

Home LifeStyle

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

# Robinson Wins Conference 5

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Robinson freshman Caroline Burda placed second in the all-around and first on the beam (9.15) at the Conference 5 gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.

## Honored for Citizenship

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## Local Man Charged with Setting Fires

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FEBRUARY 13-19, 2014

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### **He's wrong.**

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Map of the work area and turning restrictions for Kenmore Drive in Fairfax.

## Kenmore Drive Lane Is Closing

City of Fairfax motorists should be aware of a lane closure on Kenmore Drive, beginning on Monday, Feb. 17. Access restrictions on this road are necessary for a water-main relocation required as part of the Chain Bridge Road bridge-replacement project scheduled to begin in late March. The changes are as follows:

- ❖ Kenmore Drive between Chain Bridge Road and Mason Street will be one way westbound. The eastbound lane in this area will be closed to traffic.
- ❖ Right turns will be permitted from Kenmore Drive onto northbound Chain Bridge Road.
- ❖ No left turns will be permitted onto Chain Bridge Road from Kenmore Drive.
- ❖ No left turns will be permitted onto Kenmore

Drive from southbound Chain Bridge Road.  
 ❖ No right turns will be permitted onto Kenmore Drive from northbound Chain Bridge Road. These restrictions will remain in place during the bridge-replacement construction.

In addition, when this bridge work actually begins, the City will implement a detour for northbound Chain Bridge Road. City residents will be notified about it in advance, prior to the bridge demolition. Until that time, Chain Bridge Road will remain open in both directions.

For more information about this project, go to [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) or contact Ben Lineberry at 540-414-5440 or Peter Millard at 703-246-6330 or [peter.millard@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:peter.millard@fairfaxva.gov).

## Fairfax Council Takes Care of Business

Deals with broken gas line, transportation issues.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Transportation and a gas-line replacement were among the items dealt with by the Fairfax City Council at its Jan. 28 meeting.

A leaking gas line at the City property yard was discovered in early November 2013. As it turned out, the 40-year-old gas line had burst between the gas meter by the fleet garage and the sign-and-signal building.

Tests confirmed that a significant amount of gas was leaking, but Washington Gas is just responsible for leaks up to the meter. That left the City responsible for the nearly 475 feet of gas line after the meter.

Once the whole line was located, more leaks plus further deterioration were discovered at several spots throughout the length of the line – including sites where it had been repaired previously. The work was beyond the capabilities of the City’s on-call plumbing contractor, who recommended Magnolia Plumbing. Because of the safety risks involving the leaking gas and no heat or hot water for employees, Magnolia was asked to provide a fee proposal to start the repairs immediately. It requested \$84,200. The City also checked with two other contractors, who each wanted some \$10,000 more to do the same job.

Rather than try to seek out any other leaks and patch up the decades-old gas line, the City decided it would be wiser to replace the whole 475 feet. The new line will be a few feet from the abandoned line

and will be constructed of the latest, approved, gas-line materials. At the Jan. 28 meeting, the Council approved payment of the \$84,200 to Magnolia Plumbing. The money was transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Projects Fund.

### Right-of-Way Transfer

In the realm of transportation, the Council voted unanimously to ask VDOT to transfer a section of public road it owns to the City’s ownership. This action would transfer the right-of-way for the portion of the Route 50 (Fairfax Boulevard) frontage road between Pickett Road and Fairfax Circle that the City maintains, but doesn’t own.

The commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will have final approval of the City’s request. Councilman David Meyer asked how long it would take to get this request to the CTB, and City Transportation Director Wendy Block Sanford replied, “Once it goes to VDOT, it can be scheduled almost immediately with the CTB.”

### Money from NVTA

The Council also voted to authorize City Manager Robert Sisson to enter into an agreement with the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) regarding distribution of funds to the City. According to the recent transportation package passed by

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 5



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Grocery Manager Alonzo Jordan checks the price tags on the salad dressings.

## New Grocery Store Opens in Fair Lakes

Features organic and all-natural products.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

A new grocery store, aimed at customers interested in buying natural and organic foods, has opened for business in Fair Lakes. It’s called Mrs. Green’s Natural Market and it’s sandwiched between DSW Shoe Warehouse and World Market in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center.

It offers 100-percent organic produce, all-natural meats and dairy, artisanal baked goods, supplements, beauty-care, household, pet and baby products. And Regional Director Rick Hoffman believes it can hold its own against the nearby Whole Foods, as well as other grocery stores.

“We feel like we can bring a

unique store to this area,” he said. “We’re not like a conventional grocery store – all our products are either all-natural or organic. So people can feel comfortable shopping here and not have to worry about pesticides, hormones, dyes or GMO items.”

**THE 20,000-SQUARE-FOOT STORE** opened to the public Jan. 24 and is the first Mrs. Green’s in Virginia and the Washington Metropolitan area. It’s a subsidiary of the New York-based Natural Markets Food Group, which operates more than 30 food-related businesses in the U.S. and Canada.

“We’re very excited to bring the first Mrs. Green’s Natural Market to the Washington area, and we’re especially happy to make the wonderful community of Fairfax our first address here,” said company CEO Robin S. Michel. “The desire among consumers to eat healthier food has become an important trend across the country.”

“We source with local-area

SEE NATURAL, PAGE 7



Deli person Cynthia Joyce with some of the store’s signature, 9-ounce meat sandwiches.

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# Local Man Charged with Setting Fires

Occupants were home asleep at the time.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Culminating months of work, investigators from the Fairfax County Fire Marshal's Office have charged a Fairfax man with two felonies for allegedly setting fires in homes while their occupants were asleep. He is Mergen Battulga, 37, of Fair Oaks.

