

Fairfax Station ♦ Clifton ♦ Lorton  
**CONNECTION**

# United We Serve

A+, PAGE 8

Area residents spent part of their Monday holiday volunteering during the third annual Family Volunteer Day hosted by Volunteer Fairfax on the George Mason University campus in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

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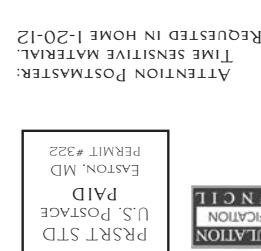


Task Force  
Presents 'Common  
Sense' Proposals

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Therapeutic Riding  
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# NEWS

## 'Common Sense' Proposals

Allowing schools to open before Labor Day part of task force recommendations.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**R**epeal of the "Kings Dominion law," which requires Fairfax County schools to obtain a state waiver to open schools before Labor Day, is high on the list of legislative priorities announced Monday, Jan. 16, by Governor Robert McDonnell.

During a news conference in Richmond, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who chaired the Governor's Task Force for Local Government Mandate Review, joined McDonnell in announcing a number of legislative proposals to eliminate "burdensome state mandates" on localities.

"(This) report contains common sense recommendations which will provide fiscal relief to localities and the Commonwealth, and will enable both to more efficiently serve Virginia's residents," Herrity said.

Allowing Northern Virginia schools to open before Labor Day without a waiver - a move championed for years by local school boards and educators - was just one of 60 mandates the task force recommended eliminating or modifying.

**A THIRD** of the recommendations dealt with education, including removing the requirement that schools must offer online Standards of Learning (SOL) testing in middle schools.

"In Fairfax County alone this program costs over \$4 million to set up, then an additional \$4 million plus per year to run," Herrity said. "While online testing is a worthwhile objective, an additional \$4 million a year would enable FCPS to hire nearly 60 new teachers."

The task force also set a goal for the Department of Education to reduce "unnecessary" state and federal reporting requirements for Schools by 15 percent, such as abolishing the mandate for annual reports on remediation programs.

"The removal of these mandates on localities will save time, tax-payer dollars and ultimately result in better, more accountable services for Virginians," said Joan Wodiska, president of the Virginia School Board Association and a member of the Falls Church City School Board, during Monday's news conference.

Other legislation proposed by the task force includes:

♦Removing the mandate for state inspections of erosion and sediment control programs where localities have inspections.

♦Eliminating the mandate that requires VDOT approval of the location of locally-placed red light cameras.

♦Eliminating the mandate for localities to give first priority for vending contracts to the Department of Blind and Visually Impaired.

In September 2011, the Governor announced the creation of the five-member task force, a result of legislation introduced by Sen. Steve Newman (R-



**Governor Bob McDonnell (left) listens as Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity comments on legislation to reduce "unnecessary" mandates on localities during a news conference in Richmond Monday, Jan. 16.**

Bedford County) to review state mandates imposed on localities, and to recommend temporary suspension or permanent repeal of such mandates.

"Burdensome mandates on localities exacerbate the challenge of balancing a budget in these tight fiscal times," McDonnell said at the news conference. "On the state level, we don't like it when the federal government hamstrings us with mandates and red tape."

Herrity said localities need relief from state mandates, and are not in a position to accept new ones after several tough budget years.

"These recommendations have taken on greater importance as the cumulative budget gaps in local governments likely exceed the budget gap experienced by the Commonwealth," Herrity said. "The vast majority of localities are projecting revenue growth less than the Commonwealth's projected growth of 3.1 percent."

**IN ADDITION** to the legislative proposals, Governor McDonnell is recommending \$10 million in his Fiscal Year 2013 budget and \$15 million in Fiscal Year 2014 to help offset previous reductions in aid to localities.

Herrity said Monday's announcement was just the first step of the task force that has been meeting since November 2011.

"It's important to point out that this is only an interim report to meet the deadline Gov. McDonnell gave us for the 2012 General Assembly session, and these recommendations are only the beginning of our work," he said.

Several bills have been introduced in the 2012 General Assembly session at the request of the Governor and other legislators reflecting the vast majority of the Task Force recommendations, according to a statement released by the Governor's office on Monday.

The full report from the Task Force for Local Mandate Review is available at: [www.governor.virginia.gov/utility/docs/Interim Report 1 16 12.pdf](http://www.governor.virginia.gov/utility/docs/Interim Report 1 16 12.pdf)

## \$2.4 Billion School Budget Proposed

Budget includes new positions, salary increases to address growing student population.

**F**airfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Jack D. Dale presented a \$2.4 billion budget proposal to the school board on Jan. 12, reflecting a nine percent - or \$202.3 million increase - in next year's operating budget.

With a projected enrollment of 181,608 students, the proposed budget includes an additional 721.3 positions to support an additional 3,900 students, as well as cost-of-living increases for all eligible employees. Since 2008, the district's enrollment has grown by more than 15,000 students.

"Over the past five years, we have added the (student population) equivalent of a high school, middle school and 16 elementary schools," Ted Velkoff (At-large) said after the Jan. 12 school board meeting, during which Dale released details of the budget.

Velkoff added there is a "pent-up need" for increased funding. "The funding has been pretty flat over the past five years, while we've been absorbing that many students and we've had no corresponding increase in funding," Velkoff said.

