

Springfield CONNECTION

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Drama teachers Bernie DeLeo (West Springfield High School) and Stacey Jones (Luther Jackson Middle School) have produced plays and school news spots for Autism Awareness Month.

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2013
“Sell. Buy and Sell.”

A Beautiful Mind

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Reflects ‘Increasing Needs,
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APRIL 25—MAY 1, 2013

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Budget Reflects 'Increasing Needs, Decreasing Revenues'

Supervisors approve one-cent increase in property tax rate.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

By a 9-1 vote, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a one-cent increase in the property tax rate during its FY2014 budget mark-up session on Tuesday, April 23, which means the average homeowner will pay about \$216 more next fiscal year. The tax rate increase equals \$20.6 million in additional revenue for Fairfax County.

THE MARKED-UP BUDGET includes a real estate tax rate of \$1.085 per \$100 of assessed value, a one-cent increase from the \$1.075 rate in FY 2013. The increase is less than the

two-cent increase proposed by County Executive Edward Long on Feb. 26.

"This budget is a responsible fiscal plan that reflects our current difficult economic situation," said Fairfax County BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). "It helps to restore structural balance as we continue to struggle with increasing needs, decreasing revenues, and the impacts of sequestration and economic uncertainty."

Braddock Supervisor John Cook joined his

colleagues in supporting the "compromise" budget, the first time the Republican has voted for the budget since 2010.

"It was a tough vote. There are no good, simple answers to the position the county is in. We need economic growth to keep what we have and when it stalls out, that's a problem," Cook said after the vote Tuesday.

Cook strongly criticized the Federal Government's inaction, and noted the impact that had on the Fairfax County budget.

"We should have had an 8 percent growth in commercial real estate this year. Instead we had 0 percent. We

"We as a board spend a lot of time talking about helping people in need, I can only say that when it came time to tax them, they were sadly forgotten."

—Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)



Media and the public attend the first FY2014 budget presentation by County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. on Feb. 26.



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova



For the first time since 2010, Braddock Supervisor John Cook voted to approve the budget.



Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity was the lone dissenter in the boards 9-1 vote for the FY2014 budget.

Highlights of the package include:

- ❖ Increases the Real Estate Tax Rate by one cent, from the current \$1.075 to \$1.085 rather, than the advertised two cent increase;
- ❖ Increases property taxes by approximately \$216 on the average household;
- ❖ Closes a projected budget shortfall of \$169 million;
- ❖ Includes \$20.52 million in county agency reductions;
- ❖ Creates an \$8.1 million reserve to address the impact of sequestration and federal cuts;
- ❖ Transfers to Fairfax County Public Schools total \$1.89 billion or 52.7 percent of total county disbursements. The 2 percent increase is less than the school board's budget request, but provides funds to address their projected increase in the student population;
- ❖ Provides no increase in compensation for county employees, with the exception of longevity step increases included in the advertised budget;
- ❖ In addition, the total number of county staff positions will be reduced by 41, which includes the elimination of 83 positions, offset by 42 new positions.

wouldn't be in this circumstance if that growth had occurred. The commercial drop isn't because our businesses aren't ready to do business, it's because they are waiting for the Federal Government to do something," Cook said. "It is a bipartisan failure of the White House and Congress, of Democrats and Republicans."

Cook called the Fairfax County budget a

"true compromise."

"Not one person on the board got everything he or she wanted. In tough economic times it's important for us all to come together and craft a budget together. That's what we did this year and for that reason I voted for it."

But Supervisor Pat Herrity, one of three Republicans on the board, said the board

could have done better, adding that the one-penny increase translates into a 4.5 percent increase on the average homeowner. He noted that increased assessments for townhouse and condo owners mean those residents will see a \$700 increase in their tax bills.

"For the first time in recent memory, our citizens are seeing significant tax increases at all three levels of government," Herrity said. "Our furloughed residents do not have the option of raising revenue, they must make difficult cuts in their family's budgets and that is what we should be doing."

Herrity said that many Fairfax County homeowners are struggling as they try to navigate an uncertain future.

"I am disappointed that yet again we have balanced the budget on the backs of our homeowners," Herrity said. "We as a board spend a lot of time talking about helping people in need, I can only say that when it came time to tax them, they were sadly forgotten."

Cook said he advocated to keep the tax rate at FY2013 levels, but decided that he could be more effective working with his colleagues rather than simply voting no on any proposed tax increase.

"Had I voted no, the final rate would have been higher," Cook said. "By being involved, I was able to successfully exert some leverage on the board to help get the final rate reduced by one penny. Despite some misgivings, I believe this budget is a difficult compromise in a difficult year. That is why I supported it."

IN THE BUDGET, the board reaffirmed its commitment to work with employee groups to develop and refine an overall pay structure that invests in our workforce and helps in recruiting and retaining high quality employees.

"Our employees have continued to provide quality services to our residents with professionalism and dedication, even in the face of pay freezes and tough economic times," Bulova said. "Their efforts have not gone unnoticed by this body. The creation of a fair and sustainable compensation package for implementation in FY 2015 is a critical element in the long-term stability of the county workforce."

The Board of Supervisors will adopt the FY2014 Budget on April 30. The FY2014 Budget Mark-up as well as other background materials is posted at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

"Had I voted no, the final rate would have been higher."
—Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

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Photo by Nancy J. Olds

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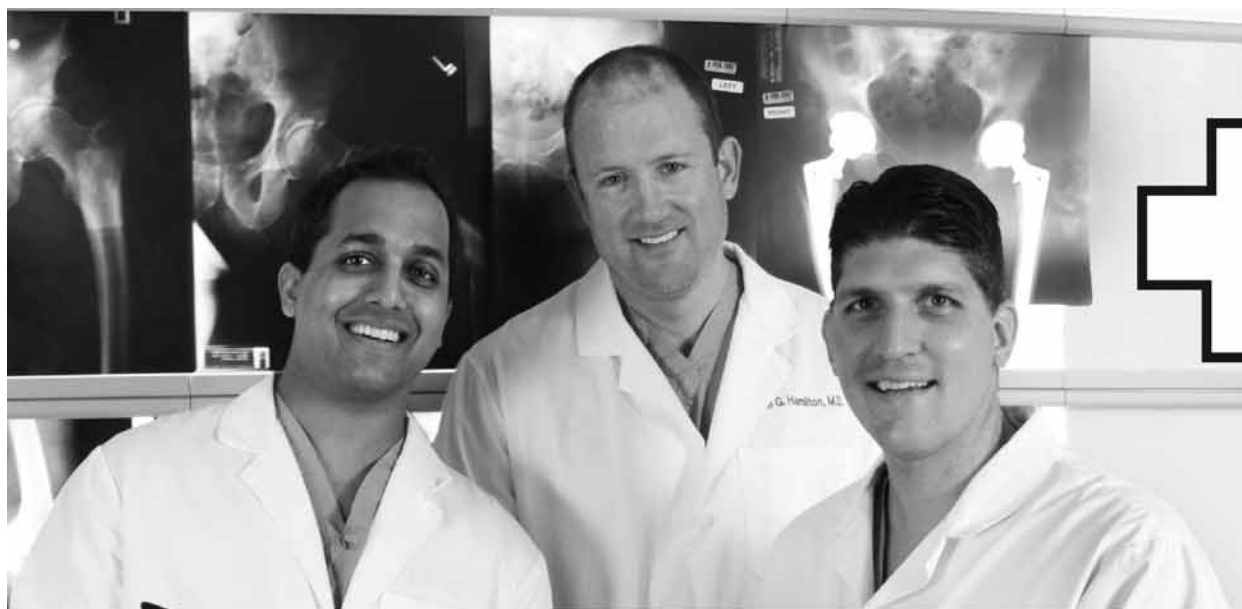
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OPINION

Connection Guide to Parks Wins ‘Best in Show’

Investigative reporting, in depth coverage, education writing, photography, art, design, sports, garner Virginia Press Association honors.

The Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association, with winners announced on Saturday, April 20, in Norfolk.

The Connection project, Insiders Guide to the Parks of Fairfax County, published in our Newcomers and Community Guides, won a top honor of Best in Show for Art. The project also won first place for informational graphics. Spearheaded and researched by Jean Card, who also designed the pages, with photography by Craig Sterbutzel and map design by Laurence Foong, Insiders Guide to the Parks led judges to say: “This is chock-full of information. It probably leaves readers with no unanswered questions. Colors and typography work well together. The down-page photo and text wrap features are nice touches.”

A multi-part series on immigration spearheaded by Victoria Ross won first place for in-depth or investigative writing. The Connection devoted multiple pages in multiple editions for multiple weeks to exhaustive reporting on immigration. “This entry clearly stood out above the rest in this category,” said judges of Ross’s work. “The author portrayed an excellent mix of data and human stories in covering all of the facets of this topic. It was obvious she spent a great deal of time working on this in-depth series. This was extremely comprehensive, well rounded and objective. This was not just reports, numbers and data but a terrific compilation of human stories, personal experiences, challenges and a great deal of hope.” See the entire immigration package at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/.

Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three awards for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division, one circulation category above the Connection papers. Nicholas Horrock won first place, In-depth or investigative reporting, for a multi-part series on Potomac Yard. “Great reporting job and extremely thorough,” said judges.

Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet, won second place also for In-depth or investigative reporting for Guns From the South. Michael Lee Pope, won third place in the same category, for Looking Behind the Numbers.

Kenneth Lourie won first place for Column Writing. Judge’s comment: “An exceptionally friendly, down-home writing style. The best of the group without a doubt.”

Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, first place, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics.

Nikki Cheshire, an intern for the Great Falls Connection, garnered a first place award for her dramatic breaking news photo, a helicopter rescue at Great Falls Park. See the award winning photo at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for public safety writing in the Centre View and sec-

ond place for public safety writing in the Fairfax Connection. Judges said: “Although the cases featured in these entries were sensational, which made them interesting in and of themselves, the writer maintained the readers’ interest by her excellent storytelling ability. The stories not only conveyed facts but also emotion. The coverage was comprehensive and thorough with no questions left unanswered.”

Alex McVeigh won first place for Education Writing, first published in the Oak Hill-Herndon Connection.

Photographer Deb Cobb won first place for an online slide show of coverage of daily patrols on the water in the Mount Vernon Gazette. See it at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/galleries and search for Daily Marine Patrols. Cobb also won first place for general news photo for her photo of “Freezin’ for a Reason,” the polar bear plunge into Lake Anne.

Mike Pope won first place for breaking news for coverage of “New Leadership at Gunston Hall.”

Pope also won third place for continuing coverage for “Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening” in the Mount Vernon Gazette, and third place for Mount Vernon Health, Science and Environmental Writing Portfolio.

The staff of Great Falls Connection won second place for overall excellence (general makeup). Judges said: “Although the tabloid format and general design has a ‘features’ feel, this is a beautiful paper. The text, use of color and section delineation makes it very easy to read and follow both news and features. All cover selections draw you in.”

Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story for Memorial Day. Judge’s comment: “A variety of great photos neatly presented helps tell the story of this important day.”

Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo Santiago Valdez. Judge’s comment: “Great Exposure.”

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing. Judge’s comment: “Think you can’t say much in two words? This entry disproves that. I particularly like ‘Bovine Intervention’ with the subhead ‘Del Ray’s Holy Cow, ACT partner for local charities.”

Louise Krafft won second place for picture story or essay for her coverage of the Mount Vernon High School graduation.

Jean Card won second place for page design in the Mount Vernon Gazette.

The Mount Vernon Gazette won second place for special section for the August Insiders Edition, Community and Newcomers Guide; and third place for special edition for the Children’s Gazette.

Mary Kimm won third place, editorial writing, for a package of education editorials.

Find all of the award-winning coverage at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, under Awards.

AWARD WINNERS

SPECIAL AWARD: BEST IN SHOW, NON-DAILY ARTWORK

❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County.

FIRST PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Victoria Ross, Springfield Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting, Immigration
- ❖ Nicholas Horrock, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Potomac Yard
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County
- ❖ Nikki Cheshire, Great Falls Connection: Breaking News Photo, Rescue at Great Falls
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Mount Vernon Gazette: Online Slideshow, Daily Patrols Take to the Water
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Reston Connection: General news photo, Freezin’ for a Reason
- ❖ Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Arlington Connection: Column Writing
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection: Education Writing, The Human Element of Learning
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection: Multimedia News Report, Secret Police
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Business and Financial Writing
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Breaking News Writing

SECOND PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Guns From the South
- ❖ Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Page Design
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Fairfax Connection: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette: Picture Story or Essay, Mount Vernon Graduation 2012
- ❖ Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story, Memorial Day
- ❖ Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo, Santiago Valdez
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Column Writing
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions: Insider’s Guide.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll and Geovani Flores, Great Falls Connection: General Makeup.

THIRD PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting: Looking Behind the Numbers
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Page Design
- ❖ Laurence Foong, The Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing; five editorials about education
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Arlington Connection: Sports Feature Photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Picture Story or Essay, Celebrating the Irish.
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Multimedia News Report, Schools in Crisis
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Feature Series or Continuing Story, Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Health, Science and Environmental Writing.
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Arlington Connection: Sports Writing.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Jean Card, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong and Stuart Moll, Alexandria Gazette Packet: General Makeup.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions, Children’s Edition.

MDDC

The Potomac Almanac, a Connection Newspaper located in Potomac, Md., competes in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and won at least six press association awards, which will be formally announced on May 17 at the MDDC Press awards luncheon. Susan Belford, John Byrd, Laurence Foong, Ken Moore (2) and Staff were named as winners.

Springfield CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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The cast of "The Other Room" poses with their new trophy for their first VHSL State Championship since 1998. Sophomores Bonnie McClellan and Will Shipley were both recognized as Outstanding Performers.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED



Did You Know ...

AUTISM

- ❖ is a developmental disability that can significantly impact communication, social skills and behavior;
- ❖ is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls;
- ❖ affects 1 in 50 children in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control;
- ❖ and is considered an urgent public health concern by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

What works:

- ❖ Early identification and treatment can significantly improve long term outlook;
- ❖ and intensive intervention, using the scientific principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA), is effective in teaching adaptive and academic skills.
- ❖ FCPS serves students with autism using ABA at the preschool, elementary and secondary levels.

(Information provided by Fairfax County Public Schools.)

- ❖ The FY 2013 budget for the ABA program is \$3,246,836, which includes funding school-based positions, professional development, support positions and allocation of instructional resources. A detailed description of budget allocations for this program can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/approved/FY13/FY2013ProgramBudget.pdf>.

For more information about Fairfax County Public School's autism services, go to the following sites:

<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ABA/FAQs.shtml> and
<http://www.fcps.edu/cco/prc/newsletter/docs/AutismAwarenessResources.pdf>.

A Beautiful Mind Powerful play takes students inside the mind of autistic teen.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In 1996, Bernie DeLeo was exactly where he thought he should be.

A former actor-turned-film producer and writer, DeLeo was living in New York City with his wife and young son. He had an agent, and had just gotten work on a sitcom—*Life's Work*—starring Michael O'Keefe.

But one weekend, while he was in Los Angeles, he got a call from his wife that irrevocably changed the course of his life. Charlie, his 3-year-old son, had been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism.

"When you hear the 'A' word dropped, you think the worst, that your child won't be able to communicate and will never live an independent life," DeLeo said.

