

# Springfield **CONNECTION**

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Junior Ayu Lisane work stands in front of her artwork during Edison High's 'Skart' exhibit.

## 'Skart,' Not Art

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## Local School Unveils 'Place To Read and Teach'

**Franconia Elementary debuts renovated library on Feb. 2.**

BY LISA GILLESPIE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he first comprehensive renovation of Franconia Elementary marked its halfway point last week with the opening of a new library, an art room and second grade classrooms.

Franconia has gone through several different stages of renovations since opening in 1932, which could be seen in each addition and renovation. Construction began in March 2010, five years after the initial bond referendum was approved to renovate the now 511-student school.

"This is about having a better use of space," said principal Merrell Dade, who is in her fourth year at Franconia. "Because it was such an old building, you could see the changes in each addition." Many of the renovations also included a better integration of the newest technologies. "We spent

a lot of time over the past years looking at how to integrate technology into daily learning," said Dade. "Now that we have Smartboards in each classroom, we can really utilize new technology."

Smartboards, created in 1991 and integrated into public school classrooms a few years ago, combines a white board with a computer to teach students. Though most classrooms are now equipped with them, just a few years ago, Franconia had only four.

"A few years ago, a few first grade teachers took the first Smartboards, which was quite a big deal back then," Dade said. "It increased the energy in the building and those teachers taught other teachers on how to incorporate it into the lessons."

Another major change comes with the new library, which includes a television studio, reading corner including risers for students, seven new computers and additional

**"One little girl came in and said we had the best library in all of Fairfax on the first day we opened."**

— Diane Gawalt, Franconia Elementary librarian



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**Franconia Elementary opened an expanded library on Wednesday, Feb. 2, part of an ongoing renovation project.**

book space.

"All the furniture before came from donations or were so old," said librarian Diane Gawalt, who manages the 14,000 book collection and space for two classes. "It worked fine and was cute and quaint, but in comparison to this, it looked bad."

Students used to sit on a "reading rug" in

years past, when Gawalt gathered them for reading time. Now, the library has a story nook with three levels of risers, a reading chair and spotlights. Gawalt said the space can also be used to put on plays and for poetry readings. The new shelves also in

SEE PLACE, PAGE 4



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**NBC4 meteorologist Tom Kierein discusses tornados. 'It is important for you to pay attention to the weather forecast because it can affect your life a lot,' says Kierein.**



**Student Zach Jordan asks NBC4 meteorologist Tom Kierein, 'What is your favorite tool to use?' Kierein responds, 'Radar.'**

## Weather Reporter

**O**n Wednesday, Feb. 2, NBC4 meteorologist Tom Kierein visited second graders Newington Forest Elementary in Springfield. Kierein talked about the tools he uses to forecast the weather and taught the students some key meteorological terms. Kierein meets visits about 25 schools annually.



**NBC4 meteorologist Tom Kierein shows a page from his book 'Weather: A National Geographic Action Book.' He said that he had to consult with several paper engineers to get a pop-up tornado in his book.**

# Snap, Snap — It's Coffeehouse Time

**West Springfield High School Guitar Club hosts Coffeehouse fund raiser.**

BY AMBER HEALY  
THE CONNECTION

**F**or the 10th year, the West Springfield High School Guitar Club is preparing for its Coffeehouse, an afternoon of free-form music played by the school's guitar students.

"The Guitar Coffeehouse was started to give the kids an opportunity to perform their own music," said Keith Owens, the school's guitar teacher, who started the Coffeehouse event. "We spend a lot of time educating students how to play and exposing them to music we feel is important and influential. The Coffeehouse gives them the opportunity to play the music that they feel matters or even play their own compositions."

It's a relaxed atmosphere, set up in the school's cafeteria, and the students are free to play either solo or in groups, said Owens, who has taught at West Springfield for all 20 years of the school's guitar program.

"It's basically an organized open mic night," he said. "The Guitar Boosters make sandwiches and other baked items and local coffee shops donate coffee for the par-



**West Springfield High School Guitar Club members Jeremiah Richards and Lorenz Cruz will be performing in the Feb. 17 coffeehouse.**

ents and other audience members."

Laurie McCreedy, president of the booster club, echoed Owens' eagerness for this year's event.

"I think the students like going to a place that is fun, warm, and they can basically play guitar together without worries," she said.

Unlike previous years, the booster club is also offering a fund raiser with Schwan Foods, having taken orders over the past few weeks which will be delivered after the

Coffeehouse. The delivery truck will have some additional items available for purchase the night of the event, McCreedy said, and the proceeds from the fund raiser go to help the booster club pay for its annual spring trip. Any sales that are not associated with a particular student will be applied to the overall guitar program, she said.

Even more excited than the parents are the students, of course, but a few admit they're a little nervous to perform in public.

**"It's fun to get together with people and be able to make music for everyone there."**

— Lauren Marquez

"I get nervous about messing up, but once I'm on stage it isn't so bad," said Lauren Marquez, a senior at West Springfield who has been playing guitar for six years and who participated in the Coffeehouse last year.

She got her start playing instruments even easier, she said.

"My grandpa played guitar for me when I was little and sent me my first guitar," she said. "I also play piano and ukulele."

At the Coffeehouse, she plans to play some cover songs with her friend, Maeve Nash.

"It's fun to get together with people and be able to make music for everyone there," she said.

Joining her will be Mitch Faulkner, another senior, who has been playing guitar for five years and who also happens to play the ukulele.

"The guitar always caught my attention when I would see people play it and I wanted to learn, so I did," he said. "I enjoy

SEE STRUMMING, PAGE 5



**Artist Sarah Wrobel, a senior from Springfield, explains that her art represents pollution.**



**Junior Fahmida Azim's art features an empowered woman who sees beyond the problems of today, represented by newspaper headlines, into the future. Featured in the piece are the words, 'I will rise above the world.'**



**Sophomore Annalisa Sheldahl spent about 20 hours working on the acrylic painting of a Koi Pond.**

## Edison High Opens Art Gallery

**Art Space gallery doubles as teacher Andy Neal's classroom.**

**O**n Thursday Feb. 2, Edison High School hosted an art gallery opening featuring student artwork for sale to the public. The theme of this exhibit was "Skart" or skateboard art, in which the canvas of choice was a skateboard deck.

Half of the proceeds from sales goes to the student artist and the other half goes to Art Space Scholarship program, which funds graduates studying art in college.

Edison Teacher Andy Neal conceived of the scholarship and, with the collaboration of Edison teacher Teresa Rose, the art club and gallery, known as Art Space, was born.

