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# News

# The Importance of Including Everyone

Hundreds turn out as School Board votes to add "gender identity" to nondiscrimination policy.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

iscrimination is bad, and every one should have a safe environment in which to learn. These sentiments were common to the Fairfax County School Board members and the hundreds of parents who packed the auditorium and front lobby of Luther Jackson Middle School for the board's May 7 meeting.

But as the board convened to take action on adding the words "gender identity" to its nondiscrimination policy, there was significant, emotional discord in the audience and among several board members as to how the board had arrived at making this decision and what implementation of the policy update would ultimately look like.

Though signs and banners are typically allowed inside the school's auditorium during School Board business meetings, additional security at the May 7 meeting prohibited those with signs from entering. Dozens of citizens therefore crowded around the open doors to the auditorium and periodically vocalized their opinions.

In November, the School Board voted to add sexual orientation to the list of categories for which a Fairfax County student, employee or applicant for employment should not be discriminated against. That list also includes age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status or disability.

At-large member Ryan McElveen introduced the gender identity update to the policy at a forum in March of this year. Then it came up as new business at the board's April 23 regular meeting and was scheduled for a vote on May 7.

McElveen gave several reasons justifying the motion, beginning with a March opinion by Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring that local school boards do have authority under Virginia law to make such decisions.

Regarding the protection of transgender students and employees, he said, "The truth is we already do, but that protection has never been clearly outlined in our policies."

Several public speakers at the beginning of the meeting voiced concerns that this policy change would make bathrooms and locker rooms unsafe by allowing members of one biological gender to use the opposite facility.

"Fears about this policy change are unfounded and need to be better understood," McElveen said. "After we pass this policy tonight, nothing will change in how we handle cases of transgender and gender nonconforming students and employees."

McElveen added that students and employees will continue to go through a thorough vetting process with regards to any gender-nonconformity, and that the board



Photo by Tim Peterson/The Connection

Citizens were actively engaged in the discussion leading up to the Fairfax County School Board's 10-1 vote in favor of adding gender identity to the district's nondiscrimination policy.

has "never received a concern regarding a bathroom incident of this nature."

Another justification raised by McElveen was the board is being compelled by the U.S. Department of Education office of civil rights to amend its policy as part of a national gender identity protection rollout. "In this light, amending is non-negotiable," he said, "unless we want the government to come after our federal funding."

The School Board's counsel John E. Foster confirmed McElveen's statements, saying "the federal government has been very clear they expect local school divisions to amend their policies to include gender identity."

**NOT ALL BOARD** members agreed with that interpretation, however.

"That the government could compel individual local school boards around the country or risk losing federal education money like Title IX funds is unconscionable," said Elizabeth Schultz, representing the Springfield District.

"Is my federal government really threatening me, as a duly elected local official who has sworn an oath to the constitution of Virginia to run this school system, to do their bidding by inserting 'gender identity' or face taking our children's lunch money?"

Schultz also voiced concerns that the board had not taken sufficient time to fully examine how it would implement the policy update and what the effects would be, both for staff workload and cost to the school system.

She motioned to postpone action on the policy until October, "so that the board can be provided the commensurate draft regulation and handbook language, and determine the overall impact of the proposed revision to Policy 1450."

Patty Reed, representing Providence District, agreed with Schultz.

"This is about whether our board is being responsible or foolhardy," she said. "Frankly the process we've used to get to

this point is troubling and embarrassing — so many fundamental questions that remain unanswered.

The board members, Reed continued, "clearly have caught the public by surprise and not done justice to our established public engagement process."

Ultimately, Schultz and Reed were outvoted and the action moved forward, amid spontaneous outbursts from an increasingly boisterous audience.

The board finally voted 10-1 in favor of updating the policy to include "gender identity." Schultz was the only dissenting vote, with Reed abstaining.

IN CHAIRMAN Tammy Derenak Kaufax's statement regarding the decision, she said, "No decisions have yet been made regarding accommodations that will be provided under the revised policy. Our next step will be to hire a consultant to assist in developing appropriate regulations that protect the rights of all students and comply with state and federal law."

Following the vote, citizens began filing out of the auditorium and lingered in the lobby and covered area leading into the school.

Josh Israel of Fairfax was one of the public speakers before the School Board, in support of the update. "This policy sends an important signal to all our teachers, staff and students — particularly those who are transgender — that they need not be afraid," he said in his remarks.

After the vote, Israel said, "They demonstrated they understand the importance of including everyone."

In response to Schultz's comments during the meeting that Fairfax County policy should instead simply read "Don't discriminate," Israel said, "It still has to mean something; until these are enumerated, there isn't any enforcement. It's encouraging that 10 School Board members recognized that tonight."

Devon Flynn of Centreville is a junior at our children, our comm George Mason University. He came out underfunding of our schools."

### The New Policy

"No student, employee, or applicant for employment in the Fairfax County Public Schools shall, on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, marital status, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity, as required by law. It is the express intent of the School Board that every policy, practice, and procedure shall conform to all applicable requirements of federal and state law."

What Happens Next:

"No decisions have yet been made regarding accommodations that will be provided, under the new policy. FCPS will hire a consultant to assist in developing appropriate regulations that protect the rights of all students and to comply with state and federal law."

Source: www.fcps.edu/news/policy1450.shtml

against the proposition. "I was hoping with the majority here opposing it, the board would see and respond to our opinions," he said.

One big issue for Flynn is the "federal one size fits all" aspect of the policy update. "They have no place to tell a county, a school district," what to do, he said. Another concern for him is bathrooms and locker rooms: Flynn said he would move his future children to another county if students are allowed to use facilities designated for the opposite sex.

"I think it's a shame," he said.

