

# Best of Friends

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 8

Bridget Kennerley gives her dog Saki some basic commands, such as sit, stand, lie down and roll over, which she has learned throughout her training course in preparation for becoming a guide dog for people with visual impairments.

## City of Fairfax Wants to Get Out of Water Business

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## Local Leaders Praise Transportation Funding Bill

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## City of Fairfax Wants to Get Out of Water Business

Mayor, council seek public input before April 9 vote.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

**C**ivic pride and an “entrepreneurial spirit” are not good enough reasons to justify the millions of dollars it takes to own, maintain and litigate to keep the City of Fairfax in the water business.

That’s the conclusion City of Fairfax Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne, along with city council, drew after months of battling Fairfax Water and Fairfax County to keep its water system independent.

During a news conference Sunday at City Hall, Silverthorne along with City Council member Dan Drummond and City Manager Bob Sisson, said the city is now “re-examining a possible agreement with the Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) as a way to save residents and businesses money and curtail the increasing costs of running a small water system.”

The City Council decided last spring to remain in the water treatment business and not sell its assets, such as the its 50-year-old water treatment plant to Fairfax Water.

“Since that time, however, the city and Fairfax Water, with the urging of a federal court mediator, have discussed an opportunity to stabilize current and future customer rates,” Silverthorne said.

He added that the transition to Fairfax Water rates would take about three years.

**SILVERTHORNE SAID** the city’s lawsuit against Fairfax County—which halted the county from enacting an ordinance to regulate the city’s water fees last July—is currently on hold.

The lawsuit stemmed from an ordinance enacted in December 2011 by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors that gave the county broad powers to determine how residents got their water and how much they paid for it.

County officials said the new law was an attempt to ensure that all county residents pay a “fair and reasonable” rate for their water. But city and town leaders said the ordinance was a blatant power grab, and promptly sued the county.

“There is a sense of civic pride in this,” Silverthorne said during the news conference, “I’m asking our residents to put that aside and work with Fairfax Water.” Silverthorne, who was elected mayor in May 2012, said he was doing this for current and future residents. “I can see, years down the road, if we kept on this path, the future mayor and city council would say ‘what in the world were they thinking?’”



**Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne discusses the benefits of selling the city’s water to Fairfax Water with City Councilman Dan Drummond during a news conference at City Hall Sunday, Feb. 24. The information was embargoed until 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25.**

Before the City Council makes a final decision on April 9 to sell its water system to Fairfax Water, they want community feedback and will host a series of public meetings, Silverthorne said.

“This is an opportunity for residents and businesses alike to save substantial amounts of money on their water bills while slowing the steep growth in water rates the city has been facing for many years,” Silverthorne said. “This is a historic decision that needs to be made with the community fully informed and involved.”

Currently, the average city rate for 1,000 gallons of water is \$4.64 compared to \$2.51 for Fairfax Water customers. Typical annual usage is about 100,000 gallons of water, according to city officials.

By 2018, if the city were to “stay the course,” and construct its \$45 million plan to refurbish the Loudoun Treatment Plant, annual city residential water bills would average about \$894. However, if the city chose to go with Fairfax Water, the annual water bill would be \$340. Average commercial customers would see significant cost savings as well, with annual bills averaging \$2,481 under the Fairfax Water plan versus \$6,528 if the city retains its utility.

If the city moves forward with Fairfax Water, it will also avoid spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on attorneys’ fees to press on with the lawsuit it filed over the county’s 2011 ordinance that gives the county the authority to review the city’s water rates.

The city currently has no long-term backup for its Loudoun County treatment and transmission facilities. Each time the



**Kirk F. Randall, a Fairfax County resident who is tired of paying higher prices to the City of Fairfax and Falls Church for his water, stands outside Fairfax City Hall on Armstrong Street carrying the sign “Sky High Water Rates Coming Soon.”**

city declares a system emergency—which has occurred about every five weeks in recent years—it relies on the largesse of Fairfax Water to provide it with water priced below Fairfax Water’s cost, which disadvantages the water utility’s customers.

Jeanne Bailey, a longtime city resident and the spokesperson for Fairfax Water, said that many city residents don’t fully understand the vulnerability of the city’s system.

She said Fairfax Water has 17 billion gallons of upstream storage ready to go in the event of a drought, but specifically prohibits the city from buying emergency water during a drought because it’s an event that can be “planned-for,” not an emergency.

“Fairfax Water is the city’s only emergency back-up, and reliable long-term backup is expensive for us to provide. We’re happy to help, but we have to be fair to our customers as well,” she said in a July interview.

“At some point in time, they are either going to have to spend many tens of millions securing long-term back-up service elsewhere, or buy it at cost from Fairfax Water.”

Fairfax County resident Kirk Randall, whose home borders the City of Fairfax, said he is thrilled with the recently-elected mayor’s decision.

Randall is one of the 21,000 county residents who paid 71 percent more for water because he gets his water from the City of Fairfax rather than Fairfax Water, the county-utility.

“Not only have I had no choice but to buy more expensive water for more than 26 years, but I don’t get to vote on the city’s decision because I’m a county resident. It’s

### Public Outreach Meetings

In the next few days, City of Fairfax water customers will receive a letter from the City of Fairfax mayor and City Council with details about the proposed deal with Fairfax Water.

The city will hold two public meetings at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 6, at 9 a.m.

For more information, call 703-385-7850.

absurd,” Randall said.

Randall, 62, worked for more than three decades as a utility economist with the federal government and became a “reluctant” water expert when he realized how much more he and his neighbors were paying. In the past four years, he has amassed thousands of pages of documents relating to water issues, and can cite chapter and verse when it comes to the history of the highly decentralized world of water operations—where dozens of public agencies are involved in the purchase, sale, distribution

and delivery of water to residents.

“I’m pleased that our water rates will actually decline instead of doubling or tripling under the status quo. However, while lower water rates are high on my list of priorities, perhaps even more important is reliability,” Randall said, noting the city’s single source water system has no backup should the city experience another drought.

“When the deal is done, the city’s customers will have their water provided by one of the most robust water systems in the entire country. That is truly a win-win outcome for everyone.”

**UNDER THE AGREEMENT** that will be considered by the Fairfax City Council on April 9, the city will sell most of its water assets to Fairfax County affiliated Fairfax Water. These assets include the water production facilities and reservoirs in Loudoun County (“Goose Creek”), the transmission line that brings water to the city limits and the city’s distribution facilities, which include the lines that deliver water throughout the city and nearby Fairfax County to homes and businesses.

