



'Dead Man's Cell Phone' at South County

NEWS, PAGE 8

Senior Emmy Brien plays Jean in "Dead Man's Cell Phone." All-senior thespian cast will perform Friday and Saturday night.

Spend Valentine's Day in Clifton

NEWS, PAGE 3

School Board Votes for a Longer SLEEP

NEWS, PAGE 3

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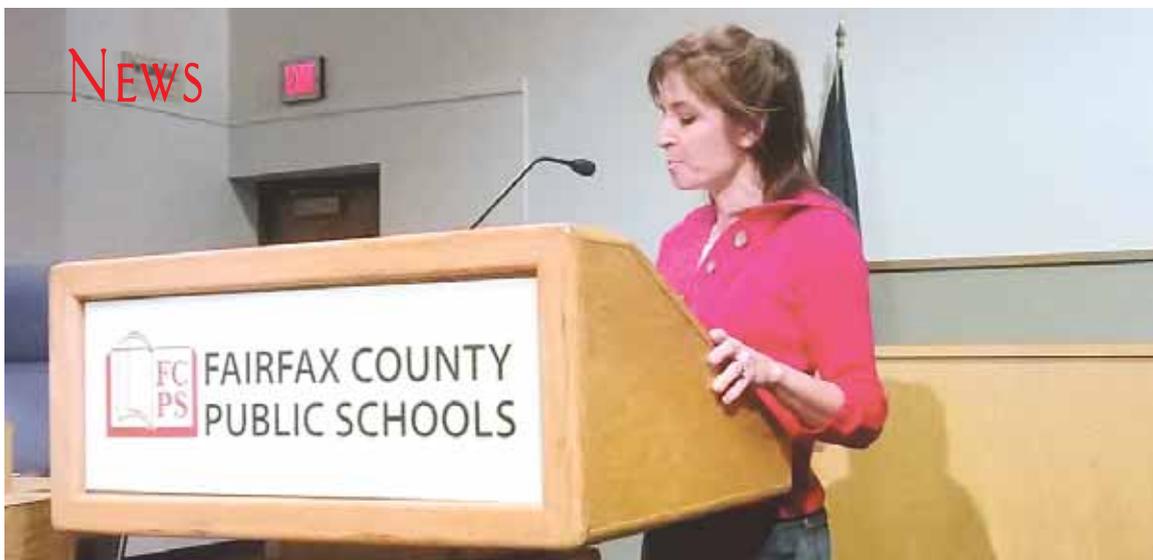


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PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE GAZETTE

SLEEP advocate Beth Steel speaks in favor of later high school start times at a recent school board public hearing.

School Board Votes for a Longer SLEEP

Money saved from annual bus route review will be earmarked for implementation of later start times.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

According to SLEEP, a local group advocating for later high school start times in Fairfax County, 72 out of 92 counties in Virginia have a high school start time of 8 a.m. or later.

Many students and parents say that the 7:20 a.m. start time of high schools in Fairfax County is having a devastating effect on students' health and well-being.

"There is concrete evidence proving that teens with adequate sleep have improved learning, better memory, and a brighter outlook," said Beth Steel, who advocated for later start times on behalf of SLEEP at a recent school board hearing.

As a follow-up motion to approving the FY 2015 budget, the school board passed a motion recommending that Superintendent Karen Garza identify savings from the 2014 annual bus route review and earmarks those savings to offset the possible cost of implementing later high school start times.

THE MOTION was introduced by Mason District School Board member and SLEEP co-founder Sandy Evans.

"I offer this motion as a very modest approach to earmarking some transportation funds to help implement later high school start times," Evans said. "We find efficiencies in our bus service. If we find these efficiencies, it simply makes sense to recognize that these resources may soon be needed to implement improved bell schedules."

Evans stressed that the motion does not change the transfer request of the FY 2015 proposed budget, and does not take money out of any other budgets.

"As we look at the best approach to make sure that all of our students, K through twelve, have healthy schedules, it's important to show that we're looking ahead and moving in the right direction," Evans said. "The community has been waiting a long time for this. This is a small way for us to say that we do indeed care about and are committed to the physical, emotional and academic health of our teen students."

Springfield District School Board member Elizabeth Schultz and Providence District School Board member Patty Reed referred to an April 2012 resolution adopted by the board, which aimed to start high



Fairfax County Public Schools student Stuart Orloff spoke in support of later high school start times at the public hearing on Jan. 27.

schools after 8 a.m., as a reason to approve this motion. "We have the opportunity right now to demonstrably put our foot down and say, as we identify savings, we are going to make strides to fulfilling the promise that the resolution set more than a year ago. We're not going to do it with no money. This is the time for us to say, we choose to take the next step," Schultz said.

SLEEP, which stands for Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, has been advocating for later start times in Fairfax County since 2004.

"It was April 2012 that this board set the goal of later start times for high schoolers. This board has also established the goal of physical health and safety and well-being of our students. For those reasons, I feel that we need to be pursuing this with added haste and zest," Reed said.

SLEEP ADVOCATES voiced their concerns for implementing a later start time as soon as possible at the last public hearing on the budget on Jan. 27.

