

# A Wonderful Companion

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Robert Updegrove,  
retired library director,  
Fairfax, and his wife  
Maria enjoy their dog's  
companionship.

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Children's Safety

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**PET CONNECTION**





- ATTENTION -

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## News

# Looking Out for Children's Safety

## Fairfax City Council adopts bike helmet ordinance.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**icycle-riding children in the City of Fairfax will now be a bit safer, thanks to a helmet ordinance just adopted by the Fairfax City Council. Under the new law, all bicycle riders ages 14 and younger must wear protective helmets.

After being asked why the City didn't have a bike-helmet ordinance like other Northern Virginia jurisdictions, Mayor Scott Silverthorne had Police Chief Carl Pardiny research the matter. In January, Pardiny told the Council his findings and recommended it adopt an ordinance, too.

He presented information showing that helmets save lives and prevent injury, and the Council agreed.

And at its Feb. 9 public hearing on this issue, the members adopted an ordinance that is enforceable on any highway, sidewalk or public bicycle path.

According to the new law, children must wear helmets meeting the Consumer Product Safety Commission standard when riding or being carried on a bicycle or an electric power-assisted bicycle. Violations are punishable by a ticket carrying a \$25 fine.

But the fines are suspended for first-time violators and for those who purchase or acquire the required type of helmets before their fines are actually imposed.

And the Police Department has already purchased bike helmets to provide to children in need.

"The civil penalty is prescribed in the ordinance's enabling legislation and cannot be removed," said Pardiny. "A parent or guardian will receive a copy of the violation summons given to the child, and there'll be a 60-day grace period in which we won't enforce this ordinance."

Resident Todd Delap asked why it only goes up to age 14, and not 17, and Silverthorne replied that "the enabling legislation from Richmond says '17.'" Delap also wondered why the law would not apply to "tricycles and other things kids ride on," as well.

And Pardiny explained that "the enabling legislation doesn't include children's toys not using electric power."

"I'm a cyclist and business owner in the City, and I support what you're doing," resident Peter Edwards told the Council. Referring to studies conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), he said it concluded that "wearing bike helmets results in a 63 to 88 percent reduction in the risk of head and brain surgeries."

And, added resident Diane Henn, "Hope-



**Police Chief Carl Pardiny**

fully, once children are required to wear helmets, their mothers and fathers will, too."

Councilman David Meyer made the motion to approve the ordinance and Councilman Michael DeMarco seconded it. "I think [this] is a step in the right direction," said Meyer. "Helmets reduce the number and severity of [bike-riding] injuries. I think this is a prudent step in protecting young people – and it might lead to a new, normative behavior in a whole, new generation of children."

"I support it, but I'm concerned about 'criminalizing' this behavior toward children getting tickets from police officers," said Councilwoman Nancy Loftus. "But I'm supportive of the waiver of the penalty if they acquire a helmet."

Councilman Jeff Greenfield also expressed a concern. "I hope the police exercise discretion with kids when it comes to giving them a ticket," he said. "We want kids to be able to run to police, when they need to, instead of away from them." So, he told Pardiny, "You'll have to do some education to make children aware of this new ordinance."

The Council then voted unanimously to approve it. Afterward, Pardiny said, "I am pleased with Council's decision to move forward with an ordinance which is designed to prevent cycling-related head injuries in children 14 years of age and younger."

"Teaching our children the importance of bicycle safety – and getting them used to wearing helmets at a young age – is an important step forward in reducing the potential for traumatic brain injury and, of course, death," he continued.

"The Police Department will continue working on our public-outreach efforts and educational campaigns focusing on topics like bike safety, and we look forward to hosting more Kids Safety events in the coming year."

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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# NEWS



From left, Del. Dave Albo (R-42) welcomes Sangster Elementary School student Lanny Huynh and her family to his Richmond office. Huynh's artwork was chosen by her teacher to be hung in Albo's office, continuing a tradition of displaying constituent students' art Albo has kept for 22 years.



Center Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) meets with members of the volunteer service organization The Links, Incorporated who visited Richmond during the 2016 General Assembly session.



From left, George Mason student Donna Imadi, Del. David Bulova (D-37) and Imadi's classmates Danielle Melton and Beverly Harp. The students are part of the Roosevelt Institute at George Mason and presented at the General Assembly session in Richmond, advocating based on policy papers they developed around affordable housing and education.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## 'Compromise, Rather than Over My Dead Body'

Legislators reflect on battles won, lost and tabled after the General Assembly "Crossover."

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Tuesday, Feb. 16 marked "crossover," the milestone during the current session of the Virginia General Assembly session in Richmond where bills passed by the House of Delegates move to the Senate for debate and either approval or rejection, and vice versa.

While many are just beginning their time in the alternate governing body some fast-tracked bills such as Del. Eileen Filler-Corn's (D-41) "Return to Learn" bill, that would establish protocols for children who've battled cancer to reintegrate back into school, have already passed both houses and landed on the desk of Gov. Terry

McAuliffe (D). McAuliffe then can choose to sign, veto or send the bill back with notes.

Filler-Corn has brought forward similar bills previously for establishing guidelines for students with concussions returning to the classroom. For this new iteration, "We had a group of stakeholders, some educators, education consultants come together," she said, "and said we really do need something like this."

Reflecting on this session at its midpoint, Del. David Bulova (D-37) said a strong theme of several hotly contested bills "has come down to state versus local control."

Bulova gave two examples, including Senate Bill 549, which constricts localities' options with regards to rezoning proffers, as well as one that would put regulatory

framework around the social lodging business Airbnb. "They want to basically trump the ability of localities to further regulate these businesses," Bulova said. "But it's easier to be managed at one level — instead of by states, by counties. When something goes wrong" with a local customer's experience, Bulova continued, "they're not going to go to a state legislator."

Other legislators are impressed with some of the compromises and progress the two bodies have been able to make, despite the party line.

Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) is optimistic about the resolution that was reached concerning I-66, including widening the Dulles Access Road to Ballston to relieve the major bottleneck there. The plan would make it more integrated with bus and other rapid transit, including dynamic tolling based on the time of day and direction of commute.

"We're all going to look back on this in

ten years, and think regionally, things move better," Watts said. "It's 'Compromise, compromise, compromise,' rather than 'Over my dead body.'"

Additionally, Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) said the General Assembly has been able to make less partisan moves to "claw back from the cuts we made prior to the recession." Some of those include allocations for Dulles Airport and maintaining the United Airlines hub, capital equipment and expenditures at the new Inova Center for Personalized Health, as well as \$7 million of additional funding for Fairfax County Public Schools, which is looking at a \$68 million difference between the budget adopted by the School Board and the County budget proposed last week by County Executive Edward Long.

"It's going to help, a lot," Sickles said, "but not going to get to the bottom line, at least what the school system is looking for."

## Gone, but Not Forgotten

Representatives highlight significant bills that have already "died" or may not move beyond the second round.

### Del. David Bulova (D-37)

Senate Bill 734 would allow the Virginia Board of Education authority over local School Boards to establish charter schools, even if that organization isn't in favor of it. "It's a classic example of state versus local control," Bulova said. "It's a question of whether an unelected body at the state level should be able to second guess those officials." Though the bill narrowly passed the House, Bulova doesn't expect it to reach Gov. McAuliffe.

### Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41)

House Bill 474 was tabled in the House Committee on Rules. It called for requiring a study of criminal background checks for childcare providers. Though the bill was tabled, a letter is being sent to the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to enact such a study anyway. "In the end, we're going to provide that study," said Filler-Corn, "and do that research, continue to persevere and make a difference."

### Del. Tim Hugo (R-40)

Two of Hugo's education bills were left dead in the Education Committee, includ-

ing House Bill 863, that would have required public Virginia universities to reserve 75 percent of undergraduate spots each year for residents of Virginia, and House Bill 847, which would have prohibited public universities from using funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia to offer tuition assistance to non-Virginia students. "We want our kids to have the opportunity to go to school here," Hugo said. "They're only going to let in so many kids from Robinson, Centreville, Westfield, no matter how great the grades are. It's a problem. William and Mary and UVA admit approximately 40 percent out of state students each year, and that's wrong."

### Del. Paul Krizek (D-44)

House Bill 623 died in the Commerce and Labor Committee, and called for raising the minimum wage beyond the federal mandate to \$10.10 per hour, effective July 1, 2016. Krizek's plan exempted small businesses (with fewer than 15 employees) as well as employees younger than 25. "I don't think people working a 40-hour work week should be forced to accept public assistance or charity to survive," Krizek said. "And that's what's happening, especially in northern Virginia."

SEE HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 5



## NEWS

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Bill Zink discusses the existing site and its topography.

# What to Do with the Paul VI Site?

**Residents receive information, give comments during meeting.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Seeking a larger campus with room to expand, Paul VI High School will move from its longtime home in the City of Fairfax to a 68-acre site in Loudoun County in 2020. But what's being discussed now is the fate of its 80-year-old building – once housing Fairfax High and GMU – and the 18.5 acres on which it stands.

Toward that end, developer IDI Group Cos. hosted a community meeting, Feb. 11, to gather input. Some 110 residents attended, including Mayor Scott Silverthorne and members of the Fairfax City Council. IDI executives and brothers Enrico and Carlos Cecchi presented few details of their plan, except to say they would like to build a mixed-use community.

"It would have high-quality design principles and urban plazas," said Carlos Cecchi. "There'd be a variety of housing types, including market-rate, affordable and senior housing, plus bike and pedestrian access."

"In the past five months, we've met with several Fairfax stakeholder groups, plus City Council members and City staff," said Enrico Cecchi. "Our goal is to reflect their goals so our master plan will have a broad base of appeal and provide a signature project that will be a lasting asset to the



Evie Ifantides (in stripes) and fellow residents look at photos of what was on the Paul VI site throughout the years, while (on left) Anna Maas with Thunderbird Archaeology speaks to them.

City."

**IDI'S TEAM** consists of attorneys Blank Rome, design planners Streetsense, traffic consultants Wells & Associates, civil engineers Christopher Consultants and Thunderbird Archaeology. And at the meeting, attendees broke into groups and spent 20 minutes at each of four stations, hearing presentations by the team members (except for the attorneys) and asking questions.

Bill Zink with Christopher Consultants discussed the existing property and its topography. "The water drains in three directions from the site, and we'll provide water quality and water treatment as we develop [it]," he said. "Right now, the water [runoff] is unregulated."

Meanwhile, various City residents told The Connection what they'd like to see done with the site.

"I live just one block from the school," said Luis Morillo. "I don't want to see any condos or apartments there because there are already two, additional sites proposed for apartments within a two-block radius. Houses or townhouses would be fine. I just don't want high density because it would affect our traffic and schools."

Also concerned was Fairfax City native Lee Hubbard, who started school at Paul VI in 1949. "I'd like them to at least keep the original, center portion that opened in 1935," he said. "I realize the property is valuable – they're drooling

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 10

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



# Highlights

FROM PAGE 3

## Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

Senate Bill 238 focused on home-based child care. "It would've allowed home-based child care to keep their businesses," Petersen said, "and give them a protection from being shut down if they have a dispute with their Homeowners Association. I expect to bring that back."

## Del. Mark Sickles (D-43)

House Bill 1029 was intended to give grants for facilitating teaching "critical languages" currently in high demand at the U.S. State Department and other international organizations. It would've helped set up classrooms and find the harder to locate teachers for Russian, Arabic, Hindi and several other languages not traditionally taught in school. "I really fell in love with this bill," Sickles said. "You shouldn't fall in love with your bills. There are bonuses and incentives in all our foreign policy agencies if you can speak one of the languages that are hard to find. I thought this was a no-brainer as far as a jobs bill, economic development bill. I'm going to keep working on that."

## Del. Vivian Watts (D-39)

Del. Watts introduced a number of bills, a "real full-court press," in the House of Delegates focused on reforming problems with the school funding formula that's based more on property values and less on per capita income. Though Watts got to address a hearing before two different budget committees, they've had tough sledding. She sees it as a major statewide change that could take four to five years to push through.

"We need to really deal with the problem of local taxing power not matching what the school formula says is our ability to pay," Watts said. "Forty percent of school children of my district are entitled to free and reduced lunch. That's a fed program that has federal definitions of poverty that are the same in downstate Illinois as Northern Virginia. You know these kids aren't going home to Internet access, to a parent that can read them the bedtime story, or didn't come to school with a parent that took them to see the world. We really have a tremendous challenge to work with, with a funding formula based on averages for all of Fairfax County that look like we can handle it. We're dealing with a tax base that dates all the way back to the 1700s."

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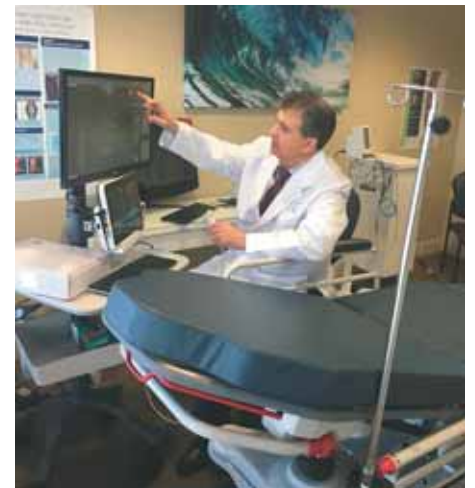
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## Bad Bills

General Assembly has potential to do lots of damage in a short period.

From pressing for use of a barbaric form of execution, the electric chair, to codifying discrimination, to stripping localities of the major tool for ensuring infrastructure is in place for new development, to hiding more and more critical public information from the public, the Virginia General Assembly is poised to do harm to the Commonwealth. (We'll look at good bills in a future editorial.)

Here are bills that have passed either the House or Senate by crossover, and important bills that were killed, in no particular order. This is by no means a complete list.

HB815, Electric Chair, passed the House 62-33, brings back the electric chair, providing that if lethal injection is not available as a method of execution, electrocution shall be used instead and vice versa.

SB552 creates secret police departments, and moves in exactly the wrong direction. Provides that the names and training records of law-enforcement officers and fire marshals shall be considered personnel records and excluded from mandatory disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Passed 25-15.

SB549/HB770 on Proffers, uses a megaton bomb to tie localities' use of proffers to help pay for infrastructure needs with new development when what was needed was a study of flyswatters to address specific limited abuses.

