Glancing Back to 2014, Looking Forward to 2015

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South County Swim and Dive Team Donates Toys
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From left: Meg Hanrahan, Burke; Jim McDaniel, Springfield; and Melinda Englebrejsson, Fairfax Station; holding the packaged birthing kits readied for shipment to Haiti.
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Glancing Back to 2014, Looking Forward to 2015

Springfield Town Center, World Police and Fire Games, Occoquan.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

Springfield Town Center

A crowd of eager shoppers gathered Oct. 17, 2014, for the grand opening of the Springfield Town Center, a completely re-vitalized version of the long dilapidated Springfield Mall.

The first in a multi-phase redevelopment plan for the area that includes new residential and office space, theborn-again retail now destination hopes to draw diverse cli-entele from around the region with higher end vendors like British fashion brand Topshop, designer Michael Kors and a fresh batch of restaurants including Maggiano’s Little Italy.

“People in this end of the county have waited literally decades to have their mall returned to them,” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee). “This is by order of magni-tude biggest thing that happened this year.”

“Folks in Lee District were just euphoric,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. “It’s breathed new life into that part of Springfield.”

World Police and Fire Games

About 12,000 athletes from over 70 coun-
tries, roughly the draw of the Olympics, will descend on Fairfax County from June 26 to July 5 this summer. Members of police and fire departments around the world, they also train rigorously to compete in a vari-
ety of sports and activities.

The county isn’t building any new infra-
structure to accommodate the games and the expected 30,000 spectators; rather it’s spreading the activities out across George Mason University facilities, park facilities, down into Loudoun County and up into Maryland.

“Already there’s a lot of buzz and efforts underway to make sure we do right by that opportunity,” said Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova.

“This is huge for Fairfax County to have won these games. Some of the previous lo-
cations have been in Belfast, Australia, New York. So for a county to have bid on and won these games is a real feather in our cap.”

“It’s going to be a huge boost, over $60 million in economic impact,” said Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41).

“And it’s a great way to show our support for the first responders who are also true athletes, training hard for this for years.”

Former Lorton Prison and Occoquan Area

❖ Over the summer in 2014, the Board of Supervisors approved a $30 million bank bailout of the struggling Workhouse Arts Center. “That was a bad deal for the county’s taxpayers,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). “It was the third year in a row we raised taxes for our homeowners: 7 per-
cent, for 14 percent over three years. We haven’t made the tough decisions we need to make.”

❖ Also in the summer, the supervisors voted to close the Lorton landfill earlier than its owner’s proposed date of 2025. “Given what was on the table,” said Herrity, “I was supporting the decision not to approve a major expansion of the landfill. It was the right decision and big victory for the citi-
zens of Lorton and South County.”

❖ Occoquan Regional Park will be under-going renovations beginning in 2015, in-
cluding a brand new events center named for the late Jean R. Packard, the first fe-
male chairman of the Board of Supervisors, trailblazing civic leader and quarter-century representative on the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (now NOVA Parks). “The events center is the biggest deal,” said Bulova, “but also they’ll be improving the trail network, some historic features and adding a Surratt House memorial.”

Transportation Improvements

With money finally coming in from the 2013 transportation bill delegates Tom Rust (R-86) and Dave Albo (R-42) helped bring about, as well as the county’s passage of a transportation bond referendum in 2014, roads like the Fairfax County Parkway and Old Keene Mill Road are being repaved. “The state was so broke, there wasn’t enough money to put in one stoplight,” said Albo. “This bill, Bob McDonnell’s big achievement, basically cut the gas tax, raised sales tax and created billions of dol-
lars for roads.” Other developments going forward in 2015 include extending Shirley Gate Road to the Fairfax County Parkway and updating the connecting Pope’s Head Road interchange, and improving the inter-
section at Kings Highway, Van Dorn Street and Telegraph Road. Herrity is also opti-
mistic about the completion of the I-66 cor-
ridor improvements study completed in 2014, as well as the Fairfax County Park-
way corridor improvement study getting underway in 2015. “We’re expecting inter-
state level volumes by 2020,” he said. “We need to get in front of the problem.”

“In terms of mileage, we don’t talk that way,” said Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-
11). “We talk about time: How long does it take? Our congestion is such it’s immate-
rrial how far it is. We haven’t passed a long term transportation and infrastructure bill; we’ve only been doing it year by year and need immediate reform.”

Additional Highlights

❖ Good going on behind the scenes: “I enjoyed events around so many of the nonprofits, out there helping folks who need the help the most,” said Delegate David Bulova (D-37). “We’ve got FACETS, Our Daily Bread, Court Appointed Special Ad-
 vocates for children, the LAMB center, Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter. Just wonderful stories of everyday heroes going above and beyond.”

❖ Full-Day Mondays implemented in Fairfax County Public Schools: “We’ve had some issues with funding and how it hap-
pened,” said supervisor John Cook (R-
Burlington), “but the policies are good there. Those and pushing back start times are posi-
tives in the schools.”

❖ Obviously it’s an election year,” said McKay. “The entire Board of Supervisors, school board, delegates, among others. That’s exciting. It gives us an opportunity to get a good exchange of ideas out there, get the public more civically involved.”

❖ “Our $168 million budget shortfall,” said Herrity. “Our poor economic growth, dealing with that is going to be a big thing in 2015. Our region ranks below Detroit, and has for the last three years. We have to open Fairfax for business again.”

❖ Phase 1 construction of the Silver Line Metro and securing financing for Phase 2: “Talk about something that’s going to be transformative for the next several genera-
tions,” said Delegate Bulova. “It’s making people mobile in different ways; it’s really started to show the power of some of the investments we’re starting to make in trans-
portation and infrastructure.”