He was charged with one count of maliciously burning an occupied dwelling and one count of maliciously setting a fire capable of spreading. His arrest was in connection with four fires on Mozart Brigade Lane and one blaze on Fairfield House Way in Fair Oaks.

Battulga was arrested last Friday, Feb. 7, shortly after noon. He was arraigned in court Monday, Feb. 10, and is currently being held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

"We believe this gentlemen to be a serial arsonist," said Chief Fire Marshal Mike Reilly. "Over the last six months, we've had a series of five fires in the

Fair Oaks area. We've done exhaustive investigative work and developed him as a suspect. So far, he's only been charged with two offenses, but the investigation is still ongoing."

All the homes were near Monument Drive, within a half-mile radius of each other, and all were garden apartments. Reilly said a couple of the fires were started in areas that had sprinkler systems, so they were able to be extinguished early before major damage was done.

However, he noted that all the homes were occupied when their fires began. "Many of the fires occurred between 2-5 a.m., when people are sleeping, so dire circumstances could have resulted," said Reilly. "These fires could have caused a significant loss of life and property had there not been fire-protection systems in place that caught them."

He said 15 or 16 investigators have been working tirelessly on these cases and continue to do so. And he praised them for their hard work.

"I'm so proud of my investigators – they're an outstanding crew," said Reilly. "Arson fires are difficult to solve without an eyewitness or the perpetrator being caught in the act. But these investigators have put in an extensive amount of time and effort and, in the end, it paid off."

## Council

FROM PAGE 3  
The General Assembly, 30 percent of new revenues received by the NVTIA shall be distributed on a pro-rata basis to each participating city or county.

That means the City of Fairfax must establish a local fund for this money and its 30-percent share from the NVTIA in Fiscal Year 2014 will be approximately \$1.2 million.

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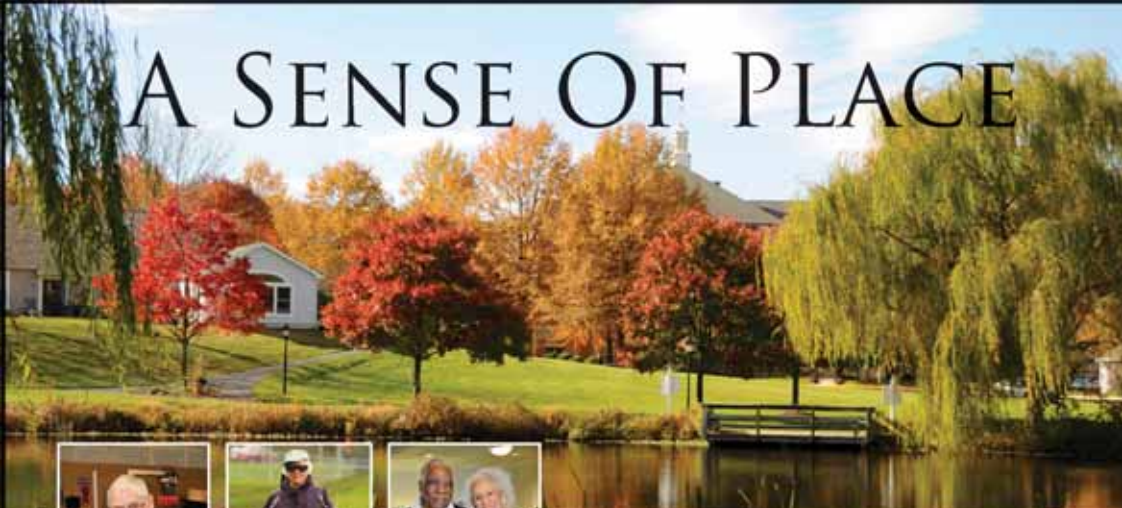
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## Addressing Mental Health

### Why are localities providing so much less for people who need mental health services?

**W**hile the General Assembly is making progress in fixing some of the egregious shortcomings of the way Virginia provides emergency services to people in mental health crisis, many fewer people are receiving mental health services in Northern Virginia.

State Sen. Creigh Deeds' son died of suicide late last year after the limitations in both the law and local communication resulted in him being released while still in the midst of crisis.

Deeds reports the progress on the bill that has passed the State Senate: "The omnibus bill will require subjects be held up to 24 hours under an emergency custody order, create a database of available psychiatric beds, and ensure people in need of hospitalization cannot be 'streeted' by establishing state hospitals as providers of last resort."

These are important steps. Services to people with mental illness are provided on the local level by community services boards, and in Fairfax County in particular, those services have been dramatically cut back.

#### EDITORIAL

Reporter Michael Pope reports this week that since 2009, the number of people receiving mental health services in Fairfax County has declined by 39 percent. Alcohol and drug service have dropped 43 percent. Services for those with intellectual disability have declined 39 percent.

Officials quoted cite the recession and declining property tax revenues in explaining the reductions, along with some changes in the way services are counted.

No matter how services are counted, there is no question that they have been reduced significantly during a recession, a time when research shows the need for mental health services and alcohol and drug services actually increases.

In Arlington, the number of people who receive mental health services has declined by 6 percent. The number of people who receive substance abuse services has decreased by 13 percent.

"Stresses associated with rising unemployment, poverty and social insecurity will lead to upward trends in many national suicide rates, as well as to less readily charted increases in the prevalence of psychiatric illness, alco-

hol-related disorders and illicit drug use," according to a 2011 overview study on economic recession and mental health cited by the National Institutes of Health. "At the same time, mental health services are being cut back as part of government austerity programs. Budget cuts will thus affect psychiatric services adversely just when economic stressors are raising the levels of need and demand in affected populations."

