Cappies Gala Honors High School Theater

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The Ensemble in a Play Award went to The Beast Folk, “The Island of Dr. Moreau,” Lake Braddock Secondary School. From left are Emily Bove, Asjah Heiligh, Jessica Novis, and Micaela Harmon.

Graduating to the Front of the Classroom

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Lord and Lady Fairfax Honorees Selected

News, Page 4
Governor McAuliffe signs Del. Eileen Filler-Corn’s Bill exempting ABLE Savings Accounts from means testing.
Fairfax County Retired Educators award scholarships to aspiring teachers.

**By Tim Peterson**

The Fairfax County Retired Educators administered seven scholarships to students aspiring to become teachers at a June 9 luncheon.

Graduating to the Front of the Classroom

Springfield resident Paul Naanou is determined to be in front of a classroom. The rising senior at the College of William and Mary and 2013 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology has been a math and science instructor for Fairfax Collegiate over the last two summers.

On June 9, Naanou was one of seven scholarship recipients at the Fairfax County Retired Educators June luncheon. He was also the only male winner.

“Society is perpetuating the stereotype only women can be nurturing,” he said. “I think men are just as capable and can motivate people — psychologically and emotionally — on their educational journey just as well. The conversation around that is starting to change.”

Naanou, who received the Apple Federal Credit Union award given in honor of Herbert G. Carpenter for the second time, said he’s dreamed of becoming a teacher since he was eight years old. He hopes to return to Fairfax County and teach after he graduates.

FCRE Scholarship Director Phyllis Rittman said the scholarship committee has asked school counselors to encourage male, female, and a diverse range of ethnicities to apply.

“If you have them in the class you need them in front of the class too,” she said.

Rittman said this year’s 20 applicants were judged based on a rubric of grade point average, rigor of coursework and a personal essay describing their aspirations to become a teacher. They represented around the all-time highest GPA since the

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza (left) visits with 2016 Lake Braddock Secondary School graduate and Fairfax Station resident Wesley Kittelberger (right) at the Fairfax County Retired Educators luncheon June 9.

2016 Lake Braddock Secondary School graduate Leah Choe (right) receives one of two Bobbi Vest scholarships from Vest’s husband Bill Vest of Reston. Choe plans to attend the College of William & Mary in the fall.

FCRE has been administering scholarships. “The scholarship committee really had to scrutinize,” Rittman said.

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza visited with each scholarship winner and their parents before the proceedings commenced at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge.

However in her remarks, Garza spoke more globally, referencing the battle earlier this year for the Board of Supervisors to fully fund her budget that advertised no further cuts to school programs or services.

“It was an interesting and exciting year,” Garza said. “The community got behind us, that was a real difference-maker.”

Garza also brought up the “meals tax” that Supervisors recently agreed to add for voter referendum this fall. The tax could generate almost $100 million more revenue annually for the County, she said.

“Our needs don’t go away with this major investment,” she said. “Please pay attention to the conversation, this really important conversation.”

Each scholarship given out Thursday is important conversation.”

Each scholarship given out Thursday is $2,000.

“For paying for college, any amount can help,” said Lake Braddock Secondary School senior Robyn Miner. “This will help me pursue my dream of becoming a teacher.”

Chantilly High School senior Hannah Warnick also expressed her thanks, that she’s dreamed of becoming a teacher since she was a little girl.

Leah Choe, another Lake Braddock senior, thanked the retired teachers directly.

“We students may not say it, but we all really admire you,” Choe said. “You inspire us to do great things.”

For more information about the Fairfax County Retired Educators visit www.fcre.org.
2016 Lord and Lady Fairfax Honorees Selected

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. named the 2016 Lords and Ladies Fairfax at the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, June 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

“We're proud to honor the 2016 Lords and Ladies Fairfax. Since 1984, each supervisor has selected a Lord and Lady to represent their district. Each honoree dedicates time to the betterment of their community,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Each year the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors selects two people from each district who have demonstrated superior volunteer service, heroism, or other special accomplishments to receive the award.

