

First baseman Kayla Reisinger makes a catch during South County's scrimmage against Centreville Wednesday, March 11. Reisinger hit .371 with 10 RBIs for the Stallions last spring.

Saudi Academy To Expand

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Charges in Lorton Murder

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Diamond Girl

SPORTS, PAGE 18



CALENDAR, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY JASON MACKAY/THE CONNECTION

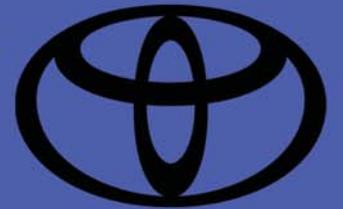
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School Plan Elicits Concern

Saudi Academy seeks to expand campus in Fairfax Station.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Since 1984, the Islamic Saudi Academy has run a school for some 300 pre-kindergarten through first grade students in Fairfax Station. It now wants to significantly enlarge its operation, and nearby residents worry about the resulting traffic increase.

"It takes five to 10 minutes to get out of our neighborhood onto Popes Head Road in the morning," said John Marino, Glendilough Homeowners Association president. "Any more traffic would be intolerable."

He was among about 70 residents gathered Tuesday, March 10, in the West Springfield Government Center to learn more about the plans and express their concerns. Originally approved for 605 students, the school is on 34 acres at Route 123 and Popes Head Road and needs a special-exception permit from Fairfax County before it can expand.

"Another campus, for grades two through



Hazel Rathbun, standing, makes a point while Sherry Keramidis, on left, and the others listen.

12, is in the Mount Vernon District, and they want to consolidate both campuses in one location," said land-use attorney Lynne Strobel, representing the school. "It makes sense for better education. But they've reduced the number of proposed students from 700 to 500."

Three, one-story buildings are currently on the property; two — 5,212 and 3,219

square feet — would remain, and an 8,976-square-foot structure is proposed for replacement by a new, two-story, 103,000-square-foot building to accommodate the additional gym, classrooms, library and auditorium needed for the older students.

"There's 50 percent, undisturbed open

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 11

Performing a Cook Family Business

For Ben, Emma and Katherine Cook, the world is full of acting and dancing.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Benjamin Cook has been performing since before he was born, in one way or another.

The 11-year-old Lorton Station Elementary student, who recently finished playing Todd Lincoln in "The Heavens Are Hung in Black" at Ford's Theater, made his unofficial debut, along with his twin sister, Emma, *in utero*, when his mother Jill Cook had a role in "Annie Get Your Gun" in a North Carolina community theater.

In fact, all four Cook children, including older sister Katherine and brother Nicholas, who lives in North Carolina, are talented singers, dancers and performers. That makes for a busy week for Jill and Glenn Cook, who shuttle their children from school to Landsdowne, where they take multiple dance classes four days each week.

Katherine and Emma Cook prefer dancing, while Ben Cook feels more comfortable singing and acting. All three will have roles in an upcoming production of "Annie" at the

Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, playing orphans and members of the chorus.

"I'm really excited because it's my first part ever," Emma Cook said. She doesn't think she'll get too nervous because she'd been on stage several times before, for dance recitals.

"Sometimes I get nervous after, when it's done," she said. But she loves to dance, especially jazz and hip-hop, because of the freedom of expression and movement it allows her.

Katherine Cook, on the other hand, prefers ballet. She's taking point classes, wearing the iconic pink toe shoes. She likes the slower,

more thoughtful music she dances to, because it better fits her personality.

"I process things more slowly and feel slow music better than fast music," she said. She started taking classes when she was just 2 1/2-years old and now, at 12, she takes classes nearly every day.

"My mom used to dance and that inspired me to try it," Katherine Cook said.

Then there's Ben, who his parents believe was born to be onstage.

"Ben's got moxie."

— Linda Townsend



Benjamin Cook of Lorton, left, recently appeared with David Selby in the Ford's Theatre production of 'The Heavens Are Hung in Black.'

Both Jill and Glenn Cook have performed in the past, and Glenn Cook said his wife is the more talented of the two. "She has a

SEE THOSE TALENTED, PAGE 4

Murder Arrest

Police believe 33-year-old killed Lorton teenager.

Montgomery County Police suspect Tracy Bailey, 33, killed 14-year-old Lorton resident, Davonn Denise Dupree, inside his Silver Spring apartment before placing her body under a stairwell of another apartment complex a short distance away.

Montgomery County Police discovered Davonn Dupree's body on Nov. 18, 2008, about 1:30 a.m., in a stairwell of an apartment building on the 13800 block of Castle Blvd.

"The two were known to one another, and the motive for the murder was Bailey's fear that Dupree would call police after he had struck her," according to Montgomery County Police.

Bailey, who had been a suspect in the murder since November, turned himself into Montgomery County Police at police headquarters on Thursday, March 12. Bailey, of the 13900 block of Castle Blvd. in Briggs Chaney, Md. is charged with first-degree murder.

Davonn Dupree was a student at South County Secondary School. Her last known address was Hagel Circle in Lorton.

She had been reported as a runaway to Fairfax County Police in late October, according to Montgomery County Police.

About 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 18, Montgomery County Police received calls about suspicious activity on Castle Boulevard.

Montgomery County Police received 911 calls, one from an individual who said it looked like two men were carrying a body into the apartment complex, said police.

Detectives wanted to speak with the male caller who initially reported the incident as well as two occupants of a red Lexus that was reported to be in the area around the time of the emergency call, according to police reports at the time.

"When the investigation began, detectives put out a request through the media to speak with the man who originally called 911 to report suspicious activity in the area. It has now been determined that it was Bailey, for

SEE DUPREE, PAGE 9

Prostitution, Other Charges Alleged at Two Locations

Fairfax County Police officers and zoning inspectors received information on Friday, March 13, about two locations allegedly operating massage parlors without proper permits. Authorities went to 4208 Evergreen Lane, No. 231 and discovered that Sun Cocker, 61, of the 9007 block of Weatherly Way in Lorton, was reportedly operating one of the establishments. She was charged with operating a massage parlor without a license and with not having a massage permit. Cocker was released on a summons.

The second massage parlor was discovered at 6201 Leesburg Pike, No. 400, and police arrested three women. Qi Yang, 38, of Flushing, N.Y., was charged with one count of prostitution, residing in or keeping a bawdy place and operating a massage parlor without a permit.

Jun Wang, 39, of the 4100 block of Marble Lane in Fairfax, and Main Chong, 41, of Flushing, N.Y., were both charged with one count of prostitution, residing in or keeping a bawdy place, operating a massage parlor without a permit and not concealing an erogenous area. All three were taken to the Adult Detention Center.



Main Chong



Jun Wang



Qi Yang

POLICE PHOTOS

Workhouse Kicks Off Film Screenings on March 21

The Lorton Arts Foundation launches the Workhouse Film Institute and its first in a series of movie screenings and educational film programming with a screening of the HBO movie "Iron Jawed Angels," on Saturday, March 21, at 7 p.m. The film documents the struggles of the women suffragists who fought for the passage of the 19th amendment. In commemoration of Women's History Month, the film will screen at the Workhouse in Gallery W-16, second floor, with a free reception beginning at 6 p.m. and a full day of children's workshops preceding the screening. The Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. For more information, visit www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Correction

The article "Federation Mulls Middle School Plans" [Connection, March 12-18, 2009] contained an error. At the Tuesday, March 10, South County Federation meeting, Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck told the group that citizens at a recent meeting voted on the name of the new elementary school being built in Lorton. The name to receive the most votes was "Laurel Hill Elementary." The top three voter-getters were submitted to the FCPS superintendent. The School Board will vote on the name at its April 2 meeting, with Storck moving to adopt Laurel Hill Elementary as the school's official name.

Connolly Hosts Open House

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) is hosting an open house at his Annandale office on Saturday, March 21, from 1-3 p.m. SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 9

Those Talented Cooks

FROM PAGE 3

beautiful voice and great range," he said. "She's really amazing. Jill performed as a child and throughout her teens and 20s in school, in college and some professionally. We first got together performing in 'Annie' (Little Orphan Annie, not Annie Oakley) while we both worked in Rockingham County, N.C., and did several shows with the community group there, with Jill in lead roles in many of them," he said.