❖ New 95 Express Lanes opened in 2014.

A rendering of the Jean R. Packard Occoquan Center, the primary part of a huge renovation to Occoquan Regional Park.

(From left) Springfield Town Center General Manager Eric Christensen, Vornado President Mitchell Schear, Koinonia Executive Director Robert Patitti and Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) cut the ribbon to officially open the Springfield Town Center.
Prying free some details on Geer shooting.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

It’s been more than 16 months since John Geer of Springfield was shot and killed by a Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) officer. And since the Aug. 29, 2013 shooting, scant information on the incident has been provided by the FCPD or the county Board of Supervisors, such as an explanation of what transpired up to and following the shooting, and the identities of the officers involved. They’ve kept this information from the media, the public and the Geer family, citing an ongoing federal investigation into the death.

That was until Jan 5, when Fairfax County released a 304-word statement regarding the events surrounding Geer’s death. For the first time, the officer who shot Geer was named: PFC Adam Torres, who the statement said, “fired a single shot that struck Geer.”

“We’ve had policies in place regarding when a police officer’s name and information is released,” Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said Monday night. “Usually it’s a matter of weeks. In this particular case it turned out to be an unusual situation that took longer.”

Police had been called to Geer’s house by his partner and mother of his two daughters Maura Harrington, over a domestic dispute. The statement says officers, “including a trained negotiator,” talked with Geer for over half an hour while he stood in the doorway of his house, arms raised above his head and resting on the doorframe.

“Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home,” the statement says, “displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers’ requests that he remain outside and speak to them.”

Torres then shot Geer in the chest when he began lowering his hands.

ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT a SWAT team entered Geer’s house, after Geer died, and found a loaded, holstered handgun on the stairs by where he had been standing.

“A large amount of citizens have guns in their home. Does that give them the right to come and shoot you?” said Jeff Stewart of Chantilly, a friend of Geer’s for over 25 years who witnessed the shooting.

“At the time he was shot he wasn’t bearing any arms. He owned them. Why is it relevant to the release? Does a loaded gun show intent? The burden fell on the police to defuse the situation, let the guy go inside, chill out.”

Geer’s father Don didn’t hear about the county’s release until someone called to say it was happening on television.

“The press release I felt was very tainted towards the police department,” he said. “It depcted John as being a terrorist or something, had all these guns in the house. He was a hunter. It didn’t sound like that.”

THOUGH THE COUNTY’S STATEMENT refers to a Circuit Court ruling that they “may release some information pertaining to the Aug. 29, 2013, officer-involved shooting of John Geer,” the Dec. 22 opinion from judge Randy Bellows was a court order.

After a Dec. 19 hearing in Fairfax, Bellows quickly turned around a response forcing the county to produce more than 100 documents being sought by lawyer Michael Lieberman in a $12 million civil suit over Geer’s death. According to Lieberman, the county had previously objected to all but six of 127 requests for documents.

“That’s pretty amazing to have a judge turn around and give you a 12-page opinion over a weekend,” said Lieberman. “He obviously worked on it all weekend, he listened carefully.”

The documents include everything from 911 calls and witness statements to the medical treatment of Geer and blood pattern examination. Bellows is holding off granting or denying production of several documents as they relate to the county’s internal investigation or the federal investigation. He gave the county 30 days to produce all the others.

The FCPD has defended their silence so far through the criminal investigative privilege afforded by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The department declined to comment for this story and the Fairfax County Attorney’s office didn’t respond to an interview request.

In his opinion piece, Bellows wrote: “The entity seeking to assert the criminal investigative file privilege is no longer responsible for any aspect of the criminal investigation and the entity that is now solely responsible for the criminal investigation has made it clear that it has taken no step to discourage the custodian of the criminal investigative files from disclosure of most of the files at issue.”

Bellows referred to correspondence between U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa and Assistant Attorney General Peter Kadzik, acknowledging that the case currently sits with the U.S. Department of Justice, not the state’s attorney or the FCPD.

Grassley, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, sent formal inquiries to FCPD Chief Edwin Roesler and U.S. Attorney Dana Boente about the case in November 2014. He sent another letter to Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney Raymond Morrogh in December.

Kadzik answered Grassley that the FCPD wasn’t instructed to withhold information about the shooting, only the federal investigation.

Lieberman has continued to criticize the Board of Supervisors, who have authority over the FCPD and allowed the silence from that department to continue. For Stewart and the Geer family, the continued silence, even with this recent disclosure, has been frustrating and painful.

“It’s surreal enough to watch your friend get shot,” said Stewart. “It goes to a whole different level when no one’s held accountable.”

“I can’t figure out why I’ve had to go through this miserable 16 months in order to hear anything being done at all,” said Don Geer. “Closure would be why someone pulled the trigger and killed my son, that’s as much as I can expect at this point in time. A better idea of why it did happen.”
South County Swim and Dive Team Donates Toys

Before filling the pool for warm-ups, members of the South County High School Swim and Dive team filled the Toys for Tots collection box at South Run REC Center. The team decided to give collectively at their final dual meet before Christmas break, a Dec. 19 faceoff with the team from Robert E. Lee High School.

Laurie Strickland of Springfield has organized the toy drive for the last four years. Strickland is the fitness director at South Run. “We sit in a pretty affluent area,” she said. “And we challenge our community to give back.”

The drive ran from Nov. 17 until Dec. 19 and yielded about nine boxes of toys, according to Strickland. She estimates the total count was around 500, which all went to a Marine Corps depot in Dumfries for distribution.