HB773/SB41 - Codifies discrimination, prevents the state government from taking any action against a person or organization that discriminates based on a sincerely held religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman.

Sanctuary bills: SB705 Makes "sanctuary cities" liable for "full amount of any personal injury or property damage caused by an illegal alien within such locality." SB270 The General Assembly shall reduce state funding to the extent permitted by state and federal law to any locality found to be a "sanctuary city."

Senate killed several bills on title loan oversight, even after investigative reporting showed interest charges exceeding 200 percent, bait and switch tactics and many poor Virginians losing their cars.

HB 2 - No "right to breathe." Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to receive approval from the General Assembly for a state implementation plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants prior to submitting the plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HB 1090 - Defunds Planned Parenthood  
HB 143 allows high proof grain alcohol sales.  
HB 560 - Makes it more difficult to convict someone of brandishing a firearm by requiring proof that a person pointing, holding or

brandishing a firearm or similar weapons had the intent to induce fear in the mind of another.

HB 766 - Allows any protective order to be used as a de facto concealed carry permit, without requiring the holder to receive any training in the safe handling of a firearm, or show any proficiency with a firearm. Advocates for victims of domestic violence say what is needed is to remove weapons from such situations.

Killed SB67, would have added discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to the Virginia Fair Housing Law as an unlawful housing practice.

Killed SB12, would have prohibited discrimination in public employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Killed bills that would have required notification of oil spills.

Outlawed living wage requirements for contractors of local government.

HB 4 Anti-union, proposed constitutional amendment putting Right to Work in the constitution.

HB 3 - Charter Schools Constitutional Amendment - removes local control over local schools and spending, doesn't belong in the constitution.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

## Electronic Textbooks, Sunshine and Other Bills Moves

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



As we pass the midpoint of this General Assembly session, many bills are moving.

After a 30-minute debate, the Senate approved my bill prohibiting the use of electronic textbooks in public schools without a plan to provide school broadband and digital devices to every student required to use an electronic textbook.

Virginia's constitution requires that every child receive a free textbook. On the floor, I argued that without home

computers, electronic textbooks create a

two-tiered education system for the haves and the have-nots. Senators Adam Ebbin and George Barker joined me in stressing that even Northern Virginia's schools have significant low-income student populations who face disadvantages in the classroom without their own devices. The bill now moves to the House of Delegates.

Also, the Senate passed, 39 to 1 my legislation to reverse recent anti-sunshine Virginia Supreme Court rulings. Last year, the Court held that if one sentence of a gov-

ernment document is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the government can withhold an entire document instead of simply redacting the sentence. My legislation requires disclosure to the public of the text of the document that is not redacted.

Additionally, the Court held that government officials' decisions to withhold documents are entitled to "great weight." My legislation requires judges reviewing FOIA responses to look at government officials' decisions in an unbiased manner. The House of Delegates passed identical legislation 99-0 and it will be on the Governor's desk by the end of the week.

Around 100 people attended our town hall meetings this weekend in the Mount Vernon and Lee areas of Fairfax County. The number one concern raised was public school funding. Governor Terry McAuliffe's proposed budget has \$58 million in new funding for Fairfax County and since 2010, Virginia has increased funding to Fairfax County Public Schools by 48 percent or \$208 million. Dur-

ing that same period, Fairfax County has only increased local funds by 15 percent.

There is no question that part of the current state public school funding formula hurts areas like Fairfax County because it does not consider English-language learners, poverty, or disabilities. Legislative fixes have been explored, but the vast majority of legislators do not support the changes because it would take hundreds of millions of dollars from high poverty schools and transfer them to wealthy school systems. They cannot vote to cut funds from their school systems, jurisdictions that typically pay teachers \$35-45,000 per year, while ours pay teachers \$55-77,000 per year. Bringing fair-

ness to this funding formula will likely only happen pursuant to litigation, and the short and medium-term solutions to school funding are at the local level, through approaches like a local meals tax.

We also heard concerns about Potomac River oil spills and coal ash pollution, skyrocketing college tuition, protecting women's reproductive rights and strengthening mental health services. People voiced support for driver's licenses for undocumented Virginians and anger about voting restrictions.

This week, we will debate the state budget. To share your view, please email me at scott@scottsurowell.org.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Abigail Constantino  
Editorial Assistant  
703-778-9410 ext.427  
aconstantino@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs  
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9438  
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman  
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013  
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com  
@jonroetman

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Andrea Smith  
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
classified@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:  
Ann Oliver  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





# Roads and Redevelopment

City Council and staff discuss various projects and proposals.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**P**edestrian and driver safety, the City/GMU charrette and various redevelopment projects were among the items discussed during the Fairfax City Council's Jan. 12 mini-retreat at the Blenheim Interpretive Center. Also on hand were members of City staff.

"The area between Judicial Drive and Sager Avenue is wide, five lanes, like a racetrack, with a crosswalk," said Councilwoman Janice Miller. "So it's dangerous with cars speeding and isn't aesthetically pleasing. I'd like us to put in a grass-and-tree area like we have south of there, along Armstrong Street."

"I think the landscaping idea is a good one and we'll certainly look into it," said City Manager Bob Sisson.

Miller also noted that, between Burke Station Road and University Drive, "There are not many places you can safely make a left turn. Can we see what we can do to improve safety in that area?" Mayor Scott Silverthorne said they could.

Then Brooke Hardin, director of Community Development and Planning, gave an update on what has happened since the November 2014 charrette. He said teams were assigned tasks and they continue to meet.

"They're working on a downtown map marking access to restaurants and the CUE bus," said Hardin. "And regarding late-night access to Metro after CUE bus hours, Mason is working with Reston Limousine, which runs 'til 3:45 a.m. So they're identifying stops between the Metro station and GMU."

He said City Transportation Director Wendy Block Sanford is moving forward on bike lanes for the Mason to Metro bike route. "It involves federal funds, and we hope to put it out to bid this spring," said Hardin. "A bike-sharing program has been discussed, but we need more planning done with regard to transportation [before we can go ahead with it]."

"George Mason Boulevard between Armstrong and



Brooke Hardin

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

School streets is very dark at night for pedestrians, and I've had complaints about it from both students and residents," said Councilman David Meyer. "Can we get some 30 percent VTA funding for streetlights?" Sanford replied that it could be an eligible project because it deals with pedestrian safety.

Miller said she thinks it's also dark in the downtown area, and Sisson said the City has increased the lighting intensity outside Old Town Hall.

**NEXT**, the Council members received an update on approved and proposed redevelopment projects.

Hardin said Fairfax Circle Plaza is currently in site-plan review. Already approved is a huge, new, mixed-use project entailing a grocery store, retail businesses and multifamily housing. The goal is to transform a 1960s strip shopping center into a modern place for people to live, work and dine. "The developer is still in discussion with Harris Teeter and with Giant, as an alternate," said Hardin. "Groundbreaking is estimated for this spring."

He said Novus Fairfax Gateway is also undergoing site-plan review and the developer envisions the project getting underway this spring or summer. A mixed-use project is planned on 8.3 acres between Fairfax Boulevard and Lee Highway. Some 403 multifamily apartments, 29,000 square feet of first-floor retail and commercial uses will be built, as well as a 5,000-square-foot restaurant.