Later that evening, the Lords and Ladies were honored at a cocktail reception and special dinner and hosted by Great American Restaurants, Celebrate Fairfax, Inc., and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The Chairman’s Choice: Michael J. Hershman and Shirley Ginwright

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova read the following description of Shirley Ginwright and Michael J. Hershman at the board meeting:

"Ms. Shirley Ginwright is one of the most devoted citizens of Fairfax County. She exemplifies community service in her countless efforts to bring people together and facilitate communal growth. Ms. Ginwright is the president of the Fairfax County NAACP and served on the Fairfax County Chief of Police’s Diversity Council in 2013. Ms. Ginwright inspired and facilitated the establishment of the Communities of Trust Committee, and serves as the committee’s chairman. In addition, Ms. Ginwright served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, serving as the chair of the Subcommittee to Review Police Practices for Recruitment, Diversity, and Vetting. Ms. Ginwright has done invaluable work to make Fairfax County a leader in community and law enforcement engagement and is very deserving of the title Lady Fairfax."

Braddock: George C. Klein and Ellen Jean ‘Nell’ Hurley

Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook read the following description of Ellen Jean ‘Nell’ Hurley and George C. Klein at the board meeting:

"Retired Navy Captain Ms. Ellen Jean ‘Nell’ Hurley and her family have lived in the Braddock District for 20 years. She has been very involved in school matters, ranging from elementary school volunteer coordinator, to appointee to the Gifted Talented Advisory Committee, to vice president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs. Ms. Hurley was a founder of RENEW, the coalition to renovate Woodson High School, from which her four daughters graduated and where she served as president of the PTSA/PTSO. Her many other community activities have included managing Girl Scout Cookie efforts for 36 troops, uniform and fields director for Braddock Road Youth Soccer, and secretary of the Fairfax Genealogical Society. Ms. Hurley earned a Master’s Degree in Urban and Environmental Planning at the West Falls Church campus of the University of Virginia, a degree she has put into good use as the Braddock District Planning Commissioner, a position she has held since 2012.

"Born and raised in Brooklyn, Mr. George C. Klein earned a Bachelor of Science with a senior VP aiming to do more community service. Since then, he has been involved in numerous civic initiatives such as Civic Association vice president, president, and currently as the vice chair of the Braddock District Council (BDC). He takes special pride in highlighting the accomplishments of others and is very involved in the annual Best of Braddock Awards."
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Support for Police in Reforms

Police commission recommendations go to Board of Supervisors for approval, implementation.

In some ways, the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, brainchild of Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, was a bit of a miracle. The 32 voting commission members included at least nine representatives from Fairfax County Police; former Commonwealth’s Attorney Robert Horan; current and former law enforcement officers with experience from the FBI, DEA, state police and others; former county officials; mental health advocates; attorneys; high powered consultants. Ranks of those participating swelled to 80 when others were appointed the five subcommittees.

How could such a large, intense group with so many viewpoints get anything done? It seemed crazy to expect much. But Bulova, apparently, was crazy like a fox. Bulova and commission chair Michael Hershman, expressed unwavering commitment to the process. The 142 recommendations, the result of democracy in action, provide support and more resources to the FCPD, while providing for transparency and public confidence.

Police, Commonwealth’s Attorney Ray Morrogh, county attorneys and others provided answers to questions and consulted on recommendations every step of the way. The commission and subcommittees met for literally hundreds of hours over nine months. Individual members took on in-depth research projects and reported back to subcommittees.

Members of the Mental Health subcommittee, chaired by Del. Marcus Simon, traveled to Texas for a first-hand look at an effective Crisis Intervention program. In January, the Community Services Board, Police and Sheriff’s Office launched Diversion First, to get people having a mental health crisis who come into contact with law enforcement into treatment instead of jail. If this were the only accomplishment of the police review commission, it would be an achievement.

The Independent Oversight and Investigations subcommittee unanimously recommended formation of an Independent Auditor and a Civilian Review Panel. Independent oversight is a national best practice, and these issues came before the Board of Supervisors next month.