The approximately 21,000 city citizens and 21,000 county citizens who now purchase their water from the city will then become customers of Fairfax Water and will no longer pay their water bills to the city.

Over the past year, the city has been considering several options. The so-called “wholesale option” would be for the city to shut down and sell its Loudoun County facilities but keep its distribution system within the city and nearby portions of the

SEE WATER, PAGE 5



# 'It's All About Our Children'

## Parents discuss three school-boundary scenarios.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he goal of the Fairfax High/Lanier Middle School boundary study is to remove 300 students from Fairfax and 150 from Lanier and send them elsewhere to relieve overcrowding at those two schools. But how best to do it has not yet been decided.

So more than 200 people came to Lanier's cafeteria last Wednesday, Feb. 20, to learn more about the three boundary scenarios proposed and express their opinions about them. Centreville and Chantilly residents also attended, because the changes will affect many of their children, too.

High schools in the boundary study are Chantilly, Fairfax, Falls Church, Oakton and Woodson, plus Robinson and Lake Braddock Secondary. Middle schools in the mix are Franklin, Frost, Jackson, Lanier, Robinson and Rocky Run. No elementary-school boundary changes are planned.

At boundary meetings held Feb. 19, 20 and 26, parents received maps showing the three proposed boundary-change scenarios involving schools with attendance areas contiguous to Fairfax High and Lanier. They also received charts listing the high schools and middle schools in the boundary study, plus information about their building capacities, current enrollments and 2014-15 and 2017-18 projections.

They then discussed each scenario in small groups at their tables and rated each one according to how well it reduced overcrowding at Fairfax and Lanier and improved the enrollment balance in the region. They also got to tell what factors influenced their decision.

"It's all about our children," said parent Bernie Feord at his table, Feb. 20. A Penderbrook resident and parent of a son at Fairfax High, he added, "It's also about all of us as Fairfax County taxpayers."

**DISCUSSING OPTION A**, he didn't like the attendance "island" it created by sending students in the middle of Robinson's attendance area to Woodson. Jennifer Willey, who lives in Fairfax Villa, was also opposed to that option, saying, "It splits Fairfax Villa Elementary. Some children from there would go to Frost and some to Lanier, which is pretty random."

However, parent Cleve Davis said both Options A and C get rid of Greenbriar West Elementary's split feeder system, sending all its grads to nearby Rocky Run Middle, instead of some there and some at Lanier. His daughter's a Chantilly High freshman and his son's a GBW sixth grader, but the Davises' own boundary change may affect them more than the FCPS changes.

"We're moving from Greenbriar to the Monument Drive area in Fair Lakes," said Davis. "We were hoping our son would go to Lanier, but he'll be in middle school for the first time, so it should be OK. We have three older kids who went to Rocky Run and loved the school, so we wanted to stick with what we know."

"Our daughter would go to Fairfax High according to the boundaries, but we'd love her to be able to stay in Chantilly and graduate with her friends," he continued. "It's tough to move a kid in high school."

Neither Feord nor Willey liked Option C. Under this scenario, the Penderbrook and Fairfax Farms

areas of the Waples Mill Elementary attendance area would shift from Lanier to Franklin Middle and from Fairfax High to Oakton High.

"So people who live next to Lanier would have to drive in rush hour to Franklin," said Feord. "Option C exceeds the 300 [students to remove from Fairfax High], but affects a lot more families."

Agreeing, Willey said, "Option C seems more disruptive and is just not fair. I feel like [the school system] put two oddballs, A and C, out there so we'd all choose B."

"We all think Option B makes the most sense," added Feord. "It keeps the Fairfax Villa kids together and gets rid of the Woodson island in the midst of Robinson. It lowers the overcrowding by moving more kids from Fairfax and Lanier and seems to affect the least amount of kids."

Willey worried that her daughter, a Fairfax Villa sixth grader, might go to middle school at Lanier with one group of children and "potentially a whole other group in high school," if she were later diverted from Fairfax High to Woodson. But under all three options, she'll go from Lanier to Fairfax.

Diane Birch of Fair Lakes Glen has two daughters, one's in eighth grade at Lanier and one's a Fairfax High sophomore. "I just want to keep them where they are," she said. "We always knew they were going to Fairfax High and, no matter what plan is picked—[by the time it goes into effect]—it doesn't look like they'll change."

But Birch also has a son in sixth grade at St. Timothy Catholic School in Chantilly and he could be affected by a boundary change. "If he's going to [go to] Lanier for two years and then to Fairfax, I'd be happy," she said. "But if they said he was going to Rocky Run and then to Chantilly High, I'd keep him in St. Tim through eighth grade so he wouldn't have to go to two middle schools [Lanier and then Rocky Run]."

Pleased with all the boundary options was Silvia Vizcarra of Fairfax's Oak Marr community. She has a sixth grade son at Providence Elementary and an eighth grade daughter at Lanier. "None of the options affect our neighborhood, so we're very happy," she said. "Our children will go from Lanier to Fairfax."

But Willey said many local schoolchildren will have to deal with more than their share of boundary changes. "Several families we know will have gone to three different schools during three years—from Lanier to Fairfax to Woodson," she said. "So those children who are eighth graders now need an option to go directly from Lanier to Woodson."

Gary Chevalier is the retired, former director of FCPS Facilities Planning Services, and is consulting with staff on the new boundary proposals. At last week's meeting, he told Feord, "I don't think this is set in stone. If you want this phased differently, tell them."

**MEANWHILE, AT ANOTHER TABLE**, parents there favored Option C. Christina McDonald has a fifth grade daughter at Willow Springs Elementary, a seventh grade son at Lanier and a daughter who's a freshman at Fairfax.

"We're happy because all three options keep my kids at Lanier and Fairfax," she said. "We just don't want some last-minute option coming in and changing things. Option C gives the most relief to the schools and eliminates split feeds at Waples Mill and GBW, plus the Woodson attendance island. And from the comments at our table, people at GBW want to change to Rocky Run and Chantilly; they don't want

SEE BOUNDARIES DISCUSSED, PAGE 5



Parent Jennifer Willey (seated) makes a point while (from left) Gary Chevalier, Sherry Witsman and parent Cleve Davis listen.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## The Three Boundary Proposals

Option A: Minimum movement of students. This plan:

- ❖ Reassigns the Greenbriar West Elementary attendance area east of Stringfellow Road from Lanier Middle to Rocky Run Middle and from Fairfax High to Chantilly High. It eliminates the split-feeder assignment for GBW.

