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PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Saturday Night Fever at Milano's

NEWS, PAGE 15

The Goranitis family: from left—Dimitri, John, Cathy, Jimmy and Theano, 17, seated. More than 100 guests came to a surprise party celebrating Jimmy Goranitis' 55th birthday and the Milano's restaurant 33rd anniversary.

Parents Plead for
Delay in Training
Center Closing
COUNTY LINE, PAGE 3

Fairfax County License Plates?

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THE COUNTY LINE



Northern Virginia residents had an opportunity to speak in front of their local elected officials of the Virginia General Assembly on Saturday during an annual Public Hearing of the Fairfax Delegation: 77 residents took the opportunity to speak about things that concern them, their families and communities.



Del. Vivian Watts (D-35) and state Sen. David Marsden (D-37) read over information provided by speakers at a public hearing on Saturday morning.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Parents Plead for Delay in Training Center Closing

Timeframe for closure puts disabled adults at risk, advocates say.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

When it was Kenneth Gans' turn to speak to the panel of Virginia state legislators, the 78-year-old father of a severely-disabled son kept his remarks brief.

"This is absolute madness, a bloody disaster," Gans said, shaking his head. "You're going to fix a problem by destroying a perfectly good place," Gans told lawmakers, referring to the closing of the Northern Virginia Training Center, where his son Jeffrey, 53, has lived for more than 40 years.

He was among nearly 25 parents, caregivers and stakeholders to plead with legislators to reconsider the timeline for closing the center, a state-run facility on Braddock Road that houses nearly 200 residents. The center is scheduled to close in 2015.

"We consider NVTC a miracle, a blessing," Gans said. "My son Jeffrey is 53, but he will remain an infant the rest of his life. My greatest fear is that he will not survive for long in a group home," Gans said.

The annual public hearing, held Saturday at the Fairfax County Government Center, gives any constituent the opportunity—in three minutes or less—to lobby Fairfax County's delegation to the General Assembly.

During Saturday's public hearing, 77 residents addressed the panel for nearly four hours on an array of topics. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, who opened the public hearing, stressed the county's need for additional funding for education and transportation.



Kymberly DeLoatche and her son Charlie wait for their turn to testify in front of the Fairfax Delegation to the Virginia General Assembly on Saturday during an annual public hearing of the area's state elected officials. DeLoatche urged lawmakers to reform the Medicaid waiver program.

"As you know, K-12 and transportation continue to be key funding issues for Fairfax County," she said, reiterating that Governor Robert McDonnell's proposed \$48 million in transportation funding is "nowhere near enough to solve the commonwealth's transportation problems."

"In Fairfax County alone, we have identified \$300 million in transportation needs annually for the next 10 years," she said.

John Horesji, coordinator for Social Action Linking Together (SALT), asked lawmakers to support a number of social policy reforms to help the state's most vulnerable residents. He said SALT's priorities include the expansion of Medicaid and banning the practice, through legislation, of shackling pregnant women in Virginia prisons.

Helen Kelly, a representative for the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, pressed lawmakers to consider no-excuse absentee voting and online voter registration.

"Our vote is our voice. Let's make sure Virginia's voices are heard," Kelly said.

But a recurrent topic for nearly half the speakers concerned the closing of the NVTC. They want legislators to slow down the timeline for shuttering the center, and to increase funding for Medicaid disability waivers. The waivers help families pay for medical services and equipment for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

The closing of NVTC is not a surprise.

LAST JANUARY, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the U.S. Department of Justice reached a settlement to close all but one of the state's training centers for the developmentally and intellectually disabled. At the time, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and Chairman Bulova released a statement saying the county supports "community-based care," but that it was "critical in this regard that sufficient funding is provided in order to make the transition successful."

The question now, according to parents and stakeholders, is whether the state has sufficient funding to provide that quality community-based care.

"The waivers provide funding for services, but the state does not fund the waivers at a high enough rate to meet costs in the Northern Virginia market..." said Cook, whose district includes the NVTC facility. "We believe that state needs to increase the level of funding for the waivers."

Rikki Epstein, executive director of the ARC of Northern Virginia, echoed Cook's sentiments. She told legislators that while Virginia's settlement agreement with the DOJ "provided us with a historic opportu-

nity to reform the entire disability support structure in Virginia," funding for disability waivers also needed reform.

Epstein urged the delegation to vote for waiver rate reforms that reflect "real and regional costs of providing services, so families can hire attendants who are able to stay on the job and to allow providers to support individuals with the most complex needs." She said more than 10,000 Virginians will be stuck on waiting lists for the next decade unless the state provides "more waivers than the DOJ settlement requires."

Kymberly DeLoatche, a Falls Church resident, told lawmakers about her family's struggles with Medicaid waivers while standing with her 9-year-old son Charlie, who has Down syndrome. She said the current Medicaid waiver program does not provide consistent, adequate care for her son. She told legislators that in the seven years her family has qualified for Medicaid waivers, Charlie has received just three weeks of the 24-hour daily care he needs.

"It sounds crazy, and it is. My job and my sanity depend on your actions," she told legislators.

Vienna resident Jack Bruggeman told legislators his family is "reluctantly facing a new reality" regarding moving his sister Cathy, an NVTC resident for 30 years, to a new community home.

He gave legislators copies of a December letter from Mark Sites, chair of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), which provides services for 88 individuals living at NVTC, that raises questions about the state's timeline for closing the NVTC.

"I am holding in my hand two letters," he told the delegation. "One I received just last Friday from Heidi Dix, (the state's assistant commissioner of developmental services.) In her three-page letter, Ms. Dix outlines an elaborate placement process for the transi-

SEE CLOSURE, PAGE 4

Closure Timeline Questioned

FROM PAGE 3

tion of current residents of NVTC to community placements. This will be done starting July 1 of this year and continue into 2015..."

"I also have another letter," Bruggeman continued "addressed to Governor McDonnell in which [CSB Chair Mark Sites] says there is not enough funding or enough time to develop adequate capacity and services for the transitioned resident of NVTC. So which of these two letters do I trust?"

He has a point, said Del. David Bulova (D-37).

"There is a lot of concern and discomfort among legislators about plans to close NVTC, especially on a very tight deadline," Bulova said after Saturday's session. "While I strongly support increasing community-based services, we also do everyone a great disservice if we close NVTC without the proper support and oversight to make sure that the level of care is equal, if not greater, than what is received at NVTC."

Bulova said that he has been working on a resolution with Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) that would provide more General Assembly oversight for the transition process, including establishing some benchmarks for what would

make families comfortable with moving forward.

"If those benchmarks aren't being met, and adequate funding hasn't been dedicated, we really have an obligation to also re-examine the timeline for closure...No artificial deadline is important enough to put any NVTC resident at risk. The purpose behind the DOJ settlement was for Virginia to make much needed investments in our community-based services, not to take away choices."

"You're going to fix a problem by destroying a perfectly good place. This is absolute madness, a bloody disaster."

Kenneth Gans, a McLean resident whose son, Jeffrey, has been an NVTC resident for more than 40 years.

ANOTHER CRITICAL ISSUE, according to Cook, is that the community group homes for NVTC residents simply do not exist.

"The state has not developed a plan for creating them," Cook said. "It takes \$1 to \$1.5 million to convert a regular house to a group home that is fully accessible and has all the necessary equipment to serve this population."

"Our system ought to be designed to provide a continuum of care that is appropriate to each individual. That definitely means change," Bulova said. "I believe that there is room for common ground—and that is what I am aiming for during the General Assembly session."

The General Assembly's 2013 session begins Wednesday in Richmond.

McKay Elected Commission Chairman

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) was unanimously elected chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) at the organization's meeting held Thursday, Jan. 3.



Jeff McKay

McKay, who is in his second term representing the Lee District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, replaces Arlington County Board member Jay Fiset as NVTC chairman.

"This is a critical time for transit," McKay said. "We move more people in Northern Virginia by bus and trains than anywhere else in the state. We need better state support to ensure transit continues to be a large part of Northern Virginia's economic success."

McKay said reliable transit creates jobs, moves people to jobs and creates "enormous economic development opportunities."

"In light of the economic and political challenges, there is no time more important than now

to support transit as a key transportation and economic driver for our region," McKay said.

