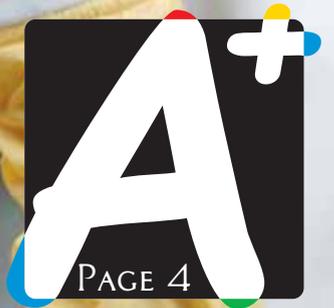


While enjoying the 9th Annual Asian Festival at George Mason University with her father, 4-year-old Sofia DuJardin of Fairfax dances along with some of the Nepalese performers. In today's Connection, we begin an ongoing series on immigration and diversity in Fairfax County. During the next month, we explore the ways immigrants have impacted the county, with a particular emphasis on faith, politics, education and culture.



Finding Home in Fairfax County

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

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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.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Facing Life's Losses. 7-9 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room A, 10360 North St., Fairfax. A class offered through COAA's Healing Center on how to deal with the many faces of loss—whether of a home, job, friendship, marriage or loved one; the class is designed from a Christian perspective but is open to people of all faiths. 703-966-5606 or healingcenterinternational.sharepoint.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

Facing Life's Losses. 7-9 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room A, 10360 North St., Fairfax. A class offered through COAA's Healing Center on how to deal with the many faces of loss—whether of a home, job, friendship, marriage or loved one; the class is designed from a Christian perspective but is open to people of all faiths. 703-966-5606 or healingcenterinternational.sharepoint.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Fairfax County Women in the NAACP (WIN) Holiday

Celebration Brunch. 10 a.m.-noon, at Burke Center Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. RSVP by Dec 1. 703-40-2137 or fairfaxvawin@aol.com.

Dog Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Facing Life's Losses. 7-9 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room A, 10360 North St., Fairfax. A class offered through COAA's Healing Center on how to deal with the many faces of loss—whether of a home, job, friendship, marriage or loved one; the class is designed from a Christian perspective but is open to people of all faiths. 703-966-5606 or healingcenterinternational.sharepoint.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

Dog Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Every Friday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Homeless Animals Rescue Team Dog Adoptions. 12-3 p.m. Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial

Highway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. 703-817-9444 or www.hart90.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 16

Volunteers for Change Orientation. Noon-1 p.m., at Volunteer Fairfax, 10530 Page Ave., Fairfax. Learn about the program for busy professionals, students, stay-at-home moms/dads or anyone with limited time in which flexible calendars of fun weekend and weekday projects can match up with the time slots volunteers have available. RSVP only. jkivlin@volunteerfairfax.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 29

Dog and Cat Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart Seven Corners, 12971 Fair Lakes Parkway, Fairfax. Every Saturday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

ONGOING

Winter Clothing Drive. Various times, various drop-off or pick-up locations available (email for further information). Project BOND and Fairfax High's Interact Club collect lightly used or new coats, gloves, hats, scarves and the like through Dec. 10. lexirummel@gmail.com.

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

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossna.org.

Hats, Gloves and Scarves for Children. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, FCFT Offices, 7011 Calamo Street, Suite 101, Springfield. The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers collects new children's hats, scarves and gloves for needy County children. 703-451-6840.

Melvin Family Cemetery Tree Clean-up. The Balmoral Greens Homeowner Association, in partnership with Fairfax County archaeologists, is in the process of clean-up and removal of a tree fallen in the Melvin Family Cemetery. There is potential for grave disturbance, and BGHA has received a burial permit from the Commonwealth. Descendants of the Warner Melvin family are encouraged to contact project archaeologist, Aimee Wells at aimee.wells@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Youth Flag Football and Basketball Winter/Spring League. i9 Sports of Northwestern Fairfax is now taking registration for the winter/spring season that begins in late November. Registration is open to all ages 3 through 14 years old. www.i9sports.com.

Burke Lake Road KinderCare Tours. 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., 9724 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The childcare facility for children ages six weeks to 12 years will show their variety of programs and classrooms to Burke and Fairfax area families who want to see how learning and play prepare young children for school success. Appointment required. 703-250-3854, or emurphy@klcorp.com.

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Mason Enterprise Center Expands

Ribbon cutting for updated facilities in Fairfax.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Throughout election season, the public was bombarded with ads criticizing the “other side” for being anti-small business, and not doing enough to encourage the growth of entrepreneurship. If the pols and pundits had bothered to cast an eye toward the City of Fairfax, they would have found the Mason Enterprise Center Fairfax (MECFairfax), a model incubator for the development and expansion of successful businesses.

The MECFairfax has been supporting and mentoring small business owners for more than 17 years. On Wednesday, Nov. 14, the staff hosted a well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to celebrate the recently completed remodeling and expansion of their facility at 4031 University Drive. The renovations began in May, doubling the size of the main conference room and adding updates like LCD monitors in all conference space, and additional copy/printing stations to the 29,000-plus square foot complex, which includes a professional reception area, 79 offices, an impressive mail room, and a variety of comfortable café and break spots.

THE FIRST FLOOR is home to the center’s main conference room, but also houses the offices of the George Mason University employees who operate the MECFairfax as well as the resources of an integrated network of programs like the Virginia Small Business Development Center, the Procurement Technical Assistance Program, the Mentor-Protégé Program, and the International Business Development Program. “There’s a real brain trust within these walls,” said Jody Keenan, managing director of the MEC in Fairfax. “And access to all these people and all these resources is readily available and included in the cost of office space rental here at the MEC.” About 33 companies currently reside at the center, renting one or more office units; 51 companies are “virtual” tenants. “They may just need a physical address, someplace to send mail, along with access to our support personnel. They can use conference space or meet with clients here. Whatever they need,” said Keenan. Hundreds have come through over the years. According to Keenan, the goal is to assist the fledgling company as it stabilizes and then grows. “Hopefully, they will outgrow us,” admitted Keenan.

MediaForce, the PR firm that handled the press material for the MECFairfax’s open house is one such graduate. “I started with one office here in 2005,” said founder and President Robert Gaudian. “One day I looked around and realized we were kind of crammed in 11 offices. Time to move on. What a wonderful complaint.” The perfect scenario, MediaForce is now located just two blocks away, keeping their business local.

Keith B. Segerson, executive director of the Mason Enterprise Center Network, which includes locations in Leesburg, Manassas, Spotsylvania, Springfield and Woodbridge in addition to the Fairfax center, opened



GMU Professor Roger Stough, GMU President Dr. Angel Cabrera, City of Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne and Mason Enterprise Center Network Executive Director Keith Segerson make it official, cutting the ribbon to launch the renovated facility.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Mason Enterprise Center Managing Director Jody Keenan answers questions from guests as she leads a tour of the recently renovated facility. “We can support new and growing business at every stage,” declared Keenan, “from planning, to capitalization, marketing, IT solutions and more.”



The MECFairfax hosted their own (and much friendlier) version of the TV reality show “Shark Tank.” Anne Rosenblum meets with “sharks” Scott Gorvett, Neil Agate and Bob Smith. Karen Sorber, owner of Micronic Technologies has some questions for the volunteer panel.

the ribbon cutting ceremony. MECFairfax Director Judy Barral added her welcome to the assembly, and thanked all of the event’s sponsors.

VIEWPOINTS

What Are You Thankful for on this Thanksgiving Day?

— MARY WITKO



Del. Dave Albo, (R-42), Fairfax Station:

“Every Thanksgiving my Dad says his famous quote, ‘If you were born in America and had a parent that loved you, you hit the lottery in life and should never ask for anything again.’ So that’s what I am thankful for. I am thankful that I grew up in West Springfield and had parents that loved me.”

John Chahine, owner and general manager of Paisano’s Burke, Burke

“The one thing I am truly thankful for is family. My family took a big risk one year ago by supporting me in opening... I have worked very hard to make sure our business will succeed. Since day one, my family has supported me through the stressful times and the good times. They are always there for me.”



Lauren Seger, student, George Mason University, Fairfax

“This Thanksgiving, I am especially thankful for my family—going to college has made me miss them more than I ever thought I would. I’m so glad I have them around to help me grow and provide me with unconditional love.”



Rabbi Bruce Aft, Adat Reyim Congregation, Springfield

“As leader of this congregation, I’m thankful for the devotion of a group of energetic young people who want to create an active spiritual community here.”