Although behavioral therapy was beginning to emerge as the primary treatment for many forms of autism, some doctors still relied heavily on medications in the 1990s. And Asperger's Syndrome (AS)—which did not become a distinct diagnosis until 1994—was not well understood by many in the medical community.

People with AS, for example, have some traits of autism. They may have poor social skills, prefer routine and not like change. But unlike many children on the autism spectrum, children with Asperger's usually start to talk before 2 years of age, when speech normally starts to develop.

Experts now believe that adults with AS can learn to understand their own strengths and weaknesses. And they can improve their social skills.

"Charlie has a sense of humor about himself," DeLeo said. "He likes history, especially Greek and Roman history, and he uploads

facts about everything and spits them back out at you."

The DeLeos quickly learned that while specialized services were available for their son, they had to fight for them. And when Charlie was old enough to enter public school, the DeLeos decided to move back to Virginia, because of the programs and services offered by Northern Virginia public schools.

"My wife grew up in McLean and we met at Catholic University. We knew the area, and thought it would be a good fit for all of us," DeLeo said.

He and his wife moved to Falls Church, and put their son in Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.

"Charlie had a really inspiring teacher at the school, and I was spending a lot of time there, volunteering. I liked hanging with

kids. And my entertainment career was just too up and down. I thought maybe this is where I should be, teaching kids."

DeLeo thought about being a drama teacher, but he said he didn't want to be "that cynical" drama teacher.

"You know, I didn't want to be the guy who's bitter, and is like 'hey kids, forget your dreams. This business chews you up and spits

you out,'" DeLeo said in his mock scenery-chewing voice. "I didn't want to be the guy who says no."

Sometimes, DeLeo learned, life doesn't care what you want.

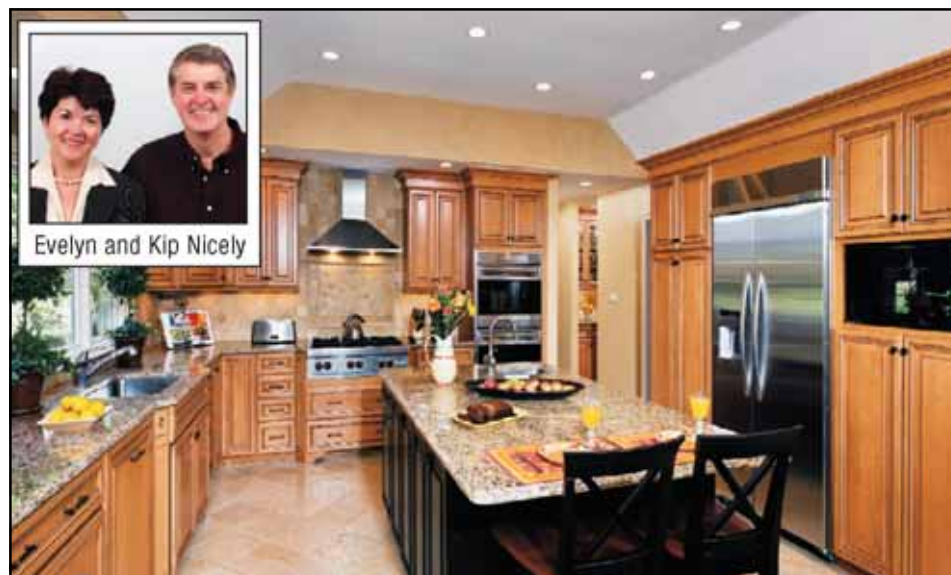
He became a special education teacher at Marshall Road Elementary in Vienna—where he taught emotionally disturbed students in a self-contained program—for

SEE PLAY, PAGE 8

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Play Highlights Autism Awareness

FROM PAGE 7

four tough years. "Being a special-education teacher was the hardest thing I've ever done. I've been hit, spit at, kicked, bit, cursed, you name it—but it was a great place to start a teaching career, working with kids who needed the most support," he said.

DeLeo transitioned to teaching drama in 2008 at Thoreau Middle School, also in Vienna, where he welcomed special education students who wanted to be onstage.

"I saw that many of these kids felt at home in drama class. It's a place where kids can express themselves and try on new identities."

In fact, Charlie, who learned he had a great singing voice, broke out of his shell when a teacher cast him in "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

DeLeo's life took another unexpected turn this year, when he became the drama teacher at West Springfield High School, following his friend and mentor Mark Greenfelder, former principal and boss at Thoreau.

DeLeo decided to tackle a one-act drama called "The Other Room," an avant-garde work that takes place in an empty classroom—and the mind of an autistic child.

"I saw it at the Kennedy Center in 2008, and was just blown away," DeLeo said. "I thought it was a good portrayal of a teenager dealing with autism, and I felt it was important to show people how autistics struggle to communicate and build relationships."

DeLeo's insight helped guide the performances of the young cast. West Springfield sophomore William Shipley plays the lead character, Austin, a brilliant teenage astronomer who happens to have autism. Student Bonnie McClellan, also a sophomore, portrays Lilly, Austin's popular classmate who happens to have an interest in astronomy.

When an after-school encounter leads to a growing connection between them, Austin's imagination, intelligence and constant struggles to connect with the world are revealed in the form of four characters who symbolize his inner life. They appear onstage behind bars,

in the cell that represents Austin's mind.

"I didn't know a whole lot about autism before this play," Shipley said. "Mr. DeLeo helped me with the gestures, like the hand-flapping. It's a short play, only about 25 minutes, but it gives you a glimpse into what it's like to be autistic or have any kind of difference."

The play was so powerful that, for the first time in 15 years, West Springfield High School won the state championship for drama last month at the Virginia High School League One-Act Competition Finals in Charlottesville.

McClellan and Shipley were both among the eight Outstanding Performers at the Virginia High School League state championships.

"We're thrilled that 'The Other Room' has been so well-received," said DeLeo.

The school presented an encore performance on Monday, April 8.

"As April is National Autism Awareness Month, I thought it would be especially appropriate to

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 9

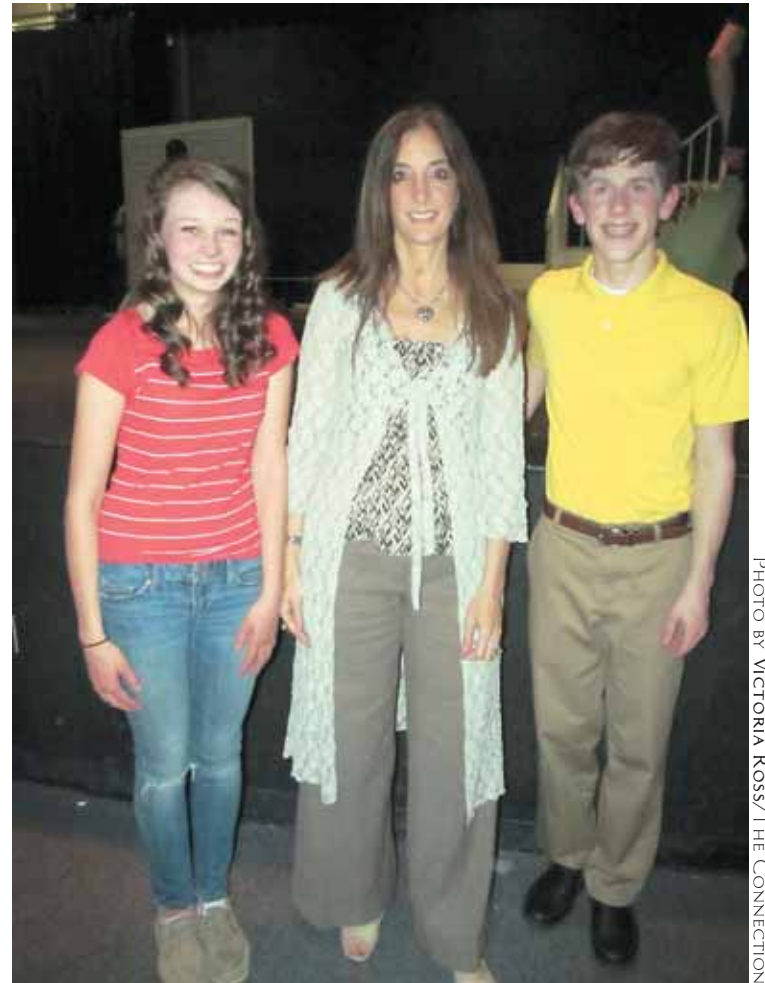


PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

WSHS sophomores William Shipley and Bonnie McClellan, who played the leads in "The Other Room," with Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), who presented WSHS director Bernie DeLeo with a certificate for winning the VHSL State Competition.