As for blaming the budget, it's hard to see from raw numbers why the most vulnerable should be suffering. In 2009, before the effects of the recession, Fairfax County's budget expenditures were \$5.36 billion. The adopted 2014 budget calls for expenditures of \$6.75 billion.

"Proactive fiscal and social policies could, however, help to mitigate the health consequences of recession," the overview study reports. "Economic mental health care could best be achieved, not by decimating services but by planning and deploying these to meet the needs of defined area populations."

Elected officials and others in county government who have signed off on a set of priorities that punishes the most vulnerable populations have some moral accounting to do.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### School Budget: How to Pay?

To the Editor:

Every year this paper publishes liberals' letters about the Fairfax County school budget, which increases yearly without exception. One year it is teacher pay, the next year class enrollment, this year renovation costs.

The implication is that if the schools don't get what their administrators demand, Fairfax County will collapse. This despite a continuous decline in student performance. Furthermore, there is no quid pro quo; it is my way or the highway by those who claim sanctimonious justification.

However, like the Federal government, no consideration is ever made for how to pay for this; unlike the Federal government, Fairfax County cannot print money. So what will it be? Raise taxes, the favored Fairfax County school administrator way? Borrow money, another favored FC school administrator way? Or what will you cut from your budget to pay for these needed renovations, not the Fairfax County school administration way? Something has to give. Fairfax County is run by Democrat politicians for favored

Democrat constituencies.

One point all should recognize: there is a reason for the increasing student enrollment, one I have discussed with my delegate and for which the state legislature has statistics to confirm. There are on average 6,000 illegal alien children in the Fairfax County Public Schools. Now these children must be educated, will be educated and that is not in dispute by any sane person. However, that is where the growth is and in fact without these children, the school enrollment would decrease such that certain schools in places like Bailey's Crossroads, the Route One corridor in Mount Vernon, Herndon and elsewhere would actually be seriously viewed for closing.

Fairfax County should require that every child being enrolled in the public schools have one parent prove their legal residency, not just in the county but the country. The purpose of such is not to deny schooling to these children. Rather it is for Fairfax County schools to be able to calculate and present a bill to the Federal government demanding reimbursement for each child's education whose parent(s) are not in the county or country legally.

Finally, who believes that education bureaucrats are good stew-

ards of the tax-payers' money other than the usual suspects? Clearly, they did not go into the teaching profession with much respect or understanding for the

capitalist economic system that has brought this nation the greatest prosperity on the globe.

**Christopher Thompson**  
West Springfield

### Taking Exception on Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

The Connection editorial ["Extend Health Coverage in Virginia," (January 23-29, 2014) accuses the Republicans in the Virginia General Assembly of failing to accept increased taxes that would be assessed to pay the cost of Medicaid Expansion in Virginia. The editorial states that the cost of the Medicaid Expansion would be paid with federal funding for at least ten years so the expansion would be free to Virginia taxpayers for the immediate future. What the Connection avoids saying is that the federal funding is all derived from the taxes paid by the residents of the states including Virginia. In actuality 100 percent of the cost for expanding Medicaid in Virginia would be funded by the taxpayers of Virginia from day one.

Of the three branches of state government in Richmond, the del-

egates to the General Assembly most closely represent the positions of the residents across the entire state. The delegates are just the messengers of their constituency to the legislature in Richmond. It is a cop out to accuse any General Assembly delegate of being an obstructionist of when the member is faithfully representing the will of the constituency.

Instead of inciting Governor Terry McAuliffe to revolt against established authority in Richmond, the Connection should encourage the Governor to gain the trust and support of Virginians across the state. By winning the recent election, he earned the title of Governor, a rent free furnished office, and prepaid phone card, but he did not earn the consent of the governed, which is the basis of any democracy. McAuliffe re-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

# Natural Market Opens in Fair Lakes

FROM PAGE 3

producers and farmers as much as possible,” continued Michel. “And we hope residents will visit [our store] to experience for themselves what makes us unique and a place to explore and discover new, healthier foods and living.”

Hoffman said several factors figured into the decision to locate here, including the large population and the availability of a site that was the right size. (It was formerly a furniture store and, when it closed, World Market took one half and Mrs. Green’s moved into the other). And, added Hoffman, “We knew we could complement this shopping center.”

The new store is open daily from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. and has more than 100 employees, almost all from the local community. Hoffman says Mrs. Green’s is competitive in prices for its natural and organic items, and he’s proud of all the store’s offerings.

“Our produce and salad bar are all organic,” he said. “Other stores, for example, won’t have organic strawberries and grapes, but that’s all we’ll have. We have close to 300 organic items in our produce department now – which is a tough time of year – and we’ll have even more in the summertime.”

Customers may purchase sustainable seafood and all-natural, grass-fed, Black Angus beef that’s hormone and antibiotic free. And products in the all-natural bakery are made with no dyes or artificial preservatives. “Most of it is locally made to fit our recipes,” said Hoffman. “We even have a vegan chocolate cake and Cosmic Cookies high in protein and fiber and made with natural sugars. There are also lots of gluten-free, soy-free or nut-free items.” The

deli section also offers foods, including a variety of tamales and Chicken Tikka paninis.

Thirsty? Inside Mrs. Green’s is a beverage bar featuring Fair Trade, organic and locally produced coffee, plus smoothies, tea, fresh-squeezed juice, hot chocolate and even wheatgrass drinks. There’s also a large, prepared-foods section where customers may buy breakfast, lunch and dinner.