"In some respects, this is the longest running community engagement project that FCPS has ever had. Now, it is time to act," said SLEEP advocate Phyllis Payne.

Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck was among the supporters of Evans' motion.

"All we are asking for is that with any savings that we have, from now on in a sense, at least in this budget year, that we will invest that in the way that this board has already said that we should invest it, which is in our kids, giving them an opportunity to get a little more sleep at night, to be a little more rested and do better in school frankly," Storck said.



BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Paradise Springs Winery in Clifton is offering a four-course Valentine's Day dinner on Feb. 15. Couples can purchase VIP tickets for seating in the barrel room.

Spend Valentine's Day in Clifton Local winery and restaurant offer specials this weekend.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Although it's only miles away from Fairfax County parkway and Ox Road, visitors to Paradise Springs Winery will find themselves with a beautiful view and a variety of fine dining and wine options.

As Valentine's Day approaches, the winery is offering a variety of specials, making a romantic weekend only a short drive away.

Paradise Springs Winery is the closest winery to Washington, D.C. and is offering several events this weekend.

Saturday, Feb. 15 is the annual Valentine's Day weekend wine dinner, which features four courses, along with Paradise Springs wine.

The first two courses include fennel soup, an endive, apple and Maytag blue cheese salad with sugared walnuts, watercress and Champagne vinaigrette.

The entrée is Vermont braised shortribs with local herbs and honey pickled shallots, Creamy Polenta, and Haricots Verts with lemon-thyme butter. Dessert consists of butterscotch pots de crème with salted caramel and crème fraiche, strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries, and chocolate cookie with chocolate ganache.

If the Valentine's Day weekend dinner is out of the question, those looking to visit the winery can check out the wine and chocolate pairing, which is available now until Feb. 17. Chocolates from around the world are paired with Paradise Springs Wines, including their sparkling wine and Swagger, the winery's signature port style

wine.

"We'll have live, local music all weekend," said Paradise Springs owner and Clifton resident Kirk Wiles. "The winery is a good spot for a Valentine's Day date, whether it's an anniversary or a first date. A glass of wine can break the ice."

Paradise Springs also offers a Wine Club, which will be capped and a waiting list will be started.

Trummer's on Main in historic Clifton is offering a three course Valentine's Day menu from Feb. 14-16. The menu includes pan seared diver scallops with crispy kale, oven roasted tomatoes and sauce nero and Duo of Border Springs Lamb with rack of lamb and Lamb Osso Bucco, served with curry chickpea puree, glazed turnips and rosemary mint demi.

The restaurant is also offering a four course aphrodisiac tasting menu, which includes Lobster Pansotti ravioli with baby bok choy and tomato beurre blanc, with Surf and Turf rockfish with short rib ragout, oyster cream, braised leeks and poached Rappahannock river oysters.

On Sunday, Trummer's on Main is offering a brunch including Salmon Carpaccio with sesame tuille and curry crème fraiche, and red velvet pancakes with whipped cream cheese, and bacon.

Paradise Winery Schedule of Events

Live Music: Every Friday, 5-9 p.m.
"The Paradise Springs Winery Experience" Production Tour and Tasting: Saturdays, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Sundays, 3 p.m.

Chocolate and Wine Pairing/Tasting: Everyday through Feb. 17.

Valentine's Wine Dinner: Saturday, Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Reservations required.



Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee), Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), State senators Toddy Puller (D-36), Adam Ebbin (D-30) and George Barker (D-39) answer questions at a town hall in Kingstowne on Feb. 1.



Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addresses attendees of the 27th Annual Mount Vernon Town Hall on Feb. 1. Bulova addressed the economy and the upcoming budget process.

Elected Officials Hold Town Halls

State senators, delegates and local supervisors address concerns at local meetings.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Mental health reform, women's health, health care and transportation were major topics at the Southern Fairfax Town Hall Meeting held in Kingstowne on Feb. 1. State senators George Barker (D-39), Toddy Puller (D-36) and Adam Ebbin (D-30) joined Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) and Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee) at the town hall. Sickles announced on Jan. 27 that he would be running

for Congress in the 8th District for Congressman Jim Moran's seat.

On Jan. 30, Ebbin officially announced he would run for the seat as well.

The officials addressed questions relating to mental health reform and transportation, including where exactly funding will be allocated in Fairfax County from last year's General Assembly Bill.

Barker is the sponsor of a bill that passed the Virginia Senate Friday that establishes minimum and maximum holding periods for individuals under psychiatric

evaluation. The bill (SB 115) passed unanimously.

Down the road in the Mount Vernon District, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addressed attendees of the 27th annual Mount Vernon Town Hall.

Bulova recapped her January State of the County address, and spoke about the upcoming advertised budget which will be released at the end of February.

"The budget is a moral document," Bulova said.

Bulova also spoke about the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center

situation. The Board of Supervisors voted in January to provide \$30 million to Wells Fargo Bank to cancel the Lorton Arts Foundation's debt, and the county will now appoint a new board to oversee the center.

According to Bulova, restricting the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center was the best decision, and the Workhouse will continue to provide revitalization for the area.

"It's a wonderful facility," Bulova said.

County executive Ed Long also spoke at the Mount Vernon Town

Hall about the economic challenges facing the county.

