

# Lower Level Offers Multi-generational Solution

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PHOTO BY BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Tina Park and daughter Abby tackle a board game in the "play zone" designed for the children's toys at their McLean home.

## Wolf to Retire After 34 Years in Congress

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## 2013: Banner Year in McLean and Great Falls

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**U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf greets village residents on a visit to South Sudan in February 2012.**



**U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf speaks at the Herndon Police Department about gang violence in 2007. Wolf led efforts to secure funds for the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force created in 2003.**

## Wolf to Retire After 34 Years in Congress

**Supervisor John Foust running for Democratic nomination, Republican nominee still up in the air.**

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter 34 years of representing constituents in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) announced Dec. 17 that he would not seek reelection to the House of Representatives seat he has occupied for 17 terms. Wolf expressed his appreciation toward his family, staff and all of his constituents who supported his efforts in office.

"It has been an honor to serve the people of Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley," said Wolf in a statement issued by his office. "I thank my constituents for giving me the privilege of representing them in Congress for 34 years."

Wolf, 74, has established himself in his congressional tenure as an advocate for religious freedom, repeatedly drawing attention to helping oppressed minorities around the world. First elected in 1980, Wolf worked to combat genocide in Darfur and advocated for increased security and protection of human rights for victimized groups in Sudan. Most recently, in September 2013, the House passed a bill co-sponsored by Wolf and U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) aimed to create a State Department envoy charged with protecting religious minorities in South Central Asia and the Middle East.

**LOCALLY, WOLF** was instrumental in bringing the Silver Line currently being built to Northern Virginia, and begun working to secure federal funding for the rail project as early as 1999. He also prioritized improving major roadways such as I-66 and Rt. 50

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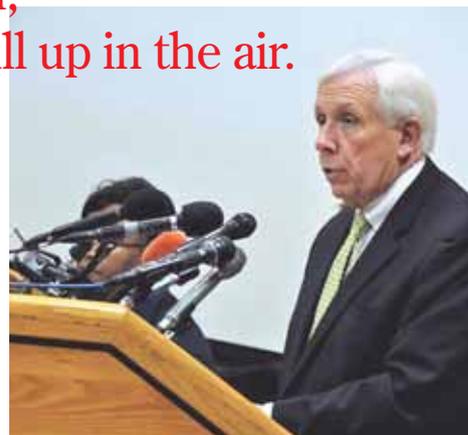


PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH

**U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) speaks at a forum on human trafficking at the McLean Community Center Friday, May 3, 2013.**

to ease traveling for Northern Virginia's commuters.

Though his final term as representative for Virginia's 10th Congressional District will end in November, Wolf plans to continue with human rights advocacy through his Christian faith. "I plan to focus my future work on human rights and religious freedom — both domestic and international — as well as matters of the culture and the American family," Wolf said in his official statement.

On Dec. 10, one week prior to Wolf's announcement, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) announced that he would seek the Democratic nomination for the 10th district representative seat in 2014. Foust is currently a supervisor for the Dranesville district, which encompasses McLean, Great Falls, Herndon and portions of Vienna, and has served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since he was elected 2007.

Foust cites the current Congress's dysfunction and the 16-day shutdown of the federal government in October 2013 as some

### WOLF'S TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

- ❖ When the need for mass transit to Dulles airport became clear, Congressman Wolf secured federal funding for the Commonwealth to move ahead. Phase 1, from East Falls Church through Tysons Corner to Wiehle Avenue in Reston, is expected to be operational in 2014. Congressman Wolf also was a key player in the construction of the original Metrorail system.
- ❖ When it became clear an additional westbound lane on I-66 inside the Beltway was needed, Congressman Wolf led the effort to convince the Commonwealth and surrounding localities to move forward with the project. The first of three spot improvements opened in December. He also pushed for the now completed feasibility study for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in the I-66 corridor. BRT is essentially a rail car on wheels that uses dedicated lanes, platform loading and enhanced fare collection.
- ❖ When HOV-4 didn't work on I-66 inside the Beltway, Congressman Wolf helped change the rule to HOV-3. When HOV-3 wasn't working, he helped change the rule to HOV-2.
- ❖ When funding was needed to jump start improvements to the I-66 / Route 29 interchange in Gainesville, Congressman Wolf worked with former Congressman Tom Davis to secure more than \$30 million in federal funding. Work on the interchange is ongoing.
- ❖ When morning traffic delays on the George Washington Parkway at Spout Run were part of the daily routine, Congressman Wolf worked to get a dedicated lane built to improve traffic flow and ease congestion.
- ❖ When traffic bottlenecks on the Teddy Roosevelt Bridge created gridlock into and out of the nation's capital, Congressman Wolf convinced the District of Columbia to install a reversible lane on the bridge.

key reasons he will run for office in 2014. "My job is to work with everyone, respect all opinions, hold public meetings and generally try to find a consensus that works in the best interest of the community, and I think that's missing in Congress," said Foust in an interview. Foust pointed to the board's approvals of major building projects such as renovations to the Spring Hill recreation center and the recently completed Wolf Trap fire station in McLean, as evidence of his ability to work across party lines. He also noted the board's success in moving Fairfax County through the 2008 fiscal crisis as a key accomplishment of his time in office.