That final night of the drive, the South County boys team defeated Lee by a score of 191 to 107. The girls team also won, scoring 178.5 to Lee’s 126.5.

— Tim Peterson

Geer Shooting Statement Released

SUPERVISOR Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) agrees transparency has been a problem.

“We need to be transparent and we haven’t been,” he said in a recent interview. “The county attorney is supposed to provide advice, we make decisions. I think we’ve been following overly protective legal advice instead of making the right decision in this case, it’s really what it boils down to.”

Liebertman said he sees this action by the county as “preemptive damage control.” He continued, “The only positive thing I take out of it is some claim they’re finally going to change the policies.”

Bulova admitted the Board of Supervisors, FCPD and County Attorney’s policies on information sharing all need to be examined. “In retrospect,” she said, “our policies need to be changed to provide information sooner if there is a delay like this.”

She also addressed the possibility of revisiting creating a citizen’s police advisory council.

“At least it’s getting their attention,” Geer said. “The idea of the police investigating the police just doesn’t work. That’s all there is to it.”

Liebertman is optimistic that future hearings will help produce more documents, and for now at least some answers to 16-month-old questions are coming forward.

“The nightmare of John’s shooting isn’t ever going to end,” he said, “but the nightmare of what the county’s done, at least we can see the light at the end of the tunnel for getting over that part.”

— Tim Peterson

Overnight I-66 Closures in January

All lanes of Interstate 66 in one direction will close intermittently between midnight and 5 a.m. on several dates in January for the installation of gantries. Each closure will last up to 30 minutes.

The scheduled closures on I-66 are as follows:

❖ Tuesday, Jan. 6 into Wednesday, Jan. 7: Westbound immediately beyond the Route 28 overpass (Exit 53)
❖ Thursday, Jan. 8 into Friday, Jan. 9: Eastbound between Route 28 (Exit 53) and Fairfax County Parkway (Exit 55)
❖ Monday, Jan. 12 into Tuesday, Jan. 13: Eastbound between Route 123 (Exit 60) and Old Sudley Road (Exit 62)
❖ Wednesday, Jan. 14 into Thursday, Jan. 15: Westbound just beyond Sudley Street (Exit 62) at the Vaden Drive overpass
❖ Monday, Jan. 19 into Tuesday, Jan. 20: Eastbound just beyond the Fairfax County Parkway underpass (Exit 55)
❖ Wednesday, Jan. 21 into Thursday, Jan. 22: Westbound just before the Fairfax County Parkway underpass (Exit 55)
❖ Monday, Jan. 26 into Tuesday, Jan. 27: Eastbound just before the Fairfax County Parkway underpass (Exit 55)
❖ Wednesday, Jan. 28 into Thursday, Jan. 29: Westbound just beyond the Fairfax County Parkway overpass (Exit 55)
❖ Wednesday, Jan. 28 into Thursday, Jan. 29: Westbound just beyond the Fairfax County Parkway underpass (Exit 55)
❖ Wednesday, Jan. 28 into Thursday, Jan. 29: Westbound just beyond the Fairfax County Parkway overpass (Exit 55)
❖ Wednesday, Jan. 28 into Thursday, Jan. 29: Westbound just beyond the Fairfax County Parkway underpass (Exit 55)

Message signs will be posted in advance of the work so that motorists can use alternate routes.

The closures are part of the Virginia Department of Transportation’s ongoing effort to install 36 new gantries as part of the I-66 Active Traffic Management System (ATMS).

The traffic system is scheduled to begin operating between Route 29 in Centreville and the Capital Beltway in early 2015.

For more information, visit http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/i-66_atms.asp
Happy New Year

We need your help in 2015. As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection’s mission is to deliver news readers need close to home, to help readers enjoy great local places and events, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestone stories in community and people’s lives.

If you know people or organizations doing important work, something newsworthy or something that might make a good feature story, let us know. We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Send a photo and tell us about it in 200 words or so to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. To have the best chance of getting an event included in our calendar ahead of time, email us the details of the event (who, what, where, when, why) at least two weeks ahead of time. Email to XXXXX@connectionnewspapers.com. Events generally must be open to the public and either free or at nominal cost to be included in calendars.

After your events, email us a photo and a note so we can consider including it in our coverage. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Connection Newspapers are published by Local Media Connection LLC, an independent, locally owned company. The publications and websites include the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Centre View, the Potomac Almanac and individual Connection papers and websites serving McLean, Great Falls, Vienna, Herndon, Oak Hill/Herndon, Reston, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly/Fair Oaks, Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

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— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Wonderful Article

To the Editor:
What a wonderful article you wrote, Kareese (“How I Left…” by Kareese Akinloba, grade 8, Irving Middle School, Children’s Connection, January 1, 2015). Your writing ability is beyond your years. And reading it brought back so many memories. For someone at the beginning of life to someone at the other end, let me tell you to rejoice in what lies ahead. I was a happy 7-year-old when my father walked into the house in Berkeley, Calif., some 60 years ago...and announced that my mother and I were going to join him in a small town called Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. I was not old enough to develop the ties to Berkeley that you had to Southern California but I had the 7-year-old’s equivalent. This led me to a wonderful life in a new place, a new language, new friends, new experiences and while I still think at this late stage that Berkeley was “home” I know it is hardly that. The best part of every new experience is that so much of it stays with you. And so many of your friends will become friends for life. So rejoice, young lady, for before you lies a great new world with people, ideas, values and customs that you can pick and choose from. A veritable buffet of life at your fingertips. And when you reach the other end of the journey, as have I, you will have a wonderful book of memories and a great host of friends to live with. I have only two pieces of advice. Keep in touch with your friends for when they are gone that opportunity is forever lost. And see as much of this wonderful world as you possibly can. It is full of wonder and will write your pages of life that you will read and reread many years from now.

