

Burke CONNECTION

Lake Braddock Secondary School Anthony Tran (left) dances with buddy and Lake Braddock junior Jamie Hunstead (right) at the 15th Day Prom held for students with disabilities.

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Girls Explore
STEM Careers

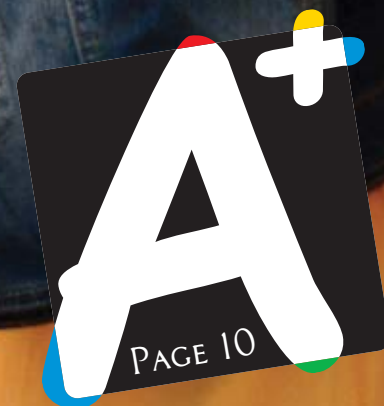
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MAY 19-25, 2016

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NEWS

Meals Tax? Ballot Possibility

Board of Supervisors potentially set to approve meals tax ballot question on June 7.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

A majority of The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voiced support last week for including a Meals Tax Referendum as part of the 2016 General Election. They hope that a meals tax could provide additional revenue to support schools, without putting additional burden on homeowners with the property tax.

The debate and final vote is scheduled for the Board's June 7 session. Then it could be up to voters.

"If this is approved, it will be new revenue. It's diversified revenue," said Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. "I want to put it on the ballot. Ask the voters."

"We have an opportunity here," said Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck.

"This is a tool used by cities and towns within and adjacent to Fairfax County," said Hunter Mill Supervisor Catherine Hudgins. "It is time for Fairfax County to join these counties and begin diversifying our revenue sources."

"We have a coalition of groups to advocate for the meals tax," said Chairman Sharon Bulova. Bulova and Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust advocated designating 80 percent of the money collected in a meals tax to Fairfax County Public Schools, and 20 percent to capital improvement projects.

In fact, the Board's budget committee approved by majority vote a ballot question based on a 70-30 split.

"I think this is likely to be the ballot question," said Budget Committee chairman Jeff McKay.

School advocates are front and center in supporting a meals tax, believing it will help bridge funding shortfalls.

"The community is ready to support this," said Pat Hynes, chairman of the Fairfax County school board, and the representative from Hunter Mill.

"Referendums focused on schools and capital improvements prove the ones most likely to pass," Hynes said, citing recent referenda on meals tax elsewhere in Virginia.

NOT SO FAST. Springfield Supervisor Pat Herryty ensured another point of view.

"There is an advocacy group forming on the other side, chambers and restaurants," said Herryty, pointing out that it is actually

\$96 Million Revenue

A one percent meals tax in Fairfax County would generate an estimated \$24 million in new revenue in Fairfax County; at the maximum 4 percent rate, a county meals tax would generate approximately \$96 million annually.

The following jurisdictions imposed a four percent meals tax on top of the 6 percent sales tax. Note: Montgomery County, Md. does not impose a meals tax but imposes a sales tax of 6 percent.

Locality	Sales Tax	Meals Tax Rate	Estimated Meals Tax Revenue
Alexandria	6%	4%	\$17.8 million
Arlington	6%	4%	\$37.1 million
Falls Church	6%	4%	\$2.9 million
Fairfax City	6%	4%	\$6 million
Herndon	6%	4%	\$2.1 million
Vienna	6%	4%	\$2.5 million
D.C.	0%	10%	\$378.9 million

"Other [possible] opportunities for revenue improvement: higher hotel occupancy taxes paid by hotel patrons, a higher cigarette tax consistent with the practice of surrounding localities, an admissions tax to places of amusement or entertainment, the possibility of a meals tax, and a re-evaluation of permit and user fees, set consistently to fully recover costs."

— McLean Citizens Association Resolution

in addition to a six percent sales tax already collected on meals.

"Certainly from the chamber's point of view, we don't want to see any tax that singles out any industry," said Jim Corcoran, president of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

A potential four percent meals tax could create \$96 million annually in additional revenue for the county, more than \$20 million from non-county residents.

"Let's look at the equation on both sides," said Corcoran.

"It does not send the right message to businesses," many who make Fairfax County their headquarters, he said. "We have developed a business-friendly environment, internationally."

A "domino effect" could quickly erase revenue generated by the meals in loss of business and tourism, said Corcoran.

"The average taxpayer is not going to get tax relief. We're hearing our real estate taxes are getting higher and higher. This isn't going to alleviate that," said Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth.

"If people think the meals tax is coming on top of an increasing property tax, it will fail. Maybe it should fail," said Braddock Supervisor John Cook.

The Greater Reston Chamber, according to its CEO and President Mark S. Ingrao, "has a long held position by our members of opposing single-industry taxes particularly if they do not benefit the industry being taxed."

Ingrao said the Reston Chamber advo-

cated for additional funding for education at this year's General Assembly by supporting the restoration of Cost-of-Compete-Adjustment (COCA). "COCA recognizes that the costs of hiring and retaining teachers in northern Virginia is more expensive than in other parts of the state and the Chamber was part of a partnership that secured \$34.4 million this year," he said.

MCLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION supports looking at alternative revenue sources including a possible meals tax. MCA passed a resolution in March urging the Board of Supervisors to look at "other opportunities for revenue improvement."

"So we get to share the fun with others," said Dale Stein, MCA's chairman of the budget committee. "Why does everything need to 'be on the back of the real estate tax,'" he said.

David Edelman, of the The Fairfax County Council of PTA's, said, "Our main concern is getting sustainable funding for schools and unfortunately there aren't many options available to us."

"We'll definitely get the message out there if the Board of Supervisors puts it on the ballot," he said.

THE BOARD of Supervisors would adopt a Resolution directing the County Attorney to file a petition with the Circuit Court by July 26.

The Board of Supervisors will meet on June 7 and instruct County staff to prepare documentation on the impact of the meals

Meals Tax

A possible meals tax could go to voters via referendum in the Nov. 8, 2016 general election. Under state law, the county would keep 100 percent of revenue generated by a meals tax. Counties can impose a meals tax if voters approve via referendum. If voters approve a meals tax, implementation could occur by July 1, 2017.

Meals Tax History By the Numbers

1992

A county meals tax was defeated by referendum in April 1992.

102,000

Voters cast votes in the 1992 referendum, which was approximately 25 percent of registered voters.

58

Percent of the voters voted against the potential meals tax in 1992.

2004

Legislation to exempt Fairfax County from the voter referendum requirement on a meals tax passed the Virginia Senate but failed to pass the house.

2008

Loudoun County held a referendum for a meals tax in November 2008 to fund new school construction, but it failed by a 70-30 percent vote.

2013

Henrico and Middlesex counties approved meals tax referendums. A similar effort in Chesterfield failed to pass.

tax on the county; the Board could vote officially to prove or not approve the ballot question.

In 2008, Loudoun County held a referendum for a meals tax in November 2008 to fund new school construction, but it failed by a 70-30 percent vote.

In 2013, Henrico and Middlesex counties approved meals tax referendums. A similar effort in Chesterfield failed to pass.

"The meals tax ballot questions that have been approved are the ones that tell you where the money is going, and where it will go to schools and capital improvements," said McKay.

The Town of Herndon passed its meals tax in 2003.

"We estimated \$900,000, and it generated \$900,279. Not bad for estimating something right out of the chute," said Mary Tuohy, the Town's director of finance.

Herndon Town Council increased the rate from 1.5 to 2.5 percent in 2011, and directed funding to major Herndon downtown infrastructure projects. Herndon also uses the meals tax to promote its restaurants and dineONHerndon campaign, according to Town's spokesman Anne Curtis.

The Town's tax preempts a county tax, said Curtis and Tuohy, "and in fact was one of the reasons it was enacted in Herndon in the first place," said Curtis.

If county voters approve a meals tax, implementation could occur by July 1, 2017.

Girls Explore STEM Careers

Girls Scouts present innovative projects at NOVA.

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Girls Scouts ventured beyond camping and cookie sales Saturday, May 7, at the Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, where they explored fields in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Although some of the fastest-growing careers spring in the STEM environment, it's not fertile ground for women, minorities and people with disabilities.

"It's still a field dominated by men," says Michelle Eider, public relations specialist for the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital.

To encourage girls to explore these fields, the GSNC started a Maker Day event last year, which drew repeat attendance last weekend at the NOVA campus.

Elena Bachman, a freshman at Marshall High School in Falls Church, attended last year's Maker Day with her Girl Scout Troop and became interested in a robotics demonstration by event vendor NOVA Labs.

Since then, Bachman joined the Marshall robotics team and has competed against other schools.

Fellow student Kirianna "Kiki" Baker, 15, claims she joined the same team due to peer pressure and credits Bachman for showing her the ropes.

"Elena has basically taught me everything I know," Baker says.

