

**On Aug. 10, a homeless man gets dinner for his family at the FACETS distribution site in Fairfax. Volunteer Phyllis Harrington reaches into a cooler to get some milk to go with the meals the man has in the grocery bag.**

# An End To Homelessness?

10-YEAR MISSION, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION  
SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12

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# 10-YEAR MISSION

LORTON/FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON CONNECTION EDITOR MICHAEL O'CONNELL  
703-778-9416 OR SOUTH@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## 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."

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 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.

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 6

## 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.**

# Advocating for The Homeless

**FACETS** advocates for unsheltered population.

BY AMANDA ANDERE  
FACETS

**F**ACETS 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.**

## Hot Meals Served Daily

Volunteers prepare, distribute hot food to the homeless.

**I**n 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.

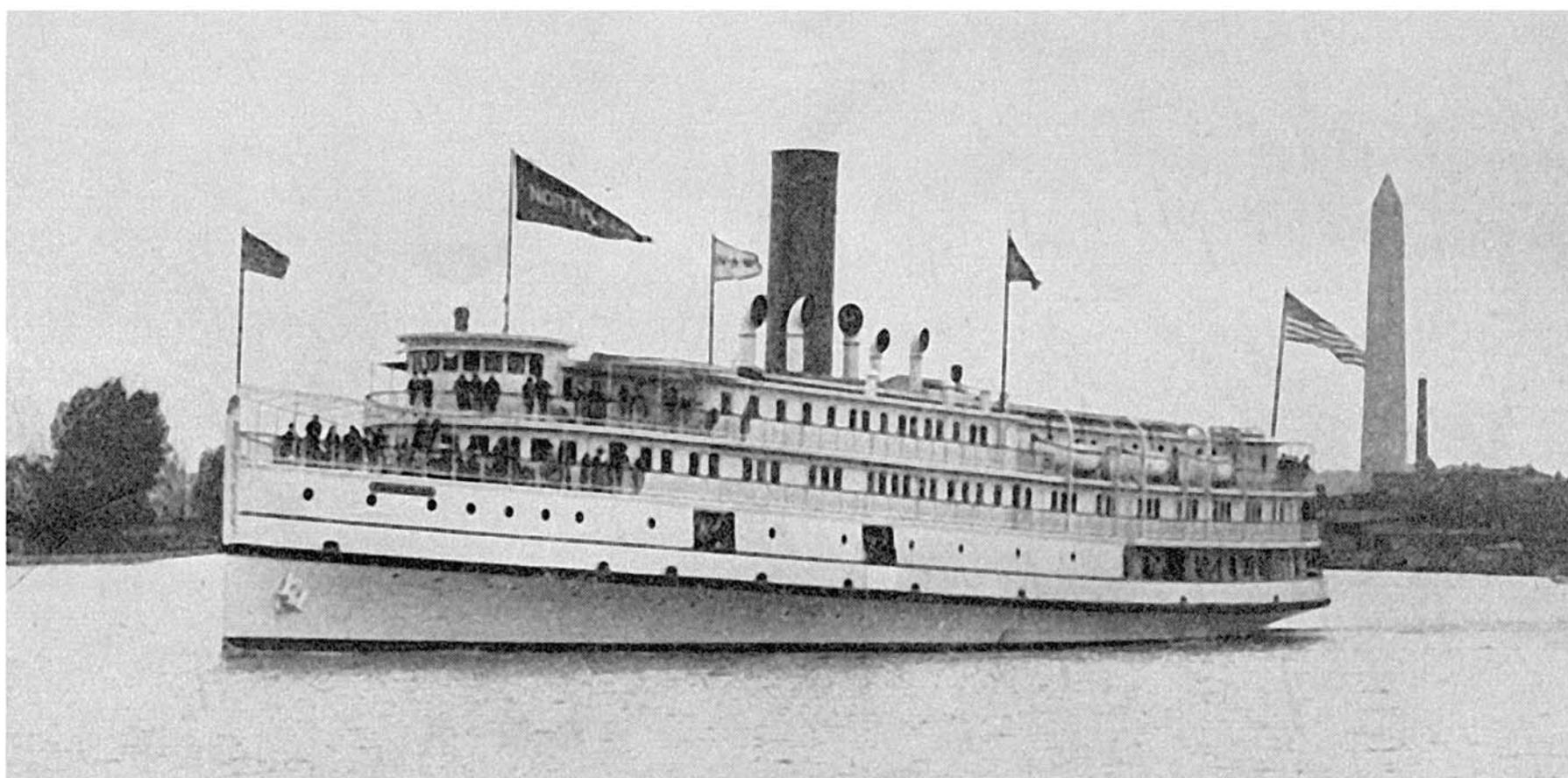
**"This kitchen was built for the sole purpose of feeding the homeless."**

