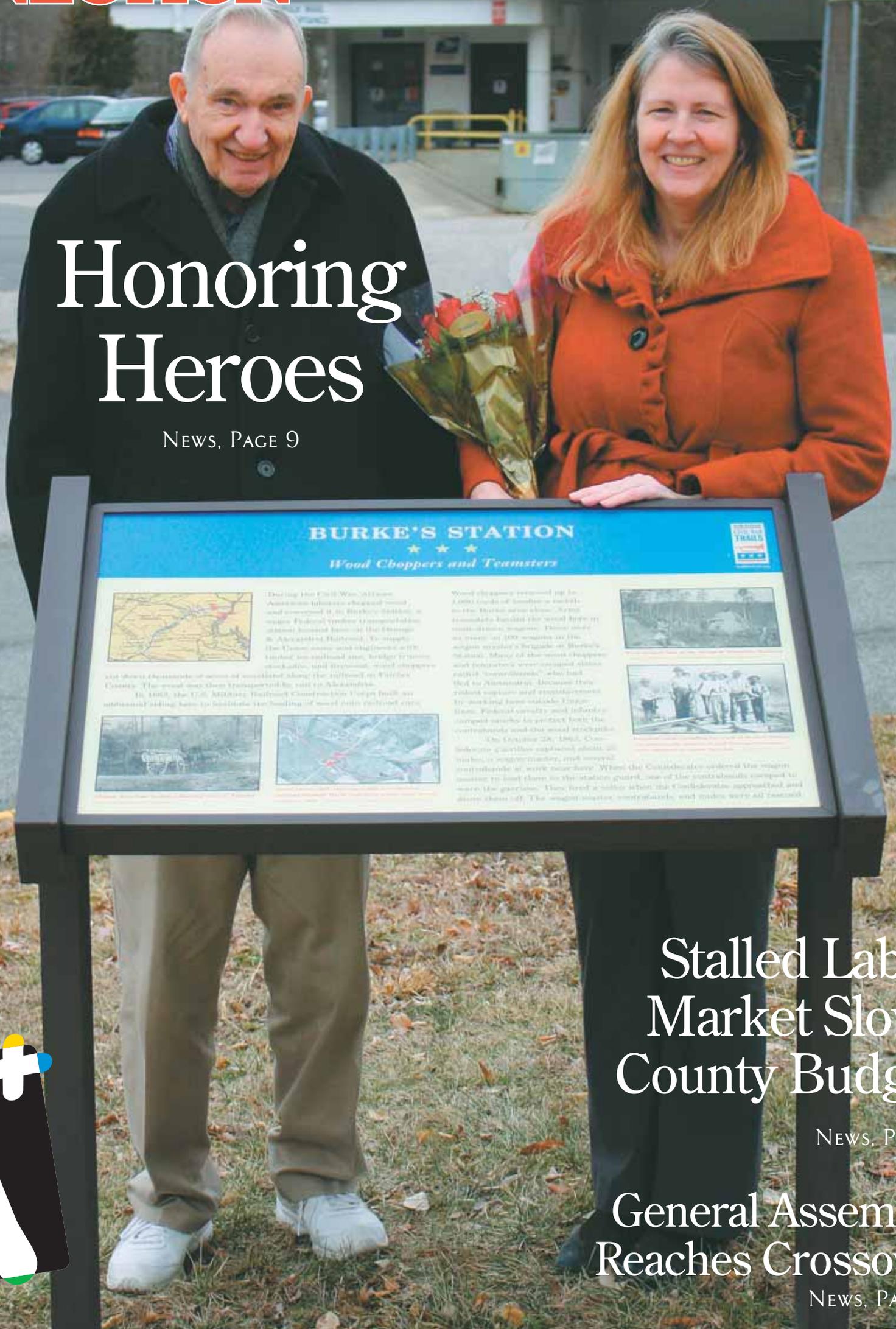


Honoring Heroes

NEWS, PAGE 9

Fairfax County History commissioner Debbie Robison and her father Frank Palmer stand behind the new Civil War historical marker in Burke.



Stalled Labor Market Slows County Budget

NEWS, PAGE 3

General Assembly Reaches Crossover

NEWS, PAGE 4

Inaugural Celebration of Gospel Event Held in Burke

By ALVIN BROWN

Last Wednesday, Feb. 11, the Lake Braddock Secondary School (LBSS) welcomed the Howard Gospel Choir of Howard University (HGC) to headline its first musical Celebration of Gospel. The concert was sponsored by the Minority Parents for Excellence in Education (MPEE), a parent-led organization that has been active at LBSS for almost 30 years. The program opened with the LBSS JROTC presenting the colors and LBSS Principal Dave Thomas recognizing special guests in the audience. Fairfax County School Board At-Large member, Ilryong Moon; Dr. Angela Atwater, Assistant Superintendent, Region 4; a few other special guests, Lake Braddock families, numerous community members from nearby churches in Alexandria and even friends coming across the bridge from Maryland attended.

The New Voices Choir, comprising seven extremely gifted high school students with a calling for musicianship, opened the evening of singing; they came to the stage



Lake Braddock New Voices Choir

and uplifted the audience with several notable selections including a civil rights anthem from the 1970, "To Be Young, Gifted and Black" originally made popular by

Nina Simone.

The Howard Gospel Choir took to the stage of the Little Theater with a rousing arrangement of "Great is Thy Faithfulness," a Gos-

pel standard that raised the audience to their feet and involved in a sing-along.

The choir sang other Gospel standards including "Take my

Hand, Precious Lord" that is currently experiencing resurgence in popularity since being featured in the film "Selma" and Beyonce's rendition at the recent Grammy Awards ceremony. The concert culminated with HGC and New Voices Choirs singing a rendition of "Oh Happy Day."

The Celebration of Gospel concert was the MPEE's premier event this school year designed to support fundraising efforts for scholarship awards for deserving minority students at LBSS.

The mission of the MPEE is to foster a commitment toward academic and personal excellence through increasing awareness, generating educational opportunities and representing the diverse interests of minority students at LBSS.

The concert was not only to support their mission to generate funds for scholarships, but also to bring a cultural awareness to high school students and the community during this year's Black History Month. Visit their website at www.mpee-lb.org.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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Stalled Labor Market Slows County Budget

Proposed budget calls for no real estate tax rate increase, but average homeowner would pay \$184 more.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor Jeff McKay pointed out the irony in County Executive Ed Long's proposed \$3.8 billion budget. Three planning positions would be eliminated from the budget even though Long suggested the county needs more efforts to raise revenue from commercial and industrial venues.

"A timely planning process in revitalization is important in economic development," said McKay after Long's 30-minute presentation to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Feb. 17. "The planner piece is not going in the same direction as the economic development question."

McKay pointed to redevelopment along the Route 1 corridor as a source of economic growth that would require extra input from planning. Long agreed that the county urgently needs to expand the nonresidential tax base in the county.

Commercial assessments dropped 0.6 percent, while residential assessments increased 3.4 percent. Commercial vacancy rates are higher than they have been since 1991. Although the U.S. economy grew at an estimated rate of 2.6 percent during the fourth quarter of 2014, "we are clearly underperforming the national economy," Long told the Supervisors, mostly due to the sequester and reductions in federal spending and contracting.

"Our economy is very dependent on people buying cars, buying houses and shopping," Long said.

Long forecasts no significant improvements in the short term future. "We cannot fund all our priorities and investments." Most departments, aside from public safety, will see some expenditure reduction.

Just 5,100 jobs were created in Northern Virginia in 2014, less than half of the 11,900 jobs created in 2013, which is half the number of jobs (25,250) created on average in 2011 and 2012.

