

Students model their original creations during the fourth annual "Fashion in Motion" fashion show at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax.

Fashion In Motion Fashion Show

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'Honoring the Lives Of Fallen Officers'

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Meals Tax? Ballot Possibility

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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.

'Honoring the Lives of Fallen Officers'

Chief Pardiny bicycles in Police Unity Tour.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Each May, law enforcement officers from around the country participate in the Police Unity Tour (PUT) bike ride in honor of their colleagues, nationwide, who've died in the line of duty. This year, there were some 2,000 bicyclists and one of them was Fairfax City Police Chief Carl Pardiny.

The three-day ride was held last Tuesday-Thursday, May 10-12. It raises money for and awareness of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and the National Law Enforcement Museum being built in Washington, D.C. And it honors and remembers all federal, state and local law enforcement officers who've lost their lives while doing their jobs.

"This was my first time doing it," said Pardiny. "And this year was significant because it was the 20th anniversary of the Police Unity Tour. My family's always supported the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund financially, and I thought it would be a good way to get some exercise, meet the other officers and survivors and

provide whatever support I could to the cause."

He started training in January, riding as much as he could while working full-time. He usually biked 20 miles at a time, and at least 80 miles a week, if it wasn't raining or snowing. "The hardest part was finding the time to train," said Pardiny. "But it really paid off – it's a difficult ride."

After taking a bus to Richmond, the cyclists pedaled 98 miles from there to Charlottesville on the first leg of their journey, May 10. The next day, they traveled 76 miles to Warrenton, followed by 43 miles more, on May 12, to Washington, D.C.

PARDINY bicycled with the PUT Chapter IV contingent, led by Fairfax County police. It comprised 150 people, including 110 riders and 40 support staff from 15 different states.

On the last day, said Pardiny, all the different chapters from throughout the country met at RFK Stadium and rode into the District together. En route, after City motorcycle officers Brock Rutter, James Litz and Wade Brabble blocked off traffic, Pardiny and the others pulled into the City of Fairfax, shortly before noon, for a local welcome. They were greeted at Fairfax Circle by a group from the Fairfax Police Department who'd come to cheer them on. And, said Pardiny, "It was very touching to

see the outpouring of support."

To participate in the PUT, each rider had to raise a minimum of \$1,700. Pardiny raised more than \$4,500. "I paid my own way, and some people donated," he said. "And Brown's Automotive Group in Fairfax provided significant funding for the memorial fund, as did the Fairfax City Police Assn." Overall, this year's event yielded \$2,317,351 for that fund.

Over the past decade, an average of 146 officers a year have been killed in the line of duty; in 2015, that number was 123. And each PUT rider wore a wristband inscribed with the name of one of those officers. That's why, although this story is about Pardiny's experience during the ride, he says it's really "not about me; it's about honoring the lives of our fallen police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice, protecting our communities."

During their three days, the participants shared many sad stories of dedication and loss. And, said Pardiny, "It's amazing how we came together as a law-enforcement family to support our survivors, while paying tribute to those who died."

"The hills were extremely challenging, especially coming into Charlottesville," he continued. "But every time I thought my legs would give out on a long climb up a steep roadway, I'd look down at my Unity Tour bracelet and remember why I was



City Police Chief Carl Pardiny (in bike shorts) with motorcycle officers (from left) PFC Brock Rutter, PFC James Litz and PFC Wade Brabble.

riding. You're struggling, but riding for a reason – in honor of that officer."

Pardiny rode for Virginia State Police Trooper Nathan-Michael William Smith, 27, who died in a single-vehicle crash on Sept. 21, 2015. "He was responding to what he thought was a distress call regarding a

SEE PARDINY, PAGE 5



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Pardiny Takes Police Unity Tour

FROM PAGE 4

trooper-down situation,” said Pardiny. “He took a turn too fast while exiting from I-295 onto I-95 in Prince George County, Va. His car overturned and hit several trees. He left behind a wife, two children and his parents. He only had 15 months on the job; it was very sad.” Other police officers and survivors who rode with Chapter IV also talked about police co-workers, friends and family members who died under horrific circumstances, last year and in years past. “Their pain was palpable,” said Pardiny. “And these accounts really drive home the realization that, no matter the size of the jurisdiction, policing is a very difficult, challenging and dangerous job. All of our officers face tremendous challenges; however, they have a desire to make a difference in their communities and to help others – and some have paid the ultimate price, selflessly.”