"We are seeing the greatest increases in the numbers of our students with additional needs," Dale said. "Since 2008, the number of students enrolled in English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) has risen 48.3 percent, and the number of students eligible for free or reduced-price meals is up 35.4 percent."

This fall, FCPS will open two new schools: a middle school at the South County site and an elementary school at the Lacey site.

The proposed budget includes the addition of 26 positions to address large class sizes and 12 positions to support the expansion of the World Lan-



**Jack Dale**

guages program in elementary schools. Eight schools will add the Foreign Languages in the Elementary Schools (FLES) program, and two new schools will implement the Foreign Language Immersion program.

Under Dale's plan, extended learning time for students and extended time for teachers are included in the budget, as well as a 2-percent cost-of-living increase for employees. Teacher salaries have been frozen for two years.

"It is imperative for FCPS to stay competitive in the marketplace in order to continue to attract the best employees to support student success," Dale said. "We continue to dedicate the majority of our budget, 85.9 percent, and the majority of our positions, 94.6 percent, directly to instructional programs."

"I was content to see that teacher compensation was again prioritized in this year's budget. Sustaining compensation increases from last year shows Fairfax's commitment to ensuring that those who teach here can afford to live here," said Ryan McElveen (At-large).

"However, I was disappointed to see that athletic fees were not addressed in the budget. In terms of cost, they are a low-hanging fruit at less than \$2 million." McElveen said athletic fees, as well as booster fees, fundraisers and spirit-pack payments, can be a significant burden on students of low-income families. "I hope that the board will remember these students and their families in the coming months,"

— VICTORIA ROSS

### Budget Facts

♦Funds to expand Pathways to the Baccalaureate, part of the College Success program, to four additional schools - Centreville, Chantilly, South County and Westfield High Schools - and to expand the program to 10th and 11th grades at Annandale, Edison, Falls Church, Lee, Mount Vernon, South Lakes, and Stuart High Schools and Hayfield Secondary School.

The Fairfax County School Board will hold public hearings on the FY 2013 budget on Jan. 30 and 31 at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road. A speakers' list for those public hearings opened on Jan. 13 at: [www.fcps.edu/schld/meetings/requestspeak.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/schld/meetings/requestspeak.shtml). For complete information on the FCPS FY 2013 budget, including the budget calendar, visit [www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/index.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/index.shtml)

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## Lake Mercer Bald Eagle

A number of Bald Eagles have been spotted recently at Lake Mercer in Fairfax Station. The eagles have only stayed a month or so in the past but this year it seems they have taken up residence nearby. They are seen almost daily now. You can see them soar high overhead from the dam and often perch in trees on the south side of the lake. Often difficult to see from the ground there, your best views are from the north side of the lake along the shore or gravel access road using binoculars.



This photo is one of the juvenile eagles at the lake and was taken from the north side access road.

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

## NEWS

# Therapeutic Riding Program Acquires Permanent Home

## Equine therapy nonprofit purchases Little Full Cry Farm in Clifton.

The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) recently announced the purchase of Little Full Cry Farm, a 17-acre property located in Clifton.

For NVTRP, a volunteer-based, equine-assisted activities and therapy non-profit, the purchase marks the program's first permanent operating home since its founding in 1980.

Little Full Cry Farm was the former home of Junior Equitation School, the renowned equestrian program owned and operated by the late Jane M. Dillon.

"The acquisition of Little Full Cry Farm allows us to expand our reach and broaden therapeutic offerings in the Northern Virginia community, serving more children, adults and military service personnel with challenges and disabilities," said Rhonda VanLowe, chair of the NVTRP Board of Governors.

NVTRP's riders represent a range of disabilities, including attention deficit disorder, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, developmental disabilities, vision and hearing impairments, and genetic syndromes. NVTRP is accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, and a member center of the Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia.



**The new home of The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) is a 17-acre farm in Clifton.**

"We are thrilled to become the next owners of Little Full Cry Farm, making the Clifton community NVTRP's permanent home. As a volunteer-based organization, our volunteers witness the benefits each rider gains every day," said executive director Breeana Bornhorst.

According to Bornhorst, the challenges and rewards of horseback riding can have



PHOTOS BY BREE BORNHORST

**A student smiles before mounting her horse for a therapeutic riding session at the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program in Clifton.**

a healing power for people with disabilities. The special relationship with the horse engages the rider's mind, focusing attention, rewarding patience and precision, and inspiring affection.

"Now with our permanent home, we will be able to provide enhanced services to more riders, an incredible opportunity to make a lasting difference to the local com-

munity."

After losing its barn and equipment in a fire in 2007, the organization operated at temporary locations before moving to Little Full Cry Farm in 2008. In 2011, Randy Dillon, son of the late Jane M. Dillon, provided NVTRP with the opportunity to purchase Little Cry Farm, according to Bornhorst.

In 2011, NVTRP provided over 3,100 lessons to 262 riders with more than 20,000 volunteer hours.

"There is a huge backlog for the services that NVTRP provides to the disabled - from the very young to our veterans," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). "I know I speak for the Clifton community when I say I am glad they have chosen to make Little Full Cry Farm their permanent home and look forward to helping them complete their indoor riding ring so they can further meet the need for their services."

As part of the Little Full Cry acquisition, NVTRP has goals to build an indoor riding ring to provide year-round services, therapy areas, administrative offices, and bolster parking to accommodate more riders.

For more information about The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, visit [www.nvtrp.org](http://www.nvtrp.org).

