

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ❖ Kingstowne ❖ Newington

Home Life Style

PAGE 8



Lee junior Leah Michetti placed second in the all-around at the Patriot District gymnastics meet on Feb. 3 at Lake Braddock, earning her a trip to regionals. Lee senior Katie Stewart also qualified for regionals with a third-place finish.

President Comes To Area, Launches New Initiative

NEWS, PAGE 2

Fairfax General Dies in Afghanistan

NEWS, PAGE 3

Lee Duo Returning to Regionals

SPORTS, PAGE 12

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 13

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

FEBRUARY 9-15, 2012

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

President Announces Homeowners Bill of Rights

Local homeowners, housing advocates say president's plan gives homeowners important safeguards.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Tina Kotson of Springfield, a homeowner of five years, said she thought it would be fairly easy to refinance her current 5.65 percent mortgage and take advantage of today's lower rates.

"I think we are homeowners any mortgage company would value. We pay our mortgage in full and on time, and we have excellent credit scores," Kotson said. "But I was surprised at how much things had changed when I called lenders to refinance a few weeks ago."

She said because her home has lost nearly \$100,000 in value since she and her husband purchased it in 2007, lenders told her she could only refinance up to 90 percent of the appraised value, which meant bringing nearly \$50,000 to the table at closing.

"They told me there's no impetus to refinance folks who are paying their mortgage and not in threat of foreclosure. It was very frustrating," Kotson said.

But Kotson said she was hopeful refinancing would be within reach after President Barack Obama announced a Homeowners Bill of Rights in Fairfax County last week.

Calling the continuing depression in the housing market a "make-or-break" moment for the middle class, Obama told a crowd of about 350 people at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church on Feb. 1, that the goal of his proposal is to make it easier for borrowers to refinance their loans, and get out from under oppressive mortgages.

"No more hidden fees or conflicts of interest. No more getting the runaround when you call about your loan. No more fine print," the president said to loud applause. "New safeguards against inappropriate foreclosures. New options to avoid foreclosure if you've fallen on hardship or a run of bad luck. And a new, simple, clear form for new buyers of a home."

Fairfax County housing advocates applauded the president's plan, saying it will give homeowners critical protection from predatory lenders and important safeguards when they purchase a home.

THE AUDIENCE CHEERED when the President took Congress to task for dragging its feet on plans he announced during the State of the Union Address last week to kick-start the stalled housing market.

"I am sending Congress a plan that will give every responsible homeowner in America the chance to save about \$3,000 a



President Barack Obama spoke at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church on Wednesday, Feb. 1 about his plans to revitalize the stalled housing market. His speech was short and pointed.

year on their mortgage by refinancing at historically low rates... What this plan will do is help millions of responsible homeowners who make their payments on time but find themselves trapped under falling home values or wrapped up in red tape."

According to Kerri Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith, one of Northern Virginia's largest social services organizations, the non-profit has received hundreds of calls since the recession from homeowners facing foreclosure or trying to get lenders' attention to reduce their mortgage payments.

"We've heard from those who have lost their jobs and are afraid of losing their homes and everything they've saved for their families. We all know that too many Americans did not fully understand the financial implications of taking out mortgages they could not afford," Wilson said. "Based on our experience then, the Homeowners Bill of Rights will address the issues surrounding foreclosure crisis and offer individuals the help they need to stabilize their budgets and families."

Paula Sampson, executive director of Fairfax County's Department of Housing and Community Development said the president's initiative refocuses attention on the still faltering real estate market and the many homeowners who are still struggling.

"A 'Homeowner's Bill of Rights' and the clarity and transparency it would bring to buying a home could be invaluable," Sampson said. "Just think of the thousands of homebuyers who might have avoided a predatory loan or unexpected rate swings, if the information had been clear and understandable at the closing table."

During his speech, Obama also blasted predatory lending practices, and vowed to tighten regulations.

"(The American people) were hurt. By lenders who sold loans to people who they knew couldn't afford the mortgages...and banks that packaged those mortgages up and traded them to reap phantom profits, knowing that they were building a house

of cards."

"It was wrong. It was wrong," the president said to nods and a buzz of agreement in the audience. "It triggered the worst economic crisis of our lifetimes. And it has been the single biggest drag on our recovery from a terrible recession. Crushing debt has kept millions of consumers from spending."

THE PRESIDENT made it clear that his "aggressive plan" was not designed for those who have been irresponsible.

"This plan, like the other actions we've taken, will not help the neighbors down the street who bought a house they couldn't afford, and then walked away and left a foreclosed home behind...It's not going to help those who bought multiple homes just to speculate and flip the house and make a quick buck, but it can help those who've acted responsibly," he said.

He veered off script, and entertained the audience, when he recalled how confusing it was when he and First Lady Michelle Obama bought their first home.

"Now, think about it...How many of you have had to deal with overly complicated mortgage forms and hidden clauses and complex terms? I remember when Michelle and I bought our first condo — and we're both lawyers," he said, triggering laughter from the audience. "And we're looking through the forms and kind of holding it up... reading it again... 'What does this phrase mean?' And that's for two trained lawyers."

The president then held up a single sheet of paper.

"So this is what a mortgage form should look like. This is it," he said to loud applause and cheers. "Now that our new consumer watchdog agency is finally running at full steam, now that Richard Cordray is in as the Director of the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, they're moving forward on important protections like this new, shorter mortgage form. Simple, not complicated. Informative, not confusing. Terms are clear.



Quincy Springs, with the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said he thought President Obama does not get enough credit for his plans.

Fees are transparent."

After a pause for effect, the president took another shot at Congress to cheers from the audience: "This, by the way, is what some of the folks in Congress are trying to roll back and prevent from happening."

He called the housing crisis "personal," saying it struck at the heart of what it means to be middle class in America. "Our homes, the place where we invest our nest egg, the place where we raise our family, the place where we plant roots in a community, the place where we build memories," he said.

He ended his speech with an appeal to Congress. "I urge Congress to act. Pass this plan. Help more families keep their homes. Help more neighborhoods remain vibrant. Help keep more dreams defended and alive. And I promise you that I'll keep doing everything I can to make the future brighter for this community, for this commonwealth, for this country."

Quincy Springs, a Fairfax resident with the County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said the president was presenting Americans with an "opportunity."

"So many people have experienced job loss, foreclosures and other hardships. He has the right plan, and he doesn't get the good credit he deserves," Springs said.

