in openness in government. SB 936 has passed the Senate and is now in the House of Delegates. If this bill is passed and signed into law, we can shed some light on the state's budget and get more Virginians involved in the budgeting process, and make the legislature more responsible.

Sen. Ken Cuccinelli
R-37

Cuccinelli Helps Constituent

To the Editor:

I recently began doing genealogical research on my family and things were going quite well until I began applying for certified death certificates from the Virginia Office of Vital Records. As it turns out, Virginia law requires that all death certificates remain confidential until 50 years after the event has occurred. Only immediate family members, i.e. mother, father, son or daughter, are allowed access to these records before they become public. In my case, this

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
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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

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BRAC 133

FROM PAGE 3

tary base to which it pertains, is part of the 2005 BRAC law.

IN SEPTEMBER 2008, Mark Center was picked as the new home of BRAC 133 over the Victory Center on Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria and the GSA Warehouses in Springfield. Both of the other sites have immediate access to rail mass transit, Mark Center does not. That fact has been the major complaint of those favoring the GSA site.

"The jobs being moved to the Mark Center currently are from the Pentagon and Crystal City — locations with transit readily available. Now employees at the Mark Center site will be moved away from direct transit services," McKay and Bulova stated in their Feb. 13 letter to President Obama and U.S. Reps. James P. Moran (D-8) and Gerald Connolly (D-11).

"Transportation should have been a key component of the BRAC 133 decision; however, it does not appear to have been sufficiently factored into the decision. We believe the Army's decision will put more cars on the road, and pull more people off mass transit," they stated.

"The Army explanation is that the BRAC deadline of 2011 drove their decision and that the Mark Center was the only location that met the Congressional deadline," McKay and Bulova said.

"Now that we have a new administration with a transit friendly agenda, we must take another look at this decision. The BRAC 133 decision was a perfect example of old policies; where instead of looking at the long term effects of a decision a premature one was made to meet a paper deadline. New leadership should take a fresh look at utilizing the GSA site for BRAC 133," they stated.

Moran's office said they had received the letter but as far as they were concerned the matter was closed as far as BRAC 133 was concerned. "We did everything we could to have the GSA site become the new home of BRAC 133. But, we will continue to pursue the GSA site for use in the future by other government agencies," said Moran Press Secretary Austin Durrer.

AS FOR FORT BELVOIR, they also acknowledged that in their view the Mark Center site was moving forward. "We are now in an execute mode," said Donald Dees, public information officer, Fort Belvoir. "We will continue to do what we are doing under the BRAC orders unless we are told otherwise. Anything else would be speculative on our part and counter productive for us."

Connolly was not available for comment as of Tuesday afternoon. However, last Thursday morning, while speaking at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting, he called for the Army to "revisit their decision" to place BRAC 133 at the Mark Center. "I think BRAC 133 can be revisited," he said without giving any specifics.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Notice is hereby given that Genene Fikru, of 6353 Regal Oak Dr, Springfield, Virginia 22152, has applied for authority to operate as a CONTRACT PASSENGER Carrier service from the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park, Virginia and the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun, Virginia to any point(s) in Virginia. Any person who wishes to support or oppose the application, but does not wish to be a party to the matter, must send a written statement to: DMV, MCS-CMU, PO Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001. The statement must be signed and contain the applicant's name and DMV case number (MC0800118SC). Any person who wishes to protest the application and be a party to the matter must contact DMV at 804-367-0503 to receive information on filing a protest. The deadline for filing letters of support, opposition or protest is March 9, 2009.

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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@atcassociates.com

IMPROVEMENTS

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4 RE for Sale

LAKE VIEW!
Charming 3 level TH on Lake Barton w/3BR, features wd flrs on main level, new carpeting, fresh paint, improved kitchen, and FABULOUS VIEWS of lake from deck, patio & most rooms in the house! Close to Burke Ctr. & VRE. For details call, Barbara Johnson, L&F, 703-608-5278*Open Sunday, 2/22, 1-4. Dir: 495, Exit Braddock West, L-Burke Lake, R-Burke Ctr Pkwy, R-Oak Leather, R-Lakeside Oak Lane to 5750.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
MMTH, LLC trading as Marvelous Market, 1386 Chain Bridge Rd, Mclean, VA 22101. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages Ali Azima, Owner

26 Antiques

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28 Yard Sales

Bedrm suite sofa, end tables lamps wicker furn. misc. 2/28, 9:30-4, 1410 Churchhill pl Reston, Hampton Point

