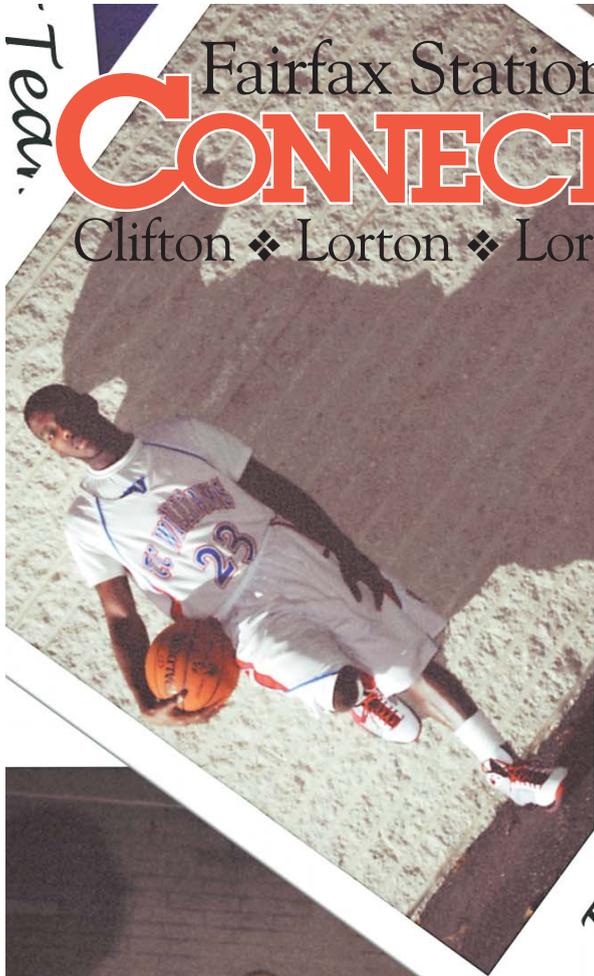


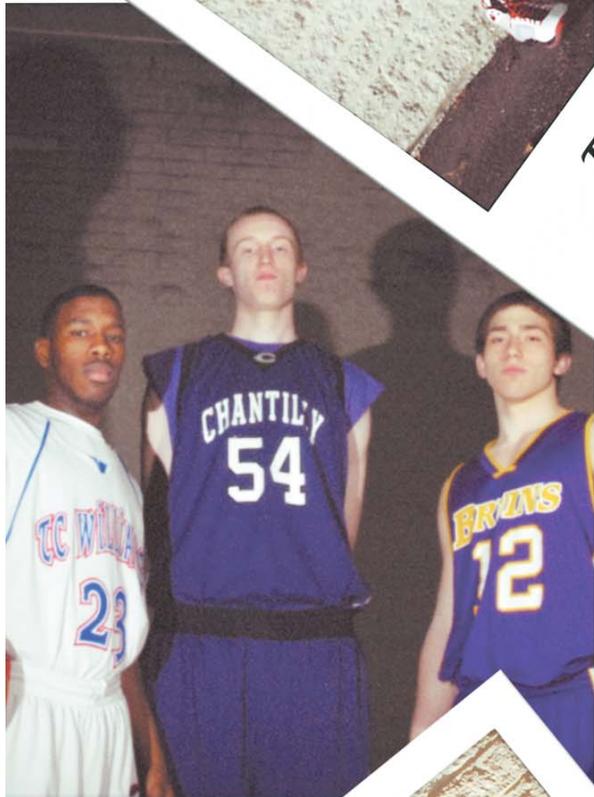
Fairfax Station ❖ Laurel Hill
CONNECTION
 Clifton ❖ Lorton ❖ Lorton Valley ❖ Crosspointe



Kings



Tiera Ruffin



Dominic Morra



Boys'



SEE PAGE 10

John Mann
Goodwin



John Mann

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
 TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
 REQUESTED IN HOME 03-13-09

PRSRRT STD.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 ELKTON, MD
 PERMIT #31



CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Grand Opening!



Contemporary Japanese Restaurant
and Sushi Bar now open in
Fairfax Station Square
(near Gold's Gym)

NEW

VA Sushi Jin
Tel: (703) 323-0061
5624-A OX Road
Fairfax Station, VA, 22039

MD Sushi Jin
Tel: (301) 608-0990
8555-A Fenton Street
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

Mon-Thur 11:00 am ~ 10:00 pm
Friday 11:00 am ~ 10:30 pm
Saturday 12:00 pm ~ 10:30 pm
Sunday 12:00 pm ~ 9:30 pm

NEWS

Area Man Charged with Starting Fire

Man arrested for setting fire to mattress in home.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department investigators have charged a Clifton man with setting fire to an occupied dwelling. He is Jonathan L. Vandover, 22, of the 7300 block of Clifton Road, and fire officials say the incident happened in his own home. Vandover was arrested on Friday, March 6, in connection with it.

Fire Department spokesman Raul Castillo said the fire began in a mattress in one of the bedrooms and was quickly extinguished. No one was injured, and fire officials estimate the damage at \$5,000. Castillo did not know who else Vandover lives with or how many people were home at the time.

Vandover is being held without bond at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and has an April 9 court date. If convicted, he could receive as much as 10 years in prison.

— BONNIE HOBBS

JABS CONSTRUCTION
DESIGN ••• BUILD

VA STATE LIC #035236 A

(703) 221-JABS (5227)

Email: jabsconstruction@verizon.net
www.jabsinc.com

Electrical Department

Attic Fans • Security Lighting
Ceiling Fans • Recessed Lighting
General Service Work • Service Upgrades

Qualified Remodelers Magazine Top 500

In-House Architect
Fourth Generation of Design / Build Craftsmen

- ADDITIONS
- RENOVATIONS
- REMODELING

Over 25 Years Experience

CONNECTION
Photo Galleries

Now! Thousands of pictures of sports, graduations, current events and more—never published, but posted on the Web. Free for evaluation, available for prints.

ConnectionNewspapers.com
Click on "Photo Gallery"

Amanda Lisa Madeline Rachel Joi Alexa Anna Margaret Andrea Lizzy Monika Emily Kate Katherine Manyata Callista Akira Emily Kelsey Jenny Claire Livia Nicole Emmy Mary-Robert Tarriya InOs Michelle Soowan Allison Sarah Nia Cameron Grace Christina Parker Samantha Erin Ari Maura Bethy Alex Katie Caroline Debbie Tyler Emily Thalia Abby Betty Deja Rachel Jackie Laine Charlotte Christine Nadia Clare Erica Natalie Jess Karen Ashley Claudia Celsia Becca Xin Meredith Christania Haley Andrea Amy Eria Luz Brittney Yoo Ingrid Nicole Cristie Michele Roxana Ellen Amy Mara Maddie Emefa Meredith Likando Emma Jihyun Meredith Seungeun So Jung Caitlyn Stephanie Kelsye Akila Emily Izabella Aranna Lia Kelly Sophie Emily Cassidy Alana Kate Anna Fatima Allie Kali Yasmeen Katie Crystal Ceila Reid Lyda Sydney Naama Athena Jeanette Katie Margaret Ali Heather Charlesa Ellie Kaitlyn Evelyn Jimena Jordan Nadja MacGregor Caroline Olivia Rashi Lydia Tiffany Alexandra Rotana Rachel Kayla Amber Annie Jennifer Shanice Hanna Devan Sam Lizzie Egypt Juanita Maddie Mimi Morgan Vanessa Caryn Sarah Tiffany Victoria Armani Morgen Ivana Kim Annie Emilie Beatrice Madison Clara

Welcome New Madeira Girls

and YOU!



The Madeira School
8328 Georgetown Pike • McLean, Virginia 22102 • 703-556-8273 • www.madeira.org



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



Above, Kenena Spalding, a member of the Lorton Historical Society and the Suffragists Museum board, talks about the suffragist movement with visitors to the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center on Saturday, March 7.

Suffrage Exhibit Opens

Visitors to the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center Suffrage Exhibition browse a number of items related to the suffrage movement, including several items of clothing women wore during that time period. The arts center sponsored an exhibit to honor Women's History Month and the suffragist movement.



Federation Mulls Middle School Plans

Proposed middle school sparks long debate, Storck leaks new school's likely name.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

At the Tuesday, March 10, South County Federation meeting, several issues were slated for discussion, but a middle school managed to steal the show.

Meeting in the South County Secondary School Media Center, the representatives of citizens and civic groups, homeowners and other groups gathered to hear legislative updates and discuss and debate education, land use, transportation and public safety issues. However, many of those in attendance had one topic on their minds: the proposed middle school in Laurel Hill.

After hearing speeches from Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), Sen. George Barker (D-39) and Del. Dave Albo (R-42) detailing their legislative efforts at the General Assembly, the Federation then welcomed school representatives to provide updates on the proposed middle school.

Initially, School Board Chair Daniel Storck (Mount Vernon) informally confirmed that the name of the new middle school will in fact, be Laurel Hill Middle School, which edged Abraham Lincoln Middle School. The announcement was informal because the

name has not been officially adopted yet, which according to Storck, will happen in about a month.

Mark Hilty, the coordinator of the county's Capital Projects Team and coordinator of the construction of the middle school, took the floor next to inform the Federation of the design plans for the middle school. However, the lines between the education and land use issues began to blur, as the actual site proposed for the school sparked great concern among Federation members.

Hilty, with the help of Kirk Holley of the Fairfax County Park Authority, showed the planned site, which is on a large strip of land bounded by Lorton Road and Giles Run on the south, Silverbrook Road on the north and Hooes Road on the west. The issue of land use came into play because in order for the new middle school to be built, a land swap must occur between the FCPS and the Park Authority.

ACCORDING TO HOLLEY, FCPS proposed the land swap with the Park Authority because the exchange would have a "larger community benefit." FCPS offered to swap its 39-acre plot of land that lies at the northern-most part of that strip of land for the Park Authority's 17-acre plot in the

southwestern corner of the strip and an 18-acre plot along Silverbrook Road.

Holley said that the school offered this deal for two reasons. First, if the school had the 17 acres, that land would be adjacent to South County Secondary School, therefore allowing the middle school to use the high school's athletic facilities and other amenities. The second reason is that the Park Authority's land is much more developable than the land the school currently owns, as the Park's land is flat, open and has a lot of frontage.

SOME FEDERATION members voiced concern over what the Park Authority would do with the land after the swap. Holley stated that the property the Park Authority would acquire would be turned into athletic fields for community use.

Some expressed concern that the fields would be lighted and would be built on the northern-most section of the plot, which bumps up against the back yards of homes in the Crosspointe neighborhood. Crosspointe neighbors were concerned about possible noise and light pollution when the fields are in use.

Holley tried to assuage their concerns by informing them that the lights that would be installed utilize new technology that keeps the light contained within a certain area, thereby creating a cone of light that

Meet the House P.I.

Radio show helps homeowners make smart decisions.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Reggie Marston knows a thing or two about homes. For more than 20 years, he's been working in the housing industry, first as a builder, then a contractor and now as a housing inspector. As a result, he knows the tricks of the trade, both good and bad, and now he wants to use his knowledge to help prepare homeowners and new buyers alike.

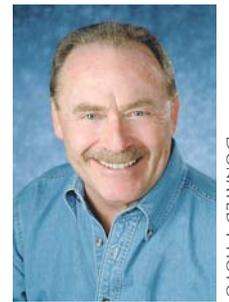
Marston, a Springfield resident, was the original "House Detective" on cable's HGTV, a program that showed him leading prospective buyers through an inspection in the home of their dreams. Sometimes, the dream house was just as it seemed; other times, it was more like a nightmare.

Now, Marston is using his expertise to help homeowners, both new and old, through a "radio on TV" show on Fairfax County Public Access cable. The show, "The House P.I.," airs on Fairfax Public Access on Wednesday afternoons from 2-3 p.m. on Cox Digital Cable and Verizon FiOS channel 37 and Comcast channel 27 in Reston. The show is also broadcast on the cable channels' Web site, www.fcac.org/webr.