The Furlow Family (Londonn and Bryce, students; Chechena, real estate agent; Jerome, budget analyst), Lorton

Londonn: “I am thankful for my parents, my grandma, my house, my big brother who helps me with my homework, and the food God puts on our table.”

Bryce: “I am thankful for my parents, my home, my clothes, the school I go to and the food on our table.”

Chechena: “I am thankful to God that I have my mom home with me and my family for the holidays after a terrible fall where she broke her nose and had to have surgery.”

Jerome: “I am thankful for my loving family and for all the blessings that God gives us and the fact that we all will be together on Thanksgiving.”



Stephanie Lauria, student, South County Secondary School, Springfield

“It may sound cliché, but I truly am thankful for every single aspect of my life... from my family and friends to my experiences and opportunities. Life truly is a gift, and it’s hard not to be thankful for it.”



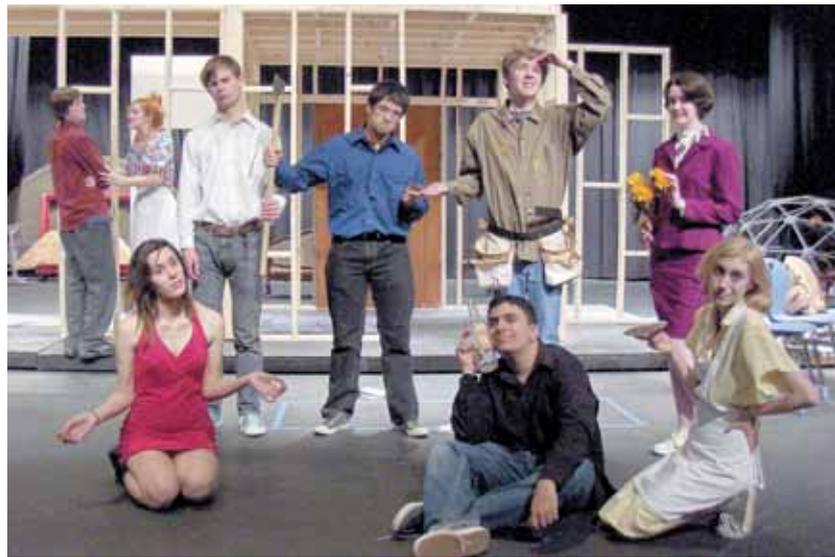
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Rehearsing “Noises Off” are (standing, from left) Caleb Bearse, Kelly Anderson, Doug Klain, Nikolai Benabaye-Harild, Alex Griffith and Isabelle Baucum; and (front row, from left) Renee Rozell, Shakil Azizi and Megan Cathro.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION

‘The Funniest Farce Ever Written’

Fairfax High presents the comedy, “Noises Off.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 25, Fairfax High presents the play, “Noises Off.” Show times are Friday-Saturday, Nov. 30-Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 2, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at www.fxplayers.org and \$15 at the door.

“It’s a play about people putting on a play, a British sex comedy called ‘Nothing On,’” said Director Wendy Knight. “There are problems between the actors, people don’t know their lines and each character has their own quirks that pretty much guarantee the play will be a complete failure. It’s considered the funniest farce ever written. There’s innuendo, wit, verbal humor and slapstick, so the show appeals to a broad range of comic taste.”

Senior Shakil Azizi portrays Selsdon, a 70-year-old actor. “He likes to drink a lot, so he doesn’t always remember stuff or come onstage when he’s supposed to,” said Azizi. “He’s really fun to play because I get more freedom in the choices I make to play this character.”

AS FOR THE AUDIENCE, he said, “It’ll be hard for them not to laugh. The jokes are original and there’s a lot of physical comedy, especially in the second half, that they’ll really enjoy.”

Playing Lloyd, the show’s director, is senior Nikolai Benabaye-Harild. “He’s frustrated about how things are going,” said Benabaye-Harild. “The evening before it opens, actors are still forgetting lines and don’t know their blocking. But he still tries to save the show. He’s also in a relationship with one of the actresses and the stage manager, at the same time, which also complicates things. He yells at the cast and, at times, can be a jerk.”

Benabaye-Harild enjoys his role because it’s different from his own personality and he likes playing English characters and using an accent. And, he added, “I really wanted this part because of all the craziness that goes on with the show he’s directing.”

He said the audience will appreciate the play’s humor, innuendos, physical comedy and “all the wild things that go on, over the course of the show.”

Junior Kelly Anderson plays Poppy, the stage manager. “She’s kind of mousey and intimidated by the actors—who are in charge of everything, instead of the other way around—which is why it’s a hot mess,” said Anderson. “And she’s also having an affair with

the director.”

Anderson said Poppy worries about the show, takes her position seriously and wants to do a good job. “But the actors are letting their personal lives interfere with their acting,” she said. “On the surface, you can make her really boring and nerdy, so it’s fun to add some depth to her and make her a person.”

Anderson said anyone who’s ever been involved in theater—or known someone who has—can relate to this play. “These actors are ridiculous,” she said. “And the show’s so funny—always seconds away from mass chaos.”

Playing young actress Belinda is senior Isabelle Baucum. “She strives to be the most professional of all the actors in the show,” said Baucum. “She wants to be the glue that keeps the show together. Her niche is soothing people and helping them get over break-ups. She tries to remain rational in the face of stress and has a heightened sense of self-righteousness.”

Baucum “absolutely loves” her role. “When I first saw the movie, Belinda was the one I was most interested in because her quirk wasn’t as obvious as the other actors’ quirks,” she said. “She thrives off stress to see how well she can deal with it and remain composed.”

“There’s something very true about the way every person acts with each other in this show,” said Baucum. “The beauty of ‘Noises Off’ is that, not only is it hysterical and ridiculous at times, but it keeps that farce in line with reality. And the audience will know people like them in real life. It’s a work-environment nightmare that most people will be able to relate to; and being based in reality is what makes it funny.”

THE STUDENTS have been rehearsing since September, and Knight says her actors are doing very well and are “right on point. We had really talented people audition, and they all have great instincts and comedic timing. They also like creating their characters and making caricatures of them.”

She’s also proud of the set, which will be massive. “It’s the interior of a two-story house, with six functioning doors able to slam, so the walls have to be sound,” said Knight. “There’s also a window that can be broken and climbed through – and the whole thing revolves 360 degrees.”

On top of that, she added, “The script is so much fun; each comic actor has so much to do. The audience should really enjoy this show.”

Donate Blood, Save Lives

Total Framing, at 9528 Main St. in Fairfax, will hold its second annual blood drive in honor of Owen Wicks (the son of a Clifton Elementary alumnus) and Ryan Dillon (whose father was a former Clifton Elementary P.E. teacher). Both lost their battles with Osteosarcoma earlier this year, but this blood drive is to honor their memories and help others battling cancer and other diseases and conditions requiring transfusions.

The drive is set for Saturday, Nov. 24, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Inova Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot of the turnpike Shopping Center in Fairfax. To register, visit www.inova.org/donateblood, click on "schedule a donation," then click on "donate blood" and use sponsor code 7848. Or contact Terri Price at 703-426-0660 or at terri@totalframing.biz.

A photo ID is required, and all donors will receive a goodie bag full of surprises. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Since blood donations drop dramatically during the holidays, the need is critical during this time of year.

Parkway Overpass Now Open

As of last Thursday, Nov. 15, VDOT shifted traffic onto the new Fairfax County Parkway bridge over the Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. The new bridge spans from south of Fair Lakes Parkway to north of Monument Drive. With the new overpass, motorists won't encounter a traffic signal for the five-mile stretch between Popes Head Road and Route 50.

The work is part of a \$69.7 million interchange project set for completion next spring. It's being built to ease traffic congestion at the intersection of these two, heavily traveled thoroughfares.

Planned is a split-diamond, grade-separated interchange, with a free-flowing Fairfax County Parkway bridging over Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. Through traffic will be separated from local ramp traffic, with traffic signals on the ramps, not on the parkway.

The Fairfax County Parkway is being widened from four to six lanes for three miles, from south of I-66 to Rugby Road. Signals at Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive will be eliminated. Long ramps will provide safe,

SEE WEEK, PAGE 11

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OPINION

Diversity Growing

Tune in to our series on immigration.