— Allen Griffith

PHOTOS & TEXT  
BY DEB COBB

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## Community Partnership

FROM PAGE 3

"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 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.



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.**

"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."

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 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.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS

**F A C E T S :** [www.facetscares.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

SEE PREVENTION, PAGE 16

# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/AUG. 18

**Lionheart, I Declare War, Molotov Solution, Armor for the Broken and more.** 5 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$12 advance, \$14 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

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

**Book Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call

for title. Adults. 703-971-0010.

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

**Lorton Library Book Club.** 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Those Who Save Us by Jenna Blum. Adults. 703-339-7385.

**Springfield Writers' Group.** 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults. 703-451-8055.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 19

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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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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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GUEST EDITORIAL

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Mary Kimm  
703-778-9433  
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**Photography:**  
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**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
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Publisher/Chief Operating Officer  
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**Jerry Vernon**  
Executive Vice President  
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National Sales  
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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

**Brainticket, Huw Lloyd Langton (Of Hawkwind) and more.** 8 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Age 21 and up. \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

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

**Lunch Bunch.** 12 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Age birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

**Lunch Bunnies.** 12 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Bring a lunch and enjoy stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-339-7385.

**"Nonsense."** 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 20

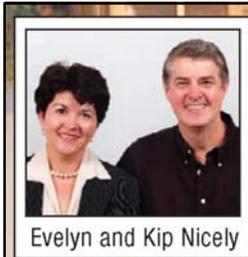
**DC Fest with Michael W. Smith and Steven Curtis Chapman.** 3 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Also with by Kutless, Big Daddy Weave, Matthew West, Sidewalk Prophets and Jonny Diaz. Tickets \$15-\$99, available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