"We started the show in January," said Marston. Initially, he planned to put the show on TV and then have a radio call-in show, in which viewers could phone in questions about what had been presented during the TV show earlier in the week. Instead, he's been broadcasting on the local public access network with the hopes of starting the call-in show soon.

Unlike most housing related shows, Marston wants his to be more informational than instructional. To that end, his guests have been a range of professionals, including a fellow inspector, a professional plumber and someone who specializes in finding lead, asbestos and other harmful materials in houses.

"In my experience, homeowners typically have very little concept of the house itself" when they're looking to purchase, Marston said. "Most purchasers don't understand inspections at all, and during the housing



DONATED PHOTO

Reggie Marston

SEE LAND SWAP, PAGE 5

SEE DO IT, PAGE 14

Higher Tax Rate, Car Fee on Table

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors set an upper limit for the residential real estate tax rate March 9 that leaves the door open for an average property tax increase on homeowners of approximately \$60 this year.

The supervisors have also put an annual vehicle registration fee back on the table after abolishing it three years ago. For the average car, the old fee was \$25, though the county board has given itself the leeway charge as much as \$33 in the next fiscal cycle. The supervisors will finalize the tax rate and vote on the car fee next month as part of the county budget.

The current property tax rate is 92 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. With this vote, the supervisors have given themselves the ability to raise it to a higher rate of \$1.05 per \$100 of assessed property value. They would also consider an additional 1.5 cent rate increase per \$100 of assessed value that would go directly to storm water management. The owner of a median-priced home at \$459,228 would pay property taxes of \$4,776 under this proposal.

Fairfax County executive Tony Griffin, who presented his budget proposal earlier this month, recommended the supervisors raise the property tax rate to \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed property value, plus the 1.5 cent increase for storm water management. He has also suggested adding a \$20 vehicle registration fee to help close the gap in next year's budget of approximately \$650 million.

Supervisors chose to advertise a higher tax rate to give themselves flexibility. Griffin had suggested the board advertise a rate that was even higher, \$1.07 per \$100 of assessed property value.

"Between the time we advertised the tax rate and the budget mark up last year, we saw a \$40 million drop in the county. ... The economy is very volatile right now," said Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D.).

The board's two Republicans, supervisors Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) and Mike Frey (R-Sully), opposed both measures.

In an interview, Herrity said he would have been supportive of setting the tax rate at a level that would ensure the average real estate tax bill would not go up this year.

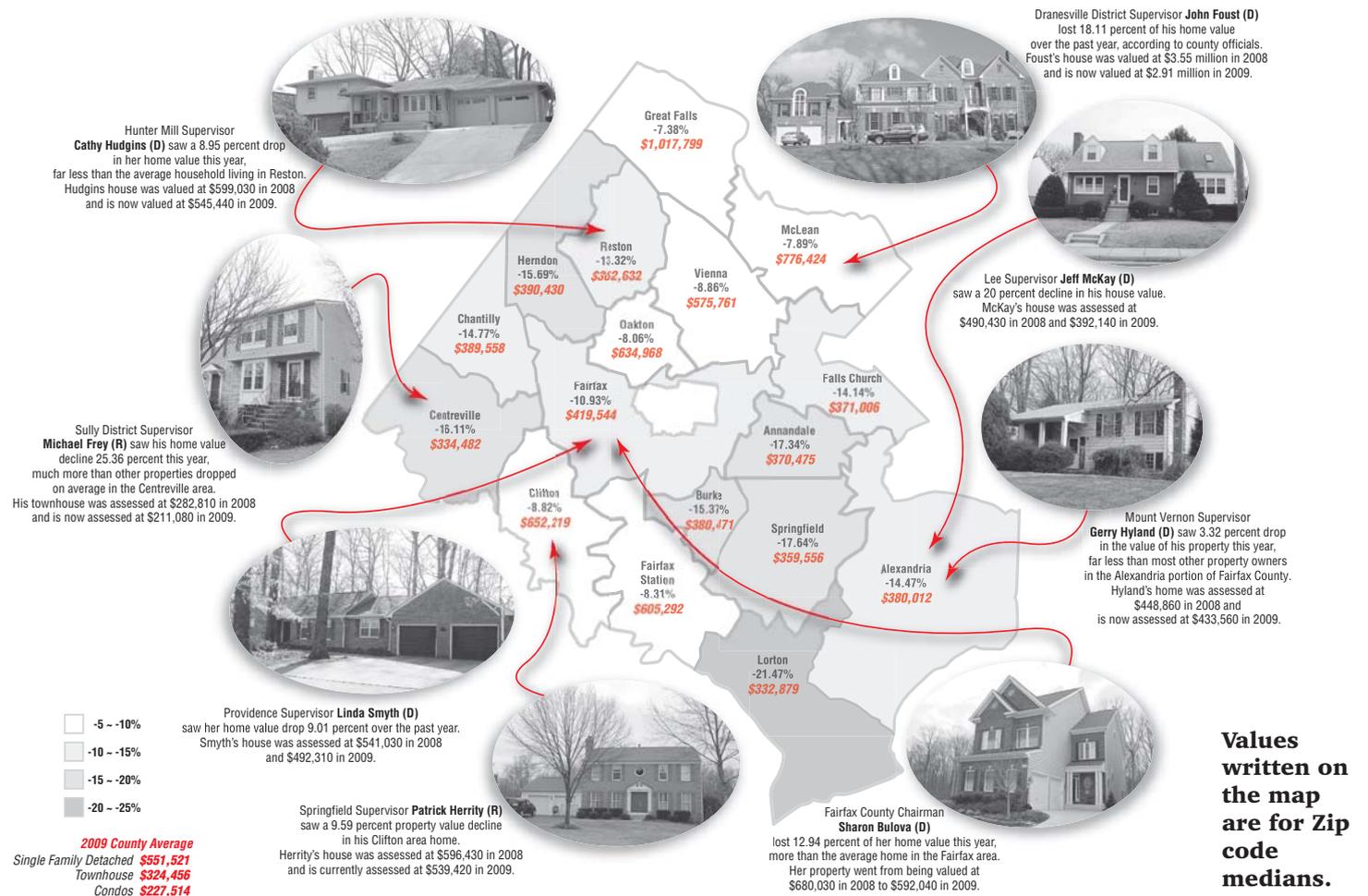
"We are in a critical time with our economy," said Herrity.

The Springfield supervisor added that many of the "revenue enhancements" Griffin has already proposed in his budget come in the form of increased fees, such as a higher price to participate in youth athletics.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

THE COUNTY LINE

MORE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



How Much Is It Worth?

Assessments in question as fewer home sales offer fewer properties for comparison.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Jeff McKay is very familiar with Groveton, his neighborhood off Richmond Highway near Huntley Meadows Park.

McKay's grandparents moved into his home when it was newly constructed in the 1940s and a member of the Lee District supervisor's extended family has always lived in the house. McKay bought the property himself 12 years ago after graduating from college.

So it came as a surprise to McKay when he looked up his real estate property assessment online and found many of the home sales used to determine his house's property value this year were located on unfamiliar streets.

Typically, Fairfax County tries to use home sales from a property's immediate neighborhood or subdivision to determine its value. In the case of McKay's home this year, they were factoring in home sales from Burgundy Village, a community several miles away in a different zip code, he said.

"Something different was done this year than we have done in the past," said McKay, a Democrat.

In 2009, 30 percent of Fairfax County's real estate assessments were calculated us-

ing home sales from "sister neighborhoods" as well as immediate communities, said Janet Coldsmith, director of the real estate division in Fairfax County's Department of Tax Administration.

County staff have always brought in home sales from other comparable neighborhoods to determine some property values but the practice was much more widespread this year, due to the downturn in the housing market, she said.

"We looked at similar neighborhoods and have looked at similar neighborhoods throughout the years but it has become more important this year. While there are still enough sales to value property, they are not as evenly distributed," said Coldsmith.

Fairfax County only incorporates "fair market" home sales into real estate property assessments. Foreclosures and other distressed sales are not supposed to factor into calculating property value for tax purposes. It can be difficult to determine home assessments in neighborhoods that have been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis and where few or no non-distressed sales have taken place, she said.

"It is standard appraisal practice to choose the best comparable properties that you have. If you don't have them in your immediate neighborhood, then you widen your search," said Coldsmith.

"When you start including other neighborhoods that are miles away in a different zip code, it becomes more difficult to try and figure out whether the properties included were fair or not," McKay said.

According to Coldsmith, the county does take geography into account when coming up with "sister neighborhoods" for assessment purposes. When looking for a comparison, they look for two neighborhoods of a similar price level and age as well as those with a similar housing stock, she said.

"We would be looking at what somebody going out to buy a house would be looking at. Someone looking to buy a house might be searching in two neighborhoods in same price range with the same type of housing," said Coldsmith. "Appraisal is a lot of judgment. It is not an exact science. There is a lot of judgment in there," she added.

But McKay differed. "There are not many homeowners who go out and say they want a rambler built in the 1950s. They go out and look for a house that is in a certain school district or on a certain transportation route. ... Is it better to base an assessment on a small number of sales or to really stretch and include properties that are a far distance away?" asked McKay.

The county has fielded fewer calls from angry property owners upset about their assessments, probably because most people saw a drop in their property value.

"So far, the call volume is down. We have gotten a few calls from some people who think their property value has fallen too far," said Coldsmith.

NEWS

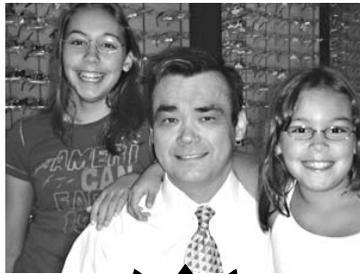
Land Swap Discussed

FROM PAGE 3

does not spill out of the intended radius. However, several Federation members greeted this information with skepticism, which was countered by an offer from Holley to come out to Nottoway Park April 9, 8-9:30 p.m. and Patriot Park April 23, 8-9:30 p.m. for a demonstration, which Holley said would display the new lights' effectiveness.

After nearly an hour and a half of discussion over the lighting issue, Federation Corresponding Secretary Christine Morin brought the debate to a close, asking Hilty and Holley for a succinct, clear statement about where the project stands. Holley confirmed that the Park Authority has made no decisions yet on the exchange, and that currently, staff is evaluating many things, including citizen input and financial data to ensure that there is equivalency in the trade. Holley also confirmed that if the swap did not take place, the school would not be built.

USE YOUR TRICARE BENEFIT!



New Lorton Office NOW OPEN

- Comprehensive Eye Exams • Treatment of Eye Diseases
- 14 yrs. Naval service, 6 yrs. Active Duty
- Laser Vision Consultants • Over a thousand frames in stock
- We carry all major brands of contact lenses • In-house lab

Most Insurances Accepted:

Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Care First, Medicare, Tricare In-network Doctor, Vision One, Blue Choice, Avesis, VCA, Aetna HMO/PPO/POS, PHCS, Spectera, VSP® Network Doctor

WE WELCOME YOUR DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION

DR. GENE SWEETNAM OPTOMETRIST

5204A Rolling Rd. 8951 Ox Rd., Suite 100
Burke Professional Center Shoppes at Lorton Valley
Burke, VA 22015 Lorton, VA 22079
703-425-2000 703-493-9910
www.drsweetnam.com

INSTANT GRATIFICATION SAVE UP TO 40% ON CAR INSURANCE RIGHT NOW

Why wait to save money? Call me any time day or night for a free quote or to purchase car insurance.

Call my office 24/7.



Rudy Shields, Agent
9415 Old Burke Lake Road
Burke, VA 22015-3127
Bus: 703-978-5700
rudy.shields.bvz@statefarm.com



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL • Insurance and discounts subject to qualifications.