Long said that there is a lot of revitalization going on in Fairfax County, and he is cautiously optimistic that investment will be reflected in FY 17.

According to Long, county and school facilities cannot be ignored, and future funding for schools will be considered. "What we put into the budget is sustainable," Long said.

On April 8, Fairfax County will host a public hearing on the advertised budget.

Clifton Lions Present Checks to Local Charities

This past year was the 14th Annual Clifton Labor Day Car Show. What began as a small gathering of friends with old cars has turned into a major fundraiser for various community groups. In the summer of 2000, several of "old car" collectors came up with the idea of a gathering in an "old car" setting, settling on a Labor Day gathering as a good date for the end of summer driving and a time to reflect on their passion - maintaining vintage cars. About 20 cars with drivers and passengers attended the event on Main Street by the old caboose and the donation jar rang up \$248.74. They gave the money to Hunters for the Hungry and thus began their annual event. From these humble beginnings, the Clifton Labor Day Car Show has become a special day where car owners and car lovers can gather and enjoy their favorite pastime and help raise money for local charities. Since its beginning in 2000 through the 2013 show, over \$233,800 has been raised and donated to charity. Since 2006, the majority of the money raised has gone to three local charities - the Fairfax County Police Family Trust Fund (helping families of slain officers), the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) and Life With Cancer (LWC)

Last October, a check from the show proceeds was presented to Captain Ed O'Carroll, Commander, Sully District Station, for the Fairfax County Police Family Trust Fund.

For additional information about these charities, go to www.lifewithcancer.org and www.NVTRP.org. For information about donations, contact Jim Chesley at jchesley@aol.com.



On Jan. 26, the Clifton Lions presented a check for \$10,000 to Jim Zabora, director of Life With Cancer. From left: Jim Chesley, Jim Zabora, and Jay Moughon - Clifton Lions.



On Jan. 23, the Clifton Lions presented a check for \$10,000 to members of the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program. From left: Jim Chesley - past president Clifton Lions and Labor Day Show Organizer, Kelsey Gallagher and Rhonda VanLowe - members of the NVTRP - receiving check, Richard Bell - current President Clifton Lions



Brent Frazier and Alyssa Dragon

Brent Frazier, Alyssa Dragon to Wed in October

Liz and Dave Frazier of Fairfax Station proudly announce the engagement of their son, Brent Frazier to Alyssa Dragon, daughter of Roy and Tammy Dragon of Bridgewater, N.J.

The couple met at their alma mater, Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. The future groom received a Bachelor of Science in Business majoring in Marketing;

He is working for iCIMS, a software company in Matawan, N.J.

His fiancé received a Bachelor of Science in Education majoring in Health and Physical Education. She is teaching at Robbinsville High School in New Jersey where she also is the Varsity Head Coach for Field Hockey and Lacrosse.

An October 2014 wedding is planned and the couple will reside in New Jersey.

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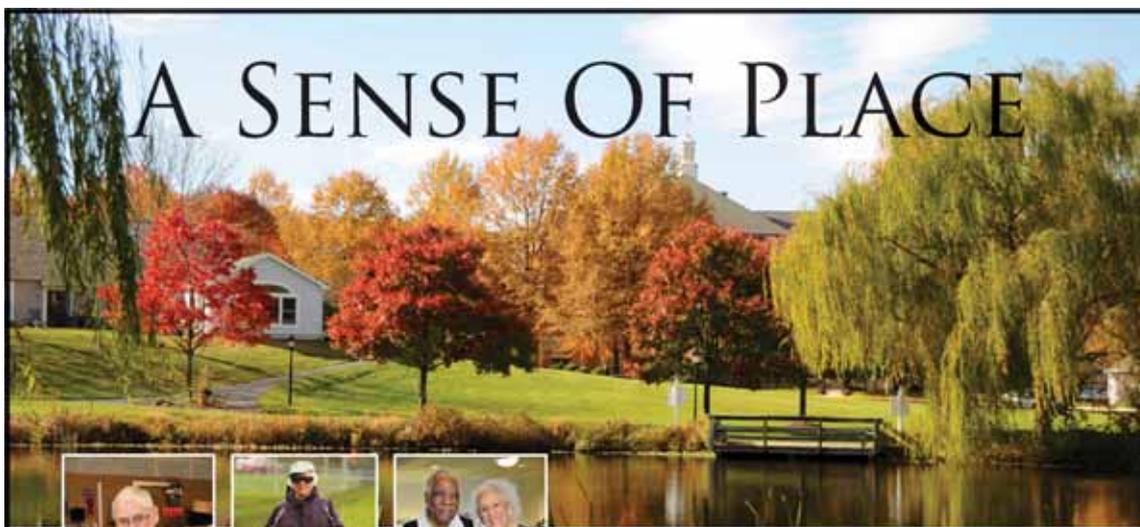
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Addressing Mental Health

Why are localities providing so much less for people who need mental health services?

While the General Assembly is making progress in fixing some of the egregious shortcomings of the way Virginia provides emergency services to people in mental health crisis, many fewer people are receiving mental health services in Northern Virginia.

State Sen. Creigh Deeds' son died of suicide late last year after the limitations in both the law and local communication resulted in him being released while still in the midst of crisis.