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

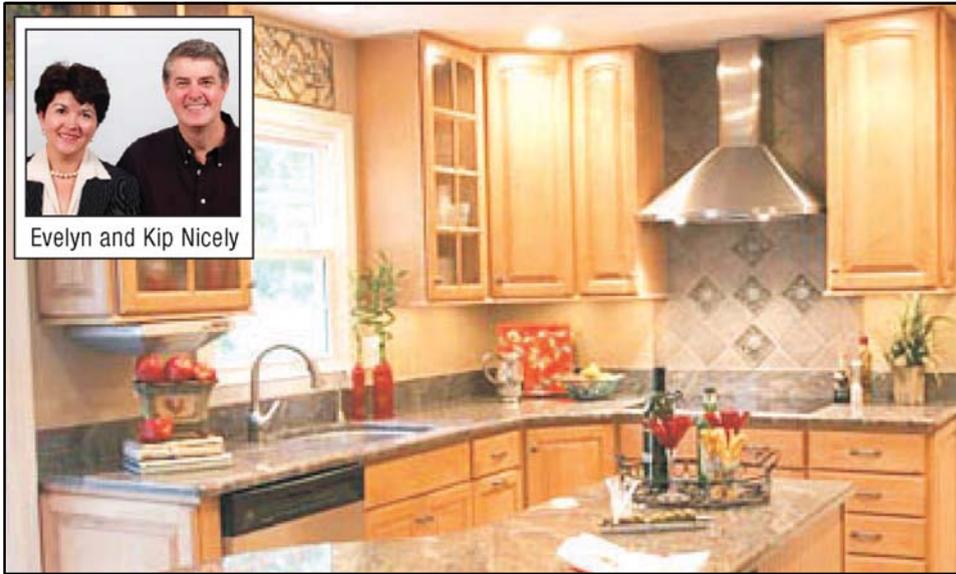
**"Nonsense."** 6 p.m. Lazy Susan

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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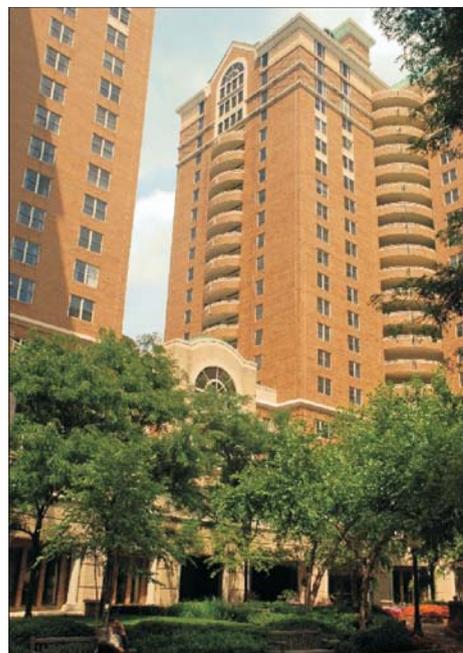
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# Hiding in Plain Sight

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.

**DIVORCED 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

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 more 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.”



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

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## 10-YEAR MISSION

# A Man with a Mission

## Q&A with Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent & End Homelessness

In 2009, Fairfax County hired Dean Klein to oversee its newly created Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), a critical piece of its 10-year plan to end homelessness by 2018.

In the past two years, Klein has managed to navigate through an unsteady and insecure economy, as well as a trend toward the suburbanization of homelessness, to reduce the county's homeless population by 15.6 percent. In December, 2008, Fairfax County counted 1,835 people who were homeless; in Jan. 2011, that number was 1,549.

The OPEH has also garnered national attention for its success, as well as its strategies to more accurately measure the homeless population. Klein previously worked at the Freddie Mac Foundation, where he oversaw corporate philanthropic investments to 100 local and national homelessness/housing nonprofits.

"I knew we were going to make progress when Dean Klein brought to a governing board meeting an extremely well-orchestrated business plan," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large). "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."

— VICTORIA ROSS

### What are the key ingredients to your success as the Director of the County's Office to Prevent & End Homelessness (OPEH)?

One of the keys to my success is integrating myself with others who are also committed to our important mission of ending homelessness in 10 years. I have been very fortunate to be able to work with such a talented staff at OPEH, who are all seasoned leaders who understand the complex issues facing the homeless in our community and are willing to explore and implement new and different approaches that are challenging but bring strong results. Engaging the nonprofit, business, faith and government sectors fully has been extremely significant. I am so appreciative of the strong nonprofit partners who really believe in our goals and have been willing to honestly and wholeheartedly commit daily to changing lives and for our most vulnerable citizens.

### What in your background makes you uniquely qualified to tackle what many see as an intractable problem?

My professional experience over the past 20 years directly assisting homeless children, youth and families, directing various nonprofit organizations focused on homelessness as well as overseeing grants and funding for local and national nonprofit

organizations, many of whom are focused on preventing and ending homelessness has prepared me well for my current leadership position. I have worked in Fairfax County and with most of the nonprofit organizations who serve the homeless throughout the past 20 years. I strongly believe that being an effective manager, director or leader in the human service field that you need direct experience working and helping others. This is something I have intentionally stressed as I moved through my career and those experiences continue to help me in being an effective director. I have worked to support a true open environment for collaboration and partnership that is welcoming enough to provide opportunities for people from the business, faith, government sectors to be part of the complex solutions needed for our community.

### What is the question you get asked the most about the OPEH and/or homelessness in general?

When I speak in the community, people always want to know how is it possible that we have such an affluent community with so many in our community prospering at the same time we have people living in tents in the woods.