Michael Valentine
Fairfax Station

MORE LETTERS PAGE 7
**Letters**

**Taking Exception on Express Lanes**

To the Editor:

An article was recently published in your newspaper discussing the new I-95 express lanes (95 Express Lanes Open, The Connection, Dec. 18-24, 2014). One statement in the article read, “Construction manager for the project John Morse, of VDOT, said that the addition of a third lane will solve a number of problems and give people options other than waiting in traffic.” Creating the express lanes, however, does not resolve a primary underlying issue. Along vast stretches of heavily congested I-95, including in Prince William County, there are only three lanes for traffic. The express lanes are just a partial solution. I-95 is the busiest highway on the East Coast. Tens of thousands of out-of-town travelers use this highway daily. These travelers likely will not know to have an EZ-Pass Flex to access these lanes, much less pay a potentially high dollar figure to use them. Local travelers also have to incur a substantial daily fee unless they manage to have three passengers. Plus, the toll lanes end after the I-495 interchange, leaving those without three passengers subject to driving in the main line of I-95. Northern Virginia is continuing to grow. The express lanes did not add any additional lanes to I-95, allowing for traffic to continue to jam the highway.

Abigail Ross
Woodbridge

**Beautiful But Deadly**

To the Editor:

Gone are the summer delights of giant Hostas shaded by dense foliage. Masses of purple coneflower and Zinnias jostling for the attention of winged things are a now just a dream of the past. Winter is fully entrenched, and nature has now turned us to the more subtle and stark beauty of our coldest months. The greens of the woods have given way to sober shades of gray and brown, and our gardens sport a slumbering, bedraggled look as they anticipate spring.

In the meantime, we may delight in holly trees and other evergreens that grant our roving eyes a supplement of color during these drear months.

But I cringe as I pass the Nandina that inhabit so many gardens in our area. With its ostentatious clusters of bright red berries, Nandina is a show-stopper in the garden this time of year. Unfortunately, it is also a heart-stopper for our hungry songbirds that reside year round in Northern Virginia. Oftentimes called “Heavenly Bamboo,” N. domestica is actually in the Berberidaceae family. It is invasive to our area, and all parts of it are toxic, especially when ingested in quantity, such as by berry-loving Cedar Waxwings. In 2009, the University of Georgia determined that dozens of dead Waxwings found in Thomas County, Ga., had ingested large amounts of Nandina, which caused major organ-system hemorrhage.

I was going to plant this beautiful but deadly plant in my own garden, until I stumbled upon the aforementioned research. Now I must be content with my Nandina-free yard, which currently boasts more lurking wire-grass than hibernating crocus. If you’ve got N. domestica in your garden, would you consider pulling this wicked weed, which, after all, is neither “heavenly,” nor “bamboo?”

Amanda Christman
Clifton

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**Letter: Why I Love Nandina**

To the Editor:

Gone are the summer delights of giant Hostas shaded by dense foliage. Masses of purple coneflower and Zinnias jostling for the attention of winged things are a now just a dream of the past. Winter is fully entrenched, and nature has now turned us to the more subtle and stark beauty of our coldest months. The greens of the woods have given way to sober shades of gray and brown, and our gardens sport a slumbering, bedraggled look as they anticipate spring.

In the meantime, we may delight in holly trees and other evergreens that grant our roving eyes a supplement of color during these drear months.

But I cringe as I pass the Nandina that inhabit so many gardens in our area. With its ostentatious clusters of bright red berries, Nandina is a show-stopper in the garden this time of year. Unfortunately, it is also a heart-stopper for our hungry songbirds that reside year round in Northern Virginia. Oftentimes called “Heavenly Bamboo,” N. domestica is actually in the Berberidaceae family. It is invasive to our area, and all parts of it are toxic, especially when ingested in quantity, such as by berry-loving Cedar Waxwings. In 2009, the University of Georgia determined that dozens of dead Waxwings found in Thomas County, Ga., had ingested large amounts of Nandina, which caused major organ-system hemorrhage.

I was going to plant this beautiful but deadly plant in my own garden, until I stumbled upon the aforementioned research. Now I must be content with my Nandina-free yard, which currently boasts more lurking wire-grass than hibernating crocus. If you’ve got N. domestica in your garden, would you consider pulling this wicked weed, which, after all, is neither “heavenly,” nor “bamboo?”

Amanda Christman
Clifton
Top Fitness Trends for 2015

By Marilyn Campbell

The beginning of a new year is often a time when many resolve to begin a fitness plan or ramp up their current routine. Officially at the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), top fitness trends for 2015 will be released during their annual meeting in New Orleans on January 8-14. The list includes a number of trends that are sure to be popular among both fitness enthusiasts and health professionals.

1. **Bodyweight training, which includes exercises such as planks, push-ups, and Pilates**
   - This trend emphasizes the use of your own body weight for exercise. It is accessible and cost-effective, making it a popular choice for those looking to get started in fitness or those seeking to add variety to their current workout routine.

2. **Personal training and combining exercise and nutrition into a fitness plan**
   - Fitness industry experts say that a nutrition component in your fitness plan is key. This trend involves working with a personal trainer to develop a custom fitness and nutrition plan tailored to your specific goals and needs.