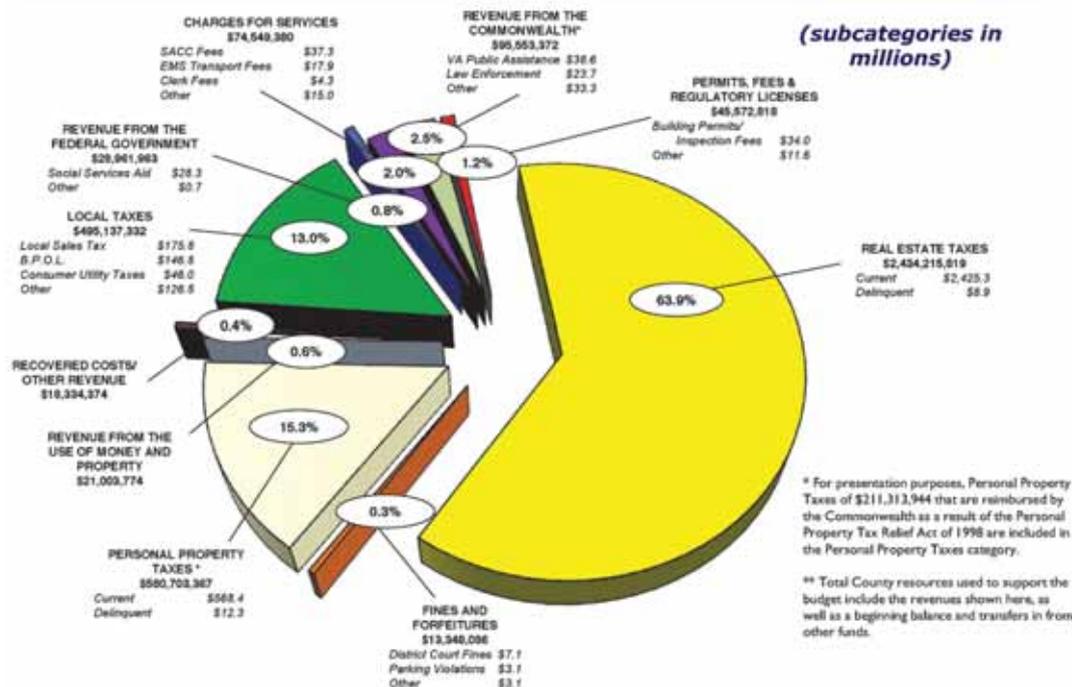
"It is a bit sobering," said Hunter Mill Supervisor Catherine Hudgins.

Budget Schedule

March 3: Board advertises FY 2016 tax rate
April 7-9: Public hearings
April 21: Budget markup
April 28: Budget adoption

To sign up to speak at one of the public hearings, call the Clerk to the Board's Office at 703-324-3151 or 703-324-2391 (TTY 711) or to access the form to sign up to speak, go to https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm The public can send written testimony or communicate with the Clerk's Office by email at: clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov

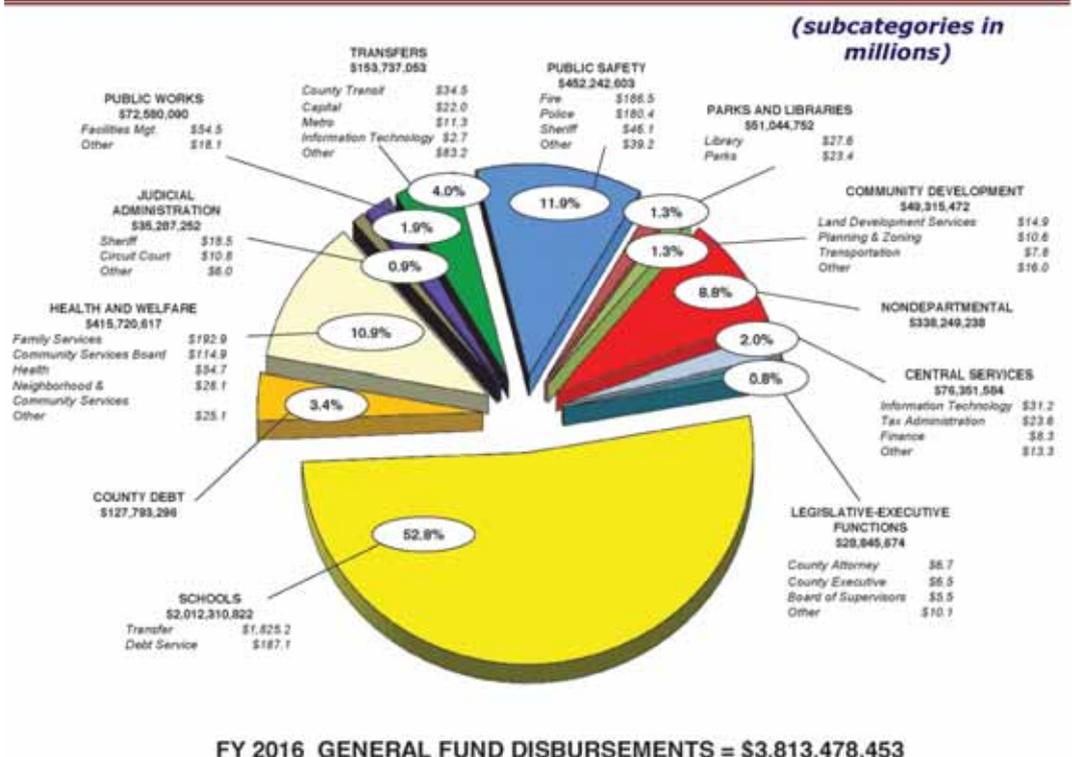
FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan: "Where it Comes From"



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVERNMENT

This pie chart shows sources of county revenue, with 64 percent coming from real estate taxes.

FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan: "Where it Goes"



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVERNMENT

This pie chart shows county expenditures, with 52.8 percent going to Fairfax County Public Schools, and 12 percent to public safety.

Budget Town Hall Meetings

Providence District Budget Meeting
Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax - Multi-Purpose Room 2
Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m.

Braddock District Budget Meeting
Braddock Government Center, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke - Braddock Hall
Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Bulova's Community Dialogue on the Budget, South South County Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria - Room 221
Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m.

Chairman Bulova's Community Dialogue on the Budget
Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax - Conference Room 9/10
Saturday, March 14, 2:30 p.m.

Braddock District Budget Meeting
Frost Middle School, 4101 Pickett Road, Fairfax
Tuesday, March 17, 7:30 p.m.

Springfield District Budget Meeting
West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, Community Room
Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

Mason District Budget Meeting
Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale - Main Community Room
Thursday, March 19, 7 p.m.

Lee District Budget Meeting
Franconia Government Center - 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria
Wednesday, March 25, 7 p.m.

5 Things to Know about the Budget

- ❖ One penny change in the real estate tax rate, currently \$1.09, is worth \$22.6 million.
- ❖ The average 2014 home selling price, \$517,000, has still not reached its previous peak value of \$543,271 achieved in 2005.
- ❖ Direct office vacancy rate was 15.2 percent as of mid-year 2014, the highest office vacancy rate since 1991.
- ❖ Fairfax County Public Schools request \$14 million more than is in the current proposed budget. Schools ask for a 3.99 percent increase; the current county budget proposal includes 3.43 percent increase over last year.
- ❖ School Age Child Care (SACC) fees restructured to generate revenue and to better reflect income levels and affordability for participating families. Full paying families will see an increase of 8 percent.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVE MARSDEN

Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) (rear) and constituents Jennifer Collins (front left) and Haley Smith (front right) celebrate the passage of Marsden's medical marijuana legislation in Richmond.

General Assembly Reaches Crossover

Bills live, die or fold into other legislation before review by the opposite chamber.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

As the current meeting of the Virginia General Assembly neared the one-month mark, legislators in the House of Delegates and Senate had to finalize work on bills they would send to their counterparts for consideration. Last week's "cross-over" on Feb. 11 marked their final chance to either move forward with promising legislation or kill it, with the exception of budget or revenue bills.