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, he said, as the cyclists rode from Richmond to the District, they “passed countless people along the way, holding signs, waving flags, cheering for us and thanking us for our service. They were standing in their front yards, alongside the roadways, in front of mobile homes, shopping centers, at overpasses – you name it, they were out there showing their support and thanking us.”

Pardiny said that experience was one of the most rewarding parts of the ride. And, he explained, “It tells me that the vast, silent majority of people care

for, respect, appreciate and understand the difficult job our police officers face, each and every day, as they serve our communities. They know that officers put their lives on the line keeping our residents safe and providing services – from changing an elderly woman’s flat tire to throwing themselves headlong into danger.”

Often, the ride was tough. On the second day, for example, there were tremendous downpours and the cyclists were cold and wet from the heavy rain. But they persevered. “There were lots of dedicated offices out there who took their mission seriously and never lost sight of it,” said Pardiny. “It’s important that we never forget the officers who died in the line of duty.”

He said riding into the nation’s capital with all the PUT riders was also “an amazing experience. As we rode together into the Law Enforcement Memorial, we were greeted by hundreds, if not thousands, of supporters, wishing us well and thanking us. Among them were little children who’d lost parents, moms and dads, spouses, co-workers and friends of fallen police officers.”

Pardiny gave up some of his vacation time to do the PUT. But, he said, “I was humbled by this experience and grateful to have the opportunity to ride with wonderful, law-enforcement professionals and survivors, all while raising money for the Law Enforcement Memorial Fund and museum. This year, I’ll finish 28 years as a police officer in the City, and I figured it was about time for me to go and do this.”

Tax-deductible contributions to the fund or the museum may be made at www.nleomf.org/contribute/.



From left, PFC Brock Rutter, PFC James Litz, Police Chief Carl Pardiny and PFC Wade Brabble.



City of Fairfax police welcome the PUT riders as they bicycle through Fairfax.

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Cappie Nominations are Announced

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Below are the specific nominations each school received:

The 2015-2016 Cappie nominations for high school theater were released Monday, with Fairfax High receiving 18 nods and Paul VI High, 4. Fairfax performed the musical, "The Wedding Singer," and Paul VI put on the play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The awards will be presented Sunday, June 12, at 7 p.m., at the annual Cappies Gala at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

PAUL VI

Creativity: Sonya Chinje, for composing
Featured Actor: Tommy Kelleher
Comic Actor in a Play: JJ Cummings
Supporting Actor in a Play: Bobby Kelleher

FAIRFAX

Marketing and Publicity: Nour Halabi, Chryne Lillo, Lauren McGrail, Parker Stephens
Special Effects/Technology: Jonah Hurley, Aren Tiff
Lighting: Jonah Hurley, Jonathan Pepin

Costumes: Sydney Bronaugh, Emma Dabolt, Riley Mead, Neva Sedlak
Choreography: Lila Johnson, Katie Tomney
Stage Management and Stage Crew: Kira Kerr, Riley Mead, Grace Weaver
Ensemble in a Musical: Table Nine/Losers
Featured Actress: Renee Rozell
Female Dancer: Katie Tomney
Male Dancer: Michael Sulpizio
Comic Actress in a Musical: Emily Dillard
Supporting Actress in a Musical: Molly Berry
Supporting Actor in a Musical: Zion Jang
Lead Actress in a Musical: Rachel Cahoon
Lead Actor in a Musical: Elijah King
Critics Team
Song: "Saturday Night"
Musical: "The Wedding Singer"

Live Radio Event at George Mason

George Mason Campus Ministry Association and the Unitarian Universalists of Northern Virginia will host Interfaith Voices Live Radio Event: Is Religion a Problem or a Solution? at The Hub Ballroom at George Mason University in Fairfax on Friday, June 3, noon - 2:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

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?" Fiedler hopes to engage college-age people as to why fewer of them claim no affiliation with traditional religious institutions.

Guests will include Father Gerry Creedon, former head of Catholic Charities and a leader in VOICE; Dr Maria Dakake, a Muslim and head of GMU's Religious Studies Department; Emma Green, a young Jewish writer for the Atlantic; and Rev. Alison Miller, candidate to be the next president of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

There is also a free lunch, musical guests and more.