“Every day, we’ll have a special item on sale at a hot price,” said Hoffman. “For example, we’ll have Muffin Monday or Salad Bar Wednesday. Or our signature, 9-ounce meat sandwich – made with turkey, pastrami, beef or ham – that’s normally \$9.99 will be \$5.” In addition, two registered dietitians are there every day. One can answer customers’ questions and suggest foods to, for example, lower cholesterol or provide less sodium. And the other, also a yoga instructor, will teach yoga classes in the store’s back room.

“We also have a massage therapist who’ll give 10-minute massages for \$10,” said Hoffman. “And we’ll hold cooking classes for particular, dietary needs in our community room.”

Besides promoting healthy and green products, Mrs. Green’s is also pleased to help out its new community. Shortly after its Jan. 23 ribbon-cutting ceremony, it donated more than \$2,500 each to Life with Cancer and Food for Others.

“We’re excited to be part of this shopping center,” said Hoffman. “Lots of people come here, and our store manager hand-selected the team [of employees]. He’s very proud of them and wants this to be the friendliest store in town.”



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PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

DAR member Sarah Dickens presents Katie Rogers with the DAR Good Citizen award, as DAR member Dori Stewart looks on.

## Robinson Student Receives DAR Good Citizen Award

**Katie Rogers awarded for patriotism, service, leadership and dependability.**

By JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Judy Erickson, a member of the Thomas Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, has known for years that Katie Rogers would make a great candidate for the group's Good Citizen award.

Erickson met Rogers and her mother, Mariana Vervena, when Rogers was a child. The two are neighbors in Fairfax, and Rogers sold Erickson Girl Scout cookies for years.

"Every year I go down to the ladies on my street to sell them Girl Scout cookies, and a few years ago, Mrs. Erickson had mentioned to me that they give this award every year," Rogers said. "Since she has known me my whole life, she told me she would nominate me when I was old enough. She officially asked if I would like to do it this year."

Rogers is a senior enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at Robinson Secondary School and is involved in numerous activities, including the school's dance team and drama department. She has been the lead in several school productions and won a Cappie award last spring.

Erickson said all of Rogers' ac-



Katie Rogers, a senior at Robinson, stands with her mother Mariana Vervena after receiving the DAR Good Citizen award.

tivities and the success she has with them made her a great candidate for the award. "I've seen her perform, I've seen her dance, I've heard her sing. She's been selling me Girl Scout cookies since I can remember. Everything she does at school and at church, she does it all so beautifully. She wouldn't do these things if she didn't want to. I'm very proud of her, and I'm only a neighbor," Erickson said.

According to DAR member Sarah Dickens, Rogers represents all of the characteristics of a good citizen, including leadership, dependability, patriotism and service. Rogers also participated in the Good Citizen national essay contest, which Dickens said was a great testament to Rogers' patriotism. "It really demonstrated her real understanding of our nation's history," Dickens said.

Rogers said she is thankful to receive the award and to grow up

in an area with so many opportunities to pursue the activities of her choice.

"Right now, my favorite thing that I'm doing, in both drama and dance, is being in a teacher-assistant position. I get to help with the class and help the teacher run the class. It's been already such a great experience. Being on the other side of things and letting myself be a role model for the younger kids is the best experience to have," she said. Rogers said she is inspired by both of her parents to do well in school. Her mother was her Girl Scout leader, which pushed Rogers to give back to her community.

"I have so many great adults in my life to guide me," she said. Rogers has a 4.296 grade point average and will attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

## Home LifeStyle

# Home Design: What the Pros Know

**A look inside the homes of some of the area's top builders.**

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Remodeling industry professionals spend their days helping clients create dream homes, adding quartzite counter tops and outdoor, stacked stone fireplaces, turning ideas and photos into functional, chic living spaces.

But what about their homes? What materials do they choose for themselves? How do they make the most of their living spaces? Three local professionals from BOWA Builders, Inc. opened their doors and shared the secrets of their renovations.

When principal and owner George Hodges-Fulton and his wife, Alexandra, decided to remodel the galley kitchen in their Reston home, they decided to expand and change the flow of traffic, keeping the safety of their 6- and 10-year-old daughters in mind.

"We wanted to open the house up more," said George Hodges-Fulton. "We took out a wall between kitchen and the dining room."

Alexandra Hodges-Fulton, a serious cook, added, "The sink and the stove were across from each other. Now the sink and the stove are next to each other, so I don't have to walk across the kitchen carrying hot pasta."

Plus, the new farmhouse sink is custom-made from honed granite. "I originally wanted soapstone, but over time that can scratch," she said.

The new kitchen also includes additional counter space. "I have more prep space," she said. "And everything I need is within arm's reach."

When it came to choosing finishes, "everything came from wanting to work with the [existing maple] floor," said George Hodges-Fulton. "We wanted to choose classic colors that weren't going to go out of style."

"I spent a huge amount of time looking at pictures of kitchens," said Alexandra Hodges-Fulton. "We added white Carrara marble countertops. ... We added a marble backsplash in a black, white and grey circular mosaic. That's the thing that everybody comments on when they come into the kitchen."

The project took a mere five weeks to complete. "Everything happened perfectly," added George Hodges-Fulton. "Having on-site supervision and knowing the end goal helped."

He says that having undergone his own renovation project, he now has additional insight when advising clients. "It makes a significant difference," he said. "We can say 'In my house I did this.' or 'I did this wrong in my house, so you might consider this.'"

When principal and owner Steve Kirstein first moved into his Potomac, Md., home with his wife and three children, he spotted several missed design opportunities. "We needed some of the spaces to do different things," said Kirstein. "We wanted a family gathering space and a display space upstairs."

