

Springfield CONNECTION

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Freedom Flag Flies

A+, PAGE 14

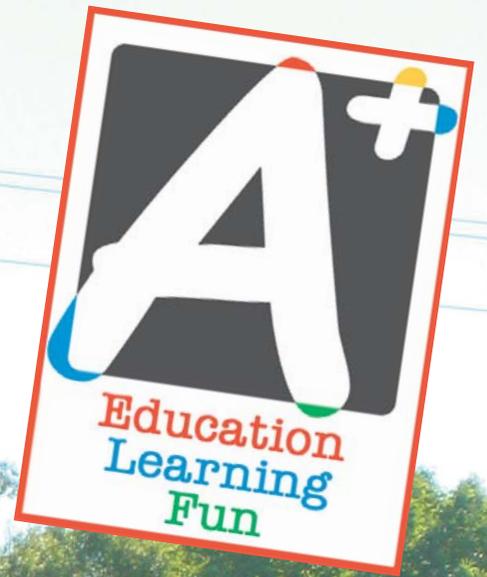
Chairman Candidates Square Off

NEWS, PAGE 3

Who Wants To Pish?

NEWS, PAGE 3

Students at Garfield Elementary raise the American Flag and the Freedom Flag on Monday, Sept. 12, as part of the school's Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony.



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Chamber Endorses Bulova Following Debate

Fairfax County Chairman pledges smart growth, smart budgeting.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Mere hours after the first debate between Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon S. Bulova (D-At-large) and Republican challenger Michael Spike Williams, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce endorsed Bulova.

The Fairfax Chamber sponsored the televised debate on Thursday, Sept. 15, and announced its endorsement Monday, Sept. 19.

"The support of the Chamber of Commerce is not something that is easily earned," Bulova said in a statement released Monday. "In my first term as chairman during these tough economic times, we have created a climate in Fairfax County where businesses can thrive.

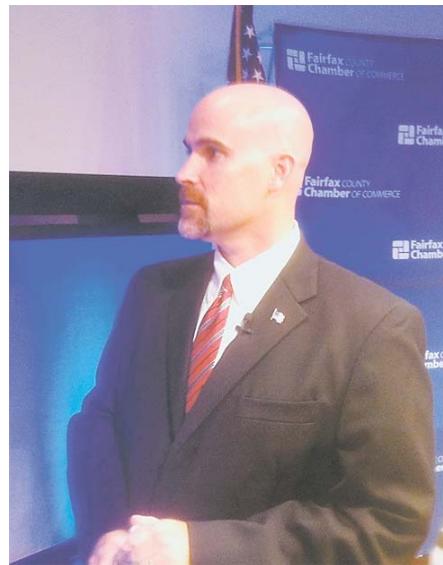
NOVABizPAC, the political arm of the Fairfax Chamber, cited Bulova's 20 years of experience in local government, as well as her grasp of the issues that face Fairfax



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), left, smiles after the conclusion of her Sept. 15 debate with challenger Spike Williams (R), right.

County residents, in its decision to endorse the Democratic incumbent.

"There were a number of reasons why we endorsed Sharon Bulova," said Fran Fisher, chair of the Fairfax Chamber's PAC. "She has a record of accomplishments that she has initiated, or is continuing to support from past initiatives. ... We look at each candidate's positions on our advocacy agenda, which is based upon the interests



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL/THE CONNECTION

"The support of the Chamber of Commerce is not something that is easily earned."

— Sharon Bulova

"The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has an important impact on the issues that affect business most, like real estate development, transportation, telecommunication, taxation, privatization and more."

Corcoran noted that the Fairfax Chamber, with more than 500 member companies, has hosted a debate in every Board of Supervisors race.

The endorsement followed a polite, no-fireworks debate that took place on Sept. 15 at the Capitol One complex in McLean, where both candidates touted their pro-business accomplishments.

During opening statements, Williams described himself as a "family man and small-business owner." He noted that county spending and property tax bills have doubled in the past decade. "You should be getting twice the services in half the time. ... Are you getting that? I understand the need to tighten your belt to fight another

of our entire membership. The bottom line is that Fairfax County is a good place to live, and it's business-friendly. We looked at her role in maintaining that."

Fisher said 16 PAC trustees interviewed each candidate before the debate, and endorsed Bulova with a clear majority vote.

"This is an important election year in Fairfax County and Virginia," said Fairfax Chamber President and CEO Jim Corcoran.

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 16

Fall Is Season for Nature Nuts at Area Regional Parks

New Park Authority program lures more children out of the house and into nature.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Want to learn how to pish in the woods? Or fly through trees on a zip line? Nature Nuts, a new program launched by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA), will teach children pishing and zip lining, among other outdoor skills.

And just so parents don't get the wrong idea, a "pish" is an imitated birdcall. It's used by birders to get many types of birds to flock around a person, according to Casey Pittrizzi, NVRPA's roving naturalist.

"Kids love it, because it's a technique that attracts birds who will flock to them," Pittrizzi said. "The 'pish' sounds like an alert or scold call, which means food for the birds."

"The fall is a perfect time to enjoy the outdoors, and Nature Nuts helps children experience our beautiful parks and trails," said Paul Gilbert, NVRPA's executive director.

Nature Nuts, he explained, is a regional program that seeks to provide a meaningful outdoor experience to half a million chil-

dren over the next five years throughout Northern Virginia.

"A big part of the mission of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is to foster an understanding of the relationship between people and their environment, and the Nature Nuts program is going to be central to our efforts in this area," Gilbert said. "Children today are spending less time in nature and far too much time in front of a screen. Our goal is to counter this trend."

The NVRPA formally kicked off Nature Nuts at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park in Clifton. More than 100 fifth graders from Herndon Elementary School joined NVRPA officials, Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) and Dominion Virginia Power to kick-off the program, which focuses on engaging children with nature. The NVRPA funded the trip for Herndon Elementary as part of the Nature Nuts program, and each child received a Nature Nuts T-shirt

"Nature Nuts will offer great programs and opportunities to reconnect children with the outdoors," Herry said, adding that he remembered how he would spend all day riding his bike, exploring and playing in parks and natural areas growing up in



DONATED BY NVRPA

Nature Nuts! Naturalist Casey Pittrizzi introduces the Daisy Scouts from Troop 144 in Springfield to a Corn Snake at Fountainhead Regional Park in Fairfax Station, as part of the region wide Nature Nuts program to children spending more time in nature.

Northern Virginia.

Times have changed, Gilbert said, but the need for children to have unstructured time in nature is just as strong today, but with

fewer opportunities.

According to a recent NVRPA poll, ap

SEE TRY, PAGE 5

Who Makes Cancer Research Possible?

An invitation to get involved.

BY JEAN CARD
THE CONNECTION

How does a relatively shy person ask friends and family, let alone complete strangers, to donate their hard-earned dollars? We are all asked many times over to give to worthy causes. How do you ask people to make your cause their priority? I'm trying to figure that out right now.

In February, I was diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL). It was quite a ride, but today I am in remission with fantastic prospects for a "normal" future. I am incredibly lucky.

It started with a lot of unexplained bruising ... actually two matching bruises on the back of my hands. A couple of weeks later, my partner Stuart pointed out a massive bruise that covered my entire lower back; so on a Monday morning I went in for a routine blood test.

That evening, I received a phone call from the advice nurse. After what seemed like a million questions, she had me go to the emergency room, with the following admonishments: I was not to drive myself, I was not to use anything sharp and I was

under no circumstances to fall down. I had almost no platelets, the type of blood cells that clot, and so was at risk of severe, potentially life-threatening bleeding.

I was sent home that night with an appointment for a bone marrow biopsy in the morning. Everything seemed to go fine with the biopsy; we stopped for some lunch and by the time I got home, I was gushing blood from my biopsy site. While I was in the process of calling to find out what to do, the triage nurse from the oncology practice called to say they were booking a room for me in the hospital for transfusions. My platelets had dropped even more and I had absolutely no immunity to anything (my kind of leukemia features white blood cells that do not mature properly to provide natural protection to infection). I would probably be home that evening, she said, but pack a bag, just in case it ends up being overnight. One day shy of four weeks later, I left the hospital.

When I left the hospital, because I was immuno-compromised I saw very few people, beyond my family; I saw friends a couple of times when I had confirmed my counts were good and they definitely felt healthy; had to limit what I ate (nothing fresh and uncooked); and avoided a lot of

places, especially crowds. I was home from work for almost six months.