THEY ENJOY creating projects at the NOVA Labs community workshop in Reston. The 10,500-square-foot facility offers space and fabrication tools for inventors, and teaches people how to use 3-D printers,



From left — Vienna teens Priya Nair and her older sister, Sita, are happy to demonstrate their handmade beauty products May 7 to René McCray — a former Girl Scout and parent of Troop 1831 in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

drones, laser cutters, robots and Computer Numerical Control machines that help users manufacture needed parts.

"It's a place where people can work on cool projects" Bachman and Baker explained as they repaired an actuator — a gizmo that lifts the arms of their robot, which the teens designed to complete this simple task: Storm a castle and clear defenses in a competition field. All by remote control.

Bachman said she attends Marshall because it offers an International Baccalaureate program and STEM curriculum with interesting activities — such as an engineering class in which students use the school's 3-D printer to design prosthetic hands for individuals worldwide who are disfigured by war and can use their new e-NABLE hands to perform various tasks.

Another Marshall student, Sita Nair, 16, and her younger sister, Priya, 13, explained at their booth how they made scented candles, hand soap, lip balm and salt scrub. The girls sold their beauty products to raise money for their Vienna Girl Scout troop's upcoming summer cruise around glaciers in Alaska.

"I really want to see a moose," Sita exclaims.

Little did she know a troop leader standing on the other side of the NVCC gymnasium worked on one.

Mary Nelson was among the first women in the U.S. Navy allowed to serve aboard the "Moose" — the destroyer U.S.S. Moosbrugger, a surface warship deployed in 1990 to participate in Operation Desert Shield.

Nelson, an information technology con-

sultant for a Beltway Bandit by day, operates in her spare time eSTEAM eXplorers — a Fairfax-based business she founded to help kids in grades K-6 experience fun STEM activities.

She founded eSTEAM to bring her career in line with her daughter's interest and help other girls learn more about science, technology, engineering arts and math.

Nelson and her team design creative activity packages kids can enjoy at summer camps, schools, scouts, churches, community centers, birthday parties, b'nai mitzvahs and other special occasions.

SATURDAY, she and fellow Girl Scout Troop 4914 leader Jessica Druetto showed visitors of their exhibit how to "make snow" by using water to change the physical state of a sodium carbonate polymer.

According to the American Association of University Women, gender bias toward males is the reason school girls are ambivalent about pursuing studies in math and science by the time they enter high school. They are far outnumbered by men in college and a workplace environment traditionally unfriendly to women.

This is why retired Fairfax County Public Schools teacher Laura Reasonor-Jones founded GEMS in 1994 for her own daughter and other girls excelling in math and science.

Jones now lives in a small Pennsylvania county north of Pittsburgh, which boasts 10 GEM clubs. She has maintained her strong belief that a woman should be able to support herself and a family. Jones says careers in STEM fields are among the biggest opportunities for women.

Jones' interest in technology came later in life after working 17 years as a preschool special education teacher. In 2001, she became a certified specialist who helped school teachers integrate technology into their curriculum.

"If I can learn this stuff at 50 years old, your kid can learn it age 10," Jones says.

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WEEK IN BURKE

Springfield Teen Dies After Being Struck by Train

Erika Dunn, 18, of Springfield died Monday night after she was struck by a train around 9:39 p.m. a Fairfax County Police report said.

Dunn and two friends were walking along the Virginia Railway Express tracks in the area of the 9500 block of Burke Road when the collision occurred.

Dunn was rushed to Inova Fairfax Hospital with life-threatening injuries, while neither of the friends were injured.

Dunn died a little while later at Inova. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine her the official cause and manner of her death.

Police have begun investigating the incident.

—TIM PETERSON

Burke Man Struck by Car, Dies

Matthew Calendine, 33, of Burke, was struck while in the area of Capella Avenue and Shiplett Boulevard on Thursday, May 12. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Reports indicated that the vehicle that hit him momentarily stopped in the roadway but proceeded to leave the scene.

Calendine was sitting on a curb in the 6100 block of Shiplett Boulevard just before 9 p.m. and for unknown reasons, got up and stumbled into the eastbound lane of Shiplett Boulevard.

A group of people walking nearby rushed to the victim, attempted to render aid and called 911. Crash Reconstruction Detectives responded to investigate.

The vehicle is described as a dark-colored sedan, possibly a black Toyota or Honda. Speed does not appear to be factor at this time. Detectives are investigating whether alcohol was a contributing factor. The Officer of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the exact cause and manner of death.

Detectives ask anyone with information to contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477) or by going to fairfaxcrimesolvers.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.

Jubilee Christian Center offers Living Free support groups in June on Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts), "The Image of God in You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There are also support groups meeting on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. The church is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email livingfree@jccag.org or see www.jccag.org.

Grace Presbyterian Church in Springfield, 7434 Bath St., is hosting a Camp Hanover Day Camp July 11-15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Children who have completed kindergarten to sixth grade are invited to attend. To register, or for additional registration, visit www.camphanover.org/grace-day-camp



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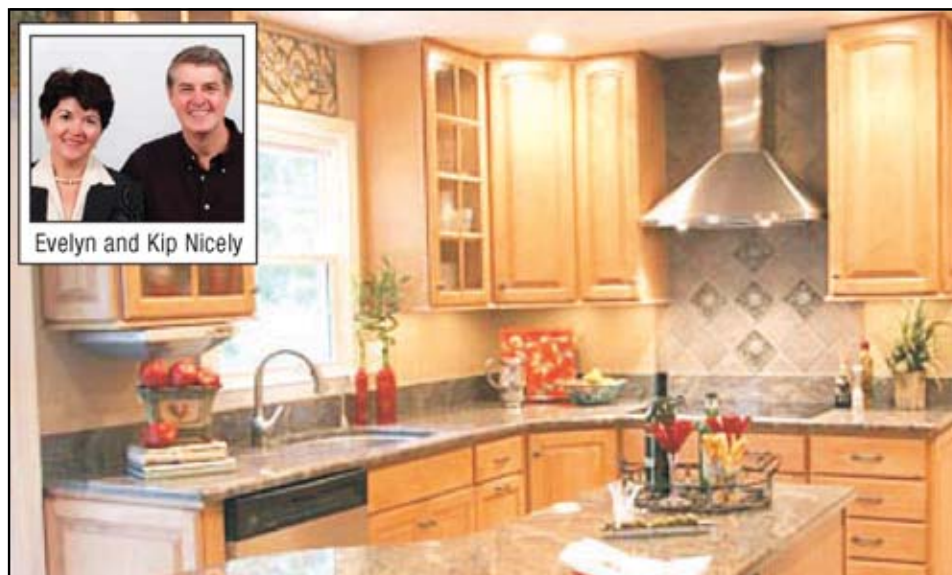
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Keith Foxx looks forward to Travis Parnell's turn to pay-it-forward.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY/THE CONNECTION



"Travis was an amazing person when I met him. In the past 9 years he has grown into an amazing man and father," says Alexis Albritton. The two plan to get married next year.

Mentoring Guides Foster Care Alum

"If God doesn't have a plan for you, have a plan for yourself."

BY JOAN BRADY
THE CONNECTION

Travis Parnell and Keith Foxx don't remember exactly when they met. Parnell was around 14 and had been in foster care for 6 or so years. He estimates he had already lived in 10 different foster homes, several in Fairfax County. Foxx, a civil engineer from Springfield, was married with two children.

Foxx says that one of the things that set Parnell apart was that despite everything he had been through, he didn't feel sorry for himself. More than that, while Parnell acknowledged the challenges of being a foster child, he was appreciative of the benefits of being in care.

Parnell was able to stay with one foster mother for almost 5 years. "Miss Bertha," he says, made it possible for him to be a regular kid. That is unusual for foster kids who move often and aren't always able to participate in school and sports activities, attend slumber parties or go to the prom.

During those years with Miss Bertha, Parnell had stability and chores and she treated him like family. In fact, she still does. He is brother to her older children and uncle to the younger ones today.

"When you are in and out of foster homes, it's hard to trust," Parnell says. "Social workers and other professionals are doing a job." But when he learned that Foxx was taking time away from his wife and two young daughters to spend time with him, he knew Foxx was different.

And it wasn't just that Foxx spent time away from his family. Parnell was also wel-



Some day, when Xavier is old enough, Travis Parnell will tell him of the struggles he and Alexis Albritton had starting out. But, for today, Parnell just wants him to be a happy, well-loved four-year-old.

Nationwide, four years after aging out of foster care, 25 percent have been homeless and more than 80 percent are unable to support themselves, according to an Association of Small Foundations/Annie E. Casey report.

come in the Foxx home. "No one had ever brought me into their house before," he says quietly as his four-year-old son sits contented in his lap. "I wanted Keith to know that he could trust me with his family."

Foxx's older daughters laugh as they say that when he first started coming around, they asked their parents if Parnell was their new brother. Twelve years later, that's the way they introduce him.

"I thought it was great," says Foxx's wife, Michelle. "But it wasn't unexpected. That's who Keith is, the type of guy who will reach out to help the next person."