BEN COOK is an energetic child, spending his days in school, then running off to dance class or rehearsal.

"The only time I get bad grades is when I'm unemployed," he laughed, meaning the rare time between acting jobs.

His most recent performance was more like school than work, he said, because he learned a lot about Abraham Lincoln that many people may not know, like "his dreams and fantasies and how stressed he was as the Civil War started. Everyone thought the North was going to lose and the South was going to win and he was really worried," Ben Cook said.

While he had to do both school and rehearsal at the newly renovated Ford's Theater for "The Heavens Are Hung in Black," he'll get a bit of a break as he prepares for his next role, as an understudy in the upcoming Kennedy Center production of "Ragtime."

"I get to have an on-set tutor," he said happily. Rehearsals will be from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., and Ben Cook and the other boys in the cast will have to maintain a certain grade point average in order to keep their work permits that allow them to perform. He's excited to go to school in his dressing room.

Acting and dancing are Ben's favorite things to do onstage and off, which is helpful considering he splits his time between the two activities.

But it is the theater that he really loves, and it seems to love him too.

Stephen Rayne said Ben Cook was one of the first young actors he auditioned for the role of Tad Lincoln in "The Heavens Are Hung in Black." With his resume preceding him, Rayne said casting him was an easy decision.

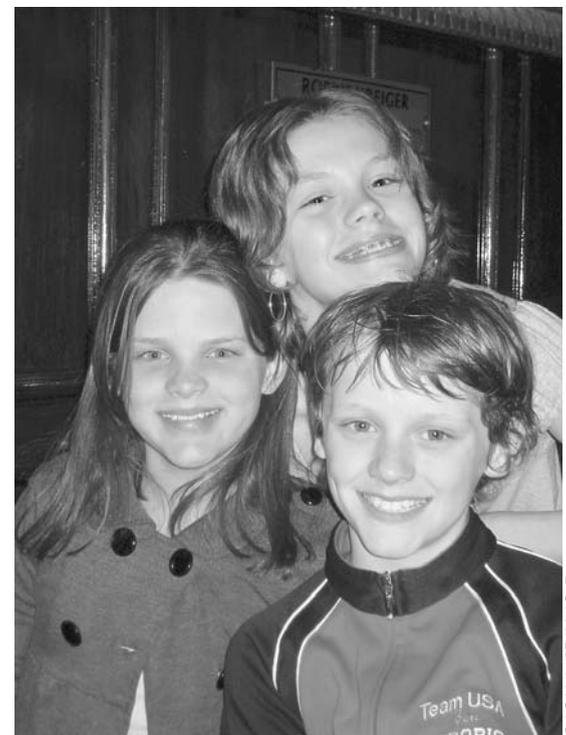
"Not only was he exactly the right age and size for the part, he showed a quick mind and undoubted talent from the get-go. No one else came close for the part."

The young actor was "easy to direct," and displayed "a confidence and wit beyond his years," making him a favorite among his older castmates.

As Ben Cook gets older, his small size will make him eligible for playing parts younger than his real age, which will expand the roles offered to him. His background in dance will make him valuable as well, Rayne said.

FOR AN 11-year-old, Ben Cook has a resume that would impress many actors twice his age. For example, the aspiring actor has already performed at both the Ford's Theater and the Folger Shakespeare Theater, appearing in last year's production of "Macbeth" as one of two child actors in the show which was directed by Teller, the silent part of the illusion duo Penn and Teller.

Additionally, Ben Cook has played Tiny Tim in "A Christmas Carol" twice at Ford's Theater, his first major dancing role was in the Metropolitan Fine Arts



The three young performers of the Cook family are, from left, Emma, Katherine and Ben.

DONATED PHOTO

Center's production of "The Lion King," dancing to a song called "Who Let the Frogs Out."

"It was his first time to, as his sisters say, 'show off' in front of a big crowd. And he just wowed them. You could not take your eyes off of him," mom Jill Cook said.

"That's when I knew, at least, that he was going to be a performer. And everything has just gone on from that," dad Glenn Cook said.

Ben's parents have decided to support his goals of pursuing a career in the theater, at least for now, because they feel it's something he enjoys and it doesn't seem to take away from his schoolwork.

Ben's agent Linda Townsend agrees that their son just might have a real shot at making a name in the theater.

"Ben is just full of energy," said Townsend, an agent with 36 years representing actors of all ages. "He absolutely loves what he's doing. He walks into the room and it's his."

But it's the love of acting, the love of performing, his love of people that will help keep Ben going as he tries new roles, takes on new challenges and keeps propelling him to new adventures, Townsend said.

"Ben's got moxie," Townsend laughed. "When it's time to buckle down and learn his lines and blocking, when he's not on stage during a rehearsal, he's occupying his time quietly. But he's joyful on stage. It wouldn't surprise me a bit if he ended up doing something similar to the little boy who played Opie on 'The Andy Griffith Show' as a child," she said, referring to Ron Howard, who has bridged a career in acting to a career as a director and producer.

For now, however, all the world's a stage for Ben Cook and his sisters.

"When our brother Nicholas comes up from North Carolina, we write and put on shows for our parents and our neighbors," Ben Cook said. "We make up tickets and hand them out the day before and one of us sits up at a table and takes the tickets when they come in."

"No one else came close for the part."

— Stephen Rayne

CAMPS & SCHOOLS



PHOTO COURTESY SYDNEY SAWYER

Sixth Graders Bethany Muller (second place) and Mackenzie Schuler (first place) are the finalists in the grades 4-6 division.

Winning Bookmarks at Clifton E.S.

"My Community and Me - Safe and Drug Free" was the theme of the annual Bookmark contest sponsored by Fairfax County Public Schools Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section. Bookmarks are judged on creativity, originality, artistic impression, appropriateness to the contest theme and impact of the student's message. Winners from Clifton Elementary will now move on to compete with the winners from schools across Fairfax County. Sixth Graders Bethany Muller (second place) and Mackenzie Schuler (first place) were the finalists in the grades 4-6 division. Third graders Henry Pyzdrowski and Rachael Graine were the first and second place winners, respectively, for grades K-3.

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OPINION

Fair Market Value?

Less than a month ago, Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties, and the City of Alexandria, like other local governments, mailed each property owner a new assessment of the fair market value of the property.

What is your home's fair market value?

Most homeowners probably believe that the fair market value of their home is what they could sell it for in a reasonable period of time right now — say putting it on the market this week and allowing 30-60 days. How much would that be?

It's a tough question this year, with values dropping by more than 12 percent on average in Fairfax, nearly 15 percent in Loudoun, less than 5 percent in Alexandria and about 2 percent in Arlington.

The tax assessors base their decisions on the sales of "comparable" properties that sold in 2008, sometimes earlier. But with the number of sales down dramatically, there are sometimes very few "comparable" sales. In Fairfax County, the majority of sales are foreclosures.

But the assessors have decided that foreclosures should not be taken into consideration as a comparable sale.

This is questionable, and the exclusion of

foreclosure sales likely inflates the value of many, if not most, properties. If houses in your neighborhood have sold in foreclosure for dramatically reduced prices, does that affect the value of your house? You know it does.

The value on the piece of paper sent to your house will determine the amount of property tax you owe this year, based on the tax rate which in most places will not be precisely set until April.

Local governments' budgets, the amount of money they have to fund schools, public safety, libraries and many other services, depend directly on how much the homes in each jurisdiction are worth, based on the tax rate. This is more so in Virginia than in many other states where localities have more leeway in choosing sources of revenue. Localities in Virginia are more dependent on property taxes because the General Assembly has strictly limited their access to other taxes. In Virginia, because it is a "Dillon Rule" state, localities only have exactly the power that the General Assembly has bestowed on them.