Claudia Lupoletti of Burke said she thought Obama struck the right tone in sending a serious message to lenders.

"I'm very happy to hear that he is going to hold lenders accountable and not just homeowners," Lupoletti said. "He's right about the paperwork. We bought our first home in New York City and it was an all-day process with hundreds of complex forms. I think this is long overdue," she said.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Cindy and Robert Hildner, wife and father of Brig. Gen. Terence Hildner, replace his colonel epaulets with brigadier general epaulets at his advancement ceremony in III Corps headquarters in February 2011. Gen. Hildner died Feb. 3 in Kabul of apparent natural causes.



PHOTO BY
MASTER SGT. CELIA FELLER,
13TH ESC

Fairfax General Dies in Afghanistan

Terence Hildner, 49, highest ranking officer to die in Afghanistan.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Brigadier General Terence J. Hildner of Fairfax, a highly-decorated officer who received the Bronze Star Medal for combat heroism, died Feb. 3 in Kabul of apparent natural causes, military officials announced Saturday.

Hildner, 49, was the highest ranking officer to die in Afghanistan, according to Defense Department officials.

Hildner served as commander of the 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) at Fort Hood in Texas until his deployment to Afghanistan in December to support the NATO training mission. According to its website, the ESC performs a number of support functions, including maintenance on equipment and distribution of ammunition and clothing. The ESC includes the 1st Medical Brigade, which provides combat medical services and health care.

"The unfortunate and untimely death of Brigadier General Hildner was a shock to our unit and families," Col. Knowles Atchison, 13th ESC rear commander, said in a statement released by Fort Hood on Saturday. "Both forward deployed elements and we at home station are deeply saddened by this loss. We will all pull together through this difficult period and care for one another."

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS have not been announced, according to Christopher Haug, chief of media relations at Fort Hood.

In 2003, Hildner assumed command of the 13th Corps Support Command's Special Troops Battalion at Fort Hood. During nearly three years in command, his battalion was deployed twice - first to Iraq, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom by providing logistical support to units around Joint Base Balad, as well as the Abu Gharib prison complex. The second deployment came in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, providing both military and humanitarian support. The

13th ESC led by Hildner supports other units. Hildner served in Iraq during both Operation Desert Storm and the 2003 U.S.-led war. He also served in Kuwait and was part of the last U.S. patrol along the East-West German border before reunification of Germany.

From July 2007 to July 2009, Hildner commanded the 23rd Quartermaster Brigade at Fort Lee, Va., training more than 20,000 soldiers annually.

A native of New Haven, Conn., Hildner began his career with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Bliss after graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1984. In 1988, he was reassigned to Germany, where he commanded a ground cavalry troop. During his company command, Hildner's troop deployed to Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, as well as conducting the last U.S. patrol along the East-West German border before reunification.

Returning from Germany, the general served in several assignments at Fort Hood to include 2nd Armored Division comptroller and aide-de-camp to the 4th Infantry Division commanding general.

HILDNER'S AWARDS include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal with bronze service star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

"This is a tragic loss for the Army, III Corps and for our Central Texas community," said Lt. Gen. Don Campbell Jr., Fort Hood commanding general, in the Feb. 5 statement. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends."

An investigation into the death is pending, according to Christopher Haug, chief of media relations at Fort Hood.

"All deaths in the combat zone are investigated," said Haug, adding that Hildner did not die in combat.



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. MILITARY
Brigadier General Terence J. Hildner

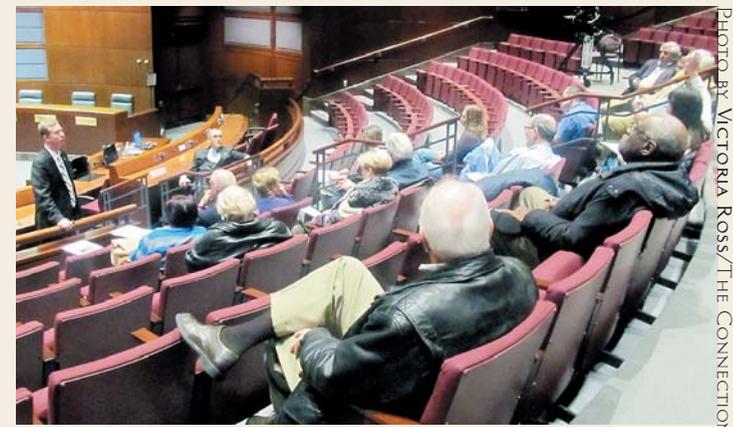


PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

From left, Del. David Bulova (D-37) hosted a town hall meeting for constituents on Saturday, Feb. 4, with State Sen. David Marsden (D-37) at the Fairfax County Government Center. The legislators provided an overview of issues currently before the Virginia General Assembly.

Bulova, Marsden Present Report from Richmond

Area legislators host town hall meeting.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Less than a month after Virginia's General Assembly convened on Jan. 11, the GOP's effective control of both houses has paved the way for a slew of conservative social legislation, from broadening gun rights to curbing abortion and voting rights.

Virginia's "Republican Revolution," as some call it, was not specifically on the agenda during the Town Hall meeting hosted by Del. David Bulova and State Sen. David Marsden, Fairfax's two Democratic legislators representing the 37th district. But many of the constituents who attended the forum at the Fairfax County Government Center on Saturday, Feb. 4, raised some of the hot-button issues drawing national attention to Virginia.

John W. Farrell, a Fairfax attorney involved in local Democratic politics, said he was particularly concerned about the number of Republican-backed bills this session that would require stricter forms of voter IDs and put further limits on who can vote by absentee ballot.

The issue garnered national media attention during a Jan. 31 rally in Richmond when Democratic state senators and delegates were joined by civil rights leader Dr. Benjamin Chavis to oppose measures they say echo Virginia's Jim Crow-

era of discriminatory voting practices.

"These bills need to die. (Republicans) are using voting fraud as an excuse to steal elections," Farrell said.

Caroline Hemenway of Herndon urged Bulova and Marsden to oppose the bills, saying they were "blatant attempts to take us back to the pre-Civil Rights era when whites ruled the smoky back rooms of election."

"I know older adults who do not have birth certificates right here in 'wealthy, educated' Fairfax County who would be unable to vote... Supporters (of these bills) want to keep old, poor, and black people from the polls," Hemenway said.