Deeds reports the progress on the bill that has passed the State Senate: "The omnibus bill will require subjects be held up to 24 hours under an emergency custody order, create a database of available psychiatric beds, and ensure people in need of hospitalization cannot be 'streeted' by establishing state hospitals as providers of last resort."

These are important steps. Services to people with mental illness are provided on the local level by community services boards, and in Fairfax County in particular, those services have been dramatically cut back.

EDITORIAL

Reporter Michael Pope reports this week that since 2009, the number of people receiving mental health services in Fairfax County has declined by 39 percent. Alcohol and drug service have dropped 43 percent. Services for those with intellectual disability have declined 39 percent.

Officials quoted cite the recession and declining property tax revenues in explaining the reductions, along with some changes in the way services are counted.

No matter how services are counted, there is no question that they have been reduced significantly during a recession, a time when research shows the need for mental health services and alcohol and drug services actually increases.

In Arlington, the number of people who receive mental health services has declined by 6 percent. The number of people who receive substance abuse services has decreased by 13 percent.

"Stresses associated with rising unemployment, poverty and social insecurity will lead to upward trends in many national suicide rates, as well as to less readily charted increases in the prevalence of psychiatric illness, alco-

hol-related disorders and illicit drug use," according to a 2011 overview study on economic recession and mental health cited by the National Institutes of Health. "At the same time, mental health services are being cut back as part of government austerity programs. Budget cuts will thus affect psychiatric services adversely just when economic stressors are raising the levels of need and demand in affected populations."

As for blaming the budget, it's hard to see from raw numbers why the most vulnerable should be suffering. In 2009, before the effects of the recession, Fairfax County's budget expenditures were \$5.36 billion. The adopted 2014 budget calls for expenditures of \$6.75 billion.

"Proactive fiscal and social policies could, however, help to mitigate the health consequences of recession," the overview study reports. "Economic mental health care could best be achieved, not by decimating services but by planning and deploying these to meet the needs of defined area populations."

Elected officials and others in county government who have signed off on a set of priorities that punishes the most vulnerable populations have some moral accounting to do.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School Budget: How to Pay?

To the Editor:

Every year this paper publishes liberals' letters about the Fairfax County school budget, which increases yearly without exception. One year it is teacher pay, the next year class enrollment, this year renovation costs.

The implication is that if the schools don't get what their administrators demand, Fairfax County will collapse. This despite a continuous decline in student performance. Furthermore, there is no quid pro quo; it is my way or the highway by those who claim sanctimonious justification.

However, like the Federal government, no consideration is ever made for how to pay for this; unlike the Federal government, Fairfax County cannot print money. So what will it be? Raise taxes, the favored Fairfax County school administrator way? Borrow money, another favored FC school administrator way? Or what will you cut from your budget to pay for these needed renovations, not the Fairfax County school administration way? Something has to give. Fairfax County is run by Democrat politicians for favored

Democrat constituencies.

One point all should recognize: there is a reason for the increasing student enrollment, one I have discussed with my delegate and for which the state legislature has statistics to confirm. There are on average 6,000 illegal alien children in the Fairfax County Public Schools. Now these children must be educated, will be educated and that is not in dispute by any sane person. However, that is where the growth is and in fact without these children, the school enrollment would decrease such that certain schools in places like Bailey's Crossroads, the Route One corridor in Mount Vernon, Herndon and elsewhere would actually be seriously viewed for closing.

Fairfax County should require that every child being enrolled in the public schools have one parent prove their legal residency, not just in the county but the country. The purpose of such is not to deny schooling to these children. Rather it is for Fairfax County schools to be able to calculate and present a bill to the Federal government demanding reimbursement for each child's education whose parent(s) are not in the county or country legally.

Finally, who believes that education bureaucrats are good stew-

ards of the tax-payers' money other than the usual suspects? Clearly, they did not go into the teaching profession with much respect or understanding for the

capitalist economic system that has brought this nation the greatest prosperity on the globe.

Christopher Thompson
West Springfield

Taking Exception on Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

The Connection editorial ["Extend Health Coverage in Virginia," (January 23-29, 2014) accuses the Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly of failing to accept increased taxes that would be assessed to pay the cost of Medicaid Expansion in Virginia. The editorial states that the cost of the Medicaid Expansion would be paid with federal funding for at least ten years so the expansion would be free to Virginia taxpayers for the immediate future. What the Connection avoids saying is that the federal funding is all derived from the taxes paid by the residents of the states including Virginia. In actuality 100 percent of the cost for expanding Medicaid in Virginia would be funded by the taxpayers of Virginia from day one.

Of the three branches of state government in Richmond, the del-

egates to the General Assembly most closely represent the positions of the residents across the entire state. The delegates are just the messengers of their constituency to the legislature in Richmond. It is a cop out to accuse any General Assembly delegate of being an obstructionist of when the member is faithfully representing the will of the constituency.

