

Springfield **CONNECTION**

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne ♦ Newington

Improvements on the Fairfax County Parkway, such as this ramp from Interstate 95 that opened in December, are some of the changes that Springfield residents can expect in 2011.



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PHOTO BY

DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Down The Road

NEWS, PAGE 2

I Resolve To ...

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Have Fun,
Don't Breathe

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Year Ahead: Springfield

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Springfield is set to undergo another set of big changes that could affect everything from school assignments to local traffic patterns in 2011.

Like most recent years, large construction projects will abound in Springfield during the coming months. Major roadwork continues to take place on the Fairfax County Parkway and political leaders said construction of the Springfield Mall is likely to get underway this spring.

Many local citizens and elected officials are fearing what the U.S. military's base realignment and closure adjustments could do to local traffic congestion when they go into effect this coming fall. The sweeping changes will move thousands of military personnel and contractors out of Crystal City office space and into new facilities off Interstate 395/95.

Here is some more detail on the issues facing Springfield in the new year:

AREA PREPARES FOR LARGE MILITARY INFLUX

The U.S. Department of Defense plans to finish a shift at least 19,000 local military and security-related jobs to three new sites in Northern Virginia by the middle of this coming September.

Back in 2005, a Defense Base Realignment and Closure commission voted to move a large swath of defense personnel, many of whom work in Crystal City, to more remote locations in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria.

A new facility on the old Engineer Proving Grounds in central Springfield will absorb approximately 8,500 of the relocated employees. A building under construction off Seminary Road near Interstate 395 will house approximately 6,400 workers in Alexandria.

The remaining 4,000 or so workers will end up at Fort Belvoir Army Base in Mount Vernon, according to officials.

The army is also building a new hospital at Fort Belvoir's campus that will be more than double the size of its current facility. The medical complex is designed to serve many more patients than the existing building because Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., is supposed to shut down relatively soon.

"The economic development importance of [the Base Realignment and Closure decision] is huge. We will now have high-paying jobs close to where people live in Springfield. Springfield residents won't have to drive into Arlington, Alexandria or Washington, D.C., to get to work every day," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee.)

"I think one of the biggest changes [related to the base realignment] will be the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

A new facility at the Engineering Proving Grounds in Springfield will soon be home to 8,500 federal employees.

amount of new office space we have in Springfield," he said.

A company that specializes in constructing space for federal contractors is building new office park on the site of a vacant Chevrolet dealership off Backlick Road. Many of the hotels that have recently been constructed in the area are also intended to serve federal contractors and other businessmen who travel to meet with officials at the General Administration Services site, said McKay.

"After the [base close announcement], we saw the construction of some speculative hotels in Springfield and we are going to have a lot more. Some hotels have already

filed for building permits," said McKay.

An influx of new jobs could be a boost for Springfield, but the changes to commuting patterns for several thousand local workers could also aggravate existing traffic problems.

Local community leaders said they expect a sharp increase in traffic along Interstate 395 and Route 1 next fall, when jobs are permanently moved to the Mark Center and Fort Belvoir.

"Metro expects that it could take a shuttle 45 minutes on to run from the Franconia Station to Seminary Road on Interstate 395 once the Mark Center opens," said Nancy Jo Manney, executive director of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

Neither the Mark Center nor Fort Belvoir are located near a subway, rail or other large transit station and commuters will have limited options for exiting and entering those facilities.

People trying to access Fort Belvoir's campus have to enter through a Richmond Highway gate. Likewise, cars can only access the Mark Center by getting onto Seminary Road at some point.

By contrast, the Engineer Proving Ground site will have several alternative routes available for employees moving in and out of the facility. Now that the Fairfax County Parkway has been completed, employees coming from western Fairfax will have a relatively direct route to and from the new Springfield facility. A special ramp from Interstate 95 directly onto the grounds of the defense office building also opened last week.

Manney added that people working at the former Engineer Proving Ground site is near the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station and Virginia Railway Express stop.

"I am worried about the Mark Center and Belvoir because those two sites are going to affect traffic in Springfield more than the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Development company Vornado is testing out some new floor tiles outside Macy's on the second floor of the Springfield Mall.

A look at the issues facing the Springfield community in 2011.

local facility will," said McKay.

The Defense Department has a plan to gradually move its employees to its Springfield location. Starting in late January, approximately 200 to 300 employees will move to their offices to the site each week, said Manney.

"Moving 9,000 workers is going to present some hurdles but we are in a much better place than the Mark Center is," she said.

OWNER TO BREAK GROUND ON MALL RENOVATION

After years of waiting, the public may finally see some dirt churn and other construction at the languishing Springfield Mall.

McKay said the mall's owners, Vornado Realty Trust, are expected to kick start a multi-phase renovation project for the central Springfield site some time in the next few months.

"I expect us to break ground in early spring, hopefully in the March or April time frame," said McKay.

The company's long-term plans eventually call for a total transformation of the mall from a standard suburban shopping center to a 21st-century town center with several large residential and office buildings. But the first set of improvements will be more modest and focus mostly on making the existing mall more attractive.

In its first phase, Vornado intends to focus on revamping the interior of the mall. These renovations will include the addition of a movie theater with stadium seating and a brand new food court, he said.

The Springfield business community expects that the mall, once renovated, will be able to attract more fashionable retail outlets than it currently has, said Manney.

"I know the leasing office is currently talking to potential tenants. ... I think this is going to be a very good year for the mall. I think we are going to see some very exciting things there," said Manney.

Many members of the public may just be happy to see something, anything happening in the way of improvement at Springfield Mall, said elected officials.

During most of 2010, there were some concerns that Vornado might walk away from mall altogether.

The real estate company had purchased the Springfield Mall in 2006 for about \$171 million, according to a company press release.

Following the real estate crash in 2008, Vornado claimed it needed a lower mortgage payment in order to keep the property. Late last month, the real estate company announced that it had finally settled on a new sale price for the site, reported to be about \$115 million, and said it would

SEE LOOK AHEAD, PAGE 7



Political Resolutions

Local political leaders offer a variety of resolutions, some humorous, some serious, for 2011.

"My resolution is to train the very cute and loving puppy I adopted for my family from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter ... and to encourage more people to visit the shelter and its wonderful staff on West Ox Road when they are thinking about acquiring a new pet."

— U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)

"I was grateful to receive 61 percent of the vote in November and in 2011 will be working hard to earn that level of support."

— U.S. REP. JIM MORAN (D-8)

"My New Years Resolution is to do everything in my power to jump start the process of bringing widening, transit, and change to U.S. Route 1."

— DEL. SCOTT SUROVELL (D-44)

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) poses with wife Cathy, daughter Caitlin, and new dog Abigail, a Poodle-Bichon mix the family adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

"I resolve to get back in shape so I can go skiing. I used to go skiing with my family every year since 1970, but as I approach 50 and have a habit of eating my 5-year-old boy's leftover happy meal french fries, I have 'lost my edge.' So I will be in the gym. Oh, and I need to learn 'Stairway to Heaven' on my guitar."

— DEL. DAVE ALBO (R-42)

"My resolution this year for the legislative session is to do all I can to restructure the re-entry process for offenders committed to the state juvenile correctional system. This re-entry process will utilize evidence based best practice proven to be effective. By using vacancies in local juvenile detention centers for the final weeks of their incarceration, we can reduce the size of government by downsizing existing infrastructure, save money, move services closer to people, provide state of the art programming that will reduce recidivism, and bring jobs to 12 localities around the Commonwealth. I will be meeting with the governor on this soon and hope that it will become one of his New Years Resolutions."

— SEN. DAVE MARSDEN (D-37)

Smoking Persists A Year After 'Ban' Takes Effect

Several local bars still make room for smoking sections one year after ban.

BY JULIA O'DONOCHUE
THE CONNECTION

Ralph Brown and Bill Hays have been coming to Patriot's Café on Fairfax Boulevard in Fairfax a few times per month for the past 13 years.

Hays, who was wearing a Washington Capitals sweatshirt and hat during a recent visit, enjoys watching sports on the restaurant's large-screen television. Patriot's also has decent food and exceptional customer service, he said.