### What does preventing and ending homelessness mean to you?

Preventing and ending homelessness to me is about together as a community changing the odds for those who are homeless, changing their odds for success to achievable, to probable and ultimate success to be independent in our community. No small challenge there. Ultimately, it is about making sure that every person who is homeless and or at-risk of homelessness can access housing that is affordable with necessary services and supports needed for them to be independent in our community.

### Do you have a motto?

"We must collectively build momentum, drive to strong results while sharing regularly our challenges and outcomes and do so with compassion and humor."

### Who are your heroes in real life?

Martin Luther King Jr., my grandfather who showed me how to be a good person and my parents and family, where I learned and about the importance of helping others.

### How do you relax?

I love spending time with my wife, Jill, and son, Zachary and daughter Zoe. I enjoy exercising and most sports including softball, tennis, and golf. I am an Ohio State Buckeye fan and Cleveland Sports fan, even though none of my teams have won during my lifetime.

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THE CONNECTION  
NEWSPAPERS

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 21

**Canine Cruises.** 6 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Cruise on the Park's dog-friendly pontoon boat while your dog scans for ducks, geese, and other lake dwellers. \$6 per person, no charge for the dog. One dog per person limit. Reservations and pre-payment required. 703-222-4664 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/.

**Northern Virginia NTRACK.** 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Members will have a display and N gauge trains running. \$3 adults, \$1 children. www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

**"Nonsense."** 5 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 23

**Lee District RECenter Invites Dogs in for a Swim.** 12-2 p.m. Lee District RECenter, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Before the RECenter closes its pool for a scheduled three-week cleaning, all well-behaved dogs are welcome at this special event. Humans will be prohibited from swimming, but

wading is allowed. \$5 per dog. 703-922-9841.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 24

**Brothers + 1.** 7:30 p.m. Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. Motown. Free.

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

**Travel Club.** 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 25

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

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

## FRIDAY/AUG. 26

**City of Fairfax Band "Alte Kameraden" German Band.** 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Lake Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Traditional German music. Free.

**"Nonsense."** 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 27

**Northern Virginia Archers "Most Wanted Outdoors" Tournament.** 1 p.m. 10875 Hampton Road, Fairfax Station. Running Buck Challenge, Steel Buck Challenge, Mystery Target Shoot, 3D Hunters Course and Field Target Course. www.mostwantedoutdoors.com, www.northernvirginiaarchers.org or 703-250-6682.

**Kamelot, Alestorm, Blackguard, The Agonist, Division and more.** 7 p.m. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. VIP Tickets give one hour early entry and a Meet and Greet with Kamelot. VIP Tickets advance sale only. \$25 advance, \$30 at the door, \$60 VIP. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

**"Nonsense."** 6 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. www.lazysusan.com or 703-550-7384.

**Zumbathon to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.** 1-3 p.m. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Two hours of salsa, merengue, regaeton and bachata dance styles. \$20 at the door or \$14 in advance at http://bit.ly/CFDFCFinestCarla. cffzumbathon@gmail.com.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 28

**"Nonsense."** 5 p.m. Lazy Susan Dinner Theatre, 10712 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Dan Goggin's comedy about the antics of a group of nuns. For more, go to www.lazysusan.com or call 703-550-7384.

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# Bruins Ready To March

**B**ands teacher Mike Luley steps into the role of marching band director after five years as an assistant to the Lake Braddock marching band. His predecessor, Roy Holder retired after a storied 30-year tenure at the school with 30 consecutive years of honor band status.

"Just to be part of the legacy of Lake Braddock Band, and for our names to go down, it's just an honor," said drum major and trumpet player Sahar Wahidi.

The band's program, titled, "Just for Fun" will feature Bill Chase's "Get it On," Rick Wakefield's "Merlin the Magician," Count Basie's "Two O'Clock Jump" and a Dixie collection. Luley described the program as a mixture of jazz and rock.

Wahidi will be joined by bass clarinetist John Tablante. The drum majors, both rising seniors, have sacrificed much of their summer meeting twice a week to help plan out the show and are the first to arrive for each day of band camp.