McKay has a strong background in transportation and chairs the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Transportation Com-

mittee. He is a former WMATA board member and also serves on numerous other local and regional boards and commissions, including the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), Virginia Transit Association and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) operations as well as the board of the Virginia Associations of Counties (VACO).

The Northern Virginia Transportation Commission was established in 1964 and works to achieve an effective regional transportation system. Its 20-member board includes 13 local elected officials, six General Assembly members and the director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation.

—VICTORIA ROSS



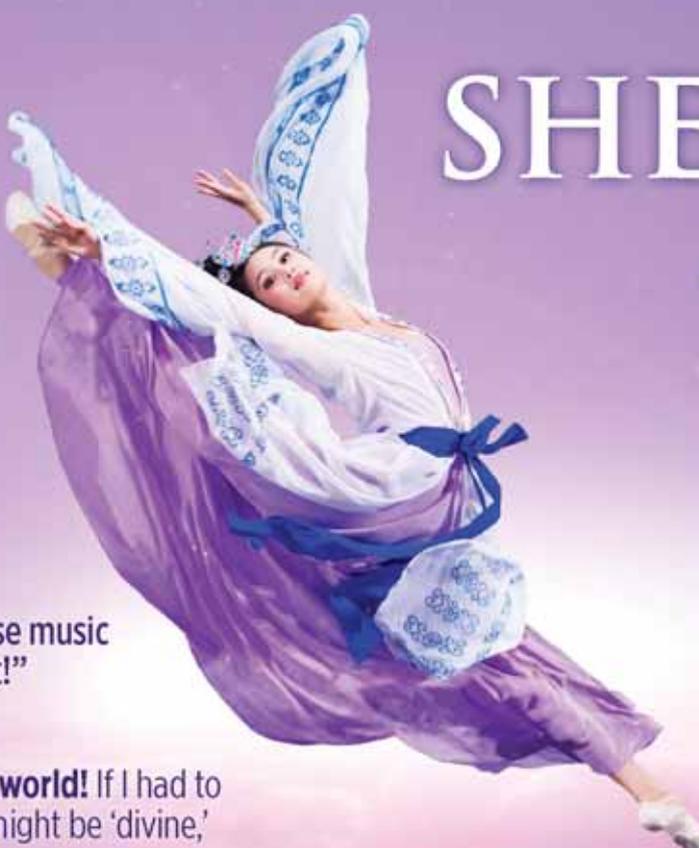
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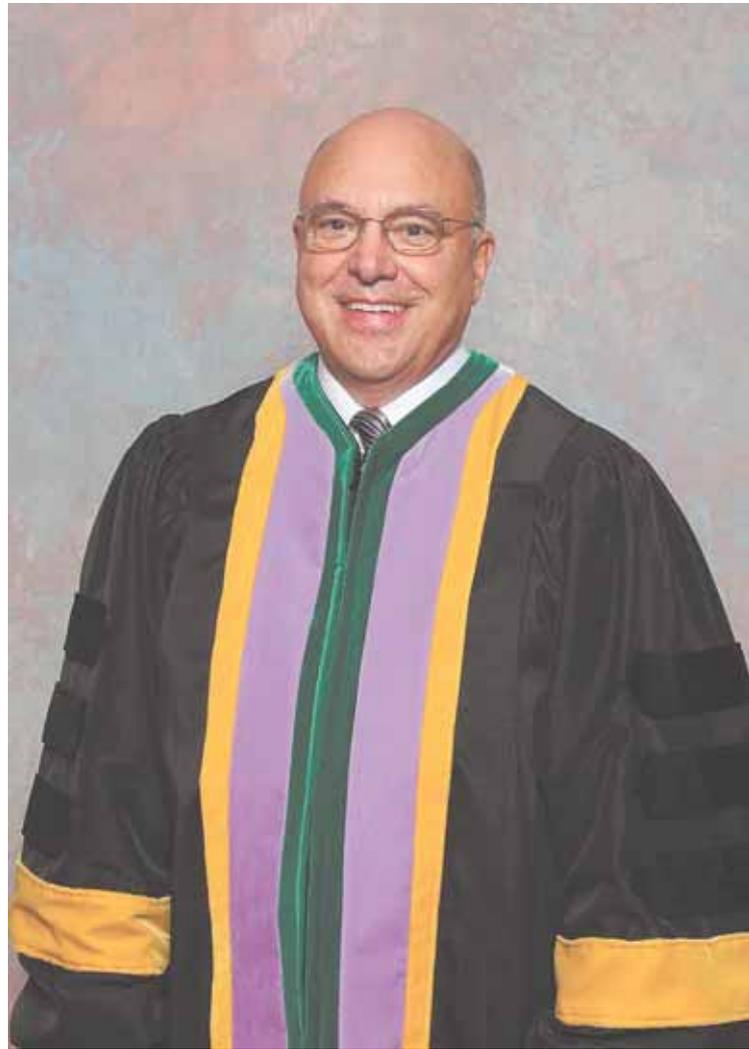
PEOPLE

Springfield Dentist Inducted to International College of Dentists

A local dental practitioner, Dr. Robert Argentieri, was inducted as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists at its 83rd Annual Convocation in San Francisco, California on October 19, 2012.

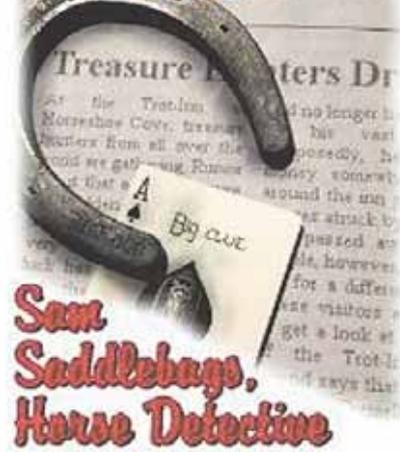
An honorary organization for the recognition of outstanding and meritorious service to the profession and community, the college presented Dr. Robert Argentieri with a membership plaque, a gold lapel pin and a gold key symbolic of this fellowship for conspicuous service rendered the art and science of dentistry.

In a cap and gown ceremony, over 250 dentists from the United States were inducted into the college at this year's ceremony witnessed by hundreds of members and guests. The college, with representative chapters in more than 80 countries, has over 11,000 members, including about 6,500 in the United States.



Doctor Robert Argentieri in his robe at the induction ceremony at the International College of Dentists 83rd Annual Convocation.

THE CASE OF HORSESHOE COVE



Irene Martinko's second book in the Sam Saddlebags series.

By Irene Martinko - Illustrated by Noah J. Farlee CONTRIBUTED

Springfield Junior Releases Second Book

A new children's book, "Sam Saddlebags, Horse Detective: The Case of Horseshoe Cove," has been released by a Springfield author. The book is the second in a series by Irene Martinko, a junior at West Springfield High School.

The story involves a horse who solves mysteries, and is aimed at 7 to 9-year-old readers.

The illustrator, Noah Farlee, an art student in college in Vermont, based each illustration on a classic movie poster. The first book in the series, "Sam Saddlebags, Horse Detective: Movie Madness," was written when Martinko was in middle school and Farlee in high school.

Both books are available on Amazon.com.

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Kelly Brinkley (holding the check on the right), the COO of United Way of the National Capital Area, awards the Community Impact Grant check at the first Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting of the year. Surrounding Brinkley are representatives from all the Fairfax/Falls Church grantees.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Fairfax Nonprofits Awarded \$218,000 in United Way Grants

18 Fairfax and Falls Church charities receive funds to continue work in education, health.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Several nonprofits providing health and education services in Fairfax County were awarded 20 grants totaling \$218,360 from the United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA) during the Tuesday, Jan. 1, Board of Supervisors meeting.

The funds came through designations to the Fairfax/Falls Church Community Impact Fund in United Way NCA's annual workplace giving campaign.

Recipients included FACETS, Herndon-Reston FISH, Just Neighbors, Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, Main Street Child Development Center, Northern Virginia Family Services, Our Daily Bread, Shelter House, The Arc of Northern Virginia, United Community Ministries, and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and others.