- ❖ Reassigns the portion of Fairfax Villa Elementary's attendance area south of Route 29 from Lanier to Frost Middle and from Fairfax High to Woodson High. It creates a split-feeder assignment for Fairfax Villa Elementary. The AP assignment for these students would change from Rocky Run to Frost.

- ❖ This option reassigns 224 high-school students in 2014-15 and 290 in 2017-18. In those same years, it reassigns 48 and 128 middle schoolers, respectively.

Option B: Balances school capacities. This plan:

- ❖ Reassigns all Fairfax Villa students from Lanier to Frost and from Fairfax High to Woodson. These AP students would switch from Rocky Run to Frost.

- ❖ Reassigns the Fairfax Station, Fairview Woods and Fairfax Manor portions of Oak View Elementary from Frost and Woodson to Robinson Secondary. This change would eliminate a middle and high school attendance island in the middle of Robinson's boundary area. These middle school AP students would shift from Frost to Lake Braddock Secondary.

- ❖ This option reassigns 367 high school students (253 from Fairfax High) in 2014-15 and 485 students

(332 from Fairfax High) in 2017-18. In those same years, it also reassigns 72 and 194 middle schoolers (55 and 156 from Lanier), respectively.

Option C: Maximum relief for Fairfax/Lanier; maximum movement of students. This plan:

- ❖ Reassigns the Penderbrook and Fairfax Farms areas of Waples Mill Elementary from Lanier to Franklin Middle and from Fairfax to Oakton High. This change eliminates a Waples Mill split-feed.

- ❖ Reassigns GBW students east of Stringfellow Road from Lanier to Rocky Run and from Fairfax High to Chantilly. This change eliminates a split-feed for GBW.

- ❖ Reassigns Fairfax Villa students south of Route 29 from Lanier to Frost and from Fairfax High to Woodson. This change creates a Fairfax Villa split feed. These AP middle schools would shift from Rocky Run to Frost.

- ❖ Reassigns the Fairfax Station, Fairview Woods and Fairfax Manor portions of Oak View Elementary from Frost and Woodson to Robinson Secondary. This change would eliminate a middle and high school attendance island in the middle of Robinson's boundary area. These middle-school AP students would shift from Frost to Lake Braddock Secondary.

- ❖ This option reassigns 456 high-school students (326 from Fairfax High) in 2014-15 and 712 (458 from Fairfax High) in 2017-18. In those same years, it also reassigns 93 and 233 middle schoolers (76 and 195 from Lanier), respectively.



# NEWS

## City to Sell Water Assets

FROM PAGE 3

county. Under that option, the city would purchase water at wholesale from Fairfax Water and rebrand it into Fairfax City water that could then be distributed by its own utility department employees to the city's existing customers through its own distribution facilities. This would allow the customers to share Fairfax Water's economies of scale for water treatment, but its distribution costs would still be significantly higher because the city's distribution system is so much smaller than that of Fairfax Water.

**"This is a historic decision that needs to be made with the community fully informed and involved."**

—City of Fairfax Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne

The "retail option," the option that Silverthorne and the city council would like residents to approve, is for the city to essentially sell its water system—lock, stock, and barrel—to Fairfax Water, which would take over all water production, transmission, and distribution functions to deliver its water to the city's existing customers. The city's existing customers would then pay the same water rate that Fairfax Water charges its Fairfax County customers, joining the hundreds of thousands of Northern Virginia

residents who already enjoy the lowest water rates in the metropolitan region.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman, Sharon Bulova, said the city's decision was a "win-win resolution to the provision of water for both city and county residents who currently receive their water from the city's system."

"Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax have a long history of working together positively on initiatives that benefit our respective communities. One example of this collaboration is construction and operation of the Fairfax City Regional library. We believe this arrangement to improve service and reduce water rates is another example of this positive relationship," Bulova said.

If City of Fairfax residents agree to become Fairfax Water customers, one chapter of Northern Virginia's "Water Wars"—which has embroiled four local governments, powerful politicians, high-level bureaucrats, high-priced legal teams, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a billion-dollar utility company—may be at a close.

## Boundaries Discussed

FROM PAGE 4

to drive to Fairfax."

Ayla Wells, who has children in first, fifth and sixth grade at Willow Springs, asked Chevalier when the new high school would be built. He said there's some money for it but, "Right now, we can't find a [building] site."

Wells said her primary boundary worry was that her neighborhood, Fairfax's Brentwood Farm community, would get split up by Braddock Road or the Fairfax County Parkway. "If we had to move, we wanted our kids to move through all three schools together," she explained. "We think Option C is best because it alleviates the most overcrowding."

But Bill Muras of the Fairfax Villa community was uneasy. He has two daughters at Fairfax Villa Elementary and a son at Lanier. "My biggest concern is

that they don't move us now to Woodson and then to somewhere else later when a new high school is built," he said. "And our community is so closely associated with Fairfax City that we wanted our children to stay with the geographic city kids."

Eric Kravchick of Fairfax's Ashton Wells community was happy, but concerned that things could change, "Because we've seen it happen." He has a fifth grader at Colin Powell Elementary, a seventh grader at Lanier and a junior at Fairfax High.

"Colin Powell goes to Lanier and Fairfax, and we think our children who started in that program should finish in it," he said. "Otherwise, they'd have to leave their friends. We thought C would be best because it made the most change and then FCPS wouldn't have to do it again—at least, for awhile."

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# OPINION

## All's Well That Ends Well

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



totally resolve our transportation congestion, it does provide money for mass transit and \$300 million towards the cost of the Silver Line that will help to keep the tolls down.

There are aspects of the omnibus transportation compromise that I do not like. The charging of

a \$100 per year fee for hybrid vehicles—because their fuel efficiency reduces the gas tax collected on them—is in conflict with policies we should be adopting to encourage the use of such cars. The planned reliance on the tax on internet sales that has yet to be passed by the U.S. Congress is open to question although there is a mechanism for making up for lost funds if the tax is not enacted.