"We wouldn't function without these guys," said Luley in response to being asked why his drum majors are given such a large role in the planning process. "That's why we're a family."

Luley and the drum majors all agree that the strong sense of family is something that makes the hard work seem easier.

"It's a band family and there's no pessimism," said Tablante. "We include everyone in everything we do."

"The thing I'm proudest of is that we're all in one band. There might be concert band and different bands, but in the mindset of the [marching] program, we all function as one," said Luley.

This is reflected by the fact that Tablante and Wahidi have been mentored by 2004 Lake Braddock graduate Allison Edwards, who serves as a volunteer with the program. Luley said that the familial feel of the band is due to the fact that many of the staff members brought in as section teachers have been there for a long time as well.

The band will be conducting its camp during the daytime at the school with time evenly split between marching indoors and working on their music indoors. Although the band will not be attending overnight band camp, it plans to liven up events with activities such as a freshman bonfire, spirit week, and a cookout for the section leaders.

"Pretty much, we enjoy what we do," said Wahidi.

The season opens Sept. 2 with Lake Braddock's first home game against West Springfield High School.

—ORRIN KONHEIM

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# Cavaliers Plan Patriotic Salute

**WT Woodson Marching Cavaliers begin new season.**

BY ORRIN KONHEIM  
THE CONNECTION

Led by Melinda McKenzie-Hall, the W.T. Woodson marching band will feature a show called "American Heroes" that includes the song "American Salute," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Yankee Doodle" and "The Midway March," as well as the songs from the foreign service.

"We have so many military parents," said McKenzie-Hall, when asked why she selected the theme. "I think you also have to pick what the students would enjoy [and] what the audience would enjoy."

When asked about her opinion on competition, McKenzie-Hall replied that her top priority was picking a show that challenged the band rather than picking music that would give her team the best chance of winning trophies.

"Some shows develop differently. Some shows it takes the whole season for them to develop. That's kind of the show that we liked to pick," said

McKenzie-Hall. "We're not out there to win any first-place trophies. If we win, that's fantastic. The music and the sense of teamwork is the important thing to me."

Due to budgetary constraints, band camp does not include an overnight portion, but the marching band will be taking an overnight trip this fall on the weekend of Oct. 22. In order to beat the heat and give summer practices a camp-like feel, the program has spirit days like superhero day where the band students come dressed as their favorite superhero. They also have nighttime activities like the pool party they'll be throwing.

McKenzie-Hall's marching band is divided into four periods throughout the day with the best musicians belonging to the symphonic band. She is proud to be able to integrate the concert bands into one cohesive whole during marching season.

"To me, the success of your program is not how the best kids do. How the weakest kids do," says Hall.

On Aug. 15, the band began for the drum line, color guard and rookies with the entire band beginning camp the following week. Their season begins with an elementary school tour and away game at Madison High School on Sept. 9. The drum majors are seniors Shannon Henris and Samantha Eldridge.

More information on the WT Woodson band can be found at [www.woodsonband.org/](http://www.woodsonband.org/).

# New Director at Sounty County

BY ORRIN KONHEIM  
THE CONNECTION

Gary English, assistant director of the marching band at Chantilly High School for the past two years, takes over as director of the marching Stallions this year.

English is taking over a program in which the band has received honors status five out of the first six years of its inception and every ensemble has received a superior rating.

English's co-director is Tracy Magwire who directs the middle school bands and jazz programs at South County Secondary School. The program's drum majors this year are Jon Stapleton and Matt Gates.

The program has approximately 75 members. The section leaders this year will be Anna Kormis and Adam Dost on flute; Emily Swope and Ciara Watson on clarinet; Mary Batchelder on sax; Connor DiGiovanna and Thomas Ervin on trumpet; Rachael

Rockwell on horns; and Sebastian Buchman, Bryce Ferrell and Allie Royce on low brass. Jordan Stein, Stephen Smith, Maggie Dickinson and Kim Godwin will be section leaders for the percussion.

Band camp started on Monday Aug. 15, and will take place entirely on the school premises with rehearsals running from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Next week, the band will have spirit week with a get-together at week's end.