Marsden agreed, and said Republican legislators are using voter fraud as a smokescreen. "We're trying to fix a problem we just don't have," Marsden said. "That's the net effect of all these (voting) bills. When we ask these legislators to cite one example of voter fraud, they just can't do it."

But on Monday, Feb. 6, Republican Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling broke a 20-20 partisan deadlock in the Senate, clearing way for passage of legislation that will force Virginia voters to show identification before casting a ballot. The next step for the bill is the House of Delegates, where Republican control more than two-thirds of the seats.

"Virginia is heading where South Carolina was in 1861, too small for a country and too large for an insane asylum," said Marsden, quoting Con-

SEE REPORT, PAGE 11

Support For Greenspring Project

Greenspring residents, staff assemble 5,300 kits for children suffering across the globe.

The statistics are startling. More than 1.5 million children across the globe die each year because of dehydration associated with diarrhea. Globally, dehydration from diarrhea is the second leading cause of death in children under 5-years-old, according to the World Health Organization.

Although dehydration can be deadly, the solution is relatively simple. The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF developed Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT), with the goal of reducing child mortality by two-thirds before 2015.

“(Oral rehydration) use is the simplest, most effective and cheapest way to keep children alive during severe episodes of diarrhea,” said WHO officials, the leading supplier of ORT to poor countries.

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, more than 60 volunteers worked for hours assembling ORT kits, which consist of salt, baking soda, sugar, and salt substitutes. At the end of the day, volunteers assembled 5,300 kits.

“These ladies are old hands at this,” said Elke Martin, Greenspring’s volunteer coordinator, pointing out some of the repeat volunteers for the oral rehydration project.

“This is such a wonderful project. I volunteer for this every year,” said volunteer Dot Brown, holding up her measuring cup for sugar, which was made by the residents of the woodshop club at Greenspring. Greenspring also supports the effort through pro-



Dot Brown, one of Greenspring’s volunteers, holds up a measuring cup for sugar made by residents in Greenspring’s woodshop.

ceeds from The Treasure Chest, its on-site nonprofit thrift shop managed by resident Evelyn Jackson. Jackson, who was honored with Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award in December, said ORT is one of several important programs funded, in part, by the resident-run Treasure Chest.

“We help local institutions, and we’re also proud to support something like this, which helps children all over the world,” Jackson said.

—VICTORIA ROSS

Green Dot Card Scam

Fairfax County police investigating slew of scams targeting

When a 70-year-old Burke woman answered her phone this week, the caller told her she’d won 3.5 million dollars and a brand new Mercedes. But there was a catch. The woman was instructed to purchase Green Dot payment cards and provide the caller with the account numbers.

The woman purchased \$13,000 of the Green Dot cards and provided the numbers to the caller, along with her social security number, date of birth and other private information as she was instructed.

By the time a caring relative discovered what had happened, the victim lost much of her money. Green Dot cards are pre-paid, loadable cards similar to other brands of credit and debit cards. Fairfax County

police said these scams are not isolated to any particular financial institution.

“This is another in a series of scams Financial Crimes Unit detectives are seeing in Fairfax County and across the region. Unfortunately, as with many of these scams, once money is wired or sent away, there is very little that can be done to recover the funds,” said Lucy Caldwell, spokesperson for the Fairfax County Police Department.

FCPD said detectives are actively providing education and information on some of these schemes and ruses to the public. To learn more, or to report an incident, visit the Financial Crime Online Reporting site of the FCPD website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/financialcrimes>.

Since the online site went live in October 2011, more than 1,200 crimes have been reported, according to Caldwell. To request a group presentation on the topic of schemes or financial crimes contact Lucy Caldwell, Public Information Office at 703-246-3271.

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WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD

Used Book Donations

The Robert E. Lee High School Library is accepting donations of used books for its annual book sale through March 30. Fiction and nonfiction books in good condition, including children's books, cookbooks, college textbooks and many others are welcome. All proceeds will help the library buy new books and materials for student use. For further information or to make a delivery, please contact the library at 703-924-8370.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

TUESDAY/FEB. 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.

Diversity in Education. 7 p.m. Irving Middle School, 8100 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Elieen Kugler, author and advocate for the benefits of diversity in schools and neighborhoods, on the benefits of a diverse academic environment. 703-597-6440 or wsespta.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 9

Clifton Lions Club Meeting. 7 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Meetings are the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. 703-209-7421 or clvclubexpress.com.

Registration Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. Fall 2012 kindergarten and preschool classes. 703-968-8455 or www.childrensacademy.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

Springfield Christian Women's Connection Luncheon. 11:30 p.m. Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. "It Is All About The Accessories" with Charming Charlie, a fashion accessory boutique. With speaker Charlotte Stewart on how she searched for God in all the wrong places in "Having Coffee With Royalty". Door prizes and complementary child care. \$17. Reserve at 703-590-6562 or SpringWmConn@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 23

Registration Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. Fall 2012 kindergarten and preschool classes. 703-968-8455 or www.childrensacademy.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Youth Mental Wellness Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road Springfield. This event will inform families and caregivers about available youth mental wellness resources and services, and how to access them. www.fairfaxyouth.org.



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State Farm, Bloomington, IL

Access for Home Schoolers to School Activities

Families who home-school their children in this area take a burden off crowded schools, and off taxpayers who pay on average between \$12,000 and \$16,000 per year per child in school depending on where in Northern Virginia.

There is no reason to deny students who live within a school's boundaries access to the extracurricular activities of that school. While a proposal making its way through the Virginia General Assembly would address home schoolers' access to sports, home schooled stu-

dents should also be able to take some classes in school without having to be enrolled as a full-time student.

There is good reason to change the "bright white line" of student or non-student in public schools, all or nothing. Students have a variety of educational needs. Students need flexibility and often need several different educational contexts to create success.

Of course these students should be subject to all the same requirements as any other student in trying out for a spot on a team or in

the school play or band.

Some local school officials have said it's not fair, homeschooled students don't have to work as hard at their studies as public school students, so they would have an unfair advantage in extracurriculars. First, many homeschoolers work harder than the average public school students. And second, by this reasoning, perhaps coaches should consider some sort of weighted assessment of course load when deciding who should be on the team.

Public schools should be committed to providing the best solutions for all students.

