

Allison Harris, a senior at Thomas A. Edison High School, is president of the Student Government Association and organizes the annual Got Hope Walkathon to support the Life With Cancer organization as well as a suicide prevention group CrisisLink. She was one of the students from around Fairfax County recognized for promoting peace.

Springfield CONNECTION

Franconia ♦ Kingstowne
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Student leaders and promoters of nonviolence were recognized March 15 at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, held at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville.



Nicolas Martin (center) a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, founded the Compassion in Action anti-bullying and positivity-spreading organization after he was a victim of cyberbullying.

Agents of Change

Students from around Fairfax County recognized for promoting peace.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

After a friend of South County High School senior Sakira Coleman was sexually assaulted while running on a local public path, Coleman decided to take action and started the “Fight for Your Right to Run at Night” program.

“I don’t like feeling helpless,” Coleman said. “This is about raising awareness.”

The senior has also served as president of the school service club “Stallions Lend a Hand” and volunteered at Greenspring Retirement Community, a workload that in addition to actual schoolwork requires “no sleep ever” to maintain.

Coleman and 22 other peace-promoting students and student organizations were recognized March 15 at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, held at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville. From anti-bullying event organizers to student association presidents and volunteers in the community, the student leaders were chosen for exhibiting high moral and civic values.

“The number of ways to peace is limited only by the human imagination,” said Dr. Margaret Fisher with the Peace Awards coalition as she opened the program. “Seemingly endless suffering in the world can give way when we join our strengths together.”

The peace awards started in 2006 with one high school and faith-based sponsorship. The event has grown such that now each public high school and three private schools in Fairfax County may select students for the awards and there are 14 faith-based and secular sponsors.

This year schools were also able to select

organizations to honor, including: the Anti-Bullying Committee of Cedar Lane School in Vienna, the Dare to Care anti-bullying group of Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria and The Peer Mediation Program of J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church.

As students were called to the stage in the Mountain View auditorium, they received a copy of Mark Andreas’ book “Sweet Fruits from a Bitter Tree.” Along with a monetary award, each student also chose a charitable organization to which \$100 would be donated in their name.

Guest speaker Vickie Shoap, restorative justice specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, addressed the audience once the students were recognized.

“When I looked at what these students have done,” said Shoap, “I was humbled and lifted. There is hope for the future.”

Shoap referenced the nonviolence and civil disobedience that characterized the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, commenting that “We’re all fighting for human rights.”

“We’re change agents,” she continued. “It’s hard to talk about things that are difficult in their communities.” But, Shoap said, “You’re connected to a growing global community of peacemakers.”

Though mostly upperclassmen were recognized with peace awards, Seungmin Lee of Rocky Run Middle School represented the next wave of peacemakers. His artwork was featured on the back of the event’s program and won first place in the Fairfax Lions Club 2014 Peace Poster Contest.

Lee used colored pencils to depict a red, white and blue dove flying over a globe and a peace sign, with hands of various skin tones reaching towards it.



Emily Borkowski (left), a junior at Robert E. Lee High School, is congratulated by Vickie Shoap (center) and school board member Pat Hynes (right) at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County. Borkowski has been a leader in peer mediation classes and helped set up anti-bullying events at Lee.



Sakira Coleman, a senior at South County High School, was recognized at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County.



Alex Cady, a senior at West Springfield High School, is a student ambassador for new students, a peer mediator, teacher’s assistant in the Adaptive Physical Education class and member of the Buddies Club, working with special needs students.



Natalia Micheli, a junior at Robinson Secondary School, started a Western Culture class in the culture center of the small Polish village of Ropczyce, from which her family moved to the United States when she was 4 years old. The class is meant to help promote understanding and tolerance in the town.

JOB FAIR AND OPPORTUNITY EXPO ON MARCH 21

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Supervisor Pat Herrity and West Springfield High School PTSA to host a job fair for local job seekers. Although the job fair is not strictly for students and young job seekers, area high schools are making a push for students and parents to take advantage of this event to line up after-school employment, an internship, volunteer opportunities or a seasonal position for the summer. Come to the fair on March 21 from

1-5 p.m. at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield.

WHAT DOES JUSTICE IN THE HOLY LAND LOOK LIKE?

Israel and Palestine make headline news regularly, with reports of peace talks, but what does it really take to have justice in the Holy Land? What does justice look like - in the everyday life of the people living under occupation? Find out on March 22 at 2:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield.

NEWS



Chuy's, Maggiano's Little Italy, La Madeleine, Taism and Yard House provided food for Springfield's Empty Bowls, allowing guests to savor delicious breads and soups while joining in to help end hunger.

PHOTO BY
MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

Springfield Hosts Empty Bowls Event

Described as a grassroots initiative to help end hunger, Empty Bowls brought together local artists, restaurants and individuals concerned about hunger, in Springfield's first ever Empty Bowls event on March 12. The event was held at Springfield's Hilton Hotel, and for a minimum donation of \$25, attendees enjoyed a lunch of soups and breads from Chuy's, La Madeleine, Maggiano's Little Italy, Taism and Yard House. All proceeds from the sale of the art bowls went directly to the Capital Area Food Bank, which distributed 5.6 million pounds of food to children, seniors and families in Northern Virginia this year with the help of 129 food assistance partners, including Martha's Table, churches and soup kitchens.