—VICTORIA ROSS



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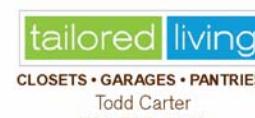
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# OPINION

## Building on Pro-business Culture

New industry sectors are critical to Fairfax County's continued economic success.

BY SHARON BULOVA  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

In the speech I gave Dec. 13 as I was sworn in as chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I quoted Albert Einstein, who said, "In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity." The continuing economic problems that afflict the nation, and the federal budget cuts that could take effect soon, provide Fairfax County an opportunity to continue the significant and diversified economic development successes of the past several years.

Fairfax County is fortunate to be at the doorstep of the nation's capital. Our proximity to Washington has made us a natural base for companies that want to do business with the federal government, and our ability to attract and retain government contractors has been a

### RICHMOND DIARY

## Re-writing the Rules

BY STATE SEN. DAVID MARSDEN  
(D-37)

### SUNDAY, JAN. 8

I packed up the car and stopped by a constituent's house to pick up information regarding 100 percent disabled veterans whose homes are in trusts, and who are not receiving the intended property tax relief. We spend a lot of time in the legislature trying to fix loopholes like this one in the bills we pass. Later that afternoon we held a Democratic senate caucus meeting, where we discussed our options under the Constitution and the rules of the Senate to deal with who will organize as the majority party, or how to establish power sharing. We will be dealing with this in three days.

### MONDAY, JAN. 9

In the days leading up to the first session, legislators meet with individuals and groups having business with the General Assembly. My day started with a meeting with interior designers. They are worried that Gov. McDonnell's budget removes the requirement that they be certified and licensed to perform their duties. They made a compelling case as to how important interior design can be towards creating safe environments. I met also with the Department of Juvenile Justice, and we discussed how to reorganize our Juvenile Justice resources to create a more efficient and effective system.

My last meeting was with the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles, who updated me on the great strides they have made



Sharon Bulova

critical element in the county becoming the economic engine of the Washington area as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia. And, of course, the commercialization of government technology, including the Internet, has also helped create businesses and jobs in Fairfax County.

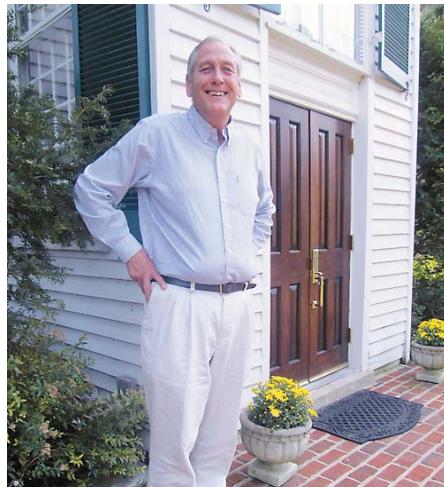
We are proud that 66 of the nation's 100 largest government contractors have a presence in the county, including 22 that are based here. Government contractors employ Fairfax County residents and perform some of the most vital tasks required by the nation.

Of course, no community can sustain itself over time unless it has a diverse economy. Fairfax County will continue to foster the business-friendly climate that has attracted so many corporate relocations in the last several years, and we will continue to welcome government contractors to our community. But, we also will redouble our efforts to attract companies from a wide array of appropriate industry sectors to diversify our economic base.

The county, working through the Economic Development Authority, has in recent years landed the headquarters of high-profile large employers that are helping us diversify our economy. Volkswagen Group of America and Hilton Worldwide give us important inroads in the automotive and hospitality industries, for example. Most recently Bechtel, one of the largest engineering and construction companies in the world, announced it would relocate its global operations headquarters to Fairfax County. That is the kind of progress that the county can build upon for future economic success.

In my inaugural speech, I also referred to a business owner who moved his IT firm to the county. He told me how much he liked the mood here and that he wanted to be in a place where people enjoy what they do and are "charged up" about their work and their community. Our corporate leaders, like our residents, appreciate that, during these challenging times, Fairfax County has developed and improved on our pro-business culture. That will continue to be important in these difficult times as we look for new opportunities to improve the economic stability of the county in 2012 and beyond.

Sharon Bulova chairs the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.



State Sen. David Marsden (D-37)

## State senator reflects on the first week of the 2012 General Assembly session.

### Short Bio

A graduate of the private Randolph Macon College, State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), 63, recently won his first full term to the Virginia Senate this November. "I grew up in a small farm house that was the original Woodburn Elementary School," he said. "I saw the changes that have taken place in the county, and I have a pretty good awareness that things are always in flux."

Marsden has lived in Burke since 1977 with his wife of 40 years, Julia, where they raised three sons — Nathan, 41; Stuart, 36; and Connor, 34.

In 1970, Marsden began a career as a probation officer in Fairfax County after receiving a social work degree from Randolph Macon in 1970. He went on to establish and operate Fairfax County's shelter home for youth with severe family problems, and in 1982 became the chief administrator for the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center, a 121-bed center that served as a model for other centers. He is particularly proud of the fact that during his 17-year tenure as chief of the detention center, there was never an escape or serious injury.

in online services and reducing wait times at DMV customer centers. Northern Virginia customer centers still have the longest waits due to volume.