I am incredibly lucky. I responded to all treatments as expected and tolerated much of the chemotherapy with relatively mild side effects — at least as far as anything I have to compare it to. But there are many, many families still looking for their luck: the discovery that will make treatment easier, or more effective, or less scary.

In the case of APL, it turns out a form of super-charged vitamin A is the miracle drug. My mother and I have had more than one conversation about how it's possible for someone to figure that out. Who comes up with an idea like that? Who keeps coming up with the ideas to try this or that, in this or that combo, for this or that duration?

And it seemed like I had the most bizarre, specific chemotherapy treatment (it appears all cancers have their own bizarre, specific treatments ... I didn't know that before).

Four days of one medication intravenously, every other day. A month later, four days, in a row, of the same medication, at half the dose; then a month later, three days, in a row, of a different medication. And finally a month later, two days, in a row, of the original medication at the original dose. All the while, still taking my super-charged vitamin A.

And now I have an equally bizarre, specific maintenance routine. For four 90-day cycles I will take nine pills (five in the morning, four in the evening, with food) for the first 15 days. For all 90 days I will take another medication once a day (four pills, on an empty stomach) and once a week I will take another medication (12 pills, because it only comes in a small dosage, also on an empty stomach). Who figures this out so that I can have the best prospects for a leu



PHOTO BY STUART MOLL

Stuart Moll and Jean Card. 'Stuart cut his waist-length hair to support me, while I took the opportunity to play around as my hair thinned dramatically during chemotherapy treatment for leukemia. Happily, all the gray went first, and has yet to come back.'

SEE PERSONAL, PAGE 15

Focusing His Lens on Homelessness

Filmmaker David Ashton uses personal stories to shed a light on homelessness.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

If the southern part of Fairfax County becomes the Sundance of the East, it might be due in small part to the work of David Ashton and Dani Weinberg.

Ashton, 24, is working on raising funds for his fourth film, "Mysterious Prison," a documentary-style film that takes a closer look at homelessness in the Washington, D.C., area. Weinberg, also

24, is the force behind the Clifton Film Festival, which this year outgrew its home in the tiny town and took up residence at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.

"I think I'm more of a storyteller," said Ashton, who began writing articles for his high school newspaper and continued as an English major at Colgate University before starting work on his first screenplay. After taking a film class at George Mason Uni-

versity, he was on his way.

The self-described cinephile, Ashton is currently working on two films — finishing up editing on his third movie while scouting out locations and conducting interviews with some of Washington, D.C.'s homeless population for "Mysterious Prison."

Ashton, who grew up in Centreville and now lives in Reston, is quick to stress that he does not intend his movie to be viewed as a political piece or as propaganda of any kind. "I want to give an honest portrayal of what it's like," he said.

There are different prejudices that go long with how people view homelessness, Ashton said. Not everyone who finds him or her without a home ends up that way because of mental illness or drug abuse, he said. Some lost jobs or are facing other struggles, while some are employed but just don't



DONATED PHOTO

David Ashton

make enough to find a steady place to live.

"Mysterious Prison" is based around four "episodes," Ashton said, portrayed by actors from four age ranges.

"Each person has a different reason for how they became homeless, and why

they've stayed that way," he said. "I wanted to do four stories. One was too narrow a view. It's just too complex an issue."

So far, more than 50 interviews have been conducted, and he's talked with more than 100 people to get details on the reality of being homeless in the nation's capital. He's visited shelters and soup kitchens, anywhere people congregate.

"A lot of people that are homeless are really intelligent and well-spoken. They just fell on hard times," Ashton said. "So many of the people I spoke to are incredibly friendly, thoughtful, sensitive people with incredible things to say about life. Hearing their stories, I wanted to give them a voice to say what they wanted rather than have people judge them."

"Mysterious Prison" is Ashton's first social commentary piece of film, the first film was "kind of a horror movie," while the second was a 10-minute short, and the third movie, the one he's still editing, is a "psychological thriller piece."

And yes, he's used the infamous Bunny Man Bridge at least once, he laughed.

Ashton has relied on the help of his family and friends. He even used his father's house for a shoot on one of his earlier films. He's also hoping more friends will help out, because he's using the online fund-raising

SEE DOCUMENTARY, PAGE 15

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Try Pishing at the Park

FROM PAGE 3

proximately 85,000 children a year explore nature through the park authority programs. In addition:

- ❖ 48,000 children camp in NVRPA parks, nearly 3,000 through youth organizations like scouting and 45,000 through family camping.

- ❖ Close to 10,000 connect with nature while boating in regional parks, more than 1,200 local high school students row on the Occoquan Reservoir, and more than 8,500 use rented kayaks or canoes or are boating with friends and family on boats they launch at a regional park.

- ❖ More than 15,000 children go through the adventure course run by Adventure Links at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park.

- ❖ Approximately 13,000 children learn about nature from an NVRPA naturalist or park staff as part of a children-focused nature education program.

"Through a combination of child-focused programs and family outdoor activities, children are exploring the natural world at the regional parks. This program will build on this base and address barriers that keep children from having these opportunities," Gilbert said.

bert said.

Gilbert said that by engaging this many children in nature, this program will have a positive effect through education, health benefits as well as interaction and education of the environment. The Foundation has set up the Nature Nuts fund, which will support activities that further the goals of the program, including:

- * Grants to help elementary schools defray the costs of field trips to Hemlock Overlook;

- * Grants to help send kids to camps like the Junior Naturalist Camp at Potomac Overlook or Camp Grow at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens;

- * Expansion of NVRPA's Roving Naturalist Program;

- * Facility improvements at youth camping sites;

- * Expansion of rental kayak and canoe operations;

- * Promotional materials and efforts to get children involved in Nature Nuts.

"Nature Nuts is going to take a two-tracked approach of not only enhancing youth-based activities, but also work to encourage more families with children to make outdoor recreation a part of their family traditions to ensure a healthier future population," Gilbert said.

"Children today are spending less time in nature and far too much time in front of a screen. Our goal is to counter this trend."

— Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA)

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OPINION

A Lesson in Civil Discourse?

What we say and do can be a powerful example for our children.

Election season is upon us and with only six incumbents of the 12-seat Fairfax County School Board running again, whatever the result, the county will have a very different School Board following the Nov. 8 General Election.

Change is good and the possibility of a new direction for the School Board should certainly hearten those citizens who have decried the current School Board for its inflexibility and unresponsiveness to the people who voted them into office.

It's important to note that School Board members provide an important public service for very little compensation. Even though some parents may be dissatisfied with a particular decision from the current board, this leadership oversees a school system that is the envy of much of the nation. Just ask any politician or business leader and they'll tell you that one of the things that draws people to Fairfax County is the reputation of its public schools.

As the editor whose coverage area was largely affected by last year's Southwestern Boundary study, I was witness to a great deal of public discourse on the School Board's decision to close Clifton Elementary School and redraw the boundaries of many FCPS elemen-

tary schools.

Those affected by the workings of any School Board know that the most potentially divisive process that the body undertakes involves redrawing attendance boundaries.

But in 2010, the discourse surrounding the School Board's decision to close Clifton Elementary and redraw school boundary lines turned ugly very quickly. Citizens and School Board members — we know because their e-mail conversations were released thanks to a Freedom of Information Act request — shot angry barbs back and forth at each other which were sometimes uncomfortably vicious and personal.

It's difficult to say who fired the first shot. I liken it to a pie fight in a Three Stooges movie. It's not important who threw the first one, by the end, everyone's covered in pie filling and looks just as bad as the next person.

Many citizens submitted letters during the School Board debates, highlighting important concerns and raising questions that sometimes deserved better answers than they received. But some were not published because they were harsh, personal attacks against individuals.

positive campaign based on hard work and meeting voters.

I am disappointed in Barker for already going out of his way to campaign negatively against Baker by calling him names and printing yard signs that target Miller. I believe Baker's positive and issue-based campaign is working, and if I could, I would certainly be voting for him on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

Will Winston
Springfield

Bradsher Supporter

To the Editor:

Student Bobby Bradshaw's recent opinion piece [Connection, Aug. 31, 2011], referencing his support for [Republican Party endorsed School Board Candidate] Elizabeth Schultz, was admirable and it's always encouraging to see our youth getting involved with local community issues.

However, I wanted the Springfield District residents to understand that the other Elizabeth — Elizabeth Bradsher our current Springfield District School Board member who has endured way more than her fair share of malcontent and hateful nastiness from a small handful of her constituents — worked very hard with her fel-

low School Board members and the facilities office to move West Springfield High School's (WSHS) renovation up significantly in the FCPS queue. Originally WSHS was wait listed for 2020 and thanks to Bradsher — not Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), not Schultz if she is elected — WSHS' renovation is on the bond for planning money this fall and its renovation will proceed no matter who is elected to the Springfield District seat this fall.