"There were people in my life that gave me good advice and recognized that I had potential. It was that little bit of encouragement on their part that made the difference. I was just passing that on," says Foxx.

Parnell nods, "People will say, 'I know just

How To Help

May Is National Foster Care Month

To learn about ways to make a difference in the life of a child currently living in foster care:

Main site for foster care: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrencyouth/fca.htm>

FairfaxFamilies4Kids: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm>

BeFriend-A-Child: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrencyouth/befriendachild.htm/>

Foster Care 2 Success: <http://www.fc2success.org/>

Court Appointed Special Advocates/CASA: <http://www.fairfaxcasa.org/volunteer-or-donate/becoming-a-volunteer/>

how you feel," but to Parnell, those were empty words. "Nobody knows how you really feel. No one can put themselves in somebody else's shoes. But, you can tell someone you feel for them and you are here to help them."

The bond between them took time to build. In those early years, they got together two or three times per month. Parnell recalls that if he was reluctant, Foxx was unimpressed. "You are coming dude," Foxx would tell him. Often, Foxx's daughters would come along too and when the baby arrived, she joined them as well.

Out of seven biological siblings, Parnell is the only one to have earned a high school diploma. Parnell says that he was told by social workers that he should drop out, that he wasn't going to make it. He wanted to prove them wrong and he recognized that having a diploma would expand his opportunities.

For young adults who have the continued support of parents and family, the path to independence can be daunting. For those without strong support, it can feel downright hopeless. When Parnell left foster care at 18, he was completely responsible for himself.

SEE FOSTER CARE, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

NEWS

Foster Care Alum Moving Forward

FROM PAGE 6

Those early years were very dark. Parnell worked in a series of dead-end sales jobs that didn't afford him a reliable income. Things got worse he says, when, "I made a mistake and my driver's license was suspended. That limited my job opportunities even further." It seemed hopeless when he found a job that was good money, but required a license.

That was when Foxx stepped up, "It was a blessing," says Parnell, "I didn't have anybody else who would do that for me. No one who would say, here are the stipulations. I will help you if you do this." Parnell is proud to say that with his reinstated license, he got that job. And five years later, he is working at a national company in Lorton, a senior technician in HVAC/air duct cleaning.

The hours are long and the job pays on commission, but Parnell says if you have patience, customer service and sales skills, it's a good job. And he enjoys educating people on what they can do to improve their air quality, especially for families who have children. It makes him smile to know that when he leaves a job, people will breathe better.

Parnell and his girlfriend, Alexis Albritton, have been together since they were 17. Albritton had imagined a future with the two of them and a house full of dogs. But today, you would never know that children weren't always part of her plan, as she fusses over young Xavier.

Albritton works as a veterinary assistant and receptionist at Crosspointe Animal Hospital in Fairfax Station. She too has goals for her future. Her sights are set

"The only thing you can do is put the past behind you and take the initiative to keep moving forward."

-- Travis Parnell

on becoming a certified veterinary tech.

Parnell and Albritton said their biggest challenge is their budget; making sure that more money is coming in than needs to go out. They live frugally, rarely eating out or buying clothes; they cut their own hair and are happy for the generous donations to the Salvation Army that allow them to dress Xavier at prices they can afford.

The couple appreciates having Albritton's parents and Foxx to offer guidance. Now 26, Parnell says there isn't anything he wouldn't share with Foxx. They check in with each other regularly, "We are both men with our own families. If he has an issue, he'll call and say what do you think I should do? We talk through it. Then I tell him, 'time to be a grown man' and that gives him the confidence to handle the situation," said Foxx.

"Not everyone has the tools to make it in this world," says Parnell, "The only thing you can do is put the past behind you and take the initiative to keep moving forward."

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In Search of Diversified Revenue

Fairfax County residents can expect to see meals tax question on November ballots.

Local governments pay for almost all of local services, including schools, by taxing a single industry, property owners.

In Fairfax County, property taxes pay for 65 percent of the budget. In Arlington, which has more revenue options as an urban county, property taxes pay for 57 percent of everything. In the City of Alexandria, property taxes pay for 58 percent.

It costs more every year to provide a consistent level of services, and the sources of revenue available to local governments in Virginia are very limited, forcing an outsized reliance on property taxes. The reason is that localities in Virginia have only the power explicitly given to them by the General Assembly, and the General Assembly allows very few options for localities to collect revenue.

Alexandria and Arlington already have a 4 percent meals tax on top of the 6 percent sales tax, and it's evident that the robust restaurant scene in both areas has not suffered as a result. Would-be diners do not drive to Fairfax County to avoid the tax. But whether Fairfax County can collect a meals tax will be up to voters in November, pending the Board of Supervisors putting the question on the ballot.

A meals tax is not a silver bullet, but it does add one more source of revenue. A 4-cent meals tax is roughly equivalent to the 4-cent increase in property taxes that Fairfax County residents will face this year. But the property tax is levied on people with no relationship to their ability to pay. The meals tax is related to spending, a more progressive approach, and will also collect taxes from non-residents.

This is one of the wealthiest regions in the country, and the highly educated population has high expectations. Schools, public safety,

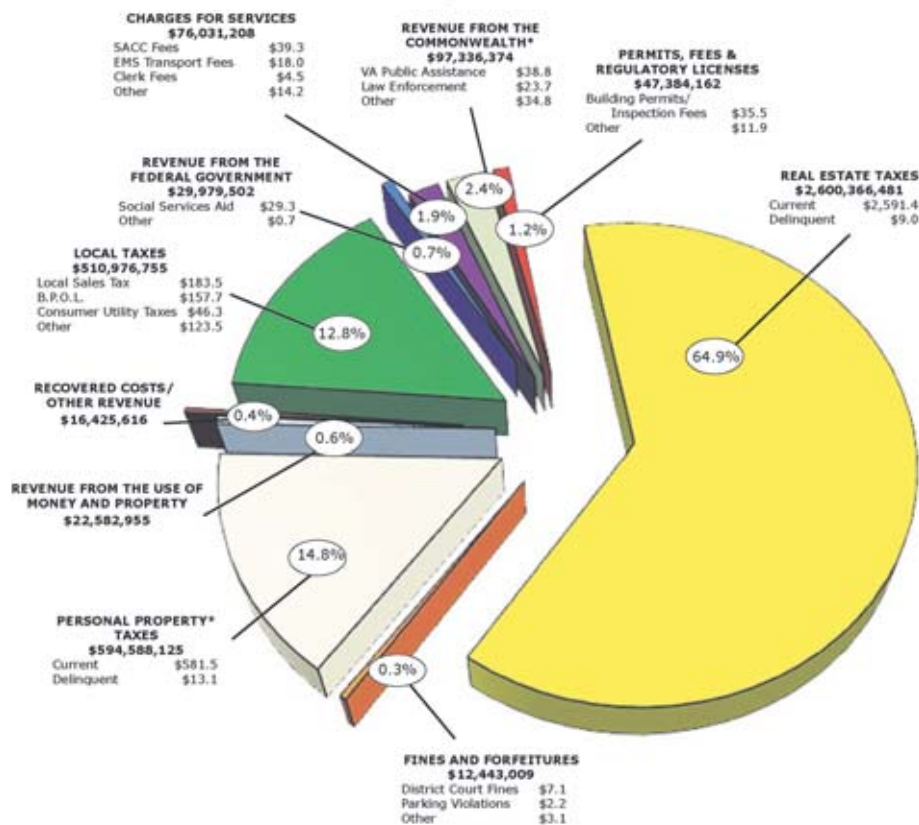
EDITORIAL

recreational facilities, transportation, human services and other services and facilities cannot be allowed to atrophy because real estate values are flat. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was correct to provide what Chairman Sharon Bulova called a "booster shot," mostly to schools but also to other needs in the county.

What is needed for the future is access to other, more diversified forms of taxes. While it is a pipe dream given the disposition of the General Assembly, what is really needed is to give localities a portion of the income tax. In the meantime, locals will have to press the state to pay for its fair share locally, and to allow increases in cigarette taxes and other possible sources of revenue.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

FY 2017 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS ("WHERE IT COMES FROM") (Subcategories in millions)



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Residents of the City of Alexandria who are either 65 years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled by Nov. 15, 2016, may be eligible for the City's Real Estate Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled Persons, call 703-746-3901, Option 6, or visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/finance/info/default.aspx?id=2886>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For the Benefit of All, Fairfax County Needs a Meals Tax

To the Editor:

For the strongest education for our children and for economic prosperity, Fairfax County must pass a Meals Tax. We all know the critical nature of the best education for all children but we need reminding that the highest quality schools also yield the highest housing prices.

Currently, Fairfax County is losing too many top teachers to neighboring school districts, especially Arlington County, who pay significantly higher salaries. I cite the following report to the School Board last December: A

study conducted by Segal Waters Consulting has revealed that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) teacher salaries fall well behind those of other local jurisdictions, particularly in years 5-20 of a teacher's career. Over a 30-year career, an FCPS teacher earns \$142,000 less than our survey average and \$293,000 less than a teacher at Arlington Public Schools. When considering total compensation over a 30-year period, the gap narrows to \$52,000. The study was presented to the Fairfax County School Board at its Dec. 7, 2015 work session.

