

# Filling Bowls and Raising Funds

NEWS, PAGE 8

Some 250 people attended Our Daily Bread's Empty Bowls event, Feb. 27, raising \$13,000 for its charitable work. Deborah Dillard examines one of the handcrafted bowls.

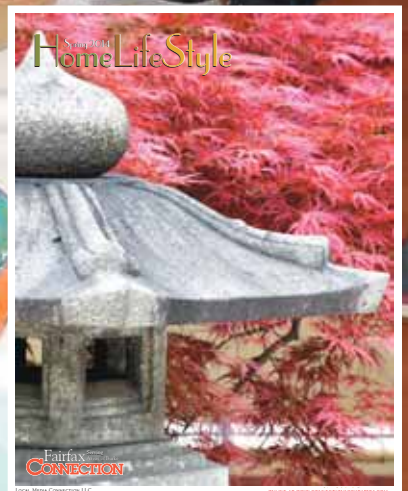
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HomeLifeStyle



# Fairfax County Spelling Bee

## Supervisor Pat Herrity: Expert Use of the Word Hypocrisy

H-Y-P-O-C-R-I-S-Y

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I **SAY** I support schools, but  
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**(From left) Senior Robyn Smith explains Active Minds while Lindsay Laiks, Rachel Chalkley, Karen Garza and Kim Dockery listen.**



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## 'Proud of Our Young People at Woodson'

**FCPS informs parents about support for teens.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It was standing room only last week in Woodson High's auditorium when some 1,100 people, mainly parents, gathered for comfort and advice in the aftermath of two student deaths.

Principal Jeff Yost welcomed them and later received a standing ovation when Douglas Tyson, assistant superintendent of Cluster III, praised the job he's done at the school. First, though, FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza addressed the crowd.

"I'm a parent of four children, and there's nothing more heartbreaking than to hear about the untimely death of a child or learn about anyone who's suffering," she said. "We support you and want to help you build on the great work that's been done here."

Tyson thanked Woodson's teachers for always helping students do their best, and the parents, for attending the March 5 meeting. "If we're going to overcome and prevent these things in the future, we all have to work together," he said. "[And] it's important to commend our students for keeping a positive mindset. We're proud of our young people here at Woodson, and we adults need your help to better learn how to provide for you."

Kim Dockery, assistant superintendent for Special Services and a parent of Woodson grads, said, "The things we're facing are complex issues; tonight's the first part of the conversation." Noting Fairfax County's many resources, Dockery added, "We're a community that takes care of our most precious asset, our children."

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, director of the county Health

Department, told parents she's contacted the Virginia Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control "to make sure we're not missing anything."

MaryAnn Panarelli, director of FCPS' Office of Intervention and Prevention, thanked the social workers and counselors "who've been working so hard with your children, the past week or two." She also acknowledged the social workers and counselors who came from other jurisdictions to help, as well.

"They go to the classes the person [who died] was in," she explained. "They also reach out to students who may have had a loss, themselves, and are particularly vulnerable. If a student is especially distressed, they tell the parents. And at the end of the day, all members of the Crisis Response Team make a list of students we're concerned about and want to follow up on later to offer additional support."

**OFTEN**, students or parents will tell the team members about other students they should talk to, and they do. "So there are several layers of active support available," said Panarelli. "We work with groups of kids and tell them there's a natural process for grief, but it's different for everybody." "Some kids

SEE WOODSON, PAGE 5



**People in the audience introduce themselves to each other.**

**(From left) are seniors Rachel Chalkley, Robyn Smith, Fran Mahon and Lindsay Laiks at the Active Minds information table.**



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Help Offered in the Wake of Tragedy

**Organizations provide information, guidance.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Woodson parent Karen Cogan called the March 5 meeting "a good first start. A lot of us were here to band together and let everyone know we're there for each other."

"It was a great community turnout, and I appreciated the school-system support services being here to give us some guidance," she said. "They told us what's available to parents and kids and what [comprises] a crisis team."

Parents also gave written answers to questions they'd received before the meeting. They shared their ideas to better support students, plus what resources could help. Students answered similar questions.

Regarding the mood in the school these days, junior Jack Jacobs said, "I think everyone's doing a great job of being supportive, caring and listening when anyone needs to talk. Tonight was very good. It was nice to hear how everyone in the school system and School Board cares about us and have come together to help."

After the meeting, parents received crisis and suicide-prevention cards with information, plus phone numbers they and students can call for help. Parents also visited 15 information tables in the cafeteria to learn about several resources.

At the Community of Solutions table, co-founder Carol Davis said, "We started this organization last year after the third [Woodson] suicide. We average five teens and 20 adults per meeting."

The group helps teenagers deal with adversity and build resilience. It does so by listening to them and by establishing positive relationships within the community to focus on common strengths and abilities. For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CommunityofSolutions/>.

At another table, four students explained Active Minds, a school organization that raises awareness of and de-stigmatizes mental illness. It encourages both hope and help. "We assess students for any risk or crisis, listen non-judgmentally and, when necessary, encourage them to get professional help," said senior Rachel Chalkley. "What we do helps foster a positive environment."

For example, they've held a yoga class to promote mindfulness and gave out hot chocolate to students returning from winter break. "It was to spread joy and help people have a better time at school," said senior Lindsay Laiks.

The group's a year old and meets once or twice a month. "It gets people to be more comfortable discussing mental health," said Laiks. "It isn't talked about the same way a broken arm is, but we want to show people it's OK to do that."

She, too, was glad people came together as a community to exchange ideas. In school, she said, "Students are trying to show each other that every person's cared about. There's a sense of community. It's definitely tough, but we're coming together. Things may be hard in the moment, but we have to remember that life continues on – we just have to keep going."





## Traumatic brain injury. Not the opponent Connor was expecting.

Two years ago a simple game of catch ended with a trip to the emergency room. A baseball had struck Connor above the eyebrow and blood was pooling dangerously between his brain and skull. Watch how our experts responded at [JustRightForChildren.com/Connor](http://JustRightForChildren.com/Connor).



“You gotta be prepared for any kind of shot hit your way.”

Connor McCormick  
Future tennis phenom



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) are Michael De Marco, Scott Silverthorne, Ellie Schmidt, David Meyer, Jeff Greenfield, Dan Drummond and Steven Stombres. (Neither Drummond, nor Stombres, are running for re-election).

# Mayor Silverthorne Kicks Off Re-election Campaign

City of Fairfax Mayor Scott Silverthorne kicked off his re-election campaign Sunday afternoon, March 9, at Red Hot & Blue. Attendees included Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34th), Del. David Bulova (D-37th) and former Fairfax mayors, John Mason and Rob Lederer.

Since Silverthorne now has a challenger, John Norce, Silverthorne called it “a real race” and has begun campaigning in earnest. And, he added, “I am so fortunate to have the unanimous support of our City Council and School Board.”

Regarding the City, he said, “It seems like we’ve turned the corner in Fairfax and we’re really in a position now to grow our economy. I’m going to campaign hard, and I think I have a really good chance of winning. This is a wonderful city. I’m so blessed – I have the best job in the world, but it’s only possible with the community’s and my colleagues’ help.”

The full slate of candidates for the May 6, nonpartisan election is as follows:

## Mayor

Incumbent: Scott Silverthorne  
Challenger: John Norce

## City Council

(Vote for six)  
Incumbents: Michael De Marco, Jeff Greenfield, David Meyer and Ellie Schmidt.  
Challengers: Cristina Gaines, Nancy Loftus, Janice Miller and Jon Stehle Jr.

## School Board

(Vote for five)  
Incumbents: Jon Buttram, Carolyn Pitches, Toby Sorensen and Mitch “Sut” Sutterfield.  
Challenger: Robert Reinsel

— BONNIE HOBBS

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/MARCH 13

**Corporate Gary Job Fair.** 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Waterford in Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. The company’s career events attract a wide variety of employers that want to hire military veterans and spouses, including large organizations like Coca-Cola, Lockheed Martin, Hewlett-Packard, Engility, State Farm, the National Security Agency, and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

**Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale.** 1 – 9 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the three large annual sales with all genres represented in the roughly 8,000 books for sale PLUS media like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 14

**Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the 3 large annual sales with all genres represented in the roughly 8,000 books for sale PLUS media like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 15

**Fairfax City Regional Library Children’s Book Sale.** 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books and nonbook media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books and more. \$.25-\$2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4.

**Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the 3 large annual sales with all genres represented in the roughly 8,000 books for sale PLUS media like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.



# Woodson Teens Find Support in Crisis

FROM PAGE 3

may have difficulty sleeping, concentrating or being motivated," she continued. "One may be angry, while another is quiet. But they need to be respectful and empathetic of each other's feelings. As difficult as this time is, your kids are strong and they'll work through it. Let them know you're there for them. Avoid generalizing this as part of a pattern; each tragedy is a situation unto itself."

