Still Snowbound

News, Page 3

Cars are buried along Burke Commons Court Saturday, Feb. 13 following two of the worst snowstorms to hit the region.

State Honors NVCC Teacher
News, Page 4

Swimmers Head To States
Sports, Page 10
Despite our lousy economy, the most common request I still get from new patients is, “I would like my teeth whiter and straighter”. Some people want straighter teeth because it obviously looks great; while others want straight teeth to improve their bite. With a healthy bite, most people will tend to grind their teeth less, preventing wear and tear on their enamel. They also have better periodontal health due to less inflammation of their gums. Many adults, just like you, who have felt uncomfortable with their smiles now have straight, healthy teeth. If you were not able to get your teeth straightened when you were younger, or if you did, and your teeth have crowded again, now is the time to find out more about invisalign.

Treatment with Invisalign is quick and easy. With Invisalign, you do not wear metal braces. Instead, your teeth are straightened by wearing a series of clear plastic aligners. The aligners are so inconspicuous that most will not be able to tell you are wearing them. You will wear each set of clear aligners for about two weeks at a time. The aligners are worn all the time, except when you are eating, brushing and flossing. Because the aligners are removable, you can eat all of your favorite foods without them getting stuck all around your teeth!

Everyone’s treatment time is different, but on average most of our cases take about one year. The cost of treatment is similar in cost to traditional braces. In addition, if you have orthodontic coverage, Invisalign is often covered to the same extent as traditional braces. We also offer a variety of financing plans to make investing in your smile easier to do. Be one of our many patients who are enjoying their new beautiful smiles. Call us today!!!.

You Are Never Too Old for Invisalign!

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Burke, Virginia 22015
e-mail: care@marzbandds.com
Burke Basketball renovates aging gym floor at Fairfax school.

Oak View Elementary students may not realize it, but their brand-new $39,880 basketball court is the culmination of a dream that was hatched before they were born.

On Jan. 10, representatives of youth athletics group Burke Basketball and Oak View Elementary cut the ribbon on the new gym floor that will be used for the group’s games and the school’s physical education classes.

“Our players and families go to this school, so we wanted to help,” said Dave Baciocco, president of Burke Basketball.

Oak View Elementary serves everyone from our youth to the adult groups.”

When Burke Basketball was formed in 1997, its founders wanted to buy a facility where their youth could play games, Baciocco said.

“We decided to look at a few schools to try renovate the gym,” he said.

After looking around the community, Burke Basketball settled on renovating the Oak View gymnasium since many of its 2,000 members were Oak View students, Baciocco said.

“Oak View is not just part of the Fairfax County Public Schools family, but it is also part of Burke Basketball,” said Richard Baciocco, president of Burke Basketball.

Slow snow removal raises concerns.

Last week’s record-breaking snowstorms battered the entire region and a half disrupted many facets of the lives of area residents with closed schools, power outages and cancelled social events. No issue, however, caused as much strife and anger among the populace of Burke than snow removal.

The storms dumped more than 3 feet of snow in the Burke area, leaving nearly every major roadway and most residential and secondary streets completely covered. Though plows eventually cleared the roads or at least made one-way lanes through them, many area residents and officials were left questioning the effectiveness and efficiency of the government’s response to the storms.

“The impact of the storm has been substantial on our area,” Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said. “Some of the conditions were quite bad as recently as last Saturday, as many roads didn’t see their first plow until then. A lot of people have frustration, and it’s understandable. It’s been a rough week.”

The frustration began, Cook said, after the first storm ended on Saturday, Feb. 6. Plows were slow to clear Burke, he said, and by the time that the second storm came through Wednesday, Feb. 10, many of those roads were not even cleared yet. As a result, many Burke roads were buried under 3 feet of snow. This left residents snowed in and upset enough to place or send hundreds of calls and e-mails to Cook’s office, demanding to know when their streets were going to be plowed.

A bill making headway in the General Assembly seeks to protect employers of sex offenders by not listing the name of the offender’s workplace on the Virginia Sex Offender Registry.

Senate Bill 635, sponsored by Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), would still list a sex offender’s work address. The bill passed the Senate this month unanimously and now will be considered by the House of Delegates.

Marsden said SB 635 is meant to help sex offenders integrate back into society. Currently, the Virginia Sex Offender Registry’s Web site [http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov] displays a photograph and description of each offender; lists the offender’s crime; and shows the offender’s home address and the name and location of the offender’s employer.

As a result, some sex offenders lose their jobs, because a customer complains or because the employer fears the stigma of being associated with the sex offender registry.

“It’s the address and the location that is still important, not the name of the business,” Marsden said. “We don’t want businesses to be harmed, and we don’t want the offender, if they’re doing everything they’re supposed to do, being harmed.”

A group called Reform Sex Offender Laws of Virginia approached the senator about filing the bill.

Mary Devoy, organizer for the group, said employers who are willing to give sex offenders a second chance despite the negative publicity should not be punished. Devoy said that when sex offenders are unemployed, they can’t meet their parole requirements.

“We want the folks on the registry to be able to survive,” Devoy said. “Let them live their lives, have a job and raise their children. This bill is one step toward that.”

Several people have posted comments about the bill on the Richmond Sunlight Web site. One said that by listing the employer’s name, the sex offender registry has “effectively applied the ‘social pariah’ label to responsible businesses.”
Offshore Drilling Bill Killed

The General Assembly is poised to loosen up restrictions on guns in bars, clubs and restaurants that serve alcohol despite objections from the hospitality industry and public safety officials.

By this time next year, residents will likely have the right to carry a concealed gun into any eatery as long as they have the appropriate permit and agree not to consume alcohol.

