

# Burke CONNECTION

Agents of  
Change

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Burke Dancers on  
National Stage

NEWS, PAGE 8

## Community Debates Budget

NEWS, PAGE 4

Members of the community discuss the value of county government services during a budget dialogue meeting at the South County Government Center.



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**Student leaders and promoters of nonviolence were recognized March 15 at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, held at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville.**



**Nicolas Martin (center) a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, founded the Compassion in Action anti-bullying and positivity-spreading organization after he was a victim of cyberbullying.**

## Agents of Change

**Students from around Fairfax County recognized for promoting peace.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter a friend of South County High School senior Sakira Coleman was sexually assaulted while running on a local public path, Coleman decided to take action and started the “Fight for Your Right to Run at Night” program.

“I don’t like feeling helpless,” Coleman said. “This is about raising awareness.”

The senior has also served as president of the school service club “Stallions Lend a Hand” and volunteered at Greenspring Retirement Community, a workload that in addition to actual schoolwork requires “no sleep ever” to maintain.

Coleman and 22 other peace-promoting students and student organizations were recognized March 15 at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, held at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville. From anti-bullying event organizers to student association presidents and volunteers in the community, the student leaders were chosen for exhibiting high moral and civic values.

“The number of ways to peace is limited only by the human imagination,” said Dr. Margaret Fisher with the Peace Awards coalition as she opened the program. “Seemingly endless suffering in the world can give way when we join our strengths together.”

The peace awards started in 2006 with one high school and faith-based sponsorship. The event has grown such that now each public high school and three private schools in Fairfax County may select students for the awards and there are 14 faith-based and secular sponsors.

This year schools were also able to select organizations to honor, including: the Anti-Bullying Committee of Cedar Lane School in Vienna, the Dare to Care anti-bullying group of Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria and The Peer Mediation Program of J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church.

As students were called to the stage in the Mountain View auditorium, they received a copy of Mark Andreas’ book “Sweet Fruits from a Bitter Tree.” Along with a monetary award, each student also chose a charitable organization to which \$100 would be donated in their name.

Guest speaker Vickie Shoap, restorative justice specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, addressed the audience once the students were recognized.

“When I looked at what these students have done,” said Shoap, “I was humbled and lifted. There is hope for the future.”

Shoap referenced the nonviolence and civil disobedience that characterized the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, commenting that “We’re all fighting for human rights.”

“We’re change agents,” she continued. “It’s hard to talk about things that are difficult in their communities.” But, Shoap said, “You’re connected to a growing global community of peacemakers.”

Though mostly upperclassmen were recognized with peace awards, Seungmin Lee of Rocky Run Middle School represented the next wave of peacemakers. His artwork was featured on the back of the event’s program and won first place in the Fairfax Lions Club 2014 Peace Poster Contest.

Lee used colored pencils to depict a red, white and blue dove flying over a globe and a peace sign, with hands of various skin tones reaching towards it.



**Emily Borkowski (left), a junior at Robert E. Lee High School, is congratulated by Vickie Shoap (center) and school board member Pat Hynes (right) at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County. Borkowski has been a leader in peer mediation classes and helped set up anti-bullying events at Lee.**



**Sakira Coleman, a senior at South County High School, was recognized at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County.**



**Alex Cady, a senior at West Springfield High School, is a student ambassador for new students, a peer mediator, teacher’s assistant in the Adaptive Physical Education class and member of the Buddies Club, working with special needs students.**



**Natalia Micheli, a junior at Robinson Secondary School, started a Western Culture class in the culture center of the small Polish village of Ropczyce, from which her family moved to the United States when she was 4 years old. The class is meant to help promote understanding and tolerance in the town.**



# Bulova Hosts Community Dialogues on Proposed Budget

**Citizen ideas on budget and services sought.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**D**espite a damp dreary Saturday morning, several dozen people turned out at the South County Government Center for the first of two community dialogues on the proposed budgets for Fairfax County government and schools. The meeting along Route 1 began in the morning, followed by a similar event at the Fairfax County Government Center in the afternoon. Both were hosted by Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"When we adopt the budget, we are investing in the priorities of our community," Bulova said in her opening remarks. The format for the event included explanatory presentations of both budgets by county officials, a question-and-answer session, and small group brainstorming.

The breakout groups were a chance for individuals from the community to have a discussion with county representatives about which government services they felt



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**Alex Van Veen (center) was joined by (clockwise from right) Fairfax County School Board Vice Chairman Ted Velkoff and Chairman Tammy Derenak Kaufax, and Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) at the county budget community dialogue held at the South County Government Center.**

were more or less valuable, as well as long-term ideas for reducing county costs.

Fairfax County's Chief Financial Officer Susan Datta gave an overview of the FY2016 budget, highlighting the county's

heavy reliance on real estate taxes and underperforming local economy and housing market as factors contributing to the projected budget shortfall.

"Fairfax County is clearly seeing the im-

pact of the Sequester and problems going on at the federal level," said Datta.

"This is a stalled recovery," Bulova said. "It's important to look at all services; are there different ways for us to grow and proceed into the future?"

Bulova and Datta explained the county conducts its own "lines of business review," an evaluation of all county programs and staff that began in January to attempt to identify "right-sizing" for future revenue growth.

The proposed county budget already includes a reduction package of \$26.9 million.

"We've reduced effectively nearly every agency in Fairfax County," said Datta.

Even with the reductions, Fairfax County is still forecast to undercut what the Fairfax County Public Schools board has asked for in its proposed budget: a projected transfer shortfall of \$14 million.