Dalia Palchik, an Annandale resident and teacher at Sheridan School in Washington, D.C. supports the policy update. "As a teacher, I've seen kids struggle," she said afterwards. "It's time we do everything we can to help everyone, including the most vulnerable." Palchik is also running to represent Providence District on the School Board.

John Thom of Fairfax came to the meeting to get a sense of what was happening and how the public was feeling. "I didn't see a need to change the policy, and why this inexplicable rush to pass it without analysis?"

"Proper deliberation is what I hear people asking for — did they collect all the information and have a substantial debate?"

**THESE QUESTIONS** were answered by School Board vice chairman Ted Velkoff: "The reason we that haven't had a full-blown community engagement about this policy is because, frankly, nothing is changing," he said during the meeting.

"The notion that outside agitators promote, that this policy change will cause a sudden massive upheaval, is not true," Velkoff continued. "The proof is that we have been dealing with transgender persons in FCPS and none of these catastrophic consequences has ever materialized."

Student representative to the School Board Harris LaTeef refrained from weighing in on the motion, other than to say the majority of students he talked to supported changing the policy. The Langley High School senior did, however, implore the audience for something else:

"Come budget time next year I want to see this passion, this vigor, this community involvement when it comes to funding our schools," he said. "That is a true threat to our children, our community, the underfunding of our schools."



Much has been in the news this past year in Virginia and across the country about the very real dangers and consequences of alcohol and binge drinking on college campuses - alcohol poisoning, sexual assault, injury, and even death.

The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County invites you to join us for an award-winning film and discussion with an emergency room physician, the chief deputy for the Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County, a police officer, the GMU student wellness office director, a parent whose son died after drinking at a college party, and a college student. Information will be provided to help future college students make sound choices that will lead to positive academic experiences and enjoyment of college life without endangering themselves.

The HAZE documentary film contains graphic imagery but is a must-see for all parents, their college-bound teens, and anyone who is concerned about the dangers of underage and high-risk drinking.











### Wednesday, May 20, 2015 7 to 9 p.m.

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The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County is a non-profit organization working to prevent substance abuse by youth and young adults with partners at the local, state and national levels. This event is partially funded by a federal STOP grant. Funding for this ad is provided by the federal SAMHSA Virginia Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant





# "Me and My Dad"

 ${f T}$ o honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

# News

Rolling Road Widening Project In Early Stages, Again

Officials hope to finally move forward with county and state funding.

> By Tim Peterson THE CONNECTION

or drivers frustrated with traffic on the two-lane stretch of Rolling Road between the Fairfax County Parkway and Old Keene Mill Road, relief could be in sight,

A project to widen Rolling Road "will save thousands and thousands of lost hours of people caught in traffic," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42).

Several times in the past 20 years a plan has been in place to widen the road to four lanes, and several times funding has dried up. But with foreseeable financial commitments from Fairfax County, the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Northern Virginia Transit Authority, "We now have the funding to move the project forward," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).

Herrity and Albo lobbied the Northern Virginia Transit Authority after the organization's recent list of funding priorities didn't include the project.

The project did get on the final Northern Virginia Transit Authority recommendation list, released in the past month. Fairfax County applied for \$5 million, in addition to an application for \$10 million from the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

"In June, hopefully there will be at least \$20 million going to the project," said Karyn Moreland, section chief with Fairfax County Department of Transportation. That would include funding from the state and matching money from Fairfax County. Moreland first worked on the Rolling Road widening project as an engineer more than 20 years ago.

Though the \$20 million wouldn't cover the entire cost of the widening project, Moreland said the County committed to finding a way to fund it on Jan. 28, 2014, when the Board of Supervisors approved a six-year "Transfor funding about 220 projects through FY2015-2020.

**PRIOR TO THIS** latest redesign, federal money was involved with funding the project, which Del.



Photo by Tim Peterson/The Connection

Cars heading northbound on two lanes of Rolling Road back up during a weekday evening rush hour.



Image courtesy of the Virginia Department of Transportation

This image shows a "Typical Section" from the previous plan for the widening of Rolling Road. The section plan is being revised to conform with updated design standards.

Albo said slowed and complicated the process.

"You have to follow all these extra special things, like a bike path," said Albo. "They were very expensive and increased the size of the project — the width — dramatically."

Any delays associated with funding were compounded by updating regulations for design standards. If construction hasn't started on a new project, its plans must conform with the most recent regulations, according to Terry Yates with the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Some of the options being weighed by Yates' office are "some sort of median-turn lane, trails, a sidewalk on one side, a shared-use path on the other — consistent portation Project Priorities" plan—with the county's plan for pedestrian connectivity," he said. At this stage, the previous design must be vetted against the latest design standards to see how much of it can still be used.

One new element being consid-

ered for this most recent plan is a second turn lane from Rolling Road northbound on to westbound Old Keene Mill Road.

WIDTH IS STILL AN ISSUE for the widening and providing for pedestrian mobility, as many homes already sit close to the existing street.

"Last time we took a vote to see whether they wanted to keep front yards and put in on-street parking," said Herrity. "Parking is important; we may go through that process again."

Yates said he and other government officials have already been meeting with civic associations about the potential impact elements of the project.

Moreland said people "have plenty of time to voice their concerns." Contact either Supervisor Herrity or Del. Ablo, contacting Virginia Department of Transportation at 1-800-367-7623 or emailing her karyn.moreland@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Books donated by the Dayhoff family are among donations to establish 35 libraries that arrived all at once in Botswana.

### Family Donated Books to Establish Libraries in Africa

As parents of three homeschool children, North Springfield residents Adam and Jerritt Dayhoff go through a lot of books. They were reminded just how many books, as well as how many they weren't using, when the family moved to the area in September 2012.

They were also trying to brainstorm a way for their children to become involved with some kind of global service project, "providing for other people, looking outside the United States and connecting with places," said Adam.