But on Feb. 10, the Senate's Committee for Courts of Justice voted eight to seven to extend the benefit of “conceal carry” in alcohol-serving establishments to most residents who desire it.

Virginia on Track To Allow Concealed Guns in Bars

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Virginia and Fairfax state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and former gubernatorial candidate Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) were among the committee members who voted for the bill. Northern Virginia Sens. Janet Howell (D-32), Teddy Puller (D-36) and Dick Saslaw (D-35) voted against it.

Now that the measure has made it out of committee, the full Senate and House of Delegates are likely to pass it. Both branches of the General Assembly approved similar legislation in 2009, only to see it vetoed by former Gov. Tim Kaine (D).

Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) has said he will sign the expansion of gun rights into law.

New Gym Floor for Oak View

Esposito, Burke Basketball director of community relations.

OAK VIEW Assistant Principal David Fee said the group approached school officials about a year ago to discuss renovating the gym’s floor.

“They, and we, were very excited [about the opportunity],” he said.

The aging floor definitely needed an upgrade, Fee said.

“The floor was OK, but it had tile,” Fee said. “The tiles were hard and slippery. Kids would slide during games and [physical education] class. ... It looked like they were playing on ice.”

Months passed and Fee said he’d nearly forgotten about the proposal until Burke Basketball representatives let the school know they were ready to renovate.

“In the fall of this school year, it all went in place,” he said. “Over the winter break, they had [the floor] installed.”

Although basketball was the main driver for purchasing the floor, Burke Basketball made sure the gym is accessible for other sports.

Foursquare, hopscotch and other physical education courts were mapped out on the floor along with basketball half-courts.

After a month of enjoying their new gift, Fee said the reviews from Oak View students have been first-rate.

“The kids love it,” he said. “It’s just a really nice [floor].”

Dr. Terry Alford one of 12 from across Virginia to receive Faculty Award.

Dr. Terry Alford

“I knew early on that good teachers were people of intelligence, integrity, and inspiration.”

— Dr. Terry Alford

State Honors NVCC Teacher

Dr. Terry Alford of Burke is NVCC’s most recent recipient of the award that recognizes top faculty members in Virginia’s public and private colleges and universities.

During high school, Alford realized he would dedic- ate his life to enriching others. “I recall very distinctly a conversation I had with my older brother in the bedroom we shared when I was in the ninth grade,” he said.

“He asked me what I wanted to be, and I replied a teacher. At that time, I didn’t know what I wanted to teach, but I knew early on that good teachers were people of intelligence, integrity, and inspira- tion.”

As a Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) instructor, Alford was recognized for his su- perior work on research, teaching and public service. Student and teacher feedback, his accomplish- ments, contributions and awards allowed Alford to become one of the 12 recipients of the award that recognizes top faculty members in Virginia.

“I vividly recall Dr. Alford’s most recent student evaluations,” said Dr. William Kinsella, NVCC’s as- sistant dean of history. “Students noted his enthusi- asm, passion, energy and dynamic teaching style. They were impressed by Dr. Alford’s organized, struc- tured and concise methodology in presenting his- tory. Dr. Alford is not only a nationally recog- nized scholar, but most import- antly, he is a superi- or teacher who reaches every student. He in- spires and edu- cates each per- son in his class- room. I know that his col- leagues share this assessment of a truly outstanding educator.”

Alford attended Mississippi State University for his bachelor and master’s degrees and his Ph.D. in his- tory. In 1972, he joined the NVCC family. Over the years, he has received various offers to teach else- where but he hasn’t considered them.

Alford is author of two well-known biographies such as “Prince among Slaves” and one about Lincoln’s assassin John Wilkes Booth, which will be published in 2011.

“My work on slavery led ulti- mately to Abraham Lincoln, and for some years I have researched the life of his assassin for a book titled ‘Fortune’s Fool: The Life of John Wilkes Booth,’ which Oxford Univer- sity Press will publish,” said Alford. In his first book, “Prince among Slaves,” Alford narrates the story of an African prince enslaved for 40 years in early America. The book portrays the African slaves more as individuals, as he said, “it puts a personal face on slavery by telling the story of one individual.”

Academically, the thing I have done that has been most notable is writing the book ‘Prince among Slaves,’” said Alford. “It’s been in print for over 30 years, an unusual distinction, and in 2008 was shown as a documentary on PBS to a national audience of over 3 million people.”

I t’s the end of the day and, as usual, Dr. Terry Alford is playing a couple of games of online chess. His daughter is around and hears his advice for his chess opponent after a poor move: “Why Pawn to K3? Would Knight to K4 be better?” he asks.

Alford’s daughter looks at him. “You can’t stop being the professor, can you?” she said.

Arlington County, City of Alexandria and Fairfax County will promote drilling for oil and natural gas off the shore of Virginia for the commonwealth’s transpor- tation trust fund. All 18 Republicans supported the mea- sure, contributions and awards

FROM PAGE 3

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From Page 3

Week in Burke

Man Shot in Annandale

According to Fairfax County Police, officers were called to a residence in the 8300 block of Little River Turnpike on Monday, Feb. 15, around 10:30 p.m. for a report of a shot person. They located the body of Nathan Smiler, 37, of 83171 Little River Turnpike, with head trauma from a gunshot. All individuals inside the residence at the time have been identified and there is no threat to public security.

“The victim was found deceased at the scene,” said Officer Shelley Broderick. “Police are still investigating and no charges have been filed at this time.”

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.
How would you like state of the art LASER dentistry without drills or needles?

What would you say if you could have your fillings placed painlessly without drills or needles, with laser precision and comfort? You’d probably say, “Where do I sign up?” Well, now you can with a revolutionary new laser we call the Water Laser. You may have seen it on TV lately.