### TUESDAY, JAN. 10

Many of my bills are reflections of the good ideas brought forth by constituents, members of the business community, or the administration. I agreed to sponsor two bills today. The first is on behalf of the Humane Society, which deals with the boom in the creation and operation of fox pens. Foxes are purchased and placed into fenced enclosures ranging from 100 to 900 acres. Competitions are held between dog owners as the dogs track the foxes. Often the end result is the fox being killed by the

dogs. This is not hunting, this is not sporting, and this is not the Virginia way. Virginia has 41 of these pens.

I was also asked by the Secretary of Education to carry a bill for Gov. McDonnell ending what is called the Kings Dominion rule, which prohibits starting school before Labor Day. The current practice leads up to two weeks of dead time after the Standards of Learning (SOL) tests. If passed, this bill will create more classroom time for students, and make us more competitive nationally. I also met with two groups of University of Virginia students who needed my perspective on mock bills that they were introducing for a class.

SEE RICHMOND DIARY, PAGE 7

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# NEWS

## Richmond Diary

FROM PAGE 6

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11

Opening session began at noon, and, after the swearing-in ceremony, the Lt. Governor broke a tie and established Republicans as the majority party. They were able to re-write the rules that the Senate operates by, and determine committee chairs and assignments. Later that night we returned to the Capitol to hear the Governor's "State of the Commonwealth" speech. It is always an exciting time, and one that fills you with a sense of pride as to Virginia having the western world's oldest continuously-serving elected body. The Governor agreed to meet with me next week on Juvenile Justice issues.

### THURSDAY, JAN. 12

Today was "Banker's Day" at the General Assembly Building, and I was visited by a number of bankers from Fairfax. The Asian Chamber of Commerce reception was held during the day, where I was able to speak for several minutes about tax issues.

My first transportation commit-

tee meeting was held this afternoon, and I was asked to serve on a sub-committee that will deal with the more complicated bills. The day was capped off with the biggest event of the session, which is the Agriculture Council dinner, featuring Virginia food products. It is a time for all of us to reconnect with each other and get ready for the session.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 13

I learned today that my bill to co-designate The East Sea as the name for the Sea of Japan in Virginia textbooks would be heard on Monday. I arranged to have people come down to Richmond to testify in favor of the bill. William Hong, president of the Virginia Korean American Association, agreed to come with a host of others.

### SATURDAY, JAN. 14

We held a press conference with print, television, and radio representing the Korean community in the Washington D.C area, and apparently this issue is resonating in Korea, where it has been on television and radio news shows.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SATURDAY/JAN. 21

**Lee District Open House.** 1-3 p.m. Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. With Supervisor Jeff McKay, the Lee District staff and exhibits by the Springfield Art Guild. Refreshments served. Contributions of canned goods are accepted, to be donated to local charities. [SupervisorMcKay@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:SupervisorMcKay@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### THURSDAY/JAN. 26

**Registration Open House.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. Fall 2012 kindergarten and morning, afternoon and full-day Preschool classes. Limited registration available for winter 2012. 703-968-8455 or [www.childrensacademy.com](http://www.childrensacademy.com).

### TUESDAY/FEB. 7

**Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Brown Bag Seminar.** 12 p.m. Community Business Partnership, 7001 Loisdale Road, 2nd Floor, Springfield. Bring your lunch to CBP the first Tuesday of the month and learn best practices for the small and mid-size workplace. Free for Greater Springfield Chamber members and \$10 for non-members. [www.springfieldchamber.org](http://www.springfieldchamber.org).

**South County Federation Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Fairfax. [Southcountyfederation.com](http://Southcountyfederation.com).



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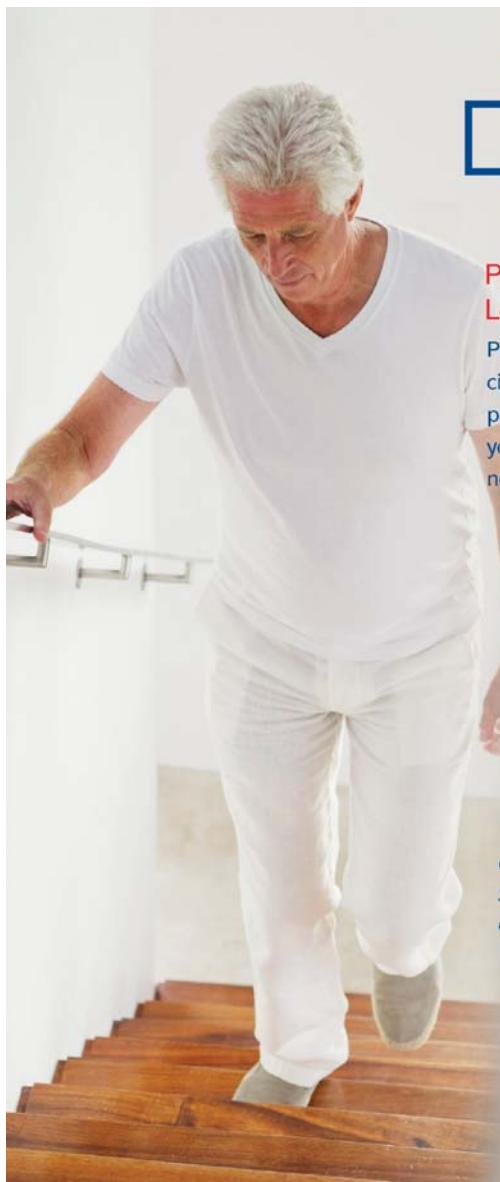
Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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What a cutie this little girl is. She's so sweet and loves to get attention. She's do almost anything to be petted and will wiggle non-stop until you notice her. She's only 1 year old, has a striking coat of white with two large brown spots (one on her head) and one large black spot on her back and a cute white muzzle. She's great with other dogs and people of all ages. She was found wandering around looking for someone to love her and when no one came, we took her into our care. We know we can find someone to love her and give her a forever home just as soon as they meet her. She's just too sweet to pass up. Come and meet this little sweetie today. **THE CONNECTION**  
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## A Education • Learning • Fun



Angela Williamson of Fairfax brought her two 10-year-old sons, Cameron (left) and Christian (right) to the Family Volunteer Day hosted by Volunteer Fairfax on Monday, Jan. 16, a federal holiday celebrating the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.