Kristen Michael, assistant superintendent for financial services with FCPS, explained the school system has managed to cut over \$55 million from its FY2015 approved budget expenditures, as reflected in the FY2016 advertised budget.

However, some of the unfunded, identified needs include lower class size, a fam-

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 5

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# Community Dialogues on Proposed Budget Continues

FROM PAGE 4

ily and early childhood education program, and student technology and connectivity.

Community member Alex Van Veen asked if there were more ways the county could “get more bang for its buck,” maybe by consolidating excess properties.

Bulova and Mount Vernon school board member Dan Storck, also in attendance, answered by describing collaborative efforts already taken between the supervisors and school board to eliminate duplicated services. The Smart Savings Task Force and budget development project task force, groups with members from each board, have looked at consolidating legal services, insurance and transportation services.

But they haven’t thought of everything, which is why Datta acknowledged the small group discussions as “a really important exercise” to involve community members and brainstorm.

The school board is scheduled present its budget to the Board of Supervisors April 7, with public hearings on that budget as well as the county’s to be held April 7-9. April 28 is the proposed for the county to adopt its budget, followed by the school board adopting its budget May 21.

For more information on the proposed county budget, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget). More infor-



**Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (rear) listens to a community discussion on county services, as part of a dialogue on the proposed FY2016 budget.**

mation on the Fairfax County Public Schools budget can be found at [www.fcps.edu/news/fy2016.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2016.shtml).

Citizens are encouraged to participate and speak in the public hearings. To sign up, call the Clerk to the Board’s Office at 703-

324-3151 or 703-324-2391, or go online to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker\\_bos.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm). If a resident can’t attend in person but would still like to participate, email written testimony to the Clerk’s office at [clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov).



**Susan Datta, Fairfax County chief financial officer, gives an overview of the proposed FY2016 county budget at a community dialogue meeting on March 14.**



**Kristen Michael, Fairfax County Public Schools assistant superintendent for financial services, answers questions at a community dialogue meeting held at the South County Government Center.**



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# On Police Information and Secrecy

## Time for change in public access to police information.

**T**he first meeting of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission will take place next Monday, March 23, and it comes with hope for real change.

Police could take one step that would signal that they are serious about regaining public trust.

Police departments in Northern Virginia should let go of their relentless pursuit of secrecy. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports, dashboard video and many other sources of information without harm, all things that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence,

case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax (and also in Arlington and Alexandria) have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should, whether the case is open or closed, whether they are about a “police-involved shooting” or information requested by a family about a homicide victim.

### EDITORIAL

It is only because of legal action by the family of John Geer, shot dead by a Fairfax County police officer in the doorway to his own home in August 2013, and the resulting court order that we know details of what happened that day. And what we now know confirms that the information released by police was incomplete and misleading at best.

We’ve learned that we cannot trust the leadership at the Fairfax County Police Department to tell the truth voluntarily on these matters. (See Editorial: “Not the First or Only Time,” Connection, Feb. 11, 2015.)

Repeating what we have said in this space many times: Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and ques-

tion, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Most Northern Virginia residents think very highly of their police. We are very safe here. People understand that sometimes mistakes happen, that sometimes force is needed, and that sometimes police will exercise deadly force. What they are unlikely to accept is secrecy that shrouds mistakes, and failure to take responsibility for explaining events of deadly force.

It’s clear that discretion about when to withhold information cannot be left up to the police department.

—MARY KIMM, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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*Mary Kimm is a member of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission; news coverage of police issues will continue to be the responsibility of reporters at the Connection.*

# Investing in Families Strengthens Communities

BY MARY AGEE  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
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AND NICHELLE A. MITCHEM,  
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRIES  
AND KERRIE WILSON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CORNERSTONES

**T**he Fairfax County proposed \$7.13 billion budget for fiscal year 2016 comes at devastating cost for the most vulnerable families in our community. Included in the budget is the complete elimination of Healthy Families, a nationally recognized, evidence-based child abuse and neglect prevention program that serves hundreds of at-risk families. By eliminating this program, the total “savings” to the county would equal approximately \$1.6 million now, but could amount to unforeseen future costs for schools, human services, public safety and more.

Established in 1991, the Healthy Families Fairfax program provides comprehensive and intensive home visiting services to expectant and new parents whose children may be at risk for poor childhood outcomes. As an accredited affiliate of the national Healthy Families America network, the

program promotes positive parenting skills and optimal child health and development as a means of preventing child abuse and neglect among fragile families living in Fairfax County.

In Healthy Families, home visits allow Family Support Workers to establish a trusting relationship with young parents, with the goal of helping the family move toward greater self-reliance. Along the way, staff ensures that the child’s medical needs and developmental benchmarks are being met, and that parents are learning age-appropriate activities to encourage learning and growth. Many Family Support Workers are also able to identify other needed services for their families, and are able to leverage additional community resources that parents might not be able to obtain otherwise.

For the past 23 years, Healthy Families Fairfax has proven to be a wise investment of taxpayer’s money. Since its inception, the program has met or exceeded all state mandated goals, an excellent return on an investment of only \$3,473 per family per year. Last year, Healthy Families Fairfax served 613 at-risk Fairfax County families. Of these 613 at-risk families:

❖ 97 percent of the children were born at normal birth weight.

Healthy Families services provide better birth outcomes including a 50 percent reduction in the number of babies born at low birth weight, saving an average of \$15,000 in hospitalization costs for each preterm/low birth weight baby.

❖ 82 percent of the children were up to date on immunizations, a higher rate than both state (70.4 percent) and national (69.2 percent) levels. Healthy Families services ensure children are connected with a regular medical provider and support families in their efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle which, in turn, helps prevent chronic problems and keeps health care costs in check.