Over the past year, Brown and Hays have been sitting in Patriot's new non-smoking area. Patrons used to be able to smoke anywhere in the small restaurant. But now, smokers have to go into a separately ventilated room to light up.

"I'll sit in there but I don't really want to sit in there," said Hays, of Patriot's smoking section.

Neither Hays nor Brown are smokers and both were pleased when Virginia's new restrictions on smoking in restaurants took effect last December. Now, most restaurants they visit are either smoke-free or have sizable non-smoking sections, they said.

"I have no problem with a smoking sec-

tion as long as it is away from me," said Hays.

The friends have come across at least one restaurant that doesn't seem to have embraced Virginia's year-old limitations on smoking.

One Centreville bar technically has the state-mandated non-smoking section but it is crammed into a small corner with no access to televisions, pool tables or other forms of entertainment found in the establishment, they said.

"I refuse to go there. That isn't a non-smoking area. The smoking area is where all the entertainment is. If you want to be in a non-smoking area, they force you into this isolated room. It is a joke," said Brown.

A YEAR AFTER Virginia's so-called "smoking ban" went into place, local smokers still have several options if they want to light up and sip a beer at the same time in central Fairfax County.

That is because the "smoking ban" passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2009 doesn't actually ban smoking from any restaurant or bar. Instead, it requires that es-

tablishments provide a non-smoking section and at least one entirely smoke-free entrance.

Virginia's ban is significantly weaker than similar provisions found in Maryland and Washington, D.C., where indoor smoking is prohibited outright in the vast majority of restaurants and bars.

Rather than go smoke-free, several local Virginia bars and restaurants have walled off sections of their establishments and in-

than the its non-smoking section, though the smoke-free area has its own bar, a stage and a couple of pool tables.

LOCAL BARS with smoking and non-smoking areas generally go out of their way to accommodate patrons in both sections.

The staff at Patriot's, for example, provides table service to customers in the non-smoking section, so that those patrons don't have to enter the smoking area to place a food or drink order.

But a few local bar owners are doing the bare minimum to meet the new legal requirements. These establishments relegate their non-smoking section to the smallest, least desirable part of their floor plan possible.

"Most of my clientele smokes," said Sonny Kim, owner of Q Ball Billiards in Springfield.

Soon after the new smoking restrictions took effect last year, Kim installed a small, glass hut for smokers in the center of his pool hall. Initially, Kim thought he had to provide a non-smoking passage to the bathrooms, which are located along the back wall of Q Ball, to be in compliance with the new law.

Later, Kim discovered that other bars and

"There are a hundred other places where you are not allowed to smoke, so non-smokers can go there."

— SONNY KIM, OWNER OF Q BALL BILLIARDS IN SPRINGFIELD

vested in new ventilation systems.

At the end of April, Fast Eddies' Sports and Billiards in Fairfax divided its space in two and made the back of its establishment, where nearly all of the pool tables are located, a smoking section.

"Nine times out of ten, the smoking area has much higher attendance than the non-smoking area. Even people who don't smoke prefer to go back there," said Mike Rosenbaum, Fast Eddies' assistant manager.

According to Rosenbaum, Fast Eddies' smoking section is 20 to 30 percent larger

SEE ROOM, PAGE II

NEWS BRIEFS



PHOTO BY LISA CONNORS/FAIRFAX COUNTY

Pictured, front row, from left, Bruce Wright, Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) Fionnuala Quinn, Kerie Kitt, and Chairman Sharon Bulova (D). Back: Supervisors Michael Frey (R-Sully District); John C. Cook (R-Braddock); Gerald W. Hyland (D-Mount Vernon); Penelope A. Gross (D-Mason, Vice Chairman); John W. Foust (D-Dranesville); Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee); Pat Herrity (R-Springfield); Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence)

Bike Group Receives Honor

Representatives from Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB), a local bicycling group, were honored by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at its Dec. 7 meeting for creating a resource guide for bike advocates in Virginia. Last year, FABB volunteers won a grant from Alliance for Biking & Walking to write a guide that bridges the gap between advocates and design engineers. The Alliance grants are awarded to jump-start innovative projects with the potential to dramatically increase biking and walking in the U.S.

The guide was prepared by Fionnuala Quinn, a civil engineer from Fairfax, and Reston residents, Bruce Wright, chairman of FABB, with assistance from long-time cyclist Kerie Kitt. The guide demystifies and streamlines the confusing road design process in an effort to help bicycle advocates ensure that public roads are bicycle-friendly.

"The Fairfax County bike staff, Charlie Strunk and Jeff Hermann, VDOT staff and others gave us many useful insights during the project. We appreciated all of the county support in working to improve the quality of community dialogue on important design issues," said Quinn.

The Guide for Reviewing Public Road Design and Bicycling Accommodations for Virginia Bicycle Advocates was published in July of 2010. Copies can be downloaded at www.fabb-bikes.org/guide.

— VICTORIA ROSS

Legislative Town Hall, Jan. 15

Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) joins State Sens. George Barker (D-39) and Toddy Puller for a Legislative Town Hall to discuss the 2011 General Assembly session. The Town Hall will be 10 a.m. at the Kingstowne South Center, 6080 Kingstowne Village Parkway, Alexandria.

District Open House, Jan. 22

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and his staff are hosting the Lee District Open House on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 1-3 p.m., in the Helen Wilson Community Room at the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Springfield Art Guild will also be hosting an exhibit during the Open House. Light refreshments will be served.

NEWS

Linking Two Cultures

GMU professor brings personal knowledge of Korean culture to classes.

BY PAUL TOMASELLI
& RACHEL JOUBRAN
THE CONNECTION

Dr. Don Michael Boileau has been teaching at George Mason University for 23 years. He is in close touch with the Korean culture and all its teachings, having lived with the Song Family in Korea in 1968 and 1969 as a Peace Corps volunteer. The father of the family, Il Song, was a doctor with three children, two boys and a girl.

"It took me only a few weeks to get accustomed to the Korean culture because of the wonderful family," said Boileau. The family gave him the support and guidance he needed to adapt to the Korean way of life.

Since Boileau already had experience teaching at Portland State and Michigan University in the United States, the Peace Corps approved his plan to teach Korean college students.

THE FIRST course that Boileau taught was public administration at Munji, a college in Korea. He taught the Korean students in the English language, not in Korean because they wanted the Korean students to be accustomed to English. He adapted quickly to those with limited or no English speaking ability. He also did tutoring at night for the Department of Forestry.

During his second year in Korea, Boileau joined a



DONATED PHOTO

Dr. Don Michael Boileau

taught topics relating to those type industries.

In Korea, Boileau was able to link his native country to his teachings, so Koreans could learn about America. He uses the same approach today by connecting Korea to his American students at George Mason in the three classes he currently teaches: Foundations of Intercultural Communication, Rhetorical Criticism, and Parliamentary Procedure.

"We are in a global economy, everyone is going to be able to travel overseas someday,"

— Dr. Don Michael Boileau,
George Mason University

working in Korea.

Boileau has had many Korean students in his preceding classes. He finds that it gives him a different dimension, bringing back memories of where he once lived.

SEE BRINGING, PAGE II



PHOTO BY CAROL M. MILLAR

Musical Interlude

Under the direction of Susan Lester, fifth and sixth graders in the Keene Mill Elementary School Chorus performed in the school gym on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

PEOPLE

Expect Hazardous Conditions Ahead . . .

... but no one said that was a bad thing.

BY ROXANNE SUTTON
THE CONNECTION

Mark Hazard Osmun gets around. He's written three novels, was the director of public relations at Jackson Family Wines, and won a Silver Anvil from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) for the "A Really Goode Job" Campaign he created for Murphy-Goode Winery. These are just a few of many in a long line-up of accomplishments.

For a man who has done so much in the public relations field, Osmun has a lot of information he is willing to pass on to the next generation of PR professionals.

Osmun graduated from George Mason University in 1975 with a B.A. in English. At the time, Mason did not have a Communication Department.

"In 1975, I think we only had 2,500 students," he said.

Today, George Mason has more than

32,000 students and more than 800 students in the Communication Department.

ALTHOUGH Osmun's current job uses the resources that the Communication Department at Mason offers today like journalism and public relations, he said his degree in English gave him the tools he needed to succeed.