Additional candidates for the Democratic nomination include Fairfax attorney Richard Bolger and Leesburg architect Sam Kubba.

Wolf has faced little formidable opposition from Democratic candidates in past years, and since 2008 has won each election by at least 58 percent. There is speculation about potential Republican candidates who will seek the Republican nomination for Wolf's seat, including state delegates Tim Hugo and Barbara Comstock. The Republican Party of Virginia was contacted for comment, but did not respond by deadline. It remains to be seen whether the party will nominate its candidate for the

House seat through a convention attended by Virginia Republican Party members or through a primary in which individual candidates will campaign for the nomination.

**WORDS OF PRAISE** and appreciation poured out from Virginia officeholders in the days following Wolf's announcement. U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), who served alongside Wolf for 23 years in Congress, and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), both expressed gratitude for Wolf's many years spent representing constituents in Northern Virginia, according to statements released by their offices.

"His career in Congress is a testament to what leaders can achieve when they put partisanship aside and find common ground on the issues that matter to the people they serve," said governor elect Terry McAuliffe in an issued statement.

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) worked as a senior aide for Wolf's congressional staff from 1991-1995, and commended Wolf as a person of high integrity and great character. "I look forward to the many contributions that I know Frank Wolf will continue to make to the causes of religious freedom and human rights and I look forward to working with him on those issues for years to come."

# 2013: Banner Year in McLean and Great Falls

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The total number of home sales in McLean and Great Falls is up in 2013 over 2012. Further every market segment is up year over year except for that in the under \$750,000 category. The reason I believe that this segment fell short in terms of number of sales is due to lack of supply. Current inventory level is less than one month for homes to purchase for under \$750,000 in McLean/Great Falls, which includes condos. Economists and other experts that analyze the real estate market typically consider a balanced market to be a 6-month supply, thus the current lower price market in McLean and Great Falls is in a seller's market cycle. This is in line with market conditions experienced throughout 2013.

The move-up market segment of McLean and Great Falls is the \$750,000 to \$1.25 million. Year over year there was a 16.6 percent increase in number of homes sold in this market. The reason for this I believe is that many buyers who might have tried to purchase in the under \$750,000 segment moved up their purchase criteria in order to be able to buy a home. This



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

is a strong indicator that the market has recovered and that we could possibly experience price appreciation for some areas going forward. Currently there exists about 1.5 month supply of properties available to purchase. With supply running at generally one-quarter of last year's demand, in many cases good homes priced correctly for the market will sell quickly for a strong price and terms.

The largest gain in number of sales year over year was found in the upper bracket market segment of properties that sold for greater than \$1.25 million, with a total of 18.6 percent increase. The reason for this is along the same lines as that mentioned above. The distinction though is that in the upper brackets there is currently an over 7 month supply of inventory, more in each category relative to supply as the price of the home increases. There are obviously less potential buyers for homes over \$1.25 million, so in some segments of the upper brackets the conditions are border line balanced to buyer's market.

The peak of the real estate market in Northern Virginia was in 2005-2006. The market usually follows a 7-year cycle from peak to peak. My ongoing prediction that values would return to market peak for this area in some segments beginning in 2012 was right on track. The good news is that 2013 confirmed that trend. Thus 2013 proved to be a banner year for the McLean and Great Falls real estate market.

My prediction for 2014 is that good houses priced correctly for the market and in good condition will sell for strong prices and terms. As long as supply and demand stay at current levels and not exceed balanced market conditions, 2014 too should prove to be a very good year for real estate in McLean and Great Falls.

*Karen Briscoe is Principal of the HBC Realty Group-Keller Williams. Contact her at: www.HBCRealtyGroup.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCRealtyGroup.com.*



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Congressman Wolf accepting the 2013 Character Does Count Award from PRWC President Andrea DelVecchio**

## Wolf Receives Character Does Count Award

U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf (R-10) was honored by the Patriot Republican Women's Club at their annual Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, Dec. 14 at Assaggi Osteria in McLean. The Character Does Count Award is given annually to an outstanding leader who demonstrates ongoing adherence to the highest moral and spiritual ideals in personal as well as public behavior. Rep. Wolf's long and distinguished career in Congress,

his outstanding record of promoting human rights around the world, and his expertise in protecting Americans both here and in U.S. foreign operations makes him the ideal recipient of this award. Wolf's strong leadership continues as he works diligently to convince Congress to investigate the security and intelligence failures that lead up to the attack and death of American citizens in Benghazi.