Suppressing the Vote And Other Action in Richmond

While all Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria senators voted against a bill that forces voters to provide one of a short list of identification in order to vote, the bill passed 20-to-20. Here's how: 02/06/12 Passed Senate (20-Y 20-N); 02/06/12 Senate: Chair votes Yes

Senators George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Mark Herring, Janet Howell, Dave Marsden, Chap Petersen, Toddy Puller and Dick Saslaw voted against the bill, which "eliminates the provision that allows a voter to sign a sworn statement that he is the named registered voter he claims to be in lieu of showing identification." Instead such a voter must cast a provisional ballot if he cannot provide a required

form of identification, and provisional ballots are counted the next day when a committee determines eligibility.

A Commonwealth of Virginia voter registration card will no longer count as one of forms of identification that a voter can present to demonstrate that he is a qualified voter, but a separate bill would add concealed handgun permits to the list of acceptable forms of identification to vote

One Gun a Month Not Enough?

Virginia's long standing law restricting gun

purchases to one a month was overturned this week.

In the Senate, all Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax senators voted against the repeal. In the House of Delegates, Barbara Comstock and Tim Hugo voted in favor of eliminating the restriction. Three Republicans joined all the Democrats from our area in voting against lifting the one-gun-a-month restriction: Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Tom Rust voted against the repeal along with Bob Brink, David Bulova, David Englin, Eileen Filler-Corn, Mark Herring, Mark Keam, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Scott Surovell and Vivian Watts.

— MARY KIMM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping Dulles Rail On Track

To the Editor:

Henry Ford once said that you should not find fault, but find a remedy, because anyone can complain. I believe this principle describes our efforts over the last year to reduce the cost of Dulles Rail and keep it moving forward.

Opponents to this critical project continue to suggest we halt progress in order to study any possible effects. Doing so would not only delay the project but would end up costing Fairfax County taxpayers and Dulles Toll Road users

more in the long run, the very scenario these opponents use to justify their opposition. In order to protect taxpayers and commuters, I have worked with our County staff and our funding partners over the last year to successfully reduce the cost of Dulles Rail by over \$700 million all while keeping the project on track. We chose to find remedies instead of faults.

For example, in April I made the case for an aerial station at Dulles International Airport by "walking the walk" — showing people the

short distance between the proposed underground station and the aerial station. Moving the station above ground led to a cost savings of \$330 million. Our County staff worked with their counterparts in Loudoun County and officials from the state and federal government over the summer to identify over \$300 million in additional savings. Our work is consistent with Ford's principle.

Stopping the progress we have fought so hard to achieve also goes against our Board's stated commitment to "vigorously pursue economic development and revitaliza-

tion opportunities." Even the most vocal opponents of Dulles Rail cannot ignore its economic development potential.

Complete preliminary engineering estimates on Phase 2 are due out soon. When they are released, our Board will have 90 days to approve our continued commitment to this ambitious project. Rail to Dulles remains my number one transportation goal.

Sharon Bulova
Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Support Funding Alzheimer's Project

To the Editor:

Today, 5.4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, including 130,000 Virginia residents. By 2050 as many as 16 million Americans will have this disease that slowly steals memories, independence, autonomy and so much more

Now the nation's sixth leading cause of death, Alzheimer's is unmatched in the scale of its devastating human and economic impact. There is no other chronic disease that affects so many without a way to cure, prevent or even slow its progression.

One in three Americans know someone with Alzheimer's. There are nearly 15 million family mem-

bers and friends providing care for a loved one with Alzheimer's and dementia, including more than 422,000 Virginians.

Beyond the sheer numbers of lives touched by the disease, the financial impact on our nation is staggering. Alzheimer's cost the nation \$183 billion today. That amount will soar to \$1 trillion by midcentury. Medicare costs will increase nearly 600 percent and Medicaid nearly 400 percent — if we do nothing.

The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), signed into law in January 2011, requires the creation of a national strategic plan to address the rapidly escalating Alzheimer's disease crisis and will

coordinate Alzheimer's disease efforts across the federal government. The Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services, created by NAPA to coordinate federal agencies conducting Alzheimer's-related care, services and research, met in mid-January to review the first draft framework of a National Alzheimer's Plan.

This is an historic moment. We need a meaningful allocation of resources in the President's upcoming budget if we are committed to finding a cure. Our nation's leaders must follow through and fulfill their commitment with a strong plan supported by the necessary resources to alter the course of Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's won't wait. I invite you to take action today by sign-

ing our petition to President Obama at www.alz.org. Urge the President to take the next bold step forward in the fight against Alzheimer's and fulfill the promise of the National Alzheimer's Project Act passed unanimously by Congress more than a year ago. Tell him millions of families are counting on him to fulfill the potential of NAPA when he releases his upcoming Budget Request.

Now is the time to create a world without Alzheimer's. Families won't forget.

Susan Kudla Finn, PMP
President and CEO
Alzheimer's Association
National Capital Area Chapter
Fairfax

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LETTERS

Coming Forward On Child Sex Abuse

To the Editor:

I am a victim of childhood sexual abuse and a mother of four. I was very happy to see the article "Scandal Highlights Child Sex Abuse" [Connection, Feb. 2-8, 2012] by Victoria Ross which addresses an important issue that is close to my heart.

I want to thank the reporter who covered this issue, the Fairfax County Police and the Office for Women's Domestic and Sexual Violence Services who took a proactive approach to reaching out to victims and educating parents and others who work with children.

The online discussion was a wonderful way for parents, victims and those that work with children to voice their questions and concerns in a safe way. It can be a very difficult subject for many people to discuss. As a victim, I know how hard it can be to come forward and how painful the healing process can be when you feel you are alone. I didn't tell anyone about my abuse until I was 48 years old. Shame and fear of the reaction I would receive kept me silent and suffering. It is my hope that as society becomes more educated and comfortable with the subject of child sexual abuse that children will feel safer in coming forward. As a child I needed to know that if I told an adult that I would be believed, that I would be reassured that it was not my fault and finally that someone would do something about what happened. When these three things happen, children will feel safer in coming forward. When children come forward, they can begin to heal, and those that abused them can be exposed making all our children safer.