"English is about communication, writing, understanding, recognizing nuances, all essential to what I do," he said.

Osmun recently received a Silver Anvil, one of PRSA's highest honors, for the "Really Goode Job" campaign for Murphy-Goode

wine. The campaign's goal was to use social media to establish a market with the "millennial" generation. Osmun and his associates did this by holding a competition to hire someone to live the "Goode" life by tasting wine, eating food, and living in the wine country of California—all while getting paid \$10,000 a month to do it. The campaign increased wine sales for Murphy-

"English is about communication, writing, understanding, recognizing nuances, all essential to what I do."

— Mark Hazard Osmun



DONATED PHOTO

Mark Hazard Osmun

Goode by 74 percent and created more than 800 million media impressions.

Osmun's inspiration for the campaign came over a cup of coffee one January morning. "I saw a story in the paper about Australia's 'Best Job in the World' promotion for Queensland Tourism. As I drank my coffee, I slapped the paper and said, 'That's brilliant. I wonder if we could do that for wine.'"

They could, and they adapted the idea in the U.S. before anyone else. He said that if you're going to use someone else's brilliant idea, "you'd better be able to do it well, and do it fast."

WHEN IT comes to advice for someone entering the burgeoning public relations, Osmun suggests a background in journal-

ism. Many universities incorporate journalism in their public relations curriculum. At George Mason University, for example, students with a concentration in public relations take journalism classes to learn to write effectively. Osmun also recommends interning for a media outlet. "A future PR pro gains invaluable insight into how the media operates and what it wants," he said.

Osmun's favorite part of his public relations career is creating a plan and then seeing it work. Public relations is especially rewarding when working with charities. There, PR professionals can see how their work makes a difference in someone else's life.

While Public Relations is usually a rewarding career, like all jobs, it has its down sides. Osmun said he can relate to the TV show "Mad Men" when they say, "Love the work. Hate the clients." He said it is common to get hired by employers who will not always trust your decision-making abilities and therefore will resist your ideas.

The next step in Osmun's life might involve a little bit of Hollywood glamour. He has written two screenplays that are being reviewed in Los Angeles. More importantly, though, his future contains the relentless pursuit to remain creative in whatever he does.

"I like to take risks — my middle name was prophetic — because the only thing I'm sure of is that I absolutely will not achieve anything remarkable if I don't," he said.

To Be Greek or Not To Be Greek?

One George Mason University student shares ups and downs of sorority life.

BY VERONICA HUNSBURGER
THE CONNECTION

Colleges around the world have an extensive amount of participation in Greek Life on campus. With multiple sororities and fraternities to choose from, sometimes deciding to go Greek can be difficult.

Katelynn Cannava of Burke, a senior year Communications student at George Mason University, is a part of Greek life as a sister at the Alpha Phi Sorority. Alpha Phi has a "formal list of values and goals to strive for as college

"It's something that can take up a lot of time and not everyone can make that commitment."

— Katelynn Cannava

PART OF GREEK life encourages members to give back to the community. Charity events and community service are only some of the many tasks lots of sororities

women" said Cannava. "Without joining Alpha Phi my freshman year, I don't think that I would be the same person that I am today. I've had unforgettable experiences, made friendships that I will keep, and have matured and grown into a person that I definitely not was four years ago." With sorority membership at 106 girls, one might think joining Alpha Phi was lot to handle, but Cannava said otherwise. "Even with such a large number of girls and the diversity that we have, I find that I can really mesh well with a majority of my sisters," she said.



DONATED PHOTO

Katelynn Cannava

and fraternities take on.

"In the past and most recently, we have volunteered at a local flea market, we raised money for and participated in the AIDS walk and the heart walk, we have held blood drives on campus, and we have also volunteered with the Best Buddies program on campus," said Cannava. "Every year, we hold a King of Hearts pageant (male beauty pageant) and a Red Dress

Gala where we raise money for our philanthropy, the Alpha Phi Foundation in Support of Cardiac Care."

Don't get the idea that these groups are all about work and no play. "Each semester,

we have mixers with fraternities and a mixer with a sorority, sisterhood retreats and a semi-formal in the fall and a formal in the spring" said Cannava.

To be able to encompass a family bond with so many people, give back to the community, and enjoy memorable events throughout your college years sounds like an ideal experience, but Greek life isn't for everyone.

"It's something that can take up a lot of time and not everyone can make that commitment," said Cannava. "You only get out as much as you put in."

Cannava has offered advice for anyone walking the line between rushing or not. "I would say to test it out," she said. "Go to some of the events that Pan-Hellenic (the un-biased representative of all six sororities on campus) sponsors, meet and get to know some people in Greek life and see if it is for you. Being Greek really isn't the stereotype that it's made out to be on television shows and movies. We actually do a lot for the community while also balancing that with fun retreats and formals."

OPINION

Resolved: Pick One Way To Get Involved

How about helping others in the New Year?

New Year's resolutions? Go ahead, let's pledge to lose weight, exercise regularly, spend less, recycle, save and read more. The turn of the calendar really does provide an impetus to make small and large changes in the way we live.

One item to add to the list of resolutions is to get involved locally. Volunteer one time for one day, or give a few hours a week to something that interests you. Pick one place where you can make a difference. The experience will enrich you (and your family) as well, connecting you to the community in new ways. Making time for even a single volunteer effort communicates an invaluable message about your values to your children in a powerful way that words cannot match.

Most local nonprofits and church groups that provide emergency food and services for families in need are overwhelmed right now by the dramatic increase in demand for food, emergency help with rent to prevent homelessness and much more. See sidebar for some suggestions.

Volunteer Fairfax connects volunteers of all kinds to organizations in need of help, providing flexible weekend and evening opportunities including packing emergency food kits for families in crisis, tutoring adults in alternative learning programs, reading to elementary school children after school, socializing with seniors or planting trees to prevent erosion. Volunteer Fairfax will hold its annual Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day on Monday, Jan. 17, 2011 at George Mason University, an opportunity to work on service projects with your family. See www.volunteerfairfax.org.

The Arlington County Volunteer Office promotes civic engagement and active volunteer participation, coordinating volunteer opportunities from hundreds of non-profit and government agencies. Visit www.co.arlington.va.us and type "volunteer" into the search box.

The Alexandria Volunteer Bureau recruits and coordinates volunteers and matches their

interests, skills and availability with the needs of service-providing nonprofit organizations and public agencies. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org.

The Literacy Council Northern Virginia is in need of volunteers who will devote several hours a week to helping adults master reading and writing skills; visit www.lcnv.org.

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer is a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of a child in court. CASA volunteers help children who will have their home placement determined in juvenile court. See www.casafairfax.org.

The Alexandria/Arlington Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program has helped hundreds of children have a voice within the court system. See <http://www.scanva.org/casa.htm>

Some other suggestions:

Get involved in state and local political campaigns. Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board and many other state and local offices are about to enter campaign mode, with some races hotly contested. Volunteer with a candidate, with the League of Women Voters or with your local electoral board.

The public school or library closest to your house is also in need of volunteers. Homeowners associations need activists to learn about a variety of local issues and coordinate neighborhood response. Your church or house of worship could use a hand. Animal shelters and animal rescue groups are also over extended with families giving up pets due to the economy, in addition to their usual work. Environmental groups like Audubon Naturalist Society and the Nature Conservancy offer many kinds of volunteer opportunities, as do local parks.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

pening to our communities, our governance, that so many people can witness breach of public trust and arrogantly turn their backs hiding in a curtain of fabricated, limited and skewed information and behind the skirts of sympathetic politicians? Allowing a member to deliberately obscure the

LETTERS
truth, insist in rationalizing and justifying a vote rooted on deceit before Fairfax County's citizenry can only be categorized as appalling and demoralizing.

This comment is not a shot in the dark nor does it qualify as irresponsible. The incongruence of a vote to close a Governor's Award of Excellence community school vis-à-vis the solutions presented in the Southwestern Regional Plan-

ning Study as well as the information provided in multiple hearings raised suspicions of an agenda behind an agenda.

An informed public with the responsibility and power to vote can and will take care of this situation. Let FCPS know that they as well as the School Board work for U.S., the Fairfax resident.