This week, the Connection kicks off a series about immigration, diversity and the growing population of foreign-born residents in Fairfax County. County reporter Victoria Ross opens with a story that captures vignettes and statistics of the changing population.

It is a topic consistent with the original Thanksgiving story.

More than 28 percent of Fairfax County's population is foreign born; that's 317,000 residents.

Consider Yesuf Beshir from Ethiopia, who two years ago settled in Springfield and now works for a government contractor. In May, he became an American citizen. "The main thing here is democracy, the right to vote," Beshir said.

These residents include nearly 20,000 who are self-employed business owners, truly job creators, large and small. One of these is Shami Walia who emigrated from India in 1982, and now owns Burke Cigar Shop, a popular cigar lounge that's become a neighborhood fixture. One part of our series will look at the business impacts of the foreign-born population.

Fairfax County Public Schools are harbingers of change: 38,760 Fairfax County elementary school students, that is 44 percent of all elementary school students in public schools here, spoke a language other than English at home as of May 2009. And between them, they speak more than 100 different languages. Another part of our series will look at the challenges and opportunities in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Consider Hutchison Elementary in Herndon, where 63 percent of students have limited English. And Crestwood Elementary in Springfield, where 68 percent of students have limited

English. At Lynbrook Elementary, also in Springfield, 74 percent of students have limited English. At Mount Vernon Woods, in Mount Vernon, 52 percent of students have limited English. At Dogwood Elementary in Reston, 56 percent of students have limited English.

Tune in and let us know what you think.

You can submit a letter to the editor at connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Be Part of Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Monday, Dec. 3.

Some suggestions:

Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or

scanned and submitted in jpeg format.

Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? What is the best or worst thing that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, etc.

Poetry or other creative writing.

Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

News stories from school newspapers.

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

Email submissions for the Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston and Oak Hill/Herndon Children's Connections to kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connections to South@Connectionnewspapers.com.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Dec. 3. The Children's Connection will publish the week of Dec. 27, 2012.

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Embracing Our Diversity

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-VA)

SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

If you can ever find the time to attend a federal naturalization ceremony in Fairfax County for new citizens, do it. It reinvigorates one's patriotism and reminds us all how lucky we are to be Americans.

I've participated in several of the large swearing in ceremonies that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service holds each year in Fairfax. After leading the Pledge of Allegiance for the hundreds of newly-minted citizens and their proud families, I have the honor of addressing them about what it means to be an American.

I tell them that America, a country of immigrants, is a place of opportunity where you can pursue

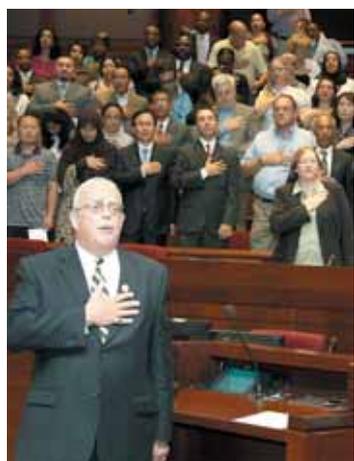


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Connolly leads Pledge of Allegiance for new citizens.

your dreams and raise your families without fearing that somebody's government is going to tell you what to think, how to express yourself, what to believe, or how to worship. Too often, we take these rights for granted, but

many of our new neighbors do not.

These new citizens come to Fairfax from all over the world. Many come from places where they experienced violence or suppression of thought, or the suppression of their right to participate in their government. Many are professionals skilled in medicine, technology, and engineering, or entrepreneurs and small business owners who have worked hard and contributed to Northern Virginia's robust economy.

And when their day finally comes and they recite their Oath of Allegiance to earn the title "American citizen," their pride is palpable, the mood is festive, and the respect they show for their new flag and their new nation is inspiring.

The overall ceremony is an emotional and inspiring experience for everyone in the room, as small

children clutch American flags, spouses hug, and tears well in the eyes of many of the family members in attendance.

These new Americans have helped change the face of Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia region in many ways over the last three decades. The diversity of our residents has enriched the fabric of our society and their efforts have helped our economy grow. Today, Fairfax County has the second highest median family income in the nation, some of the best public schools in the nation, a quality of life second to none, and we continue to create jobs in the county at a rate that outpaces most other communities across the nation.

Here in Fairfax County we have embraced the benefits that diversity brings to our community, and we are better for it.

Fairfax
CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

Victoria Ross
Community Reporter
301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter
703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor
703-778-9410
[@jroetman](mailto:jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Karen Washburn
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
[@MaryKimm](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief

Steven Mauren

Managing Editor

Kemal Kurspahic

Photography:

Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,

Craig Sterbutzel

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly

Production Manager:

Jean Card

Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
[@TheismannMedia](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

Put the Zip on Homelessness

Second Annual Jeans Day Campaign to End Homelessness launches.

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (Fairfax Chamber), in partnership with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, The Connection Newspapers and Apple Federal Credit Union, has announced the 2nd Annual Jeans Day to Put the ZIP on Homelessness (<http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>).

On Jeans Day 2012—Friday, Dec. 14—businesses, county agencies, non-profit organizations and civic and faith-based groups in Northern Virginia will allow employees or members to wear jeans to work or gatherings in exchange for a \$5 contribution to End Homelessness. Last year, more than 100 employers, representing 3,000 employees, participated in the initiative.

Twenty-two organizations, representing nearly 2,000 employees, have already signed up to participate in Jeans Day 2012, including:

- ❖ City of Fairfax Regional Library
- ❖ CPS Professional Services, LLC

- ❖ Ernst & Young
 - ❖ Fairfax County Department of Housing
 - ❖ Fairfax County Department of Human Resources
 - ❖ Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services
 - ❖ Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
 - ❖ Fairfax County Office of the County Attorney
 - ❖ Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
 - ❖ Fairfax County Retirement Administration Agency
 - ❖ Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board-Chantilly Center
 - ❖ Helios HR
 - ❖ Holland & Knight LLP
 - ❖ The ILEX Group
 - ❖ Kositzka, Wicks & Company
 - ❖ M&T Bank
 - ❖ The O'Reilly Law Firm
 - ❖ Reston Association
 - ❖ Steve Gladis Leadership Partners
 - ❖ Tysons Corner Center
 - ❖ Virginia Commerce Bank
 - ❖ WSP Environment & Energy
- "We're proud to partner with the

county, through the Office to Prevent & End Homelessness, The Connection Newspapers and Apple Credit Union to provide an opportunity for businesses and their employees to participate in the robust work to end homelessness going on in our community," said Fairfax Chamber President & CEO Jim Corcoran. "Northern Virginia businesses step up every day to support our community in many ways, but we're especially excited about this opportunity because it's a chance for employees to get involved directly."

"Now, more than ever, we need you to get involved as we move forward with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. Everyone is in need of some type of help at one point in time or another. Now, we need your help, and Jeans Day is a great way for you and your business to get involved to prevent and end homelessness in our community as we know it," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"In Fairfax County, it's easy to forget that there are homeless

SEE JEANS DAY, PAGE 11



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FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Finding a Home in Fairfax County

Fairfax County has become an immigrant gateway—a place immigrants choose as their destination.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Part one of an ongoing series.

Y esuf Beshir spent nearly three years gathering the mountain of paperwork he needed to leave Ethiopia and emigrate to America. Two years ago, he settled in Springfield and now works as a government contractor. In May, he became an American citizen.

"The main thing here is democracy, the right to vote," Beshir said. "You can be what you want in America. You can be president. If you want to be a doctor, you can be a doctor. I tell my daughter that the possibilities in America are endless."

Shahinaz Hassan of Fairfax, originally from Egypt, also became an American citizen in May. "I am happy for today. Everything gets easier here," she said.

In 1982, Shami Walia emigrated from India. He was 18 years old, and worked in "every job you can think of" all over Northern Virginia. "I didn't have anything when I came here, but I worked hard." He now owns Burke Cigar Shop, a popular cigar lounge that's become a neighborhood fixture.

Rosemary Osei came to Centreville in 2000 from Ghana. The 22-year-old voted in her first presidential election this month, and works as a special needs teacher in Vienna.

