

# METRO

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005

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VIRGINIA  
EDITION

STAKING THEIR CLAIM | *The Long Road Ahead*

## A Crash Course In Responsibility



PHOTOS BY ANNEA BRUCE — THE WASHINGTON POST  
Relocation Manager Ingrid Campbell hands Jose Diaz the key to his renovated one-bedroom unit. Living with his girlfriend and her young son would be a tight squeeze, but he said it was worth it to own a share in the cooperative.

## With Capital Manor Reborn, Co-op Members Step Into Their New Role as Homeowners

By DEBBI WILGOBEN  
Washington Post Staff Writer

For a victory party, the mood was dismal. A few dozen residents of Capital Manor gathered under a neon-green "Congratulations!!" banner on a January evening in 2003 to toast their achievement: Nearly three-quarters of the people who lived in the low-income complex had signed reservation agreements and put down deposits to buy their apartments. They had staved off the gentrification sweeping the U Street corridor and hung on to three century-old buildings in the 1400 block of W Street.

But the complex they now owned was falling apart. Renovations had to be done and paid for. Vandalism had to stop. As home-baked cakes sat untouched at the front of the room, Deborah Thomas, the woman who had spearheaded the purchase effort, lectured her neighbors about taking responsibility.

"If you see your neighbor's kids hitting on the walls or breaking windows or dragging trash through the halls, don't forget that money to fix those things is coming out of your pocket," she said. "We can no longer call the owner to say, 'This is broke, that's broke. . . . We are the owner. We're going to have to come up with the money to have it fixed.'"

Hands flew up. It's not so easy, one



Co-op members unhappy with the pace of renovations unloaded their anger on Deborah Thomas, board president. Overwhelmed by the demands of the project, she quit her full-time job.

woman said in Spanish. Boys from down the block roamed the hallways of her building, smoking marijuana. They trailed residents into the building and slipped pennies into the door frame, jamming the lock so they could leave and reenter at will.

Call the police, urged Thomas, prompting an older man near the back to shake his head. He'd done that, he said, only to have the cops show up and let slip to the youths the apartment number from which the 911 call was made.

"The next day, I've got a problem," the man said.

Then Aaron O'Toole, the residents'

young attorney, stood to remind them to save for their down payments, which would be due when renovations began. The payments — \$2,300 for a one-bedroom, \$3,200 for a two-bedroom — were cheap for the neighborhood but daunting for those in the room.

"I'm going to be eating a whole lot of hot dogs," sighed Michelle Craig, a single mother who worked for Marriott Corp.

"Hey," said the woman next to her, nodding. "Peanut butter and jelly."

The members of the newly named Capital Manor Cooperative were begin-

See TENANTS, B9, Col. 1

### ABOUT THE SERIES

The Washington Post followed the tenants of Capital Manor for more than four years as they struggled to purchase and renovate their apartment complex, preserving their place in the rapidly gentrifying U Street corridor. Previous installments detailing their efforts can be read at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com). A Spanish-language version of this series begins today in El Tiempo Latino.

## Va. Ready To Analyze DNA in Old Crime Files

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR  
and JAMIE STOCKWELL  
Washington Post Staff Writers

RICHMOND, Dec. 15 — Virginia graduate students will soon begin sifting through thousands of decades-old crime files in a months-long, \$1.4 million effort by state officials to see whether DNA testing will exonerate any more defendants who were wrongly convicted and imprisoned decades ago.

The unprecedented review of 660 boxes of criminal case files was prompted by the revelation Wednesday that limited biological testing of newly found evidence had revealed that two men who had been imprisoned for years were innocent. In the past three years, the files have exonerated five men who served a combined 91 years in prison.

Gov. Mark R. Warner (D), who ordered the sweeping review, will include the money to pay for it in his final budget. Senior lawmakers said they expected no opposition to the request for funds when the General Assembly convenes early next month.

"I don't care if it costs \$10 million," said state Sen. Kenneth W. Stolle (R-Virginia Beach), who chairs the Senate Courts of Justice Committee and is a former police officer. "Whatever it costs. There's an unacceptable error rate that demands we review all these cases."

