

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Col. Richard Dix hugs his daughter Chandler during a surprise visit to her school.

Birthday Surprise

NEWS, PAGE 3

Family
Store Serves
Springfield

NEWS, PAGE 3

High School
Teams at Risk?

SPORTS, PAGE 10

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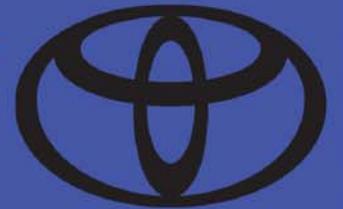
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SPORTS, PAGE 10 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ❖ HOME SALES, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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Family Store Thrives

Springfield Apothecary offers a personal touch to its customers.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

For 37 years, the Springfield Apothecary has served the needs of area residents with a personal touch that can be quite hard to find in the medical community.

The independent, family-owned and operated business, located at 8316 Traftord Lane off of Rolling Road, provides an array of services that cannot be matched by typical chain pharmacies. Now, however, the Apothecary is faced with the task of overcoming the death of its founder, and if early results are any indication, the family learned well from its patriarch.

"Patients like to come in, talk to us, and hang out on our couches and have some coffee," said Brian Burns, son of founder Larry Burns. "Drugs are a commodity. The reason why people chose us is the service."

That dedicated service to the community began in

1973, when according to Cathy, Larry Burns' wife and Brian's mother, they were approached by friends to become partners in an apothecary. Larry, Cathy Burns said, was working at Rite-Aid precursor Drug Fare and seeking to break out of the chain store environment, quickly agreed lead it. At the time, the store was located across the street from West Springfield High School, but after three years, the partners sold their share to the Burns family and upon receiving full ownership, they moved the store to its current location.

"At the time, many of the area's doctors moved out here to the office park [where the store is located], so we figured that if they were moving, so were we," Cathy Burns said.

It was at that new home, in a building shared by 14 doctors, that Larry and Cathy were able to stake a claim in the medical industry within Springfield. Cathy Burns said that her husband quickly made an effort to establish relationships with the nearby doctors to leverage their location and expand their business. Soon enough, she said, most of the doctors were sending their patients to the Apothecary to have their prescriptions filled, and the rest is history.

"[Larry] wanted [The Apothecary] to be a com

SEE APOTHECARY, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/THE CONNECTION

Dr. Ali Abassi, Pharmacy Technician Matt Kretsch, Cathy Burns, Pharmacy Technician William Harrison and Brian Burns.

Soldier Surprises Daughter

Returning from overseas, soldier visits daughter at school.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Third-grader Chandler Dix went to school Friday, Jan. 15 under the impression that it was just a typical day. She sat through her morning classes, ate lunch and prepared for recess with her classmates. Little did she know, however, that she was about to receive one of the best gifts she could imagine.

Chandler's father, Col. Richard Dix of the U.S. Army, paid a surprise visit to her school, Orange Hunt Elementary that day as an early birthday present to Chandler. Currently stationed in Afghanistan, Dix was on leave for the weekend and could not let the opportunity to brighten his daughter's day pass.

"It feels great to see my daughter," Dix said. "It's hard to put into words. It makes the long hours and hard work all worth it."

Dix, a 23-year veteran of the Army, has

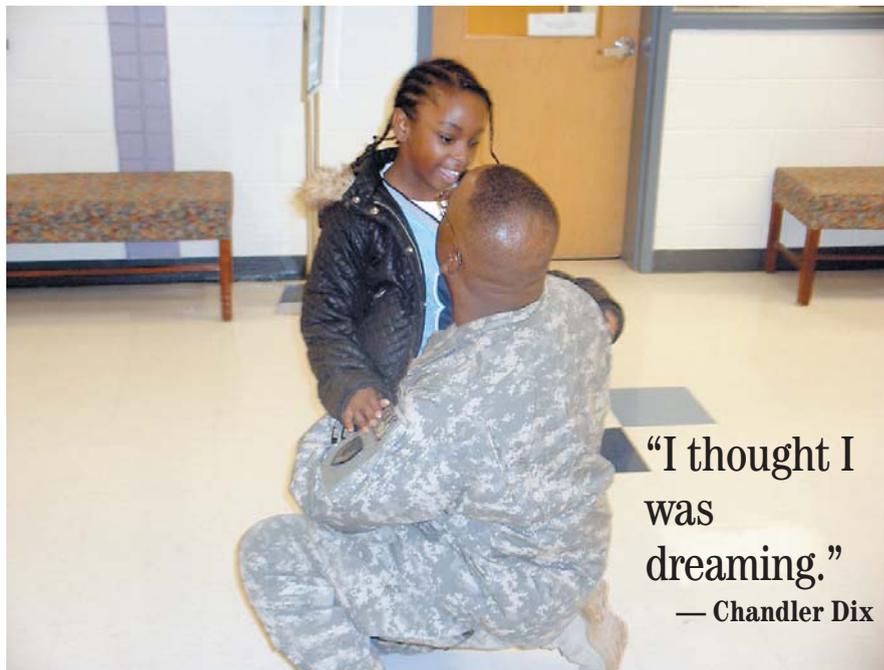


PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

"I thought I was dreaming."
— Chandler Dix

Col. Richard Dix gives his daughter a necklace for a birthday present during his surprise visit.

been stationed at the Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, serving in the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, since June 30, 2009. As part of his duty, Dix is responsible for more than 4,000 personnel, with the primary mission being to receive and distribute all of the equipment, including mine resistant, ambush protected vehicles, that troops need

in the field. Currently, Dix said that his unit is preparing for the buildup for the next mass troop deployment as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Dix said that his unit just completed the first phase of the buildup, which included the recep

SEE FATHER, PAGE 5

Dems Elect New Leader

Rex Simmons new FCDC chairman.

BY STEPHANIE MARTINEZ
THE CONNECTION

Rex Simmons, the new chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC), found an inter-

est in government as a young boy in his hometown in North Carolina. He knew he would follow in his father's path into the public service sector after helping him run for several positions including the Board of Education.

"I was standing outside in polling places handing out his literature and trying to convince voters to vote for him," said Simmons, "I've had this public notion in my blood for a long time."

In 2007, Simmons ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic candidate for the House of



FILE PHOTO

Rex Simmons

SEE FCDC, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY ROBIN HERTEL/CAPITOL NEWS SERVICE

Richmond Dragon On Saturday, Jan. 16, the Korean Tae-Kwon-Do Association of Virginia, which is based in Springfield, traveled to Richmond to take part in Gov. Robert McDonnell's (R) Inauguration Parade.

Filler-Corn Enters 41st Race

Springfield resident Eileen Filler-Corn announced that she would file the required paperwork to be a candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates in the 41st District. Filler-Corn is seeking to be the Democratic nominee for the special election on March 2 to fill the seat left vacant by Sen. David Marsden (D-37), who was elected to the Virginia State Senate last week.

Filler-Corn served as senior advisor to the governor for state and federal relations under former Gov. Tim Kaine (D). Prior to that, she was the deputy director for the Virginia Liaison Office for former Gov. Mark Warner (D) for his entire term.

Filler-Corn has resided in the 41st District for 15 years and lives with her husband Bob and their children Jeremy and Alana.

Republican Kerry Bolognese announced his candidacy for the vacant 41st District Seat last week.

'Electric Sundays' Kicks Off

The 2010 Electric Sunday recycling schedule will kickoff Sunday, Jan. 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Interstate 66 Transfer Station located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Residents will be able to recycle televisions, computers and peripheral devices, including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials and fluorescent light bulbs and tubes.

The Electric Sunday recycling program is a free service to Fairfax County residents made possible in partnership with Covanta Fairfax, Inc. This year's Electric Sunday events are scheduled monthly through November 2010. Last year,

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 17



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left, rescue squad officer Rodney Vaughan and hazmat specialist Mark Menton, who works the Alexandria-Lorton corridor, confer about the deployment.

Helping in a Time of Need

Fairfax County Search and Rescue Teams are in Haiti.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Following the 7.0 earthquake in Haiti, Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue Team (Virginia Task Force 1) was sent last week to look for and rescue victims.

Under the auspices of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a 72-member team left Tuesday night, Jan. 12, arriving the next day and it quickly achieved success.