"It's amazing how people don't realize the plight of hunger in the area. Every block has hungry

people," said John Jaeger, board member of the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) and chairman of the YRCL. Fairfax County consistently ranks as one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, making poverty seem like an anomaly. But this reality is startlingly close to home; 7 percent of people living here experience hunger, and 12 percent of those people are children.

"I make donations every year and received an email about this event," said Alexandria resident Gloria McGee. "Since they were having it here in Virginia, I decided to participate."

"Hunger is the beginning of the cycle of poverty," said Jaeger. "If you're hungry, you're not going to develop as well mentally. [You're] not going to do as well, academically."

SEE HELPING, PAGE 5

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Parcel 4 (Mohammed N. Shirazi, et al.): 4242 Chain Bridge Road #D, Fairfax; Fairfax Professional Village Condos. Tax Map #: 57-4-20-7D

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NEWS

Helping Fill Empty Bowls

FROM PAGE 4

The Empty Bowls event drew a crowd of 130 to 140 people.

"It's just terrific to be able to bring the story into Virginia. I've lived in Fairfax and Arlington Counties and unfortunately there's lots of people who need support, and there's lots of ways Virginians can help," said Nancy Roman, president and CEO of CAFB. "It's all about awareness."

"I heard about the event in the Chamber of Commerce. This is my first time here," said Karen Fountain, Springfield resident who has volunteered in the past with ECHO, who also mentioned her surprise at the statistics mentioned.

For more information or to find out ways to volunteer, visit <http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/cafb-programs/>

— MARISSA BEALE



PHOTOS BY MARISSA BEALE/THE CONNECTION

Local artists provided bowls for the guests to take home. The bowls served as reminders for how donations would go toward eliminating empty bowls and hunger. Participating artists included Eastern Market Pottery, Hinckley Pottery, Julia Paul Pottery, Jimmy Potters, Lee Arts Center and Strange Kitchen.

John Jaeger, board member of the Capital Area Food Bank, shared a story at the Empty Bowls event about a 4-year-old girl a friend of his encountered during their church's missions trip in Tennessee. The little girl was so hungry that she grinded pebbles between her teeth to stave off the hunger. Jaeger said that was when he realized hunger could affect anyone.






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OPINION

On Police Information and Secrecy

Time for change in public access to police information.

The first meeting of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission will take place next Monday, March 23, and it comes with hope for real change.

Police could take one step that would signal that they are serious about regaining public trust.

Police departments in Northern Virginia should let go of their relentless pursuit of secrecy. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports, dashboard video and many other sources of information without harm, all things that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence,

case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax (and also in Arlington and Alexandria) have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should, whether the case is open or closed, whether they are about a “police-involved shooting” or information requested by a family about a homicide victim.

EDITORIAL

It is only because of legal action by the family of John Geer, shot dead by a Fairfax County police officer in the doorway to his own home in August 2013, and the resulting court order that we know details of what happened that day. And what we now know confirms that the information released by police was incomplete and misleading at best.

We’ve learned that we cannot trust the leadership at the Fairfax County Police Department to tell the truth voluntarily on these matters. (See Editorial: “Not the First or Only Time,” Connection, Feb. 11, 2015.)

Repeating what we have said in this space many times: Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and ques-

tion, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Most Northern Virginia residents think very highly of their police. We are very safe here. People understand that sometimes mistakes happen, that sometimes force is needed, and that sometimes police will exercise deadly force. What they are unlikely to accept is secrecy that shrouds mistakes, and failure to take responsibility for explaining events of deadly force.

It’s clear that discretion about when to withhold information cannot be left up to the police department.

—MARY KIMM, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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Mary Kimm is a member of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission; news coverage of police issues will continue to be the responsibility of reporters at the Connection.

Investing in Families Strengthens Communities

BY MARY AGEE
PRESIDENT AND CEO
NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY
SERVICE
AND NICHELLE A. MITCHEM,
JD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRIES
AND KERRIE WILSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CORNERSTONES

The Fairfax County proposed \$7.13 billion budget for fiscal year 2016 comes at devastating cost for the most vulnerable families in our community. Included in the budget is the complete elimination of Healthy Families, a nationally recognized, evidence-based child abuse and neglect prevention program that serves hundreds of at-risk families. By eliminating this program, the total “savings” to the county would equal approximately \$1.6 million now, but could amount to unforeseen future costs for schools, human services, public safety and more.

Established in 1991, the Healthy Families Fairfax program provides comprehensive and intensive home visiting services to expectant and new parents whose children may be at risk for poor childhood outcomes. As an accredited affiliate of the national Healthy Families America network, the

program promotes positive parenting skills and optimal child health and development as a means of preventing child abuse and neglect among fragile families living in Fairfax County.

In Healthy Families, home visits allow Family Support Workers to establish a trusting relationship with young parents, with the goal of helping the family move toward greater self-reliance. Along the way, staff ensures that the child’s medical needs and developmental benchmarks are being met, and that parents are learning age-appropriate activities to encourage learning and growth. Many Family Support Workers are also able to identify other needed services for their families, and are able to leverage additional community resources that parents might not be able to obtain otherwise.

For the past 23 years, Healthy Families Fairfax has proven to be a wise investment of taxpayer’s money. Since its inception, the program has met or exceeded all state mandated goals, an excellent return on an investment of only \$3,473 per family per year. Last year, Healthy Families Fairfax served 613 at-risk Fairfax County families. Of these 613 at-risk families:

❖ 97 percent of the children were born at normal birth weight.

