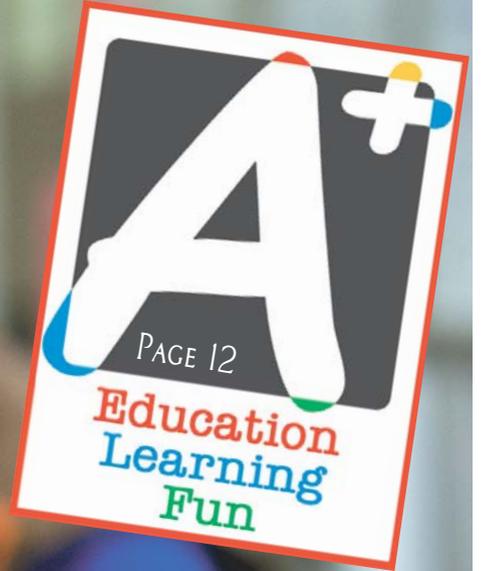


An End To Homelessness?

10-YEAR MISSION, PAGE 3

Kathy Putnam spoons pasta into containers as Elizabeth Simpson adds cheese and lids to the pasta dish that volunteers at Christ Lutheran Church of Fairfax prepared as part of the FACETS hot meal program on Aug. 10. They will load the food into coolers and then distribute meals at four locations in Fairfax to homeless individuals and families. Before the evening is out, they will run out of meals and return to the kitchen to prepare additional food for hungry people.



SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 9 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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10-YEAR MISSION

BURKE CONNECTION EDITOR MICHAEL O'CONNELL
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Can Fairfax End Homelessness?

Fairfax County dedicates resources, energy, services to its 10-year mission.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In Fairfax County, approximately one in every 700 people is homeless. That's less than 1 percent of the 1 million people who live in a county that is consistently ranked as one of America's richest communities.

Although the 1,549 homeless children and adults who live here is statistically a small number, Fairfax County officials and community leaders want to make that number even smaller. By 2018, they've pledged to change that number to zero.

"It's an achievable goal," said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who was on the Board of Supervisors in 2008 when it officially adopted the 10-year-plan to prevent and homeless.

"We believed the commitment could be made because it's what the community wants and because we have great partnerships with the faith community, nonprofit groups, business leaders and many others," Hudgins said. "I'm always impressed by the number of people who get involved."

"Fairfax County's goal is to end homelessness as we know it," said Chairman Sharon Bulova, (D-at large.) "And that means that we will be able to make sure that people have the opportunity for a roof over their heads, and they also have the opportunity for the supportive services so that they continue to be sheltered."

"There are so many families affected by



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Nurse Practitioner Lori McLean, a member of the Fairfax County Health Department, reaches out to the homeless community to get homeless individuals and families connected with Fairfax County's Community Health Care Network. She travels with basic first aid supplies to provide on the spot assistance to anyone who might request services. On Aug. 10, she is searching through her trunk for over the counter pain reliever for one of her clients.

this," said Dan P. Leaf, a vice president with Northrop Grumman. Leaf sits on the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership Governing Board, a consortium of 20 high-profile business and community leaders, elected officials and faith leaders who provide policy direction, resources and creativity in seeing that the plan works.

"I don't think people realize how many working homeless there are here," Leaf said. "I think it would really surprise people to know how many homeless families are trying to get their kids through school, trying to do all the normal things the rest of us are doing, but without a place to live. It's not just the stereotypical guy in the ragged

shirt. It's surprising."

SUCCESS MEANS BUSINESS

What may be even more surprising is that Fairfax County has been successful in tackling what many consider an intractable problem. While many communities across the country have seen a slight rise in their homeless population, Fairfax County has managed to reduce the number of homeless by 15.6 percent, from 1,835 people in 2008 to 1,549 in 2011. Instrumental to that success was the Board's decision to establish an Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) in 2008, created to manage, coordinate and monitor day-to-day implementation of the 10-year-plan.

"I believe that the establishment of the OPEH created the community focal point that we needed to effectively address the issue of homelessness," said Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence). "For years, we had many advocacy groups and non-profits that tackled homelessness in their own ways with their own limited resources. The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness has been able to pull together all these groups and coherently direct their energies to achieve the successes that we have seen."

Bulova said a disciplined business-like approach, combined with the community's compassion has resulted in reducing the number of homeless.

"Even during the recession years, when we were not creating new things, we created one new thing, and that was the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, and we hired one person, Dean Klein, as the

Making A Plan

The Connection examines Fairfax plan to prevent, end homelessness.

It seems like a naïve goal. Poverty has been around forever, and the homeless, no matter how prosperous a nation or a county might be, seem to be omnipresent.

But in 2008, Fairfax County, one of the nation's most affluent localities, committed itself to preventing and ending homelessness in 10 years. That commitment is not just one of money and personnel, but of a partnership that extends throughout the community, from church kitchens that daily prepare meals for people living on the streets, to shelters that aid displaced teens and families, to businesses that raise money and provide volunteers, to social workers and health care providers that assist individuals facing substance abuse and mental health challenges.

The Fairfax County government may have established the initiative, but it's the county's residents who have helped it to achieve success.

In three years, Fairfax County has managed to reduce the number of homeless by 15.6 percent, from 1,835 people in 2008 to 1,549 in 2011.

This special issue of The Connection examines what has led to this achievement, but also what work remains to be done. In these pages and on The Connection website [www.connectionnewspapers.com], readers will meet some of the individuals carrying out the county's 10-year plan and hear from some of the people who have received services.

Also, readers will find resources on how to access some of the county services offered and how to help with the effort.

In researching this story, one comment heard again and again was this: if you meet a homeless person – "up-close and personal," as Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said, you cannot turn your back.

The Connection would like to thank Dean Klein, the director of the Office to Prevent & End Homelessness, and the many other individuals who helped with the research for this project.

— CONNECTION STAFF



Nurse Practitioner Lori McLean, McLean provides antibiotic ointment packets to a homeless man who requests them for a scrape on his elbow on Aug. 10.

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 13

Advocating for The Homeless

FACETS advocates for unsheltered population.

BY AMANDA ANDERE
FACETS

FACETS envisions a day when everyone in Fairfax County has access to adequate and affordable housing and nobody is homeless.

I want to be part of ending homelessness in my community.

So much of what I and my staff do, as advocates for people who are homeless and suffering the effects of poverty, is about encouragement, resourcefulness and resiliency.



Amanda Andere

DONATED PHOTO

Living and working in one of the wealthiest communities in the country, poverty in Fairfax County so often goes unnoticed. We help and encourage people to understand the needs of those who live in poverty and the lack of affordable housing. We encourage people to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors, get involved and extend a helping hand up.

At FACETS, our case managers meet regularly with families and individuals who are homeless or on the brink of losing their home. For our clients, it is a time of uncertainty, upheaval, stress, fear and change as they adapt to new social and economic realities, but they are not on their own. Our case managers encourage them to set and achieve goals for stable housing and are just a call away if there are any needs or worries.

We are always looking for innovative ways to collaborate with other agencies, partners and organizations in the community to share resources for the benefit of our clients and provide services more effectively and efficiently.

The program staff at FACETS helps the people we serve connect to resources for housing, clothing, food and other basic needs.

"It's challenging to meet clients and attempt to engage them and be an interpreter of the world of homelessness for them," said Logan, our Family Services team leader.

My staff might meet unsheltered individuals under bridge overpasses or in the woods to help them access needed medical or dental care. Another day, staff might go with clients to a SkillSource Center to help them perform job searches or help them write resumes and prepare for interviews. Every day demands something different.

As advocates, we do face challenges — lack of awareness or funding, overcoming stereotypes and barriers — but I look to and am inspired by the resiliency of my dedicated and professional program staff, more than 3,000 caring volunteers and the people we serve.

Our vision for a community where nobody is homeless is an inclusive community that recognizes and values the talents and contributions each member makes. Brooke, one of our case managers working with families, understands that part of her job is to bring together diverse groups of people to dispel stereotypes associated with homelessness; lessening the alienation of people who are homeless is important for their dignity and their ability to be resilient. And while it is difficult to see people struggle, we know that can be followed by seeing them meet their own goals and move into their new home

Amanda Andere is the executive director of FACETS.

10-YEAR MISSION



The hot meal prep team from Christ Lutheran Church of Fairfax puts together 100 meals to distribute on a hot meals run with FACETS on Aug. 10. From left are Elizabeth Simpson, Phyllis Harrington, Alice Marsolais, Jan Walters, Pat Nau, Kathy Putnam, David Rourk and Allen Griffith.



Phyllis Harrington of Christ Lutheran Church of Fairfax spoons a pasta dish into containers that will be placed in coolers and then in a van that she will drive to four locations in Fairfax and then distributed to homeless individuals and families on the evening of Aug. 10. The volunteers will run out of meals before they run out of hungry people. They return to the kitchen to make sandwiches to feed those who didn't get meals.