3. **Fitness programs for seniors**
   - With an aging population, fitness programs designed for older adults are becoming increasingly popular. These programs focus on improving health and maintaining independence among older adults.

4. **Yoga**
   - Yoga is not a quick fix, but a very powerful way to improve your health. It combines physical postures with breathing exercises and meditation to promote mental and physical well-being.

5. **Sports and exercise-related injuries**
   - As more people become active, the need for proper injury prevention and rehabilitation increases. This trend focuses on educating people about common sports injuries and how to prevent them.

6. **Healthy eating and drinking**
   - With an emphasis on whole foods and mindful eating, this trend encourages people to make healthier food choices and stay away from processed and sugary foods.

7. **The Popularity of Bodyweight Moves**
   - Bodyweight moves are becoming more popular due to their accessibility and effectiveness. They can be done anywhere without the need for equipment, making them a convenient option for people on-the-go.

8. **Personal Training and Nutrition**
   - Combining fitness with nutrition is becoming more popular as people realize the benefits of a holistic approach to health.

9. **Yoga and Pilates**
   - Both yoga and Pilates focus on improving flexibility, balance, and core strength. They are great for people looking to improve their overall fitness.

10. **Sports and Exercise-Related Injuries**
    - As more people become active, the need for proper injury prevention and rehabilitation increases. This trend focuses on educating people about common sports injuries and how to prevent them.

These trends are expected to influence the fitness industry and shape the way people approach their fitness goals in the coming year.
**SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR**

**Becoming a Foster Caregiver**

- **Cats benefit from being in a foster home.**
- **We need long- and short-term fosters** for cats of all ages, mothers with litters and kittens on their own.
- **Email cats@lostdogrescue.org.**

**CONSIDER FOSTERING**

- **Visit the website, click on Participate**
- **Adopt/Donate/Volunteer at**
  - www.lostdogrescue.org

**JANUARY**

1/7/2015...........Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions
1/14/2015................ HOME Lifestyle
Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 19
1/21/2015................ A+ Camps & Schools
1/28/2015................ Neighborhood Outlook
2/1/2015................ Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment;
Valentine’s Preview

**FEBRUARY**

2/4/2015............ Valentine’s Dining & Gifts I
2/4/2015............ Wellbeing – National Children’s Dental Health Month
2/11/2015................ HOME Lifestyle
2/11/2015 .................. Valentine’s Dining & Gifts II
Valentine’s Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16
2/18/2015................ A+ Camps & Schools
2/25/2015............. Pet Connection Pullout

**MARCH**

3/4/2015.................. Wellbeing
3/11/2015............. HOME Lifestyle Real Estate Pullout
3/18/2015............. A+ Camps & Schools
3/25/2015............. Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
FCPS Spring Break 3:30-4:3
E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more information.

**APRIL**

4/1/2015.................. Pet Connection Pullout

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**through MONDAY/JAN. 19**

Dada Re-Discovered

**through SATURDAY/JAN. 31**

Exhibit of dolls and nutcrackers. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an amazing array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcrackers dolls came from? Nutcrackers have a fascinating history. The first nutcrackers were produced to crack nuts more effectively and the oldest known metal example, on exhibit in Tarent, Italy, is from the third or fourth century B.C. The Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum, between 200 B.C. and 200 A.D. German nutcrackers, made as decorative pieces, were developed around 1500. Early nutcrackers were in the shapes of animals, birds and people. Later, they were made in the likeness of kings, soldiers, church leaders and ruling class figures. Fine wood carved nutcrackers were created across Europe, especially in France and England by the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission: $7/adult, $6/student, $5/senior or child.

**Through Sunday/FEB. 8**

Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events
Exhibition. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-385-8414.

**Through MONDAY/FEB. 9**

*Synesthetic Landscapes,* “Jewish Connection” of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as “Synesthetic Landscapes,” referencing the psychological, creative – even mystical – experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of view to another through his photographs. Showcase artists: Marcia Gordon, "Gems by Meg;” Piper Strong, Metal Works/Judaiaca, and Joyce Zipprer, metal sculpture/mixed media/metal shoes and jewelry. www.jccnvarts.org.

The Bravura Ensemble: Chamber Music Classics
8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Bravura Ensemble is a Washington D.C.-based chamber group devoted to performing chamber music repertoire ranging from 18th-century works to modern-day music. Clarinetist Albert Hunt earned a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Juilliard School and has performed around the world as a soloist and chamber musician. He has also played in orchestras such as the Cleveland Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s. Violinist Rachelle Betancourt is a member of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in Germany and is an international competition winner. She frequently performs solo and chamber music recitals in the Americas and in Europe. Come join us for an evening of chamber music featuring clarinet, piano and strings.

**SATURDAY/JAN. 10**

QuinTango performs at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 8 p.m. Tickets: $29 non-members JCCNV, $24 JCCNV members and seniors. $19 for those under 30. For tickets information call 703-537-3000 or visit: www.jccnv.org.

**TUESDAY/JAN. 13**

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Come and experience the benefits of Tai Chi introduced by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**WEDNESDAY/JAN. 14**

S.T.E.A.M. Storytime: 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Each month we will focus on one of these subjects with stories and activities appropriate for preschoolers. Age 4-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

**THURSDAY/JAN. 15**

Magic Tree House Club 4:30 p.m.

Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Let’s read the eleventh story in the series Lions at Lunchtime by Mary Pope Osborne. The magic tree house takes Jack and Annie to Africa where they meet up with wonderful wild animals. School ages. 703-249-1520.