As for the Davies property between University Drive and Chain Bridge Road, Hardin said a developer is interested in it and is developing a concept for it for multifamily homes. And at Railroad Square, he said there is "some interest" in redeveloping the Offices on Main Street for other uses. He also said the Fairfax Trucking property on Pickett Road might need a re-zoning for a retail use.

**THE ENCLAVE** will be built at the Mantua Professional Center on Pickett Road. It will consist of 80 condos in two, four-story buildings, each above a one-level parking garage. "It's also in site-plan review and everything seems to be moving along fine with that property," said Hardin. "They could potentially be under construction by this summer."

SEE ROADS, PAGE 10

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# PET CONNECTION



**Robert Updegrove, retired library director, Fairfax, and his wife Maria enjoy their dog's companionship.**



**Mark Russell, co-owner of Metro Run and Walk, Springfield**

PHOTOS BY REEM NADEEM

## A Wonderful Companion

Man's best friend fulfills many roles, and one of these is companionship. Robert Updegrove, a retired library director, spends lots of time with his dog.

Updegrove and his wife, Maria have had their dog for almost nine years now. An especially enjoyable activity is walking in the park.

"He's just been a wonderful companion for me because I'm retired and my wife still works, so we enjoy coming down to the park every morning and taking nice walks, spending lots of time together," Updegrove said.

Although many dog owners seek out dogs with fierce protective instincts for safety reasons, Updegrove said this was not the case for him.

Updegrove said, "He's very gentle with children and so many of the dogs that people get now are protection dogs and they're pretty aggressive."

## Active Lifestyle

Owning any pet involves a certain amount of work, but many dog breeds require owners with active lifestyles.

Mark Russell, co-owner of Metro Run and Walk, Springfield, and his Vizsla, Tanner, enjoy a lot of exercise together. However, dog lovers who value peace and quiet should not get a Vizsla, according to Russell.

"They love people and they're really active. I do a lot of walking, running and stuff, and so does my wife, so he's a good dog for that," Russell said.



**Morgan Merchant, Navy Medical Records, Herndon**



**From right — Kim Henry, instruction assistant at Fairfax County Schools and Kirstie Henry, student, Fairfax**

In addition to exercising, Russell said he enjoys watching the habits Tanner's breed are known for.

"Whenever he sees small birds, he'll point up on them. And so that's always nice, to take him outdoors, and just watch him interact with the wildlife," Russell said.

Although Tanner may love pointing at them, Russell never lets him chase birds.

Russell said, "If you have a dog, life is better for everybody if it knows how to act in a way that's fun for the owner and fun for the people around the owner, rather than an uncontrollable dog."

## Sammy the Talker

For Kim Henry, instruction assistant at Fairfax County Schools and Kirstie Henry, student, Fairfax, amusement is a large part of having a dog.

Kim Henry has had her golden retriever, Sammy, since he was a puppy and he is almost 7 years old now.

"He does lots of silly things. He likes to whine a lot, he likes to run around at a 100 miles an hour on my bed and on the couches and he goes a little crazy when he sees people," Henry said.

According to the American Kennel Club, golden retrievers are the third most popular breed in the United States. However, Sammy enjoys some unique activities, according to Henry.

"He just likes to talk a lot. He's not really into sticks or stones or balls or anything," Henry said.

According to Henry's daughter, Kirstie Henry, Sammy does not know how to play

fetch. However, he does enjoy playing in the snow.

Henry said, "he loves to rub his face when it snows, and he just kind of slides through the snow."

## Eventful Introduction

Although adopting a pet from the local animal shelter is a popular way to go, Morgan Merchant, of Navy Medical Records, of Herndon, rescued her pitbull, Daisy, before a shelter could.

"I was a server and there were people talking about how they were using her as bait for fighting. And I had their credit card and I told them they had to bring me the dog or I was calling the police," Merchant said.

Daisy was 7 or 8 months when Merchant found her. Since their eventful introduction, Merchant and Daisy enjoy walking and sitting at home.

## Big Into Soccer Balls

While she enjoys activities like running around Lake Royal three days a week, Patrick O'Keefe's dog, Tippy, is a sensitive one.

Tippy's active temperament and playfulness does not interfere with her ability to express emotion to O'Keefe, a real estate agent, Fairfax.

"If you ever get mad at her, she feels very bad about it. She's a sweetheart," O'Keefe said. "She'll whine, she'll put her head into you, she's very affectionate."

In addition to expressing emotion and running, Tippy also enjoys playtime.

O'Keefe said, "we run together, we'll play in the backyard, she's big into soccer balls. She's a good dog, she's very friendly."



**Patrick O'Keefe, real estate agent, Fairfax**



**Matt Trott with his dog Fame,**



**Canine Companions for Independence.**

# Service Dogs are More than Just a Helping Hand

BY MIKE SALMON

To a dog owner, there's nothing like the greeting at the door after a long day at work. The tail wagging, the doggy smiles, kisses and excitement, all just for being you.

For Falls Church resident Matt Trott, a 44-year-old with Friedreich's ataxia, his companion dog "Fame," makes his wheelchair easier to handle. "Originally, I guess I wanted a service dog to have someone who is always there for you and is interested in helping you make your life better," Trott said, responding via email. Friedreich's ataxia is a genetic disorder that affects his coordination and muscle control so the wheelchair is a necessity. Trott recently just got his second companion dog, named Fame, after his first service dog died in August, and now has a companion that gives him unconditional dedication, helping him accomplish the daily tasks Trott needs to live a normal life. This fall, when he was on his own, "I missed the awesomeness of having a service dog," he said.

Although dogs are smart, they don't get to be companion dogs all by themselves. There is an 18-month training course they go through, following a rigorous course laid out by professional organizations to qualify the dogs for this type of work. For McLean residents Matt and Laura Clark, raising a second puppy for Canine Companions for Independence will help someone in ways that's hard to imagine for people without disabilities. "It's something to give back to the community," said Laura Clark, who is a former NFL cheerleader and Mrs. Georgetown America 2014.

The dogs are used by veterans that may have a hard time getting back into regular life, an amputee or a child with an emotional disability. The companion dog "helps the child open up," Clark said. With a disabled veteran, "it's a hard adjustment just to be accepted by the public," she added, but the companion dog makes it easier. For Trott, "a service dog takes the eyes away from my wheelchair and my disability and people are instead drawn to the dog," he said.

To prepare for their role as companion dog raisers, the Clarks went through training with Canine Companions which began with a three-hour, in-person session, followed by classes, videos and update sessions that are given while the trainee dog is at their home. The Clark's puppy, "Yogi," is a Golden Retriever they got when he was eight weeks old. Canine Companions uses Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, or a mix of both. "These dogs are very people friendly, very eager to learn," she said. Canine Companions has a breeding program at their national headquarters in Santa Rosa, Calif.

The Clarks' first dog went to a woman in New York that they had no contact with before, but now that she has the dog the Clarks raised, they hear from her from time to time. "We never know who the dog is matched with," she said.

As the service dogs become a more common site in this area, organizations are more willing to adjust the rules to let them in the door. At Honest Soul yoga in Kingstowne, there are two yogis that have their dog alongside in yoga class, although the dog and student don't do the downward dog together. "We want everyone to have an opportunity to practice yoga and by opening the space to service dogs we can do just that," said Honest Soul manager Suzie Mills. Starbucks is another place where the dogs are welcome. "Starbucks always welcomes service dogs in our store, it's part of our welcoming experience," a Starbucks spokesperson said.