PHOTOS & TEXT
BY DEB COBB

Hot Meals Served Daily

Volunteers prepare, distribute hot food to the homeless.

In Combination with 35 faith communities, FACETS, an outreach organization in Fairfax County, provides 42,000 hot meals to homeless individuals and families living in and around four sites along Fairfax Boulevard in Fairfax every year.

On Wednesday, Aug. 10, the members of Christ Lutheran Church of Fairfax were on duty for the FACETS hot meals program, they made 100 meals for the run. Included in the evening's menu was French bread, cookies, a banana, milk or bottled water, a pasta dish with meat sauce or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for vegetarians. Volunteers ran out of meals by the third stop on the run.

Volunteer Allen Griffith said that the church sees this homeless outreach as a critical mission. "This kitchen was built for the sole purpose of feeding the homeless," he said.

In 2003, the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary by initiating a \$100,000 upgrade to the kitchen to have it meet commercial codes so the congregation could participate in homeless meal outreach.

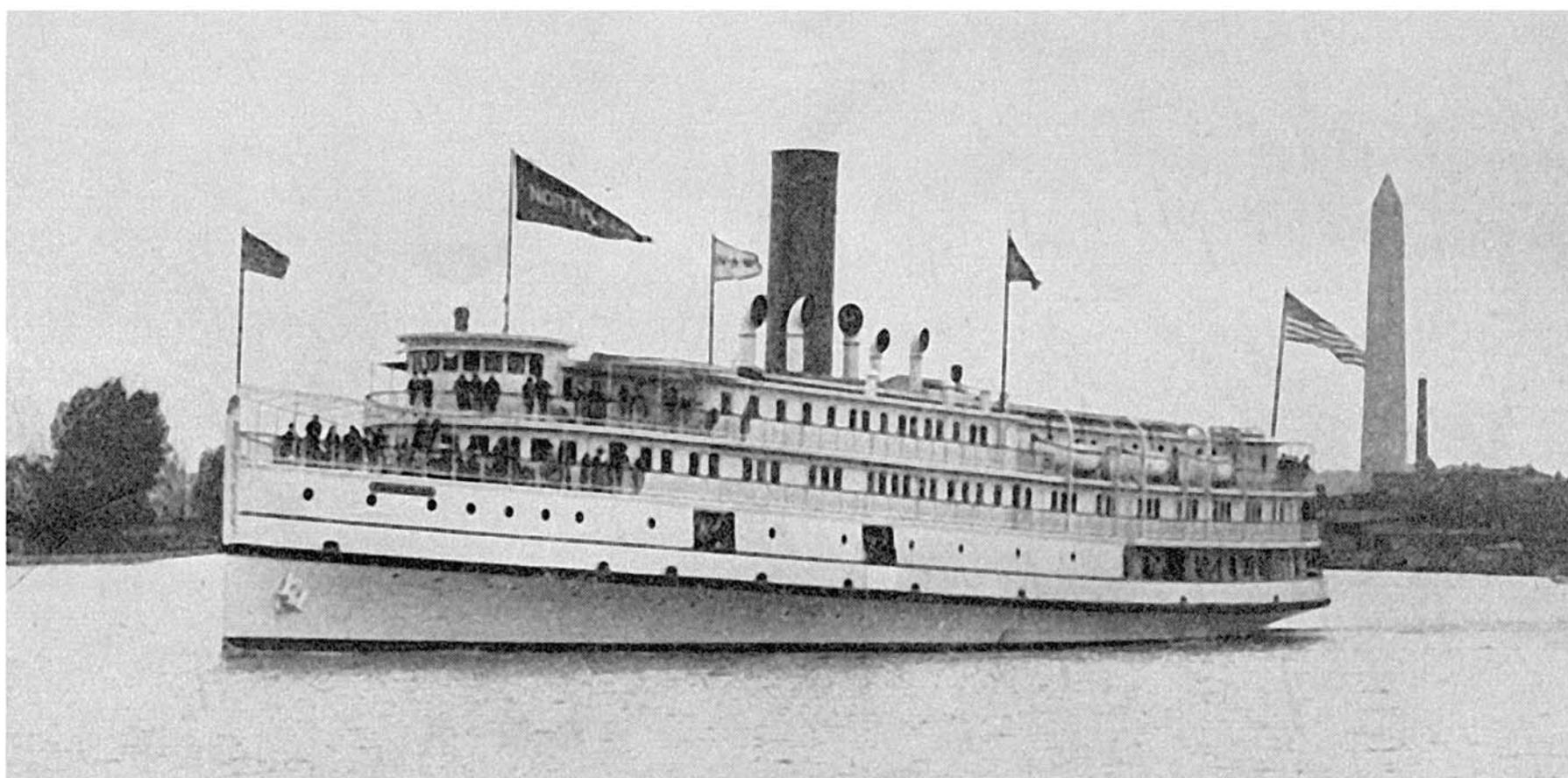
FACETS provides hot meals to the homeless once every day and twice on Sundays.

"This kitchen was built for the sole purpose of feeding the homeless."

— Allen Griffith

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OPINION

Partners in Ending Homelessness

Government can lead fight to end homelessness, but success achieved with community partners.

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY
D-11

As the nation's economy continues to struggle, we should find hope in one recent bit of news reported by Fairfax County: The local homeless population declined 15.6 percent during the last four years despite the worst economic recession since the 1930s.

While the growth in the homeless population has slowed nationally, Fairfax County is one of the few localities to actually reduce the rate of homelessness, and this success is the product of a years-long effort by Fairfax County and its community partners.

When I was first elected chairman of the Board of Supervisors in 2003, there was growing concern about the increase in the local homeless population. Particularly alarming was the fact that 60 percent of homeless adults in families already were employed. It highlighted the need to address the shrinking number of affordable housing units.

Knowing government could not tackle these challenges alone, we convened separate community summits to devise action plans to preserve affordable housing and to prevent homelessness. The results were innovative partnerships with the non-profit, faith and

business communities that yielded positive results, among them the preservation of more than 2,200 affordable housing units, which doubled our initial goal.

Given the success of this program and the benefits it has provided to Fairfax families and our entire community, I believe the county should reconsider its decision to scale it back.

Another part of that success story is the 10-year plan we adopted to prevent and end homelessness and the

hiring of a coordinator to oversee all local efforts to assist the homeless. One important element of that plan is the annual hypothermia program, in partnership with local churches, which provides warm meals and temporary shelter for those most at-risk. It also helps provide vital medical and mental health support services in a stable environment, supplementing the mobile medical outreach we initiated to reach the chronically homeless.

Last year alone, the county's Housing Opportunities Support Teams helped prevent nearly 900 people from becoming homeless. These efforts keep families off the street and they are cost-effective. At the federal level, I've sponsored legislation in the U.S. of Represent-

tatives to replicate the Fairfax model with the aim of preventing homelessness for all Americans.

Even in a region as fortunate as Northern Virginia, which has weathered the recession better than most metropolitan areas, there continue to be tremendous needs.

I wish I could bring some of my colleagues from Congress to Fairfax to witness the value of these investments firsthand. As you know, we are in the midst of an important national debate about how much the federal government ought to be supporting such community efforts. There are some in Congress, who have proposed eliminating funding for a program that provides assistance to homeless veterans. I have fought this proposal on the House floor and will continue to do so because our veterans deserve better.

As we learned in Fairfax, government alone cannot solve the problem, but it can play a critical role in convening the private sector, non-profits, educators and other community partners to address the serious challenges we face. And as the recent data on homelessness shows, those efforts are making real progress and benefiting our entire community.

Gerald E. Connolly represents the 11th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and served 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including five as chairman.



Connolly

FILE PHOTO

GUEST EDITORIAL

Road to Advocacy

Reston Interfaith CEO shares his journey back from homelessness.

BY GREG WHITE
RESTON INTERFAITH

Several years ago after graduating from college, I found myself without a place to live after my two college roommates both returned to their out-of-state homes. I did not have full-time employment and could not afford the full rent and had to move out of the apartment. I very quickly ran out of what little funds I had left from the college semester and began living in my car, an old Ford Maverick which was parked in the rear of the apartments.

After a week or so the apartment management demanded that I leave. I began working as a day laborer, earning enough money to put gas in my car to drive to a rest stop on the outskirts of town where I spent the night in my car, cleaning up in the bathrooms and driving back to the day labor site in the morning.

I made several attempts to seek support from some local social service agencies for food, food stamps, rental assistance and gas. The experience of standing in lines and the service I re-

Reston Interfaith CEO Greg White has firsthand experience of being homeless.

ceived while seeking assistance was de-humanizing and something I have never forgotten.