Becky Ianni
Burke

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.
Send to:

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There is a mandatory rehearsal with the orchestra on Saturday, March 17 from 9:30-11:30 am. The performance is Sunday, March 18 at 3 pm. Cost is \$10 to purchase the vocal score. To sing with us, contact Fran Underwood at 703-569-9862, ext. 107 or funderwood@messiahumc.org.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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Centreville

14462 Fallscliff Ln #37.....\$265,000.....Sun 1-4.....Sam Collins.....Long & Foster.....703-435-4900
14616 Battery Ridge Ln.....\$299,950.....Sun 12-3.....Stephanie Wayne/Rachel Pullen.....Century 21.....703-965-1643
5128 Wyndham Rose #33.....\$287,900.....Sun 1-4.....Donny Samson.....Samson Props.....703-864-4894
14710 Hanna Ct.....\$549,000.....Sun 1-4.....Deb Gorham.....Long & Foster.....703-581-9005

Chantilly

13850 Beaujolais Ct.....TBD.....Sun 1-4.....Kelli Shobe.....Avery-Hess.....703-309-9335
25623 America Sq.....\$415,284.....Sat/Sun 11-6.....Carla Brown.....Toll Brothers.....703-323-0272

Clifton

12809 Wycklow Dr.....\$1,375,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster.....703-503-1812
6297 Clifton Rd.....\$899,000.....Sun 1-4.....Lisa Cleyborne.....Long & Foster.....703-502-8145
7429 Kincheole Rd.....\$784,500.....Sun 1-4.....Marsha Wolber.....Long & Foster.....703-618-4397
7513 Detwiller Dr.....\$1,095,000.....Sun 1-4.....Marguerite Roland.....RE/MAX.....703-577-4538

Fairfax

4614 Holly Ave.....\$999,000.....Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX.....703-869-4567
8610 Chandler St.....\$852,900.....Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX.....703-869-4567
2849 Hideaway Rd.....\$750,000.....Sun 1-4.....Gil Stockton.....Coldwell Banker.....703-969-5089
3634 Prince William Dr.....\$999,999.....Sun 1-4.....Mary Thyfault Clark.....RE/MAX.....703-563-2210
4642 Lumbury Dr.....\$479,900.....Sun 1-4.....Pam Wiggins.....RE/MAX.....703-979-9400
5016 Wheatstone.....\$499,000.....Sun 1-4.....Jordan Heinrich.....Long & Foster.....571-214-1989
3807 Charles Steward Dr.....\$600,000.....Sat 1-4/Sun 2-4.....Diane McCawley.....Envirian.....540-219-3150
3904 Plum Run Ct.....\$545,000.....Sat 1-4/Sun 2-4.....Margaret Ireland.....Weichert.....703-753-3828

Fairfax Station

11405 Fairfax Station Rd.....\$499,990.....Sun 1-4.....Buck Simpson.....Prosperity.....703-314-7105
6601 Okefe Knoll Ct.....\$898,500.....Sun 1-4.....Pam Boe.....Long & Foster.....703-909-1663
7405 Rocky Ravine Dr.....\$324,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert.....703-862-8008
7514 Wilderness Way.....\$825,000.....Sun 1-4.....Marguerite Roland.....RE/MAX.....703-577-4538
7608 Rustle Ridge Ct.....\$815,000.....Sun 1-4.....Cindy Patrick.....Long & Foster.....703-851-7198
7827 Valley Dr. S.....\$849,900.....Sun 1-4.....Fran Rudd.....ERA.....703-980-2572
9524 Oak Stream Ct.....\$559,900.....Sun 1-4.....Dan Mleziva.....RE/MAX.....703-380-9915

Falls Church

6659 Avignon Blvd.....\$1,399,000.....Sun 1-4.....Jane Applegate.....Long & Foster.....703-850-4700

Kingstowne/Alexandria

5708 Glenwood Ct.....\$469,000.....Sun 1-4.....Doris Crockett.....Weichert.....703-615-8411
4050 Estates Dr.....\$449,900.....Sun 1-4.....Tracy Jones.....Acquire.....703-231-6094
6203 Old Valley Ct.....\$299,900.....Sun 1-4.....Eric Guggenteimer.....PenFed.....703-550-7653
6254 Marcy Ct.....\$450,000.....Sun 1-4.....Theodosia Dampier.....Weichert.....703-919-2212
6520 Telegraph Rd.....\$535,000.....Sun 1-4.....Jodi Verboom.....Coldwell Banker.....703-599-4153
6400 Castlein Way.....\$439,000.....Sun 1-4.....Karen Chipman.....Weichert.....703-255-1585
6504 Tassia Dr.....\$489,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207
6515 Sunburst Way.....\$369,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207
6619 Haltwinistie Ln.....\$474,000.....Sun 1-4.....Catherine Parker.....Long & Foster.....703-827-5688

Lorton

8318 Middle Ruddings Dr.....\$539,900.....Sun 1-4.....Ngoc Do.....Long & Foster.....703-798-2899

Manassas

10210 Leatherleaf Ct.....\$639,990.....Sun 1-4.....Marguerite Roland.....RE/MAX.....703-577-4538

Springfield

7360 Bloomington Ct.....\$495,000.....Sun 2-4.....James Nellis.....RE/MAX.....703-503-4375
8473 Thames St.....TBD.....Sun 1-4.....Susan Metcalf.....Avery-Hess.....703-472-6512
6903 Dante Ct.....\$519,000.....Sun 2-4.....Sheila Carney.....Avery-Hess.....703-307-7113
7510 Red Hill Dr.....\$979,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster.....703-822-0207
7582 Woodstone Dr.....\$499,999.....Sun 1-4.....Saul Juarez.....Weichert.....703-297-3907
8301 Covington Woods Ct.....\$819,900.....Sat/Sun 1-4.....Patrick Kessler.....Keller Williams.....703-405-6540
8305 Covington Woods Ct.....\$819,900.....Sat 1-4.....Diane Nokova.....Keller Williams.....571-215-7227
8305 Covington Woods Ct.....\$819,900.....Sun 1-4.....Leah Bradshaw.....Keller Williams.....703-282-7740

Woodbridge

1401 F St.....\$399,900.....Sat 11-3.....Charter Wells.....Keller Williams.....703-475-4704
1401 F St.....\$399,900.....Sun 1-4.....Patrick Kessler.....Keller Williams.....703-405-6540

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-Mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

Home Life Style



In this BOWA project in Great Falls, a gallery was designed to display the owner's extensive motion picture poster collection.

Remodeling: An Opportunity To Follow One's Passion

Adding that personal touch.