Equaling the transportation bill in importance was a compromise approved in the closing

hours of the session that opens the way for the expansion of the Medicaid program in Virginia to provide insurance for about 400,000 individuals. Governor McDonnell had opposed passage of the Affordable Care Act and had refused to go along with accepting an expanded Medicaid program until reforms were put into place. The compromise bill establishes a joint committee of legislators who will approve Virginia's entry into the program as soon as certain reforms are made. It is expected that the state could enter the program as soon as the summer. Thanks to the many persons who called and wrote to the conferees and the governor; your voice did make a difference.

As is the case with most legislation, the final results are compromises. What was reassuring about this session that I had not seen in recent years was a willingness on the part of the majority to compromise with those of us in the minority. That made for an outcome that was better for everyone. I will be writing about other outcomes of the session in future columns and will be holding public meetings to report back to you.

**N**ot only did the 2013 session of the General Assembly end on time last Saturday, but it also ended on a high note. Having sat through a couple of decades of failed efforts to pass meaningful legislation addressing our transportation needs, I was not optimistic that we would be successful this year. The governor's proposal to fix a billion dollar problem with a revenue-neutral solution did not give me much hope. I was both amazed and delighted when the House passed a transportation funding bill by a vote of 60 to 40 that provides new revenue to meet road and transit needs. In addition to providing new money, the bill also addresses other problems by switching the gas tax from a per gallon amount to a percentage to help it keep up with future needs. The bill also provides for additional monies to be raised in Northern Virginia and spent in our region. While the bill will not

**GUEST EDITORIAL**

## Creating Safer Environment, Preventing Another Tragedy

BY TIMOTHY D. HUGO  
STATE DELEGATE (R-40)

**A**fter the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007, I became committed to addressing mental health issues so that many of our young people could receive the help they need in the hopes of preventing another tragedy. Working with my colleagues in 2008, the Virginia General Assembly enacted comprehensive mental health legislation including several pieces of legislation that I co-sponsored. Last year, the governor signed my legislation, HB 1075, which requires community service boards to provide hospitals with informational materials on substance and alcohol abuse services to minors.

During this year's General Assembly session, I introduced HB 1609, which strives to improve the coordination between public four-year higher education institutions, mental health facilities, and local hospitals. I introduced this legislation at the request of



Centreville residents, Angel Fund President Lu Ann McNabb and Board Member Greg Richter. Angel Fund ([www.angelfundva.org](http://www.angelfundva.org)) was established in honor of one of the Virginia Tech victims, Westfield High School graduate Reema Samaha. The fund seeks to create an atmosphere of acceptance

where schools and communities have a caring, supportive, and inclusive environment to help young people.

HB 1609 ensures that all four-year public colleges and universities have mechanisms in place in order to expand services available to students seeking treatment. Specifically, it allows universities and community services boards to work together so that there is notification when a student is involuntarily committed, or when a student is discharged from a facility and he consents to such notification.

During the bill's hearings,

Virginia's universities unanimously testified in support for HB 1609. As this article goes to print, my legislation, along with Senator Chap Petersen's identical legislation, is before the governor for his signature.

I believe that ensuring the mental health of our children is of the utmost importance. This year's legislation is important as it will strengthen the connection between higher education institutions and mental health facilities. It will also create a safer and more supportive environment for students and may help to prevent future tragedies.

If you would like additional information on this issue, please contact me at 703-815-1201 or [delthugo@house.virginia.gov](mailto:delthugo@house.virginia.gov).

## How I Got My Dog

BY ELLEN FOX

**W**e had been looking for a new dog for close to 10 years—I would occasionally stop at the animal shelter or at a rescue group set-up—but I really didn't know how to pick out a dog, so I just didn't. Our previous dogs had basically just fallen into our laps by differing circumstances.

When I heard that my waiter

where I frequently eat lunch had dropped dead of a heart attack while out running with his dogs, I immediately said that I would take both dogs, sight unseen. I knew that the pets of deceased owners were frequently just taken to the shelter. However, I was told that his ex-roommate had taken both dogs, was keeping one, and that he had given the other one to a girl who would be attending college in Richmond in the fall.

A year later, at the beginning of May 2012, I heard that the girl in Richmond had loaded up the dog and all her belongings (bed, leash, dish, etc.) and taken her to the Richmond Animal Shelter at the

beginning of February, three months before. I thought, oh no, the dog wouldn't still be alive at a shelter after three months if no one had adopted her. I got back to my office as soon as possible and saw there was more than one animal shelter in Richmond. I didn't even know what she looked like, but the first one I pulled up had a dog by her name. I called the adoption coordinator, and it was her! That was a Tuesday, and I filled out the adoption application and provided references. I went to Richmond on that Saturday and we brought home our new dog, who had also fallen into our laps!

She keeps my parents, who are in their late 80's, company during the day. My mother wanted me to write this because she can't stop marveling that Luna had sat in the shelter for three months and no one had taken her since she is extremely smart, well behaved, and practically perfect in every way. I think she was waiting on us (and our thanks to the Richmond Animal Shelter and its wonderful coordinator who gave her the chance to find a new home).

—Ellen Fox has been a Burke resident since 1980, and is a Springfield native who works in McLean.

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## Police Say: Lock, Take, Hide

City of Fairfax Police are reemphasizing the importance of taking simple precautions to prevent thefts from parked vehicles. Recently, many unlocked vehicles parked in the Cobbledale neighborhood were entered during the overnight hours, and easily visible items such as GPS units were stolen from several of them.

People parking vehicles in both residential and commercial areas of the city are encouraged to always lock them and take the keys and their belongings with them. If valuables are to be left in the vehicle, hide them out of view. These measures will help prevent the vehicle and its contents from becoming the target of thieves.

## Donate Old Cars to Police

The Fairfax County Police Department is looking for vehicles in working condition that people no longer want or need and would be willing to donate. They could help their public safety community and receive a tax deduction at the same time.

Every year, the department uses about 20 cars to help train and prepare officers for the rigors of police work.

Nothing will go to waste and the valuable contribution will serve many constructive purposes. For more information on how to donate vehicles or to ask questions, contact MPO Tom Beckman at the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, 703-818-1924.

## Fairfax County License Plate

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Pat Herrity's (R-Springfield) plan and design for a Fairfax County license plate. Besides allowing residents to show pride in their community, proceeds from the license plates' sales will go to the World Police and Fire Games, which the county is hosting in 2015.