Lin-Dai Kendall
Fairfax Station

Major Change For Schools

To the Editor:

The Fairfax County School Board is considering a proposal to delegate authority to the superintendent to establish the length of

Places To Volunteer

- ❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly, 703-988-9656.
- ❖ Shelter House, www.shelterhouse.org, operates two homeless shelters in Fairfax County, in Centreville and Seven Corners, 571-522-6800
- ❖ Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, 703-385-3267
- ❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org
- ❖ Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org
- ❖ SHARE of McLean, 703-284-2179, www.SHAREofMcLean.org
- ❖ Herndon-Reston FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105
- ❖ Food for Others, 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, 22031, 703-207-9173
- ❖ United Community Ministries, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306
- ❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160, www.echo-inc.org, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield
- ❖ Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton, 703-339-8611. www.lortonaction.org
- ❖ FACETS, 703-352-5090
- ❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063, www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- ❖ The Campagna Center in Alexandria 703-549-0111
- ❖ Arlingtonians Meeting Emergency Needs (AMEN), 703-558-0035
- ❖ Doorways for Women and Families, Arlington, 703-522-8858
- ❖ Arlington Food Assistance Center, 703-845-8486
- ❖ ALIVE (Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically) www.alive-inc.org
- ❖ Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia, Arlington, 703-521-9890
- ❖ Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic in Herndon, www.jsfreeclinic.org
- ❖ Arlington Free Clinic, 703-979-1400
- ❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-222-0880
- ❖ Lamb Center, www.thelambcenter.org, Fairfax, 703-691-3178

the school day. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area spoke against this policy change at the Dec. 2 School Board meeting. This is such a major change that it should have been discussed widely and received more public attention. The League supports well defined channels for community input and review for FCPS policies. Setting the amount of time that students will be in school is a fundamental responsibility of local school boards: this decision should not be delegated to the superintendent or any other employee.

Virginia Fitz Shea

chairman
Schools Committee
League of Women Voters of the
Fairfax Area

THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Look Ahead in Springfield

FROM PAGE 2

be moving forward with the renovation project.

PARKWAY CONTINUES TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS

Two decades after the first drop of asphalt was poured, Springfield residents saw the

final link of the Fairfax County Parkway open late last year. In 2011, the Virginia Department of Transportation hopes to build on that success when they complete the parkway's interchange with Boudinot Drive south of the Engineering Proving Grounds this coming summer.

"Right now, it is very tricky getting to Boudinot. The interchange will make access to Boudinot easier and reduce commuter

traffic on the local streets," said Mike Salmon, a spokesman for the Virginia Department of Transportation.

SCHOOL BOUNDARIES

Fairfax County Public Schools may be adjusting several school boundaries in the near future that could affect households in the Springfield area.

Fairfax schools' staff intends release its recommendation for new elementary school districts in the southern and western Fairfax by Jan. 11, said Dean Tistadt, the school

system's chief operating officer. After a few days of public hearings in early February, the Fairfax County School Board is expected to vote on the proposed school-redistricting plan by the end of next month, he said.

In its most recent iteration, the new school boundary proposal would increase enrollment by hundreds of students at Sangster and Fairview elementary schools. Both Tistadt and School Board member Liz Bradsher (Springfield) said they were looking for ways to tweak the proposal so that the student populations at those two schools would not grow at such a significant rate.

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PEOPLE

Secret Confessions of a Sneakerhead

GMU student spends thousands on top sneakers.

BY RACHEL JOUBRAN
& PAUL TOMASELLI
THE CONNECTION

You may come across different people who love to collect a variety of things, from sports gear, cards, shells, stamps, even small mementos like shot glasses from around the world. Paul Tomaselli, a George Mason University Communications student, happens to collect sneakers.

It is cliché that girls love shoes and can never have enough, but Tomaselli proves that guys can have that same obsession. He has more than 200 of them and does not plan on stopping his collection any time soon.

As a 25-year-old, full-time student and part-time employee, Tomaselli finds spare time to look, research, buy and collect sneakers, something he's done since fifth grade.

Tomaselli grew up in Alexandria and Centreville and attended Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax. He attended Catholic schools his entire life and had to wear a uniform every day, so he found that sneakers were a good way to express himself in physical education class or on dress-out days. His mother would take him twice a year to get a new pair and would let him pick out any reasonably priced pair that he liked.

In December 1996, during fifth grade, he realized he had become a "sneakerhead," someone who has a huge passion for collecting sneakers. He remembered the mo-



Self-confessed 'sneakerhead' Paul Tomaselli poses next to a stack of sneaker boxes.

ment as if it were yesterday.

Tomaselli went to a Champs Sports store in a local mall and was mesmerized by a pair of Nike Air Penny II's in the black colorway and also in the blue/white colorway. The only problem was that he wanted to get both, but his mother gave him a limit of one pair since each was \$125. He spent an hour deciding and ended up walking out the store with the black version, which quickly became his favorite pair back then.

In 2008, Nike retroed the Air Penny II's. "Retro" is a term that means to bring a shoe back after it was discontinued from production, and Nike stopped making this sneaker in 1996. Tomaselli was able to grab five 2008 retro pairs of the black Air Penny II's, and a pair of originals from 1996. The blue/

white version of the Air Penny II was retroed in 2009 and he finally was able to buy those.

He went back to school with those brand new Air Penny II's and received attention that he adored. Because of the beauty of the sneakers, along with the popularity he was gaining, Tomaselli was growing into a huge sneakerhead. This passion got even bigger in 1998 when he fell in love with the Nike Air Foamposite Max silver colorway. Even though they were \$180, Tomaselli convinced his mother to buy them for him and his popularity was pushed even more at school. Even his teachers were starting to comment on his sneakers.

During his high school years, Tomaselli began driving and working, which meant that he was able to have transportation and money to purchase multiple shoes by him-

"I currently like any shoe that stands out and that shows flashiness and those that just look beautiful."

— Paul Tomaselli

self. During these years, he built a new love for Nike Air Force Ones and Air Jordans, building his collection out of those. The Air Forces quickly became boring though and did not give him the excitement that he used to feel, so the Jordans and Nike basketball shoes were his main purchases.

"I currently like any shoe that stands out and that shows flashiness and those that just look beautiful," said Tomaselli. His favorite sneaker of all time is the 1996 Air Jordan XI Concord, which was also retroed in 2000 and in 2006. Michael Jordan, Tomaselli's favorite basketball player, wore these when he played and Nike created 23 different styles of his Air Jordan sneaker line. This specific pair happens to be the 11th shoe of his line, and probably the most popular among Jordan sneaker fans.

As if spending more than \$26,000 on his sneaker collection is not crazy enough, Tomaselli has pushed his limits in doing some crazy things to get the shoes that he really wants.

In 2006, there was a package of Jordan XI's and Jordan VI's, and Tomaselli took some extreme measures of trying to purchase them. First he tried to buy them online at midnight, but the website crashed. So, he went to the mall at 12:15 a.m. and waited eight hours to find out that half of

SEE SMOTHERED, PAGE 12

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. 6

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

FRIDAY/JAN. 7

Apex Booking Presents: Wings of Apollo, Clocks Strikes XII and More. 5 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

U.S. Navy Concert Band. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.



Professional Bull Riders Tour. 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$20-\$65. Age 2-12 years old and excluding top price seats \$10. Available through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

SATURDAY/JAN. 8
2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.
Outerloop Presents: Battle For Ice

Violinist Chee-Yun

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra will be performing on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The concert will feature violinist Chee-Yun and works by Bernstein, Walton and more. Tickets \$25-\$55, available at **888-945-2468** or cfa.gmu.edu.

888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Professional Bull Riders

Tour. 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$20-\$65. Age 2-12 years old and excluding top price seats \$10. Available through www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Paws to Read. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice reading aloud with a therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register at 703-339-7385.

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

SUNDAY/JAN. 9

U.S. Marine Band Commodores. 2 p.m. at the George Mason University

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

MONDAY/JAN. 10

Marvelous Mittens! 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and activities about mittens and winter weather. Tickets distributed 30 minutes before program begins. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Book Bunch. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Book discussion. Call for title. Age 7-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Life Under the Snow and Ice. 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Learn about life hidden in a frozen world of snow and ice. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center. Age 6-12. 703-451-8055.