By JOSHUA BAKER
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Having remodeled thousands of projects over the past 25 years, our clients' reactions tell us that some of the most successful projects often address a specific passion or interest. Folks seem to be spending more and more time at home not only working, but also enriching their lives through personal interests. To that end, today's remodeling design often includes developing new areas for pursuing a variety of passions. Here are some local examples:

A breakfast room addition was carefully planned to also function as a bird watching area. The foundation was specially designed to allow the existing trees to remain in close proximity, and great care was taken to preserve the surroundings during construction. A professional arborist was engaged to manage the health of the trees in the six months prior to construction to ensure the addition had an almost treehouse feel.

There are a wide range of car enthusiasts each with his (or her) own specifications. Some garage additions, whether attached or detached, are effectively museums. One such addition was designed as an antique car barn, including four-inch thick, rough wood floors, and individual bays for each piece of art. Other garage projects are focused on automobile maintenance and repair. These often have automatic lifts, similar to your local repair shop, which allow for easy access and even provide additional storage. One Great Falls garage was designed and built so that a father could share his knowledge and interest in cars with his sons.

Sports fanaticism often drives remodeling design. Sometimes, modestly designed trophy areas for displaying family victories are included. Other times, whole rooms pay homage to (most often out of town) favorite college or professional sports teams. Real stadium seats, painted murals of favorite scenes, and custom flooring made to look like ball fields are all a part of the fun.

Are salt-water aquariums your thing? While they aren't for everyone due to the significant maintenance, technology and investment required, some homeowners find the colors and peaceful setting captivating. For one local enthusiast



PHOTOS COPYRIGHT BOB NAROD PHOTOGRAPHY & BOWA

Classic car gets a classic space as part of this whole house BOWA renovation in Arlington.



The homeowners' team loyalties were reflected in this Potomac, Md. home theater renovation by BOWA.

So the questions remains, what's your passion? By working closely with an experienced design build remodeler who has access to a whole host of specialty designers and experts, your dreams of an at-home museum, sanctuary, tasting room, etc. may well be within reach.

Joshua Baker is founder of Bowa Builders.

Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!

Sat., Feb. 18th — 10am-2pm
Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA 22015

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

- Saturday's Seminars:**
- From Concept to Completion
 - Paint Colors Made Easy
 - Opening Up Your Floor Plan

Lunch to follow.
Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited. Call Sara at 703.425.5588 to reserve your seats!

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real estate auctions



7904 Hollington Pl, Fairfax Station

D.C. Area Homes - Feb 13 & 14

FAIRFAX STATION, VA • 7904 Hollington Pl. 4BR 3.5BA 3,369+/- sf brick colonial in the exceptional Barrington community. Interior features two-story entry, formal living and dining, and eat-in kitchen overlooking family room with fireplace and patio access. Also has bright office space with French doors, spacious master suite with cathedral ceiling and soaking tub, and lower-level bonus room. Sits on approx. .25 acre lot just minutes from I-95 with access to neighborhood pool and trail system.
Nominal Opening Bid: \$100,000
Open Public Inspection: 1-4pm Sun Feb 5, 12 & 2 hours before auction.
Auctions: 12pm, Tue Feb 14

FREDERICKSBURG, VA • 51 Briarwood Dr. 3BR 2.5BA 1,876+/- sf. Approx. .29ac lot.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA • 7009 Lombard Lana. 3BR 3BA 1,536+/- sf. Approx. .24ac lot.

LOVETTSVILLE, VA • 39232 Tollhouse Rd. 4BR 3.5BA 4,594+/- sf home on approx 4.9 acres with 2-car garage, back deck and balcony off master. Interior has comfortable den with wall of built-ins and fireplace, two-story entry, formal living and dining, master suite and partially finished basement. Built in 2002.

MARSHALL, VA • 4344 Hill Crest Road (Ika 9360 Crest Hill Road) 4BR 3.5BA 3,317+/- sf home with spacious back deck. Hardwood floors, see-through fireplace, vaulted ceiling and partially finished walk-out basement. Built in 2002. Approx 5.1ac lot.

UPPERVILLE, VA • 9284 Patrick St. 4BR 3BA 3,300+/- sf. Approx 1.13ac lot.