A Meals Tax will raise crucial revenues for schools, infrastructure and social services. Few, if any people do not eat out in D.C., Arlington or Alexandria because they have a revenue-producing meals tax. Few, if any will decline to eat out in Fairfax either.

Let's all get behind the Meals Tax for the benefit of our children and to maintain quality schools that raise the value of our homes.

Dennis and Shirley Bloomquist
Great Falls

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LETTERS

In Prom Season: Safety First

Fellow Parents and Friends:

The spring season is now in full swing and along with the warmer (and longer) days, cherry blossoms, and outdoor grilling comes another type of season: prom season. While we are all proud of our children for their accomplishments, especially those with graduation on the horizon, we must remember that safety is still the number one priority. Many of us will be hosting prom parties and events for our kids, and even though we want to make them as enjoyable and memorable as possible, the fact remains: providing alcohol to a minor is against the law.

Providing alcohol to a minor can cause them physical and mental harm. The brain is still growing until the age of 25 and underage drinking is proven to have harmful effects on the brain. Students who wait until their early 20s to drink are 84 percent less likely to develop an addiction than those who start earlier.

Hosting a prom party with alcohol, or providing alcohol to a minor in any way, is a risk you cannot afford to take. One bad decision can result in tragedy for the young person, as well as his or her family, friends, and our entire community. Do not risk living with the burden of an unnecessary death or accident because you provided or allowed alcohol use by someone under the age of 21.

Things you can do as a parent include calling other parents to ensure social events are alcohol-free and chaperoned, as well as locking up your own alcoholic beverages. Make it clear to your teen that you do not approve of their drinking alcohol, and ensure your teen has a plan for the night and that you know what it is. Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers, and have a transportation plan; if it's a limo, check their company policy on not allowing any alcohol in the vehicle and on driving any teen who clearly has been drinking. Report underage drinking to police: 703-691-2131, TTY 711.

Spring is a time for safe enjoyment and celebration. Together, we can make prom season a safe, fun, and memorable event for everyone.

Supervisor John C. Cook

Chair, Public Safety Committee of Board of Supervisors

Col. Edwin C. Rossler, Jr.

Chief of Police, Fairfax County

Patricia Hynes

Chair, Fairfax County School Board

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Language Immersion for Young Children

Experts tout the benefits of an early start.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Martha Davis' daughter Alice was ready for kindergarten, she decided to enroll her in a Spanish language immersion program. Davis, who is the assistant dean for World Languages at Northern Virginia Community College chose Mt. Vernon Community School in Alexandria.

"I know personally the benefits of knowing a second language and I wanted my daughter to experience that," she said.

Davis, also a Spanish professor, says that the benefits of such immersion programs range from boosting cognitive functioning and confidence to accent acquisition and social skills development. "Speaking with a native or near-native accent significantly eases communication, particularly with people unaccustomed to interacting with non-native speakers," said Davis. "This in



Martha Davis reads a book written in Spanish with her daughters, 6-year-old Alice (right) and 4-year old Jane. Alice is in a Spanish immersion program at Mt. Vernon Community School in Alexandria.

PHOTO COURTESY BY CHRIS REYNOLDS

turn can help boost the confidence of the non-native speaker and can provide the encouragement needed to continue language study."

Numerous studies suggest the brain-boosting power of early exposure to a second language as another benefit of immersion programs for young children, says Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington.

"Cognitively, kids who learn two languages in preschool and really young children tend to score better on abstract thinking all the way into high school," said Lado. "If you know that in one language there is one word for chair and it includes foot stool and sofa chair and lounge, and in another language you have three different words it makes your brain think more abstractly."

The sooner children gain exposure to a second language, the easier it is to acquire, says Davis who contrasts her daughter's feelings with those of some of her adult students, "who feel that speaking another language is strange or foreign," which impedes their language acquisition," she said.

"I have found that if students can identify themselves as a speaker of the language of instruction, regardless of their

"I know personally benefits of knowing a second language and I wanted my daughter to experience that."

**— Martha E. Davis,
Northern Virginia
Community College**

level of proficiency, they enjoy learning the language more and acquire it more easily," said Davis. "This year Alice has begun to sign her name 'Alicia' on her Spanish homework."

Local language immersion programs offer classes for children as young as 10 months old. They use songs and games to teach language in a way that is pleasurable for students. "Starting when they're young helps language develop organically and naturally," said Amanda Michetti of Language Starts, which offers classes to children in Alexandria, Fairfax, Arlington, Reston and Bethesda. "The classes are conversation based with a little bit of reading and writing."

Hilary Javier has three children, ages two, three and four, who take Mandarin Chinese at Language Starts. She wants them to be citizens of the world, and believes exposure to a second language is important in achieving that goal. "You don't have to translate anything into English," said Javier. "They really do understand from picking it up naturally in the immersion setting. There is this special window when they are young to expose them to different cultures they would not never been exposed to, even noticeable in their mannerisms in the classroom."

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SCHOOLS

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Allison Campbell, a 2007 graduate of West Springfield High School, graduated from Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School in May 2016.

Peter Wang, a student at South County High School, has been named a 2016 U.S. Presidential Scholar, a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education.

William Greenwood, Burke, graduated with a bachelor of science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Kansas in May 2016.

The following area students graduated from Hampden-Sydney College: **Kyle Thomas Deivert**, of Fairfax, graduated *cum laude* with a B.S. in biology. **Nathaniel Tillman Oliver**, of Fairfax, graduated *cum laude* with a B.A. in economics and business. **Ali Adil Sali**, of Fairfax, graduated with a B.A. in history. **Austin Mitchell Perryman**, of Fairfax, graduated with a B.S. in mathematical economics.

John Cossio, of Springfield, graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in spring 2016. He majored in voice.

James Lau, of Springfield, was elected to the honor society Phi Beta Kappa. Membership recognizes the highest academic achievement, moral character, responsible citizenship, and broad intellectual curiosity. James is the son of Michael & Audrey Lau of Springfield.

Twins **Brian** and **Kevin Zamfino**, West Springfield High School Class of 2015, graduated from U.S. Air Force

Basic Military Training in March 2016. They are the sons of Joe and Joanne Zamfino.

James Lau, of Springfield, was inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society for college men and women at Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, Va.

Kayla Zellmer of Fairfax has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2015 semester at St. Mary's College in Indiana.

Reilly Brown, a sophomore English major at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester. She is a graduate of West Springfield High School, she is the daughter of Patrick Shaw and Nicole Brown of Springfield.

John Hollinger, of Fairfax, was awarded Dean's list at Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y.

Sarah Boyle from Marshall High School, Razan Elbaba from Oakton High School, and Rosy Molina from Fairfax High School on Feb. 24, 2016 were recognized at the annual Scholastic Art Awards ceremony with a 2016 Uphoff Scholarship from the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Each student received a \$1,000 prize and their work is on public display at the Ernst Community Cultural Center from Feb. 21 through March 3. To find out more about the Arts Council's Uphoff Scholarships program, visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants/programs/uphoffscholarship>.

Jessica M. Ochoa, Helene J. Decosse, Alexis J. Fahrney, of Fairfax, **Samantha E. Kinde**, of Springfield, and **Zoe L. Kempresos**, of Fairfax Station, are on the Dean's List at Boston University for the fall 2015 semester.

Brian P. Bosse graduated with a degree of master of arts in International Relations from Boston University.

Hannah Emily Sandler, of Fairfax Station, has been named to the president's list at James Madison University for the fall 2015 semester. Students who earn president's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above. Sandler is scheduled to graduate in 2019 and is majoring in health services administration.

Hannah Emily Sandler, of Fairfax Station, has been named to the president's list at James Madison University for the fall 2015 semester. Students who earn president's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.900 or above. Sandler is scheduled to graduate in 2019 and is majoring in health services administration.

Caroline Dickson, of Fairfax, has been named to the Dean's list at the University of Maine for the fall 2015 semester.

Tae Yang You, of Fairfax, graduated with distinction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Letters and Science with a bachelor of science Communication Arts, Physics.

Sarah Ann Hughes Cushing-Spiller a first-year student at Hollins University has been named to the Dean's List for the 2015 fall semester. Cushing-Spiller is the daughter of Mr. Bob Cushing and Mrs. Chris Hughes of Springfield. She is a graduate of Robert E. Lee High School.

Fairfax Station resident, **Hannah Emily Sandler**, has been named to the president's list at James Madison University for the fall 2015 semester.

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Wearing His Art on His Sleeve

Young Fairfax artist with autism shows work at Our Daily Bread's "Artful Living."