One of Jerritt's friends from an online community suggested they could use their surplus of young reader books to create libraries through the African Library Project, a volunteer organization that helps coordinate both the shipping of books and library setup in various locations in Africa.

"This fit on both levels," Adam said. For each library to get off the ground, they needed to donate around 1,000 books.

The Dayhoff family was able to single-handedly donate all the books for the first library in the end of 2013. For subsequent donations, the Dayhoffs reached out to friends and Adam emailed his office at HNTB, where he's a project manager working on the 95-395 Hot Lanes.

"Books started appearing in my cube — the office funded about half of the library," he said. "It was a tremendous response."

With help from friends and Adam's coworkers, the Dayhoff's were able to donate enough books in 2014 to open three libraries.

"It's very fulfilling," Adam said. "We have texts and emails from the African Library Project that these are very well received, that they have a hard time keeping those 1,000 books in stock because they're out, being read."

For more information, visit www.africanlibraryproject.org.

- Tim Peterson

### **Creative Aging Festival Honors First** Firefighters of Burke

On Thursday, May 21, the Burke/ West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls will sponsor a Free Lunch/Creative Aging Festival Program honoring the First Firefighters of Burke, from 12-2 p.m. at the David R. Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Former Burke Firefighters, 91-year-old Bill Sheads and 85-year-old Glenn Curtis, will speak on the history and valuable contributions of the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department from its founding in January 1948. Corazon Sandoval Foley, Founding Chairman of the senior center, will present the Legacy Plaque honoring the displayed in the Pinn Community Center until the appropriate time for presentation at the Building#3 of BVFRD. The free lunch on May 21 will also feature desserts donated by Terry Wang of George Mason University, who has been a generous supporter of the David R. Pinn Community Center.



Photo contributed

**Program organizers: Bill** Sheads, Terry Wang Corazon Foley, Maria Mnimbo, Glenn Curtis. For more information, visit:

fairfaxstories.sharepoint.com/ Pages/CHES.aspx.

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# **OPINION**

# **Public Comment at Police Commission**

# Come out to testify before the commission on Monday, May 18.

ohn Geer was shot dead by Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres on Aug. 29, 2013, and the outrage over the quality and timing of the release of information about the shooting led to the formation of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, which will hold a public forum next Monday, May 18.

Geer was standing unarmed with his hands up inside the doorway to his home in Springfield when he was killed. Police had been called to the scene because of a domestic argument, and while Geer was a legal gun owner, as are one-third of all Virginia residents, no crime had been committed. Aside from the officer who shot Geer, four other officers on the scene told investigators that same day that they were shocked by the shot that killed Geer and thought the shooting was unnecessary. (One officer described his first reaction: "WTF.") Geer made great effort to be predictable in his actions, asking permission to scratch his nose, otherwise keeping his hands up on the doorframe.

Still it took a year and a half and a court order before police officials released the name of the officer who fired the shot and about 11,000 pages of documents related to the in-

gation, it was easy to feel that the meager police statements in the meantime had been deliberately misleading.

In January 2015, just before the statements of the other officers were released because of the court order, Police Chief Edwin Roessler released this update with the name of the officer: "Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home, displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them. Officers, including a trained negotiator, attempted to peaceably resolve the situation. They spoke with Geer for more than 30 minutes as he stood in the doorway of his home. When Geer began lowering his hands at one point during the negotiations, PFC Adam Torres fired a single shot that struck Geer."

It was public concern about the huge delay in any information released, and the inconsistencies between police releases and the investigative record that resulted in the Board of Supervisors forming the police review commission. The commission has undertaken a broad review of policies and practices but will not report on the Geer shooting itself.

The Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission is holding a public forum on Monday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium. Members of the public may sign up to speak by filling out the online form, or by calling the Clerk

vestigation. Reading the details of the investito the Board's office at 703-324-3151. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/ speaker bos.htm

— Mary Kimm

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

### Call for Father's Day **Photos**

In the last two weeks, we printed Mother's Day photos submitted by readers, and now we call for photos for Father's Day.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 21, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos as soon as possible, with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 15.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

# Rebuttal on School Funding

## Schools have been county's top priority, receiving \$2 billion.

By Sharon Bulova Chairman Boardof Supervisors

n April 28 the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2016 Budget. Our board approved a total transfer to the schools of \$2.01 billion, an increase of \$66.7 million (an increase of 3.43 percent) over FY2015 and nearly two-thirds of all new revenue associated with increased property values. The total school budget, which is comprised of the county transfer, plus state and some federal funding, totals \$2.6 billion.

Education is our board's highest priority; it is not, however our only priority. The school transfer amounts to almost 53 percent of our General Fund Budget. Public safety, human services, parks and libraries all receive a fraction of what FCPS does and these services are also critical to making Fairfax County one of the best places in the country to live, work, raise a family and grow older comfortably. It is also important that real estate taxes are affordable to our Budget. Enrollment estimates, and

residents, many of whom are still struggling to get back on their feet following the recent recession.

Fairfax County's Direct General Fund Budget, services and programs, excluding the School Transfer is \$1.81 billion. This year the General County disbursements increased by only 2.06 percent, less than the increase in the School Transfer.

Fairfax County worked hard this year to advocate for a larger share of state funding for our schools, getting \$9.9 million more than anticipated through the state budget. With these funds, FCPS is within \$4.1 million of their total \$2.6 billion Advertised Budget proposal; a gap of just 0.16 percent (sixteen hundredths of a percent).

The superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools Karen Garza increased her request for a transfer after the state budget increase was announced and shortly before our budget adoption.

In her April 28 release, the superintendent indicated this figure is now \$7.6 million or 0.297 percent of FCPS Proposed Operating



ated costs, can and do change as the school year approaches and FCPS staff refines their estimates. The

the associ-

gap, therefore, is somewhat of a moving target.