"We had a save Thursday morning [Jan. 14]," said county Fire and Rescue Department spokesman Dan Schmidt. "A U.N. security officer of Estonian descent was detected in a rubble pile and extricated in good condition by members of Virginia Task Force 1. And that's the essence of why firefighters do what they do — they want to save lives. So when they did, it was an incredible, adrenaline-booster for them."

But with the situation there still so dire, said Schmidt, "The USAID asked us to send a second team, and County Executive Anthony Griffin and Fire Chief Ron Mastin approved the request." So a 42-person contingent left Thursday, Jan. 14, arriving early Friday morning.

The team comprises two doctors, structural engineers, paramedics, specialists in search-and-rescue and hazardous materials, plus a search canine and handler. The structural engineers include rigging specialists who help shore up unsafe areas using block and tackle, plus other methods, so firefighters can continue to extricate people.

"The federal government funds all costs associated with training and deployment," said Schmidt. The team will be in Haiti, 10-14 days, while other firefighters fill in for them here. They flew on a chartered aircraft, with their bags of personal items, while a second plane carried their equipment, such as jackhammers, cameras, listening devices, concrete-cutting saws and medical supplies. Water and military MREs (meals, ready-to-eat) also went along.

"This team deployed to Haiti in November 2008 for a school collapse, and many of those same members are returning," said Schmidt. The team's first mission was in December 1988, when it responded to an Armenian earthquake with a small, technical-rescue team. Since then, the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team has been deployed all over the world, including to Kenya, Iran, Taiwan, Turkey, Oklahoma City and the Pentagon after 9/11. It also responded after Hurricanes Katrina and Isabel.

"I'm proud of the team. Everybody works together, and we all want to save some lives."

— Lt. Wes Rogers of Oak Hill

LAST THURSDAY, team members reported to the county's Fire and Rescue Academy throughout the day. Some were accompanied by family members; each brought one red and one yellow bag. Lt. Diron Powell, who works at the Franconia, Kingstowne, Springfield and West Springfield stations, helped them check in.

Each person's bags had to be less than 90 pounds total for the two, and Powell made sure they contained all the necessary gear. Filling the red bags were uniforms, toiletries and personal items. The yellow bags were stuffed with operating gear such as flashlights, batteries, gloves, safety glasses, hearing protectors, rain gear, insect repellent and hand cleaner.

SEE SEARCH AND RESCUE, PAGE 18

Father Surprises Daughter

FROM PAGE 3

tion and dispersal of 3,500 pieces of equipment and will be handling 5,000 more pieces for the 30,000 troops that will be arriving.

Last weekend, however, Dix was given a leave of absence to attend a training conference in Rock Island, Ill. and for scheduled oral surgery. Though he knew that he would have time to spend at home with his family, he wanted to make it a surprise. So, neither Dix nor his wife Cynthia told Chandler that he would be in town, and when he arrived stateside at 7 a.m. after a 14-hour plane flight, he went straight from the airport to the school. Upon his arrival, a teacher brought Chandler down to the front office, where Dix was waiting. As soon as Chandler saw her father, she yelled "Daddy," sprinted to him and leapt into his arms.

"It was so good to see my dad," Chandler said. "I was really surprised. When I saw him, I thought I was dreaming."

Because Chandler had to complete her day of school, Dix and his wife were only able to spend recess-time with her, but were looking forward to the upcoming weekend together. Dix said that he is anxious to take a break and relax, something he does not get to do much working 16-18 hour days overseas. Dix said that he wanted to also

"We don't do it for the money, we do it for our families."

— Richard Dix

see a movie, and if weather permitted, go to the park. While he envisions a slow, calm respite, Cynthia Dix did not see it the same way.

"It's a chance to help him decompress, but he won't be able to sit around and do nothing because the little one won't let him," Cynthia Dix said. "She'll let him rest a little bit then all bets are off."

Richard Dix said that if everything goes according to schedule, he would be back home at the end of July. While it is difficult to be away from the family for such a long period of time, he said he takes comfort in the fact that what he does on a daily basis provides security and preserves freedom for his daughter and wife. His only mission now in addition to his duties, he said, is to make sure he makes it home safely after his tour is completed.

"We don't do it for the money, we do it for our families," Richard Dix said. "It's all for these kids and their future, and it's all about getting back home safe and sound."

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The Community Coalition for Haiti, a faith-based nonprofit relief organization, has set up a restricted fund for the Haitian relief effort. 100% of every donation is used to help the thousands in need. Every dollar is a treasure to those in desperate need of food, water, medicine and help. Please donate today. Make a donation online at www.cchaiti.org or mail your check to Community Coalition for Haiti, P.O. Box 1222, Vienna, VA 22183.



www.cchaiti.org

Partners with CCH in the Haiti relief effort include: MedAssets; Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children; Missionary Flights International; and MTS Services.



"In addition to our prayers, the people of Haiti are in great need of our compassion and assistance."

— Charles Mann, Inova Health System Board Member



"Luciana and I have worked with the Community Coalition for Haiti and we ask you to join us in supporting the humanitarian efforts that are under way."

— Robert & Luciana Duvall



"We all need to take swift action to make sure that relief reaches the people of Haiti as quickly as it can."

— Darrell Green, NFL Hall of Fame

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OPINION

Many Numbers Point to Needs

Challenging times as we mark Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision, inaugurate new governor.

Unemployed, uninsured, homeless, hungry. While on a percentage basis, Northern Virginia is better off than most of the rest of Virginia, in raw numbers, we have more people here who are unemployed, more people here who lack health insurance, more people who spend parts of most months without enough food on the table, more people who are homeless.

Some sobering numbers as we celebrate the day of hope and aspiration that is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Sobering statistics as we inaugurate a new governor who has many good ideas, but no plans for new revenue. Cuts in the state budget will affect everyone in Virginia, even those who are not needy.

In November, more than 68,000 unemployed people were looking for full time work here in Northern Virginia, according to the Virginia Employment Commission, up from just under 50,000 in November, 2008.

Later this month, officials and advocates will conduct the annual "point in time" census of homeless. Last January, there were 1,730 homeless people in Fairfax County at the "point in time" count, more than 1,000 of those are

members of families, most of the adults with jobs. In the City of Alexandria, there were 360 homeless people. In Arlington, 527 homeless, about 200 of those were people in families.

According to the latest U.S. Census numbers, from 2008, there were about 200,000 people (under 65) in Northern Virginia without health insurance. These are people who can't get preventative care, can't get routine care for minor illnesses.

In Arlington County 38,018 or 21.1 percent of the population lacked health insurance.

That number jumped to 62 percent of those living below 200 percent of poverty line.

In Fairfax County, 149,642 people or more than 16 percent of the population lacked health insurance. In the City of Alexandria, 22,399 people lack health insurance, or 18.2 percent of the population. In the City of Fairfax, 3,685 people lack health insurance, or 18.8 of the population.

Another measure of need, and a way of identifying concentrations of poverty, is to look at students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals in public schools.

In Alexandria more than 50 percent of stu-

dents are eligible for free or reduced meals.

In Arlington, more than one-third of students are eligible for free or reduced meals.

More than 37,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools are eligible for free and reduced meals, that's 22 percent of the student body. And the needy students also tend to be concentrated in particular schools. For example, some schools, like Wolf Trap Elementary, had no students qualifying for free or reduced meals. Then consider Graham Road Elementary, with more than 78 percent of its students qualifying for free and reduced meals, Lynbrook Elementary with more than 76 percent of its students qualifying; Mount Vernon Woods, more than 75 percent; Mount Eagle more than 74 percent. The uneven distribution showed dozens of schools with very high rates of poor students lumped together; dozens with poverty rates in the single digits.

Food for thought. These numbers don't indicate a tiny population of needy people, they indicate a region with ongoing problems of "haves" and "have-nots." Those 15-30 percent of our populations in local jurisdictions who "have not" are about to have quite a bit less as the state and local budget processes move forward.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Opposed to 'Reform' Bill

To the Editor:

I am opposed to the Senate version of the Health Care "Reform" Bill as approved (60 For, 39 Against, 1 Abstention) by the U.S. Senate this past Christmas Eve morning. The Senate Leadership, and others, acted inappropriately, and perhaps illegally, when Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, along with certain other individuals, negotiated with Sen. Nelson of Nebraska to obtain Nelson's vote in exchange for an "exclusion;" a "favor" that exempts Nebraskans from paying for certain services [i.e. Medicaid] that residents living in every other state must pay for, including Virginians. Perhaps even more disconcerting is the fact that Virginians will be required to "foot the Bill" for the services that Nebraskans will become entitled to receive, free of charge, compliments of both of Virginia's U.S. senators, Mark Warner (D) and Jim Webb (D), who voted 'For' passage of the Bill.