"As with every year, the most challenging part of marching band is working to get every performing member to the same superior performance level," wrote English, via e-mail. "This year has its own challenges as the students are transitioning to a new teacher and a slightly different style of teaching."

As for his goals, English wrote, "This is a competitive activity, but more than anything, we try to teach life lessons to the students through music education. If we happen to win along the way, it makes it that much better."

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**All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.**

## 10-YEAR MISSION

# Prevention Is First Step

FROM PAGE 6

"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 advocates 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.

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.

"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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41 Lawson Rd., S.E. 20175

**Monday September 12, 2011 for Fairfax (at Newington) 3 pm - 6 pm**  
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**Thursday September 29, 2011 at District 9 am - 4 pm**

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**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  
Soyvall Carter Unit 3026 Bicycle, boxes, totes  
Randall Price  
CTI TITLE & ESCROW LLC Unit 4081 Boxes, files

**25 Sales & Auctions**

**PUBLIC REAL ESTATE AUCTION  
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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup> @ 12PM**  
3835 Beech Down Dr, Chantilly, VA 20151

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**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. \*  
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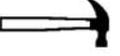


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www.LNF.com/SP7644197  
**David & Janet Lewis 540-972-9115**



**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**



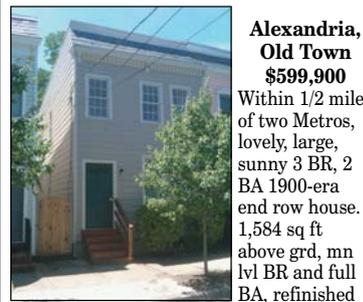
**Fairfax/Middlebridge \$509,000**  
Worth Bragging About! Extra large screened-in porch with electricity and custom deck; remodeled country kitchen with white cabinets & granite counters. Gleaming hardwoods & hot tub are the pride of this rare, yet spacious Middlebridge rambler. Add in 4 large bedrooms, 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  
**David & Janet Lewis 540-972-9115**



**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 sys, Trex deck, fenced yd, 2-car garage, cul-de-sac, pastoral views, Gated comm. 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 FPs. 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**  
Commuter's Dream! 4 LVL, 2K+ SF TH within 2 miles of new NGA bldg. Close to Metro/VRE. Roof 2011. Light & Bright. Updates '07 include HVAC/appliances. Great community.  
**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**  
Beautifully updated, 5 BR, 3.5 BA, kit w/granite & Brkfst bar, Bathrms w/granite top vanities, MBR suite w/dressing area, vanity & WIC, liv rm, din rm, fam rm w/gas fpl, moldg, ceil/fans, BONUS nanny suite, wkshop, deck, fen/yard backs to trees, 2 car gge, FIOS, Burke Conserv. amenities. Nr. Ft Belvoir, VRE, Pentagon bus & NCE bldg. Move-in Ready! Call for more info.  
**Amanda Scott 703-772-9190**



**Kingstowne \$549,900**  
Close to Metro, Ft Belvoir & Kingstowne/Lake Devereux! 5 BR colonial on cul-de-sac! Updated kitchen w/granite, Family Rm w/fpl, Formal LR & DR, Hdwd floors on 2 lvls, large BRs, Walk to community lake! Visit 7000DreamsWayCourt.com for a virtual tour of this fine home.  
**David & Virginia Billups 703-690-1795**



**Springfield \$539,000**  
Wish List—Done! Thousands in 2011 updates including windows, paint, carpet, countertops, and so much more! Move right in this classic brick-front beauty, 4 BRs, 3.5 BAs, fully finished lower level! Lovely deck to enjoy your level back yard! Sought-after neighborhood, West Springfield High School district! 7612 Modisto Lane. Check it out at www.seetheproperty.com/82481. Move in before school starts!  
**Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397**