Healthy Families services provide better birth outcomes including a 50 percent reduction in the number of babies born at low birth weight, saving an average of \$15,000 in hospitalization costs for each preterm/low birth weight baby.

❖ 82 percent of the children were up to date on immunizations, a higher rate than both state (70.4 percent) and national (69.2 percent) levels. Healthy Families services ensure children are connected with a regular medical provider and support families in their efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle which, in turn, helps prevent chronic problems and keeps health care costs in check.

❖ 100 percent of children with suspected developmental delays were referred to therapeutic early intervention services. Healthy Families services provide early detection of developmental delays, helping to decrease the number of children in need of special education services — a savings of \$12,900 a year per child.

❖ 94 percent of the families demonstrated healthy parent-child interactions based on nationally validated assessments. Healthy Families services enhance parent-child interactions and increase

protective factors associated with the prevention of child maltreatment and neglect in the homes of disadvantaged families, potentially saving \$78,658 per year for one child in foster care.

❖ 99.4 percent of families had no substantiated case of child abuse or neglect based on Virginia Department of Social Service reports. Healthy Families services reduce the incidence of child and abuse and neglect by half, a tremendous saving given that child maltreatment costs between \$210,012 and \$1,272,900 over the lifetime of each victim.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors faces many difficult decisions when deciding upon budget priorities in the coming year, but we urge our legislators not to make budget reductions at the expense of our most vulnerable families and children. As University of Chicago Professor and Nobel Laureate in economics James Heckman said in regard to early childhood, “The question is not where to cut. The question is where to invest, and in what.” We believe that it is in all of our best interests to continue investing in Healthy Families Fairfax.

The writers are three executive directors of the nonprofits that administer Healthy Families in Fairfax County.

Springfield CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Herrity To Run Again for Springfield Supervisor

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) chose to align himself with the luck of the Irish, using his annual St. Patrick's Day get together at the Springfield Golf and Country Club to announce his bid to seek re-election to represent the Springfield District.

"I am proud of my accomplishments to date and want to continue to be a leader on the Board of Supervisors on the critical issues that face residents of Fairfax County," Herrity said in a statement. "With your help I will continue to work to get spending under control, stop the ever-increasing homeowner taxes, fix the government regulation that hinders economic growth and high quality jobs from coming to Fairfax County. Help me implement common sense solutions to our ever-increasing traffic congestion and to promote transparency in our local government."

The 1978 graduate of West Springfield



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL TRAN

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) announces his campaign for re-election, joined (from left) by his daughter Valeria, wife Nancy and mother Justine.

High School was first elected to the Board of Supervisors in November 2007. He currently lives in Little Rocky Run with wife Nancy, son Sean and daughter Valeria. In addition to his work on the board, Herrity is chief operating officer for Herndon-based Delx Systems.

— TIM PETERSON

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The Right Fit: Choosing a Summer Camp

How parents can ensure positive summer experiences for their children.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Though the official start of spring is still days away and the frigidity of winter is still recent on the minds of many, Janelle Wright, a Potomac, Md., mother of two, has already mapped out the summer for her children.

Wright did research before signing up her 13-year-old daughter, Corrine, in an academic camp geared toward boosting her English composition skills, and enrolling her 12-year-old son, Teddy, in a camp for children whose needs fall just outside the norm.

Indeed, experts say social interactions, a chance to have fun and an opportunity to fill the time between family trips are just some of the benefits of summer camps.

There are camps for every child, no matter their needs.

“I spoke to the camp and shared with them up front that my son might need help socializing with other kids,” said Wright. “He might need directions repeated to him. I did that so I could drive away in peace knowing that he’d be fine. It’s different for my daughter because she doesn’t have any challenges. I don’t have to call the camp and talk to them like I do with my son.”

WHETHER A CHILD is typical or falls slightly outside the norm, doing a bit of research and exercising forethought are good ideas when selecting summer programs. In fact, advanced planning and registration for summer camp is essential in the Washington, D.C., region, say educators.

“It’s important to find an activity that kids already like to do. It’s summer so kids should have fun,” said Linda Guly, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington.

“Choose a camp where they won’t feel lonely. It helps to sign them up with a buddy, especially in late elementary and middle school so they’ll have one or two people at camp they already know. That really does matter.”

If choosing a specialty camp, summer might not be the time for embarking on a new activity, however. “Summer camps may not be

a time to have kids do something completely new,” she said. “For example, if a child has never played golf, you might not want to invest money in a golf camp if you aren’t sure your child will enjoy it. A child needs to feel like this is not school where they are struggling to learn a new activity.”

The most important thing is for parents to do their research.

“Interview the camp director, said Lois McCabe, head of school for The Diener School in Potomac. “What does the day look like? How structured or unstructured is it? It is good to have a mix of both.”

This is particularly true for children with special needs. “You want to make sure the camp understands the needs of special needs children,” said McCabe. “You don’t want to throw them in this big unstructured environment with other kids and hope for the best. You want to make sure your child’s peer groups understand your child.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMER AT NORWOOD

When choosing a summer camp, parents should consider signing up their children with friends to decrease the chance of loneliness.

“Parents should consider a camp that taps into their child’s strengths, the size of the groupings during the day,” said Susan J. Johnson, Ph.D., of Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. “Consider the length of time for each activity.”