Instead of inciting Governor Terry McAuliffe to revolt against established authority in Richmond, the Connection should encourage the Governor to gain the trust and support of Virginians across the state. By winning the recent election, he earned the title of Governor, a rent free furnished office, and prepaid phone card, but he did not earn the consent of the governed, which is the basis of any democracy. McAuliffe re

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

AREA ROUNDUPS

Lorton Station Elementary Named National Title I Distinguished School

Lorton Station Elementary School has been named a National Title I Distinguished School by the Virginia Department of Education.

Lorton Station Elementary is one of 59 schools across the country that is being nationally recognized for exceptional student achievement in 2013, having exceeded annual measurable objectives (AMOs) on standardized testing for the current and previous accountability years.

Earlier this year, Lorton Station Elementary was one of 57 schools across Virginia—along with Belvedere Elementary School—named Title I Distinguished Schools by the Virginia Board of Education.

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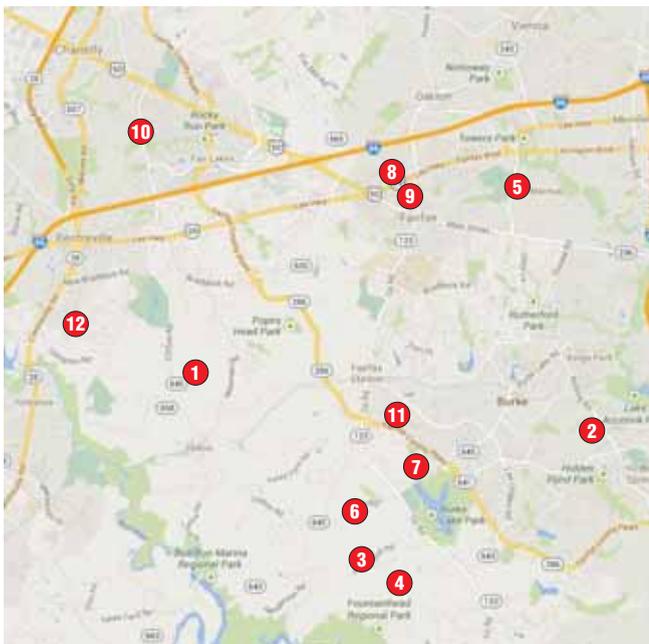
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11100 DEVEREUX STATION LN	4	..4	..1	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,225,000	Detached	5.01	22039	DEVEREUX STATION	12/05/13
10600 SANDY RUN TRL	5	..3	..1	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,225,000	Detached	6.03	22039	SHADOWWALK	12/16/13
3442 PRESERVATION DR	5	..4	..1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.17	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	11/27/13
11133 SANDY MANOR DR	5	..4	..1	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,050,000	Detached	5.00	22039	SANDY RUN FOREST ESTATES	11/20/13
10608 KILCORMAC WAY	5	..5	..1	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,000,000	Detached	5.00	22039	KILLARNEY	11/21/13
10707 SCOTT DR	4	..3	..1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$974,900	Detached	0.51	22030	BFA MYERS	12/20/13
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5915 CLERMONT LANDING CT	4	..2	..1	BURKE	BURKE	\$635,011	Detached	0.19	22015	BURKE CENTRE	11/08/13
6700 BAY VALLEY LN	5	..4	..0	CENTREVILLE	CENTREVILLE	\$630,000	Detached	0.26	20121	GREEN TRAILS	11/15/13

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Valentine's Weekend

Romantic events happening in the Fairfax County area.

By AMNA REHMATULLA
THE CONNECTION

Enjoy your Valentine's Day by heading off to one of these events this weekend.

THURSDAY/FEB. 13-SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Valentine's Day at the Animal Shelter. Thursday & Friday 12-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 W Ox Road, Fairfax. Visit the shelter to enjoy free sweet treats like candy and ice cream, hands-on fun with kittens and puppies (while they last!) and fee-waived adoptions on 10 of the shelter's biggest 'heartbreakers.'

❖ Friday/Feb. 14

Valentine's Night Out. 7-9 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A family fun movie night presenting Smurfs 2. Bring your own snacks.

Valentine's Day Chocolate Buffet. 6-10 p.m. The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Entyce, Wine Bar & Lounge will offer an impressive chocolate buffet with seven different dessert options crafted by their pastry kitchen. Satisfy your loved one's sweet tooth with their dessert creations. \$25 per person, seating on first come, first serve basis



PHOTO BY DONNA BILLINGSLEY

Spend your Saturday listening to romantic tunes by Pianist Peter Nero at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

Valentine's Day Latin Style. La Sandia Mexican Kitchen, 7852L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Show some Latin Love this Valentine's Day with a 3-Course dinner and signature beverage or cocktail for \$29 per person. A taste of what's on the menu: Shrimp and Crab Empenadas, Chile Relleno, Pasilla Lava Cake, and more. Call for reservations 703-893-2222.