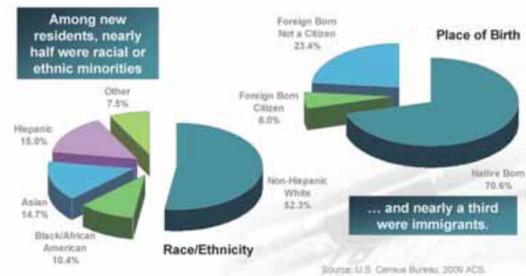
Srikanth Ramachandran came to America 14 years ago from India. In 2002, he founded the Fairfax-based Multivision IT company; by 2007 the company employed 200 people and had \$32 million in sales.

Andy Ton came from Vietnam. He now owns Andy's Barbershop in Vienna, where customers line up out the door on the weekends. Del. Mark Keam (D-35), the first Korean American and the first Asian-born immigrant to serve in the Virginia General Assembly, is one of his regular customers.

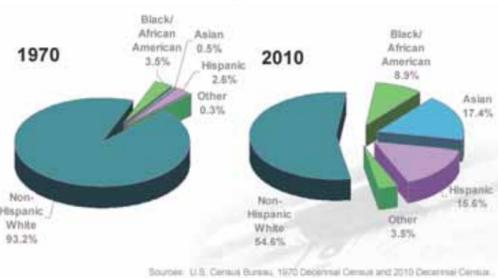
Individually, immigrants bring their own talents, culture, hopes, fears, sorrows, skills and needs. Collectively, they have permanently altered the fabric of Fairfax County.

In the span of one generation, Fairfax County has seen an explo-

Residents Who Moved to Fairfax County During 2009



Population by Race/Ethnicity Fairfax County, 1970 and 2010



sion in its immigrant population.

In 1970, more than 93 percent of Fairfax County's population was white and middle-class. In the fall of 1970, a white 6-year-old child beginning elementary school in one of the county's developing towns—Chantilly, McLean, Vienna, Herndon and Centreville (which did not yet have one major grocery store or drug store)—could look to his left, or look to his right, and see a classroom full of children who, at least 90 percent of the time, looked like him and who spoke English.

By 2010, a child entering elementary school in Fairfax County would almost certainly encounter a classmate who did not speak English as a primary language, and whose parents or grandparents immigrated from places such as Vietnam, India, Korea or a country in Africa.

According to the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, more than 46 percent of the county's population are of a racial or ethnic minority, and nearly a third are immigrants.

"I think the migrant population

is creating a richness and diversity and really enhancing our culture," said Frederic Bemak, PhD, director of the Diversity Research and Action Center at George Mason University. He said residents notice changes in obvious ways and subtle ones.

"There's a language change; there's a cultural change; there's a change as you walk down the street in the communities, there are changes in signs on the storefront because some of them are in different languages... or in churches, religious institutions. I hear it all day, 'It's not like it used to be.' Well, it's not, and that's positive," Bemak said.

In comparison—from 1990 to 2010—the United States doubled the number of migrants settling in America.

"By 2020—and this is astounding—the children and adolescents of migrants will comprise one third of the U.S. population... one-third," Bemak said. "People don't know that, if we're talking about children... that's our future. And if that's only 2020, imagine what

2040 be like."

Bemak argues that a healthy process of acculturation and adjustment—when existing cultural features are combined, and new features are generated—is possible, but only when the non-immigrant culture reaches out.

"We know racism and discrimination have an impact on people's mental health. We say 'you've got to figure out how to be here,' [The work] is simultaneously with the larger communities. . . . Those issues have to be attended to at the same time we help people adjust, adapt, acculturate," Bemak said.

Bemak said he disliked the word "tolerance," because it suggests that we're just "tolerating" immigrants. "We need to respect and celebrate immigrants," Bemak said.

Parents often notice the increasing inflow of diverse cultures at their children's schools. Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield, for example, reflects the increasing diversity of the community in its student body. The school, which opened in 1958 with nearly all white students, now has students from 42 countries who speak more than 34 languages.

In the 2009-2010 school year, according to FCPS, Lee High School's student body was slightly more than 30 percent white, 26 percent Asian, 24 percent Hispanic and about 16 percent black.

"Go to a high school graduation and listen to the names being read. It's not just Smith and Jones anymore," said Lee High School parent Paula Montero, who came with her parents from El Salvador when she was 6 years old.

Statistics show the breathtaking breadth of change in diversity and immigration in Northern Virginia:

- ◆ From 2000 until 2010, Fairfax County gained 91,165 immigrants. In 2000, Fairfax County had 237,677 foreign-born residents; in 2010, the number of foreign-born spiked to 328,842, according to the American Community Survey and the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 Decennial Census.

- ◆ Forty-four percent of Fairfax County elementary school students currently speak a language other than English at home. That's nearly 40,000 students who go home to households that speak one of more than 100 languages.

- ◆ Among new residents who



Khatira Alvarez (left) of Springfield, and Laura Simon-Salzer of McLean, took the Oath of Allegiance and became naturalized American citizens at a ceremony on July 10, held in the Hayfield Secondary School auditorium.

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/
THE CONNECTION

In Upcoming Weeks

During the next month, *The Connection* Newspapers will feature stories, viewpoints and columns about the significant impact immigrants have in Fairfax County.

- ◆ Part II focuses on immigration and Fairfax

County Public Schools;

- ◆ Part III examines politics of immigration;

- ◆ Part IV explores the religious and cultural

diversity immigrants bring to Fairfax County.

We encourage your letters and thoughts as we explore this topic.

moved to the county in 2009, nearly half were racial or ethnic minorities, and nearly one-third were immigrants.

- ◆ In the decade from 1990 to 2000, the increase in the number of foreign born in Fairfax communities included: Centreville, 323 percent; Herndon, 168 percent; City of Fairfax, 88 percent, Springfield, 78 percent; Burke, 63 percent; and McLean, 10 percent.

- ◆ 19,301 (6.4 percent) immigrants in Fairfax County are self-employed business owners. This is higher than the 4.1 percent of self-employed business owners who are U.S.-born Americans.

Between 1990 and 2000, Fairfax County became an immigrant gateway—a place immigrants choose as their destination upon entering the United States, according to a 2006 Fairfax County demographic report. The trend continues. In 2010, Kiplinger called Fairfax County one of the nation's top eight gateways for immigrants.

"Immigrants to this region come from nearly every country in the world, and some localities are home to people from more than 100 countries," said Audrey Singer, a senior fellow in metropolitan policy at the Brookings Institution.

"When former Mayor Rob Lederer graduated high school, our minority population was just over 2 percent. When I graduated high school 10 years later, the minority population was 10 percent. Today, it's 40 percent," Silverthorne said, noting that in the Fairfax County school system, more than 100 languages are spoken. "I believe we have turned a blind eye to this trend."

Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County's Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, has emphasized and celebrated Fairfax County's diverse

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A Way Out of No Way

Two women—one African-American and one from Africa—learn to see America through each other's eyes.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Lillie Reynolds and Rosemary Osei in Reston Town Center in November.

Rosemary Osei, 22, and Lillie Reynolds, 61, have been good friends for four years. The two women, who help teach special needs students at a Vienna elementary school, are sometimes mistaken for mother and daughter.

They bonded over their faith — both are devout Christians — and family values.

Recently, they attended a rally for President Obama at George Mason University. The 2012 presidential election was the first time Osei was exercising her right to vote as an American citizen, and Reynolds was proud of her.

"Voting is a powerful feeling," Reynolds said. "It's one of the best things about being an American."

Although they have much in common, both women said they've learned important lessons from their differences.

"We both experience being Americans in different ways. Rosemary came here because she wanted to come here," Reynolds said. "My family was brought here in chains. . . . We've both found a way out of no way."

Osei spent the first 12 years of her life in Ghana. In 2003, she and her younger brother, Reuben, reunited with her family in Centreville. She became an American citizen on Aug. 25, 2012.

"In over nine years of living in the U.S., my proudest moment was on Nov. 6, 2012, when I waited in line for over an hour to help re-elect the president of the United States. I am now proud to say I am an American citizen."

LIKE MANY IMMIGRANTS, Osei said she grew up seeing America as a land of wealth and opportunity. She said there was always a celebration when family friends would come back from America, because they brought armfuls of clothes, candy and toys. "It was something special and magical to me," Osei said.