Johnson advises that parents try coordinating their child’s attention span with the camp’s schedule. “Match camp schedule with body clock of the child,” she said. “Schedule afternoon camp for chil-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIDDIE COUNTRY

Campers at Kiddie Country Summer Camp in Burke take field trips as part of their summer experience. Camp is a time when children have fun while building social skills.

dren who naturally sleep late in the mornings, for example.”

INFORM THE CAMP’S STAFF if a child has allergies, medical needs or phobias. For special needs children, Johnson says camp counselors and directors should be “aware of a child’s specific learning disabilities, and trained in how to teach children with learning disabilities, present directions, teach

want their children to enjoy typical camp activities like swimming and arts and crafts combined with academics. For example, Wright chose an English program at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School in Potomac for her daughter.

“[Our] summer programs encompass academics for credit or enrichment and the arts [including] visual, performing and culinary,” said Monique McMillan-Jackson, director of summer programs. St. Andrews also offers sports and technology camps.

Campers who attend Summer at Norwood in Potomac can expect to “camp outside the lines,” said Kevin Rechen, director of auxiliary programs at Norwood School. The school’s camps run the gamut from art, science, technology and adventure to academics, dance, sports and theater.

SOME DAY CAMPS are structured to allow parents to choose the week their child will attend camp based on the camper’s interests.

“We have a theme for every week that is packed with field trips and special events” said Fred Lowery, owner of Kiddie Country in Burke, which is running 11 weeks of camp this summer. “All of the camp activities are related to the theme. There are field trips to the Maryland Science Center, a Washington Mystics game, Reptiles Alive and Hershey Park. On site, we have everything from mad science to jugglers to swimming.”

Traditional camp experiences, like opportunities for socializing with peers, are still found in specialty camps.

There are also options if parents

Marshall High Wins Culinary Challenge

Edison and Chantilly culinary academies take part in contest.

By VALERIE
LAPOINTE
THE CONNECTION

The tables have been set and the contestants wait eagerly as the judging begins, each judge moving carefully between courses, sampling and chewing and making notes. There’s sweetness in the mix for the winner, a monetary prize and a chance to have their dish installed as a permanent fixture. It could be Top Chef, but it’s the third annual Feeding Academic Success Culinary Challenge sponsored by Real Food For Kids.

Three teams of four culinary academy students, one each from Edison HS, Marshall HS, and Chantilly HS met Tuesday evening to prepare grab-and-go lunch items using skills they honed in the county’s academy class program. Their entree had to fit into the FCPS lunch program profile in terms of cost and caloric guidelines so that the winning entree could be considered for inclusion into the county lunch program. Under the tutelage of their professional chef mentors, the students prepared every ingredient from scratch, in the professional grade kitchens on premises at Marshall HS.

“We had to really pay attention to the caloric guidelines,” said Stephen Pungello of Langley HS on the Marshall team. “We ended up having to add more chicken to get the numbers up. We were a little healthier than the guidelines required, but I think that’s a good problem to have.”

Most of the student contestants were drawn to the academy program as a way of wetting their feet for future careers. Pungello hopes to one day attend The Culinary Institute of America, following in the footsteps of chefs like Anthony Bourdain and Duff Goldman. Grace Zirkel of Lake Braddock on the Edison team has already been accepted to Johnson & Wales and credits the academy program for really piquing her



VALERIE LAPOINTE/THE CONNECTION

Andrew Snellings, Grace Zirkel, and Kathy Park all from the Edison culinary team prepare their grab-and-go entree.

interest.

“Working with a real chef was definitely the best part of the program,” said Zirkel. “They treat us like we are actual employees in a restaurant and that is really motivating.”

The camaraderie between the chefs and students is palpable as the chefs stand behind their students offering helpful suggestions but generally letting them run the show. Clay Doubleday is the chef instructor for the Chantilly team and also one of the founders of the program.

“The reason I became a teacher was so I could be for them someone I didn’t have. Kids have an idea of what they want to do, but no real way of exploring it and that is what we provide,” said Doubleday, “give them options so they can make good choices, just like in the lunchroom.”

Once all the votes were in, it was Marshall, the home team, who tasted sweet victory with their oriental grilled chicken salad with sesame ginger sauce and their soba noodle vegetable salad with sesame seeds.

“The real success here lies in putting students in a position to provide solutions for their peers,” said Bonnie Moore, founding member of Real Food for Kids, “to use skills they have learned to solve real problems. It’s that experience that makes this invaluable.”

BULLETIN BOARD

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/MARCH 21

Opportunity Expo and Job Fair. 1-5 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Supervisor Pat Herrity and West Springfield High School PTSA to host a job fair for local job seekers. Although the job fair is not strictly for students and young job seekers, area high schools are making a push for students and parents to take advantage of this event to line up after-school employment, an internship, volunteer opportunities or a seasonal position for the summer.

Vita Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earn up to \$52K. Adults. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/>.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Library Tech Help. 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.



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Eyerusalem Meaza discussing her original photo "Innocence Lost" depicting the young black experience.



Kiana Cauley of Arlington, explaining her original artwork done in tempura and oil titled "Northern Lights."

Hunting for Talent in Springfield

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Fairfax County Chapter held it's annual Talent Hunt at Robert E. Lee High School. Fifteen contestants from Northern Virginia and Maryland showcased their talents through song, dance, oratory and expressive arts for evaluation by four judges.

