

Fairfax Station ♦ Clifton ♦ Lorton  
**CONNECTION**

## Four Northern Virginia Senators Targeted

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# South County High Picks Mr. Stallion 2013

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A Family  
Made Whole  
THE COUNTY LINE, PAGE 4

Winner of Mr.  
Stallion 2013  
Brent Bainwol  
mesmerizes the  
audience with his  
guitar during the  
talent show seg-  
ment at South  
County High.

JANUARY 24—30, 2013

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# Four Northern Virginia Senators Targeted

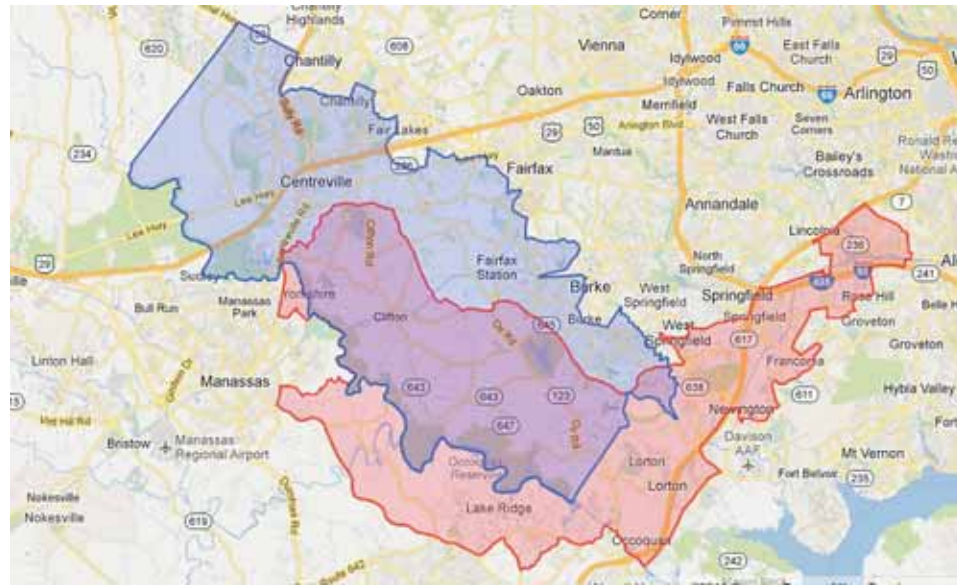
Redistricting effort puts Fairfax County seats in the spotlight.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
AND VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**F**our Northern Virginia state Senators are targets of a Republican-led effort to draw new districts — Sen. George Barker (D-39), Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). Democrats say the redistricting effort is a cynical attempt to take advantage of the absence of Sen. Henry Marsh (D-16), a prominent civil rights veteran, who was in Washington, D.C. for the inauguration on Monday. But state Sen. John Watkins (R-10) of Powhatan defended the effort as a way to create a sixth majority black Senate district in Southside. It passed the Senate on a 20-to-19 vote.

“This is about political power,” said Barker, who was in one of the most competitive races of 2011. “They are trying to target the Democratic senators who represent districts that are basically swing districts.”

The drama took place Monday afternoon, when the state Senate took up a bill that would have made small changes to four Senate districts. During the debate, Republicans amended the bill in a way that would radically change districts throughout Virginia. Barker’s seat and Marsden’s seat, for example, would be about 80 percent different. And Puller’s seat would swap about 70 percent of her current precincts for new ones. Petersen, who represents sections of Fairfax City, Vienna, Dunn-Loring and Centreville, said in a call Tuesday he stands to lose nearly half of his constituents if the politically redrawn map holds up to legal challenges. He said he would lose precincts that he’s held for 12 years, including



**State Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) would lose Dumfries and gain Belle Haven.**

Mantua, Mosby Woods, Fairfax Villa and some newer precincts in Centreville.

“This is outrageous, and it must be stopped,” said Del. Charniele Herring (D-46), chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia. “This goes beyond partisanship. It’s downright undemocratic.”

**REDISTRICTING USUALLY** takes place once a decade, a process that’s tied to the decennial census. Lawmakers have deviated from that once-in-a-decade timetable from time to time, usually to address problems with split districts that have presented problems for registrars. The effort that passed the Senate this week, however, goes far beyond that kind of tweaking by dramatically redrawing the map for the entire commonwealth. On the Senate floor, Watkins said failing to create a sixth majority black district in Southside Virginia would invite lawsuits under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. “I wish to avoid litigation,” Watkins said during the floor debate Monday afternoon.

Democrats countered that a court fight is imminent.

“We will fight this all the way to the Supreme Court of Virginia if necessary,” said

Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) in a written statement. “First voter suppression efforts, then the war on women, and now draconian changes to a Justice Department-approved redistricting plan. It appears that there are no boundaries to their overreaching political agenda.”

**THE TIMING** of the effort was galling to many Democrats, who accused the Republicans of taking advantage of the presidential inauguration to score political points. Because the state Senate is evenly divided between 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans, any change in the balance of power could create an imbalance. Although the Republicans have delayed the bill on several previous occasions, they waited until Monday to move on the legislation.

“To plot to do this on Martin Luther King Day, when civil rights icon Sen. Henry Marsh, left to attend the historic inauguration of our president is truly embarrassing,” said Marsden. “I am deeply disappointed that the Republicans continue to play these petty partisan games.”

Republicans pointed to a 2011 newspaper column by former Democratic Gov.

**“This goes beyond partisanship. It’s downright undemocratic.”**

— Del. Charniele Herring (D-46),  
chairwoman of the  
Democratic Party of Virginia

Doug Wilder, the nation’s first elected black governor, supporting a Senate redistricting plan passed when Democrats ruled the Senate. Democrats countered by accusing Republicans of “packing” the districts by using the change in Southside Virginia to free up more districts that would be friendly to Republicans.

“Obviously we went through redistricting in 2011. The constitution specifically speaks to 2011 as being the redistricting year, not 2012, not 2013,” Petersen said. “You can’t say ‘Obama was elected in 2012, but now we don’t like him in 2013, so we’ll just have another election in a year’ when the constitution doesn’t authorize elections ... That’s absurd.”

Petersen said he is confident any judge would find the bill unconstitutional, but one question still out there is whether Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a Republican who is running for Governor in 2013, will defend the tactic.

“This is what happens when Republicans regulate other Republicans,” Petersen said. “Every layer of oversight is stacked against us.”

“I don’t know if it’s legal, but I do know it is despicable,” said Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who said he was in bed with the flu when he got word about the political power-play.

“To pull a purely political maneuver on Martin Luther King Day and Inauguration Day — days that promote unity — is not only wrong, it’s purely unpatriotic. I only hope this can be reversed and that the General Assembly will actually focus on the peoples work and quit playing games.”

## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Making Children Resilient

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will host a presentation by resiliency expert Nan Henderson, “Resiliency in Action: How Families, Schools and Communities Create ‘Bounce Back’ Kids,” on Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 7-8:30 p.m., in the Robinson Secondary School cafeteria. Robinson is at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. (From the main entrance, turn left and the cafeteria is on the right.)

This free workshop is designed for parents, school staff and community members. The goal is to help students develop social competence, problem-solving skills, self-awareness, control and initiative. These are all traits that resilient individuals possess to bounce back and overcome challenges and adversity, including trauma, crises and stress. Register at

[www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/resiliency/workshop/HendersonWorkshop.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/resiliency/workshop/HendersonWorkshop.shtml).

### Improve Transportation for Elderly, Disabled

Local residents’ answers to a brief survey will help Fairfax County improve transportation services for older adults and people with disabilities in this county and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church. The questionnaire consists of 27 mostly multiple-choice questions. It takes 5-10 minutes to complete.

Take the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/mobilityoptions>. It’s sponsored by the Fairfax Area Mobility and Transportation Committee, which reports jointly to the Fairfax Area

Disability Services Board and the Fairfax Area Long Term Care Coordinating Council. For an alternate format of the survey, contact Jill Clark at 703-324-5874, TTY 703-449-1186.

### 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](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).

# THE COUNTY LINE

## A Family Made Whole

After a tragic loss, Reston couple creates a family through adoption.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Granvilles look like a made-for-TV family. On a bright October afternoon, Chris, a computer engineer, is teasing his teenage son Kenny about what kind of pet to adopt, while Tiffany sits on a sofa, cradling Elijah, Kenny's baby brother, who has just woken up from an afternoon nap.

"Fish? No way," Kenny, 15, says. "They just go 'round and 'round in a bowl."

Kenny is lobbying hard for a dog or—at the very least—a guinea pig or hamster.

"What I'm saying is you start with the fish, okay, and then you move up to guinea pig or something else," Chris says.

"Can you tell we've been talking about this for just a little while?" Tiffany asks a visitor, rolling her eyes in mock exasperation.

It's quickly apparent the Granvilles are a close-knit family who like spending time together.

What is not so apparent is how this family came to be, and why an ordinary Sunday afternoon laughing with two children is a minor miracle for the Granvilles.