Our Daily Bread, which provides emergency safety-net services and financial literacy education to those living at or below the poverty level in Fairfax County, will use its grant to extend and expand the organization's financial literacy services.

"Our financial literacy program teaches basic budgeting skills and other financial tools that clients can use to remain self-sufficient for the rest of their lives," said Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "Working families who are struggling to make ends meet need strong budgeting tools to make every dollar they have work for them. Financial education rounds out our emergency safety net services because it provides more than a band-aid in a time of crisis—it empowers people to take control of their finances and their lives."

Each of the grants directly addresses United Way NCA's focus areas of education, health and financial stability. In total, nearly

\$1.65 million was raised through Community Impact Funds in United Way NCA's eight regions, thanks to the support of employees from more than 800 workplaces with more than 3,000 locations throughout the Washington region.

Each year, United Way NCA solicits funding proposals from its member nonprofit organizations for specific programs and work in the Fairfax/Falls Church community. This year, member organizations submitted 88 proposals totaling \$1,751,700. Funding decisions are made by a volunteer, citizen-led task force that works together with area nonprofits, governments and business leaders to determine where there are gaps in services and where the funds will do the most good.

"The members of the selection committee are citizens first and professionals second," said Cassia Sookhoo, a credit analyst with Wells Fargo, who served on the Fairfax/Falls Church Community Impact committee for the second year in a row.

For more information about United Way of the NCA, visit www.unitedwaynca.org.

Fairfax County License Plates?

Herrity proposes developing county license plate to support tourism.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The City of Fairfax has its own license plates, so why not Fairfax County?

That's the question Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) asked the rest of the board at its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 8. The board unanimously agreed, approving a motion to petition the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles for a Fairfax County license plate.

Herrity pointed out the City of Fairfax has its own tag which generates roughly \$5,000 per year in revenues at \$15 per vehicle, which is dedicated to historical resources. Using Fairfax City's population as a benchmark, Herrity estimated that Fairfax County could generate roughly \$250,000 per year from its own license plates.

Herrity said his plan would be used to fund tourism functions that bring in out-of-county and out-of-state tax dollars to Fairfax. The proceeds from the sale of the

plates will support the World Police and Fire Games, which Fairfax is hosting in 2015, and then VisitFairfax beginning in 2016 to bolster the organization's advertising and tourism to bring more people to the county.

"I look forward to being one of the first residents to get my hands on a Fairfax County License plate," Herrity said. "I was proud to bring this initiative to the board. It doesn't cost the county a dime and it will reap rewards for years to come," Herrity said. "It gives our citizens a low-cost way to demonstrate pride in our community as well as support the World Police and Fire Games and our local tourism industry."



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Route from Burke to Tysons. The trip is expected to take about one hour.

Express Buses From Burke to Tysons

Fairfax County to launch Express Connector bus service.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Get ready to ride the 495 Express Lanes. For free. Really.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 14, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) launches Express Connector bus service from Burke to Tysons.

Bus routes will use the 495 Express Lanes to provide limited-stop services between the Burke Centre VRE station and Tysons. The buses also will circulate through Tysons, stopping at the office locations for major employers.

The ride is free from Jan. 14 to Jan. 25.

"We invite you to learn more about this convenient way for Burke community residents and commuters to enjoy a stress-free ride to work, take a tour of the new bus and climb aboard to experience the comfortable ride," said Tom Biesiadny, director of FCDOT. "By introducing this new, viable public transportation, we are helping to reduce traffic and connect areas of Fairfax County to each other

like never before."

Starting weekday mornings on Jan. 14, buses will depart from the Burke Centre VRE station for Tysons from 6:30 to 9 a.m., serving select Fairfax Connector stops before entering the 495 Express Lanes.

Buses will depart from Tysons for Burke weekday afternoons from 4:15 to 7 p.m. The service will also offer midday buses departing from Tysons at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to meet the commuting needs and schedules of riders.

The trip, according to Biesiadny, will take about one hour, with one-way fares set at \$3.65 if paid by SmarTrip card and \$4 if paid in cash.

Additional bus services to Tysons will be launching from Springfield and Lorton in the following months.

The new express bus routes support the county's plans to turn Tysons into a walkable, green, transit-oriented urban center. Called "Fairfax County's downtown," by local officials, Tysons is expected to be home to 200,000 and up to 100,000 jobs by 2050.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

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OPINION

More Fodder for Comedy?

2013 session of the Virginia General Assembly will tackle serious issues.

The 2013 30-day session of the Virginia General Assembly begins on Wednesday, Jan. 9. We can only hope that the various legislative proposals do not provide as much fodder for comedy as last session. The Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate of Virginia will offer live streaming video of the 2013 Legislative Sessions, and it is well worth tuning in once or twice.

The General Assembly typically considers between 2,000 and 3,000 bills during a session. It's like drinking from a firehose. There will be proposals about revenue and lack thereof, transportation and education funding, bills proposing to allow concealed weapons in schools, bills to allow civil penalties against gun owners who fail to secure their guns, bills that would limit access to insurance coverage for contraception, bills to further limit abortion, bills about undocumented immigrants, and other bills beyond imagination.

Every resident of Virginia is represented by one delegate and one state senator. You can find out who your representatives are, and look

up what they actively propose and how they vote on the General Assembly website at <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov>

Here is a sample of bills local legislators have prefled as chief patron.

Del. Dave Albo (R-42), Seventh and eighth grade end-of-course mathematics Standards of Learning assessments; calculator use prohibited. Prohibits students in the seventh and eighth grades from using any calculator on any mathematics Standards of Learning assessment. The bill also provides that no eighth grade student who fails to receive a passing grade on the end-of-course mathematics assessment shall be placed in an Algebra I course, or a more advanced mathematics course, in the ninth grade.

Del. David Bulova, Landlord and tenant laws; Virginia Residential Property Disclosure Act; disclosure of methamphetamine laboratory; remedy for nondisclosure. Requires a landlord of a residential dwelling unit who has actual knowledge that the dwelling unit was previously used as a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory and has not been cleaned up in accordance with the guidelines established by the Department of Health to provide to a prospective tenant a written disclosure that so states. The bill provides when the disclosure shall be made by the landlord and the remedy for the tenant for nondisclosure. The bill also requires an owner of residential property when selling the property to

make the same disclosure. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2014.

Sen. George Barker (D-39): Possession of open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle; penalty. Provides that no person shall possess an alcoholic beverage in the passenger area of a motor vehicle upon a public highway of the Commonwealth in other than the manufacturer's unopened, original container. The bill punishes violators with a civil penalty of \$25. (Barker also proposes license plates for Washington Nationals fans.)

Sen. David Marsden (D-37): Use of firearm in commission of crime; civil liability. Provides that a person may be held civilly liable for injury to the person or property of another or for wrongful death resulting from the use of a firearm in the commission of a crime if it can be shown by clear and convincing evidence that the firearm came into the possession of the person who committed the crime because of the failure of the civil defendant to adequately secure the firearm from theft or unauthorized possession.

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34): Fuels taxes; indexing of tax rates. Increases or decreases each year the rates of Virginia's fuels taxes using a fuel efficiency index. The bill defines the fuel efficiency index as the quotient that is obtained when using as the numerator the total annual vehicle miles traveled in the Commonwealth for the relevant year and using as the denominator the total gallons of motor fuel consumed for highway use in the Commonwealth for the relevant year, as published by the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taking Exception On Women's Health

To the Editor,

I read with great interest the January 3-9, 2013 edition of the Connection, because of the interviews with our various local leaders, with regards to their predictions for the "hot topics in 2013."

As a woman, I would like to let Representative Gerald Connolly know that he should fear not, because I do believe that the Virginia General Assembly has done a fine job in protecting me and all of the other women in our state.

As a woman, I am more than capable of speaking for myself with regards to my health and thankfully do not need my representative to speak on my behalf.

Anyone who truly cared about women's health would stop saying that women's access to health care has been restricted. That is simply not true. Neither is it true to refer to an ultrasound exam as "invasive."

Of course Mr. Connolly has never been pregnant, but I venture to guess he has ever witnessed an ultrasound, because if he had, he would know that it is not invasive in the least. I offer as a point of education the definition of the word "invasive," in regards to

matters of health, as given by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary: "tending to spread; especially: tending to invade healthy tissue" or "involving entry into the living body (as by incision or by insertion of an instrument)."