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

"HERE MY WORK IS YELLING AT THE STONE INSIDE THAT REFUSES TO LEAVE MY SOUL AND BODY IN PEACE." Those are 16-year-old Fairfax resident Ben Breaux's words that accompanied his mixed-media painting "The Kidney Stone" at the April 23 juried art contest and Our Daily Bread fundraiser "Artful Living."

Breaux is non-verbal autistic, and for the last three years has created art to express his feelings outwardly. It started with a therapist who was working with Breaux and simultaneously pursuing a master's degree in art therapy, who encouraged him to create.

Because he has difficulty grasping a paintbrush, Breaux takes old books and arm guards (which he periodically wears to protect his skin from self-inflicted scratching), coats them in paint and then presses them down on to canvas and construction paper, again and again. As the books and guards break down and become coated with many colors and layers of dried paint, they begin to leave bits of material behind on Breaux's abstract artwork, giving the pieces a raised texture that's become a signature characteristic.

Breaux's mother Sara said he's fascinated by the work of Jackson Pollock and how he used mixed media as well.

Though Ben first got into art as a primary means of expression, in August 2014, he began learning to use the Rapid Prompt Method (RPM) of communication. By pointing to letters one at a time on a large alphabet board, someone on the other side can transcribe as Ben spells out words and constructs sentences.

Ben recently celebrated his 16th birthday party at the family's home. "It was the first time we knew what he wanted," in a celebration, Sara said. "We knew who he wanted to come, he was able to tell us."

"BEING ABLE TO DO RPM ALLOWS ME TO EXPRESS MYSELF IN WORDS," Ben said, "DOING ART ADDRESSES MY FEELINGS VISUALLY."

Ben has chosen to put those feelings on display, as well as up for sale, showcasing his art in Our Daily Bread's Artful Living show in 2015 and now 2016, as well as at the Robinson Secondary School Marketplace in fall 2015. Robinson is Ben's base school, though he attends the private



From left, Sara, Johnathan, Ben and Rick Breaux of Fairfax stand with Ben's painting "The Kidney Stone" at the April 23 juried art contest and Our Daily Bread fundraiser "Artful Living."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



From left, Our Daily Bread Executive Director Lisa Whetzel enjoys the night with Our Daily Bread Project BRIDGE client Paola, Project BRIDGE Manager Sally Meyer and supporter Evie Ifantides.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HERNAN VARGAS



Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne (right) speaks at the Our Daily Bread Fairfax "Artful Living" art contest, sharing the stage with ODB Development Manager Jennifer Rose (left).

PHOTO COURTESY OF HERNAN VARGAS

special needs institution Ivymount School in Rockville.

Ben chose to donate a portion of the money he earned from the Robinson event to Our Daily Bread, a Fairfax-based nonprofit that helps people with short-term safety net services. He's said he supports their mission of helping put food on people's tables, because it's important for families to eat together.

"BEING AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF OTHERS AND DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT," Ben said.

AT THE APRIL 23 SHOW, held at the Sherwood Center on Old Lee Highway, Ben's piece was the first sold, to Fairfax City School Board Chairman Toby Sorensen.

"I spotted Ben's mixed media piece and was immediately struck by its texture, color and composition," Sorensen said in an email. "I had no idea who the artist was or that he was a 15-year-old boy with autism. After a short walk around the exhibit, I realized this was the piece I wanted to buy. I am thrilled to support a young artist who is so talented and hope he continues to express himself in this way."

"I am thrilled he's had the opportunity to show his work in this venue," said Our Daily Bread Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "What we are hoping is that all artists get visibility and share the community awareness aspect of what ODB is trying to achieve, while also showcasing their talent."

Of the 64 works of art that were in the show, 28 were purchased and ODB received more than 50 percent of the proceeds. ODB spokesperson Heather Webb said the show brought in more than \$45,000, the most raised at any of their events and almost double last year's tally. A portion of the proceeds will also go to the Spotlight on the Arts scholarship fund.

AWARDS for Best of Medium included:

- Oil/Acrylic: "Taino Beach," Westen Muntain, Falls Church
- Watercolor: "Own Little World," Angela He, Oakton
- Pastel/Charcoal: "La Pointe," Vera Gilbert, Arlington
- Photography: "Red Rope Boat," Annika Burstein, Oakton
- Photography (tie): "Life in Darkness," Lindsay Martin, McLean
- Other: "Little Wing," Lis Zadravec, Sterling
- Best of Show: "Her Mind in Glass," Lydia Dye, Fairfax
- People's Choice: "Deep in the Forest, Briana Camp, Fairfax
- People's Choice (tie): "Welcome to Tibet," Dale McGrath, Herndon

Competing at the World Stage

Lake Braddock Secondary's Robotics team, composed of sophomores Roger Clanton, David Desrochers, Paul Han, and Amanda Nguyen, and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) sophomores Sam Bove and Antono Zaman, designed and built a competition robot that made it all the way to the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri.

The team, known as The Blockheads, won the overall best team award at their first Virginia qualifier in December 2015, then won best robot design at the Virginia state championships.

Team members followed those wins with a runner-up Control Award at the East Super Regionals, which earned them a slot at the World Championship in late April.

At the World Championship, they finished with a winning record and placed 18 of 64 teams in their division. Their robot was unique in that it was al-



Lake Braddock Secondary's Robotics team participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship in St. Louis.

most entirely made of 3-D printed parts and was very colorful, like their team T-shirts. Of the more than 5,300 teams that started the season, only 128 qualified for Worlds.

Robotic Team Excels, Needs Support

The West Springfield High School/Lake Braddock Secondary School FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team (RTR Robotics Team 2421) won the first regional event of the 2016 FRC season March 4-6 at Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Va. The team included WSHS students Eyob Woldeghebriel, Teresa Steemman, Joshua Carley, JR Davis, and Trey Cluff.

Even though they had more than their share of problems with radios, the robot's camera, the battery connections, laptop problems, and cracking and broken wheels, all of which were conquered, they were chosen by the number one team to be on their alliance in the playoffs. They played 7 matches, winning 6 out of 7 to be selected as champions. Their winning entry was a 120-pound robot built to conquer the FIRST Robotics Challenge 2016 called "Stronghold." The "Stronghold" game is played by two alliances of three teams each, and involves breaching the opponents' defenses, known as outer works, and capturing their tower by firing boulders (heavy foam balls) at it and then surrounding or scaling the tower using a lifting arm.

Points are scored by crossing elements of the tower's outer works, shooting boulders into the opposing tower's five goals in order to lower the tower strength, and by surrounding and scaling the tower. The details of the game were revealed at the kickoff event on Jan.



The West Springfield High School/Lake Braddock Secondary School FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) Team (RTR Robotics Team 2421) won the first regional event of the 2016 FRC season.

9, 2016 which started the intense six-week build time clock.

The team includes WSHS students Eyob Woldeghebriel (recently selected for full MIT scholarship), Teresa Steemman, Joshua Carley, JR Davis, and Trey Cluff plus Lake Braddock Secondary School students Eric Smith, Brandon Vaca, Andrew Watson, Andrea Hatcher, Julian Stapleton, Veronica Grant, Nicholas Doerry, Joseph Carley, Michael Kelly, Jake Vernon, Josh Piel, Zach Polnow, Edward Liu, Jason Lee, Jessica Novis, Zach and Kaitlin Wade. There are 132 FRC teams in the Chesapeake District. RTR Robotics Team 2421 ended the season with a ranking of 47th out of 132.

Teams come from all different high schools: private, public, home school, and community groups. A second event the team attended was the Chesapeake Regional held March 24-26 at South River High School in Edgewater, Md., near

Annapolis. During that event, the team earned a seventh place ranking out of 41 teams and 78 qualifying matches.

They made it to the semi-finals but were eliminated in the second round. Their last event was the University of Maryland College Park District Championships held April 6-8, 2016 where they suffered from broken wheels, as well as other obstacles and did not place well.

RTR Robotics Team 2421 is sponsored by engineer mentors and parent volunteers and had operated out of loaned barn space in Clifton for the 2016 season.

In an intense six-week time limit, the team was challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," and build and program the 3'x 3' industrial-sized robot. It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. Being the ultimate 'Sport for the Mind' participants call it "the hardest fun you'll ever have." RTR Robotics Team 2421 currently does not have a build or storage site for their robot and equipment for next year. They lost warehouse space in Lorton and then had to move out of this year's privately owned barn in Clifton.

They are looking for community support for additional sponsors and build space in a warehouse or machine shop for the 2017 FIRST Robotics Challenge.

Contact Trey Cluff if you can help in anyway with the 2017 season: Trey@gocluff.com.



From left: Gillian Church, Idan Woodruff, Trent Crocker, Kendra Weingast and Breese Sherman in the Lake Braddock Theatre production of "The Island of Dr. Moreau."

Focus on Authority and Morality

BY KATIE KOLO
THOMAS EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

Imagine a place where the lines between humanity and savagery are blurred, where cruelty is excused for the sake of scientific progress, and the need to not only survive, but improve is held in regard above all others.