John Bentzinger is with the Northeast

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**Welcoming sign at Starbucks.**

Region of Canine Companions for Independence, located in Medford, Long Island, N.Y. He pointed out that the dogs they train can be used for a variety of reasons, whether it's for victims of sexual abuse or other violent crimes, or part of the Wounded Veterans Initiative that places dogs with disabled veterans. One of Canine Companions dogs was recently placed with a Marine who was a quadruple amputee after stepping on an IED in Afghanistan.

One trained dog costs the organization in excess of \$50,000 to raise and train, and these dogs are provided at no cost to the recipient. They are heavily reliant on donations. Only four out of every 10 dogs make it through the training program, and each dog has to be re-certified on an annual basis. The person with disability then has to attend two weeks of training at their regional headquarters.

After 18 months, the dog goes back to Canine Companions so it can be partnered with a candidate. This is the tough part for the trainer. "It's pretty heartbreaking to turn the dog in," Clark said.

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## Volunteers Help Stuff the Bus

Our Daily Bread is grateful to community members for their generous support for its annual Stuff the Bus Food Drive, which was held on Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Shoppers at Fair City Mall. The drive raised \$1,725 in cash and grocery store gift card donations, and 371 pounds of food and pantry supplies, valued at \$600. The drive was staffed by volunteers from Volunteer Fairfax's Volunteers for Change, which offers flexible weekend and evening volunteer opportunities for adults and young adults. Stuff the Bus Food Drives are sponsored by Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Service and the Office of Public Private Partnerships, and MV Transportation. The donations collected at the drive will help Our Daily Bread provide supplemental and emergency food assistance to struggling families who live throughout the Fairfax County area.

PHOTO  
CONTRIBUTED



From left, Volunteers for Change members Carrie Kurtz and Jake Himan and Our Daily Bread volunteer Elderen Lee collect donations at Our Daily Bread's Stuff the Bus Food Drive.

## Roads

FROM PAGE 7

"I think, once these projects get underway, they'll be embraced [by the residents]," said Silverthorne. And, added Hardin, "There'll be pre-construction meetings on all of them so we can discuss and let people know about the impacts."

Hardin also noted that the Fairfax Plaza Building is being marketed for sale "and we're receiving ideas for potential uses. The Castro property at 9715 Fairfax Blvd. is being marketed for sale, too."

Silverthorne asked if that property could be a potential site for a new fire department, and Sisson said it is. "Or we could tear down the existing fire station and rebuild it on site with more parking," said Sisson. "That might be more economical than building it elsewhere. An architect is looking at a feasibility study and will be ready to report back to you in 30-45 days."

## Residents Discuss Paul VI Site Ideas

FROM PAGE 4

over that 18.5 acres. But I'd like them to repurpose it for some community use; I just want it saved."

"I would love a community center to include a senior center," said Evie Ifantides. "And there's enough room for housing, too."

A Fairfax resident since 1986, Dave Gessert said he has "no problems" with the redevelopment. "My major concerns are increasing the density and the impact it'll have on traffic, City infrastructure – such as sewers and more students – and will the City schools be able to handle the growth?" he said. "What I find encouraging is that [the developers] are embracing the community residents surrounding the site and getting their input."

"I live on Cedar Avenue, right across from Paul VI, so it's going to affect me," he continued. "I'd like to see housing that's affordable and owned, because people take better care of homes and property they own – so no rentals. And I'm happy that so many of the Council members are here, as well. Our sense of community is very important to me."

Colin Greene with Streetsense said his firm is helping with the master plan. "The parcel's edges are all different in character from each other," he said. "So we need to treat them in different ways."

During his presentation, he pointed at a map showing the future site entrance off Fairfax Boulevard. A man asked if there's any plan to connect Cedar Avenue, and Greene replied, "Some neighbors said it's a horrible idea because of



Map of the traffic signals near Paul VI High School.

PHOTO BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

cut-through traffic."

"We've had 10 years of traffic-calming efforts on Cedar, which is the only left-hand turn off [Route] 123 north in the City," said resident Brian Cute. "So for us on Cedar and our neighbors on Oak [Street], the notion of X number of new residents coming out onto our streets would be a serious problem."

As for Ellen Brouwer, a City resident since 1972, she'd like to see the whole site City-owned and the current school building kept and used as a community center and/or senior center. "There's a theater there, an outstanding gym and full kitchen facilities," she said. "And I'd like to see the rest of the property used for parking for Pat Rodio Park for athletics."

"When the school got its special-use

permit to locate here, a condition was that there be parking there for athletic events at Rodio Park – and it's well-used," she continued. "If that parking's not there, where will people park?"

Besides that, said Brouwer, "This is the only historic building of this size on this side of the City which could be public space. And this side also has no community pools, large parks or large gathering spaces. So it seems that this would be a perfect location for all of that; it has a lot of potential."

Chris Turnbull with Wells & Associates showed his group of residents a map illustrating the location of the traffic signals, buses, pedestrian crosswalks and bike routes near Paul VI. "A couple weeks ago, we did traffic counts and [collected data on] traffic volumes at the intersections," he

said. "There are 1,600 vehicle trips eastbound in the morning and 1,600 in the afternoon, westbound. But when this use goes away, it'll dramatically change the morning-peak numbers."

**DISCUSSING THE LOCAL ROADS,** Turnbull said there's a possibility of extending Keith Avenue to Route 50. And resident Ed Calabria said, "At the three-way stop at Richardson Place and Cedar, you can't see traffic coming." Carlos Cecchi asked if people walk in that area, and Calabria said there are no sidewalks there and one is needed on Keith.

"If there were sidewalks, would people use them," asked Cecchi?

"Absolutely," replied Calabria. "Along that whole perimeter, you need sidewalks." Regarding what he'd like to see happen on the Paul VI site, he said, "I live behind the school on Center Street. I wouldn't mind seeing low-density housing along the perimeter, with high density in the center and mixed-use, commercial [uses] along Route 50."

Anna Maas with Thunderbird Archaeology showed her group of residents photos of what was on that site throughout the years. Morillo asked if preserving the high school's façade is possible, and Maas said it's something the developers are "looking at."

Then, at the meeting's end, Enrico Cecchi thanked the residents for participating and said they received many good comments. This meeting was held at American Legion Post 177, at 3939 Oak St., and a follow-up one is set for March 10, at 7 p.m., at the same place. At that time, said Carlos Cecchi, "We'll present a framework for the master plan, including comments from [the first meeting]."



# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/FEB. 25

**Cloud 9.** 8-10:30 p.m. George Mason University-TheatreSpace, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The time-shifting gender-bending comedy both parodies and spoofs the Victorian Empire and its rigid attitudes as it shifts seamlessly between 1880s British Africa and 1980s London. \$10-\$15. <http://theater.gmu.edu>. 703-993-1120.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 26

**Seth Kibel Quartet.** 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Woodwind specialists, working with some of the best bands in jazz, swing, and more. Wowing audiences on saxophone, clarinet, and flute, Seth has made a name for himself in the Washington/Baltimore region, and beyond. Part of Bonita Lestina Performance Series. [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 27

**Art and Lunch.** Noon-3 p.m. The Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists and learn something new. New members welcome. Free. [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net). 703 587-9481.