The Talent Hunt program of Omega Psi Phi is one of several national programs designed to identify and support youth. The program became national in 1953 when the national fraternity featured the winners of local and regional competitions at the Grand Conclave in Cincinnati, Ohio, for participants grades 9 through 12 who display their talents across oratory, music, dance and expressive arts. The Talent Hunt program has touched thousands of lives through scholarships, awards, and has launched the careers of many currently performing artists.

The winners of this year's Talent Hunt in Springfield were: First Place, Justin B. Mosley from

Bowie, Md. who played Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C-sharp minor. Second place went to Karl Green who attends Wakefield High School in Arlington, who performed an oration titled "I Am Black" by Charnika Louise. Third place went to Henok Berhane who attends Lee High School in Springfield, performing a Hip-hop freestyle dance.

Omega Psi Phi fraternity is an international organization with over 700 chapters. The fraternity was started in 1911 by three Howard University juniors and a faculty advisor with a stated purpose to attract and build a strong and effective force of men dedicated to the cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift. Notable members include Vernon Jordan, Rev. Jesse Jackson, L. Douglas Wilder, Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal, Steve Harvey, Ray Lewis, and Ozzie Newsome, GM of the Baltimore Ravens.

— TERRANCE MORAN

Joahnned Loagn performing Ed Sheeran's "A-Team" on the guitar.



PHOTOS BY
TERRANCE MORAN/
THE CONNECTION

Shyelle Harber of Arlington, showcasing her original B&W photograph "Afternoon Harvest."



Master of Ceremony Isaiah E. Barnwell III, from Woodbridge, highlighting the Omega Fraternity's community work.



Karl Green of Arlington, performing "I Am Black" by Charnika Hayes. Karl was awarded second place.



Imari Conway from Fort Washington, Md., performing Joh Legend's "Ordinary People."

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.

THROUGH SUNDAY/APRIL 5

Reference. W-16 - Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Reference is a multimedia exploration of the various modes of influence that inform visual artists in both content and process. In Reference, participating artists incorporate performance, sound, process, and imagery to address the strong influence of other artists, visual and otherwise, upon their creative output as well as their deepest philosophical and spiritual understandings. No ticket required. www.workhousearts.org. 703-584-2900.

THURSDAYSUNDAY/MARCH19-21

Friends of the Burke Centre Library Spring Used Book Sale. Thursday: 1 - 9 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Thousands of books to look through covering every genre of interest plus DVDs and CDs that have been donated. Proceeds benefit programming at Burke Centre Library and collection enhancement for the Fairfax County Library system.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Composting. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Don't drag your garden and yard waste out to the curb week after week. Learn how to turn it into compost or black gold. Master Gardeners show you the right way to make rich, nutrient-filled compost that plants love. \$10. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 183 3501 or call 703-642-5173.

Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Peruse and shop a selection of gently used books for sale by The Friends of The Burke Centre Library. All Ages. More information at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Opportunity Expo and Job Fair. 1-5 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Supervisor Pat Herrity and West Springfield High School PTSA to host a job fair for local job seekers. Although the job fair is not strictly for students and young job seekers, area high schools are making a push for students and parents to take advantage of this event to line up after-school employment, an internship, volunteer opportunities or a seasonal position for the summer.

Appraisal Event. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find out SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

what your items are worth, come get your items appraised by professionals. \$5 admission, \$5 for each appraisal. Limit 3 items. Proceeds go to City of Fairfax Senior Center.

Decorating Birdhouse Gourds

Workshop. 10-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Turn a gourd into a beautiful, crafted birdhouse for your feathered friends. Susan Eggerton shows you a stencil, wood burning, and ink dye technique to free your decorative imagination and turn a plain gourd into a work of art. \$35 plus \$25 supply fee. Register in advance for both the program and supply fee at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 201 5801 for the program and code 290 201 5802 for the supply fee or call 703-642-5173.

Brownies: Letterboxer Badge. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For Girl Scout Brownies. Want to work towards your Letterboxer badge? Join us and complete activities that satisfy requirements for this badge. \$12. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 274 4201 or call 703-642-5173.

Juniors: Geocacher Badge. 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For Girl Scout Juniors. Want to work towards your Geocacher badge? Join us and complete activities that satisfy requirements for this badge. \$15. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 274 4801 or call 703-642-5173.

Date Night: Chef's Table. 7-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Anyone can go out for dinner and a movie so why not make your night something special to be remembered? Date Night cooking classes are designed to be fun, relaxing and an escape from the daily grind. They are great way to learn some basic cooking techniques while enjoying your company and making new friends. The menu items will be prepared by participants working together at each of the cooking islands. Participants will be served a tasting portion of all the entrees and a pre-chef-selected drink of choice. No one will leave hungry. Every month you will prepare a new dish ranging from ethnic cuisines like Japanese, Thai and Spanish High Cuisine to Vegetarian and much more.

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

Neighborhood Summit. 8:30 a.m. - 1

p.m. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. The seminar will offer homeowners and community leaders practical advice on how to deal with common neighborhood problems.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Hands On Modeling Day at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum

1-4 p.m. Visitors will be able to participate in hands on modeling activities and in the basics of artifact restoration. In addition, they will see demonstrations of common office items used at the Station in the early 1900s. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission is free to Museum Members and children 4 and under; \$2 children 5-15 and \$4 adults 16 and over. www.fairfax-station.org, 703-425-9225.