Paul VI to Start a Field Hockey Program

Paul VI Catholic High School plans to launch a girls' field hockey team beginning Fall 2016 in anticipation of more field space as PVI plans its move to Loudoun County.

For the short term, this team will be a one-level club group, and will play with WCAC and other private school teams.

Paul VI Athletics is in search of a coaching staff for this inaugural team. Anyone interested should contact Billy Emerson, Athletic Director, at 703-352-0925 x318 or bemerson@paulvi.net. Interviews may begin before the end of May.

FAITH NOTES

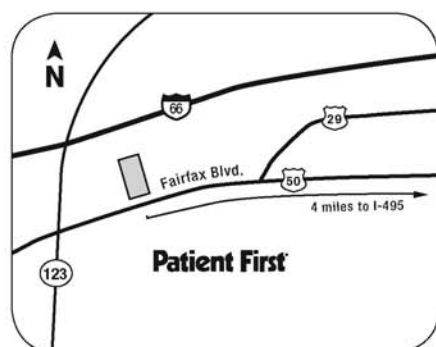
Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

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.



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PEOPLE

Learning from Superchefs

Meet the chefs at 21 Great American Bistro.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY

When two talented and energetic friends plan a venture, success is the likely outcome. Such is the case with these two chefs, Joseph Nguyen and Jaime Velazques who, about 10 months ago, opened a classy yet casual eatery in Fairfax called 21 Great American Bistro. What makes this restaurant stand out can be summed in just several words: fabulous food.

One of the offerings that has gained prominence—and it is great American bistro food—is the chefs' hamburger, formed from natural Black Angus beef, comes as a stack with lettuce, tomato, onion, bacon, and mushrooms, all stacked on an olive oil bun. "We like to watch how people eat this," said Nguyen. That's easy for them to do, because the duo have a large



Joseph Nguyen



Jaime Velazques

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

kitchen window that looks right onto the dining room.

So how did all this come about. Both men have spent their entire careers working in high-end restaurants for superstar chefs. "I have been in the industry for 24 years," said Nguyen. "I worked with Jean Louis Paladin at the Watergate and graduated from the American Culinary Federation (ACF)," where he worked for seven years in the kitchen and

three years as the pastry chef. "I trained under Jean Louis and the Watergate Hotel program paid for my education," he said. Nguyen then moved on to work in the kitchens of many different hotels in Washington and in Atlantic City, particularly in a casino hotel that had 14 restaurant outlets.

OWNING his own restaurant had always been his life's goal. Fortunately, he met Velazquez about 12

Chef Joseph Nguyen's Chocolate Mousse Cake

Serves 6 to 8

Chocolate cake:

1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 teaspoon instant coffee
1 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup milk
1/4 cup regular mayonnaise
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup boiling water

Simple Syrup

1 cup sugar
1 cup water
2 tablespoons Meyer's rum

Nutella Mousse

2 cups Nutella
1 cup heavy cream, whipped

Ganache for glaze

1/2 cup heavy cream
1/2 cup semi-sweet dark chocolate

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 6-inch cake pan, and set aside.

Combine the flour, sugar, cocoa powder, instant coffee, baking powder, and baking soda in a bowl, stirring to mix well. Add the

milk, mayonnaise, egg, and vanilla extract. Beat using a stand mixer until well combined. Reduce the speed. Add the boiling water, and beat on high speed for 1 to 1 minute.

Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden.

Meanwhile, prepare the simple syrup by combining the sugar and water, and bringing it to a boil until the mixture thickens slightly. Remove from the heat, and cool. Stir in the rum.

To make the Nutella Mousse, fold the Nutella carefully into the whipped cream until well combined.

To assemble the cake, split the cake in three layers, brush with flavored simple syrup and layer Nutella mousse on first layer and second layers. Leave the third layer plain, and refrigerate the cake overnight.

Before serving, bring the cake to room temperature. To make the glaze, boil the heavy cream, and stir in the semi-sweet dark chocolate. Let cool, and drizzle the ganache glaze over top.

years ago. Back then, they both discussed having their own business someday. Then two years ago, Nguyen called Velazquez, and they decided to take on this adventure.