Last year, the club hosted six gallery openings and raised a total of \$1,300 for the scholarship program. The "Skart" exhibit was the first of this year and raised \$750.

— PHOTOS BY DEB COBB

## Fairfax Animal Shelter Hosts 'Be Mine, Feline' Event

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is currently hosting a special adoption, through Feb. 28, called "Be Mine, Feline," highlighting cats and kittens available for adoption. The shelter is including a special assessment of each cat's personality to help prospective adopters find the right feline for their family.

In November 2010, the shelter received 161 cats from a hoarding case at a single home. Many of those cats are now healthy and ready to go to safe, loving, permanent homes. Many other cats and kittens staying at the shelter this winter are also available.

"Throughout February, the shelter will be in the business of matchmaking, helping adopters match the right cat for their lifestyle and their home," said Dr. Karen Diviney, the shelter director.

To view cats (and other animals) available for adoption, visit the shelter Tuesdays through Fridays, 12-7 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Or, to adopt other types of animals, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police) to see the shelter's Adopt-A-Pet feature and learn more about an animal in search of a loving home. For more information, call the shelter at 703-830-1100.

## Blood Donations Needed

The supplies of blood and platelets in the local area are at critically low levels, so the American Red Cross is urging residents to donate. They may do so at the Red Cross branch at 8550 Arlington Blvd. in Fairfax. For appointments, call Lori at 1-800-272-2123.

## Tree, Shrub Seedlings Available for Local Gardeners

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District is currently holding its annual seedling sale. Two packages are available:

- ❖ The Deer Resistant Shrub and Small Tree package costs \$15.95 and includes two of each of the following species: Red osier dogwood, silky dogwood, serviceberry, spicebush, and pawpaw.

- ❖ The Wildlife Friendly Tree Package sells for \$10.95 and is ideal for common areas or larger suburban yards. It includes two of each of the following: Black oak, sycamore, and American hornbeam.

All seedlings are native to Northern Virginia. To download an order form or for more information visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>. For more information, contact Nick Kokales at 703-324-1420 or [nicholas.kokales@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:nicholas.kokales@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Feral Cats Need Barn Homes

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is seeking barn homes for 22 feral cats seized from a hoarding case in November 2010. So far, 12 of them have been placed in barn homes as part of a new, pilot Barn Buddy adoption program.

The shelter received 161 cats from a single home in November 2010 following a hoarding investigation. Several of these cats are considered to be feral and have not been socialized with humans; they are more suited to barn homes.

The Barn Buddy cats will be spayed/neutered and vaccinated prior to going to their new homes. In addition, their adoption fee will be waived.

For more information or if interested in adopting a barn cat, e-mail Michelle Hankins at [michelle.hankins@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:michelle.hankins@fairfaxcounty.gov).



The renovated library features a reading nook, with risers for students to sit on and a reading chair.

## Place To Read and Teach'

FROM PAGE 2

clude more space for books.

"Before, all our books were packed in so tightly it was hard to find what you were looking for. It's more appealing now and studies have shown that circulation goes up when organization is better and books have room to breathe," Gawalt said. "One little girl came in and said we had the best library in all of Fairfax on the first day we opened."

**THE COMPLETE** renovation will take \$9 million for construction and \$5 million for soft consists, which includes architect and permit fees, equipment for the school, new utility services and third party engineering services.

Director of Fairfax County Public Schools Design and Construction Services Kevin Sneed said that though the cost seems high, the cost is less than originally anticipated.

"I had no idea the cost was going to go down because it coincided with the real estate collapse," Sneed said. In 2006, the school system paid \$180 per square foot in a school renovation versus the \$121 per square foot on Franconia.

Sneed estimated that the project would be done by Christmas and will include a new main office, more classrooms and a "cool roof."

"We wanted to be as environmentally conscious as possible, so with the new roof, it reflects light

and doesn't absorb heat at all," Sneed said. FCPS also implemented special pavement in the parking lots that captures water and holds it longer to decrease erosion around the school.

Sneed ran into issues with the structure of the school, as the original framework was built from wood and had been deteriorating. "The planning process is fairly involved because we weren't sure what we were going to do because of the original structure," he said.

Because of limited space, rooms were constructed that did not have traditional lighting options. "We constructed skylights into rooms that didn't have direct windows," Sneed said.

Dade said both construction workers and teachers worked hard to ensure that learning was still possible amid the changing scenery.

"We really worked hard through the process to make sure learning hasn't been interrupted with the best instruction no matter what has been going on," Dade said.

Gawalt has led each class through the library since it opened on Wednesday, Feb 2.

"I tell each class that comes through about the responsibility that they have as the first group of students to come through," she said. "Children in 20 years will probably be using this same space. They seem to be taking it to heart. Before the library was a place to go and read, but now, we are a place to learn and teach."

## SCHOOL NOTES

On Saturday, April 2, children and adults will be competing in a **Speed Stacking tournament at North Springfield Elementary**. Students grade K-6 and adults (parent/child event) are invited to bring their best skills to the table where they can compete in three rounds of single stacking and pair up later in the day for doubles stacking. Registration is \$3 at the door. Light snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. Doors open at

8:30 am. Awards will be handed out at the end of the tournament and each participant will receive a certificate. North Springfield Elementary is located at 7602 Heming Court, Springfield. To learn more, contact Suzanne Metz at [semetz@fcps.edu](mailto:semetz@fcps.edu).

Several students from West Springfield High School won awards from the Naval Order of the United States during the recent Virginia History Day compe-

tion in Williamsburg. Virginia History Day winners include: **Emily Nagel** of West Springfield High School, second place in Senior Individual Exhibit for 'Braille: An Innovation That Is Here to Stay', and **Connor Chroman** of West Springfield High School, third place in Senior Individual Documentary for 'Assassins of the Sea.' Chroman's entry also won the senior award for the best entry dealing with naval history from the Naval Order of the United States.

# Strumming and Sipping

FROM PAGE 3

playing the ukulele, but I'm not very good at it."

This will be his first appearance at the Coffeehouse, and he likes the idea of the relaxed atmosphere associated with Coffeehouses.

"I get nervous playing in front of people I don't know, but it's something you just get used to."

For the event, he hopes to play his favorite song, "More than Words," by the 1990s rock band Extreme.

David Tobul, another senior and a guitar student for six years, said that while he's been playing guitar for six years and also plays bass and synthesizer, he'll be sitting in the audience this year.

"I enjoy the atmosphere and the fun that we have there, just watching friends play and stuff," he said.