PO60142 04/06

THE CARLIN

The Best in Senior Living
Starting at 55 years

Offering

- Rents Starting at \$950
- All Utilities Included
- And Just Two Blocks from Ballston Metro
- Frost-Free Refrigerator
- Underground Garage Parking
- Spacious Kitchens and Bathrooms
- Wellness Programs
- Full-Time Social Services Coordinator
- Prices are Subject to Change

703-243-4300

Call Today

4300 N. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, VA 22203



COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5690 Oak Leather Drive
Burke, VA 22015
703-764-0456
www.BurkePresChurch.org

SERVICES:
Saturday — 5:30 pm Coffee House Worship
Sunday — 8:30 am & 11:15 am
Sunday school — 9:45 am

All are Welcome!
Rev. Dr. Beth Braxton, Pastor
Rev. MaryAnn Dana, Associate Pastor

**BECOMING
Disciples
THROUGH
Sabbath
Study &
Service**

OPEN YOUR HEART TO THE POSSIBILITY
OF HOPE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

HOPE Baptist Church

"BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM
ONE SOUL AT A TIME"

My sheep hear my voice and I know
them and they follow me — John 10:27

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY AT:
WILLIAM HALEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
8850 CROSS CHASE CIRCLE, FAIRFAX STATION, VIRGINIA
10AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL - 11AM - MORNING WORSHIP
PASTOR ARLETTE JOHNSON, PASTOR AND FOUNDER

9800 Old Keene Mill Rd.
703-455-7041

Sunday School
9:15 AM

Worship Service
10:30 AM

CALVARY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

www.calvaryfamily.com
"Continuing the ministry of Christ on earth"

Jubilee Christian Center
Celebrating the sounds of Freedom

Realtime Worship - Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM
Sunday School 10:10 AM
Sunday Evening - 6:30 PM Youth Meeting
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM
Call for Sunday Evening Worship Home Group Schedule
visit our website: www.jccag.org

4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax
Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170
"Experience the Difference"



Cranford United Methodist Church... 703-339-5382
Non-Denominational
Grace Bible Church... 703-339-7292
Gunston Bible Church... 703-339-5395
Iglesia La Gran Comision Asambleas De Dios... 703-541-0816
New Hope Church... 703-971-4673
New Jerusalem Temple of Worship... 703-593-6153
Pentecostal
Christ Pentecostal International Church... 703-339-2119
First United Pentecostal Church... 703-339-2402
Presbyterian
Clifton Presbyterian Church... 703-830-3175
Seoul Presbyterian Church... 703-764-1310
Sikh
Sikh Foundation of Virginia... 703-323-8849

Buddhist
Ekoji Buddhist Temple... 703-239-1200
Catholic
St. Clare of Assisi... 703-266-1310
St. Raymond Penafort... 703-440-0535
Church of God
Church of the Living God of No. Va... 703-250-7980
Congregacion La Cena Del Senior... 703-550-1204
Episcopal
St. Peter's in the Woods... 703-503-9210
Pohick Church... 703-339-6579
Lutheran
Living Savior Lutheran Church 703-352-1421
Methodist
Christ Church of Fairfax Station... 703-690-3401



Baha'i Faith
Baha'is of Fairfax County Southwest... 703-912-1719
Baptist
Antioch Baptist Church... 703-425-0940
Clifton Baptist Church... 703-263-1161
Community Baptist Church... 703-250-9060
Fairfax Baptist Temple... 703-323-8100

Harvest Assembly Baptist Church... 703-799-7868
Hope Baptist Church... 703-799-5155
Jerusalem Baptist Church... 703-278-8166
Shiloh Baptist Church... 703-550-8557
Virginia Korean Baptist Church 703-425-1972

Get Ready for Spring at Merrifield Garden Center

FRESH PLANTS ARE ARRIVING DAILY!



Bright early color including...

PANSIES
PRIMROSES
HELLEBORUS
OKAME CHERRIES
WITCHHAZEL

Edible delights –
FRUIT TREES
COOL CROP VEGETABLES
VEGETABLE & FLOWER SEEDS

Plus a great selection of
J & P ROSES • SPRING BULBS
GARDEN ACCENTS
GRASS SEED • FERTILIZERS
WEED PREVENTERS

TRUCKLOAD BIRDSEED SALE

Black Oil Sunflower Seed
25 lbs - \$12.99 (reg. \$19.99)
40 lbs - \$19.99 (reg. \$29.99)

And discover our selection
of Birdseed, Feeders,
Houses & Accessories!

For inspiring ideas for the garden watch
"MERRIFIELD'S GARDENING ADVISOR"
every Saturday, 8:00 am on NewsChannel 8

FREE GARDENING SEMINARS – Saturday, March 14, at 10 am
MERRIFIELD – LANDSCAPING WITH EXOTICS
FAIR OAKS – SPRING LAWN CARE • GAINESVILLE – EDIBLE GARDENS
For a full schedule of classes visit our stores or MerrifieldGardenCenter.com

MERRIFIELD 8132 Lee Hwy., Merrifield, VA **703-560-6222**
FAIR OAKS 12101 Lee Hwy., Fairfax, VA **703-968-9600**
GAINESVILLE 6895 Wellington Rd., Gainesville, VA **703-368-1919**
Extended hours: Monday – Saturday 8:00 am - 7:00 pm • Sunday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm
www.MerrifieldGardenCenter.com

OPINION

A Million Trees?

If you've driven on the Beltway lately between McLean and Springfield, you might find some understatement in this week's announcement that VDOT wants "to help mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss."

Along the 14-mile path of planned HOT-lanes, Fairfax County communities appear to have lost more than two square miles of tree canopy and a million or more trees.

The approval of the construction of "high occupancy toll" lanes along the Beltway via a public private partnership came swiftly, and with little fresh consideration of the impact on local communities. Most local residents became aware of the project as they watched the clear-cutting of mature trees and stands of forests that have sheltered birds and wildlife along the Beltway for decades. Elected officials were also caught by surprise at the extent of the tree clearing and other work.

The project will add two lanes in each direction on 495 between Springfield and McLean, available free for vehicles with three or more

occupants, and by a variable toll for the rest. The contractor, Fluor-Transurban, will keep the toll revenue for 50 years or more to pay for the construction.

VDOT, we're told, will hire a landscape architect to develop landscaping plans in coordination with adjacent communities, "to help mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss and to take advantage of available green space as the project develops."

The work of the landscape architect and coordinating with local communities should have come before the project began. But better late than never. See VirginiaHOTLanes.com for more.

Local Culture

This weekend, the Fairfax Symphony will audition Gregory Vajda, 35, as its fifth of six prospective music directors. It's an audition anyone can attend, and offer feedback. The Fairfax Symphony is a local treasure, remark-

Landscape architect, sound walls are small consolation for loss of leafy canopy.

able in quality and well worth seeing, hearing and supporting.

The Fairfax Symphony is in search of its first new music director in 37 years, choosing six finalists, selected from a pool of 249 applicants.

Vajda will serve as guest conductor this Saturday, March 14, and will speak at a free talk at 7 p.m. before the 8 p.m. concert, with guest soloist Andre Armstrong on piano. The concert will include Liszt, Les Préludes; Bartok, Piano Concerto No. 3; and Schumann, Symphony No. 2 in C Major.

George Mason University's Center for the Arts,

4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax. See www.FairfaxSymphony.org. Tickets are available at the door, just come by.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

System Working

To the Editor:

I was somewhat alarmed by the comments of School Board President Dan Storck (Mount Vernon) in your article "Advocates Pull Back from Later High School Start Times Proposal," where he states that "Some people may also be too caught up in how the details of the plan will impact their lives personally instead of looking at the problem holistically."

Many of us would beg to differ with Mr. Storck. The fact is that the coalition known as SLEEP is singularly focused on changing school bell times as the solution to academic, athletic and unsafe driving problems that they perceive exist in Fairfax County Schools.

The "holistic" way to look at this issue is to realize that time spent with family, on extracurricular activities (including those focused on sports or academics or the arts), at after school jobs, and volunteering in the community, etc. have all been proved by independent research to produce well-rounded, high achieving students.

In a county as large and diverse at Fairfax, finding that balance is difficult. Yet, even after 10 years of looking into this issue, and the dedicated focus of the Transportation Task Force, a viable option has not been able to be found. Isn't it time to consider that that balance already exists. Fairfax County is one of the top-rated school districts in the country, produces excellent athletes and, to my knowledge, does not have any particu-

lar problems with teen accidents, etc.

And for Mr. Storck to admonish parents for thinking about this issue too personally is just plain silly. Haven't we all be encouraged to take education personally in terms of reading to our kids, attending PTA sessions, volunteering in classrooms (all of which my husband and I do)?

LETTERS

So when the proposed solution means that I'll need to find another \$1,200 in my budget to pay for child care, that my elementary school son will be in school until 4 p.m. which has been shown to not be optimal for educational purposes, that enrichment programs such as Mad Science and Odyssey of the Mind will be cancelled, that top teachers will consider leaving for other school districts —yes, quite frankly, I will take it personally.

With our school district facing dramatic budget and staff cuts our School Board has better things to focus on than a complete overhaul of a system that is actually working.

Jill Anderson

E-mail submission

Perpetuating Lies

To the Editor:

The editorial ['Loop Hole Stays Open,' Connection, Feb. 12-18, 2009] is another bias opinion by your staff writer which is designed

to infuriate the public over gun ownership and gun shows. Gun shows are well regulated, much more than the general public realizes, because newspapers fail to report the facts reporting selective views which support one side of the issue. If this so called loophole was closed, a law-abiding citizen would become a criminal in the personal sale of a gun to a member of his family or close friend if he did not do a back ground check and report the sale to the federal government. That is why Sen. Cuccinelli (R-37), who uses common sense, voted against this further intrusion by the federal government into our lives.

It is so easy to blame the crime on the guns without looking at the cause and contributing factors. When you disarm people, you automatically make the eligible victims for criminals.

There is no rallying outcry to ban automobiles that result in the loss of life or 42,000 people annually from auto accidents. Neither do we seem to be concerned that accidental deaths caused by physicians per year are 120,000. This compared to approximately 1,500 gun deaths per year out of 80 million legal gun owners seems insignificant.

Let's talk about regulation. There are at least 271 Federal Gun Control laws and Virginia has at least 191 as of 2006. Because criminal activity is already outlawed, new laws tend to affect only honest individuals and not criminals, and so decent people object to them. The idea of gun control law has come to mean in-

fringement law, a rule that incrementally disarms a civilian and has little or no bearing on crime control, which is supposed to be the goal. Infringement laws are illegal, and it's right for people to object to them and to the people who promote them.

The constant vilification of honest gun owners by the media, drumming on the public's fears and ignorance, makes the problem worse, in the way propaganda used to plague communist countries. Repetition of even the most self-evidently outrageous lies eventually gains acceptance, defying all logic or reason.

Maybe the opinion writer needs to visit a few gun shows and meet some of the people who are protecting his constitutional rights?

Charles Thomas
Burke

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
7913 Westpark Drive
McLean, Va. 22102
Call: 703-917-6440.
By fax: 703-917-0991.
By e-mail:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of Fairfax Station, Laurel Hill & Clifton
An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

7913 Westpark Drive
McLean, Virginia 22102

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-917-6444

Fax: 703-917-0991

e-mail:

burke@connectionnewspapers.com

Michael O'Connell
Editor / 703-917-6440

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-917-6430
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Paula Friedrich
Assistant Editor / 703-917-6459

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics, 703-917-6433
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Courts & Projects, 703-917-6417
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Jason Mackey
Sports Editor, 703-917-6438
jmackey@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:

To place an advertisement, call the ad department between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Display ads 703-821-5050
Classified ads 703-917-6400
Employment ads 703-917-6464

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising
703-917-6463

Tammy Johnson
Display Advertising
703-917-6478

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-917-6401
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Barbara Parkinson
Employment Advertising
703-917-6418
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-917-6416
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Steve Hibbard, Michael O'Connell,
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel

Art/Design:
Zohra Aslami, Geovani Flores,
Laurence Foong, John Heintz,
John Smith, Stu Moll,
Wayne Shipp
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO
Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-917-6416
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
703-917-6404
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller
Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-518-4631
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

John Lovaas
Special Assistant for Operations

NEWS

Fire Causes \$900K Damage

Fire officials estimated damage to a Clifton home at \$900,000 following a fire, Tuesday, March 10, at 13135 Compton Road. Upon arrival, around 12:25 p.m., firefighters encountered heavy fire and smoke coming from the rear and roof of the single-family home.