The staff at the agencies was rude, judgmental and non-responsive.

If not for the hunger and desperation I felt I would have walked out. I did endure the treatment at one of the agencies long enough to receive a voucher for a motel stay and food that allowed me to save one week of pay. I then found a landlord who agreed to rent a small apartment to a starving student for a very reasonable weekly fee that I could afford.

Over the next few weeks, I secured a full-time job as a residential counselor in a juvenile facility and started my career in social services.



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10-YEAR MISSION

Why Are People Homeless?

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Two trends are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness in the past 25 years, according to local homeless advocates: a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty.

"No one chooses to be homeless," said George Braunstein, director of Fairfax County's Community Services Board, a state-mandated agency that provides services for those with mental health, substance abuse and disability needs in the county.

"People, for a variety of reasons, who never imagined being homeless, are often faced with an illness, or a substance abuse problem, or domestic violence situation, and it becomes so challenging that it affects their ability to problem-solve, and, in some cases, homelessness is the end result," Braunstein said.

Michael Vizzuto, a case worker for the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston, said that lack of social supports — friends, family or religious and community groups — is a common thread in many of the homeless individuals he encounters doing shelter and outreach work.

"That support system is critical in helping people with other issues, such as sub-

stance abuse, which may lead to homelessness," Vizzuto said.

A 2010 policy study released by The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH), an advocacy and education organization based in Washington, D.C., outlined the top reasons why people become homeless.

❖ Foreclosure

Recently, foreclosures have increased the number of people who experience homelessness. The National Coalition for the Homeless released an entire report discussing the relationship between foreclosure and homelessness. The report found that there was a 32 percent jump in the number of foreclosures between April 2008 and April 2009. Since the start of the recession, six million jobs have been lost. In May 2009, the official unemployment rate was 9.4 percent. The National Low Income Housing Coalition estimates that 40 percent of families facing eviction due to foreclosure are renters and 7 million households living on very low incomes (31 - 50 percent of Area Median Income) are at risk of foreclosure.

❖ Poverty

Homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked. Poor people are frequently unable to pay for housing, food, childcare, health care, and education. Difficult choices must be made when limited resources cover only some of these necessities.

Many factors can leave individuals without a place to live.

"Often it is housing, which absorbs a high proportion of income that must be dropped. If you are poor, you are essentially an illness, an accident, or a paycheck away from living on the streets," said Nan Roman, president and CEO of the NHC.

In 2008, 12.5 percent of the U.S. population, or 37 million people, lived in poverty. Children are overrepresented, composing 35.7 percent of people in poverty while only being 24.8 percent of the total population.

Two factors help account for increasing poverty: eroding employment opportunities for large segments of the workforce and the declining value and availability of public assistance.

❖ Eroding Work Opportunities

Reasons why homelessness persists include stagnant or falling incomes and less secure jobs which offer fewer benefits. While the employment picture is better in Fairfax County than in many regions of the country, the wage for workers who provide critical services — teachers, police, firefighters and social service workers — continue to lose ground financially in a faltering economy.

Low-wage workers have been particularly left behind as the disparity between rich and poor has mushroomed. According to The Economic Policy Institute,

the real value of the minimum wage in 2004 was 26 percent less than in 1979.

Declining wages, in turn, have put housing out-of-reach for many workers: in every state, more than the minimum wage is required to afford a one- or two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent. In Fairfax County, a one-bedroom apartment is typically about \$1,200 a month.

"You would have to work two jobs at minimum wage, and maybe you could afford a one-bedroom apartment here," said Dan Pizzo, a social worker with Reston Interfaith.

A recent U.S. Conference of Mayors report stated that in every state more than the minimum-wage is required to afford a one or two-bedroom apartment at 30 percent of his or her income, which is the federal definition of affordable housing. Unfortunately, for 12 million Americans, more than 50 percent of their salaries go towards renting or housing costs, resulting in sacrifices in other essential areas like health care and savings.

❖ Other Factors

Particularly within the context of poverty and the lack of affordable housing, certain additional factors may push people into

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/AUG. 18

Pizza with Everything. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories, songs and finger plays. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Little Bee by Chris Cleave. Adults. 703-293-6227.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

Lunchtime at the Movies. 11:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bring lunch and watch movies based on children's books. Call for titles. Age 1-6 with adult. 703-644-7333.

Paul Anka. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Singer/songwriter. \$48 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 19

Jammin Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle 5: Finals. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition. 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Lake Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Bluegrass music concert. Free.

Andrew Acosta String Band. 7:30 p.m. Royal Lake Park, 5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax. Folk and bluegrass music. Free.

Gipsy Kings. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Flamenco guitarists and singers from the Reyes and Baliardo families. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 20

DC Fest with Michael W. Smith and Steven Curtis Chapman. 3 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Also with by Kutless, Big Daddy Weave, Matthew West, Sidewalk Prophets and Jonny Diaz. Tickets \$15-\$99, available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

Big O and Dukes Live. 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

An Enchanted Evening of Dance. 7 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Chinese folk dance, presented by the Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe. Tickets \$10-\$30. 571-306-2889 or www.FCDTdance.org.

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's OTO Brass Quintet. 10 a.m. Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Free.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association answers gardening questions. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Line dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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Hiding in Plain Sight

Embry Rucker Shelter offers help and hope to man living in tent.

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

At 8 a.m. on a Friday in August, the temperature is already 87-degrees when Jimmy Cole wakes up. “The heat comes right through the tent. That and the traffic usually wake me up,” Cole said.

Rugged and tan, the 48-year-old Cole said he likes being outdoors. But his tent in the woods is not pitched at one of the county’s recreational campsites. It’s in a wooded patch in the Reston-Herndon area, and Cole sleeps there because he is homeless.

He is one of Fairfax County’s approximately 650 single homeless individuals, who for a variety of reasons — lack of credit, transportation and income — don’t have permanent housing. Some sleep at one of the county’s emergency or transitional shelters, others “couch surf” at the homes of friends or relatives. Some, ashamed to admit they are homeless, sleep in their cars or cheap motels, while they try to keep their jobs. Nearly 200 homeless individuals live in makeshift tents throughout the county.

Cole’s tent, about 5-feet wide, has just enough space to crawl into and curl up at night. It has several brown tarps over it. “I don’t like snakes, so that’s really the one thing that bothers me at night,” he said. Cole has been sleeping there for the past year, where his tent is camouflaged in the summer by tall pine trees. The area is near a busy intersection, and the roar of the traffic is non-stop.

Cole said he wakes up some mornings still surprised at his situation.

“I always worked somewhere. I held good factory jobs in Ohio, where I grew up, but then I lost that in 2008 when the economy turned sour,” he said.

DISORCED AND WITHOUT CHILDREN or other family, Cole said he decided to head to the Washington, D.C., area, where he thought there would be plenty of opportunities for work. In addition to factory work, Cole has experience as a landscaper and groundskeeper for golf courses.

When he first came to the area, he had a truck, and enough money saved to pay for a campsite at Burke Lake Park. He looked for work in construction and landscaping, and often drove into Washington, D.C., to see the sites.

“When my money ran out, I started to panic and everything came to a screeching halt. I tried to get construction jobs, whatever I could find. I looked through the telephone book for temp agencies, and got a job through Labor Ready in Tysons,” he said.

For two years, Cole worked at Adesa, an auto action company in Sterling. He was paid minimum wage: \$7.50 an hour, which is not enough to afford the fair-market rent of \$1,200 for a one-bedroom apartment in the community. For two years, he essentially lived in his truck, going to the shelter during the winter months or when the heat was unbearable in the summer months. He said



Dean Klein, Fairfax County’s director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), talks with Jimmy Cole about his plans for getting permanent housing.

he couldn’t save any money, and barely managed living in his truck, but he liked having a steady job, and thought it would lead to something better.

Last year, during the worsening economy, he lost that job when the company cut its staff.

Like falling dominoes, Cole’s life started to unravel. He sold his truck to make ends

“I’m a good worker. I know things will get better.”

— Jimmy Cole

meet. He got a bike but someone stole it. He lost his birth certificate in the woods one night, so it’s difficult for him to get official documentation, such as a Social Security card, that is required to get a driver’s license, credit cards and other paperwork needed to get a job.

“I get depressed sometimes, but these guys help me out. They’re helping me get my paperwork together so I can get a job again,” Cole said, referring to social workers Dan Pizzo and Michael Vizzuto, who are two of the 20 full-time staff members at the Embry

Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS) in Reston helping Coles.