Perhaps of greater concern to the community at large is the fact that this "deal" was negotiated "off" the Senate floor, out of public view, and in a private room. When Reid and Nelson finally emerged, Reid indicated that

Nelson had agreed to become the 60th vote Reid needed to assure procedural cloture of the bill, thereby ending any substantive debate on the issue, in exchange for Reid's promise to insert a provision in the bill that benefited Nelson's constituents. The problem with such an arrangement is that Reid acted beyond the scope of his constitutional authority when he negotiated this agreement, because Reid was not elected by Virginians, or any other state, except Nevada. Reid cannot

LETTERS

possibly argue that he secured the authority to negotiate on behalf of all 50 states (100 U.S. senators) on whose behalf he in-fact negotiated, because not one Republican senator agreed with Reid. So what were Sens. Warner and Webb thinking when they agreed to "give" our votes, Virginia's votes, to Harry Reid?

The larger question now becomes whether U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) will vote against the Healthcare Bill, as he should, or will he vote for passage? While no one knows for sure, and since final passage of the Bill rests with the U.S. House of Representatives, it is incumbent upon each one of us to contact Connolly and demand that Congress correct the constitutional misgivings inherent

within the current version of the Healthcare Bill.

On Dec. 20, I wrote to Connolly and voiced my protestations. My letter to Connolly, and Connolly's "templated" e-mail response of Jan. 12, 2010, may be read in their entirety at www.JoeBury.com. Based upon Connolly's reply, it appears that Connolly, like Sens. Warner and Webb before him, is not interested in passing legislation which adheres to the constitutional principles upon which our great nation was founded. Perhaps even worse, you and I get to pay for the mess, and the mess isn't even in Virginia.

Joe Bury
Springfield

Independent Thought

To the Editor:

Are the Republicans about to show us, once again, that they are incapable of effectively governing the Commonwealth of Virginia? Are we going to have a bunch of Don Quixote's in Richmond for the next four years? Do the taxpayers of Virginia really want to spend a bundle of their money supporting its attorney general's pursuit of his personal agenda? I would imagine that Eric Holder has more and

better paid lawyers than does Ken Cuccinelli. Will Virginia become fodder for the late night comedy shows?

Why doesn't Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) and his administration just work on real problems such as transportation, education and public safety? I think that this is what most of the citizens of Virginia want — I may be wrong and only the next election will confirm the truth of this matter.

And, by the way, why don't the members of the General Assembly enact legislation that would permit the citizens to register as Independents. We hear so much from politicians that they appeal to Independents — so, if they can register as such then we would all know who they are.

Lon Caldwell
Springfield

Write

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MILITARY

Hysen Shala has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Shala is the son of Ali and Hasret Shala of Hooes Road, Springfield.

Michael P. Williams has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. He is the son of Mark E. and Anne E. Williams of Turlock Road, Springfield. Williams is a 2006 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School, Springfield.

Wei-Chih Tong has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. He is the son of Chien-Yuan Tong of Cottontail Court, Springfield. Tong is a 2003 graduate of West Springfield High School.

Andrew G. Shellenberger graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. The cadet is a student at James Madison University. He is the son of Joseph S. Shellenberger of Cumbertree Court, and Laurie Dee Shellenberger, both of Springfield. The cadet is a 2006 graduate of West Springfield High School, Springfield.

Daniel W. Stalcup graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. The cadet is a student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg. He is the son of Barbara J. and Bruce W. Stalcup of Heming Avenue, Springfield. Stalcup is a 2006 graduate of Annandale High School.

Brian A. Peeler graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. The cadet is a student at the Virginia Military Institute, Lexington. He is the son of John E. and Diane T. Peeler of Journey Lane, Springfield. The cadet is a 2004 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School.

Thomas R. Barth has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. He is the son of Thomas H. and Sandra P. Barth of Bertito Lane, Springfield. Thomas R. Barth is a 2006 graduate of West Springfield High School.

Benjamin Schillawaski from Springfield and serving with Company B (Military Intelligence), 27th Brigade Combat Team Special Troops Battalion is promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. Army National Guard promotions are based on overall performance, attitude, leadership ability, and development potential.

Army National Guard Pvt. Joseph Polasek has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. He is the son of Joe and Mary A. Polasek of Rockefeller Lane, Springfield. Polasek is a 2000 graduate of West Springfield High School.

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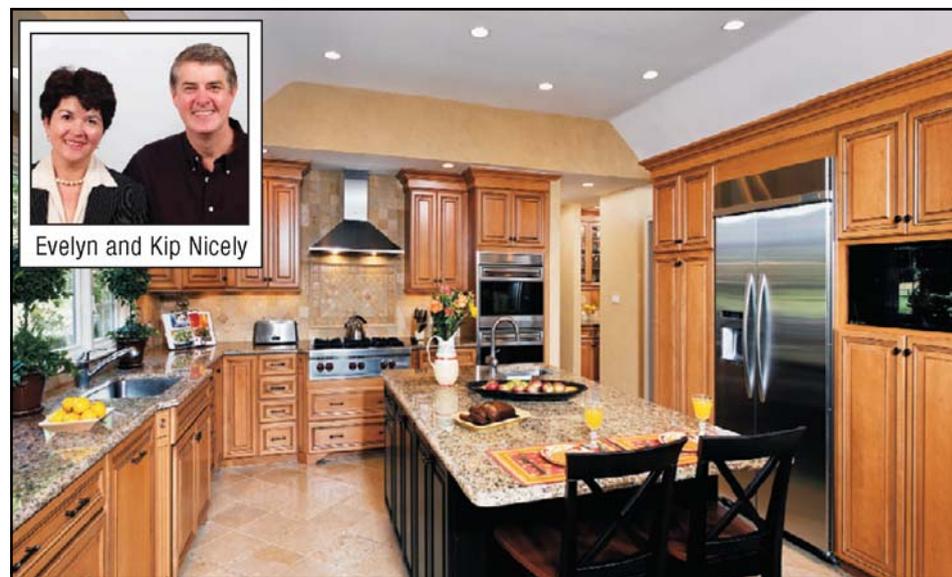


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The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors
and the 2010 Valentine Pops Gala Committee

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

Windy Weather Story Time. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Story time about winter weather. Ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Snowy Day. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

“Guys and Dolls.” 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12. ppir930702@aol.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 22

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

Springfield Community Theatre presents ‘Heros.’ 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

Spot-LYTE Company presents: “Incorruptible.” 8 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 703-495-0001 or www.workhousearts.org.

“Guys and Dolls.” 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12. ppir930702@aol.com.

“Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.” 7 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School. Information and tickets are available online at www.RobinsonDrama.org. Tickets are \$7 online or at the door, or \$5 in advance by mail. Robinson Secondary School is located at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax.

Owls at Night. Come to Hidden Pond Nature Center on from 7 to 9 p.m., and become wise about owls. Learn all about the local owl species in Fairfax County. Join the search for these fascinating creatures of the night on a forest walk. The program concludes around a campfire eating s'mores. This is a family activity recommended for all ages. In case of severe weather, it will be cancelled. Reservations are required. The fee is \$8 per person. To reserve, call 703-451-9588. Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Blvd. in Springfield.

SATURDAY/JAN. 23

So You Think You Can Dance Fairfax County Final Competition. 4-7 p.m. at the Annandale High School in the Gymnasium, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale. \$3 per person. Sponsored by the Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services' Teen Services Division. 703-324-TEEN (8336), TTY 711.

Springfield Community Theatre presents ‘Heros.’ 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

Children’s illustrator and political cartoonist Chip Bok. 2 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Bok will discuss his new children’s book, The Great White House Breakout, coauthored with Helen Thomas. Books available for sale and signing. Free, registration required at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-339-4610.

Spot-LYTE Company presents:

“Incorruptible.” 8 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 703-495-0001 or www.workhousearts.org.