The commission recommends the implementation of body worn cameras, a recommendation that appears to be set for delay. This might be necessary, but if so, the delay should come with a timetable for next steps.

Changing the culture from withholding information to sharing as much as possible, as soon as possible, and responding to Freedom of Information requests with as much information as possible are part of the recommendations of the Communications subcommittee. Police departments in Northern Virginia have invoked a blanket exemption to FOIA requests, which has been part of the erosion of public trust.

The robust collection and reporting of demographics covering all stops, frisks, citations, arrests, and use-of-force incidents by district station and magisterial district is also key to public trust and departmental excellence.

Key recommendations include Independent Auditor, Civilian Review Panel, commitment to transparency, body cameras, data collection.

Bulova and the Board of Supervisors formed the commission in the wake of the death of John Geer in August of 2013. Geer, a Springfield resident, was standing unarmed with his hands up in the doorway of his own home when he was shot by Officer Adam Torres. Torres, charged with murder, was the first Fairfax County Police officer in the history of the department to be charged in such a death. Torres entered a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter, with a likely sentence of 12 months; his sentencing is scheduled for next week.

Public outrage over Geer’s death was compounded by obfuscation and silence, the failure to communicate, and a lack of public accountability. The police and county refused to release any information on the case for more than a year, and only then after repeated court orders. This tragedy and its aftermath no doubt had a negative impact on morale in the FCPD. The commission’s recommendations acknowledge the knowledge of the excellence of the Fairfax police.

It’s a credit to the department that Chief Edwin Roessler aspires to make FCPD the best in the nation. It’s a high bar, county residents expect no less, and steps in that direction are a positive reflection on every member of the department.

It now falls to Supervisor John Cook, chairman of the Public Safety Committee, to guide these recommendations through for approval by the Board of Supervisors overall. The process is underway, and deserves public attention to the details.

— Mary Kimm

Mary Kimm served as a member of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. Read more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policedepartment

ADAMS Condemns Orlando Mass Shooting

The All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) condemns the tragic and horrific Orlando mass shooting, and rejects any possible motive for this terrible act, whose perpetrator is still being investigated as a possible hate crime, mentally unbalanced individual, and/or lone wolf terrorist sympathizer.

We send our thoughts, prayers, and condolences to the families and loved ones of all those killed or injured.

We appreciate the Orlando Muslim community’s response in condemning this attack, and we join in urging the entire Muslim community to take part in a blood donation drive for those injured in the attack.

For us in Virginia, this tragedy brings back horrible memories of April 2007, when Virginia Tech student Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people on the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University campus in Blacksburg, Va. This is also too reminiscent of the equally horrific hate crimes like the attack in South Carolina on an African American Church, attacks in movie theaters and schools and too many more. Such incidents are too frequent reminder of the number of individuals driven by hate to commit unspeakable acts.

This horrific Orlando attack however should not be used to vilify and stereotype the peaceful and law abiding Muslim community in America. Islam absolutely condemns and forbids terrorism and extremism. The Quran, Islam’s revered text, states: “Whoever kills a human person, it is as though he has killed all mankind. And whoever saves a life, it is as though he had saved all mankind.”

Islam promotes the sanctity of human life, the dignity of all humans, and a respect for human, civil rights. Islam teaches religious freedom and emphasizes the same universal moral values accepted by the majority of people of all backgrounds. These are the same principles on which the U.S. Constitution was established and the Bill of Rights was approved.

Muslims believe there is “No compulsion in faith” and we reject violence, hatred, and discrimination toward anyone on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, religion, familial status, sexual orientation and national origin.

ADAMS’ mission is to provide religious, social, and educational services to enable the Muslim community to fulfill its responsibilities and contribute to the betterment of society www.adamscenter.org.
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Father’s Day Photo Gallery

Rosalyn Korff sent us two photos of her husband, Jay, with their children. “Jay is an awesome, fun, and caring father,” she writes. In this picture, Samantha and Jay, Girl Scouts Service Unit 52-11 VIP Dance, Burke in Burke in April 2016.