CAPPIES REVIEW This intricate and difficult setting is the one presented by Lake Braddock Theatre in their production of Troy Tradup's adaptation of the H. G. Wells classic "The Island of Dr. Moreau."

"The Island of Dr. Moreau" was first written by Wells in 1896 and discusses morality through the lense of Edward Prendick, a shipwrecked young man who washes up on an island and is nursed back to health by the eccentric Dr. Moreau who is interested in advancing life through vivisection and manipulation of natural properties. His many experiments result in the "beast folk" of the island, animals who have been almost transformed into people and follow the laws of humanity that Moreau has set. As Prendick gets to know the different perspectives of the animals and people on the island, his ideas of what is right and wrong fluctuate and eventually settle into a mindset of survival at any cost.

Leads Idan Woodruff (Prendick) and Kendra Weingast (Ellison Montgomery) did a good job of portraying the story, especially as the second act progressed and the central themes of authority and morality became more present. Even more commendable than the performances of these two actors, however, is that of the various Beast Folk on the island. The ensemble as a whole was remarkably cohesive and in-

tensely committed to the physicality of the animals they chose to portray, keeping hands curled into the shape of paws or hooves and making other character choices that greatly enhanced the overall effect of the show. Particularly impressive performers include Micaela Harmon (M'Ling) as the loyal dog-servant to Prendick and Moreau, whose every move was supported by a canine motivation, and Max Grove (Ape) who managed to work animalistic intensity and physicality seamlessly into his lines and blocking to create a character that truly stood out among the cast.

The show would not have been what it was without the impressive manifestations of the technical theatre aspects. The makeup design of Kendra Weingast greatly augmented the impact of the Beast Folk in the play, and the show certainly would not have had such a sickening effect without the hard work of Sarah McDaniels, who headed the execution of the fake blood onstage in a manner both realistic and sensational. However, the single most impressive element involved in the performance was the lighting by Kyle Dannhey. From flashes of lightning to the motif of red washes that accompanied violence, his work was both consistent and spectacular.

"Somehow, nature drifts endlessly back in." This line from the show could not have been better embodied by the cast and crew of Lake Braddock Theatre's "The Island of Dr. Moreau" in their portrayal of humanity's devolution into barbarism in times of moral crisis. From the opening lines to the closing bows, "The Island of Dr. Moreau" created a space for the consideration of these very difficult topics.



Lake Braddock Secondary School students pose for official pictures at the 2016 Day Prom.



Robinson Secondary School students arrive at the May 3 Day Prom and get adorned with corsages and boutonnieres.

Out of their Shells

15th Day Prom held for students with disabilities.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Students' bodies bounced, swayed and spun on the dance floor while the Black-Eyed Peas' "I Gotta Feeling" blared from towering speakers. In another room, glamorous girls and boutonniere boys waited in line to pose for a professional photographer. It was a prom.

May 12 marked the 15th year of the Day Prom, a fancy affair organized specifically for Fairfax County students with physical and intellectual disabilities at the Waterford Receptions venue at Fair Oaks.

Chris Pascarella is an Employee Transition Representative at Robinson Secondary School. She and Ann Albosta came up with the idea for the daytime soiree when both were teaching at Herndon High School together.

Pascarella was in the program for students with special needs at Herndon. "We thought, 'These kids are never going to go to their own prom,'" she said.

The first year, the two teachers got together students from Centreville, Herndon, South Lakes and Westfield High Schools, along with general education buddies who helped fill out the social experience.

The idea was to recreate a high school prom so students receiving special services could enjoy the same seminal dance environment as their peers. Throwing one just for them removes much of the pressure of fitting in; at the Day Prom, they're all the kings and queens.

"These kids love it so much," said Albosta, who now lives in Wilmington, Del. "It's the biggest social experience they're going to have in high school."

The alternative prom grew in popularity each year, so much that they had to split into two separate events for 2016. The first prom was held May 3 with students from Fairfax, Falls Church, Robinson, Marshall, West Springfield and Robert E. Lee high schools. On May 12, the Waterford hosted Centreville, Herndon, Lake Braddock, McLean, South Lakes, Westfield, Woodson, Oakton, Chantilly and J.E.B. Stuart high schools, and the Key Center School.

On the second day alone, there were 210



W.T. Woodson freshman Jack Gibson (right) spins senior Katy Mastrotta (left) at the 2016 Day Prom for students with mental and physical disabilities.



May 12 marked the 15th year of the Day Prom, a fancy affair organized specifically for Fairfax County students with physical and intellectual disabilities at the Waterford Receptions venue at Fair Oaks.

students plus staff and buddies — 413 in total attendance for the prom.

Some students may go on to graduate after the prom, others return year after year, becoming friends.

"It's really fantastic, a good time to meet old friends," said Hassan Ayoobi, an instructional assistant at Lake Braddock Secondary School who was chaperoning at the dance for the first time. "They need something fun, and they're getting ready for the

future."

Lake Braddock Principal Dave Thomas has been to a few more Day Proms than Ayoobi. "It's about inclusiveness and getting that high school experience," Thomas said. "It's a celebration of the work they do in the classroom."

Scott Brown used to teach Adaptive Physical Education at South Lakes High School and now teaches Physical Education and Driver's Education.



Robinson Secondary School student Nate Hunt (center) leads a line dance at the May 3 Day Prom.



Waterford CEO Keith Clark (rear) accepts a plaque of appreciation from students for hosting the Day Prom since 2004. Waterford donates the space each year, making the dance possible without an extravagant budget.

"The kids get a chance to get dressed up, they feel like it's their prom," Brown said. "It's about having a good time, all about the community."

On the dance floor, McLean senior Maya Lezzam bobs and rocks with her buddy, fellow senior Adonis Friend, dressed to the nines in a crisp classic tuxedo.

At the Day Prom, she said, "He's able to come out of his shell. You see his personality, he's so much fun."

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CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

ONGOING

Peace: Our True Nature:

Watercolor Batik by Amy Rivard. June 8-July 9. Workhouse Arts Center, Building W-9 Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Visitors will encounter watercolor batik paintings on Kinwashi rice paper, created by Rivard in the spirit of the present moment. amyrivardpaintings.com.
Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon. Sundays till end of September. Lorton Farmers Market, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Conducted by Master Gardeners. Answer gardening question, identify plants and insects, soil tests, etc. fairfaxgardening.org.
First Tee Life Skills. 5-6:30 p.m. May 10-June 21. Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. The Fairfax County Park Authority is partnering with The First Tee of Greater Washington, DC, to offer The First Tee Life Skills Experience Certifying Program, designed for young people ages 7-18. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir040-16.htm>.

THURSDAY/MAY 19

CCWC Homes Tour, Silent Auction, Book Signing. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Hosted by the Clifton Community Woman's Club. cliftoncwc.org. 703-609-3479.
"The Other Side of Cannabis." 7 p.m. Angelika Film Center and Cafe, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Virginia premiere. Panelists will include Diana Rodriguez, LCSW, CADC, INOVA Kellar Center; a Fairfax County Police Department narcotics detective; and a former user in recovery. \$10/\$15. upcfilmosc.eventbrite.com. 703-939-8723.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Spirit Run 5K. 8-10:30 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Supports Holy Spirit School's resource program. Contact Lambie Renner for information at lrenner@holyspiritchurch.us.
19th Annual Clifton Caboose Twilight Run. 6 p.m. Intersection of Clifton Road and Main Street. 5K Run/1 Mile Run/Walk. www.SignMeUp.com/113094.
Reception, "Manifesto." 7-10 p.m. Olly Olly Art Space, 2nd Floor, 10417 Main St., Fairfax. Exhibition of five collections of art by the artists of Northern Virginia's Bunnyman Bridge Collective. "Manifesto" will feature



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Next Reflex Dance Collective presents Jump in on Saturday, May 28 at the Workhouse Arts Center.

creative experimental art of the hidden away; including sculpture, installation, painting, collage, photography, video and performance. ollyollyart.com. 703-789-6144.
Pohick Church Annual Hodge Podge Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. On sale will be furniture, collectibles, household goods, books, clothing and much, much more. All proceeds will benefit the many ministries of Pohick Church. pohick.org. 703-339-6572.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

Burke Historical Society. 4:30-6 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Nathaniel Lee from the Franconia Museum will speak on his new book "The Iron Road of Franconia: A History of the RF&P Railroad in Fairfax County." Free. slawski_brian@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 28

Jump In. 7 p.m. W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Lorton Road, Lorton. By the Next Reflex Dance Collective. \$18/\$15/\$10. nextreflex.org. 703-927-0073.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 1

Jazz and Wine Fundraiser for OAR. 7:30 p.m. The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Benefit for nonprofit OAR of Fairfax. Evening under the stars in a beautiful and historic location. Live jazz music. Food and wine. \$50. <http://www.oarfairfax.org/2016-fundraiser>.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Interfaith Voices Live Radio Event.