As Velazques explained, the two came from very different back-

grounds, and very different situations. "I worked at Le Provencal (a now-closed D.C. restaurant) under Jacques Blanc," he said. "I then went to Old Town Alexandria

SEE SUPERCHEFS, PAGE 13

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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

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.

Tax Relief for Some

Fairfax County provides real estate tax relief and car tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled, and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements. For an application, call 703-222-8234, or visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/taxrelief_home.htm.

An exemption and/or deferral of real estate taxes is available for qualified Arlington homeowners age 65 and older and certain totally and permanently disabled homeowners, call 703-228-3920 or visit <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/realstate/taxes-payments/real-estate-tax-relief/>

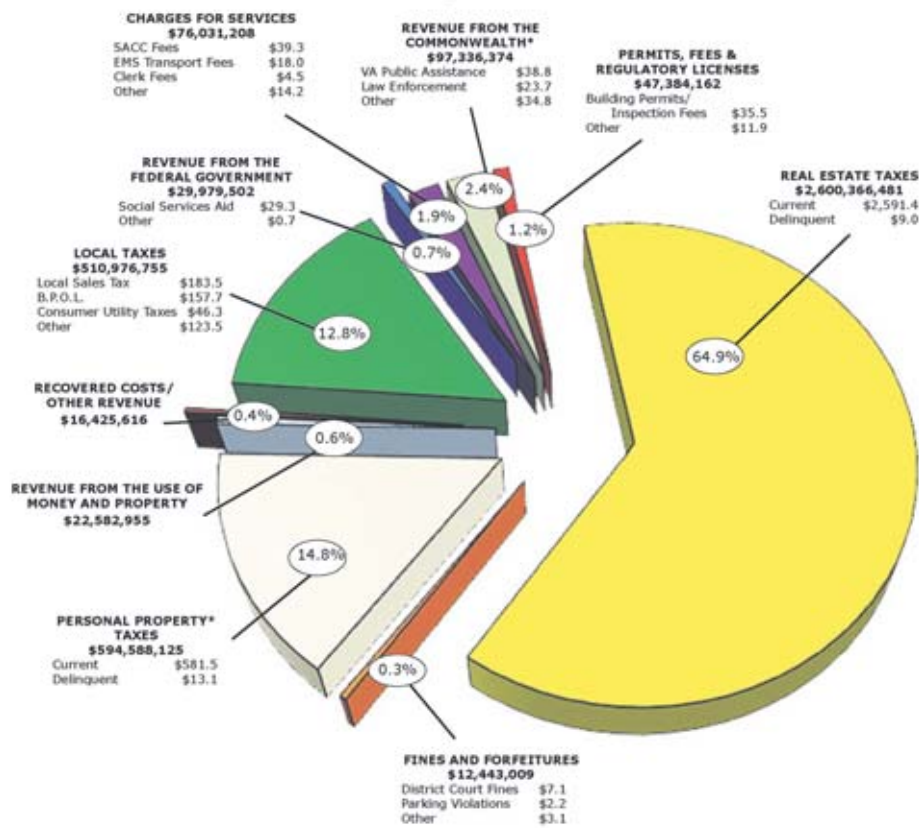
Residents of the City of Alexandria who are either 65 years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled by Nov. 15, 2016, may be eligible for the City's Real Estate Tax Relief Program for Elderly and Disabled Persons, call 703-746-3901, Option 6, or visit <https://www.alexandriava.gov/finance/info/default.aspx?id=2886>.

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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FY 2017 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS** = \$4,008,114,187 **

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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](https://twitter.com/jonroetman)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Karen Washburn
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

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](https://twitter.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](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



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

Karen K. Garza, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Public Hearing


PLANNING COMMISSION



Monday, May 23, 2016
at 7:00 pm
City Hall
10455 Armstrong St
Room 100

The City of Fairfax Planning Commission is holding a public hearing to consider the draft zoning and subdivision ordinances prepared as part of the City's Zoning Rewrite process. Members of the community are encouraged to attend and provide comments.

The purpose of the Zoning Rewrite is to develop clear and user-friendly ordinances that are consistent with present-day plans and policies. The draft ordinances are available on the website below.

www.zoningfairfax.com  twitter.com/ZoningFairfax

For more information, please visit our webpage listed above or contact the Community Development and Planning Department at 703.385.7930.