This new Waterlase® is a breakthrough in comfortable dentistry. The laser sprays a computer-controlled spray of air, water and laser energy at the decay in the tooth. The laser energy is absorbed by the water and the energized microscopic water droplets arewhat actually remove the tooth decay. Rarely is a shot necessary to numb the patient. Since no heat is generated from the laser the Waterlase® is very safe to use on everyone.

What are the benefits of Waterlase® dentistry?

■ Patient Comfort

Heat, vibration and pressure are the primary causes of pain associated with the use of the traditional dental drill. Since cutting both hard and soft tissues (teeth and gums) with the Waterlase® does not generate heat, vibration or pressure, many dental procedures can be performed with fewer shots, less need for anesthesia, less use of the drill and fewer numb lips! The Waterlase® allows us to prepare teeth with less trauma which results in significantly less tooth sensitivity after new fillings.

Additionally, using the Waterlase® for gum procedures reduces bleeding, post-operative pain, swelling and the need for pain medication in many cases. That means a new level of comfort and satisfaction for your entire family.

■ Sterilization

The laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay. This is very important. Because of bacterial contamination, many of you have had old fillings replaced with either new fillings, or in many cases, with crowns—and sometimes even root canals! The recurrence of decay under fillings is a primary reason so many root canals are needed. Since this new laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay, and since many dentists now use ‘bonded’ filling materials enriched with fluoride, the chances of ever having recurrent decay under that new filling are much lower.

■ Great for Teenagers

The Waterlase® is especially great for teenagers. Sure, if the dentist is very good, shots should not really be painful. But KNOWING you’re getting a shot is psychologically painful even if you can’t feel the needle—especially for teenagers. By not getting a shot, not feeling the vibration of the drill, and by not hearing the loud drill, kids never become afraid of the dentist, so they don’t grow up to be adults afraid of the dentist.

By incorporating laser technology into our dental practice, we are changing dentistry. It is no longer yesterday’s world of painful shots, large silver mercury fillings, and fearful patients. Lasers have improved the lives of patients and their dentists.

Technology is something that makes life better. Better in this case is better clinical results, improved patient comfort, less use of anesthesia and antibiotics.

We are proud to be one of the first dentists in Fairfax County to offer this revolutionary technology. Since August 2003, Dr. Fox has completed over 3,000 laser fillings with no needle/no pain/no numbness. If you’ve been putting off going to the dentist because you were nervous about the drill and needle, you don’t have to put it off any longer!

For more information about our dental practice please visit our website at www.larryfoxdds.com

Lawrence T. Fox, DDS
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Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 7 am - 4 pm
New Patients and Emergencies Welcome
All types of general dentistry done at our office.
New Housing Blueprint

Ending homelessness, moving beyond preservation of affordable housing.

By Sharon Bulova

Several years ago, on a freezing February morning, I rode the VRE into Washington, D.C. for a Council of Governments meeting. As I was leaving Union Station, I noticed a middle-aged woman, with sags of belongings and bedraggled around her. She was clearly a person with mental illness, muttering to herself and batting branches about. I remember thinking, “I’m so glad I live in Fairfax County. We have social services programs that would help someone like this woman.” But later that week, while jogging down an old alignment of a road near my home, I spotted a tent tucked way back in the woods. It was a homeless person’s encampment.

Fairfax County has established a “hypothermia program” to shelter homeless individuals during the cold winter months. The program is a partnership among county agencies, area houses of worship and nonprofit organizations. The hypothermia program has served to crystallize how inadequate our human services network is for dealing with homelessness.

In March 2008, our Board of Supervisors endorsed a “Housing First” strategy to end homelessness as we know it. Working with houses of worship and charitable organizations, Fairfax County has adopted a strategy for making sure people in our community have a roof over their heads and receive the help they need to get back on their feet.

At our Jan. 26 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a new Housing Blueprint to address the challenge of ensuring there is accessible, affordable housing for all members of our community. Affordable housing was a key topic when the Board considered our current Fiscal Year 2010 budget and the Board dedicated considerable time to discussing housing issues at our post-budget retreat last June.

At the retreat, we agreed that our housing programs must emphasize serving those with the greatest needs, that affordable housing represents a spectrum of needs, and that we can be most effective in accomplishing these goals by working with Faith Community and nonprofit partners in the community. The Housing Blueprint is a strategy for addressing these priorities and represents a new direction compared to the previous policy of preservation. The new goals stated in the Blueprint are comprehensive: to end homelessness in 10 years, to provide affordable housing options to those with special needs, to cut the area’s affordable housing in half over 10 years, and to produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

The Blueprint is the product of impressive collaboration by county agencies, concerned citizens, houses of worship and local nonprofit. Because of the metrics it includes, the Blueprint sets short and long term goals and can be used to evaluate our programs.

TO VIEW the Housing Blueprint, please visit http://www.e-ffordable.org/.

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer in efforts to address homelessness, the County’s Office to End Homelessness can be reached by going to http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless.

Sharon Bulova is chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Progress Made at Last

Marsden’s bill on pellet guns passes Senate with bipartisan support.

By Sen. David Marsden D-37

During the last three sessions of the General Assembly, I have attempted to deal with the issue of juveniles carrying dangerous pneumatic weapons (pellet guns) that look like real guns and can cause real damage. I was unsuccessful in my first two attempts while a member of the House of Delegates, but this year I focused just on the illegality of underage possession of these weapons in schools (Senate Bill 580). The weapons must discharge a projectile at a rate of speed greater than 250 feet per second to qualify as illegal to possess, which is an industry standard of sorts that delineates toys from harmful weapons. In a bipartisan effort with two Republican senators, who assisted me with amending my original bill, we crafted a bill that would receive support from Democrats and Republicans, and it passed the Senate 33-5. We compromised on the bill to the extent that pneumatic weapons constructed with an orange tip to delineate them from firearms, would be excluded from this offense, a Class I Misdemeanor if committed by someone under 18.