❖ 100 percent of children with suspected developmental delays were referred to therapeutic early intervention services. Healthy Families services provide early detection of developmental delays, helping to decrease the number of children in need of special education services — a savings of \$12,900 a year per child.

❖ 94 percent of the families demonstrated healthy parent-child interactions based on nationally validated assessments. Healthy Families services enhance parent-child interactions and increase

protective factors associated with the prevention of child maltreatment and neglect in the homes of disadvantaged families, potentially saving \$78,658 per year for one child in foster care.

❖ 99.4 percent of families had no substantiated case of child abuse or neglect based on Virginia Department of Social Service reports. Healthy Families services reduce the incidence of child and abuse and neglect by half, a tremendous saving given that child maltreatment costs between \$210,012 and \$1,272,900 over the lifetime of each victim.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors faces many difficult decisions when deciding upon budget priorities in the coming year, but we urge our legislators not to make budget reductions at the expense of our most vulnerable families and children. As University of Chicago Professor and Nobel Laureate in economics James Heckman said in regard to early childhood, “The question is not where to cut. The question is where to invest, and in what.” We believe that it is in all of our best interests to continue investing in Healthy Families Fairfax.

*The writers are three executive directors of the nonprofits that administer Healthy Families in Fairfax County.*

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## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Lake Braddock and Robinson Update Security

According to school releases, Lake Braddock and Robinson Secondary Schools have each updated security features on their campuses.

Beginning March 17, Lake Braddock will keep all exterior doors to the building locked and require visitors to pass through a video-entry system by pressing a doorbell. Other schools around Fairfax County have already implemented such a system.

Robinson recently added a computerized sign-in system for visitors.

The system is already in use at some of the secondary school's feeder elementary schools and requires a valid driver's license (from any state). The check-in system scans the license barcode and takes a photo of the visitor, finally printing a personalized visitor's pass.

— TIM PETERSON

### No Evidence of Problems with Foxes and Coyotes

Though it's not uncommon to have additional sightings of wildlife such as foxes and coyotes in late winter and early spring, according to Fairfax County Police Department spokesperson Lucy Caldwell, Animal Control Services doesn't have any anecdotal information pointing to problems with the two species.

"This time of year, with the snow, things were more noticeable," Caldwell said. "Also, it's breeding season, so pups will be born soon and there will be additional protective behaviors like moving around to secure the den."

Citizens should only report wild animals that pose a threat to humans or pets, show signs of rabies or appear sick or injured.

Animal Control is available by phone seven days a week, from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m. at the non-emergency dispatch number 703-691-2131. More information can be found on the Animal Control page of the county website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/animal-control-services.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/animal-control-services.htm).

— TIM PETERSON



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George Mason University School of Dance, Dance Company group.



PHOTOS BY TIM COBURN/COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

# Youthful Energy on Mason’s Stage

George Mason’s Dance Company presents “2015 Dance Gala Concert.”

By DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Dance is a captivating art form. An exploration set to music. It is motion and stillness, turns and jumps done with personal style.

It is “Shakespeare in the air,” according to William Reeder, dean, George Mason University College of Visual and Performing Arts. He called dance at Mason “simply extraordinary, and world-class.”

“We want to be on pulse with what is most relevant,” said Susan Shields, director, School of Dance. And its critical, “we provide a unique blend of serious conservatory training within the liberal arts education. The George Mason University dance major is a talented mover, an emerging artist/movement poet and a thinking arts advocate.”

Area audiences can take in the fresh, youthful energy of Mason’s dance students at this year’s George Mason University Dance Company Gala Concert. Come as well to see honorary event chair and dance legend Jacques d’Amboise. He is a Kennedy Center Honors recipient and founder of the National Dance Institute that uses dance to inspire children to excelence.

Based upon interviews, Mason dance majors promise to hold nothing back performing works by an array of contemporary choreographers. The choreographers include Andrea Miller of Gallim Dance, Alexandro Cerrudo from Hubbard Street Dance, and the late Ulysses Dove who performed with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Joey Day (Vienna) said that Mason provides “such a very supportive environment. The School of Dance took a chance on me and is open to my style and hip-hop background.” He also discussed how dance movements can visually “describe a particular person and a relationship.”



Susan Shields, director, George Mason University School of Dance.

## Where and When

George Mason University’s Dance Company presents “2015 Dance Gala Concert” at Center for the Arts, 4400 University Ave, Fairfax. Performances Friday, March 27 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 28 at 8 p.m. with a special pre-performance Gala Dinner Celebration with honorary chair, renowned dancer and choreographer Jacques d’Amboise. Will also be performed at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas on Sunday, March 29 at 4 p.m. Tickets for the performance \$15-\$25. Tickets for the Gala Dinner start at \$150. For tickets call 888-945-2468 or visit George Mason University Center for the Arts Box Office. General information about School of Dance, call 703-993-1114 or visit dance.gmu.edu.

For David Kurland (Reston), Mason School of Dance provides great opportunities to see and learn from master performers as he “pushes himself.” He spoke about Mason providing trainers to help dancers get and stay in shape. Kurland also mentioned learning about the visual aspects of dance from a film course where he is learning how to “find different angles and ways to give attention to the hands and feet of a performer.”

Katherine Stewart (Chantilly) said that dance is helping her to learn to take risks “to express internal emotions about herself and to generate creative ideas.” The School of Dance supportive environment is providing a “great place for self-examination along with pushing my boundaries beyond my own expected limitations.”

You never know, you may see someone from the Dance Gala Concert on a bigger stage in the near future; however, you can see them here first.