**Patriot RW Club members congratulating Congressman Frank Wolf at Award Luncheon.**

## McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales

### ALL 2012 COMPARED TO ALL 2013

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$750k~ \$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
<b>ALL 2012</b>					
22101	10	20	105	150	167
22102	7	16	38	91	181
22066	6	10	46	95	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>393</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>258</b>				<b>729</b>
<b>ALL SALES ALL 2012: 987</b>					
<b>ALL 2013</b>					
22101	11	27	105	206	93
22102	7	21	50	65	177
22066	8	11	66	121	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>304</b>
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>241</b>				<b>553</b>
<b>ALL SALES ALL 2013: 1,002</b>					

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 8

Vienna Photographic Society Meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Oakton Elementary School, 3000 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. Corey Hilz will speak at this meeting. He is a professional photographer specializing in nature and travel photography. He finds that the diversity in nature and cultures around the world offer boundless opportunities for new images. [www.vpsva.org](http://www.vpsva.org)

### SUNDAY/JAN. 12

Introduction to Healing Touch - Get and Give a Healing! 2-4 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd,

Oakton. A gentle, complementary energy-based approach to health and healing. The goal is to restore harmony and balance to the human energy system through a heart-centered caring relationship and the use of contact/non-contact touch. This can greatly assist the body and mind in its natural ability to heal. <http://www.unityoffairfax.org/introduction-healing-touch-1>

### TUESDAY/JAN. 14

NARFE(National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees)°Chapter 1116 Meeting. 1:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. The guest

speaker is Virginia Imglese, Founder, Therapist, Total Health Concepts, Vienna, VA Senior wellness. Start out the new year with some good advice about proper Nutrition for healthy living. Free. 703-938-9757.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 16

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the chapter meeting at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna, at 7:30 p.m. Robert Tecklenburg, Vietnam veteran, will discuss his new book, "The Boys Next Door: A Marine Returns to Vietnam,"

on his Vietnam War experience, his return to Vietnam after the war, and Vietnam War history. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

Great Falls Writer's Group. 1:30 p.m. Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come to discuss the joys and challenges of writing. Writers will share their work. All skills levels are welcome. No registration needed; no charge.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 23

Great Falls Writer's Group. 1:30 p.m. Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come

to discuss the joys and challenges of writing. Writers will share their work. All skills levels are welcome. No registration needed; no charge.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 24

Messages of Hope. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This documentary is based on medium and spiritual author Suzanne Giesemann's true story that has captivated audiences; participants can ask questions about the afterlife, hear the rest of the story, and get books signed following the discussion. \$10. [www.unityoffairfax.org](http://www.unityoffairfax.org) or 703-281-1767.

# NEWS

## Comstock to Chair House Science And Technology Committee

Delegate Barbara Comstock (R-34) was named Chairwoman of the House Science and Technology Committee by Speaker Bill Howell (R-28).

Howell said, "Barbara Comstock is one of the brightest and most energetic lawmakers in the General Assembly. She has worked tirelessly on issues important to Northern Virginia and the entire Commonwealth. For years she has been a leader on issues related to economic development and technology. This experience and knowledge will make her a great Chairwoman."

Bobbie Kilberg, President and CEO of the Northern Virginia Technology Council said, "We applaud the selection of Delegate Barbara Comstock as chair of the House Science and Technology Committee. Barbara has distinguished herself in the General Assembly as a strong champion for important technology business policies and investments. As committee chair, we know she will have a big impact in ensuring Virginia remains a top destination for technology and innovation."

"I appreciate the privilege of chairing this committee which focuses on our Science and Technology community which is so vital for growing the innovative jobs of the 21st century. I look forward to continuing my work with the talented technology community throughout the Commonwealth to advance, strengthen and diversify Virginia's technology economy," Comstock said.

Del. Comstock was first elected in 2009 and rep-



FILE PHOTO

**Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34)**

resents parts of McLean, Great Falls, Vienna and Loudoun County in the Virginia House of Delegates and also currently serves on the House Commerce and Labor and Transportation Committees.



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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Students and faculty from the Brooksfield School in McLean visit a local pumpkin patch. Brooksfield just celebrated its 25th year.

## Brooksfield School Celebrates 25 Years

School brings Montessori education with emphasis on 'mindfulness.'

More than 25 years ago, Mary Anne Duffus was almost at the end of her rope. She was chasing her dream of opening her own Montessori school, but after searching at multiple local churches for space, she couldn't find one that would work.

"I had the dream to start a school for a long time, but after five years of looking for a place that had the facilities I needed, the last church I came to was St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, and I told myself if it's not going to work here, it's time to let go of my dream," she said.