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County Addresses Autism

FROM PAGE 8

perform one last time, to help educate people about autism.”

DeLeo’s personal experiences with his son gave the young cast insight as to how to portray autism credibly onstage.

“Having lived with my son for 20 years now,” DeLeo said, “I could tell William exactly what to do when my son was stressed or stymied by an awkward social situation—and William nailed it beautifully. My son is distracted by the internal stimuli in his head—videos he’s watched, computer games he’s played—and the voice characters onstage captured that mental jumble perfectly and theatrically. I’m thrilled the play connected with audiences and that it gave them a fresh perspective about the inner life of people who struggle with this disorder.”

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

As autism awareness has skyrocketed, the disability—which experts are now calling an “epidemic”—has become a national priority.

The latest report, co-authored by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found autism spectrum disorder affects one in 50 children, well above the one in 88 number that had been used by the CDC just last year, and three times the rate the CDC found a decade ago.

According to a recent survey by the Florida Institute of Technology, nearly two-thirds of young moms and dads are concerned their child will be diagnosed with ASD.

“Since the average school bus holds 50–55 children, that means, statistically speaking, on average there is one child with parent-reported ASD on every school bus in America,” reported the National Institute of Mental Health.

The increase, experts say, is largely due to improved diagnosis of ASD by doctors or other health professional in recent years, especially when the symptoms were mild.

Along with increased awareness, the social landscape has changed dramatically for students diagnosed with autism.

Politically, autism is a hot-button issue that’s on the agenda of many lawmakers, who advocate a range of services, from respite services to mandated health insurance coverage for various therapies like applied behavior analysis (ABA).

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), whose brother-in-law has autism, has been a long-standing advocate for expanded health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder, and co-patroned several bill that address the issue.

Politics aside, most parents want to know what education services are available for their autistic child.

“Because of the size of Fairfax County, we are able to offer programs that few schools districts in the nation can provide, which help guide both students and parents through the education process,” said Fairfax County School Board member Ryan McElveen.

Fairfax County uses Applied Behavioral Analysis with Pre K-12 students. The primary objective of ABA is to prepare students with autism and related disorders to function as independently as possible.

VIEWPOINTS

On April 8, the West Springfield High School Drama Department presented an encore performance of the award-winning play “The Other Room.” We asked audience members and performers: What did you think about the play and what did you learn about autism?
— VICTORIA ROSS

Sara Astrow, Springfield

“It was incredibly powerful. It touches on the bullying aspect of high school, and how kids who are different are sometimes treated. It also teaches that although autistic children have differences, they also have the ability to connect with others.”



Sara Astrow

Barry Astrow, Springfield

“I’ve seen this play no less than six times, and each time it has a powerful impact. I think everyone can learn something about how autism affects children, especially by using the metaphor of a jail cell for the mind.”



Barry Astrow

Bonnie McClellan, West Springfield High sophomore

“I think the play teaches you to have an open mind about people who are different. We’re all different in some ways.”

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41)

“It literally brought me to tears. I think this is a play every student should see because it not only teaches students about autism, but it also deals with bullying. It opens your eyes to what really goes on inside the mind of an autistic child.”

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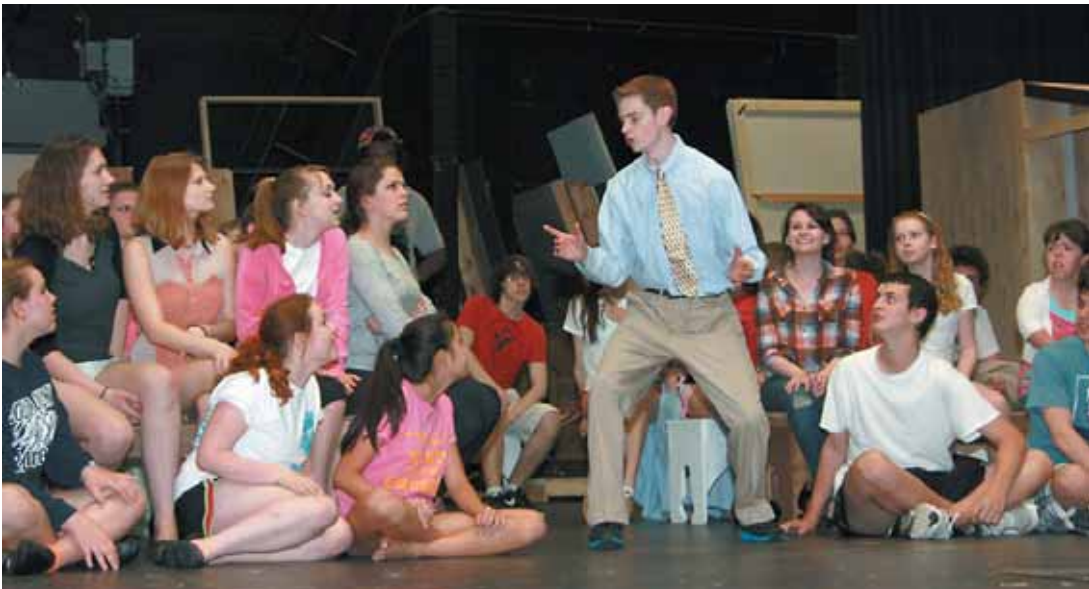
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South County sophomore Jack Gereski as Harold Hill rehearses with the cast of “The Music Man.”

‘The Music Man’ Marches Into South County High

Cast of over 50 presents the award-winning classic musical.

By TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Katie Murray, a South County High School senior and Fairfax Station resident, remembers vividly the first time she saw a rendition of Meredith Wilson's classic

musical “The Music Man.” Her younger self was home sick, channel surfing, and stumbled upon the 2003 film remake starring Matthew Broderick and Kristin Chenoweth.

“When it was done,” recalled Murray, “I felt instantly better ... for two minutes. It was just that moment, when everything was right with the world. It's one of those feel-good musicals, but it also has a lot of depth to it that you don't expect.”

Indeed, the Grammy and Tony Award-winning melodies telling the story of the slick traveling salesman Harold Hill and dubious librarian Marian Paroo have entertained generations of theatergoers. Songs such as “Seventy Six Trombones,” “Gary, Indiana,” and “Shipoopee” are lodged firmly in the tapestry of American musical history.

HILL, PLAYED BY SOPHOMORE Jack Gereski, is something of a lovable tramp, looking to make River City, Iowa another notch on his con belt. To get into character, “I have to feel really, really slimy,” explained Gereski. “I'm ripping all these people off. I enjoy it.”

Hill's standard angle is swooping in on unsuspecting townsfolk and smoothly yet swiftly plying them for money with visions of a starting up a grand and mellifluous boys band. Once payments for instruments and uniforms are in hand, Hill skips town.

However, things don't go exactly as planned in

River City, thanks in no small part to Marian, her skepticism, and her eventual change of heart. Hill is attracted to her, despite her defensive maneuvers, and begins to unveil a softer, more genuine underbelly to his character.