Some 50 fire personnel fought the blaze, bringing it under control in about 45 minutes. Since the neighborhood has no hydrants, firefighters also used a tanker task force of five tankers, in addition to several engines, to fight the fire. Firefighters also rescued four cats.

The home sustained major damage to the roof, attic and top floor, plus extensive water and smoke damage throughout all the rooms. No one was home when the fire broke out, but two adults have now been displaced. According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental; the cause involved an oil furnace on the top floor of the home.

Firefighters responded from both Centreville stations, the Town of Clifton, Burke, Fairfax Center, Fair Oaks and Chantilly, as well as tankers from Gunston, Great Falls and Crosspointe.

To prevent a similar happening elsewhere, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department encourages residents to have a heating contractor perform a yearly maintenance check-up of their home furnaces and venting systems for efficient, safe operation.

All furnace controls and emergency shutoffs should be in proper working condition, and chemicals, chlorine, paint thinners, paint strippers or gasoline should never be stored near a furnace. An area of at least 2 feet around the furnace should be kept clear to allow a free flow of air to the furnace.

— BONNIE HOBBS

Hoops Team Seeks Players

The BRYC Tar Heel AAU basketball program is seeking players and coaches for the upcoming spring-through-summer season. For more information, visit www.brychoops.org or www.tarheelsbasketball.org for tryout dates and program information. Contact Jim Watson at 571-243-4142, Parker Roach at 703-627-0380 or Rocky Carter at 703-855-7614 for additional information.

FREE ESTIMATES
HARDSCAPING/PLANTING

patios, walls
walkways
paver driveways
and so much more
Now at 2003 Pricing



60-75% OFF
ALL POTTERY

Washington's Largest Selection

25% OFF
All Nursery Stock & Perennials

2008 STOCK ONLY Pansies 97¢ Reg. \$1.89

Mulch 3 cu. FT. \$2.99
Bulk \$15.00 Per cu. YD.

Open 9-6 7 Days
9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, VA
Cravens Nursery & Pottery 703-573-5025
2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50 (Vienna Metro)
CravensNursery.com

LEADERSHIP for LIFE
PREPARING BOYS FOR COLLEGE AND BEYOND FISHBURNE • 1879



PROFESSOR JAMES FISHBURNE WITH CADET RUSMISEL, MARCH 1880

CELEBRATING 130 YEARS OF TURNING POTENTIAL INTO ACHIEVEMENT
CALL 1-800-946-7773 OR VISIT WWW.FISHBURNE.ORG

OPEN HOUSES
SAT./SUN. MARCH 14 & 15



8309 CRESTRIDGE ROAD • \$1,824,000 • Open Sunday, 1-4 PM
Long & Foster, Ann Grainger, 703-503-1870

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 and click the Real Estate links on the right side.

 **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.** 

Clifton

12601 CLIFTON HUNT LANE...\$834,900 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Keller Williams Diane Lenahan 703-283-7328
7701 ROSE GATE CT.....\$1,150,000 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Keller Williams Diane Lenahan 703-283-7328

Springfield

9028 SCOTT ST.....\$624,950 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Weichert..... Kathleen Quintarelli 703-862-8808
7011 LEESVILLE BLVD.....\$570,000 Mar 15, 12-4 PM..... Global GMAC..... Karina Torres-Ferrer..... 703-534-3500
7222 HANSFORD CT.....\$695,000 Mar 15, 2-4 PM Long & Foster..... Carol Greco 703-658-1600

Burke

9519 RETRIEVER ROAD.....\$599,950 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Weichert..... Kathleen Quintarelli 703-862-8808
9813 PULHAM RD.....\$484,900 Mar 15, 1-4 PM RE/MAX..... Barbara White-Adkins 571-339-6014

Fairfax Station

11451 QUAILWOOD DRIVE...\$1,325,000 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Keller Williams Diane Lenahan 703-283-7328
8309 CRESTRIDGE ROAD.....\$1,824,000 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Long & Foster..... Ann Grainger 703-503-1870
6104 ARRINGTON DRIVE.....\$749,000 Mar 15, 1-5 PM Weichert..... Lena Restivo 703-855-7341
7009 SYLVAN GLEN LA.....\$924,900 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Long & Foster..... Marcia Wolber 703-618-4397

Kingstowne/Alexandria

5306 SANDYFORD ST.....\$549,900 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Keller Williams Joe Davis 571-338-4989
3308 FALLEN TREE CT.....\$645,000 Apr 26, 1-4 PM Arcadia..... Harriet Johnson..... 703-823-9541

Annandale

4000 ANCIENT OAK CT.....\$789,000 Mar 15, 12-5 PM..... Weichert..... Barbara Chandler 703-760-8880
3635 KING ARTHUR RD.....\$533,370 Mar 14, 12-2..... Tranzon Fox..... Jeffrey Stein..... 703-539-8111

To add your FREE Realtor Open House listing:
Springfield/Kingstowne, Burke, Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill
Contact: Steve Hogan
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com
Chantilly/Oak Hill, Centreville/Clifton, Fairfax
Contact: Karen Washburn
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.



THE PICTURE IS ONLY
HALF THE STORY.

There's a story behind every beautiful room. At **Shea Studio Interiors** we make sure each story has a happy ending... or is it a beginning?

"I want to feel like I'm showering outdoors." We're experts in the concept-to-completion design, oversight and coordination it takes for projects large and small. From the sink handcrafted from a boulder, to the hand cut cabinetry, to the smallest detail like a leafy waterfall – we gave this client a bath that will make Mother Nature proud.

To begin a story of your own, please call us at 703-891-1570. Ask about our flat fees.



SHEA
STUDIO
INTERIORS

www.SheaStudio.com

CALENDAR

LAUREL HILL/FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON CONNECTION ASSISTANT EDITOR PAULA FRIEDRICH
703-917-6459 OR SOUTH@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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



Toddlers can enjoy Shamrock Magic on Tuesday, March 17 at the Lorton Library. There will be stories, activities and a craft for age 2-3.

but everyone will go home with a variety of tea bags. Reserve at 703-569-9862 or office@messiahumc.org.

Hanzel und Gretyl, Burn the Fields, xuberx, Dark Dissolve and Dreams in Fear. 7:30 at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$15 in advance, \$18 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Becky Mode's "Fully Committed," 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-426-1070.

John Longbottom, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

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

Stephen Ministries Caring Ministries Workshop, 8:30 a.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Led by Joel Keen, Stephen Ministries Center, St. Louis, Mo. \$15 per person, or \$50 for a congregation group of four or more. To register call 314-428-2600 or www.caringministry.org.

Artist' Reception for Chelsea Owens' exhibition Adaptations, 2 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. www.chelseaowens.com or 703-584-2900.

Friends Book Sale, 10 a.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Gems and finds for all readers. 703-339-4610.

VITA Tax Help, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the

Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Friends of Accotink Creek Quarterly Biological Stream Monitoring, to assess water quality. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Byron Avenue Park, and 1-3 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park. New volunteers welcome, no experience required. www.accotink.org.

Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League Meet and Greet, 12-2 p.m. at Felix & Oscar, 6671-A Backlick Road, Springfield. MAGDRL is at this location on the second Saturday of every month. 703-866-0222.

Blood Apocalypse, Suffocation, whitechapel, Decrepit Birth, Veil of Maya and more. 1:15 at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$18 in advance, \$20 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Adler's Appetite and Gate1, 10:30 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$17 in advance, \$20 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Gunston Hall Liberty Lecture Series, 3 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. The Constitution Goes to College: How Constitutional Ideas Have Influenced the Identity of American Universities, with Rodney A. Smolla, Dean, Washington & Lee School of Law. \$9 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 ages 6-18. Light refreshments served from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Guided tour included. Register at 703-550-9220. www.gunstonhall.org.

Karaoke, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. www.katesirishpub.com.

Springfield Community Theatre presents "The Fantastics," 2 p.m. at The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets \$15 adults, \$13 students and seniors. For reservations, call 703-866-6238. info@sctonline.org.

N-Scale Model Trains at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 1-4 p.m. The Northern Virginia NTRAK model railroad club will be running trains in the community room and the caboose at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission is \$2 adult and \$1 child. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

Exhibition Reception: Workhouse Artist Associates and Workhouse Art Guild, 2-5 p.m. in Gallery W-16, First Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Free. 703-584-2900 or WorkhouseArts.org.

Hero of the Beach, Dead-End Dropouts, Suck My Conflict, Combat Funk, We Have the Summer, Third Eye Movement, Metrophish, Orange Marmalade, Back Before Dawn and Borderline. 4:15 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$8 in advance, \$10 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Open Mic, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. www.katesirishpub.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. Don Cobert at 11:30 a.m., Brook Yoder at 4:30 p.m. and Dave Berry at 9 p.m. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

Dogs Say Woof! 10:30 a.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria.



Hanzel und Gretyl will headline a show with Burn the Fields, xuberx, Dark Dissolve and Dreams in Fear will at Jaxx Night Club in Springfield on Friday, March 13.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

ArtNotes Concert Series with Brass 5, 7-9 p.m. in the Workhouse Arts Center's Gallery W-16, 2nd floor, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Come early to explore exhibitions on view and visit artists working in the studio buildings. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. 703-584-2900 or www.Workhousearts.org.

Becky Mode's "Fully Committed," 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-426-1070.

John Longbottom, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

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

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

Messiah United Methodist Church Girlfriends Night Out Simpli-Tea," 7-9 p.m. at 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Bring a box of 24 tea bags and a favorite store bought treat. Some tea will be for tasting,



Fairfax County will sponsor an Emerald Ash Borer Information Session at the Kingstowne Library on Thursday, March 12.

Doggie stories and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

Computer Tutoring, 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get one-on-one help with computers, common software applications and navigating the Internet. Call to sign up. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Mother-Daughter Book Group, 7 p.m. at the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Join us for a lively book discussion. Call for title and to sign up. Age 9-11 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Shamrock Magic, 10:30 a.m. at the Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories, activities and a craft. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-339-7385.

Evening Book Discussion, 7:30 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "Persuasion" by Jane Austen. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Amazing Escapes, 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join award-winning storyteller Gary Lloyd for edge-of-the-seat survival stories. Age 12 and up. 703-249-1520.

VITA Tax Help, 6-8 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Adults. 703-339-4610.

St. Patrick's Day Acoustic Open Mic Night with bob Gaynor of the Roadducks, 8 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. No cover charge. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Needlework Group, 10:30 a.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on and enjoy the company of fellow needlecrafters. Adults. 703-

249-1520.

Small Wonders, 10:30 a.m. at the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Stories, fingerplays and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult.

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

Lorton Book Club, 7:30 p.m. at the Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. Adults. 703-339-7385.

Book Discussion Group, 7:15 p.m. at the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Adults. 703-971-0010.

"Disney's High School Musical" opens at the Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, Route 1 at Furnace Road in Woodbridge. The show will run through July 12, with matinees on selected dates. Call 703-494-6311 or visit www.lazysusan.com for showtimes and ticket prices.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Dave Berry, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

Going Green, 10:30 a.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs, and activities highlight Ireland. For ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Springfield Writers' Group, 7 p.m. at the temporary Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults. 703-451-8055.