But when Duffus started exploring the five acres of St. Dunstan's, it became clear that the place was special.

"I was told there used to be a school, and they were looking to bring in another one," she said. "As I walked around the land, I saw all the nature, I knew it would be a good location for what I wanted to do."

**BROOKSFIELD SCHOOL** opened its doors in 1987, and just completed its 25th year. The first class at Brooksfield was five children, now there are 90 students enrolled.

Duffus describes the curriculum as a balance of Montessori and arts education, and they also have an extended day program, summer camp and outdoor adventures program that includes camping, kayaking, canoeing trips, as well as outdoor classroom experiences in fields such as orienteering.

"We like to keep movement going throughout the day. The students aren't tied down to a desk," said Wendie Marsh, the



Members of the Brooksfield School in McLean celebrate Halloween.

school's director. "And through the years, we've been able to supplement the Montessori curriculum with new programs."

One of the main concepts Duffus has tried to bring into the school in recent years is "mindfulness," which incorporates stress reducing techniques such as meditation.

"We've seen the impact that its had even with children at a young age. There's a technique we learned that involved tracing your fingers while breathing in and out. One student said he used it to calm himself down before getting a shot at the doctor's office," she said. "It did not take them long to understand it or to start incorporating them into their lives."

They even moved onto parents, hosting a meditation event for them last year.

"We started a green school program a few years ago, and it has really become part of our identity," she said. "We worked with a

SEE BROOKFIELD, PAGE 9

# OBITUARY

## Always Putting Kids First

McLean basketball community mourns the loss of John Micocci.

By BRIAN McNICOLL

Both the first time and last time I saw John Micocci, I was reffing house league basketball in McLean.

The first time was in 2002. I was a new ref, which is to say a ref who has not learned the limits or extent of the “power” of the position. John was the age-group coordinator for the high school girls’ house league in McLean.

The teams kept calling timeouts. John kept telling them the timeouts were over, and it was time to resume. He knew high school girls could become chatty for extended periods of time if left to their own devices, and besides, he had cupcakes to



John Micocci

FAMILY PHOTO

share when the games ended.

But it’s the ref’s job to say when timeouts end, I told him. “I’m trying to help you,” he responded. I learned a valuable lesson from that moment – when John Micocci wants to help you, which was almost all the time, just let him.

The last time I saw him was Saturday, Dec. 14. I was reffing a boys’ B league game, and

SEE OBITUARY, PAGE 19

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# OPINION

## Broken Promises

Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services.

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

**L**ast month the disAbility Law Center (dLCV) issued a report on the condition of mental health services in Virginia. It is an eye-opening report: Broken Promises, the Failure of Mental Health Services in Virginia. Its findings are direct: "Despite the promises of reform to the mental health service system in the last decade, Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services."

According to dLCV, there are more than 40,000 Virginians living with serious mental illness and thousands more with less serious emotional disorders that require treatment including an estimated 130,658 children between the ages of nine and eighteen who need treatment. The dLCV which

advocates for all people with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect, and discrimination considers the problem in part to be a misallocation of resources. As its report points out, on any given month about ten percent of residents of state hospitals continue to be hospitalized even though their treating professionals have found that they no longer need to be hospitalized. Thirty-one of the 133 individuals in such hospital placements in November, 2013, had been waiting for discharge for more than a year. The problem is that there are inadequate or non-existent facilities or programs in the community to continue services to these persons. At the same time, there were an estimated 26,990 inmates confined in local and regional jails of whom nearly



25 percent were known or suspected to be mentally ill. More than 3,500 persons in jails were diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

The dLCV maintains that funding is misdirected towards unnecessary hospitalization when funding is needed desperately for community-based crisis response services and housing options for people with mental health needs. Their position is not without controversy. Others maintain that both more hospital spaces and more community-based facilities are needed.

The tragic event surrounding the family of Senator Creigh Deeds has brought the need to the public's attention.

Outgoing Governor Bob McDonnell has proposed a more than \$50 million increase in the

budget for mental health services and has established a commission to develop a plan for mental health services in the Commonwealth. There is bipartisan support to address the issue in terms of additional funding as well as to amend existing statutes to permit persons who are a danger to themselves and to others to be held for a longer period of time until appropriate treatment is available to them.

We are past the time when we should have met the promises for reform to persons with mental health problems and their families. The 2014 session of the General Assembly must respond. You can view my interview with Colleen Miller, Executive Director of disAbility Law Center of Virginia and another interview with George Braunstein, Director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, both on the topic of mental health reform at <http://vimeo.com/album/1650266>.