“I re-watched [‘The Music Man’] recently,” said senior Whitney Turner, “and it's interesting to see how well developed the characters really are, even though it seems like such a simple musical.” The Fairfax Station resident plays Marian in this production.

“It's the old idea ‘never judge a book by its cover,’” added Murray. “When you unravel the true Harold,

he's a really great guy, who really cares about this town and these kids, and wants to help them in the end.”

Where and When

“The Music Man” runs Friday, May 3, Saturday, May 4, Friday, May 10, and Saturday, May 11. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12, and \$10 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets can be purchased in advance at www.southcountytheatre.org. The Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium at South County High School is located at 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, Virginia 22079.

and South County drama teacher Kathie McCormally. “I love the big numbers; musicals are my favorite to do.”

This production is McCormally's third time directing “The Music Man” in her 33-year career of teaching theater. “Every time there are new obstacles, new challenges,” she said. Especially when the spring musical is open to the entire student body, not just drama students.

“The majority of students are from the theater department,” admitted McCormally. “But we always have new ones that come up, and I'm always surprised.”

One of those surprises was Gereski, who bagged a lead role in 2012's production of “West Side Story” as a freshman. As a drama-novice choir student, the ascent was unexpected — not unlike the turnaround in this year's role.

“The thing that sets this musical apart,” said Gereski, “is the villain is the guy everyone ends up rooting for in the end.” Whether “villain” is Hill's condition or his identity, remains open to interpretation.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lake Braddock Theatre Revisits ‘Rashomon’

Director, fight choreographer both also worked on school's 1994 production.

By TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Nineteen years ago, Lake Braddock drama teacher R.L. Mirabal and local choreographer Casey Kaleba worked together on “Rashomon,” the staged version of Akira Kurosawa's 1950 dramatic film rooted in Ryunosuke Akutagawa's Japanese folkloric stories “Rashomon” and “In a Grove.”

Mirabal, who has been teaching at the high school since the 1990-91 school year, was directing back in 1994; Kaleba, just a student at the time, played the woodcutter character.

The plot of Kurosawa's work more closely follows that of “In a Grove,” while drawing more setting influences from “Rashomon.” The film director chose to have the parable center around a dead samurai and four different accounts of not only his demise, but the rape of his wife and the involvement of a notorious criminal—all offered during a court proceeding.

The court hears understandably conflicting yarns from the thief Tajomaru (played by sophomore and Burke resident Liam Finn), the woodcutter, the husband samurai (told posthumously through a “me-

dium”—character played by senior and Burke resident Zach Newby)—and the samurai's wife (played by senior and Burke resident Sarah Beck).

“In her story, she's a liar,” said Beck about the wife character. “But she tries to show off that she's innocent. She likes to play games. It's one of the most challenging roles

Where and When

“Rashomon” plays Thursday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 3, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, May 4, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. \$11. 703-426-1000 or www.lbtheatre.com.

the DC-area theater scene. “He's a stand-up comedian with weapons,” said Mirabal, “making a living out of beating people up.”

Every two weeks during rehearsal season, Mirabal has given Kaleba a three-hour session with the cast to dedicate to the show's demanding choreography. Not only are there a number of complicated samurai katana bouts, but the two veterans have staged an epic battle to open the play and give a central set piece (the gate of Kyoto) some context.

After a motion workshop with the entire cast, Mirabal suggested to Kaleba: “What about if we do this opening segment, this onslaught murder?” The scene is one of several creative additions Mirabal has made. Others include casting entirely new characters whose lines are text taken directly from Akutagawa's original works.

These additions are “by no means long,” said Mirabal, and don't “interrupt the flow. There's a rich, beautiful description of the gate, the time period, and how people treated their dead. It's helpful to set the image of what's going on.”

“[Akutagawa's] stuff is about where we came from and what we are, in a time period when they were trying to be so modern, and so Western,” Mirabal continued. “People see this movie and forget that it's a Japanese story. They can



Sophomore Liam Finn (left) and senior Sarah Beck play-struggle during a rehearsal for Lake Braddock's production of “Rashomon,” while senior Zach Newby's character can only observe from the sideline.

put it in any time and any place. I wanted some aspect of it to be Japanese. At least I can get the original words in there.”

THOUGH MORE OR LESS REMOVED from Akutagawa's own 1920s-era Japan, his tales of deception, violence and honor contain timeless messages.

“Like for couples and relationships,” said Anna Coughlin, a junior from Burke who is the understudy for the samurai's wife. “You're trying to find fault—it re-

ally lies a little bit everywhere. You can't always pin it in one place; everyone's equally guilty. Everyone will always think they're innocent, and go to great lengths to prove it, not only to everyone else but to themselves even more so.”

“It gives the audience conflict,” added Finn. “[They have to] take sides: Maybe I think the samurai is cool, honorable, but then everything is flipped upside down. Expect the unexpected.”

And try to avoid the opening onslaught murder.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 25

Annual Spring Musical: “The Drowsy Chaperone.” 7 p.m., at the school's auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Door 6, Springfield. West Springfield High School is presenting annual musical “The Drowsy Chaperone.” \$10 for adults; \$5 students. To reserve in advance, email SpartanDramaTix@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Annual Spring Musical: “The Drowsy Chaperone.” 7 p.m., at the school's auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Door 6, Springfield. West Springfield High School is presenting annual musical “The Drowsy Chaperone.” \$10 for adults; \$5 students. To reserve in advance, email SpartanDramaTix@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Forgotten Treasures Garage Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Springfield Shopping Mall parking lot, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield. Sale includes baby items, artwork, light fixtures, clothing, shoes, and books; proceeds will be used to send books to Africa for those in need. www.fcadst.org.

Kids in the Kitchen Spring Health Fair.

10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Giant Food parking lot, Kings Park Shopping Center, 8970 Burke Lake Road, Springfield. Fitness demonstrations, interactive booths, games, a live DJ, activities and the chance to win a Wii Fit. 703-442-4163 or kirk@jinv.org.

“Tea”lightful Afternoon. 2 p.m., at the Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. This event includes a teapot silent auction of over 80 teapots from every day to high end items, a tea accessory sales room, and a tea room where you may get a bite to eat; all proceeds benefit Women's Ministries and various community outreach efforts. Silent auction bidding is 2-3:30 p.m. Reservation required. \$5. 703-451-2844 or sherrybouley@gmail.com.

Annual Spring Musical: “The Drowsy Chaperone.” 7 p.m., at the school's auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road, Door 6, Springfield. West Springfield High School is presenting annual musical “The Drowsy Chaperone.” \$10 for adults; \$5 students. To reserve in advance, email SpartanDramaTix@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

Annual Spring Musical: “The Drowsy Chaperone.” 2 p.m., at the school's auditorium, 6100 Rolling

Road, Door 6, Springfield. West Springfield High School is presenting annual musical “The Drowsy Chaperone.” This performance is ASL-

‘The Drowsy Chaperone’ At West Springfield High

West Springfield High School presents their annual spring musical, “The Drowsy Chaperone.” Show times are Thursday-Saturday, April 25, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. (this performance is ASL-interpreted for deaf/hard of hearing audiences). Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students; they're available at the door or you can reserve in advance with an email to SpartanDramaTix@gmail.com, then pick them up at will call a half hour before curtain time. The school's auditorium is located at 6100 Rolling Road, Door 6.

interpreted for deaf/hard of hearing audiences. \$10 for adults; \$5 students. To reserve in advance, email SpartanDramaTix@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 30

WSES Fundraiser at BGR. 4-9 p.m., at BGR of Springfield, 8420 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Join the Mighty Mustangs of West Springfield Elementary School for dinner and 15 percent of meal proceeds benefit the school. 703-216-2005.