2:30 p.m. The Hub Ballroom, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Join Maureen Fiedler of NPR's Interfaith Voices Radio as she records her program at George Mason University. Beginning with the question, "Is Religion a Problem or a Solution in your Life?" - Maureen hopes to engage college age people as to why fewer of them claim no affiliation with traditional religious institutions. Free. minister@accotinkuuc.org. 703-503-4579.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Forgotten Fairfax: Mill Ruins in Fairfax County. 11 a.m. Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Mills once filled the Fairfax County landscape in the 19th Century. Debbie Robison, a preservation consultant, will talk about Fairfax County's forgotten mills and locating historic mill ruins. All ages. Free. 703-324-8380.
"The Sounds of Pohick." 4 p.m. Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Musical groups featured are the St. Francis Choir and St. Cecelia/St. Alban Choir, both for children; the Pohick Pickers, an instrumental group; the Pohick Bell Choir, who will ring handbells and handchimes; the Pohick Early Church Music Ensemble, which sings 16th and 17th century anthems; and the Choir of Pohick, the nearly 40-voice adult choir. 703-339-6572. www.pohick.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 5

Wine, Whiskers and Wags. 1-5 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates, Ford Road, Clifton. Family- and dog-friendly wine tasting event hosted by the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to raise funds for shelter pets in need. www.ffcas.org.
Civil War Ballroom Dancing. Noon-5 p.m. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Watch and learn authentic dance steps from 150 years ago from members of the Victorian Dance Ensemble of the Civil War Dance Foundation. \$2-\$5. www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/JUNE 7

Discovering Local History. 7-8:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Fred Oaks Way, Burke. Enjoy an overview of the huge range of websites and resources available to those researching history and genealogy in the Northern Virginia area. Presenter: Debbie Robison of the Fairfax County History Commission. Free. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/>.



PHOTO GALLERY!

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editors@connectionnewspapers.com

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JUNE

6/1/2016..... Wellbeing
 6/8/2016..... Father's Day Dining & Gifts
 6/8/2016..... HomeLifeStyle
 6/15/2016... A+ Graduations & Summer Learning
 6/15/2016..... Father's Day Dining & Gifts
Father's Day is June 19

6/29/2016..... Connection Families

JULY

7/6/2016..... Wellbeing
 7/13/2016..... HomeLifeStyle
 7/20/2016..... A+ Camps & Schools
 7/27/2016..... Connection Families: Our Pets

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Robinson Girls' Lax to Host Langley in Region Quarterfinals

Rams repeat as Conference 5 champions.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The fact Robinson will face Langley in the postseason isn't a surprise. Multiple Rams envisioned competing against the Saxons on a grand stage, possibly with a state championship on the line.

The timing of Thursday's matchup, however, has Robinson junior Ellie Kluegel feeling stressed.

The Robinson girls' lacrosse team is undefeated, improving to 16-0 with a 21-6 victory over West Potomac on Tuesday in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament. Four days earlier, the Rams repeated as Conference 5 champion with a 19-5 win over Centreville. The program hasn't lost to a public school opponent since 2014 and the Rams have their sights set on repeating as state champions.

"The whole preseason ... we were always thinking, 'Langley-Robinson, state championship game.' That was a goal. And now to see ... we could knock each other out in the next round, that was really surprising."

— Robinson junior
Ellie Kluegel

LANGLY went undefeated during the regular season and advanced to the Conference 6 championship game, but the Saxons had their 16-game win streak snapped by Madison, which captured its sixth consecutive conference/district championship with an 11-9 victory over Langley on May 13. The result was the Saxons entering the region tournament as the No. 2 seed from Conference 6, setting up a likely second-round matchup with Robinson.

Langley defeated Osborn Park 19-



The Robinson girls' lacrosse team repeated as Conference 5 champions with a 19-5 victory over Centreville on May 13.



Taylor Caskey (2) and the undefeated Robinson girls' lacrosse team will host one-loss Langley in the 6A North region quarterfinals on Thursday.

6 in the opening round of regionals on Tuesday and the Saxons will travel to take on the Rams at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Robinson-Langley, once considered a potential state championship matchup, will take place three weeks earlier than expected, with the loser's season coming to an end.

How did Kluegel, the Conference 5 Player of the Year, react when she found out Robinson would face Langley in the region quarterfinals?

"I kind of freaked out," she said. "I was really stressed. The whole preseason ... we were always thinking, 'Langley-Robinson, state championship game.' That was a goal. And now to see ... we could knock each

other out in the next round, that was really surprising. It's kind of scary, at least for me. I can't speak for my teammates. I'm a little worried. That's a game that stresses me out. Usually, I'm pretty confident going in, but they're definitely a very strong and together team — very dynamic.

"They can surely give us a run for our money."

Robinson senior goalie Danielle Valenti, on the other hand, said the Rams are looking forward to the challenge.

"That's pretty crazy," Valenti, a second-team all-conference selection, said about facing Langley on Thursday. "We didn't know if they were going to win [against Madison] or not because, obviously,

Madison's good. ... I think we're excited for Thursday. I think we're ready. We love playing good teams, so we want that competition."

Robinson beat Langley 11-5 during a preseason scrimmage on March 11, but Rams head coach Liz Case said things have changed since then.

"I don't really consider that anything because they had a new coach (Maggie Kovacs) and it was early in the season," said Case, the Co-Conference 5 Coach of the Year. "I know they've gotten a lot better since then, so I don't even look at that as anything. I look at what they've done so far: they were undefeated until they lost to Madison. But everybody has a fluke game, so they could come out and be really strong and we have to be ready."

ROBINSON was dominant in its final tune-up for Thursday's matchup, beating West Potomac 21-6 on Tuesday. The Rams led 15-3 at halftime.

Kluegel, a junior midfielder who is committed to Loyola University Maryland, led Robinson with six goals and three assists. Kaitlin Luccarelli, a second-team all-conference attacker who will play at Longwood University, had five goals and one assist. Senior midfielder Taylor Caskey, a first-team all-conference selection, finished with four goals and two assists.

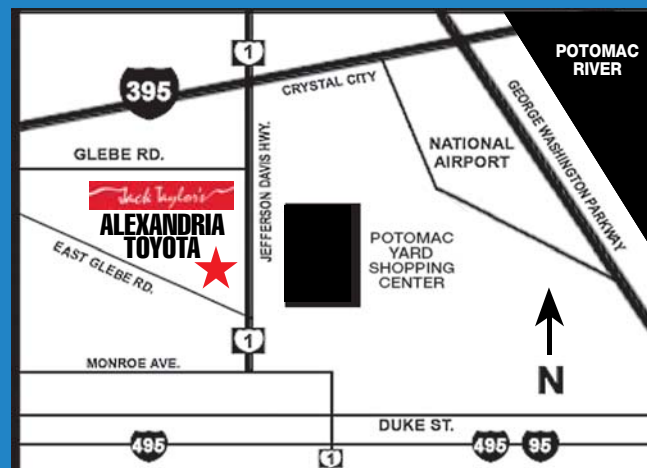
Junior attacker Katie Checkosky, a JMU commit and first-team all-conference selection, had three goals and one assist.

Junior midfielder Kate Mulvenon had two goals for Robinson, and freshman attacker Grace Tompkins had one.

Senior defenders Emily Skrzypczak (Ohio State) and MegMarie Stanchi were also first-team all-conference selections.

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News

Transportation Authority to Hold Hearing, Public Meetings

On June 9, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) will hold a Public Hearing on its Draft FY2017 Program. The Public Hearing will be held at the Authority's offices located at 3040 Williams Drive in Fairfax.

An Open House will be held at 6 p.m. with regional transportation planners on hand to answer questions one-on-one. Detailed maps and project descriptions will be available for review.

At 7 p.m., NVTA Chairman Martin E. Nohe, will give a presentation outlining the Authority's planning, prioritizing and funding selection process. Public testimony will begin immediately following the presentation. Interested individuals may pre-register to speak at: theauthority@thenovaaauthority.org.

Speaker sign-up will also be available on site. Speakers will be allowed 3 minutes each.

For members of the public who are unable to attend, the NVTA's Draft FY2017 Program presentation is available on the Authority's web site.

The public comment period will be open through 5 p.m. June 17.

In addition to the Public Hearing, the

NVTA will accept public comments by: email: FY2017Program@TheNoVaAuthority.org; mail: 3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22031; phone: 703-642-4652.