What is invasive is what goes on in these "health clinics." Women are not there for their annual pap smears and breast exams. This is another lie being told. No, the invasive procedure being done is the killing of babies within their mother's womb. It is the ripping and shredding of their little bodies. This is the most invasive procedure in the world.

It takes an innocent human life. One can hardly compare an ultrasound to an abortion. What goes on in these clinics has very little to do with health and well being, for neither the woman nor her unborn child.

As far as "restricting health clinics," one would hardly say that requiring clinics to widen their doorways so that a gurney could easily pass through is restricting. If these clinics actually cared about women's health, they would not hesitate to comply with bringing themselves in line with other healthcare facilities in the state. Many of us are aware of the reality that these clinics are all about making money and that is the bottom line.

The most ludicrous and offen-

sive part of Mr. Connolly's opinion is that he believes that these were "anti-women laws" and that my rights as a Virginian woman were degraded, and not protected. No, Mr. Connolly, it is men like you who invoke "women's health," and assault my intelligence and my religious liberty, who I find to be the biggest threat towards the true betterment of women in Virginia.

P Jones
Fairfax

Transportation Needs Must Be a Priority

To the Editor:

The upcoming 2013 General Assembly Session once again has the opportunity to effectively address and begin the process of alleviating the transportation problems that plague Northern Virginia and other urban areas of the commonwealth. Having lived in Fairfax County since 1980, however, I have seen the yearly sessions of the General Assembly go by with a lot of talk but with few accomplishments. The highway infrastructure continues to crumble and the traffic is becoming increasingly congested. Funding for transportation remains inadequate and it always has a low

priority. I wonder if the 2013 Session can be any different than previous sessions but I really doubt it. Desirable as a new four-lane highway from Petersburg to Suffolk may be (which is questionable), could the \$1.4 billion cost be better used to replace and expand the infrastructure in Northern Virginia or in the Hampton Roads area? Does a streetcar running in the traffic lanes really solve congestion on Columbia Pike or will it just create greater chaos? We need sensible, practical solutions and not just more pie-in-the-sky projects that do nothing to solve the commonwealth's transportation problems.

Anne Damon
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
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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

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

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

Steve Hogan
Display Advertising, 703-778-9418
shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@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
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All Talk No Action

To the Editor:

I appreciate your Jan. 3-9, 2013, publication issue which contained the views and objectives of our local elected politicians.

As we have recently gone through an election year hearing the promises and goals of those running for office, the messages were the same, i.e., wanting funds for better roads in Northern Virginia, and to provide better services to us citizens. But nothing changes year after year in getting our elected officials to focus on getting these things done. The status quo is no longer acceptable by the voters. We are tired of view-

ing our politicians giving speeches and interviews with very little results in doing the people's business.

Having been a Springfield resident for over 22 years, the traffic congestion only gets worse. The real estate taxes keep going up. And any new roads only add to the expense to us travelers in getting to work; visiting family and friends, i.e., more tolls incurred by using these new express "Hot Lanes" with more being planned south of Springfield. The continued target of getting more money from the "middle class" has reached a peak in providing any

more new tax dollars. Our economy is being subjected to increasing national and local debt; our unemployment picture is not changing to indicate any signs for growth, and our grocery and utility costs continue to rise. With all these constraints on our own personal budget, we need our elected leaders to get to work and do what we expect them to do—put aside their own agendas and finger pointing. They need to set aside their egos and address the needs of our county, state and nation.

Ronald L. Baker
Springfield

Embracing Giving in 2013

To the Editor:

Living in a society where little kids now own cell phones, and even iPhones, we are used to everyone saying "I want, I want, I want!"

In every religion, giving thanks is not supposed to be reserved for the last Thursday in November, but rather something we do every day.

In the Holy Quran it says, "And We have established you in the

earth and provided for you therein the means of subsistence. How little thanks you give!" (Ch. 7 Vs. 11).

As an American Muslim, reflecting on this year has brought me to bow my head in shame. Every year we make resolutions, but only a few of us actually go 365 days abiding by them. Even with that aside, I personally think that materialism is now taking our culture by storm. Long gone are the days

where the norm was eating dinner with our families or going on monthly outings with our loved ones.

Is it really that hard for us to appreciate our loved ones a little every month? Let us all try to embrace giving in 2013 and make an effort to spread the love.

Aneela Wadan
Fairfax

AREA ROUNDUPS

Twain Middle to Host Elective Extravaganza

Twain Middle School will be hosting an Elective Extravaganza for its feeder elementary schools: Bush Hill, Cameron, Clermont, Franconia, Lane, Mount Eagle, Rose Hill and Springfield Estates. The purpose of this event is to introduce the sixth graders or rising seventh graders to the various choices available as they select their electives for seventh grade.

Students will be entertained in the cafeteria by the performing arts groups including band, orchestra, chorus and drama. They will also tour the school as they visit the Fine & Practical Arts classrooms: Art, Business & Information Technology, Family & Consumer Sciences and Technology Exploration.

Recycle During Electric Sunday

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices—such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners—as well as household hazardous wastes including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes for free during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events.

The next one is slated for Sunday, Jan. 13, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

Give Caregivers a Break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

The 2013 Home and Remodeling Show will feature more than 400 contractors, architects, suppliers and others in the remodeling industry, and will showcase the latest products, services and trends in the industry.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JILL COLLINS PUBLIC RELATIONS

Home and Remodeling Show Comes to D.C. Area

Nationally Syndicated Columnist Heloise and local contractors will educate homeowners.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Whether you're planning to renovate an entire house, update an antiquated bathroom, create a more functional kitchen or simply add more color to your home, there will be inspiration and ideas aplenty at the 2013 Home and Remodeling Show.

The expo, scheduled for Jan. 18-20 at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, will feature more than 400 remodeling industry experts as well as the trendiest home design products and services.

Some of the biggest names in the home business will attend the show, including Heloise, queen of household hints; nationally syndicated columnist Josh Flagg, the LA real estate mogul and star of Bravo's Million Dollar Listing; and Spike-TV's Mike Baird, who stars in Flip Men. In addition, show-goers will have opportunities to meet with local remodeling experts in one-on-one information sessions.

"Anyone who is thinking about or getting ready to do work on the inside or outside of their home can come to this show and not only talk to experts, but also hear from a pretty interesting slate of headlines," said Jill Collins, of Oak Hill, show spokeswoman.

Details

DULLES EXPO CENTER
4320 Chantilly Shopping Center,
Chantilly
Friday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Adults \$10/\$7 (online)
Children 6-12 years, \$3
Children 5 & under, free
Visit
www.homeandremodelingshow.com.

Homeowners will find many design ideas at the 2013 Home and Remodeling Show.



Unforgettable Spaces

Local designers share their favorite home designs from 2012.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Local interior designers spend their days mixing colors, accessories and furnishings to create chic and stylish rooms. As the new year begins, some local tastemakers look back on some of their most memorable accomplishments.

Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design names a light-filled Alexandria kitchen as one of her top accomplishments for 2012. "This ... kitchen was designed for an active family with small children and pets, so it was important to provide spaces where the entire family could gather, such as the breakfast nook and multi-level island," said Subaran.

Storage options abound in the new space, which includes an adjoining butler's pantry. "The ample windows and doors let in plenty of natural sunlight, also important for this busy family," said Subaran.

Evelyn Nicely of Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield, fell in love with a Fairfax Station, kitchen she

completed near the end of 2012. "I'm particularly proud of this one, because the remodel made a huge improvement in the [homeowners'] daily lives," said Nicely. "[It] was not only outdated, but it wasn't functional and it didn't have enough storage."

The new kitchen now includes a spacious refrigerator, double ovens and a cook-top with six burners. "Updated lighting highlights the custom cabinetry, while interior lighting in the glass cabinets and under cabinet lighting create the overall ambient effect," said Nicely.

Potomac, Md., designer Sharon Kleinman's 2012 masterpiece was the weekend home of a busy family that sits on an expansive horse farm in Mount Airy, Md. "This was a farmhouse that needed to be completely redone design-wise," said Kleinman. "The client does a lot of entertaining with friends and family, so we gutted the kitchen to make plenty of room for multiple cooks."