## SHARE Celebrates Holiday

**S**HARE, Inc., local community relief organization, hosted its annual Holiday Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the McLean Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

More than 150 Share client families, supported by about 50 Share volunteers, participated in this festive celebration. Clients snacked on homemade baked goods and sandwiches served by Share staff while listening to live holiday music by Bob Rosenberg. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus made their appearance again this year, providing photo opportunities for children and their families as they posed with the white-bearded spirit of Christmas. Smiling, happy faces of youngsters and adults alike confirmed everyone enjoyed the festivities and warm fellowship of the season with friends, family and volunteers.

Share clients who registered for this event during October completed a "Wish List" of an item that they needed and would enhance their celebrations of holiday season.

Share clients who registered for this event during October completed a "Wish List" of an item that they needed and would enhance their celebrations of holiday season.



More than 150 Share client families, supported by about 50 Share volunteers, participated in the festive celebration.

Donors from the local community fulfilled one wish for each person and each family received a grocery gift card.

Each family also had the opportunity to select one gift from an assortment of brand-new linens and hand-knitted blankets, small household appliances, holiday décor items, clothing and accessories and some toys. Babies and toddlers received diapers, wipes and a pair of pajamas, and every child under the age of 10 received a

Santa toy. Clients were also provided a reusable grocery bag with a jug of laundry detergent and personal care items.

By the end of December, SHARE provided gifts and grocery cards to over 220 client families. Every gift, gift card and item given to the community's neighbors in need is donated to SHARE by the people from the McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills area. It is their generosity that makes this holiday relief possible.

### LETTERS

## Grateful to the Community

To the Editor:

To the McLean, Vienna and Great Falls communities: The Woman's Club of McLean would like to express its gratitude for supporting the club's 47th annual Holiday Homes Tour and MarketPlace. Preliminary estimates show that the two events successfully met our goals of providing essential support to local charities and nonprofits. The proceeds will be especially meaningful in this time of general need, which is felt most strongly in the holiday season.

Thank you again for your generous support. Best wishes to all for the holidays and a fulfilling new year.

Mildred Thompson, President  
Woman's Club of McLean

## What an Inspiration!

To the Editor:

I just finished reading the McLean Connection, Children's Connection 2013.

I am so impressed by the children, what an inspiration they are!

Thank you and the children for this special gift.

Doris Pennington  
McLean

## McLean CONNECTION

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# Brooksfield at 25

FROM PAGE 6

green living consultant and did everything from using more earth-friendly cleaning products to looking at the food we were serving. We ended up changing vendors to one that brings in only local, organic, in-season produce.”

Nutrition studies have been a part of the school’s dedication to personal health, as well as the health of the world around them.

A few years ago they hosted a “Green Day,” where local farmers, restaurant owners and politicians spoke about organic farming, energy saving and green buildings with students and parents. Nutrition lessons, including how to read food labels, has also been part of the initiative. “We had one of our first graders at Whole Foods with her dad, and they were going to pick up some Vitaminwater, and she said ‘we have to read the label first,’” Duffus said. “And the label said that the bottle had 24 grams of sugar per serving, which the student knew was no good, so they got bottled water instead.” Duffus credits her faculty and staff with helping the school evolve into what it is today. “We have a gifted, fabulous staff of teachers that are involved with education on many levels,” Duffus said. “We’ve got someone who’s been here for 23 years, one for 20 and most everyone else has been here 10 years or more.”

IN THE CLASSROOM, the students are free to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**A student at the Brooksfield School in McLean works on one of their garden plots.**

work in the Montessori style of structured freedom. They have tasks to complete, but go about it in their own way.

One of the hallmarks of a Montessori classroom is the mix of ages. Students from ages 3 to 6 go to the lower school, while students ages 6 to 10 attend the upper school.

“When you have students in first, second and third grade together, naturally the older students are going to work on more advanced subjects, but many times the younger students are inspired by the older ones to take on that subject,” said Sara Krawchuk, the school’s admissions director.

“We have a first-grader who wouldn’t otherwise be studying division of fractions, but she’s gotten into because she see the older kids working on it, and she’s learning quickly.”

Duffus says her goal is to make sure Brooksfield is around for at least another 25 years, and they always have their eye on expansion possibilities should they arise. Looking back, there is one event that sticks out in her mind every year: the school’s graduation.

“Each year at graduation I sit and see graduates who are ready to leave, surrounded by teachers and their parents, people who have worked hard to get the students where they are” she said. “I know they’re ready, and I know we’ve put them in the best position to succeed out in the world. I get teary-eyed every single year.”

— ALEX McVEIGH

## ATTENTION All Boys Ages 5-14

### Have you ever wanted to try the fastest game on two feet?

Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the U.S., and the Great Falls Lacrosse Association is happy to announce two free beginner clinics for boys to try lacrosse at our home field – Nike 4.