Ryan McCreedy, president of the student board of the boosters club, said he's ready to perform in front of his friends and family.

"I tried violin at first but I got bored with it," he said, and he's been playing guitar for six years, including private lessons before becoming involved at West Springfield.

He remembered one time a musician from Woodbridge came up to the Coffeehouse and took the stage for a few minutes, because in the tradition of open mic nights, anyone who wants to perform is welcome to do so.

"Nowadays, when people go to hear music, you have to go to a club and pay to go in," he said. The Coffeehouse is a nice alternative to that, especially for the high schoolers that aren't old enough to get



West Springfield guitarists Ryan McCreedy and Erik Rasmussen perform.

DONATED PHOTO

into some of the 18-and-older clubs in Washington, D.C.

Like the others, Ryan McCreedy is hoping for a big turnout.

"It's hard when there's only like eight people in the audience," he laughed.

The Coffeehouse, like the guitar program at West Springfield, is something special students there have, something other schools don't necessarily offer, Ryan McCreedy said. "We're very fortunate to go to a school that has this for us."

## Free Live Music

The West Springfield Guitar Club is hosting its annual Coffeehouse on Friday, Feb. 17, in the school cafeteria, from 5-8 p.m. Admission is free, and the West Springfield Guitar Boosters will be selling sandwiches and chips at the door. More information about the fund raiser and other upcoming events can be found at [www.wshsguitar.org](http://www.wshsguitar.org).

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## Make It a Real Happy Valentine's Day

**'E**quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

These words, conceived in 1923 by Alice Paul, who was jailed at the Occoquan Workhouse in Lorton for demonstrating for women's right to vote, were approved by the United States Congress in 1972 as the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution.

To amend the constitution required the approval of 38 states; 35 voted in favor. Virginia was not among them.

This year, some of Northern Virginia's representatives in the General Assembly reintroduced the measure, and a resolution supporting the Equal Rights Amendment passed in the Virginia Senate 24-16, with all of Northern Virginia's senators voting in favor.

Thanks especially to state Sen. Patsy Ticer for advocating for what could have been a gift to all the women of Virginia and the United States, and thanks to Senators George Barker, Mark Herring, Janet Howell, Dave Marsden, Chap Petersen, Toddy Puller, Dick Saslaw, and

**Better than roses or chocolate, ratify equal rights for women; 35 states have done, but not Virginia; 38 states needed to amend the constitution.**

Mary Margaret Whipple for voting in favor of equal rights for women.

Delegates Mark Sickles, Kay Kory and Scott Surovell sponsored the same legislation in the Virginia House of Delegates, but the measure, which previously died in the Virginia General Assembly in 1980, languished in subcommittee.

### EDITORIAL

With equal pay for women still just a goal or dream in the United States as just one example ongoing limits to women's rights, ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment would be welcome at the state and national level, and a worthy Valentine's Day present to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters in Virginia and beyond. With women's rights as a concern worldwide and a consideration in U.S. foreign policy, such a step

### Senate Joint Resolution No. 357

**RESOLVED** by the Senate of Virginia, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia hereby ratifies and affirms the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution proposed by the United States Congress on March 22, 1972, and ratified by 35 state legislatures.

would send the message that the U.S. is committed to women's rights at home and beyond.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Report from Richmond

### Del. Dave Albo reviews performance during 2011 legislative session.

BY DEL. DAVE ALBO  
R-42ND DISTRICT

**G**reetings from Richmond. I'm here at the General Assembly for the 2011 session, which ends Feb. 26. I thought you'd be interested in what I'm doing.

❖ **Budget:** Last year, Virginia was in the second year of the worst recession since the Great Depression. Unlike the rest of America and the Congress, Virginia solved deficits by cutting spending. Republican delegates and I told our constituents, "This isn't going to be pretty, but we have to do it." We cut spending by \$2 billion. After last session's cuts, Virginia's spending at 2006 levels.

The economy hasn't recovered, but it's not in a free fall anymore. By making the tough decisions last year, we don't have to drastically cut government spending this year.

❖ **Transportation:** Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) proposed his plan using \$150 million of the surplus, \$250 million from the Virginia Department of Transportation audit, and \$191 million in cuts, generating money for transportation. There's also a proposal to accelerate \$1.8 billion in authorized bond projects, taking advantage of low costs and low interest rates.

This is great for Springfield. One of my initiatives is securing funding to widen Rolling Road from Old Keene Mill Road to the Parkway. Selling bonds to get this project started will save money in the long run.

Prices on road construction have dropped 40 percent from the recession. If the Rolling project costs \$20 million today, then it'll cost \$28 million when prices go up. The interest rate on government bonds right now is 3.5 percent. It usually is about 4.5 percent. The math shows that building today at 3.5 percent on \$20 million will cost \$30.04 million, while building in 10 years at 4.5 percent on \$28 million will cost \$46.7 million. Accelerating the sale of bonds will save 50 percent and provide us new lanes now.

### COMMENTARY

We aren't acquiring more debt. These are previously authorized bonds. Virginia has an conservative debt ratio and an AAA bond rating. The U.S. Congress borrows to not only build things, but also to pay for expenses like Welfare. The U.S. owes \$14 trillion with a \$14 trillion Gross Domestic Product. That's a 100 percent debt to GDP ratio. Virginia has a 2 percent debt to GDP ratio and we borrow to improve for infrastructure, i.e. roads and college buildings.

❖ **Schools:** After meeting many of my 18-year-old constituents with 4.0+ GPAs who were not able to get into the University of Virginia or William & Mary, and meeting many other students with 3.0 GPAs who could not get into an in-state four year college, I have been a man on a mission to force our Virginia colleges and universities to expand the number of slots for in-state

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 12

### Updating Constituents

To the Editor:

At the halfway mark in the 2011 Legislative Session of the Virginia General Assembly, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on the status of newly proposed laws currently being debated in Richmond.

As your 41st District representative in the Virginia House of Delegates, I have had a number of responsibilities over the past few weeks in Richmond. These included scheduled meetings of the two House committees on which I am privileged to serve — Transportation, and Militia, Police and Public Safety — reviewing relevant new legislation, in addition to ongoing discussions with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to draft, present, and introduce resulting bills, and daily floor sessions enabling the entire House to formally vote on ways in which to improve the daily lives of

### LETTERS

Virginians.

I am particularly pleased to report that my first bill, HB 1877, was officially passed by the House of Delegates last week. A local Home Owners Association had proposed to me that the immunity from civil liability already provided to directors and other officers of tax-exempt organizations should be continued in the event that the organization is dissolved. Accordingly, I am very optimistic that following a similarly favorable vote in the State Senate, the resulting bill will become law on July 1, 2011.