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Top Sales, December 2011

2 5302 Woodland Estates Way,
Springfield — \$919,993



3 3865 Farrcroft Drive,
Fairfax — \$895,000

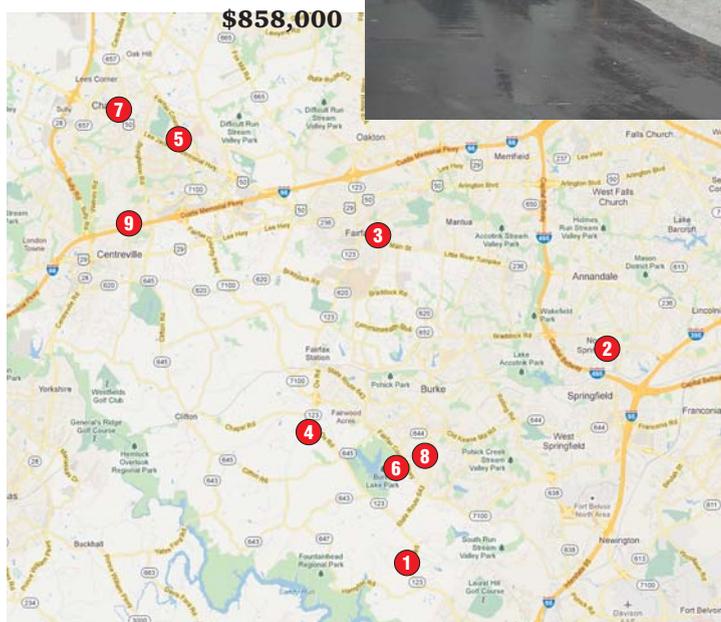


6 7106 Laketree
Court,
Fairfax Station —
\$858,000

5 3973 Woodberry Meadow Drive, Fairfax — \$919,993



7 13640 Birch Drive,
Chantilly — \$895,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 8255 ROSELAND DR	5	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION		\$1,060,000	Detached	5.03	22039	ESTATES AT ROSELAND	12/14/11
2 5302 WOODLAND ESTS WAY	5	4	1	SPRINGFIELD		\$919,993	Detached	0.38	22151	WOODLAND WAY ESTATES	12/23/11
3 3865 FARRCROFT DR	4	4	1	FAIRFAX		\$895,000	Detached	0.15	22030	FARRCROFT	12/01/11
4 6512 OLD STONE FENCE RD	4	3	1	FAIRFAX STATION		\$880,000	Detached	6.83	22039	ARMORE WOODS	12/16/11
5 3973 WOODBERRY MEADOW DR	5	4	1	FAIRFAX		\$878,064	Detached	0.18	22033	KENSINGTON MANOR	12/30/11
6 7106 LAKETREE CT	5	3	2	FAIRFAX STATION		\$858,000	Detached	0.77	22039	SOUTH RUN	12/21/11
7 13640 BIRCH DR	6	4	1	CHANTILLY		\$812,500	Detached	0.91	20151	CHANTILLY ESTATES	12/28/11
8 9523 CLAYCHIN CT	5	3	1	BURKE		\$731,500	Detached	0.25	22015	CLAYTON'S GROVE	12/28/11
9 5120 VERONICA RD	4	4	1	CENTREVILLE		\$720,000	Detached	0.30	20120	CENTREVILLE FARMS	12/28/11

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

VIEWPOINTS

Why did you attend the Town Hall Meeting?

— VICTORIA ROSS



"I want to show support for keeping the Northern Virginia Training Center open. We were on the waiting list for 10 years before we were able to place our daughter, who is now 27, in the center. Everyone is shocked that it is going to close."

—JANE WU OF FAIRFAX



"I'd like to see businesses consider telecommuting to get more people off our roads and ease congestion. I think telecommuting will help people stay in the area, and it's an issue linked to job satisfaction and job creation."

—GAIL YOUNG OF FAIRFAX



"Discipline and parental notification. We believe the strongest parental notification bill is Del. Tim Hugo's bill. It makes it clear there will be notification before questioning, which is key."

—JOHN W. FARRELL OF FAIRFAX

Report from Richmond

FROM PAGE 3

gressman James Petigru, who made the famous remark after the Palmetto state declared its secession in 1861.

Before opening up the discussion for questions, Bulova presented an overview of issues currently before the General Assembly, including bills on transportation, education, eminent domain and repeal of the one-handgun-a-month law and the Kings Dominion law. He noted that Virginia was making slow but steady progress recovering from the "great recession." "We've regained 49,000 jobs over the past three years, and Virginia's unemployment rate is 6.2 percent compared to the national unemployment rate of 8.3 percent," Bulova said.

He also gave highlights of several bills he and Marsden have sponsored.

Earlier in the day, Bulova co-hosted a town meeting with Sen. Chap Petersen (D—34) at Fairfax City Hall.

Marsden is carrying 20 bills this session, among them SB 201, also

known as "Alicia's Compass," which addresses the lack of treatment information given to families of children who suffer heroin overdoses. The bill would require community service boards to provide hospitals with educational materials on alcohol and substance abuse services available to minors. It also requires hospitals, upon discharge, to educate the patient and the family when it is involved in the patient's medical decisions or care about post-discharge treatment and services available.

"It's important to improve our services and improve communication to those who are suffering from substance abuse. This bill is the first small step towards that end," Marsden said.

Bulova also shared data from his 2012 Constituent Survey, which showed that 60 percent of the 222 respondents listed transportation, economic development, and K-12 education as the top three legislative priorities. To learn more about Del. Bulova's bills, or to take part in his 2012 Constituent Survey, go to www.davidbulova.com.

CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/FEB. 10

Virginia Opera: Orphée. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Premiere of Philip Glass's Orphée, based on Jean Cocteau's reimagining of the myth of Orpheus and Euridice. Sung in French with English supertitles. \$44-\$86. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu.

The Vagina Monologues. 8 p.m. GMU Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Proceeds will benefit the Mason

Victims of Violence fund and Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH). \$25 at <http://cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/867>. 703-993-8892 or sas.gmu.edu.

Be My Valentine. 11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about love. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

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.

Jimmy Lange Boxing. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$35-\$500, available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available at 703-993-3035.

www.jimmylangeboxing.com or www.patriotcenter.com.

Arlo Guthrie: Boys' Night Out. 8 p.m. George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With his son Abe Guthrie, his grandson Krisha Guthrie, and longtime collaborator Terry a la Berry. Tickets \$24-\$48 at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

The Vagina Monologues. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. GMU Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Proceeds will benefit the Mason Victims of Violence fund and Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH). \$25 at <http://cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/867>. 703-993-8892 or sas.gmu.edu.

Paws to Read. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice reading aloud to a trained therapy dog. 15-minute sessions available. Age 6-12. 703-339-7385.

VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$50K. Adults. 703-451-8055.

SUNDAY/FEB. 12

Virginia Opera: Orphée. 8 p.m. George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Premiere of Philip Glass's Orphée, based on Jean Cocteau's reimagining of the myth of Orpheus and Euridice. Sung in French with English supertitles. \$44-\$86. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu.

TUESDAY/FEB. 14

Presidential Biography Book

Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read any biography of 5th U.S. President James Monroe to discuss. 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.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

Animal Jamboree. 10:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-339-7385.

Still Time for Valentines. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Stories, songs and activities. Decorate a Valentine cookie. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

THURSDAY/FEB. 16

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

Book Discussion Group. 7:15 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Adults. 703-971-0010.

Lorton Library Book Club. 7 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Between Silk and Cyanide by Leo Marks. 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.

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Liberatore Leads Bruins to District Gymnastics Title

Senior wins all-around championship after back-to-back runner-up finishes.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Caitlin Liberatore crossed her arms and paced back and forth, staring at the ground while counting her steps outside the wrestling room at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

It was the senior's way of keeping herself calm while awaiting her turn on beam during the second-to-last rotation at the Patriot District gymnastics meet on Feb. 3.

Liberatore, a senior at Lake Braddock, would turn in a second-place performance on beam, producing an 8.75. From there it was over to floor, where Liberatore would have a chance to capture the all-around title during the meet's final rotation. After her routine, she cracked a wide smile when judges revealed a score of 9.575. It was enough to win the event, but was it enough to win the all-around crown?

"It feels great. This entire year, my motivation was to finally get first. At the meet, it was my drive."

— Lake Braddock senior Caitlin Liberatore

"I knew I did a good routine," Liberatore said. "... I wasn't sure who was going to win."

As a sophomore in 2010, Liberatore helped Lake Braddock to a runner-up finish at districts by placing second in the all-around competition.