THE ERCS is a 70-bed residential shelter that provides healthy, safe, emergency housing for families and single men and women, helping them to overcome barriers and transition to stable housing. The shelter provides drop-in services for the unsheltered homeless, those who, for lack of shelter space, live outdoors, in cars, or in other unsafe places. Drop in services includes hot meals, laundry and shower facilities, and a place where the homeless can meet with a case manager and access medical and mental health services. The shelter operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

“Jimmy’s a great guy,” Pizzo said. “When we do outreach, we build relationships with individuals, slowly gaining their trust and confidence because they don’t have to come to us.”

Pizzo said Coles is like a lot of single homeless adults in the county who don’t have family or other support to help them through life’s rough patches.

“I think that’s the thread that runs through almost all of our homeless clients, the lack of a support system. In many cases, they don’t want to be a burden, or they are immigrants and don’t have friends and family nearby, or they have broken relationship because of a mental health or substance abuse issue,” Pizzo said. “There’s a plethora of reasons why they don’t have family or friends they can turn to quickly. Some are too ashamed to tell their families they are in this situation.”

The caseworkers try to be that support system, helping clients like Coles navigate the bureaucracy of the Department of Motor Vehicles and other government agencies that hold the keys to the documentation necessary for employment and housing.

“Documentation is a huge barrier,” Pizzo said. “It can take months to gather all the required documents that you need to obtain a photo ID, which is often essential for finding work.”

“I’m trying to help myself. I want to get out and better myself,” Cole said. He said he has a high school diploma, but “I know I have to go back to school and learn a trade.”

Cole said he wants to remain in the area. In addition to the connections he’s made with the staff of Reston Interfaith, he said he has made good friends in the area. “Sometimes we meet up at Panera in Reston Town Center to swap tips about jobs, and just talk,” he said.

HIS TENT is near the Embry Rucker Shelter, so on “drop-in days,” he can walk there



Dan Pizzo, a social worker for Embry Rucker Community Shelter, helps Jimmy Cole with his tent that partially collapsed after a heavy rain. “The weather is a huge factor in the day of the life of an unsheltered homeless person,” Pizzo said.

to take a shower, do laundry, eat a hot meal or talk with caseworkers and get medical services from a nurse practitioner. In the summer, if the temperature hits the “red zone” of 93 degrees Fahrenheit or above, Coles can spend the day or night at the shelter, where clients might have to sleep on the floor.

During the day, Cole often spends time at Barnes & Noble or Starbucks, to read and get out of the heat.

“I like to read astronomy and sports magazines. I’m not a problem, so no one really notices me,” he said.

“You would not know he is homeless, because he’s out of context here. Fairfax County is not like D.C. or other large cities, where you see panhandlers or people sleeping on

benches,” said Pizzo.

ON FRIDAY afternoon, Aug. 12, Pizzo and Vizzuto are helping Cole with his tent, which has partially collapsed. Cole’s tent is the only one currently in this patch of woods. Pizzo tells Cole that they have a donated mountain bike for him and that it just needs a new chain.

“It will be put to good use,” Cole said. “I like to bike, and it’s a better way to get around.”

When asked where he thinks he will be a year from now, Cole doesn’t hesitate. “I’d like to have a job, an apartment, and a girlfriend,” he said. “This isn’t a lifestyle for me. I’m a good worker. I know things will get better,” he said.

The Face of Homelessness

Woman with law degree finds help for her family at Katherine Hanley Shelter.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Tennie Fails, 43, is not the kind of person one would expect to find in a homeless shelter. She’s well-educated and has a law degree — yet that’s where she and her three youngest children recently found themselves.

“I need a job and housing,” she said during her stay there. “And I need to work every day. If not, that’s a day that, without the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter, the kids wouldn’t have food or a roof over their heads.”

Fails was named after her father, Tennessee, who died in a car accident in November 1967. She was born four months later. Raised in Greensburg, La., she obtained her law degree from Southern University Law Center in May 1996.

When she moved to Virginia in 1997, she was a single mother, sharing custody of her two daughters, then 1 and 3, with their father. While working at a law firm in Washington, D.C., in 1998, she met and fell in love with a lawyer there. They married and had three children, now 9, 7 and 5.

In March 2006, they moved back to Louisiana so Fails could be closer to her ailing, paternal grandmother. She died that December, but Fails’ family remained in Louisiana until her husband’s firm sent him back to this area in October 2010.

“We were living in Fair Oaks,” she said. “His firm put us up in a hotel while we looked for a place to live. Two of the three youngest children were in school, and the two older girls were with their biological father in Ohio.”

Then came the end of the world, as Fails knew it. On March 23, her husband was arrested. He was charged in Louisiana and Virginia with molesting a child. “He’s in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, but his case hasn’t come to court, yet, and he’s awaiting extradition to Louisiana.”

Since Fails had been staying at home, taking care of their youngest son, her husband was the family’s only source of income. So once he was arrested, her financial problems spiraled out of control. “His company had only paid for two weeks in the hotel, and my savings had paid for the rest and were depleted,” she

said. “I had to find a job and somewhere else to live.”

Between 1998 and 2006, she’d worked as a substitute teacher in FCPS; so from April until school ended, June 21, she did that again. But now school’s out and Fails doesn’t have a car or a job.

“I can’t go a day without earning money,” she said. “I’ll work as a receptionist, a waitress, whatever generosity anyone can extend to my family would be greatly appreciated.”

Fails has experience as a paralegal, law clerk, legal research assistant and contract analyst, but can’t practice law in Virginia until this state licenses her. “I need to take the bar exam here,” she said. “But the prep course for Virginia’s exam is \$2,000 and the



Tennie Fails snuggles with her children, from left, Erin, 7, Roman, 5, and Harrison, 9.

exam, itself, is about \$800.”

First, though, she needs to get on her feet, and that’s not easy to do in Fairfax County. “I think the work the people at the Katherine Hanley Shelter do is so critical,” said Fails. “But with the homelessness in this area, they have other clients to help. And once we leave here, the cost of living in this county is exponentially too much for someone in my situation.”

She said there’s “not nearly enough” low-income housing here. “The people at the Hanley Shelter are amazing. They do yeoman’s work,” said Fails. “But the need is so much greater than their resources. I don’t know where we would have been, if not for the love, caring and help of the Hanley Shelter. They granted us safe passage through a turbulent time in our lives.”

Fails and her children arrived at the shelter April 8, and she couldn’t believe such a thing was happening to her. “It was raining when we drove up in a cab,” she said. “And I was thinking, ‘Once you graduate from law school and marry a lawyer, you don’t expect to end up in a homeless shelter.’”

Still, Fails won’t allow herself to wallow in self-pity. “I can’t get distracted by that,” she said. “I have to focus on getting a job and sustaining our home. It’s my goal to be self-sufficient. I want to be able to support my children by myself.”

At the shelter, the family shared one room with four bunk beds. But on July 19, Fails and her children moved into transitional housing via Homestretch Inc. However, Fails would love to be eventually referred to Habitat for Humanity for a home.

“Santa brought the children a puppy at Christmas, but he had to be fostered while we were at the shelter,” she said. “They’re so sad to have to leave him behind, and pets aren’t allowed in our new place.”

But she has even more important things on her mind. The children need clothing, their condo could use some furniture and Fails needs a car so that, when school begins again, she could get to and from substitute-teaching jobs.

She also needs legal help with regard to her husband. “I need pro-bono legal services to deal with a protective order, a divorce and custody issues,” said Fails.

Meanwhile, her children are too young for her to explain exactly why their father isn’t with them, so they don’t fully understand why their lives have changed so drastically. But Fails tries to keep things as normal for them as possible.

Roman, 5, wants to be a builder when he grows up. He attended Providence Elementary’s Head Start program and likes playing video games, especially Lego Star Wars.

Erin, 7, graduated from second grade at Eagle View Elementary. She likes camping and, in school, she enjoyed math and reading, mainly Ramona and Harry Potter books. She’d like to someday be a scientist and an explorer.

Harrison, 9, graduated from fourth grade at Eagle View and played violin in the school orchestra. “I liked it there; I had friends,” he said. He also likes reading Star Wars and Harry Potter books. At the shelter, said Harrison, “We got Easter baskets. And they have a birthday party every month for all the kids.”

“The shelter’s been gracious and generous to my family, and the work it does is so critical,” said Fails.

That’s why, she said, “I’m hoping the county executive’s office will be mindful of the needs of the homeless in the county. There aren’t a lot of opportunities out there for us, but we all have a story and we all have a lot to offer.”

Spartan Fans Gather To Watch Dancers

Friends of West Springfield Dance Team gather to watch Aug. 16 TV appearance.

By TAHMINA ACHEKZAI
THE CONNECTION

Before this season of “America’s Got Talent,” most people probably would have imagined a set of identical pink tutus or jazz hands when getting ready for a dance performance. White contacts, blood streaked faces and creepy music? Not so much.