To see a full list of legislation I have introduced, please visit the General Assembly website, at

<http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm>. Working with members of both parties and both legislative chambers, I am serving as a co-patron on a number of important bills, including

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder, establishing the Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act, enacting formal anti-bullying measures in our public schools, extending polling hours in state and local elections, and supporting increased use of solar resources throughout Virginia.

I am also honored to be co-chairing the new Arts Caucus, along with my colleague, Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), which is designed to encourage more extensive partnerships between the arts and individual citizens, foundations and the business community. It is our hope and expectation that this new initiative will result in significant social and economic benefits for all Virginians.

The current 2011 Legislative Session will conclude on Feb. 26, and I invite you to share your thoughts on new legislation now being debated in Richmond. Please contact me directly at any time, either by e-mail [Eileen@EileenFillerCorn.com] or by phone at my Richmond office, at 804-698-1041.

When I return to the district later this month, I look forward to speaking with you about the bills that were passed by the General Assembly, implementation of Arts Caucus activities in our district and addressing any questions or concerns you may have regarding our legislative efforts during this session.

I look forward to seeing you out and about in the 41st District and would again like to express my most sincere appreciation to you for having given me the distinct honor of representing the interests of all of our families, friends and neighbors in our state legislature.

**Del. Eileen Filler-Corn**  
D-41

## BULLETIN BOARD

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.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 15

**ESL Classes.** 7 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. 3 levels. Twice weekly, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost for semester is \$35, including student book. To register, come to the next class. www.lordoflifelutheran.com or 703-323-9500.

### MONDAY/FEB. 28

**Republican Women of Clifton Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Clifton Elementary, 7010 Clifton Road, Clifton. Dr. Stefan Gorzula will speak about global warming fraud. 703-866-3707 or www.stevegorzulapresents.com.

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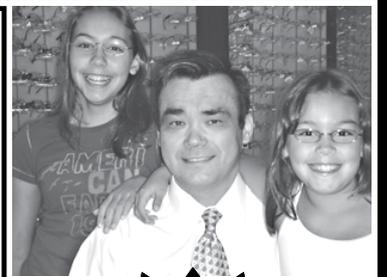
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First Church of Christ, Scientist... 703-866-4325	St. John's United Methodist...703-256-6655
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# Lee's Michetti, Stewart Headed to Regionals

Lancer duo place top four in Patriot District all-around competition.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

The look of focus and determination on Katie Stewart's face said the Lee gymnast knew what was at stake. Stewart, competing in the vault portion of the Patriot District championships on Feb. 3, balked on her first attempt. She had one more try to get it right and, after significant miscues on beam and bars, Stewart needed a strong effort to have any hope for a top-four finish in the all-around competition.

The junior sprinted down the runway and executed a Pike Tsukahara vault, receiving a mark of 9.15. The score earned Stewart a third-place finish on vault, but would it be enough to help her in the all-around?

Lee sophomore Leah Michetti placed second in three of four events — vault, bars, floor — each time finishing slightly behind Lake Braddock's Caitlin Liberatore. However, Michetti finished first on beam by a wide margin. Would it be enough to place her atop the all-around standings?

Stewart and Michetti each faced obstacles during districts. Each responded by assuring the Lancers would be well represented at the all-around award presentation.

Michetti captured the all-around championship with a score of 37.05, holding off Liberatore by eight-tenths of a point, and Stewart finished fourth (33.125). A top-four all-around finish at districts qualifies a gym-

nast for regionals in each event.

After a fall on beam led to an eighth-place finish for Stewart and a miscue on bars led to her not placing, Stewart didn't expect a top-four finish in the all-around. However, a fourth-place finish on floor (8.9) and her clutch performance during her final vault attempt did the job.

"I was kind of surprised, actually, because today wasn't my best meet," she said. "I wasn't doing as well as I'd hoped. It was a good surprise."

While Michetti finished behind Liberatore in three of four events, the difference in score was minute enough to allow the Lee sophomore to gain separation with a strong performance on beam, where Michetti finished first with a 9.425.

West Potomac's Marien Voorhees placed second with an 8.65 and Liberatore tied for fourth with an 8.4 — more than one point behind Michetti.

"Leah was just solid tonight," Lee head coach Val Taguding said.

Michetti was limited in competition during her freshman year due to a back injury, but she put in the work to get back for the 2010-11 campaign.

"It was really hard," she said. "It took a lot of training and a lot of perseverance, but it's coming back and it's getting better. ... I wasn't sure how [the all-around standings were] going to turn out until the end. I knew that it was one of my better meets but I wasn't sure exactly how well I did."



Lee sophomore Leah Michetti won the Patriot District all-around championship on Feb. 3 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.



Lee junior Katie Stewart was 'surprised' by her fourth-place all-around finish, earning her a trip to the Feb. 10 Northern Region.

Lake Braddock won the team title and Woodson finished runner-up, but Lee proved to have the strongest pair of individuals.

"It was really exciting because it's the first year I've had somebody with me up there," Stewart said. "Last year, [Michetti] had a back injury, so it was a lot of fun to be up there with one of my teammates."

Michetti and Stewart are standouts on a Lee gymnastics team in its third year of existence. This is the first season the Lancers have fielded a full team, but seven of 10 members are cheerleaders who are new to the sport of gymnastics.

"Lee does not have clubs within shouting

distance of the school, so we have to develop our gymnasts," Taguding said. "It's very difficult, especially when you have that many beginners. ... I t's like you have to take three steps back to take two steps forward. The first thing you have to do is you have to get them feeling comfortable on the equipment. Then you have to start with zero skills and put in skills before you can even do a routine. It takes the entire season to get them where they are."

Taguding said the Lancers have made progress, improving their team score by 40 points from their season-opening meet to the district championships.



Lake Braddock's Courtney Galligan finished in the top eight in three events during the Patriot District gymnastics championship meet on Feb. 3.

# Bruins Back on Toop

Lake Braddock girl gymnasts grab Patriot District title.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

The Lake Braddock gymnastics team had all year to think about how it felt to watch Woodson capture the 2010 Patriot District championship on the Bruins' home floor.

On Feb. 3, Lake Braddock didn't miss its opportunity to get back on top.

Led by junior Caitlin Liberatore, the Bruins won the district title with 135.4 points, more than 5 points better than second-place Woodson.