YOU CAN APPEAL your assessment, but the deadlines are fast approaching and the bur-

Many concerns about assessing properties in Northern Virginia this year.

den of proof is entirely on the homeowner. You will need to be prepared to cite comparable sales from 2008 that justify your view of your home's fair market value. There are two possible steps to appeal, first to the local department of tax administration, then to each locality's Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization is independent of the tax assessors office; it is made up of citizens appointed by the governing board.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, the deadline to appeal to the Department of Tax Administration is April 3, and appeals to the next level must be postmarked no later than June 1. The second deadline could well roll around before a homeowner gets an answer to the administrative appeal, so it's important to engage in both processes at once.

See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/> for instructions and information.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Correct School

To the Editor:

I read your "Federation Mulls Middle School" article today. The article confuses information that I presented about the naming of the new elementary school, on which a community meeting had been held March 4, and the main discussion topic at the March 10 SCF meeting on staff's presentation of the middle school's development plans. At the March 4 community naming meeting, attendees voted overwhelmingly to recommend naming the new Laurel Hill site elementary school "Laurel Hill Elementary School." In a very distant second place was the name "Lincoln Elementary School" followed by "South County Elementary School." By FCPS regulation, three names from the community meeting were forwarded to the superintendent who in turn will forward them to the School Board for consideration and action. While I have an obvious fondness for the name "Lincoln Elementary School," I will be moving the adoption of the "Laurel Hill Elementary School" name at our April 2 Board meeting and anticipate School Board approval.

Information on this motion can be found at <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/0/6D81908428CE6AC98725757100709965?OpenDocument>.

I am not aware of any discussions to date on a specific name

for the new middle school for the South County area. By regulation, the naming process will take place after the boundaries for the school have been approved, which will likely occur in 2011.

Dan Storck

Chairman, Fairfax County School Board
Mount Vernon District

Royal Service

To the Editor:

We recently traveled to Bangalore, India on British Airways. From Bangalore, we went to Cochin, India on King Fischer Airline. The staff at the airport was courteous and attentive. They patiently answered our questions and helped us label our baggage. Although the flight to Cochin was only 80 minutes long, we were served bottled lemon water followed by a boxed breakfast. The flight attendants were polite and welcoming, and they always had smiles on their faces. Our air travel experience in and around India was one that I will not soon forget. It reminded me of what air travel in the U.S. used to be like. Perhaps our airlines in the U.S. could learn from airlines in countries like India, and bring back the royal service that we once had.

Shashi Chopra
Fairfax Station

ESSAYS

I Am Thankful For ...

BY MARIAE BECK

GRADE 6, SANGSTER ELEMENTARY

I am thankful for my little sister Natalie. She shows me that life isn't perfect and that anyone can do anything they set their mind to do. Even though she is younger and can't do everything, she still inspires me and makes me thankful for her.

Seeing her try her hardest and make the best of her life makes me think about how her life is so much harder than mine. She is a real role model for anyone. Even though she drives me crazy sometimes, she is awesome and I am thankful for her!

I Am Thankful For My Cat

BY COLLIN GLOBIG

GRADE 6, SANGSTER ELEMENTARY

I first got Yoshi when I was 3 and now I'm 11. She is an Oriental Shorthair cat with grey fur and green eyes. We have gone through good times and bad times. One of the bad times was when my baby brother Morgan cut a bit of fur off of her back; I was so mad!!!

One of the good times was when I went to Canada and Yoshi couldn't come—she stayed home with my Dad. After a month I went back and when she saw me, she jumped right into my arms. I was so happy to see her. I am thankful for Yoshi because she has made me happy for 8 years and I'm never happy unless she's with me.

I Am Thankful For...

BY CARTER MAN

GRADE 6, SANGSTER ELEMENTARY

I am thankful for my parents because they love me and

SEE ESSAYS, PAGE 7

THE CONNECTION

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John Lovaas
Special Assistant for Operations

ESSAYS

FROM PAGE 6

take care of me. Without them I would not be writing this letter right now. They not only do an excellent job taking care of me, they let me participate in fun activities like T.V., video games, and sports such as baseball, basketball, and my favorite, football.

I have Tourette Syndrome which is something in the head that causes people diagnosed with it to sometimes do stuff they don't want to. Some mothers and fathers don't accept the fact that their kids have Tourette Syndrome but my parents treat me like a normal child. They accept Tourette Syndrome. My mother participates in activities to try to find a cure for Tourette Syndrome.

They always try to make sure I am happy and I love them very much. My dad goes to work at 5:00 a.m.! He could go to work at 10:00 a.m. if he wanted to but he wants to get home early so he can be with us. I am one of the most fortunate kids in the world to have parents like mine.

I am Thankful For ...

BY MEL PATCH
GRADE 6, SANGSTER ELEMENTARY

I am thankful for all my gymnastics accomplishments. I've gone so far and worked so hard. Let me make it a little more clearer on how hard I have worked. From skin the size of quarters falling off my hands to 5-hour practices to winning the gold at the state competition, everything pays off at the end. I have learned that you just have to have your heart with it and never give up.

I have built up so much courage and so much

strength that there is no turning back and I can't be afraid anymore. Over the past years I've broken bones and pulled muscles, but everything has healed and I'm stronger than ever! I will never give up; I am so thankful!

I Am Thankful For ...

BY JOHN WILSON
GRADE 6, SANGSTER ELEMENTARY

I am thankful for the soldiers in Afghanistan and the soldiers who fight for our country. I am thankful for the people who are deployed and make us know we are safe and happy. I am thankful for them because they keep us safe. I know what it feels like because my dad is in the military and he has been deployed. It is hard to go through. However, people are very thankful for what they do. The soldiers may not know this, but people look up to them like heroes.

I'm Thankful For ...

BY PARANG LEE
GRADE 6, SANGSTER ELEMENTARY

I'm thankful for ... FOOD! Food is delicious and tasty. There are wonderful sweets that just melt in your mouth. There are some foods that are chewy, warm, and cheesy and make your taste buds go wild. Without food we will all die just drinking water, which is a disaster. Food to me is everything because it stuffs my belly, and my mouth gets a different experience from different foods. That's why I'm thankful for food.

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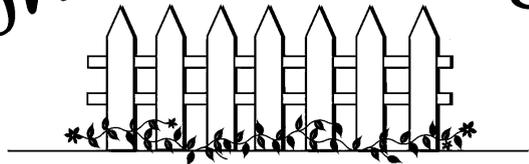
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PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLIE RAU

Clifton Elementary Students Perform at Fair Oaks Mall

Kindergarten and first grade students in the FLEX Chinese class at Clifton Elementary performed in the festivities at Fair Oaks Mall to welcome the Chinese New Year. The students told the audience Happy New Year in Chinese and then performed the dragon dance.



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NEWS



FILE PHOTO

Davonn Denise Dupree

Dupree Murder

FROM PAGE 3

unknown reasons, who called police that morning," according to Montgomery County Police.

Bailey was developed as a suspect and a warrant was obtained for him last winter. But despite a lengthy search, detectives were unable to locate him, according to police.

Bailey is currently being held without bond at the Montgomery County Detention Center.

— KEN MOORE

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 4

Everyone is invited to meet Connolly and his staff and learn about the services offered to the residents of the 11th Congressional District. Connolly's District Office is located at 4115 Annandale Road, Suite 103, in Annandale. The Annandale District Office number is 703-256-3071. A second District Office is scheduled to open soon in Prince William County. The Prince William District Office number is 703-670-4989. Connolly's District Office staff is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to assist the public in handling matters relating to the federal government. Light refreshments will be served at Saturday's open house in Annandale.

FAITH NOTES

Rev. Mike Zello Jr. will speak Sunday, March 22, 6 p.m., at the Healing Service at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. He is the director of Teen Challenge of Fredericksburg, Va. 703-383-1170. www.jccag.org.



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Big Questions about Voting

Glitch in special election, but budget crunch causes Fairfax to go without voting paper trail until 2010.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

After the polls closed last week, one voting machine reported that 724 people had used it, even though officials at the precinct had recorded only 707 people walking through the door. There was also another voting machine at Fairview, which had already tallied 348 of the 707 votes.

Fairfax County election officials ultimately concluded that supervisor-elect John Cook (R) defeated at-large school board member Ilyong Moon (D) by a slim margin of 89 votes in the Braddock District's special election March 10.