Panarelli also advised parents to "Let your children know it's OK to laugh and have a good time and not feel guilty. It's our natural way of dealing, and it's OK to forget for a minute and go on. Grief comes and goes. Do low-key activities as a family; it's reassuring and doesn't demand a lot of energy from them."

If necessary, she said, reach out to a school counselor, school psychologist or social worker. "Depression is a treatable mental illness, not a flaw in a person and not something to be ashamed of," said Panarelli. "Discuss with your children how you'd respond if they told you they're depressed, involved in substance abuse or having other troubles, so they won't fear coming to you for help."

"Encourage your child to determine three adults he or she could talk to about things, because sometimes that's easier," she continued. "Or they can talk to their friends. But you can be proud of your children; they've responded [to these tragedies] with resilience, grace and compassion and banded together in groups for comfort. Let them know you're proud of them."

Fairfax County Prevention Manager Jesse Ellis makes sure everything possible is being done to help students. "Last year, county and school staff identified recommendations regarding suicide prevention and put together a team to look at suicide incidents," he said. "Each is unique, but has lessons we can learn as we move forward."

Ellis said activities strengthening the bonds students have with their communities help prevent suicides. "When we talk about suicide prevention, we're talking about parents, neighbors, Scout and church leaders, coaches, etc.," he said. "And we need to make sure you have the skills and resources to do that effectively. We want to develop strategies to empower you with the knowledge to do this well."

**ON THE BRIGHT SIDE,** said



**FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza**



**MaryAnn Panarelli said everyone grieves differently.**

**"Your kids are strong and they'll work through it."**

**— MaryAnn Panarelli, FCPS Office of Intervention and Prevention**

Ellis, "We as a community are doing well – our suicide rates are the lowest in the state because our kids have neighbors, teachers and friends to turn to. But we need to do that better. We have great people in the community and, if we build on that, we can make an even bigger difference."

"Until we get parents involved, we won't solve these problems," added Woodson parent Bob Phillips. "Carol Davis and I formed Community of Solutions. We saw what worked in other communities with similar problems, looked at several organizations and included students to hear their concerns."

Phillips said teens told them their biggest fear is what will happen to them when they do some-



**Parent Bob Phillips discusses Community of Solutions.**



**Cluster III head Douglas Tyson**

thing wrong. "They worry, 'Will people be angry at me? Will I be ostracized? Will the police come?'" he said. But the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board has trained 40 students, so far, to identify teens with problems and refer them to helpful resources.

"We're putting together a package so parents can more easily access these resources," he told them. "You're the solution to help solve this."

School Board members Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District), Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield), Ilryong Moon (chairman) and Ted Velkoff (at-large) also attended. "We're so fortunate to have all these services here in Fairfax County," said Velkoff afterward. He was also pleased that Panarelli described how FCPS responds to student tragedies.

"I was struck by the pro-active communication they do when they come into a school," he said. "I was also impressed with Dr. Garza's leadership; I thought this meeting was approached with humanity to let people know we care."

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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# OPINION

## Voting Against Virginia?

Local proponents of expanding health coverage for poor people have a point about those in the General Assembly voting against it.

**W**hen Delegates Scott Surovell, Charniele Herring and Rob Krupicka, along with Sen. Adam Ebbin got together to make the case for expanding Medicaid in Virginia, they brought slide presentations, charts, spreadsheets, poll results and more.

It is a compelling argument that expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act is not only good for the health of working poor Virginians, it's good for the health of Virginia's economy. What's more, polls show that Virginians support expanding Medicaid, even Virginians who didn't vote for Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

### EDITORIAL

Expanding health care for poor individuals and families who so far have been cut out of health care reform by the General Assembly's refusal would create more than 30,000 new jobs, hundreds of jobs in every district in the state. It would bring in \$5 million in Federal dollars every day, \$1.8 billion a year. It would save the General Fund \$285 million over the biannual budget, money that could be spent on education, mental health and other critical priorities.

"Real people are suffering because of this,"

said Ebbin. "Real people would be helped." That includes working families and more than 12,000 veterans. Ebbin related the story of a taxi driver from his district who had a stroke in his 40s. With no insurance, Mount Vernon Inova Hospital covered his acute treatment and recovery. But without insurance, his access to rehabilitation was limited and as a result, his lifetime expectations are likely limited.

Saying no to \$5 million a day is, in fact, voting against Virginia.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Protecting the Arctic Wildlife

To the Editor:

The influx of snowy owls this winter to the Lower 48 has everybody talking, and here in Northern Virginia it's no different.

Given the unusual migration, many people have been lucky enough to have sighted one of these beautiful birds in the wild for the very first time. These birds can make amazingly long and dangerous journeys from their summer breeding grounds in the Arctic, and our piece of the Arctic in Alaska is a key sanctuary for this

rare visitor.

As U.S. citizens we can work to protect our part of the Arctic, which includes the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a vital sanctuary to birds that migrate through all 50 states and nearly every continent of the globe.

We can do our part by supporting efforts in Congress to ensure the protection of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge, not only for the birds, polar bears and caribou who rely on it, but for all of us. I hope Virginia's senators – Senator Mark Warner and Senator Tim Kaine – will show their support for



PHOTO BY DONALD SWEIG

**A Snowy Owl settled on top of a parking lot light near Springfield Mall, where it delighted onlookers for several weeks last month.**

the Refuge as well. It would show true leadership

and commitment to this special place if they would now sign on to co-sponsor the Senate bill to

protect it, S. 1695.

**Corey Himrod**

Burke  
Alaska Wilderness League

## More on School Budget

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter published in the February 13-19 edition entitled: "School Budget: How to Pay?" submitted by Christopher Thompson of West Springfield. In this letter, Thompson suggests that the reason for rapidly increasing enrollment in the Fairfax County schools is the rapidly increasing number of children of illegal aliens in the system. Up to this

point, I think he hit the nail right on the head... add to this the rapidly increasing number of English as a second language students- except that the number of children of illegal aliens in the system far exceeds the 6,000 number he quotes. Minus these children there would be no school budget crunch and I agree that those who are here or remain here must be educated.

Proving legal status of one par-

ent is a fine idea, but the democratic machine that runs this country would never go for that for purely political reason. And the idea of submitting a bill to the federal government is ludicrous. But how about this- how about a school tax based upon the number of children enrolled in the Fairfax County system per household, not a real estate tax per house? Or a combination thereof? Certainly every tax payer would pay something, but on

a graduated scale. This is an old idea, but perhaps the time has come for it to be revisited. And John Cook is 100 percent wrong when he says this crisis is "business as usual," unless he considers the continual decline of the quality of the Fairfax County school system as it relates to surrounding counties as "business as usual."

**Richard Cheadle**

Burke

## Taking Exception on Medicaid

To the Editor:

The Editorial in last week's Connection ["Taking the Money"] does not include important facts about the risks of expanding Medicaid in Virginia:

❖ Currently Medicaid is already 22 percent of the Virginia budget

❖ Expanding Medicaid reduces funds for other Virginia programs - schools, safety, other medical, etc.

❖ 40 to 60percent in the expan-

sion population already have private health insurance

❖ Anyone earning less than the 138 percent above the poverty level would be mandated to lose their private insurance and go onto Medicaid which provides less care.

As to Virginia expanding Medicaid to get increased federal funding, the U.S. government has already run out of "other people's money" with its more than \$17

trillion debt that is growing daily. Plus, there is no assurance the federal government will pay as much as it has said it would to the states because the rules of Obamacare are changing almost daily at the whim of the president.

In addition, Medicaid condemns those in the program to long waits in emergency rooms to get even routine care. Plus, it pays doctors so little and requires so much paperwork that many physicians can not afford to see more than a few

Medicaid patients.

Virginia taxpayers should not have to pay more for an already failing Medicaid program infamous for providing substandard care and being ripe with fraud. Government-controlled healthcare has caused costs to go up since its inception in the 1960s. It's time to look at free-market alternatives to providing medical care in America.

**Susan Lider**

Clifton

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# WEEK IN FAIRFAX

## Crash Kills Two Fairfax Men

A car crash Feb. 3 in Merrifield took the lives of two Fairfax residents. Fairfax County police have now identified the driver as 27-year-old Eduin Joel Galeas Mejia and the passenger as 20-year-old Orlin Misael Nolasco Hernandez. Family members assisted police in making their identification.

On the date of the incident, around 1:50 a.m., a police officer tried to stop the driver of a 1999 Dodge Neon for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. Police say the Neon was westbound on Hilltop Road when it attempted to flee. The driver lost control of the vehicle near the intersection with Old Lee Highway and ran off the road, striking a tree.

Both Mejia and Hernandez were pronounced dead at the scene and a second passenger, an adult male, was taken to a hospital with life-threatening injuries. While the crash remains under investigation, according to police, "It does appear that alcohol and speed [were] factors in the crash."