World War II. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Sixty years ago, numerous military personnel, contractors, and “government girls” converged on Washington. Where did they live, work, and socialize? Relive the stories or share your own with Carol Besente, retired Air Force intelligence officer, Vietnam veteran, Certified Master Tour Guide in the Washington, DC area and Washington history lecturer. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**The Friday Morning Music Club**

11 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A community of music lovers and musicians, the Friday Morning Music Club, Inc., has promoted classical music in the Washington area for over 120 years. PMMC’s public concerts—now held throughout the week—provide performing members with a host of outlets for their talents as well as delighting audiences in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. All concerts are free and performed as a public service.

**FRIDAY/JAN. 16**

Frozen Movie Sing-Along and Craft Event. 6 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Do you want to build a snowman? Bring a parent and your friends before the movie to make snowflakes, craft an Olaf, put together a Frozen necklace, and even non-reindeer atrists OR an Elsa tulle cloak to make and take home. A Smorgasbord of cheese sandwiches, Olaf noes (carrot sticks), and FROZEN ice cream cups will be served. If you prefer, or if allergies are a concern, you are welcome to pack food of your choosing or eat before the party. Fee: $12 per child (Deadline to register: Wed., Jan. 14). parksrec@fairfaxva.gov.

**SATURDAY/JAN. 17**

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. Board members meet biweekly to plan and implement projects and programs that will enhance library services for teens. Age 13-18. 703-249-1520.
QuinTango, chamber tango quintet, performs at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax Jan. 10.

QuinTango at the JCC of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Performance: Saturday, Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets: $29 non-members JCCNV, $24 JCCNV members and seniors. $19 for those under 30. For tickets information call 703-537-3000 or visit: www.jccnv.org

The troupe wants to create a dialogue with the audience. “We promise to give you our all - and in return we rely on your feedback, your sighs, your applause, your rapt attention,” said Singer. “Together we can create a few hours of musical intimacy which will sustain us both long after the concert is over.

“We are creating something new every performance. Part of creativity is vulnerability - and in seeing it, in allowing it, the audience becomes part of the intimacy,” added Singer. “We want people to understand what tango is – and to fall in love with it."

For some tango cultural references; Al Pacino won the 1992 Oscar dancing the tango in “Scent of a Woman.” There was also Broadway’s 1976 Tony Award winning “Chicago” with its musical number “Cell Block Tango” later performed by Catherine Zeta-Jones in the Academy Award winning 2002 movie “Chicago.” “I think the audience will come away understanding what tango is – and to fall in love with it.”

Soon you will be able to see the allure and emotions of the tango for yourself as the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV) is bringing QuinTango to local audiences. It is to be a lively evening of music, spirited dancing by two Argentine dancers, and stories behind how immigrants brought the tango to the public’s attention first in Argentina; then the world.

Washington Area Music Association.

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Tango. The world conjures earthy dance and sizzling music. “Tango dance best exhibits this: two people create a dance so seamlessly, so beautifully it takes your breath away,” said Joan Singer, founder of Northern Virginia’s QuinTango. “Tango endures because it is real... it’s intense, it’s intimate, it’s courageous.”

Singer, founder of Northern Virginia’s QuinTango.

Tango is exciting, it’s engaging, it’s often on the edge,” noted Singer. Don’t resist it. 

QuinTango has performed at the White House and the tango benefited each other,” said Dan Kirsch, including “the ways Eastern European immigrants and the tango benefited each other,” said Dan Kirsch, Singer, founder of Northern Virginia’s QuinTango.

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**Sports**

**Top Moments in 2014 Area Sports**

**Woodson boys’ basketball looks for third straight region title.**

The Woodson boys’ basketball program graduated the majority of its starting lineup from the team that captured the 2013 Northern Region championship. That didn’t stop the Cavaliers from making a return appearance in 2014.

A dramatic one-point win over Herndon in the 6A North region semifinals, Woodson, led by then-junior point guard Eric Bowles, faced Lake Braddock in the championship game. It was the fourth meeting of the season between the two teams, with the Bruins having won the first three by a combined eight points. The fourth meeting ended with a 66-56 Woodson victory and the Cavaliers’ second straight region title. “It’s a different group of kids,” Woodson head coach Doug Craig said after the game. “… A lot of them didn’t get to experience it last year or really be a big part of it — they were on the team but maybe didn’t get a chance to play out on the floor. Tonight, they got a chance to be out there on the floor and do a great job.”

Woodson finished the season with a 21-9 record and reached the state semifinals.

**Robinson boys’ lacrosse wins state title.**

The Robinson boys’ lacrosse team started the 2014 season by dropping three of its first four games. The Rams quickly righted the ship, however, winning its final 17, capturing Conference 5, 6A North region, and VHSL state championships along the way.

The Rams blasted Langley 15-3 in the first region championship game. It was the fourth meeting ended with a 66-56 Woodson victory and the Cavaliers’ second straight region title. “It’s a different group of kids,” Woodson head coach Doug Craig said after the game. “… A lot of them didn’t get to experience it last year or really be a big part of it — they were on the team but maybe didn’t get a chance to play out on the floor. Tonight, they got a chance to be out there on the floor and do a great job.”

Woodson finished the season with a 21-9 record and reached the state semifinals.

**South County softball captures state championship.**

South County had been one of the region’s top softball programs for several seasons, but each year ended in postseason disappointment. The 2014 Stallions were the team that finally got over the hump, winning the program’s first state championship.

Despite playing most of the season without injured shortstop Whitney Burks, who now plays for Stanford, South County finished 26-3. The Stallions captured the program’s second region title with a 2-1 victory over Lake Braddock, and defeated First Colonial 1-0 in the state semifinals. On June 15, South County beat Cosby 4-1 in the 6A state championship game at Robinson Secondary School.