But for almost 24 hours, officials could not call the race's outcome or even determine the number of ballots cast in the election because of the malfunctioning machine at the Fairview precinct in Fairfax Station.

When the machine was cracked open a day after the election, a more appropriate number of votes, 359, showed up on a roll of tape in the "ballot log" and among the "ballot images," or digital photographs taken of each vote cast on the machine. So far, no one is disputing the results.

Election officials are still unsure of what caused the voting machine to report the wrong number of votes in the first place.

"Once we ran the ballot log and the ballot images, we saw that there were 359 actual votes on the machine. We just don't know why the machine tallied up 724. ... We have one machine with an anomaly and we don't know what caused it," said Rokey Suleman, Fairfax County registrar.

"Nothing like this has ever occurred before. We don't know if the machine malfunctioned or if we did something wrong," said Suleman.

LAST WEEK'S voting machine problems are a sign of bigger problems ahead, said cyber-security expert Jeremy Epstein and other computer scientists. Fairfax County's electronic voting machines produce no ballots or paper trail and it would be impossible to verify the number votes or what they were cast for if an

electronic voting machine malfunctioned and voting information could not be retrieved. There is no hard copy or paper "back up" system if something goes wrong.

"We are entirely reliant on the software that is in the electronic voting machines to function correctly. ... When you have been writing software for 25 years, you know that is not a good thing to do," said Epstein, senior computer scientist with the Cyber Security Research and Development Center at

"We are only using the electronic voting machines right now because of costs."

— Rokey Suleman,
Fairfax County registrar



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County's electronic voting machines do not produce a paper trail and are susceptible to program glitches, according to computer scientists who have studied the issue.

SRI International in Arlington.

Epstein, a Braddock District resident, said an overwhelming majority of computer scientists believe there should be a paper trail that can be independently verified.

"There have been many many bugs in election software over the years and, one day we may not be able to recover from it. This bug may have affected past elections and nobody ever noticed it before. It could have given the wrong number of votes to the wrong candidate and nobody noticed," said Epstein, who advocates for voting machine security both nationally and locally.

Epstein and other advocates prefer optical scan voting machines, which require people to fill out a paper ballot with a pencil before running it through a scanning tallying system. The optical scan machines leave a verifiable paper trail.

DURING LAST November's presidential and congressional elections, Fairfax County equipped each polling station with at least one optical scan machine, and gave people

the choice of using either an electronic device or the optical scan to record their votes. But the current county budget crunch led election officials to forego using optical scan machines and to rely entirely on electronic voting machines during the three special elections that have taken place in Fairfax County in 2009. Suleman said he also intends to

only use electronic voting machines with no paper options or backup during the Democratic primary for statewide races in June and the general elections, including the Governor's race, in November.

"We are only using the electronic voting machines right now because of costs. We don't have money right now for paper ballots. ... The issue is the cost of paper. You have to understand that paper is expensive," said Suleman.

ACCORDING TO

Fairfax County budget documents, the three 2009 special elections – including a House of Delegates race that affected one precinct, a countywide chairman's race in February and the Braddock election – have cost the locality an extra \$300,000 this year. Printing paper ballots for the county chairman's race alone could have driven up the price tag another \$200,000, said Suleman.

If the county is offering paper ballots to voters, it is prudent to have enough to cover a voter turnout of 100 percent, plus a little, even though that number of people is very unlikely to turn up at the polls, said Suleman. According to county records, the voter turnout in November's presidential election, which was regarded as high, was 78.7 percent. In last month's special election for county chairman, it was 16.1 percent. "That is a tremendous amount of waste in paper but you have to be prepared for every voter to show up at the polls," said Suleman.

Still there are people who said they would be more comfortable with some wasted paper ballots than electronic voting machines. "I am not surprised that it is a little bit more expensive if you consider how many people in Fairfax County are going to cast votes in the governor's race. ... It is a little surprising to me that it costs \$200,000 for 400,000 sheets of paper," said Scott Surovell, chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

Following the Braddock District election, he now expects the organization to look at a resolution calling for Fairfax County to do away with using its electronic voting machines altogether. "It is the only way to ensure that there is paper trail that reflects the voters' intent. ... The biggest concern is

that the voting machines can have malfunctions as they get older and may not reflect the voters' intent or record the votes correctly," said Surovell.

Epstein, who talks to people from all over the country about issues regarding voting machines, the voting machine malfunction in the Braddock district election could be the most serious malfunction noticed in the country so far.

"Nobody in the United States has seen anything like this. It is screaming and shouting that something is definitely wrong. ... I wasn't surprised that [the malfunction happened] but I was surprised how egregiously wrong it was," he said.

"We are entirely reliant on the software that is in the electronic voting machines to function correctly. When you have been writing software for 25 years, you know that is not a good thing to do."

— Jeremy Epstein, computer security expert

AS A SECONDARY issue, Surovell said he is also concerned about going through next fall's elections with only electronic voting machines because they take longer for voters to use than optical scan machines.

In November 2008, both Surovell and Suleman credited some of the success of the Presidential Election Day and its huge turnout to the fact that voters were given the option to use optical scan machines, allowing lines to move more quickly. Widespread

absentee voting at nearly a dozen locations helped as well, but that is unlikely to be available this November, also due to budget constraints.

"I am worried about moving people through the line on Election Day [in November 2009]. The registrar's office has proposed cutting out all satellite absentee voting which will make the lines on election day horrific," said Surovell.

Eventually, Fairfax will have to move away from electronic voting machines and toward an entirely optical scan system.

In 2007, Clifton Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) moved a bill through the Virginia General Assembly that prohibited localities from purchasing new electronic voting machines, requiring them to buy optical scan equipment when the electronic devices break down. Following the 2000 presidential election problems in Florida, Hugo chaired a bipartisan commission in Virginia that investigated the risks of electronic voting machine equipment.

"As someone who has both won and lost an election, it is OK to lose but you need to know that you truly lost. ... It will ensure the integrity of the voting system and the integrity of each vote to have a paper ballot," said Hugo.

"If the voter is not sure and doesn't feel confident that his vote was counted, then he will lose confidence in the entire system," he added.

Neighbors React to Academy Proposal

FROM PAGE 3

space, and 83 percent including the playfield," said Strobel. "And we've centrally located the improvements to protect the perimeter buffering. Students will be bused, and there's parking for vehicles and buses. The basketball court will be re-vegetated, but we're adding hard- and soft-surfaced play areas and will keep the soccer field." She said county staff recommends approval and the new building would be residential in character, compatible with "the fabric of the community."

Dr. Mark Appleton said he's lived next to the school for 11 years and describes them as wonderful neighbors. "I only hear children laughing and playing. My concern is that high-school students will be there later than the 3 or 4 o'clock now because of after-school sports and activities. And what about lights at night?" Strobel said the fields won't be lit, the only sports would be soccer, basketball and volleyball, and just soccer would be outdoors.

Another neighbor, Beech Ridge Civic Association President Sherry Keramidas said residents created a stream that, because of development, now contains silt and garbage and flows under their property and "We're concerned about it." She also disputed the school ever being approved for 600 students.

Despite county conclusions that an enlarged campus would pose a "negative differential" to traffic and water quality, she said, "We beg to differ. We have deep concerns about the traffic and environment. If you live in Beech Ridge and travel on Popes Head to get to [Route] 123, traffic is backed up in the morning, so there's some erroneous thinking in the staff report."

Keramidas said the traffic study was done 18 months ago and traffic on Popes Head has only increased since then. But Strobel said all the studies were based on the proposed 500 students. She said the stream isn't in a Resource Protection Area, but "We've provided a 50-foot buffer around it to preserve it and protect its integrity."

"Most of the Occoquan Watershed is in the Springfield District, so the environmental analysis is rigorously reviewed," said



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Bob Bosco, with VIKA, the civil-engineering firm consulting on the overall project, discusses traffic in relation to the site.

Springfield District Planning Commissioner Pete Murphy.

Dave Schnare, who has a Ph.D in environmental management and chairs the Occoquan Watershed Coalition's land-use committee, said,

"This is, by far, the most environmentally friendly application I've seen and I've been doing this a long time. The percentage of impervious surface is much smaller than the minimum amount

acceptable. OWC supports [this proposal] and would like this to be considered a model for future development in the Occoquan Watershed."