"Although I lived a comfortable life in Ghana, I believed that America would be a better place to live. To me America represents freedom and justice. Since the money is higher in America, I believed my family and I would become rich and have more money than we had in Ghana," Osei said.

She said she was disheartened when — as a 7th grader at Liberty Elementary School — she did not receive the welcome she anticipated.

"In my country, when we saw white people, we welcomed them. We wanted them to think well of us and come back. I thought everyone would welcome me when I came here," Osei said. Instead, Osei said she felt out of place "as though I didn't belong because of the complexion of my skin color." She said she often cried, and ate lunch in the school's bathroom. Within a month, the 12-year-old yearned to return to Ghana.

"I wanted to go back 'home' to my friends. I was very unhappy because I wasn't being welcomed and accepted for who I am as a person," she said.

Reynolds said she understands that feeling all too well. She grew up in Mobile, Ala. in the 1950s and '60s, during state-sponsored segregation, a time when laws forced blacks and whites to use different drinking fountains, public parks, pools and transportation.

"I have a lot of friends from Africa. They didn't understand why I was so excited to be voting for President Obama the first time. I had to explain to them that we didn't always have the right to vote, and I didn't think I'd live to see the day I could vote for a black man," Reynolds said.

Reynolds said she remembers when she and her sister would walk to go shopping in downtown Mobile. "You could buy the clothes, but you couldn't try them on because white people didn't want to touch anything a black person wore," she said.

Osei said it was eye opening to learn about the United States' recent history of racial discrimination. "When Lillie tells me stories about growing up in America as a black girl in the '60s, it breaks my heart," Osei said.

"It's one thing to watch a movie on TV about how horrible African Americans were treated in the past, but it's another thing to know someone who lived through those experience.

"I was in my 40s, my 40s," Reynolds said, pausing, "before I stopped hating myself for being black."

"My daddy was a smart man," she said. "He was a lumber-checker, and he was really good at math. He did everybody's taxes in our part of town. But he couldn't ride in the front seat of a car with a white person or he'd get arrested. He was talked down to by white people, called 'boy.' . . . I always felt hurt and angry for him."

Reynolds said her grandmother had a saying that stuck with her "She would say nobody is better than you and you're no better than anybody else. My family was smart. I grew up strong in one way and beat down in another."

"It took me to become an adult and to witness a black man become president of the United State of America before I could really feel proud about being an American," said Reynolds. "And make no mistake about it, I am proud to be an American, and proud to live here."

BOTH REYNOLDS AND OSEI said they like living in Fairfax County, where they get to experience the benefits of such a vibrant, diverse culture.

"I am proud of so many things now. It makes me proud of America for how far we, as people, have changed for the better," Osei said. "Most of all I am proud of Lillie for not allowing her past experience turns her into a bitter person—an angry black woman—but instead she is a stronger, independent black woman, who treats everyone with respect."

SEE FAIRFAX. PAGE 10

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Fairfax Becomes Immigrants' Gateway

FROM PAGE 9

integration, assimilation and social welfare of immigrants has caused frustration and some resentment.

In Fairfax County, slightly more than half of those who are classified as "foreign born" live below the poverty line. Minority students, according to FCPS records, are less likely to graduate from high school on time. The on-time graduation rate for the class of 2010 was 95.6 percent for white students, 94.5 percent for Asian students, 87.5 percent for black students and 75.3 percent for Hispanic or Latino students. On the flip side, Asian students make up more than 60 percent of students

admitted through a rigorous admissions process to Fairfax County's elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Immigrants are less likely to have health care coverage. Although immigrants comprise about 30 percent of the county's total population, they comprise 63.5 percent of the county's uninsured residents.

Immigrants are also more likely to experience housing discrimination. According to Fairfax County's Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs, the agency that enforces fair housing laws in the county, discrimination cases have been on the rise in Fairfax County in the past six years.

"Sadly, housing discrimination is alive and well and we've seen an uptick in complaints during the past six years," said Ken Saunders, executive director of Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs.

Although discrimination based on race remains an issue, Saunders reports that in recent years complaints received by his office are related to national origin or involve disability-related issues.

In contrast to national trends, discrimination based on nationality made up 25.6 percent of complaints from 2008 to 2010. In comparison, about 9 percent of complaints to HUD fall under this category. Discrimination complaints, Saunders said, are not filed by one particular group.

"It runs the gamut. We have complaints from Latin Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, individuals from the Continent of Africa," Saunders said. Saunders said Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs does a significant amount of education and outreach to communities with limited English proficiency, by hosting seminars aimed at various ethnic groups and by publishing and disseminating information in a number of languages.

VIBRANT CULTURE THROUGH IMMIGRATION

Most community leaders and residents in Fairfax County agree the benefits of diversity and immigration outweigh the challenges.

"Fairfax County is proud to be a community in which companies of all descriptions can and do succeed to a greater extent than in the rest of the region, the state or the country," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

In September, the county was recognized as a successful market for minority-owned businesses in several national business publication rankings. Businesses owned by Hispanics, African-Americans and women generated nearly \$1 billion in revenue and



Frederic Bemak

PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

provided more than 1,000 jobs, according to the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

Eleven Fairfax County-based companies were among the 500 largest Hispanic-owned businesses in the nation based on revenue—more than the total in 40 states, according to HispanicBusiness.com.

The Fairfax County companies comprise 22 from Virginia on the 2012 Hispanic Business 500 list. In the Washington area, eight companies are from Maryland and two are from the District of Columbia.

Together these companies generated \$655 million in revenue and employed more than 3,000 workers in 2011, according to Hispanic Business.

CELEBRATING OTHER CULTURES

There are numerous ways to experience the cultural diversity of Fairfax County, but perhaps one of the most accessible is by attending one of the county's Naturalization Ceremonies.

"Immigrants bring talent and culture to our community in many ways, and make us who we are," said Bulova. "Every time I attend one of our Naturalization Ceremonies, I'm reminded of how important diversity is to Fairfax County."

On May 25, 2012, Bulova presented the Certificates of Naturalization to 75 new Americans in the Fairfax County Government Center. The board room was packed with immigrants and their families from every corner of the globe—Afghanistan, The Congo, Costa Rica, Burma, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

"Some of you have endured hardships to arrive at this time and place," Bulova said in her remarks. "All of you have invested your time, money and efforts to become citizens. Many of you came here to escape war or endless poverty. . . . You who are here today now officially have a seat at that table."

Samuel DeVera, a captain with the county's Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Fairfax County Asian American Firefighters' Association, gave the keynote address, telling the audience his personal story of coming to America from the Philippines when he was 14 years old in 1983. After becoming a paramedic in 1994, he received a Valor award and, in 2010, scored first on the test to become a captain with the Fire and Rescue Department.

"Look at me. The one thing I can say is work hard to make you and your families better," DeVera said. "If you're vice president of the company, aim to be president. I'm not here to encourage you; I want to challenge you."

The room was quiet when U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) stepped to the podium.

"My fellow Americans," Connolly said with gravitas, pausing to let the meaning sink in. And when it did, 75 immigrants, who had just raised their right hand and taken the Oath of Allegiance to become American citizens, erupted with applause and tears, waving American flags and hugging family members.

"You now join us. . . . Every new wave of immigrants refreshes us, makes us stronger," Connolly said, leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.



BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Ellen Graves leads newly naturalized citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance Saturday, Sept. 22 at Lake Anne.

VIEWPOINTS

Immigrants' Experiences: Becoming Americans

On Sept. 22 at the Multicultural Festival on Lake Anne Plaza in Reston, 25 people participated in a naturalization ceremony that made them American citizens. Some of them talk about how they came to the U.S. and why they chose to become citizens.

—AMIEE FREEMAN



PHOTOS BY AMIEE FREEMAN

Xiomara Artola, currently living in Woodbridge, originally from El Salvador

"Since I was 18 I had thought about becoming a citizen. But I was young then. I have lived here since kindergarten and I went to school here. Now that I am 23 I felt that it was time to complete the naturalization process."



Jose Zalles, currently living in Woodbridge, originally from Bolivia

"I came here as a very young person. My parents came here first and then I followed. I grew up here. My parents already spoke English. I never really felt the need to become a citizen until recently. During college I saw opportunities that were only available to citizens, so I thought it was time for me to become one."