29 Misc. for Sale

Antique Mahogany Buffet completely refinished, perfect condition \$600, **Antique Walnut Ladies Rocker** with inlay detail and cane seat & back completely refinished \$125, **Antique Wicker Baby Buggy** late 1800's perfect condition, completely refinished, has new lining excellent shape \$250, **Antique Maple Child's Bed** English late 1800's, all legs and guard rails are turned, very unique piece, completely refinished and perfect condition \$1500. Please call or email me for photos & info 703-868-1461 or tamralea@gmail.com

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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*Contract must be signed by 2-28-09. May not be combined with any other offers or advertised building prices. Savings amount reflects all building style, size and cost. Offer not valid with any previous contract.

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Around one corner of Paul Petzrick's N scale display, passengers on the toy train can watch a giant scorpion fight army men and rip a train car in half.

Railroads in Miniature

N scale enthusiasts share their train displays with visitors to the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum.



Phil Poole of Fairfax adjusts a train on the track.



Drew Marshall of Centreville watches N-scale trains race by.



Louisa County \$1,250,000
Spectacular 4 Bedroom, 4 Bath, 3730 sq.ft. estate located on 97 pastoral acres with gorgeous views. E-mail: dan.racette@longandfooster.com
Dan Racette 540-894-7777



Fairfax City \$549,625 City Lifestyle
Walk to everything in charming downtown Fairfax from this elegant townhome. With over 3300 finished sq. ft. this home offers the best in quality and design. The master suite complete with loft and gas fireplace is a must to see while the updates and upgrades are to numerous to list.
Ellie Wester 703-503-1880



Burke \$225,000 Not Your Average Condo!
Wooded 41 acres make this condo development an oasis in the midst of Burke. 1226 SF 2 BR, 2 BA. Updated MBR BA. Fresh paint. Full size washer & dryer in unit. Ample storage.
Melody Elliott 703-963-8074



Gainesville \$337,500
Live 55+ your way ... serenity, activities, golf in Heritage Hunt adult community. Easy care rambler - 2 BR, 2 bath, gourmet kitchen, LR, DR, den, 2 car garage & patio. Across from golf course & close to clubhouse, fitness center & pools.
Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



Alexandria \$385,000
All brick rambler with 2 car garage, sun room addition, loads of updates on great lot just minutes to metro, 1495 & 195.
Rob Paxton 703-307-4268



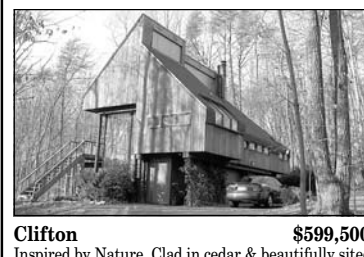
Alexandria \$500,000
This 5BR, 3.5BA colonial features updated kitchen with GE appliances, maple cabinets. French door to sunroom. Hardwood floors on main and upper level. 2 FP Close to Kingstown shopping and dining, and all major routes. Also close to 2 military bases.
Ramesh Amini 703-503-1482



Fairfax City \$524,900
3 BR, 3 BA, 4 Level Split on Army Navy CC Golf Course HWD FLRS on Main & Upper Levels, New Heating & Cooling, Hot Water Heater. Minutes to Vienna Metro.
Cyndi Burruss 703-395-2310



Springfield \$510,000 Spacious Front Porch
3 Level Colonial. 4 BR, 3.5 Baths + Den. Kitchen Island w/Jennaire. Fam Rm w/BI Bookshelves, Fpl & SGD to patio & fenced yard. Skylight. Bsmt exit. 2 car garage.
Joel Lutkenhouse 703-969-6442



Clifton \$599,500
Inspired by Nature. Clad in cedar & beautifully sited in the treetops this 3 bed, 1.5 bath contemporary home brings the outdoors in thru walls of glass & skylights! Dramatic 2 story great room, kit w/greenhouse windows, terra cotta tile & SS appliances, hrdwd flrs thruout. Large deck & two + car garage. Private one acre near village of Clifton.
Debbie Besley 703-346-5103



Alexandria/Mt. Vernon \$739,900 Often Sought, Seldom Found
Stately colonial with beautiful backyard in water-oriented community. Totally renovated kitchen, custom patio/courtyard, and much more. For 24 hour recorded information, call 1-888-495-6207 x222.
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Alexandria \$519,900 Lake Devereux
Lakefront Community! Close to Metro! Remodeled home on large fenced yard! New kit with rich cherry cabinets, granite & SS! Huge 2 car garage! BR, 3 updated BAs!
David Billups 703-690-1795