## Weigh in on Zoning Regulations

The City of Fairfax will hold a public workshop on Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m., at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, about possible zoning-regulation changes. It will let residents and business owners offer feedback on consultants' findings regarding the rewrite of the city's zoning regulations.

People may review suggested changes before work begins on rewriting the ordinance. A copy of the report to be presented may be seen at [www.zoningfairfax.com](http://www.zoningfairfax.com). For more information, call 703-385-7930.

## 'Do You See What I See?'

Fairfax-based charity Our Daily Bread is seeking submissions of artwork and performance proposals for its 30th anniversary celebration, "Do You See What I See?" Submissions are due by March 24. The event will be held May 2 in Fairfax in cooperation with Fairfax Spotlight for the Arts. Information and applications are at [www.ODBFairfax.org](http://www.ODBFairfax.org). Contact 703-273-8829 or [info@ODBFairfax.org](mailto:info@ODBFairfax.org).

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# NEWS



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

A saxophone quartet from the City of Fairfax Band entertained.



Lt. Col. Kevin Andariese, of the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, holds a bowlful of meat chili.

## Filling Bowls and Raising Funds

Some 250 people attended Our Daily Bread's Empty Bowls event, Feb. 27, raising \$13,000 for its charitable work.



GMU sophomore Tosca Lanfranconi ladles chicken and orzo soup.



Fairfax City Councilman David Meyer chooses a green bowl.

The event at the Sherwood Community Center attracted a large crowd.



Lori Potter looks at the array of bowls before making her selection.



# Sex Trafficking in Our Backyard

Fairfax County detective, trafficking victim testify at Congressional hearing.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Since its creation in October 2013, the human trafficking unit of the Fairfax County Police Department has received over 70 tips and leads about human trafficking in Northern Virginia.

"Fifty-two percent of those leads involve juvenile sex trafficking cases," said Detective William Woolf, lead investigator of the Fairfax County Police Department's human trafficking unit, at a House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee on Feb. 26.

In his testimony, Woolf addressed the need for stricter penalties on those responsible for human trafficking and the ways Fairfax County is addressing trafficking.

"We've taken on a very victim-centered approach. Our number one priority is recovering these young people from these terrible situations. The problem with that is it is extremely resource intensive," Woolf said.

**THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT** is taking a three-pronged approach of education and awareness, prevention and intervention to reduce trafficking in Northern Virginia.

"This particular crime is something that affects all communities. It's a crime that does not discriminate on race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class—it's something that has the potential of touching each and every community and each in every state here in the United States," he said.

Woolf said that a nation-wide anti-trafficking awareness campaign is necessary to prevent this crime. Fairfax County recently launched the "Just Ask" Prevention Project, which includes a website and is intended to increase awareness of sex trafficking in the area.

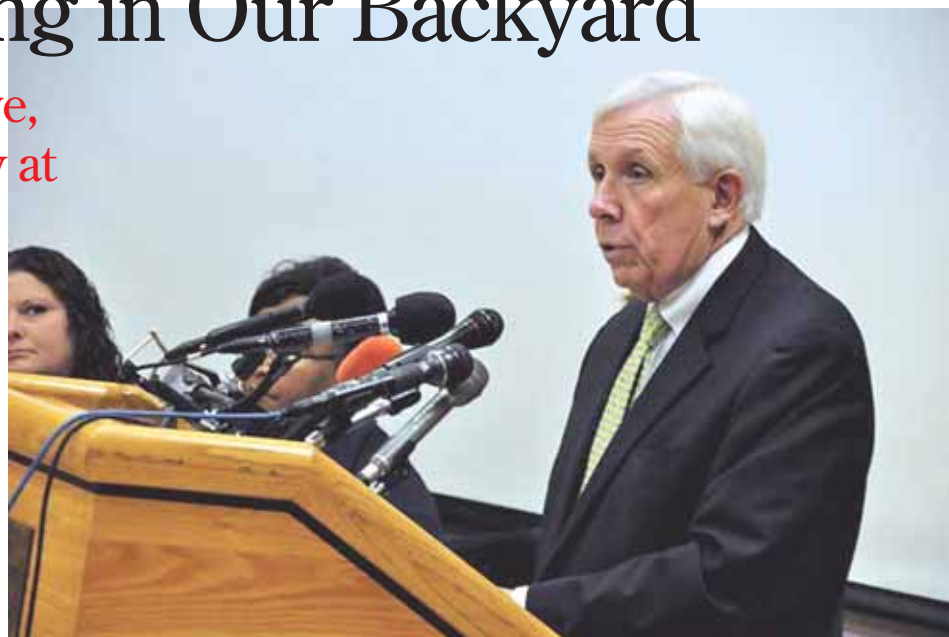
Fairfax County Public Schools recently adopted a sex trafficking awareness curriculum, the first of its kind, for students in grades six through twelfth. Woolf said programs like this are needed throughout the United States to prevent trafficking.

Sex traffickers also use Facebook and Twitter to lure victims in, Woolf said.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), chairman of the subcommittee, said that internet pages such as Backpage.com are used to advertise commercial sex, including in Winchester, Va., which is part of Wolf's district.

"How do the people who own Backpage.com live with themselves? How do they honestly live with themselves?" Wolf said at the hearing.

Wolf, who has been working for several years to combat sex trafficking and raise awareness of this crime, said that as long as Backpage.com continues to operate, trafficking will continue to be an issue.



**U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) speaks at a forum on human trafficking at the McLean Community Center in May. Wolf is chair of the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, which hosted a hearing on human trafficking on Feb. 26.**

"I have personally written the Attorney General several times over the last two years urging the department to prosecute Backpage.com and similar sites," Wolf said.

Since 2011, 42 defendants have been prosecuted for trafficking related crimes in Northern Virginia, Detective Woolf said, the Underground Gangster Crips case being one of the more notable cases.

In this case, female adults and juveniles were being trafficked for more than six years in Northern Virginia by Crips gang members. The gang used Facebook and local malls, bus stops and metro stations to recruit young girls. The gang members advertised the girls on the streets, as well as through Backpage.com.

In 2013, an Atlanta man pleaded guilty to trafficking underage girls in Virginia and several other states. According to court documents, the girls were sold for sex at several hotels in the Northern Virginia area, including Homestead Studio Suites in Sterling, Aloft Hotel in Ashburn, and the Holiday Inn Express, Washington Dulles Marriott Suites, and the Hyatt House Hotel, all located in Herndon.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR** and advocate Stephanie Vu testified at the hearing, providing a glimpse into the life of someone who has been sold for sex.

"At the age of 12, I was chosen. I was invited to a party and there I met a handsome older boy who took a lot of interest in me. Although flattered, I never thought I would see him again," Vu said.

However, she did see him again—nearly everywhere she went.

"In my 12-year-old mind, I was convinced this was fate and soon began intentionally meeting him every chance I had," Vu said.

Vu's father was deployed, and her mother worked day and night, leaving Vu responsible for her younger siblings but with little supervision.

"I was free to go on dates with this charming, older boy. I was searching for something in life and he looked like the answer,

filling my loneliness and my young heart's desire for love and romance. But I soon learned though that he was a 'wolf in sheep's clothing,' who intended on turning me into a product to be devoured," she said.

For some time, Vu said it seemed her dreams had come true.

"He said he loved me and wanted to marry me; he bought nice things for me and took me out to clubs and places I could never go to without him," Vu said. "However, in just a few months he demanded a return—I was sent to perform in a strip club. I resisted, but he said he was in a financial jam and he needed my help, and so it began. I began skipping school and dancing in the strip clubs."

Vu was soon forced to begin selling her-

**"We've taken on a very victim-centered approach. Our number one priority is recovering these young people from these terrible situations. The problem with that is it is extremely resource intensive."**

— Detective Bill Woolf

self for sex. Her trafficker threw her out into the streets on a cold night, telling her she could either make money or freeze.

After hours of being in the cold, Vu gave in.

"In desperation, I finally accepted one and climbed into the car. The moment changed my life forever. There were three men that night; at the end of it I couldn't stop vomiting," she said.

Vu continued to be trafficked, and soon faced depression and took drugs and alcohol to deal with the pain. She was arrested one night and sent home after being recog-



**Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Detective Bill Woolf speak about human trafficking at the McLean Community Center in May. Woolf testified at a sex trafficking hearing on Capitol Hill on Feb. 26.**

nized as a missing child. Although she was sent home, she returned to her trafficker.

After being arrested again and sent to juvenile detention, Vu's probation officer suspected Vu was a victim of trafficking. After returning home, she was brutally raped by her trafficker in front of her home.

"At this point I had finally had enough. At just 15 years old, I was ready to give up on life," Vu said.

Vu was hospitalized after the rape, and was soon sent to Northern Virginia based Youth For Tomorrow, 3,000 miles from her home.

She is now advocate and advisor to Youth for Tomorrow and Shared Hope International, also located in Northern Virginia.