Event Planning Expo Open House. 4:30-7:30 p.m., at Empire Nightclub,

6335 Rolling Road, Springfield. Area vendors share information from open exhibit stations; event-planning info accompanied by hors d'oeuvres, and music from the Washington Talent Agency & Sound Center. lori@empire-nova.com or www.empirevenueentertainment.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

The Music Man. 7:30 p.m., at the Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium, South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. A cast and crew of 50-plus South County students, many of whom made their own costumes, present the musical centered around fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill and his son of the people of River City, Iowa. \$12; \$10 for seniors and students. southcountytheatre.org.

Dinner and Movie: Mamma Mia! 8 p.m. at the W-3 Theatre located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A young woman who is about to wed is determined to discover the identity of her father; she has narrowed the list to three possible candidates—and invites them all to her wedding, unbeknownst to each of them or her mother. \$39 (includes film, dinner & soft drinks). www.workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

West Springfield Alumni Fest. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at WSHS, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. The WSHS Baseball

Team holds a festival day with a softball game, an alumni baseball game, carnival games, raffles and a silent auction to raise money for a new scoreboard; rain date is May 11. jmolms@fcps.edu.

Running Model Trains. Noon-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Cost is \$5 for adults; \$1 children. www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225.

The Music Man. 7:30 p.m., at the Dale S. Rumberger Auditorium, South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. A cast of 50 presents the musical and ode to the bygone era of Smalltown, U.S.A., centered on fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill and his son of the people of River City, Iowa. \$12; \$10 for seniors and students. www.southcountytheatre.org.

Mason Cabaret Presents: The Millennials! 8 p.m. at the W-3 Theatre, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An evening of cabaret celebrates the work of some of musical theatre's new composers including Jason Robert Brown, Joe Iconis, and Pasek and Paul. \$25 (includes planche campagne). www.workhousearts.org.

Potting Party. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Heather Hill Gardens, 8111 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Find flowers, vegetables, and herbs to plant in your own container; potting soil and fertilizer provided. 703-690-6060 or www.heatherhillgardens.com.



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REAL ESTATE

What Housing Slump?

Real estate experts explain the rise in luxury condominium sales.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When a retired couple decided it was time to leave their sprawling suburban home, they wanted to downsize without giving up luxury. As a result, they purchased a high-end condominium and hired Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design to create a serene and sophisticated space.

"The couple are retired professionals, empty nesters who lead active lives and didn't want the maintenance of a single family home," said Proxmire. "[They] wanted to blend the furniture, accessories and mementoes they had each collected. ... They wanted a home that was elegant, comfortable, and that also allowed them to lock and leave on a moment's notice."

Proxmire's clients are part of rebound in the high-end condominium market. The National Association of Realtors reports that condominium purchases are on the rise, and says that sales are 13.9 percent higher than they were at the same time last year.

David DeSantis, a partner at TTR | Sotheby's International Realty says his company has seen an increase in luxury condominium sales in the Washington region in recent months. "In the past several months we have broken records for high-end condo prices, and we recently sold the most expensive condo ever sold in the Washington region, which was \$7.5 million," he said. "We sold a number of condos at Turnberry Tower in Rosslyn [Arlington]."

COMMUNITIES LIKE the Oronoco in Old Town Alexandria; Market Street at Town Center in Reston, and Quarry Springs in

Bethesda attract those who want both luxury and convenience. "The appeal of these buildings is the fact that you've got these large apartments that are like homes except with a health club and concierge service," said DeSantis. "The close-in suburbs are good places to live. There are good stores, good restaurants and you don't have the issue of a long commute to work."

Realtors say that properties close to public transportation are in demand. "Reston is on fire. The condos are turning very quickly there because the Metro is coming," said Great Falls-based realtor Dianne Van Volkenburg of Long & Foster Companies. "Reston is one of the places where inventory is extremely limited, so you're getting multiples offers over list price."

Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group of McEneaney Associates, Inc. said, "Sales and showings for properties have really picked up across the board in Alexandria City. The Oronoco is all high-end, one-level condos near the Old Town [Alexandria] waterfront and those are selling very well."



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design decorated a luxury condominium for a retired couple who wanted to downsize after selling their suburban home. Real estate experts say high-end condominium sales are on the rise.

Bob Wulff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship and the master's in real estate development program at George Mason University in Fairfax, says there are two primary types of buyers who are drawn to condominiums. "There are first time homebuyers and move-down homebuyers who've sold their large suburban homes," said Wulff. "Move-down buyers are looking for luxury in a walk-able neighborhood that is near mass transit."

DeSantis agrees. "A big portion of those clients are the empty-nester crowd," he said. "Their kids

have graduated from college and they are looking for a lifestyle change. These people were not pinched by the recession, but it also wasn't a good time to sell their big house in suburbs."

In addition to empty nesters, DeSantis says that high-income professional singles and couples often choose luxury condominiums. "Those two groups are leading to the up-tick in sales," he said.

Walter Molony, economic issues media manager for the National Association of Realtors, says the

SEE LUXURY, PAGE 13

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

REAL ESTATE

Luxury Condos in Demand

FROM PAGE 12

boost in condominium sales is the result of a stronger economy. "It is part of the rising tide that is floating all boats," he said. "After four years of a sluggish economy that impacted people's confidence, affordability conditions have improved and people have the wherewithal and the confidence to buy. There is less inventory in the low-end market, and there are more buyers than sellers, which is driving demand up."

DeSantis said, "For the most part, the Washington, D.C., area was not hit as hard, so we're coming back faster. One of the things that we've seen in the real estate industry is that there's no shortage of people in this market who have the resources to buy high-end housing. They held off on buying while the direction of the economy ... was unclear, but people are now willing to spend the money that they've had all along."

VIEWPOINTS

Housing Market Blossoms in Area

—ANDREA WORKER

Andy Krum, ABR, GRI, CDPE/Keller Williams Realty—Reston, 703-679-1700

"This past February, the market bloomed well in advance of the cherry blossoms! Sellers are more than likely dancing on their roofs. With low inventory, prices have been climbing. Not only are most homes selling fast, lucky sellers may see multiple offers—some including escalation clauses as well. For the Reston market, the long-awaited opening of the Wiehle Avenue Metro stop later this year has not escaped notice. More buyers are looking here knowing they can avoid the Rt. 7 traffic or the toll road. Interest rates are still good, but there is competition. Buyers need to do their research and be ready to act when the right home becomes available."



Andrea Karalyos, realtor, REP coordinator, Prudential PenFed Realty—Reston, 703-716-2900

"Right now is the best time to sell or buy real estate in the Reston area. With the opening of the new Silver Line Metro approaching, we have seen an enormous increase in sales. The median sales price is up by 7.4 percent compared to last year. If your home is priced well and shows nicely you will have no problem selling. Reston is focused on the future yet still manages to stay true to its core principles of "Live, Work, Play and Get Involved."