It is worth mentioning that even before she was elected to office Liz met with and listened to the local community, researched the history of WSHS' prior renovations, toured the building several times and worked with the facilities office of FCPS to get the school the renovation it will now receive in a very timely fashion.

Lisa Adler
Fairfax Station

Vote 'Yes' on School Bond

To the Editor:

Because there is no better time than now to invest in our future, I support the Fairfax County school bond referendum. If approved, the bond measure will provide tax-free funding to improve more than 20

While emotional debate is inevitable when the School Board is making decisions that can change where children will be able to attend school, I don't know if all the negative emotion accomplished anything. It's easy to understand the resentment of some who feel slighted. After all, the decision involved their families, children and neighbors. One hopes that the communities affected can move on. I suspect they will, in time.

With so many seats open on the School Board, this is an opportunity for real and meaningful change. The at-large race alone has seven candidates vying for three spots.

For those who are dissatisfied with some decisions of the School Board, this is the opportunity to be heard. Whether your concerns are school boundaries, start-times, honors classes, curriculum choices, school discipline or other issues, take the time to find out what the candidates stand for. Go to meet-the-candidate events. Visit their websites. Read local news stories about the races. Also, let the candidates — and the Connection — know what matters to you.

The Connection welcomes thoughtful letters about school issues and School Board candidates. No one needs to "get personal" to accomplish that. Let's teach our children about civility in political debate.

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL
MOCONNELL@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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Michael O'Connell
Editor / 703-778-9416
@FollowFairfax

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
703-752-4014
vross@connectionnewspapers.com
@ConnectVictoria

Nick Horrock
County & Projects
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Employment Advertising
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classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, John Heinly, John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.
Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
Special Assistant to the Publisher
703-778-9436
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

exceptional value with no cost to the taxpayer or to the students in the classroom would be unfortunate. That is why on Nov. 8, I encourage all Fairfax County voters to vote "yes" on the school bond referendum.

John Fee

Fairfax Citizens for Better Schools
 Braddock District

'Where Have You Been?'

To the Editor:

I noticed a number of letters submitted by School Board Members Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill) and Janie Strauss (Dranesville) and wanted to respond.

A number of letters have been written on the topic of parent notification as it pertains to student discipline. Long standing School Board members who have been silent on the issue of reforming the abusive practices involving student discipline are now jumping on the band wagon-claiming they too support these changes.

I have to ask them, "Where have you been?"

For five years, as a co-founder of Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform, I have been desperately trying to make changes to the discipline system in FCPS and have been met with a brick wall. Only until the tragic deaths of Josh Anderson and Nick Stuban and the subsequent articles by Donna St George at The Washington Post and other articles in local media, have the decision makers started to pay attention.

There are more than 7,000 out-of-school suspensions in FCPS each year. Many of these students are out of school for months and many do not receive

educational services. How does this serve our children well? More than 900 discipline cases each year are referred to the police. Parents, rightly so, want to be involved in the process-particularly if their child is facing a possible expulsion, months out of school and criminal charges. Isn't that common sense?

Every parent wants safe schools and this argument that parent notification will somehow make our schools dangerous is absurd. I recently attended an expulsion hearing as an observer and learned that the school waited more than one week to contact the parents that their child had been questioned-one week. The principal at the school offered that she was too busy to call the parents. Stu Gibson attended this hearing and said nothing, as if this is perfectly acceptable in our school system.

Contrary to what many say, parents do not forfeit their parental rights while their children are in school. We must change the culture of this school district and one way to do that is to replace those who have tolerated these abusive practices.

I will always appreciate any support I get on this issue of discipline reform, but I know a wolf in sheep's clothing when I see it.

Janet Otersen
 Springfield

Write

Letters to the Editor
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BULLETIN

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

Love and Respect Marriage

Seminar. 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Baptist Church, 5936 Rolling Road, Springfield. A video series by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs that helps men and women understand the others' primary needs and motivations, leading to better relationships that are happier and more God-honoring. The seminar is on two consecutive weekends, Sept. 23-24 and Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Free. Register at 703-372-2093 or www.loveandrespect.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Shred Event. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Tepeyac Family Center, 11135 Lee Highway, Fairfax. \$10 per medium-sized box. All proceeds go to Tepeyac Family Center. 703-273-9440 or www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

Joint Canvass with Sen. Puller. 2 p.m. Manchester Bagel, Manchester Lakes Shopping Center, 7005 Manchester Blvd, Franconia. Join Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) and Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) for a Franconia canvass. Meet at the shopping center. Contact voltaire@toddy.org or 571-501-0619.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 27

Join the Wakefield Chorale. 7:30 p.m. North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Heming Court, Springfield. Practice is held every Tuesday evening in the school cafeteria. No audition required. 703-451-7917.

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Diary of a High School Diplomat

Summer program promotes understanding between American, Japanese teens.

BY KIMBERLY ROSS

Last spring, I was selected to participate in the High School Diplomats program. High School Diplomats (HSD) is a cultural exchange scholarship program in which 40 American students and 40 Japanese students come together and study at Princeton University in July for 10 days of learning about each other's cultures.

Since I live in the Washington, D.C., area, I was fortunate enough to be able to host two of the Japanese students at my house for three days before the program at Princeton began. During this time, my family and I shared our home and our day-to-day activities with the students. Having them with us made everything fun. From grocery shopping, going to the pool, walking them through my high school and hanging out with my friends, everything we take for granted, they cherished.

“By the end of this fantastic program, every student now had 79 new lifelong friends.”

— Kimberly Ross

een, where everyone dressed up in costumes and went through a really scary haunted house, and Country Fair Day, where we dressed in cowboy attire, learned line dancing and ate hamburgers and hot dogs. School Spirit Day included a pep rally and a campus scavenger hunt, and HSD Olympics contained a fun game of kickball.

The Japanese students were always eager to learn about America and our language, even our slang, but one of my favorite theme days was when we experienced Japanese traditions. The Japanese Day of Culture (Bunka no Hi), was a day where we dressed in traditional Japanese Yukatas (similar to a Kimono), and learned the art of Ikebana (flower arranging). We also participated in a tea ceremony, made clay sushi, painted calligraphy and ate traditionally-made foods such as Udon noodles.

This past spring both countries

experienced overwhelming natural disasters. There were devastating tornados in the Midwest and of course, the unimaginable earthquake and tsunami in Japan. For the first time in HSD history, there was a fundraiser “dance-a-thon” where the American students secured sponsors to raise money to donate to Japan. While at Princeton, the Japanese students participated in a letter-writing campaign and raised money for the victims of the Midwest. We were taught a traditional Japanese dance known as the “Soran Bushi” or the “fisherman’s dance.” This dance is not like any dance we have here — it’s hard, fast, exhausting and fun.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIMBERLY ROSS

Before going to the High School Diplomats program Kimberly Ross gave the two Japanese students who stayed with her family a tour of Lake Braddock Secondary School.



Kimberly Ross of Burke poses with two HSD friends at Princeton University.

When the Princeton session began, I met 39 other American students and 38 Japanese students and immediately I knew the experience was going to be incredible. Each American student was paired with Japanese roommate. The roommates were selected by interests and language skill level. The counselors at HSD are all former student participants, so they know the program and how to make certain that each participant gets the most out of the experience.

Each day at Princeton had different Japanese and American themes, such as Hallow-



Kimberly Ross, third from right, poses for a photo with her fellow diplomats during Japanese Culture Day at Princeton University. They are dressed in traditional Japanese Yukatas and Kimonos.

By the end of this fantastic program, every student now had 79 new lifelong friends. Saying goodbye was one of the most difficult things I’ve ever done. Technology has made it a little easier since we are all able to stay in contact and deal with our “HSDepression.”

High School Diplomats was an incredible experience and I am honored to say that I

was selected to participate this past year. I strongly recommend all rising high school juniors and seniors apply for this scholarship. For further application details, please visit the website, www.highschooldiplomats.com.

Kimberly Ross is a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School in Burke.

ENTERTAINMENT

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/SEPT. 22

Friends of the Burke Centre Library September Book Sale. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Most paperbacks .50-\$1, hardbacks \$2, children's \$1. 703-249-1520.

Frances and Ginger Park:

Chocolate Chocolate. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Authors and sisters Frances and Ginger Park, daughters of Korean immigrants and owners of a candy shop in Washington, D.C. Books available for sale and signing. Cosponsored by Fall for the Book. 703-249-1520.