Woolf said that more resident treatment centers are needed across the country, as survivors such as Vu have to travel nearly 3,000 miles to receive the treatment they need.

According to Woolf, judges are often going below the federal sentencing guidelines in trafficking cases.

"They are oftentimes just imposing the mandatory minimums as provided by the statute, when the guidelines suggest much higher penalties for this type of criminal conduct," he said.

There is also a need for federal legislation addressing the demand side, Woolf said.

"There are individuals out there that are purchasing sex from our children, and these individuals need to be punished or we at least need the tools to be able to address that as well, particularly when their actions are affecting interstate commerce," Woolf said.

The Virginia General Assembly has addressed legislation dealing with sex trafficking this session, including HB 235, which has passed both the house and senate. The bill, introduced by Delegate Rob Bell (R-Albemarle), would place convicted sex solicitors on Virginia's online registry of sex offenders.

Those looking for more information and prevention tools for sex trafficking can visit [Justaskva.org](http://Justaskva.org).



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# Fleeting Fame in Dark Comedy

## Providence Players present 'The House of Blue Leaves.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
 THE CONNECTION

"At some point in our lives we have all had the dream of being in the spotlight. What happens when that dream turns into an obsession? What happens when that obsession for fame overtakes reality and becomes the daily measure of a meaningful life?" These are some of the questions that the Providence Players of Fairfax production, "House of Blue Leaves" pose, said director Michael P. Donahue. The play was the 1971 winner of the Obie and Drama Critics' awards for Best American Play. A 1986 revival won multiple Tony Awards. A recently revived Broadway production featured Ben Stiller, Eddie Falco and Jennifer Jayson Leigh. The play is famous for characters interacting with the audience. "Blue Leaves" is a mixture of farce, dark humor and drama that



PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOG/COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE PLAYERS

**Ensemble in rehearsal, from left: Courtney Fonnesebeck, Brittany Marinakos, Allison Turkel, and Jennifer Rubio make their Providence Players debut in "The House of Blue Leaves."**

takes place in New York City in the mid '60s. It is set against the Pope's visit of Oct. 4, 1965. The war in Vietnam rages. A zoo attendant, who is an amateur song writer, is seeking fame. To complicate matters he happens to have a wife and a girl friend.

With open auditions there are many new faces debuting in the twelve member Providence Players cast including Adam Downs and Allison Turkel who have ap-

peared around town in professional productions. Downs plays the lead character, Artie Shaughnessy.

Providence Players veteran Barbara Whitehead plays Artie's wife, with a name apt for her character, Bananas. "Bananas may appear a bit off center, but she is the sanest one in the play," said Whitehead. "She has been kept down by others who seem to think that giving Bananas a pill is the best way to

## Where and When

Providence Players of Fairfax present "House of Blue Leaves" at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances March 14-29. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$17-\$20. Call 703-425-6782 or visit: www.providenceplayers.org. Note: This production contains mature themes and some strong language.

deal with her."

Jayne Victor, another Providence veteran, is Artie's girlfriend Bunny Flingus. "Bunny is just so bold and funny as she remains true to herself. She seeks fame and a ticket out from a boring life. She will do almost anything, except cook," said Victor with an infectious smile.

At a rehearsal, work was being done to complete the building and outfitting of the set. It was becoming a small, cluttered, claustrophobic apartment, befitting the mood of the play. "House of Blue Leaves" is comedy with social commentary. For director Donahue, "the play is a wonderful combination of language, song, absurdity and strong and eccentric characters." The title is enigmatic. If you had the choice between blue birds or blue leaves which would you select. See for yourself.

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Join us at Lost Dog Café-McLean Saturday, March 15, 3-7 p.m. Enjoy snacks & soft drinks while learning how you can help.  
 1690 Anderson Road, McLean (near Safeway)  
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**Come out to Northern Virginia's Premier Party-Planning Expo on March 23 for all of your party needs at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.**

## CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at 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/MARCH 14

#### Friday Night Film Series Presents:

**Half Nelson.** 7 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court Burke, Virginia. 703-503-4579. HYPERLINK "http://www.accotinkuuc.org" www.accotinkuuc.org. This is a non-religious event open to the public.

#### Old Town Hall Performance Series

**Irish Breakfast Band.** 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A free performance of traditional Irish folk music and dance. <http://www.visitfairfax.com/category/commission-on-the-arts/>

### SUNDAY/MARCH 16

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

#### David Barden of Sandy Hook

**Promise Speaking Event.** 12:30 - 2 p.m. St. Stephens United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Come and learn about Sandy Hook Promise's new nationwide campaign,

Parent Together, an effort to empower families to focus on the wellbeing of their children. They will share with us tools in the area of mental wellness, healthy development, community connectedness, and gun safety. Call the church office at 703-978-8724 to reserve a lunch.

**Early Spring Containers.** 1:30-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. In the cold of winter, spring never seems to come soon enough. Chanticleer Garden's Jonathan Wright shows you how to plant beautiful early spring containers that will thrive and 'warm up' any cold day. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) or call Green Spring Gardens 703-642-5173. \$10/person.

**The Chieftains.** 4 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celtic music pioneers take the stage for a spirited St. Patrick's Day celebration that captures the profound beauty of the Emerald Isle.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 18-THURSDAY/MARCH 20

**Annie Jr.! The Musical.** 7 p.m. Kings Glen Elementary, 5401 Danbury Forest Drive, Springfield. Tickets cost \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Call 703-239-4000 today to purchase tickets in advance.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 20

**"Death at The Devereux."** Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre, show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are \$35. The Clifton

Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 21

**"Death at The Devereux."** Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre, show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are \$40. The Clifton Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 22

**The Annual Antiques & Trinkets Appraisal Show.** 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Verbal appraisals given by six appraisers. \$5.00 admission (1 item included), \$3.00 each additional item (limit 2).

**Shining Night: A Portrait of Composer Morten Lauridsen.** 2:15 p.m. The Angelika Film Center in the Mosaic District, 2911 District Avenue, Fairfax. Screening of this award-winning documentary film, including a post-film discussion with Mr. Lauridsen. Tickets \$20 at the door or \$18 in advance [www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org](http://www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org)

**"Death at The Devereux."** Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre, show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are \$40. The Clifton Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's.

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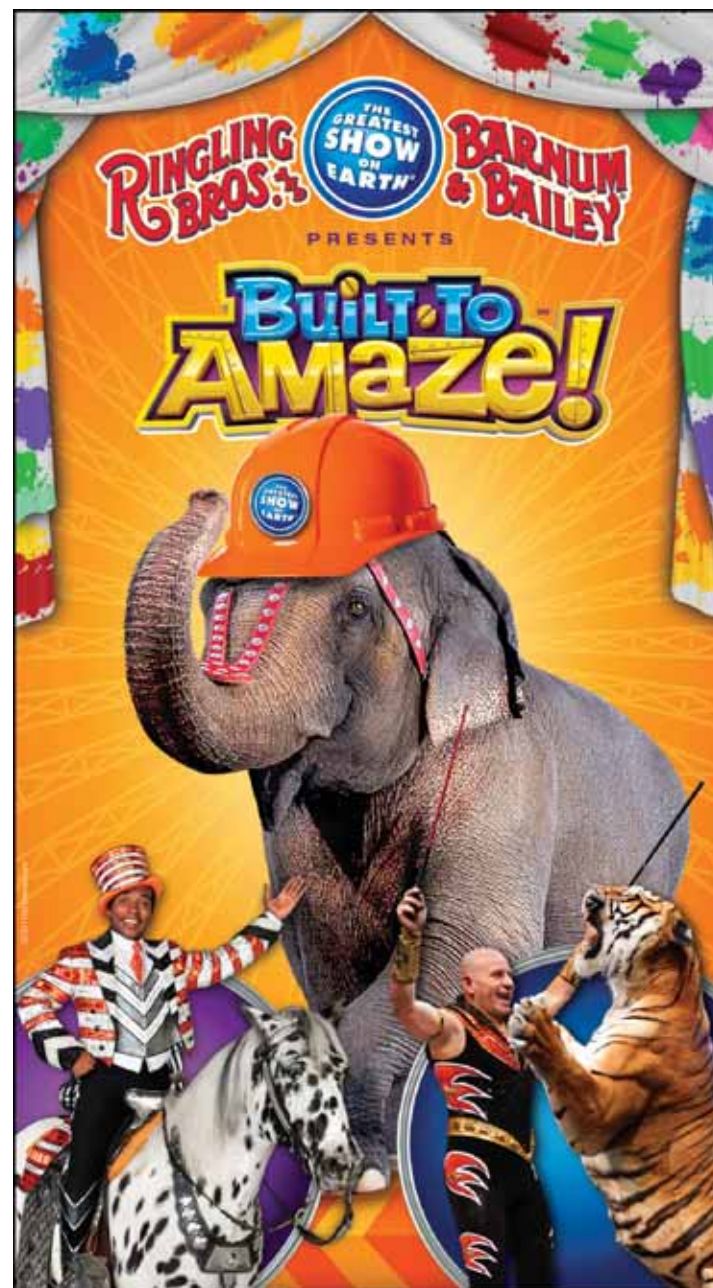
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## Providence Players Receive a WATCH Award

The Providence Players of Fairfax County received an award from the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) for artistic and technical excellence in Community Theater. The Providence Players perform at the James L. Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. "We are excited about the wealth of talent represented by this year's WATCH Award nominees and winners," said Roy Peterson, WATCH Chair. "This group is just one indicator of the vitality of the DC metro community theatre scene."