"We're always told not to fall in love with your bills," said Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), "but it's hard not to do that. When you work with stakeholders and get to know the issue, especially with a lot of personal stories and testimonies, you get attached to them."

Even though some bills don't make it to the opposite chamber, many come back in subsequent sessions.

Sen. George Barker (D-39) likes to say, "My bill isn't dead, it just hasn't passed yet." Several of his bills that passed the Senate this year have gotten killed in previous years. "It takes a good while to build up enough support," he said, "and work with people who have concerns."

The cross-over milestone is standard procedure for a session that lawmakers said is moving along as expected, without much fanfare or controversy.

"This is really the way it should be," said

Del. Dave Albo (R-42). "We're running a state: Our job is to pave roads, put bad guys in prison, keep kids in college and schools."

But that doesn't mean it's all downhill from the cross-over.

"As with any session, there's ups and downs, some very tough votes you have to take," said Del. David Bulova (D-37). "There are things you really like, or wish you weren't in the package, but does this move the ball forward or not? The easy bills are typically the ones taken care of in first week or two."

Bulova cited the request for Dominion Power to forego the biennial rate review it would normally be subject to as an example of a "tougher" and "more nuanced" issue now being dealt with.

"On one side, it's nice to have that review," he said. "On other side, with the cost of new regulations that are going to dramatically reduce carbon emissions, there's something to be said for freezing rates. To understand all that goes into rate-making, with responsibility to consumers and the environment, I wish I had 30 minutes to explain it to every constituent."

Ethics legislation and tweaks to the budget passed last year are two other major areas receiving attention.

Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) thinks the budget is "looking pretty good," but remains curious to see how the ethics bill comes out. "What we did last year I voted for, but just thought it was pathetic," she said. "It's pretty hard not to vote for ethics reform. This year I'm hoping it will do something."

With the the cross-over moving the legislative process along healthily, there's some speculation the session may even end "a day or two early," according to Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37). "That saves us about about \$35,000 a day."

But nobody's holding their breath.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN FILLER-CORN

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) meets with former state senator, now 41st district constituent, Emilie Miller in Richmond.

Dead or Alive

Lawmakers pick their highlights from bills that were killed, folded into other bills or passed to the other side.

Del. David Bulova (D-37)
DEAD

HB1872: Would have required the Board of Education to arrange a special training program for principals working with struggling schools. The bill passed the House education committee but died in appropriations.

ALIVE

HB1725: Creates a Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority. Technically Bulova's bill was rolled into a similar bill from Del. Timothy Hugo (R-40), HB2267.

HB1667: An ethics bill that would cap all gifts to legislators at \$100, whether tangible or intangible. Bulova's bill was rolled into a similar bill from Del. C. Todd Gilbert (R-15), which retained the \$100 cap core concept.

HB1515: Requires hospitals to provide new parents with information on safe sleep environments for their baby at their discharge.

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41)
DEAD

HB1327: Would have permitted voters 75 and older, or disabled voters, to go to the head of the line on election day.

HB2041: Would have established an advisory council for identifying open education resources, helping prevent students from spending as much money on hard copy textbooks.

HB1668: Dealt with allowing students of different grade levels the opportunity for an "expedited retake" of their Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) exam. The concept stayed alive as it was rolled into Del. Gregory Habeeb's (R-8) HB1490.

ALIVE

HB2306: Establishes Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) trust accounts for individuals and families with children to help them save for living and other expenses. This follows a ABLE Act Congress passed at the end of 2014.

HB1343: Requires that sexual assaults on college campuses be reported either by campus police or local law enforcement to the Commonwealth's attorney within 48 hours of beginning an investi-

gation. Filler-Corn's bill was rolled into Del. Jimmie Massie III's (R-72) HB1785.

HB1552 and 2046: Provide for fingerprinting, background checks and other regulations for child care providers. These bills were folded into a larger omnibus bill from Del. Robert Orrock (R-54), HB1570, of which Filler-Corn is a chief co-patron.

Del. Dave Albo (R-42)
DEAD

HB1539: Would have set up a Virginia Translational Medical Investment Fund for the state to make loans to private businesses doing research in translational medicine.

ALIVE

HB1445: Allows patients receiving treatment for epilepsy to legally possess and use a derivative of marijuana, provided they have certification from their doctor.

HB1503: Corrects a loophole allowing people to get out of a Driving Under the Influence charge, according to Albo.

HB1635: Deals with defamation over the Internet. If someone files an action within a year, they're given a "reasonable" amount of time to find out who the people are that made anonymous defamatory statements.

Del. Mark Sickles (R-43)
DEAD

HB2054: Any time a citizen receives a payment from the state, this bill would've required the state to offer a hard copy check option as well as electronic payment transfer. A similar bill did pass, one that only affects tax refunds.

HB2388: Would have forced a closer look at the 5-600 state prisoners sentenced prior to 1995, before there was no parole, releasing them if eligible based on their time served exceeding "the midpoint of the most recent discretionary sentencing guidelines."

HB2158: Dealing with special elections, this would've regularized some of the arbitrary selection of dates to help reduce the cost of holding the elections themselves.

SEE LAWMAKERS. PAGE 10

Inova to Create a New Center in Fairfax

Fairfax County-based Inova Health Systems will take over the Exxon Mobil headquarters building in the Merrifield area of the county to house the Inova Center for Personalized Health. The center will make Fairfax County “a community known worldwide for genomic science,” said Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) at the event at Inova Fairfax Hospital where hospital system officials announced creation of the center. The event also featured Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova as well as leaders from Inova and Exxon Mobil. Inova CEO Knox Singleton announced that the Peterson Family Foundation will donate \$10 million for the initiative.

“This campus will make Fairfax County a hub for world-class research and the commercialization of ground-breaking discoveries. New companies will grow as a result and more world-class researchers and businesses will want to be here,” Gordon said.

The Inova Center for Personalized Health will have three goals:

*Create the world’s leading center for translational cancer research and patient care based on genomic science and individualized therapy;

*Create a leading center of nationally recognized biotech researchers developing new tests, therapy and population health processes based on genomic science and bioinformatics; and,

*Stimulate collaboration of life-science companies with world-class researchers leading to the expansion of the life-science economy in Virginia and the Washington, D.C., area.

Gordon noted that the center will dramatically accelerate the FCEDA’s goal of further diversifying the economic base of the county. “We’ve been working to attract, retain, and grow the county’s non- government contracting economy for several years. This announcement places Fairfax County in a leadership position in the growth of the nascent industry of translational medicine,” he said.

The center will be based in a landmark building, near the Capital Beltway interchange with Arlington Boulevard (U.S. Route 50).

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OPINION

Staying Ahead of the Feds

The federal government is not always wrong. At the same time, the state government is not always right.

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The Virginia House and the Senate have penned similar but competing mid-point versions to the 2014-2016 biennial budget. These budgets will now go to a conference committee to work out differences in time for a Feb. 28 adjournment of the annual legislative session. With both houses being under the same political party control, the differences are not great and will likely be easily reconciled.

Governor McAuliffe had proposed revisions to the Commonwealth's budget, but his recommendations were ignored in one significant way: his budget proposal included the expansion of Medicaid for the working poor, but the majority party in both houses adamantly oppose it. Had Medicaid expansion been approved, the state would have saved \$107,000,000 in state spending in FY 2016



COMMENTARY

alone and would have picked up \$482,300,000 in new federal money. The issue of this column is not Medicaid expansion, however, for which I have made my position known in several columns. Instead, I want to focus on the paranoia in Richmond over the actions of the Federal government that the opposition to Medicaid expansion reflects. That paranoia was reflected among other places

in a budget amendment in the House that provided that "no general or non-general funds shall be appropriated or expended for such costs as may be intended to implement any federal program or Presidential executive action calling for 'free' tuition at institutions of higher education." The amendment passed with my speaking against it, suggesting that we should at least see the new program before we decided to oppose it.