Chris and Tiffany, both in their 30s, were married in New York City on Christmas Eve, 2007. One of three children, Chris was raised in Queens. Both were very close to their parents and grandparents, whom they credit for inspiring their Christian faith.

**IN FEBRUARY 2008**, the couple moved to Reston, where they both had demanding careers as computer engineers. They also found out that same month that Tiffany was pregnant.

"We were like 'wow.' We just got married, and now we're going to have baby. We were living the dream," Chris said.

Jamison Granville was born on Oct. 23, 2008. He was a healthy 8.6 pound baby, and the light of his parent's life. When Chris's mother was diagnosed with aggressive kidney cancer that spring, Jamison kept a smile on his grandmother's face as she went through grueling chemotherapy sessions.

"He was my mother's first grandchild. She and Jamison were tied at the hip," Chris said.

When Chris's mother died on July 4, 2009, both Chris and Tiffany were devastated by the loss, but they took comfort in Jamison's smile, their large network of friends and family and their faith.

Like many working parents, the Granvilles had carefully researched and selected a day care center for their child. It wasn't unusual to get a call from staff at the center if Jamison was sick, or if other minor issues cropped up.

But on Sept. 16, 2009, Tiffany received a call from the center's director. She said she sensed something was wrong immediately.



**A Granville family portrait, taken in February, 2012. (From left) Kenny; Tiffany holding baby brother Elijah; Chris Granville.**

"I got a phone call about 3 p.m. The director said she needed to meet us at Reston hospital. She wouldn't give me any other information," Tiffany recalled, pausing. "Jamison was 10 months and 24 days old..."

Chris said he got a message from a detective. "He said to call this doctor, and the doctor said you have to stop whatever you're doing and get here," Chris said. "I didn't know what was happening."

"I can't tell you how I got from my desk on the sixth floor to my car," Tiffany said. "When I got there, doctors were working on him, but I could tell he wasn't there anymore. . . . You feel like you're in a movie, or a dream. You get through it, but you're not there."

Tiffany said the pain of losing Jamison was almost unbearable, and even her strong faith in God could not keep her from waking up some mornings and thinking there was nothing left to live for. "I have to be honest; there were days I did not want to be here."

But it was the couple's strong faith in God kept that kept them moving forward.

"We became more involved in our church, but at that point, it's just a day-by-day existence," Chris said. Tiffany said she drew strength from her grandmother, who had also lost her firstborn son. Her grandmother went on give birth to eight children, and adopted two more.

"I pulled from her strength. I thought to myself, this woman from Louisiana, with an eighth-grade education, through all this adversity, she was able to overcome it in a time when things were horrible for black folks," Tiffany said. "I remember what a loving and patient person she was. . . . I started to think about everybody I had here. . . . I thought we all have to leave one day, so you have to make a positive impact while you're here. We did not want what happened to us to define us."

**THE COUPLE**, who had always talked about adopting a child, had maintained friendships with other couples who were foster parents, and they decided

SEE POWER, PAGE 16



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN BRADY

Beverly Howard

## Fairfax Families4Kids

Fostering bonds with children.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**N**ationwide, more than 463,000 children live in foster care. In many states, including Virginia, the number of foster youth has tripled in the last 25 years. As of Sept. 30, 2011, nearly 5,000 youth were in foster care in Virginia, according to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), a division of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department. Physical abuse is the most common reason children enter foster care, but it's not the only reason. Often there's emotional abuse, sexual abuse and the parent or caretaker's inability to provide a safe environment due to substance abuse. The prospects for youth who age-out (or "emancipate") from foster care are bleak, according to the ACF. More than half of the children who age-out of foster care end up "couch-surfing," and essentially homeless. In a 2009 ACF report:

- ❖ Less than 3 percent go to college;
- ❖ 51 percent are unemployed;
- ❖ Emancipated females are four times more likely to receive public assistance than the general population;
- ❖ In any given year, foster children compromise less than 0.3 percent of the state's population, and yet 40 percent of persons living in homeless shelters are former foster children. A similarly disproportionate

percentage of the nation's prison population comprises former foster youth.

In 2005, Fairfax County launched a program called FairfaxFamilies4Kids, which actively seeks mentors to connect with older children in foster care, those most at-risk for homelessness. Beverly Howard, the program's coordinator, agreed to a Q&A interview. To find out more about the Fairfax Families4Kids program or becoming a volunteer or mentor, contact Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the Fairfax Families4Kids Program at 703-324-7518.

**Q: Tell us a little bit about the background of the program? What niche does it fill?**

**A:** Fairfax Families4Kids is a mentoring program, now housed out of the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, which focuses on supporting older youth in foster care (or those youth who are at risk of re-entering foster care). The program's goal is for the youth in foster care to form and maintain healthy, positive and long-term relationships with caring adults and peers while learning essential life, leisure and social skills. It works to accomplish this through group mentoring events and individual mentoring relationships. The twice-monthly group mentoring events are outings in the community where the youth, mentors, volunteers, and prospective adoptive families come together in a safe, super

SEE JOYS, PAGE 16



# NEWS

The Junior League of Northern Virginia took part in the National Day of Service by assisting volunteers in making cards for homeless and hospitalized children. Clockwise from left: Gretchen Johnson of Springfield; Jennifer Bornhofen of Arlington; Junior League of Northern Virginia member Holly Dalferes of Vienna; Kailynn Bray, Brittany Carr and Bradley Smith of Arizona.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

## National Day of Service Launches Inauguration

Local residents give back to their communities and pledge ongoing service.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

The 57th Presidential Inauguration began Saturday, Jan. 19, with hundreds of Americans rolling up their sleeves and serving their communities. More than 13,000 people attended the day's marquee event, the Service Summit on the National Mall, according to the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

The all-day event honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by promoting community service. President Barack Obama launched the National Day of Service as part of the inauguration festivities four years ago, along with Vice President Joseph R. Biden and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden. In 2009, he visited injured soldiers and lent a hand on a homeless shelter renovation.

On Saturday, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama kicked off the day with daughters Malia and Sasha at Burrville Elementary School in Northeast D.C. With the help of 500 volunteers, they gave the school a makeover as part of an event orga-

nized by City Year.

The Bidens spent part of Saturday at the D.C. Armory for the Unite America in Service event, where volunteers packed 100,000 care kits for U.S. service members, wounded warriors, veterans and first responders. The kits include lint rollers, dental floss, toothbrush and toothpaste, wipes, Band-Aids and sanitizer.

A variety of service events were held on the mall and in Fairfax County. The Junior League of Northern Virginia assisted volunteers on the mall in making cards for homeless and hospitalized children. Gretchen Johnson of Springfield said the event was a "great start to the inauguration," and "a wonderful way to be a part of the inaugural weekend and give back to the community."

In Fairfax County, volunteers joined Our Daily Bread, a Fairfax nonprofit, delivering food to low-income families.

"Our volunteers packaged food at our Vienna Pantry and delivered it to 30 clients throughout the Fairfax County area who receive supplemental food from us every two weeks for approximately four months," said ODB Executive Director Lisa Whetzel.

The signature event included speakers Chelsea Clinton and actress Eva Longoria, as well as booths where participants could learn more about local and national service organizations.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### TUESDAY/JAN. 29

**Info Session: Identifying Services and Resources for Older Adults.** 7-8:30 p.m., at Inova Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), 4027 B Olley Lane, Fairfax. Learn about day programs for older adults involving senior centers, senior plus, adult day health care, PACE, chronic disease self-management programs and independent living programs. 703-324-3453 or [NCSInterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:NCSInterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov).

#### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 30

**Park Authority Annual Public Comment Meeting.** 7 p.m., Room 106 in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. Find information on proposed fee changes and give input—to make a statement at the meeting, call in advance; obtain a desk copy of the fee proposal at the Park Authority office or online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting.htm>. 703-324-8662 or [Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

#### ONGOING

**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](http://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.

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS



# OPINION

## Expanding Medicaid Good for Virginia

**Real health coverage for an additional 400,000 people is in reach.**

Virginia has an opportunity to expand Medicaid in a way that could extend health coverage to more than 400,000 residents who currently have no health insurance while the Federal government picks up the tab; Virginia would pay 10 percent of the additional cost after 2020.

The Medicaid expansion would give medical insurance to 25,000-30,000 Fairfax County residents, where more than 132,000 have none.

More than 12 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation are without health insurance. Household income in Fairfax County averages more than \$122,000 a year.

In Arlington, 17 percent of adults under age 65 lack health insurance.

Under the health care reform act, many of Virginia's uninsured residents could be covered

by an expansion of Medicaid to cover residents who earn up to 133 percent of the poverty line, and that expansion would be paid for almost entirely by federal funds. But while the reform act itself was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the court also opened a door for states to opt out of the expansion of Medicaid.

Virginia's current eligibility requirements for Medicaid are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and 7th in per capita personal income, Virginia ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending, according to a 2013 Fairfax County report.