## 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.

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 19-21

**Friends of the Burke Centre Library Spring Used Book Sale.** Thursday: 1 - 9 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Thousands of books to look through covering every genre of interest plus DVDs and CDs that have been donated. Proceeds benefit programming at Burke Centre Library and collection enhancement for the Fairfax County Library system.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 20

**Rita’s 23rd Annual First Day of Spring Free Italian Ice Giveaway.** 12-9 p.m. Rita’s of Fairfax, 10726 Fairfax Boulevard, Fairfax. Receive a complimentary limited-edition first day of Spring cup of Rita’s Italian Ice to celebrate the new season.  
**City of Fairfax Library Friends Spring Children’s Book Sale.** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Choose gently used books for children, for yourself or as gifts. All ages. More information at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 21

**Opportunity Expo and Job Fair.** 1-5 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Supervisor Pat Herry and West Springfield High School PTSA to host a job fair for local job seekers. Although the job fair is not strictly for students and young job seekers, area high schools are making a push for students and parents to take advantage of this event to line up after-school employment, an internship, volunteer opportunities or a seasonal position for the summer.  
**Neighborhood Summit.** 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. The seminar will offer homeowners and community leaders practical advice on how to deal with common neighborhood problems.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 22

**Fashion Show: Kyoto Costume Institute.** 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Travel to Japan with our slideshow showcasing the fabulous collection of one of the world’s leading repositories of Western haute couture, the Kyoto Costume Institute. Learn about KCI’s mission to research three centuries of Western fashion and accessories and provide cultural exchange through international exhibits. Traditional English tea after. 13 to adults. \$32. Call 703-941-7987 to reserve a space.

**What Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs Believe.** 2 p.m. Congregation Olam Tikvah, 3800 Glenbrook Road, Fairfax. The Interfaith Communities for Dialogue will have a panel of speakers host a discussion of the Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh religions. All attendees will have an opportunity to share similarities, differences and misconceptions of their religions through facilitated dialogue. RSVP at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscode/EReg/Registration.aspx?groupID=26.

**What Do Justice and Peace in the Holy Land Look Like?** 2:30 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. Israel and

From left — Emma Presing, Caleigh Mrowka, Mackenzie Holub and Schuyler Corrigan at the ESPN Zone Wide World Of Sports for Contest of Champions Nationals.

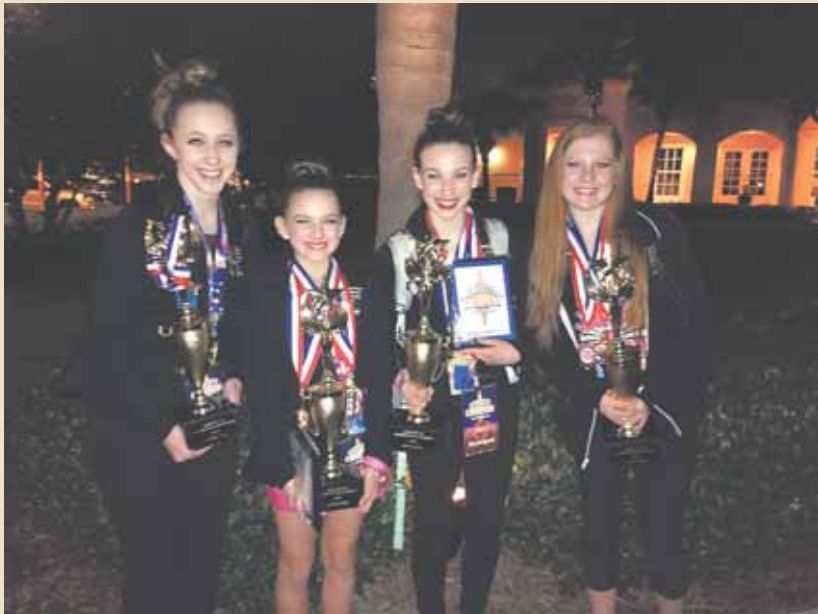


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Burke Dance Team Members Recognized as Solo National Champions

Ensemble Dance Company members from Buffa’s Dance Studio competed at the Contest of Champions held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando on Feb. 27. Four of its members were recognized as Solo National Champions in different age divisions:

- ❖ Elementary - Caleigh Mrowka, Cherry Run Elementary School, Sixth Grade
- ❖ Middle - Mackenzie Holub, West Springfield High School, Freshman
- ❖ Junior - Schuyler Corrigan, Fairfax High School, Sophomore

❖ Senior - Emma Presing, Robinson Secondary School, Junior

This year, Buffa’s Ensemble Dance Company has also competed at the George Mason Invitational, Artists Simply Human, Jump Dance Convention and NRG Dance Project, where they have won numerous awards and scholarships. They will be competing at Dance Maker’s Inc. (DMI) in Tysons Corner on March 27-29.

Buffa’s Dance Studio is located at 9570-H Burke Road in Burke.

Palestine make headline news regularly, with reports of peace talks, negotiations, UN resolutions, and US foreign policy debates. But what does it really take to have justice, peace, and security in the Holy Land? What does justice look like—in the everyday life of the Palestinian people living under occupation? How does one know when real and lasting peace has been achieved?

**Balm for the Soul – a Lenten Music Concert.** 7 p.m. St. Bernadette Catholic Church, 7600 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield. The St. Bernadette Choir – Traditional and Contemporary Ensemble including Soloists and Musicians will perform (about 1 hour) inspirational music of the Lenten season, conducted by Marcin Pekala, Director of Music Ministry, and Sylvia Malinowski, Director of Contemporary Ensemble. All are welcome. Contact: Marcin Pekala 571-294-7891.