But, every season brings new performers, and season six brought American the West Springfield Dance Team — a group of high school students whose uniformity, creativity and talent have probably changed viewers’ outlook on dance forever.

Some Burke and Springfield residents, however, are already used to this side of the dance world. They’ve seen it on their school football field and at pep rallies plenty of times, and now, they’re gathering to see them perform on national television.

For a few hours on Tuesday night, Aug. 17, the Glory Days Grill in Burke was filled with the West Springfield High School community, ready to watch and cheer for their classmates, friends, and students as they

performed in front of America once again.

Principal Paul Wardinski brought his wife and daughters, ready to support the team and the school. “I didn’t anticipate them being on national television, because so few people make it,” he said. “It’s very exciting, not only for the coaches but for the school and the community.”

With two national titles already under their belts, though, this didn’t come as a surprise to everybody. James Stephenson, a student at West Springfield High School, came to support a friend on the team, Brianna Thompson.

“The creepy thing is, at their first or second performance, I told my mom, this is something that’s got to be on ‘America’s Got Talent.’”

Among the crowd of parents, students, staff and alumni was AT Ignagova, who has already been on the team for more than a year. Ignagova, having been on vacation in Russia, was unable to perform among her

teammates. “In a way I wish I was out there with them, but they’re doing amazing, so I’m just proud of them,” she said.

With the dance team starting its year in spring and going through March, the incoming members already had a taste of what being a part of the team would be like.

“Other teams they see each other at practice. We do everything together,” Victoria Diez, another freshman, said.

The year hasn’t even started, and yet, even the newest members already feel as if they’re part of a family. For much of the West Springfield community, the bond the dancers have is a major contribution to their strength and success.

Gina Percoco, a mother of a former dance team member, has seen firsthand how the team has developed. “They have grown than to a team that was broken to a team that is a family,” she said.

“It makes me really proud,” said Sara Kofalt, former captain of the West Springfield Dance Team from the class of 2007.

“Coming from the team, I know what hard work goes into everything they do and I love that they are getting the appreciation that they deserve.”



PHOTO BY TAHMINA ACHEKZAI

Dance team member AT Ignagova and incoming members Madeline Diez, Ellen Abood, Briana Burns and Victoria Diez wear WSDT T-shirts to support their team.

Along with Ignagova at her table were the rising freshmen that had just made the team. Their excitement was bleeding through their bright eyes and smiling faces.

“We just hope that we keep their reputation and really enjoy being on the dance team,” Briana Burns said.

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FROM PAGE 3

director. And it's a small office that makes a huge difference, because it's leveraged by a governing board that consists of corporate leaders and nonprofits," Bulova said.

"I knew we were going to make progress when Dean Klein brought to a governing board meeting an extremely well-orchestrated business plan, ... He did a triage, so to speak. We all felt pretty comforted that we were going about this in a way that was incremental, measurable, transparent and businesslike," Bulova said.

An analysis of trends from 2008-11 presented by the OPEH to the governing board in June showed the following results:

- ❖ Homeless families decreased by nearly 15 percent, from 311 in 2008 to 265 in 2011.

- ❖ The number of homeless children under 18 decreased by 20 percent, from 673 in 2008 to 539 in 2011.

- ❖ Single individuals decreased by 10.5 percent, from 744 in 2008 to 666 in 2011.

- ❖ HOST, a housing first initiative, prevented nearly 900 persons from becoming homeless during 2010.

"The partnerships we have with nonprofits, faith and corporate communities are an example of everybody at the table wanting to address this issue. And in Fairfax County, let me say we are a community that enjoys solving problems. We address the issues when something is troubling us," Bulova said.

She added that a grassroots movement to face the challenge of ending homelessness began in 2005 when churches, synagogues and mosques began hosting people during the winter to prevent hypothermia deaths.

"That was a significant starting point," Bulova said. "Volunteers in those faith communities had a chance to meet homeless people up-close and personal, and they understood that this was something that was not OK in their affluent community, and they were the ones who began demanding that Fairfax County do something other than just manage the homeless. They wanted to prevent and end it."

Bulova added that many of the faith volunteers also held high-profile positions at powerful corporations such as Northrop Grumman, Freddie Mac and SAIC, and they got their companies to become engaged in the effort.

Leaf said that from a business perspective, it makes sense for corporations to do as much as possible to help prevent and end homelessness.

"The presence of a large homeless population has a negative impact not just on the desirability of the community, but the overall climate," Leaf said. "If the community addresses the problem aggressively, it becomes a better place to live and work, and a much more pleasant place for children to grow up. That all combines to make it a better place to have a business. We just moved a large part of Northrop Grumman here, to Herndon in the Dulles corridor, and we want to make this area the best we can."

Last December, Northrop Grumman hosted a large event for other businesses in the region, to discuss the importance of being involved in the partnership and other efforts to help end homelessness.

David Bowers, vice president of Enterprise Community Partners (ECP), applauded Fairfax County's business-like approach during his speech at the Faith Engagement Initiative, hosted by the OPEH in May.

ECP is a nationally recognized organization with a mission to give people living in poverty an opportunity to move up and out. Bowers said ECP has raised



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Michael Vizzuto, a social worker with Reston Interfaith, meets up with former homeless client, Roger Sitek and friend Yang Lee, at the Panera Bread in Reston Town Center. Sitek, who has multiple physical disabilities and used to sleep in his truck, now has an apartment in Reston and receives regular disability checks.

and invested more than \$11 billion in equity, grants and loans to help build or preserve more than 280,000 affordable rental and for-sale homes to create vital communities.

"There are a couple of elements in Fairfax County that are very encouraging. Number one is that the county has not only provided a 10-year-plan, but put the resources behind it, both financial and intellectual resources," Bowers said.

"When you look at who is on the governing board, it's a very impressive array of folks with diverse backgrounds, and that speaks volumes. ... Fairfax County goes a step further by being very transparent with measurable results."

Klein said that in addition to engaging the traditional partners, such as the service and advocacy community, the partnership is very aware of how crucial the support of the business community is in succeeding.

"We always reach out and welcome new partners in this effort," Klein said. "This past year, many organizations including Google, Northrop Grumman, Target, Deltek and the Freddie Mac Foundation, helped raise awareness and donated time, talents and funds."

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

It may seem obvious, but to end homelessness, people need affordable homes.

"Housing has to be the primary focus," Hudgins said. "I think the change that has allowed us to be successful is our emphasis on rapid re-housing and wrap-around services. It's not about judging people who are homeless. It's about getting them housing, and then addressing some of the issues that led to

SEE PREVENTION, PAGE 14

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10-YEAR MISSION

Prevention Is First Step

FROM PAGE 5

homelessness. If we don't do that, we're constantly chasing our tails."

In the past decade, the basic philosophy of how to address the homeless problem has undergone a progressive shift. Instead of "managing" the homeless population, the emphasis is on preventing and ending homelessness through rapid re-housing.

"If you are going to be successful in meeting the goals of preventing and ending homelessness, rapid re-housing solves one huge underlying problem, which is ensuring an individual or family has a place to live," said Paul Sampson, director of the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development. "But homelessness is often accompanied by other chronic problems that can range from unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence or health problems. To face these issues without a roof over your head is extremely difficult and makes rapid re-housing critical. But the end goal is a long term and stable housing situation for the household, and we need support for services that address these other chronic problems."

Sampson said a new program, Bridging Affordability, is an integral part of the county's Housing Blueprint, and will provide long-term rental subsidies to 72 homeless individuals and families, and an additional 303 households on the county's affordable housing waiting lists.

The program, which is just getting underway, is operated under a \$3.8 million, three-year contract with Northern Virginia Family Services.

As of March, most of those on the housing waiting list are not homeless, but individuals or families who fall into the low-income category. When housing does become available, Sampson said, those who are homeless move to the top of the list.

"Housing is the critical piece we need to move forward with the core element of Fairfax County's 10-year-plan to prevent and end homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church community by 2018. Our strategy now is rapid re-housing, developing ways to quickly move people who are homeless, or in threat of becoming homeless, to permanent, safe and affordable housing," Klein said.

"In the past, we've been able to provide shelter, but without the ability to move people into affordable and appropriate housing, it's difficult to really start lowering the number of homeless," Klein said.

During the past year, Klein said OPEH has piloted some new initiatives to more quickly secure housing for people, including the establishment of the Housing Locator network operating countywide that works with landlords and provides training and coordination to housing locators and provides social workers the tools to become housing locators. In 2010, housing locators worked with an average of 20 households per month.

"Housing locators provide services such as application assistance, landlord negotiation and training to prepare people either rent or own a home," Klein said.

According to Michael O'Reilly, chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homeless, 482 people have moved into permanent housing from emergency shelters and transitional housing programs in FY 2010.