The home had a two-story foyer, which Kirstein saw as the perfect location for a second floor family room. He added "flooring, sheetrock walls, built-in bookcases and display cases. Now it's a gathering space for the family upstairs and we still have a dramatic foyer downstairs."

could eventually enjoy."



Hodges-Fulton

Kirstein

Baker

Next, Kirstein turned what he called, "a big wasted space" adjacent to the garage into a mudroom. "We put a cubby and drawer for each child and a bench for taking off shoes. We added a half wall across from the cubbies so you can't see all of the cleats and lacrosse sticks all over the floor. We also added a powder room."

Kirstein also transformed his backyard into an oasis. "We added a pool and entertaining area," he said. "We redid every finish in the house. I liked those small touches because they were simple and easy and changed the way the house looked."

Founder, cochairman and owner Josh Baker grew up in Great Falls and when it came time to raise his family, he remained there. He even built a custom home where he plans to live long-term. "A lot of planning went into the future," said Baker. "The concept behind it was we would create a fun space for our children that their children

use them so we're repurposing



View from the interior of BOWA founder Josh Baker's Great Falls home. Casual entertaining spaces include the open first floor and pool.

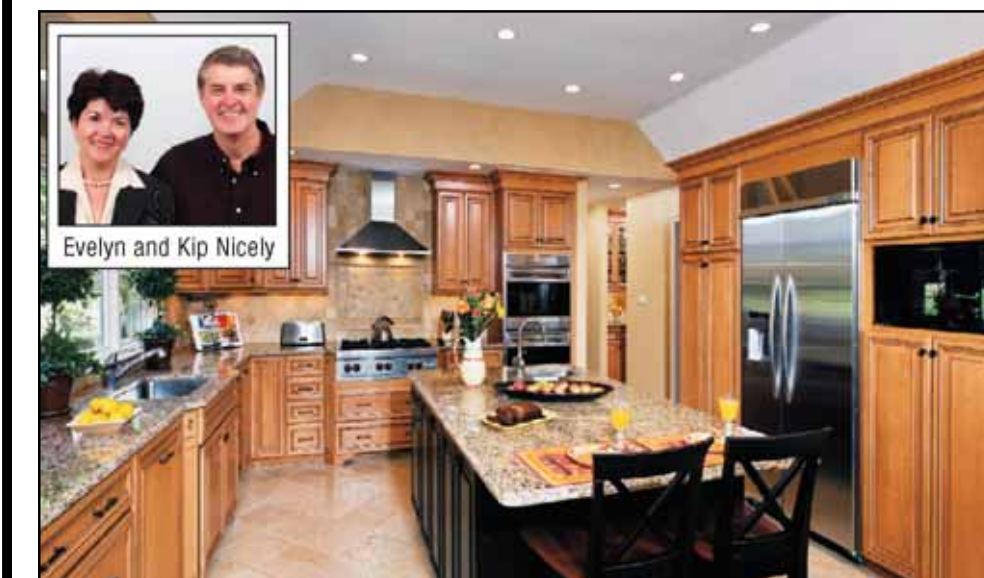
PHOTOS  
COURTESY OF  
BOWA BUILDERS, INC.

those spaces. In our master bedroom, for example, we focused on walk-in closets. Even our master bathroom is spacious, but it is not vast." The Bakers designed their outdoor landscape to accommodate their penchant for relaxed entertaining. "We're informal folks," said Baker. "We like to entertain, so we developed our landscaping to include an expansive entertaining area and a swimming pool. We have a lot of outdoor parties. We can accommodate a large group in our yard as well."

He advises his clients to similarly plan ahead and think about how their needs might evolve. "To make it a long-term home is to not think about just what you need now, but what you might need in the future," he said. "We designed a guest suite on the first floor with the idea that my wife and I could live on one floor once we're empty nesters." There is enough space for friends and extended family.

Baker said each time he and his wife updated the house, they did

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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/  
THE CONNECTION

## Top Sales in November and December, 2013



**6** 11133 Sandy Manor Drive,  
Fairfax Station — \$1,050,000

**7** 10608 Kilcorma Way,  
Fairfax Station — \$1,000,000



**9** 10509 Center Street,  
Fairfax — \$965,000



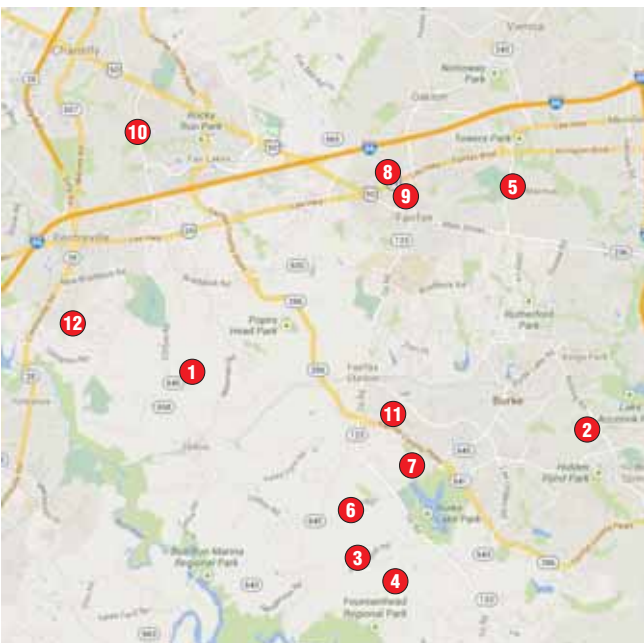
**10** 13554 Point Pleasant Drive,  
Chantilly — \$675,000