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.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Northern Virginia Community College Board Meeting, 4-6 p.m. in Room 307 at NOVA's Reston Center, 1831 Wiehle Ave. in Reston. The agenda includes an update on the Reston Center by Provost Anthony Tardd and a briefing on the recent General Assembly session by Del. Chuck Caputo (D-67). Daniel G. LeBlanc, Senior advisor to the governor for Workforce, will discuss Virginia's Career Pathways Strategic Plan. NOVA President Robert G. Templin Jr. will report on the implications of the Commonwealth's economic downturn and update the board on the College's Achieving the Dream initiative. Board meetings are open to the public. 703-323-3101 or churst@nvcc.edu.

Republican Women of Clifton Meeting, 7 p.m. at Clifton Elementary, 7010 Clifton Road in Clifton. At 7:30 p.m. Juanita Balenger will speak on 'Identity Theft: When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name.' omango1@hotmail.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.

TEST YOUR HOME FOR RADON GAS - PROTECT YOUR HEALTH TODAY!

- Radon is an invisible gas found in soil and rocks underneath your home.
- Radon is the 2nd Leading cause of Lung Cancer.
- The U.S. Surgeon General and Environmental Protection Agency recommend that ALL homes be tested for radon.
- EPA studies show Fairfax County may have high radon levels.

To find out more about radon and easy-to-use, inexpensive radon tests, go to

www.4radon.com
or call 1-800-520-9891

Active Retirees!

The JCCNV Offers Stimulating and Diverse Weekly Activities

Speakers * Monthly Trips * Entertainment

Author Luncheon at JCCNV
Abbe Smith
"Case of a Lifetime"

Thursday, Feb. 12, Noon-2pm

\$8 JCCNV Member/ \$10 Non-Member
Includes Israeli lunch.

Ambassador Richard Shifter
"How to Stop the UN from
De-Legitimizing Israel"

Thursday, Feb. 19, Noon-2pm

Free JCCNV Member/ \$3 Non-Member
Bring dairy lunch. Dessert served.

Everyone Welcome!

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



Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax VA 22031
www.jccnv.org • (703) 323-0880



The Irish Collection

Wishing you a
Happy St. Patrick's Day!!

New items
arriving
every day



T-Shirts • Claddagh Jewelry
Aran Sweaters • Waterford Crystal
Guinness Merchandise
Wool Capes, Scarves & Hats
Irish Teas & Treats

Free gift
with this ad!

The Irish Collection



The Riverwalk, 125 Mill St. Occoquan, VA • 703-492-9383
Visit us on the web: www.irishco.com



CARDIOLOGY

DERMATOLOGY

**EMERGENCY/
CRITICAL CARE**

INTERNAL MEDICINE

ONCOLOGY

OPHTHALMOLOGY

**RADIATION
ONCOLOGY**

RADIOLOGY

**REHABILITATIVE
THERAPY**

SURGERY

RADIOCAT
Centers for The
Treatment of Feline
Hyperthyroidism

WE LOVE THEM LIKE YOU DO

6651 BACKLICK RD.
SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150

703.451.8900

WWW.VETREFERRALCENTER.COM
OPEN 24 HOURS 365 DAYS A YEAR

THE
REGIONAL
VETERINARY
REFERRAL
CENTER

XER GAMES™

Interactive Fitness by Sportwall



Spring Sports
Camp Enrolling*

Burke Racquet & Swim Club™

THE AREA'S BEST ALL INDOOR FITNESS FACILITY

- Group Training Stations by Sportwall®
- Performance-PT by Sportwall®
- Dance Platform Technology by Cobalt Flux™

Serious Fitness for People
Who Love to Play

Bring this coupon
to receive 50% off
Xersession

Monday through Friday 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm
Saturday and Sunday 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Valid Through 4/30/09
Limit 2 people per coupon

703.250.1299

6001 Burke Commons Rd.
Burke, Virginia

15 minutes from Springfield,
Newington, Fairfax & Centreville.

*see website
www.burkeclub.com

SPORTS

All-Connection Basketball Teams



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

First-team All-Connection boys' selections include: (from left to right) Skylar Jones (Mount Vernon), Edward Jenkins (T.C. Williams), John Manning (Chantilly), Dominic Morra (Lake Braddock) and Kendall Marshall (O'Connell).

First-team All-Connection girls' selections include: (from left to right) Shelby Romine (Westfield), Myisha Goodwin (Edison), Tracy King (Mount Vernon), Tierra Ruffin-Pratt (T.C. Williams) and Erin McGartland (Oakton).

Boys' First Team

SKYLAR JONES — MOUNT VERNON	19 PPG	9 RPG	1 BPG
KENDALL MARSHALL — O'CONNELL	16 PPG	8 APG	7 RPG
DOMINIC MORRA — LAKE BRADDOCK	30 PPG	7 RPG	3 SPG
EDWARD JENKINS — T.C. WILLIAMS	21 PPG	5 APG	3 RPG
JOHN MANNING — CHANTILLY	13 PPG	10 RPG	3.5 BPG

Girls' First Team

TIERRA-RUFFIN PRATT — T.C. WILLIAMS	18.5 PPG	14.5 RPG	4.5 BPG
SHELBY ROMINE — WESTFIELD	16.5 PPG	4.5 RPG	4 APG
TRACY KING — MOUNT VERNON	19.1 PPG	8.3 RPG	3.4 SPG
MYISHA GOODWIN — EDISON	25 PPG	5 APG	7 SPG
ERIN MCGARTLAND — OAKTON	11.7 PPG	8.2 RPG	2 APG

Boys' Coach of the Year

JULIAN KING
T.C. WILLIAMS

Boys' Player of the Year

EDWARD JENKINS
T.C. WILLIAMS

Girls' Player of the Year

TIERRA RUFFIN-PRATT
T.C. WILLIAMS

Girls' Coach of the Year

FRED PRIESTER
OAKTON

Second Team

T.J. WILSON — HAYFIELD
GIVEN KALIPINDE — EPISCOPAL
FRANK HOLLOWAY JR. — LEE
STEPHEN STEPKA — W.T. WOODSON
CHRIS KEARNEY — WESTFIELD

Honorable Mention
Warren Denny (Centreville)
Simon Kilday (Yorktown)
Derek Baker (Langley)
Will Clarkson (Madison)
Isaac Johnson (Herndon)
Erick Green (Paul VI)
Justin May (Chantilly)
Travis Williams (South Lakes)

Second Team

SIMONE ANTWI — SOUTH COUNTY
SAM LANDERS — WEST SPRINGFIELD
JALINDA VENABLE — MOUNT VERNON
PRISCILLA MOSEH — LEE
LAUREN BURFORD — FAIRFAX

Honorable Mention
Melissa Gallo (W.T. Woodson)
LaNia Charity (Yorktown)
Danielle Williams (St. Stephen's/St. Agnes)
Khalia Boston (T.C. Williams)
Audrey Dotson (Langley)
Sam Partonen (Robinson)
Danielle Landry (Madison)
Kelcyn Manurs (South Lakes)

Welcome to the 2008-09 All-Connection basketball issue. In this special section, the Connection's sports department honors the best and brightest on this year's Northern Virginia hoops scene. For a complete look at this year's basketball landscape, check out www.connectionnewspapers.com. Special thanks to Lawrence Foong, Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft and Craig Sterbutzel.

Transformation: 6 to 18 Wins

South County girls' basketball triples its win total from a year ago.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

Prior to taking control of the girls' basketball program at South County, Chrissy Kelly racked up 143 wins and two Virginia AAA state titles at Forest Park High School in Prince William County. In only one season on the Stallions' bench, Kelly has probably deflected praise four times as frequently as she won at Forest Park.

But the numbers still show, regardless of whether Kelly wants to take credit for the transformation or not, that a six-win team in 2007-08 won exactly three times that many games this season. South County (18-7) also reached the Northern Region quarterfinals.

"I don't think it's anything but the kids' willingness to work," Kelly said. "They're the ones that made the choice to buy into the program."

Kelly didn't adjust the rulebook to allow 10 girls on the court at one time, and didn't figure out a way to have her players levitate 6 inches from the basket. She actually has a young, talented team, led by sophomore Simone Antwi, a first team All-Patriot District selection.

Antwi, a second team All-Connection pick, averaged 15.6 points per game this season and twice she reached or surpassed

the 20-point plateau. A first team All-Northern Region selection, Antwi also excelled as a middle hitter on the school's volleyball team.

"They have some talent there," said West Springfield girls' basketball coach Bill Gibson, a veteran of 23 years and two state titles.

When Kelly first approached her team about its new set of expectations, junior guard Fatu Conteh started to worry. She didn't know exactly what Kelly meant but she thought that whatever it was would involve a lot of running.

"She intimidated me. ... I'm not going to lie," said Conteh, an honorable mention All-District pick, of the new coach. "I just thought

we were going to be running suicides every single day in practice but it really wasn't [like that]."

The change in philosophy was more centered around a family-style atmosphere and a re-dedication to defense, two things Kelly believes translate anywhere, no matter what the talent level may be.

The changes worked. Quickly.

SOUTH COUNTY opened with a 70-69 upset of region semifinalist Mount Vernon and followed by winning each of its next four games. The Stallions went 9-5 against district competition during the regular season

"We've laid the foundation and we'll see where we go from here."

—Coach Chrissy Kelly,
South County Secondary



FILE PHOTO

South County girls' basketball coach Chrissy Kelly, background, works with sophomore Alex Brown during a drill in Dec. 2008. The Stallions made a 12-win improvement from last year to this year.

and were ousted by West Springfield in the semifinals of the district tournament.

Next year's group will only be missing one player, 6-foot-1 forward Rachel Morris, from the 2008-09 model, which, Kelly said, was only meant to set the standard for years to come. Everything else has just been icing on the cake.

"It was a definitely mental transformation," Kelly said. "I have great kids who, like I said ... it's what they chose to do. And I think we've laid the foundation and we'll see where we go from here."

Now Serving, Robinson

Drew Courtney, a Robinson Secondary School graduate and currently a freshman on the University of Virginia men's tennis team, is 18-5 this season in singles play while his doubles teams are a combined 14-6. Perhaps most impressive, the Cavaliers are ranked No. 1 in the country. The Cavaliers improved to 17-0 overall (3-0 in the Atlantic Coast Conference) with two wins on Tuesday. On the girls side at Virginia, fellow Robinson graduate Lindsey Hardenbergh, who graduated with Courtney, has a record of 14-4 this season, with her doubles team amassing an 11-4 combined mark. The No. 20 Virginia women's tennis team is 9-2 this season, 2-0 against ACC competition.

Morley a Hit At VMI

Nearly three weeks into his collegiate baseball career, W.T. Woodson graduate Jacob Morley has surged to the top of VMI's hitting statistics. With a .311 batting average (14-for-45), Morley had the third-best such mark on the team, while his nine RBIs are good enough for third. In 25 chances from his center field position, Morley has yet to make an error. As of Tuesday morning, the Keydets were 6-7, with a 4-3 win Tuesday over Norfolk State. At W.T. Woodson last spring, Morley was named the Liberty District's Player of the Year while hitting .439 with a .621 slugging percentage and a .519 on-base percentage. He also scored 17 runs and drove in 12. Morley, who split Liberty District Player of the Year honors as a junior, has been named All-Northern Region twice.

Dominic Morra Falls Short of Record

Lake Braddock guard nearly breaks scoring record, weighs college options.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

So why is Hubert Davis, a former NBA player and current ESPN analyst, a fan of the Lee boys' basketball team? It kept his career scoring record at Lake Braddock Secondary School intact.

In his four years as a Bruin (1984-88), Davis totaled 1,604 career points. Dominic Morra, a senior guard and a four-year starter on this year's team, ended a Patriot District quarterfinal game against Lee on Feb. 17 with 1,561 career points.