"The 10-year plan calls for 2,650 housing units to be made available over the 10-year-period in order to achieve our goals," O'Reilly said.

Creating affordable housing is key, homeless ad-

vocates insist, but it takes a sustained community effort.

According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), federal support for low-income housing has fallen 49 percent from 1980 to 2005.

In 2009, a worker would need to earn \$14.97 an hour to afford a one-bedroom apartment and \$17.84 to afford a two-bedroom apartment, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

The lack of affordable housing has led to high rent burdens, which absorb a high proportion of income, overcrowding, and substandard housing. These problems have not only forced many people to become homeless; they have put a large and growing number of people at risk of becoming homeless.

"Whenever Fairfax County is touted as a wealthy county by its median household income, we need to remember that half of the households make less than the median, often a great deal less, so putting county resources toward housing, in effect, improves the housing standards for everyone," said Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason).

"Fairfax County's 10-Year Commitment to End Homelessness seemed like a daunting task when we adopted the concept two years ago. But the new program, combined with the previous success of the Board's commitment to preserve 1,000 affordable units in 1,000 days, means that more housing choices are available for more people who need them," Gross said.

Bulova said the "housing first" approach is a formula that makes sense, and is working.

"Previously, the approach was if someone was a drug addict or substance abuser, the rule was you have to clean up before we help you have a roof over your head. Think about how hard that is for someone, so housing first approach is to stabilize that person in a safe environment and then work with them to try to help them address the reasons for them losing their home," Bulova said.

LOOKING AHEAD

Bulova stressed that the 10-year-plan is supported by the entire Board of Supervisors, and that, for the most part, it is a non-partisan issue.

"As a board, we thought it was the right thing to do, and the community clearly thinks it's the right thing to do."

"Many of our homeless are disabled or suffer from mental illness and are unable to fully take care of themselves. They deserve our help as caring, engaged citizens," Supervisor John Cook (R-Springfield) said. "I will continue to push to direct a larger percentage of our human services dollars toward those most in need. In a county as wealthy as Fairfax, we should not have homeless neighbors, and we must continue our efforts until all have housing."

"By providing a range of services and supports, we have been able to prevent deaths from hypothermia, increase people's incomes, stabilize children in the school system, and place families in permanent housing," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "There is still much that needs to be done, but the county's program to prevent and end homelessness is working."

"We have a small population of homeless, so it's something we should be able to get our arms around," Bulova said.

Amber Healy contributed to the reporting in this story.



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10-YEAR MISSION

Causes of Homelessness

FROM PAGE 8

homelessness. Other major factors, which can contribute to homelessness, include the following:

❖ **Lack of Affordable Health Care:** For families and individuals struggling to pay the rent, a serious illness or disability can start a downward spiral into homelessness, beginning with a lost job, depletion of savings to pay for care, and eventual eviction. One in three Americans, or 86.7 million people, is uninsured. Of those uninsured, 30.7 percent are under 18. In 2007-08, four out of five people that were uninsured were working families. According to a trend report released by Fairfax County in 2011, 108,605 persons — or 10.6 percent of the population — lack health insurance.

❖ **Domestic Violence:** Battered women who live in poverty are often forced to choose between abusive relationships and homelessness. In addition, 50 percent of the cities surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness (U.S. Conference of Mayors, 2009). According to a study released by the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), approxi-

mately 30 percent of the 892 homeless persons in families have been victims of domestic violence.

❖ **Mental Illness and Addiction Disorders:** Mental illness, substance abuse or both afflict approximately 60 percent of the total number of single individuals, about 667, in Fairfax County, according to the OPEH. Braunstein and other service providers say that mental health support services most needed include case management, housing, and treatment.

While rates of alcohol and drug abuse are disproportionately high among the homeless population, the increase in homelessness over the past two decades cannot be explained by addiction alone, according to the NHC. Many people who are addicted to alcohol and drugs never become homeless, but people who are poor and addicted are clearly at increased risk of homelessness. "Addiction does increase the risk of displacement for the precariously housed; in the absence of appropriate treatment, it may seriously impact one's chances of getting housing. Homeless people often face insurmountable barriers to obtaining health care, including addictive disorder treatment services and recovery supports," Braunstein said.



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

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Gipsy Kings. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Flamenco guitarists and singers from the Reyes and Baliardo families. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 21

Northern Virginia NTRAK Display with Running Trains. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. \$3 for adults, \$1 for children. www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

The Third Annual Tri-Fire Kids Race. 9 a.m. Mosby Woods Pool, 3136 Plantation Parkway, Fairfax. For age groups 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12, and will have appropriate distances for each- swim, bike, run. www.teamtrifire.org.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 1-4 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and advice. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/AUG. 23

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

THURSDAY/AUG. 25

An Evening with The Greencards. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice English with other adults. 703-249-1520.

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10-YEAR MISSION

Community Service Groups

Numerous government, non-profit agencies available to help unsheltered individuals.

According to the 2011 Point in Time Count, which took place on Jan. 26, 1,549 people were considered homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community. Of those, 666 were single individuals and 883 were people in families. While the county's initiative to prevent and end homelessness in the next 10 years is ongoing, agencies and non-profit

organizations all around the area focus on helping homeless families and children with remaining in their homes thus preventing homelessness, and also help others to find housing when they become homeless as well as offer food and other services to some of our most vulnerable citizens. Local non-profit organizations are in need of more volunteers to assist those in need.

FACETS: www.facetscares.org FACETS began as a meal distribution outreach effort in 1988, today is an established non-profit organization with programs to provide shelter, food, and medical attention for those unable to provide for themselves. It is the only organization that gives supporting services to families on the waitlist to enter a Fairfax County homeless shelter.

Alternative House: www.thealternativehouse.org AH focuses on giving shelter and aid to children and teenagers that are living on the streets. Its Assisting Young Mothers (AYM) program, begun in 2002, helps parenting teens through counseling, shelter and teaching. The Homeless Youth Initiative began in 2009 in cooperation with FCPS, and provides safe transitional housing to homeless students.

Reston Interfaith: www.restoninterfaith.org Founded in 1970, Reston Interfaith runs multiple housing and community outreach programs to help those that are homeless and struggling in Northern Virginia. Among its housing programs is Housing Counseling/Foreclosure Mitigation and Prevention, which helps prevent families from losing their homes. The Emergency and Self-Sufficiency Services Program distributes emergency food and hygiene supplies to families that need them, as well as backpacks and school supplies in the fall.

New Hope Housing: www.newhopehousing.org According to its website, New Hope Housing is the oldest and largest provider of shelter to the homeless of Northern Virginia. Its mission is to provide both shelter and the tools to build a better life. New Hope Housing has other community programs, but its main focus is on housing. It offers shelters, transitional housing and supportive housing for those with disability needs.

Carpenter's Shelter: www.carpentersshelter.org Carpenter's Shelter focuses on giving homeless families a place to rest and rehabilitate, while teaching them how to transition into a stable home. The organization provides three different shelters, one of them specifically for the winter season, which serve over 400 families and people a year. Carpenter's Shelter focuses on the transitional period between homelessness and having a home, as well as homelessness prevention through a program called Aftercare.

Homestretch: www.homestretch-inc.org Created in 1990, Homestretch is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County, and offers a wide variety of services that are focused on helping the homeless better their lives through education. Homestretch's Employment Center deals primarily with training adults with job placement and job readiness skills, and teaches essentials in ESL, GED and computer skills classes. Psychotherapy, substance abuse counseling and domestic violence support are also available at Homestretch's Falls Church location.

Shelter House, Inc: www.shelterhouse.org A community-based non-profit, Shelter House follows the Housing First model, with the main priority to re-house every family that begins one of their six unique housing

programs. Shelter House was selected as the 2011 Outstanding Corporate Citizenship "Non-profit of the Year" by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. Through its Community Case Management programs, they also follow up with families in-transition, providing services like debt reduction and employment training to prevent return to homelessness.

United Community Ministries: www.ucmagency.org UCM is a social service agency that provides four different housing programs for people in need, as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. Offered Emergency Assistance Programs include a food pantry, one-time grants/loans for rent or mortgage, financial support for medical purposes and budget counseling.

Pathway Homes: www.pathwayhomes.org Pathway Homes focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities.

Northern Virginia Family Services: www.nvfs.org NVFS provides multiple specialized services, including special foster care and multicultural human services. They have transitional housing services, as well SERVE, a 60-bed emergency shelter and the largest food distribution center in the county.

Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services: www.goodhousing.org The goal of GSH, created in 1974, is to help bring an end to homelessness while promoting the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals. Their programs include apartment budgeting counseling, emergency grant services, and housing locating. GSH manages 70 housing units.