Seung Il Kim, currently living in Falls Church, originally from South Korea

"This is really a very special event. I have been a member of the community for a long time, but not really. Until now I never had the rights or responsibilities of a citizen."



Bassam Ghazi, currently living in Ashburn, originally from Lebanon

"I came here on a visit 25 years ago and decided I would like to stay here. So, I got my green card. Now I will have time to travel and see more of the country."



Saaeddine Zaghbani, currently living in Burke, originally from Tunisia

"From today I can say I am an American citizen. It is a big honor. For me it is a great opportunity. I can live my dream. My first step as a citizen will be to vote freely. I have visited 47 countries, lived in five of them. Here is where I want to stay."

Jeans Day Campaign

FROM PAGE 7

families here, homeless children in the schools, and that many people who are homeless here are actually working, but don't make nearly enough money to afford housing," said The Connection Publisher Mary Kimm. "The Connection is committed to raising awareness of homelessness and the need to provide permanent shelter, and to recognizing the good works of individuals and businesses in Northern Virginia." Nearly 3,000 children, women and men face homelessness and the threat of severe temperatures and hunger today in the Fairfax County-Falls Church community. The majority of people without homes in our community are children and working families. Homelessness affects everyone, with social and economic costs to the community, including increased public costs for medical care and education.

Interested organizations can register to participate in the initiative any time between now and Dec. 14, and can do so at <http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>.

More information about homelessness in Fairfax County, and the partnership to end it, is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>

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The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (Fairfax Chamber), the Voice of Business in Northern Virginia™, repre-

sents more than 625 member companies with nearly 500,000 employees throughout the region. Since 1925, the chamber has been working to build a strong business community by providing unparalleled access to business development & thought leadership opportunities; professional development & mentoring; and business advocacy and strategic community partnerships. Learn more at www.fairfaxchamber.org.

In 2008, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established a 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) to manage, coordinate and monitor day-to-day implementation of the community's plan. A governing board governs the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness and along with OPEH engages community partners from nonprofits, businesses, the faith-based community, and county agencies in its efforts to implement the 10-Year Plan. More information is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless.

The Connection Newspapers, an award winning group of 15 weekly newspapers and online sites in Northern Virginia, reaches more than 170,000 home and business readers every week. The Connection is a winner of the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service for coverage of homelessness. The Connection provides targeted marketing tailored to individual business objectives, including print, web and social media. Visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com. Free digital subscriptions are available at www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe.

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involved.

Those planning to attend the meeting—which was rescheduled due to Hurricane Sandy—are asked to register at www.surveymonkey.com/s/FairfaxLanierListeningTourSignup. For more information about the meeting, plus key dates for the boundary study, go to www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/fairfaxlanier/index.shtml.

Woodson Drama Night Out

Woodson High's Drama Department is holding a Drama Night Out for children in grades one through eight. It's set for Saturday, Dec. 8, from 2-8 p.m. Children will have fun on and off stage with other children their age while learning acting, improvisation and musical theater. Woodson theater students will teach them. For more information and to register, go to www.wtdrama.org. E-mail questions to deniseatsea@aol.com.

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

TUESDAY/NOV. 27

Book Talk: Marc Leepson on Saving Monticello. 7 p.m., at the Kings Park Public Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Historian Marc Leepson talks on how Jefferson's home was saved from wreck and ruin; book signing follows talk. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

VolRUNteer 5K and Fun Run. 9 a.m., at Fairfax Corner Shopping Center, 4100 Monument Drive, Fairfax. Run or walk to benefit Volunteer Fairfax's efforts to connect the skills and interests of volunteers and donors with local nonprofit needs; long sleeve t-shirt included. \$35; \$15 for youth 15-and-under; \$15 for 1K Fun Run (adults must be accompanying a child). www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Shop the Shepherd Christmas Showcase. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Enjoy holiday shopping in a festive market filled with crafts and gifts; jewelry, toys, handbags, home decor, kitchenware, skin care, decorations, a bakeshop and raffle are among the day's offerings. 703-323-5400 or jhwilcox@aol.com.

2012 Festival of Lights and Carols. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. From lunch with Santa at Old Town Hall to holiday music, hot cider, s'mores, the Pender United Methodist Church Bell Ringers, caroling and bell ringing with the Jubil-Aires at Kitty Pozer Garden to the lighting of the Christmas tree, choral and band performances, and candlelit tours of Ratcliffe-Allison House at 7 p.m., the day is full of cheer. www.fairfaxva.gov.

Christmas in Ireland: An Nollaig in Éirinn. 8 p.m., at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A family friendly performance focusing on the Irish Christmas tradition of music and song with Celtic instruments from the internationally celebrated band often broadcast on NPR, BBC and the like. \$23-46. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Sacred Carol Sing. 7-8 p.m., at Historic Chapel of Truro Anglican Church, 10520 Main Street, Fairfax. Jazz singer Juanita Williams and saxophonist Matt Rogers will provide special music, with reception to follow. 703-273-1300 or



Danú plays the GMU Center for the Arts stage with a Christmas special on Saturday, Dec. 1

Christmas in Ireland: An Nollaig in Éirinn

On Saturday, Dec. 1, the spirited international traditional Celtic band Danú performs their Christmas special, "Christmas in Ireland: An Nollaig in Éirinn" at 8 p.m., at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax.. \$23-46. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

www.truroanglican.com.

Chancel Choir Concert. 7:30 p.m., at the Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. The Christmas-themed portion of Handel's Messiah with a professional orchestra and singers; traditional carols follow the Hallelujah Chorus, with the audience invited to sing-along. 703-591-3120.

MONDAY/DEC. 3

Children's Music Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. First and third Mondays of each month. Free admission. 703-352-2787 or www.fairfaxarts.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Second Saturday. 9 a.m., at Marriot Courtyard, 11220 Lee-Jackson Highway, Fairfax. Speakers will speak about educating spouses about separation and divorce process in order to encourage them to be civil and reasonable for their pocketbooks, emotional health and children. RSVP to claphambean@kinney.com.

A Holiday Toy Train Show. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Shriner's Kena Temple, 9001 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax. The show will include working layouts of model trains of all types and gauges. Model trains, track and components will also be available for sale. Admission is \$5; otherwise free for children under 12, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in uniform (when

accompanied by an adult, active members of the military, National Guard, Coast Guard and reserves, and members of the WB&A.

Advent Lessons and Carols. 5 p.m., at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Choral anthems and congregational hymns will be sung in response to readings of prophecies of the coming messiah. 703-455-250 or www.standrews.net.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks III. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and pianist James Dick perform Rossini's Overture to La Gazza Ladra plus Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique." \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 9

Bein Hashmashot. 3 p.m., at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. On the first day of Chanukah, the Israeli youth choir whose name means "between the suns" and who function as a melting pot of the Beit Shemesh society, add a little more light to the Festival of Lights with their high quality musical performance led by professional music directors; arts, crafts and food precede the 4 p.m. concert (latkes and sufganiyot donuts included). Reservations. \$3 for JCCNV members; \$5. 703-537-3000 or www.jccnv.org.

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 5

separate access to and from both parkways and Monument Drive.

School Boundary-Change Meeting

The Fairfax County School Board will hold a meeting Monday, Nov. 26, from 7-8:30 p.m., in the Fairfax High cafeteria to help determine which schools are included in the upcoming Fairfax High/Lanier Middle School boundary study. The boundary study will address current and projected overcrowding in Fairfax High and Lanier Middle schools.

This boundary study will impact only middle and high school students who live in Fairfax County. Depending on the scope of study, middle and high school feeder schools may change for Fairfax County students. No elementary school boundary changes will be

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SPORTS

Stepka, Bowles Lead Woodson Boys' Basketball

Cavaliers focused on postseason success.

By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Woodson boys' basketball team breezed through Patriot District opponents during the 2011-12 regular season, posting a 13-1 mark en route to the top seed in the district tournament.

From that point, however, things no longer ran smoothly for the Cavaliers. With starting guard Michael Hansler sidelined with an ankle injury and team chemistry faltering, Woodson lost to T.C. Williams, 49-48, in the district semifinals and fell to Fairfax, 54-51, in overtime during the opening round of the Northern Region tournament. Just like that, the Cavaliers, who went 20-3 during the regular season, were done.