This bill would create greater safety in our schools, as the carrying of these dangerous but non-lethal weapons has become very popular with youth gang members. Armed robberies have been committed with these weapons in various parts of the Commonwealth. As the former head of Virginia’s Department of Juvenile Justice, and former superintendent of Fairfax County’s Juvenile Detention Center, I feel that this common sense measure is of critical importance. A member of Fairfax County’s Gang Unit I spoke to agreed. He stated that it gives them leverage to talk juveniles out of carrying these weapons and gives them an enforcement tool to deal with juveniles who bring these weapons to school. Currently, the only recourse that school administrators have is to suspend or expel juveniles possessing these weapons at school based on violations of school policy rather than law.

Comments

Sharon Bulova

TO THE EDITOR:

While I’m thrilled at the response — thanks to Del. David Bulova’s (D-37) staff — to my complaint about snow removal last week, it seems that Holden Street is now suffering from an embarrassment of snow removal riches. We currently have a large snow removal truck with a scoop parked on our street that worked its way up and down Holden Street for about five hours yesterday widening the traffic lanes. While this is greatly appreciated by all residents, I’m sure, we are around the corner from both Oak View Elementary and Robinson Secondary schools and not much has been done to widen the lanes on Sideburn so the school buses can get through tomorrow. Holden Street has never been a through street for school buses and given VDOT’s limited resources, I fine it odd that we’re being treated so lavishly.

Who makes these emergency plans? It seems that either nothing gets done or the squeaky wheels receive entirely more grease than they need.

Danelle Springer
Fairfax

Guest Editorial

Blueprint Highlights

Resolved: End homelessness; provide affordable housing options to those with special needs; cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half; produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

Sharon Bulova

Snowed In

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Who makes these emergency plans? It seems that either nothing gets done or the squeaky wheels receive entirely more grease than they need.

Danelle Springer
Fairfax
I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed the atmosphere of cooperation that exists in the Virginia Senate. As you may know, I recently won a special election to finish the last two years of now Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli’s (R) Senate term. My early experiences have reinforced my belief that the bipartisanship I have experienced in the Senate is closer to what citizens expect of their elected lawmakers. While getting this bill through the Senate was significant, I now have to present this bill to the House of Delegates, a more daunting task. I can only hope that they will see this bill as critical to public safety and not an assault on the Second Amendment. In any case, it is very hopeful that a bill like this received bipartisan support in at least one of the two bodies in the General Assembly.

To contact Sen. David Marsden (D-37), call 571-249-3037; e-mail district37@senate.virginia.gov; or mail to P. O. Box 10889, Burke, VA 22009.
Calendar

To have community events listed, send to asathi@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-779-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18
Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. “Three Cups of Tea” by Greg Mortenson. Adults. 703-205-6227.

Make New Friends. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about friendship. Ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1526.


Fairfax Antique Arts Association. 10:15 a.m. at City of Fairfax Senior Center (Green Acres Center), 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Speaker Ivan Dietrich will speak about life in Hershey, Pa. Annual membership fee required to attend subsequent meetings. $15 single; $25 couple. 703-359-2487.

Dan Dietz’s ‘tempODYSSEY.’ 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets $6, students and seniors $3. Tickets to performances cancelled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20
The City of Fairfax Band: American Treasures. 8 p.m. at Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Gould, Persichetti, Hanson, Sousa, Rodgers and Gerdsnow and more. $13 adults, $7 seniors, ages 18 and under free. www.fairfaxband.org or 703-757-0220.

Flying Cows of Ventry. 7 p.m. at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Simply Sinatra, with the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra and Vocalist Steve Lippia. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center’s Grand Tier III. Tickets are $21-$42. Charge at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10-11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer, navigate the Internet, and work with common software applications. Call for an appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/FEB. 19
Flying Cows of Ventry, 7-9:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

The Bigger Lights, Sing Me. 7-9:30 p.m., at Flying Cows of Ventry, FRIDAY/FEB. 19.

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SUNDAY/FEB. 21
NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robinson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. rensbell72@gmail.com.

“Unchained Memories.” 2 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library.

New ‘Visions’ At JCCNV

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia presents the exhibit “Visions” through April 13. The three “Visions” artists are united in their use of color and design yet have a creative and varied approach to their art. Fran Abrams creates her images out of polymer clay capturing “the fluid sense of fabric caught at a moment in time.” Mina Oka Hanig’s paintings consist of small squares that create a mosaic-like effect. Cherie M. Reddinger creates abstractions from her life experiences, reflecting the artist within. An artists’ reception is Sunday, March 7, 5:15-7:15 p.m. The JCCNV is located at 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax.

See Calendar, Page 9

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LARGE 1-Topping Pizza$7.99

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KIDS EAT FREE
Get a Smiley Face Pizza w/purchase of any pizza at regular price

FREE
LUNCH SPECIAL
2 SUB 2 FRIES 2 SODAS $14.99

 Mỗi coupon per order please. Not valid w/any other offers. Exp. 3/11/10.

Please mention when ordering. Not valid w/any other offers. Exp. 3/11/10.

New York Flatbread Pizza

Buy a LARGE or XL 2-topping pizza & get a MEDIUM cheese pizza free

NEW YORKER XL 2-Topping Pizza $13.99

FREE
Cheese Bread or House Side Salad

One coupon per order please. Not valid w/any other offers. Exp. 3/11/10.

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A painting by Mina Oka Hanig

FROM PAGE S


Faith Notes

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hoses Road Springfield, has scheduled several community events for February. Contact www.sulatedisciples.org or 703-451-8227.