❖ Saturday/Feb. 15

"Music of the Heart." 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Take part in an evening of romantic music that blends popular and classical styles with pianist Peter Nero. Tickets are \$30-\$60. Tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Visit the box office (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Couple's Yoga. 2-3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Partner poses are a great way to learn more about how to communicate more effectively with your partner and

have fun while improving your body health. \$20 per couple, no experience is necessary—both beginners and master yogis are invited to join. Register online: <http://www.workhousearts.org/>

A Valentine's Sweetheart. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A Seasonal Camp for kids, ages 6-10. A Valentine's Sweetheart will give kids the opportunity to learn how to bake sweet treats, draw and paint portraits, and participate in other Valentine's Day activities. \$65 per child and includes the materials fee. Register online: <http://www.workhousearts.org/>

Date Night: Chef's Table. 7-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A casual cooking class with a chef, where participants will be working in pairs to create menu items. At the end of the class, the participants will be served a tasting portion. \$85 per person, which also includes a glass of wine and all materials fees.

<http://www.workhousearts.org/>

CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

FRIDAY/FEB. 14-SATURDAY/FEB. 15

Dead Man's Cell Phone. 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. South County High School's Theatre department presents, Dead Man's Cell Phone, an imaginative new comedy by MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient and Pulitzer Prize finalist Sarah Ruhl. Tickets: \$5.

This play contains adult language and is intended for mature audiences.

FRIDAY/FEB. 14

Eighth Annual Alumni Beer

Tasting. 7-9 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This Alumni Association event features five beers by New Belgium Brewing Company.

SUNDAY/FEB. 16

The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and N gauge trains. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax

Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org phone 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

Love, Faith and Other Dirty Words. 7:30 p.m. JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The play, based on conversations with interfaith couples, is a funny, moving story of couples negotiating to maintain the balance between devotion to each other, and devotion to their separate faiths. Free. www.jccnvarts.com.

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SPORTS

Robinson Wins Conference 5 Gymnastics Championship

Freshman Burda, senior Gross finish top four in all-around.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

A talented freshman and a senior in her final conference meet helped the Robinson gymnastics team capture its second championship in three seasons.

Caroline Burda placed second in the all-around and Sarah Gross tied for third, leading Robinson to the Conference 5 gymnastics title on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School. The Rams won, or tied for first, in each of the four events and produced a total score of 135.4. Oakton finished second with a score of 132.575, followed by Westfield (130.575), Chantilly (129.65), Herndon (122.45) and Centreville (105.375). The top two teams, Robinson and Oakton, qualified for the 6A North region meet.

Robinson won the Concorde District championship in 2012. The six schools became Conference 5 after the VHSL's six-class realignment prior to the 2013-14 school year.

"It's amazing. We've worked so hard this season. It's just great to have it all come together."
— Robinson freshman Caroline Burda

"They definitely performed very well today," first-year Robinson head coach Charlotte Edwards said. "They were more consistent than they normally are. ... They're definitely peaking at the right time. Our first couple meets weren't that successful."

Burda, a freshman, placed second in the all-around with a score of 34.9. She finished first on beam (9.15), third on bars (8.625), fourth on vault (8.75) and tied for eighth on floor (8.375).

"She is only a freshman and she did a great job," Edwards said, "but there's definitely some things we're going to work on before regionals, so when we look at their score sheets we'll see if we can make some more adjustments so she can get a couple more points on some event."

Burda said beam was her best event.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson gymnastics team won the Conference 5 championship on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.

She was one of just three gymnasts to score a 9 or better.

"I thought that I did the best I could and I'm really proud of myself," Burda said. "This has been my best meet so far this season."

Robinson's Sarah Gross, a senior, tied with Herndon's Alexa Bradley for third in the all-around with a score of 34.5. Gross placed third on floor (9) and vault (8.85), tied for fifth on beam (8.8) and finished 11th on bars (8).

"She performed very well," Edwards said. "Even on her [least]-favorite event, balance beam, she had a solid routine, so that was very exciting and I think that made a big difference in her all-around score."

Robinson freshman Emily Gross placed third on vault (8.85) and tied for sixth on floor (8.4). Junior Bailey Young tied for second on beam with a score of 9.

The top eight individuals and any other gymnasts who scored at least a 9 qualified for regionals in each event. In the all-around, the top four finishers and any other gymnasts with a score of 35 or better earned a regional berth. Westfield senior Katie Freix repeated as all-around champion with a score of 36.925. She placed first on floor (9.525), vault (9.5) and bars (9.1), and tied for fifth on beam (8.8).

"I had probably close to my best performances on all my events, except for beam," Freix said. "... I definitely had my best bar routine. I've been having trouble hitting bars recently, so it was really cool to actu-

ally hit the bar routine."

Oakton advanced to regionals with a runner-up team finish despite having the smallest roster in the conference with just eight healthy competitors.

"We feel that's where we differ from a lot of teams, especially being the smallest squad in our conference," Oakton head coach Frankie Orbacz wrote in an email. "Everyone has a ton of talent and everyone contributed equally to our fantastic team score. Most other teams have a few

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Woodson Gets New Football Coach

W.T. Woodson High School recently named Mike Dougherty its new head football coach.

Dougherty spent the last six seasons as head coach at Stonewall Jackson High School in Prince William County. Last season, as the No. 13 seed, Dougherty led the Raiders to the 6A North region semifinals, where they lost to eventual state champion Centreville.

Prior to Stonewall, Dougherty was the head coach at Dominion High School in Loudoun County for five seasons.