### TUESDAY-THURSDAY/MARCH 24-26

**Peter Pan Jr.** 7 p.m. Kings Glen Elementary, 5401 Danbury Forest Dr, Springfield. Tickets cost \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. So, join Peter, Wendy, and Captain Hook, and call 703-239-4000 to reserve your tickets today.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 26

**Alphabet Soup.** 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join us for stories and activities about letters in the alphabet. Ages 3-5 with adult. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

**Walk for Wishes.** 6-8 p.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic invites the local community to participate in the inaugural northern Virginia Walk For Wishes. Join Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic wish kids, friends, families and supporters to

help grant the wishes of local children with life-threatening medical conditions. Register and create fundraising teams online at www.WalkForWishesNOVA.org.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

**Tiny Tots.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join instructor Susan Alverson for music, movement and song! Funded by the Friends of Burke Centre Library. Age 1-2 years with adult. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 27-28

**Children’s Consignment Sale.** Friday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - noon. Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Make some extra cash by selling your children’s outgrown (but in good condition) clothes, equipment/toys, and maternity wear while helping other parents outfit their growing children. Sellers receive 60 percent of the sales price (seller determined) and the UMW receives 40 percent to support Local and national charities.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 27

**Classic Tales.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come and join us for Classic Tales. Stories, songs, and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

**Bricks 4 Kidz.** 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn, build and play with LEGO bricks. Content designed by engineers and architects, with exciting themes such as space, inventions, and amusement parks. Age 5-10. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 28

**Young Speakers Club Workshop.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn the art of public speaking with an experienced instructor from the Young Speakers Club of Fairfax. Age 12-18. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

**Lego Contest Awards Ceremony.** 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Lego Awards ceremony with light refreshments. All Lego contest participants will receive a contest ribbon. The Category prize is a LEGO store gift certificate. All Ages. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

**Creative Writers Club.** 2:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Teen volunteer facilitates. Age 12-18. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 31

**The Slime Show.** 4:30 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Eric Energy will perform eye catching science experiments about atoms, molecules and polymers. See long chained molecules, melting styrofoam and, of course, slime! Age 5-12. Register at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/.

**Brain Games at the Library.** 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Have fun and win prizes with board games and card games that challenge your thinking and build skills. Age 8-12. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/.



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April 3 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm  
April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am  
April 5 - Easter Sunday Celebration at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am

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# The Right Fit: Choosing a Summer Camp

How parents can ensure positive summer experiences for their children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hough the official start of spring is still days away and the fridity of winter is still recent on the minds of many, Janelle Wright, a Potomac, Md., mother of two, has already mapped out the summer for her children.

Wright did research before signing up her 13-year-old daughter, Corrine, in an academic camp geared toward boosting her English composition skills, and enrolling her 12-year-old son, Teddy, in a camp for children whose needs fall just outside the norm.

Indeed, experts say social interactions, a chance to have fun and an opportunity to fill the time between family trips are just some of the benefits of summer camps.

There are camps for every child, no matter their needs.

"I spoke to the camp and shared with them up front that my son might need help socializing with other kids," said Wright.

"He might need directions repeated to him. I did that so I could drive away in peace knowing that he'd be fine. It's different for my daughter because she doesn't have any challenges. I don't have to call the camp and talk to them like I do with my son."

**WHETHER A CHILD** is typical or falls slightly outside the norm, doing a bit of research and exercising forethought are good ideas when selecting summer programs. In fact, advanced planning and registration for summer camp is essential in the Washington, D.C., region, say educators.

"It's important to find an activity that kids already like to do. It's summer so kids should have fun," said Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington.

"Choose a camp where they won't feel lonely. It helps to sign them up with a buddy, especially in late elementary and middle school so they'll have one or two people at camp they already know. That really does

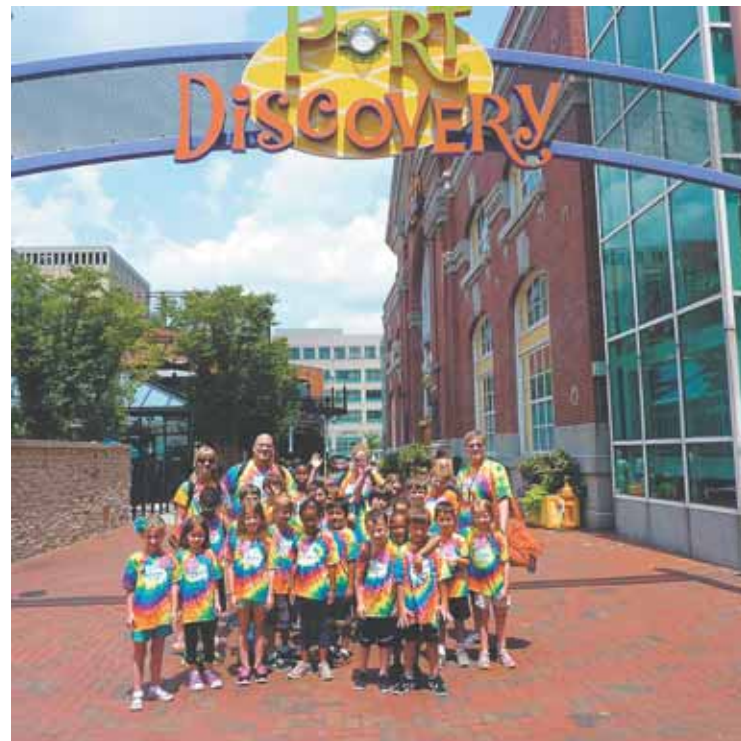


PHOTO COURTESY OF KIDDIE COUNTRY

**Campers at Kiddie Country Summer Camp in Burke take field trips as part of their summer experience. Camp is a time when children have fun while building social skills.**

matter."