### EDITORIAL

The report says that new coverage would extend to individuals earning less than \$15,302 per year or families earning less than \$31,155 per year, low income children who lose Medicaid when they turn 19, and adults with disabilities not currently eligible.

It isn't as if there were no health care costs for these currently uncovered residents. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room, where the hospital spreads the cost of care around.

But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes.

A new analysis by the Commonwealth Institute shows that expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total \$2.08 billion and more than offset the state's share of expansion costs over the next eight years, plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth. Expanding health care will add tens of thousands of new jobs. People with access to preventative and early health care use fewer sick days and are more productive on the job as well.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don't like the feds telling you to wear your seatbelt.

From a human perspective, passing up the chance to offer health coverage to 400,000 Virginians is inconceivable.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Searching for 'The New Virginia Way'

**Need to change the way Virginia supports people with disabilities.**

BY RIKKI EPSTEIN AND  
KYMBERLY DELOATCHE

In light of Virginia's settlement with the Department of Justice over Virginia's state institutions for people with disabilities, also known as training centers, it is time for us to enter "The New Virginia Way." We must focus on building community supports and capacity for those leaving the training centers and for the 7,500 families on waiting lists for state Medicaid waivers.

"The New Virginia Way" means changing the way Virginia supports people with disabilities from an under-funded, complicated system to a comprehensive community support structure. Right now, there are not enough supports available for every individual in the community. In fact, this lack of community options was a large part of the reason the DOJ investigated Virginia and found it violates the civil rights of people with disabilities.

The DOJ settlement and "The New Virginia Way" will ensure community supports are done correctly. The settlement is a legally enforceable agreement that holds Virginia responsible for making sure every person transitioning to

community-based care has the supports they need lined up before they move. If the Independent Reviewer overseeing implementation feels that Virginia is falling short, the case goes back to court. Judge John Gibney, who is overseeing the settlement, has made clear his commitment to protecting the rights of everyone involved and ensuring all requirements are met.

It is worth noting that since the settlement, the General Assembly has funded more waivers than the minimum mandated by the settlement. The governor's current budget proposal includes rate differentials for individuals who have intense behavioral and nursing needs, and the state is hiring a consultant to redesign the waivers to provide more comprehensive services with adequate reimbursement rates. This demonstrates a step forward.

Increasingly, service providers have dedicated themselves to supporting individuals with significant needs. Some specialize in helping individuals with a history of significant behavioral challenges and others have nurses on staff to support individuals with complex medical concerns. Several have begun to expand since



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARC OF VIRGINIA

**An individual with a disability and his caregiver wearing "I Support The New Virginia Way" stickers at the Martin Luther King Day Rally in Richmond.**

the settlement to help individuals transition.

The settlement encourages creativity and smaller, customized supports. We need to consider sponsored placements and apartments with 24-hour staffing. These housing models are already working in Virginia and can be established affordably and quickly.

Over a dozen states have no institutions and most have closed at least one. We have great role models for institutional closure, an Independent Reviewer with decades of experience in making transitions a reality, a settlement

that mandates safe and appropriate supports, and thousands of advocates dedicated to making sure we support everyone the right way.

This settlement is a landmark opportunity to ensure Virginia is changed for the better forever. That will happen when we all put our energy towards making "The New Virginia Way" reality.

*Rikki Epstein is executive director at The Arc of Northern Virginia. Kymberly DeLoatch is executive director at the Autism Society of Northern Virginia*

Fairfax Station,  
Lorton & Clifton  
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNION MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Fifth and sixth grade band students perform in the Winter Band Concert.

## Union Mill Plays Winter Concert

**F**ifth and sixth grade band students from Union Mill Elementary performed in their Winter Band Concert on Wednesday, Jan. 16, led by band teacher Laura Seifried. First-year band students performed "When the Saints Go Marching In," "Old MacDonald Had a Band," "Ode to Joy," and "Hard Rock Blues." The sixth grade band students performed "Bag 'O Blues," and several holiday pieces including "Frosty the Snowman," "Carol of the Bells," "Jingle Bell Rock," and "Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!"

The following day, fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Union Mill Elementary performed in the Winter Strings Concert on Thursday, Jan. 17, led by strings teacher Melissa Brown. The fourth graders, who are first-year strings students, demonstrated

their skills in posture, instrument and bow hold, rest position, playing pizzicato (plucking the strings), using their left-hand fingers, and their bow techniques. The fourth grade strings students performed "Mary Had a Little Lamb/Rolling Along." The fifth and sixth graders performed "Rustic Dance" by Mark Williams and "Clog Dance" by Del Borgo. They finished with "Nightrider" by Richard Meyer, an advanced piece that highlighted the strings skills of the sixth grade orchestra students. The grand finale was an American folk song, "Bile 'Em Cabbage Down," performed by the entire orchestra.

The students then played an encore of the folk song, during which the audience helped keep time by snapping and clapping every other beat.



In the Thursday, Jan. 17, concert at Union Mill, students used bow techniques, demonstrated their skills in posture and played pizzicato (plucking the strings).



Band students at Union Mill Elementary School play in their Winter Band Concert, held Wednesday, Jan. 16.



Union Mill Elementary School fifth and sixth grade students play holiday pieces led by band teacher Laura Seifried.

Fourth, fifth and sixth graders perform in the Winter Strings Concert, Thursday, Jan. 17, at Union Mill Elementary School, led by strings teacher Mrs. Melissa Brown.



### SCHOOL NOTES

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

**Wade Garrett Arduini** of Clifton was named to the deans list for the fall 2012 semester at the University of South Carolina Lancaster.

**Kyle Jenkins** of Fairfax station, a freshman honors student majoring in intelligence analysis, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester at James Madison University.

**Maggie Haynes** of Fairfax Station, a freshman majoring in history, has

been added to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester at Bridgewater College.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Achievement® Scholarship Program: **Hayley V. Harris** and **Warren D. Smith** from Centreville High School; **Tommie A. Banks** from West Springfield High School.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Emily R. Costigan** from South County Secondary School; **Benjamin D. Sando** from Centreville High School; **John B. Hyde**, **Victoria L. Irvine**, **Yeser Kim** and **Alexander C. Moree** from West Springfield High School.





Brent Bainwol, Mr. Stallion 2012 and 2013, being escorted to the stage during the formal wear segment.



From left, Keaton Tettlbach, MC; Warner Hunter, second runner-up; Brent Bainwol, Mr. Stallion winner; Jeremy Thomas, first runner-up and Danny Gordon, MC, after the event.

# South County High Picks Mr. Stallion 2013

## Holds fifth Annual Male Beauty Pageant.

BY OLUFEMI AKINSITAN  
THE CONNECTION

Then male students from South County High School set the stage on fire at the Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium of the South County High School in Lorton, during the Fifth Annual Mr. Stallion Pageant on Thursday, Jan. 17.

The event, described by Alison Andrews, one of the coordinators and class sponsors, as “a take on a female pageant” and a quest for “bragging rights,” was well attended by parents and students, who kept yelling for more as participants appeared on stage.

Two past winners of the pageant, 2011 winner Mark Gavino and 2012 winner Brent Bainwol, who eventually emerged as the winner of this year’s competition, participated in the pageant. Other participants included: Christian Alvarado, Desniq Campbell, Christian Glover, Angel Hernandez, Warner Hunter, Jeremy Thomas, Maurice Haynes and Khaveh Konteh.

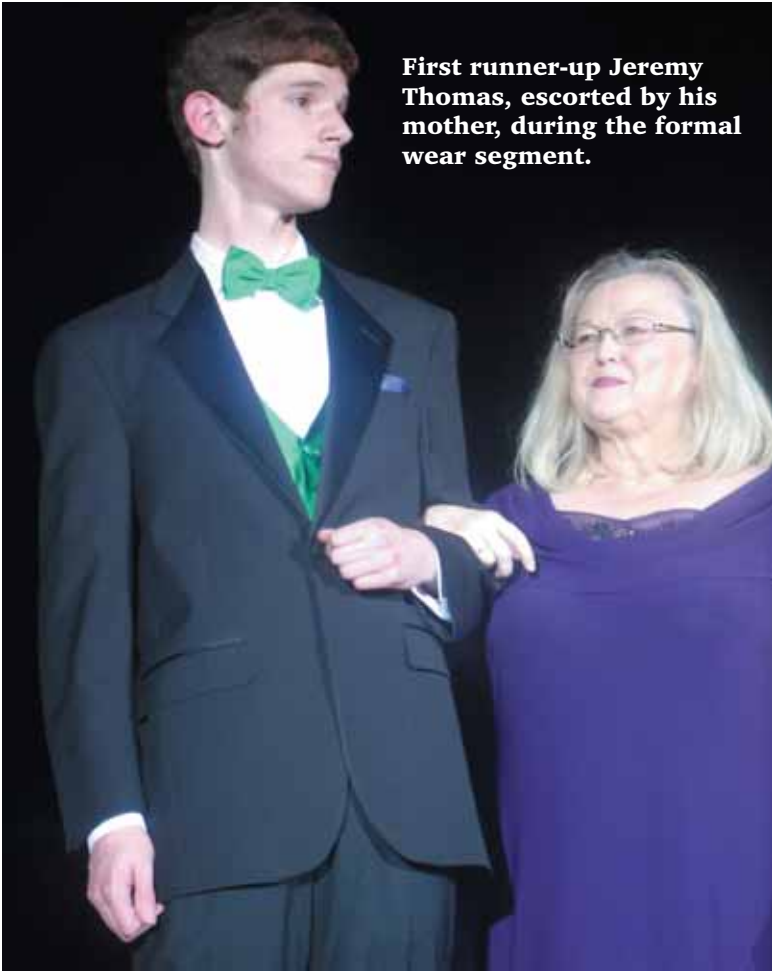
Highlights of the pageant consist of spirit wear, talent show, fashion parade and the question and answer session. In a brief chat, Brent Bainwol, the 2012 Mr. Stallion and this year’s winner, said of his winning streak, “I think I won because of my guitar.”