**Disney "Fantasia:" Live in Concert.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. This beloved family classic is orchestrated live by the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. \$36-\$60. [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu). 888-945-2468.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 27-28

**46th Annual Springpex Stamp Show.** Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Robert E. Lee High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Sales bourse of 26 stamp dealers from throughout the Eastern U.S., and the Washington metropolitan area. Special commemorative cachet covers and postal cancellations created by the show sponsors will be available. A US Postal Service sales booth will be available both days of the show. Free. [www.springfieldstampclub.org](http://www.springfieldstampclub.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 28

**2016 NoVa Simcha Expo.** Noon-4 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Party-planning expo is the place to be if you are planning a bar/bat mitzvah, wedding, baby naming, bris, or any other kind of celebration in the DMV. Plan to attend this one-stop shopping expo to meet with party vendors. [jccnv.org](http://jccnv.org). 703-323-0880.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 2

**Imagine Dragons in Concert: Smoke+Mirrors.** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax Towne Center, 4110 W Ox Road, Suite 12110, Fairfax. Watch the concert as it is broadcast live on the big screen. <http://www.fathomevents.com/event/imagine-dragons-in-concert>.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 5

**Grow Your Health.** 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Fairfax. Celebrate home gardening, sourcing organic and local food, and nutrition and wellness. This is a family focused event that includes education and entertainment for [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)



IMAGES COURTESY OF DISNEY

## Disney "Fantasia:" Live in Concert will be George Mason University's Center for the Arts on Saturday, Feb. 27.

children of all ages. <http://www.growyourhealthnova.com/>.  
**Walking Washington D.C.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library (Meeting Room A/B), 10360 North St., Fairfax. Author Barbara J. Saffir shares hidden gems of Washington D.C. neighborhoods highlighting history, architecture, eateries, art and fun. Copies of her book will be available for sale. All ages. Free. 703-293-6227 ext. 4.

**An Evening with Mozart.** 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 3800 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Northern Virginia Chorale with the Northern Virginia Community College Chorus will perform works by Mozart, highlighted by his last work "Requiem." Free-\$20. [www.northernvirginiachorale.org](http://www.northernvirginiachorale.org). 703-239-2180.

**Fairfax Art League Meeting and Demo.** 10 a.m.-noon. The Village Gallery, 3950 University Drive, Fairfax. Art demo by Atti Vakili to follow the meeting. New members welcome. Free. [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net). 703 587-9481.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 6

**Capitol Steps.** 7 p.m. Russell Theatre, Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. The Rambunctious Theatre Company — in affiliation with Robinson Drama — is hosting the Capital Steps for a one night only political comedy fundraiser. \$35. [www.robinsondrama.org](http://www.robinsondrama.org).

**Purim-It's a Laugh.** 3-5 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Activities include making your own hamantaschen with Lauren Katz, the winner of ABC's Great Holiday Baking Show; The Great Zucchini; a children's costume Purim Parade; making gift bags for the hungry; and crafts for all ages even newborns. \$5. Free to children under 2. Register at [JCCNV.org](http://JCCNV.org), code #7343. 703-537-3019.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 8

**Robinson Orchestra Concert.** 7 p.m. Russell Theatre, Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. High school students will be featured in five ensembles, including our full symphony orchestra. Free. 703-426-2143.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 9

**Springfield Christian Women's Connection.** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Program on "Serendipity of Occoquan." Also, Ernie Parker-Wood, a retired teacher and world traveler, will share Weaving a Tapestry, the Dark Threads Enhance

the Silver and Gold. \$20. Reserve by March 4. 703-922-6438. [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 11

**Woodbridge Flute Choir "A Touch of Irish."** 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Twenty-five members who play flute, piccolo, alto flute, bass flute and contrabass flute. Part of Bonita Lestina Performance Series. [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**Real Food for Kids-Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo: Learn about food writing and photography, family meal planning, school gardening and school food. Watch 11 student teams compete to create a delicious school breakfast, lunch or snack. <http://realfoodforkids.org/expo.html>.

**Richmond Ballet II.** 7:30 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A performance of classical and contemporary dance, including "The Friar's Tale," "Excerpts from Stolen Moments," and "Rachmaninoff Rhapsody." \$20-\$34. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org). 703-537-3000.

**Sarah Kaufman.** 6:30 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Pulitzer Prize winning dance critic Sarah Kaufman talks about her book, "The Art of Grace." Free. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org). 703-537-3075.

**Concerts from Kirkwood-Beau Soir Ensemble.** 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336, Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Celtic-themed spring concert with harp, viola and flute. Free. [www.kirkwoodpres.com](http://www.kirkwoodpres.com). 703-451-5320.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 13

**Jewish Plays Project Contest.** 6:45 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Readings of three plays selected from the top 10 Jewish Plays Projects plays of 2016. The audience will vote on the winning play. \$10-\$18. [www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org). 703-537-3000.

## MONDAY/MARCH 14

**AARP Virginia Dinner Group-Franconia.** 4-8 p.m. Lucky's Sports Theatre and Grill, 7027 B Manchester Blvd., Franconia. AARP has reserved the private room of Lucky's Sports Theatre and Grill for our members and friends to enjoy dinner together with a 10 percent discount on dinner entrees. Register at <https://aarp.cvent.com/Franconia31416VA>.



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## SPORTS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Robinson swimmers celebrate winning states.**

### Robinson Boys', Girls' Swim Teams Win State Titles

The Robinson boys' and girls' swim teams each won state titles on Feb. 20 at George Mason University.

The boys' team finished with 235 points, 45 ahead of runner-up Langley. Patriot finished third (178), followed by McLean (161) and Woodson (146.5).

Robinson's James Murphy won his third consecutive state championship in the 200 freestyle, recording an All-American time of 1:37.42. He also took home the 100 backstroke title with an All-American time of 48.99 seconds.

Teammate James Jones won his third consecutive state title in the 50 free, turning in an All-American time of 20.48 seconds, and third straight championship in the 100 free (45.39, All-American consideration).

The boys' 200 free relay (Murphy,

Peter Brukk, Roman Lowery, Luke Jones) finished first with an All-American tie of 1:24.79. The Rams' 400 free relay (Murphy, Lowery, Brukk, Jones) also took home a title (3:08.39, All-American consideration).

In girls' action, Robinson's Hannah Baker won her third consecutive 100 freestyle state championship with an All-American time of 50.56. She also won the 50 freestyle championship with a time of 23.41 (All-American consideration).

The Rams' 200 free relay (Lisa Zangla, Grace Gartman, Livi Schmid, Baker) finished first (1:36.22, All-American consideration), and the 400 free relay (Zangla, Gartman, Schmid, Baker) also won a championship (3:30.39, All-American consideration).

## Lake Braddock's Butler Scores 40 in Final High School Game

**Bruins fall to Stonewall Jackson in opening round of regionals.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Lake Braddock boys' basketball team, facing the win-or-go-home reality of the 6A North region tournament's opening round Tuesday night, leaned on its 6-foot-8 pillar of hope.

The Bruins, on the road against Conference 8 runner-up Stonewall Jackson, relied heavily on James Butler at the offensive end and many times the senior center delivered.