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

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

"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/SEPT. 24

FAAN Walk for Food Allergy in Northern Virginia. Registration 10 a.m., 2 mile walk begins 11 a.m. Occoquan Regional Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. Moon bounces, face painting, stickers, beach balls, Potomac Nationals Mascot Uncle Slam, Rapunzel, a local HS dance team performance, obstacle course and a great warm-up by a personal trainer, a new mobile video game van and more. 703-501-6496 or acannon@fff.org.

"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.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

"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/SEPT. 27

Enrique Iglesias with Pitbull and Prince Royce. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets are \$19.50-\$89.50, available at 703-573-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities by calling 703-993-3035.

Eclectic Readers. 1:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Genghis Khan and the Making of the Modern World by Jack Weatherford. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

Explore the Arts for Kids. Free activities and classes in music, theater and art from 3-5 p.m. Try out the piano lab, the art room, early childhood activities, violin class and fun with theater for young children and their parents. 4260 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Potomac Arts Academy at George Mason University, 703-

993-9889 or Potomac@gmu.edu, www.PotomacAcademy.org/.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

Fun with Ones. 10:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Books, songs and rhymes in a special story time for age 1 with adult. 703-451-8055.

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 29

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

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Kingstowne Area Artists Association Art Show and Sale. 11-6 p.m. Snyder Center, 6450 South Van Dorn St., Kingstowne. Acrylics, oils, watercolor, mixed media, pastels, photography, pen and ink, digital media and more. Refreshments served. www.kingstowne.org, smelltheroses05@cox.net or duchessducky@msn.com.

Ninth Annual Community Fun Festival.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. St. John's United Methodist Church, 5812 Backlick Road, Springfield. Jr. ferris wheel, moon bounce, ocean slide, pony rides, face painting, games, craft and vendor booths, food, live music and more. 703-560-6655 or www.saintjohnsumc.org/funfair.

SUNDAY/OCT. 2

Kingstowne Area Artists Association Art Show and Sale. 12-5 p.m. Snyder Center, 6450 South Van Dorn St., Kingstowne. Acrylics, oils, watercolor, mixed media, pastels, photography, pen and ink, digital media and more. Refreshments served. www.kingstowne.org, smelltheroses05@cox.net or duchessducky@msn.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 8

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Archaeology Day: Can You Dig It?

12-4 p.m. Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Screen for artifacts, clean and mend found objects, and learn basic skills with the archaeology staff. Hunting for George Mason's Landscape tour at 1:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Regular admission. Friends free. \$25 Family admission. Scout and school groups welcome with advance reservation. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 9

Clifton Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Downtown Clifton. Live music and dance, arts and crafts, antiques, Octoberfest, food, market area, Blood Mobile, a Civil War reenactment and more. Children's activities include VRE train rides, pony rides, face painting and activities in the park. Free admission. 703-968-0740 or www.cliftonday.com. Call 800-RideVRE for train schedule.

SATURDAY/OCT. 15

Cranford Annual Fall Ham and Oyster Dinner. 4-7 p.m. Cranford United Methodist Church, 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton. Ham, fried

oysters, potato salad, cole slaw, sweet potato casserole, deviled eggs, hush puppies, homemade desserts and more. Takeout available. Proceeds benefit kitchen renovation. 703-339-5382.

Comedian Wanda Sykes. 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. \$35-\$45, available online at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.wandasykes.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 16

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.

Open-Hearth Cooking Class, Level I.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Employ 18th century hearth cooking techniques and recipes to make period dishes. Offered in partnership with Fairfax County Adult and Community Education. \$119 fee includes tuition and materials. Register for class HI03881 at 703-658-1201 or www.fcps.edu/aceclasses. 703-658-1222.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19

Our Daily Bread Complete the Circle Food Drive and Hunger Awareness Event. 2 p.m. At the corner of George Mason Blvd. and University Drive, Fairfax City. Purchase a T-shirt for \$15 and bring a non-perishable food donation to be part of an Art for the Sky "living painting" to be photographed from 80 feet in the air by artist Daniel Dancer. Refreshments and live music by the Fretful Porcupine. Proceeds benefit needy families in the Fairfax County area. 703-273-8829, info@ODBFairfax.org or www.ODBFairfax.org.

Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, www.ticketmaster.com; and www.patriotcenter.com. www.disneyonice.com.

Book Discussion and Reception. 7 p.m. Antioch Baptist Church, 6525 Little Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Author Rosemary Tribble will discuss her book "Fear to Freedom." If fear and anxiety hold you back from living with freedom and confidence, the cycle of fear can be broken. www.antioch-church.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 20

Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, www.ticketmaster.com; and www.patriotcenter.com. www.disneyonice.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, www.ticketmaster.com; and www.patriotcenter.com. www.disneyonice.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. For more information, go to info@fairfaxsymphony.org.



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Chase Wins Monroe Parker

Lake Braddock junior wins invitational for third year in a row.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After crossing the finish line and capturing her third consecutive first-place finish at the Monroe Parker Invitational, Lake Braddock junior Sophie Chase dropped to her knees and vomited.

"I didn't feel tired at all," Chase later said. "Maybe it was something I ate or being off on a different schedule. Other than that, the race felt really good."

Whether it was food, the meet being delayed four days or something else that caused Chase's post-race unpleasantness, it didn't hinder her performance on Sept. 14 at Burke Lake Park. Chase's time of 17 minutes, 33.3 seconds was nearly 20 seconds faster than her nearest competitor, Lee sophomore Bailey Kolonich. Chase and teammate Hannah Christen, who finished third with a time of 18:07.5, helped Lake Braddock earn second place in the team competition. The Bruins finished with 137 points, two points better than third-place Thomas Jefferson and 31 points behind meet-winner West Potomac.

The meet was originally scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10, but was postponed until the following Wednesday due to issues stemming from inclement weather.

"I was in the mindset to race Saturday," Chase said, "so it was a little weird, middle-of-the-week sort of thing."

Last season, Chase won the varsity event by more than 30 seconds. In 2009, she won the freshman race by an 18-second margin. Chase, who finished second in the state and qualified for nationals as a sophomore, said when she's not being challenged, she finds technical aspects on which to focus.

"When we're out here," Chase said, "I can just concentrate on what I need to: technique, breathing-wise, turning over, that sort of thing."

Lake Braddock's Katie Roche finished 19th with a time of 19:16.6. Courtney Lawson finished 51st (20:17.9) and Rachel Fasana was 65th (20:33.2) to complete the Bruins' top five.

WHILE CHASE ran away with first place, Kolonich was surprised by her own performance. The sophomore recorded a time of 17:53, more than 14 seconds faster than the third-place finisher. Kolonich said her goal was to break 19 minutes, which she accomplished with ease.

"I think I did pretty good for the start of the season," she said. "I'm really happy with my time. I did not expect that at all."

Washington-Lee's Isabel Amend finished fourth (18:16.7) and Robinson's Macey Schweikert placed fifth (18:17.4). West Potomac's Sarah Jane Underwood (18:17.8), West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta (18:38), Robinson's Lauren Berman (18:41.1), Thomas Jefferson's Katherine Sheridan (18:43.7), T.C. Williams' Shannon Smythe (18:46.4) and Sydney Schaedel (18:49.4), West Springfield's Maddie Wittich (18:57.3), South County's Mary Cate Scully (18:59.3), Bishop O'Connell's Devin Nihill (19:00.7) and McLean's Hannah Dimmick (19:01.3)

SEE MONROE, PAGE 13



ED LULL

Lake Braddock junior Sophie Chase won the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 14 at Burke Lake Park. The Bruins finished second in team competition.

Lee's Offense Too Much for Spartans

Lancers averaging 43 points during 3-0 start.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Kyon Taylor grew up playing sandlot-style football against players of superior size. If he wanted to get picked to play for a team, Taylor knew he had to be aggressive.

"I was always the smallest one, so I always had to make sure if they do throw the ball [I made an effort to catch it]," Taylor said. "I want to get picked up every time we play, so I've got to make sure I go up for any and everything. Even if you're about to get hit, you've got to go for the ball."

Taylor is now a 6-foot-1 senior receiver and defensive back on the Lee football team. He might be taller these days, but his mentality hasn't changed.

Taylor pulled in eight receptions for 141 yards and a touchdown against West Springfield on Sept. 16 and the Lancers beat the Spartans 30-9 during both teams' Patriot District opener at Lee High School. The



PHOTO BY ALAN GOLDSTEIN

Lee running back Michael Jolly scores one of his two rushing touchdowns during a 30-9 victory against West Springfield on Sept. 16.