Afterward, from 2016 on, continued proceeds will go to Visit Fairfax to bolster its advertising and help increase tourism to bring valuable, out-of-state dollars into the local economy. Visit Fairfax is currently on its way toward meeting the 350 pre-signed applications threshold to make this Fairfax County plate a reality. The plates may be pre-ordered now at <http://www.fxva.com/plates/>.

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Jonathan Fernandez plays with Kristy, who the family adopted in July of 2007.



Owen Joyce's cat, Stevie, is now 2 years old.



Bridget Kennerley walks with her dog Saki, who now accompanies her to most places and is always by her side when she is at home. Bridget said, "She sleeps next to my bed, sits there when I'm brushing my teeth and cleaning my room ... saying goodbye to her this August is going to be horrible."



Halle Kaufax, Sharon Bulova, Lou DeFalaize and Sam, Matthew Kaufax.

## Best of Friends

"Last year, Matthew and Halle Kaufax took on a school project to foster a litter of kittens and ultimately find them homes. My husband Lou and I decided to adopt our new cat, Sam, from the litter. We were worried about what kind of companion Sam would make to our other cat, Frodo. They didn't get along at first but they have become the best of friends!"

—CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA,  
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Sam and Frodo

# Meet Area Families' 'Best Friends'

BY ANAGHA SRIKANTH  
THE CONNECTION

When Guiding Eyes for the Blind dropped off Saki at Bridget Kennerley's house, they made sure to tell her what to expect from the young golden retriever on that first night. What they couldn't tell her, however, was

how different her life would be every night after.

"It was interesting at first, especially before she was trained," said Bridget. "I would have to hold her up and sprint downstairs before she had an accident at three in the morning."

After attending foundation training classes every week for the first few months, Bridget and Saki now attend the next level of classes every other week. This past December Saki was one of the youngest dogs in the region to become a jacketed guide dog, meaning Bridget can now take Saki with her into public buildings, restaurants, church and even out on the family boat.

"We want to expose her to every possible situation a blind person could take her into," said Anne Kennerley, Bridget's mother.

The Kennerleys' ultimate goal is to

have Saki get through the formal training and pass the test this August to become an official guide dog for people with visual disabilities. Anne said the reason they chose to work with Guiding Eyes for the Blind was that the non-profit organization gives the guide dogs up for free to those in need.

"It's amazing how many people are involved in this," Bridget said. "We met a referee at an ice hockey game, a couple at the ski lodge, a lady on the metro ... it's an experience you can bond over with people from all over the area."

RUDY FERNANDEZ doesn't consider himself much of a pet lover.

"Except for Kristy. She's a good dog," he said, smiling fondly in the bluetick coonhound's direction. After giving in to his children's requests for a dog, he decided to adopt one from a rescue shelter. The moment he saw Kristy, he decided she was the right one.

"She's very easy-going and doesn't require a lot of attention. She loves to stretch out in the sun and probably sleeps about 18 hours of the day," he said, laughing.

Rudy said she'll often disappear upstairs with his son Jonathan who plays with her in his room, inventing games and adventures.

Jonathan piped in, "I like spending time with her. But she's got a sad look in her eyes."

Kristy was found in West Virginia, where she had a litter of puppies, and was rescued from owners who had mistreated her. Rudy said she still shakes a lot and is easily startled and scared by little things.

Her past hasn't changed her hound nature though and even now if the Fernandezs leave the door open she takes off, sniffing out a path until the family organizes a neighborhood search to find her. No matter how lost she gets, however, they always manage to bring her safely back home.

WHEN HER DAUGHTER LEFT FOR COL-

LEGE, Gail Glover began sending her a picture of their cat Stevie every day. Inspired, her son Owen Joyce began tweeting a daily picture of the cat under the trend '#dailycatpic.'

"She's so cute you can put a picture on twitter and get a minimum of three favorites," Joyce said, half-joking and half-serious.

Internet celebrity aside, Stevie is a constant source of entertainment for the family, who adopted her from a friend in May 2011. All she carried with her was her name, the result of a case of mistaken gender, just as her mother's—Dave—and grandmother's—Johnny—had been. Al-

though she was just a kitten then, she learned quickly.

"At first she didn't know how to go to the bathroom in the litterbox, but just like the expression 'copy-cat,' you only have to show her what to do and she copies it," Glover said.

Joyce said he finds Stevie's nature entertaining, both for her and himself. If they shine a laser pointer at a wall, she breaks into a gallop as if she was a horse, chasing after the light all around the house and even into walls.

"She's a funny little thing and makes us all laugh," Glover said. "She just does goofy stuff all the time."

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# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/FEB. 28

**Chocolate Lovers Festival Spirit Night.** 5-8 p.m., at the Chick-fil-A, 9509 Fairfax Blvd. The Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee (CLFC) and the Chick-fil-A at Fairfax Circle are partnering to raise funds in support of the 2013 festival; when the Chocolate Lovers' Festival is mentioned during an order, 20 percent of the purchase goes to support 2013 CLFC grant recipients. [www.cfarestaurant.com/fairfaxcircle](http://www.cfarestaurant.com/fairfaxcircle).

**Fifth Annual Empty Bowls.** 6-8 p.m., at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Proceeds benefit Our Daily Bread's efforts to provide food, financial assistance and financial education programs and related service to needy individuals and families. Advance: \$30; at the door: \$35; children: \$10. [www.odbfairfax.org](http://www.odbfairfax.org), [info@odbfairfax.org](mailto:info@odbfairfax.org) or 703-273-8829.

**Esther, the Musical.** 7 p.m., at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5960 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. A musical by local playwrights Martin and Janice Landry based on the story of Esther, the secretly Jewish queen who becomes the Queen of Persia and must take a huge risk to save her people, who are to be annihilated by royal decree. Reservations. Tickets@BurkePresChurch.org.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 1

**22nd Annual Board of Supervisors Breakfast.** 7-9:30 a.m. Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a morning of networking with local business leaders, and hear from the Board of Supervisors about the issues facing businesses and citizens in Fairfax County. \$50 for paid alumni members; \$65 for alumni non-members and general public; \$30 for current LLP, LFI, and ELI classes. 703-752-7553.