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Fashion Design 1 students Jade Park and Kriti Bhagat with instructor Jin-A Chang (center) after the show.

PHOTOS BY
STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION

Fashion in Motion Fashion Show

Fairfax Academy students showcase a year’s worth of work at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax.

As part of the 2016 Spotlight on the Arts program, the fashion careers class at the Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts held its fourth annual student-designed and produced fashion show called “Fashion in Motion” at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax on Friday, May 13.

Culminating in a year’s worth of effort, more than 30 models displayed fashions that were designed and hand-sewn by the students in fashion careers class taught by instructor Jin-A Chang. “It’s a compilation of a lot of hard work since the beginning of the year,” said Chang. “I am so proud of all of my students’ hard work and accomplishments.”

The show with about 300 guests featured videos of students being interviewed and talking about their inspirations in the fashion careers class, followed by models cavorting the catwalk and showing off themes created by the students, such as Memories by Marissa Vincent, Envy by Nicole Dabney, Street Art Clothing by Jalita Montgomery (inspired by artist Basquiat),



A model shows off clothing designed by students at the Fairfax Academy for Communications and the Arts at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax on Friday, May 13.



Students model their original creations during the fourth annual “Fashion in Motion” fashion show at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax.



A model shows off a student-designed creation in the “Fashion in Motion” fashion show at the Sherwood Center in Fairfax on Friday, May 13.

Frida Kahlo by Hannah Thomas, and Creating Wearable Arts by Maia Hatchett and Fashion Design 1 students.

Jo Ormesher, executive director of Spotlight on the Arts, called the show: “Fabulous, it’s fantastic. The talent in our community with the designers and the models is stunning. Everything they’ve learned and presented themselves was amazing.”

Part of the proceeds — about \$2,500 — goes towards the charity, Hope for Justice, which deals with human trafficking. Clara Poteet, a student in the fashion careers class in charge of public relations, added: “I am honored to be part of an event that celebrates young designers and helps prevent human trafficking.”

The 29 Diner in the City of Fairfax offered a buffet of finger foods after the show, and gave a 20 percent off for customers at its diner.

—STEVE HIBBARD



The 29 Diner in the City of Fairfax offered a buffet of finger foods after the show.

Fairfax High Principal Sees ‘Glory Days’

Fairfax High School Principal Dave Goldfarb told the City of Fairfax School Board on April 4 that Fairfax High School (FHS) is in a “period of glory days.” Ranked by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top ten high schools in the state, FHS welcomes almost 2,400 students speaking 65 different languages at home and coming from over 93 countries. In 2015 FHS graduated 690 students, its largest graduating class in history.

Principal Goldfarb outlined many new initiatives at FHS this year, including the implementation of later start times, changes to the grading policy and Project Aware, a wellness project designed to support the emotional needs of all students.

This year is the first year of the later start times for high schools across the county. Fairfax High now begins at 8:10 a.m. instead of 7:20 as they have done in the past. Changes Principal Goldfarb has seen include an increase in bus ridership, early faculty meetings to accommodate staff commuting from outlying areas and an easier time for parents dropping off students in the morning.

Principal Goldfarb also outlined an update to the grading procedures. For the first time set parameters for all teachers throughout the school. Teachers are allowed to give “second chances” on exams to ensure the students learned the information and homework is capped at 10 percent of the overall grade. “These changes prioritize a mastery of learning and promote a



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Principal Dave Goldfarb

growth mindset,” said Goldfarb.

Joined by administrators Catherine Stone and Laura Rotella, Goldfarb introduced two important initiatives at Fairfax High School this year. Assistant Principal Stone discussed the effort of the staff to rewrite and evaluate the school’s vision statement to become less of a document, but as direction for staff to use as a foundation for all decisions such as resource allocation and hiring new employees.

Rotella, director of Student Services, detailed Project Aware, a wellness initiative designed to help all students with emotional or mental health issues. The project is a collaboration with five county schools and with state and federal grants. Over the past 12 months, over 75 of the FHS staff members have participated in the eight-hour training program on youth mental health first aid. The training helped teachers identify students in crisis vs. students of concern. The goal is to establish a solid rapport between staff and students. “We stand behind building strong relationships,” said Rotella.

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SCHOOL 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.