Virginia has a long history of opposing federal action. Going back to 1798, James Madi-

son introduced the concept of interposition – that the state could interpose itself between the federal government and the people when it deemed federal laws to be unconstitutional. Interposition or nullification has been used by many states to oppose federal actions on many issues. The Civil War was the most dramatic statement at attempted interposition.

In the 1950s, Virginia attempted to interpose itself against federal action to desegregate the schools. Its efforts through more than 40 lawsuits became known as "massive resistance", which of course ultimately failed.

The call has gone out once again for the need to protect ourselves against the federal government, particularly the Obama administration. Several bills, for example, were introduced this session to nullify actions of the Environmental Protection Agency in air and water quality regulations. Our Federal system with its checks and balances have worked well for many years to protect citizens from a run-away government. At the same time, it creates challenges for smooth operation. This continuing power struggle diverts attention from the real issues of our economy and society and leads to the frustrations that many feel with the operation or gridlock of government. The federal government is not always wrong. At the same time, the state government is not always right. The public expects that leaders work through these differences and that issues be resolved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Outstanding Article, Outstanding Services

To the Editor:

Mr. (Kenneth) Moore's feature article ("Combining Health and Mental Health," Connection, February 11-17, 2015), which provided information concerning the Community Services Board (CBS) services to the Fairfax community was outstanding.

Prior to reading his article, I did not know such an organization existed. The CBS services, described in the article, provided by the leadership and staff are to be commended for helping so many people in need these last few years.

Having been involved on the staff of a state's Mental Health and Disabilities department in the midwest prior to moving to Fairfax County, mental health needs were ever growing in numbers. As pointed out in the article, "One in every five people live with a mental health problem...and two-thirds go without treatment." This is alarming and most disturbing in today's society. From where I

came from, the state's budget for Mental Health and Drug Abuse could not keep up with the demand and needs of its citizen, and this was back in the 70s.

Fairfax County is well known for outstanding services provided in our schools.

It is also encouraging to learn the county, under the directorship of Tisha Deeghan and her staff commits themselves in providing mental health services by letting us know "we are here (to serve) everybody." Thank you.

Ronald L. Baker
Springfield

The writer is retired and was a former Budget officer for the State of Illinois, Dept of Mental Health & Disabilities including the Illinois Drug Abuse Program during the years, 1972-1976.

VOLUNTEERS EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** will discuss using the Internet to help with caregiving on Tuesday, March 10, 7-8 p.m. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

The **Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale** needs volunteer **Bilingual English/Spanish** activity leaders, a **Canasta Player** to lead a

Beneficial Choices

To the Editor:

The cab drivers who seek protection from the government against Uber and other ride-sharing companies have this all wrong.

Cab drivers who are dissatisfied with their work hours or earnings are free to either remain cab drivers or to seek another way to earn money. If they don't like the regulations they have to deal with or the fact that there are "too many cab drivers at National Airport" to make enough money, then they are free to use their gifts and talents to seek other ways to live productive lives. They are free, for example, to drive for Uber or any other ride sharing company and they should be free to offer such

services on their own.

Society benefits most when there is free and open market and when the choices of who to engage in commerce with and on what terms are broad. If a consumer wants to call even a wholly unregulated Uber car, then so be it, it is not the proper role of government to say "you can't do that." Someone needing to get from point A to point B should be free to use their own minds to decide which is the better option for them.

It is up to the taxicab industry to convince consumers that a taxi is a better option rather than to seek the heavy hand of government to quash innovation, competition, and entrepreneurship.

Benjamin W. Glass, III
Fairfax Station

ties, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Korean Meals on Wheels needs **Korean-speaking volunteers** to deliver meals in **Centreville, Annandale and Falls Church**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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FAITH NOTES

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

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism.

The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive.

Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship ser-

vice at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults.

The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome.

The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.



Youssef Zeroual

Weichert, Realtors Recognizes Burke/Fairfax Station Office Associate

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced Sales Associate Youssef Zeroual of the Burke/Fairfax Station office was individually recognized for his exceptional industry success during the month of January. A top producer, Zeroual led the region, which comprises offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for resale and resale revenue units. Zeroual can be reached in Weichert's Burke/Fairfax Station office at 9299 Old Keene Mill Road or by phone at 703-569-7870.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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. 20

Mr. Lemoncello's Library. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Games related to book. School age. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

8th Annual Monopoly Tournament. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Gallery Building 16, 2nd floor, Lorton. Play Monopoly to raise money for the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC). Registration fee is \$25. Visit LortonMonopoly.com or call 703-339-5161, ext. 150 for more information.

11th Annual Eco-Savvy

Symposium: Mature Evolving Landscapes. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn strategies for adapting to the challenges of mature evolving landscapes. Lunch included, call site for vegetarian options. \$70. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 188 5501 or call 703-642-5173.

Cheese and Tea Tasting Party. 10 a.m. - noon. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn about taste science in general and of tea and their cheese-mates in particular. \$27. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 102 6601 or call 703-642-5173.

Children's Theatre: "All Tangled Up." Through March 21. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Presented by Mestey Films Productions. LIVE onstage! Rapunzel has let herself down from her tower without waiting for Prince Charming! She has changed her own fairy tale!

Alice's Adventures in "Wonderland." Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 8 p.m. Presented by Unquiet Theatre Company. Written by James Michael Shoberg. Directed by Katy Chmura.

Concert: HAPA. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. 7:30 p.m. With songs ranging from ancient chants to contemporary Hawaiian tunes, it's no wonder the L.A. Times calls HAPA's music "beautiful, fragile, spiritual, and powerful," all at once. Tickets \$25-30.

Wag a Tale. 10:30, 10:45, 11:00 and 11:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Need a little practice reading or just love dogs? Register to read to one of our therapy dogs. Ages 5-12. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kn/>.

Paws to Read. 11, 11:15, 11:30 and 11:45 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice reading aloud to trained therapy dogs. 15-minute sessions available. Ages 6-12. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/lo/>.

Teen Writers Group. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and memoirs. Join us for sharing discussion and feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Ages 13 to 18. 703-249-1520.

Tales to Tails. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360

North St., Fairfax. Need practice reading? Read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Ages 6 to 12. 703-293-6227.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Rainbow Readers. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Join us for a Mo Willems themed story time to celebrate his birthday. Early Literacy storytime with stories and songs. Ages 3-5 with adult. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kn/>.

Music and Movin' with Miss Susan. 10:30, 11:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Ages 6 months to 5 years with adult. 703-293-6227.

Gymboree: Infants I. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Play-based activities to stretch the body and mind. Ages 3 to 8 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

Gymboree: Infants II. 11:15 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Play-based activities to stretch the body and mind. Ages 9 to 14 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

Chess Club. 4 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn strategy and play with others of comparable skill. Ages 8 to 16. 703-644-7333.

Pohick Prose Society. 7 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Teens talk about books. Call for title. Ages 13 to 18. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

Small Wonders. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven

Place, Oakton. Short stories for you and your child. Ages 13-23 months with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, 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.

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Need practice reading? Read aloud to a friendly, trained therapy dog. Ages 6 to 12. 703-293-6227.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

Did The Groundhog See His Shadow? 11 - 11:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Stories and activities about groundhogs. Ages 3-5 with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/lo/>.

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join instructor Susan Alverson for music, movement and song. Ages 1 to 2 years with adult. 703-249-1520.

Tales for Twos: What's in Your Pocket? 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Can you jump like a kangaroo or hide inside a pocket? Join us for stories, songs and rhymes that highlight early literacy skills for you and your toddler together. Ages 24 to 35 months. 703-644-7333.

Brain Games at the Library. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Have fun and win prizes with our board games and card games that challenge your thinking and build your skills. Ages 8 to 12. 703-293-6227.