**11** 5915 Clermont Landing Court,  
Burke — \$635,011



**12** 6700 Bay Valley Lane,  
Centreville — \$630,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
6512 STALLION RD	5	..6	..0	CLIFTON	.....	\$1,850,000	... Detached	5.27	.....	20124 CLOVERLEAF FARM ESTATES	12/03/13
6151 REZA CT	6	..4	..2	SPRINGFIELD	..	\$1,392,649	... Detached	0.35	.....	22152 ..... CARDINAL ESTATES	11/07/13
11100 DEVEREUX STATION LN	4	..4	..1	FAIRFAX STATION	.....	\$1,225,000	... Detached	5.01	.....	22039 ..... DEVEREUX STATION	12/05/13
10600 SANDY RUN TRL	5	..3	..1	FAIRFAX STATION	.....	\$1,225,000	... Detached	6.03	.....	22039 ..... SHADOWWALK	12/16/13
3442 PRESERVATION DR	5	..4	..1	FAIRFAX	.....	\$1,180,000	... Detached	0.17	.....	22031 ..... PICKETT'S RESERVE	11/27/13
11133 SANDY MANOR DR	5	..4	..1	FAIRFAX STATION	.....	\$1,050,000	... Detached	5.00	.....	22039 SANDY RUN FOREST ESTATES	11/20/13
10608 KILCORMAC WAY	5	..5	..1	FAIRFAX STATION	.....	\$1,000,000	... Detached	5.00	.....	22039 ..... KILLARNEY	11/21/13
10707 SCOTT DR	4	..3	..1	FAIRFAX	.....	\$974,900	... Detached	0.51	.....	22030 ..... BFA MYERS	12/20/13
10509 CENTER ST	5	..3	..1	FAIRFAX	.....	\$965,000	... Detached	0.61	.....	22030 ..... CARRIAGE LANDING	11/05/13
13554 POINT PLEASANT DR	5	..3	..1	CHANTILLY	.....	\$675,000	... Detached	0.26	.....	20151 ..... POPLAR TREE ESTATES	11/22/13
5915 CLERMONT LANDING CT	4	..2	..1	BURKE	.....	\$635,011	... Detached	0.19	.....	22015 ..... BURKE CENTRE	11/08/13
6700 BAY VALLEY LN	5	..4	..0	CENTREVILLE	.....	\$630,000	... Detached	0.26	.....	20121 ..... GREEN TRAILS	11/15/13

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# Valentine's Weekend

## Romantic events happening in the Fairfax County area.

BY AMNA REHMATULLA  
THE CONNECTION

Enjoy your Valentine's Day by heading off to one of these events this weekend.

### ❖ Thursday/Feb. 13- Sunday/Feb. 16

**Wildfire's Special Valentine's Menu.** \$85 per couple. Wildfire Restaurant, Tysons Corner, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Guests can indulge in all of their Wildfire favorites, including Crab Stuffed Mushrooms, Spinach & Artichoke Fondue, Wildfire Chopped Salad, Roasted Prime Rib of Beef or Parmesan Crusted New York Strip. Call 703-442-9110 for reservations.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 13-SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**Valentine's Day at the Animal Shelter.** Thursday & Friday 12-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 W Ox Road, Fairfax. Visit the shelter to enjoy free sweet treats like candy and ice cream, hands-on fun with kittens and puppies (while they last!) and fee-waived adoptions on 10 of the shelter's biggest 'heartbreakers.'

### ❖ Friday/Feb. 14

**Valentine's Night Out.** 7-9 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. A family fun movie night presenting Smurfs 2. Bring your own snacks.

**Wine, Dine & Be Mine this Valentine's Day.** 5-10 p.m. Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. This Valentine's Day, Executive Chef John-Michael Hamlet will offer a five-course dinner, featuring dishes like smoked oyster fricassee, his signature "foiejitas," veal chateaubriand, and deconstructed black forest cake. \$95 per person. 703-234-3550 or visit [www.viniferabistro.com](http://www.viniferabistro.com)

**Valentine's Day Chocolate Buffet.** 6-10 p.m. The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Entyse, Wine Bar & Lounge will offer an impressive chocolate buffet with seven different dessert options crafted by their pastry kitchen. Satisfy your loved one's sweet tooth with their dessert creations. \$25 per person, seating on first come, first serve basis



PHOTO BY DONNA BILLINGSLEY

### Spend your Saturday listening to romantic tunes by Pianist Peter Nero at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

**Valentine's Day Latin Style.** La Sandia Mexican Kitchen, 7852L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Show some Latin Love this Valentine's Day with a 3-Course dinner and signature beverage or cocktail for \$29 per person. A taste of what's on the menu: Shrimp and Crab Empenadas, Chile Relleno, Pasilla Lava Cake, and more. Call for reservations 703-893-2222.

### ❖ Saturday/Feb. 15

**Valentine's Wine Dinner.** 8 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enjoy a 4-course meal paired with your favorite Paradise Springs wines. \$119/person; \$109 for wine club members; \$149 VIP seating in Barrel Room. 703-830-9463.