*A few things that you need to know:*

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- Cost of the clinics: FREE.
- Dates: Sunday, January 12, 1-3 & Sunday, January 19, 12-2
- Location: Nike 4 Field, Utterback Store Rd., Great Falls, VA
- Please register at [www.greatfallslacrosse.com](http://www.greatfallslacrosse.com). Space/sticks are limited to 60 boys. Boys can attend both clinics. Please arrive at the field 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.
- We can only accommodate boys who fall under the Langley and McLean HS school pyramids.
- IMPORTANT – This clinic is for new players only.
- Weather Policy: Please check the Great Falls Lacrosse site to check for any scheduling changes.



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BY MICHAEL BAILEY/COURTESY OF AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER

Desdemona and Othello: Stephanie Holladay Earl as Desdemona and Fernando Lamberty as Othello.

# Shakespeare Comes to Alden

American Shakespeare Center performs a double-bill of the Bard celebrating his 450th birthday.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

## Where and When

In such a Shakespeare-rich area, “no one does it like the American Shakespeare Center...Shakespeare is so alive in their hands,” said Sarah N. Schallern, Performing Arts Director, the Alden at the McLean Community Center. “They have quite a fan base, and to be able to host them in our beautiful, intimate Alden Theatre is a joy and an honor.”

The Virginia-based American Shakespeare Center (ASC) will be performing two Shakespearean works on one Saturday; the comedy “The Merry Wives of Windsor” and the tragedy “Othello.”

Schallern indicated that there will also be a free “Brush Up on Your Shakespeare” several

nights before the ASC performances. At the “Brush Up” event Shakespeare experts from the Folger Library, the Shakespeare Theatre and others will discuss the history, performances practices and meanings of the Bard’s texts in an interactive format. “This is an event that has received great interest when we have done it previously,”

said Schallern.

“Touring has always been at the heart of what we do,” says ASC Artistic Director Jim Warren. “Part of our mission is to show how accessible, meaningful, and fun Shakespeare can be.” This is ASC’s 25th year touring.

The ASC traveling tour is called the “World’s Mine Oyster” tour. The phrase comes from a line in the “Merry Wives of Windsor”: “Why then, the world’s mine oyster, which I with sword will open.”

“We want to bring people the plays they know and those that they may be less familiar with or more rarely done,” said Glenn Schukel, ASC Tour Troupe Manager. He noted that ASC does performances in a unique manner; with the audience not sitting in the dark. “Shakespeare’s actors could see their audience; ASC actors can see you. When actors can see an audience, they can engage with an audience.”

“The Merry Wives of Windsor” is a comedy about jealousy, disguises, love and ridiculous situations. “Othello” is the well-known tale about an intense outsider who is doomed by his own jealousy. “O, beware, my lord, of jealousy; It is the green-eyed monster, which doth mock the meat it feeds on.”

“More than making Shakespeare accessible, we want to provide a strong sense of what his words mean, his intentions and objectives,” said Schukel. “Have a good time, don’t be scared of the language even if at first some words seem unknown. You will quickly be within the moment of the play.”



Rick Blunt as Iago and Fernando Lamberty as Othello.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday for the following week’s paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 10**  
**Atlantic Brass Quintet The Discovery Series.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Tickets: 35. [wolfrac.org](http://wolfrac.org).

**SUNDAY, JAN. 12**  
**The Gizmo Guys.** 2 p.m. The Alden in McLean, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A comedy-juggling duo entertaining all ages. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for McLean tax district residents. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

**SATURDAY/JAN. 11**  
**The Teas of Nepal.** 1-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Nepal produces some exquisite hand crafted, limited production teas: whites, greens, oolongs, as well as distinctive blacks. An opportunity to experience these gems, along with some tea infused treats, along with some tea infused treats. Advance reservations and payment (\$30 each) required through the Mill at 703-759-2771.

**THURSDAY/JAN. 16**  
**International Guitar Night.** 8 p.m. Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. THE INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT (IGN) is the world’s premier touring guitar festival, each show bringing together the most interesting and innovative acoustic guitarists to exchange musical ideas in a public concert setting. Tickets: \$25-27.

**FRIDAY/JAN. 17**  
**International Guitar Night.** 8 p.m. Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. THE INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT (IGN) is the world’s premier touring guitar festival, each show bringing together the most interesting and innovative acoustic guitarists to exchange musical ideas in a public concert setting. Tickets: \$25-27.

**SATURDAY/ JAN. 18**  
**Ballroom Dance.** 8-9 p.m. Quick-Step lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ music from

**The Gizmo Guys, a comedy-juggling duo, will perform at the Alden in McLean on Jan. 12.**



Craig Bukowski playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. \$15 for the evening. 703-759-2685 or [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

Tickets: \$10. <https://jamminjava.com/events/gustaferyellowgold>

**SUNDAY/JAN. 26**  
**McLean Chocolate Festival.** 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. McLean Community Center. Wide variety of chocolate vendors. Plenty of parking. Children’s game room with chocolate-themed games. Admission fee is \$2, with \$1 going toward the purchase of chocolate. Kids under 6 get in free. McLean Rotary uses proceeds to fund local charitable organizations. [www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org](http://www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org).