Zach and Jay, getting ready for Z’s first debate (West Springfield High School debate team), December 2015.
The Gap Year Trend

The pros and cons of taking a break in academic studies before college.

By Marilyn Campbell

The pros and cons of taking a break in academic studies before college are often debated. While some students may benefit from a year away to gain valuable life experiences, others may find it challenging to readjust to the academic environment after a gap year. This article explores the advantages and disadvantages of taking a gap year before college.

The pros of taking a gap year include:

1. Personal Growth: A gap year can provide an opportunity for personal growth, including development of leadership skills.
2. Career Exploration: Students may have the chance to explore different career paths during a gap year.
3. Cultural Exchange: Spending time abroad can provide a rich cultural experience and exposure.
4.Relaxation: A break from the academic grind can help students recharge.

The cons of taking a gap year include:

1. Financial Cost: Gap years can be expensive, especially if students choose to travel or work during this time.
2. Academic Disadvantage: Students may lose academic momentum or even experience regression.
3. Difficulty Reconnecting: Returning to college after a gap year may be challenging.
4. Delayed Degree Completion: A gap year can delay the timeline for completing a degree.

In conclusion, while a gap year can provide valuable experiences and personal growth, it is important for students to carefully consider the pros and cons before making a decision. Ultimately, the decision to take a gap year should be based on individual circumstances and goals.
Ten U.S. Air Force Band Conductors Assemble For 75th Anniversary

The U.S. Air Force Band celebrated its 75th anniversary with a reunion concert on June 11 at the George Mason Center for the Arts. Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James welcomed the audience to the event.

Nine former commanders returned to the stage to conduct, including Fairfax Station resident Lt. Col. (Ret.) Mark Peterson, who directed the sweeping emotional work “Elisa’s Process to the Cathedral from ‘Lohengrin’” by Richard Wagner. Current and former members of the Concert Band, Air Force Strings, Ceremonial Brass and Singing Sergeants played a wide variety of classic and new music. The program included world premiere of civilian composer John Mackey’s rhythmic litanies—“Liminal” and band member Master Sergeant Kent Baker’s (French horn) Ceremonial Brass Fragment—“25/39, written especially for the anniversary performance.

The final two pieces, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “Air Force Song,” saw the largest assembly of U.S. Air Force musicians on stage at the same time.

—TOM PETERSSON

for more details, visit providenceplayers.org or email providenceplayers@cox.net.

FRIDAY/JUNE 24
Sherryn Craig Author Event 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Author of “Midnight Madness at The Zoo.” 703-278-8527. Antique Car Show 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fairfax City Hall, 10445 Armstrong St., Fairfax. With bluegrass music and food. Free. visitfaix.com.

Hope and Health Festival 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Lorton Park, 9518 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sponsored by Lorton Community Action Center, South County Cares, and INOVA. Free health screenings, food, inflatables, kids’ games and activities will be available to all in attendance. LortonAction.org. 703-339-5161, ext. 140.

Kild Kornor 10:30-11:30 a.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Variety of Children’s activities and entertainment. 703-784-2504.

SATURDAY/JUNE 25
	empire radio operators (“hams”) will join thousands nationwide to show off their amateur-radio and emergency-communications capabilities. To learn more about amateur radio, visit http://vqsvawireless.net or go to http://www.arrl.org/newham.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26
National Christian Choir 6 p.m. Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shalvey Gate Road, Fairfax. Concert will feature selections from NCC’s newest album, “Glory - A Celebration of God and Country.” The concert is free; an offering will be received. 703-383-1170. jcc.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 26
Weekday Outing: United States Botanic Garden 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8000 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, enjoy a day at the United States Botanic Gardens. Bring lunch. $18/$14. Must preregister. 703-577-3960. Michele Endick@jccnv.org.