"Our chemistry wasn't as good as it should have been last year," sophomore point guard Eric Bowles said. "... It wasn't anything the coaches did. Players, they were separated and stuff."

Nine months later, Woodson returns six of its top 10 scorers for the 2012-13 campaign. Led by 6-foot-6 sharpshooter Tommy Stepka and Bowles, the Cavaliers have their sights set on assuring regular-season victories translate to postseason success.

"Anytime you return a lot of experience from a team that had success last season, goals or expectations are high," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "... The goal is to kind of take that next step and play deep into the regional tournament."

STEPKA, a senior, was Woodson's leading scorer last season at 12.7 points per contest and shot better than 40 percent from 3-point range. Craig said he would like to see Stepka improve at the defensive end and become a better all-around player.

"Last year, I think he kind of snuck up on people," Craig said. "I don't think people realized until we played 15 or 18 games how good he was. ... I don't think he'll sneak up [on teams this season]."

Stepka said shooting should again be a strength for Woodson. How does a team that shoots a lot from the perimeter avoid struggling?

"You've just got to be focused and have confidence," Stepka said. "... Just stay confident."

Bowles (5-11) started at point guard as a freshman last season, averaging 6.8 points and five assists per game. Craig said he wants Bowles to improve his game at each end of the floor and take on more of a leadership role.

"I think we have a very experienced point



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Woodson senior Tommy Stepka was the Cavaliers' leading scorer last season.

guard even though he's only a sophomore," Craig said. "He started 25 games and had an outstanding year for us [last season]."

Bowles said he feels the same now as he did when he was a freshman and any nerves he experienced last season weren't the product of being a ninth-grader on varsity.

"I'm expected to do better than what I did last year. I shouldn't get worse," he said. "I'm just going to come out and play my game. You always get nervous when you're about to play your first game. [It wasn't] really about being a freshman and coming in. That first game is the nervous one and then once you play that, everything's fine after that."

Hansler, a 6-foot-2 senior, enters his third season on the varsity.

"He has the athletic ability," Craig said, "to be a real dominating player."

Seniors Peter Murray (6-4) and Alex Boock (6-4), and junior Andy Stynchula (6-4) also return for Woodson. Craig said Boock will miss four-to-six weeks after having surgery on his right pinky finger.

WOODSON'S RETURNING ATHLETES will have to overcome the loss of third-leading scorer Brandon Stepka (graduation) and second-leading scorer AJ Carr, a 6-foot-6 forward who transferred to Saint James School in Hagerstown, Md.

"I'm hoping a strength this year will be our experience," Craig said, "[and] the fact we played in a lot of big games last year."

Woodson will scrimmage at Paul VI at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24 and will open the regular season at home against Robinson on Nov. 30.

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TAX NOTICE
CITY OF FAIRFAX
REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE
 Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due **DECEMBER 5, 2012**
LATE PAYMENT PENALTY
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 Taxes may be paid in person Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 Treasurer's Office, Room 234, City Hall
IMPORTANT
 Even if you do not receive a bill, you are responsible for paying real estate taxes by **DECEMBER 5, 2012** to avoid late payment penalties
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Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF WATER RATE Public Hearing

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2013, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,700 to \$3,850†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,000 to \$9,500.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,000 to \$1,050†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$33 to \$35.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$8.35 to \$9.20†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.16 to \$2.29 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$46 to \$50.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
10. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$41 to \$44.
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$16 to \$17.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$143.4 million budget for calendar year 2013.

On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2013 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m.

A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$143.4 million in 2013. Water sales are expected to provide \$124.6 million. Approximately \$18.8 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2012	2013
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$46,473	\$48,367
Power and Utilities	11,345	11,686
Chemicals	6,694	7,968
Fuel	916	960
Postage	547	460
Insurance	1,300	1,107
Supplies and Materials	3,976	4,233
Contractual Services	8,749	8,657
Professional Services	1,656	1,902
Other	2,005	2,285
Sub-Total	83,661	87,625
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,559)	(9,613)
Total	74,102	78,012

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$39,374,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$14,068,000

† Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

BUSINESS OPP

BUSINESS OPP

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WORK AT HOME!
NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER
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☎ Weekdays 9-4 ☎

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Music Teacher Position

Music Teacher for morning preschool.
Tues. – Fri. – 9:45 – 12:15
Call 703-451-1845

Hairstylist and Shampoo Technician PT

Herndon, VA
Must have a current VA cosmetologist license. Booth Renters are welcome.
Please call 703-625-9631 for more info.

P/T Nurse or Medical Tech.

for a busy Fairfax City medical office.
Experience preferred
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Our company is seeking telemarketers for part time positions. Hours are flexible between 12:00pm - 8pm. Experience strongly preferred but not necessary. Must have good speaking voice. Clean, fun work environment with excellent commission packages & contests. Located in Fairfax off Rt. 66.
Call Keith at 703-383-0400

Join Our Team of Professional Pet Sitters and Mid-Day Dog Walkers!



REQUIREMENTS:

- MUST be 18 Years Old
- Must have a valid driver's license
- Must have a reliable car and cell phone - Excellent written and verbal communications
- Need access to the Internet 2 times per day
- Professional and reliable

APPLY ONLINE TODAY:
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Slitter Operator Assistant for Plastic Films. Previous exp. with slitting or similar product machinery required. This position will include warehouse duties, standing and lifting heavy materials. Must reside in the Northern Virginia Area. Must work as a team member. We offer an excellent benefit package. Resumes only to walter.basnight@tritonint.com. We are an EOE/IF/DFHN.

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ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA



TOYOTATHON IS ON!

\$25 donation

for every 'like' on Facebook 

to benefit the Parkinson Foundation of the National Capital area. Going on throughout the entire month of November. ⁽¹¹⁾



PARKINSON FOUNDATION
OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
A COMMUNITY OF EDUCATION AND SUPPORT



NATIONAL PARKINSON FOUNDATION

0% APR FINANCING
ON SELECT NEW MODELS²

\$1,500 OVER BLACK BOOK⁴
VALUE FOR YOUR TRADE

SIGN & DRIVE WITH ABSOLUTELY ZERO MONEY OUT OF POCKET.

BRAND NEW 2013 TOYOTA COROLLA L

\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$239 PER MONTH¹

4DR, 4-SPD AUTO

\$999 DOWN

\$209 PER MO.²

\$1999 DOWN

\$179 PER MO.²

\$2999 DOWN

\$159 PER MO.²



0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS³

BRAND NEW 2012 TOYOTA CAMRY LE

\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$279 PER MONTH¹

4DR, 6-SPD AUTO

\$999 DOWN

\$249 PER MO.²

\$1999 DOWN

\$219 PER MO.²

\$2999 DOWN

\$199 PER MO.²



0% APR FOR 36 MONTHS³

BRAND NEW 2012 TOYOTA RAV4 4X4

\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$289 PER MONTH¹

4DR SUV, ELECTRONIC 4-SPD AUTO

\$999 DOWN

\$259 PER MO.²

\$1999 DOWN

\$229 PER MO.²

\$2999 DOWN

\$209 PER MO.²



0% APR FOR 60 MONTHS³



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BRINGING THE SPORT BACK TO THE CAR



THE ALL NEW FR-S
\$1,000 MILITARY REBATE⁸

0% APR FINANCING
AVAILABLE ON NEW 2012 PRIUS PLUG-IN⁹



PRIUS FAMILY IN-STOCK NOW
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ToyotaCare

Complimentary maintenance plan with roadside assistance.
* Covers 2 years or 25k miles. Oil and Filter - Tire Rotation - Multi-Point Inspection[†]



The Best New Cars Make The Best Used Cars

- 7YR/100K MILE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE PLAN[†]
- 160 POINT QUALITY ASSURANCE INSPECTION^{††}
- CARFAX VEHICLE HISTORY REPORT
- 1.9% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE^{†††}
- 12 MO./12K MI COMPREHENSIVE WARRANTY
- 7 YR./100K MI LIMITED POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

\$1,000
REBATE FOR RECENT COLLEGE GRADS⁸

\$500
MILITARY REBATE INCENTIVE FOR ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONEL⁷