Lancers led 17-0 at halftime and held off a West Springfield rally to improve to 3-0.

In the second quarter, Lee faced a first-and-25 after three penalties backed the Lancers up to their own 24-yard line. Quarterback Bradley Hann floated a deep pass

to Taylor, who out-jumped the West Springfield defense for a 39-yard reception. Late in the fourth quarter, Taylor again showed off his vertical leap, pulling down a jump ball in the end zone for an 11-yard touchdown.

"When the ball's in the air, it doesn't belong to anybody."

— Lee senior receiver/defensive back
Kyon Taylor

"When the ball's in the air, it doesn't belong to anybody. It just belongs to whoever goes and gets it," Taylor said. "I just feel like once the ball's in the air, it's mine. That's how I feel. If I don't catch it, nobody else is."

Taylor's teammates played like they share his mentality. Using a University of Oregon-style play-card system, the Lancers' up-tempo spread offense totaled 475 yards and scored four touchdowns. One year after finishing with a 1-9 record, Lee is averaging 43 points in wins against Marshall (46-3), Edison (54-12) and West Springfield.

Taylor was Lee's leading receiver, and Cameron Lewis caught four passes for 106 yards and a touchdown.

"[Taylor] does a great job of going up," first-year Lee head coach Clarence Martin

SEE LANCERS, PAGE 13

SPORTS



PHOTO BY ALAN GOLDSTEIN

West Springfield running back Jonathan Dunn accounted for 142 yards of offense against Lee.

Lancers Off to 3-0 Start

FROM PAGE 12

said. "... [Having a receiver with Taylor's leaping ability] does great things for our offense. We feel like nobody can stop us. We have so many different weapons that we can use."

Running the Lee offense is the quarterback duo of Quintez Diggins and Hann. Diggins, listed at 5 feet 11 and 165 pounds, is the more mobile of the two. He started against West Springfield and completed 10 of 14 passes for 72 yards. He also rushed 12 times for 34 yard and caught two passes for 24 yards. Hann, listed at 6 feet 3 and 230 pounds, came off the bench to complete 9 of 13 passes for 212 yards and two touchdowns, including a 78-yard scoring toss to Lewis on his first attempt. Hann was intercepted once.

"We feel like we have a double threat," Martin said. "We have a quarterback who can pass the ball and we have a quarterback that can kind of pull the ball down and run it. It's just a matter of what the defense is playing and what my [offensive coordinator] is calling."

Sophomore running back Michael Jolly rushed 12 times for 60 yards and two touchdowns. Senior Phillip Mariotti carried five times for 52 yards.

Lee built a 17-0 lead in the first quarter but couldn't pull away. West Springfield got on the board when quarterback Tyler Sutter scored on a 39-yard run with 3:31 remaining in the third quarter. The Spartans cut the Lee lead to 17-9 when they tackled the Lancers punter in the end zone for safety early in the

fourth quarter. West Springfield drove into Lee territory on its ensuing possession, but turned the ball over on downs.

The Lancers scored a touchdown on each of its next two possessions to put the game away.

"We got our heads back in the game," Jolly said. "We got back into that rhythm and they couldn't stop us."

Sutter completed three of 10 passes for 25 yards and was intercepted once. He rushed for 62 yards and a touchdown. The Spartans' other member of their quarterback rotation, Sarosh Gilani, completed seven of 14 passes for 47 yards and rushed for 14 yards. Running back Jonathan Dunn carried 16 times for 97 yards and caught three passes for 45 yards.

"The defense just stepped up, didn't give up and started making tackles," West Springfield head coach J.T. Biddison said. "We got beat deep a few times early and corrected that. The offense moved the ball a little better but we didn't get in the end zone enough times."

West Springfield will host Chantilly on Friday, Sept. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Lee will host Woodson at the same time.

"The team's ecstatic right now," Martin said. "Last year they went 1-9, so we're still trying to learn how to win and we're still trying to learn how to finish off teams, but the sky is the limit for these guys."

"They have so much confidence right now that they're going to keep rolling. They're very confident in what they can do and they know they can come out and compete with any team in the region."

Monroe Parker Invitational

FROM PAGE 12

completed the top 15.

In boys' action, Annandale's Ahmed Bile took first among individuals with a time of 15:04.7. Chantilly's Sean McGorty (15:08.3) and Logan Miller (15:28.2)

finished second and third, respectively, leading the Chargers to a team title. Lake Braddock's Nick Tuck finished fourth (15:30). Robinson's Patrick Spahn placed fifth (15:40.1), helping lead the Rams to a second-place team finish. Thomas Jefferson finished third in the team competition.

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Annandale

4528 Weyburn Dr. \$479,000..Sun 1-4.....Jamil Mourtaza.....Weichert..703-472-3819

Burke

6054 Heathwick Ct.....\$370,000..Sun 1-4.....Debbie Kent...Cottage St. Realty..703-740-7654
5724 Mason Bluff Dr.....\$358,000..Sun 1-4.....Cynthia Julian.....Long & Foster..703-503-1458
9087 Andromeda Dr.....\$384,900..Sun 1-4.....Mark Muraq.....Keller Williams..703-623-7626
9901 Coffer Woods Rd.....\$574,900..Sun 1-4.....Diana LeFrancois.....Century21..703-930-6682

Centreville

5612 Willoughby Newton Dr #25 \$229,000..Sun 1-4.....Deborah Gorham.....Long & Foster..703-581-9005
5652 Thorndyke Ct.....\$279,900..Sat 12-3.....Christina Koch.....Century 21..301-230-2300
5145 Winding Woods Dr.....\$349,900..Sun 1-4.....Maritza Munoz.....Long & Foster..703-961-7129
14616 Stone Range Dr.....\$325,000..Sat 12-4.....So Nguyen.....Realty One, Inc..703-237-0092
6338 James Harris Way.....\$335,000..Sun 1-4.....Nancy Grasman.....Coldwell Banker..703-864-3175

Chantilly

13616 Ridge Rock Dr.....\$699,900..Sun 2-5.....Judy Pfanner.....Samson Props..703-989-8767
13905 Castle Ct.....\$514,999..Sun 1-4.....Barb Chandler.....Keller Williams..703-564-4000

Clifton

7500 Weymouth Hill Rd.....\$1,195,000..Sun 1-4.....Lisa Clayborne.....Long & Foster..703-502-8145
6800 Glencove Dr.....\$689,600..Sun 1-4.....Dan Mleziva.....Jobin Realty..703-385-9410
Not Available.....\$1,195,000..Sun 1-4.....Lisa Clayborne.....Long & Foster..703-631-3200
12033 Seven Hills Ln.....\$789,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
4962 Vail Ridge Ln.....\$1,195,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
12801 Chestnut St.....\$1,149,900..Sun 1-4.....Dennis Hogge.....Re/Max..703-830-2233

Fairfax

11808 Rockaway Ln #29.....\$349,888..Sun 1-4.....Ann Petree.....Weichert..703-938-6070
3330 Buckeye Ln.....\$345,000..Sun 1-4.....Rosemary Graham.....Weichert..703-934-0400
4205 Pond Way.....\$439,900..Sun 1-4.....Athena Keifer.....Weichert..703-868-4091
4600 Demby Drive.....\$684,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Wilder. McEneaney Assoc..703-786-8635
4858 Sideburn Rd.....\$599,900..Sun 1-4.....Stan Goldberg.....Weichert..703-941-0100
4962 Vail Ridge Ln.....\$529,900..Sun 1-4.....Dorian Ritchie.....Capital Gateway..571-299-9793
4125 Trowbridge St.....\$619,900..Sun 1-4.....Kim Darwaza.....RE/MAX..703-250-8500
10812 Scott Dr.....\$439,000..Sun 1-4.....Samantha Bard.....Coldwell Banker..703-298-2651

Fairfax Station

9011 Banyon Ridge Rd.....\$509,900..Sun 1-4.....Beckie Owen.....Long & Foster..703-328-4129
7827 South Valley Dr.....\$865,000..Sun 1-4.....Damon Nicholas.....Coldwell Banker..703-502-8787
11125 Henderson Rd.....\$875,000..Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales. RE/MAX Allegiance..703-503-4365
11721 Yates Ford Rd.....\$899,000..Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales. RE/MAX Allegiance..703-503-4365
7809 South Valley Dr.....\$828,500..Sun 1-4.....Barb White Atkins.....Re/Max..703-642-3380
9011 Banyon Ridge Rd.....\$509,900..Sun 1-4.....Beckie Owen.....Long & Foster..703-452-3941

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6628 Frost Lake Ln.....\$554,500..Sun 1-4.....Kim McClary.....Long & Foster..703-929-8425
6572 Kelsey Point Cir.....\$399,950..Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
7202 Gulf Hill Ct.....\$499,950..Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Oak Hill

3201 Navy Dr.....\$873,300..Sat 12-3.....Kim McClary.....Long & Foster..703-929-8425

Springfield

8502 Lakinhurst Ln.....\$415,000..Sun 2-4.....Charlie Rose.....Long & Foster..703-452-3929
7757 Shooting Star Dr.....\$389,900..Sun 1-4.....Cindy Ikard.....Long & Foster..703-994-0768
8438 Springfield Oaks Dr.....\$349,950..Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
8408 Gambrell Ln.....\$493,300..Sun 1-4.....Ingrid Barrett.....ERA..571-216-2313

Vienna

825 Ninovan Rd.....\$459,000..Sun 1-4.....Evelyn Cheme.....Weichert Realtors..703-725-6622

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epeck@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.