Still, traffic concerns dominated the meeting's discussion. Appleton's wife, Laurie, said, "We have six, different schools coming up and down [Route] 123, four times a day — 11,800 students on that two-lane [Popes Head] road — plus the private-school kids. And many are new drivers. How could there be safety and wellbeing for anyone there?"

Larry Sefcik of Wells & Associates, work-

ing with VDOT on this project, said the 1.64-mile stretch of Popes Head from Route 123 to the Fairfax County Parkway has less accidents than the Northern Virginia average. He said that just 3.5 accidents/year occurred there between 2004-08.

But residents said it's only because most of them aren't reported. The Appletons said police are there monthly and it takes three officers to nab all the speeders. Ha-

zel Rathbun, who lives along Popes Head related several harrowing tales.

"I've had three people die within 200 yards of my house," she said. "People are speeding there, and they've flipped upside down and landed in my pond. The police acknowledge that they only [hear about] a percentage of the accidents that actually occur. Some just drive off."

"We've just filled in indentations from a truck that ended up in our yard in the snow, and it wasn't reported," said Rathbun. She also described a near-miss accident between a vehicle and a stopped school bus with red,

flashing lights. "And what's the guarantee that the children will ride the bus?" she asked. "They might drive their own cars or be driven by their parents."

Strobel said the applicant would put in a left-turn lane where buses will turn in to the school and "we're widening the road there so buses won't stop on Popes Head Road. And there's adequate sight distance at our entrance — which is also the current access."

Carl Beveridge, who lives on Drane's Tavern, said, "We check four times before we dare pull out. And there's erosion on the side of the road where people go off, over-correct and pull back across the road."

Furthermore, less than a quarter mile from the school, a blind hill looms on Popes Head. "Cars come over the hill flying and there's potential for an accident," said Glendilough's Marino. "And if somebody's on the other side, you have to slam on your brakes. So if cars are backed up trying to get into the school, people coming over the hill won't see them — and it's a recipe for disaster."

Agreeing, neighbor Peter Wathen said, "The only way to justify this is to make Popes Head four lanes from 123 to the school. Students will come from the Parkway down a dangerous mile to that school entrance."

But transportation planner Chuck Almqvist with the county's Office of Transportation said the blind hill shouldn't be a problem because "based on demographics, almost all the students live east of the campus. They'll enter Popes Head via 123 from the east and that blind hill is on the west side of the campus, so it'll only get 5-10 percent of the trips."

NEVERTHELESS, Keramidas didn't want "noise coming from the [athletic] fields at all hours" and worried about the school's septic system failing and "overflowing onto our property." Because of the noise, traffic and environmental issues, she said the project would "deeply impact our quality of life and potentially drive down our property values."

The matter was slated for a Planning Commission public hearing Wednesday, March 18.

"We have deep concerns about the traffic and environment."

—Sherry Keramidas, Beech Ridge Civic Association president

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

FCPS Shrinks Request for More Funds

Due to an influx of federal and state funds, mostly from U.S. Congress' stimulus package, Fairfax County Public Schools will not be requesting quite as much money from the county as it had initially anticipated.

Schools superintendent Jack Dale had intended to ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for \$56.8 million

more for his 2010 budget than the approximately \$2.2 billion he received in operating funds for this year. Now, Dale has said the school system will only request an additional \$25 million.

"Even if you were able to give us [the extra money], there are still going to be a lot of cuts to this budget," said Dale at a joint meeting of the supervisors and School Board members March 16.

Fairfax County is facing a \$650 million gap in next year's budget overall. The superintendents came a few weeks after Fairfax County executive Tony Griffin laid out his budget proposal for 2010, which

included a flat transfer and no additional funding for the school system.

With the additional \$25 million factored in, Dale said the school system will still be forced to freeze employee compensation and to eliminate 800 positions, though nearly two-thirds of the positions that would disappear will come from eliminating vacant positions rather than layoffs.

Some of the eliminated positions will come from areas like special education, alternative education and career and technical education, said Dale.

The superintendent expects the caseload for psychologists, social workers and guid-

ance counselors to increase by 10 to 15 percent.

The eliminated positions also means the average class size will increase by half a student at the elementary school level and cause more mixed level classes, where students in two different grades have the same teacher.

At the middle school level, Dale expects classes to grow larger and, in high school, families will see a loss of smaller, specialty classes in programs like special education and the academies.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/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.

Kites, 4 p.m. at the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Let's make a kite. Age 6-12. 703-971-0010.

Comedy Night at Jaxx with Justin Kincaid and Friends, 8 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$5. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

The Russian National Ballet Theatre in "Cinderella," 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier

III. Tickets are \$27-\$54. Age 12 and under, half price Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.
Dave Berry, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.

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.

Tax Relief Workshop for Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities. Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) is hosting a Tax Relief Workshop 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., at the West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Staff members from the Office of Tax Relief will be on hand to meet with constituents on a one on one basis and to assist them in filling out the necessary forms. Fairfax County provides real estate tax relief and car tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled, and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements. For eligibility requirements contact the Tax Relief Office at 703-222-8234 or taxrelief@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Slave to the Metal Festival with Olympus Shall Burn, DieManic, Bitter, Cab Ride Home, Pain!, Another Empty Box, Minus the Head, Embers for Ashes, Arsenic and Downfall, 6:30 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Theater Performance. The

Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net. For more, visit www.providenceplayers.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Gunston Hall Kite Festival, 12-5 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Hands-on colonial activities for children, an 18th-century puppet show, hearth cooking demonstrations, and exploration of a modern fire truck. Food service available for picnics. Bring a kite or purchase one from the Museum Shop. The Garden Club of Fort Belvoir will offer spring plants for sale. \$10 adults, \$6 ages 6-18, \$2 ages 2-5 years. \$25 Family Admission for up to 2 adults and 3 children. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre in "Sleeping Beauty," 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for

EDITOR'S PICK



The Gunston Hall Kite Festival is on Saturday, March 21 at Gunston Hall Plantation, with hands-on colonial activities for children, an 18th-century puppet show, hearth cooking demonstrations, and exploration of a modern fire truck. Bring a kite or purchase one from the Museum Shop. The Garden Club of Fort Belvoir will offer spring plants for sale. Children ages 6-12 can learn about Kites on Thursday, March 19, at the John Marshall Library in Alexandria.

the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$27-\$54. Age 12 and under, half price Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.
Dave Berry, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield.

703-866-0860 or www.katesirishpub.com.
Make It Up As You Go, 1 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Have some laughs and develop your creative side by playing theater games at this improvisational comedy event. Ages 12-18. 703-249-1520.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



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The Workhouse Arts Center is a program of 

Special thanks to Connection Newspapers

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

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

Garfield Elementary PTA Arts and Crafts Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 7101 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Free admission. Over 65 vendors selling handcrafted items, silent auction and raffle. lhoangnguyen@gmail.com.

Concerts from Kirkwood, featuring Laura Choi Stuart, Soprano and Steven Coombs, Baritone, 3 p.m. at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Free, donations accepted. 703-451-5320 or www.kirkwoodpres.com

Staff Basketball Game: Silverbrook Elementary School vs. Halley Elementary School, 6 p.m. at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Refreshments, school souvenirs, half-time entertainment by both schools' music departments and more.

Life of Agony, Spoiler NYC, Afreudianslip, Union Street and more. 8 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$18 in advance, \$20 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Theater Performance. The Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net. For more, visit www.providenceplayers.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

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

The Academy of Ancient Music, 4 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Hear all six of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 3:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$24-\$48. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

In Alcatraz 1962, Attila, Centuries, Lifted Down, I Am the Messenger, Await the rise, Kilgore Trout, Brutallion and more. 4:15 at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Vegan Cooking Class. "International Cuisine." 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at 9302 Hallston Court, Fairfax Station. \$50/person. Learn meat and dairy-free cuisine from other cultures without leaving home with guest chef Shashi Chopra from the Taj Mahal restaurant in D.C. Class includes food samples, recipes and coupons. Pre-registration required. Call 703.643.2713 for space availability. www.localdc.com/.