With Lake Braddock on the unwanted side of a 50-48 outcome against the Lancers, Morra would subsequently lose out on two additional opportunities to break Davis' record, which would've included the district semifinal round and at least one regional

tilt.

"I'd turn on ESPN on Saturday or Sunday and it's Hubert Davis, I was just like, 'Oh, man,'" Morra said.

As it stands, Morra averaged 30 points per game this season to go along with seven rebounds and three steals per contest, while all three numbers were tops on Lake Braddock's 14-8 team. All three numbers also warranted Morra's selection as a first team All-Connection choice.

WITH ABOUT a month to go in the season, Morra remembered asking Lake Braddock director of student activities Mark Martino how close he was to matching or breaking the school record. Martino responded with a quick, "I'm not gonna tell you that."

Martino explained that his answer wasn't

intended to deny Morra the truth, but more so because he felt it was the coaching staff's responsibility to let the player know. Because with a player knowing something like that, obviously, there may be a tendency to alter a game plan or two.

Regardless, Morra never found out.

"I kind of knew what I needed," Morra said, "so I'm in class doing the math and thinking, 'What if I do that or what if I do this?'"

While Morra and Davis might sit next to each other in the Lake Braddock record book for quite a few years, their respective styles aren't nearly as similar. Davis was known primarily as a three-point shooter — he leads the Dallas Mavericks in all-time three-point percentage at .460 (249-for-

541) — and Morra, despite being only 5-foot-10, has made more of a name for himself as a distributor and a slashing, drive-to-the-basket-type player.

"He has a very high IQ for basketball and

he knows where everybody on the court is supposed to be," said South County boys' basketball coach Wendell Johnson. "He's able to put the ball anywhere he wants to on a pass."

"He's real court-savvy, a smart

player. He didn't do the same move two or three times in a row. He'd do a different move the next time, so it was always something different."

SEE JUST SHORT, PAGE 14

ZONE 2: • BURKE
• FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD

EMPLOYMENT

703-917-6464
ZONE 2 Ad DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY 11 A.M.

ZONE 2: • BURKE
• FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD

HOME & GARDEN

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM CONTRACTORS.com

703-917-6400
ZONE 2 Ad DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

TELEPHONE A great opportunity to WORK AT HOME!

NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!
301-333-1900
Weekdays 9-4

TELEPHONE A great opportunity to WORK AT HOME!

NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!
301-333-1900
Weekdays 9-4

Lifeguards/Pool Operators

Now hiring for summer season
Training provided
Call: 703-321-7040
www.continentalpools.com

MEDICAL OFFICE BOOKKEEPER

Burke. P/T, flex hrs. Exp. req'd. Immediate availability. Email resume to: fgarner@verizon.net.

SALES EXECUTIVE

110K-225K First Year
Potential Income. No travel
888-454-2057

KENNEL ATTENDANT

Compassionate, PT kennel attendant needed for busy, 4 doctor AAHA cert. animal hosp. Comp. pay, flex hrs, pd trng and friendly staff. Please call 703-451-1995 or send resume to Springfieldah@aol.com

MEDICAL BILLER

Experienced medical biller needed. 2-3 yrs experience necessary. Email resume & salary requirements to billmedresume@yahoo.com

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

Busy Chiropractic office in Fairfax seeks P/T Receptionist for Recept/Admin duties. Growth oppority. 20 plus hrs/wk. M, W, F 3-7pm, Thurs 9-5pm, Sat 9-1pm. Fluent English a must. Fax or email resume to: 703-503-5037 or dr.larmour@verizon.net

MYSTERY SHOPPERS

Mystery Shoppers earn up to \$150 a day. Under cover shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments. Exp. not req'd. Some Fees may apply. 877-699-9790

BEST CHILDCARE JOBS!

F/T, P/T, On-Call, Top Salaries
No Fees, Must be 21, Legal & Drive
References Req'd
703-838-2100
White House Nannies, Inc

AVON

Need an Extra \$500 - \$1000 per mo. to pay Bills ??
Call Sue @ 703-451-5864
Email: avonsatosell@yahoo.com
www.youravon.com/sanderson5864

DEMOCRATIC CANVASERS

Get Democrats on the Ballot! Petition signature gatherers needed across Virginia. No experience necessary. Short-term, part-time or full-time. Paid daily! Call Carl: 571-337-4263.

CUSTOMER SERVICE/ BUSINESS ANALYST

Global Dimension Solutions has immediate need for a Customer Service/Business Analyst. Perfect position for an individual seeking growth potential. We offer a close knit office environment and seek a reliable, customer service oriented individual. Apply for position at: www.equationsmarketsolutions.com or send resume to resumes@adexec.com

Home Instead SENIOR CARE

COMPANIONS & CNA'S NEEDED
Enable seniors to live independently in their own homes with our non-medical companionship and home care services. Rewarding P/T days, evenings, weekends, live-ins, medical benefits offered.
Home Instead Senior Care.
Call Today: 703-750-6665

LEASING PROFESSIONAL

Southern Management is looking for a Multi-Talented, Versatile Leasing Professional to work at their Annandale, Va. location. This position is a full-time position w/excellent benefits and a competitive salary. If you posses excellent customer service, communication skills and strong sales Bilingual w/Korean a plus! Please forward your resume to smcareers@smcmail.com or fax it to 866.277.7391 for immediate consideration.

PART-TIME OPENINGS GREAT PAY!

Immediate Openings. Ideal for students/others. Customer Sales/Svc. Flex Schedules. All ages 18+. Conditions apply.
Call 703-359-7600

Internships Available

Unusual opportunity to learn many aspects of the newspaper business. Internships available in reporting, photography, research, graphics. Opportunities for students, and for adults considering change of career. Unpaid. Call John Lovaas, 703-917-6405 or email internship@connectionnewspapers.com

CAREER TRAINING

CAD

Train for a career in computer-aided design at **Westwood College**. Call 800-342-2249 today to receive your free **Career Success Kit!**
www.westwood.edu/locations



ELECTRICAL

K & D ELECTRIC

COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated
Recessed Lighting
Ceiling Fans
Phone/CATV
Computer Network Cabeling
Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc...
Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522

CLEANING

A CLEANING SERVICE
Since 1985/Ins & Bonded
Quality Service
at a Fair Price
Satisfaction Guaranteed
Comm/Res. MD VA DC
acleaningserviceinc.com
703-892-8648

CLEANING

CARE MORE CLEANING SOLUTIONS
Residential & Commercial
10% Senior Citizen Discount
703-862-5904 or
703-780-6749
LIC.caremorecleaning.com INS

GUTTER

GUTTER

Metro Gutter

Clean/Install/Repair
• Wood Replace & Wrapping • Pressure Washing
• Chimney Sweeping & Repair
20 YEARS EXP.
703-354-4333
metroogutter.com

PINNACLE SERVICES, INC. LAWN SERVICE

MOWING, TRIMMING,
EDGING, MULCHING
& TRIM HEDGES
Group Rates Avail!
703-802-0483

MR. GUTTER

GUTTER CLEANING & REPAIRS
Townhouses \$50
Houses \$85
Ext. Painting • Power-Washing
LIC **703-323-4671** INS

HANDYMAN

HANDYMAN

RCL HOME REPAIRS

Handyman Services
Springfld • Burke • Kingstowne
Light Electrical • Plumbing •
Bathroom Renovation • Ceramic Tile •
Drywall Repair
703-922-4190
LIC. www.rclhomerepairs.com INS.

AL'S HOME SERVICES

Painting, Wallpapering,
General Repairs & Everyday Projects
Call for Free Estimates
Fairfax Station (703) 943-6928

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

RENDON REMODELING & DESIGN, LLC

PROFESSIONAL
RESIDENTIAL
REMODELING
DESIGN/BUILD
• Custom Additions, Kitchens & Bathrooms
• Custom Painting: Interior and Exterior,
Wallpaper, Drywall Repairs
www.rendonremodeling.com **703-444-3127**

IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVEMENTS

HOME REMODELING KITCHENS, BATHS, TILE, TRIM, INT. ALTERATIONS, all HOME REPAIRS!

Steve's Remodeling
LIC. • INS. BONDED Call Steve Paris OWNER OPERATED
(703) 830-5681 - 703-932-0270
30 YEARS EXPERIENCE • FREE ESTIMATES

SUPERIOR HOME SERVICES

"For all your Home Service needs"
Experts in all phases of
Home Additions and Repairs
Prompt, courteous, and FREE Estimates
Class A Licensed, Bonded and Insured
Over 30 years of local experience
Call: 703-309-7633

R.N. CONTRACTORS, INC.

Remodeling Homes, Flooring,
Kitchen & Bath, Windows,
Siding, Roofing, Additions &
Patios, Custom Deck, Painting
We Accept All Major Credit Cards
Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates
Phone: 703-887-3827 Fax: 703-803-3849
E-mail: rncontractorsinc@yahoo.com

NAVA'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

Free Estimates • Good Prices • Expert Job
• Painting • Kitchens • Power Wash
• Drywall • Bathrooms • Stain Decks
• Basements • Ceramic Tile • Additions
• Carpentry
navashomeimprovement@yahoo.com
Call Today 571-264-8034

STRONG PACE CONSTRUCTION

15 Yrs Class A VA Lic.
• Additions • Kitchens
• Basements • Comm Offices
• Decks • Painting • Drywall
• Windows & Wood Repairs
703-644-5206 • 703-750-0749

M. C. Lynch Home Improvement

Family Owned & Operated
Rotten Wood, Wind Damage, Trims,
Windows, Doors, Deck, Stairs, Vanity,
Basement Framing, Garbage Disposal,
Painting, Power Wash, Siding Repairs.
Licensed, Bonded, Insured
703-266-1233

Brian M. Sperty Remodeling Kitchens and Baths

30% less than Home Store Prices
Class A and Insured
703-791-2003
Bsperty2@comcast.net

ZONE 2 • BURKE
• FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD

HOME & GARDEN

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM CONTRACTORS.com

703-917-6400

ZONE 2 Ad DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

ZONE 2 • BURKE
• FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD

CLASSIFIED

703-917-6400

ZONE 2 Ad DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON

ELECTRICAL

DISCOUNT ELECTRIC
Mar/Apr Discount
\$48/HR.

✓Free Estimates ✓Licensed
✓Bonded ✓Insured

703-978-2813
Call 703-851-8091

HANDYMAN

SPRINGFIELD HANDYMAN

► Small Home Repairs
► Good Rates
► Experienced

703-971-2164

IMPROVEMENTS

The HANDYMAN
A DIVISION OF NURSE CONSTRUCTION

HOME INSPECTION LIST
REPAIRS, CERAMIC TILE,
PAINTING, DRYWALL,
CARPENTRY, CUSTOM
WOOD REPAIR, LT. PLUMBING &
ELECTRICAL, POWER WASHING

Since 1964

We Accept VISA/MC
703-441-8811

PAVING

GOLDY BRICK CONSTRUCTION
Walkways, Patios,
Driveways, Flagstone,
Concrete

FREE ESTIMATE
703-250-6231

GUTTER

PINNACLE SERVICES.

• GUTTER CLEANING
• SMALL REPAIRS
• SCREENING
• POWER WASHING

703-802-0483
GROUP RATES AVAILABLE
FREE EST.

HAULING

ANGEL'S TRASH HAULING
Construction Debris,
Residential, Office
& Tree Removal

703-863-1086
New#- 571-312-7227

LANDSCAPING

SPRING CLEAN-UP
Yard Work, Trees & Shrubs
Trimmed/Removed!
Mulching, Hauling,
Gutter Cleaning, etc.

Free estimates!
703-385-3338

PAINTING

PATRIOT PAINTING
INTERIOR EXTERIOR RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

www.PatriotPainting.net

Deep Winter Discounts

Free Est. • Satisfaction Guar!
Lic./Ins. Int./Ext.