**Esther, the Musical.** 7 p.m., at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5960 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. A musical by local playwrights Martin and Janice Landry based on the story of Esther, the secretly Jewish queen who becomes the Queen of Persia and must take a huge risk to save her people, who are to be annihilated by royal decree. Reservations. Tickets@BurkePresChurch.org.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 2

**Fairytales at the Library.** 2-3:30 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax.



**"Treatise,"** by Lynn Goldstein, who turns a new page on artwork to remember the Holocaust. European books are used in an interactive art installation to draw viewer's attention to the reality of the devastation.

## Fairfax Station Artist in JCCNV Exhibit, Resistance Through Art

Lynn Goldstein's work is part of the JCCNV exhibit Resistance Through Art, on view from now through April 15 at the Bodzin Art Gallery, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, with a reception on Sunday, April 7, from 5-8:30 p.m. The exhibit is sponsored by the JCCNV and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington. Goldstein's work is symbolic of the "everyday that was taken away from 6,000,000 people" in the Holocaust. [www.lynngoldstein.com](http://www.lynngoldstein.com).

Enjoy fairy tales by Gary Lloyd and music with Cody & BJ.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/).

**Let's All Be Green.** 3:30 p.m., at the City Of Fairfax Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Cody & Bj's music show for children 2 to 10 years old; songs about keeping the Earth clean with interactive musical activities. 703-293-6227, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/).

**Esther, the Musical.** 7 p.m., at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5960 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. A musical by local playwrights Martin and Janice Landry based on the story of Esther,

the secretly Jewish queen who becomes the Queen of Persia and must take a huge risk to save her people, who are to be annihilated by royal decree. Reservations. Tickets@BurkePresChurch.org.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 3

**Triple Negative Breast Cancer Day.** 8:30 a.m.-noon, at Starbucks, 12599 Fairlakes Circle, Fairfax. A silent auction and 50/50 raffle for the benefit of the Triple Negative Breast Foundation, to increase cancer awareness of untreatable triple negative breast cancer and research. 703-203-8690 or



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# Local Leaders Praise Transportation Funding Bill

State Senator Chap Petersen wants you to curb your enthusiasm.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

**P**olitics makes strange bedfellows, and sometimes estranged ones as well.

On Saturday, the last day of the Virginia General Assembly, state legislators struck a bipartisan 11th hour deal to pass a comprehensive transportation funding plan—the first long-term plan in 27 years.

Republican Governor Robert McDonnell, who received credit for hammering out the “compromise” legislation, declared passage of the bill “a historic day in Virginia.”

“There is a ‘Virginia Way’ of cooperation and problem solving, and we saw it work again today in Richmond,” McDonnell said in a statement Saturday.

The proposal, financed largely by higher sales and car taxes, is projected to raise more than \$3.5 billion for roads and rails over five years and nearly \$900 million annually after 2018. Northern Virginia would get hundreds of millions from the state, including



**Sen. Chap Petersen confers on the Senate floor with a colleague in Richmond on Monday, Feb. 18. Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) is sitting to Petersen's right.**

\$300 million committed to complete Metro's Silver Line extension to Dulles International Airport.

Many local leaders—Republicans and Democrats alike—applauded the package as a “win” for Northern Virginia.

Supervisor John Cook (R-

Braddock) said he was “thrilled” at the additional funding for Northern Virginia.

“Money in this bill will also help finish the Dulles Rail project, alleviate congested roads and ensure existing infrastructure is properly maintained,” Cook said. He added



**Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) discusses an upcoming bill on the House floor of the Capitol in Richmond on Monday, Feb. 18.**

that he's spoken with numerous voters in town halls and neighborhood meetings, and one of the top concerns has been the deteriorating condition of Fairfax County's roads and increased congestion.

“With this bill, we're one step closer to significant improvement

in these areas,” he said.

**SHARON BULOVA**, the Democratic chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, said the bill was a “great step toward addressing the transportation challenges we face in Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia region.”

Bulova was instrumental in creating the Urban Crescent Coalition—a group of 54 mayors and county chairs of the state's 46 most populous regions stretching from Northern Virginia to Richmond and Hampton Roads. For months, the coalition has been lobbying top commonwealth leaders to adequately fund Virginia's “crumbling” transportation system.

Bulova said she was “especially pleased with the commitment of \$300 million for the Silver Line “which will help to keep tolls in the Dulles Toll Road affordable for Northern Virginia motorists.”

Both Cook and Bulova applauded the bipartisan efforts of Governor McDonnell, Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), Del. David Albo (R-42) and Del. Vivian Watts (D-SEE TRANSPORTATION, PAGE 13

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**Monday, March 4 at 7 p.m.**

The U.S. Airline Transportation System performs the amazing feat of operating over 40,000 flights safely each day. This system however is notoriously unreliable, leaving passengers stranded or delayed and costing the U.S. economy an estimated \$33 billion a year in lost productivity. In this insightful talk, Dr. Sherry exposes the complex inter-relationships among economics, regulations, and technology that have shaped this complex, adaptive transportation system, and describes the forthcoming changes that will significantly reshape the U.S. economy and demographics over the next two decades.

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**VDOT** Virginia Department of Transportation

**Vienna Metro Access Ramps**  
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Design Public Hearing

**Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 6 – 8 p.m.**  
Oakton High School Cafeteria  
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**Find out** about plans to construct a flyover ramp to provide direct access for mass transit buses between the I-66 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and the Vienna Metrorail station. This project would improve peak-hour mass transit accessibility and enhance ridership.

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**Review** project details at [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org), at the hearing, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1768, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer questions.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, a Categorical Exclusion is being prepared and will be available for review 15 calendar days before the meeting. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will also be available for review.

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **April 11, 2013** to Mr. Leonard Siegel, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [meeting\\_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference “Vienna Metro Access Ramps” in the subject line.

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UPC: 81009 State Project: 0066-029-132,P101,R201,C501,B617,B618  
Federal Project: STP-5401(773)



# Woodson Wins Region Title With Epic Comeback

**Cavaliers erase 19-point fourth-quarter deficit against Wakefield.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**W**oodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig, wearing a white shirt and a red, white and blue tie, climbed a ladder placed underneath one of the goals at Robinson Secondary School.

His black hair soaked with sweat, Craig ascended until he reached the net and made the final celebratory snip, separating twine from iron. With the net in his grasp, Craig pumped his fist in the air before descending to the court and placing the net around the neck of senior Peter Murray.

"That was fantastic," Murray said.