Volunteers of America Chesapeake (operate Baileys Shelter): <http://www.voaches.org> With a history spanning over a century, the Volunteers of America Chesapeake operates the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter, and provides assistance through medical care, counseling, education and training for homeless individuals that stay at the shelter.

Our Daily Bread: www.our-daily-bread.org A volunteer based organization, ODB focuses on food outreach to aid the homeless, with bi-weekly delivery of food and supplies to 60 qualified families and a food pantry for emergency services. ODB also provides financial assistance and runs a back-to-school program to help give school supplies to children in need.

The Lamb Center: www.thelambcenter.org A Christian day-time drop-in center for the homeless, the Lamb Center provides facilities, medical referrals, transportation assistance and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings to guests, for free.

One of the Lamb Center's goals is to prepare visitors with employment skills so that they can become self-sustaining citizens.

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Excellent Wages, Benefits, Pension! Home nightly! Safe Equipment! Manassas, VA location. CDL-A w/Combo and Hazmat, 1 yr T/T exp, 21yoa req. EOE-M/F/D/V. Also need Dock Workers. \$12-\$14/hr. 4hr shifts. 18 yoa, read/write English. Able to lift 65 lbs. req. APPLY: www.yrcw.com/careers

Winter 2011 / 2012

SNOW REMOVAL FOR VDOT's NOVA DISTRICT

VDOT Offers very competitive salaries, and in addition the possibilities for:

- *\$200 Early Sign-Up Bonus
- *De-Mobilization Payment
- *AVL incentive for new and returning vendors (Automatic Vehicle Locator)
- *2% across the board rate increase as a fuel price adjustment
- *Mobilization Payment
- *Minimum Guaranteed Payment (select equipment)

Get applications to PUSH SNOW in Fairfax, Prince William and/or Loudoun Counties attend a meetings or call or by dropping by the lobby of the NOVA District headquarters:

Thursday August 18, 2011 for Prince William (at Manassas) 3 pm-6 pm
10228 Residency Rd. Manassas, VA 20110

Wednesday August 24, 2011 for Loudoun (at Leesburg) 3 pm - 6 pm
41 Lawson Rd., S.E. 20175

Monday September 12, 2011 for Fairfax (at Newington) 3 pm - 6 pm
8305 Cinderbed Rd. Lorton, VA 22079

Thursday September 29, 2011 at District 9 am - 4 pm

Questions? Call 703 259 2412 or come by the VDOT District Building at 4975 Alliance Dr. Fairfax, 8AM-4PM

ZONE 2: • BURKE
• FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD

EMPLOYMENT

703-917-6464

ZONE 2 AD DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY 11 A.M.

ZONE 2: • BURKE
• FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD

CLASSIFIED

703-917-6400

ZONE 2 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY NOON



Nysmith School Preschool - 8th Grade Hiring for the Fall

• Mid-day Recess/Lunch

Attendant

11:00-1:30 \$12.00/hour

College Degree Required

- Preschool Co-Teacher
- Elementary French Co-Teacher
- Middle School Social Studies Co-Teacher

Send resumes to: resume@nysmith.com
Fax: 703-713-3336, www.nysmith.com

DAYCARE WORKER

Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA is seeking F/T infant/toddler caregivers for our daycare center.
Hours: 7:30am-3:30pm or 10am-6pm, M-F. Great benefits. Send cover letter and resume to: jobs20@vts.edu.

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Zones 2, 3, 4.....Tues @ noon

E-mail ad with zone choices to: classified@connectionnewspapers.com

or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

EMPLOYMENT

DEADLINES

Zones 5, 6.....Tues @ 11:00

Zones 1, 3.....Tues @ 4:00

Zone 2.....Wed @ 11:00

Zone 4.....Wed @ 1:00

E-mail ad with zone choices to: classified@connectionnewspapers.com

or call Barbara @ 703-778-9413

ZONES

- Zone 1:** The Reston Connection
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection
The Burke Connection
The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
- Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette
- Zone 4:** Centre View North
Centre View South
- Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac
- Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

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Plant Customer Service Coordinator

Vulcan Materials Company is the nation's leading producer of construction aggregates, and a major producer of other construction materials including asphalt and ready-mix concrete. We currently have an opportunity available as a Plant Customer Service Coordinator at Edsall Road Sales Yard in Springfield, VA.

This position's primary responsibilities include weighing and processing sales of crushed stone at the plant. Weighs customer's loaded vehicle and prepares delivery ticket with all pertinent information to assure proper billing and accounting of product sold. Maintains cash fund to allow for making proper change for customer. Maintains good relations with customers and assists them by providing accurate product price and use information. Works under very limited supervision.

Candidates will be required and expected to:

- Have knowledge of company products, prices, and uses. Have general knowledge of accounting procedures and able to operate a computerized scale system.
- Deal effectively with people and work in stressful situations.
- Make decisions based on experience, personal judgment and data.
- Be able to multi-task efficiently.
- Be willing to work a rotating schedule with varying shifts and must be punctual in adhering to established start times.
- Be able to work in a heavy industrial environment, exposed to weather elements, some noise; must have ability to work independently and problem-solve while working alone or as part of a team.

We offer:

- Competitive Wages
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- 401(K) – Profit Sharing Tuition Reimbursement
- Disability Plan
- Opportunities for advancement

Apply on-line at www.vulcanmaterials.com.

Affirmative Action/EOE

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
The following store will be holding a public auction on August 22 starting at 12 Noon

Storage Mart 1851
11325 Lee Highway
Fairfax, Va, 22030

Susana Talledo Unit 1138 Bags, totes
Kenneth Gardner Unit 1144 Furniture, boxes
Scyvall Carter Unit 3026 Bicycle, boxes, totes
Randall Price
CTI TITLE & ESCROW LLC Unit 4081 Boxes, files

21 Announcements

25 Sales & Auctions

25 Sales & Auctions

PUBLIC REAL ESTATE AUCTION FAIRFAX COUNTY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH @ 12PM
3835 Beech Down Dr, Chantilly, VA 20151



5BR/3BA SFH. Access to community pool & tennis courts. Close to public schools, shopping malls & Dulles Airport
Gopal Hariani 410-977-9390

TERMS: Deposit: \$5,000 due at time of sale. Cash or certified funds. 30-day settlement. 10% buyer's premium. Broker co-op invited. See website for full terms and conditions. *
Sale on Premises Auctioneer - Charles Parrish L#A-351

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A CHARLES PARRISH COMPANY
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3 RE for Rent

3 RE for Rent

35 Equestrian

35 Equestrian

Just Minutes to King Street metro, \$850/mo includes utilities

One BR sublet in a 3BR/1.5 Bath renovated townhouse with driveway and street parking. Share house with 2 other professional young adults. Fully renovated with new kitchen, new bathrooms, updated basement and living room. \$850/month includes utilities. Bus stop at front door, one mile to King St Metro, Duke St near Old Town. Available May 1-July 31. 240-460-7375.



Horseback riding lessons for teens and adults.

MOMS! Come ride weekday mornings while the kids are in school! Never ridden? Rode as a youngster? That's OK, I specialize in adults of all levels. **Free introductory lesson by appointment!**
Southdown Farm, Great Falls, VA
Call Jane @ 703-759-0784
or E-mail: ridnteachr@cox.net

3 RE for Rent

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT- SPRINGFIELD (SARATOGA)

2lvl townhouse -2 master bdrms, 2.5 bath, lrg country kitchen, carpeted, gas-heat/water/stove, lvl rm, dining rm, patio/yard, interior repainted, lots of storage space, two reserved parking spaces. Located 1 mile south of Fairfax County Parkway off Rolling Road. Convenient to Ft Belvoir, NGA, Pentagon, Metro Station. Avail Sept 1. \$1700 per month. 703-328-0244

Urgent news for DIABETICS with BLADDER CANCER

The diabetes drug, ACTOS®, has been linked to an increased risk of bladder cancer. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with bladder cancer after taking ACTOS®, ACTOplus met®, ACTOplus met® XR or duetact®, call us now at 1-800-THE-EAGLE about monetary compensation. No fees or costs until your case settles. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.