Then-senior pitcher Rebecca Martin was one of South County’s best players in 2014 and throughout her four years on the varsity. “She’s been clutch from Day One,” South County head coach Gary Dillow said after the state final. “She came in as a freshman and won that 12-inning game against [West Potomac] for our first conference championship with this group. Nothing fazes her. She’s always relaxed. She’s pitched every clutch game for us the last four years and usually when we lose, it’s because we don’t score, it’s not because she hasn’t pitched well.”

The South County softball team finished 26-3 in 2014 and won the 6A state title.

**Lake Braddock XC shines at state meet.**

The Lake Braddock boys’ cross country team left the competition in the dust in the fall of 2014, winning Conference 7, 6A North region, and VHSL state championships.

At the state meet on Nov. 15 at Great Meadow, Lake Braddock produced the first (Alex Corbett), second- (Kevin Monogue) and seventh-place (Colin Scaife) individual finishers en route to a first-place team finish. The Bruins posted a score of 41, finishing well ahead of second-place West Springfield (92).

It was the second state title in the Lake Braddock boys’ program history. “One of the last things we talked about [prior to the race] was, this is business,” Lake Braddock head coach Mike Mangan said after the state meet. “We have done all our investing, we picked all the right stocks, we think, we’ve done all that and now it’s time to cash in on our investment. This is just business.”

The Lake Braddock girls also had a strong showing at the state meet, finishing runner-up. Oakton won its second consecutive title.

Brumisophore Kate Murphy finished second among individuals. Teammate Daly Ferguson (seventh) also earned all-state with a top-15 finish.

"We ran lights out," Mangan said after the meet, “Oakton was just really good today.”

**Lake Braddock boys’ tennis goes undefeated.**

The Lake Braddock boys’ tennis team captured the 2014 state championship, finishing a perfect 18-0 along the way.

The Bruins defeated Langley in the region and state finals.

**Robinson wrestling wins 3rd title in 4 years.**

The Robinson wrestling team won its third state championship in four years and produced four individual champions.

**Fairfax field hockey wins region title.**

The Fairfax field hockey program won its first region championship since 1993 and advanced to the state tournament for the second consecutive season.

The Rebels defeated Chantilly 2-1 in double overtime in the region final before ending its season with a loss in the state semifinals.

Covi Black scored the game-winner for Fairfax in the region final. “Right when I hit it,” Black said after the region championship game, “I felt like it was going to go in.”

Fairfax finished the season with a 20-4 record, including the program’s sixth consecutive Liberty District/Conference 6 championship.

**A look to 2015.**

“The Woodson boys’ basketball team entered 2015 with a 7-2 record before losing to St. Mary’s College on Jan. 3. The Cavaliers will attempt to win their third consecutive region title. Senior point guard Bowles will play for Central Connecticut State University.

“The South County girls’ girls’ basketball team concluded the 2014 portion of its schedule with an 8-2 record. The Spartans are looking to repeat as Conference 7 champions and return to the state tournament.

“The Robinson wrestling team looks to win its fourth state championship in five seasons. The Rams graduated three individual state champions.

“The South County softball team returns several talented players from its 2014 state championship squad, but will be without graduated standout pitcher Martin.

“The Lake Braddock baseball program, which won the state title in 2012 and the region crown in 2013, will look to bounce back from a 2014 season in which the Bruins failed to qualify for the regional tournament.

“The Lake Braddock, South County, West Springfield, Hayfield and Robinson football teams will all be coming back from 2014 playoff appearances.”

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**Lorton Connection Sports Editor Jon Roetman**  
703-752-4031 or jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com  
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Sixteen years ago Father Martin, the pastor of the Catholic Church of the Nativity in Burke, asked hypothetically, “How much money could be raised if each parishioner donated a small amount each week of Lent?”

The result was $67,000 and the beginning of a journey to help the poor in Haiti. The result: over 1,100 homes, nine self-sustaining villages each with a sewing, fishing co-op, tilapia farming and animal husbandry. In collaboration with “Food for the Poor,” the parishioners of Nativity have contributed nearly $4 million in cash and $2 million in goods.

Four times a year the Church of Nativity travels to Haiti. Each time those who make the trip return with a “personal calling.” Jim McDaniel, head of Nativity’s Operation Starfish put it simply, “making the trip to Haiti results in a personal call for action. When they come back something happens and each individual becomes inspired to make a difference.”

This holiday Meg Hanrahan of Burke and Melinda Englebrejsson of Fairfax Station decided to act on their “personal call to action.” Each had experienced difficult births. When Melinda saw the conditions that many Haitian women give birth in she asked a local doctor what was needed to improve conditions. The supplies needed to improve the conditions of birth were less than $2.

The two reached out to the Knights of Columbus and the women of Nativity and raised $1,400. With this they were able to package 700 birthing kits. Each kit had sterile gloves, alcohol wipes, sterile gauze pads, string, a bar of soap, and a #10 scalpel.

With the help of 80-90 volunteers 700 kits were assembled in two hours and readied for delivery to Florida where they would be added to Food for the Poor’s shipping containers. The kits were driven to Florida by a few Nativity parishioners.

— Terrance Moran

Volunteers packing the birthing kits at Nativity.

Answering the Call to Action

Catholic Church of the Nativity in Burke helps Haitians.

The Geland Family from Burke with grandmother Joan Turner of Fairfax. From left: Mark Geland, Abigail, Joan Turner, Samantha, and Jodi Geland.