"The girls have been working very hard all season, especially with the [championship] weeks coming up," Lake Braddock head coach Ellen Hagan-Bowerman said. "That was the one goal they wanted. They wanted to bring the title back home. They were very determined and they were committed. That was the biggest thing. They were committed to every skill that they put out there and it showed today. I'm very proud of them."

Liberatore finished second in the all-around for the second consecutive year and won three of four individual events.

"Getting our title back as a team," Liberatore said, "it was a really good feeling."

Liberatore edged Lee sophomore Leah Michetti on vault (9.35-9.3), bars (9.1-9.075) and floor (9.4-9.25), but Michetti bested Liberatore by more than a point on beam (9.425-8.4), allowing Michetti to capture the all-around title.

"She's a competitor," Hagan-Bowerman said of Liberatore. "When it comes time to compete, she gets the job done. I can de-



Lake Braddock junior Caitlin Liberatore finished first in the vault with a 9.35.

pend on her. I tell her exactly what we need to do and she usually follows through. She's very tough on herself. She works hard and she's determined and it shows."

Lake Braddock had five other individuals place in the top eight in at least one event. Sarah Shapiro finished third on beam (8.6) and fifth on floor (8.725), Katie Kubik was third on bars (8.85) and Courtney Galligan finished sixth on vault (8.85), seventh on floor (8.575) and tied for fourth on beam (8.4). Emily Yeh was fifth on vault (8.9) and Emily Hassett was eighth on vault (8.7).

"It feels good to win it and get it back," Shapiro said. "I was definitely really bad [when Woodson won last year]. It hurt a lot."

The Northern Region championships are Thursday, Feb. 10 at Lake Braddock.



Edison freshman Brock Jacobson captured the 119-pound National District wrestling championship on Saturday.

# Jacobsons Lead Edison to National District Wrestling Title

Eagles have won four of the last five district tournaments.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

When Wade Jacobson was a junior, he brought his eighth-grade brother with him to wrestling practice at Edison High School. Brock Jacobson, a talented grappler, received encouragement from his older sibling and got an early look at what competing at the prep level is all about.

One year later, the brothers became teammates at Edison. They pushed each other to improve throughout the season. If Brock had a question, he went to his older brother.

"He's always encouraged me," Brock said. "If I need help, I always ask him. He's always there to help me. He's my best partner."

On Feb. 5 during the National District wrestling tournament finals at Stuart High School, it was Brock's turn to lead by example.

The 119-pounder captured what could be the first of many district championships during a decorated career, defeating Yorktown's Cody Cummings by major decision, 10-0. Three matches later, in the 135-pound division, Wade won his first district title, beat-

ing Yorktown's Nolan Paduda by decision, 3-2.

While one title adds hype to a promising prep career and the other adds style points to one that is winding down, both championships helped Edison win its fourth district crown in the last five tournaments under head coach Scott Racik. The Eagles finished with 170 points, 10 better than second-place Mount Vernon.

"Everything had to go perfectly in order for us to win this because Mount Vernon is a very good team — well coached, tough as nails," Racik said. "I knew they were going to place 10 or 11 guys. I knew we were going to place fewer than that, so we had to hit everything

right. ... Most of the day, I thought this was Mount Vernon's title. Just the way the numbers were going, it just looked like Mount Vernon was going to take it. In the third-

**"He's always encouraged me. If I need help, I always ask him. He's always there to help me. He's my best partner."**

Edison freshman Brock Jacobson

and fourth-place matches, they lost a couple that I thought maybe they should have won and that made the difference."

Edison's success during the finals started with the Jacobsons. Brock and Wade's vic-

tories were the first of four for the Eagles.

"He always pushes me," Wade said of his younger brother. "Every time he wins, I try to get better."

Racik said the brothers have a good relationship and he doesn't have to deal with any petty sibling arguments.

"They push each other in the room, they role model well for the other guys [and] they're both extremely coachable," Racik said. "It's a pleasure to have them."

Edison's Jeremy Wagner followed Wade's win by pinning Washington-Lee's Dustin Reynolds in the 140-pound division.

"I've known both of [the Jacobson brothers] since I was 10," Wagner said. "I've

wrestled with them my whole life. They're great guys. They're both really good, they work hard and the young one, Brock, is going to be something great."

Early in the finals, it was determined Edison's chances of winning would depend on 189-pounder Camilo Rodriguez, who rose to the challenge. Rodriguez defended his district crown, beating Mount Vernon's Francisco Cardona by an 8-2 decision.

"Last year we had all the snow, we didn't have districts," Rodriguez said after Saturday's win. "Whoever got first in the district duals finished first. It doesn't feel like a championship. I have the medal, but I don't feel like a champion. ... Now I feel like a champion."

The Northern Region meet begins Feb. 10 at Fairfax High School.

# Dance Harkens Back to Another Era

## Big band sounds of Mount Vernon Swing Band not just for seniors.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER  
THE CONNECTION

The below-freezing weather did little to keep fans of the Third Friday Swing Dance away from the Hollin Hall Senior Center on Friday, Jan. 21. They knew it wouldn't take long to heat up once they started to Lindy, Cha Cha, Waltz and Tango.

"Everybody has a great time," said Janice Pickering of Mount Vernon. She's on staff two days a week at the Senior Center working with the visually impaired. On Third Fridays, though, she goes a little glam and helps out with the Swing Dance.

"They're not just seniors," said Pickering. "This is open to the community, and we get all ages. It's a fun, inexpensive night out."

Doris and Steve Halleman of Woodbridge have been demonstrating their dance moves at Third Friday Swing Dances for about a year and a half. They say they've met a lot of people and made friends.

"This is a great band," Doris Halleman said. "They play a lot of different songs every week, a nice variety. And, of course, the price is right," she added with a smile.

Mikayla Bartos, 4, entertained herself, and others, with her graceful freestyle dancing when she wasn't twirling with her great grandmother Jackie Sherman.

"Mikayla comes here all the time with her great-grandparents," her mother Monica Bartos said. "She likes to listen to all the different instruments in the band." It was the first time at the Swing Dance for mom.

The welcoming atmosphere warmed even those who relaxed on the sidelines preferring to listen rather than dance to the classic big band sounds of the Mount Vernon Swing Band.

Conductor Owen Hammett calls it a labor of love for his all-volunteer band. The Mount Vernon Swing Band, now in its 33rd year, performs concerts year-round at numerous venues throughout Northern Virginia and the Greater Washington Metropolitan area.

"This is our 13th year playing here," Hammett said. "We split the gate with the Senior Center. That gives us some money to buy an arrangement for our library, but no one gets paid."



Conductor Owen Hammett leads the Mount Vernon Swing Band.