Theater Performance. The Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 2 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by

phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net. For more, visit www.providenceplayers.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

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

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

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

TUESDAY/MARCH 24

West Springfield Pyramid Art Show, 7-8:30 p.m. at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Selected artwork will be presented from schools in our pyramid, from the elementary level to high school. 703-426-2100.

VITA Tax Help, 6-8 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Adults. 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 for details and to sign up. Adults. 703-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

Active Retirees!

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Thursday, April 2
11am-2pm

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Cost: \$24 JCCNV Member or Active Retiree Group/ \$28 Guest of Member/ \$40 Nonmember

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



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OPEN HOUSES SAT./SUN. MARCH 21 & 22



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



Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.



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9519 RETRIEVER RD.....\$599,950.....Sun 1-4.....Weichert.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....703-862-8808
6202 ERMAN CT.....\$515,000.....Sun 1-4.....Coldwell Banker.....Amy Goodman.....703-477-9306

Fairfax Station

11715 WINTERWAY LA.....\$1,250,000.....Sun 1-4.....Keller Williams.....Diane Lenahan.....703-283-7328
7101 PARK POINT CT.....\$724,950.....Sun 1-4.....Weichert.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....703-862-8808

Springfield

8691 YOUNG CT.....\$510,000.....Sun 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Joel Lutkenhouse.....703-425-8000
6384 PHILIP CT.....\$533,700.....Sat 12-3.....RE/MAX.....Michael Burns.....703-522-1940

Kingstowne/Alexandria

3308 FALLEN TREE CT.....\$645,000.....Apr 26 1-4.....Arcadia.....Harriet Johnson.....703-823-9541
3355 WILTON CREST CT.....\$509,900.....Sun 1-4.....Prudential Carruthers.....Sharon MacDonald.....703-304-5060
6101 BEECH TREE DR.....\$675,000.....Sun 1-4.....Weichert.....Mary Smith.....703-549-8700
4400 EATON PL.....\$712,500.....Sun 1-4.....Century 21.....Mike Hetherington.....703-258-4377
3103 MADISON HILL CT.....\$549,000.....Sun 1-4.....McEneaney Associates.....Sally Harper.....703-517-2849

Clifton

12638 WATER ST.....\$949,900.....Sun 1-4.....Long & Foster.....Lynda Kay.....703-668-1838
7701 ROSE GATE CT.....\$1,150,000.....Sun 1-4.....Keller Williams.....Diane Lenahan.....703-283-7328
6535 ROCKLAND DR.....\$599,000.....Sun 1-4.....Samson.....Donny Samson.....703-864-4894
12601 CLIFTON HUNT LA.....\$834,900.....Sun 1-4.....Keller Williams.....Diane Lenahan.....703-283-7328
5529 CLIFTON RD.....\$830,000.....Sun 1-4.....Samson.....Ging-Hwang Tsoa.....571-214-0105

Annandale

6815 SHRINE CT.....\$499,900.....Sun 1-4.....Weichert.....David Lloyd.....703-593-3204

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

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Burke/Longwood Knolls \$599,950
OPEN SUNDAY 3/22 1-4

Lovely home on private flat & fenced lot w/ deck & gazebo, eat-in kit w/ SS appliances & granite cntns, dramatic flmlyrm w/ cathedral ceilings, hrdwd flrs, huge fin bsmt w/ recrm, 2 dens/BR & full bath, huge MBR w/ sitting rm & lux BA w/ jetted tub & double sinks, replaced windows & HVAC & more.



Fairfax Sta/So. Run \$724,950
OPEN SUNDAY 3/22 1-4

This lovely Colonial sits on a picturesque cul-de-sac w/3/4 acre flat fenced yard, eat-in kit w/granite & newer appl, finished bsmt w/full bath & custom bar, 2-lvl deck, dramatic MBR w/cathedral clngs & walk-in closet, MBA w/skylt & granite, replaced roof, siding & HVAC, walk to Burke Lake & comm pool & more.



Sterling \$374,950
OPEN SUNDAY 3/22 1-4

Lovely home on premium flat & fenced lot w/ deck, updated eat-in kit w/ SS appliances & granite cntns, 2.5 updated BAs w/ granite, fin bsmt w/ plenty of storage, new carpet, replaced roof, siding, windows & garage drs, spacious MBR w/ walk-in closet, flmly rm off kit w/ frplc & more.



Springfield \$624,950
Premium 1/3 Wooded Acre

Immac home on premium 1/3 wooded acres w/ deck, open floor plan w/ 2 story foyer & vaulted clngs, hrdwd flrs, new windows, eat-in kit w/ Corian cntns & blt-in desk, fin walkout bsmt w/ full BA, new carpet, fresh paint, MBA w/ skylts & sep tub & shower, walk to Lake Mercer & more.



Fairfax/Kings Park W \$484,950
Walk to School

Baron model on private drive on 13,000 sqft wooded lot w/ 4BR, 2.5BA, wrap around deck, eat-in kit, replaced siding, roof, HVAC & some windows, hrdwd flrs, blt-in bookcases & only 1 block to Robinson HS. This is an opportunity to build sweat equity!

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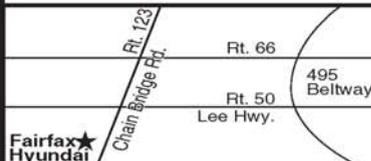
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

249-1520.
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 25

Library Writers Peer Review Group, 7 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Review peers' works and receive in-depth feedback on your own work. Adults. 703-339-4610.
Mother-Daughter Book Club, 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Mother-Daughter book club for girls 9-11. Call for title. 703-249-1520.
Practice Your English, 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

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

Lamb Frolics, 10:30 a.m. at the temporary Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Enjoy a drop-in storytime with books, songs and fingerplay about lambs. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

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

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

Tell It Again, 6 p.m. at the temporary Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on second floor of the Bank of America building. Hear the story "Dora the Explorer: Eggs for everyone/Huevos para todos" in Spanish and English. Age 4 to 12 with adult. 703-451-8055.

"So You Want To Be a Star..." 2

p.m. at HeartBeats Music & Dance, 8060 Rolling Road, Springfield. A free lecture for aspiring dancers, singers, actors and their parents by Peter Sklar. Reservations required. For ages 6-18 only. No one under age 18 will be admitted without their parent or legal guardian. 703-440-9000.

Semi-annual Used Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Burke Centre Library. Early bird sale for Friends of the Library only, 4-8 p.m., at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

Don Cobert, 7:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0860.

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.

Frayz, Oz Boyz and Dave the Barber, 8 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

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 Church of the Living God of No. Va... 703-250-7980
 Congregacion La Cena Del Senor... 703-550-1204

Episcopal
 St. Peter's in the Woods... 703-503-9210

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

102 Instruction

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21 Announcements

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Another Stigma To Shed

Behind maskless Dunham, Stallion softball wants to advance past region semis.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

During her breakout season last spring, South County junior Chelsey Dunham became known almost as much for her unusual facial apparel as she was for her pitching abilities, which led her team to an 18-2 overall record and a 14-0 mark against Patriot District competition.

Though Dunham possesses an ability to make a softball rise, sink and often breeze past opposing hitters, she wore a protective facemask that made her look more like a fullback than a pitcher.

She doesn't remember exactly when it happened, but after taking a comebacker in the face, Dunham started to wear the protective gear to calm her nerves. This year, Dunham has shed the mask, electing instead to sport only a blue, sequined headband.

"I kind of outgrew it," said Dunham, a right-handed pitcher. "I gained the confidence that I needed, and I just didn't need it anymore."

But it's another stigma that the rest of her Stallion teammates are hoping to shed. For the past two seasons, South County has ended its season with a 1-0 loss to Herndon in the Northern Region semifinals.

"That's not gonna happen this year," vowed fifth-year coach Al Thompson, citing the graduation of Herndon's top pitcher, Katie Rynex, and the steady improvement of his own group. "If we can get past the second round of regionals, I think we can go on, do well in the region and earn a berth to states."