Outerloop Presents: Down N Dirty Fest, The Audition, The Dangerous Summer, Sparks the Rescue, The Right Coast, The Getaways, Brightview, Rescue the Hero, The Kindness of Strangers, Spark to Inferno, We Have the Summer, New Castle (formerly Baigis), Count Your Blessings, What a Night, Counting Out Loud, Another Treehouse Acquaintance, Satellites On Parade, Crash Boom Bang. All ages. \$13 advance, \$15 door. Doors open at 1 p.m., show at 1:15 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

“Guys and Dolls.” 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12.

seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or www.sctonline.org.

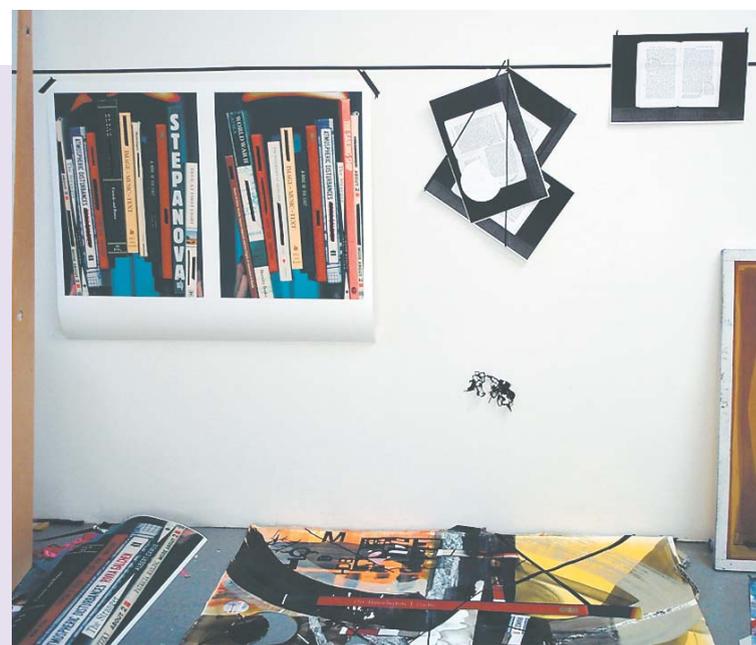
Outerloop Presents: Bitter Pill, TBA. All ages. \$10 advance, \$12 door. Doors open at 5 p.m., show at 5:15 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

MONDAY/JAN. 25

Game Night. 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Nintendo Wii and board games. Ages 12-18. 703-249-1520.

Read to the Dog. 3:30-4:40 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call or sign up online for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. 703-971-0010.

Devildriver, Suffocation, Goatwhore, Thy Will Be Done, Monolith. First 100 tickets purchased get early entry and a meet



‘Tattoos of Ships’

George Mason University’s School of Art brings Maggie Michael’s exhibition, ‘Tattoos of Ships,’ to the Fine Art

Gallery in the Art and Design Building on Mason’s Fairfax campus through Feb. 13. The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., unless otherwise noted, and by appointment.

ppir930702@aol.com.

“Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.” 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School. Information and tickets are available online at www.RobinsonDrama.org. Tickets are \$7 online or at the door, or \$5 in advance by mail. Robinson Secondary School is located at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax.

SUNDAY/JAN 24

The Band of the Irish Guards and the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at George Mason University’s Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The U. S. debut of the Band of the Irish Guards, with marches, sailor ballads and Celtic folk songs. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center’s Grand Tier. \$24-\$48. Youth through grade12 half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Springfield Community Theatre presents ‘Heros.’ 2 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15

and greet. All ages. \$20 advance, \$23 door. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

TUESDAY/JAN. 26

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

Lullaby Stories. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Evening stories and activities. Pajamas and stuffed animals welcome. Age 1 to 5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

Design Your Universe North American Tour. Epica, Threat Signal, Blackguard, Todesbonden, Fallen Martyr, Cypher Lock. All ages. \$20 advance, \$23 door, \$50 VIP. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 27

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Bring lunch, join the discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

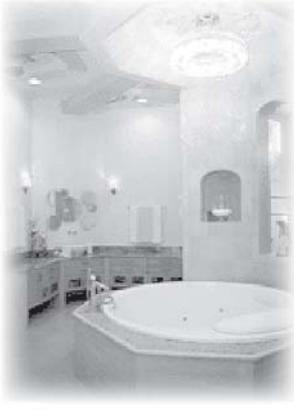
Open Irish Song Session. 8:30-11:30 p.m., at Hard Times Cafe, 6362 Springfield Plaza, Springfield. This song session is open to anyone who would like to sing or listen to Irish songs. Songbooks provided, but singers may bring their own songs as well. All kinds of Irish/Scottish songs are welcome, be they ballads, rebel songs and drinking songs. To learn more, contact Wayne Jordan at wvjordan@aol.com. Hard Times: 703-913-5600.

FRIDAY/JAN. 29

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

Spot-LYTE Company presents: "Incorruptible." 8 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 703-495-0001 or www.workhousearts.org.

Outerloop Presents: Love Hate Hero, Four Letter Lie, Of Machines, Sleeping with Sirens. All ages. \$10 advance, \$12 door. Doors open at 5 p.m., show at 5:15 p.m. TBA, Simply Chaos. 21 and Up \$10 advance, \$12 door. Doors open at 10:15 p.m., show at 10:30 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.



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Cuts Threaten Some High School Sports

Proposal slashes freshman sports, indoor track, winter cheerleading.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

At a freshman basketball game between South County and Lake Braddock on Jan. 14, South County parent John Butler watched as his son Jacob took the court with the Stallions.

For Jacob the transition from club-level basketball to high school has been eased through a year of play on the freshman squad.

“There weren’t really any other options.”

— Bill Curran

“You can’t just jump into varsity sports,” Butler said. “You have to prepare for it. That’s what makes freshman basketball good for younger kids. It helps them prepare.”

Butler said Jacob is considering playing in college, but for now his son will work his way up the South County basketball hierarchy.

In 2011, however, incoming freshmen may not get the same chance.

On Jan. 7, Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) Superintendent Jack Dale proposed \$104.8 million in program cuts for Fairfax County schools.

On the chopping block are all freshman sports, winter cheerleading and indoor track.

Under the proposal, swim and dive teams also would have their practice time cut in half and all athletes would pay a \$100 per

SEE FRESHMAN, PAGE 11



FILE PHOTO

Members of the Lake Braddock, South County and West Springfield indoor track teams participate in a relay. For the second year in a row, indoor track is on the county’s planned budget cuts.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Senior guard Myisha Goodwin drives the hoop in the Eagles 81-38 victory against Yorktown on Jan. 19.

Engine Keeps Chugging

Senior guard rides streak of 11-straight 20-point games.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Edison point guard Myisha Goodwin makes just about everything look easy on the basketball court.

Her free-throws sink effortlessly through the hoop, she executes exciting no-look passes with ease, and scoring 20 points or more in a game is a pedestrian feat.

“I’m able to score when I want to,” Goodwin said. “I can take players one-on-one and if players know where I am they can give me the ball [to score].”

It’s not just that Goodwin sometimes can score close to half her team’s points in a game, but that she’s consistently does so.

The last time the North Carolina State-bound guard scored less than 20 points in a game was on Dec. 5 in a 57-47 overtime victory against Riverbend.

“She’s the engine to our team,” head coach Dianne Lewis said. “When she goes, we go.”

Lewis said she believes Goodwin could even score 30 points-per-game.

“She knows how to score and she knows how to get to the basket,” Lewis said. “She’s going to make sure she can get to the basket. She knows how to finish.”

On Jan. 19, Goodwin once again displayed her finishing ability with a 27-point game in a lopsided 81-38 victory against Yorktown.

Goodwin said her talent doesn’t just come from hard-work in the gym or on the court, but from scouting her competition in the next level.

“I watch a lot of college basketball, teams in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and learn from them,” she said. “I look at their ball-handling and playmaking.”

Her interest in analyzing players in the ACC, home to top girls’ basketball programs such as Duke, North Carolina and

Florida State, is simple.

“That’s where I’ll be playing next year,” she said. “I want to be ready for them.”

Despite Goodwin’s boisterous on-court scor

“I’m able to score when I want to.”

— Myisha Goodwin

SEE EDISON’S, PAGE 11

Freshman Sports, Indoor Track At Risk

FROM PAGE 10

sport fee to participate in a Virginia High School League sport. The money would go to the county's general fund.