**SUNDAY/JAN. 19**  
**Breakfast Buffet.** 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. 330 Center Street, N., Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3. 703-938-1379.

**FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 24 & 25**  
**THIS.** 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. *THIS* is a bright, tart, and melancholy comedy that captures the uncertain steps of a circle of friends entering the choppy waters of middle age. <http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/>

**SATURDAY/JAN. 25**  
**Gustaferyellowgold’s Show. 10:30 a.m.** Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Groovy Gustaferyellowgold is a small, yellow, cone-headed fellow, who came to Earth from the Sun and has a knack for finding himself neck-deep in absurd situations as he explores his new life in the Minnesota woods. Equal parts pop rock concert and animated storybook, Gustaferyellowgold concerts are a truly different multimedia experience that entrances children and adults alike.



Visitors enjoy a chocolate fountain from Capitol Chocolate Fountains at the 2012 McLean Chocolate Festival. This year’s festival will be Sunday, Jan. 26 at McLean Community Center.

# FAMILY FUN BINGO

**Friday, Jan. 17  
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Churchill Road fourth grade teachers Greg Butler, Sally Donnelly, Nicholas Kilpatrick, Claire McHale, Steven Nicklas, David Ickowski, Michaela Antonio and Pat Brownley dress in colonial garb for their annual Colonial Day celebration.



Churchill Road fourth graders Adele Park, Alexandra Cannon and Michelle Du make potholders as part of their Colonial Day celebration.



Churchill Road fourth graders Tavian Jones and Matthew Xue practice calligraphy with quill pens, with the assistance of instructional assistant Greg Butler.

## Colonial Day at Churchill Road

On Friday, Dec. 6, Churchill Road fourth graders stepped back in time to the 19th century and participated in the school's annual Colonial Day. This immersion into the life styles and customs of the colonial days marked the culmina-

tion of the fourth graders' social studies unit on Colonial America. Organized by CRS fourth grade teachers Pat Brownley, Sally Donnelly, David Ickowski, Nicholas Kilpatrick, Claire McHale and Steven Nicklas, students, teachers and parents participated in a vari-

ety of period activities that included tin punching, calligraphy, candle-making, stenciling, dancing, corn husk doll making, games and more. The students particularly enjoyed dancing the Virginia Reel and making fresh biscuits with homemade butter.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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First-year Langley boys' basketball head coach Scott Newman talks to the Saxons during a game against McLean on Dec. 13.

## Former Langley Coach Hess Beats Saxons

### Langley boys' basketball goes 0-3 at holiday tournament.

BY ANDREW MINER  
FOR THE CONNECTION

The South County Stallions beat the Langley Saxons in day-two action of the Mount Vernon Holiday Basketball Tournament 59-52 in the consolation bracket play on Dec. 27.

Stallion coach Travis Hess wished South County played any other school than the one he formerly coached.

"It was the one team I didn't want to play" Hess said afterwards. "At least not so soon, after a tough loss the following night, it was easy to game plan but I still know most of the kids on that team as well as coach [Scott] Newman."

Newman, on the other hand, said, "[coach Hess and I] shared some funny texts back and forth and while we preferred not to play them it was just another game and we gave them all we had."

Hess, less than a year removed from being the head coach at Langley, squared off against first-year head coach Newman of the Saxons. Newman had been Hess' assistant at Langley for the last four years and there were still players on the Saxons who Hess had personally coached.

After the first quarter, the score was knotted at 12. Then the Stallions outscored the Saxons 17-7 in the second quarter.

#### SPORTS BRIEFS

### Heavily Depleted Langley Ice Hockey Team Falls to Oakton

The Langley Saxon Icers fell for the first time this season to Oakton in the late game on Jan. 3 at Skatequest.

Although Friday was part of Langley's holiday break and the

Saxons were missing all three goalies and several skaters, the league refused to reschedule the game. Oakton was able to dress their full squad and goalie.

Chris Lane stepped up to the challenge for Langley, donned the goalie gear and admirably stood between the pipes. Langley notched the first three goals of the game with tallies from Drew Schneider, Kal Fernlund and Michael Cox, but a late penalty in the period allowed Oakton to capi-

talize and they added two more to close the opening frame tied at 3.

Each team potted two goals in the second with Lane stopping 10 of the shots he faced in the period and Oakton's goalie stopping none. Langley's grinder players: Charlie Eisner, Hannah Hanuschak, Sam Leighton and Owen Westerheim saw significant ice time and were key to keeping Langley in the game as they skated into the third.