Happy Birthday, Princess Priscilla! 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Celebrate the birthday of the branch bear with stories, songs and fun! Age 24 months-3 years with adult. Registration not required; tickets distributed beginning 30 minutes before the event. 703-339-4610.

Read to the Dog. 4:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a reading therapy dog. Age 6-12 with adult. Register at 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/JAN. 11

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Practice and improve English. Adults. 703-451-8055.

Second Tuesday Book Group. 6:45 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. The Smart Swarm by Peter Miller. Visit secondtuesdaybookgroup.blogspot.com. Adults. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 12

Toddler Time. 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Early literacy storytime. One age 13-23 months per adult. 703-971-0010.

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

Older Adults Book Group. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "The Lost Symbol" by Dan Brown. Meet next door at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults (KNCAA). Cosponsored by KNCAA. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/JAN. 13

Preschool Storytime. 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Storytime for age 4-5 with adult. Registration not required; tickets distributed beginning 30 minutes before the event. 703-339-4610.

Practice Your English. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

FRIDAY/JAN. 14

"Willy Wonka Jr." 7:30 p.m. at the New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. Northern Virginia Players present Roald Dahl's story of the famous candy maker. \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. 703-866-3546 or www.nvplayers.com.

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Sports — An Annual Fabric of Life

Last year brought many memorable sports moments, expect more to come.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Sports are a big part of my life as I realize they are for much of the Connection Newspapers readership that support and cheer on their favorite youth, high school, college and professional sports teams.

For me, the yearly calendar is often marked by signature sporting events, such as the NFL playoffs in January, Major League Baseball's Opening Day in early April and the men's NCAA college basketball tournament in March.

My birthday (March 13) always arrives as the college basketball conference and national tournaments are beginning to unfold. Many of my birthdays have been extra special or dampened somewhat, depending on how my favorite college men's basketball team, the Terrapins of the University of Maryland, fared at the ACC Tournament or whether or not they went on to qualify for the national tournament field.

Sports fans often associate major events in their lives with landmark sports moments involving their favorite teams. A former co-worker of mine, a huge Boston Red Sox fan like myself, got married and enjoyed his honeymoon during the Sox's history-making World Series run in the fall of 2004.

After being with my mom in the hospital for the birth of one of my younger brothers, my father, then the high school boys' basketball coach at Bishop O'Connell in Arlington, rushed from the hospital to the O'Connell gymnasium where his Knights were in the closing minutes of a nip-and-tuck game. Upon my dad's arrival to the home team bench, his head assistant coach, in one of those memorable moments that has been remembered and laughed about for years, simply told him, "It's yours to lose."

In fact, O'Connell won that night, making it one of my dad's landmark coaching days — with the birth of a son and a basketball victory.

THERE WERE WONDERFUL local sports memories made in 2010 for fans around the Northern Virginia area. Quickly coming to mind for me were the prep school heroics of the Virginia State AAA baseball champions from West Springfield High School, who defeated previously unbeaten Woodbridge, 10-2, in the state title game on July 12 at Westfield High School. The Spartans, who successfully defended their Northern Region title, were led over the season by First Team All-State Pitcher Bobby Wahl, Virginia Player of the Year Charlie Morgan and Virginia Coach of the Year John James. It was

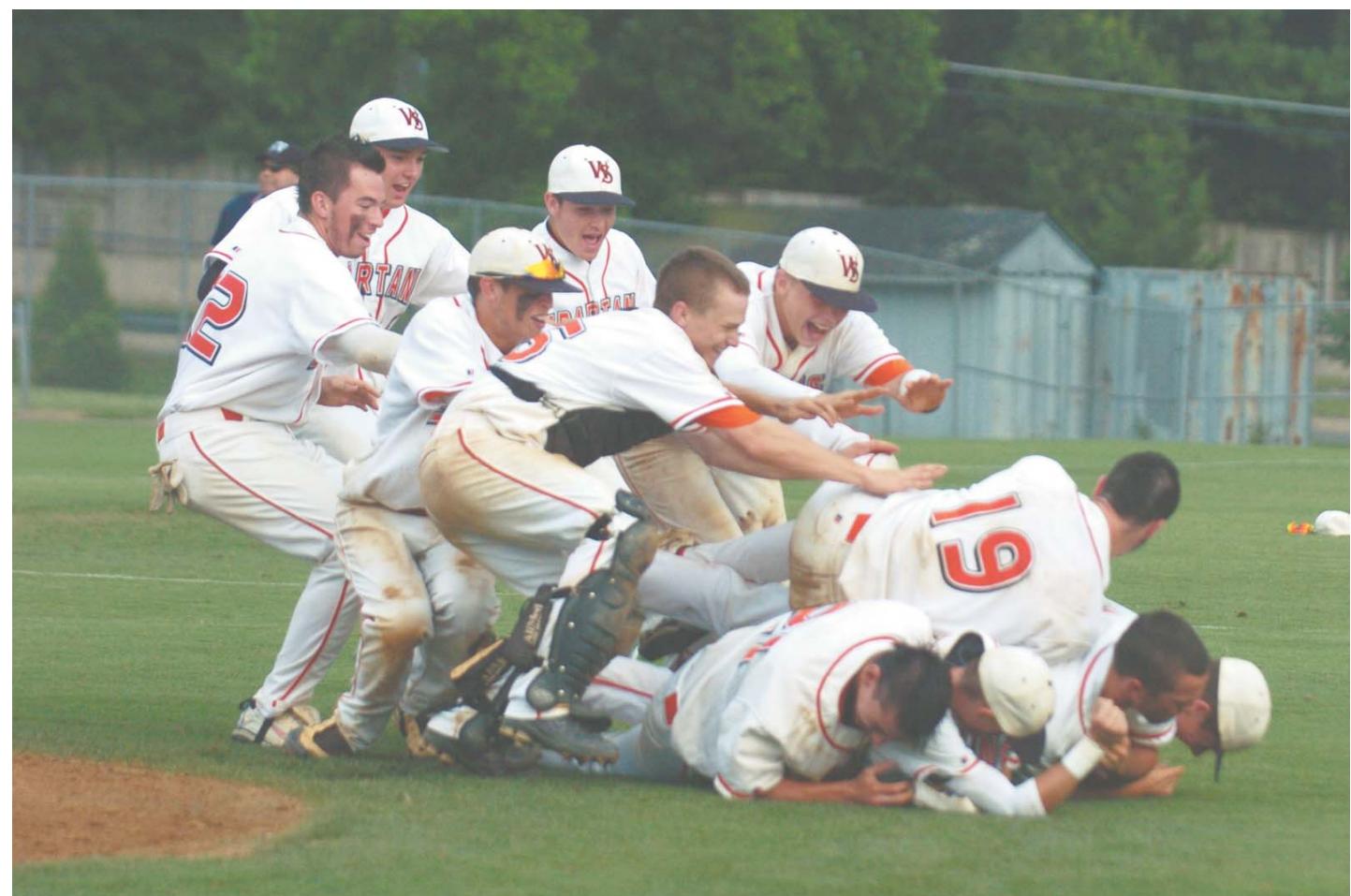


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The West Springfield High baseball team won its first state AAA crown since 1998.

the Spartans' first state crown since 1998.

The Lake Braddock Secondary football team, led by star quarterback Michael Nebrich, successfully defended its Northern Region title by defeating Chantilly in the Division 6 region finals before ultimately losing to Battlefield in the state semifinals.