Indeed, the man with the “magic fingers,” according to Keaton Tettlbach, a senior and one of the masters of ceremony, held the audience spellbound



Master of ceremony Danny Gordon; 2011 Mr. Stallion and best smile 2013, Mark Gavino; and Master of ceremony Keaton Tettlbach during the question and answer session.

PHOTOS BY OLUFEMI AKINSITAN/THE CONNECTION



First runner-up Jeremy Thomas, escorted by his mother, during the formal wear segment.

with his dexterity on the guitar during the talent show segment. Bainwol, who started playing

guitar at the age of 9, won a talent show in sixth grade playing “Johnny B. Goode” by Chuck Berry.

His dream is to be a lawyer or a businessman in the future. On what makes him different from other contestants, he retorted, “I always think of little things, people remember little things.”

For Mark Gavino, the 2011 winner, who won the audience’s heart with his dance, “hard work and responsibility” are cardinal principles he took from his parents, who migrated from the Philippines. He said of himself, “I am a very nervous and shy person, but for some reason I like the spotlight.” On his preparation for the event: “I tried to shake off butterflies and pray for God’s blessing. I stretch and slap myself to get rid of nervousness.” His participation in the Mr. Stallion event has inspired his close friend Densiq Campbell to partake in this year’s contest.

The duo of Whitney Turner and Phil Khoury, both seniors, also added color to the occasion with their rendition of “Ho Hey” by the Lumineers.

Other contestants also gave a good account of themselves in the various segment of the pageant: Angel Hernandez, best hair; Maurice Hymes, Mr. Congeniality, and Mark Gavino, best smile.

The annual event, which also featured a raffle draw, was hosted by the sophomore class and was intended to raise money towards their prom in the junior year. The Mr. Stallion Committee was co-chaired by Katie Cummings and Emma Wilson; members were Danielle Hoang and Jennifer Wendt.

At the end of the night, Warner Hunter emerged the second runner-up and Jeremy Thomas the first runner-up, while Brent Bainwol retained his crown as Mr. Stallion 2013 and walked away with the “bragging right.”

## CALENDAR

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

### 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](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 26

**Collectors Showcase 2013.** 6-8 p.m., at the McGuireWoods Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A reception with painting, fiber arts, photography, ceramics, blown and fused glass and more from 100 studio and associate artists with “best in show” awarded by Joann Moser, deputy chief curator of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).  
**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>.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 2

**Coin Show.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Express, intersection of Old Keene Mill Road and Hwy 95, Springfield. The Alexandria Coin Club sponsors a coin show with 50 tables holding a wide variety of coins, currency and numismatic collectables; prizes given to the first 500 guests to arrive. [www.alexandriacoinclub.com](http://www.alexandriacoinclub.com).  
**Cabaret Night: Notorious!** 8 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A journey through the dark side of town filled with songs and laughter led by the cast, a group of notorious characters created for the stage: villains, criminals and femmes fatales; planche campagnarde included. \$25. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).  
**Sleeping Beauty.** 1 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Sleeping Beauty keeps falling asleep so her parents find Magical the famous magician who comes to the rescue with Edgar, his talkingcat; concessions available prior to show and during intermission. \$12 for adults; \$8 for children 12-and-under. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.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](mailto:susanp@repole.com).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 8

**Dinner & a Movie Nights: Carmen Jones.** 8 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Combine culinary and cinema arts in an evening featuring the 1954 film directed by Otto Preminger (his spin on Carmen) and a three-course dinner designed to complement the film’s theme. Reservations (small parties



Like a Tree, 84x53, oil on panel, Kristen Calcaterra.

## Kristen Calcaterra Exhibit Explores Deteriorated Decor

Kristen Calcaterra uses lines, paint pours and contemporary oil-painting to allude to the deterioration of decorated homes; her work is inspired by travels through Charleston, S.C., Savannah, Ga., and Louisiana, where she saw local historic structures and, in Louisiana, devastation. An opening reception is on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 6-9 p.m., in Building W-8 at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

may share tables). \$45 per person. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

### 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](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).  
**Have a Heart Project.** 6-9 p.m., in Studio 4 at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An art installation with a mission to help Food for Others displays empty lunch bags featuring original art works created by John Gascot, Mary Gallagher-Stout and Denise Philipbar as well as by guest artists; all proceeds from each work featured in the exhibit up from Wednesday, Feb. 6 to the end of the month benefit Food for Others. As the artists replace each sold piece of art with food, the instillation evolves. \$10 donation suggested per piece. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).  
**For Money or Love.** 8 p.m., in the W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Mestey Films Productions screens the film about Patrick, a wealthy man that finds himself wondering whether his fiancée is with him for love or money, and his brother Sean, who, known for being a playboy, changes his ways when he falls in love with a woman who has an 8-year-old girl named Ashley. \$10. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 10

**Live Onstage: The Amazing Gospel Souls.** 11:30 a.m., in the W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The gospel band conceived inside the notorious Lorton prison system in the early 1980s is comprised of ex-offenders from the Washington, D.C., area who have collectively served 200-plus years in



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>.

correctional facilities. \$15. [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

**WEDNESDAY/FEB. 13**  
**Springfield Christian Women’s Connection Women of Excellence Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m.-

1:30 p.m., at the Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Luncheon with complimentary childcare accompany Thirty-One products to help keep life organized and an inspirational speech from Faye Parson on how to stay on top. \$17. [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com).

## FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.Lordoflifeva.org).



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**NEWS**

# Volunteering to Cheer

**Special Olympics "Cheer Team" wows crowd with high-energy performance.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ike many girls, Jacquelyn Hoffmeier of Burke always wanted to be a cheerleader. The 25-year-old, born with Down Syndrome, finally got her chance to perform on Friday, Jan. 11.

Hoffmeier, along with seven of her Special Olympics teammates, cheered and danced before a crowd of nearly 200 parents and students during halftime at the West Springfield High School girls' basketball game.

"My daughter was so into cheerleading. She practices two hours a day with her Wii, and as soon as I mentioned creating an informal cheer team, she was ready to go," said Jay Hoffmeier, Jacqueline's father and head coach of the Northern Virginia Special Olympics Gymnastics (Area 26) group. "This is so much fun for them. They are pure athletes because they don't care about anything but the sport."

Although Hoffmeier had been coaching with Special Olympics for 22 years, his expertise was in gym



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Jay H. Hoffmeier, of Burke, head coach of the Northern Virginia Special Olympics Gymnastics group, with volunteer assistant coach Keiko Vonack, whose sons, both of whom are autistic, cheer on the team. Their first performance was held Friday, Jan. 11, during halftime of the girls' basketball game at WSHS.**

SEE 'CHEER TEAM,' PAGE 11

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**SATURDAY/FEB. 9**

**Second Saturday.** 9 a.m., at the Marriott Courtyard, 11220 Lee-Jackson Highway, Fairfax. Imminent professionals speak on the divorce process, encouraging separated or divorcing spouses to be civil and reasonable for their pocketbooks, emotional health and children. RSVP. [clapham@beankinney.com](mailto:clapham@beankinney.com).

**ONGOING**

**Volunteer Computer Instructor** needed at the Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Classes for beginners (using the mouse, writing and saving letters, navigating the internet, email, etc.) and advanced beginners (computer maintenance, search engines, websites for seniors, email address books, skyping, shopping and paying bills online, etc.) are in need of teachers. 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices).

**Thank veterans for their service** via the post: draw or write a note of thanks and encouragement—no need to seal in envelopes, Adopt a Soldier will do that—and send to Americas Adopt A Soldier, P.O. Box 1049, Springfield, VA 22151. [americasadoptasoldier.org](http://americasadoptasoldier.org).

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# 'Cheer Team' Wows Crowd

FROM PAGE 10

nastics, not cheerleading, so he started scouting around for someone who had the skills and the patience to coach his team of aspiring cheerleaders. The team members, who range in age from 18 to 36, all have some form of intellectual disability.