Dunham and defense will be the two most important factors in whether or not that

happens. A second team All-State and first team All-Patriot District and All-Northern Region selection, Dunham went 17-4 in 137 innings last spring, striking out 233 batters and only walking 13. Her ERA was 0.66.

As if those numbers weren't dominant enough, Dunham has continued to perfect her craft. She spent considerable time this past off-season at Velocity, a sports-fitness center in Alexandria, running and lifting.

Dunham devotes about 45 minutes each day practicing her pitching and then moves over to participate in fielding and hitting drills with her teammates. That's followed by a 15-minute run around the track to maintain her endurance.

While Dunham will be counted upon to limit opposing hitters' opportunities, South County is more than prepared should someone find a pitch to hit. Third baseman Stephanie Sbardella and first baseman Kayla Reisinger (.371 average last season) will anchor the corners with Taylor Dillow (10 RBIs in '08) at second base.

"Our defense is amazing," said Sbardella, the team's top asset at the plate after recording a .488 average last season with five doubles, nine RBIs and 14 runs scored. "You don't expect errors with us."

ROBINSON, which lost to Westfield last season in the region semifinals, returns slick-hitting Marcy Bowdren, a junior utility player who batted .511 last season with 19 extra-base hits, 23 RBIs and 37 runs scored.

Senior Christine Cunningham returns after hitting .284 with six doubles, 14 RBIs and 22 runs scored a season ago, as she'll try to replace departed Ali Marco at the shortstop position.



One of several keys to whether South County softball can follow its 18-2 season from a year ago will be pitcher Chelsey Dunham, who had 223 strikeouts and a 0.66 ERA last year.

In his 20th year overseeing the Rams' program, head coach Barry Gorodnick will hope to improve on last year's 16-10 overall record and 7-5 mark against Concorde District teams.

LAKE BRADDOCK finished 8-10 overall last spring, going 7-7 against Patriot District competition. The Bruins will lose one of their top hitters in Kirsten Neubauer, who hit .400 last spring but moved away after the season.

Senior captain Carmine Coda, who hit .410 with two homers last spring, should provide plenty of offense, while classmate Caitlin Delmore, a second baseman, will move into a leadership role after posting a .300 average a year ago.

In the pitching circle, Lake Braddock will turn to junior Hanna Joseck and freshman Anna Delaney. Joseck, along with Coda, Delmore and junior shortstop Kelly Simons, will serve as team captains for a young group that has only two seniors.

HAYFIELD could challenge South County in the Patriot with the return of the Perry-Shifflett twins. Megan Perry-Shifflett, a shortstop, led the team with 24 RBIs and set school records in batting average (.561), on-base percentage (.623) and slugging percentage (.737, while Samantha Perry-Shifflett (.346 batting average in '08) will move behind the plate to fill a void left by departed catcher Kelsey Talbot.

Twelfth-year coach Ron Giovannucci had his squad at 14-5-1 overall, 10-4 against district opponents last season, but senior pitcher Jennifer Windau, who posted a 1.31 ERA and 125 strikeouts, should help improve that mark.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Look Around The Diamond

By establishing one of the Northern Region top's programs since the school's first baseball season in 2005, South County coach Mark Luther has demonstrated an ability to keep the talent flowing through his program. This year should be no different.

Though the Stallions graduated ace right-hander Jesse Beal (now in the Baltimore Orioles' organization), shortstop Brent Frazier and outfielder Peyton Bartlett, the fourth-year coach also has a steady influx of talent coming back, including 11 seniors.

Senior Seth Jordan leads the returning crop of talent with a .473 batting average last spring. Jordan also hit seven doubles, six home runs and knocked in 31. Kyle Michaels, also a senior, hit .298 with three homers and classmate Nick Digby hit .333 and had 10 RBIs.

Last season, South County was 14-9 overall, 10-4 against Patriot District opponents and lost to Northern Region runner-up Chantilly, 6-2, in the region quarterfinals.

Robinson, behind George Mason-signee Brandon Kuter, a 6-foot-6 right-handed pitcher, will hope to improve upon last year's 15-9 season in which the Rams went 7-5 against Concorde District opponents and lost to West Springfield in the Northern Region quarterfinals.

With the losses of shortstop Jimmy Kalina, first baseman Greg Jernegan and pitcher Eric Rabung, the Rams and second-year head coach J.D. Detwiler will turn to senior pitcher/shortstop Michael Del Buono, senior catcher Chris McCloud and senior second baseman Mike Kenah.

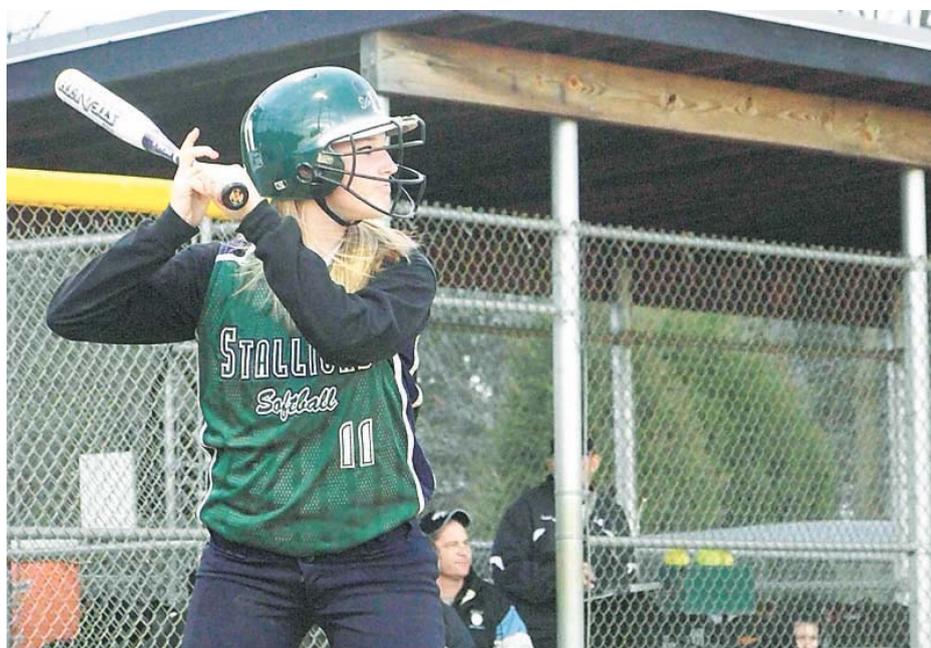
"We're in a situation like we were last year," Detwiler said. "We're looking at a bunch of guys who are either underclassmen or inexperienced."

"But the guys who are seniors, even though there aren't a lot of them, they've been on varsity for three years and they've done a great job of being leaders."

Kuter, who went 3-3 with a 3.11 ERA and 28 strikeouts on the mound last season, should see his innings increase significantly, as he'll team with junior Austin Freer atop the Rams' rotation.

Nereids Clinic

The Northern Virginia Nereids synchronized swimming team, in conjunction with the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, is hosting a synchronized swimming clinic on March 28. More details can be found at www.nvnsynchro.com.



PHOTOS BY JASON MACKEY/THE CONNECTION

Junior Stephanie Sbardella, a third baseman, will provide a jolt to the Stallions' offense. She hit at a .488 clip and score 14 runs last spring.