Dougherty takes over for Joe Dishun, who compiled a 7-23 record in three seasons as head coach of the Cavaliers. Prior



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robinson freshman Caroline Burda placed second in the all-around and first on the beam (9.15) at the Conference 5 gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.

standouts that lead the team and sweep the medals, but we really have so much talent in every girl. We are very well-rounded. Standings-wise, four of our eight girls medaled and placed, which means half of our team would have advanced to regions if we hadn't made it as a team. We were so impressed! That's a pretty fantastic showing."

The 6A North region meet was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 12, after The Connection's deadline. The state meet is scheduled for Feb. 21-22 at Salem High School in Virginia Beach.

"It's amazing," Burda said of winning the Conference 5 championship. "We've worked so hard this season. It's just great to have it all come together."

to Dishun's arrival, Woodson finished 3-7 in 2010 under then-head coach Trey Taylor. The program's last winning season was 2009, when Taylor led the Cavaliers to a 13-2 mark and a trip to the Northern Region championship game.

Lee Diver Hodges Places Third at Regionals

Lee High School sophomore Gerald Hodges recently placed third at the 5A North region dive competition. It is his first time qualifying for a VHSL state event.

Hodges, a sophomore, placed fifth during the Conference 13 meet.

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THE
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

ceived a majority of the votes in about 20
of the 96 counties in Virginia. The final
vote tally shows that McAuliffe collected
1,069,789 votes, which is less than 20 per-
cent of the approximately 6,000,000 eligible
voters in Virginia.

An analysis of the voting results shows a
clear split between rich counties and poor
counties, between consumers and provid-
ers, and between cities and rural areas.
McAuliffe was supported by a small major-
ity in the richer counties and cities while
his positions were opposed 3 to 1 in sev-
eral of the rural counties. He needs to fo-
cus his energy on gaining consent of the
remaining 80 percent of all Virginians and
preventing further division between the
demographic groups.

The Connection editorial implies that the
Governor need not consider the cost of ex-
panding Medicaid before he stuffs the bill
into a can and tosses it across the fence so
the Federal government can kick the can
down the road for payment by our grand-
children.

The Governor would like to add the cost
of services Virginians use today on top of
the tax bill for the services needed by our
grandchildren when they become taxpay-
ers.

What gives him that right? He needs to
work with our senators and representatives
in Congress to prioritize programs, identify
programs to be cut, and enable the federal
and state to fund Medicaid Expansion in
Virginia without adding to the rapidly grow-
ing national debt. Simply adding the bill
to the national debt for future payment is
no longer acceptable.

Imposing yet another tax increase on Vir-
ginians is counterproductive; you can't tax
people into prosperity. Does Governor Terry
McAuliffe have the courage to make the
hard decisions that will fund the highest
priority programs while protecting our
grandchildren from being taxed to pay the
bills that come due in 2014? If not him,
then who?

Edward Mills
Fairfax Station

Supporting Safe Hunting

To the Editor:

The bill before the State Senate to allow
hunting on Sundays applies only to private
property and will not impinge on anyone's
enjoyment of public lands. Most of us only
get the weekends off of work and it is silly
to prevent landowners from hunting on
their own property during half of their free
time.

Hunting brings numerous economic and
environmental benefits to all Virginians and
I encourage the editors and readers to view
the Virginia Department of Game and In-
land Fisheries list at: [http://
www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/benefits/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/benefits/)

The safe practice of hunting should be
supported rather than discouraged.

Christopher Yurasko
Burke

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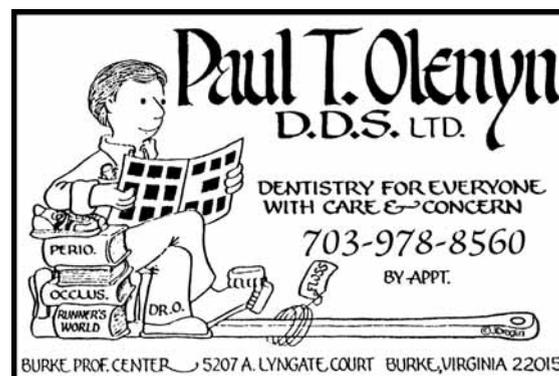
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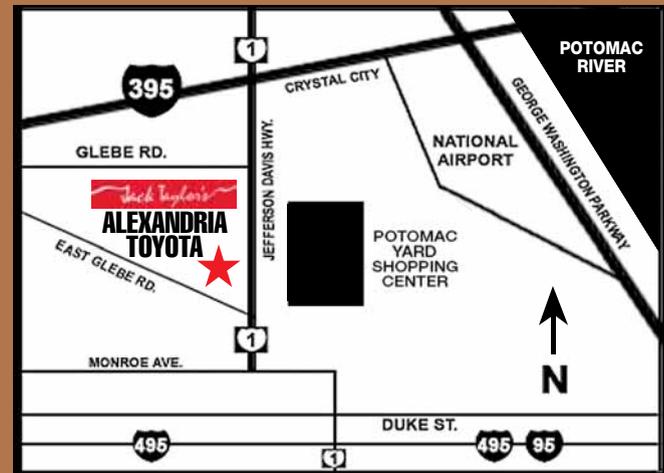
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ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Alexandria, VA 22305

703-684-0710

www.alexandriatoyota.com



Service Department Hours:
Monday – Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

Make your next service appointment at:
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TOYOTA LIFETIME GUARANTEE

Mufflers • Exhaust Pipes • Shocks • Struts
Toyota mufflers, exhaust pipes, shocks, struts and strut cartridges are guaranteed to the original purchaser for the life of the vehicle when installed by an authorized Toyota dealer. See us for full details.