"Many people assume that because they are non-verbal, they can't learn or don't want to exercise, and that could not be further from the truth," Hoffmeier said. "They are all so excited about this, and they love their coaches."

West Springfield High School cheerleaders Alana Corn and Kelsey Kirkman, both 16, volunteered to coach the team, and they have been practicing with them every Sunday night since school began in September. As WSHS juniors, they volunteer purely for the fun of it. They don't receive school credit.

"We wanted to give them an opportunity to do something we take for granted," Corn said. "They work incredibly hard, and they have so much fun with it. I love to see the joy on their faces when they learn a new move."

Kirkman said she loves being welcomed by the team. "They get really excited when they see us, because they love cheering," she said.

"The Olympians and their families are all so excited about the performance," said Del. Eileen Filler-Corn, Alana's mother. "We're proud of her for volunteering."

When it was time for the halftime performance, the coaches were nervous, but the team was cool

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS 'CHEER TEAM' ATHLETES

Jacquelyn Hoffmeier  
Sarah Draznin  
Ginger Fischer  
Samantha Cully  
Heather Savage  
Jill Arnott  
David Vonack  
Brian Vonack

## COACHES

Jay Hoffmeier  
Mercedes Talvitie  
Alana Corn  
Kelsey Kirkman  
Stephanie Cramer  
Katie Henslee

under pressure, and seemed thrilled to be in the spotlight. Holding pompoms high, they spread out on the court and began two 40-second dance and cheering routines as if they had been performing every Friday night.

During the second routine, a technical glitch caused the music to begin repeating. But the team was unfazed, and the crowd began clapping to the beat, cheering the team on with their enthusiasm.

"I am so happy for her. This was an exciting opportunity," said Rebecca Drazmin, Sarah's mother. "She loves to practice, and she's getting the experience of being on a team."

"Look at them. It's wonderful to hear the crowd cheering for them," said Keiko Vonack of Springfield, one of Hoffmeier's assistant coaches, and the mother of Brian and David, twins who are autistic. "You have no idea how excited they are to participate in something like this."

After the performance, the team received a well-deserved standing ovation.

"This went so well... My daughter can't wait to perform again," Hoffmeier said.

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## Workhouse Joins in Statewide Preservation Project

The Workhouse Prison Museum/Workhouse Arts Center has been selected to participate in a statewide project designed to help improve care of collections for museums, libraries and archives. The Workhouse Prison Museum is one of 10 institutions in Virginia selected to participate in the project, sponsored by the Virginia Association of Museums, the Library of Virginia, and the Department of Historic Resources.

The program is funded by a "Connecting to Collections" statewide implementation grant awarded to the Virginia Association of Museums and Library Services. Designed to help small museums and libraries across Virginia improve collections care, the project involves an on-site visit to the Workhouse Prison Museum by a needs assessment team of museum and library professionals, who spend the better part of a day touring the institution and collections. Following the visit, they will send a report recommending steps the institution can take to

improve collections care over the next two years, with suggested resources to help accomplish them. The needs assessments will be conducted at institutions around the state from November 2011 through April 2013.

Among other items, the museum displays a Day Book from 1918 listing the names of the suffragists jailed at the workhouse (their crime was "obstructing passage of the sidewalk" in front of the White House); handcuffs and shackles from the early 20th century; the Workhouse Escape Log, 1914-1947; and an extensive collection of shanks and shaves, made by prisoners from a wide variety of materials.

Come visit the Workhouse Prison Museum, located in Building W-9 at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The museum is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday. Week-day hours are noon to 3 p.m.; weekend hours are noon to 4 p.m. Or see [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

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# SPORTS

## Woodson Boys' Basketball Extends Win Streak to 12

**Cavaliers adapt to TC's physicality in second half.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION (OR GAZETTE PACKET)

**T**he Woodson boys' basketball team's collection of tall sharpshooters is a primary reason the Cavaliers entered Tuesday night's contest against the T.C. Williams Titans riding an 11-game winning streak.

With four players listed at six-foot-four or taller capable of stroking 3-pointers, Woodson provides a tough matchup for any opponent. TC, on the other hand, compensates for offensive shortcomings with a physical brand of basketball and a group of bruisers strong enough to make an impact in the paint.

With a chance to pull within one game of first-place Woodson, TC, the defending Patriot District champion, pounded the ball inside and tested whether the Cavaliers were as interested in defending the paint as they were launching shots from the perimeter. The Titans succeeded with their physical attack into the third quarter, but it was the Cavaliers who left The Garden with their win streak intact.

**WOODSON DEFEATED TC** 64-54 on Jan. 22 at T.C. Williams High School. The Cavaliers improved to 15 to two overall, nine to zero in the district and extended their win streak to 12 games. The Titans dropped to nine to seven overall, six to three in the district and into a third-place tie with West Potomac. Lake Braddock is in second place with a seven to two district record.

A post-up bucket by TC's Landon Moss gave the Titans a 34-28 lead with six minutes 14 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Woodson battled back and took a one-point lead into the fourth quarter before outscoring the Titans 23-14 in the final period.

"We felt we had a quicker first step than they did," said Moss, who finished with six points. "They've got strong guys, but we felt like we could overpower them, maybe, if we got the ball inside ..."

Of the Titans' first 34 points, 28 came near the rim or from the free-throw line. Of TC's final 20 points, only five came near the rim or at the free-throw line.

"You've got to be kind of physical with us and that's what they did the first time we played them — they really pounded us down low," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "They got the ball inside. They've got a lot of guys near the basket that make shots. ... I think in the first half we didn't really respond very well to the physical nature of the game. Especially on the defensive end on the backboards, we were a little soft. I think that was kind of our challenge to them at halftime was we wanted to get after them and do that."

How did the Cavaliers respond in the second half?

"I thought we were fine in the second half," Craig said. "Once we strung together a couple stops, I felt like I could kind of see our confidence growing. We're going to score the ball against most teams. We're blessed with a lot of guys that can put the ball in the hole. For us, it's about the defensive end and the consistency at the defensive end of the floor."

Woodson received a late boost from senior Alex Boock, who sat on the bench for most of the first



**Woodson's Peter Murray scored 11 points against T.C. Williams on Tuesday night.**

half after being whistled for his second foul less than three minutes into the game. After not scoring a point for the first three quarters, Boock tallied 12 in the fourth, including eight points during an 11-3 Cavalier run to open the period.

**A THREE-POINT PLAY** by Woodson senior center Peter Murray gave the Cavaliers a 52-43 lead with 4:05 remaining in the fourth. With TC trailing by six late in the game, Murray came up with a tip-in to extend the Woodson lead to 59-51 with 1:02 to play.

"It's always a challenge. T.C. Williams, they're known for being physical," Murray said. "They came out real hyped and were pushing us around at the beginning, but as the game went on we got a little chip on our shoulders and decided in order to be in this game and to win this game, we've got to push back. I thought we were able to do that very well and eventually we started controlling the boards better and not letting them get all those offensive rebounds."

Each of the Cavaliers' vertically-gifted shooters scored at least eight points. Six-foot-six Tommy Stepka led Woodson with 15 points and made a trio of three-pointers. Six-foot-four Boock scored 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Six-foot-four Murray had 11 points and six-foot-four Andy Stynchula knocked down two three-pointers and finished with eight points.

Sophomore point guard Eric Bowles, who is listed at five feet 11, finished with 13 points. Bowles' jumper in the closing seconds of the third quarter gave Woodson a 41-40 lead. The Cavaliers led for the remainder of the contest.

Woodson will travel to face Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25. TC will travel to face Lee at 7:45 p.m. on Friday.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## Lake Braddock Girls' Basketball Beats Lee

The Lake Braddock girls' basketball team defeated the Lee Lancers 65-54 on Tuesday for its seventh win in its last eight games. The Bruins improved to 10 to five overall and six to three in the Patriot District.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Lake Braddock senior Natalie Butler, who will play for Georgetown next season, scored 34 points and grabbed 18 rebounds against Lee. The six foot four center is averaging 26.5 points and 18.1 rebounds per contest. In the Bruins' last five games, Butler has scored at least 30 points four times and reached the 40-point mark twice.

Against T.C. Williams on Jan. 11, Butler scored 40 points and grabbed 31 rebounds.

Lake Braddock's Christine McGrath scored 12 points against Lee and Marcia Altman added eight.

Lee's Adeli Block finished with 17 points, Meghan Cox scored 16 and Amber Bryson added nine.

The Bruins will travel to face Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25. The Lancers will host T.C. Williams at 7:45 p.m. on Friday.



**Lake Braddock's Natalie Butler shoots against Lee on Jan. 22.**

## Lake Braddock Boys' Basketball Beats Lee

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team won its third straight game, beating Lee 51-42 on Jan. 22. The Bruins improved to 11 to five overall took over sole possession of second place in the Patriot District with a seven to two mark.

According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, Will Gregorits led Lake Braddock with 20 points and A.J. Alexander added eight.