Garfield school counselor Janet Dougherty and music teacher Erin Cooper look on as sixth graders Lauren Joyner and Adina Shrestha unfurl the American flag.



Flag bearers prepare to hoist the Freedom Flag.

Ceremony Delayed But Not Forgotten

After rain delay, Garfield Elementary School conducts annual Sept. 11 Remembrance.

Despite a week of heavy rains that resulted in an impromptu school closure, Garfield Elementary School was determined to continue with its annual Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony. Originally scheduled for Friday, Sept. 9, Principal Dr. Maureen Marshall was able to use a call-out system to alert students to wear red, white and blue for the re-scheduled ceremony on Monday, Sept. 12. Community members from Springfield United Methodist Church, Long and Foster Realty and the Springfield Lions Club were notified by e-mail as well.

As they have done since 2004, students at Garfield Elementary School gathered

around the school's flagpole as part of their annual Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony. The ceremony recognizes Sept. 11 as Patriot Day and honors the victims of the terrorist attacks.

During the ceremony, students joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the "Star Spangled Banner" as the American flag was raised. Sixth graders then assembled a model of the Freedom Flag, Virginia's official symbol of 9-11 remembrance. The meaning of its different parts — a star, five bars, blue field and red stripes was read aloud. Participants shared a Moment of Silence and ended with singing "God Bless the USA."

— SUSAN MCKITTRICK



Kayla Joyner, Adina Shrestha, Quinyatta Manning, and Landen Phifer join in singing 'God Bless the USA' at the close of the ceremony.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUSAN MCKITTRICK



Garfield students and teachers gather in front of the school for their annual Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony.

An image of the American flag on the school fence along Old Keene Mill Road is an annual reminder of Garfield's commitment to 'Never Forget.'



COMMUNITY

Documentary Director

FROM PAGE 4

site Kickstarter to raise money to help pay for "Mysterious Prison." His initial goal is to raise \$3,000 by Sept. 26, and as of Sept. 17, he had raised nearly \$2,700.

Meanwhile, Ashton continues to collect stories and work on his film. He's been filming a little in Arlington and Washington, D.C., and hopes to complete it by the end of the year.

"I'd like to submit this to as many festivals as I can," he said. "This is a feature film. Originally, I wanted to do it as a short, but it's so much bigger. For me, this film is about community, bringing people together. No just homeless people, but the contacts I've made with shelters and churches, people helping out."

From the get-go, Ashton has worked with Samm Iverson, whom he met at a Best Buy where Iverson worked. A quick conversation about cameras and Iverson realized Ashton was not only looking for serious camera gear, but was serious about making films.

"I'm a full-time video producer, so I helped him figure out what he needed," Iverson said.

He started working with Ashton, helping to shoot scenes.

"I was very impressed with him," Iverson said. "He knew what he wanted, where he wanted it, how he wanted it shot."

Within a few days, Iverson knew what Ashton wanted without Ashton having to say a word.

"It's so much easier working with him than some people twice his age," Iverson said.

For "Mysterious Prison," Iverson has helped film some interviews and said he was impressed with the storyline Ashton has created. He's hopeful that people will check out Ashton's Kickstarter site because "he's definitely worth investing in. He's got a great eye, a great script and he knows what he wants. I believe in him and if I didn't, I wouldn't have put this much time and effort into him."

And Ashton's proud papa is equally willing to vouch for him.

"The stuff he's doing is very intellectual and very deep," said Chip Ashton. "David's always had a creative side to him. He likes to write. I'm a little more level-headed," he laughed.

The fact that his oldest son is working on a social issue film and "not some blood and guts, action-horror movie," is a testament to David Ashton's commitment to being a filmmaker, Chip Ashton said. "The

impressive part is, he's doing this all on his own. He's writing the script. He's directing it. He's editing it. He's acting as producer. I give him an awful lot of credit for that and pursuing his passion while doing all the hard stuff too."

David has become a role model to his four brothers and sisters, and they're all very close, Chip Ashton said. By going out and working for his dream, he's showing the younger siblings that anything's possible, Chip Ashton said.

David Ashton is eager to finish "Mysterious Prison," and Weinberg is hoping to feature it at the Clifton Film Festival.

"The first year, we had 100 people. The second year we had 200. This year, we had over 250," Weinberg said. "Through social networking and word of mouth, people followed us to Lorton."

She's eager to help filmmakers like Ashton by giving them an opportunity to showcase their work, even if it's just for friends and family at first. She also hopes to encourage more filmmakers to pick up their cameras.

Some children who attended an earlier festival came back the next year with shorts of their own, she said. That's the kind of the enthusiasm she's hoping to foster through the festival.

Weinberg got her start studying film at the Art Institute of Washington, where she helped with a festival in which people made short movies in 48 hours. She's developed her own web-based series, The Nudniks, posted on YouTube.

Admittedly, her work is a little more on the comedic side than Ashton's film, but there's room for all kinds of thematic elements in her festival.

"I think it's really honorable he is doing a film about homelessness and about something people usually turn the other way when they see or confronted by it," Weinberg said. "I think David is a really great guy and all of his films have great moral value but at the same time have a very compelling story. I am really looking forward to seeing it and hope he raises enough money to cover all his expenses from using Kickstarter."

Help a Budding Spielberg

To learn more about David Ashton's film, "Mysterious Prison," and donate to his effort, go to www.kickstarter.com/projects/dash43/mysterious-prison.

Personal Perspective of Cancer

FROM PAGE 4

kemia-free future?

I guess I don't really care who, I just care that someone does. I care that they have money to fund research. I care that amazing ideas keep happening. I care that miracles keep coming our way.

So, here I am, asking for your hard-earned dollars: My team, The APL Dumpling Gang (named after a favorite childhood movie), will be walking in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual Light The Night walk at Reston Town Center on Oct. 1.

I hope you'll support my "gang." I know we all get lots of requests for a variety of causes to support ... so no pressure to make this particular one your priority. But, if you are looking for a place to put that

\$5, \$10, or \$25 donation, please send it our way.

Or, just as important as finding new miracles, share one you already have at no cost: donate blood or platelets. I always knew it mattered, but until I was watching bag after bag going into my body, helping save my life, I didn't really know. Visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/gcp> or www.inova.org and click Get Involved and then Blood Donor Services.

Learn more about the event or The APL Dumpling Gang at www.lightthenight.org, click on Donate, and search Jean Card or APL Dumpling Gang.

And if you'd like to know more about my personal adventures with leukemia, e-mail me at jean@connectionnewspapers.com.

Jean Card is production manager at Connection Newspapers. She lives in McLean.

THIS IS "BABETTE"



D.O.B. April 26, 2011. Domestic Short Hair, female. Babette is a calico/tortie with orange stripes on all four legs, which is appropriate because she loves to run! She is a wild child who loves to play, climb, and jump. Babette likes people,

but is too busy to cuddle for long. She would do well with an active companion.

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Central Christian Church...703-971-0277

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COMMUNITY

Fairfax Chairman

FROM PAGE 3

day.”
 Bulova said the county’s stellar bond rating, stable budgets and top-notch schools “didn’t happen by accident.” She promised “continued smart budgeting and a focus on community priorities.”

The county’s affordable housing program, Dulles rail, immigration, county services and big business topped the list of issues.