Advocates of DNA testing immediately seized on the Virginia results as further proof that the judicial system in the United States relies too heavily on eyewitness evidence

See DNA, B8, Col. 4

## Warner Plans Wider I-66 in Final Budget

### Governor Also Funds Added VRE Rail Cars

By CHRIS L. JENKINS  
Washington Post Staff Writer

RICHMOND, Dec. 15 — Money to widen part of westbound Interstate 66 inside the Capital Beltway and buy additional rail cars for Virginia Railway Express will be included in a spending plan to be proposed Friday by Gov. Mark R. Warner (D).

Warner announced Thursday that he would propose spending \$625 million on road and transit projects when he introduces his final budget Friday. That new cash from the state's general fund represents Warner's final attempt at finding comprehensive solutions to the state's transportation problems that have eluded him during his four years in office.

Although the proposal would cover only a fraction of the state's transportation needs, several projects would advance, including widening Interstate 95 between Route 123 and the Fairfax County Parkway, improving the I-66/Route 29 interchange in Gainesville and enhancing bus service in Alexandria and Arlington County.

In a brief address to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, Warner said the pro-

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**William R. Moses was 25 when he became chief of surgery at what became D.C. General Hospital.**

Washington, and in 1965, he became a founding member of the Falls Church Medical Center.

After retiring, Dr. Moses often commented on national and world affairs through letters to newspaper editors, some of which were published in *The Washington Post*. A devoted animal lover, he donated substantial amounts to the Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. He owned a succession of three dogs — all of whom he named "Buddy."

Retaining his medical privileges at Sibley during much of his retirement, Dr. Moses served on the hospital's peer review committee, which reviews the work of other doctors.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Dorothy Warren Moses of Washington; a son, William Moses of Alexandria; two daughters, Patricia Durkin of Washington and Jean Holston of Angel's Camp, Calif.; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

### **William J. Fitzpatrick Naval Architect**

William J. Fitzpatrick, 92, a retired naval architect with the Navy, died of complications of Alzheimer's disease Dec. 10 in Fort Myers, Fla., where he lived.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, who served in the Navy during World War II as supervisor of shipbuilding in New York, began his civilian career as a federal employee with the Census Bureau and then worked for the State Department's office of foreign liquidation on Guam.

In 1948, he joined the Bureau of Ships in Washington and helped manage construction of four conventionally powered aircraft carriers and the first of the nuclear carriers. He also worked on repair and maintenance of 143 other ships. He retired in 1973 from the Ship Systems Command.

In 1970, Mr. Fitzpatrick received the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award. He was past president of the American Society of Naval Engineers. He lived in Bethesda and Rockville until moving to Florida in 1977.

In retirement, he enjoyed travel, visiting 92 countries and taking 37 cruises.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Margaret A. Fitzpatrick of Fort Myers; a son, Robert W. Fitzpatrick of Burtonsville; a granddaughter; and two great-grandsons.

Most transportation analysts say the state needs at least \$1 billion a year of dedicated money to maintain and build the road and rail network. Kaine and leaders in the Republican-led General Assembly are expected to propose more aggressive proposals. A Senate panel is to announce Friday the results of a study of the state's transportation needs.

Warner acknowledged that his proposal was a short-term plan.

"This finishes up putting our financial health in order . . . making a substantial down payment on some key significant projects around the state," he said. "But this is not the permanent solution."

Finding those solutions has been elusive for Warner. During the 2001 campaign, the businessman-turned-politician ran chiefly on giving Northern Virginia and the Hampton Roads area the authority to increase their own taxes and raise billions of dollars for road and rail projects with approval from voters. Efforts failed in both areas in 2002.

Part of Warner's plan announced Thursday would help improve road and rail access in Hampton Roads, including funds for a third water crossing between Hampton and Norfolk.

## Old Crime Records to Be Scrutinized

DNA, From B1

that is often wrong.

William S. Sessions, FBI director from 1987 to 1993, said the Virginia results should compel governors in other states to make DNA testing broadly available to inmates before and after conviction.

"All across the United States . . . they should cough up those evidence lockers, clean them out, test them," Sessions said. "So it costs \$1,000. So what? If in fact DNA at any time can establish that the person charged is not the correct person, we should pay attention to it."