R.J. Barney and Gideon Boakye each scored 11 for Lee.

Lake Braddock will host Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25. Lee will host T.C. Williams at 7:45 p.m. on Friday.

## West Springfield Girls' Basketball Wins Fifth Straight

The West Springfield girls' basketball team remained in sole possession of first place in the Patriot District with a 55-34 win against Annandale on Jan. 22. The Spartans improved to 15 to two overall and eight to one in the Patriot District by collecting their fifth consecutive victory.

According to stats on the Washington Post's Web site, Amy Berglund led West Springfield with 16 points against Annandale and Jasmine Taylor scored 14.

West Springfield will travel to face South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25 and will host T.C. Williams, which beat the Spartans earlier this season, on Monday, Jan. 28.

## West Springfield Boys' Basketball Snaps Losing Streak

The West Springfield boys' basketball team beat Annandale 53-44 on Jan. 22, snapping a five-game losing streak.

Chris Saulino led the Spartans with 16 points.

West Springfield will host South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25.



# HOME SALES

In December 2012, 62 homes sold between \$1,700,000-\$161,000 in the Clifton, Fairfax Station and Lorton area.

| Address                    | BR | FB | HB | Postal City     | Sold Price  | Type              | Lot AC | PostalCode | Subdivision              |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------|------------|--------------------------|
| 5933 RIVER DR              | 3  | 3  | 3  | LORTON          | \$1,700,000 | Detached          | 0.65   | 22079      | HALLOWING POINT RIVER    |
| 6103 CHAPMAN RD            | 4  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$899,000   | Detached          | 0.66   | 22079      | HALLOWING POINT RIVER    |
| 12500 OLD YATES FORD RD    | 5  | 5  | 3  | CLIFTON         | \$886,000   | Detached          | 1.00   | 20124      | BULL RUN                 |
| 9043 JOHN SUTHERLAND LN    | 4  | 4  | 1  | LORTON          | \$879,780   | Detached          | 0.83   | 22079      | OCOQUAN OVERLOOK         |
| 7612 SOUTH VALLEY DR       | 5  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$835,000   | Detached          | 0.67   | 22039      | SOUTH RUN                |
| 6608 STONECREST LN         | 5  | 4  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$818,500   | Detached          | 5.00   | 22039      | STONECREST               |
| 7047 BALMORAL FOREST RD    | 5  | 4  | 1  | CLIFTON         | \$800,000   | Detached          | 4.30   | 20124      | BALMORAL GREENS          |
| 7507 SOUTH VALLEY DR       | 4  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$785,700   | Detached          | 0.62   | 22039      | SOUTH RUN                |
| 10601 TIMBERIDGE RD        | 4  | 2  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$780,000   | Detached          | 5.12   | 22039      | FOUNTAINHEAD             |
| 9117 OAK CHASE CT          | 5  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$745,000   | Detached          | 0.40   | 22039      | CROSSPOINTE              |
| 6810 CORDER LN             | 4  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$720,000   | Detached          | 0.53   | 22079      | MOUNT AIR                |
| 8311 PERIWINKLE PL         | 5  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$710,000   | Detached          | 0.22   | 22039      | CROSSPOINTE              |
| 9830 HAMPTON RD            | 5  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$710,000   | Detached          | 2.00   | 22039      | HAMPTON HILLS            |
| 8092 PAPER BIRCH DR        | 5  | 4  | 1  | LORTON          | \$700,000   | Detached          | 0.18   | 22079      | LAUREL HILL LANDBAY      |
| 11108 SPLIT RAIL LN        | 5  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$690,000   | Detached          | 5.57   | 22039      | THE HOLLY FOREST         |
| 9481 GAUGE DR              | 5  | 4  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$687,500   | Detached          | 0.24   | 22039      | GILES RUN                |
| 8400 COPPERLEAF CT         | 5  | 4  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$675,000   | Detached          | 0.19   | 22039      | CROSSPOINTE              |
| 6703 ROCK FALL CT          | 5  | 3  | 1  | CLIFTON         | \$670,000   | Detached          | 0.31   | 20124      | LITTLE ROCKY RUN         |
| 6903 HEATHSTONE CT         | 4  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$670,000   | Detached          | 1.10   | 22039      | ARDMORE WOODS            |
| 8511 ACCOTINK RD           | 4  | 2  | 1  | LORTON          | \$665,000   | Detached          | 0.23   | 22079      | TWINBROOK AT MOUNT AIR   |
| 8907 SEAGRAVES LN          | 5  | 3  | 0  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$660,000   | Detached          | 5.00   | 22039      | SANDY RUN                |
| 11843 CLARA WAY            | 4  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$652,000   | Detached          | 0.48   | 22039      | INNISVALE                |
| 8010 BRANDT CT             | 4  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$650,000   | Detached          | 0.25   | 22039      | BARRINGTON               |
| 11121 CLARA BARTON DR      | 5  | 3  | 1  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$625,000   | Detached          | 1.01   | 22039      | FAIRFAX STATION          |
| 6571 ROCKLAND DR           | 6  | 3  | 1  | CLIFTON         | \$623,000   | Detached          | 0.21   | 20124      | LITTLE ROCKY RUN         |
| 12415 HENDERSON RD         | 4  | 3  | 0  | CLIFTON         | \$599,000   | Detached          | 1.01   | 20124      | SAROLIN                  |
| 5912 PCOL DR               | 4  | 2  | 1  | CLIFTON         | \$585,000   | Detached          | 0.50   | 20124      | VANNOY PARK              |
| 10611 CANTERBERRY RD       | 5  | 3  | 0  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$575,000   | Detached          | 0.69   | 22039      | CANTERBERRY ESTATES      |
| 8011 GEORGE FOX PL         | 4  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$570,000   | Detached          | 0.08   | 22079      | LORTON STATION SOUTH     |
| 7543 CLIFTON RD            | 4  | 2  | 2  | FAIRFAX STATION | \$550,000   | Detached          | 1.00   | 22039      | MANOR RIDGE ESTATES      |
| 8083 SAMUEL WALLIS ST      | 3  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$472,000   | Townhouse         | 0.06   | 22079      | LORTON STATION SOUTH     |
| 8879 WHITE ORCHID PL       | 3  | 3  | 0  | LORTON          | \$444,000   | Detached          | 0.10   | 22079      | SPRING HILL SENIOR CMP   |
| 8860 HIBISCUS CT           | 3  | 2  | 1  | LORTON          | \$440,000   | Townhouse         | 0.07   | 22079      | LAUREL HILL LANDBAY      |
| 7639 SUMMERHILL CT         | 3  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$420,000   | Detached          | 0.15   | 22079      | SUMMERHILL               |
| 8706 LAGRANGE ST           | 4  | 2  | 1  | LORTON          | \$360,000   | Detached          | 0.24   | 22079      | POHICK ESTATES           |
| 5680 GOSLING DR            | 3  | 3  | 1  | CLIFTON         | \$343,000   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 20124      | CENTREVILLE GREEN        |
| 9624 FRANKLIN WOODS PL     | 4  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$334,888   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 22079      | GUNSTON SQUARE           |
| 7419 WILMA LN              | 4  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$319,999   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 22079      | WORTHINGTON WOODS        |
| 8506 KERNON CT             | 4  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$316,000   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 22079      | VILLAGE OF MOUNT AIR     |
| 7871 DOGUE INDIAN CIR      | 3  | 2  | 1  | LORTON          | \$305,000   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 22079      | MASONS PASSAGE           |
| 9454 4TH PL                | 4  | 1  | 1  | LORTON          | \$300,000   | Detached          | 0.51   | 22079      | GREEN RIDGE              |
| 9547 SALUDA CT             | 3  | 2  | 2  | LORTON          | \$290,000   | Townhouse         | 0.04   | 22079      | WILLIAMSBURG SQ          |
| 9443 CHERWEK DR            | 4  | 2  | 2  | LORTON          | \$290,000   | Townhouse         | 0.07   | 22079      | WILLIAMSBURG SQ          |
| 9191 SHEFFIELD HUNT CT     | 3  | 2  | 2  | LORTON          | \$290,000   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 22079      | POHICK VILLAGE           |
| 7334 ARDGLASS DR           | 3  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$285,000   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 22079      | WORTHINGTON WOODS        |
| 8930 MILFORD HAVEN CT #30C | 3  | 2  | 1  | LORTON          | \$278,000   | Townhouse         |        | 22079      | LORTON STATION NORTH     |
| 13555 RUDDY DUCK RD        | 2  | 2  | 1  | CLIFTON         | \$275,000   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 20124      | CENTREVILLE GREEN        |
| 8435 PEACE LIY CT #212     | 2  | 2  | 0  | LORTON          | \$268,145   | Garden 1-4 Floors |        | 22079      | SPRING HILL CONDOMINIUMS |
| 8576 BLACKFOOT CT          | 2  | 2  | 1  | LORTON          | \$267,500   | Townhouse         | 0.02   | 22079      | NEWINGTON HEIGHTS        |
| 8547 GOLDEN RIDGE CT       | 2  | 2  | 0  | LORTON          | \$266,000   | Townhouse         | 0.02   | 22079      | NEWINGTON HEIGHTS        |
| 7678 WOLFORD WAY           | 3  | 1  | 1  | LORTON          | \$259,900   | Townhouse         | 0.04   | 22079      | WASHINGTON SQUARE        |
| 9545 SALUDA CT             | 3  | 2  | 2  | LORTON          | \$255,000   | Townhouse         | 0.06   | 22079      | WILLIAMSBURG SQ          |
| 10651 OLD COLCHESTER RD    | 3  | 2  | 0  | LORTON          | \$250,000   | Detached          | 0.50   | 22079      | COLCHESTER               |
| 8572 BLACKFOOT CT          | 2  | 2  | 0  | LORTON          | \$247,000   | Townhouse         | 0.02   | 22079      | NEWINGTON HEIGHTS        |
| 7809 SHEPHERD HILLS CT     | 4  | 3  | 1  | LORTON          | \$242,500   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 22079      | SHEPHERD HILLS           |
| 9522 MOOREGATE CT          | 3  | 2  | 0  | LORTON          | \$239,000   | Townhouse         | 0.04   | 22079      | POHICK SQUARE            |
| 10000 OLD COLCHESTER RD    | 2  | 1  | 1  | LORTON          | \$230,000   | Detached          | 1.18   | 22079      | SHEPHERD                 |
| 8327 BLUEBIRD WAY #H       | 2  | 2  | 0  | LORTON          | \$220,000   | Garden 1-4 Floors |        | 22079      | HIGHLAND AT GUNSTON CRNR |
| 9278D CARDINAL FOREST LN   | 2  | 2  | 1  | LORTON          | \$215,000   | Garden 1-4 Floors |        | 22079      | GUNSTON CORNER           |
| 13595 ORCHARD DR #3595     | 2  | 2  | 0  | CLIFTON         | \$175,000   | Garden 1-4 Floors |        | 20124      | PONDS AT CENTREVILLE     |
| 7943 TIMARAND CT           | 3  | 2  | 0  | LORTON          | \$170,000   | Townhouse         | 0.04   | 22079      | POHICK SQUARE            |
| 13693 ORCHARD DR #3693     | 1  | 1  | 0  | CLIFTON         | \$161,000   | Garden 1-4 Floors |        | 20124      | PONDS AT CENTREVILLE     |