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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 27 & 28

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

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Centreville

13605 British Manor Ct.....\$689,900..Sun 1-4.....Margo Lockard.....ERA..703-359-7800

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood..\$800,000..Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

Clifton

7242 Archlaw Dr.....\$1,075,000..Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365
12403 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$949,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer..Long & Foster..703-503-1812
12421 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$945,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer..Long & Foster..703-503-1812
12602 Clifton Hunt Dr.....\$939,000..Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer..Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Fairfax

6119 Queens Brigade Ct.....\$619,900..Sun 2-4.....Carrie Shokraei.....RE/MAX..703-297-2109

Fairfax Station

7612 Rustle Ridge Ct.....\$849,950..Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Franconia/Kingstowne

6186 Windham Hill Run.....\$619,950..Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6509 Birchleigh Way.....\$374,950..Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Lorton

9040 Swans Creek Way....\$1,050,000..Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX..703-869-4567

Springfield

7415 Jervis.....\$524,900..Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com
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HOME SALES

In March 2013, 132 Springfield homes sold between \$815,000-\$124,450. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$815,000-\$432,100 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR .	FB .	HB ...	Postal	City	Sold Price ...	Type	Lot AC .	PostalCode	Subdivision
7325 LAUREL CREEK CT	5	5	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$815,000	Detached	0.31	22150	LAUREL CREEK
7151 BARRY RD	5	4	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Detached	0.50	22315	WINDSOR ESTATES
5924 EMBRY SPRING LN	4	4	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$785,000	Detached	0.09	22315	NORTHAMPTON
6320 STILL SPRING PL	4	4	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$779,000	Semi-Detached	0.09	22315	NORTHAMPTON
7723 HUNTSMAN BLVD	5	3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$689,900	Detached	0.23	22153	LAKEWOOD HILLS
7006 DREAMS WAY CT	4	2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$619,900	Detached	0.19	22315	LAKE D EVEREUX
8988 SHADOWLAKE WAY	4	3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$615,000	Detached	0.21	22153	LAKEWOOD HILLS
6211 WINDHAM HILL RUN	3	3	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$615,000	Townhouse	0.07	22315	KINGSTOWNE
7756 NORTHEDGE CT	4	3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$577,000	Detached	0.31	22153	SOUTH RUN FOREST
6727 ANDERS TER	3	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$575,000	Detached	0.25	22151	SEQUOIA PARK
8800 AQUARY CT	5	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$560,000	Detached	0.23	22153	ROLLING VALLEY//SPR. STATION
7707 MARITIME LN	4	2	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$555,000	Detached	0.30	22153	LAKEWOOD HILLS
7606 MODISTO LN	4	3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$551,000	Detached	0.24	22153	LAKEWOOD HILLS
9145 ROCKEFELLER LN	5	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$550,000	Detached	0.27	22153	LAKEWOOD HILLS
9216 BEACHWAY LN	3	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$540,100	Detached	0.23	22153	LAKEWOOD HILLS
6433 ALLOWAY CT	4	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$535,000	Detached	0.25	22152	KEENE MILL STATION
7403 CALICO CT	5	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$530,000	Detached	0.34	22153	ORANGE HUNT ESTATES WEST
5285 BALLYCASTLE CIR	2	2	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$529,900	Townhouse	0.07	22315	KINGSTOWNE
7801 CLIFFSIDE CT	4	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$515,000	Detached	0.27	22153	SARATOGA
6629 CREEK POINT WAY	3	2	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$512,000	Townhouse	0.04	22315	ISLAND CREEK
7039 KINGS MANOR DR	3	3	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,100	Townhouse	0.07	22315	MEWS THE
7730 GREEN GARLAND DR	3	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$505,000	Detached	0.17	22153	AFTON GLEN
8325 CARRLEIGH PKWY	5	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$504,900	Detached	0.29	22152	CARDINAL FOREST
7619 KINGSBURY RD	4	2	0	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$496,000	Detached	0.28	22315	HAYFIELD FARM
7834 GREELEY BLVD	4	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$495,000	Detached	0.39	22152	WEST SPRINGFIELD
6536 KELSEY POINT CIR	3	2	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$491,000	Townhouse	0.06	22315	KINGSTOWNE
7840 DOANE CT	5	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$485,000	Detached	0.37	22152	WEST SPRINGFIELD
5617 MARBLE ARCH WAY	5	3	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Detached	0.25	22315	HAYFIELD FARM
6929 ROLLING CREEK WAY	3	2	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Townhouse	0.03	22315	HAWTHORNE
6709 DOROTHY GILES CT	3	2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$485,000	Townhouse	0.04	22315	ISLAND CREEK
7534 CROSS GATE LN	2	2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$479,000	Detached	0.10	22315	KINGSTOWNE
6322 DUNN CT	3	3	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$475,000	Townhouse	0.03	22150	JAPONICA
8431 THAMES ST	5	2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$469,000	Detached	0.47	22151	KINGS PARK
7037 FIELDHURST CT	3	2	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$466,000	Townhouse	0.04	22315	MEWS THE
6631 PATENT PARISH LN	3	3	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$465,000	Townhouse	0.05	22315	ISLAND CREEK
6642 HALTWHISTLE LN	3	3	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	\$465,000	Townhouse	0.07	22315	KINGSTOWNE
6004 SHERBORN LN	4	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$459,900	Detached	0.29	22152	CARDINAL FOREST
8120 VIOLA ST	3	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$455,000	Detached	0.19	22152	ROLLING FOREST
8012 COLORADO SPRINGS DR	4	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$455,000	Detached	0.27	22153	SARATOGA
6304 BRIDGETON CT	6	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$450,000	Detached	0.30	22152	CARDINAL FOREST
6002 MERRYVALE CT	4	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$450,000	Detached	0.28	22152	CARDINAL FOREST
7212 GALGATE DR	4	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$448,000	Detached	0.26	22153	BRAMBLEWOOD
7262 LINDEN TREE LN	3	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$440,000	Detached	0.19	22152	ROLLING VALLEY CL
8625 MADLEY CT	3	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$440,000	Detached	0.44	22152	ROLLING VALLEY
6906 EDGERTON LN	4	2	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$439,500	Detached	0.19	22150	YATES VILLAGE
5420 EASTON DR	4	3	0	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$437,050	Detached	0.30	22151	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
7336 WESTMORE DR	3	2	1	.....	SPRINGFIELD	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.05	22150	WESTHAVEN
7518 AXTON ST	3	2	0	SPRINGFIELD	\$432,100	Detached	0.30	22151	NORTH SPRINGFIELD

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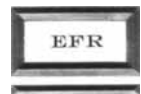
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21 Announcements

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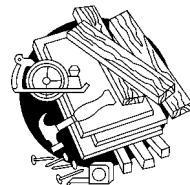
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OBITUARY

Grace Thomas, 82, Formerly of Springfield, Dies

Grace Thomas died on Friday, April 19, 2013, in Haverhill, Mass., of natural causes. She was 82. Thomas was born on June 13, 1930, in Saundertown, R.I. Formerly known as Grace Lorena Matterson, she married Walter R. Thomas in 1950. They were married for 59 years.

While her husband served 35 years in the U.S. Navy as a pilot, Thomas devoted herself to her family and to volunteer work. Volunteering was always part of her life. She was vice chairman of volunteers for the Red Cross of Newport, R.I. for which she received a commendation in 1968. She trained as a Red Cross "gray lady" (she still had the gray jacket) and worked at the State Red Cross Headquarters.

Thomas was the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Outstanding Community Volunteer of the Year for 2006. She was well known at Post 7327 in Springfield, where she worked all aspects of VFW Bingo operations and made many dear friends among her "Bingo family."

Her most rewarding experiences were her visits to the VA Hospital. She was quoted as saying, "The military is an environment that is rich with both opportunity and need for volunteer workers in so many capacities. Whenever I see a need that I am able to assist with, or if I am asked to provide support, I am happy to oblige because

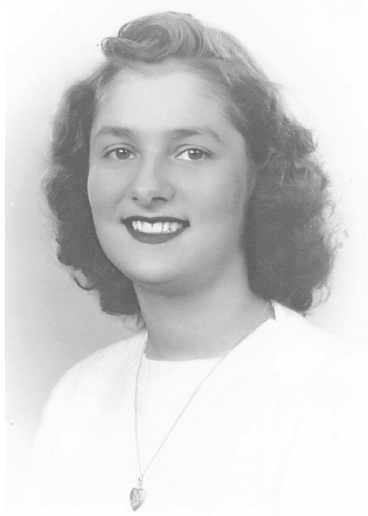


PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB THOMAS
Grace Thomas

I know my efforts are helping someone in need."

Thomas is survived by her son, Robert Thomas, her daughter-in-law, Brenda Thomas of Haverhill, Mass., her grandson Sean Thomas, and her daughter-in-law, Susan Thomas, of Ft. Collins, Colo. She is pre-deceased by her husband, Captain Walter R. Thomas, and by her son, Rick Thomas.