After three quarters of Saturday's Northern Region championship game were in the books, the likelihood of a Woodson postgame celebration appeared slim as the Cavaliers trailed Wakefield by 19 points. Woodson's shots weren't falling and the Cavaliers had been limited to a combined 16 points in the second and third quarters. With a state tournament berth already secured, Woodson wasn't faced with a win-or-go-home scenario. But as it turned out, the Cavaliers didn't need the fear of their season ending to pull off a miraculous comeback.

Woodson defeated Wakefield 75-70 in overtime during the Northern Region tournament final on Feb. 23 at Robinson. Woodson secured its first outright region championship in the school's 50-year history and provided those in attendance with a memorable performance.

**THE CAVALIERS** were down by as many as 22 points in the second half and trailed 52-33 entering the fourth quarter. Over the next 12 minutes, Woodson outscored Wakefield 42-18, including 26-7 in the fourth quarter to force overtime.

"To be honest, I think we were a bit worried, but we knew we could do it," Woodson senior Alex Boock said about the team's mindset entering the final quarter. "We knew it would be tough, but we knew we could do it."

Woodson opened the fourth quarter on an 11-0 run, cutting the Wakefield lead to eight on a Tommy Stepka bucket with 6:08 remaining. Murray's 3-pointer with 3:49 left pulled the Cavaliers within five and Boock's 3-ball 40 seconds later cut the Warriors' lead to 55-52. Each was part of a 22-3 run.

Murray made another 3-pointer with 1:20 remaining, tying the score at 59-all. Neither team would score during the remainder of regulation, sending the game to overtime.

"We just told them ... to just keep playing because we knew we could do it," Craig said. "We knew we could score a lot of points, we knew we could get hot and make some shots. We just went cold for about two quarters — we just couldn't throw it in the ocean. ...

"There's no magic potion or anything. We just kept playing hard."

Wakefield struck first in overtime on a bucket by



**Woodson senior Tommy Stepka shoots while Wakefield's Ermias Nega defends during the Northern Region tournament final on Feb. 23 at Robinson Secondary School.**

senior Khory Moore, but Woodson responded with a 3-pointer by senior guard Damian Bell, giving the Cavaliers a 62-61 advantage — their first lead since the 5:33 mark of the second quarter.

"I think they got the first basket (of overtime) and [Bell's 3-pointer] was the dagger," Murray said. "At that point, once we took the lead ... I think Wakefield just kind of crumpled up and backed down."

A free throw by Moore tied the score at 62-all, but Woodson's Stepka answered with a 3-pointer with 2:10 remaining and the Cavaliers led for the remainder of the contest.

"The bottom line is," Boock said, "we started playing the right way at the right time."

Murray and Boock each finished with 19 points for Woodson. Stepka had 12 points, and Eric Bowles had 11 and Bell each had 11.

Murray was named tournament MVP. Stepka and Boock made the all-tournament team.

Moore scored 37 points in defeat for Wakefield. Dominique Tham scored 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Each was named to the all-tournament team.

Despite Wakefield leading by 19 entering the fourth quarter, it was Woodson leaving with the "big prize." The Cavaliers lost to Lake Braddock in the Patriot District tournament semifinals, but were able to rebound with Northern Region tournament victories against Yorktown, Herndon, South County and Wakefield.

"Woodson has had a great tradition — 19 district titles in [50 seasons]," Craig said. "There's been something missing there in that region banner [but] we finally got it now."

Wakefield will travel to Richmond to face Northwest Region champion Mountain View in the VHSL AAA state quarterfinals at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28, at VCU's Siegel Center.

**WOODSON WILL FACE** Northwest Region runner-up Battlefield at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, March 1, at Robinson.

Craig said he enjoyed cutting down the net after winning a region championship. Now the Cavaliers have a shot at a state title.

"That felt pretty good," Craig said. "Hopefully we can do that again in a couple weeks."



**Robinson's Matt Fall, left, dribbles against Wakefield's Khory Moore in the Northern Region semifinals on Feb. 22.**

## Robinson Reaches Region Final Four

**R**obinson boys' basketball coach Brian Nelson wasn't pleased with the Rams' approach to their Northern Region tournament semifinal matchup with Wakefield on Feb. 22 at Robinson Secondary School. But despite a season-ending loss to the Warriors, Nelson was happy Robinson reached the region final four one year after a first-round exit.

Wakefield defeated Robinson 68-58 to advance to the region final and earn a state berth. The Rams trailed 13-10 early in the second quarter before the Warriors took control with a 19-2 run. Wakefield led by double digits the entire second half and by as many as 20 points.

Nelson gave the Warriors credit, but said the Rams helped beat themselves.

"Wakefield is a great team, but our challenge was entirely mental tonight," Nelson said. "We didn't react to the big stage the way we needed to start that game. ... We beat ourselves in the first half and it was mental. We went to the basket soft, we didn't rebound, we let them do what they wanted on offense without a whole lot of resistance from us and we re-

ally let them get comfortable.

"That was one thing that we talked about was if we allow them to get in their comfort zone we're in trouble, and they got there really quick."

Robinson junior guard Matt Fall, who was named to the all-tournament team, led the Rams with 15 points. Senior Keegan Ruddy finished with 13 points, including a trio of 3-pointers, junior Avyn Johnson had 10 points and junior Joe Bynum had eight.

Robinson ended the season with a 19-9 record and finished Concorde District runner-up to Herndon.

"I think it's an outstanding year," Nelson said. "One thing that we talk about since I've been here is every

team has outdone the previous year. Last year, we won the district, [but we] got knocked out of regionals. This year, didn't win the district, but we made the region final four. I just finished telling our returning guys a new bar has been set and your goal is to out-do what we just did this year and most importantly to learn from this experience so the next time we're back on the big stage, we know what it's like."

— JON ROETMAN

**"I think it's an outstanding year."**

**— Robinson coach Brian Nelson**



# Transportation Bill Draws Praise, Criticism

FROM PAGE 11

39) for reaching agreement on a funding strategy that “moves us in the right direction,” Bulova said.

But State Senator Chap Petersen (D-34) put the brakes on the cross-party celebrating. In a series of scathing comments and posts on his blog OxRoadSouth, Petersen called the bill “the train wreck that was the final compromise on HB 2313,” and said it may be unconstitutional as well.

“If you like discriminatory taxes against Northern Virginia, then you might like this bill. I think it’s a terrible policy,” Petersen said in an email on Tuesday.