The remodeled kitchen is now a light, airy space with granite counter tops in hues of cream, gray



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS

Designers at Nicely Done Kitchens of Springfield used lighting to emphasize "the custom cabinetry, while interior lighting in the glass cabinets and under cabinet lighting create the overall ambient effect," said Evelyn Nicely.

and sand. "The prior cabinets were dark wood, but for the new design, we chose cabinets with a creamy finish," continued Kleinman. "We decided to forgo a kitchen table and instead designed a large island that became the central hub."

The curvaceous light fixtures that dangle above the island are made of iron and thick glass. "They are fun and have a sense of whimsy," said Kleinman. There is also whimsy in the subtle horse theme that runs throughout the home, echoing the outdoor scenery.

The flooring on the home's main level is made from wide-plank, distressed wood, and the living room was transformed into a space that serves as both a family room and an office. "Over the sofa there is a picture of a horse and rider. We used that painting — the bright red riding jacket and the camel colors — as the inspiration for the room," said Kleinman. "The sofa is in a herringbone fabric, which we accented with chocolate pillows. We added red leopard print for a little bit of whimsy."

Arlington designer Allie Mann's

top project was the bathroom she created for the 2012 DC Design House. "I love the bathroom ... because it blends casual comfort with casual elegance, while incorporating many of the design trends I continue to see this year: subway shower tiles, porcelain flooring and bright marble counters paired with polished nickel fixtures," said Mann, a project designer for Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. "Custom elements such as the window seat and striped walls add elements of uniqueness and style."

Home Design and Décor Trends for 2013

Designers predict what we will see in the year ahead.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

What are the design trends that will define the way we live in 2013? Local tastemakers and design experts break down the trends that will be popular this year.

Potomac, Md., area architect David Benton of Rill Architects says that while architecture is a long-term investment, rather than a passing trend, there are some design and construction techniques that will be in demand in the coming months.

"Sustainable or green design is still growing in popularity as people become more educated on the topic," said Benton. "In the coming year, we expect clients to continue to investigate areas of added energy efficiency. For example, spray-in insulation, geothermal heating and cooling, high quality windows and LED lights, to name a few."



Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke says blue and white can add classic style to almost any room.

Benton adds that the concept of donating discarded building materials is growing in popularity: "Instead of demolishing an existing house and trucking it to a landfill, we have been dismantling the home and donating the building parts to charities. Everything from kitchen cabinets, counters and sinks, to siding and windows can be donated."

Potomac-area designer Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design believes that creative storage spaces will be



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

big in 2013. "With limited storage space, displaying utensils is a creative and functional alternative to drawer storage," she said. "The hanging knife rack in the butler's pantry is another clever storage technique, as well as a great way to create a visual element along a wall. Another trend we're seeing is open shelving so items are easily accessible and close at hand."

Benton also predicts an increased interest among homeowners in creating rooms

that serve dual purposes. "The traditional living room is becoming smaller or has been replaced by the study or library," he said. "Clients want to use every part of their home to get more bang for the buck. Rooms that were only used occasionally or were for show, like the living or dining rooms, are now multi-functional spaces."

The demand for contemporary design will be on this rise. In the past, traditional architecture has been the go-to design of choice in [the Washington-region]," said Benton. "Now clients are more comfortable with contemporary design, not only with the interior layout, but also the exterior. Large expanses of glass and open interiors will continue to grow in popularity for 2013."

When it comes to color, vibrant hues will replace muted tones: "Grey is the new black, and jewel tones like emerald green and fuchsia, mixed in with grays and whites, will be very hot this spring and fall," said Chantilly-based designer Sallie Kjos. "People are going for a much cleaner look, a little more contemporary mixed with traditional."

In the home accents department,

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 & 13

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Arlington	
2932 Buchanan St #B2.....\$369,000...Sun 1-4.....Lena Restivo.....Weichert..703-855-7341	
Burke	
9610 Deep Lake Way.....\$754,495..Sat 12-5.....Clark Massie.....Tetra Corp..703-391-6245	
9626 Deep Lake Way.....\$748,995..Sat 12-5.....Clark Massie.....Tetra Corp..703-391-6245	
9618 Deep Lake Way.....\$738,995..Sat 12-5.....Clark Massie.....Tetra Corp..703-391-6245	
9558 Coopers Landing Ct.....\$599,000...Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer..Long & Foster..703-503-1812	
9750 Rehanek Ct.....\$550,000...Sun 1-4.....Doris Crockett.....Weichert..703-615-8411	
9507 Burning Branch Rd.....\$489,950...Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808	
9417 Ulysses Ct.....\$414,950...Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808	
Centreville	
5637 Sherborne Knolls.....\$349,900...Sun 1-4.....Olga Aste.....Century 21..703-624-4199	
Chantilly	
25989 Rachel Hill Dr.....\$434,999...Sun 1-4.....Trudy Zenerovitz.....Century 21..703-895-9927	
Clifton	
8209 Cub Den Ct.....\$1,125,000...Sun 1-4.....John Cooney.....Fairfax..703-989-9969	
8215 Cub Den Ct.....\$699,999...Sun 1-3.....Lisa Clayburn..Long & Foster..703-502-8145	
Fairfax Station	
11107 Hampton Rd.....\$1,295,000...Sun 1-4.....Dana LaFever.....Weichert..703-609-3479	
8030 Woodland Hills Ln.....\$1,100,000...Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365	
6321 Youngs Branch Dr.....\$719,000...Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986	
Lorton	
9529 Peniwill Dr.....\$989,900...Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365	
10726 Anita Dr.....\$579,000...Sun 1-4.....Colleen Pavlick.....Century 21..703-347-6700	
8960 Fascination Ct #314.....\$349,999..Sat 11-3.....Shawn Evans..Long & Foster..703-795-3973	
8960 Fascination Ct #111.....\$265,990...Sat 11-3.....Shawn Evans..Long & Foster..703-795-3973	
Springfield	
5519 Eastbourne Dr.....\$467,000...Sun 1-4.....Susan Metcalf.....Avery-Hess..703-472-6512	

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com. All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