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a Week

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Michael Bozzelli trading as Bozzelli's Italian Deli, 8091 Alban Rd. Springfield, VA 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer/Wine Deli; grocery on/off premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Bozzelli/owner

116 Childcare Avail.

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

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC REAL ESTATE AUCTION FAIRFAX COUNTY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH @ 12PM
3835 Beech Down Dr, Chantilly, VA 20151



5BR/3BA SFH. Access to community pool & tennis courts. Close to public schools, shopping malls & Dulles Airport
Gopal Hariani 410-977-9390

TERMS: Deposit: \$5,000 due at time of sale. Cash or certified funds. 30-day settlement. 10% buyer's premium. Broker co-op invited. See website for full terms and conditions. *
Sale on Premises Auctioneer - Charles Parrish L#A-351

AUCTION BROKERS
A CHARLES PARRISH COMPANY
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TUESDAY NOON

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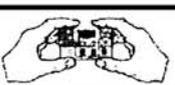
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Fairfax Station **\$629,900**
Don't miss this charming Contemporary Rambler on 1+ acres nestled in the woods. 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, 2 FP's, Sunroom, updated Kitchen & Baths, 2-car detached garage with Studio, hardwood floors, in-ground Pool! Can't be beat! Close to everything!
Ann Grainger 703-503-1870



Manassas **\$510,000**
Premium wooded cul-de-sac lot in Meadowbrook Woods. 5/3/1 Colonial, 3 fin. levels, IN-LAW SUITE with 2nd master BR, kitchen, living/dining, bath, private W/O. Granite, hardwoods, office, private patio & deck. Close to Quantico, Ft. Belvoir, VRE. See photos at: www.CallMaryNow.com.
Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



Lake Anna **\$339,900**
Waterfront Home! Lake Anna and Your Boat House in Your Back Yard. Home Features 3 Bedrooms and 2 Full Baths, Living Room and Family Room with Fireplace, Large Deck.
www.LNF.com/SP7644197
David & Janet Lewis 540-972-9115



Kingstowne **\$499,000**
Beautiful and Well-Maintained 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA Brick Town House with 1-Car Garage, Updated Kitchen with Corian Countertops and Updated Appliances. Recently Painted and Newer Carpeting. Kitchen Walks Out to Fenced Backyard and Large Deck. Finished Basement. Must See.
David Levent 703-338-1388



Fairfax/Middle Ridge **\$509,000**
Worth Bragging About! Extra large screened-in porch with electricity and custom deck; remodeled country kitchen with white cabinets & granite counters. Gleaming hardwoods & hot tub are the pride of this rare, yet spacious Middle Ridge rambler. Add in 4 large bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a huge playroom and cul-de-sac location, and this is a home worth bragging about. Call Catie & Steve to see it today!
Catie & Steve Morales 703-278-9313



Lake Anna **\$824,900**
Waterfront Home! Incredible Views with 300' of Shoreline. Master BR has 2 Separate Full Baths. Bedrooms 2 and 3 with Jack 'n' Jill Bath. Gourmet Kitchen with Wolf 6-burner gas stove, cherry cabinets and granite counters. www.LNF.com/SP7642782
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Gainesville **\$589,000**
Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club 55+. Stunning 3-lvl on golf course! Main lvl MBR, Gourmet kit w/granite/cherry/SS apps, 3 BR, 4 BA, Brkfst rm, Din rm, Great rm w/cath ceiling, 2 gas fpls, hdwds, Rec rm, Games rm, Bonus rm, Sun rm, Screened Porch, 2 GGE, Built-ins, Plantation shutters, Irrig syst, ceil/fans, Gated comm, age 50+ OK. www.HeritageHuntHomes.com
Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Alexandria, Old Town **\$599,900**
Within 1/2 mile of two Metros, lovely, large, sunny 3 BR, 2 BA 1900-era end row house. 1,584 sq ft above grd, mn lvl BR and full BA, refinished original pine floors, HVAC and HWH replaced, lge rms, flexible flr plan, fenced rear yd, charming details.
Cheryl Hanback 703-864-4321



Gainesville **\$559,500**
Heritage Hunt Golf & Ctry Club 55+. MUST SEE! 3 lvs, 4 BR, 4 BA, main lvl MBR, MBA w/tub & sep shwr, gourmet kit w/maple/Corian, brkfst rm, hdwds, grt rm w/cath ceilg & gas fireplace, din rm, sunrm, loft, guest suite, fin w/out LL, rec rm w/wet bar, games rm, bonus rm, blt-ins, ceiling fans, irrig syst, Trex deck, fenced yd, 2-car garage, cul-de-sac, pastoral views, Gated com, HOA fee inc phone/cable/trash/amenities. (50+ is OK)
Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Fairfax **\$639,000**
Sited on lush .92 acre and nestled in a quiet neighborhood, this 3 fin lvl, 4 BR, 2.5 BA home features updated Kitchen with granite counters & SS appliances & renovated Master Bath. Finishing touches include French doors, sparkling wood floors, ceramic tile and fresh paint throughout!
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Lake Anna **\$1,365,000**
Zoned Resort Commercial. New 6' Chain Link Fence surrounding with 2 entrance gates. Completely remodeled house that could be used as the office. New 2 Bay service building with office & Storage Spaces. Plans complete and ready to go. Current Owner has all figures to finish storage build out, offering owner financing to lessen the initial investment. www.lnf.com/sp7506964
Greg Isaac 540-661-2019



Springfield **\$524,999**
Easy access to all major hwy's & public transportation. 24'-wide TH features hdwd flrs, 9 ceilings, plantation shutters, crown moldings, 2 FP's. Living & dining rms offer cozy gathering space. Lrg family room w/gas log FP opens to spacious deck, providing ample room for entertaining family & friends. Energy-efficient dual zone gas heating, DZ electric cooling, energy efficient windows & doors. Home is future-proofed and pre-wired for Internet, video, and sound, incl 7.1 surround in rec room.
Joseph Dao 703-503-4037



Fairfax **\$474,900**
Welcome to Fair Oaks! Conveniences: I-66 & Rt. 50, Rt. 28, Metro, cinemas, shopping centers and malls. This brick rambler on corner lot needs your touches to make it home or Buy to build your dream home with Public utilities. Current Home SOLD AS-IS!
Kinder Saund 703-503-1840



Springfield **\$400,000**
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Melody Elliott 703-963-8074



Springfield **\$340,000**
Terrific 3-level townhome with beautiful Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, large country kitchen with granite countertops, spacious recreation room. This "Pottery Barn" home features 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths. Check out the double decks and fenced yard backing to trees! 2 assigned parking spaces and just around the corner to commuter parking/bus/shopping and schools.
Pam Boe 703-503-1888



Lorton **\$718,900**
Beautiful Hallowing Point Home on nearly 1-acre lot with private fenced-in yard, swimming pool and access to private pier, boat ramp and beach.
Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899



Burke **\$559,900**
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Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Kingstowne **\$549,900**
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David & Virginia Billups 703-690-1795



Springfield **\$539,000**
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Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Burke **\$246,500**
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Steve Childress 703-981-3277



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Lorton **\$799,990**
Stunning, fully appointed 4 BR, 4.5 BA Monterey featuring over 6,000 sq ft and finished basement.
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Lake Anna **\$169,900**
Two bedroom, two bath charming cottage in a gated community. Plenty of storage with a detached 2-car garage, storage shed and a two-car carport. Some water view from the rear deck. www.lnf.com/SP7668551
Buddy Poland 540-894-7821



Lorton **\$489,000**
Walking Distance to the VRE! WOW! Gorgeous single family home, 3BR, 3.5 BAs, gleaming hardwoods on 2 levels! Open floor plan, morning room, fully finished lower level and 2 car garage! Beautifully decorated, move in ready! Walk to Lorton Town Center with the VRE, shops, restaurants, and more!
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Clifton **\$789,000**
Beautiful, Classic brick-front Colonial on serene 5 acres with creek & 4 stall barn. Light, bright, & nicely updated with newer Kitchen, baths fresh paint & new carpets. Move-in ready!
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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



Fairfax \$375,000

Better than New! Renovated top-to-bottom 3BR/2.5BA townhome in Glen Cove. New kitchen with custom cabinetry, granite, S/S appliances and breakfast bar opens to Dining & Living Rooms. New hardwood floors, new windows, new bathrooms, & much more! Fabulous LL includes storage, laundry room, & recreation room with fireplace & walkout to fully fenced backyard backing to woods. Sought after schools - minutes to metro bus & VRE!



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Almost One Acre
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Burke \$335,000
Beautifully maintained 2 BR + Den, 3 1/2 BA, 3 level townhouse. Family room with fireplace on main level + Rec room, den, & full bath on lower level. Move-in ready.



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CROSSPOINTE - FAIRFAX STATION \$698,900
AWSOME! Immaculate, seldom seen elegant Monroe (Extended) colonial located on a quiet cul-de-sac backing to trees. 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bathrooms, 3 finished levels, hardwood floors on main level, new, upgraded carpet upstairs. New windows throughout. Magnificent, redesigned, gourmet kitchen, 2 fireplaces. An entertainment-size deck with gazebo & seating leads to manicured grounds with irrigation system & much, much more! A Rare Find! FX7625608.
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Springfield \$349,900
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Centreville \$394,900
Price Adjustment!
Immaculate and convenient home in Xanadu Estates. Many updates include deck, appliances, carpet, etc. 3 levels, 4 bedrooms, built-ins.

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