Butler battled in the paint. He scored with post moves. He dunked. He grabbed offensive rebounds. He hit a fade-away. He buried a 3-pointer. He made 7 of 10 free-throw attempts.

Butler finished with 40 points — more than half of the Bruins' offensive production — but it wasn't enough as Stonewall Jackson closed the game with a 13-4 run and defeated Lake Braddock 83-76.



**Lake Braddock senior James Butler dunks for two of his 40 points during the Bruins' 83-76 loss to Stonewall Jackson on Tuesday in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament.**

Butler, the Conference 7 Player of the Year, made a pair of free throws with 2.4 seconds remaining, getting him to the 40-point mark for the second time this season (he scored 46 against T.C. Williams on Dec. 15). He finished his high school career fighting to keep the Bruins' season alive.

"If anybody hasn't watched him play, they've missed out on something magical," Lake Braddock head coach Brian Metress said. "He's had a magical high school career. We would have liked to have given him one more game. That's a quality kid who is dedicated to his school and every year got exponentially better. Everybody in the region should be a fan of that guy."

Butler will continue his basketball career at Navy.

"I don't think it's really set in," Butler said about his high school career coming to a close. "It's pretty upsetting. We have a great team, great coaching staff. I'm going to miss the heck out of it. The fun times we've had playing together. We built connections and chemistry, it's a process and it's painful to see that go away. We'll always have it but for us as seniors, it's time to step away now."

Sophomore guard Jordan Burrage-Cobb scored on a putback with 4:11 remaining in the fourth quarter, giving Lake Braddock a 72-70 lead, but Stonewall Jackson responded with an 11-0 run to put the game away. The Bruins went scoreless for nearly 4 minutes be-



**Lake Braddock senior James Butler will continue his basketball career at the Naval Academy.**

fore a bucket by senior forward Peyton Bishop cut the Stonewall Jackson lead to 81-74 with 12.8 seconds remaining.

"They were just better down the stretch," Metress said. "[Stonewall Jackson guard Keaton Simmons] is a big-time player and one of the things about being such a good player is the ball is always in his hands and it's hard to squeeze it out of his hands. I thought we did a good job in the third quarter but not so good of a job at the end of the game."

Simmons led Stonewall Jackson with 29 points. Zach Hinton had 18 points and Devin Nordike added 13.

Junior guard Corey Pelham scored 11 points for Lake Braddock. Bishop finished with nine points, Burrage-Cobb had six and senior guard Christopher Shammass and freshman guard Quentin James each added five.

Lake Braddock trailed by eight late in the second quarter before Pelham drained a buzzer-beater from halfcourt, cutting the Bruins' deficit to 45-40 at halftime.

A 9-0 run gave Lake Braddock a 55-52 lead with 1:45 remaining in the third quarter. A Bishop bucket in the closing seconds of the period gave the Bruins a 61-59 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Lake Braddock started the season with eight straight victories and finished with a 15-9 record. The Bruins entered the Conference 7 tournament as the No. 4 seed and advanced to the semifinals before losing to No. 1 seed West Springfield, 61-59.

"I told them, 'Great season,'" Metress said. "Fifteen victories in the Patriot District, got yourself to the regional tournament, had a chance on the road to win a game: spectacular."

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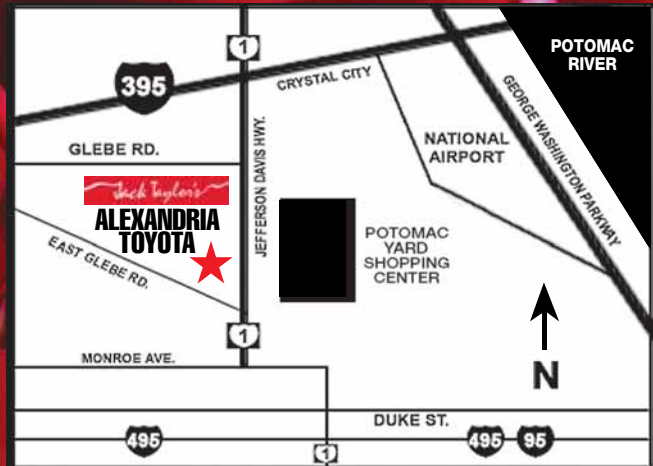
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Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### THURSDAYS/THROUGH MARCH 3

**Job Seekers Seminar.** 7-8:30 p.m. Immanuel Bible Church, 6991 Braddock Road, Springfield. Looking for a job? Are you confident on how to search for one? IBC's Job Seeker Seminar will equip attendees with the knowledge necessary. \$15. 703-220-5165. <http://immanuelbible.net/stewardship/job-seekers>.

### WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/FEB. 24-25

**Christ Presbyterian Preschool Open House.** 10-11 a.m. Christ Presbyterian Preschool, 12410 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Open house tours for the current school year and 2016-17. [www.christpresbyterianpreschool.com](http://www.christpresbyterianpreschool.com). 703-691-9120.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 1

**Aging-in-Place Seminar.** 10-11:30 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Learn about a program, designed for active adults 55 and older, is supported and managed by Goodwin House, a mission-driven, nonprofit organization with two residential properties in Northern Virginia. Free. RSVP not required but space is limited. Reserve at 703-575-5202 or at [athome@goodwinhouse.org](mailto:athome@goodwinhouse.org).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 3

**"Planning 101: Diary of a Growing Business."** 8:30 a.m. Spring Hill Suites, 6065 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Karen Urcia of Renner CPAs will show you how to avoid the pitfalls of starting and growing your business, and how good planning can help to make your business a success. RSVP [info@sfdc.org](mailto:info@sfdc.org). [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org).

## FAITH NOTES

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

Lenten Soup Supper. Fridays from Feb. 26-March 18. 5:30-7 p.m. will be offered at **Holy Spirit School** Cafeteria, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale. Meatless soup suppers on Fridays during Lent, followed by the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. Free. Contact Lambie Renner, [lrenner@holyspiritchurch.us](mailto:lrenner@holyspiritchurch.us).

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or [www.fbtministries.org](http://www.fbtministries.org).

**The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center**, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit <http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

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

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or [www.fbcspRINGfield.org](http://www.fbcspRINGfield.org).

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### 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Sunshine Food LLC, trading as Sakura Grill, 6411 Shiplett Blvd, Burke, VA 22015. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises; license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Wei Chen, Owner  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200

An expert  
is someone  
who knows  
some of the  
worst mistakes  
that can be  
made in his  
subject and how  
to avoid them.  
-Werner  
Heisenberg

### 21 Announcements

**CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE**  
On Friday, March 25, 2016, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will hold a public hearing on items relating to the Commonwealth of Virginia's administration of the Consolidated Action Plan 2016-2017 Action Plan.

The public hearing will be held at 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM in the 12th Floor North Conference Room of the Main Street Centre, 600 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. DHCD will be taking comments on the proposed 2016-2017 Action Plan including goals and objectives for housing and community development; the projected use of funding; the method for distributing \$7,034,121 in HOME Investment Partnership funds; \$2,754,274 in Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds; \$745,593 in Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds, and \$16,881,481 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Copies of the plan document may be requested by calling (804) 371-7100, (804) 371-7122, or (804) 371-7084 TDD. Persons requiring special accommodations should call (804) 371-7110. The Plan will appear on the agency's web site at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov> under "What's New."