Bill Curran, FCPS director of student activities, said the drastic cuts represent how the lagging economy has forced the county to scale back its spending in 2011.

"The cuts are more for preserving what we can for the students," Curran said. "Not what we could take away."

Curran said the proposed athletic budget cuts would save the county \$1.8 million, but would also displace 2,200 freshmen athletes and 300 coaches, roughly 12 coaches per school.

"There weren't really any other options," Curran said of cutting the freshman programs.

The \$100 athletic fee is estimated to bring in \$900,000, half of what is being cut from the activities' budget.

Students who cannot afford the \$100 VHSL fee would be covered similar to those who receive free and reduced lunches, Curran said.

THE PROPOSED cuts also affect sophomore and junior athletes who would have to compete with incoming freshmen for limited spots on junior varsity teams.

"Coaches are going to have to make player evaluations," Curran said. "They'll have to make cuts at the junior varsity level."

Not surprisingly, the budget cuts aren't that popular with local parents.

"It's placing kids in a bad situation because you're taking opportunity away from them," Butler said. "[Freshman] sports help



The South County freshmen basketball team huddles up before their game against Lake Braddock. In 2011, freshmen sports such as basketball may cease to exist due to proposed budget cuts.

PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

students transition from middle school to high school. It's not just about sports."

On the opposite side of the court during the recent South County-Lake Braddock freshman basketball game, Lake Braddock parent Tonna Roberts also expressed displeasure with the proposed cuts.

"It doesn't surprise me because the county has thrown us out before," she said. "I don't think they think freshman sports are important."

Like Butler, Rogers' also focused on how

future students would deal with the leap from middle school to high school.

"It's hurting the opportunity to get fully acclimated with the school," she said. "It's huge to become part of the school. To not allow [freshmen] to have activity with each other in the school is criminal."

For the second straight year, indoor track is also at risk, a move that Lake Braddock indoor track coach Mike Mangan said could displace as many as 2,700 athletes.

"It's amazing that we're re-fighting the

same battle we did last year," he said. "But as a group, we're ready to show that we provide a lot of opportunity for the kids."

He pointed out that indoor track serves a diverse group of students who benefit from the sport's existence.

"We're the largest female sport, we're one of the largest minority and low-income sports, and there's virtually no money barrier to enter our sport," he said. "You just have to have a pair of shoes. You don't have to have prior training and there's no cuts."

The sport also has launched some of the area's top athletes, including nationally ranked runner Liana Epstein of Lake Braddock.

"If there isn't indoor track, [Epstein] never runs," he said. "She started out with indoor track and moved to cross-country from there."

Mangan also questioned if the county really had explored alternatives to removing freshman sports, winter cheer and indoor track.

"It's hard for me to believe that we can't find a way to take care of these kids," he said. "Instead of having one group taking a hit for everyone, we should look at other ways to [save sports] by cutting our costs."

Community members will have a chance to speak on the proposed budget cuts at public hearings taking place Monday, Jan. 25 and Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 6 p.m., at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church.

An online petition opposing the cuts was started on Jan. 11 with a goal of gaining 1,000 signatures. It is available at www.thepetitionsite.com. As of Tuesday night, Jan. 20, the petition had 758 virtual signatures.

Edison's Engine Goodwin Keeps Chugging

FROM PAGE 10

ing presence, Lewis said her star player lets her actions speak louder than words. "She's a quiet leader," Lewis said. "She's not the most vocal kid, but she sees the floor very well and makes our post players look really good."

Her teammates also recognize her hushed leadership style.

"[Goodwin] lets her game do the talking," junior guard Kierra Graham said. "It's not that she's always quiet. ... She's just a great asset to the team and doesn't always have to be vocal."

Goodwin's exceptional play is only one reason the Eagles are enjoying a 13-1 record this season, riding a 12-game winning streak that dates to Dec. 5.

"[The success] has actually come from our defense," Lewis said. "Our focus this year is to have the defense help us create points on offense."

Another element in the Eagles' lengthy winning streak stems to their only loss, a 48-41 defeat by Osbourn Park on the season's opening night on Dec. 3.

"We learned from that loss," Lewis said. "We had a horrible third quarter. We had more turnovers than baskets. So we worked from that game."

Now it's a matter of making sure the success doesn't get to the girls' heads as the season draws to a close and National District tournament play looms.

"We talk to them about [getting complacent] every single day," Lewis said. "Every day we challenge ourselves and each other. We know there will be teams that are building in our schedule, so we have to make sure we continue to play hard."

The Eagles next face Hayfield (6-8) on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:45 p.m., at Edison High School.

5 Qs with Edison guard Ruth Sherrill

Q: Do you have a pre-game pump up song?

A: I don't have one personally, but the team does. It's "I Go Hard" by Rihanna.

Q: What's the farthest you've traveled from home?

A: I traveled to Chicago with my club team. We played some games there and we learned a lot from them. The teams were really good, but it was a lot of fun.

Q: Who inspires your basketball play?

A: I would have to say [Boston Celtic] Kevin Garnett. He leads his team by example and I watch all of his games.

Q: Any favorite sports moments?

A: I don't think I have one yet. I'm still waiting for it to come.

Q: Most you've ever spent on basketball shoes.

A: I think it was \$80 for some Nikes. I had to help my mom around the house with chores to help pay for them.

— REED S. ALBERS



CRAIG STERUTZEL

Sophomore guard Ruth Sherrill scored 18 points in the Eagles' 81-38 victory over Yorktown on Jan. 19.

5Qs

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6126 LEE BROOKE PL.....\$515,000..Sun 2-4....Long & Foster.....Betty Barthle.....703-425-4466

Kingstowne/Alexandria (22315, 22310, 22309)

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7204 RACEPOINT WAY.....\$599,950..Sun 1-4....Long & Foster.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..703-822-0207
6177 WINDHAM HILL RUN.....\$494,950..Sun 1-4....Long & Foster.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..703-822-0207
6227 DUNWICH WAY.....\$569,950..Sun 1-4....Long & Foster.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..703-822-0207
124 N GRAYSON ST.....\$479,000..Sun 1-4....Weichert.....Ron Fowler.....703-598-0511
1 NEELY ANN CT.....\$825,000..Sat 1-4....Coldwell Banker..Phyllis Patterson.....703-408-4232
5644 GLENWOOD DR.....\$799,000..Sat 1-4....Coldwell Banker..Phyllis Patterson.....703-408-4232
8825 COOPER RD.....\$340,000..Sat 1-4....Weichert.....K. Joyce Clevenger.....703-851-6929

Annandale (22003)