Sweetheart Dinner. Saturday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m., including dinner and entertainment. Reservations requested.

Blood Drive. Sunday, Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., will be in the church’s Hottle Hall. Call to reserve, walk-ins also welcome.

Messiah’s Marriage Matters Ministry will also offer the six-week class “Dream Team: Building Unity in Marriage,” on Sundays, Feb. 21-March 28, 9:30 a.m., and on Wednesdays Feb. 24-March 31, 7:15 p.m., at Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Free child care will be available. Register at 703-569-9862.

Praise Service at Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, on Sunday, Feb. 14, at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome. Come sing, enjoy coffee and donuts and praise God. 703-451-2375 or www.springfieldsunvac.org.

Congregation Adat Reyim Shabbat and Prayer Service for Haiti. 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19 at Adat Reyim, 6506 Courthouse Oaks Court, Springfield. Join a special Shabbat service offering prayers and support for Haiti. Mrs. Monmpont of the World Ebony Network, a Haitian native and founder of Fabricin Corporation, will speak about the recent tragedy and hopes for the future. adatreym.org or 703-569-7577.

Monday Bird Walk. 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Eakin Community Park. Discover resident birds of the Accotink Stream Valley. Boardwalk is for all ages. Meet at the Prosperity Avenue parking lot. Activity is free. 703-941-1065.

TUESDAY/ FEB. 23

Inova Blood Drive. 1 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. Appointment preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults: 703-644-7333. Teen Book Group. 6 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Find out what’s hot and what’s not. Age 12-16; 703-644-7333.

WEDNESDAY/ FEB. 24

Picnic Time. 11:30 a.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bring a bagged lunch for stories, fingerplays and songs to break the winter blues. Age 3-5 with adult: 703-644-7333.

Steve Moakler (full band), Ben Rector and Andrew Ripp. 7 p.m. Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. $10 advance, $13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/ FEB. 25

Preservation of Zion Fellowship Church of the Nativity. 2 p.m. at the Pohick Regional Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. 703-249-1520.


SATURDAY/ FEB. 27

Burgen’s Voyage. 7-9:30 p.m., at the Audubon Shop, 1937 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Civil War Author Book Mart. 12-4 p.m. as The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Local and regional Civil War authors and film directors will discuss, sell, and sign their fiction and non-fiction books and film productions. Sales include a 20 percent donation to the preservation of Historic Blenheim. Cash or checks only. Light refreshments provided. For more, call 703-591-0560.

Inova Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. Appointment preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults: 703-644-7333.
**SPORTS**

**Area Swimmers Qualify for State Finals**

By Reed S. Albers

The Robinson boys’ swim team finished in fourth place at the Northern Region swim meet on Feb. 15. Although Robinson did not qualify as a team for the state finals on Feb. 19 in Virginia Beach, the Rams will be sending eight boys to the meet in individual and relay events.

Match earned another ACC time in the 100-yard freestyle relay alongside junior Bostic and junior Cameron Benner with a time of 1:28.26. The 200-yard freestyle relay team finished fourth in the event. The 400-yard freestyle relay, featuring Bostic, junior Ben Zajic and junior Kyle Bumiller, finished with a time of 3:12.47, good enough for fourth place and an ACC time. With the Northern Region meet over, joyner said it’s time to focus on the state meet in Virginia Beach on Feb. 19.

[“The Northern Region meet] was a tough, stressful meet,” joyner said. “It was a great meet,” she said.

A blizzard wasn’t enough to stop the Robinson boys’ swim team from making its mark in the Northern Region swim meet on Feb. 15 at Washington and Lee.

Eight Robinson swimmers earned state cuts for their events.

My junior boys were awesome.” — Miriam Lynch

All-American Consideration (ACC) times across four events:

Junior Rocky Munch earned his ACC time in the 50-yard breaststroke with a time of 58.51 and finished third in the event.

**FIVE QUESTIONS WITH Lake Braddock swimmer Craig Longmire**

Q: If you could be any athlete, who would you want to be?
A: [United States Olympic swimmer] swimmer Craig Longmire.

Q: Do you have a favorite sports memory?
A: Going to summer zones. They’re a big swim meet and have the best of the best.

Q: Who inspires you to compete?
A: My coach. He is my biggest source of inspiration.

Q: What is your favorite form of exercise?
A: Cross-country running.

Q: What do you think about swimming in the pool as opposed to open water?
A: I’m not sure what that means.

***END***

By Reed S. Albers

The Connection

The South County boys’ basketball team couldn’t have asked for a better season. For the first time in school history, the boys were enjoying a winning 14-6 record and looking to ride their momentum to a top spot at the Patriot District tournament.

“We were getting into a routine,” South County boys’ basketball coach Doug Craig Sterbutzel said. “They were in a rough situation with this break.

“Basketball is a tournament game,” Woodson boys’ basketball coach Doug Craig Sterbutzel said. “But every team had its ups and downs,” joyner said. “We’re all about preparing for states now.”
**Camps & Schools**

**FCPS Sees Ups, Downs of Funding Fight**

School Board lays out budget and governor agrees to give Fairfax schools more money.

By Julia O’Donoghue

The Connection

While Maryclaire Ramsey appreciates the Fairfax County Public Schools is in a difficult budget position, she also wishes she saw more outside-the-box thinking from the school administration and School Board members.

“Don’t feel like they are taking a good, hard, long look at operations on a higher level,” said Ramsey, who lives in the Fox Mill area of Oak Hill.

Instead of being creative, the School Board and schools Superintendent Jack Dale are trotting out the same list of potential cuts — popular programs like elementary school foreign language instruction — that they do whenever they face a budget downturn, according to Ramsey.