Our Board of Supervisors continues to be supportive of the school system and our partners on the School Board. When the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY2016 Budget, we also gave county staff Budget Guidance for FY2017 which provides a planning target for an additional increase of 3 percent next year.

As we look ahead at the fiscal outlook for next year, we know that we will continue to be affected by a sluggish economy and the effects of federal cutbacks and sequestration. Like the schools, the General County side of the ledger is projecting a budget shortfall for the next (2017) Fiscal Year. This will have to be resolved, as Fairfax County is required to adopt and maintain a balanced budget.

This spring, the Board of Supervisors will lead the community in a Lines of Business review. This process will be a comprehensive review of all the programs and services the county provides. It will help the board to identify redundancies, establish further efficiencies, consider strategic changes to reach intended outcomes and make sure that the investments we make conform to the community's expectations. In our Budget Guidance, we invited our counterparts on the School Board to participate and we hope they will undertake a similar process for FCPS.

I also hope that the School Board is able to fill the vacant Auditor to the School Board position they created in October of 2014. The Board of Supervisors has had an Auditor to the Board since the 1990s. This independent, critical perspective on the budget and county programs can help elected leaders identify efficiencies and has saved taxpayers millions of dollars.

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### NEWS DEPARTMENT:

Kemal Kurspahic Editor ❖ 703-778-9414

kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

#### Amna Rehmatulla

Editorial Assistant 703-778-9410 ext.427 arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

#### **Tim Peterson**

Community Reporter 703-314-0789

#### Jon Roetman

Sports Editor \* 703-752-4013 jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com @jonroetman

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### **Debbie Funk**

National Sales 703-778-9444

debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

### **David Griffin**

Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

### **Editor & Publisher**

Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

### **Executive Vice President**

Jerry Vernon jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

> **Editor in Chief** Steven Mauren
>
> Managing Editor Kemal Kurspahic
> Photography:

Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design: Laurence Foong, John Heinly

Production Manager:

Geovani Flores

#### Special Assistant to the Publisher Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com @TheismannMedia

#### CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426 Circulation Manager:

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



# LETTERS

## Rush to Misjudgment

To the Editor:

Since being elected Sheriff of Fairfax County, Stacey A. Kincaid has been actively working to transform her Office into one of positive pro-active engagement throughout the county. The hallmarks of her office are her attending civic meetings, listening to residents, and ensuring she is directly accessible to the public.

One does not spend a significant part of her life in law enforcement without developing compassion for those in need. Natasha McKenna, jailed in Fairfax on an Alexandria warrant, was desperately in need of mental health treatment, due to a long history of schizophrenia.

As a person who has worked in Law Enforcement and Corrections for over 20 years, I have seen that, despite the increasing number of mentally ill inmates in our jails, corresponding resources are not being appropriately provided. According to a December 2014 report by Mental Health America (MHA), Virginia is ranked 47th for adults with any mental illness reporting unmet needs. Most of that need in Virginia lies within our county jails.

As the death of Natasha McKenna is actively investigated by the Fairfax County Police, it needs to be said that criminal investigations take time. They require meticulous attention to detail and the gathering of factual evidence. This is done to protect the rights of the accused, victims and integrity of our judicial process. Criminal investigations usually do not lend themselves to the rapid appetite of our instant 24news cycle or the expectations created by one-hour crime shows.

The Fairfax Sheriff's Office is fully cooperating with the on-going investigation in regards to Natasha McKenna's death. Sheriff Kincaid has dedicated her life's work to protecting and serving her community. Further, she has been active in advocating that those who are mentally ill are better served in a mental health facility - not a jail. Sheriff Kincaid is absolutely dedicated to transparency and accountability, and I urge everyone to give her the time and opportunity to prove that to all of our citizens.

> **Jimmie Barrett** Fairfax



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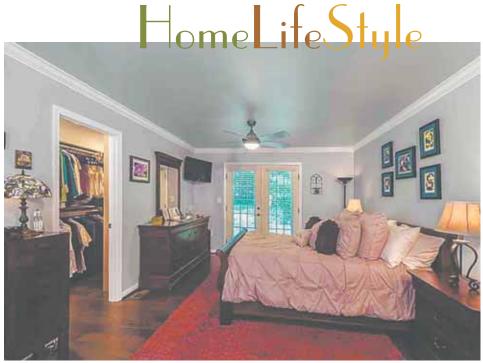
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# Local REAL ESTATE

# March, 2015 Top Sales





The rear half of the former first level family room — extended over 150 square feet — has been converted to Michael and Kim Napolitano's new master bedroom which now features a 60-square-foot walk-in closet and glass-facing French doors that open to the garden.



Photos by Dimitri Ganas

The new space plan to the Napolitano home called for an enclosed "bump out" off the home's south-facing rear elevation. The added square footage accommodates a family entertainment zone in a newly formed great room that incorporates the kitchen, an informal dining area and a computer work station. Designer Susanne Glatz developed a "transitional" interior design style appropriate to existing furnishings and art.

Adding On

"Bump-out" plus first floor reconfiguration meets family's evolving space requirements.

By John Byrd

t what point does a house become "old", which is to say — no longer a good fit for its usually adaptive occupants?

Michael and Kim Napolitano of Reston pondered this question recently, deciding to investigate options for adding living space to their 33-year-old, 2,000-squarefoot colonial.

"When we moved in 12 years ago," Michael Napolitano said, "the kids were in grade school, Kim was working in an outside office, and our home's first floor plan supported all our daily requirements. Also, we've always loved the beautiful setting — which is about an acre with many mature trees."

About five years ago, though, Kim started working from home and quickly set up an office in the basement. An L-shaped workstation under a transom window, the arrangement was intended to be "a step" towards a more suitable accommodation.