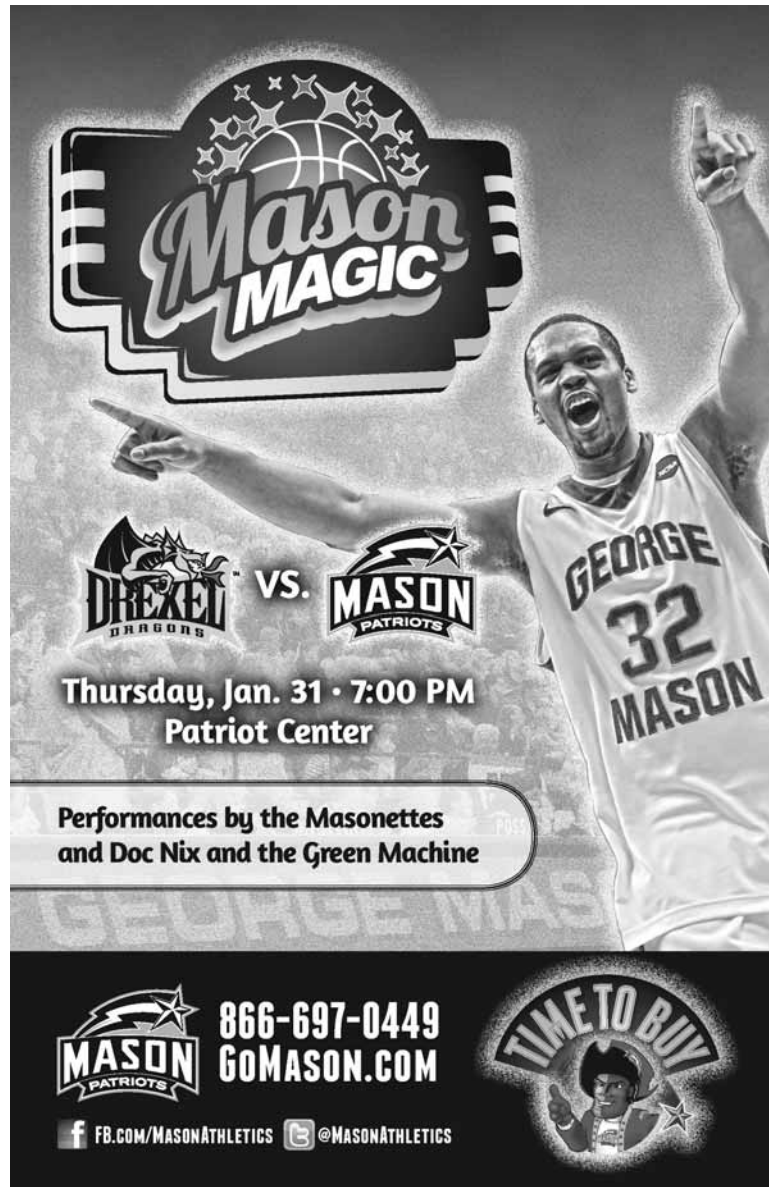
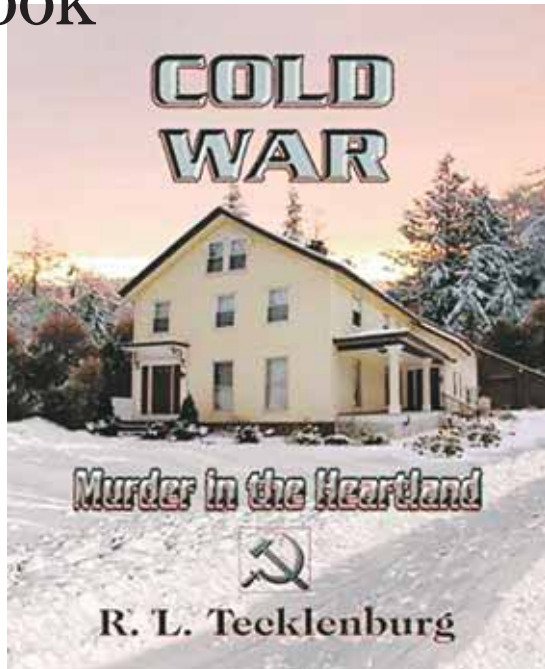
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# Springfield Resident Publishes New Book

“Cold War: Murder in the Heartland” is written by Robert Tecklenburg, a resident of Springfield. Published by Penumbra Publishing and distributed by Baker and Taylor and Ingram, the book tells the story of “a peculiar death in a small rural community . . . rumors of Soviet spies . . . strange goings-on and suspicious characters everywhere.

“As the bodies pile up, the clues seem to lead everywhere but the truth. And then there is the pretty redhead reporter to worry about. Young Police Chief Jimmy Novotny has his hands full when there’s murder in the heartland.”

The book is also available for immediate download at Apple iBook Store and Amazon.com.



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## Burke

|                           |           |               |                |                 |              |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 9610 Deep Lake Way        | \$754,495 | Sat/Sun 12-5  | Clark Massie   | Tetra Corp.     | 703-391-6245 |
| 9626 Deep Lake Way        | \$748,995 | Sat/Sun 12-5  | Clark Massie   | Tetra Corp.     | 703-391-6245 |
| 9618 Deep Lake Way        | \$738,995 | Sat/Sun 12-5  | Clark Massie   | Tetra Corp.     | 703-391-6245 |
| 6308 Swan Landing Ct      | \$609,000 | Sun 1-4       | Suzanne Burch  | Century 21      | 703-328-5606 |
| 9515 Vandola Ct           | \$575,000 | Sun 1-4       | Helen Grozbean | Keller Williams | 571-233-4287 |
| 6200 Fushimi Ct           | \$475,000 | Sun 1:30-3:30 | James Nellis   | RE/MAX          | 703-930-0655 |
| 10523 Reeds Landing Cir   | \$369,900 | Sun 1-4       | Doris Crockett | Weichert        | 703-615-8411 |
| 12213 Wye Oak Commons Cir | \$364,900 | Sat 1-3       | Kimberly Neff  | Avery-Hess      | 703-237-6779 |
| 10310 Rein Commons Ct #2C | \$129,000 | Sun 1-4       | David Ingram   | Weichert        | 703-250-8500 |

## Centreville

6487 Trillium House Ln .....\$999,900.....Sun 10-4.....Jean Marotta.....Birch Haven..703-402-9471

## Clifton

6324 Deepwood Farm Dr.....\$579,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-989-7735

## Fairfax

|                         |                |           |                      |                 |              |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 3876 University Dr..... | \$445,000..... | Sun 1-4.. | Carol Hermandorfer.. | Long & Foster.. | 703-503-1812 |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|