**"Music of the Heart."** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Take part in an evening of romantic music that blends popular and classical styles with pianist Peter Nero. Tickets

are \$30-\$60. Tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Visit the box office (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Couple's Yoga.** 2-3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Partner poses are a great way to learn more about how to communicate more effectively with your partner and have fun while improving your body health. \$20 per couple, no experience is necessary—both beginners and master yogis are invited to join. Register online: <http://www.workhousearts.org/>

**A Valentine's Sweetheart.** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A Valentine's Sweetheart will give kids the opportunity to learn how to bake sweet treats, draw and paint portraits, and participate in other Valentine's Day activities. \$65 per child and includes the materials fee. <http://www.workhousearts.org/>

## CALENDAR

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

### FRIDAY/FEB. 14-SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**Dead Man's Cell Phone.** 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. South County High School's Theatre department presents, Dead Man's Cell Phone, an imaginative new comedy by MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipient and Pulitzer Prize finalist Sarah Ruhl. Tickets: \$5. This play contains adult language and is intended for mature audiences.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 14

**Eighth Annual Alumni Beer Tasting.** 7-9 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This Alumni Association event features five beers by New Belgium Brewing Company.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 16

**The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and N gauge trains.** 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) phone 703-425-9225.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19

**Love, Faith and Other Dirty Words.** 7:30 p.m. JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The play, based on conversations with interfaith couples, is a funny, moving story of couples negotiating to maintain the balance between devotion to each other, and devotion to their separate faiths. Free. [www.jccnvarts.com](http://www.jccnvarts.com).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**7th Annual Lorton Monopoly Tournament.** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Gallery Building 16 - 2nd Floor, Lorton. Proceeds benefit the Lorton Community Action Center, a local human services nonprofit that assists individuals and families with emergency food and financial assistance, resources for improving life skills, tutoring and after-school programs. Registration Fee: \$25 (by Feb. 19). At the Door Fee: \$35. Minimum player age: 8. Maximum player age: None. [LortonMonopoly.com](http://LortonMonopoly.com)

**Jeffrey Siegel, "The Power and Passion of Beethoven."** 8 p.m., Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. The acclaimed pianist performs Beethoven's "Rage Over a Lost Penny," "Sonata Pathétique," and "Farewell Sonata" as part of his Keyboard Conversation series. \$20-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on Feb. 11, 2014. [HyltonCenter.org](http://HyltonCenter.org).

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# SPORTS

## Robinson Wins Conference 5 Gymnastics Championship

Freshman Burda, senior Gross finish top four in all-around.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**A** talented freshman and a senior in her final conference meet helped the Robinson gymnastics team capture its second championship in three seasons.

Caroline Burda placed second in the all-around and Sarah Gross tied for third, leading Robinson to the Conference 5 gymnastics title on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School. The Rams won, or tied for first, in each of the four events and produced a total score of 135.4. Oakton finished second with a score of 132.575, followed by Westfield (130.575), Chantilly (129.65), Herndon (122.45) and Centreville (105.375). The top two teams, Robinson and Oakton, qualified for the 6A North region meet.

Robinson won the Concorde District championship in 2012. The six schools became Conference 5 after the VHSL's six-class realignment prior to the 2013-14 school year.

**"It's amazing. We've worked so hard this season. It's just great to have it all come together."**  
— Robinson freshman Caroline Burda

"They definitely performed very well today," first-year Robinson head coach Charlotte Edwards said. "They were more consistent than they normally are. ... They're definitely peaking at the right time. Our first couple meets weren't that successful."

Burda, a freshman, placed second in the all-around with a score of 34.9. She finished first on beam (9.15), third on bars (8.625), fourth on vault (8.75) and tied for eighth on floor (8.375).

"She is only a freshman and she did a great job," Edwards said, "but there's definitely some things we're going to work on before regionals, so when we look at their score sheets we'll see if we can make some more adjustments so she can get a couple more points on some event."

Burda said beam was her best event.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

**The Robinson gymnastics team won the Conference 5 championship on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.**

She was one of just three gymnasts to score a 9 or better.

"I thought that I did the best I could and I'm really proud of myself," Burda said. "This has been my best meet so far this season."

Robinson's Sarah Gross, a senior, tied with Herndon's Alexa Bradley for third in the all-around with a score of 34.5. Gross placed third on floor (9) and vault (8.85), tied for fifth on beam (8.8) and finished 11th on bars (8).

"She performed very well," Edwards said. "Even on her [least]-favorite event, balance beam, she had a solid routine, so that was very exciting and I think that made a big difference in her all-around score."

Robinson freshman Emily Gross placed third on vault (8.85) and tied for sixth on floor (8.4). Junior Bailey Young tied for second on beam with a score of 9.

The top eight individuals and any other gymnasts who scored at least a 9 qualified for regionals in each event. In the all-around, the top four finishers and any other gymnasts with a score of 35 or better earned a regional berth. Westfield senior Katie Freix repeated as all-around champion with a score of 36.925. She placed first on floor (9.525), vault (9.5) and bars (9.1), and tied for fifth on beam (8.8).

"I had probably close to my best performances on all my events, except for beam," Freix said. "... I definitely had my best bar routine. I've been having trouble hitting bars recently, so it was really cool to actu-

ally hit the bar routine."

Oakton advanced to regionals with a runner-up team finish despite having the smallest roster in the conference with just eight healthy competitors.

"We feel that's where we differ from a lot of teams, especially being the smallest squad in our conference," Oakton head coach Frankie Orbacz wrote in an email. "Everyone has a ton of talent and everyone contributed equally to our fantastic team score. Most other teams have a few

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

#### Woodson Gets New Football Coach

W.T. Woodson High School recently named Mike Dougherty its new head football coach.

Dougherty spent the last six seasons as head coach at Stonewall Jackson High School in Prince William County. Last season, as the No. 13 seed, Dougherty led the Raiders to the 6A North region semifinals, where they lost to eventual state champion Centreville.

Prior to Stonewall, Dougherty was the head coach at Dominion High School in Loudoun County for five seasons.

Dougherty takes over for Joe Dishun, who compiled a 7-23 record in three seasons as head coach of the Cavaliers. Prior



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Robinson freshman Caroline Burda placed second in the all-around and first on the beam (9.15) at the Conference 5 gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Centreville High School.**

standouts that lead the team and sweep the medals, but we really have so much talent in every girl. We are very well-rounded. Standings-wise, four of our eight girls medaled and placed, which means half of our team would have advanced to regions if we hadn't made it as a team. We were so impressed! That's a pretty fantastic showing."