You Have Saturdays Off
That's Exactly Why We Don't!



<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$8⁰⁰ OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VARIABLE DISCOUNT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$5.00 OFF with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99 \$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99 \$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99 \$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99 \$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 Or more</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$119⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BRAKE SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$79⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>PADS</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$79⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$1⁰⁰</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>TIRE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">BASIC MINOR SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>PERFORMED EVERY 5,000 MILES OR 6 MONTHS WHICHEVER COMES FIRST</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$75⁸⁸</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>2003 & NEWER</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>INCLUDES: Replace engine oil, replace engine oil filter, drain plug washer, check & top off fluids(as needed), inspect brake linings/drums & brake pads/discs, rotate best tires to front, clean brakes(if applicable), perform multi-point inspection, & road test vehicle(as needed).</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">\$129⁹⁵</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Does not apply to hybrid batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">12% OFF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">WE WILL MEET OR BEAT</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IS YOUR CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DON'T GET STRANDED... LET US CHECK IT FOR YOU, AT NO CHARGE!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UP TO A 1 HOUR DIAGNOSIS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>

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Lorton Station \$525,000
Picture perfect, 3 BR, 3.5 BAs, gleaming hardwoods on 2 levels! Fenced yard w/patio. Walk to Lorton Station and VRE! Move in perfect!



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judys@longandfooster.com
www.JudysHomeTeam.com



Lorton \$539,900
Upgraded Colonial with 3 finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 4.4 baths, fresh neutral paint, new carpet and gourmet eat-in kitchen with granite, island, SS appliances. Terrific location.
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Mt. Vernon Area \$625,000 CUSTOM BUILT!!
Large 5 Bedrm, 3.5 bath Colonial on beautiful half-acre wooded lot! Located near end of quiet cul-de-sac, this 3 level home has an oversized 2 car garage + additional off street parking. Many extras including Sun Rm, Fam. Rm w/ Fireplace off Gourmet kitchen, Deck, Finished basement, and Master suite w/ walk-in closet and luxury bath! 703-981-3277.

Mt. Vernon Area
\$625,000
CUSTOM BUILT!!
Large 5 Bedrm,
3.5 bath
Colonial on
beautiful half-
acre wooded lot!
Located near



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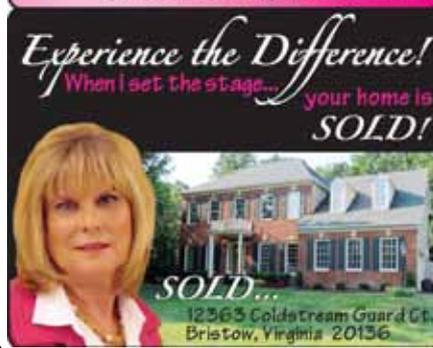


JON SAMPSON
jon.sampson@longandfooster.com
jonsampsonrealtor.com
703-307-4357

Watch this space for some great Properties, coming on the market in February and March when Spring is just around the corner. The excitement is building!

Call Kay Hart for advice on listing your home and advertising it in this space or for buying a new home this Spring.
Kay Hart 703-503-1860
Kay.hart@longandFoster.com

Act while the mortgage rates remain low and before prices rise!
I will help you through the process.



Sheila Adams
703-503-1895
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Life Member, NVAR TOP PRODUCERS

SELLING IN 2014? CALL SHEILA!

Sheila's office is right here on Burke Centre Pkwy. I am your Neighbor, I have been marketing the Burke/Fairfax area for over 35+ years. Sheila's skills, marketing techniques and experience are top notch. Want the best, call Sheila. 703-503-1895 or sheila.adams@lnf.com



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gerry.staudte@longandfooster.com
www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com



Fairfax \$625,000
Newly updated center hall Colonial offers both space and convenience! This wonderful floor plan features 3 finished levels to include 4BRs, 3.5BAs, multiple living entertainment areas, and 2-car garage. Move-in ready - freshly painted, new carpeting, hardwoods, & more! Close to metrobus, VRE, GMU, shopping & top rated schools!



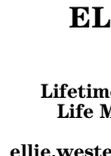
Stafford \$275,500
Great Starter Home
This SF detached home, located on a half-acre lot, features 3 BR, 2FB, large LR/DR with vaulted ceiling and sliding glass door to deck and spacious yard, plus 2-car garage and extra carport.



Richard Esposito
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Richard@LNF.com
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ELLIE WESTER
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ellie.wester@longandfooster.com



Herndon \$249,900
Updated 3rd floor condo with almost 1000 sq. feet finished space. Hardwood floors in the living and dining room areas, upgraded kitchen, washer and dryer in unit. Walk to pool, weight room and club room. Minutes to Park and Ride on Monroe Street. New Metro coming in 2018.

Access the Realtors' Multiple Listing Service: www.searchvirginia.listingbook.com