A visitation will take place at Demaine Funeral Home, 5308 Backlick Road in Springfield, from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1. She will be buried with her husband at Arlington National Cemetery at a date and time to be determined. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made in the name of Grace Thomas to the Cure Alzheimer's Fund, via <http://curealzfund.org/> or by mail to Cure Alzheimer's Fund, 34 Washington St., Suite 200, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481.

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FAITH NOTES

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

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 or www.fbtministries.org.

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

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service. 7300 Gary Street, Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers

Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

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

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or LaurieA@jccnv.org.

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SPORTS

South County Softball Sends Message to Lake Braddock

Stallions sophomore Yates has 4 hits, 4 RBIs.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Patriot District championship game is nearly a month away, but the South County softball team had something to prove on Tuesday.

Winners of six consecutive district titles, the Stallions entered their latest contest against Lake Braddock looking up at the Bruins in the standings. Lake Braddock, which lost to South County in last season's district final, was undefeated, had outscored its last five opponents 70-0 and beat the Stallions 7-5 during their first meeting this season on April 3.

"We knew," South County head coach Gary Dillow said, "we needed to come in and make some kind of a statement."

AFTER SEVEN INNINGS, the Stallions had sent a message: the path to the Patriot District championship still runs through South County.

Sophomore second baseman Cara Yates went 4-for-5 with four RBIs and junior pitcher Rebecca Martin tossed a three-hitter as South County rolled to a 10-1 victory on Tuesday night at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Yates' two-run triple in the second inning gave South County a lead it would not relinquish as the Stallions drew even with the Bruins in the loss column.

"It just makes a statement," Dillow said, "that we're not ready to let go of the district title yet."

Yates, who batted leadoff for South County as a freshman last season, moved down a spot in the order for the first half of



South County sophomore second baseman Cara Yates finished 4-for-5 with a triple and four RBIs against Lake Braddock on Tuesday night, April 23.



Lake Braddock third baseman Amanda Patterson swings against South County on Tuesday night.

the 2013 campaign, but recently returned to the top of the lineup. She reached base in each of her five at bats on Tuesday, April 23, including four hits.

"When you're hitting one," Yates said, "you know you have to get a hit because as a leadoff hitter, you pretty much determine the momentum of the game, so you have to get it started."

Yates led off the game with an opposite-field single to right. In the second inning, she ripped a two-run triple to center field. Yates singled in the fourth inning, reached on an error in the sixth and hit a deep two-run single to right-center in the seventh.

"She didn't look like a leadoff hitter tonight—she hit at least three balls right to the fence," Dillow said. "She's absolutely seeing the ball great right now and just really driving the ball."

Junior catcher Haylea Geer finished 2-for-4 for South County. Freshman right fielder Carley Kastner went 1-for-3 with two RBIs, senior first baseman Brittnee Haynes was 1-for-3 with an RBI and freshman left fielder Jade Williams hit a triple.

Martin earned the win in the pitcher's circle, tossing a complete game. She allowed one earned run and three hits while walking two, hitting one batter and striking out four in seven innings.

"She pitched really well," Dillow said. "I think she had something to prove. She didn't pitch real well against them the last time we played. It's probably, really, the first off-game I've seen her have in her three years here."

Martin did not allow a hit until the fourth inning, when Lake Braddock sophomore Amanda Hendrix led off with a double. Hendrix also hit a solo home run over the fence in right-center during the sixth inning, and freshman outfielder Danielle Newman had a single.

"We were definitely trying to defend the legacy we have," Martin said about the Stallions' six consecutive district championships.

LAKE BRADDOCK helped the South County cause with six errors.

"We pride ourselves on defense," Lake

Braddock head coach George Rumore said, "and [for] some reason, they just got the jitters, I guess, and they couldn't hang in there on defense."

Rumore downplayed the loss, saying it meant "nothing" in the grand scheme of things.

"We just let it go," he said. "We were 10-0 ... so we just go 10-0 again. So let's just forget it and learn from our mistakes in this game."

Junior Ashley Flesch started in the circle for Lake Braddock and allowed three unearned runs and five hits in four innings. She hit one batter, walked one and struck out two. Hendrix pitched the final three innings.

Lake Braddock fell to 10-1 overall and 7-1 in the Patriot District. The Bruins faced Lee on Wednesday, April 24, after The Connection's deadline. Lake Braddock will travel to face West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

South County improved to 12-1 overall and 8-1 in the district. The Stallions will travel to face Lee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Robinson Boys' Lax Beats Centreville

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team beat Centreville 9-8 on Tuesday, April 23, extending the Rams' winning streak to six and improving their record to 10-2 overall and 4-0 in the Concorde District.

Robinson will close the regular season at home against Chantilly at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 26. The Chargers reached the state championship game the last two seasons and three of the last four.

Fairfax Boys' Lax Wins Seven of Eight

The Fairfax boys' lacrosse team is 7-1 heading into this final three regular sea-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' lacrosse team is 10-2.

son games.

The Rebels started 7-0 before losing 14-4 to four-time defending state champion Langley on April 15. Fairfax is 3-1 in the Liberty District.

The Rebels will host Madison at 7:30 p.m.

on Friday, April 26.

Robinson Girls' Soccer to Face Oakton, Herndon

The Robinson girls' soccer team will close its regular season with games against the Oakton Cougars on Thursday, April 25, and Herndon Hornets on May 6. The Rams will travel to face the Cougars and host the Hornets.

Robinson played to a 1-all tie with Centreville on April 17, moving the Rams' record to 6-3-2 overall and 0-2-1 in the Concorde District.

Northern Region Baseball Top 10

The Madison baseball team remained atop the Northern Region top 10 and Vienna rival Oakton is ranked No. 2 in this week's coaches poll.

Defending state champion Lake Braddock is ranked No. 3, followed by Centreville (4), Robinson (5), Yorktown (6), Chantilly (7), West Potomac (8), Langley (9) and South County (10).

T.C. Williams, Stone Bridge, McLean, Westfield and Fairfax also received votes.

The Concorde District has four teams in the top 10, most among the four districts in the Northern Region. The Patriot District has three teams in the top 10, the Liberty has two and the National has one.

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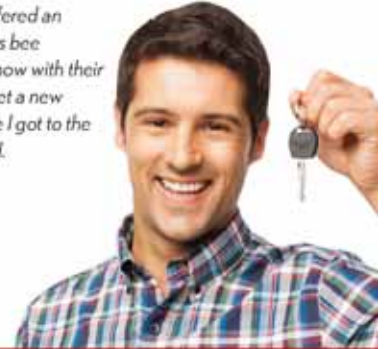
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MAGNIFICENT CUSTOM COURTYARD HOME EXUDES CASUAL ELEGANCE FOR

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Fairfax \$635,000
True center hall Colonial is beautifully updated and offers both space and convenience! This wonderful floor plan features 3 finished levels to include 5BRs, 3.5BAs, 2 FPs, multiple living-entertainment areas & walkout LL. Nice yard backing to trees on cul-de-sac. Close to metrobus, VRE, GMU, shopping & top rated schools!

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Falls Church \$615,000

Beautiful Updates in a Spacious Home. Sunny, clean 5 BR, 2.5 BA house w/2-car garage. Updated kitchen with new cabinets, granite counters and SS appliances. Updated baths, too. Freshly painted. Beautiful sunroom overlooks level lot. Easy access to East Falls Church Metro, only 2.3 miles.



Richard Esposito

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Burke Centre \$519,900

Granite and stainless kitchen for inspired cooking with adjacent family room for casual entertaining. Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths, full finished basement, screened porch and lovely landscaped yard. Walk to bus stop, minutes to VRE station. Robinson Secondary School area!

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