The 6A North region meet was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 12, after The Connection's deadline. The state meet is scheduled for Feb. 21-22 at Salem High School in Virginia Beach.

"It's amazing," Burda said of winning the Conference 5 championship. "We've worked so hard this season. It's just great to have it all come together."

to Dishun's arrival, Woodson finished 3-7 in 2010 under then-head coach Trey Taylor. The program's last winning season was 2009, when Taylor led the Cavaliers to a 13-2 mark and a trip to the Northern Region championship game.

#### Lee Diver Hodges Places Third at Regionals

Lee High School sophomore Gerald Hodges recently placed third at the 5A North region dive competition. It is his first time qualifying for a VHSL state event.

Hodges, a sophomore, placed fifth during the Conference 13 meet.

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

ceived a majority of the votes in about 20  
of the 96 counties in Virginia. The final  
vote tally shows that McAuliffe collected  
1,069,789 votes, which is less than 20 per-  
cent of the approximately 6,000,000 eligible  
voters in Virginia.

An analysis of the voting results shows a  
clear split between rich counties and poor  
counties, between consumers and provid-  
ers, and between cities and rural areas.  
McAuliffe was supported by a small major-  
ity in the richer counties and cities while  
his positions were opposed 3 to 1 in sev-  
eral of the rural counties. He needs to fo-  
cus his energy on gaining consent of the  
remaining 80 percent of all Virginians and  
preventing further division between the  
demographic groups.

The Connection editorial implies that the  
Governor need not consider the cost of ex-  
panding Medicaid before he stuffs the bill  
into a can and tosses it across the fence so  
the Federal government can kick the can  
down the road for payment by our grand-  
children.

The Governor would like to add the cost  
of services Virginians use today on top of  
the tax bill for the services needed by our  
grandchildren when they become taxpay-  
ers.

What gives him that right? He needs to  
work with our senators and representatives  
in Congress to prioritize programs, identify  
programs to be cut, and enable the federal  
and state to fund Medicaid Expansion in  
Virginia without adding to the rapidly grow-  
ing national debt. Simply adding the bill  
to the national debt for future payment is  
no longer acceptable.

Imposing yet another tax increase on Vir-  
ginians is counterproductive; you can't tax  
people into prosperity. Does Governor Terry  
McAuliffe have the courage to make the  
hard decisions that will fund the highest  
priority programs while protecting our  
grandchildren from being taxed to pay the  
bills that come due in 2014? If not him,  
then who?

**Edward Mills**  
Fairfax Station

### Supporting Safe Hunting

To the Editor:

The bill before the State Senate to allow  
hunting on Sundays applies only to private  
property and will not impinge on anyone's  
enjoyment of public lands. Most of us only  
get the weekends off of work and it is silly  
to prevent landowners from hunting on  
their own property during half of their free  
time.

Hunting brings numerous economic and  
environmental benefits to all Virginians and  
I encourage the editors and readers to view  
the Virginia Department of Game and In-  
land Fisheries list at: [http://  
www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/benefits/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/benefits/)

The safe practice of hunting should be  
supported rather than discouraged.

**Christopher Yurasko**  
Burke

Save the Date  
A Casino Night to Benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region

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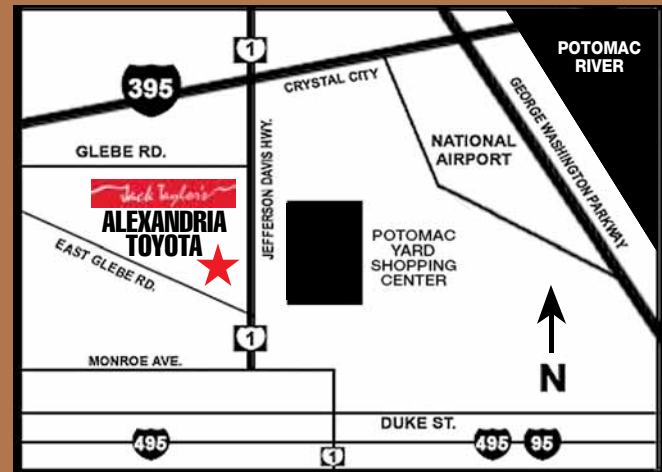
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BRAKE SPECIAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$79<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">PADS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front &amp; rear rotors &amp; drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;"><b>MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$79<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts &amp; shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">TIRE</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BASIC MINOR SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">PERFORMED EVERY 5,000 MILES OR 6 MONTHS WHICHEVER COMES FIRST</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$75<sup>88</sup></b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">2003 &amp; NEWER</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">INCLUDES: Replace engine oil, replace engine oil filter, drain plug washer, check &amp; top off fluids(as needed), inspect brake linings/drums &amp; brake pads/discs, rotate best tires to front, clean brakes(if applicable), perform multi-point inspection, &amp; road test vehicle(as needed).</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;"><b>\$129<sup>95</sup></b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables &amp; connections.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">Does not apply to hybrid batteries.        NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>12% OFF</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WE WILL MEET OR BEAT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION</b></p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts &amp; hoses &amp; fluid levels.</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>IS YOUR CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">DON'T GET STRANDED... LET US CHECK IT FOR YOU, <b>AT NO CHARGE!</b> UP TO A 1 HOUR DIAGNOSIS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.7em;">NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 2/28/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</p>

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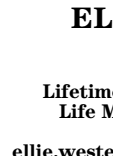
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