THURSDAY/FEB. 26

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Build your child's early literacy skills while enjoying stories, songs and activities. Ages 3 to 5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Winter Beauty in the Garden. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn about garden trees, shrubs and grasses that add instant beauty and interest throughout the cold winter months. \$10. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 102 9001 or call 703-642-5173.

Fun Flicks. 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Watch movies based on children's books. All ages. Register each child and adult separately. 703-644-7333.

Bricks 4 Kidz. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn, build and play with LEGO bricks. Content designed by engineers and architects, with exciting themes such as space, inventions, and amusement parks. Ages 5 to 10. 703-249-1520.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Seeds Workshop: Starting from Scratch. 9:30 - 11 a.m. Historic Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Judy Zatsick, Green Spring's own propagator/horticulturalist, teaches the ins and outs of starting your own seed collection. \$22. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

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Fairfax County History commissioner Debbie Robison and her father Frank Palmer stand behind the new Civil War historical marker in Burke.



Wood choppers lived in primitive huts along the Orange & Alexandria Railroad.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JON VRANA

New Marker Honors African-American Woodcutters in Burke

Civil War heroes risked being captured and sent back into slavery.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Centreville resident Debbie Robison hasn't chopped a cord of lumber or laid a railroad trestle. But for more than a year she's done hard labor at the National Archives and Records Administration, researching Civil War-era railroad workers in Northern Virginia.

Patrick Lennon of Visit Fairfax approached the Fairfax County History Commission in 2011 with the idea of participating in the state sesquicentennial remembrance of the Civil War. Several years into their participation, Robison, a history commissioner representing the Sully district, thought it would be a good idea to create a historical marker honoring the contributions of African-Americans to the war.

She knew she wanted to do a marker on African-Americans who worked on the railroads, a major asset to the military supply chain, but needed to find out more about what occurred in different locations around the state.

The Orange & Alexandria Railroad, built in 1851, facilitated the development of towns along its path including Clifton, Fairfax and Burke Station.

"It is important to note the many nameless African-American heroes who protected our land and heritage — without them, the Orange & Alexandria Railroad would not have been able to contribute to the success of the Federal troops," said

Lynne Garvey-Hodge with the Fairfax County History Commission.

"They would not have been supported by the Overland campaign which included 6,000 heads of cattle sent weekly (1,200 daily Friday through Tuesday) from Alexandria to Brandy Station to feed the Union troops on 300 cattle cars," Garvey-Hodge continued. "The entire operation required the constant employment of 300-plus men and many, many more wood choppers to support the fuel needs of the railroad."

ROBISON WENT to the National Archives and poured over U.S. military railroad records and newspaper records from the period. What she teased out was the story of a group of African-Americans, freed and "contraband" former slaves working in Burke Station as woodcutters.

The Burke Station area was heavily wooded in the mid-19th century, and the cords of lumber these men cut and removed went into railroad ties for Union trains moving troops and supplies, and rebuilding bridges that Confederate soldiers made a habit of torching. "What struck me was the fact that these men, who had escaped slavery, were working outside protected Union lines," said Robison. "Many were captured and sent back South. They weren't always protected and risked being captured."

"It was a very personal war," said Jon Vrana, president of the Burke Historical Society. "They were really fighting for their lives and independence."

The marker Robison helped create, now standing in the ground in front of the Burke Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, tells this story and recounts a specific incident on Oct. 28, 1863 at Burke

Station.

"Confederate raiders had captured many contraband workers," said Robison, "a wagon master, a handful of mules. One of the contrabands escaped and went and warned the Union garrison. He was able to alert people they were captured."

The Confederate captors had been marching their prisoners toward the station guard when the

garrison, forewarned by the man who escaped, fired a volley at them. The raiders fled, leaving the woodcutters free and unharmed.

THE MARKER was unveiled at a ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 14 at the community center in the Burke Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department. The Mt. Zion Gospel Men's Choir added a musical flair to the event. "It was a good celebration

of community, the fire department and historical society, coming together to honor people that really risked their lives," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). "These are good examples of people that are true heroes." "The marker is really serving as a reminder to people of the past events that were occurring in the Burke area," Robison said, "not just shopping centers."

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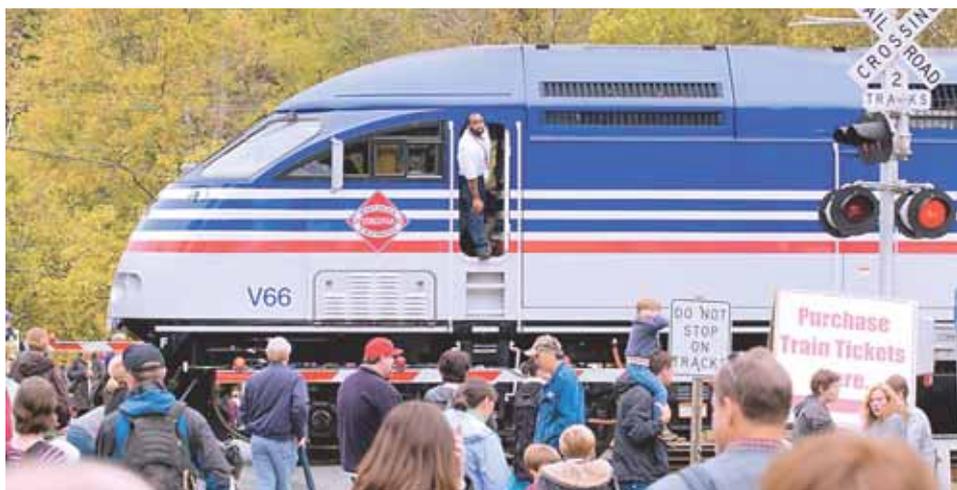


PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA HUTTO

VRE is considering a 4 percent fare increase.

Public Hearings Scheduled to Discuss Potential VRE Fare Increase

Increased operation costs are forcing the Virginia Railway Express to consider a 4 percent fare increase. The price of Amtrak Step-Up tickets would rise from \$3 to \$5, but the discounted 10-ride, five-day and monthly passes would remain unchanged. Before VRE goes ahead with any changes, the organization is holding a number of public hearings around Virginia and Washington, D.C. to solicit customer feedback. A hearing will be held in Burke on Feb. 24 at The Commons Community Cen-

ter at 7 p.m.

The Commons is located at 9837 Burke Pond Lane. More information on the hearings can be found at www.vre.org. Written comments can be submitted until Friday, March 6 electronically to publiccomment@vre.org, over the phone to Bryan Jungwirth at 703-684-1001 or by mail to Bryan Jungwirth, 1500 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Snow Day at Burke Lake Park

Johannes (left) and Mary Hofer (right), of Burke, enjoy the snow day on Feb. 17 by snowshoeing around Burke Lake Park.

Lawmakers Pick Their Legislative Highlights

FROM PAGE 4
ALIVE

HB2372: Creates an electronic asset verification program for applications for medical assistance such as Medicaid. "This bill is needed so that we can help reduce some of the potential fraud in people seeking benefits," said Sickles.

HB2056 and HB2062: Technical election administration bills, including a requirement on presidential election years for scantron voting machines to be available for every 4,000 voters in a precinct.

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44)

DEAD

HB2339: Would have helped students access electronic textbooks by requiring schools to provide them with computers to use.

HB2011: Would have helped prevent motor vehicle title lender "subsidiaries" from operating in unregulated storefronts. "The practice is completely unregulated," said Surovell, "they're completely evading the law."

HB2337: Sought to require the Board of Education to include the dangers and legal implications of "sexting" in Family Life Education curriculum.

ALIVE

HB1684: Would allow students who achieved a certain score or above on Advanced Placement exams to waive taking the Virginia Standards of Learning test in the same subject area. The bill was rolled into other, similar legislation.

HB2015: Adds items such as child support, spousal support and low income families' tax refunds to creditors' collection exemption list.