The WATCH awards were announced at a ceremony at the Birchmere, Alexandria on Sunday evening, March 9. The Providence Players received a WATCH Award for Outstanding Set Decoration in a Play - Paul Hennesy and Mike Mattheisen



PHOTO BY CHIP GERTZOC/COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE PLAYERS OF FAIRFAX

**From left: Thane Tuttle (Dutchy), Craig Geoffrion (Chicago), Danine Welsh (Cecile), Liz Mykiety (Marie) and Patrick David (Millet) in rehearsal for the Providence Players of Fairfax comedy production of Mark Twain's 'Is He Dead?'**

- "Is He Dead?"

Information on the Providence Players is at: <http://www.providenceplayers.org/>.

WATCH information is at: <http://www.washingtontheater.org/> — DAVID SIEGEL





Woodson fans and the Cavalier bench react during the 6A state semifinals against Landstown on March 8 at Robinson Secondary School.



Lake Braddock's A.J. Alexander scored 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds against Colonial Forge on March 7.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

# Cavaliers, Bruins Fall in State Semifinals

## Woodson boys struggle offensively against Landstown.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

The Woodson boys' basketball team experienced much in the way of adversity during the 2013-14 season.

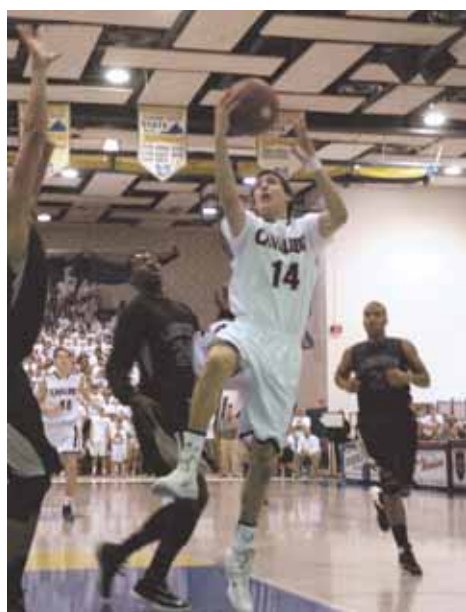
The Cavaliers overcame the graduation of three of their top players from the 2012-13 campaign. A busted pipe inside Red Jenkins Gym forced Woodson to practice and play away from its home. And during the region tournament, the Cavaliers dealt with the death of two classmates in the same week.

None of this derailed Woodson during its quest for a second consecutive region title and another trip to the state semifinals. But on March 8, with Woodson one win shy of reaching the state championship game, a simple off-shooting afternoon ended the Cavaliers' season.

Woodson shot 28 percent from the floor and produced a season-low point total during a 40-37 loss to Landstown in the 6A state semifinals at Robinson Secondary School. Sophomore guard Matt Ayoub was the only Cavalier to score in double figures, finishing with 14 points. Junior point guard Eric Bowles, the 6A North region Player of the Year, finished with one point, missing all five of his field-goal attempts. The Cavaliers' previous season-low point total had been 47.

Down by three, Woodson's final possession began with 31.4 seconds remaining. The Cavaliers passed the ball around looking unsure of what to do. Andy Stynchula ended up with the ball at the top of the arc and the senior forward shot a contested 3-pointer, which was tipped by a Landstown defender.

**AFTER THE GAME**, Woodson coach Doug Craig said the Cavaliers called a play expecting to face a zone defense. Instead,



Woodson sophomore Matt Ayoub scored 14 points during a loss to Landstown in the 6A state semifinals on March 8 at Robinson Secondary School.

Landstown came out in a man defense. Woodson tried to change the play, but Landstown defended it, and the Cavaliers were unable to get a good shot.

"They switched to man and we had a play, we just didn't get into it fast enough," Craig said. "They switched out on it, took the shooter away. They kind of kept us off balance all night. We never really got into a rhythm offensively at any point in this game."

Woodson finished 11-for-40 from the floor.

"I thought our defense was good, I thought we battled them on the glass," Craig said. "Sometimes you've just got to put the ball in the basket."

Ayoub, a sophomore transfer from Paul VI, knocked down four 3-pointers, including one that tied the score at 37 with 1:27 remaining.

"It's been a great season," Ayoub said. "Coming in as a sophomore, my first year ever playing varsity, to be on this type of team was great. It's fun. We bond very well

SEE WOODSON, PAGE 18

## Lake Braddock falls to Colonial Forge in 6A State Semifinals.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock's skilled big men propelled the program to new heights this season. The Bruins reached the state tournament for the first time in program history due in large part to the strength of their frontcourt. Their bigs often created matchup problems for the opposition and made a significant impact in the paint.

On March 7, Lake Braddock encountered a Colonial Forge team that possessed the strength and athleticism to contend with the Bruins' post players. The result for Lake Braddock: a one-and-done trip to Richmond. The Colonial Forge boys' basketball team defeated Lake Braddock 76-67 in the 6A state semifinals at VCU's Siegel Center. After trailing by as many as 15 points in the second half, the Bruins cut the Eagles' lead to six on three occasions in the fourth quarter, but couldn't complete the comeback.

Lake Braddock missed several shots near the rim, some of which resulted in Colonial Forge fast breaks. The Eagles outrebounded the Bruins 32-25.

"I just thought they were a little bit more powerful tonight than we were," Lake Braddock head coach Brian Metress said. "I thought they got to balls quicker and they had some strength that we were having a little bit of trouble dealing with. ... We were trying to get it in [the paint] and I thought we took some shots around the basket but every time we'd miss one of those, [zoom], they were gone. Give them credit. They got out and ran."

**COLONIAL FORGE** held 6-foot-7 Lake Braddock forward Will Gregorits without a field goal in the first half. Gregorits scored 10 of his 13 points in the second half, including a dunk that cut the Eagles' lead to five at 43-38 with less than three minutes remaining in the third quarter. Colonial Forge responded by outscoring Lake Braddock 16-6 during the next six-plus minutes, taking its largest lead of the night when Marco Haskins knocked down a pair of free throws to give the Eagles a 59-44 advantage. "They're not the tallest guys that we've played against," Lake Braddock junior forward A.J. Alexander said, "but they're definitely the most athletic we've played against."

Alexander finished with 13 points, eight rebounds and two steals. James Butler, a 6-foot-6 sophomore center, had 13 points and five rebounds. Freshman guard Corey Pelham knocked down a trio of 3-pointers

SEE LAKE BRADDOCK, PAGE 14



Lake Braddock senior Will Gregorits scored 13 points against Colonial Forge on March 7.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



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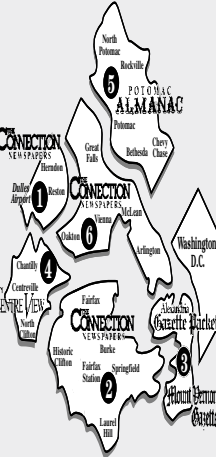
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# Woodson

FROM PAGE 12

together. Through the course of the season, our chemistry got so much better than what it was at the beginning.”

Senior forward Jimmy McLaughlin finished with seven points for Woodson. Stynchula had six points and senior guard Mike Szabo added five.

**BOWLES** had one point, eight rebounds and five assists. Woodson finished the season with a 21-9 record, with six of its losses coming by six points or fewer, and four coming by three points or less. The Cavaliers lost to Lake Braddock three times during the season by a combined eight points, including a one-point defeat in the Conference 7 championship game, but came back to beat the Bruins by 10 in the 6A North region championship game on Feb. 21.

Woodson's projected returning athletes for the 2014-15 season include: Bowles, Ayoub, junior guard Trey Johnson and junior forward Tyler Wilson.

“Yeah, I'm disappointed, but no one else can say, yeah, we won back-to-back regional championships and got to the state semifinals two years in a row,” Bowles said. “For everything that we've been through this year — everyone doubting us, not playing in our gym and everything — [I think we've been] successful this year.”

# Lake Braddock

FROM PAGE 16

and finished with 10 points. Senior guard John Nice made a pair from behind the arc and totaled eight points — all in the first quarter. “I got some better looks in the beginning,” Nice said. “[The Eagles] started to close out toward the end, so I either had to dribble or pass it off right away.”