## Fairfax Station

|                           |                  |                 |                   |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 11107 Hampton Rd .....    | \$1,295,000..... | Sun 1-4.....    | Trina Ocasio..... | Weichert..703-594-1744 |
| 11156 DeV Vaughn Ct ..... | \$722,900.....   | Sun 1-4:30..... | Ned Malik.....    | MLSNow..571-313-1821   |

## Falls Church

|                        |                |              |                      |                   |              |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 3804 Munson Rd.....    | \$829,000..... | Sun 1-4..... | Patrick Kessler..... | Keller Williams.. | 703-405-6540 |
| 3324 Stonybrae Dr..... | \$699,500..... | Sun 1-4..... | Dana LaFever.....    | Weichert..        | 703-609-3479 |

## Kingstowne/Alexandria

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| 919 Swinks Mill Rd..... | \$1,339,000..... | Sun 1-4..... | Debbie Mesen..... | Weichert..703-201-7723 |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|

## Springfield

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| 7262 Linden Tree Ln..... | \$459,950 | Sun 1-4..... | Kathleen Quintarelli..... | Weichert.....        | 703-862-8808 |
| 7840 Doane Ct.....       | \$449,000 | Sun 1-4..... | Patsy Harrington.....     | Fairfax.....         | 703-963-8515 |
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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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# THE COUNTY LINE

## Feeling Power of Love

FROM PAGE 4

to explore that option.

“God works in mysterious ways. We actually used to go on outings with this couple and their foster children before Tiff and I were married,” he said. “We still had a lot of love to give.”

“That was the core of it, the love we had for each other,” Tiffany said. “You know, a lot of people say that when you lose a child, it tears a couple apart. Well, nothing could tear me away from him. He is my rock. His mental strength is astounding.”

### FAIRFAX FAMILIES4KIDS

They connected with a small agency in Fairfax County called Fairfax Families4Kids, a unique foster-mentoring program run by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. Created in 2005, the program’s mission is to build bonds between volunteers and foster children, a majority of whom are 14 years old or older.

According to Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the program, every year in Fairfax County, as many as 20 teens in foster care leave the system without a family and are unable to return safely to their parents or relatives.

The children who wait are typically African-American, and are age 9 or older when they enter foster care. They have emotional, medical and educational needs. Many have lived in a series of foster homes or residential facilities.

Kenny was one of the children in the program when the Granvilles decided to become mentors.

Howard said volunteers who become mentors have a lot of flexibility, and there’s no specific amount of time mentors must spend with children. Some are assigned a particular child while others work with several children. Every month there are group activities for the participants and their mentors.

“We want people to know they can get involved without feeling too much pressure,” Howard said.

Mentors can attend as many group outings as they want, depending on their schedule.

Outings have included a Christmas Cruise on the Potomac; the DC Kite Festival; fundraising events for the homeless and a variety of sports events and clinics, from basketball to handball. Farm Day, held twice a year in Ashburn, is a favorite event for the children. Donated by a benefactor of the program, the event is held twice a year in Ashburn, and includes horseback riding, bike-riding, games and a picnic.

Howard said all the activities are structured to allow “natural matches” to develop over time as the youth interact with the volunteers and actively help select their mentors. “Mentors see the value, the strengths and possibilities in the youth and the youth begin to form trusting relationships with the mentors,” she said.

Kenny met the Granvilles during Farm Day. He had just turned 13, and had been in a series of foster homes since he was 9 years old.

Before formal foster care, he was living sporadically with his biological mother from the time he was 3 years old.

Born in Dumfries, Kenny’s mother had substance abuse problems. When she could not care for him, he would stay with her friends for weekends—or weeks at a time. When he was placed in foster care full-time, he had no more contact with his biological mother.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOAN BRADY

### Kenny Granville

Sitting on a sofa at home, Kenny shows a visitor a book of photos from several outings. When asked if he remembers the first time he met Chris and Tiffany, he smiles broadly, and mentions that he left his coat in their car so they would have a reason to seek him out again.

The Granvilles said they felt an immediate connection to Kenny, and they would have come back to see him, even if he hadn’t left his coat in their car.

“Oh yes, I definitely remember Farm Day,” Tiffany said.

“We had been going to different events as mentors, and then Farm Day came along,” she said, shaking her head and wiping away tears. “It was weird. There was this big gush of wind and this kid came out of nowhere. Literally, leaves are flying around, and I saw Kenny playing... I said to Chris ‘I feel like he’s going to be our child.’ I mean, we thought we would adopt a younger child, but we just jelled with him.”

“As soon as they walked in, I went up to talk to them,” Kenny said.

“There was just something about him. His smile, his sense of humor, something that tugged at our hearts,” Chris said.

Kenny began spending weekends with the couple, playing basketball with Chris, watching football games, and just being a “regular” kid with a family.

“Everything just fit,” Chris said, “It felt like it was meant to be.”

Tiffany and Chris said there’s no one “aha” moment they can point to when they decided to adopt Kenny. “It just seemed like the natural next step,” Chris said.

As the Granvilles spent more and more time with Kenny, they became determined to adopt him. And then the couple got a surprise that some might consider a “game-changer.”

She learned she was pregnant with Elijah.

“And no, we never thought about not adopting Kenny,” she said, laughing.

Kenny was formally adopted by the Granvilles when he turned 14. Elijah was just weeks old, but “we wanted him there to be with his big brother,” Chris said.

During the adoption proceeding, the judge asked Kenny if there was any reason not to go forward, and why he wanted to be adopted.

“Because I love them. And they love me,” Kenny said.

“There wasn’t a dry eye in that courtroom,” Tiffany said.

*NEXT WEEK : Interviews with mentors and child who aged-out and is now homeless.*

## Joys and Challenges

FROM PAGE 4

vised and supportive group environment to participate in enjoyable activities together. (Events have included chess tournaments, basketball clinics, kite festivals, a Broadway show, exercise classes, horseback riding, Internet and web design classes, and community service projects.)

### Q: What does FFX4Kids offer foster children, and the parents who foster them?

**A:** FFX4Kids provides a social network where youth in foster care can interact with mentors, prospective adoptive families, dedicated volunteers and other children in foster care.

The dedicated FFX4Kids mentors are at the core of the “relationship-building” that keeps the youth coming back. Every participating youth experiences group mentoring for several months prior to being assigned a one-on-one mentor who agrees to mentor for at least two years. Many of these caring adults commit to being life-long supports for the youth they mentor. Some have even adopted their mentee. Other mentors have been consistently and actively involved in the program for five, six, and seven years, and have mentored a number of different youth during that time.

### Q: What are some FFX4Kids “success stories?”

**A:** We have many success stories. We have participated in 10 adoptions of youth ages 11 to 18 (most have been between ages 14-16 at the time of the adoption) and 10 permanent connections for youth ages 18 to 21. A “permanent connection” means that these young adults leave foster care with a caring, adult connection who can provide guidance and emotional support as they embark upon adulthood. Most of us know that just because you turn 18 or 21 years old, you don’t automatically have all the answers, and it is always good to have an adult to help answer some of the questions that come with being an adult.

Success Stories: “Mason” was adopted by his mentors when he was 15 years old. He had already spent six years in foster care, and lived in numerous

adoptive homes and residential facilities. He is a charming, likeable, athletic young fellow who is now a freshman in college and working part-time. He regularly returns to the FFX4Kids events to encourage and motivate the other kids, and just to share in the fun. His parents also continue to be active mentors for other youth in FFX4Kids and a strong supporter of the program.

“Mason” is good friends with “Paul.” “Paul” has been in foster care for almost 10 years. “Paul” has also had numerous placements. He is still in foster care, participating in the Independent Living program, and enjoying his freshman year in college also. As he participates in the twice-monthly FFX4Kids activities, he finds continuous support and encouragement from the group mentors, who genuinely admire his strength and his tenacity. He is a role model and “Jr. Mentor” for the younger kids in the group.

### Q: Knowing all of the obstacles, all of the challenges for foster children, what motivates you to keep working with foster children?

**A:** I love what I do. The youth that I have been blessed to know, are wonderful and all of them have enriched my life immeasurably. The adoptive families and mentors never cease to amaze me—by their commitment to the youth, their dedication, their energy and creativity, and their ability to see well beyond the labels that so many of our youth have gathered along their journey in foster care. They see the gifted artists, the aspiring scientists, the comedians, the athletes, and the beautiful children waiting for an opportunity to bloom.

I also have been blessed to have my own family expanded through the adoption of two older youth (ages 8 and 9). I know firsthand the joys and challenges this brings. I also know that love is not enough. The decision to adopt an older youth must come from both the head and the heart. It is critical that the adoptive family make an informed decision cognizant of all of the challenges before them, with realistic expectations, and knowledge of resources available to support the family. It is hard work, and not for the faint of heart.