HB1764: (Chief co-patron with Del. G. Manoli Loupassi [R-68]) If a data provider sells, publishes or otherwise shares data about a person's criminal background that has already been expunged, this bill strengthens the remedies available to consumers on the opposite end of the data provider.

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

ALIVE

SB957: Restricts license plate readers and use of other "spying technology" by the police when there's no warrant or investigation pending. "It's going to be a landmark law in Virginia establishing personal privacy," said Petersen.

SB1008: Homeowners Association bill of rights, such as the right to notice of meetings and due process when a complaint is filed.

SB982: In cases of life-threatening drug overdoses, this bill would protect anyone who reports the situation from being prosecuted for possessing illegal substances themselves.

Sen. George Barker (D-39)

DEAD

SB1274: Would have allocated more funds for re-paving secondary roads.

SB1295: Would prevent government officials from censoring sermons given by National Guard chaplains. This bill was folded into SB690.

SB1112: Would have provided for five and a half-hour school days for kindergarten students.

ALIVE

SB701: Requires the state to offer citizens the option to receive income tax return refunds as a check.

SB757 and SB900: Two bills that deal with the Virginia Standards of Learning tests: One allows middle school and elementary school students that were close to passing the test the opportunity for an expedited retake; the other gives schools flexibility on when they administer the tests. "This would allow curriculums and teaching to be more individualized," said Barker.

SB1122: Helps set up a support network for suicide prevention among college students, universities and parents of students.

Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37)

DEAD

SB681: Three-year plan to raise the minimum wage to \$10.10. "We'll get that soon," said Marsden. The bill died in the Commerce and Labor committee. "Last year, the Republicans couldn't look me in the eye."

SB687: This bill would have imposed more regulations on legislator retirements, specifically if they were promoted to a new position in their last four years of service and received a pay increase more than 400 times their previous salary.

SB1391: Sought to create a procedural guarantee for Department of Corrections officers facing allegations that could threaten their job.

ALIVE

SB1235: Medical marijuana bill, specifically regarding the use of Cannabidiol oil and THC-A oil, very similar to Albo's HB1445.

SB730: Deals with individuals serving a life sentence without parole for non-homicide crimes. The bill would give them a "meaningful and reasonable opportunity at release" through a four-judge circuit court review panel.

SB1390: Would help homeowners associations to hold elections despite failing to obtain a quorum at meetings.

Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36)

DEAD

SB728: Would have given art instructors the opportunity to obtain a license for serving alcohol at private instructional events.

ALIVE

SB675 and SB 676: Regarding funding of a Northern Virginia Veterans Care Center, including allocating two sums of over \$60 million from the federal government.

SB1032: Would reorganize Virginia alcoholic beverage control, getting rid of the ABC board in favor of a Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority.

SB903: Would set up a problem-solving court docket specifically to meet the needs of veterans, the mentally ill or people re-entering society. "There are so many that really do need some special attention because of their circumstances," said Puller. "I hope it goes well."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORWOOD SCHOOL

Students at Norwood School in Bethesda wrote poems modeled after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech and recited them at a school assembly.

Black History Month Celebrations

Local students learn about the history and accomplishments of African-Americans.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Fourth grade student Eli West crafted a poem this month that was modeled after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous, "I Have a Dream" speech. As part of February's month-long celebration of the history and culture of African-Americans, fourth grade students at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., wrote and delivered poems reminiscent of the speech that the famous civil rights leader delivered in 1963. The students also delivered their verses before Norwood's lower school community.

"I learned more about Martin Luther King, Jr. I learned that he was a very spiritual man," said West.

The exercise was part of a broader lesson in honor of Black History Month, a time when students learn about the history of African-Americans as that history is incorporated in to the overall curriculum of many schools. From concerts to school projects, there are opportunities to join the month-long celebration.

"Black History Month is a time to honor the accomplishments of the African-American men and women who have made contributions to the world in spite of the injustice they faced," said Sandi Hannibal, Director of Multicultural and Ethical Education at Norwood School in Bethesda, Maryland. "One might ask why it is necessary to highlight these accomplishments in 2015. After all, we have lived through the Civil Rights Era and the Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964. We have a black president. We

Black History Month Celebration Concert

Saturday, Feb. 21, 11a.m. at the GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. \$5 for children, students and seniors; \$10 for adults. For tickets, call 888-945-2468 or visit <http://cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/1830/>. For program questions, call 703-993-9889

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have made so much progress. All of this is true, but in some schools the contributions and accomplishments of African-Americans are not woven into the overall curriculum, so it is important that Black History Month provides an opportunity to learn about prominent African-Americans in a very intentional manner."

Some educators are encouraging students to take time to ponder the history of African-Americans. "It's more than just the Jim Crow Laws. There're a whole host of things that African-Americans have done," said Lisa Styles, school counselor at Arlington Public School's Career Center in Arlington.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, in Alexandria, will host a Middle School Student Diversity Conference on Friday, Feb. 20.

"Students at the middle school age are trying to learn who they are. We want to expose kids to the ideas of identity, inclusive behavior, and respect, and to let them know that what they feel matters," said KiKi Davis, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School director of multicultural education, diversity, and equity initiatives. "We want to give them tools to become leaders in their own schools, and it starts with being able to talk about diversity and social justice issues at their developmental level. What it looks like to them, in their lives, at this age."

St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., hosted a regional diversity conference earlier this month called "Diversity in the DMV" Conference. More than 200 representatives from independent schools in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia explored some of the tools needed for cross-cultural understanding.

Among the observances in Fairfax County Virginia, George Mason University Potomac Arts Academy and George Mason University School of Music will present a Black History Month celebration concert on Saturday, Feb. 21, called, "The Dream Lives On."

The Mason Wind Symphony and Vocal Studies Students, Mason Spiritual Ensemble will join local church choirs and elementary school choirs in a performance of gospel, spirituals, jazz and original compositions. The concert is designed to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. and other African-American leaders.

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Fairfax's Barborek Wins 6A North Region Floor Title

Senior qualifies for states on floor, bars, vault.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Rachel Barborek started her regional gymnastics performance by falling off the beam and winding up with a sub-par (by her standards) score of 8.475.

Rather than being consumed by disappointment, the Fairfax senior responded with a championship effort in her next event.

Barborek's floor routine entertained fans and judges alike, earning her a score of 9.75 and a region title.

In all, Barborek qualified for states on floor, vault and bars during the 6A North region championship meet on Feb. 11 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"On beam, I only fell once and I thought the rest of my routine was good, so I was pretty mad when my score turned out to be just an 8.45," Barborek wrote in an email, "so I channeled that emotion on floor and just did the best that I could."

BARBOREK DESCRIBED her performance during the meet as "one of my worst," but she put on a show during her floor routine.

"While I was waiting to salute before floor,



Fairfax gymnast Rachel Barborek, center, won the 6A North region floor championship on Feb. 11.

I heard people saying 'Go Rachel!' from seemingly all sides of the gym and I thought that was pretty cool," she wrote. "In the beginning of my floor routine I felt a little shaky, but when the beat dropped in my music I just had fun for the rest of the routine."

Barborek also had a strong showing on vault, placing fourth with a score of 9.5. She tied for eighth on bars with a score of 8.775 despite struggling with her dismount. She tied for 18th on beam.

After an equipment malfunction in the main gym during the third rotation, the uneven bars were moved into a snug gym-

nastics room. Barborek and the rest of the competing Conference 6 gymnasts were on vault at the time and would compete on bars during the evening's final rotation.

"On bars, I've just been having a mental block with my dismount recently, almost like I've just forgotten how to let go of the bar," Barborek wrote. "The room wasn't a problem; my whole routine was really good just up until the dismount. I just couldn't let go."

Barborek finished fifth in the all-around with a score of 36.5. The top four all-around finishers qualify for states.