703-502-7840
Cell
571-283-4883

The future comes one day at a time.
-Dean Acheson

AL'S HAULING
Junk & Rubbish
Concrete, furn., office,
yard, construction debris

Low Rates NOVA
703-360-4364

LANDSCAPING

Spring Clean-up • Planting
Mulching • Sodding • Patios
Decks • Retaining Walls
Drainage Solutions

703-863-7465

ROOFING

Roofing & Siding
(All Types)
Soffit & Fascia Wrapping
New Gutters
Chimney Crowns
Leaks Repaired
No job too small

703-975-2375

IMPROVEMENTS

A&S Construction

• Basement Finishing
• Retaining Walls • Patios
• Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions
• French Drains • Sump Pumps
• Driveway Asphalt Sealing

703-863-7465
LICENSED

ANGEL'S TREE & HEAVY TRASH HAULING

• Mulch
• Clean-up Grounds
• Leaf Removal

703-863-1086
New#- 571-312-7227

TREE SERVICE

ANGEL'S TREE & HEAVY TRASH HAULING

• Mulch
• Clean-up Grounds
• Leaf Removal

703-863-1086
New#- 571-312-7227

LAWN SERVICE

J.E.S Services
LANDSCAPE & CONSTRUCTION

• Patios • Walkways
• Retaining Walls
• Drainage Problems
• Landscape Makeovers

Call: **703-912-6886**
Free Estimates

MASONRY

JDF Masonry CO, LLC
703-283-9479
703-455-0319

◆ Bricks ◆ Blocks,
◆ Flagstone ◆ Concrete
◆ Retaining Walls

Free Est. Lic & Ins.
Affordable Prices

Light tomorrow with today!
-Elizabeth Barret Browning

MASONRY

MOTTERN MASONRY DESIGN

Specializing in Custom Stone and Brick Walkways, Patios, & Small and Large Repairs

Licensed, Insured
• Free estimates • All work guaranteed •
www.mottermasonry.com
Phone **703-496-7491**

PAINTING

SPRING SPECIAL
10% to 20% OFF All Services

Nuance Painting Inc.

Family Owned and Operated
Serving Northern Virginia for Over a Decade
Winner of American Painting Contractors Residential Top Job Award

Residential and Commercial Services
• Interior and Exterior Painting
• Faux Finishing
• Drywall Hanging, Finishing and Repairs
• Interior Moldings Crown-Chair Rail-Shadow Boxing
• Exterior Trim Repair/Replacement
• Decks cleaned and Sealed
• General Contractor Services
• For Evaluation and Consultation Call

703-437-3037
Licensed Insured
On the web at www.nuancepainting.com

We Accept
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

PAINTING

S&A PAINTING & HOME IMPROVEMENT

Interior/Exterior • Custom Paint
Power Washing • Deck Sealing
Free Estimates Lowest Prices
VA Licensed - Insured

703-495-0594, 929-9495
SA.Painting@gmail.com
Mention this ad receive 10% off

THE CONNECTION CLASSIFIED
NEWSPAPERS

Classified or Home • Lawn • Garden:
703-917-6400

Employment: **703-917-6464**
Fax: **703-917-0992**

E-mail: classified@connectionnewspapers.com

29 Misc. for Sale

101 Computers

3 RE for Rent

30 Misc. Wanted

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

HDI
EASY COMPUTER SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS & SMALL BUSINESSES
JENNIFER O. SMITH
COMPUTER CONSULTANT

► TRAINING
► INSTALLATION
► TROUBLE-SHOOTING

► LET US TAME THAT BEAST FOR YOU

Serving Area Since 1995

(703) 765-2222
JSMITHHDI@aol.com

For Rent: \$ 1,850/mo. Call 202-352-7327.
Gorgeous two bedroom suite, 3 1/2 level townhouse Burke, VA. Short walking dist. to metrobus & share-a-ride lot. Family room with gas fire place and secluded walkout patio to large hot tub. One-car garage. Large deck w/ wooded view - off second level gourmet kitchen and dining area. Large living room and separate dining also on second level. Entire third level two large master bedroom suites. 2 full/half baths. Large loft on 3 1/2 level. Partially furnished - kitchen, dining room and deck furniture. Available immediately. Cable. N/S, no pets.

Buying Vintage Sportcards
Call Ken @ 703-919-6826

102 Instruction

Tutoring by experienced tutor available weekdays/ weekends, Math, Geometry, Algebra, and Reading for Elementary, Jr. and Sr. High, in my home in the Mt. Vernon area. References available. Homeschoolers welcome. \$35/hour. Call Ann 703-360-3363.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

26 Antiques

Judy's Family Childcare
Childcare with price rate fixed. Special needs welcome 30 yrs exp. State lic. 16 yrs. Curriculum based, Low turnover/low ratio 2 teachers w/degrees Age appr activities ages 1-4
703-802-1632

Designated
"Qualified in Submarines"
JOIN



Call: Submarine Veterans Northern Virginia Base
Steve Jaeger
703-696-5354
Treasurer@USSVINOVA.org

116 Childcare Avail.

We consign/pay top \$ for antique/semi antique furn. including mid century & danish modern Teak furniture, sterling, mens watches, painting/art glass, clocks, jewelry, costume jewelry, etc. Call Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790.

21 Announcements

BURKE Childcare avail in my home, OFC Lic, FT & PT, days, evenings, Back-up care & special needs children welcome. Large yard for lots of fun! 703-569-8056

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Donate Your Car!
1-888-909-SONG(7664)

FREE TOWING • TAX-DEDUCTIBLE • BOATS ACCEPTED
Providing Personalized Songs for Seriously Ill Children

Donate and Be Entered To Win
A BRAND NEW TOYOTA COROLLA!

Thanks to:  
The Medicine of Music™
www.songsoflove.org
Se Habla Español

Featured on 60 Minutes and NBC Nightly News!

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Dutchway Pole Barns
ECONOMICAL

\$4,999! 16 x 20 x 8
\$5,499! 20 x 20 x 8

24 x 32 x 10	\$9,200	30 x 50 x 12	\$15,900
24 x 40 x 10	\$9,900	40 x 60 x 12	\$21,200
30 x 40 x 10	\$11,300	40 x 80 x 14	\$29,200

Recession Buster Specials

\$24,800! 24 x 40 x 10

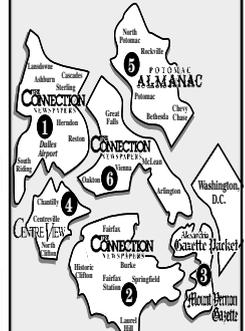
CONESTOGA Buildings
AFFORDABLE QUALITY

1-877-434-3133

www.conestogabuildings.com • www.dutchwaypolebarns.com

Employers:
Are your recruiting ads not working in other papers?

Try a better way to fill your employment openings



- Target your best job candidates where they live.
- Reach readers in addition to those who are currently looking for a job.
- Proven readership.
- Proven results.

THE CONNECTION
to your community

703-917-6464
Fax **703-917-0992**
E-mail: classified@connectionnewspapers.com
Great Papers • Great Readers
Great Results!

Do It Smart, Not Do It Yourself

FROM PAGE 3

boom a few years ago, so many realtors were getting multiple bids, so told the prospective buyers an inspection wasn't necessary."

Newer homes can have just as many faults and weaknesses as older homes, he said. When the market was hot, homes were being built so quickly, it's possible that contractors may have taken some shortcuts in order to meet their orders.

"Since I know both sides, as a builder and an inspector, I know all the tricks," Marston said. "I probably tried to get away with a few of them when I was a builder, so I know what to look for."

ANYONE LOOKING to buy a home now, whether it's a new or old home, their first purchase or their third, would benefit from having a Realtor, an insurance company and an inspector in their corner, Marston advises, in order to get the full checklist of possible problems before their dreams become nightmares.

For example, a good plumber would know to look for polybutylene plumbing, a kind of piping that was popular in the 1970s through early 1990s but was problematic and easily caused leaks. A class-action lawsuit replaced pipes in some homes, but as of earlier this year, any pipes that leak now are solely the responsibility of the homeowner and most insurance companies won't cover damages because polybutylene pipes are a "known problem," Marston said.

"Most Realtors and home inspectors would agree that polybutylene plumbing is something that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later simply because eventually the system will indeed have problems," said John Griffith of Plumbing Express.

The bad pipes "aren't necessarily a deal killer, because in fact there is a quick and simple way to replace the piping such that the home actually improves in overall value," he said. "A motivated seller will, in most cases, work with qualified buyers to negotiate some, if not all, of the associated costs out of the sale price."

The homeowner can replace the pipes if he or she has the necessary experience or training, but Griffith suggests using a contractor to ensure the job is done — and paid for — once.

"The toughest things about repairing polybutylene is that when you temporarily repair one section of piping, you take the risk of agitating a completely different section of the system, which simply means

more time and money will be spent repairing more leaks," he said.

WHEN LOOKING for a professional plumber, Griffith recommends some basic tips, including telling the homeowners to trust their instincts. He also recommends the homeowner look into the background of the company they're considering to see if there are any criminal complaints against the company; asking for references and realizing if a company seems to good to be true, it probably is.

As for taking the time to appear on Marston's show, Griffith said it's a service for the community.

"I truly think that the premise of providing information instead of instruction is the best way to present a show dedicated to issues surrounding the

home inspection process," he said. "By providing information rather than instruction, the show can remain a third party, a true private inspector for the people rather than a promoter of products or services. Listeners can be at ease in knowing that they're only going to get a full range of information that they can then act on in whatever way they feel is appropriate. ... I agreed to be on the show because I saw a genuine opportunity to help people faced with the troubling issues of defective plumbing (and) I'd gladly be a guest in the future."

Bad pipes aren't the only hidden hazard in homes, however. While lead paint and asbestos were outlawed after they were found to be hazardous to people's health, some older homes might still have those materials in their walls, ceilings and cabinets.

Older homes are still more likely to have these products, but as a parent himself, Fred Heppner of Heppner and Associates and chair of the Virginia Board of Asbestos, Lead and Home Inspectors, would still be wary of painted toys or household products that are imported, especially for young children, and some newer homes still use products that contain asbestos.

"There are over 600 products made today with asbestos-containing materials but they are not easily released into the environment," Heppner said. "Older homes had many products that contained asbestos fibers that would be released and were used in vinyl floor backings, drywall mud and flooring adhesives as well as insulating products like paper duct wrap, pipe insulation and attic insulation."

The best, and possibly only way, to successfully remove asbestos is to hire a professional, Heppner said.

"Most of my work as a home inspector is working with buyers of new or existing houses and condos," he said. "Occasionally, a seller will contact me to inspect their house before they put it on the market. They

are not necessarily planning to fix things, they just want to know what is wrong, what another home inspector might say and approximately how much the repairs might cost. Standards language in a real estate contract has the seller agreeing to have all electric, plumbing, heating, air conditioning and appliances delivered in 'normal working order.'"

While Heppner mostly finds suspected materials in older homes, he admits that he can find problems in newer homes, especially "if the buyer did not have a home inspection when the house was built. As good as our local building inspectors are — and they are some of the best around — they are not spending the three or more hours in the house that a home inspector would."

So what do inspectors look for when they investigate a house?

While some potential buyers might be tempted by offers of a free evaluation by the contractor building the

home, that evaluation might end up costing a lot more in the long run, said Jim Funkhouser, president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors and president of the board of directors for the Examination Board of Professional Home Inspectors.

"The downside to that way of thinking is that the home inspector isn't trying to sell the homeowner anything and can prioritize repairs and be available to help the homeowner sort through work proposals," Funkhouser said.

BUYING A home can be an overwhelming process, whether it's a first-time experience of the second or third time around. Having an inspection each time is a wise investment, Funkhouser said, because "making good, sound decisions about the biggest purchase you will ever make is hard under these circumstances."

Like the other experts, Funkhouser applauds Marston for his intentions with the show.