A skeptic might think the School Board does this because it scares parents and motivates them to go the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to advocate for more money to be transferred to the school system.

Ramsey, for her part, resents the fact that releasing a list of vulnerable programs tends to pit one parent community against another at a time when the school advocates should be working together.

“We are going to be fighting for any money we can get.”

— School Board member

Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill)

The Fairfax Schools Budget So Far …

The Fairfax County School Board took its first pass at its operating budget for the 2010-11 school year during a Feb. 4 meeting, tacking on approximately $23 million in additional spending to the plan originally proposed last month.

Schools Superintendent Jack Dale had presented a $2.3 billion budget for Fairfax County Public Schools in January. Dale’s plan included $100 million in spending reductions and a request for the Fairfax County government to provide $57.8 million more to the school system than it did last year.

Fairfax County already devoted more than 50 percent of county revenue, approximately $1.7 billion, to the school system last year.

The School Board amended Dale’s proposal slightly, deciding it could not live with some of the cuts that the superintendent had proposed, and asking for more from the county. The School Board increased the public schools’ funding request to the county by $81 million over what was provided last year.

During its own budget deliberations, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will decide how much of the county’s total revenue to give to the school system. If the amount of funding is less than the school system requested, the school board will have to make additional cuts to the budget currently proposed in the last spring.

The following are some of programs and services the School Board would use the additional $23 million from the county to fund and those programs they have agreed to eliminate.

- $17.1 million added to avoid increasing class size by an additional student per teacher
- $1.4 million added to keep assistant principals positions
- $800,000 added for instructional assistant positions
- $1.6 million added for instructional coaches’ positions
- ($900,000) reduction via additional cuts for central administration
- $2.2 million added for the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools program
- ($310,000) reduction, cutting a fifth grade field trip to the International Children’s Festival
- $250,000 added to help students from Pimmit Hills Alternative High School transition to another program. The School Board has agreed to eliminate the following programs:
  - $1.2 million for “Focus,” a special academic program in place in schools with high-risk student populations
  - $1.3 million for the Extended Learning Program known as Excel, also in place in schools with high-risk student populations
  - $6.3 million for summer school
  - $200,000 for two internal auditor positions
  - $150,000 for a student suspension program

See School Budget, Page 17
Response Triggers Frustration

FROM PAGE 3

going to be plowed and to voice their displeasure with the response. “We received over 600 calls and e-mails throughout the week, which is definitely a lot,” Cook said. “People were frustrated with the situation and concerned about safety.”

Compounding the frustration, according to Burke Centre Conservancy Board of Trustees President Kala Quintana, was the fact that only a portion of Burke’s streets were being plowed due to VDOT restrictions and liability issues. Quintana said that within Burke Centre, some streets are owned by VDOT, while the Conservancy owns others and residents pay for those streets to be plowed by a private contractor. Many residents, Quintana said, did not know this fact and as a result, Burke Centre residents living on VDOT roads saw plows clearing the Conservancy-owned streets and not theirs and thought that their streets were being skipped.

“People would see Burke Centre plows pass by and would get upset,” Quintana said. “But we can’t plow every VDOT street because of liability issues.”

In addition, Quintana said that the problems were further exacerbated when some streets that had been reached by VDOT or plowed privately were not able to be cleared because of illegally parked cars. Quintana said that a long-standing issue exists with overflow parking and parking in prohibited areas within Burke Centre. When it started snowing, cars parked in those areas were snowed in and not moved. So, when plows came, they could not get through. Also, Quintana said that some streets that were plowed quickly filled with snow again because many residents that were shoveling or snow blowing moved the snow in their driveways and walkways into the street. Eventually, she said, the snow that was tossed into the street froze, leaving several-foot-tall “ice mounds” in the middle of the road.

While plows eventually came and serviced most areas by the end of last Sunday, Cook said that sidewalks and bus stops were still covered with snow, which could cause problems for students trying to get to school. So, Cook approached School Board Member Tessie Wilson (Braddock) and FCPS Facilities and Transportation Chief Operating Officer Manager Dean Tistadt with an idea to call for volunteers to help clear snow in and around local schools.

“The need to cultivate more.” — Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

“It’s a long-standing frustration” — Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

A lot of people have frustration, and it’s understandable. It’s been a rough week.” — Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

From Burke’s perspective, the biggest problem was that the schools were not opened on time. Quintana said that Conservancy officials need to cultivate more of a relationship with Burke Centre Conservancy Board of Trustees President Kala Quintana, was the fact that only a portion of Burke’s streets were being plowed due to VDOT restrictions and liability issues. Quintana said that within Burke Centre, some streets are owned by VDOT, while the Conservancy owns others and residents pay for those streets to be plowed by a private contractor. Many residents, Quintana said, did not know this fact and as a result, Burke Centre residents living on VDOT roads saw plows clearing the Conservancy-owned streets and not theirs and thought that their streets were being skipped. Quintana said that an agreement needed to be reached with VDOT to allow Burke Centre plows to clear VDOT-owned roads so that the snow can be cleared and removed as quickly as possible.

Cook agreed with Quintana that changes are needed, but he proposed a different solution to the problem. Cook said that these events showed that transportation should be taken over by the county from the state, as local crews would be better prepared and snow removal would be more efficient and timely. He also said that county and VDOT officials need to gather soon to discuss all of the problems that arose during the storms and to share effective removal tactics. That way, even if transportation remains in the hands on the state, residents can be assured that the next storm will be easier to handle.

“We need to have a sort of a ‘snow summit,’ an after-action meeting of sorts to find out if there’s a better way to communicate,” Cook said. “We can’t prepare fully for snow storms, but we can work together [to find a better way].”

Military Notes

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 770-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Deadline for notes should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Army Pfc. Jonathan T. Martin has graduated from the H-8 Tracked Vehicle Recovery Specialist Course at Fort Knox, Ky. He is the son of Joyce L. and Charles R. Martin of Glenbard Road, Burke. Martin is a 2002 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School, Burke.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Alexander G. Francia, son of Maria Del Carmen Francia of Burke and Gabriel Lightburt, of Alexandria, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Marine Corps Pvt. Dawson K. Drake, son of Donna M. Crandall of Burke and Bradley Drake of Canonsburg, Pa., recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.
**Real Estate**

Members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors’ new Chinese Forum.

**NVAR Begins Chinese Forum**

Real estate group launches forum for Chinese Realtors, consumers.

By Stephanie Martinez
The Connection

To kick off the new year, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) has launched a new Chinese Realtor Forum. The group, which will serve as an educational tool for its members, hosted its first meeting last month.

The NVAR along with Chairman of the Board Vinh Nguyen and CEO Christine M. Todd announced the creation of the group, which provides exclusive benefits to members of the association. Tony Yeh of United Realty, Inc. will lead the group in its first year.

“Our Northern Virginia community is a melting pot, comprised of people from all over the world,” said Nguyen. “As such, we provide excellent member benefits that address and embrace our rich diversity. Creating the Chinese Realtor Forum is another step towards achieving that.”

The NVAR, which also hosts forums for its Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese and Middle Eastern members, encourages anyone who wants to stay updated about the industry to attend. Even though each forum executes different strategies to suit their target market, they’re still conducted in English and most of the networking portion is conducted bilingually.

The group will provide several membership benefits including opportunity for networking, education and training, discussions of current market conditions, concentration on issues serving the needs of the Chinese consumer and resource of timely information.

The Chinese Realtor Forum was created as part of a movement started in 2007 for improving communications throughout the diversity of NVAR’s members. According to staff liaison Anne Gardner, the forum will target Chinese buyers and sellers in particular “through Chinese language media, English language community media and, most importantly, through a coordinated outreach campaign.”

“The common denominator is the goal of improving knowledge of the members and to prepare them for meeting the needs of their buyers and sellers in a changing marketplace,” said Gardner.

The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors is a locally based association serving as the Real Estate Board for approximately 10,000 members. Its priorities are to promote professionalism, support and conduct success transactions within the real estate business. It was established in 1921 with approximately 40 members as the Alexandria-Arlington-Fairfax Real Estate Board.

“We are delighted to start this new group to create unity among Chinese Realtors,” said Yeh. “This will help us to create awareness within the Realtor community and to better serve our clients as they realize the American dream of homeownership.”

**Clubs & Organizations**

*Looking for a Boy Scout troop to join? Boy Scout Troop 1849 invites boys interested in being a scout to visit the troop at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Contact Scoutmaster Sandy Rothberg at 703-541-3060 or sandy@baddmanners.com.*

*For those interested in growing professionally, join Fairfax Toastmasters Club. The club meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. For information about local Toastmasters clubs, visit www.toastmasters.org, or contact Amir Jamil at 703-677-4161 or majamii99@yahoo.com."
Seasonal Accounts Receivable Assistant
Meadows Farms Nurseries in Chantilly, VA is looking for an Accounts Receivable Assistant for data entry. Accounting knowledge helpful. Pay range $10 - $12.50 hr. M-F 8am - 4pm, March-June. Email resume to dknollart@meadowsfarms.com or call Catie @ 703-327-3940 ext 207

Office Manager
Established Northern Virginia commercial architectural firm seeking an Office Manager to help the firm reach the next level. Tasks involve supporting a 20+/- person creative staff in a variety of business and design aspects of the practice. Qualifications include:
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Lead Maintenance Technician
Mount Vernon’s Operations and Maintenance Department is seeking a Lead Maintenance Technician to assist in the installation, maintenance and repair of electrical, heating, air conditioning, domestic water and various other systems. The position includes housing on the estate but relocation is not paid, and supervises a staff of 4 technicians.

Essential Functions: Assist in the installation, maintenance and repair of electrical, heating, air conditioning, plumbing, motors, valves, security and fire alarm equipment and HVAC equipment and controls; Various maintenance tasks including electrical and HVAC diagnostics, installing piping & electrical wiring, digging trenches, working with sewer tanks, drainage, and pumping equipment, assembling scaffolding/rigging, & setup and operation of audio/visual equipment; Conducts all work/orders & compiles a daily record; Operates, maintains & secures tools and equipment; Practices, maintains and enforces safety regulations and procedures; Performs preventive maintenance and repairs to all electrical systems.

Special Requirements: Requires standing/walking for long periods of time, entering dark, dusty and close spaces, using solvents, lubricants, adhesives and other hazardous materials, and exposure to all weather conditions; Weekend and holiday work and rotating 24 hour duty shift required; Classified as essential and requires participation in all emergencies, ice and snow removal and special events.

Qualifications: 7+ yrs. experience in electrical, emergency power systems, energy management, general repairs and fire safety; good understanding of MEP and architectural drawings; Good written & verbal communication skills and proficiency w./MS office suite; Knowledge of life safety codes preferred; valid driver’s license; Employment contingent upon successful drug test and criminal/background check.

Send application materials:
Via email - HRMail@MountVernon.org, or fax - 703-799-6805. Applications may be downloaded and printed from the website (under employment) at www.MountVernon.org

Mount Vernon is an equal opportunity employer.
**School Budget Battle Goes On**

**FROM PAGE 12**

For her and many others, the current school budget proposal offers the same, old-way of thinking.

**STARTING NEXT YEAR,** it seems almost certain that Fairfax County students have to pay a fee to play high school sports and advanced placement tests.

The Fairfax County School Board voted on its initial budget request to the Board of Supervisors at a Feb. 4 meeting, laying out those programs it intends to ask the county to fund and those it will reluctantly agree to cut at this early stage.

The request included are new student fees to participate in high school athletics and to take Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests. The School Board is moving forward with a plan to eliminate Pimmit Hills Alternative High School and two academic programs in elementary schools with large populations of poor students.

Though the School Board can restore such programs after the supervisors approve the public school money transfer in the late spring, it is unlikely board members will have the luxury of restoring funding to programs cut this early in the budget process.

“We are going to be fighting for any money we can get,” said School Board member John Foust (D-Dranesville).

**CURRENT CLASS SIZE**, foreign language in elementary schools and freshman sports are among the programs threatened by cuts that so far are still funded.

The School Board budget includes a request for $81 million more from the county than the approximately $7.7 billion the supervisors gave the school system to operate last year.

Schools Superintendent Jack Dale had originally suggested the school board only ask for the county for an additional $57.8 million and include several more cuts in the budget.

But School Board members found several of Dale’s cuts — including freshman sports, foreign language in elementary schools and larger class size — to be too drastic. The School Board also restored $3.8 million in funding for instruction assistants, instructional coaches and assistant principals that Dale had proposed to eliminate.

Without full funding, including the extra $81 million, the School Board will argue that many of the undesirable cuts they have avoided will have to be made, said School Board members.

“To make any real difference, this budget has to be fully funded. And we have no guarantee that even the superintendent’s original request will be funded, said School Board member Brad Center (Lee.).

**SEVERAL SUPERVISORS** said it is unlikely Fairfax would give the school system an extra $81 million, especially when other county agencies and departments are seeing cuts in their funding.

“I think trying to provide an extra $81 million in funding would be extremely difficult to do in this economic climate. Our board has to be sensitive to taxpayers who are struggling to pay their mortgages and stay in their homes,” said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

Fairfax County already allocates more than half of its general funding to the public school system annually. Since the residential real estate tax generates most of the county revenue, an increase in schools funding would most likely correspond to an increase in real property tax rate for homeowners.

According to county officials, $81 million is equal to increasing property taxes approximately 4 cents per $100 of assessed property value this year.

Some supervisors questioned whether the School Board had really made all the cuts it could, particularly when it came to central administration staff.

“Until the school system looks at their administrative costs, I think this School Board will be hard pressed to spend an additional $81 million on the school system,” said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

When compared to Dale’s budget proposal, the School Board did vote to reduce spending on central administration functions by $900,000 in order to fund other programs, according to school system documents.

Still, other supervisors appeared to be questioning whether the School Board had looked at all of its options.

“I have serious questions about cost and whether there are things not on the table to be cut,” said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) did offer a silver lining in the discussion about schools funding late in the day on Feb. 8.

McDonnell supports restoring the Virginia state education funding formula to its original 2010 proportions, which means Fairfax will get a larger slice of the financial pie of education funding coming out of Richmond.

Last December, former Gov. Tim Kaine (D) proposed “freezing” the education funding formula to proportions used last year, protecting funding for several school districts downstream from losing money but costing Fairfax County Public Schools $61 million.

It is unclear whether Fairfax will receive the full $61 million now that McDonnell has “unfrozen” the formula. In light of a massive budget shortfall, the Virginia General Assembly could cut education funding overall, meaning the pool of money for all school districts may shrink.

But Fairfax County will still receive more money than the locality would have, if McDonnell had stuck to Kaine’s original proposal.

“If unfreezing the formula, the governor had made sure we will see additional money or, at least, some more money that we would have otherwise expected for our school system,” said Bulova.

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**Academies Host Information Nights**

Fairfax County Public Schools high school career academies are hosting information nights and open houses for prospective high school students who may be interested in academy courses for the 2010-11 school year.

The open houses are open to students entering grades 10, 11, and 12 in 2010-11.

Information about each academy’s information night and open house can be found below.

- **Chantilly Academy**—Engineering, Scientific Technology, Health and Human Services, Thursday, Feb. 18, 5:45-8:30 p.m., http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyAcademy, 703-222-7460
- **Edison Academy**—Engineering and Scientific Technology, Thursday, March 4, 6-7:30 p.m., http://www.fcps.edu/EdisonAcademy, 703-924-1800
- **Fairfax Academy**—Communications and the Arts, Thursday, March 4, 7:30-9 p.m., http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxAcademy, 703-219-2226
- **Falls Church Academy**—Health and Human Services, individual visits are welcome, http://www.fcps.edu/FallsChurchHS/academy/index.html, 703-207-4011
- **Marshall Academy**—International Studies and Business, Engineering and Scientific Technology, Monday, Feb. 22, 7-8:30 p.m., http://www.fcps.edu/MarshallAcademy, 703-714-5582
- **West Potomac Academy**—Communities and the Arts, Health and Human Services, individual visits are welcome, http://www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacAcademy, 703-718-2500.
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Fairfax Station
6805 Rock Landing Ct

New Listing!

Charming, well-appointed, 5 level townhouse in Inlet Cove! Close to Lorton VRE, Metro, stores & restaurants. Call Judy McGuire 703-581-7679.

Fairfax Station
1602 Bashford Ct

Property renovated in 2006. 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, finished basement. Private yard, deck, and MBR with full bath. Call Judy McGuire 703-581-7679.

Financial District

Luxurious Condominium in DC Financial District. 1 Bedroom, 1 Bath, balcony, parking. Call Judy McGuire 703-581-7679.

For Sale

Luxury master suite w/fireplace. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Finished lower level, separate entrance. Sunny, corner location. Call Judy McGuire 703-581-7679.

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