"For states, I'm just going to do my best

on the three events I made it on: floor, vault, and bars," she wrote. "I'm hoping to place well on floor and bars (once I figure out how to let go of the bar). I was really hoping to move on [with] all-around, but now I just have to work with what I have and do my best routines and have fun for my last gymnastics meet."

Washington-Lee's Sophie Hatcher won the all-around with a score of 37.65, followed by Yorktown's Bella Kane (37), Hayfield's Molly Overstreet (36.975) and McLean's Lizzy Brown-Kaiser (36.95).

SOUTH COUNTY sophomore Collea Burgess, last year's all-around champion, attended this year's region meet but did not compete. Burgess said her club coaches (Apollo Gymnastics) did not want her to compete. McLean won the team title with a score of 144.425. Battlefield earned the other state berth with a score of 141.025.

Three-time defending region champion Washington-Lee placed third with a score of 139.525. Lake Braddock's Jordan Clark earned a state berth on beam (second, 9.225), vault (seventh, 9.325) and bars (tied eighth, 8.775). Teammate Carsyn Quackenbush qualified on beam (sixth, 9), and Jordan Tautges earned a trip on floor (tied eighth, 9.45).

Robinson's Caroline Burda is headed to states on vault (sixth, 9.4).

The state meet is scheduled for Feb. 20-21 at Patriot High School.

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN

Robinson's DePasquale Escapes Defeat at Regionals

Lake Braddock's Haskett wins third region championship.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Trailing 2-1 with seconds remaining in the 182-pound region final, Robinson wrestler Cole DePasquale masterfully timed his escape from defeat.

Starting from bottom position, DePasquale timed his lunge perfectly with the referee's starting whistle and worked free from Hayfield's Antonio Agee with 6 seconds remaining in overtime, earning one point for an escape while forcing an ultimate tiebreaker.

DePasquale would secure the win with another escape, capturing his second region championship with a 3-2 victory on Feb. 14 at Centreville High School.

"You go when [the referee] inhales — right before he exhales in the whistle," DePasquale said. "You've got to time it just right. I'm glad I got a head start on him and I was really fortunate."

DePasquale received a cut above his right eye during the first day of the regional tournament. The cut re-opened during his match against Agee, leading to multiple blood-time stoppages.

DePasquale at first had gauze placed over his right eye and eventually had a wrap around his head, limiting his peripheral vision. DePasquale, who missed nine months due to injury, also battled fatigue, having been back with the Rams for less than a month.

"I knew Agee was going to be tough; I knew he was a really good wrestler," DePasquale said. "I'm just glad with my limited training I was able to come away with the win."

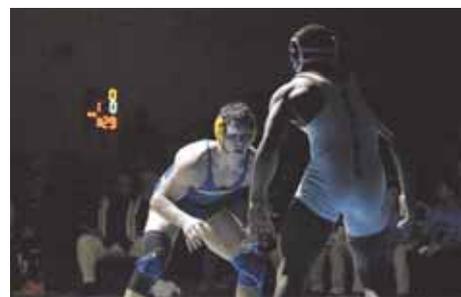
Robinson's Austin Riggs won the 145-pound title, beating Osbourn Park's David Sniffen, 10-3.

DePasquale and Riggs helped the Rams finish third in the team standings with a score of 141. Battlefield won the team title with a score of 188.5, and Osbourn Park placed second (142.5).

Hayfield finished ninth (83), South County 10th (77), and Lake Braddock 11th (69).

Lake Braddock's Ryan Haskett captured his third region championship, finishing atop the 126-pound bracket.

Haskett defeated Annandale's Alex Joya,



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION

Robinson's Cole DePasquale won the 182-pound title at the 6A North region wrestling tournament on Feb. 14 at Centreville High School.

2-1.

"It was a low-scoring match," Haskett said, "but I felt I was in control the whole time."

Haskett, who finished state runner-up at 120 in 2014, said he is motivated by the way last season ended.

"Every day I think about last year [and how] I was runner-up," Haskett said. "[I will likely have] the same kid (Colonial Forge's Joshua Nail) this year [in] the state finals. [It] motivates me every day. This time I'm gonna win it."

Other individual winners include: Patriot's Killian Cardinale (106), Centreville's Victor Echeverria (113).



Lake Braddock's Ryan Haskett (126) captured the third region title of his high school wrestling career on Feb. 14 at Centreville High School.

Battlefield's River Curtis (120), Westfield's Justin Yorkdale (132), Ryan Yorkdale (138) and Austin Knies (285), McLean's Conor Grammes (152) and Mack McCune (170), West Potomac's Joshua Carter (160), Centreville's Tyler Love (195) and Annandale's Tony Gibbs (220).

Love, the defending 195-pound state champion, received the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler award, and was recognized for pinning three opponents in a combined 2 minutes, 6 seconds.

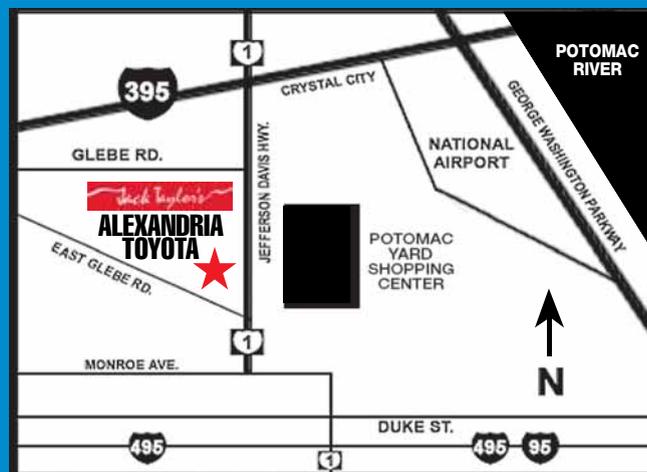
The state meet is scheduled for Feb. 20-21 at Robinson Secondary School.

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OBITUARY

Dakota George Cape, of Springfield, VA born December 18th 2014 passed away on February 7th 2015. He is survived by his loving parents, Cory and Kirsten Cape, brother Arkarian Spirek, grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandmother, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Visitation was held at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032, on Sunday, February 15th, from 4-6 PM as well as Monday, February 16th, from 6-8 PM. A memorial service was held at Living Faith Church, 10266 Battlevue Parkway, Manassas, VA 20109, on Tuesday, February 17th, 2015 at 1:30 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:
http://www.gofundme.com/m2fd60.

To read a full obituary or to sign an online guestbook for the family, please visit www.fmfh.com.

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Yajing Huang, trading as Taiku Sushi, Inc. 6715 D Backlick Rd, Springfield, VA 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Yajing Huang, owner
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FRIDAY/FEB. 20
VITA Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$52K. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/kn/>.
English Conversation Group. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/lo/>.

MONDAY/FEB. 23
Lorton Evening Book Conversations. 7 - 8 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Discussion of The Crystal Cave by Mary Stewart. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/lo/>.
English Conversation. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.
Computer One-on-One. 12 - 1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Help with Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.
Legos in the Library. 4 - 5:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun and make new friends. Hundreds of Legos await you and your creativity. Ages 5-12. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.
Teen-to-Teen Summit on Mental Health. 7-9 p.m. NOVA Annandale Campus, Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. A panel of local teens and young adults sharing their stories of living with mental health issues will be followed by separate parent and teen breakout groups, with discussion facilitated by educators, providers and mental health professionals. Register free at <http://joshandersonfoundation.org/our-events/>.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24
English Conversation Group. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice speaking English with other and improve your skills. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/lo/>.
Computer One-on-One. 12 - 1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Help with Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.
English Conversation One-on-One. 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for a non-native speaker with a library volunteer. Adults. Call for appointment. 703-242-4020.
Short Book Conversations. 1:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come join our lively discussion of Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes. Adults. 703-249-1520.
English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of

West Springfield's Dryer Breaks 10 Swim Records

After her performance in the 100 fly and 200 IM at the 2015 regional swim meet, Robyn Dryer has broken 10 of 11 swim records at West Springfield High School. The individual records held by Dryer include: 50/100/200/500 free, 100 back, 100 fly and 200 IM. She also was a member of three record-breaking relay teams: 200 medley, 200 free and 400 free.