Karen Schofield of Fairfax helps daughter Dana, 8, create Valentine's Day cards during the Family Volunteer Day hosted by Volunteer Fairfax on Monday, Jan. 16. Dana is a member of the Caring Kids Club at Greenbrier East Elementary School.



Nine-year-old Mackenzie Chase of Springfield reads a story to her mother, Kerri. "We made a New Year's Resolution that we would volunteer somewhere once a month," said Chase.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

# United We Serve

**Volunteer Fairfax mobilizes more than 1,100 residents to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**S**itting together at large round tables, children and their parents cut out pink and red paper hearts, pasting them on cards for nursing home patients, or stuffed socks and blankets into kits for the homeless. Emily Davis of Volunteer Fairfax circulated among the tables, chatting with the children and their parents about their volunteer projects.

"So what was your favorite activity?" Davis asked Dana Schofield, a second-grader at Greenbrier East Elementary School in Fairfax.

"I liked making the Valentine's Day cards," Schofield said. "Probably because they don't get many in their own mailbox."

Davis said her favorite part of Family Volunteer Day was "Reflection Time." "We want people to have these conversations, and reflect on what they accomplished by volunteering, how they are helping others," Davis said. "This was our best year so far."

**MORE THAN 1100 PEOPLE** participated in Volunteer Fairfax's third annual Family Volunteer Day on Monday, Jan. 16, a federal holiday celebrating the life and legacy

of Martin Luther King Jr. Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service — a "day on, not a day off."

Volunteer Fairfax, an organization that matches the interests of volunteers with the needs of local nonprofits, expanded its event this

year to include Herndon and Alexandria, as well as George Mason University's Dewberry Hall, where about 500 parents and their children completed service projects for area nonprofits.

"We might be the only people who come in and give nursing home patients Valentine's Day cards, so these children are doing something very special and they should feel good about it," said Bobby Anderson, a board member of The Holiday Project. "They've already made about 100 cards, and these will go to patients throughout the county."

"My favorite part was helping people stay warm," said five-year-old James Prevett of Vienna, after

**"I think more people would be fighting all the time if Dr. King hadn't taught people how to be friends and help each other."**

—Cameron Williamson, 10, Fairfax

the projects will go to area nonprofits, such as FACETS, the Fairfax Library Foundation, The Holiday Project and Inova Health System.

"We wanted to create an event that allows children to experience first-hand how fun and easy volunteering can be, while providing quality family time," said Jeanne Sanders, executive director of Volunteer Fairfax. Sanders said the Martin Luther King Day event is specifically designed to give parents with young children an opportunity to volunteer together.

"The first year we were overwhelmed with responses, and this

year to include Herndon and Alexandria, as well as George Mason University's Dewberry Hall, where about 500 parents and their children completed service projects for area nonprofits.

"We might be the only people



Area residents spent part of their Monday volunteering with Volunteer of Fairfax for their annual MLK Day of Service event, Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day on the campus of George Mason University.



Four-year-old Zachary Barr of Springfield listens as his mother, Nancy Barr, reads him a story. Barr said that she wanted to teach her children the importance of giving back to the community.



Lily O'Donnell of Fairfax Station volunteered part of her Monday morning on the campus of GMU at the Family Volunteer Day event sponsored by Volunteer Fairfax.



**"Whoever you are, or wherever you come from, you can share your time and do small things that make a big difference to other people. I think that's the message of this day."**

—NURHAENI  
A NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT AND VOLUNTEER FROM INDONESIA

## VIEWPOINTS

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

# Volunteering on MLK Day



**"I think it's important to find the good in each person and try to make a difference in each other's lives. We're a military family, so diversity is a fact of life. We don't always realize how blessed we are, and how important it is to give back to others, to live the Golden Rule."**

—NANCY BARR  
SPRINGFIELD



**"Martin Luther King, Jr. said some profound things. He believed that an individual can change the world with peace, compassion and caring. When you give young children the opportunity to volunteer, they learn an important message, one that will stay with them as adults."**

—JEANNE SANDERS  
VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**"It's a day to do something for other people. I liked making the Valentine's Card for people at nursing homes, because I don't think they usually get cards. I also liked putting the bags together with socks and blankets to keep people warm. I wrote a note inside that said 'Hope to you and all others.'**

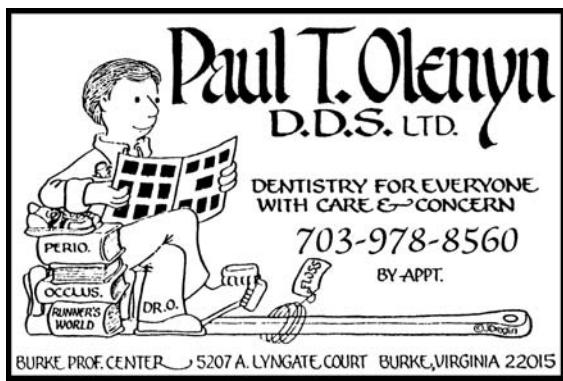
—DANA SCHOFIELD, 8  
FAIRFAX

Talia Schmitt, 16, of Fairfax, helps Tyler Prevett, of Vienna, and his children James, 5, and Jessie, 3, make compost boxes on the campus of George Mason University on Monday morning.