The following year, Liberatore won three of four events, leading the Bruins to a district title. But while Lake Braddock climbed atop the team standings, Liberatore's score in the one event she didn't win — beam — was far enough behind Lee's Leah Michetti that Liberatore once again finished runner-up in the all-around.

Now a senior, Liberatore was competing in the final district meet of her career. This time she did enough to win, earning the all-around title while helping the Bruins repeat as team champions.

Liberatore finished first on floor and bars (9.225), second on beam and fifth on vault



Lake Braddock senior Caitlin Liberatore won the Patriot District all-around gymnastics championship on Feb. 3.

(9.1) for a total of 36.6, enough to hold off Michetti (36.15), Lee's Katie Stewart (36.025) and West Potomac's Monica Thompson (35.8).

"It feels great," Liberatore said. "This entire year, my motivation was to finally get first. At the meet, it was my drive."

Lake Braddock head coach Ellen Hagan-Bowerman called Liberatore's floor routine "fabulous."

"I'm so proud of her," the coach said. "I'm excited. She's a senior. That has always been her goal and I'm glad she was able to accomplish it this year — and we worked hard for it."

Lake Braddock's Sarah Price produced top-eight finishes in each of her three events. She finished second on bars (9.15), fifth on floor (9.1, tie) and sixth on beam (8.35).

"I think once the last girl went on floor," Price said, "we just knew we had [the team title]."

Lizzie White placed fourth on floor (9.275) and eighth on beam (8.1) for the Bruins.

Lake Braddock posted a team total of 140. Woodson finished runner-up, earning the other team berth to regionals with a total of 136.1.

Regionals will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 9 at Lake Braddock.



Lee senior Katie Stewart qualified for regionals with a third-place finish at the Patriot District meet on Feb. 3.

Lee Duo Returning to Regionals

Leah Michetti and Katie Stewart are heading back to the Northern Region gymnastics meet.

For the second year in a row, Lee teammates Michetti and Stewart qualified for regionals in the all-around with top-four finishes at the Patriot District meet. Michetti placed second on Feb. 3 at Lake Braddock Secondary School, finishing with a total of 36.15. Stewart took third at 36.025. Lake Braddock's Caitlin Liberatore (first, 36.6) and West Potomac's Monica Thompson (fourth, 35.8) secured the other two spots.

One year after winning the district title and placing seventh at states, Michetti felt fortunate to finish second at districts after an early miscue on bars.

"I'm feeling OK," she said. "Based on my performance today I'm really happy to be in second. I had a huge mess up on bars and I thought that was going to take me out completely, so I'm happy to end up in second."

Michetti placed eighth on bars (still good enough to qualify for regionals) with an 8.475. She re-

bounded by finishing first on beam (9.05), second on floor (9.525) and fourth on vault (9.1).

Stewart took fifth on bars (8.7), third on beam (8.675, tie), third on floor (9.45) and third on vault (9.2).

"It was touch and go to start and then they really had to perform to be in the top three, so it was an uphill battle," Lee head coach Val Taguding said. "They finished strong."

Michetti said it will be nice to have a teammate at regionals.

"It's really exciting to know that Katie's going, too," Michetti said. "I feel like that's just a lot of extra support."

Freshman Elisabeth Michetti qualified for regionals on vault with a score of 8.9, good for a seventh-place tie.

Lake Braddock won the team championship with a total of 140. Woodson earned the other team berth to regionals with a runner-up total of 136.1. Lee's third-place total of 131.15 set a school record.

The Northern Region meet will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10 at Lake Braddock.

Bruins Rumble to Victory

The Lake Braddock Secondary varsity wrestling team took first place at the First Annual 'Rumble in the Pit,' tournament event, held in honor of Randy Scott - Annandale High's first wrestling coach. The showcase took place on Saturday, Jan. 14, at Annandale High School. The Bruins won their pool by winning dual match-ups versus Loudoun Valley, Battlefield, Centreville, and Woodbridge Senior. They then went on to beat host Annandale, 44-29, for the first place finish. Undefeated Bruin wrestlers at the tournament were: Ryan Haskett (106-weight class), Sean Haskett (138), Rory Renzi (145), and Jake Sage (152). The Lake Braddock wrestling team is under the direction of head coach Scott Matheny, and assistants Ed Foster and Ben Fiacco.



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Colonial on 2.29 acre lot * 3 finished levels * 4 bedrms & 2.5 baths * New paint & carpet throught * Newer windows * Step-down family rm w/fpl * Eat-in kitchen * Front porch, deck & patio * 2 car attached & 2 car detached garages * Oversized driveway * Call Judy @ 703-503-1885.



Falls Church \$359,900

3 level end townhome with 2 car garage * 3 bedrms * 2 baths * Fireplace in living room * Bedrm level washer & dryer * Community with clubhouse, exercise room, outdoor pool * Located near Fairfax Inova Hospital * Call Judy at 703-503-1885.



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Burke Centre \$569,900

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North Springfield \$325,000
Brand New on the Market
Excellent location inside the beltway, Metrobus at the corner, Beltway < 1 mile, Elem school 3 blocks. Well loved 4 BR, 2BA home has some hardwood, new flooring in Florida Rm, Huge Backyard. Perfect for Starter or for Big Addition. Call for details. Kay Hart, Long & Foster, 703-503-1860

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- Listing your home this Spring
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Colonial in Kings Park West. Newly

updated kitchen w/42" maple cabinetry & granite off family room. Spacious family room overlooking fabulous backyard. New neutral carpeting on main & lower levels. Fully finished LL with recreation room. Walk to neighborhood schools and Metro bus. Minutes to VRE and shopping!
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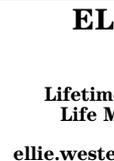


Woodridge \$349,000

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Fairfax Station \$995,000

This stunning colonial has over 5,000 sq. ft on 3 levels. It has 5 BR's 4.5 BA's and sits on 5 wooded acres. The spacious rooms are highlighted by the breath-taking views. One that must be seen!
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Broadlands Ashburn \$629,900

Beautiful home surrounded by common area in Broadlands South. Over 4000 finished square feet featuring 4 spacious upper level bedrooms and a loft tech center while the main level offers a wonderful family room with gas fireplace and walls of windows and a kitchen made for cooking and entertaining. The lower level is a must see with custom bar, media room and more.

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