Springfield \$850,000
Luxurious 4BR/3.5BA/2Car Home w/ 200K in upgrades. Over 5,000 sq. ft. Perfect for Entertaining. Gourmet Kit w/42" Cabinets, Double Ovens, Granite Counters. Morning Rm w/ Skylights. Master Suite w/40K remodeled Spa Bath. Sitting Rm can be converted back to 4th BR. Fully Finished Basement with Rec. Rm, Den, Full Bath. Lots of Storage. Owner Interior Designer. West Springfield Pyramid. Photos cindykojm.com.
Cindy Kojm 703-503-1819



Alexandria City \$492,500 Sunny Brick End Townhouse
3 BRs, 3.5 BAs, hardwood floors, step down living room w/fireplace, formal dining room w/ bay window. Close proximity to DC, Pentagon, Old Town Alexandria, Reagan Airport, Crystal City & Potomac Yards.
Flo Nystrom 703-934-8222



Manassas \$249,000
3 bedroom, 3.5 bath townhouse. Many new improvements. Already to move into.
Bob Berrent 703-503-4194



Arlington \$750,000
Fantastic 4 BR, 3 BA Arlington home. Main level features 3 spacious bedrooms, gourmet kitchen, large living room w/ fireplace, huge dining room & gorgeous hardwood floors. Lower level features second master bedroom, library, recreation room & laundry room. Enjoy the convenient location & completely private lot.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-740-9145



Burke \$414,900
Welcome home to Cardinal Glen. This home has it all: size, 3 bedrooms on the upper level, office/guest room on the lower level, private swimming pool, location, and schools. The rec room is highlighted by a wood stove and updated windows.
Richard Esposito 703-503-4035



Bryce Resort \$159,000
3 BR/3BA condo at Bryce Resort perfect for vacation or rental home. Open floor plan leads to large deck with beautiful year round views. Immediate occupancy! Less than a 2 hour drive from Metro DC. Great community in the heart of Shenandoah County!
Jack Holleman 703-503-1813



Fairfax Station \$675,000
4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. MBR sitting room. Family room & den. Gorgeous landscaping with deck/pool/hot tub & fully fenced rear yard. Beautifully maintained home!
Betty Barthle 703-425-4466



Mason Neck/Harbor View \$980,000
This spectacular luxury waterfront home is immaculate! 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.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Burke Centre \$324,850
Beautifully Re-modeled! Lease/Purchase Plan Available. 4BRs, 2.5BAs, contemporary style TH style home w/new dishwasher, new hwd flrs on main lvl, new w/ carpet on upper lvl, new paint throughout! Large wood deck w/storage shed, icemaker refrigerator, window treatments, washer/dryer & more. Robinson HS District. Close to all amenities. Quick Possession is OK & OWC Rental!
Steve Childress 703-981-3277



Alexandria \$349,900
Original owner offers well kept 3 BR, 1.5 BA Parklawn rambler. Solid brick with hardwood floors, radiant heat, approx. 1/4 acre fenced lot. Great neighborhood close to schools, shopping, and transportation.
Janice Clark 703-400-1995



Clifton/Frosty Meadows \$899,900
Charming Colonial with Swimming Pool in serene setting on 5 acres! Total privacy yet very close to Historic town of Clifton. 5BR, 4BA, 3 fireplaces. All new Kitchen with Granite counters and upgraded appliances. Fully finished walkout lower level with 5th bedroom/den, full bath, & rec. room. See this property at www.CliftonMLS.com
Ann Grainger 703-503-1870



Fairfax \$430,000
Spacious 3 Br., 3 level TH that boasts hardwoods in kitchen, HVAC new 08, Windows 08, Neutral carpet 08, Shows like a model. Fireplace, Brick patio backs to trees. Walk to shopping.
Cyndy Patrick 703-851-7198



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!
Betty Barthle 703-425-4466



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 & metrobuss.
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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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Burke Centre RENTAL \$2200

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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)

Email Subject Line: Request a Buyer's Preview



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



CRS, Associate Broker
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Ann Witherspoon
703-503-1836



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

Sheila Adams
703-503-1895

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



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



NGOC DO & ASSOCIATES
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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.



Richard Esposito
703-503-4035
Richard@LNF.com
Service is the difference I provide



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.

ELLIE WESTER
703-503-1880
L&F Founder's Club
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer
Life Member, NVAR Million
Dollar Sales Club
ellie.wester@longandfoster.com



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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