

## Richmond Notes

### Battling on behalf of good legislation



**Del. Margi Vanderhye**

Most of the General Assembly's consideration of proposed legislation takes place in committee and subcommittee meetings. The House of Delegates has 14 such committees. Typically, a bill is presented to a committee by its sponsor and often includes testimony by supporters and opponents before an action is taken regarding the proposal. Bills are often amended as a result of committee hearings before being "reported out" or

rejected.

As a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources, I have heard testimony and voted on more than 100 bills that were referred to the committee. Around 60 of these were reported to the floor of the House of Delegates or were sent to other committees for additional review. The bills dealt with environmental protection, energy conservation, park management, land use and development, animal welfare, Chesapeake Bay clean-up and a variety of other issues.

This past week, a complex and controversial proposal that received considerable attention was resolved by extensive negotiation and compromise — and a lot of hard work! The original bill would have stripped citizen environmental boards of their authority to issue or deny permits on projects that could affect air or water quality

## From the heart



Times Staff Photo/Shamus Ian Fatzinger

From left, New Dominion Women's Club member Alice Johnston smiles as Caroline Galbreath, 8, hugs Tracy Abbot after delivering her a handmade Valentine Monday, Feb. 11. The New Dominion Women's Club held its annual Valentine's Day craft party at Immanuel Presbyterian Church for residents of Langley Residential Center, a facility for adults with intellectual disabilities.