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7510 RED HILL DR	6	5	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$925,000	Detached	0.29	22153	BELMEAD	04/17/12
7106 GRANBERRY WAY	4	4	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$900,000	Detached	0.40	22151	GRANBERRY ESTATES	09/14/12
6422 MILLER DR	3	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$870,000	Detached	1.41	22315	NONE	11/01/12
7305 LAUREL CREEK CT	5	4	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$837,000	Detached	0.31	22150	LAUREL CREEK	08/24/12
7318 LAUREL CREEK CT	6	5	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$805,000	Detached	0.31	22150	LAUREL CREEK	06/13/12
8301 COVINGTON WOODS CT	5	5	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$805,000	Detached	0.22	22153	COVINGTON WOODS	07/16/12
8305 COVINGTON WOODS CT	5	4	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$800,000	Detached	0.21	22153	COVINGTON WOODS	07/02/12
7004 CLIFTON KNOLL CT	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Detached	0.40	22315	CEDAR KNOLL	08/24/12
5933 EMBRY SPRING LN	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Detached	0.09	22315	NORTHAMPTON	09/18/12
5929 EMBRY SPRING LN	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$798,000	Detached	0.09	22315	KINGSTOWNE	02/16/12
5323 TRUMPINGTON CT	5	4	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$785,000	Detached	0.16	22315	KINGSTOWNE	09/19/12
6502 WAYSIDE PL	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$776,495	Detached	0.22	22315	ROSE HILL RESERVE	04/24/12
7003 SPRINGVILLE CT	5	4	0		SPRINGFIELD	\$774,500	Detached	0.33	22150	SPRING VILLAGE ESTATES	07/31/12
6500 WAYSIDE PL	5	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$769,000	Detached	0.20	22315	ROSE HILL RESERVE	02/22/12
6297 RED FOX ESTATES CT	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$760,900	Detached	0.38	22152	RED FOX ESTATES	11/01/12
7025 HIGHLAND MEADOWS CT	6	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$760,000	Detached	0.34	22315	CARRINGTON ESTATES	07/02/12
7113 AYERS MEADOW LN	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$750,000	Detached	0.34	22150	SOUTHAMPTON STATION	01/26/12
8413 PAIGE GLEN AVE	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$750,000	Detached	0.28	22152	STREAM VALLEY ESTATES	10/09/12
5312 TRUMPINGTON CT	5	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Detached	0.35	22315	KINGSTOWNE	10/26/12
4851 BASHA CT	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$749,990	Detached	0.22	22315	ROSE HILL RESERVE	03/27/12
6078 PINEY WOODS CT	5	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$749,900	Detached	0.17	22315	PINEY GLEN	06/18/12
6834 CREEK CREST WAY	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$749,000	Detached	0.38	22150	WESTHAMPTON	09/06/12
6401 CALEB CT	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$746,000	Detached	0.27	22315	KINGSTOWNE	06/27/12
7030 HIGHLAND MEADOWS CT	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$742,000	Detached	0.20	22315	CARRINGTON ESTATES	07/26/12
4857 BASHA CT	5	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$740,000	Detached	0.20	22315	ROSE HILL RESERVE	01/09/12
7000 CLIFTON KNOLL CT	5	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$740,000	Detached	0.23	22315	CEDAR KNOLL	06/29/12
6420 CALEB CT	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$735,000	Detached	0.13	22315	KINGSTOWNE	06/22/12
6009 MASONDALE RD	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$735,000	Detached	0.09	22315	NORTHAMPTON	08/30/12
6504 SUSAN BARKLEY CT	4	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$734,000	Detached	0.32	22315	ISLAND CREEK	09/27/12
5606 TOWER HILL CIR	5	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$730,000	Detached	0.15	22315	KINGSTOWNE	03/09/12
9011 SCOTT ST	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$725,000	Detached	0.35	22153	SOUTH RUN FOREST	06/22/12
7737 ISLAND CREEK CT	4	3	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$720,000	Detached	0.26	22315	ISLAND CREEK	02/15/12
5632 TOWER HILL CIR	4	4	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$720,000	Detached	0.11	22315	KINGSTOWNE	08/31/12
7931 LOBELIA LN	5	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$715,000	Detached	0.25	22152	HUNTER VILLAGE	08/27/12
7477 THORNCLIFF LN	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$712,500	Detached	0.23	22153	MIDDLEFORD	03/22/12
7700 WHITE WILLOW CT	4	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$705,000	Detached	0.21	22153	WHISPERWOOD	06/29/12
7403 SEABROOK LN	5	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$705,000	Detached	0.21	22153	MIDDLEFORD	10/11/12
6221 WILLOWFIELD WAY	6	3	1		SPRINGFIELD	\$700,000	Detached	0.20	22150	HIGHGROVE ESTATES	06/22/12

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6834 Creek Crest Way, Springfield — \$749,000



7113 Ayers Meadow Lane, Springfield — \$750,000



5312 Trumpington Court, Alexandria — \$750,000

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21 Announcements

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Parallel 43 LLC trading as Parallel 43, 5408 Port Royal Rd, unit P, Springfield, VA 22151. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine Import & Wine Wholesale license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Orlin C. Marintchev, Managing Member NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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Saturday Night Fever at Milano's

Friends, family throw surprise party to celebrate Milano's restaurant and owner Jimmy Goranitis' birthday.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On a typical Saturday night, Milano's restaurant, a Springfield institution, is packed with regulars and newcomers.

But last Saturday was different. There was standing room only in the restaurant as more than 100 family, friends, customers and employees eagerly waited for owner Jimmy Goranitis to walk through the doors so they could shout "surprise!" They were celebrating his 55th birthday as well as the 33rd anniversary of the family-owned restaurant.

"Where is he? They said he was coming an hour ago," said Cathy Goranitis, Jimmy's wife, as she greeted customers and hugged former employees, whom she refers to as her "kids."

Cathy Goranitis and her husband both grew up in Krokeai, a village in Greece. They were high school sweethearts, she said, and dreamed of raising a family and opening a restaurant in America. In the late 1970s, they emigrated to the U.S., settled in West Springfield and had three children, John, Dimitri and Theano, who all worked with their parents at the restaurant.

IN 1980, they opened Milano's in a small strip shopping center on Rolling Road. The restaurant specializes in Greek and Italian food, Sunday brunch and provides catering. Over the years, the Goranitis' expanded the restaurant and their base of loyal customers and employees.

"These are good people who worked here over the years. I like to see smiles, so I made sure they ate like us and we celebrated all their baptisms, weddings, you name it," Cathy said. "My favorite thing is to see some of these kids come back and bring their children."

"This is like a high-school reunion. I'm the Class of '85," Nora McGinnis-Jewell said, greeting other former employees with the year she worked at the restaurant. "Jimmy and Cathy were like our parents. They helped us a lot. I worked as a waitress until I was eight-and-a-half months pregnant."

"It's fun going down memory lane," said Helen Cornwell, a former waitress. "You learned a lot of life's lessons here. If you work hard, you can accomplish something. That's what Jimmy taught us."

Server Kayse Krilis and Judy Kirk, a former hostess and cashier, were key players in organizing the surprise party. Krilis, who was born in Greece and came to the United States when she was 16 years old, began working at the restaurant in 1993. "I started working here before I could speak English. This is like a second home to me," she said.

More than 50 past and current employees attended the party, along with dozens of regular customers. Eddie Jabro, a waiter during the 1990s, flew in from



Former and current employees celebrate Milano's 33rd anniversary and owner Jimmy Goranitis' 55th birthday during a surprise party Saturday, Jan. 5. (From left) are Judy Kirk, Larissa Cookson, Kayse Krilis, Jimmy, Kalia Sokos, Alina Paulakos and Sahar Williams. Krilis and Kirk organized the party.

California. Sunil Sharma, originally from India and the longest-serving employee, began working at the restaurant in the 1980s. He is currently second-in-command in the kitchen. His nephew, Anil, also works at the restaurant part-time, while attending Northern Virginia Community College. "Jimmy and Cathy are the best people," Sharma said.

Larissa Cookson, a Lake Braddock graduate who worked at the restaurant from 2006 to 2011, said many employees started coming to the restaurant with their families, who were Milano's regulars. "A lot of us worked here in high school, and then came back during college breaks."

Sahar Williams, a former hostess, cashier and waitress, said Jimmy was like a second father to her. "He would meet my boyfriends, and approve or disapprove. He was always very caring," Williams said.

"Both staff and customers alike hope that Jimmy and Cathy will keep Milano's going for at least another 33 years."

—Gay Koerber, a Milano's "regular" for more than a decade.

AROUND 9:30 p.m. Jimmy arrived with his two good friends, George Krilis and George Kosmakos, who took him to a restaurant in D.C. for his birthday, to throw him off the scent of the surprise party. Jimmy said the diversion worked.

"I can't believe this. I am very surprised," he said, stopping to greet everyone with a kiss or a hug. "This is wonderful. It's like a reunion."

Gay Koerber and her husband Charlie, regular customers for more than a decade, were not surprised that so many people attended the party.

"Over the years Jimmy gave many young people opportunities to work while they were in high school and college," Koerber said. "Loyalty at this restaurant goes both ways. Jimmy is always supportive of his staff and the staff would do anything in the world for him. His customers feel the same way."

Koerber said the Goranitis family succeeded in making Milano's a key part of the community. "It's a 'go-to' place for teachers and students from West Springfield High School and it's a great place to have brunch after church on Sundays. The food is excellent and the camaraderie among staff and customers is remarkable. It's common to see people moving from table to table talking to friends and neighbors."

"New England has its neighborhood bars. We have our Milano's," said Charlie Koerber.



Jimmy, Cathy and former employees (from left) Beth Ann Bartley, Lauren (Eskew) Kaniecki and Karen Thibault. Lauren, originally from the South, introduced fried chicken to the menu.



More than 100 former and current employees and customers celebrated Milano's 33rd anniversary and owner Jimmy Goranitis' 55th birthday during a surprise party Saturday, Jan. 5.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Marina Damon practices her part as the Sugar Plum Fairy during a rehearsal for the Virginia Ballet School's upcoming production of The Nutcracker.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/ THE CONNECTION

Performing The Nutcracker

Tish Cordova, artistic director at the Virginia Ballet Company in Fairfax, gives instructions to some of the younger students who were learning their part for the school's production of The Nutcracker.