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. Kemprecos, 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.



PHOTO GALLERY!

“Me and My Dad”

To honor dad on Father’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father’s Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what’s going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com



Geshe Gelek was awarded the highest academic degree offered by the Tibetan monastery system in 1997. He teaches in English.

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center Invites You to Attend “Becoming a Bodhisattva” Taught by Geshe Gelek Chodha June 3rd-5th

The essence of Tibetan Buddhism is “Bodhichitta” which is the wish to achieve enlightenment in order to be of the greatest benefit to all sentient beings. Those who deeply realize this motivation are called bodhisattvas. In these teachings Geshe Gelek will explain the spiritual training necessary to generate this incredibly compassionate intention, and the activities to engage in that will deepen this profound realization. This is a rare opportunity to study with a modern day master of this tradition. These teachings are taking place at 10875 Main St. Unit 108 Fairfax, VA 22030. To learn more, go to www.guhyasamaja.org.



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 welcome in the Foxx home. "No one had ever brought me into their house before," he says



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.

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 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."

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/>

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.

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

SEE FOSTER CARE, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Foster Care Alum Moving Forward

FROM PAGE 12

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 breath 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 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."

Learning from Superchefs

FROM PAGE 7

to work at Provence with Yannick Cam," he said. "And I worked with Michel Richard at Citronelle. Michel Richard and Jean Louis Paladin were such good friends. And I attended the French culinary school in Bethesda, which is now L'Academie de Cuisine."

With such august training, it is no wonder that these two chefs from such differing backgrounds and cultures became such good friends that they decided to become business partners as well. Nguyen had the task of devising a menu. To do that, he said, he studied the Fairfax marketplace to understand the competition. "I needed our concept to focus on fresh ingredients and high quality food," he said. That way patrons could come to the restaurant to enjoy city food without going into D.C. That way people can have quality food in a casual setting.

AS IT HAS TURNED OUT, the chefs say that 65 percent of their customers are repeats and that the

city of Fairfax has been very supportive, with town dignitaries and lawyers often showing up for meals from a menu that blends American, French, Latino, and Mediterranean dishes.

And surely all patrons walk out pleased. After all, Nguyen and Velazques work six days a week, 14 hours a day, and have only one other chef, José Benitez, who has worked under Nguyen for the last 20-plus years learning all aspects of the culinary world. "That is our kitchen staff," said Nguyen. "I want all the food clean and consistent every day. After all, the best food comes from fresh ingredients, great creativity, and a touch of the arts of culinary."

And why the name 21 Great American Bistro? Well, he said, there are loads of bistros around. "And since I play golf, I just picked the number '21' out of the air."

21 Great American Bistro, 10427 North St., #102, Fairfax. Phone 703-591-0146. Hours: Lunch and dinner, Monday-Saturday

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ENTERTAINMENT

Earth Day Artists Shine

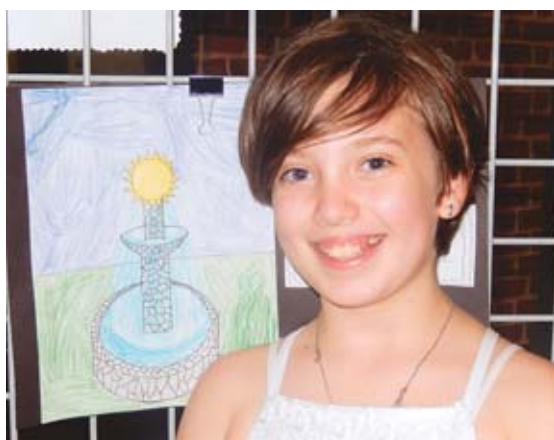
The annual Earth Day Art Show was held April 27 in the City Hall atrium.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Dayana Adaibek, Providence, grade 4.



Hannah Frieden, St. Leo the Great Catholic School, grade 5.



Ava Rice, Daniels Run Elementary, grade 4.



Leila Moutawakil, Lanier Middle School, grade 7, winning artwork.



Leen Balubaid, Providence Elementary, grade 3.



Kelly Beltran, Providence, grade 4.



Thomas Simone, Providence, grade 4.



Autumn Williams, St. Leo the Great Catholic School, grade 5.



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

Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting. 12:15-1:30 p.m. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. fairfaxrotary.org.