Four-year old Mikayla Bartos of Springfield curtsies after a free-form dance to the big band instruments of the Mount Vernon Swing Band.

As a Big Band, the Mount Vernon Swing Band has a full saxophone ensemble of two alto saxes, a baritone sax, four trumpets, four trombones, and a rhythm section of keyboard, drums, bass and banjo. The style of music is called Swing and the most popular songs are from the first half of the 20th century.

came from Springfield to support and enjoy their neighbor and friend Tony Jordan on the baritone sax.

"The band is great, the singing's great, the music's great," Eve Martinko said. "It's almost like going back in time."

At \$4 for admission, the swing dance is meant to be accessible. In addition getting

"When I took over as conductor," Hammett said, "I expanded the library and our visibility in the community." While he says the band can play some requests, with more than 580 songs in their library and 180 in the book they play from, they might not have the music or an arrangement for a specific request.

But that didn't appear to be an issue for anyone last Friday night.

Reed Martinko and his mother Eve

## Details

What: Third Friday with the Mount Vernon Swing Band

When: Third Friday of every month except for February, October or December. 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Where: Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Mount Vernon, 703-765-4573.

Admission: \$4, includes two hours of dancing, beverages and snacks.

the band free of charge, the Senior Center finds a sponsor to provide beverages and snacks.

Capital Hospice of Alexandria was the sponsor on Jan. 21. Joy Nguyen, community outreach coordinator, explained that Capital Hospice works closely with the Senior Center and appreciates the opportunity to help sponsor Third Fridays where people can get information for family, friends or themselves in a less structured atmosphere.

While Nguyen could be seen talking to folks on a pretty regular basis, the focus was decidedly on the dance floor.

First-timer Mary McGrail of Alexandria heard about the Third Friday Swing Dance through her ski group, the Capital Golden Skiers, which put a notice about the event in its newsletter.

"The orchestra's so good," McGrail said. "There should be more people here enjoying it. And where else can you get a band, dancing and something to eat for \$4?"

## CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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/FEB. 10

**Paws for Reading.** 4-5:15 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice reading with a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. Reserve at 703-249-1520.  
**Superheroes and Fancy Nancy**

**Fans, It's a Costume Party.** 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Dress as a favorite superhero or in your fanciest clothes for fun activities. Age 4-5 with adult. 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/FEB. 11

**"Six Characters in Search of an**

**Author."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Luigi Pirandello's surrealist tragicomedy, presented by Aquila Theatre of New York City. Tickets \$17-\$34 at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Ill Nino, ANew Revolution, Fashion Bomb, EkoTren and more.** 6 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. All ages. \$16 advance, \$19 day of show. [www.Jaxxroxx.com](http://www.Jaxxroxx.com).

**The Vagina Monologues.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive,

Fairfax. A benefit performance to raise awareness to stop violence against women and girls. Proceeds benefit George Mason University Victims of Violence Fund and the Tahirih Justice Center. Sponsored by George Mason University Sexual Assault Services, Office of Housing and Residence Life and Women and Gender Studies. Tickets \$5-\$25. [www.vday.org/about/more-about-or-dance@gmu.edu](http://www.vday.org/about/more-about-or-dance@gmu.edu).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 12

**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](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).  
**Oldies But Goodies (OBG)**

**Cocker Spaniel Rescue.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Springfield Petsmart, 6535 Frontier Drive, Springfield. Meet cockers of all ages available for adoption. All dogs are spayed or neutered. Volunteers will be available to help potential

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

adopters and answer any questions on the dogs.

www.cockerspanielrescue.com or 703-533-2373.

**Opole, the Philharmonic of Poland.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With Maestro Boguslaw Dawidow. Mozart's overture to "Die Zauberflöte" (The Magic Flute) and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, "Eroica." Virtuoso Evgeni Mikhailov is joined by the orchestra for Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 17 by Paderewski. Tickets \$25-\$50, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

**Make Your Own Valentines.** 10 a.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. For ages 6-10. Create a variety of seasonal crafts. \$24 per child, includes craft materials and snacks. Registration required at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or 703-222-4664.

**Hope for Haiti Fund Raiser and Reception.** 1:30-4 p.m. Belnavis Art Gallery, 6208 Rolling Road, Springfield. Art about Haiti and art donated to raise funds for the Lazarus Project, Haiti. 703-644-0400 or www.belnavisartgallery.com.

**Valentine's Day at the Workhouse.** Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Reception and ballroom dancing begin at 6 p.m., workshops in glass, ceramics, fiber arts and painting in classrooms onsite 7-9:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Dress code is casual. \$20 per couple. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

**Valentine's Day Massacre with Dying Fetus, Resurgency, Spellborne and more.** 3 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road,

Springfield. All ages. \$13 advance, \$15 day of show. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

**The Vagina Monologues.** 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. George Mason University Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A benefit performance to raise awareness to stop violence against women and girls. Proceeds benefit George Mason University Victims of Violence Fund and the Tahiri Justice Center. Sponsored by George Mason University Sexual Assault Services, Office of Housing and Residence Life and Women and Gender Studies. Tickets \$5-\$25. www.vday.org/about/more-about or dlance@gmu.edu.

**Valentine's Day Dance.** 6-10 p.m. Kingstowne Center for Active Adults, 6488 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria. Food, music, dancing and door prizes in a celebration of Valentine's Day. Age 18 and up. Tickets \$12, pre-register at 703-550-0134, TTY 711.

**VITA Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49,000. Adults. 703-451-8055.

**Paws to Read.** 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice reading aloud to a trained therapy dog. Fifteen-minute sessions available. Age 6-12. Reserve at 703-339-7385.

**Pirate Sails and Mermaid Tales.** 10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Master storyteller Michael Forestieri combines puppetry and music in tales with an uplifting message. All ages. 703-971-0010.

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

339-4610.

**VITA Tax Assistance.** 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$49,000. Adults. 703-339-4610.

## MONDAY/FEB. 14

**The Welcome to Hell Tour with Whitechapel, The Acacia Strain, Veil of Maya, Chelsea Grin and I Declare War.** 6 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$15 advance, \$17 at the door. www.Jaxxroxx.com.

**Glad! Sad! Mad!** 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories and songs about feelings. Tickets distributed 30 minutes before program begins. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

**Slithery, Slinky, Scaly Snakes.** 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Learn about snakes, and see some you may find in your neighborhood. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center. 703-451-8055.

**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.

**Be My Valentine.** 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Valentine stories, songs and fun. Age 24 months-3 years with adult. For more information, call 703-339-4610.