Other area teams experiencing marvelous seasons in 2010 included: the Lake Braddock Secondary girls' cross country team which, behind individual region champion Sophie Chase, captured the team championship; Liberty District girls field hockey tournament champions Fairfax High, a young overall squad that upset top seeded Jefferson in the district championship game; the Rebels' football team, an underdog unit under first year head coach Kevin Simonds which experienced regular season upset wins over both Robinson and McLean on way to qualifying for the Division 5 region playoffs; the Robinson Secondary boys' cross country team, which dethroned five-time Concorde District champion Oakton in capturing the team title; the supposedly re-building West Springfield girls' volleyball team which captured the regular season Patriot District championship and finished 14-7 overall; the Bill Gibson-coached West Springfield girls' basketball team (25-3) that won the Patriot District title, made it to the Northern Region finals and eventually went as far as the state semifinals in Richmond; the Lake Braddock Secondary girls' field hockey team which, in legendary coach Diane Miller's final season, won both the Patriot District and Northern Region titles; the Robinson

Secondary football team which won the super competitive Concorde District regular season title and handed eventual region champion Lake Braddock its lone regular season defeat; the South County girls' softball team, the 2009 region champions who experienced another fantastic season in 2010 by going unbeaten in the regular season and reaching the region semifinals before falling to eventual state champion McLean; the W.T. Woodson baseball team which upset Northern Region power Lake Braddock at the region tournament semifinals to qualify for the state playoffs; the Woodson girls' lacrosse team which won a fabulous come-from-behind state semifinals game over Loudoun Valley, 13-10, by scoring the game's final seven goals and receiving a fabulous outing by Rachel Obregon (5 goals); the Robinson boys' lacrosse team which captured the Northern Region crown with a dramatic overtime win over defending region champion Langley; the Hayfield girls' volleyball team had a spectacular season, reaching the region finals and qualifying for the state AAA tournament; and the Robinson girls' soccer team, behind standout seniors Audrey Barry and Ali Heck, which won the Patriot District title, reached the region finals and qualified for states.

Local professional sports highlights for 2010 included the Washington Capitals putting together the best win-loss record in the NHL; Washington Nationals rookie pitcher sensation Stephen Strasburg electrifying the Washington, D.C., home crowd and the entire baseball universe with his debut game, 14 strikeout outing versus the

Pirates; and the Wizards landing the top pick in the NBA Draft and selecting point guard extraordinaire John Wall from Kentucky.

I have covered high school sports for The Connection Newspapers for the past 23 years, and I am still amazed that every contest — regardless of the year, sport, schools involved, or even the players and coaches — is a special, one-of-a-kind event which will never be duplicated. One could attend hundreds of high school football, field hockey or soccer games and all of those sporting contests would hold their own, distinct characteristics, such as weather elements, the mentality of the individual athletes on that particular day, the recent success or failures of the teams leading up to the game, or even the bigger picture world events taking place at that particular time. No two games are ever exactly alike.

Almost always, the teams and players I have watched compete over the years have played with passion, determination and a healthy will to win within the rules. There is still a sense that high school sports is, overall, pure in a way the professional and college games are not.

The New Year, God willing, will be filled with more numerous, exciting high school and youth events for local sports aficionados to take in and enjoy. May area high school and youth sports fans throughout Northern Virginia continue to rally around and remain a big part of the local sports scene in 2011.

My best wishes go out to all for a happy, safe and successful New Year.

COMMUNITY

Room To Smoke, Not Breathe

FROM PAGE 3

restaurants in the area were simply breaking off a small section of space near the front door and not trying to accommodate a non-smoking path to the restroom. He decided to do the same thing. A few weeks ago, the vast majority of Kim's business reverted to smoke-filled pool hall it was before the new restrictions went into place.

"There are a hundred other places where you are not allowed to smoke, so non-smokers can go there," said Kim, who has owned his business for 16 years.

In Q Ball, the non-smoking area takes up about one-tenth of the overall floor space. No pool tables or televisions are located in the non-smoking section and Kim said he is trying to relocate the two dartboards in that section to the smoking area.

"Only one or two people a week go into [the non-smoking section.] They usually go in there to use the phone because it's quieter. That is the only reason I go in there," said Kim.

In the months where Kim had a relatively small smoking section, he lost regular customers to other bars with bigger, more accommodating smoking areas, he said.

"If they wanted to ban smoking, they should have just banned it everywhere," said Kim.

BUT SEVERAL restaurants and bars did make the decision to do away with smoking altogether when the Virginia's new law went into effect a year ago. PJ Skidoos and Artie's in Fairfax went totally smoke-free at that point, said staff at both restaurants.

"Obviously, business has dropped off a little bit. You get complaints from some customers because they are inconvenienced by having to go outside ... You are also having to fight other businesses in the area that have it," said Milton Gerosideris, a manager at PJ Skidoos.

Gerosideris said his restaurant never seriously considered trying to create a smoking section because the owners thought it would disrupt the flow of the establishment.

Bartender Remi Kvedys said he doesn't think Artie's, where he works, has lost any patrons as a result of going smoke-free.

"I do the same amount of business. Most of our customers come here for the dining. Even people who come to the bar, they are actually coming for the food," said Kvedys.

Bringing Korea to Classroom

FROM PAGE 4

"In the past, I had four different Korean girls in one class each with their own background," Boileau said. "One lived in America her whole life and knew nothing about Korea. Another was born in Korea, so [she] knew everything about Korea to speak it and live it, but nothing on America. Another was born and raised in Korea but moved during her high school years so adapted a little, and the last who was born in Korea but just came for a semester to study at Mason, so [she] had no English speaking ability and time to adapt. I was able to adapt to all of them and build a strong connection."

"If you have a Korean teacher, it's like you have a way of communicating with them that's different from how other students communicate with the teacher," said Min Kim, a sophomore Korean student at Mason. "If a teacher understands the culture, they will know more about the student compared to a teacher who only sees the student as an 'Asian.' That's why in high school and even college, you see cliques that are divided by ethnicity, and it's because they understand and know where the other people are from and have some sort of common ground."

The same support the Song Family gave Boileau in Korea is the same support that he tries to give his Korean students at George Mason University.

Cassandra L. Moore 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, Harrisonburg, Va. Moore is the daughter of Dennis L. Moore and Karla C. Torrez of Rasp-

berry Plain Place, Springfield. She is a 2007 graduate of Robinson Secondary School.

MILITARY NOTES

Leo A. Walker 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. Shoukat is the son of Mary V. and Michael M. Shoukat of Center Road, Springfield.

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8490 LAZY CREEK CT	2	1	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.05	NEWINGTON FOREST
7717 MATISSE WAY	3	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$219,000	Townhouse	0.05	NEWINGTON STATION
7819D HARROWGATE CIR #D	2	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$206,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		RAMBLEWOOD AT DAVENTRY
8193 CURVING CREEK CT	3	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$205,000	Townhouse	0.03	NEWINGTON FOREST
7244 JILLSPRING CT #31C	2	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		BENTLEY VILLAGE
8358D DUNHAM CT #622	2	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$152,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		CARDINAL FOREST
7703B LEXTON PL #31	1	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$145,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		RAMBLEWOOD AT DAVENTRY
7806 HARROWGATE CIR #C	1	1	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$140,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		RAMBLEWOOD AT DAVENTRY

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OPEN HOUSES SAT./SUN. JAN. 8 & 9



8909 Jandell Road, Lorton • \$324,900 • Open Sunday 1-4
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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times. 

Springfield

8121 Clifforest Drive	\$349,900	Sun 1-3	Spencer Marker & Co.	Long & Foster	703-830-6123
8431 Willow Forge Rd.	\$350,000	Sun 1-4	Candace Rende	Long & Foster	703-314-2461
8726 Whitson Ct.	\$546,775	Sun 1-4	Karen Brown	Weichert	703-644-1364

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6811 Duke Dr.	\$425,000	Sun 1-4	Greg Koons	Weichert	703-209-7277
6202 Windham Hill Run	\$499,950	Sun 1-4	Tom & Cindy and Associates	Long & Foster	703-822-0207
6809 Morning Brook Terrace	\$669,950	Sun 1-4	Tom & Cindy and Associates	Long & Foster	703-822-0207

Annandale

8821 Burbank Rd.	\$450,000	Sun 2-4	Carol Greco	Long & Foster	703-658-1600
3515 Launcelot Way	\$524,000	Sun 1-3	Theresa Graham	McNearney Assoc.	703-989-6829

Lorton

8230 Catbird Cir, #201	\$215,000	Sun 1-4	Jenny Ko-Martin	Weichert	703-380-8825
8909 Jandell Rd.	\$324,900	Sun 1-4	Cindy Clemmer	McNearney Assoc.	703-966-0403