Local Town Hall Meetings on the Draft FY2017 Program will also be hosted by several NVTA member jurisdictions. The following local Town Hall meetings are currently scheduled:

♦ City of Alexandria Wednesday, May 18, 7 p.m. Alexandria City Hall, Council Work Room (Second Floor), 301 King St., Alexandria

♦ Arlington County Thursday, June 2, 6 p.m. Arlington County Board Room, 3rd floor, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington

♦ Fairfax County Thursday, May 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Lake Anne Elementary School, Cafeteria, 11510 North Shore Drive, Reston,

♦ Wednesday, June 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. South County Government, 2nd floor, 5380 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria

♦ Wednesday, June 15, 6-8:30 p.m. Fairfax Government Center, Rooms 9/10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

Additional meetings may be added. For more information visit www.thenovaaauthority.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/ 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.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

DDVA Dyslexia Simulation. 4-5:30 p.m. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Dyslexia simulation created by the Dyslexia Training Institute. Free. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ddva-dyslexia-simulation-tickets-24787012622>.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

Public Hearing on Monopoles and Towers Zoning Ordinance. 8:15 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Planning commission hearing. fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz.

TUESDAY/JUNE 21

NVTA Workshop. 7-9 p.m. Providence District Office, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. In-person meetings are designed to capture feedback from a broad range of participants. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/>. Type Northern Virginia Transportation Authority to search for the public workshops.

Public Hearing on Monopoles and Towers Zoning Ordinance. 3:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Board of Supervisors Hearing. fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz.

ONGOING

Burke Rotary Club Meeting. Tuesdays from 7:15-8:30 a.m. Anita's Restaurant, 9278 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Meetings with breakfast and program. www.burkerotary.org.

Burke Lake Seniors Golf League seeks members. Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf League. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April

1 through October 31 – are \$20 plus green fees. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Shepherd's Center of Western Fairfax needs volunteer drivers for medical/foodbank appointments. Shepherd's Center serves 50+ residents in Clifton and western Fairfax/Fairfax Station, helping them remain independent and age in place at home. Office help also is needed for coordinating drive requests. More info is at www.scwfc.org or 703-266-3548 or scwfc.office@gmail.com.

Fairfax County needs a volunteer **Senior Center Marketing Coordinator** to assist the Friends of Fairfax County Senior Centers with marketing. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Little River Glen Senior Center** in Fairfax needs a Computer Lab Assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in Annandale needs an Art Instructor and a certified Pilates Instructor. Volunteer instructor positions could lead to part-time employment. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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Ellie Wester 703-503-1880



Fairfax **\$619,000**
Just listed in Kings Park West. 4 BR/3.5 BA updated from top to bottom! Renovated kitchen and baths, new SS appliances, hardwood floors, 3 finished levels, 2 fireplaces, fenced yard, private setting, cul-de-sac.
Nancy Basham 703-772-2066



Lake Occoquan Shores **\$795,850**
Rare Opportunity! Secluded waterfront community of 5 acre+ homesites w/ spectacular water views and Fairfax County parkland! Solid brick home backs to lake w/ approx. 3,888 sq ft of living space. 5/6 BRs, 3 totally remodeled full BA, 2 fireplaces, formal dining rm, deluxe kitchen w/ eating space adjoins fam rm leading to 92' deck overlooking lake! Rec Rm w/ bar, game/hobby rm, storage rm, bonus rm could be used as BR. Huge separate barn/workshop, covered RV pad, circular DW, and much more!
Steve Childress 703-981-3277



Centreville **\$290,000**
2 BR, 2FB, 1HB end unit in popular Little Rocky Run. Updated baths, hardwood floors, deck, fenced yard. Open floor plan.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staude 703-309-8948



Fairfax **\$600,000**
Custom Kitchen and Baths make this 4-level split stand out from the rest. Sought-after neighborhood with top-ranked schools comes too! Modern, gourmet Kitchen with High-end appliances. Really nice windows/doors, refinished hardwoods on main level and upper levels. Great commuting options.
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Haymarket **\$690,000**
Amazing views of pond, golf course & mountains! Upgraded to the max! Main level living in Active Adult community. 4,600 finished sq ft of luxury!
Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397



Springfield **\$1,190,000**
New exquisite, 4 BR, 3.5 BA with elegant intersecting front and rear stairs. Grand upper level Master Bedroom suite with sitting room and elegant master bathroom. Built on approx. 3 beautiful acre lot, minutes from highways, lake and park, shops, and many more great options.
Reba Ray 571-332-2731



Lake Anna **\$899,900**
Wooded Waterfront. Almost 3 acres secluded waterfront & year round stream. Almost 5,000 finished sq ft w/ 5 BRs, 5.5 BAs, a full finished basement w/ kitchen & another room that could be bedroom #6. Wide plank wood floors & ceramic floors, granite counters & SS appliances. 3-car attached garage & a huge detached complete w/ firing range & 2 workshops.
Greg Isaac 540-661-2019



Falls Church **\$1,820,000**
Custom Georgian colonial nestled on secluded 1.6+ acre lot in prime location in McLean HS district. Carriage house w/3-car garage & in-law/au pair apartment. Nearly 8,000 sqft of well-appointed space w/10' ceilings, hdwd flrs, coffered ceilings, custom woodwork & more. Expansive chef's kit w/ granite & spacious breakfast nook. Large walk-in pantry off kit. Banquet-sized dining rm w/fireplace & butler's pantry. Stately library w/built-ins & fireplace. Master suite w/fireplace, sitting rm, dual walk-in closets & luxury BA. BR #2 en suite w/fireplace. Separate laundry rm on BR lvl. Upper lvl w/ rec rm, two BRs, full BA & roof deck overlooking trees. 1.5 mi to two Metro stops. Minutes to shopping, D.C., and schools.
Ki Hatch 571-214-1870



Woodbridge **\$1,340,000**
Gorgeous custom build - all-brick Mike Garcia home on a 5 acre private waterfront peninsula. 6BRs & 7.5BAs. Spectacular wide water views from three sides. Huge gourmet kitchen. Newly renovated spa inspired master bath. 2 tiered 700 sf entertainment ready deck. Private boat dock & gazebo. Fire pit. Gated circular driveway w/pond & fountain. Super efficient geothermal HVAC system. Nanny suite over garage.
John & Jennifer Boyce 704-425-5646



Clifton **\$2,495,000**
Stunning 7 BR estate on gorgeous 5 acres. The property is an entertaining oasis with pool, sports court & more! Inside features beautiful architectural elements throughout.
Carol Hermendorfer 703-216-4949



Fairfax **\$550,000**
Lovely colonial with 4 BRs & 2.5 BAs, updated kitchen with granite, stainless steel appliances & gas cooking, updated bathrooms, new roof, replaced windows, & new siding! Feels updated & contemporary as soon as you open the door! Very large, fully fenced & very usable back yard with playground equipment. Close to Metro, VRE, shopping, schools!
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



Woodbridge **\$480,000**
Welcome home in the sought-after community of Belmont Bay on the Occoquan River. 2-car garage, 3 BR, 3 full bath end unit townhome. Enjoy the marina, pool, clubhouse, close to VRE, commuter lot/buses, Fort Belvoir & I-95.
Ngoc Do 703-798-2899



Lake Anna **\$799,000**
Wonderful waterfront! 5 BRs, 4.5 BAs w/ amazing amenities. Kitchen is a dream - real butcher block counters, granite island, warming drawer, convection/avantium microwave, JA grill/range, and trash compactor. Gorgeous views, irrigation, firepit, extensive hardscape, and partially fenced yard. Awesome man cave! Two slip boat house - too much to list, come and see for yourself!
Dana Isaac 540-661-2166



Burke Centre **\$679,000**
Lovely, 4 bedrooms, many renovations, floors, carpets, gourmet kitchen, w/d, French doors, in-ground pool, hot tub, deck, must see!
Mary FitzHenry 703-250-8915



Alexandria, South **\$368,000**
Quality-Built All Brick Town House! Amazing! Dramatic sunken living room w/10 ft+ ceiling, Palladian windows & a wood-burning FP Eat-in kitchen. Formal dining room. LL rec room. 3 BR, 2.5BA. Upgrades galore! 9 mi. to Pentagon and 7 mi. to Ft. Belvoir.
Mary Wharton 703-795-0587



Clifton **\$949,000**
Located on a gorgeous .94 acre in Balmoral Greens, this meticulously maintained home sparkles inside and out! Must See!
Carol Hermendorfer 703-216-4949



Burke **\$300,000**
Contemporary TH affordably priced. 3 BR, 1.5 BA with vaulted ceiling in LR. Updated Kitchen. Refinished cabinets w/Corian. Fenced Yard and concrete patio for terrific outdoor entertaining. Motivated seller.
Barbara Nowak 703-473-1803
Gerry Staude 703-309-8948



Centreville **\$398,000**
Pristine, updated TH with garage. 3 BR, 2 full & 2 half baths. Updated Kitchen with SS appliances and granite countertops. New carpet. Gas fireplace, 2 decks, fenced yard. Great location, easy access to I-66 and Rt. 28, schools, and shopping.
Claudia Callis 703-620-2790
Dana-Jean LaFever 703-609-3479



Fairfax **\$584,900**
Contemporary gem is better than new! Walls of glass, vaulted ceilings, new wide planked floors, replacement windows! New carpet, fresh paint, new roof ... and all baths renovated! 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs, move-in perfect!
Marsha Wolber 703-618-4397

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