3711 MERLIN WAY.....\$595,000..Sun 1-4....Samson.....Scott Koval.....703-625-3446

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HOME SALES

DECEMBER 2009
\$865,990 ~ \$356,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
7509 RED HILL DR	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$865,990	Detached	0.26		LAKEWOOD HILLS
7508 RED HILL DR	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$760,000	Detached	0.25		LAKEWOOD HILLS
6312 STILL SPRING PLACE	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$750,791	Detached	0.00		KINGSTOWN
5688 TOWER HILL CIR	5	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$735,000	Detached	0.10		KINGSTOWNE
8706 CENTER RD	5	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$729,900	Detached	0.15		LEE-BROOKE
7003 CLIFTON KNOLL CT	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$718,000	Detached	0.22		CEDAR KNOLL
7607 MCWEADON LN	5	4	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$669,000	Detached	0.19		ACCOTINK BLUFF ESTATES
7302 BATH ST	8	6	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$600,000	Detached	0.25		SPRINGFIELD
8964 SCOTT ST	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$600,000	Detached	0.32		SOUTH RUN FOREST
6665 ORDSALL ST	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$579,000	Townhouse	0.04		KINGSTOWNE
6616 SPRINGIRTH TER	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$565,000	Townhouse	0.04		KINGSTOWNE
6448 SUTCLIFFE DR	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Townhouse	0.06		KINGSTOWNE
6116 HARMON PL	5	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$527,000	Detached	0.24		CARDINAL FOREST
5600 ASHFIELD RD	4	4	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Detached	0.25		HAYFIELD FARM
6605 THORPE TER	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.05		KINGSTOWNE
7912 JANSEN DR	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$475,000	Detached	0.43		WEST SPRINGFIELD
6653 PATENT PARISH LN	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$475,000	Townhouse	0.06		ISLAND CREEK
7603 DUNSTON ST	5	5	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$474,000	Detached	0.25		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7033 FLAX ST	4	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$470,000	Detached	0.23		ROLLING FOREST
7920 LAURAL VALLEY WAY	5	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$461,000	Detached	0.22		SARATOGA
9001 DAUM CT	3	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$460,000	Townhouse	0.07		SOMERSET AT SOUTH RUN
6825 REYNARD DR	4	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$451,700	Detached	0.32		ORANGE HUNT ESTATES
8933 ARLEY DR	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$448,000	Detached	0.20		LAKEWOOD HILLS
5536 CALLANDER DR	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$445,000	Detached	0.26		KINGS PARK
6546 KELSEY POINT CIR	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$437,500	Townhouse	0.06		KINGSTOWNE
5937 KIRKCALDY LN	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$432,500	Townhouse	0.03		KINGSTOWNE
6405 BARDU AVE	3	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$430,000	Detached	0.28		WEST SPRINGFIELD
8621 VICTORIA RD	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$429,000	Detached	0.35		KINGS PARK
8921 SPUR RD	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$425,000	Detached	0.23		LAKEWOOD HILLS
6640 KELSEY POINT CIR	3	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$425,000	Townhouse	0.03		KINGSTOWNE
6626 KELSEY POINT CIR	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Townhouse	0.05		KINGSTOWNE
5511 SOUTHAMPTON DR	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$399,900	Detached	0.24		KINGS PARK
7766 DESIREE ST	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$399,900	Townhouse	0.04		ISLAND CREEK
5312 FERNDAL ST	3	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$392,000	Detached	0.26		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7001 CATLETT ST	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$389,000	Detached	0.42		NORTH SPRINGFIELD
6305 WAYLES ST	4	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$385,000	Detached	0.30		MONTICELLO WOODS
7135 SONTAG WAY	4	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$385,000	Detached	0.20		ROLLING VALLEY
8433 CARMELA CIR	3	3	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$379,000	Townhouse	0.03		THE FOREST AT SOUTHRUN
7219 GENTIAN CT	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$371,000	Townhouse	0.06		HUNTER VILLAGE
8076 WHITLERS CREEK CT	3	2	2		SPRINGFIELD	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.04		WOODS OF POHICK THE
6643 BRIARLEIGH WAY	2	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$364,900	Townhouse	0.03		AMBERLEIGH
6240 LEVI CT	4	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$362,000	Townhouse			JAPONICA
8405 CARMELA CIR	3	2	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$360,000	Townhouse	0.03		THE FOREST AT SOUTHRUN
6103 FOX HILL ST	4	2	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$359,000	Detached	0.20		YATES VILLAGE
6635 BRIARLEIGH WAY	3	2	2		ALEXANDRIA	\$356,000	Townhouse	0.03		AMBERLEIGH

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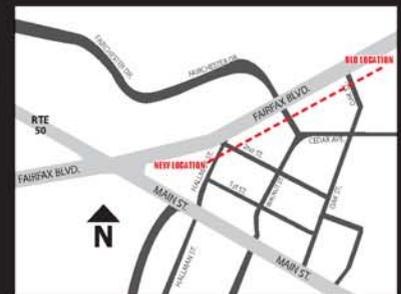
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Apothecary Goes On after Founder's Death

FROM PAGE 3

munity professional pharmacy," Cathy Burns said. "He wanted to serve the community in a professional capacity and wanted to have a business that our children could have in the future."

FOR THE NEXT 30-plus years, Larry Burns could be found in the store five to six days a week, talking to his customers and dispensing medical advice that either doctors or other pharmacists didn't have the time to give. He became so ingratiated into the community, Cathy Burns said, that even when patients moved out of the area, they still called to request that their scripts be filled at the Apothecary and mailed to their new homes. All of this changed however, when Larry Burns died unexpectedly last August, in a way fulfilling his dream to bestow the business to his son Brian and daughter Traci.

"When people heard that Larry passes, they got tears in their eyes and some even walked out to collect themselves and then came back in," said Dr. Ali Abassi, pharmacist in charge.

After Larry Burns died, his family sought to stay committed to his vision, and soon, Brian, who only worked at the store in high school and part time after college, joined full time to oversee operations. His sister, Traci Wilson, began training to become a pharmacy technician so she could help out. As she had been doing for years, Cathy Burns used her background as a lawyer to oversee the business' finances. The result of this familial commitment, it would appear, has made the Apothecary stronger than ever.

While the store still fills scripts and does custom compounds, they have begun an attempt to broaden their reach within the community. If medicines cannot be swal-



Pharmacy Technician William Harrison gets medications prepared for pickup.

lowed, the pharmacy technicians can mix it into a liquid or make a suppository, and they still offer information on medicine interactions that a doctor who does not see the patient regularly can give. However, the family recognized other needs in the area and is determined to satisfy them.

The store has opened its doors to the veterinary community, offering custom mixing for animal medicines and has even begun flavoring that medicine as well. According to Brian Burns, the store offers beef,

chicken, liver and bacon flavoring for pet owners whose pets refuse to take the medicine. In addition, they can also flavor children's medicine with seven different options that they let each child sample before making a decision.

"A lot of prescriptions are not available in commercial packaging and sometimes people need custom strengths that aren't available," Brian Burns said. "A custom compound only takes about 20 minutes mix, but it may take five hours to dissolve in water. So, many pharmacies don't

"Drugs are a commodity. The reason why people chose us is the service."

— Brian Burns

FCDC Picks Rex Simmons as New Chair

FROM PAGE 3

Delegates against Del. Tim Hugo (R-40). It was after that race that he was first offered the position as FCDC chair. Feeling that he had not been involved with the committee process enough to go on board, he turned down the offer. However, he did accept a position as chairman of the State Affairs Committee.

By increasing his involvement in the community and being co-host for "The Road to Richmond" brunch, Simmons had the opportunity to learn more about the people in the community. Last year, he was again asked to run for FCDC chair. "Thought long and hard about it," said Simmons. At this point, with 32 years of experience in the federal government, Simmons decided to pursue the position. He was elected as new chair at the 2010-11 Biennial Reorganization Meeting that took place on Jan. 5.

"I think it's terrific," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), the former FCDC chair. "It's good to have people to run as candidates before because they can make the candidate's job easier. Rex has always been one of the hardest working people."

It was evident for Surovell that as new chair, Simmons would face many challenges in his new position. "It's a lot bigger than when I took over, and with all that increase in budget and staff, comes increase in responsibility," said Surovell.

Simmons pursued a bachelor's in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It was there, 32 years ago, that he met his wife Nancy. In 1973, he moved to the Washington, D.C. area to

pursue a master's degree in public administration at American University.

Simmons worked in the Government Accountability Office during the first 16 years of his professional career. Soon after, he was an assistant inspector general for two bank regulatory agencies. At that stage, his priority was the creation of the Department of Defense's Office of the Inspector General. "It's been a sticking point because

there were a lot of objections," said Simmons. He made creativity and innovation part of his career which ultimately helped him with what he thought was the biggest challenge in his governmental career — trying to get things done with fewer resources. He retired in Jan. 3, 2007 after

"Rex has always been one of the hardest working people."

— Del. Scott Surovell (D-44)

The Apothecary

Call the Springfield Apothecary at 703-451-8992.

want to take the time to do those things. Not to mention that we spend a lot of time trying to flavor medicines, as well."

Twelve years ago, Brian Burns said, the store began supporting adult group homes for those with disabilities, but lately, the number has grown to as many as 32 at any given time. Also, the store has begun to offer flu vaccines and is even planning to offer traveling vaccination clinics. In addition, he said that the store would soon support hospice patients and if his proposal to the county is accepted, the store would support all mental health patients in the county, too.

"When there was the H1N1 scare last year, the makers of the vaccine stopped manufacturing it," Brian Burns said. "Our pharmacy was one of the only ones in the metro area that stocked up ahead of time so we had enough to serve anyone who came in. If we were able to do that during an emergency, imagine what we could do on a daily basis, and our customers realized that."

As the program expands, the Burns family can expect larger corporations to come knocking at their door. According to Cathy Burns, the store has been approached several times, as recently as last November, by large chain stores offering to buy the Apothecary. Though the offers may be tempting, the store's patrons do not have to worry about seeing anyone other than the Burns family behind the counter, as they want to continue Larry Burns' legacy and keep it within the family.