Gala Honors High School Theater

The 17th Annual Cappies Gala honoring high school theater was held Sunday, June 12 at The Kennedy Center. Winning the top prizes for the Best Musical was Woodrow Wilson High School in the District for “Hair;” and winning Best Play was Duke Ellington School of the Arts in the District for “The Story.” This year’s Masters of Ceremony were Judy Bowns, Janie Strauss and Ed Monk, who is retiring from Chantilly High School this year.

This year’s show included 57 public and private high schools in Fairfax County, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince William counties, and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Washington, D.C. The Cappies season extended from late October to early May.

The Cappies program was launched in the summer of 1999 by Judy Bowns, the Theatre Arts resource teacher with FCPS, and the late Bill Strauss (director, Capitol Steps), in cooperation with area theater teachers, for the purpose of celebrating and bringing public acclaim to high school theater.

— Steve Hibbard

Photos by Steve Hibbard/The Connection

The Supporting Actor in a Play Award went to Max Grove, “The Island of Dr. Moreau,” Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The Hair and Make-Up Award went to Kendra Weingast, “The Island of Dr. Moreau,” Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The Ensemble in a Play Award went to The Beast Folk, “The Island of Dr. Moreau,” Lake Braddock Secondary School. From left are Emily Bove, Asjah Heiligh, Jessica Novis, and Micaela Harmon.


The Supporting Actor in a Play Award went to Max Grove, “The Island of Dr. Moreau,” Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The Ensemble in a Play Award went to The Beast Folk, “The Island of Dr. Moreau,” Lake Braddock Secondary School. From left are Emily Bove, Asjah Heiligh, Jessica Novis, and Micaela Harmon.
Robinson Boys, Girls Win State Titles

Rams boys’ lax clinches third, girls’ second consecutive championship.

By Aaron Lundmark The Connection

When asked about the feeling of winning a third consecutive state championship, Robinson senior attacker Johnny Daniel had one word to describe it. “Satisfying,” replied Daniel. “That’s the one word I’d give it.”

Indeed it was satisfying as the Rams’ were able to dominate this year’s state championship, as opposed to last year’s double overtime victory, with a 14-2 win over James River at Lake Braddock Secondary School Saturday evening. “It feels great,” said Robinson head coach Matt Curran. “The last two years we won it, but it was different, with last year being in double overtime. But it’s the state championship, so it still feels great.”

THE RAMS were able to jump out early as sophomore Reid Scarborough scored through a mob of three defenders to give them the 1-0 lead. After that, Robinson added goals by Scarborough, Austin Henry, Nick Dillon and Nick Bowlett, giving the Rams a commanding 5-0 lead. “We knew going in with their short sticks and holding [Patterson] were going to have good matchups,” said Scarborough. “If we took our guys and beat them off the first dot we were going to have great opportunities to score.”

“When we got up early like that it’s definitely relieving,” said Robinson goalkeeper Matthew Bethard. “But we saw last week in our Woodson game we come back from being down seven, so you never know and that’s why you always have to stay sharp like we did.”

Bethard and the rest of the defense were huge in this one. After the goal that cut the Robinson lead to 6-2, the Rams did not allow the Rapids to score again the rest of the contest. “They were huge,” said coach Curran. “Our defense played extremely well, and our offense was very patient which also kept the ball out of their offense’s hands. But we knew exactly what we wanted to do to these guys and thankfully that worked for us.”

Scarborough scored again, giving him the first half hat trick, then another goal by Henry and a goal by Declan Connolly with just nine seconds left in the half gave the Rams an 8-2 at halftime.

To start the second half, another goal by Scarborough, his fourth, gave the Rams a 9-2 lead. Then, Scarborough would assist on a Patterson goal and Daniel found one of his shots in the back of the net and Robinson had control. WINNING a single state championship is an accomplishment, but winning three in a row and creating a dynasty is pretty interesting, according to coach Curran. “It’s an amazing year seeing as how we graduated 19 seniors last year—one of which was an Under Armour All-American—a bunch of guys on defense, and two of our leading scorers,” said Curran. “So these guys not only worked really hard, but they stepped up—a lot of young guys, freshmen, sophomores—and they really stepped up and kind of made it their team.”