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The Robinson Secondary School DECA fashion show, organized and run entirely by students kicks off Jan. 11 with a scene of looks designed and made by students. Pictured here (in no particular order): Marissa Meyers, Cheyenne Guard, Jackie Mains, Tess Tedrick, Courtney Leonardo, Marcela Balderama, and Nicole Nohra.

## Robinson Stages Fashion Show

**O**n Wednesday, Jan. 11, the students of the Robinson Secondary School DECA club, a chapter of an international organization aimed at preparing high school students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management, held its sixth annual

DECA Fashion Show, showcasing the designs and fashion-stylings of DECA members at Robinson. The massive effort, involving 108 students is entirely student organized and run. Proceeds from the show are used to fund activities of the DECA club at the school.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/  
THE CONNECTION



Student Cheyenne Guard models her own design.



Marcela Balderama wears a look designed by Robinson senior Paul Warren.



Robinson student Jackie Mains models a look designed and made by fellow student Adna Guled.



Robinson Secondary School students glam it up during the DECA Fashion Show. Looks in the show were organized into scenes from popular television shows. This final scene was from "The Bachelor." Pictured here (in no particular order): Jana Abutayeh, Hayley Aguayo, Mora Azez, Katie Jones, Charlie Nguyen, Rachel Thomas, Sarah Thompson.

# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/JAN. 19

### Lorton Library Book Club.

7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford. 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.

### A Bee's Eye View of Native Plants.

7:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Explore the plant-pollinator relationship from the bee point of view and learn why what we plant has consequences for these creatures. With Sam Droege, a biologist with the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Free and open to the public. 703-732-5291.

### Riot.

6 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$22-\$25. [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 20

### Country Rocker Rick Caballo.

9:30 p.m. Main Street Pub, 7140 Main St., Clifton. [www.themainstreetpub.net](http://www.themainstreetpub.net).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 21

### Workhouse Art Center Saturday.

Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

### ♦Ballroom Social Dance.

7:30 p.m. Workhouse Gallery. Rumba dancing, refreshments and a cash bar. Mini-lesson available. Casual dress code, all skill levels welcome. \$8-\$15.

### ♦Date Night: Chef's Table.

8 p.m. Vulcan Gallery. Cooking lessons. Reservations required at least two days prior to event start date. No walk-ups. \$30-\$70.

### ♦Workhouse Film Institute: !Women Art Revolution.

7:30 p.m. Building W-3. A "secret history" of Feminist Art, exploring the movement through conversations, observations, archival footage and works of artists, historians, curators and critics. \$7-\$10.

### Animals in Winter.

10:30 a.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Find out how animals deal with freezing temperatures and snow from a naturalist from the Hidden Pond Nature Center. All ages. 703-971-0010.

### King Giant CD Release.

6:30 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10-\$12. [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 22

### The Human Spirit

Concert. 3 p.m. Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. American Youth Philharmonic with Music Director Daniel Spalding and harpist Dotian Levalier. Instrument Petting Zoo after the concert. \$14 adult, \$10 seniors and students, free age 18 and under. 703-642-8054 or [www.aypo.org](http://www.aypo.org).

### Burns Night Celebration Tea.

1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. \$27. Burns Night is an annual tradition for those who celebrate their Scottish heritage by commemorating the bard Robert Burns. Reserve at 703-941-7987.

### Discover the Secret of Trees.

1:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Code 290 182 1901. \$10. Author Nancy Hugo teaches a new way of observing a tree and invites us to deepen our relationships with them. Book signing. Register at [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) or 703-642-5173.

### Silent Civilian.

6 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10-\$12. [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).

## MONDAY/JAN. 23

### Frosty Mittens.

10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Winter stories. Age 12-23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

### Hidden Pond Monday:

**Hibernators.** 2:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Learn how some animals get ready to sleep through the winter and awaken just in time for spring. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center. 703-451-8055.

## TUESDAY/JAN. 24

### Eclectic Readers.

1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. The Double Helix: A Personal Account of the Discovery of the Structure of DNA by James D. Watson. Adults. 703-249-1520.

### Writers Peer Review Group.

7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Review peers' works and receive in-depth feedback on your work. Submit up to 25 double-spaced pages to [kingstownelibrarywriters@yahoo.com](mailto:kingstownelibrarywriters@yahoo.com). Adults. 703-339-4610.