Fashion Show: Kyoto Costume Institute

1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Travel to Japan with our slideshow showcasing the fabulous collection of one of the world's leading repositories of Western haute couture, the Kyoto Costume Institute. Learn about KCI's mission to research three centuries of Western fashion and accessories and provide cultural exchange through international exhibits. Traditional English tea after. 13 to adults. \$32. Call 703-941-7987 to reserve a space.

What Do Justice and Peace in the Holy Land Look Like?

2:30 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. Israel and Palestine make headline news regularly, with reports of peace talks, negotiations, UN resolutions, and US foreign policy debates. But what does it really take to have justice, peace, and security in the Holy Land? What does justice look like—in the everyday life of the Palestinian people living under occupation? How does one know when real and lasting peace has been achieved?

Balm for the Soul – a Lenten Music Concert

7 p.m. St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 7600 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield. The St. Bernadette Choir – Traditional and Contemporary Ensemble including Soloists and Musicians will perform (about 1 hour) inspirational music of the Lenten season, conducted by Marcin Pekala, Director of Music Ministry, and Sylvia Malinowski, Director of Contemporary Ensemble. All are welcome. Contact: Marcin Pekala 571-294-7891.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Crazy 8s Math Club. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Glow-in-the-Dark City: Build a giant skyscraper of glowsticks and Styrofoam balls. Flick off the lights to see your creations!

First Meeting Scheduled for Ad Hoc Police Commission

With endorsement, albeit non-unanimous, from the Board of Supervisors, the ad hoc commission organized by Board Chairman Sharon Bulova to review Fairfax County Police Department practices will hold its first meeting March 23.

A statement from Bulova's office said, "The Commission will recommend changes, consistent with Virginia law, which would help Fairfax County achieve its goal of maintaining a safe community, ensuring a culture of public trust and making sure our policies provide for the fair and timely resolution of police-involved incidents."

The 34-member commission comprises zero citizens, nine police representatives, five legal authorities, three academics and consultants, five members of the media and two county staff members, not including commission Chairman Michael Herschman and Bulova.

Though not on the original list presented by Bulova, a recent addition to the commission membership is Salvatore Culosi whose son Dr. Salvatore "Sal" Culosi, Jr. was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer Jan. 24, 2006 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse.

The public meeting is scheduled to take place March 23 at the Fairfax County Government Center, rooms 9 and 10, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The government center is located at 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

APRIL

4/1/2015.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
Easter Sunday is April 5

4/8/2015.....HomeLifeStyle
4/15/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/22/2015.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/29/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/29/2015.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

4/29/2015.....Spring Outlook 2015

MAY

5/6/2015.....McLean Day Pullout

5/6/2015.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II

5/6/2015.....Wellbeing

Mother's Day is May 10

5/13/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

5/20/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms,

Summer Planning

Memorial Day is May 25

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- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

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March 29 - Palm Sunday worship at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 am
April 2 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm
April 3 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm
April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am
April 5 - Easter Sunday Celebration at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am

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Senior point guard Eric Bowles led Woodson with 20 points during the Cavaliers' 59-51 loss to Colonial Forge during the 6A boys' basketball state semifinals on March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The W.T. Woodson "Cavalry" cheer on the Cavaliers during the 6A boys' basketball state semifinals on March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.

Woodson Boys' Basketball Falls in State Semis

Cavaliers can't get over hump against defending 6A champ Colonial Forge.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Woodson boys' basketball team trailed by 14 points in the first half of Friday's state semifinal matchup with Colonial Forge and was out-rebounded by a 2-to-1 ratio.

The Cavaliers, however, have never been ones to shrink in the face of adversity.

Woodson battled back, generating multiple fourth-quarter opportunities to tie or take the lead against the defending state champion. But despite their valiant effort, the Cavaliers couldn't get over the hump.

Woodson pulled to within one with 2:30 remaining, but Colonial Forge closed the contest on an 8-1 run and secured a return trip to the state final with a 59-51 victory on March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.

Colonial Forge will face 6A North region champion Westfield in the state championship game at 7:15 p.m. today.

Jackson Boehman twice pulled Woodson within two, burying a 3-pointer and dropping in a putback early in the fourth quarter.

A Tyler Wilson bucket cut the Woodson deficit to 47-45. With 2:30 left in the fourth quarter, Eric Bowles converted a three-point play, bringing the Cavaliers within one at 51-50.

With 1:06 remaining, Woodson had possession, trailing 53-51.

Each time, Woodson failed to capitalize.

"If you get open shots, you get free throws, you've got to put them down," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "...



Woodson senior Tyler Wilson, right, goes up against Colonial Forge's Marco Haskins during the 6A state semifinals on March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.

I thought we got open looks, we got to the free-throw line with the guys we wanted there. [A] couple rolled out on us, [a] couple [were] halfway down and popped out. That's basketball."

Woodson trailed 23-9 early in the second quarter. The Cavaliers cut the deficit to eight at halftime, 30-22, and trailed 43-38 entering the fourth quarter.

The Cavaliers had a chance to win despite being out-rebounded 45-22.

"We're smaller than everybody we play against, it seems like," Craig said. "We're kind of a guard-oriented team. That's kind of who we've been the last couple years. ... What are you going to do? You're outsized by 2 or 3 inches at every position, you're going to give up some rebounds. But with that being said, we put ourselves in position to have a chance to win. Give [the

"If you get open shots, you get free throws, you've got to put them down. ... I thought we got open looks, we got to the free-throw line with the guys we wanted there. [A] couple rolled out on us, [a] couple [were] halfway down and popped out. That's basketball."

— Woodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig

Eagles] credit: they made their free throws down the stretch, they made a couple shots, we missed a couple, that's the difference."

Bowles, the 6A North region Player of the Year, led Woodson with 20 points, but shot just 6-of-18. Junior guard Matt Ayoub, a second-team all-region selection, finished with six points on 2-of-12 shooting, including 2-of-9 from 3-point range.

"I thought my teammates got me open to get the shots that I needed," Ayoub said. "I was open, I just couldn't hit them."

Tyler Wilson scored 17 points for Woodson, shooting 6-of-8 from the field. The senior forward scored 10 of the Cavaliers' first 13 points.

Woodson shot 12-of-19 (63 percent) from the free-throw line. Colonial Forge shot 16-of-22 (73 percent).

Senior guard Marco Haskins led Colonial Forge with 20 points and 15 rebounds. Junior guard Cario Eaton scored 19 points for the Eagles, including 17 in the second half. He went 3-of-3 from 3-point range and 10-of-12 from the free-throw line.

Woodson lost in the state semifinals for a third consecutive season. Each year, the Cavaliers responded to a loss in the district/conference tournament by making a run to

the region championship game.

"This one hurts the most," Bowles said, "because it was our last run."

Woodson won the 2013 AAA Northern Region title, overcoming a 19-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Wakefield in overtime. The Cavaliers beat Battlefield in the state quarterfinals before losing to Henrico.

The Cavaliers won the 2014 6A North region championship, beating Lake Braddock in the final after losing their three previous matchups with the Bruins during the season. With a new playoff format, Woodson advanced directly to the state semifinals, where the Cavaliers lost to Landstown.

This year, Woodson lost to Westfield in the region final before falling to Colonial Forge.

"I'm proud to have been a part of all this," said Wilson, a three-year varsity contributor. "... I'm glad to have done it with the guys that we did it with."

Woodson finished the season with a 19-10 record, including a 91-86 triple-overtime loss to South County in the Conference 7 championship game.

"I think for us, even though we didn't win a state title last year, we've been a team that's had a target," Craig said. "I think these guys have really battled through that."

The Cavaliers played Friday's game in front of yet another large student crowd. Ten charter buses transported Woodson students to Richmond, Craig said.

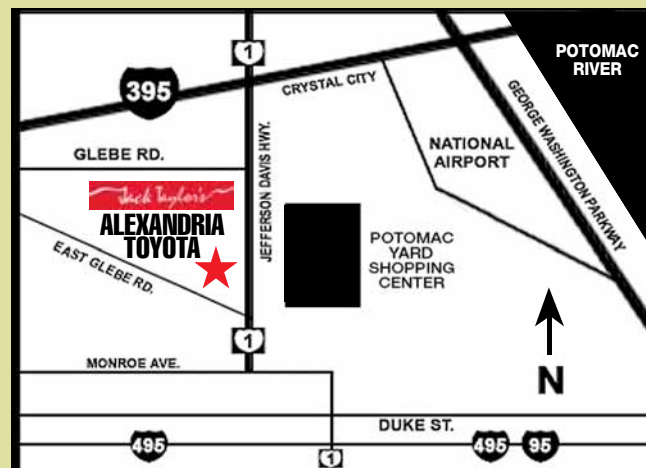
"Our community, everybody knows, has been through some difficult things the last few years and I think boys' basketball is one of the things that's kind of uplifted not only the school and the kids, [but] the whole community," Craig said. "Our student support, our fan support I think is second to none. I don't know if anyone else down here will bring 10 busloads of kids."

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Add Dealer Processing Fee of \$599. \$1,250 Cash Back from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. available on new 2015 Prius. Customers can receive cash back from Toyota or can apply to down payment. Excludes plug-in models. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 3/31/2015.

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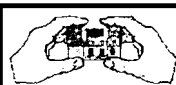
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Ashburn **\$555,000**
Gorgeous end-unit TH with 3000 + sq. ft. Open floor plan with windows aplenty. Dream kitchen with miles of granite, island, cabinets galore, upgraded appliances. Expansive great room with 2-sided gas fireplace with doors to rooftop deck. Large MBR with luxury bath. Upper level laundry. Rec room + den/office. 9' ceilings. 2 car garage. Many neighborhood amenities.
Jim Fox 703-503-1800



Ashburn
\$244,900
Large sunny 2 BD, 2 BA condo. SS appliances, fireplace, huge balcony, walk-in closets and full size W/D. Across from Brambleton Town Center, walk and enjoy movies, shops, and restaurants
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Fairfax/Kings Park West **\$569,000**
Charming 4-level updated split on corner lot in sought-after Kings Park West. Spacious home includes Kitchen w/custom cabinetry, fully updated bathrooms, built-ins & more. Newer systems, replaced windows, vinyl siding. Enjoy your morning coffee on the screen porch. Walk to Top-rated schools; nearby metrobus stop & VRE.
Mary Hovland 703-946-1775
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Fairfax **\$799,900**
Brecon Ridge Charmer! A must see! Charming Colonial on 41,200 sq ft lot. Huge remodeled kitchen with all the bells & whistles, wall to wall windows accent the sunny Breakfast Room, cozy Family Room with brick fireplace, Master BR suite w/gorgeous remodeled bath, finished daylight LL w/walk-up, slate roof, expanded two car garage.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Herndon **\$249,900**
Walk to soon-to-be built Metro Station! This condo located in Worldgate features a quiet location with a pleasant view of the pool and adjacent to the Worldgate Club House with exercise room, party room and management office. Hardwood floors, garage space, and a great investment.
Ellie Wester 703-503-1880