Bulova reaffirmed her commitment to the planned Metro line to Dulles International Airport, calling it her “number one transportation priority,” and cited the importance of phase two, “to get all the way to Dulles Airport,” Bulova said.

Williams countered that he thought Dulles Rail was more about economic development rather than solving transportation issues. “Let’s not keep our eyes closed about it,” he said.

The candidates diverged sharply on the topic of affordable housing, an issue that has sparked debate among members of the Board of Supervisors several times this year.

Williams criticized the county’s affordable housing policies, saying that county government should not “dabble ... in luxury affordable housing. ... We’re providing luxury affordable housing to people who ... drive a Lexus and hang a plasma-screen TV on their walls.”

Bulova confirmed her support of the county’s housing policies, asserting that the county’s “forward-thinking” policies have been successful in reducing the homeless population by nearly 17 percent in four years.

In 2010, the board adopted the Housing Blueprint, which allocates \$10.1 million in FY 2011 to provide housing for the homeless as well as “workforce housing.” As of March 2011, 11,818 families and individuals were on the waiting list for the county’s three principal affordable housing programs, according to the county’s Department of Housing and Community Development.

“It’s critical for us to address affordable housing needs. [Affordable housing] spans people living in the woods and cars, and people in the middle who need help get-

ting back on their feet,” she said.

Williams said he agreed that it was critical to provide people “an opportunity to live near where they work.” But he maintained the private sector should be responsible for affordable housing, not the government.

On illegal immigration, “We have a problem,” Williams said, adding that he did not want to the county to become a haven for illegal immigrants.

“I am all for people who are legal citizens ... getting the benefits of government. ... I celebrate diversity in Fairfax County,” Williams said.

Bulova said she would never describe the county as a “sanctuary” or a “magnet” for illegal immigrants.

“We have a welcoming culture, but when someone breaks the law, our county police work with federal authorities [to identify those in the country illegally],” she said.

THE DEBATE ended cordially, with Bulova stating that her opponent is a “good guy,” but lacks her range of political experience. “I will enjoy working with Spike in the years to come,” she said.

Williams drew laughter when he said he also looked forward to working with Bulova, “in her role as a county resident.”

After Thursday’s debate, Williams’ campaign released a news release stating that “What distinguishes Spike Williams is his loyalty to small business owners ... Spike is a proven conservative leader who will level with [residents].”

Bulova said the debate was a “good discussion of Fairfax County issues. I was pleased to make my priorities clear — to continue to maintain a quality of life in Fairfax County that our residents and businesses appreciate and value and to do so in a way that is affordable to our taxpayers.”

Bulova has appreciably outspent Williams during the campaign, raising approximately \$425,000 to Williams’ roughly \$75,000, according to the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), a non-partisan organization that collects financial data of all candidates.

In addition to the main party candidates, Bulova and Williams will be joined on the Nov. 8 ballot by two independents: Will Radle Jr. and Christopher F. DeCarlo.

FAITH NOTES

Congregation Adat Reyim, an independent Jewish congregation, offers services Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Hebrew School is Sundays at 9:30 and Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Hebrew school is Monday-Friday at 9:30 a.m. Adat Reyim is located at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court in Springfield. 703-569-7577 or www.adatreyim.org.

Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive in Burke, worship services are Saturday Coffeehouse at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. www.BurkePresChurch.org.

The Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road in Annandale, Bible Study

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

Faith Communities in Action meets the first Wednesday of every other month from 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 2 and 3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The Baha’i of Fairfax County Southwest offers “Interfaith Devotions: World Peace and Unity” for the general public on Saturdays. These free devotional gatherings meet at the Pohick Regional Library, Room #1, located at 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke, 22015.

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28 Yard Sales Moving. Many 7 various items need to go. Make offers. Sat 9/24, 9am-2pm. 11225 Goldflower Ct, Ffx Station, VA	28 Yard Sales Fairfax/Greenbriar Comm Yard Sale. Sat 9/24, 8-2. Rt 50, 1/4 mi W. of Fx Co Pky. R/D 9/25	28 Yard Sales Kingstowne/Alexandria Community-wide Yard Sale Sat 9/24, 8am-5pm. Rain Date 9/25, 8am-5pm. Off Beltway bet. Franconia/Beulah and Franconia/Springfield	28 Yard Sales Middleridge & Fairfax Club Estates Comm. yard sale, Huge yard sale this sat 9/24, 7am-1pm, furn toys, clths, bikes-- EVERYTHING! dir: from GMU take 123 S, L on Paynes church. & Adare Dr.	112 Misc. Services TRIP Tulips, music, good companions in Holland and Belgium. April 17, for 10 days. Call Jan Hamlin at 703-360-1998	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	3 RE for Rent 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.	3 RE for Rent
6 RE Wanted WANTED TO RENT-From Priv. home. Basement apt. or 1st floor suite for elderly man. 703-978-2813	GARAGE SALE: 9/24 Furniture, kitchenware Linens, printers, misc 9931 Wooden Dove Court Burke 7AM-12P						
21 Announcements ABC LICENSE BMRM Convenience Store, Inc trading as Fairfax Shell, 11090 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Brian B. Mullins, President	21 Announcements ABC LICENSE Sabzi, LLC trading as Sabzi, 4008 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises and Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Mahmood Nassari, Managing Member and Pyman Nassari, Managing Member	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements	21 Announcements

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

TAX NOTICE CITY OF FAIRFAX

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Personal Property tax bills have been mailed and are due

October 5, 2011

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid a 10% late payment penalty and interest charges, payment must be made in full in person or postmarked by close of business on

October 5, 2011

Taxes may be paid in person Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a bill, you are responsible for paying personal property taxes on time.

For Additional Information, please call 703-385-7900

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Springfield \$499,900
Private cul-de-sac location backing to woods. Hardwood floors on main level, stairs & hall, master bedroom. Updated kitchen with granite counters and custom cabinetry. Family room features fireplace & opens to large deck. 4 bedrms & 2.5 baths. Finished walk out basement with huge recreation room & den. Utility/storage room. 2 car garage.
Judy Semler 703-503-1885



Lake Anna \$314,900
Water Access. Fantastic one level living, split bedroom floor plan, great for entertaining with huge open family room. Assigned deep water boat slip (#6) in common area. Beautiful stamped concrete patio in backyard w/ free standing fireplace for those fabulous Lake Anna nights.
Dana Isaac 540-661-2166



Burke \$589,000
Everything you want...Nicely updated 4BR/4BA Colonial with 2-car garage on treed cul-de-sac lot. Family room off kitchen w/fireplace & doors to deck, all new SS appliances, breakfast bar, living room built-ins, new flooring & freshly painted throughout, finished LL has full bath & lots of room for your activities. Top-rated schools, plus all the amenities of Burke Centre!
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Fairfax Station \$850,000
Simply GORGEOUS, comfortably elegant 5 BR, 4FB, 1 HB home. OVER 6,900 total sq ft! Updates and upgrades GALORE throughout! GOURMET kitchen and fully finished, walk-out basement. Backs to Parkland!
Cyndee Julian 703-201-5834



Fairfax \$399,000
Beautifully Updated! Just listed in Fair Ridge! 3 BR/2.5+ BA and updated to perfection! New windows, deck, granite, carpet, hardwoods, appliances, baths & fence. Walk out rec room. Move-in ready!
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066



Fairfax \$675,000
Your Private Retreat! Just listed! Over 1/2 acre in Woodson district with tons of charm and many updates. 4 BR/3.5 BA, renovated kitchen & baths, fireplace, spacious MBR with sitting room, walkout rec room & deck.
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066



Lake Anna \$129,500
Water Access. Outstanding weekend getaway. Nice 1 bedroom with 3br. perc. for future expansion, was recently built so everything is like brand new. Boat slip conveys.
Paul Wesche 540-847-3848



Gainesville \$269,900
Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club 50+. Updated 1-level, 1300 sqft huge Master suite w/WIC, 1.5 BA, gourmet Kit w/granite, hardwoods, neutral carpet, 9+ ceilings, ceiling fans, Liv room, Din room, Fam room, Sun room, 1 Gar, new paver Patio backs to trees. HOA fee inc. phone, basic cable TV, pools & fitness MOVE-IN READY.
Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Fairfax \$475,000
Beautiful updated 4BR/2.5BA Colonial in Kings Park West has newly renovated top-of-the-line kitchen and updated baths. This home is perfect for children of all ages with its fully fenced level backyard, family-friendly neighborhood & a block from Royal Lake Park w/amazing playground & sports fields. Close to the VRE, Metrobus & shopping! This home has it all!
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Lake Anna \$299,900
Commercial building on 1 acre corner lot. High traffic location and close to Lake Anna State Park. Great investment potential. Owner will consider some financing.
Buddy Poland 540-894-7821