### English Conversation Group.

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

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 25

### Learning English.

10:15 a.m. SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12



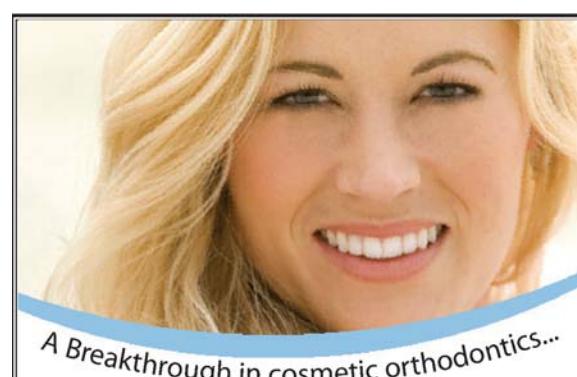
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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

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

**Fun with Ones.** 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Enjoy books, songs and rhymes in a special story time just for ones. 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.

**Book Discussion Group.** 12:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Code 290 187 4301. \$5. Book discussion. Bring a bag lunch. Light refreshments served. Call Green Spring Gardens for this month's selection. Books available for sale at Green Spring Gardens. Register at [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org) or 703-642-5173.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 26

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Practice and improve your English-speaking skills. Adults. 703-249-1520.

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

### FRIDAY/JAN. 27

**River North Dance Chicago.** 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Jazz-based contemporary dance ensemble. \$21-\$42. [www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu).

## Workhouse Theatre Kicks Off Inaugural Season

The Lorton Arts Foundation has announced the inaugural season of its own Workhouse Theatre. Based in the Workhouse Arts Center's newly renovated building W-3, it is one of only three professional theater companies in Northern Virginia. Workhouse Theatre will launch its season with the play "ART" from Jan. 20-Feb 26, 2012.

"ART,"

a play that raises questions about art and friendship, concerns three long-time friends, Serge, Marc and Yvan. Serge buys a large, expensive and completely white painting. Marc is horrified, and their relationship suffers considerably as a result of their differing opinions about what constitutes "art".

It's no mistake that "ART" was chosen as the inaugural show for Workhouse Theatre. The play presents the perfect opportunity to highlight the diverse offering of arts that lies within

the Workhouse community. Workhouse studio artist and seasoned professional scenic designer, Joe St. Germain (studio 1013) even offered technical guidance on the production.

Director Joseph Wallen further explains why "ART" was selected:

"Not only does the subject matter give a nod to our origins as a visual arts center, but it also opens the discussion about the nature of art, beauty and worth."

Friday and Saturday evening performances are at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee performances take place at 2 p.m. (note: there are no performances on Jan. 21 or Feb. 18). Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors, students and military.

For more information on this and other winter events at the Workhouse visit [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org) or call 703-584-2900.

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# SPORTS

LORTON/FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON CONNECTION  
SPORTS EDITOR JON ROETMAN  
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## Lake Braddock Boys Stumble Against West Potomac

Bruins suffer first Patriot District loss of season.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen the West Potomac boys basketball team missed the front end of a one-and-one with 17.5 seconds remaining, Lake Braddock had an opportunity to escape with a victory despite playing its "worst game possible."

But on a night when Lake Braddock squandered a fourth-quarter lead and committed 31 turnovers, the Bruins weren't going to catch a break.

After the missed foul shot, 5-foot-9 Tamaric Wilson grabbed an offensive rebound for the Wolverines, drew a foul and knocked down a pair of free throws. Lake Braddock came up empty on its ensuing possession and suffered its first Patriot District defeat, 55-50, at West Potomac.

Lake Braddock led 48-47 when Brendan McHale scored in transition with 3:03 remaining in the fourth quarter. But West Potomac scored eight of the game's final 10 points to pull within one game of the Bruins in the Patriot District standings. Lake Braddock and Woodson are tied for first at 6-1 (the Bruins defeated the Cavaliers 68-52 on Jan. 3) and West Potomac is 5-2.

"We had 31 turnovers. We shouldn't win the game [playing] that way," Lake Braddock senior guard Dylan O'Connor said. "It was the worst game possible that we could have played. We didn't pass the ball well, we didn't make good decisions, but we'll get them next time."

Neither team led by more than six points throughout the contest. Lake Braddock led by as many as four in the fourth quarter, but West Potomac responded with a 7-0 run.

Christian McKenrick led the Bruins with 15 points. O'Connor and McHale each scored 10 points for Lake Braddock and Tyler Snow scored nine points and grabbed nine rebounds.

"They were the first-place team, we were third-place team, it was a Patriot District game [and] when we play Lake Braddock it always comes down to something like that," West Potomac head coach David Houston said. "They don't let you pull away. They're good. They're a good team. They have some solid shooters, solid players, they're big inside. I've got a lot of respect for their squad, but we persevered. I'm really proud of my guys. They didn't give up, they stuck to the plan and got through this game."

Bryant Fultz led West Potomac with 13 points.

DeMornay Pierson-El finished with 12 points for the Wolverines and Randal Brobbey and Wilson each had 11.

"We needed to defend our home court," Houston said. "In the district, that's what it comes down to: you're going to have to defend. We had aspirations of being [No.] 1 in the district at the end of the year and we knew we couldn't go down three games to Lake Braddock, so this was an important win for us."

The Bruins had won eight of their previous nine and entered the contest on a five-game winning streak. They dropped to 10-4 overall with seven regular season games remaining.

Lake Braddock will travel to play West Springfield at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20. The Bruins will host the Wolverines in the regular season finale on Feb. 10.

"That was the worst game possible, so if we only lost by a basket or two, we're still pretty happy," O'Connor said. "We're just trying to work forward and correct our mistakes and hopefully go undefeated the rest of the season."