Burke

5918 Cove Landing Rd, #204	\$209,000	Sun 2-4	Claude Labbe	Coldwell Banker	202-362-5800
9856 Burke Pond Ct.	\$359,500	Sun 1-4	Pam Boe	Long & Foster	703-909-1663
9515 Millgate Pl.	\$449,950	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli	Weichert	703-862-8808
5644 Mount Burnside Way	\$465,000	Sun 1-4	Suzanne Granoski	Keller Williams	703-300-2785

Fairfax

12104 Greenway Ct #201	\$210,000	Sun 1-4	Pat Stack	Weichert	703-597-9373
10719 Oak Place	\$399,900	Sat/Sun 1-4	Charlie Snyder	Century 21	703-346-8113
3836 Inverness Rd.	\$439,900	Sun 1-4	Pat Stack	Weichert	703-597-9373
12674 Heron Ridge Dr.	\$490,000	Sun 1-4	Maureen Almaleki	Weichert	703-934-0400
4950 Wyndcreek Creek Ct.	\$499,950	Sun 1-4	Mier Jury Jury	Long & Foster	703-961-7101
4793 Tapestry Dr.	\$515,000	Sun 1-4	Mary Hovland	Long & Foster	703-425-8000
3517 West Ox Rd.	\$1,049,999	Sun 1-4	Pat Stack	Weichert	703-597-9373

Centreville

6087 Oday Dr.	\$299,750	Sun 1-4	Cynthia Lehman	Long & Foster	703-631-3200
14653 Winterfield Dr.	\$309,900	Sun 1-4	Fran Rudd	ERA	703-980-2572
14913 Carlbern Dr.	\$339,900	Sun 1-3	Tammy Klingaman	Long & Foster	703-986-5700
14716 Lock Dr.	\$389,900	Sun 12-3	Sandy Brill	Century 21	703-858-5676
5529 Ajuga Ct.	\$625,000	Sat/Sun 11-5	Kim Rosewall	Jobin	703-433-0600

Chantilly

13557 Smallwood Lane	\$574,950	Sun 1-4	Judy Pfarner	Samson Properties	703-989-8767
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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-Mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

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Word of Life Assembly of God...703-941-2312

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Baha'i of Fairfax County Southwest...
703-912-1719

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Community of Faith Tabernacle...703-455-4594
Fellowship Baptist Church...703-569-5151

First Baptist Church-Hayfield...703-971-7077

First Baptist Church-Springfield...703-451-1500

Franconia Baptist Church...703-971-4475

South Run Baptist Church...703-455-4521

Westwood Baptist Church...703-451-5120

Bible

Immanuel Bible Church...703-941-4124

Catholic

St. Bernadette's Catholic Church...703-451-8576

Christian Science

First Church of Christ, Scientist...
703-866-4325

Church of Christ

Central Christian Church...703-971-0277
Springfield Church of Christ...703-451-4011

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints...
703-451-0631

Disciples of Christ

Springfield Christian Church...703-354-4994

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St. Christopher's Episcopal...703-451-1088

Evangelical Covenant

Community Covenant Church...703-455-4150

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Ohev Yisrael Messianic Congregation...
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Jehovah's Witness

Springfield North Congregation...703-971-2936

Lutheran

Prince of Peace Lutheran...703-451-5855

St. John's Lutheran Church...703-971-2210

St. Mark's Lutheran Church...703-451-4331

Immanuel Lutheran Church...703-549-0155

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Messiah United Methodist Church...703-569-9862

Springfield United Methodist...703-451-2375

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Love International Church...703-354-3608

New Life Open Bible Church...703-922-7577

New World Unity Church...703-690-7925

International Calvary Church...703-912-1378

Presbyterian

Grace Presbyterian Church...703-451-2900

Harvester Presbyterian Church...703-455-7800

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church...703-451-5320

PEOPLE



DONATED PHOTO

Tomaselli hides under a pile of sneakers.

Smothered in Sneakers

FROM PAGE 8

the shipment had been stolen from people who had snuck into the mall, and the other half were given to the people ahead of him. He finally decided to buy the package off eBay for \$530.

Tomaselli does not regret anything he does, but instead enjoys it because of his passion for the sneaker game.

Tomaselli continues to buy sneakers and does not plan to stop anytime soon. He has earned the nick-

name of sneakerhead and "freshness," since he always gets the newest, fresh items. He loves the attention that he gets from other people, which pushes him to live up to his reputation.

Tomaselli keeps his sneakers matching his outfits, and makes sure to keep them clean, trying to cycle them out every three months and never wearing them in the rain or mud.

"I believe people judge other people from what they wear," said Tomaselli. "People see my shoes and know I got style."

FAITH NOTES

Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road in Fairfax, will have a new Bible Study on Tuesdays, Jan. 11-March 8 at 9:45 a.m. entitled "Discovering Who We Are in Christ." \$15. Child care available. Register at 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

During the month of January, the Rev. Dr. Beth Braxton of Burke Presbyterian Church will be speaking on Sundays about the Christian faith as seen through the lens of other world religions. Braxton spent time visiting the worship services of four religious groups: Hindu, Buddhist, Islam and Judaism and has interviewed each of the clergy of those faith communities. In her sermons she will have video clips of those interviews. Between the 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services will be an education hour at 10 a.m., in which leaders from these four faith communities will answer questions about their theology and practices. The services are Jan. 2 - Hinduism; Jan. 9 - Buddhism; Jan. 16 - Islam; Jan. 23 - Judaism; and Jan. 30 - Christianity. Burke Presbyterian Church is located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke adjacent to the Kohls department store. Visit www.BurkePresChurch.org or phone the office at 703-764-0456.

Muslims For Peace, in conjunction with Clifton Presbyterian Church, is sponsoring an interfaith discussion, Saturday, Jan. 15, from 1-4 p.m., at the church (behind Trummer's in the Town of Clifton). The event is titled, "God & Science," and its academic purpose is to

examine the compatibility of the belief in God, in light of modern scientific discoveries and advances. Another goal is to promote interfaith discussions and establish and maintain relationships among a variety of religious communities.

Speakers will represent Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. A potluck lunch will be served at 1 p.m.; those wanting to bring a dish are asked to contact the organizers in advance, to coordinate, (but a dish is not required to come). To RSVP or for more information, contact Jalal Malik, outreach director, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Northern Virginia, at 202-670-1588 or amc.nva@gmail.com or Jen Dunfee, associate pastor, Clifton Presbyterian Church, at 703-830-3175 or Jennifer-cliftonpc@vacoicemail.com.

Interested in the Catholic Faith? Classes will be held at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in the Guadalupe Room in the Parish Center, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday. Contact Carolyn Smith at carolynsmith.stleos@gmail.com or 703-273-5369.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, offers services on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m., in addition to Sunday services at 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.uucf.org.

The Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road in Annandale,

Bible Study Fellowship will study of the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. The Day Women's Class meets at 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, and offers a children's program for ages 6 weeks-6 years. rdmarotto@cox.net.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road in Alexandria, needs volunteers for the Phoenix Rising Meal Program at. Help prepare meals for the homeless Thursday, Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m., and deliver the bags Friday, Dec 24. Contact 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:40 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays at 9:30 and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Hebrew High is Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Preschool is Monday-Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. For more information, contact us at 703-569-7577 or visit www.adatreym.org.

One God Ministry Church, 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, now has a Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Prayer Service at 7 p.m. Women, Men, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. 703-591-6161.

EDUCATION

Breaking Invisible Barriers

GMU professor advises students to learn as much about themselves as they can.

BY ASHLEY GARNETT
THE CONNECTION

The day is Aug. 28, 1963. It is a blistering summer day at the nation's capital. Thousands of men and women, black and white, gather around to hear the powerful and commanding voice that stands at the pedestal in front of them at the Lincoln Memorial. It was on this day that freedom rights activist Dr. Martin Luther made his empowering speech, "I Have a Dream."

One could only imagine what King would have thought if he were alive today. The world has come a long way since he made his speech on that historic day. African Americans are not only considered "free," they now hold positions of power in the corporate world and to this day, continue to strive for the equality of all people worldwide.

As with any social movement, it only takes one person to make a change. Students at George Mason University might even say that individual could be Dr. Mark Hopson, communication professor and author of, "Negotiations of organizational Whitespace: Critical reflections of power, privilege, and intercultural (in)sensitivity within academia."