Meanwhile, the three children entered high school. As they grew, so did the number and size of their friends — and the duration of their visits.

Gradually, the Napolitanos began to notice that their once ideal home was no longer meeting their changing needs. The front-to-back family room on the west side of the house, for instance, seemed "disconnected" from the rest of the house since one had to pass through the dining room or the foyer to get to the kitchen.

The dining room seemed smaller; ditto



Kim Napolitano's new office is balanced, comfortable and bathed in natural light. Situated to the right off the front foyer, it's within a convenient stride to the kitchen and other family gathering areas.

the upstairs master bedroom with its limited closet space and tiny master bath.

The formal living room, while fine for holidays, was gradually becoming under used. The breakfast area —a slight step down from the kitchen — was just too small.

In fact, the entire first level plan — about 1,200 square feet in all — seemed positively crowded when the family was entertaining.

WHAT TO DO? "When we reviewed the Napolitano's preferred improvements "wish list," it was clear that the existing first floor footprint was really only about 400 feet short of a plan that would satisfy all the current requirements — including relocating Kim's office to the first floor," designer Suzanne Glatz said. "The real question was: could a slightly expanded first level be reconfigured in a way that would fulfill such a wide range of new needs."

Glatz, of Foster Remodeling Solutions, had been hired last year by the Napolitanos to develop and supervise a budget-sensitive makeover. Trained as both a space planner and an interior designer, Glatz has been particularly strong in finding creative ways to add square footage to space-restricted older homes

"Basically, Suzanne invited us to think about the floor plan differently," Michael Napolitano said. "Once you recognize that you don't have to live in conformity with the room-assignment template provided by the original builder, you start to see the possibilities."

The first consideration: repurposing the 12-foot-by-35-foot family room.

"The front part of the family room — which segues from the front foyer — made perfect sense as a place for Kim's office," Michael Napolitano said. "But I hadn't considered it's possibilities as a master bedroom suite until Suzanne pointed it out."

"Also, I was aware that newer homes often feature a kitchen that directly interacts with the family room," he added. "I just didn't see how we could accomplish that in this house."

As this option became more compelling, Glatz sketched out a plan for a 360-squarefoot "bump-out" extending from the home's

### **Details**

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. Call 703-550-1371 or visit www.fosterremodeling.com.

south-facing rear elevation.

**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY** square feet of the newly enclosed space would be an open family entertainment zone within a 500-square-foot L-shaped "great room" that would incorporate the kitchen, breakfast room and a new computer work station.

The new enclosure's remaining square footage would extend the former family room, which would now be converted into a first-level master bedroom suite.

The resulting accommodation features a 58-square-foot walk-in closet (more than triple the size of its predecessor), and a 190-square-foot luxury bath complete with glass-encased walk-in shower, soaking tub, and a his-and-her vanity.

One enters the new suite through a discrete foyer off the great room. Among its many visible charms, the new suite features glass-facing double French doors that swing open directly to the patio.

"The great room is a perfect solution for us now," Michael Napolitano said, "We can be together in the same place working on different projects — cooking, homework, television — without disrupting each other. It offers a nice balance of family time and independence."

The first level interior design — a collaboration between Glatz and Kim Napolitano — explores "transitional"-style sensibilities.

Wide-plank provincial hickory flooring extends throughout the great room, new office and master suite, lending a unity that works well with existing furniture.

By contrast, the master bath unfolds in a restful taupe that complements the woodgrain porcelain flooring and silestone counter tops.

In short, a perfect setting for a white Jacuzzi holstered in a wood frame — and a few blissful moments all to one's self.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

# Entertainment

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/MAY 15

Classic Tales. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Develop your child's early literacy skills with stories, songs, and activities. Age 3-5 with adult.

#### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 15-16

Alice in Wonderland. 7 p.m. Thomas Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. This modern retelling of the classic children's story has all of the characters you know and love, including the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat, and the Queen of Hearts. With cell phone in hand, a present-day Alice encounters the Wonderland so many of us treasure in a musical that appeals to both children and adults. Tickets will be available at the door (\$5 for adults, \$3 for children, \$1 for children at matinee). Concessions will be available

#### **SATURDAY/MAY 16**

Hope & Health Festival. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lorton Community Action Center, South County Cares, and INOVA are providing the annual Hope & Health Festival at the Lorton Park, 9518 Richmond Highway, behind the Lorton Library. Free health screenings, food, inflatables, kids' games and activities will be available, rain or shine to all in attendance. LortonAction.org or call 703-339-5161, oxt. 140

7th Annual Occoquan River Fest.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Occoquan Regional
Park, 9751 Ox Road, Lorton. This
family event will feature free river
boat rides, a children's midway, live
animals, food, hiking, paddling and
over 15 outdoor recreation, history
and conservation organizations. The
event is sponsored by NOVA Parks
with assistance from the Occoquan
Watertrail League, the Occoquan
River Communities, Bob Beach
Architects, Vulcan Materials,
Rivergate Development, Prince
William Marina and Lorton Station
Merchants.

Creative Writers Club. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Road, Burke. Do you enjoy writing fiction, poetry, non-fiction and/or memoirs? Join us for sharing, discussion and feedback of works in progress. Ages 12-18.

Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) Benefit Buffet Luncheon. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Outback Steakhouse, 6651 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Springfield Outback Steakhouse will be presenting a fundraiser to benefit the FARA.Cover charge is \$30 and includes an all you can eat buffet. The event is being co-sponsored by the Washington Area Parrot Head Club. www.curefa.org, or contact Donna Rambler at the Springfield Outback at

obs4713@outback.com or by phone at

Springfield Smart Markets Farmers Market. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Springfield Town Center, at the corner of Loisdale Road and Spring Mall Drive. Fresh local fruits and veggies.