"We have the liberty to practice pharmacy the way we want to," Abassi said. "Mr. Burns was an icon in the field, and maintaining his legacy is the intent."

running for the House of Delegates.

Former President John F. Kennedy, Simmons' first inspirational figure, began making an impact on him as a young boy. The famous phrase "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country" has always resonated with him. "You see this man with a great amount of wisdom and you just wonder the potential of this country had he had not been assassinated," said Simmons.

As the new chair of FCDC, Simmons' main goals include overseeing elections and promoting the stability of the FCDC. "As an organization, I believe that we are the premier Democratic grassroots organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia. We want to maintain that," he said. "I want to see an FCDC that looks more like the population of the Fairfax County that it is today. That means the inclusion of more minorities and younger people."

CAMPS & SCHOOLS



Keene Mill Hoedown Keene Mill Elementary School students dance at the schoolwide Hoedown on Friday, Jan. 8, in the school gym. Parents joined students in performing traditional American square dances, with dances led by a professional caller. P.E. teachers Stan Bragg and Kim Mason arranged the event.

FAITH NOTES

Burke Presbyterian Church is participating in the Church World Service (CWS) humanitarian relief efforts to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The public can help CWS in its urgent disaster response by assembling and donating a hygiene kit or a baby kit. BPC is a collection point for the kits. To create a kit, visit either www.BurkePresChurch.org and click on "Haiti Relief" or visit www.ChurchWorldService.org and click on "Hygiene Kit" or "Baby Kit." Both of these sites provide specific instructions on how to assemble a kit. Drop off kits at Burke Presbyterian Church, located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Phone the church office with any questions at 703-764-0456.

United Methodist Men Breakfast is on Saturday Jan. 23, at 8 a.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The men of Franconia UMM (United Methodist Men) will begin another year in ministry to the men of the congregation with their annual kickoff breakfast to plan out the entire year of 2010. 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

Grace Presbyterian Church Weekday Preschool Open House. Friday, Jan. 22, at 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; pre-orders only, \$10 per large one topping pizza. Classrooms will be open from 7-8 p.m., with hands-on activities to explore with children. Music and movement will be available with our music teacher, 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Appropriate for age 2-5. 703-451-3314.

An Evening with Dr. Hugh Ross. Sunday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m., at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. Free and open to the public. 703-971-4673 or www.newhope.org.




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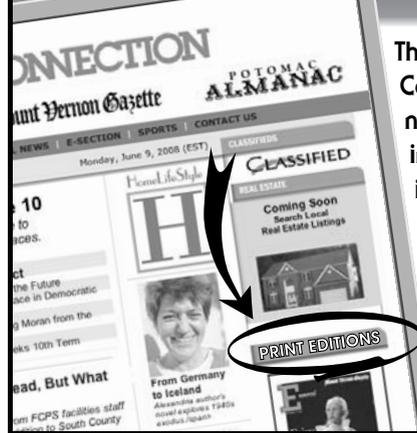
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FROM PAGE 4

500,000 pounds of electronic equipment were recycled.

Complete details on this event and other recycling opportunities planned for 2010 can be found on the Solid Waste Management Program's Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling or by calling the Recycling InfoLine at 703-324-5052, TTY 711.

Artists' Group Seeks New Members

The Kingstowne Area Artists' Association is looking for new members to meet once a month. Dues are \$20 a year. The purpose of the group is for artists to network, socialize, learn from each other and participate in opportunities to show and sell their work. The club is non-juried, which means artists do not have to have their work judged to join. This group meets the second Thursday of the month, at 6:30 p.m., at the Kingstowne Active Adult Center, 6488 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria. Contact Ginny Sywyj at duchessducky@msn.com or Nancy Hannans nancyhannans@yahoo.com. The group welcomes all visual artists, including photographers, professional or hobbyist. Learn more at www.kingstowneartists.com.

Summer Camp Positions Available

The Fairfax County Park Authority is looking for creative, high-energy candidates to work part-time as camp leaders and site directors. Open hires take place March 5, May 7 and May 21, from 12-5 p.m. on at the first floor office of the Park Authority in the Herrity Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. Open hires will also take place on March 12 at Hutchison Elementary School and on April 22 at Fort Hunt Elementary School, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. on both days. The Park Authority will also be hiring staff for summer camps at several other locations.

Applicants must bring their original Social Security card and employee eligibility verification, such as a driver's license, passport or school photo ID. Additionally, applicants should bring a voided check to assist in setting up direct deposit. For additional information and requirements visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or e-mail RecPAC@fairfaxcounty.gov.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Looking for a Boy Scout troop to join? Boy Scout Troop 1849 invites boys interested in being a scout to visit the troop at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Contact Scoutmaster Sandy Rothberg at 703-541-3060 or sandy@baddmanors.com.

The Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Lions Clubs are comprised of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. Visiting Lions and prospective members are welcome to attend. E-mail, cad123@verizon.net

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-Dean Acheson

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Search and Rescue Teams Head to Haiti

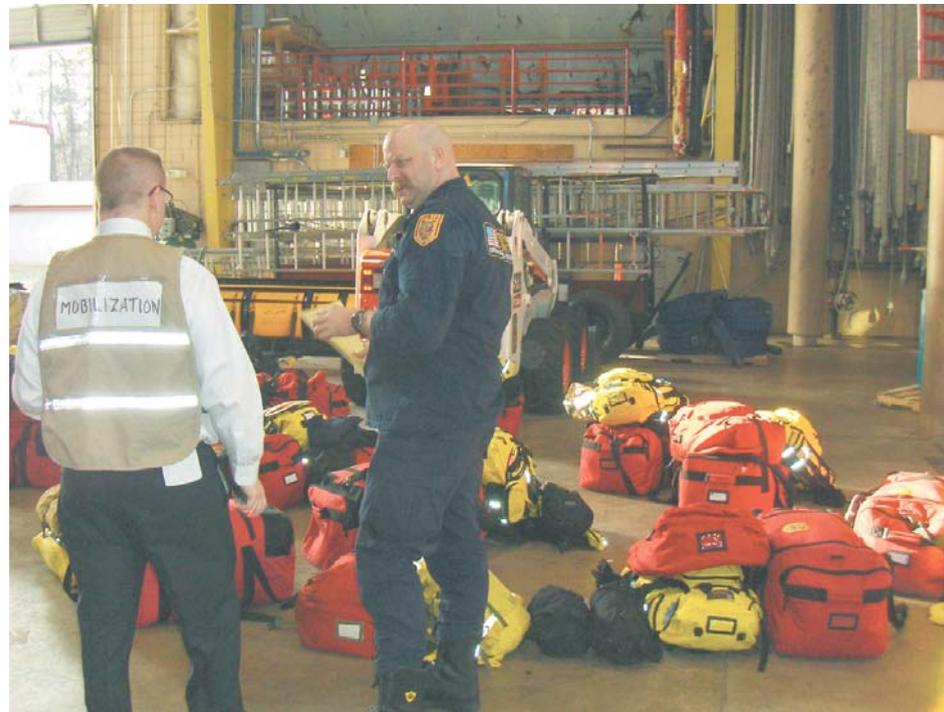
FROM PAGE 4

Team members went through several check-in stations. They started with medical and passport checks and turned in their cell phones, keys and pagers. Deputy Fire Chief Mike Reilly, of Centreville's Virginia Run community, worked as the mobilization manager, in charge of sign-in reception, food, equipment and getting everything to the departure point.

"I coordinate with the Family Support Services Team (FSST), making sure people get a checklist of everything required of them," he said. "If something's missing, such as their shot card, ID or equipment, they'd be non-deployable. So they come to me and I see that their issue is handled." Reilly also had a canteen unit bring the members hot and cold beverages and ordered dinner for them from Firehouse Subs.

Teresa MacPherson of Catlett is the canine search specialist. She's not a member of the fire department, but has been on the team since 1993. Her partner's a 5-year-old black Labrador named Banks.

"We were in Haiti in '08 for the school collapse," she said. Before Banks begins a search, MacPherson unclips his leash so he's unencumbered. "We don't want any snagging," she said. "He can go places we can't. I say, 'Go find,' and he starts looking for live, human scent in the rubble. He covers a lot of area in a short amount of time. Where he finds the strongest scent, he starts bark-



From left, Deputy Mobilization Manager Paul Torpey and USAR team program manager Keith Morrison discuss the logistics of the team's impending departure for Haiti.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

ing; then someone will start searching."