**Burke \$246,500**  
Lake Braddock! Hurry to see this 3 Bedrm End Unit Townhome w/3 finished levels! Just steps away from fish-stocked Lake Braddock, bus stops, & swimming pool! Also it's within 2 miles of VRE/Amtrak station! Many new/recent improvements including fully equipped kitchen w/ceramic flooring, microwave & Ice-maker Refrigerator, hdwd floors in sep. Din Rm, neutral w/w carpeting, wood deck in private backyard, walk-in closet in Master Suite, & more!  
**Steve Childress 703-981-3277**



**Lorton \$809,990**  
Over 4,800 SF of refined living space! 5 BR, 4.5 BA. Soaring 2-story family room, library, huge finished walk-out bsmt! Exotic wood floors, granite/cherry kitchen. Home backs to wooded parkland! Visit 8707Bitterroot Court.com to view the virtual tour!  
**David & Virginia Billups 703-690-1795**



**Lorton \$799,990**  
Stunning, fully appointed 4 BR, 4.5 BA Monterey featuring over 6,000 sq ft and finished basement.  
**Ngoc Do & Associates 703-798-2899**



**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**

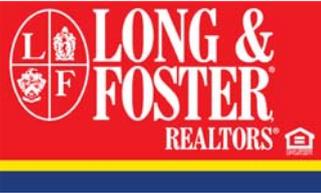


**Lorton \$489,000**  
Walking Distance to the VRE! WOW! Gorgeous single family home, 3BR, 3.5 BAs, gleaming hardwoods on 2 levels! Open floor plan, morning room, fully finished lower level and 2 car garage! Beautifully decorated, move in ready! Walk to Lorton Town Center with the VRE, shops, restaurants, and more!  
**Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397**



**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!  
**Carol Hermandorfer 703-503-1812**

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**SOLD**

### Clifton / Redlac Forest

GORGEOUS colonial, with access to bridle trails, surrounded by history. Authentic touches throughout incl antique heart pine floors and panel doors / trim / staircase & railings reclaimed from old Linton Hall mansion. UPDATED bathrooms and HUGE kitchen w/ Brazilian Cherry countertop.

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### Hot Springs, VA \$499,000

Custom built home on the Old Course at The Homestead. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, 1 car garage. Totally renovated with 2 story living room and dining room. Hardwood floors throughout. Skylights, bay windows and custom window treatments. Large decking across the rear of the home. Fully furnished! Just a short walk to The Homestead resort. Membership available.



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

**DATES IN 2011:** **TIME:**  
August 31 7:00-9:00 PM  
September 28 **LOCATION:**  
October 26 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



**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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charlesnshaw.com



**UNDER CONTRACT**

**Annandale \$749,900**  
**Almost One Acre**  
A spectacular custom built Colonial home with all the Bells and Whistles. 3 fin lvls, 4 BRS, 3.5 BA, walk-out to side yard, fully fenced wooded back yard, front & back yard have irrigation sprinkler. "Under Contract" in one day. 7308 Auburn Street, Annandale, VA  
Call Kay Hart for information: 703-503-1860



**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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**Clifton \$794,500 WHAT A STEAL!**

The time is now to move up to this impressive 5.7 acre home with a main level master suite! Gleaming hardwood floors, 2 story foyer, family room w/cathedral ceilings! Gourmet granite and stainless remodeled kitchen, beautiful landscaping! 4 BRs, 3.5 BAs, 3 car garage! 57 foot deck, impeccable condition! Call Marsha to see your next home! 7429 Kincheloe Rd. www.seetheproperty/75599

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**Clifton \$2,849,000**  
Stunning 5 Bedrooms, 6 Full Baths, 1 Half Bath, Gorgeous Master Suite, Gourmet Kitchens, Shimmering Pool with Fountains, Magnificently Landscaped on 5 Tree-lined Acres in Historic Clifton.



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Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club  
Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS



**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.  
CALL OR EMAIL ANN WITHERSPOON OR SHEILA ADAMS TODAY!

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**Springfield \$349,900**  
This T/H has over 1500 sq ft on 3 finished levels. Amazing Walk-in Closet and storage space. Hardwood on main and deck overlooks trees. LL has Fam Rm, Storage Rm, Office w/exterior entrance.  
**Richard Esposito 703-503-4035**



**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.

# 703-425-8000