**Read to the Dog.** 4:30-5:15 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Read to a reading therapy dog. Register for one 15-minute slot at 703-339-4610.

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4400 Eaton Pl. .... \$600,000 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Tom & Cindy and Associates... Long & Foster ..... 703-822-0207

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8312 Upper Spring La. .... \$864,900 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Annie Cefaratti ..... Weichert ..... 202-841-7601

### Burke

5726 Mason Bluff Dr. .... \$334,900 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Cynthia Julian ..... Long & Foster ..... 703-201-5834  
6016 Harvester Ct. .... \$419,950 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Kathleen Quintarelli ..... Weichert ..... 703-862-8808  
6206 Fushimi Ct. .... \$450,000 ..... Sun 1-3 ..... Alana Faustina ..... Keller Williams ..... 202-427-2897  
9638 Ironmaster Dr. .... \$549,900 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Doris Crockett ..... Weichert ..... 703-615-8411

### Lorton

6723 Red Bird Woods Court.... \$365,000 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Rich Langguth ..... Century 21 ..... 703-609-3079

### Clifton

13626 Wildflower La. .... \$285,000 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Chris Stephenson ..... Weichert ..... 703-901-0944  
7114 Ivakota Rd. .... \$817,900 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Debbie Besley ..... Long & Foster ..... 703-346-5103  
12109 Wolf Valley Dr. .... \$899,000 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Diane Lenahan ..... Wolf Run ..... 703-283-7328

### Fairfax

5504 Cheshire Meadow Way... \$339,950 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Anita Mason ..... Weichert ..... 703-627-6624  
11711 Tumbrel Ct #1 ..... \$349,900 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Judy De Sio ..... Weichert ..... 703-934-0400  
12201 Apple Orchard Ct. .... \$449,900 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Kinder Saund ..... Long & Foster ..... 202-369-5597  
5742 Walcott Ave. .... \$599,000 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Kat Bonner ..... Coldwell Banker ..... 703-763-1950  
4161 Legato Road ..... \$624,900 ..... Sun 1-4 ..... Blumel Adams Group ..... Long & Foster ..... 703-597-2252

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](mailto:epeck@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

## OPINION

# Politics of the Bizarre Kind

Democrat introduces ABC privatization bill of plan proposed by Republican governor.

BY SEN. DAVE MARSDEN  
D-37TH DISTRICT

If you ever want to see politics at its most bizarre, you only have to witness what has transpired over the past two weeks regarding ABC (State Liquor Store) privatization. I'm still scratching my head.

First, the governor spends an entire year making the case that ABC stores can be privatized by selling licenses to private enterprise. The sale of these licenses, he believes, would generate a one-time windfall of \$200 million-\$400 million that would be dedicated to transportation. That's fine but no feasibility study has indicated that the \$250 million per year that is currently generated for the state could be maintained under privatization. The governor's number is \$47 million short per year, would drive up the cost of liquor 15 percent according to the University of Richmond, triple the number of liquor outlets and leave Virginia open to untold numbers of unanticipated consequences — increased alcohol related social problems, DUIs, family discord, etc. There are very few delegates or senators who believe this is a good idea. Now for the fun part.

Del. Bob Brink (D-48) of Arlington, hijacked the governor's bill and introduced it in the House of Delegates. The governor praised this action but the Speaker of the House won't bring the bill to the floor because, even with a Republican majority, there are not enough votes to pass it. This would be embarrassing if the governor's own party would not back him, so enter from stage right Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26) from Harrisonburg who introduces the bill in the Senate. The reason? Have Democrats, who have the majority in the Senate, kill the bill and the

governor would be able to blame them for the failure of this unworkable idea.

Look, very few people think Virginia should have ever entered the alcohol business in the 1930s after prohibition ended. The problem is, we do it too well. It makes money through taxes and mark-ups that keep other taxes like those on food and income down. It is not a core function of government, but then neither is bilking money from people — mostly lower income — through the State Lottery. At least this foolishness is not taking up valuable legislative time this year, but it is comical.

My bill to help families save money and plan for their disabled child's future is through the Senate and on its way to the House of Delegates (SB 1175). Helping people help themselves is always a good policy.

My bill to get traffic moving on the Beltway after minor fender benders is also out of the Senate and on its way to the House.

Tomorrow, we vote on my bill (SB 768) to allow Burke Centre to install flashing school zone lights, at their expense, on either side of Terra Centre Elementary to slow traffic on the Burke Centre Parkway. The Virginia Department of Transportation and the school system say it is not needed. I think it is and so do the 200 residents who signed a petition, which was offered in testimony, which really helped me get this bill out of committee.

The bill I introduced to create a license plate that would honor the 32 young people killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007 is out of the Senate and on to the House. The House will not approve it until 350 people have signed up. The cost is \$25. Please go to: <http://vtvfoundation.wsiefusion.net/licenseplates.html> for more information on how to get this plate. Come on all you Virginia Tech Grads!

Lastly, kudos to the governor. Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) has proposed spending a projected \$152 million surplus to pay back part of the Virginia Retirement System funds we did not put in last year, add money to the Rainy Day Fund and relieve retail sales businesses of having to accelerate their tax payments to the State. These are great choices. Thank you Gov. McDonnell.

COMMENTARY

## Schools, Transportation, Budget

FROM PAGE 6

students. This month, I met with William and Mary, UVA, James Madison University and Virginia Tech. These are the four schools that have around 30 percent or more of out-of-state students. I have been at war with these schools demanding that they either convert out-of-state slots to in-state slots, or expand the number of in-state slots.

After three years of work, I'm pleased to report that all four have agreed to expand the number of slots. While I wish it would be more, at least we finally have movement, and they are recognizing that they are not the "rulers" of their universities. Rather, the people of Virginia are the "rulers" of these schools and the people want more slots. While I have been castigating these schools over the years, I must congratulate them for at least "moving the ball forward." Over the next four years, the schools committed to the following: UVA is offering 990 new in-state slots; VT, 200; W&M, 150; and JMU, 400. In addition, they have committed to doing more if they get more funding from the state. Currently, the Governor's Higher Education bill (HB 2510) seeks to dedicate \$50 mil-

lion in new money per year, and it requires that in exchange for receiving some of this \$50 million, schools must increase in-state slots.

Jobs: Government doesn't create jobs. Businesses create jobs. What government can do to help businesses create jobs is stay out of the way and create incentives for businesses to locate here in Virginia. I don't want to brag, but Virginia is doing just that, staying out of the way of business and creating incentives for job growth. Currently, we are the #2 "Best State to Do Business" according to CNBC and "Forbes Magazine."