As for the Rams’ shot at a fourth state title, chances look good as they only graduate 10 seniors compared to last year’s 19. “My freshman year, we lost in the regional playoffs and I saw my senior teammates crying,” said Daniel. “So me and Austin [Henry], as the only two freshmen on varsity, made a pact that we’d never let that happen again. So being here right now, it feels really good to have been able to follow through with that promise.”

Girls Win Back-to-Back Titles

Elli Kluegel came off a screen set by teammate Katie Checkosky, and before Kluegel even took the pass from Grace Tompkins, head coach Liz Case was fist pumping on the sideline screaming, “Yes!”

Coach Case knew her team had run the perfect play, which went into the Rams finishing off the perfect season. Robinson defeated Woodson 13-9 and brought home its second consecutive state championship Saturday afternoon at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

“They play with such heart and they’re so close to one another,” said Case after the game. “This feels good. The girls have worked really hard this year, and they continued to work hard throughout this game.”

Early on, the story was Robinson senior goalkeeper Danielle Valenti, who stopped numerous Cavalier shots, which led to the Rams’ first goal by Haley Prosser just four minutes in.

Normally, Case switches her goalkeepers at halftime, inserting Maddie Malone, but this wasn’t the case Saturday as Valenti played so well the first half, she got the nod for the second half, as well. “Danny had a really great first half,” said Case. “It was a decision that was made up on the spot, we hadn’t thought about it at all prior to this game.”

The next goal in the contest came eight minutes later, when Rams captain Taylor Caskey scored back-to-back goals to give Robinson a 3-0 lead. “I think we were even more pumped this year, this game, than last year,” said Caskey. “We knew people were gunning for us, but I couldn’t imagine winning states with anyone else.”

Woodson would respond, however, as goals by Grace Stephen, Emma Vinall, and Meredith Mackay tied the game 3-3. From there, the Rams would take over, scoring five unanswered goals to close the half.

THE KEY TO THE RUN was a switch in the faceoff circle, as Case moved senior Emily Skrzypczak to start taking the draws, and that started gaining momentum for the Rams. “[Woodson] was really good at taking the draws,” said Case. “Once we moved Emily up, she started winning it, so she did a really good job for us.”

Robinson got two goals from Checkosky during that stretch before halftime and she finished the game with five. “I think the halftime lead was the most important part of the game,” said Checkosky. “It gave us a lot of momentum. Getting that five-goal cushion was really important for us, mentally.”

“I wouldn’t have wanted this season to end in any other way,” said Checkosky. “I think the bond we all have with each other is amazing. We’re a family and we love each other so much so this feels incredible.”

Valenti would finish the game with nine saves, capping off a great effort from her. ROBINSON could have a shot at another title next year, as only five seniors are graduating from the team. “We have a nice young team, along with a lot of strong juniors,” said Case, “and I think they’ll be able to carry the team next year, as well.”

Robinson finished their perfect season with a 21-0 record, winning their conference, region, and state tournament titles. “It really is an incredible feeling,” said Checkosky. “I’ve been playing with some of these girls since fifth grade, so winning these two state championships with all our hard work—it’s the best feeling in the world.”
The Future comes one day at a time.
-Dean Acheson

Country living in popular Waynewood school district (22308), two lets, fenced yard for kids and pets, between West Blvd & Ft Hunt Rd, 5 minutes to Old Town and Fort Belvoir, walk to bike trail, Potomac River and Mount Vernon parkway—4BR, 3BA,country kitchen, 2 car garage, breezeway, large basement, fenced yard, generous parking and storage, updated custom built brick home, $2960/mo, pets considered, credit approval required, available 6/25, 703-862-7240.

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Fairfax  $799,900

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Fairfax City $615,000

Lovely 2BR, 1.5BA upgraded cond in over 1,000 sq ft. Balcony, recent laundry, parking pool, storage & transportation nearby.

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