"Manifesto." May 21-June 18. Open Tuesday from 6-9 p.m. or by appointment. Olly Olly Art Space, 2nd Floor, 10417 Main St., Fairfax. Exhibition of five collections of art by the artists of Northern Virginia's Bunnymen Bridge Collective. "Manifesto" will feature creative experimental art of the hidden away; including sculpture, installation, painting, collage, photography, video and performance. ollyollyart.com. 703-789-6144.

"Disembodied." 5 p.m.-midnight. April 16-June 11. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Epicure's spring exhibit invites artists to explore the concept of disembodiment. epicurecafe.org/.

"After the Holocaust." April 5-May 19. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Exhibit. 703-323-0880. jccnv.org.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (Hello)! Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

Smoke Free Bingo (with breaks for smoking friends). 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot. www.fairfaxvd.com. 703-273-3638.

Celebrating our Children's Creativity. May 19-June 20. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The J's Early Childhood Learning Center presents "A Reggio Exhibit," which showcases the philosophy of teaching art under the guidance of Sarah Vejvoda. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

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.

Fairfax Antique Arts Association. 10:30 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401, Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Christine Smith, an "Avon Lady" for over 30 years will give a brief history of the company which began in 1886, the same year the Statue of Liberty opened in New York City. She will show examples from the past to the present. Members may bring favorites from personal collections. Guests welcome. Free. 703-273-6090.

"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.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 20-21

Fit Foodie Race Weekend. Friday, 6-8 p.m. Saturday, 7 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Race, parties, good eats. <http://www.fitfoodierun.com/fairfax-virginia.html>

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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

Author Event. 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Fairfax, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Larry Hass will discuss his new book "Harry and Arthur: Truman, Vanderberg, and the Partnership that Created the Free World." 703-278-8527.

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 creative experimental art of the hidden away; including sculpture, installation, painting, collage, photography, video and performance. ollyollyart.com. 703-789-6144.

Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. Live bluegrass music and food. See a Model-T Ford reassembled in 15 minutes, 1 p.m. visitfairfax.com. nvrg.org.

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.

Pool Open House. Noon-4 p.m. Fairfax Swimming Pool, 4200 Roberts Road, Fairfax. Visit the pool. Free moonbounce and pizza for sale. fairfaxpool.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 29

Ride of the Patriots. 7:30 a.m. Captain Pell's Fairfax Crabhouse, 10195 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Short parade featuring both City and County of Fairfax officials along with state and congressional representatives, police, fire and



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

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

rescue units, Veterans groups, the Fairfax High School Marching Band, and the Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe Band. 703-628-2429. ken_lyons@comcast.net.

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?" Free. minister@accotinkuuc.org. 703-503-4579.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 2-5

Summer Book Sale. Thursday, 3-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, noon-2 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. 703-451-8055.



PHOTO GALLERY!

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6/15/2016... A+ Graduations & Summer Learning
6/15/2016..... Father's Day Dining & Gifts
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6/29/2016..... Connection Families

JULY

7/6/2016..... Wellbeing
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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.

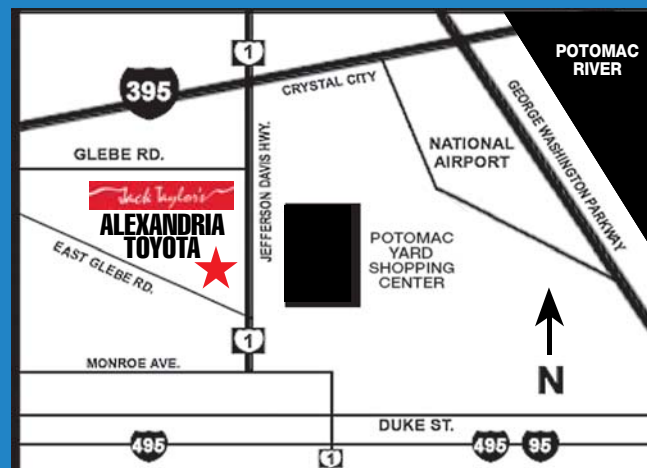
Junior attacker Katie Checkosky, a JMU commit and first-team all-conference selection, had three goals and one assist.

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@thenovaauthority.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.thenovaauthority.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.
Cathy DeLoach 571-276-9421



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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