Lake Braddock finished the season with a 23-5 record. The Bruins repeated as conference/district champions, beating Woodson 62-61 in the Conference 7 tournament championship game on Feb. 21. It was Lake Braddock's third victory over Woodson this season, with the wins coming by a combined eight points.

“Even when things weren't clicking in the winter tournament, we stayed strong and we kept it together and I'm really proud of that,” Gregorits said. “Our guys this whole year just played great. Nothing more I can ask for.” Seniors Gregorits, Nice, Sam Fiedorek, Vince Sica and Mo Ibrahim suited up in a Lake Braddock jersey for the final time. Juniors Alexander, a Division I football recruit, and Reagan Jones, sophomore Butler, and freshmen Pelham and E.J. Johnson would be the Bruins' top returnees for the 2014-15 season.

“It's heartbreaking, but the guys have been great,” Metress said. “I told them after the game, all of us coaches are all ex-basketball players and we just wanted to hang around the game and they gave us the best treat we could ever have: a district championship over Woodson, then being in the regional championship and taking a trip down to the state — first Lake Braddock team to ever do it.”

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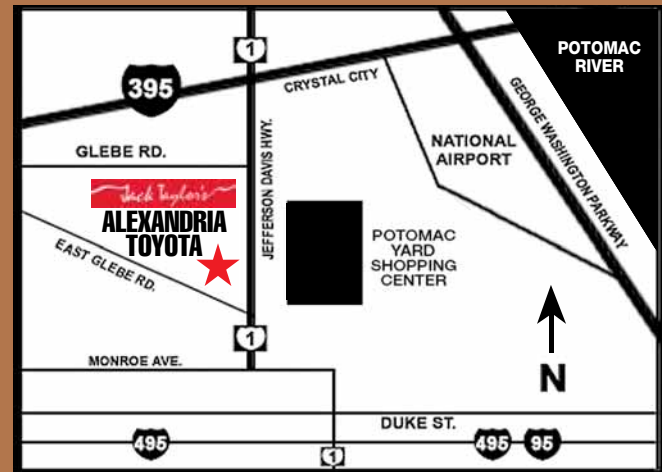


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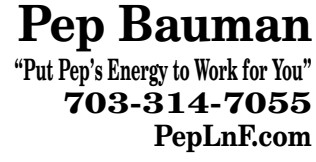
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## Empty-Nesters Re-invent the Family Home

Built-ins, cleverly articulated interior increase usable space without need to add-on.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes life's second act requires a bold set change. How else are others to know that the featured players have moved on, embracing new beginnings?

Reinvention is after all the quintessential triumph of creativity, and can be a very personal process when the thing reinvented is your home itself.

"Of course, large-scale life changes don't necessarily demand a whole house makeover," recently retired teacher Cindy Borer said. But in the past year, her only son moved out to start a new career and her husband is now traveling less, so the timing was right for discoveries.

**BUT TO START AT THE TOP:** last spring the Borers had celebrated 20 years residency in their two-story, four-bedroom Colonial-style house in Burke, and were taking stock of what they wanted from the years ahead.

At just over 800 square feet, the home's primary living area had been serviceable enough; even so, the formal dining room and adjacent den on opposite sides of the front facing foyer were hardly ever used and the rear family room was dark and cramped.



By borrowing a mere nine square feet from the dining room, the designers found space for a small mudroom with bench immediately to the right of a side kitchen door.

Evaluating options, Borer considered enlarging a few rear rooms. She also wondered if some of the home's interior walls could be modified in way that would allow for more natural light. What to do?

It was at this juncture that Craig Durosko, founder of Sun Design Remodeling, was called-in to discuss possible space improvement scenarios.

Durosko pointed out that the couple

didn't so much lack square footage as a sensible space plan tailored to how they actually use their home. The existing "center-

SEE EMPTY-NESTERS, PAGE 4

## Kitchen Confidential

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When Allie Mann of Arlington, a designer and senior interior specialist at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. was tasked with giving the first

From light-filled to dramatic, local designers create dream kitchens.

floor of a McLean, Va., home a face lift, she had to think free-flowing and airy.

"[The] client wanted to focus on making the kitchen feel open and connected to rest of home," said Mann. "[They] needed to have plenty of space to cook and entertain plus lots of storage."

Mann said the homeowner was making a cross-country move and settling in Virginia, so adhering to a strict timeline and budget were critical.

However, near the end of the project, the homeowner wanted to make a change.

"At nearly 85 percent job completion, client decided they wanted to completely remove the wall between the kitchen and family room. In the original design, we partially removed the wall," said Mann. "This meant a shift and redirection of scope, additional



PHOTO COURTESY NICELY DONE KITCHENS

A vertical, glass subway tile backsplash adds a dramatic flair to this kitchen by Nicely Done Kitchens.

engineering [because] the remaining portion of the wall housed a three-story fireplace, relocation of cabinets had already been installed and modifications to counter tops. And still deliver a project close to on

time."

The finished kitchen is a light-filled space with cabinets by Crystal Cabinetry, honed Vermont Marble countertops and appliances

SEE KITCHEN, PAGE 4

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## Empty-Nesters Re-invent the Family Home

FROM PAGE 3

hall” configuration defined rooms were consistent with tradition, yet were functionally underutilized most of the time. This accounted for daily traffic patterns that didn’t work as well as they might, and a nagging sense that the entire first floor was space-restricted.

On a second subject: the mid-house floor-to-ceiling bearing wall dividing the front and rear sections of the house could be completely deleted by installing concealed vertical supports at strategic intervals, Durokso said. Such a move would dramatically increase natural light, creating the floor space needed for an alternative layout more appropriate for both daily use and entertainment.

“On the first visit Craig pretty much solved our space plan problem,” Borer said. “From this point on, I was mainly to think about the interior design details.”

So Borer’s meeting with Jon Benson, the makeover’s lead designer, proved a revelation from the start.

A veteran home remodeling specialist as well as a nationally recognized furniture designer, Benson’s input shaped a floor plan focused on personal requirements in which custom built-ins eliminate unneeded walls while sharply improving both room function and interior design integrity.

To create a more functional relationship between the kitchen and the dining room, for instance, the designer replaced an interior pantry with a 27.5-square-foot food preparation surface and dining counter that serves both rooms equally.

By borrowing a mere nine square feet from the dining room, Benson also found space for a small mudroom with bench immediately to the right of the side entrance to the kitchen.

Re-situating the front hall closet to the right of the front door not only widened the front foyer but also created dramatic front-to-back sight lines that make the entire house seem much larger.

Measured in square feet, the changes are small. Yet such revisions liberate the first level circulation plan, re-organizing the home’s primary living area into rooms that are both interactive and articulated.

To visually differentiate the front-facing library from the family room, the designer converted existing overhead beams into an elegant tray ceiling supported by Craftsman-style piers.

A floor-to-ceiling bookcase—also a Benson original—provides an elegant yet useful wall for the new reading room. The new family room fireplace hearth was custom-designed to accommodate the plasma TV that now hangs above it.

Additional interior design decisions emerged from Borer’s collaboration with



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

**To differentiate the front-facing library from the family room visually, Sun Design converted existing overhead beams into an elegant tray ceiling supported by Craftsman-style piers.**



**The new transitional-style interior employs decorative elements to create distinctive use-zones in an open floor plan.**

Sun Design’s Jessica Page.

“Jessica helped me discover the design style I’d been looking for,” Borer said. “She opened up a lot of resources. Ideas that I liked were added to a project scrapbook which we both referenced regularly to keep the decision process on track.”

As space plan modifications proceeded, Borer’s research revealed a strong personal attraction to transitional-style interior design, a contemporary concept that seeks to reconcile traditional architecture with the spatial freedom of an open floor plan.

On this score, Benson’s original floorplan sketch anticipated the use of loveseats as



**Transitional interior design style seeks to reconcile traditional architecture with the spatial freedom of an open floor plan.**

space dividers between the family room and the den. Meanwhile, Borer’s preference for soft white and grey duotones inspired an interior paint scheme that combines sharp white and khaki.

In the kitchen, Giallo Sioriato granite surfaces are set off by a vividly original glass tile and stone backsplash which lends an invigorating streak of color to the broader visual panorama.

“Its very comfortable balance of traditional and open really works well for us,” Borer said. “I found the whole process really enlightening.”

## Kitchen Confidential

FROM PAGE 3

by Sub-Zero, Wolf, KitchenAid and Miele.

**NICELY DONE KITCHENS** in Springfield, Va., created a kitchen with drama for a Centreville, Va., family. “White semi-custom cabinetry and a contrasting dark island creates a dramatic look,” said Stephanie Brick, designer. Brick cited the focus on the vertical, subway tile back splash.

The rest of the back splash in the kitchen is horizontal, which is the standard for subway tile, said Brick.

The kitchen also includes ample, easily accessible storage space.

“The paneled refrigerator helps conceal the appliances and helps them to blend in with the cabinetry to give the aesthetic more continuity,” said Brick. The kitchen includes easily accessible storage space and ogeedged granite counter tops.