703-912-7531.

1st Annual Car Show. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The entry fee for all vehicles is \$10, and entries are now being accepted. Spectators will be admitted free of charge. The car show is presented by MNR Dips. Cars and trucks will be judged in three classes. One vehicle will win the "All Show People's Choice" award. Trophies and prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winners. To enter a car or truck, call 571-264-7479 or email Treybrown321@gmail.com. Vendor opportunities are available.

Creative Writers Club. 2 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks 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 13-18.

#### SUNDAY/MAY 17

N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station.Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15, \$2; under 4, free. Information on the museum and shows is at www.fairfax-station.org phone 703-425-9225.

3rd Annual Fragile X Walk. 7:45 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Registration after May 5 is \$40 per adult and \$15 per child and shirt sizes are not guaranteed. https://www.crowdrise.com/ FXSNOVA2015.

**Historic Colonial Church Service at** Gunston Hall Plantation. 10:30 a.m. Gunston Hall is located at 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck, A colonial Anglican Service of Morning Prayer will be held at Gunston Hall. The service will be led by the Rev. Mr. Lee Massey, a colonial Rector of Pohick Church, as portrayed by the Reverend Thomas Costa, D.D. The service will use the Order for Morning Prayer from the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer, the service George Mason and George Washington used in their regular Sunday worship. For more information call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org

Workhouse Farmers Market. 1-5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The opening day of this year's farmers

# Merrily 'Rolling Along'

By Skylar Watkins Thomas Edison High School

hen we're young, we're naïve. We're innocent. We're dreamers, and lovers, and most importantly friends. The world is at our feet, and we think nothing will ever get in the way of our relationships or our dreams.

Picture this: three friends — Franklin, Charley and Mary — with big dreams living in New York City. Frank has just come back from the military and is rekindling his love for music. Charley and Mary are aspiring writers. Mary is head over heels in love with Frank, but doesn't know how to tell him. These three friends have open hearts, but the city corrupts them. It doesn't happen all at once; it

happens gradually, over almost three decades. Success chews them up and spits them out

I just described one of the biggest cliches known to mankind. Now try to picture this: looking at the friendship backwards. We meet a corrupted Frank in Bel Air California, 1976. He's sold out to the movie industry. He's cheating on, and leaving, his second wife. He's lost the two most important people in his life — Charley and Mary. Going back in time from 1976 to 1957, "Merrily We Roll Along" by George Furth with music by Stephen Sondheim shows us just how fragile our dreams really are, and how irrevocably they can be destroyed.

Recently, the West Springfield High School Spartans presented this eye opening Broadway musical. Some might say that this content is too heavy for high schoolers, considering that the issues our main characters deal with are alcoholism, adultery, divorce, and the overall theme of dying dreams, but the Spartans handled the content extremely well and with impressive maturity.

Darion Roberts, Scott Burrows, and Mallory Astrow (Frank, Charley, and Mary respectively) perfectly portrayed their relationship, and the concept of going backwards by becoming just slightly more youthful each time we saw them. Scott Burrows carried the show with his humor, and overall perfect interpretation of Charley, while Mallory Astrow as Mary carried the show



Photo by John Ariale

From left: Brett Bowker, William Shipley, Catherine Ariale and Dominique Ramos in West Springfield High School's production of 'Merrily We Roll Along.'

> Cappies Review

emotionally. Other knockout performers included Frank's first and second wives: Barbara Lawson as Beth (who shined especially in the second act) and Catherine

Ariale as Gussie (whose overall sass combined with extraordinary vocals made her the perfect Gussie).

The set, special effects, and costume crews helped portray the time shifts in a beautifully simplistic way. Most of the set pieces were painted in shades of grey to represent areas of the mind that aren't remembered clearly. Special effects consisted of three hanging projection boards which showed photos of the cast, newspaper headlines, scenery, and sometimes even video to portray which year was taking place. The costumes were spot on with each member of the ensemble wearing a decade appropriate costume in the different scenes. The main characters were also decade appropriate, but always seemed to stand out in whatever situation they found themselves in.

The quick scene changes, for both costume and set, were seamless and deserve a standing ovation. Speaking of standing ovations, the pit orchestra was crazy in the best kind of way. They may have been the best high school pit orchestra I've ever heard.

I wish I could look back in time like Frank, Mary, and Charley to see this show again. The West Spring-field Spartans deserve many applause for their outstanding performance of "Merrily We Roll Along."



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# Sports

# Cool-Headed Rams Hand Centreville First Loss

Obregon leads Robinson with eight goals; Wildcats receive six yellow cards.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

he hype surrounding Monday night's matchup between the Robinson and Centreville girls' lacrosse teams built throughout the day with comments on social media.

Things got even more intense when focus shifted to the field.

In a battle for the top seed in the Conference 5 tournament, the Rams and Wildcats engaged in physical play, and combined for 45 goals and eight yellow cards. There was even a brief sideline dispute between head

Each team made a second-half run to take the lead. But in an environment Robinson captain Taylor Caskey described as "insane," it was the Rams who best kept their cool and came out on top.

Playing with a three-player advantage thanks to six Centreville yellow cards, Robinson scored the final six goals and captured a 25-20 victory on May 11 at Robinson Secondary School.

THE RAMS finished the regular season with a 13-1 record, including 5-0 in the conference. Centreville suffered its first loss of the season (10-1, 4-1) and will be the No. 2 seed in the conference tournament. Each team will receive a first-round bye and an automatic berth in the 6A North region tournament.

"It was intense," said Caskey, a junior midfielder. "It was building up the whole day - back and forth on social media; everyone was getting so hyped for the game. We wanted this so bad. We haven't beat Centreville [since 2011] and I think we were just looking for the redemption we were looking for for so long.