A native of Grand Rapids, Mich., Hopson grew up as a young man influenced by the culture that surrounded him. Living just a hop away from Detroit, Mich., he grew up listening to the sounds of Motown, the music explosions that occurred with the rise of MTV, as well as nontraditional forms such

"The older one gets, identity, either ethnic or personal gains significance with age."

— Dr. Mark Hopson

Hopson defines this as the identity people draw from in relation to their country of origin or the place from which one's family lineage derives. "The older one gets, identity, either ethnic or personal gains significance with age," he said. "What might not seem important now will gain value as you become older and realize there are larger connections to identity."

COLLEGE are some of the largest areas where this type of empowerment can be experienced. Take for instance, Mason. It is

major and resident of Alexandria, was among more than 4,000 students to receive a degree from American Public University and American Military University at the schools' spring 2010 commencement at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Emerson Kim, a national security studies major and resident of Springfield, was among more than 4,000 students to receive a degree from American Public University and American Military University at the schools' spring 2010 commencement at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Gene Whitesides, a management major and resident of Springfield, was among more than 4,000 students to receive a degree from American Public University and American Military University at the schools' spring 2010 commencement at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Jason Yungen, an intelligence studies

COLLEGE NOTES

Springfield resident **Wei Hong-Ren** received a master of acupuncture and oriental medicine at New England School of Acupuncture's recent commencement ceremony. She has an undergraduate degree from Beijing University.

Allison Edwards of Springfield is participating in Susquehanna University's stadium band this fall. Edwards, a senior music education major, is a 2007 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary High School. She is the daughter of Robert and Judith Edwards.

Catherine Grizzle of Springfield, majoring in

as jazz, big band and spiritual. Hopson commented that the music culture from Chicago, Ill. was another big influence, proving that culture holds no limits in his life.

Hopson pointed out that as a young man he held great respect for the influential leaders and social movements of the past. On Oct. 16, 1995, he participated in the Million Man March in Washington, D.C.

Hopson, who worked at an alternative school at the time, said, "I was around young men, I was a young man myself. I wanted to make a better connection with other black men who wanted the same thing and I wanted to bring something back home to either inspire or encourage the young men whom I worked with."

"Internally, I was reminded that I was or am not alone in striving to be the best that I can be," Hopson said, thinking back to the march.

One trend that has remained constant over the years is the empowerment of one's ethnic identity.

Hopson defines this as the identity people draw from in relation to their country of origin or the place from which one's family lineage derives. "The older one gets, identity, either ethnic or personal gains significance with age," he said. "What might not seem important now will gain value as you become older and realize there are larger connections to identity."

COLLEGE are some of the largest areas where this type of empowerment can be experienced. Take for instance, Mason. It is



DONATED IMAGE

Dr. Mark Hopson

considered one of the most diverse college campuses in the state of Virginia. On any given day, students from diverse ethnic backgrounds can be seen involving themselves in the educational environment.

The advice Hopson offers to anyone struggling to accept his or her identity is, "Learn as much as you can about yourself. Allow yourself to interact with other people. Learn as much as you can about other people and from that learning begin to act."

Currently, Hopson remains as one of the top motivating professors at Mason, where he currently teaches Foundations of Intercultural Communication, as well as the Rhetoric of Social Movements/ Political Control. In each of his classes, Hopson starts the sessions by announcing, that he has "agape love" for his students. He is also on the leadership committee for the college's Campus Climate Taskforce, which creates safer environments for discourse about cultural difference.

political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has finished the new cadet training week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

David Beal of Springfield, majoring in biological science in the College of Science, has finished the new cadet training week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Justin Adams of Springfield, majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech, has finished the new cadet training week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Andrew Palmer of Springfield, majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering, has finished the new cadet training week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

Hannah Gumpf of Springfield, majoring in human, nutrition, foods and exercise in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, has finished the new cadet training week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets.

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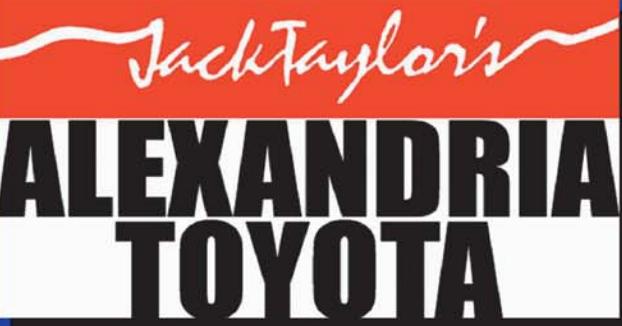
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Fairfax

\$515,000

Stylish

4BR/3BA

Rambler in

sought-

after Kings

Park

West has it

all...updated

kitchen w/granite counters, stainless appliances, attractive cabinetry, & MBR suite w/sitting room & dressing area. Newer Deck and 6 person hot tub. Freshly painted throughout with many Decorator touches! Convenient to VRE, metrobus, & top-school tier!

**Save A Date To Attend
Long & Foster's FREE
Real Estate Career Seminar**

DATES IN 2011:

TIME:
7:00-9:00 PM

February 2

LOCATION:

Long & Foster's Northern
Virginia Training Center
3069 Nutley St.
Fairfax, VA 22031

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.

TO REGISTER:

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



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\$710,000

5 bedrooms 3 full baths/ Beautiful rambler in a cul de sac location backing to wooded parkland. Expansive decking and screened porch overlook woods. Vaulted ceiling in living room, hardwood flooring on main level, new carpeting on lower recreation room level. Exceptional property!



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\$598,000

Fairfax
5359 Black Oak Dr
Gorgeous Calif style home w/walls of windows & vaulted ceilings! So many renovations: granite kit, hardwood flrs, fresh paint in & out, new carpet and new windows! Unique flr plan includes office or teen suite w/private entrance! 4BR, 4.5 BA's, 3 fin lvs, master suite w/sit rm & lux bath! Move in ready! Bonnie Brae ES and Robinson SS! More info at www.marshawolber.com

Clifton

All brick 5 bedroom, 3 full and 2 half bath home is sitting on 5 gorgeous acres with circular driveway. This wonderful home features an additional detached garage perfect for hobbyist/car buff, large kitchen with Silestone counter tops, warm and inviting sun rooms, large master suite with balcony, complete In-law suite with kitchen and more. NO HOA's.

Coming Soon

Sheila Adams
703-503-1895

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Dollar Sales Club
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS



Fairfax

\$509,900
Lovely Kings Park beauty featuring 4 BRs, 2½ Baths, Kitchen has been redesigned with new Maple kitchen cabinets & granite counters, Updated half bath, 1st floor family room, Finished lower level, New carpeting on main & lower level. This home has the perfect back yard, come & see!! Super Location.

Fairfax

\$699,900
Fabulous Colonial nestled on a large wooded one + acre Lot - This beauty features a huge eat-in Kitchen Breakfast Area - Hardwood Floors - 4 Nice Size Bedrooms - 2 1/2 Baths - 1st Floor Family Room w/FP - Glass Slider steps you out to a two tier deck, perfect for entertaining - An Open and Flowing Sunny Floor Plan - Lower Level is partially finished, Workshop Area, Storage Area, plus a walk-up. Enjoy country living, close in!

For a private showing, call
Ann Witherspoon 703-503-1836.

Fairfax

\$445,000
Incredibly Value Priced! Solidly built 4 BR, 3 BA home with Hdws on M L. No HOA. Garage and Ample parking for extra vehicles. Gas Heat. Updated Kitchen, 2 fireplaces, Excellent Location near I-66. Kay Hart 703-503-1860

SOLD

Fairfax

SOLD IN 47 DAYS

Fairfax

UNDER CONTRACT

Fairfax

Coming Soon

Arlington

Coming Soon

Ellie Wester

703-503-1880

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ellie.wester@longandfoster.com



Fairfax

\$329,900
1.5 acre building lot located just minutes from charming Clifton and while convenient this gently rolling lot is located in a lovely, private wooded setting with a small stream. Ancient black walnut trees dot the property and there are several excellent choices for siting a home.

Fairfax

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Arlington

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