**OPENING UP** and adding light were priorities when Guy Hopkins Semmes, partner and founder of Potomac-based design-build firm Hopkins and Porter and Lea Allen, one of the firm’s senior architects, remodeled the kitchen of a Bethesda, Md., home.

“The kitchen was small, but we were able to add a lot more space, by making few minor changes,” said Semmes. “Before there was an enclosed porch next to the kitchen. We opened the wall between the kitchen and the adjacent enclosed porch.”

Semmes and Allen made another major elimination: appliances. “We got rid of the



COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING INC

**Arlington, Va., designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. created a free-flowing and elegant feel in this McLean, Va. kitchen.**

refrigerator and moved it downstairs,” said Semmes. “All of the other appliances are located under the counter and open up like drawers.”

Semmes also found a creative way to make the space more light-filled. “We took out a stairway wall to the second floor and replaced it with a triangular opening so light from stairwell came down into the kitchen.”

The kitchen now has maple cabinetry and white Silestone countertops. “It was done on a budget. It’s amazing what you can do when you work with what you’ve got.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOPKINS AND PORTER

**Guy Semmes and Lea Allen of Potomac-based design-build firm Hopkins and Porter removed walls to create space and add light to the kitchen of this Bethesda, Md. home.**

## Garden Club of Virginia Celebrates 81<sup>st</sup> Tour



**This Alexandria garden will appear on the 81<sup>st</sup> Historic Garden Week tour.**

**H**ouse and garden tours will take place across Virginia during the 81<sup>st</sup> Historic Garden Week. Garden week runs from Saturday, April 26-Saturday, May 3.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia’s historic gardens. Each spring visitors are welcomed to more than 250 of Virginia’s most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during “America’s Largest Open House.” This eight-day statewide event provides visitors an opportunity to see gardens at the peak of Virginia’s springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with over 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Statewide tour passes are available for \$175. The Alexandria tour takes place Saturday, April 26, tickets are \$35. The Vienna tour takes place Tuesday, April 29 and tickets are \$25. There is a 240-page guidebook with detailed descriptions of properties on each tour. The \$10 charge covers the shipping and handling cost of the book. Free copies of the guide are available at Virginia businesses, visitor centers, and some AAAs. Visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org).

**David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center says cold season annuals like these yellow pansies can add bright color to a garden now.**



PHOTO COPYRIGHT CAROLINE WILLIAMS

## Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

**Local experts tell you what you should do now, in spite of the cold weather.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

on the environment. It reduces bad bug populations and is safe over all.”

**I**t doesn’t feel like spring. Last week’s snow made it seem like warm weather might never arrive, so planting a garden might be the last thing on your mind. However, local gardening experts say this is the ideal time to start preparing your landscape to yield colorful spring foliage.

Bill Mann, of Behnke Nurseries in Potomac, Md., said spring garden preparation plans differ from year to year. “It depends on the landscape beds you have and whether or not you’re planning to put in a vegetable garden,” he said.

“This is the time to inspect shrubs for damage that might have been broken during the snow load,” said David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center, which has locations in Fair Oaks, Merrifield and Gainesville, Va., “Don’t go overboard, however: “You don’t want to prune plants before they bloom. A good rule of thumb is to prune a flowering plant right after it blooms.”

Instead, spend some time tidying up. “Right now is the time to fertilize your shrubs, remove old mulch, put down new mulch and just clean up,” said Watkins. “Everybody is sick of winter, especially this winter. This is the time to clean up old leaves. Because the winter has been so cold, there are going to be some plants that won’t have made it.”

“In March, a lot has to do with inspecting the yard for winter damage,” said Mann. “This is a great time of the year to look for insect damage and deer damage.”

Mann expects extensive deer damage this year. “Deer didn’t have much to eat except for plants like azaleas and rhododendrons.”

Insect damage is less obvious and more difficult to identify. “This is the time to do damage-control by using safe or organic-based products like neem oil,” said Mann. “When sprayed on plants, it smothers insect eggs or some insects in the larva stage. It also kills stinkbugs. If you can see them, you can control them. You can use a higher concentration this time of year and it is a lot safer and easier

**WHILE EAGER GARDENERS** may be excited to start planting spring flowers in their newly cleaned plots, Watkins offers a caveat: “It is a little early for most annual flowers in pots on patios, but you can plant annuals like pansies, which are cold season annuals,” he said. “They don’t like heat, so in June they start to whither. Then you can put other flowers in like petunias and geraniums.”

Watkins recommends planting hearty, ornamental shrubs in patio flowerpots and surrounding them with flowering plants to ensure year-found foliage. “A nice thing to do in pots is plant a woody ornamental,” he said. “It is nice to have plants in the pots that stay year round. I put a Japanese maple in a pot on my deck. In another pot I put ilex verticillata [winterberry] and I had red berries all winter long. In the spring, I’ll put petunias in the soil around it, and around the edge I’ll plant a flowering plant that will trail down over the pot from April to October. Then the rest of the year I’ll get red berries.”

Sowing grass seeds is also an ideal project to begin now. “The seeds won’t germinate until it gets to be 52 degrees,” Watkins continued. “So even if we get another snow storm, it helps work the seeds into the soil.”

Randee Wilson of Nature By Design in Alexandria encourages the use of indigenous plants. “Look for sources for native plants — they help sustain our local wildlife. If we didn’t have local plants, butterflies would be gone.”

Native plants also require less maintenance. “Some native plants are cardinal flower, which is bright red; bee balm, also bright red; blue cardinal; iron weed, which has purple flowers, and native wisteria vine,” said Wilson.

If a new patio is in your plans this spring, Watkins says to get started now. “We’ve been putting down putting patios all year long,” he said. “A good garden center is going to get backed up when the weather is warmer. The sooner you start getting your job in the line, the better.”



# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## Top Sales in January, 2014



**1** 7540 Clifton Road, Fairfax Station — \$2,250,000



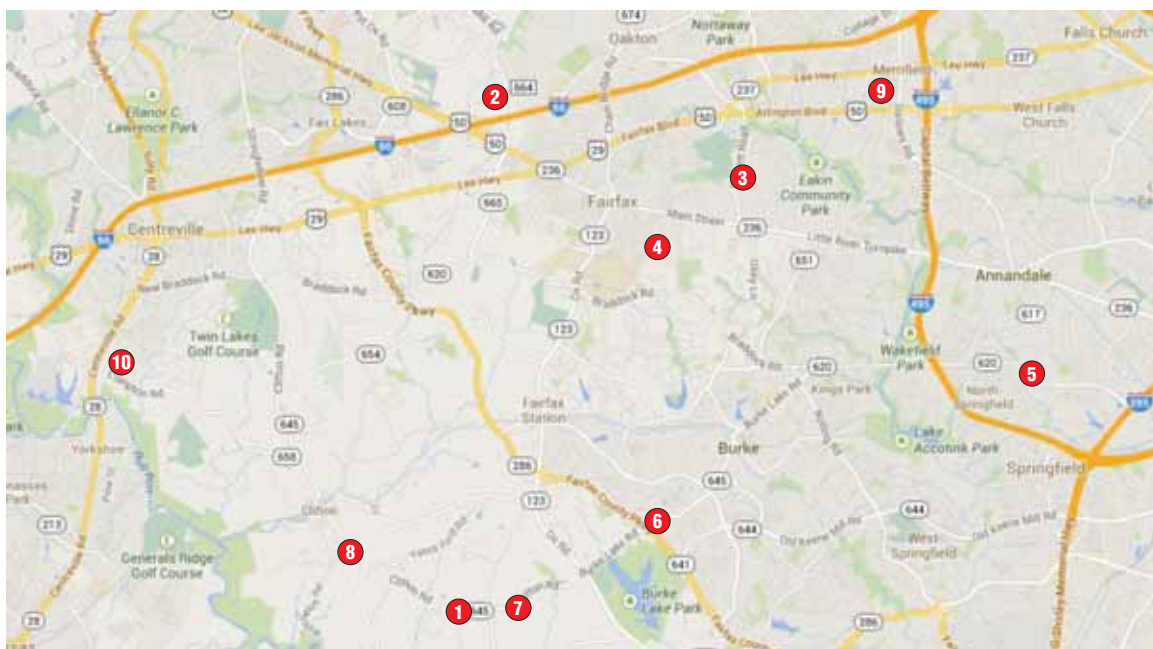
**2** 11394 Amber Hills Court, Fairfax — \$1,626,036