If choosing a specialty camp, summer might not be the time for embarking on a new activity, however. "Summer camps may not be a time to have kids do something completely new," she said. "For example, if a child has never played golf, you might not want to invest money in a golf camp if you aren't sure your child will enjoy it. A child needs to feel like this is not school where they are struggling to learn a new activity."

The most important thing is for parents to do their research.

"Interview the camp director," said Lois McCabe, head of school for The Diener School in Potomac. "What does the day look like? How structured or unstructured is it? It is good to have a mix of both."

This is particularly true for children with special needs. "You want to make sure the camp understands the needs of special needs children," said McCabe. "You don't want to throw them in this big unstructured environment with other kids and hope for the best. You want to make sure your child's peer groups understand your child."

"Parents should consider a camp that taps into their child's strengths, the size of the groupings during the day," said Susan J. Johnson, Ph. D., of Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. "Consider the length of time for each activity."

Johnson advises that parents try coordinating their child's attention span with the camp's schedule. "Match camp schedule with body clock of the child," she said. "Schedule afternoon camp for children who naturally sleep late in the mornings, for example."

**INFORM THE CAMP'S STAFF** if a child has allergies, medical needs or phobias. For special needs children, Johnson says camp counselors and directors should be "aware of a child's specific learning disabilities, and trained in how to teach children with learning disabilities, present directions, teach multiple strategies for learning new skills and always incorporate hands-on learning activities."

For children who are prone to feeling anxious about going to camp, Johnson suggests parents do a practice run to camp and

visit the campus or building. "This will ease first day anxiety and give the camper self confidence that he or she knows his way around," she said. "Meet the counselors if possible."

There are also options if parents want their children to enjoy typical camp activities like swimming and arts and crafts combined with academics. For example, Wright chose an English program at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac for her daughter.

"[Our] summer programs encompass academics for credit or enrichment and the arts [including] visual, performing and culinary," said Monique McMillan-Jackson, director of summer programs. St. Andrews also offers sports and technology camps.

Campers who attend Summer at Norwood in Potomac can expect to "camp outside the lines," said Kevin Rechen, director of auxiliary programs at Norwood School. The school's camps run the gamut from art, science, technology and adventure to academics, dance, sports and theater.

**SOME DAY CAMPS** are structured to allow parents to choose the week their child will attend camp based on the camper's interests.

"We have a theme for every week that is packed with field trips and special events" said Fred Lowery, owner of Kiddie Country in Burke, which is running 11 weeks of camp this summer. "All of the camp activities are related to the theme. There are field trips to the Maryland Science Center, a Washington Mystics game, Reptiles Alive and Hershey Park. On site, we have everything from mad science to jugglers to swimming."

Traditional camp experiences, like opportunities for socializing with peers, are still found in specialty camps.

"As [campers] learn to identify, measure and combine ingredients, they are also learning important life skills, working together as a team and ultimately creating a delicious meal," said Jennifer Bashaw, curriculum development coordinator at Tiny Chefs, Inc. "Children leave our camps with a greater confidence in their kitchen skills and personal creativity."

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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.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 21

**Opportunity Expo and Job Fair.** 1-5 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Supervisor Pat Herrity and West Springfield High School PTSA to host a job fair for local job seekers. Although the job fair is not strictly for students and young job seekers, area high schools are making a push for students and parents to take advantage of this event to line up after-school employment, an internship, volunteer opportunities or a seasonal position for the summer.

**Vita Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earn up to \$52K. Adults. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/>.

### MONDAY/MARCH 23

**Library Tech Help.** 11 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 24

#### Tuesday Morning English

**Conversation Group.** 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Practice speaking English with others and improve your skills. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

**Library Tech Help.** 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Get your library-related electronic resources questions answered. Includes help with eBooks and compatible devices. Adults. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

#### Naturalization Information

**Session.** 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Naturalization information session for legal permanent residents and interested naturalization applicants. Topics covered include the naturalization process, the naturalization test, and the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship. Adults. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/fx/>.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 26

**Short Book Conversations.** 1:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come join our lively discussion of *Enemy Mine* by Barry Longyear (novella version). Adults. More info at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

**Homework Help.** 4:30 - 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Adult and teen volunteers available to help you with your homework. Age 6-15. To register visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/bc/>.

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Practice and improve your English. Adults. Information at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/>.

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Senior point guard Eric Bowles led Woodson with 20 points during the Cavaliers' 59-51 loss to Colonial Forge during the 6A boys' basketball state semifinals on March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The W.T. Woodson "Cavalry" cheer on the Cavaliers during the 6A boys' basketball state semifinals on March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.

# Woodson Boys' Basketball Falls in State Semis

**Cavaliers can't get over hump against defending 6A champ Colonial Forge.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Woodson boys' basketball team trailed by 14 points in the first half of Friday's state semifinal matchup with Colonial Forge and was out-rebounded by a 2-to-1 ratio.

The Cavaliers, however, have never been ones to shrink in the face of adversity.

Woodson battled back, generating multiple fourth-quarter opportunities to tie or take the lead against the defending state champion. But despite their valiant effort, the Cavaliers couldn't get over the hump.

Woodson pulled to within one with 2:30 remaining, but Colonial Forge closed the contest on an 8-1 run and secured a return trip to the state final with a 59-51 victory on March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.

Colonial Forge will face 6A North region champion Westfield in the state championship game at 7:15 p.m. today.