Group photo of Nativity parishioners who volunteered to package the birthing kits for Haitian women.

From Left: Meg Hanrahan, Burke; Jim McDaniel, Springfield; and Melinda Englebrejsson, Fairfax Station; holding the packaged birthing kits readied for shipment to Haiti.

Birthing kit with a note of love from Nativity Parish.
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21 Announcements
Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

SATURDAY/JAN. 10
ADHD in the Workplace: Hot Topics on a Cold Day. 10 a.m. Mason Enterprise Center, 4031 University Dr., Fairfax (Conference Rooms.) Important discussion topics with local professionals related to the impacts of ADHD and the need for planning and strategies in career selection and workplace success. Pre-registration discount $5, at the door fee $10. More information at www.adhdnova.org or email adhdgrp@Verizon.net.

THURSDAY/JAN. 15
Are You 50 or Better? 12-2 p.m. Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Join in for the next Lunch ‘N Life sponsored by the Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday. The Program will feature the Tallwood Trio with singer, Nancy Riley with music from The Great American Song Book. For reservations, call Faye Quevenberry, 703-620-0161, by Jan. 9. The cost is $10; checks payable to SCFB. If Fairfax County schools are closed due to weather, reservations will be credited to May’s Lunch ‘N Life. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See www.scfbva.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21
Is Forgetfulness a Problem? 1:30 p.m. Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. What is normal aging versus dementia? When is it time to seek help? A discussion on signs of dementia and testing currently available. Call 703-204-4664 to RSVP and for more information.

ONGOING
Volunteer Fairfax seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available at www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women’s show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gpar303@cox.net.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming “citizen ambassadors” to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fva.com/online-ambassador.

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. $10. 703-667-9800.

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 669, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. $70-110. www.redcrossnva.org.

Dementia Care Givers Support Groups. Various times, at Lord of Litle Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The groups are for those caring for someone with dementia or for those interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. 703-451-8626 or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

Put your Classified advertisement in the Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection for a low rate.

Bulletin Board

NATIONAL DATA CARE
Facility Account Specialist
Full-time position. Monday - Friday 9:00am-6:00pm.
Salary - $30-$40K negotiable/depending on experience.

Summary: Responsible for interacting with customers via phone and/or email to provide and process information in response to inquiries, concerns and requests regarding bank accounts by performing the following duties. Duties and Responsibilities include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

1. Responds, handles and promptly resolves any customer inquiries, concerns and requests.*
2. Processes overdrafts for bank accounts.*
3. Processes transactions for bank accounts.*
4. Reconciles checking accounts.*
5. Performs various clerical duties to include photocopying, faxing, scanning and filing.

Education/Experience: High school diploma or GED.

Tae Kim, Human Resources
14155 Newbrook Dr. Ste. 200 • Chantilly VA 20151
Fax: 703-263-2575 • www.nationaldatacare.com

HOW TO SUBMIT ADS TO THE CONNECTION
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E-mail classified@connectionnewspapers.com or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411.

Employment • Choose 1 to 6 Zones
E-mail classified@connectionnewspapers.com or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411.
Springfield
$614,900
Lovely Colonial minutes to Springfield Mall, featuring 3 full finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, granite kitchen, hardwood throughout, finished walkout basement, 2 car garage. $634,900
$585 PRICE IMPROVEMENT! Don’t miss this semi-detached ViA Metro-built 4 BR, 2 Full, 2 Half bath Colonial tucked on a pristine, wooded lot 1/4 mi from sought-after South Run Crossing! This 3-Level Beauty Survives a magnificent renovation addition, plus updates/upgrades galore: fresh paint throughout, new carpet, hardwoods, granite, huge deck with hot tub & more! Unstoppable location... just 1 light to the Fairfax County Parkway, and a quick hop to Franconia Springs Metro, W&OD, and area amenities. Call Kim McClary for a private tour 703-929-8425

Fairfax/Kings Park West
$475,000
Lovely 4 bedroom home with garage * Wood floors * Updated kitchen that opens to private patio * Living room with fireplace * Family room opens to deck & hot tub * Large fenced back yard * Fresh paint & carpet. Call Judy for more information.

Ashburn
$439,900
Gorgeous 4BR, 3.5BA end unit with over 2000 finished square ft! Fully finished basement. Main floor office and bonus sunroom. Fenced yard with large stone patio. Call Courtney at (703) 786-5330.

Fairfax Station
$659,900
Main floor master bedroom suite! 5BR, 3.5BA, Finished walkout basement with brand new BR & full bath + huge rec room! Updated kitchen & bathrooms! New HVAC system. Backs to woods! Call 703-967-8700 (or a private showing) Visit www.8049OakHollow.com.

Lorton
$798,000
Springfield, Upgrades & Reducing to Prickly Pear!, 5BR, 3.5BA, Large Custom 2-Story Slate Patio backing to Woods & Neighbors! Rear Foyer, Master Sitting Room, Master Fitting Room, Custom Window Treatments throughout, Granite Kitchen w/Granite Counters, Breaker Box, AC Ceiling. Call Kim McClary for a private tour 703-929-8425

Gainesville
$569,900
Why build when you can own this beautiful 3BR end unit with 3 BR's, 2 Full baths, huge patio, new hardwoods on the first level in the neighborhood! New open space! 2 level deck, huge rec room and a 1 car garage. Call Judy at 703-503-1895 or judys@lnf.com

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703-615-4626
Military Relocation Specialist

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703-503-1885
judys@LNF.com
www.JudysHomeTeam.com

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