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You can keep updated on legislation through my website, [www.davealbo.com](http://www.davealbo.com). Just click on the "Track Legislation" link and then type the bill number. There is also a link to my blog, which includes frequent updates on both state and local issues. Contact me with your questions and concerns.

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Lot 32A, Little River Mews, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5895 at page 270, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

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**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of \$35,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

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The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

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<sup>1</sup>BASED ON BLACK BOOK FAIR TRADE VALUE MINUS CONDITION, MILEAGE, & RECONDITIONING. TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW TOYOTA VEHICLE. <sup>2</sup>36 MONTH LEASE, 12K MILES PER YEAR. \$1,999 DUE AT SIGNING, PLUS TAX, TAGS, \$379 PROCESSING FEE, \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT & ACQUISITION FEE. OFFER ENDS 02/16/11.

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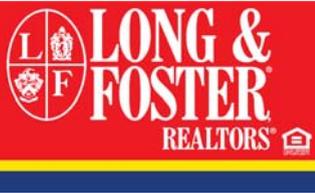


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Stunning center-hall colonial sited on over .5 acre landscaped & wooded lot on quiet street. Features spacious Kitchen w/ table space that flows into the Family Rm w/ fireplace & w/out through French doors to a wonderful Sunroom addition. LL offers Rec Rm, full BA & plenty of storage. Beautifully maintained & offering warm hardwood flrs, neutral paint & carpet make this house is truly ready to call home!



### Clifton

\$849,000

Beautiful all brick 5 BR, 3 full & 2 half BA home is sited on 5 gorgeous acres. Features spacious Kit w/ Silestone counters, 2 cook tops & ceramic tile flooring, wide-plank hardwood flr in breakfast & dining rooms, lower lvl in-law suite w/ Kit. From the 2 sun rooms & large master suite with balcony enjoy the spectacular views. Additional detached barn/garage provides plenty of storage space.



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**Vienna** \$549,000  
4 bedrooms - 3 baths - remodeled kitchen & baths - hardwood flooring - lower level features rec rm/bath & bedroom - large deck - within 1 mile of Vienna Metro Station - move-in condition!



**Burke** \$329,900  
Owner Packing... Quick Possession!  
3 bedroom, 2 full and 2-half bathroom, end-unit townhome in popular Lakepointe. Recent upgrades incl. kitchen cabinets, new bathrooms, and new HVAC. Full Rec room, fireplace, & lots of storage.  
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**DATES IN 2011:** **TIME:**  
March 2 7:00-9:00 PM  
March 30 **LOCATION:**  
May 4 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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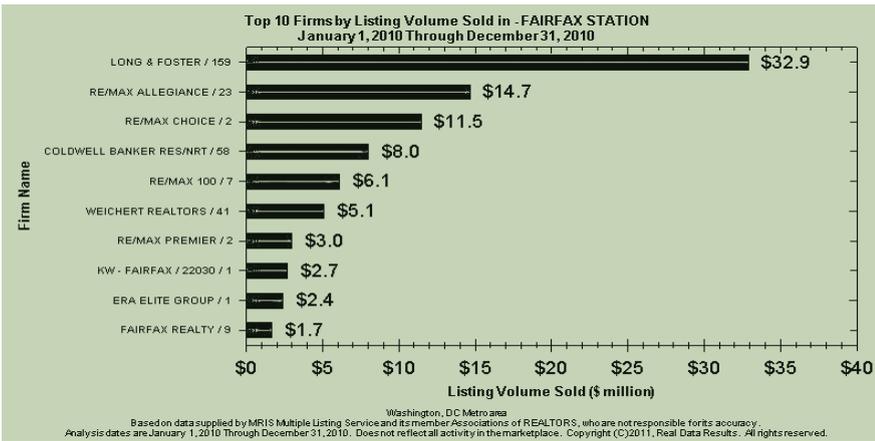


### COMING SOON Burke Centre

\$254,900

Pack Up and Move In! This adorable Town House/Condo has been completely updated just for you. 3 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, beautiful kitchen and a fantastic location. Overlooking the grand courtyard in Woodwalk and just steps away from shopping, schools, lake and pool! Call Diane to learn more!

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**West Springfield** \$719,900  
**Fabulous House**  
3 finished levels  
\*5 bedrooms \*3.5 baths \*2 frpls \*total finished w/o basement \*Media room \*Hdws all main level \*2-car Gar \*Updated kitchen \*close to VRE/Shopping/ walk to schools \*Must see inside to appreciate the details \*fresh paint & more.  
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**FAIRFAX STATION** \$659,750  
**REDUCED!**  
Quality-built 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA Colonial on QUIET CUL-DE-SAC. Excellent condition w/ many extras/upgrades:  
Gourmet kitchen w/ NEW GRANITE COUNTERTOPS, NEW Refrig w/ Dispensers, GAS cooktop, double ovens, NEW OAK HARDWOOD FLOORS, 2 BAY WINDOWS, FULLY FINISHED BASEMENT, 2 STORY FOYER next to LIBRARY, FAMILY RM w/ VAULTED CEILING & FIREPLACE! HUGE CUSTOM DECK! Fully fenced yard, HUGE Master Suite includes SITTING AREA AND LUXURY BATH w/ JETTED TUB. MUCH MORE...OPEN SUN 1-5PM...9328 HALLSTON CT



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**Burke** \$329,000  
Totally renovated 3 bedroom townhouse in popular Colony Park. Adjacent to Burke VRE and convenient to shopping.



**Fairfax Station** \$750,000  
Ten beautiful acres in the heart of Fairfax Station. County approved perc for five bedrooms. Perfect for building your dream home.



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**Fairfax** \$539,900  
**Nestled in the Trees**  
This darling Colonial is nestled on a richly wooded private lot on the end of a small cul-de-sac. The interior boasts a newly redesigned and remodeled kitchen, 3 1/2 Updated Baths, The Living Rm & Dining Rm, with vaulted Cathedral Ceilings, opens to a flowing sunny floor plan, 1st Floor Family Rm w/FP, 4 BR's, Finished Lower Level, Imagine enjoying the splendor of the seasons on the beautiful deck overlooking Park Land. Updated Roof, A/C, Windows & more. Call Sheila Adams for a private showing 703-503-1895

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**Bristow** \$315,000  
**Charming Colonial**  
Spacious single family home in Braemar with 3 finished levels, 4-bedrooms, formal living room, separate dining room, large eat-in kitchen, 2 full baths and 2 half baths. Located on almost a quarter acre of land. This is the home you have been searching for.  
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