Jackson Boehman twice pulled Woodson within two, burying a 3-pointer and dropping in a putback early in the fourth quarter.

A Tyler Wilson bucket cut the Woodson deficit to 47-45. With 2:30 left in the fourth quarter, Eric Bowles converted a three-point play, bringing the Cavaliers within one at 51-50.

With 1:06 remaining, Woodson had possession, trailing 53-51.

Each time, Woodson failed to capitalize.

"If you get open shots, you get free throws, you've got to put them down," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "...



Woodson senior Tyler Wilson, right, goes up against Colonial Forge's Marco Haskins during the 6A state semifinals on March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.

I thought we got open looks, we got to the free-throw line with the guys we wanted there. [A] couple rolled out on us, [a] couple [were] halfway down and popped out. That's basketball."

Woodson trailed 23-9 early in the second quarter. The Cavaliers cut the deficit to eight at halftime, 30-22, and trailed 43-38 entering the fourth quarter.

The Cavaliers had a chance to win despite being out-rebounded 45-22.

"We're smaller than everybody we play against, it seems like," Craig said. "We're kind of a guard-oriented team. That's kind of who we've been the last couple years. ... What are you going to do? You're outsized by 2 or 3 inches at every position, you're going to give up some rebounds. But with that being said, we put ourselves in position to have a chance to win. Give [the

**"If you get open shots, you get free throws, you've got to put them down. ... I thought we got open looks, we got to the free-throw line with the guys we wanted there. [A] couple rolled out on us, [a] couple [were] halfway down and popped out. That's basketball."**

— Woodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig

Eagles] credit: they made their free throws down the stretch, they made a couple shots, we missed a couple, that's the difference."

Bowles, the 6A North region Player of the Year, led Woodson with 20 points, but shot just 6-of-18. Junior guard Matt Ayoub, a second-team all-region selection, finished with six points on 2-of-12 shooting, including 2-of-9 from 3-point range.

"I thought my teammates got me open to get the shots that I needed," Ayoub said. "I was open, I just couldn't hit them."

Tyler Wilson scored 17 points for Woodson, shooting 6-of-8 from the field. The senior forward scored 10 of the Cavaliers' first 13 points.

Woodson shot 12-of-19 (63 percent) from the free-throw line. Colonial Forge shot 16-of-22 (73 percent).

Senior guard Marco Haskins led Colonial Forge with 20 points and 15 rebounds. Junior guard Cario Eaton scored 19 points for the Eagles, including 17 in the second half. He went 3-of-3 from 3-point range and 10-of-12 from the free-throw line.

Woodson lost in the state semifinals for a third consecutive season. Each year, the Cavaliers responded to a loss in the district/conference tournament by making a run to

the region championship game.

"This one hurts the most," Bowles said, "because it was our last run."

Woodson won the 2013 AAA Northern Region title, overcoming a 19-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Wakefield in overtime. The Cavaliers beat Battlefield in the state quarterfinals before losing to Henrico.

The Cavaliers won the 2014 6A North region championship, beating Lake Braddock in the final after losing their three previous matchups with the Bruins during the season. With a new playoff format, Woodson advanced directly to the state semifinals,

where the Cavaliers lost to Landstown.

This year, Woodson lost to Westfield in the region final before falling to Colonial Forge.

"I'm proud to have been a part of all this," said Wilson, a three-year varsity contributor. "... I'm glad to have done it with the guys that we did it with."

Woodson finished the season with a 19-10 record, including a 91-86 triple-overtime loss to South County in the Conference 7 championship game.

"I think for us, even though we didn't win a state title last year, we've been a team that's had a target," Craig said. "I think these guys have really battled through that."

The Cavaliers played Friday's game in front of yet another large student crowd. Ten charter buses transported Woodson students to Richmond, Craig said.

"Our community, everybody knows, has been through some difficult things the last few years and I think boys' basketball is one of the things that's kind of uplifted not only the school and the kids, [but] the whole community," Craig said. "Our student support, our fan support I think is second to none. I don't know if anyone else down here will bring 10 busloads of kids."

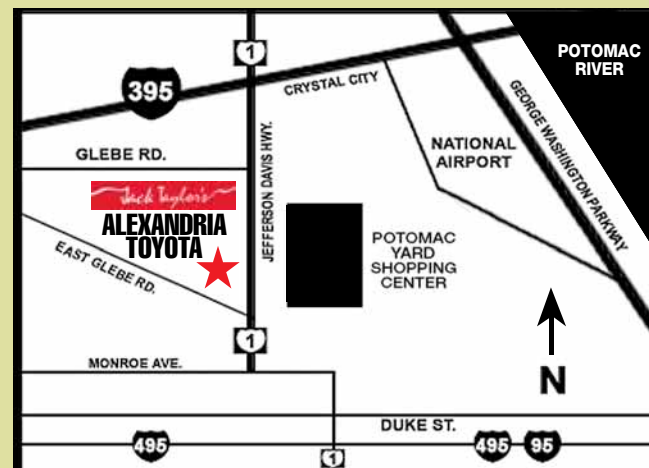


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Add Dealer Processing Fee of \$599. \$1,250 Cash Back from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. available on new 2015 Prius. Customers can receive cash back from Toyota or can apply to down payment. Excludes plug-in models. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 3/31/2015.

Add Dealer Processing Fee of \$599. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 3/31/2015.