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

BRAND NEW 2012 SCION iQ
\$0 DUE AT SIGNING
\$159 PER MO.
FOR 36 MONTHS¹

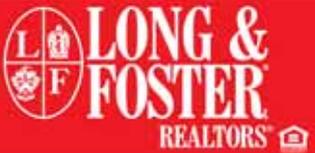


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(1) OFFERS INCLUDE VA TAX, FREIGHT, \$399 PROCESSING FEE, ACQUISITION FEE AND \$0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. 36-MONTH LEASE WITH 12K PER YEAR. (2) TOTAL DOWN PAYMENT PLUS TAX, TAGS, FREIGHT AND \$399 PROCESSING FEE DUE AT SIGNING. (3) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR 36 MONTHS ON NEW 2012 CAMRYS. 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR 60 MONTHS ON NEW 2013 COROLLAS. OFFERS FOR WELL QUALIFIED BUYERS WITH APPROVED TIER1+ CREDIT THROUGH TFS. EXCLUDES \$399 DEALER DOC FEE. (4) BASED ON BLACK BOOK TRADE VALUE MINUS EXCESS MILEAGE AND RECONDITIONING. (5) COVERS NORMAL FACTORY SCHEDULED SERVICE FOR 2 YEARS OR 25K MILES, WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. THE NEW VEHICLE CANNOT BE PART OF A RENTAL OR COMMERCIAL FLEET. SEE PARTICIPATING DEALER FOR COMPLETE PLAN DETAILS. VALID ONLY IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND ALASKA. (6) TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICE COLLEGE GRADUATE PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT THROUGH A PARTICIPATING TOYOTA DEALER AND TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES. NOT ALL APPLICANTS WILL QUALIFY. REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD THE AMOUNTS DUE AT LEASE SIGNING OR DELIVERY WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER LEASE OR FINANCE TRANSACTION. (7) REBATE OFFERED BY TOYOTA MOTOR SALES, U.S.A., INC. REBATE WILL BE APPLIED ON LEASE CONTRACTS, FIRST TOWARD DUE AT SIGNING OR DELIVERY, WITH ANY REMAINDER TO THE CAPITALIZED COST REDUCTION OR TOWARD THE DOWN PAYMENT ON FINANCE CONTRACTS. ONE REBATE PER FINANCE OR LEASE TRANSACTION. NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE TOYOTA COLLEGE GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE DETAILS. (8) ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS MUST BE IN CURRENT ACTIVE DUTY STATUS IN THE U.S. MILITARY. (9) 0% APR FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR 36 MONTHS ON PRIUS PLUG-IN FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS. (†) WHICHEVER COMES FIRST FROM DATE OF TCJV PURCHASE. (††) FROM DATE OF TCJV PURCHASE. (†††) 1.9% APR FINANCING ON ALL CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED VEHICLES FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS WITH APPROVED CREDIT ON SELECT MODELS THROUGH TFS. \$399 DEALER DOC FEE. SEE DEALER FOR COMPLETE FINANCING DETAILS. (††††) UP TO \$5,000. ALL OFFERS EXPIRE 11/30/12.



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Burke Centre \$649,900

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OVER 35 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

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Fairfax Station \$1,490,000

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Charming home built in 1900 * wood floors throughout * private patio & garden w/built-in gas grill * Kitchen w/granite * 2 bdrms, loft, 2.5 baths * Enjoy walking to the river & shopping * Call Judy @ 703-503-1885



BURKE CENTRE

4 BR, 2.5BA
Colonial on quiet cul-de-sac! Large 2 car garage.
Gourmet Kitchen w/ granite and stainless steel!
Spacious and casual floor plan w/ 4 upper level

bedrms. Finished lower level, and landscaped profusely w/ seasonal gardens. Enjoy all Burke Centre amenities and walk to VRE, bus stop, and community center!

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NV Kingsmill model with a finished walkout bsmt! Premium wooded lot! 5 big BR's, 4.5 BA's! Elegant hardwood flrs, updated kitch w/ granite! Over-sized home office w/built-ins! South Country H.S. district.

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Great 4br*2.5ba*3 level colonial*Large family room/kitchen/breakfast room area*Den*large master bedroom/bath*3 additional Bedrooms upstairs*large lot backing to trees*Close to Dahlgren Naval Base/Colonial Beach*Easy access to Rt 301 Bridge to Maryland* Call Buzz 703-503-1866

Sheila Adams

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Fairfax \$539,900
Lovely 5 BR, 3 1/2 Bath beauty in Beautiful Fairfax Club Estates.

Situated on a richly wooded lot on a pretty cul-de-sac. The interior boasts 1st floor FR w/Fireplace, Formal LR/DR, New SGD steps you out to quiet deck, perfect for entertaining, Remodeled Baths, Newer Kitchen, Lower Level w/Rec Room, 5th BR and full Bath, 2 car garage.
Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



David Lewis

703-980-3090

David.Lewis@LNF.com



Lake Anna Waterfront \$475,000
Property is 9.38 acres with Pasture and Woods. Great Horse Farm or Just Space to Enjoy the Waterfront views and the Quiet Evenings. Over 400 feet of Waterfront for your Dock and Boathouse. www.lnf.com/SP7681946
Call or email David 703-980-3090 or David.Lewis@lnf.com



Lake Anna Waterfront \$695,000
3 BR, 3 BA with excellent water views. Nice wooded lot with slope to water. Almost new rambler with walk-out unfinished lower level. Great floor plan with open Living, Dining, Kitchen and Breakfast Room. Lots of windows. www.lnf.com/SP7954102
Call or email David 703-980-3090 or David.Lewis@lnf.com



Mickie Shea

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Fairfax \$569,000
This center hall colonial will knock your socks off! It's all been done for you! Sited on a cul de sac and featuring a huge fenced in back yard, enjoy the spectacular kitchen with all the bells and whistles, gleaming hardwoods, sun room, 5 large bdrms, all baths have been updated, new carpet & paint, finished walkout lower level nothing has been spared!

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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

September, 2012 Sales from \$625,000~\$650,000



2 5201 Dunleigh Glen Lane, Burke — \$641,000



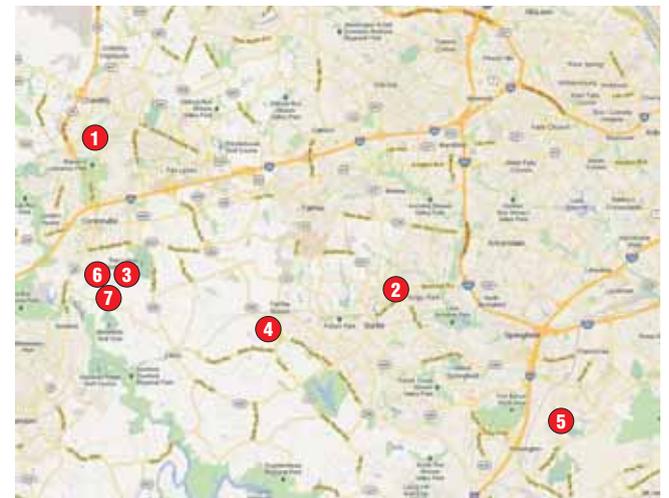
1 14030 Eagle Chase Circle, Chantilly — \$648,800

3 6230 Sandstone Way, Clifton — \$634,000



4 11024 Clara Barton Drive, Fairfax Station — \$633,000

7 6609 Rock Lawn Drive, Clifton — \$634,000



© Google Map data

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 14030 EAGLE CHASE CIR	7	4	1	CHANTILLY	\$648,800	Detached	0.27	20151	WALNEY ROAD	09/24/12
2 5201 DUNLEIGH GLEN LN	4	3	1	BURKE	\$641,000	Detached	0.23	22015	DUNLEIGH	09/04/12
3 6230 SANDSTONE WAY	6	3	1	CLIFTON	\$634,000	Detached	0.30	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/12/12
4 11024 CLARA BARTON DR	4	2	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$633,000	Detached	0.58	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	09/14/12
5 6357 ALDERMAN DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$633,000	Detached	0.10	22315	KINGSTOWNE	09/28/12
6 13910 MARBLESTONE DR	4	3	1	CLIFTON	\$631,500	Detached	0.20	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/26/12
7 6609 ROCKLAWN DR	6	4	1	CLIFTON	\$628,000	Detached	0.23	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/06/12

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