"Mr. Marston is providing a venue to keep people up to date on the current nature of home buying, home inspection and home maintenance. The more aware you are about the needs of a house and the potential pitfalls of home buying, the better off you are to have a satisfying, safe outcome with your home."

Marston hopes people will begin to watch the show and take the advice given to heart.

"As an inspector, you can't tell someone whether to buy a house or whether to keep looking. All we can do is provide the information to help them make an educated decision. Based on the information I provide, it's up to the potential buyer to make the rational decision to go through with the purchase or find another house."

"Most purchasers don't understand inspections at all."

— Reggie Marston

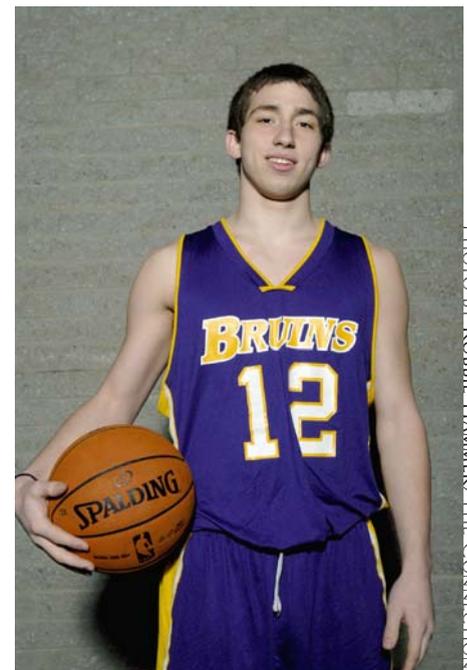


PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock senior Dominic Morra, first team All-Connection pick, averaged 30 points, seven rebounds and three steals per contest for the Bruins (14-8) this season.

Just Short

FROM PAGE 11

So all of these qualities should have Division-I colleges and universities stumbling all over themselves to sign Morra for the 2009-10 season, right? Not quite. Though he has a standing offer to walk on at The Citadel, interest by other Division-I schools for Morra could be described as mild at best.

But Morra isn't complaining. Like many of the challenges he has encountered at Lake Braddock, including leading a team this season on which he was the only senior and the Bruins' tallest player was 6-3, Morra has embraced the recruiting situation — or lack of it — as a challenge.

Morra knows that he could likely make the team as a walk-on at some Division-I schools but that just may not suit his style. Ever since he has arrived at Lake Braddock, the bench has been about the only place on the basketball court where Morra hasn't been.

"A lot of people have sat for two years and maybe made it into the lineup the third year," Morra said. "I know at some of the Division II and Division III schools I'd get more playing time, and be less of a role player and more of a major player. Starting all four years, that's one of my main concerns just because I've never been on the bench."

He knows that playing four years at a perennially-successful program such as Lake Braddock stands for something. He also knows that he has a lot to offer a potential suitor, should he fine one.

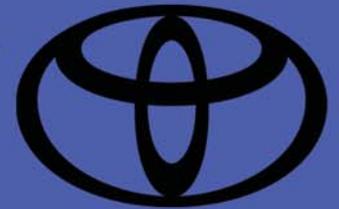
"I grew up playing against [O'Connell's] Kendall Marshall and [Gonzaga College's] Tyler Thornton my whole life and they're going to North Carolina and Duke," Morra said. "So I was growing up against the competition that is going to the best and I think I can play against them."

More

"The House P.I." radio show can be heard every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. on the Fairfax Public Access Web site, www.fcac.org/webr. The radio show is simulcast on Cox Digital and Verizon FIOS, television channel 37, Comcast television channel 27. To ask questions, call 703 560-8255 or send an e-mail to the House P. I. at pi@thehousepi.com.

JACK TAYLOR'S ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

FANTASTIC DEALS!



CELEBRATING OVER 35 YEARS OF BUSINESS!

WWW.ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM

THE ALL NEW VENZA HAS ARRIVED!



GREAT DEALS ON ALL HYBRIDS!

NEW '09 PRIUS



GOT MPG? WE DO!

NEW '09 CAMRY



NEW '08 HIGHLANDER



FANTASTIC LEASES!

GREAT FINANCING OPTIONS!

UP TO \$4,500 CUSTOMER CASH BACK!*

NEW '09 CAMRY



NEW '08 SOLARA CONVERTIBLE



NEW '09 YARIS



NEW '09 MATRIX



NEW '09 COROLLA



(703) 684-0700 WWW.ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM OPEN SUNDAY 12-5

3750 Jefferson Davis HWY Alexandria, VA South of Reagan National on Rt. 1

PRICES PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT: \$720 ON CARS AND \$745 ON LT. TRUCKS, & \$379 PROCESSING FEE. INCLUDES ALL INCENTIVES. *CUSTOMER CASH PROVIDED BY CAT. **EPA HIGHWAY FUEL ESTIMATE. OFFER EXPIRES C.O.B. 3/31/09. ***\$1799 DUE AT SIGNING. NO SECURITY DEPOSIT. TAX, TAGS & INSURANCE ARE EXTRA. FOR YARIS: MODEL 1421 ONLY. 3 DOOR, MANUAL. OFFER ENDS 3/31/09.

CHECK OUT OUR PRE-OWNED VEHICLES!

'01 HONDA CRV AWD	\$ 7,995
'06 FORD TAURUS	\$ 7,875
'07 NISSAN VERSA	\$ 9,885
'09 COROLLA ALLOYS, SPLR	\$13,995
'07 PRIUS EXLNT CONDTN	\$15,995

'07 YARIS 28K 2DR	\$10,995
'07 CIVIC 2 TO CHOOSE	\$13,995
'05 ALTIMA AUTO	\$11,895
'05 COROLLA LE 20K	\$10,975
'06 LANCER LOW MILES	\$ 8,995



XD



TC



XB





LONG & FOSTER® # 1 in Virginia

703-425-8000



JIM WHITFIELD and CYNDEE JULIAN

703-503-1830

TopAgent@Realtor.com

Success Built on Trust through Excellent Service!



Open Sunday 1-4

Centreville \$259,900
 "Pottery Barn" BEAUTIFUL End Unit on quiet cul de sac backing to parkland! Open floor plan incl sunny eat-in kitchen, sep Dining area & spacious LR w/ French door leading to large, private deck. Finished LL Rec Rm features fireplc, ample storage & w/o to fenced, landscaped yard. Updated and Fabulous!

Call Cyndee at 703-503-1830

BETTY BARTHLE

703-425-4466

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
 e-mail: betty@bettybarthle.com
 website: www.bettybarthle.com



Waterford, VA \$799,000
 Stunning colonial 4 yrs old- 4 bdrms - 3 1/2 baths - 3 car garage - 2 story FR & foyer - den - sunrm - MBR sitting room. Gorgeous mountain & wooded views!

Ron & Susan Associates

Ron Kowalski & Susan Borrelli
 Make the Right Move
1-888-495-6207
 ronandsusanonline.com



Woodbridge \$949,900
Absolutely Stunning!
 4BR, 4.5BA home on 5-acre cul-de-sac lot! Gourmet kitchen, bonus sunroom, new screened-in porch, finished rec room, and much more!
 For 24-hour recorded information, call 1-888-495-6207 x 233



CALL JUDY SEMLER

703-503-1885

judys@longandfoster.com
 www.JudysHomeTeam.com



Springfield \$544,777
 Gorgeous colonial backing to parkland. 3 finished levels, wood floors, updated kitchen & baths, walkout rec room with wet bar, large deck with hot tub. Outstanding location near shopping, restaurants & schools.
 Call Judy to visit 703-503-1885.



Springfield \$385,000
 Colonial with 3 finished levels backing to woods. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, deck, 2 car garage.
 Call Judy to visit at 703-503-1885.



Kinder Saund
 Bilingual Realtor & Green Ambassador
 GreenRealtor@cox.net
703-278-8885

Pat Rehill
 Associate Broker, Certified Appraiser
703-503-1993



Fairfax Station \$640,000
COMING SOON!
 Updated Colonial on 1/2 acre. New kitchen with granite, new paint throughout, updated carpeting makes this a wonderful choice.

The Holleman Team

Specializing in Bryce Mountain Resort
(703) 503-1813



PRICE REDUCED!! \$159,000
 3 BR/3 BA 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 D.C. Call the Holleman Team today to view this great community in the heart of Shenandoah County!!



David Billups & Virginia Clark-Billups
 Associate Brokers, Lifetime NVAR Top Producers
703-690-1795
 BillupsTeam.com



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

Laura Baranek
703-380-8993

Working For You!



Burke Centre \$1600
 Beautiful 3BR/2BA with one car garage. Recently replaced carpet and fresh paint. Living room/dining room on main level. Fully finished basement with fireplace, walk out to deck and wooded backyard. Washer and dryer in property.
 Call Laura for a private showing. 703-380-8993



Buzz & Courtney Jordan

Your Local Father/Daughter Team!
703-503-1866 or 703-503-1835
 TheJordanTeam@longandfoster.com
 www.TheJordanTeam.com



Fairfax City \$399,900
LOCATION
 4 fin levels/4 bedrooms/1.5 baths
 New windows & doors/new carpet/
 Refinished Hrdwd floors/gas heat & Water
 *Close to GMU & Fairfax City
 * Nice corner lot*Vacant and ready to go
 Call for an appointment to see
Buzz Jordan 703-503-1866

Steve Childress

"Experience...with Innovation!"

Life Member NVAR Top Producer
 Buyer Broker since 1973!
703-981-3277



BURKE CENTRE \$324,850
BEAUTIFULLY RE-MODELED!
LEASE/PURCHASE PLAN AVAILABLE
 Shows like a model home! 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs! Contemporary style TH style home w/ NEW Dishwasher, NEW HARDWOOD FLOORS on main level, NEW w/w carpet on upper level, NEW paint throughout! LARGE WOOD DECK w/ Storage shed, ICEMAKER Refrigerator, NEW dishwasher, window treatments, washer/dryer, and MORE! Robinson HS District. Close to all amenities. Quick Possession is OK & OWC Rental!
 Call Steve Childress NOW at 703-981-3277.



ANN & HAL GRAINGER, CRS

Assoc. Broker, 31+ Years of RE Experience
 Top 1% Nationwide - Lifetime Member NVAR Top Producer
703-503-1870

ann.grainger@longandfoster.com



Clifton/Frosty Meadows \$899,900
Great New Price!
 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.



Fairfax Station \$1,824,000
Timeless Elegance!
 Quality custom home built in Jeffersonian architectural style & design, on beautiful 5 acre parcel. 5 BR, 5.5 BA, 3 car gar. Heated pool w/flagstone patio. Australian cypress hwdw flrs., Italian granite kitchen counters, Kolbe windows, Schoenbek chandeliers. Everything top of the line!
 See this property at www.GraingerTeam.com.



Barbara Nowak & Gerry Staudte

"My Virginia Home Team"
703-503-1802, 703-503-1894
 gerry.staudte@longandfoster.com
 www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com



Springfield \$639,500
Convenient to Metro
 This 4 BR, 2.5 BA Colonial features gourmet Kit w/ Work Island, 5-burner gas cook top, dbl wall oven & granite counters. First floor hardwoods, large MBR w/luxury MBA & 2 W/I closets, and much more!

Catie & Steve

Direct: **703-278-9313**

Cell: **703-362-2591**

NVAR Top Producers
 Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club



Springfield mid \$300K's
 This 5 bd/3ba house in Monticello Woods is HUGE and ideal for a large family. Two large additions, plus a garage, with a country kitchen, beamed ceilings, rec room and family room and a den. Also has a large covered patio and deck. Walk to Springboard pool, park, schools and just a 3 minute drive to the metro station. A great home, at a great price in a great community.
 Call Catie, Steve & Associates today to see. 703-278-9313

LISTING YOUR HOME? CALL LONG AND FOSTER'S #1 OFFICE!
 Call Dale Gabardy at 703-425-8000 • Email: gabardy@longandfoster.com