Arlington/Fairlington Villages **\$410,000**
2 Levels and 1422 Square Feet of WOW! This updated Fairlington unit comes with a bedroom and a full bath on each of its two levels, hardwood floors in the main level living room, dining area and bedroom, and a fully updated kitchen with granite counters, new cabinets and a ceramic tile floor. Downstairs there is a huge bedroom with walk-in closet. There is also a lower level full bath and a lower level finished family room. Close to DC, Pentagon, Shirlington and more.
Mary Wharton 703-795-0587



Lake Anna **\$224,000**
Beautiful hardwood floors & open floor plan for gathering. 3 bedrooms & full bath on one end of house. MBR suite with full bath & additional sitting room/office allows for privacy. Private lot. Short distance to gated common area with tot lot, pavilion, boat launch & slips.
Doug Hough 540-846-5844



Fairfax City **\$800,000**
Prime Location! Charming, expanded center-hall colonial. 1/2 acre. Grand foyer. Living room with fireplace. Main level den, bedroom, sunroom, full bath. Remodeled kitchen with granite, stainless steel appliances, separate mud room, MBR with full bath & Walk-in closet. Gorgeous hwdws. Updates thruout. 2-car garage + storage. Minutes to shopping, major routes, downtown Fairfax City.
Jim Fox 703-503-1800



Fairfax
\$349,900
Lovely 3 finished level colonial townhome with 2 fireplaces, walkout rec room w/wet bar, updated kitchen, 3 bedrms, 3.5 baths, 2 assigned parking spaces. Located in the Glen Cove community near VRE, shopping, schools.
Judy Semler 703-503-1885



West Springfield/Rhygate **\$525,000**
End Unit TH - Premium Golf Course Lot! View holes 12, 13, 14 at Springfield Golf & Country Club. All Brick on almost 1/4 acre. Sunny and bright on all 3 finished levels. Nicest lot in Rhygate!
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Springfield **\$499,900**
Lovely 4BR/2BA home on .42 acre wooded lot. Cul-de-sac. 2-car garage. Deck. Freshly painted. New carpet. Updated bathrooms. Newer appliances. Beautiful Hardwood Floors. Great neighborhood & schools!
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Alexandria **\$579,900**
Move-in Ready!! 6 BR, 3 BA Home with carport-Stratford on the Potomac. New Kitchen with granite, espresso cabinetry and stainless steel appliances, gorgeous HW floors on main lvl, FP, newly carpeted LL, new paint, walk-out basement...really a show stopper!
Judy McGuire 703-581-7679



Lake Anna **\$1,450,000**
Gated Waterfront Compound! 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, including guest quarters, on 4.72 acres, with huge boathouse with screen room, lift, and much more.
Toni McQuair 703-795-2697



Fairfax/Fairfax Club Estates **\$589,900**
Charming Colonial beauty ready for market soon. 4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, brand new remodeled Kitchen w/ granite counters, new hardwood flooring on main level, new carpeting upstairs, updated baths, newer windows, furnace, A/C, roof & siding. Wow...it is perfect, nothing to do but move right in.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



Broadlands/Brambleton **\$405,000**
Backs to Woods! Gorgeous garage TH on prime lot. 2300 sq ft on 3 fin levels. Well-appointed w/gleaming hwdws, 10' ceilings, gourmet eat-in kitchen, large pantry & adjoining family room w/gas fireplace. Grand MBR w/sitting area, W/I closet & lux bath. Upper level laundry. Walkout rec rm. Deck off kitchen. Fenced yard.
Jim Fox 703-503-1800



Falls Church **\$619,900**
Extraordinary condo TH w/ over 2000 sq ft on 2 lvls. Soaring 2-story LR w/ gas frpl. Columned DR. Dazzling Kit w/ upgraded cabs, granite counters, s/s appls. FR off kit w/ vaulted ceiling & doors to private terrace. Gorgeous hwdws. Windows galore. Mn lvl MBR has lux bath w/ dual vanity, sep jetted tub & shower, custom W/I closet. Upper lvl w/ loft, 2nd BR & full BA. 2 gar spaces + extra storage. Steps to WFC Metro, Falls Church City.
Jim Fox 703-503-1800



Herndon **\$445,000**
Beautifully Updated! Well maintained 2-level Colonial home with 4 BR, 2.5 BA, and 2-car garage. Kitchen w/42" oak cabinets & Corian. Cozy FR with WB fireplace and SGD opening to large deck and fenced yard.
Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Fairfax/Kings Park West **\$685,000**
Spacious center-hall Colonial with quality finishes! Well-designed addition creates open floor plan. Kitchen is fully remodeled with a breakfast room & opens to amazing family room w/cathedral ceilings. UL has four large BRs + a den. Master & hall bath have been expanded, both w/dual sinks. Great finishes on LL with legal egress. Close to schools, VRE & Metrobus.
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Clifton **\$1,195,000**
Stunning custom estate on beautiful 2+ acres. Gorgeous open floor plan with classic elegance throughout. Features 5 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen with breakfast room, elegant master bedroom with sitting room and bath, and perfect for guests, a full suite in the walk-out lower level.
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