**5** 7111 Granberry Way, Springfield — \$1,060,000



**6** 6471 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke — \$1,037,500



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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 7540 CLIFTON RD	7	9	1	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$2,250,000	Detached	4.82	22039	CRAFTOWN	01/02/14
<b>2</b> 11394 AMBER HILLS CT	5	5	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,626,036	Detached	1.08	22033	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS	01/24/14
<b>3</b> 3518 SCHUERMAN HOUSE DR	5	5	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.18	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	01/17/14
<b>4</b> 4212 ORCHARD DR	4	3	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.33	22032	HALEMHURST	01/22/14
<b>5</b> 7111 GRANBERRY WAY	5	5	2	SPRINGFIELD	SPRINGFIELD	\$1,060,000	Detached	0.37	22151	GRANBERRY ESTATES	01/06/14
<b>6</b> 6471 LAKE MEADOW DR	4	4	1	BURKE	BURKE	\$1,037,500	Detached	0.58	22015	EDGEWATER	01/31/14
<b>7</b> 11090 SANDY MANOR DR	4	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION	FAIRFAX STATION	\$960,000	Detached	5.00	22039	SANDY RUN FOREST ESTATES	01/20/14
<b>8</b> 7242 ARCHLAW DR	4	3	1	CLIFTON	CLIFTON	\$935,000	Detached	5.00	20124	CLIFTON TRAILS	01/31/14
<b>9</b> 2936 Penny Lane	3	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$917,286	Detached	0.20	22031	MOSAIC AT MERRIFIELD	01/28/14
<b>10</b> 6720 HARTWOOD LN	6	4	1	CENTREVILLE	CENTREVILLE	\$715,000	Detached	0.34	20121	NORTH HART RUN	01/21/14

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## Van Metre Wins Sales, Marketing Awards

Van Metre receives 8 awards total at The Nationals 2014.

Van Metre Homes won eight Silver Awards at the 2014 National Sales and Marketing Awards, hosted by the National Sales and Marketing Council.

Van Metre Homes were honored as Rookie of the Year, Sales Person of the Year, Sales Manager of the Year, Best Direct Mail Program, Best Print Campaign, Best Overall Advertising Campaign, Best Computer Sales Tool, and Best Design Center.

Individuals recognized for outstanding achievement included Omayra Dehring for Rookie of the Year, Ernie Kyger for Sales Person of the Year, and Danny Faulkner for Sales Manager of the Year. Van Metre Homes won for Best Direct Mail Program with their Fashion Week. Their Fresh Campaign won two awards for Best Print Campaign and for Best Overall Advertising Campaign. Van Metre Homes' Hologram won for Best Computer Sales Tool and the Van Metre Design Studio won for Best Design Center.

Van Metre Companies has constructed more than 16,000 houses and several thousand apartments, as well as office buildings and shopping centers in Northern Virginia. Van Metre communities include their own master-planned developments, as well as neighborhoods in smaller subdivisions and third-party planned communities.

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Metre also offers turnkey mortgage financing services through their own lending affiliate, Intercoastal Mortgage. Through the Van Metre in-house architecture team, buyers can modify architecture based on a community's design plan and sur-

rounding environments. They are also able to quickly adapt to market changes, as well as offer customization with Van Metre's Dream Home Portfolio — offering homebuyers an easy path to personal home customization.



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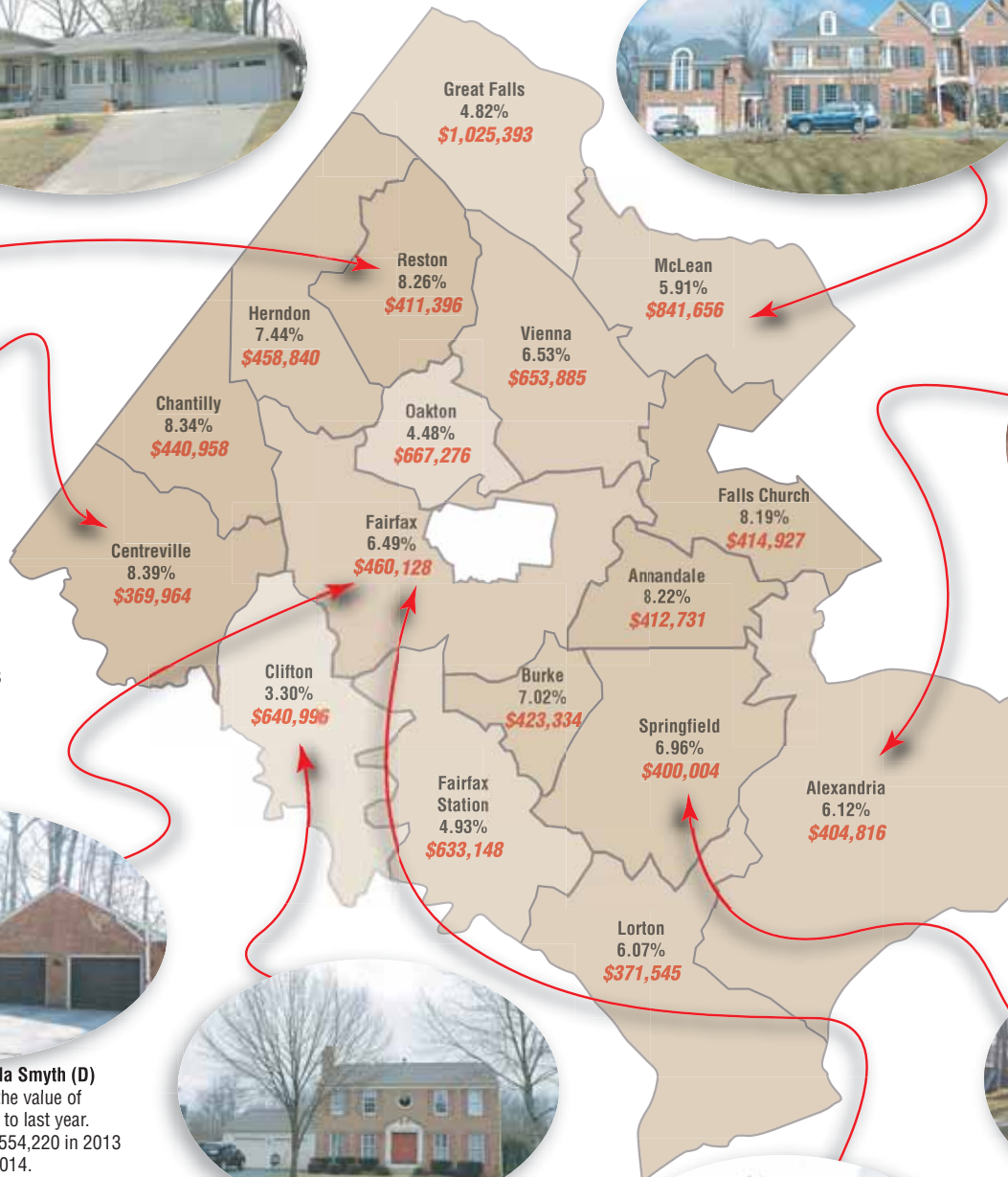
# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

## 2014 Assessments by Area

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)** saw her assessment go up 10.80% from \$575,910 in 2013 to \$638,100 in 2014.



Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)** saw a 6.16% drop in his property value when compared to 2013. The county valued Foust's house at \$3,109,050 last year and \$2,917,660 this year.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)** saw a 11.96% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Frey's home was assessed at \$225,820 in 2013 and \$252,830 in 2014.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)** saw no change in his home assessment. This year, his home was worth \$710,220, same as last year.

Mount Vernon Supervisor **Gerry Hyland** has no property listed.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)** saw a 7.22% increase in the value of her house when compared to last year. Smyth's home was valued at \$554,220 in 2013 and \$594,220 in 2014.



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)** saw a 3.56% gain in his property value when compared to 2013. Last year, his home was worth \$553,770 and this year it is valued at \$573,460.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)** saw a 13.37% increase in the value of his home over the last year. Cook's home was assessed at \$586,220 in 2013 and \$634,760 in 2014.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)** saw her home value go down 2.62% from \$617,750 in 2013 to \$601,550 in 2014.



**2014 County Average (Percent Change)**  
 Single Family Detached **\$598,711 (5.82%)**  
 Townhouse **\$370,849 (8.39%)**  
 Condos **\$247,943 (10.51%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2013 MEAN	2014 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	381,426	404,816	6.12
Annandale	381,386	412,731	8.22
Burke	395,580	423,334	7.02
Centreville	341,337	369,964	8.39
Chantilly	407,026	440,958	8.34
Clifton	620,491	640,996	3.30
Fairfax	432,104	460,128	6.49
Fairfax Station	603,429	633,148	4.93
Falls Church	383,502	414,927	8.19
Great Falls	978,233	1,025,393	4.82
Herndon	427,060	458,840	7.44
Lorton	350,288	371,545	6.07
McLean	794,688	841,656	5.91
Oakton	638,692	667,276	4.48
Reston	379,741	411,096	8.26
Springfield	373,964	400,004	6.96
Vienna	613,796	653,885	6.53

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a single family home in Fairfax County for 2014 is \$598,711, up 5.82%

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY