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# *The Green Pages*

**Serving Northern Virginia & Points South Since 1969**

**July 2009**

**\*\*\* Celebrating 40 Years of Service\*\*\***

## Memorable 4th of July Celebrations

Almost all of us celebrate our glorious Independence Day with food, fun and fireworks. Here are some of the notable Independence Day celebration occurrences, that were celebrated very much in the way that we celebrate today. But these celebrations are notable because they were different in some way or the other.

### 1776 Independence Day Celebration

In 1776 Independence Day was celebrated on different dates in different parts of United States. This is the most noticeable point that attracts our attention. The first 4th of July celebration occurred shortly after the Declaration of Independence was declared in various locales along the Eastern Seaboard.

The glorious Independence Day was celebrated very much in the way we celebrate today. There were sound and dazzling fireworks covering the black sky. Emotions and sentiments played very significant role in the celebration.

In Philadelphia the celebration did not occur until the 8th of July as the Declaration of Independence was read on that day and in Williamsburg, a grand celebration had occurred on July 25.

1776 Independence Day Celebration included the reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Courthouse, the Capitol and the Palace. The celebration also included firing of cannon and musketry followed by a military parade.

### 1777 Independence Day Celebration In Philadelphia

This is one of the most well organized and the first elaborate Independence Day celebrations we have ever witnessed. The celebration included all the inspirational events along with the demonstration of joy and festivity. The first anniversary of our Independence Day in Philadelphia was celebrated on the 4th of July with parade and firing of cannons, one round in the honor of each state of the union.

The day was closed with the tolling of the bells and at the night there was a grand exhibition of fire works and the city was beautifully decorated with lights. Music, dinner and other entertainments were parts of the celebration and everything was conducted with utmost decorum.

### 1826 Celebration of the Fourth

Referred to as the "Jubilee of Freedom" the 50th anniversary of our Independence Day was celebrated in 1826. It was in 1826 that our Independence Day was celebrated with the greatest procession of loyalists in Charleston. The city had witnessed such a beautiful procession after a long span of time. Our Nation was adorned with lights and the flags. The procession started from the Citadel green with an immense gathering of 10,000 men, women and children and the place was flooded with huge number of spectators. And the most interesting thing was that, during the entire length of their journey they sang:

"John Brown's body lies a moulding in the grave,  
John Brown's body lies a moulding in the grave,  
John Brown's body lies a moulding in the grave,  
His soul is marching on!"

Cited: <http://www.twilightbridge.com/hobbies/festivals/independence/historyfourth.htm>  
6/17/2009

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# July 2009 Calendar of Events Northern Virginia & Points South

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |   |   | 1<br>Happy Birthday<br>Troy Butcher Sr.<br>Holly Resch                                    | 2  | 3   | <br>Independence Day<br>David & Nimfa<br>Cloud Anniversary<br>Happy Bday<br>Christina Gamlin |
| 5<br> | 6<br>Happy Bday<br>Tony Wishard  | 7<br>Happy Birthday<br>Shelia<br>Wadsworth<br>Andrea Crisafulli<br>McGee      | 8   | 9<br>High School<br>Musical @ Lazy<br>Susan Dinner<br>Theatre 6 p. m<br>Happy Bday<br>Van O'Neal | 10<br>   | 11<br>Occoquan<br>Farmers Market<br>8—12 p.m.   |
| 12   | 13<br>Happy Birthday<br>Margaret Davis   | 14<br>Happy Birthday<br>Charles Hammer<br>Mike Edwards                        | 15<br>Happy Birthday<br>Holly Resch<br>Danielle<br>MacEachron<br>Diana Paguaga            | 16<br>       | 17<br>Happy Birthday<br>Kim Ramey<br>Kyle Hoffman<br>Samdy Homan                            | 18<br>Mystery Wine<br>Taste<br>Burnley<br>Vineyards   |
| 19<br>Happy Brithday<br>Brain VanDyke<br>Jenn Nealey                                   | 20<br>Anniversary<br>Charlie & Patti<br>Green<br> | 21<br>Happy Birthday<br>Alison Jaquays  | 22<br> | 23<br>Happy Birthday<br>Andy Sylvester   | 24<br> | 25<br>Leesylvania<br>State Park Canoe<br>Tours<br>10-5 p.m.<br>Bday Derek Fox   |
| 26   | 27   | 28<br>Quilters<br>Unlimited @<br>Manassas Center<br>for the Arts<br>10—5 p.m. | 29  | 30<br>Photo Exhibit-<br>Workhouse Art<br>Center Lorton<br>11-7 p.m.                              | 31<br>Happy Birthday<br>Matthew Harner  |   |

The Green Pages are produced by Jennifer Brooks.  
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# ASHLEY'S ACTION PAGE

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It's a hard time for almost everyone right now, but it's especially hard for workers who don't have a college education. In 2008 the unemployment rate was 9% for people with less than a high school diploma, 5.7% for high school graduates, 2.8% for college graduates and 2% for people with doctorates. Those numbers are all worse now, but they show that blue collar workers have been especially hard hit.

Still, there are blue-collar jobs out there in high enough demand to pay surprisingly well. We've put together a list of the 20 best paying ones. The numbers used for the list are drawn from the government's Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. They are based on data from 2008. Topping the list are elevator installers and repairers, who earn an average of \$32.57 an hour. That's \$12 more per hour than the national average for all jobs, and it amounts to about \$67,750 a year, far above the national salary average of \$42,270. Every job on this list earns more than the national average.

Signal and track switch repairers for the railroad industry, who rank 20th on the list, make \$49,060 a year, just beating out tool makers and brickmasons.

"Blue-collar" is not a technical term. The dictionary defines it as "wage earners, especially as a class, whose jobs are performed in work clothes and often involve manual labor." We based our selection of jobs on that definition, excluding workers in highly managerial roles, who largely supervise the work of others, or whose uniforms are, say, Major League baseball uniforms.

Of course, blue-collar work does not mean unskilled work. Many of these jobs, especially the highest paid ones, require extensive training, both in schools and in apprenticeships. These apprenticeships can take as much as four or five years.

Transportation inspectors came in third on our list, but they are the only job here that averages six figures at the 90th percentile of payees. Elevator installers and repairers and commercial divers both come close. They each make \$97,000 a year at the 90th percentile.

Railroading is the industry that appears most often on the list. Five jobs in the field make the cut, including subway and streetcar operators. Locomotive engineers do the best, pulling down an average of \$25.71 an hour.

A high school diploma and four or five years of training may sound like a lot, but remember, that's usually on-the-job training, which can help keep a roof over your head while you work your way up -- rather than get you tens of thousands of dollars in debt, as going to college does for so many.

## **Top 5 Best-Paying Blue-Collar Jobs (with average annual salary)**

1. Elevator installers and repairers (\$67,750)
2. Powerhouse, substation, and relay repairers (\$60,700)
3. Transportation inspectors (\$59,200)
4. Commercial divers (\$54,940)
5. Oil and gas rotary drill operators (\$54,370)

## **My Quote of the Month: *"Just use common sense."***

### **My Featured Listing of the Month:**

**15020 Woodglen Ct. Dumfries, VA 22025**

**Price: \$2400.00/month**

Located in highly sought after community of Montclair. This 3 level, 5 bedroom and 2.5 bath single family home with a 2 car garage is spacious and located in a very quiet and private setting. This is a great get away from the hustle and bustle of northern Virginia. Come home and just relax among the trees. Available immediately. Won't last long.



This page was produced by Ashley Spencer.. If you have any interesting facts that you would like to share or would like additional information about what's published on this page contact me at 703-986-5813/703-598-9385 or email me at [Ashley.Spencer@LNF.com](mailto:Ashley.Spencer@LNF.com)

# FOR SALE



**Under Contract**

**2808 Cambridge Drive  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
\$128,000**

3 bedroom 2.5 bath Townhome in Lake Ridge. Back to trees with deck and walk out patio. Newer Hotwater Heater and HVAC. New tile in Master. A great home at a great price.



**7112 Token Valley Road  
Manassas, VA 20112  
\$1,150,000**

11.5 Acres in central Prince William county off Hoadly Road. Acres are divided by Hoadly Road. To the north we have 4 acres and to the south 7.5 acres. Potential for rezoning to multiple lots. Currently zoned A-1 surrounding lots SRR. Water available at road.



**Under Contract**

**18546 Kerill Road  
Triangle, VA 22172  
\$399,900**

This wonderful 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath short sale will not be on the market long! Fireplace, unfinished basement, wall to wall carpet, and walk in closets. Gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings. Soaking tub in master bath with sep. Great natural lighting throughout the home. Come get it now.



**Offer Pending**

**13867 Palisades Street  
Woodbridge, VA  
\$425,000 month**

This gorgeous 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath model home is located in the beautiful Belmont Bay. Two story foyer, hardwood floors, Corian countertops, and finished 3rd floor loft, fireplace, and two car garage. Community has plenty of features including, walk to the marina & train station, and a golf course. Lease to buy.



**Under Contract**

**3202 Cardiff Court  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
\$325,000**

This wonderful 4 bedroom 2.5 bath is located on a cul-de-sac within the great community of Lake Ridge. You will find new paint and carpet throughout. The master bedroom has a walk-in closet. The wood burning fireplace and a beautiful backyard with deck are just more reasons to call this your home.

# FOR RENT



**8853 Screech Owl Court  
Gainesville, VA 20155  
\$2,400 month**

Check out this wonderful Courtyard Single Family Home with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bath. Gourmet kitchen, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops hardwoods floors. Huge master suite with 2 closets and luxury bath. 2 car garage and lots of storage space! Close to 66 and schools...



**15020 Woodglan Court  
Montclair, VA 22025  
\$2,400 month**

This 3 level, 5 bedroom and 2.5 bath single family home with a 2 car garage is spacious and located in a very quiet and private setting. This is a great get away from the hustle and bustle of northern Virginia. Available immediately.



**GEORGE MASON  
MORTGAGE, LLC**  
*A Subsidiary of CARDINAL BANK*

## **LATEST TAX CREDIT INFO!!!!!!**

The American Recover and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) provides for as much as an \$8000 tax credit to qualified first-time homebuyers. FHA and VHDA are supporting this important initiative to promote homeownership and have specific guidelines to use this credit at the time of purchase with restrictions.

**FHA** will allow you to use up to the \$8000 credit for primary residences only. You cannot have owned a home that was your primary residence for the past 3 years. The credit can be used for additional down payment above the standard 3.5% down payment requirement from FHA. The credit can also be used for closing costs and prepaid.

Requirements for the program included but are not limited to the following:

- \*Require the homebuyer to draft and provide the IRS form 5405 "First-Time Homebuyer Credit."
- \*Lender will contact the borrower's employer and review pay stubs to confirm there are no outstanding garnishments.
- \*Lender will review the homebuyer's credit report to ensure there are no unpaid student loans, or other obligations against the credit.
- \*Validate that all of the eligibility requirements for the tax credit are fulfilled.
- \*Lender will review previous tax returns and IRS tax assessments letters, if any, to determine that the borrower does not have unsettled obligations to the IRS.

Currently, most lenders are still reviewing the guidelines to make this program possible. We encourage all borrowers to check out the IRS website regarding the guidelines at :  
<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=204671.00.html?portlet7>

**VHDA's** Homebuyer Tax Credit Plus Program provides first-time homebuyers an affordable funding source to access their anticipated tax credit for use as down payment and closing costs.

### Program Details:

Similar to the FHA PLUS Program, the Homebuyer Tax Credit Plus is a combined second mortgage with a VHDA FHA insured first mortgage. The second mortgage can be up to 5% of the sales price or appraised value, which ever is less. No interest and no payments are due on the second mortgage for the first 12 months of the loan. This provides the homebuyer sufficient time to receive their federal tax credit and used to repay the loan with no cost or penalty. If the second is not paid off during the first 12 months, the balance will be amortized over the remaining 29 years at the same rate as the first mortgage. Standard VHDA Plus guidelines apply. Loan must close by November 30, 2009. We are currently taking reservations for the VHDA Tax Credit Plus Program

Please call or email with any questions. Kim Ramey 703-216-2866 or [kramey@gmmlc.co](mailto:kramey@gmmlc.co).

**Preferred Professionals**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Mortgage Company</b>   |               |
| George Mason/Kim Ramey  | 703-216-2866  |
| George Mason Mortgage/Timur Tunador                                     | 703-934-4108  |
| Virginia Heritage Mortgage/ Tony Denk                                   | 703-766-6406  |
| <b>Tree Service</b>   |               |
| Tree Bark/Vinny Resch   | 703-690-6064  |
| <b>Home Improvement</b>   |               |
| First Class Contracting/Craig Avallone                                  | 703-615-9319  |
| <b>Peterson Chimney Sweeps &amp; Home Repairs</b>                       |               |
| Eric Peterson   | 703-351-6611  |
| <b>Masonry Construction/Painting &amp; General Home Repairs</b>         |               |
| Martin Alvarenja  | 703-675-0068  |
| <b>Cleaning Services</b>  |               |
| Guadalupe Quinteros   | 571-722-9608  |
| Rosa Villalpando  | 571-723-5935  |
| Maria's Cleaning Service  | 703-605-5218  |
| <b>Title Company</b>  |               |
| RGS   | 703-491--9600 |
| <b>Faux, Murals Interior &amp; Exterior Painting &amp; Wallpapering</b> |               |
| Michaela Langford   | 703-680-1483  |
| Trent Butcher   | 703-597-2233  |
| <b>Pleasures of Paradise Spa &amp; Wellness Center</b>                  |               |
| Michelle D. Talbot, LMT   | 703-763-3106  |
| Michelle Talbot   | 703-670-0877  |
| <b>Heating &amp; Cooling Repair</b>                                     |               |
| Weather Chasers   | 703-393-8444  |
| <b>Printing Service</b>   |               |
| Ken's Speed Print   | 703-494-4545  |
| <b>Carpet &amp; Flooring</b>  |               |
| Carpet & Floor Outlet (Nadar)   | 703-497-4747  |
| <b>Web Design</b>   |               |
| VASI (Sherri Arnaiz)  | 703-330-8268  |
| <b>Family Portraits</b>   |               |
| Rob Riebe (specializing in children's portraits)                        | 540-288-3828  |
| <b>Tastefully Simple</b>  |               |
| Meagan Ross   | 703-303-9867  |
| Tastefullysimple.com/web/mross  |               |
| <b>Home Computer Help</b>   |               |
| John O'Meara  | 703-221-8112  |
| <b>Paper Craft, Fine Stationery</b>                                     |               |
| Langdon Gibson  | 703-978-6500  |
| <b>American Cabinet Refacers</b>  |               |
| Keith Ferencz   | 703-503-6600  |
| <b>Property Management</b>  |               |
| Selling Virginia  | 703-217-3278  |

**INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN REAL ESTATE**

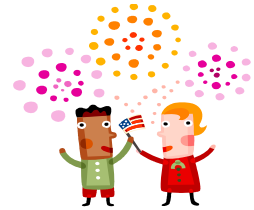
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Woodbridge, VA 22193  
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[www.sellingvirginia.com](http://www.sellingvirginia.com)



### Public Areas to Watch 4th of July Fireworks



#### **Celebrate America**

**Where:** Old Town Manassas

Come for an old-fashioned celebration, including hayrides, a live rock-n-roll band, and of course a fireworks show. 6 p.m. Free admission.

#### **Baseball & Fireworks**

**Where:** Pfitzner Stadium in Woodbridge, Va.

Join the Potomac Nationals at Pfitzner Stadium on Independence Day. A spectacular fireworks show, the biggest and best in the area, will follow the game courtesy of Potomac Hospital. Get your tickets for this game early, as it will sell-out.

#### **Red, White and Blue Celebration**

**Where:** Mount Vernon Celebrate at George Washington's peaceful estate, beautifully situated on the Potomac. The day-long event will include a wreath-laying ceremony by the Sons of America, and a Red, White and Blue Concert by the National Concert Band of America. Most importantly - free birthday cake for all at the end of the night. Cost of the event will be included in cost of admission to Mt. Vernon. 8 a.m. To 5 p.m.

#### **A Capitol Fourth**

**Where:** West Lawn of U.S. Capitol

This event is expected to attract 500,000 people and is highlighted by performances by the Beach Boys, Gloria Estefan, American Idol's Kimberly Locke, the National Symphony Orchestra and many more in an event hosted by Barry Bostwick. The night culminates with fireworks over the National Mall. Free admission. 8 p.m.