Anna Kapp helps teach some of the dance routines for The Nutcracker to some of the younger ballet students along with some of her older colleagues. The students were preparing for the Virginia Ballet Company's production of The Nutcracker Dec. 27-29 at the Ernst Community Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College on the Annandale Campus.

Taylor Tien, along with her Virginia Ballet School colleagues, have put in weeks of rehearsal time for the school's annual production of The Nutcracker.

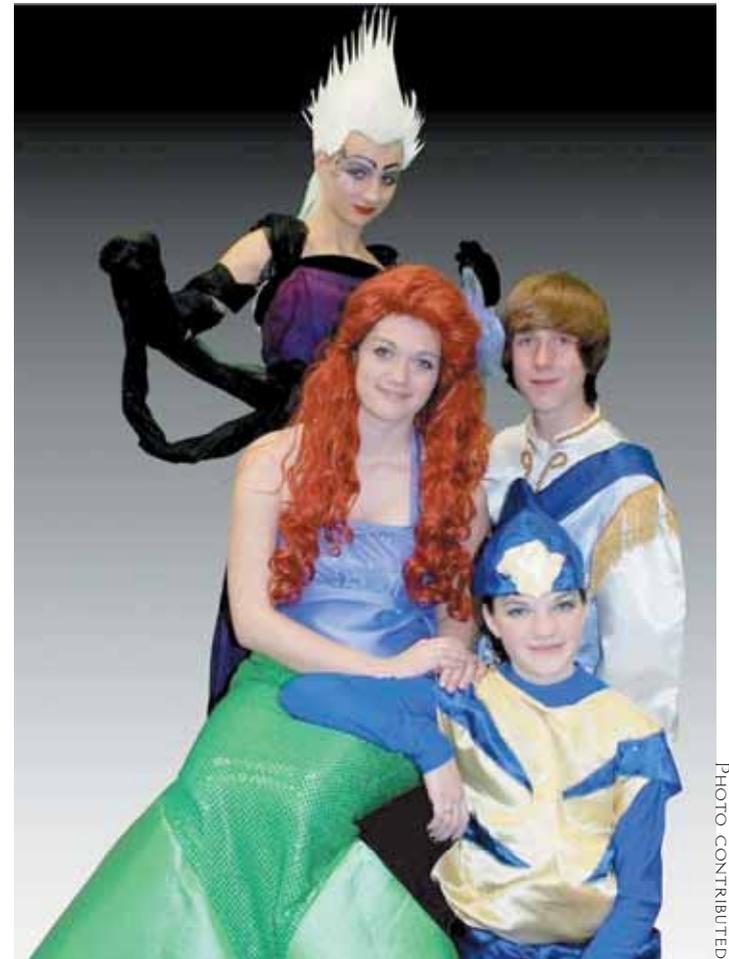


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left—Sarah Smith, Ursula; Karinna Johnston, Ariel; Jeremy Wittig, Prince Eric; Kyrie Johnston, Flounder.

Little Mermaid Comes to Springfield

Performances begin Friday; portion of proceeds benefits Hurricane Sandy victims.

In a magical kingdom under the sea, the beautiful young mermaid Ariel longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above. Will Ariel get her wish and find true love?

Find out this weekend during Northern Virginia Players production of Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr. Adapted from Disney's 2008 Broadway production, the production features the hit songs "Part of Your World," "She's in Love" and the Oscar-winning audience favorite "Under the Sea."

"With a cast of 58 actors ages 8-18, this is sure to go down as one of the most exciting live shows to hit the stage," said co-director Kate Wittig.

"Northern Virginia Players has been thrilling audiences of all ages since its start. Exceptional talent, costumes and staging supports professional quality theatre at the community level," said co-director Ann Eul.

In keeping with their tradition of service for those in need, Northern Virginia Players will be donating part of ticket proceeds from the first weekend shows to Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.

The production will be performed at the Family Worship Center, 7719 Fullerton Road in Springfield.

Show dates and times:
 ❖ Friday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
 ❖ Saturday, Jan. 12 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
 ❖ Friday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m.
 ❖ Saturday, Jan. 19 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit their website at NVPlayers.com. Also, visit their Facebook Page at "Northern Virginia Players" for pictures of previous shows and exciting updates. If you have questions, call 703-866-3546.

—VICTORIA ROSS

CALENDAR

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.

SATURDAY/JAN. 12

Hope 4 Kids International:

Buyinza, Uganda. 5:30 p.m., at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road, Lorton. President and Founder Tom Eggum of the organization providing care to children suffering from extreme poverty and disease in Buyinza, Uganda and around the world speaks about Hope 4 Kids on its 40th anniversary.

info@hope4kidsinternational.org or www.hope4kidsinternational.org.

2nd Saturday Art Walk.

6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

"Drink This!" The Workhouse International Ceramic Cup

Show. 6 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center, Building 8, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An exhibition of 70 works offers a delightful taste of the many ways contemporary artists interpret the cup. 703-584-2982 or www.workhouseceramics.org.

Chinese Brush Painting.

6-9 p.m., at the Workhouse in Studio 5 Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Hsi-Mei from Taipei, Taiwan educates the public about the history and unique supplies of Chinese brush painting, explaining the difference between Chinese and Western watercolors at the opening reception; the exhibit is up from Wednesday, Jan. 9 through Sunday, Feb. 3. www.hsi-meichineseart.com.

The Jokeslingers Comedy Tour.



Dancers from the en Route! touring dance project.

Diverse Professional Dance Companies 'en Route!'

en Route! is a touring dance project bringing professional dance artists together to share their work with new dance audiences presented by Next Reflex Dance Collective in collaboration with Furia Flamenca Dance Company, Janaki Rangarajan, Terra Dance Project and Starr Foster Dance Project. A 7:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, Jan. 26 will be at the Workhouse in Building W-3, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. \$25 general; \$20 for seniors/military; \$10 for youth/students. 703-584-2900 or http://Reservations.workhousearts.org.

p.m. and 10 p.m., at The Workhouse Theater, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Jokeslingers Comedy Tour features 3 nationally touring headliners on one show. \$20. www.555tix.com.

SUNDAY/JAN. 13

Hope 4 Kids International:

Buyinza, Uganda. 9 a.m., 11 a.m., at New Hope Church, 8905 Ox Road,

Lorton. President and Founder Tom Eggum of the organization providing care to children suffering from extreme poverty and disease in Buyinza, Uganda and around the world speaks about Hope 4 Kids on its 40th anniversary.

info@hope4kidsinternational.org or www.hope4kidsinternational.org.

Fifth Annual Mr. Stallion. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at South County High School,

Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. A male beauty pageant featuring 12 young men in spirit and formal wear, demonstrating talent and answering questions during portions of the night. \$5. www.fcps.edu/southcountytchs/.

SATURDAY/JAN. 19

Concerts from Kirkwood. 3 p.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleight Parkway, Springfield. Award winning pianist Ina Mirtcheva will present "From Opera to Piano"; donations accepted. 703-451-5320 or concerts@kirkwoodpres.com.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra:

Masterworks IV. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman and flautist Christina Jennings perform Mozart's Overture to The Magic Flute, Leshnoff's Flute Concerto, Ives' The Unanswered Question and Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

Public Opening Reception:

Collectors Showcase 2013. 6-8 p.m., at the Workhouse in the McGuireWoods Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The fifth annual showcase features work from each artist member of the Workhouse from Saturday, Jan. 26 to Saturday, Feb. 23; see what links artists together and witness the awarding of Best in Show by juror Joann Moser, senior curator of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

en Route! 7:30 p.m., at the Workhouse in Building W-3, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Next Reflex Dance Collective in collaboration with Furia Flamenca Dance Company, Janaki Rangarajan, Terra Dance Project and Starr Foster Dance Project present a touring dance project bringing professional dance artists together to share their work with new dance audiences. \$25 general; \$20 for seniors/military; \$10 for youth/students. 703-584-2900 or http://Reservations.workhousearts.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

Wakefield Chorale. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at the North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Herring Court, Springfield. Join the local group of men and women who love to sing; no audition required, meet in school cafeteria. 703-255-3489 or susanp@repole.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

ONGOING:

Workhouse Farmers Market. 3-6 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A producer-only market with locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, and other local foods. www.smartmarkets.org.