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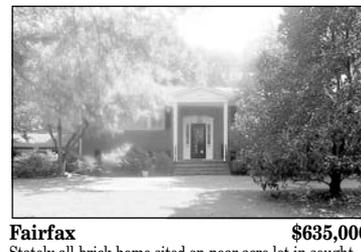
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|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DATES IN 2009: | TIME: | From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left. |
| April 1, May 6, | 7:00-9:00 PM | |
| June 3, July 8 | | |
| August 5 | LOCATION: | |
| September 9 | Long & Foster's Northern Virginia Training Center | |
| October 7 | 3069 Nutley St. | |
| November 4 | Fairfax, VA 22031 | |
| December 2 | | |

TO REGISTER:
Please contact Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898 or maryann.plonka@longandfoster.com



Clifton **\$1,999,900**
Spectacular double winged Custom Built Williamsburg Colonial on one of the most outstanding 5 acre settings in Clifton. Original owners, built in 1995, so many custom details throughout this gorgeous all brick home. 5bd/6.5ba/4fp, two master suites, one on main level, 3 car garage. Absolutely breathtaking! For more photos check our www.hermandorfer.com or www.marshawolber.com
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949
Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Alexandria **\$85,000**
Call a Foreclosure Expert!
Dynamite TH, biggest sequoia model. Walk-in closets, sep. dining room, brand new carpet throughout. We can help you buy a foreclosure throughout Northern Virginia.
Ramesh Amini 703-503-1482
Jo Ann Classen 703-503-3985



Springfield West **\$499,800**
Almost 1/2 Acre
Imagine your own peaceful sanctuary in the heart of West Springfield featuring 5 bedrooms and three full baths. Easy living in this spacious Rambler with a full finished walkout basement, hardwood floors, 1 car garage on a cul de sac. Available for 3 months rental at \$2,395.
Ellie Wester 703-503-1880



Clifton **\$1,275,000**
Arts and Crafts Colonial with beautiful angles, porches, trim and details! Attention to detail in every home! Four finished levels with over 6000 finished square feet. Built in 2007 with all the upscale touches every homeowner could wish for! 4bd/4.5ba/4fp. For more pictures check out www.marshawolber.com or www.hermandorfer.com
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Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Springfield **\$275,000**
Nice Foreclosure!
Great ramblar in the heart of Springfield. Family room addition and expanded master bedroom HW floors in living room. Ceramic tile kitchen. Must see! Let us help you find and buy a foreclosure in Northern Virginia.
Barbara Nowak 703-503-1802
Gerry Staudte 703-503-1894



Mason Neck/Gunston Area **\$699,000**
New Home! 4br, 3 ba colonial w/ 2 car side load gar (not shown) and finished w/o bsmt. Hrdwd flrs main lvl, eat-in kit w/ adj 2 story fam rm, mstr br w/ sitting rm and deck on one acre. Builder can customize for you! Model available for viewing.
Cheryl Hanback 703-864-4321



Annandale **\$524,900**
Inside the beltway. One acre. Treed. Custom all brick. 5 BDR, 3 BA. New roof, new windows, new gutters, new garage door. Recent air & heat. Sold "AS-IS". Traditional sale.
Joe Soricelli 703-503-4031



Annandale **\$499,000**
Motivated seller. Large reduction in price. Shows like a model! New roof, windows, furnace, & gutters. Three finished levels, heated pool & hot tub. Won't last long!
Charlotte Whitney 703-503-1875



Clifton Area **\$675,000**
Five gorgeous acres backing to the Occoquan River, ready for your custom home and dock. Build your dream home or let me recommend a builder to help you design and build it!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Alexandria **\$102,000**
2 level townhome with 3 bedrooms, updated kitchen & baths, fenced back yard, carport parking.
Judy Semler 703-503-1885

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FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING DAY

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WHEN: Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE: Burke Presbyterian Church (Oak Leather at Burke Centre Pkwy)

All material will be shredded & recycled by a professional company on-site while you watch.



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Waterford, VA

\$799,000

Stunning colonial 4 yrs old- 4 bedrooms - 3 1/2 baths - 3 car garage - 2 story FR & foyer - den - sunroom - MBR sitting room. Gorgeous mountain & wooded views!



Lorton Station

Close to Everything

\$389,900

Wonderful end-unit townhome with open floor plan, hardwood floors and plenty of light. Fantastic wrap-around deck backing to open space. Enjoy shopping and restaurants at Lorton Marketplace. Close to I-95, VRE, and Ft. Belvoir. For 24-hr recorded information call 1-888-495-6207, x231.



Mary Hovland

703-946-1775

Cathy DeLoach

571-276-9421

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Fairfax \$295,000
Lovingly Maintained

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



Fairfax

\$624,900

Beautiful, move in ready! Cul de sac, backing to woods, private 0.9 acre! Hardwood floors, wonderfully updated throughout! Sought after neighborhood! Clifton/Robinson.



Clifton

\$650,000

Attention Horse Lovers and Historical Buffs! Fabulous 4.2+ acre horse property w/6 stall barn, detached garage, pastures, AND an historical farm house!! Walk to 'Town of Clifton! Unbelievable opportunity to enhance this beautiful property! Clifton ES/Robinson SS!



Fairfax Station

\$924,900

Absolutely Best Price/Best Condition Home in Fairfax Station! Elegant all brick updated colonial on premium 5 acre lot. Four large bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, 5 fireplaces. Outstanding finished walk out lower level! Beautiful!



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1-888-529-HART

First OPEN Sunday, Mar. 22 Fairfax 22032

Robinson School Pyramid

Exceptionally lovely move-up home! Updated, New Siding, New Paint, 3 fin lvls, 4 lge BR, 3.5 BA, Office on Mn Lvl, Oversized yard w Sylvan Inground Pool, fully fenced. Quiet Cul-de-sac street, Huge parking pad for RV or Boat. Call Kay Hart for directions: 703-503-1860

Another Exceptional Listing coming soon:

Open Sunday, April 5 Fairfax 22032

Traditional Style with Contemporary Flair. Gorgeous light hardwood floors, updated, beautiful condition. Lovely yard, cul-de-sac street. Robinson Pyramid. Call Kay for information/sneak preview 703-250-HART Long & Foster, Realtors

Waiting to BUY until prices bottom out?

What happens to home prices as supply declines? Note that these are the listed homes in MRIS (as of 3/10/09) with 4+BR, 3+FB, 3 levels, 2+ garage, walk-out basement:

| Price | Burke | Fairfax Station | Clifton |
|-------------|-------|-----------------|---------|
| 400-599,000 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| 600-799,000 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 800-999,000 | 0 | 8 | 4 |
| 1,000,000+ | 1 | 10 | 7 |

Email Subject Line: It's MY Time! Sell me a great house before the prices go up



Carol G. Ford, REALTOR

GRI, ABR, Member REBAC

Real Estate Buyer's Agent

Council **703-503-4027**

Call.ford@longandfooster.com

www.carolfordsellshomes.net



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Ann Witherspoon

703-503-1836



gorgeous kitchen with all the bells & whistles. 2-story Family Room w/Overlook - Main floor study/library - Sparkling HW floors - Finished LL with full BA & wet bar. Plus much more! For a private tour or more information...

CALL ANN WITHERSPOON 703-503-1836

FAIRFAX STATION - CROSSPOINTE \$699,500

Dramatic 4 BR, 4.5 BA home w/bright, open floor plan - 1st Floor Master BR with luxury BA - 2 Fireplaces! Huge

Sheila Adams

703-503-1895

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Fairfax

\$514,900

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



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Fairfax Station

\$849,000

Gorgeous 4BR, 2.5BA updated, waterfront Colonial on 5+ wooded acres. Charming interior with all modern conveniences. Updated kitchen, baths, Pella windows, Hardiplank exterior, landscaping & new HVAC. Picturesque view of lake, tiered deck, foot bridges, creek and in-ground pool. Convenient yet completely private location.



Fairfax Station

\$629,000

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

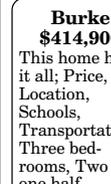


Richard Esposito

703-503-4035

Richard@LNF.com

Service is the difference I provide



Burke

\$414,900

This home has it all; Price, Location, Schools, Transportation. Three bedrooms, Two and one half Bathrooms, Office and Recreation Room on Lower Level. Step from the kitchen onto deck overlooking your own in-ground swimming pool. What a way to enjoy time with family and friends. The recreation room is highlighted by a wood stove. Windows and carpeting have been updated.

ELLIE WESTER

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ellie.wester@longandfooster.com



Alexandria/Potomac Yard \$629,000

Minutes to exciting Potomac Yard featuring restaurants, theaters and shopping. One year old end unit townhome featuring hardwood floors, stainless and granite kitchen as well as a walk out recreation room for your enjoyment. Two car garage parking and convenient to Metro, Crystal City, and Reagan Airport.

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Dale Gabardy, Manager Search the Entire MLS for Your Next Home in Northern Virginia at Burke-FairfaxStation.info