Vienna \$710,000
Lovely updated Colonial in sought after Lakevale Estates offers 4BR/2.5BA, updated baths, remodeled kitchen with 42" cabinetry, SS appliances, granite, breakfast bar, hardwoods on main level, and spacious light-filled LL with fireplace, 4th BR & bath. Fabulous fenced backyard & Madison school district.
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Fairfax-Middle Ridge \$614,000
Exceptional colonial, just steps to Woodglan Lake! Nothing has been spared, including updated kitchen with 42 inch cabinets, granite counters, stainless appliances. All baths updated. Gleaming hardwood floors, & a finished lower level with huge recreation room and theatre room just perfect for those Football parties! Gorgeous yard and peaceful deck come too!
Catie, Steve & Associates 703-278-9313



Manassas \$425,000
Great for horses. 2 stall barn with electricity, 3 fenced acres, pool, 3 decks, 4 garages, 4 bedrooms, updated kitchen.
Charlotte Whitney 703-655-8529

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September 28	7:00-9:00 PM	
October 26	LOCATION:	
November 30	Long & Foster's Northern Virginia Training Center	
	3069 Nutley St.	
	Fairfax, VA 22031	

TO REGISTER:
Please contact **Mary Ann Plonka at 703-503-1898** or **maryann.plonka@longandfooster.com**



Burke Centre \$599,999
Beautiful 5 bedroom home on .26 acre lot backing to wooded common area and trails. Gleaming wide plank Brazilian Cherry hwd floors on main and upper levels. Fantastic eat-in kitchen with newer cabinets and granite countertops. Main level laundry room, too. Newer windows. Finished walk out basement with rec room and wet bar. Great community and schools. Close to public transportation.
Diane Sundt 703-615-4626



Sterling \$339,000
NEWLY REMODELED, 3 level, 4BR/3.5BA brick front townhome w/hardwoods & freshly painted throughout. Huge eat-in kitchen open to dining room w/breakfast bar, granite, SS appliances, gas cooktop & French door to deck. Master Suite has cathedral ceilings, large walk-in closet and newly updated bath. Light & bright lower level offers recreation room w/fireplace, walkout to patio, 4th BR & full bath! Convenient to shopping and commuter routes!
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Fairfax \$534,900
Lovely 4 BR, 3 Bath Colonial located in beautiful Middle Ridge, home features hardwood floors on all three levels, brand new finished lower level w/media room, all wired and ready for you to set up your flat screen TV, installed around sound speakers, separate exercise room, plus separate office or Den, a perfect backyard, plus a great location on a quiet cul-de-sac.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Fairfax \$499,000
Amazing Space! Beautifully renovated 5BR/3BA home with over 3,000 sq ft in Country Club View. Spectacular entry, all baths updated, gas heat, 2 fireplaces, hardwoods, freshly painted throughout, & screen porch. Kitchen boasts new cabinetry, quality granite counters, and new appliances. Best backyard ever - large, flat, grassy, & landscaped! Sought-after schools and close to shopping & VRE!
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Burke \$358,000
Move right into this Nature Lover's Paradise! Renovated kitchen with SS appliances and granite cntns! UPDATED bathrooms. TWO masters on UL, each with a FB. One LARGE bdrm on LL. Cozy LL rec rm features fireplace & walks out to private, fenced backyard!
Cyndee Julian 703-201-5834



Fairfax \$345,000
Stylish updated 3BR, 2FB, 2HB Brick 3-level end unit townhome in sought-after school district. This home features new gleaming hardwoods, updated kitchen with granite and stainless appliances, walkout from Living Room to oversized corner fenced yard with large stone patio & wooded view. Just a short walk to Royal Lake, shopping, & VRE. All this, plus two assigned parking spaces!
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Fairfax City \$929,000
Just Listed! This stunning 4 BR, 4.5 BA home in prestigious Farrcroft is beautifully detailed and customized to perfection! Hand milled hardwood floors, extensive moldings, luxury MBR/ MBA, fabulous media room, walkout rec room (possible 5th BR) & spectacular private lot.
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066



Alexandria City \$385,000
Great deal in popular Alexandria community 3 bedrooms and two baths-including master with bath. Long time owner replaced major systems. Rambler with basement and tons of space. Fenced yard. Close in and near major shopping, the Beltway, I-395 and on the busline.
Cheryl Hanback 703-864-4321



Gainesville \$475,000
Heritage Hunt Golf & Ctry Club 55+. MOUNTAIN VIEW! 2-lvls, 3 BR, 3BA, main lvl MBR, MBA w/spa tub & sep shwr, gmt kit w/maple/corain & new SS appls, brkfst rm, hwdws, fam rm w/ gas f/pl, liv rm, din rm. Fin LL w/den, rec rm, media rm w/wet bar, exercise rm. Blt-ins, ceil/fans, irrig sys, frnt & back porch, 2 car gge. Gated com, HOA fee inc phone/cable/trash/amenities. (50+ is ok).
Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Alexandria \$284,900
Spacious garage townhome with 3 level bump out. All new neutral paint & carpet throughout. Upgraded kitchen with eating area and family room overlooking deck. Wood entry foyer. 3 bedrooms, 2 full & half baths. Lots of windows. Terrific location.
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Clifton \$1,195,000
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Fairfax Station \$799,000
SPECTACULAR Home w/ 4 BR, 3.5BA! Truly shows like a MODEL! Gourmet Kitchen, flows into family room addition, screened porch & custom patio. Walk out lower level w Rec Rm, full BA, wine cellar & storage. Wonderful community w/ easy access. For more photos go to www.hermandorfer.com

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Centreville \$334,900
Sully Station garage townhome * Wood floors on main & upper levels * Updated eat-in kitchen with granite opens to deck overlooking back yard * Living & dining rooms share a gas fireplace * Master bedroom with luxury bath * Finished lower level with recreation room, full bath & laundry room. Visit www.TruiittFarmCourt.com.



Fairfax Station \$849,900
Custom home on serene 5 acre wooded lot * Walk to Burke Lake * Impeccable architectural details throughout * Fabulous 2009 gourmet eat-in kitchen * Wood floors * 3 full & 2 half baths * 3 fireplaces * Master w/fireplace & dressing room * Family room w/wet bar * Library w/fireplace * Living room w/fireplace & view of the natural surroundings * Large patio * Visit www.KilkennyLane.com



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BURKE CENTRE \$599,999
WOW! This home really sparkles. Lovely 5 bedroom home backing to wooded common area. Large rooms. Updated kitchen with granite countertops, newer stainless steel appliances, butler's pantry, and center island. Main level laundry room. Fabulous floor plan. Don't miss seeing this home. Call Diane at 703-615-4626.



Joseph Dao

(office) (703) 503-4037 • (cell) (703) 963-1075

www.iaskjoe.com

Joseph.dao@longandfoster.com



Springfield \$524,999
Beautiful townhome in Springfield. Close to all major transportation routes and within walking distance of public transportation. Home features hardwood floors, 9' ceilings, plantation shutters, crown moldings, 2 fire places. Spacious living and dining room offers formal gathering space. Large family room with its own gas log fireplace provides a cozy gathering place for your family. The family room opens to a spacious deck, providing ample room for a summer cookout with friends and family. The home features energy efficient dual zone gas heating and cooling, energy efficient windows and doors. Other features are a 2 car garage and walk-out basement.



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Kingstowne \$479,000
Beautiful and Well Maintained 3 BR 3 1/2 Ba Brick Townhouse with 1 Car Garage, Updated Kit w/Corian Countertops and Updated Appliances. Recently Painted and Newer Carpeting. Kitchen Walks Out To Fenced Backyard and Large Deck. Finished Basement Must See.



Sheila Adams

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Burke \$564,900
Lovely Burke Centre Colonial featuring 4 huge BR's, 3 1/2 Baths, remodeled kitchen with granite counters, 1st floor family room w/fireplace, finished LL Rec Rm, lovely screened in porch, Hot Tub, cul-de-sac location. Call Sheila Adams for a private showing 703-503-1895.

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Fairfax \$650,000
Contemporary Victorian!
Serenely set amid a grove of mature trees, this 4BR, 3FB updated Victorian will surprise and delight you. The living room easily accommodates a grand piano and acoustics are grand, as well with a soaring 2-story ceiling. The library alcove overlooks the LR. There's so much more, call for your private viewing.

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