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Fairfax! **\$625,000**
 Beautiful home on perfect corner lot in wonderful Fairfax Club Estates. Warm hardwoods, neutral color palate, and updated kitchen and baths make this home move in ready! Don't miss the beautiful master suite, 3 large bedrooms, fully finished walk out lower level with rec rm, full bath and guest room, and the deck with patio leading to lovely backyard.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Alexandria **\$679,900**
 Close to Kingstowne, Metro & Fort Belvoir! Big 4 level colonial updated with granite kitchen, new hwdw flooring, windows & roof! Huge fenced yard. 4 BR, 4.5BA, office, finished walkout basement!
David Billups
Virginia Clark-Billups
703-967-8700



Ashburn **\$799,900**
 5 BR, 4.5 BA, 3 level home on 3/4 acre premium flat lot on quiet street. Recent architectural roof and HVAC, gourmet kitchen with granite and cherry cabinets. Fabulous master bedroom suite with 3 walk-in closets. Too much to list!
Carol L. Manning 703-517-1828



Gainesville **\$342,000**
 Gorgeous 3BR townhome with 2 Full Baths and 2 Half Baths on one of the best lots in the neighborhood. Open floor plan. Large kitchen with center island, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Beautiful Hardwood Floors! Dual headed shower in the master. 2 car garage. Close to everything!
Diane Sundt
703-615-4626



Springfield **\$397,500**
 Location! Location! Location! Lovely 4 bedroom, 2 bath home that has been freshly painted. Fireplace with mantel, hardwood floors in upper bedrooms. Recreation room on lower level. Large treed lot. Located in North Springfield subdivision.
Claudia Callis 703-620-2790



Alexandria **\$374,900**
 Beautiful 3 level townhouse with 3 BRs, 2.5 BAs, remodeled kitchen & bathrooms. Hardwood floors main level. Ceramic tile in bathrooms and lower level rec room. Slate patio with new fence in backyard. Close to Kingstowne, movies, shops, restaurants, and Metro. Must see!
Judy McGuire
703-581-7679



Fairfax Station **\$899,900**
 Exquisite Craftsman style home with stunning bright open floor plan. Welcoming covered slate front porch leads to gracious room sizes, abundance of windows, gourmet kit, huge finished lower level, hardwood floors and crisp moldings showing no detail has been overlooked! Terrific location in a lovely Silverbrook Farms community.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Haymarket **\$565,000**
 Immaculate home...3BR/3BA has MBR and office on main. Brazilian maple hwdws, granite & more for luxury buyer. 4 season interest-landscaping & natural area. Walkout fin. LL, wet bar, theater & porch. Golf, clubhouse & amenities in 55+ Regency at Dominion Valley. See <http://15581-alderbrook.LFlisting.com>. Call to view.
Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



Burke **\$549,900**
 Burke Centre colonial. 3 levels, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Large walkout unfinished basement. Family Room with fireplace. 2 car garage. Close to elementary school, transportation, and shopping.
Buzz Jordan 703-503-1866



Lake Anna **\$689,000**
 Waterfront log home. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath professionally maintained home. Beamed ceiling, ceramic floors, large main level master, open floor plan. Level lot and private setting. Boat dock and 220 ft of waterfront.
Doug Hough 540-846-5844



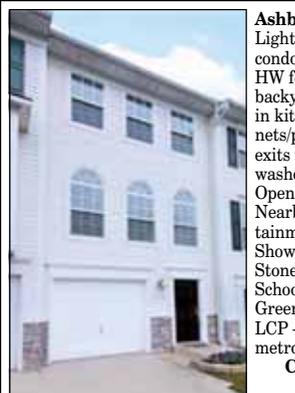
Fairfax **\$550,000**
 Great outdoor & indoor space! Comfortable Colonial with 4BR/2.5BA, gas fireplace, beautiful main level ceramic tile flooring, hardwoods on UL, and remodeled kitchen. A great slate patio, front porch with swing, and nice fully fenced backyard with over-sized shed add to the wonderful outdoor space. Plus, new roof, vinyl siding, triple pane windows, new HVAC (gas heat) and more! Close to schools with Metrobus on the corner.
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Haymarket **\$529,900**
 Elegant living in Dominion Valley gated golf course community. Blocks to country club & shopping. Entertaining is effortless w/open floor plan. Gleaming hardwood floors. Gourmet kitchen. Impressive two story foyer and family room. Master suite includes sitting area & luxury bath w/separate shower & soaking tub. Beautiful flat rear yard. Quiet street. Move in ready!
John & Jen Boyce 703-425-5646



Fairfax Station **\$659,900**
 Main floor master bedroom suite! 5BR, 3.5BA. Finished walkout basement with brand new BR & full bath plus huge rec room! Updated kitchen & bathrooms! New HVAC system. Backs to woods!
David Billups
Virginia Clark-Billups
703-967-8700



Ashburn **\$309,900**
 Light-filled 3 level TH style condo, 2 master suites, new HW foyer flooring. Fenced backyard patio. Large eat-in kitchen w/ lots of cabinets/pantry/counter space exits to deck. New dishwasher/garbage disposer. Open main level layout. Nearby shopping & entertainment. New HVAC. Shows well. Discovery, Stone Hill, Broad Run School triad. Convenient to Greenway, Waxpool Road & LCP - 1/2 mile to proposed metro stop.
Carol L. Manning
703-517-1828



Lake Anna **\$1,250,000**
 Gorgeous house, great deep water, beautiful view! Amenities galore in this one of a kind French country/contemporary home. Light & bright. Amazing gourmet kitchen. Room for family and friends with 4 bedrooms+ 2 more (ntc), 2 dual entry baths. Fabulous main level master with spa bath & dressing room. Bask in the sun at the pool. 3 car garage & paved drive to boat house.
Toni McQuair 703-795-2697



Fairfax Station **\$1,200,000**
 Gorgeous custom 5 BR all brick home on 5 beautiful, private acres with stunning landscaping, beautiful pool, fabulous brick patio is an oasis! Grand family room with stone fireplace, main level library and wonderful master suite are a few highlights. Walk out lower level completes the home with a guest suite, game room and custom pub.
Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Clifton **\$574,900**
 A treasure in Little Rocky Run. 4BR/3.5BA with huge deck & private, treed backyard. New carpet on 3 levels & updated MBA. Hardwoods, granite, finished LL & walkout. See photos at: <http://6317-SOUTH-SPRINGS.lflisting.com>. Call to view.
Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



Fairfax **\$565,000**
 Beautiful 4BR/2.5BA Colonial in Kings Park West. New Kitchen - custom 42" cabinetry, granite, SS appliances & breakfast nook overlooking flat, fenced backyard. Newly remodeled basement w/family room, game area, legal egress, and storage. Updated bathrooms, new windows, gas heat, garage & more! Close to schools, VRE & Metro bus.
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Manassas **Near Clifton** **\$519,900**
 3+ acres. Move in ready, gorgeous in ground pool, extensive outdoor living areas, many updates!
Marsha Wolber
703-618-4397



Arlington **\$478,900**
 Just a Couple of Blocks to East Falls Church Metro! A commuter's dream! Enjoy the convenience of being close to Metro AND the spacious ambiance of this two level, 2 BR, 2.5 BA condo townhouse! Master bedroom has vaulted ceiling and a Palladian window! Master bath has jacuzzi! Enjoy relaxing outdoors on the private balcony. Comes with 2 reserved parking spaces, too.
Mary Wharton
703-795-0587

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