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21 Announcements

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT  
PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
March 31, 2015**  
Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning  
Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 31,  
2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street,  
Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special  
use permit of Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub, located  
at 7140 Main Street, to include and authorize an increase in  
number of seats, an increase in parking onsite and off-site for  
the public and employees. The application for the proposed  
amendment to Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's spe-  
cial use permit, is available for review and downloading on the  
Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be  
examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road,  
Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend  
and express their views with respect to the requested amend-  
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**Ashburn** **\$555,000**  
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**Jim Fox 703-503-1800**



**Ashburn** **\$244,900**  
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**Betsy Rutkowski 703-229-3368**



**Fairfax/Kings Park West** **\$569,000**  
Charming 4-level updated split on corner lot in sought-after Kings Park West. Spacious home includes Kitchen w/custom cabinetry, fully updated bathrooms, built-ins & more. Newer systems, replaced windows, vinyl siding. Enjoy your morning coffee on the screen porch. Walk to Top-rated schools; nearby metrobus stop & VRE.  
**Mary Hovland 703-946-1775**  
**Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421**



**Fairfax** **\$799,900**  
Brecon Ridge Charmer! A must see! Charming Colonial on 41,200 sq ft lot. Huge remodeled kitchen with all the bells & whistles, wall to wall windows accent the sunny Breakfast Room, cozy Family Room with brick fireplace, Master BR suite w/gorgeous remodeled bath, finished daylight LL w/walk-up, slate roof, expanded two car garage.  
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**Herndon** **\$249,900**  
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**Arlington/Fairlington Villages** **\$410,000**  
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**Lake Anna** **\$224,000**  
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**Fairfax City** **\$800,000**  
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**Jim Fox 703-503-1800**



**Fairfax** **\$349,900**  
Lovely 3 finished level colonial townhome with 2 fireplaces, walkout rec room w/wet bar, updated kitchen, 3 bedrms, 3.5 baths, 2 assigned parking spaces. Located in the Glen Cove community near VRE, shopping, schools.  
**Judy Semler 703-503-1885**



**West Springfield/Rhygate** **\$525,000**  
End Unit TH - Premium Golf Course Lot! View holes 12, 13, 14 at Springfield Golf & Country Club. All Brick on almost 1/4 acre. Sunny and bright on all 3 finished levels. Nicest lot in Rhygate!  
**John Astorino 703-898-5148**



**Springfield** **\$499,900**  
Lovely 4BR/2BA home on .42 acre wooded lot. Cul-de-sac. 2-car garage. Deck. Freshly painted. New carpet. Updated bathrooms. Newer appliances. Beautiful Hardwood Floors. Great neighborhood & schools!  
**Diane Sundt 703-615-4626**



**Alexandria** **\$579,900**  
Move-in Ready!! 6 BR, 3 BA Home with carport-Stratford on the Potomac. New Kitchen with granite, espresso cabinetry and stainless steel appliances, gorgeous HW floors on main lvl, FP, newly carpeted LL, new paint, walk-out basement...really a show stopper!  
**Judy McGuire 703-581-7679**



**Lake Anna** **\$1,450,000**  
Gated Waterfront Compound! 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, including guest quarters, on 4.72 acres, with huge boathouse with screen room, lift, and much more.  
**Toni McQuair 703-795-2697**



**Fairfax/Fairfax Club Estates** **\$589,900**  
Charming Colonial beauty ready for market soon. 4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, brand new remodeled Kitchen w/ granite counters, new hardwood flooring on main level, new carpeting upstairs, updated baths, newer windows, furnace, A/C, roof & siding. Wow...it is perfect, nothing to do but move right in.  
**Sheila Adams 703-503-1895**



**Broadlands/Brambleton** **\$405,000**  
Backs to Woods! Gorgeous garage TH on prime lot. 2300 sq ft on 3 fin levels. Well-appointed w/gleaming hdwds, 10' ceilings, gourmet eat-in kitchen, large pantry & adjoining family room w/gas fireplace. Grand MBR w/sitting area, W/I closet & lux bath. Upper level laundry. Walkout rec rm. Deck off kitchen. Fenced yard.  
**Jim Fox 703-503-1800**



**Falls Church** **\$619,900**  
Extraordinary condo TH w/ over 2000 sq ft on 2 lvls. Soaring 2-story LR w/ gas frpl. Columned DR. Dazzling Kit w/ upgraded cabs, granite counters, s/s appls. FR off kit w/ vaulted ceiling & doors to private terrace. Gorgeous hdwds. Windows galore. Mn lvl MBR has lux bath w/ dual vanity, sep jetted tub & shower, custom W/I closet. Upper lvl w/ loft, 2nd BR & full BA. 2 gar spaces + extra storage. Steps to WFC Metro, Falls Church City.  
**Jim Fox 703-503-1800**



**Herndon** **\$445,000**  
Beautifully Updated! Well maintained 2-level Colonial home with 4 BR, 2.5 BA, and 2-car garage. Kitchen w/42" oak cabinets & Corian. Cozy FR with WB fireplace and SGD opening to large deck and fenced yard.  
**Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948**



**Fairfax/Kings Park West** **\$685,000**  
Spacious center-hall Colonial with quality finishes! Well-designed addition creates open floor plan. Kitchen is fully remodeled with a breakfast room & opens to amazing family room w/cathedral ceilings. UL has four large BRs + a den. Master & hall bath have been expanded, both w/dual sinks. Great finishes on LL with legal egress. Close to schools, VRE & Metrobus.  
**Mary Hovland 703-946-1775**  
**Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421**



**Clifton** **\$1,195,000**  
Stunning custom estate on beautiful 2+ acres. Gorgeous open floor plan with classic elegance throughout. Features 5 fireplaces, gourmet kitchen with breakfast room, elegant master bedroom with sitting room and bath, and perfect for guests, a full suite in the walk-out lower level.  
**Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949**

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