"... I think that was the most physical game I've ever played. ... It was insane." Robinson led 17-10 at halftime but Centreville came surging back.

The Wildcats trailed 18-12 when an official issued Centreville standout Caroline Wakefield a yellow card — Centreville's fourth of the night - with 21:07 remaining. US Lacrosse rules state once a team receives its fourth yellow card of the game, the team will be a player short for the remainder of the contest and will lose another player for each subsequent card issued.

scored eight of the next nine goals and took a 20-19 lead when Wakefield scored with 14:56 remaining.

Within the next six minutes, however,



Robinson junior Taylor Caskey scored four goals during Monday's victory over Centreville.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Robinson senior Izzy Obregon scored eight goals Monday, helping the Rams beat Centreville 25-20.

Centreville received two more yellow cards, putting the Wildcats in a 12-on-9 disadvantage. Robinson capitalized by scoring the final six goals and taking the game.

The Rams also scored four straight goals in the first half during a Centreville yellow card, extending their lead to 16-9

Robinson head coach Liz Case said she told the Rams to "keep calm and just play" in regard to dealing with Centreville's physical style.

"I wanted [us] to play a clean game," Case said. "I'm very adamant about how they are at practice with checking and fouling. I call them out on it. They have to do push-ups. I Despite being short-handed, Centreville feel that's one thing that saved us in this game is we did keep our composure. We didn't get too emotional in the sense that [we] started swinging and playing bad. It worked to our benefit because [the Wild-

cats] did it. Having so many people down, we were able to take the lead."

While Case preached calmness, the Robinson head coach exhibited a moment of frustration in the second half when she yelled at Centreville head coach Christina Griel, telling her not to coach her players while they're in the penalty box.

"Just play by the rules," Case said after the game. "It is what it is. If she saw me doing it, I'm sure she would call me out, too. [Out of] respect, I'm going to call her out on it basing it on the fact that she knows the rules. ... We had yellow cards too, but I'm not over there coaching them."

Officials warned both teams.

"I don't have a comment for that," Griel said. "I don't think she likes where I was standing, I guess."

Griel said the Wildcats "might have three

"I think that was the most physical game I've ever played. ... It was insane."

- Robinson junior Taylor Caskey

or four yellows on the whole year" prior to Monday's game. She said the team can learn from the loss before entering the postseason.

"Clearly, some of my younger players didn't quite know how to handle a game like this, but they'll learn from it [and] they'll be better next time," she said. "... [Losing players to yellow cards is] a tough thing to battle back from. So for the score to be what it is and for us to be beating a team like that a man down, I'm proud of the effort that they put out and it didn't go our way in terms of the fouls and they'll be better for it next time.

"... Adversity is always a benefit and it's a learning experience. It's a whole new season from here on out."

Robinson senior attack Izzy Obregon produced a hat trick in the game's first four minutes, helping the Rams jump out to a 4-0 lead. She tallied six goals in the first half and finished with eight.

OBREGON, who will play for the University of Maryland, said she wanted to play well against Centreville standouts Wakefield (University of North Carolina) and Reagan Newell (James Madison University).

"I did take it on myself to be a little more aggressive," Obregon said. "It was more of a personal game because I'm best friends with Reagan ... so there was some rivalry there."

Caskey and sophomore attacker Katie Checkosky each scored four goals for Robinson. Senior midfielder and team captain Mackenzie Schuler finished with three goals, and senior attack Sasha Towne, junior attack Kaitlin Luccarelli and sophomore midfielder Elli Kluegel each had two.

Newell led Centreville with eight goals and Wakefield totaled six. Paige Richbourg finished with three goals, Emily Marciano had two and Elizabeth Murphy had one.

"Reagan and Caroline are two amazing players," Caskey said. "We've been trying to guard them forever. When we all get into it, it gets a little tough to keep our emotions together. I would say there was a good amount of roughness out there tonight because people just wanted this win more than any-

"To us, this was the game that meant

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.

-William Van Horne

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21 Announcements

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

In accordance with the public participation requirement of 9 VAC20-160-120, the general public is hereby notified that WPPI Fairfax RI, LLC, has voluntarily enrolled the property located at 3565 Chain Bridge Road, City of Fairfax, VA ("Proper-

ty") into the Voluntary Remediation Program ("VRP"), administered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ("VDEQ"). In accordance with the VRP, voluntary investigations, cleanup, and human health assessments have been completed. Soil, groundwater, and soil gas samples at the Property indicated the presence of petroleum constituents related to former VDOT operations at the Property. A site and human health risk assessment following development determined the impacts at the Property did not present an unacceptable health risk to site users in consideration of proposed site use restrictions. Actions required for continued protection of human health and the environment at the Property

include engineering controls and institutional controls (deed restrictions) limiting property use to commercial, restricting groundwater use for any purpose, and adherence to a site-specific Health and Safety Plan during deep excavation at the Property. The VRP is prepared to issue a "Certificate of

Satisfactory Completion of Remediation" for the Property pending completion of the VRP process and completion of the 30-day public notice period expiring on June 14, 2015. If you have questions or wish to comment during this time, please call Mike Bruzzesi at (703) 608-5969 or submit comments in writing to Mr. Bruzzesi at Land Strategies, Inc., 26037 springdale Drive, Chantilly, VA 20152

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ic beverages. Usman Nasim

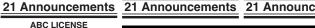
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# LONG & FOSTER # 1 in Virginia 703-425-8000



Gorgeous Colonial with many recent updates! Remodeled Gourmet kitchen with custom cherry cabinets, gleaming hardwoods throughout main level, beautiful custom landscaping on lovely corner lot with backyard privacy. Outstanding neighborhood with wonderful amenities



**Exciting Contemporary in Beech Ridge!** Minutes to downtown Fairfax and George Mason University this amazing contemporary is a fusion of architecture and nature. Interior space is illuninated by natural light from the walls of windows overlooking 5 beautiful open acres accented by an inground pool nestled in the hillside. There are 4 bedrooms and a guest suite, sauna, outdoor kitchen, and exemplary upgrades throughout. Frost Middle and Woodson High School.



nets, center island & granite, updated baths, hardwood flooring, new car-peting, and finished walkout lower level. Sought-after community of Kings Park West with top-rated schools. Close to VRE, metrobus & GMU.

Mary Hovland 703-946-1775

Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



**Burke Centre** 

\$305,000 Move-in ready, 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 3 level condo in Burke. Updated throughout. dryer in unit. Lower level deck backs to trees. Convenient to VRE. Fairfax County Parkway, shopping, and in Robinson School District

> **Charles Shaw** 703-989-7169



\$389.500

Well maintained, stunning with many upgrades, welcoming foyer, spacious, eat in kitchen, hardwoods, energy efficient windows, newer roof & hvac, spacious, beautiful rec room, patio with fenced, private, backs to trees, bike or ride to VRE.

Mary FitzHenry 703-250-8915



New listing in Burke Station Square. 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial with over-sized 1 car garage on quiet cul de sac. Family room with wood-burning fire place opens to a beautiful patio with fenced back yard. Within 1/2 mile of VRE & Pentagon bus stop. Lake Braddock School District.

Charles Shaw 703-989-7169



Fairfax Station

\$895,000 Stately Colonial on 1 acre in sought after community. Family room with built-in cabinets, skylights, cathedral ceiling & French doors to grand deck. Remodeled Gourmet kitchen and spectacular baths

Carol Hermandorfer 703-216-4949



Gourmet Kit w/ Corian, 42" cabs, island, Family w/ Fpl, Dining, Sunroom HDWDs, custom paint & window treatments, new lux MBA w/ walk-in shower. Fin LL w/ Rec room & Fpl, BA, Games room, Bonus room, WICs, Scr porch w/ EZ Brz windows, Deck, 2 car Garage, irrigation system. Golf View! Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Elegant 6,000+ fin sq. ft. home in sought-after Willow Springs.
Entertaining is effortless with Open Floor Plan & Oversized
Rooms. Gleaming HDWDs. Wooded Lot. Updated Huge Kitchen &
Luxury Master Bath. MBR Balcony. Lower Level Nanny Suite possible. Sauna, Cedar Lined Closet. Quiet Street. Move-In Ready



Alexandria \$475,000

Adorable in Alexandria! This 2 BR plus Den, 3 Level Townhome features upgraded Kitchen with granite counters, 1st floor hardwoods, Lowe Level Rec Room and Den. Close to Metro. Barbara Nowak

Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Resort lifestyle in this immaculate 3 BR, 2 BA & Regency 55+ community. Porch, deck, patio overlook lush landscape. Hardwoods granite, Master on main, sitting room, office, loft, unfinished L

Mary LaRoche 703-919-0747



Gorgeous Home! New Gourmet Kitchen, hardwood floors, amazing landscaping, gorgeous baths, finished full basement. Close to schools, VRE, shopping, major commuter routes, and Pentagon express buses. You must see this home!

Diana Khoury 703-401-7549



Sunny and clean home with 3 BR, 2.5 BA and 2-car garage located

Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803 Gerry Staudte 703-309-8948



Work from Home! Perfect 2 story office space. Excellent main road exposure with plenty of good parking. Or, great Rambler with huge 1st floor Master bedroom, Blocks to Sho droom. Blocks to Shopping. **Sheila Adams 703-503-1895** 



Heritage Hunt 55+ upgraded beauty.

Screened porch & Golf Course lot! 3 BR (2 on Main level), 3 BA Gourmet Kitchen w/ 42" cabs, Corian & island, Dining, Family room & Fireplace, Den w/Built-in, HDWD, Loft, 2 car Garage, Irrigation system, fenced yard. HOA inc. Phone, Internet, Cable, Trash & fitness. Golf membership avail. Golf View!

Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Amazing view of woods, comm greens and mountains, Generous open floor plan allows for easy entertaining. \$3K+ custom blinds thruout. Gourmet kitchen has new granite counters, SS appliances



Gainesville

Heritage Hunt 55+ pristine 1-level SFH on Golf Course. 2 main level BR, 2BA, Gourmet Kitchen w/ 42" cabs, island, new neutral paint & hdwds, Family room w/ gas Fireplace, Dining, Sunroom, MBR w/WIC, updated Lux MBA w/walk-in shower, Prcln tile, 2 ca Garage, Deck, Irrigation system. HOA include Phone, Internet, Cable, Trash & fitness. Golf membership avail. Golf View! Amanda Scott 703-772-9190



Bring your horses to a fabulous 5 stall barn on this equestrian paradise! The property includes a gorgeous home with updated baths and kitchen with granite counters, breakfast bar, top of the line appliances, high ceilings, open floor plan, decks overlooking the paddocks from several levels.

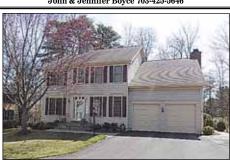
tion on over 1/2 acres. 3 bedrooms & 2.5 baths. Minutes to DC & close to Rte. 50 & 7.

Dana LaFever 703-609-3479



One level brick SFH approx. 3,000 sq. ft. in Sleepy Hollow Featuring hardwoods, updated baths, custom kitchen with gran te, SS appliances, a large carport and a huge family room

Betsy Rutkowski 703-229-3368



rooms, 4.5 baths, over 4,800 square feet of living space on 3 finished levels. Lower level entrance with full bedroom & kitchenette. Richard Esposito 703-503-4035

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