But other lawyers were not so sure that a wholesale review of long-settled cases is in order.

"Do mistakes get made from eyewitness cases? Yeah. But does that mean you go back and reexamine every case? I don't know," said James R. Woolley, a former prosecutor who served on a national panel on DNA testing and testified before Congress. "Everything that you would reexamine has its own facts and its own circumstances."

Circumstances surrounding the two Virginia men who were exonerated Wednesday began emerging Thursday.

Willie Davidson was released from prison in 1992, after serving 12 years, said his attorney, James O. Broccoletti of Norfolk, and had maintained his innocence all along.

Davidson, 49, was convicted by a judge of raping a 66-year-old widow in her Norfolk home on Thanksgiving Day in 1980. The woman identified Davidson as her attacker. He was also convicted in a bench trial of statutory robbery and two counts of sodomy and was sentenced to four 20-year terms, to be served concurrently.

Since his release, Davidson, who declined through his attorney to be interviewed, has struggled to make a decent living. He lost job and housing opportunities because of his conviction, Broccoletti said, and is bitter because he missed seeing his nieces and nephews grow up and lose time with his now-elderly mother, who is sick.

"The way he sees it, he spent 12 years in hell and the last 13 years in purgatory," Broccoletti said in a telephone interview.

Virginia officials have declined to identify the man, now 50, who was cleared Wednesday of a rape in Alexandria.

The rape occurred about 5:45 a.m. Dec. 30, 1984. A

now you get VDOT more accountable, more innovative . . . I think we've done a very good job."

Business leaders and transportation advocates give Warner's transportation legacy mixed reviews. Several acknowledged that he had significant hurdles to overcome, such as a public skeptical of the transportation tax in 2002 and a complicated budget battle in 2004 that sacrificed transportation's fortunes.

"The biggest problem that he faced is that he had competing issues," said Mike Anzilotti, chairman of the Virginia Business Council, a coalition of the state's largest businesses. "It's tough to accomplish everything in four years. While we haven't gotten transportation yet . . . he has been able to build momentum so that people know now's the time to solve these transportation issues."

Other transportation advocates were less charitable. "Ultimately, it's the responsibility of the governor and those we elect to provide the funding we need for things like education and transportation. That's what we elect people to do," said Bob Chase, executive director of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance.

"The fact that the referendum didn't succeed didn't mean there wasn't still a problem — it didn't cause the problem to go away. A lot of people felt Mark could have done more."

37-year-old woman was dragged from a bus stop at West Glebe Road and Executive Avenue. Her screams awoke neighbors, one of whom testified that he saw a man beat and choke the woman as she lay on the ground.

Advocates for increased DNA testing said both Virginia cases prove the power of scientific advances and the limitations of eyewitness evidence.

"In all likelihood, we are talking about thousands of innocent people languishing in prison," said Peter J. Neufeld, co-director of the New York-based Innocence Project. "There's a whole significant number of completely innocent inmates who have simply given up."

Neufeld said his organization is pushing states to implement changes in how lineups are conducted and how photos are arranged in front of a witness.

Warner's testing order stems from the accidental discovery in 2001 of a treasure-trove of evidence, including some aging biological samples, stapled to the yellowing case files of a former analyst in Virginia's state-run forensics laboratory. It is not clear why the analyst, who is dead, meticulously preserved the evidence in the days before DNA tests existed.

In Richmond, a scientist at the state Department of Forensic Science has begun working through the first 15 boxes, each containing about 250 case files from the early 1970s, said Paul B. Ferrara, the department director.

Over the holidays, graduate students from Virginia Commonwealth University will help sort through the files to determine which ones are appropriate for biological testing.

In cases where samples are too degraded to test, authorities eventually will search courthouses to see whether evidence from a trial has been preserved. In most older cases, evidence was destroyed after a defendant's appeals were exhausted, but not always, Ferrara said. He said the goal would be to try to come to some conclusion on all the cases.

Officials expect that DNA from about 300 cases eventually will be tested. Police investigators also will examine court files and even trial transcripts.

"I think it's clear there are going to be more exonerations," Ferrara said.

*Stockwell reported from Alexandria. Staff writer Maria Glod contributed to this report.*