**It was the worst game possible that we could have played. We didn't pass the ball well, we didn't make good decisions, but we'll get [West Potomac] next time.**

**Lake Braddock senior Dylan O'Connor**



**Lake Braddock senior Tyler Snow (20) jumps for the ball against West Potomac's Bryant Fultz during the teams' Jan. 17 matchup at WPHS.**

### SPORTS NOTES

**Fairfax Adult Softball** (FAS) is currently accepting applications for the upcoming spring and summer seasons. Leagues are available in the following divisions: Men's, Women's, Coed, Corporate Coed, Senior's (age 50-plus), and Master's (age 35-plus). Applications are accessible via the FAS home page at [www.playsoftballnow.com](http://www.playsoftballnow.com). Contact FAS to register your team before March 1. For those looking for a team to play on, FAS will place you on a team. Visit the FAS website and register as an individual free agent. For further information, please call 703-815-9007 or email [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com).

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) is a non-profit corporation registered in the state of Virginia which administers the largest adult softball program in the state with nearly 10,000 participants.

**The Northern Virginia Girls Softball Association** (NVGSA) is holding on-line registration for the 2012 spring season ([www.nvgsa.org](http://www.nvgsa.org)). Registration can also be completed at the NVGSA table during the West Springfield Little League registration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 14 and Saturday, Jan. 21 at Keene Mill Elementary School (6310 Bardu Ave.).

NVGSA offers both house and select levels of play for girls ages five to 18. The league offers spring, summer, and fall softball and free winter clinics to help its players improve individual and team skills. NVGSA has house league teams at 8-under, 10-under, 12-under, and 18-under age levels, and players have the opportunity to try out for select and travel teams. Registration fees are \$80 (8-under), \$95 (10-under), and \$110 (12-under and 18-under).

Practices will begin in mid-March and games will start in mid-April. The season will run through early June. All-Stars will be selected and compete in a Fairfax County All-Star Tournament in mid-June.

Most of the girls in NVGSA live in the Burke, Annandale, Springfield, Alexandria, Fairfax City, and Fairfax Station areas.

NVGSA's sole purpose is to promote girls fastpitch softball. Registration fees cover house league obligations. For questions regarding registration or NVGSA in general, visit [www.nvgsa.org](http://www.nvgsa.org) or contact [NVGSAs softball@yahoo.com](mailto:NVGSAs softball@yahoo.com).

**Virginia Special Olympics' first-ever FANQUEST** is set to take place on Saturday, Jan. 28 at Oakton High School. Special Olympics basketball teams from Oakton and McLean High Schools will play an all-star game beginning at 7:10 p.m. The festive night will include prizes, relays, and other fun crowd participation activities - all in support of the Virginia Special Olympics. Members of the community are invited to 'volunteer to cheer' at the event. Sign up at [www.volunteer2cheer.com](http://www.volunteer2cheer.com). Check-in will be at the 'Volunteer to Cheer' tables at the gym entrances. Whether cheering for the Cougars or the Highlanders, fans will be given materials to make posters and signs, and everyone who comes out to cheer will get free 'cheer sticks.' FANQUEST, presented by Booz Allen Hamilton, is one of many events offered year round by Special Olympics Virginia. For more information on the 2012 FANQUEST, please contact Holly Clayton at [hclaytor@specialolympicsva.org](mailto:hclaytor@specialolympicsva.org), or call 804-726-3025.

**Virginia High School League** (VHSL), the governing body of high school sports in the state, voted on Dec. 7 to develop a new classification model for high school sports teams and leagues to be presented to the VHSL Executive Committee on Feb. 22.

"This latest decision to establish six classifications promises to be the most significant step the [VHSL] has taken in more than 40 years," said VHSL Executive Director Ken Tilley.

For the 1970-71 school year more than 40 years ago, the VHSL switched from four classifications to the current three classes. The current classifications are single-A (smaller enrollment schools), double-A (middle enrollment), and triple-A (larger enrollment).

"The six classification format recommended greatly reduces size disparities among the classes and eliminates regions altogether," said Tilley. "Under the new format, there is potential for greater consistency in playoff opportunities. A Football Ratings Committee is already in place to deal with that sport."

The new format would allow for schools to remain in their current districts.

The VHSL, headquartered in Charlottesville, will celebrate its 100th year of operation next school year.



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Cozy Fam Rm\*eat-in Kit\*Slate /Hrdwds/Carpeting floors\*Partially fin basement with Bedroom/full bath/walkout to patio/2 rec rms\*3 car garage\* By appointment only

Buzz-703-850-4501

**Sheila Adams**  
**703-503-1895**



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

**ARE YOU THINKING OF:**

- Buying a home this Spring
- Listing your home this Spring
- Renting your home this Spring

then call SHEILA ADAMS

Let me prepare you early for all the Do's & Don't's of the Real Estate Market!

Call Sheila Adams **703-503-1895**

**Catie, Steve & Associates**

Direct: **703-278-9313**

Cell: **703-362-2591**

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**Centreville Sully Station \$315,000**

This 3 bedroom + Den home has got connections! Just a hop, skip, & a jump to Routes 28, 29 & 66. Steps to shopping, restaurants & more! Everything is new including gleaming hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless appliances, ceramic tile, updated baths, fresh paint, new HVAC, large deck & patio, fenced yard. A move in ready home & regular sale! Make it yours today by calling Catie & Steve. 703-278-9313

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