FAITH NOTES

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

St. Leo the Great Church in Fairfax offers a program for Catholics who are away from the church, struggling with church teachings or who would like to more fully practice their faith by returning to the Sacraments; the program, Welcome Home, is offered on Sundays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 and March 3 and 10 at 7 p.m. in the St. John Room, 3770 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. csmith@stleofairfax.com.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a Bible Study Fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and Children's Church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100, www.fbtministries.org

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service. 7300 Gary Street,

Springfield. 703-451-1500 www.fbcspringfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is at 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleight Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register at 703-451-5320.

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Woodson Boys' Basketball Improves to 11-2

The Woodson boys' basketball team defeated Lee, 66-45, on Tuesday, improving its record to 11-2, including 5-0 in the Patriot District.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Peter Murray led Woodson with 15 points. Tommy Stepka finished with 11 points and Stephen Muldoon added nine.

SPORTS BRIEFS Woodson has won eight straight since losing to Langley on Dec. 7. The Cavaliers beat Herndon, 64-61, on Dec. 29 to win the Ronald Curry Holiday Classic in Hampton. On Jan. 4, Woodson beat West Potomac, 56-47, to secure sole possession of first place in the district.

As of Tuesday night, Woodson was ranked No. 16 in the Washington Post top 20. The Cavaliers were the only ranked team from the Northern Region.

Woodson will host West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 11.

Robinson Boys' Basketball Wins a Pair of Concorde Contests

The Robinson boys' basketball team opened the 2013 portion of its schedule with a pair of Concorde District victories.

The Rams defeated Centreville, 80-48, on Jan. 4 and Westfield, 67-62, on Jan. 7. The Rams improved to 11-3 overall and 2-0 in the district.

Robinson finished runner-up in the Pohanka Chantilly Basketball Classic holiday tournament, losing



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Eric Bowles, seen earlier this season, and the Woodson boys' basketball team improved to 11-2 with a victory against Lee on Jan. 8.

to Mountain View in the championship game on Dec. 29.

The Rams will travel to face Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 10.

Lake Braddock Wins Third Straight

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team extended its winning streak to three with a 64-58 victory against Annandale on Jan. 8.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Reagan Jones led Lake Braddock with 26 points. Will Gregoritis scored 15 points and Dylan Pergerson finished with 10.

Lake Braddock defeated South County, 68-58, on Jan. 4 and Annandale, 58-45, on Dec. 28 after losing to Hayfield on Dec. 27.

Lake Braddock improved to 8-4 overall and 4-1 in the Patriot District. The Bruins will travel to face T.C. Williams at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 11.

Youthful Spartans Avoid Three-Game Losing Streak

West Springfield improves to 11-2 after losing standouts Robinson, Battle.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The West Springfield girls' basketball team had officially blown an 18-point lead when West Potomac guard Tayla Dawson's bucket tied the score at 27-all late in the third quarter of Tuesday's contest at West Springfield High School.

In previous seasons, point guard April Robinson or forward Logan Battle would take control and lead the Spartans to victory. This year, however, both Spartan standouts have taken their abilities to the collegiate level—Robinson to Duquesne, Battle to Georgetown—leaving a young West Springfield team to learn under fire.

On this night, head coach Bill Gibson was without standout forward Amy Berglund, who missed the game due to illness. According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Berglund is averaging 17.6 points per contest, 10 points more than the team's second-leading scorer, Jasmine Taylor. Six-foot-2 post Lindsey Mares, who started as a junior last season, played sparingly as she returns from a major knee injury suffered last spring during a lacrosse game. The remaining Spartans, including four freshmen, needed to find a way to regain control in order to avoid the program's first three-game losing streak in at least nine years.

As it turned out, the Spartans would shoot their way to victory from the free-throw line.

WEST SPRINGFIELD scored the final 11 points of the game, all from the foul line, and beat West Potomac, 44-32, on Jan. 8. The teams combined for 51 turnovers—29 by West Springfield—and neither team made field goal in the final six minutes of the game, but West Springfield secured the victory in part by going 26-for-51 at the free-throw line. West Potomac finished 10-of-19 at the line.

After winning its first 10 games, West Springfield lost to South Lakes, 42-34, in the championship game of the IAABO Holiday Classic on Dec. 28. On Jan. 4, the Spartans traveled to Alexandria and lost to T.C. Williams, 56-42, giving West Springfield its first Patriot District defeat since 2009. On Tuesday, the Spartans improved to 11-2, including 4-1 in the district, and avoided a three-game losing streak by beating West Potomac.

"We blew that game against TC," Gibson said. "We gave that to them. That happens. [With] young teams, things like that are going to happen. Tonight, we did a much better job maintaining composure."

The Spartans sure didn't make it easy on themselves. West Springfield held West Potomac scoreless in the opening quarter and led 18-0 early in the second. But the Wolverines slowly chipped away the lead, trailed by six at halftime and tied the score on



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

West Springfield freshman Shelby Haynes has taken over the point guard position formerly held by standout April Robinson.

Dawson's third-quarter basket. West Potomac trailed 33-32 after a free throw by Maddy Zdebski with 4:37 remaining in the fourth quarter, but the Wolverines would not score another point.

Mares, who scored six points and grabbed two rebounds off the bench, said the last three games have been a learning experience for the youthful Spartans.

"What I think these games have taught us—because they definitely have helped us—is to show that just because we have the West Springfield jersey, doesn't mean we're going to win," she said. "It stinks that we have to lose for our team to realize that, but I know that with

whatever we do, we just have to remember that we're fighting for this and it's not just going to come to us."

Mares tore the anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament in her left knee during a lacrosse game on April 30. She recently started to see playing time on the basketball court and Gibson said it is likely Mares will eventually rejoin the starting lineup. In the meantime, Mares, who credits her religious faith for eliminating her fear of re-injuring the knee, said it's difficult to watch from the bench during her limited role.

"Every time I see the girls play out there, I want to be out there helping them and contribute to the game," she said. "It's really hard, if we're down or something, it's hard for me to just sit there and try to be encouraging to them because I want to be out there fighting and playing with them."

AGAINST WEST POTOMAC, freshman point guard Shelby Haynes led West Springfield with nine points. Haynes has taken over for Robinson, who is second on the Duquesne women's basketball team in scoring as a freshman and was recently named Atlantic 10 Conference Rookie of the Week.

"We're asking a lot out of her," Gibson said. "I told her it's going to be a lot of pressure and I'm going to get on your butt a lot. It's something that she wants to do it and she's got the head to do it, so it's a learning experience for her and she's trying to get better as she goes along."

Freshman forward Taylor scored seven points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Spartans. Junior guard Taylor Samuels scored six points, freshman guard Haley Blankinship scored two points and grabbed five rebounds, and freshman post Maura D'Anna scored three points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

"We've got a good group of freshmen," Gibson said. West Springfield will host Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 11.

"The team is so young and we have so much to learn," Mares said. "... I know we have the skill and the talent, we just need to mentally mature and get our heads together and keep composure when we're in tough games."

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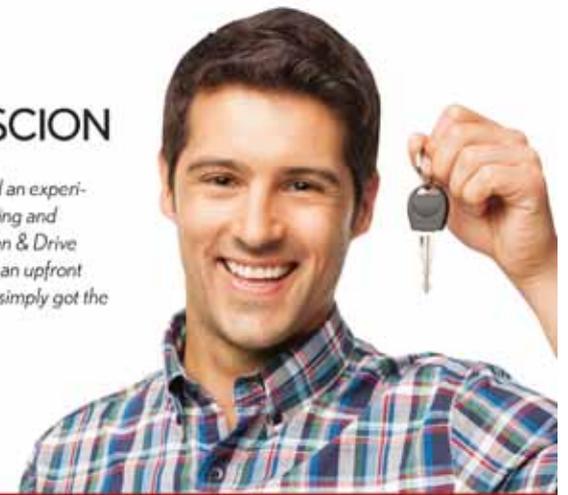
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