The bill provides new revenues for transportation through increased taxes and user fees that, in many cases, are higher for taxpayers in Northern Virginia than other parts of the state. For example, under the new bill, the sales tax rises from 5 to 6 percent only in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, and to 5.3 percent everywhere else in the state.

❖ There’s also a new 0.25 percent sales tax on homes in Northern Virginia. That means an additional transfer tax of \$1,250 on the sale of a \$500,000 home, on top of capital gains tax.

❖ Virginia’s car tax rises from 3 percent to 4.3 percent, meaning a new \$30,000 car or truck will come with a \$1,290 tax bill.

❖ The 17.5-cents-per-gallon tax on gasoline, which has remained unchanged since 1986, has been replaced by a wholesale tax on gasoline at 3.5 percent. For consumers of diesel fuel, the tax rises to 6 percent. The tax will not show up at the pump when consumers pay for gasoline, but will likely be incorporated into the price by distributors.

❖ State road funds are linked to Internet tax legislation currently pending (languishing) in Congress. For Northern Virginians, the wholesale gas tax and diesel tax contain “triggers” that will cause them to rise if Congress does not authorize the state to collect sales tax on Internet purchases, which analysts say is unlikely to happen before the Jan. 1, 2015 “trigger date.” If Congress does not act on the legislation by that date, the tax will jump from 3.5 percent to 5.1 percent, increasing the gas tax to 17.85-cents-per-gallon.

❖ For Northern Virginia taxpayers, that means they are likely to be paying more in gas taxes after Jan. 1, 2015, than they are now.

❖ The local hotel tax increases 3 percent.

Revenue from the Northern Virginia-specific taxes will be locally controlled, through the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

Petersen said that’s not enough to turn a bad bill into a better deal.

He described the final deal as “a grotesque combination of tax cuts, tax rebates, tax increases, new taxes, old taxes which are phased out (and then reappear elsewhere), regional alliances ... special projects, and exceptions to all of the above.”

He asked his Republican colleagues: “Did you have to rewrite the entire code book, so you could use the fake ‘but we’re cutting taxes too!’ line on gullible voters?”

He conceded the bill will raise millions for transit, including new support for Rail to Dulles, which is “critical” for the region.

And for many commuters in Northern Virginia, that may be enough reason to embrace a long-awaited

transportation-funding package.

“This bi-partisan compromise is far from perfect, but it was supported overwhelmingly by the business community and weary commuters,” said former state delegate Margaret Vanderhye, a Democrat from the 34th district who was narrowly defeated in her 2009 reelection bid by Republican Barbara Comstock. “It contains \$300 million for Dulles Rail and a funding mechanism to allow our region to raise funds that stay here for our transportation priorities—something we tried and failed to accomplish with the 2002 referendum.”

Vanderhye said she was “outraged” that some Northern Virginia legislators would vote “no” solely based on their pledge to Americans for Tax Reform, the organization created by anti-tax crusader Grover Norquist. In the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, candidates and incumbents solemnly bind themselves to oppose any and all tax increases, and the ATR has the role of promoting and monitoring the pledge.

Since its rollout with the endorsement of President Reagan in 1986, the pledge has become de rigeur for Republicans seeking office.

Like most Democrats, Petersen staunchly opposes the ATR and its pledge. “The only pledge I will take is to my wife,” Petersen has said.

But his “no” vote on the transportation package puts him the same camp as Republican Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who did not vote in favor of the governor’s bill “as I do not believe that it is the right vehicle to address Virginia’s transportation needs. Now is not the time to increase taxes on Virginia’s hard-working families. While I disagree with the bill’s approach, I appreciate my colleagues’ efforts to solve our transportation needs,” Hugo said.

**AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM** applauded Hugo and 18 other Virginia lawmakers—including Comstock, Scott Lingamfelter (R-31), Robert G. Marshall (R-13) and David Ramadan (R-87) for “standing firm” against “a \$6.1 billion tax increase. ... These lawmakers serve as an example of what legislative leadership looks like,” the ATR said in a statement released Saturday.

Petersen said he’s unfazed by any false comparisons to those in the ATR camp, and stands by his opposition to the bill based on what he calls the bill’s “lack of vision,” the inequities to Northern Virginians and what he believes is the bill’s ultimate failure to solve the state’s transportation problems. Del. Scott Surovell and Sen. Adam Ebbins were the only other Northern Virginia Democrats to vote against the bill.

“The method for raising these funds is complicated, contradictory and will eventually create ‘two Virginias’—with differing tax rates and, ultimately, differing levels of support from Richmond,” Petersen said.

Petersen contends that any sustainable transportation funding solution should be “simple, uniform and equitable. It should stick to the historic premise that ‘the user pays’ for our highways. It should treat all taxpayers equally.”

“I’ve been told that my opposition to this plan may result in the demise of my political career. If so, I can only state, at least there’s some benefit,” Petersen quipped.

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**ABC LICENSE**  
E&J Express Food, Inc trading  
as Express 1 Food Mart, 4713  
Backlick Rd, Annandale, VA  
22003. The above establish-  
ment is applying to the  
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE  
CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine  
and Beer Off Premises license  
to sell or manufacture alcohol-  
ic beverages. Hey Jung Chin,  
President  
NOTE: Objections to the issu-  
ance 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 regis-  
tered at www.abc.virginia.gov  
or 800-552-3200.

## 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Ming Ou Yang trading as Bei-  
jing Tokyo Asian Bistro, 9544  
Old Keene Mill Rd, Burke, VA  
22015. The above establish-  
ment is applying to the VIR-  
GINIA DEPARTMENT OF AL-  
COHOLIC BEVERAGE CON-  
TROL (ABC) for a Wine and  
Beer on Premises license to  
sell or manufacture alcoholic  
beverages. Ming ou Yang,  
president.  
NOTE: Objections to the issu-  
ance 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. Ob-  
jections should be registered  
at www.abc.virginia.gov or  
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Zone 2.....Wed @ 11:00  
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**Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection  
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The Fairfax Connection  
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Lorton Connection  
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The Mount Vernon Gazette

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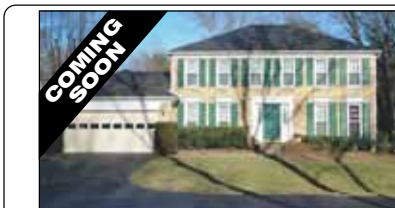


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