The Department will receive written comments and testimony on the proposed 2016-2017 Action Plan through the close of business on April 15, 2016 at the following address:

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development  
Attention: Lyndsi Austin  
Main Street Centre  
600 East Main Street, Suite 300  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

I Never think of the future.  
It comes soon enough.  
-Albert Einstein

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If all three offices are rented together a discounted rate would be discussed. The offices are located within the beautifully-decorated office space of a professional services company in a Class "A" building located in Old Town, Alexandria. Conference room can be reserved on an hourly basis.

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**West Springfield**  
\$399,900  
Updated End Unit TH in Shannon Station. 3 finished levels, 3 bedrooms, 2 and 2 half baths. Great Commuter Location. Close to Community Amenities. Open Sunday 1-4.  
**Karen Schiro**  
703-509-3888



**Fairfax** \$749,900  
Backs to County Club of Fairfax, Near GMU. Custom Brick Home with 3 Car Garage on 1 acre. Hdwd Floors, 2 Brick Fireplaces, Interior/Exterior New Paint, New WW Carpet, Deck, Patio, SS Appliances.  
**Flo Nystrom** 703-963-4546



**Haymarket** \$583,500  
Resort lifestyle in this immaculate 3 BR, 3 BA & Regency 55+ community. Porch, deck, patio overlook lush landscape. Hardwoods, granite, Master on main, sitting room, office, loft, unfinished Lower Level & walkout. See www.marylroche.com  
**Mary LaRoche** 703-503-4021



**Fairfax Station** \$1,189,000  
Gorgeous custom home sited on beautiful .83 acre nestled in quiet Donovans Ridge Boasts superb craftsmanship and attention to detail throughout!  
**Carol Hermandorfer** 703-216-4949



**Fairfax** \$509,000  
Cupcake of a Cape Cod! This beautiful sun filled home has a fantastic addition! Features beautiful hardwoods, 2 main level bedrooms and full bath, plus 3 more bedrooms & full bath upstairs. A wonderful updated kitchen and breakfast room, and terrific first floor sun room. Finished lower level could be used as an in-law/au pair suite. Lots of room and charm!  
**Catie, Steve & Associates** 703-278-9313



**Lake Anna** \$699,900  
A family "Lake House." 6 BR (2ntc), 3 BA open floor plan, dramatic ceilings, gas fireplace, gourmet kitchen, rec room, shop, stone garden path & bridge to great waterfront, golf cart path, fabulous new stone fire pit at the water, new solar & generator, 2 car garage & paved driveway. Everything you asked for and more!  
**Toni McQuair** 703-795-2697



**Warrenton** \$415,000  
Gorgeous Home w/custom Great Room & Master Bedroom Addition. Beautifully updated eat-in Kitchen. Updated Bathrooms. Fresh Paint. Large Yard in Serene Neighborhood. 2 Blocks to Commuter Bus Service. 2 Blocks to Route 29/15. DC side of Warrenton. Free Home Warranty.  
**John & Jennifer Boyce** 703-425-5646



**Haymarket/Bull Run Mountain** \$339,900  
2.07 acres. Well-built 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath brick rambler. Full walk-out basement. 2 fireplaces. Fresh paint. New appliances. Large decks. 2 large skylights. Large rec room and den/study/bedroom on lower level. Area for garage/patio.  
**Buzz Jordan** 703-850-4501



**Lake Anna** \$499,900  
Waterfront. Beautiful and private home on 1.7 acres. 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. Open concept.  
**Paul Wesche** 540-847-3848



**Clifton** \$2,495,000  
Custom 6 BR estate on 5 acres with gorgeous views pastures, lake & pool. Expert craftsmanship and attention detail throughout! So many amenities including 7 garage bays, and separate in-law suite!  
**Carol Hermandorfer** 703-216-4949



**Haymarket** \$479,900  
Join resort lifestyle in Regency's 55+ community. Finest in one level living. 2BR/2BA single family with hardwoods, granite, office, patio & scenic view to wooded common area. See www.marylroche.com  
**Mary LaRoche** 703-503-4021



**Falls Church** \$499,000  
This 4 bedroom, 3 full bath home has been fully renovated and an addition added. The lower level has a private entrance, bedroom, bathroom, living area and kitchen. The possibilities are endless.  
**Richard Esposito** 703-856-2529



**Burke** \$610,000  
4 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath Colonial in Burke Centre with updated kitchen and baths, Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd flrs in foyer, powder room, family room, living, and dining rooms. Fireplace in cozy family room with sliding glass door to large deck. Spacious master BR, master bath with dual sink vanity, ceramic tile floor, tub, & separate shower.  
**Judy McGuire** 703-581-7679



**Fairfax Station** \$679,500  
Spacious 4 level split has room for everyone. Featuring 5 bedrooms, 3.5 renovated baths, screened porch, multilevel decks and hot tub! Located on a cul de sac, private and wooded 1 acre lot. Sought after neighborhood w/pool and tennis. Robinson Schools.  
**Marsha Wolber** 703-618-4397



**Gainesville** \$379,900  
Heritage Hunt 55+. Lovely upgraded Duplex, 3BR, 3BA, Family room with gas fireplace, Living room, Dining, Kitchen opens to Breakfast room, hardwoods, Loft, 3 season Sunroom, Deck, Irrigation system, 2 car garage. Backs to common area with trees.  
**Amanda Scott** 703-772-9190



**Broad Run** \$429,900  
Right out of the Pottery Barn catalog is this fully updated rambler on 5 lovely level acres. New kitchen and bath upgrades as well as hardwood flooring. Custom tile features throughout and three full baths. Lower level features bedroom, full bath, game room and recreation room with a walkout to the rear yard. Oversized 2 car garage and a separate storage shed for all your storage needs.  
**Ellie Wester** 703-503-1880



**Ashburn** \$839,900  
Spectacular Sunset views from large deck overlooking the 9th Fairway of Belmont Country Club. Hard to find first floor Master Suite plus second master bedroom on upper level. 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA, fully finished walk-out lower level. A perfect "10."  
**Ann Grainger** 703-819-5300



**Fairfax Station** \$799,999  
Sited on a .31-acre private lot this updated 5BR, 4.5BA home offers over 5,300 finished sq. ft. Featuring a spacious MBR, remodeled MBA & updated kitchen. Lower level includes a full wet bar, rec room w/gas FP, BR & full BA.  
**Ngoc Do** 703-493-9797



**Springfield** \$624,900  
Open Sunday. Exceptional 4BR/3BA split level in sought-after community of Lake Forest. Four finished levels of living space include outstanding renovated kitchen, lovely updated baths, FR w/fireplace & wall of built-ins, awesome all-season porch leading to deck & walkout LL recreation room. Close to shopping, Fairfax County Pkwy, and schools. Home feels like new!  
**Mary Hovland** 703-946-1775  
**Cathy DeLoach** 571-276-9421



**Fairfax Station** \$889,000  
This beautifully updated ranch style home sited on a 6.34 acre private lot offers over 6,200 finished sq.ft. including an expansive MBR w/balcony, newly renovated MBA and 2nd kitchen. Outdoor features include expansive deck, gazebo & circular driveway.  
**Ngoc Do** 703-493-9797

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