MacPherson was eager to leave and get busy. "We train hard for this," she said. "We want to go and help."

Lt. Rodney Vaughan is a rescue squad officer on the team. Formerly of Centre Ridge, in Centreville, he now lives in Gainesville and has been a team member since 1998. He responded to numerous hurricanes, including Katrina, plus Taiwan in 1999 and Iran in 2003. In Haiti, eight to 10 people will be assigned to him.

"When Technical Search locates victims, through listening devices, dogs or hearing them yell out, we'll confirm how deeply they're embedded," said Vaughan. "For example, they could have been on the first floor of a six-story building that collapsed, so we coordinate the rescue effort."

"If we need heavier equipment than we have, we'll work with heavy riggers, delayering [debris] 'til we get to them," he continued. "We're not going to stop 'til we get to them."

The Fairfax rescuers will probably work in 24-hour shifts, to start, with downtime, here and there. Normally, half the team would work days, and the other half, nights. But, said Vaughan, "Due to the amount of work, it's round the clock now."

He, too, helped with the mobilization, "pushing paperwork, getting everything

in order," and looked forward to "getting down there and doing what we train relentlessly to do — rescue people. It's a lot like a soldier trains for a war — not that you want one — but when that time comes, you want to be able to put it to good use."

Vaughan said they'd all "done this enough" so that they can quickly assess whatever situation they encounter and proceed accordingly. Hardest, he said, was wanting to get there as fast as they could, but understanding that it takes six to 14 hours to assemble all the gear, get the plane ready and the equipment on board.

"It's a huge undertaking and we'd like it done in 30 minutes," he said. "Then, once we're on the ground, the physical work and sleep deprivation will eventually take a toll on us. But when we're working, we don't let it bother us."

Vaughan will miss his two daughters and wife Erica, though. But, said Erica Vaughan, "I'm so proud of what he's doing. He's been training to do this and I hope he'll save some lives." She said she never gets used to his deployments and worries about him while he's gone. But, she added, "I know he's in the Big Man's hands and [the fire department] does a good job of keeping us updated."

Technician Kevin Dabney of Vienna has been on the team more than 10 years. A rescue specialist, he helps with team organization and works under the Task Force leaders, Fire Chiefs Jim Strickland and Robert Zoldos.

"I'll command others to do search and

rescue, and we'll help in any way we can," said Dabney. "We're 100-percent self-sufficient and don't need anything from the local government."

After receiving a geographical location to search, the Command and General Staff Team that Dabney's on determines which people should go where and sees that they're properly equipped. It also handles safety, logistics, medical, planning and operations matters.

We ask, "Is there medical transport? Where do we send survivors?" said Dabney. "What about security issues — are there roadblocks?" So behind the scenes, there's a whole lot of work."

When they hear of possible survivors needing rescue, first a small reconnaissance team assesses whether it's a workable location. Then, if it's a go, six to 80 people — including medical personnel, technical search specialists, dogs and structural engineers — would respond. The size of the response depends on the size of the site and the suspected number of victims needing rescue.

Since firefighters communicate by radio, Lt. Wes Rogers' specialty is also crucial. Rogers, of Oak Hill, works in communications in the Massey Building in Fairfax and also on the USAR team.

"I set up repeaters, enabling the radios to talk further than line of sight," he said. "Depending on the terrain, we could have a 4-mile range. I'll also set up satellite communications to talk to our Operations Center at the

Fire and Rescue Academy and will establish communications with our USAR team already in Haiti."

Typically, team managers receive radio updates about the victims, plus the status of the search teams, where they are, if they're all right and if they need anything.

Last Thursday, Rogers could hardly wait to get there already and start helping. "Everybody here has that attitude," he said. "I'm proud of the team. Everybody works together, and we all want to save some lives."

Squad officer Richard McKinney of Fair Oaks is captain of the Frying Pan Station. He's a 30-year member of the fire department and has been on Task Force 1 since its inception.

"We'll search buildings, going in void spaces and looking for trapped people," he said. "USAID will tell us which buildings and areas to check." What makes it so dangerous, said McKinney, is the unknown.

But he's glad to do what he can and he likes the camaraderie among the people on the team. "Most of them I've known, my whole career, so they're just like a second family," he said. He's been with them to Oklahoma City, Taiwan and the Pentagon after 9/11.

"We're 100-percent self-sufficient and don't need anything from the local government."

— Technician Kevin Dabney of Vienna



The team members' red and yellow bags are piled on the floor at the Fire and Rescue Academy prior to being loaded on a truck for transport to the airport.



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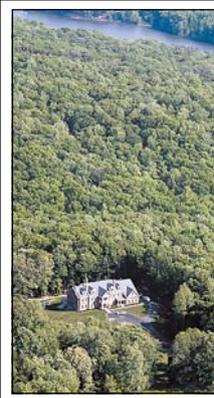
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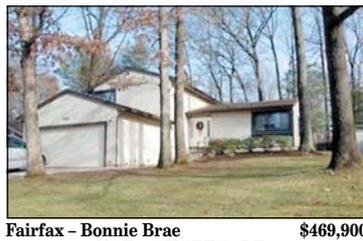
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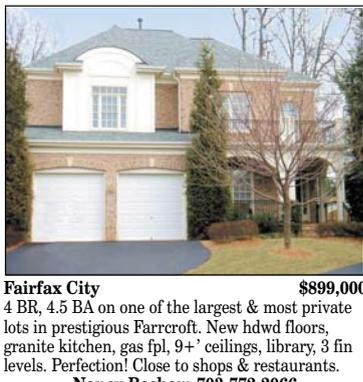
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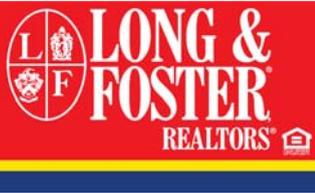


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Centreville **\$324,900**

PRISTINE 3 level, sun filled garage TH! Deck w/steps to fenced yard*Neutral carpet/paint*Hdwd floors in foyer & kit*Spacious LR & sep. DR*3 upper lvl BRs including the mstr suite w/cathedral ceiling, 2 closets incl. a walk in & a lux. BA w/soak tub & sep. shower*Upper lvl washer/new dryer*Daylight bsmt w/rec room*Close to shopping & commuter routes*Great community amenities*REGULAR SALE!



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Fairfax Station **\$685,000**

Coming Soon!
Charming wonderfully priced 3 level Cape Cod on peaceful 1+ acre lot, Walking distance to Fountainhead

Park. Quality built, mostly brick, 5BR, 3BA, Fin walk-out LL, Hdwd floors, scrnd Porch, updated Kitchen & Baths. Walk-in Attic, storage galore! Deck overlooks woodland, beautifully landscaped.



Fort Belvoir **\$2750/mo. Rental**

Immaculate 4-level brick townhome in Inlet Cove, close to Lorton VRE, Metro, and minutes to Fort Belvoir. Gorgeous open floor plan w/hardwood floors, 9 ft+ ceilings, huge kitchen w/island. MBR w/tray ceiling, walk-in closet, soaking tub w/separate shower. Finished walkout level w/gas fireplace, patio, deck plus 2-car garage. Must see this beautiful 1st time rental.
Call Judy McGuire 703-581-7679



Sheila Adams

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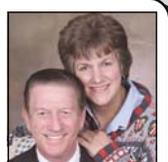
Woodbridge **\$449,900**

Picture Perfect
Lovely 4 Bedroom, 3 1/2 Bath
Colonial, sited on a perfect lot, Large Gourmet Kitchen w/Centre Island, Breakfast Room w/ Glass Slider views

Gorgeous Deck w/built-in Hot Tub, Manicured yard completely fenced with Privacy Fence, Lower Level offers theater Room, exercise Room, 5th Bedroom & full Bath.
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Alexandria **\$450,000**

Coming Soon
Very spacious 5 BR, 4 BA, 3 level house in Hayfield Farms. In need of a little TLC to make it home and value priced to sell. Sunroom off kitchen, hardwood floors on upper 2 levels. Finished lower level with walkout to fenced back yard. Convenient to Ft. Belvoir, schools, shopping, restaurants & transportation.

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