"We gave better effort today than yesterday," Newman said. "South County is a good team and we are still young."

In the second half, South County jumped all over the Saxons. The Stallions extended their lead to 16 by outscoring the Saxons 15-9 and led 44-28 entering the fourth quarter. Langley, however, scratched and clawed back into the game by doing what it does best: draining 3-pointers. They hit three that quarter and by using a diamond press were able to cut the Stallion lead to four with 1:25 remaining. South County then hit six of its next eight foul shots to cement the victory in the final 73 seconds.

Through snow days and a prolonged football season, Hess admitted, "it's on the coaching staff" and that "we haven't had enough practices" when asked how South County can better learn how to close games. Both tournament games the Stallions have let their opponents back into the game. They blew a nine-point fourth quarter lead before losing to Oakton the night before. Hess was excited to get back to practice, however, in order to "work on everything." Missed free throws, turnovers, and inexperience doomed the Saxons yet again against yet another lengthy, athletic team whose offense fed off the press. The Stallions took advantage, especially senior Nathaniel Barrigan who scored a career high 31 points. Senior Christopher Antwi had 11 points for South County.

Seniors Ross Callaghan, who had his wisdom teeth taken out earlier this week, and Austin Denham had 18 and 10 points respectively for the Saxons.

Langley finished the tournament with a 92-58 loss to Capital Christian on Dec. 28, dropping the Saxons' record to 2-7.

## Oakton Girls' Basketball Starts 11-0

The Oakton girls' basketball team went undefeated during the 2013 portion of its schedule, capped by winning the Cassel's Cougar Classic.

On Jan. 4, Oakton's winning ways carried into the New Year.

Oakton defeated Yorktown 85-41 to improve to 11-0. The Cougars have won each game by at least 13 points and defeated seven opponents by at least 39.

"The biggest key to our start has been the team mentality," Oakton head coach Fred Priester wrote in an email. "We have a great group of players and they have worked hard to improve their skills and they are committed to playing together— sharing the ball – and making any contribution that they can for the success of the team." Oakton's most experienced players are: junior guard Karlie Cronin ("[she] does everything on the floor and creates great energy and excitement," Priester wrote), senior guard Jazmine Carter ("[she] works her heart out on defense wherever she is asked to play"), junior guard Lindsey Abed ("[she] plays with great understanding") and sophomore guard Alex Marquis ("[she] is directing our offense and attacking the basket"). Freshman Alisha Sheppard "is providing offensive pop as she increases her understanding of the game."

During the Cougar Classic, Oakton defeated Stone Ridge

(Maryland) 79-26, Gar-Field 72-29 and Loudoun County 87-41.

"We played very well in the holiday tournament," Priester wrote. "... Conference play looms ahead with tighter games and greater competition so we must continue to work on execution in order to be successful. I know that our effort level will remain high. That is a given. These kids play hard."

Cronin, Marquis and Sheppard made the all-tournament team. Each is averaging double figures in scoring and Cronin leads the team in steals and assists. Abed is averaging 9.3 points per game.

Oakton had its streak of eight consecutive district championships snapped last year by Centreville. The Cougars finished district runner-up before losing to South Lakes in the region semifinals, falling one win shy of the state tournament. Oakton will open conference play on Jan. 10 at Westfield.

"Centreville is the defending champ of the Concorde and returns everyone and so [it] is definitely the favorite and Chantilly, Westfield and Robinson all have strong squads," Priester wrote. "We will need to continue to work hard in order to be successful in the second half of the season. I have confidence in our team's work ethic and effort – so I am hopeful that we can build on our strong start."

After giving up a goal to fall behind in the third period, Faisal Alsaif completed his hat trick to tie the game and Schneider scored his second to put Langley ahead where they remained until the 4-minute mark. The Saxons ran out of steam and allowed a flurry of late goals much to the joy of the Oakton Hecklers Gallery, who repeatedly chanted "Conor, Conor, Conor" to the amusement of the entire Langley squad. Apparently the heckler gallery mistakenly thought Conor Maddry was between the pipes even though he has been out with an injury all season. The Saxons will face Westfield/Heritage on Jan. 10 at Skatequest at 7:55 p.m.

### Langley, McLean Ice Hockey Skate to Six-All Tie.

The Langley Saxons remained

unbeaten with a 6-6 tie against rival McLean on Dec. 6.

Although the Saxons outshot McLean 25-15 and scored in the first 20 seconds, they were unable to hold onto a slim lead in the third.

McLean went ahead after two quick goals, but Langley knotted the game at 6 where it remained for the final 5 minutes of the tilt.

The game got physical early with big hits by assistant captain Will Clemson and Shane Clayton. Saxon captain Drew Schneider continued his strong performance with another hat-trick followed by two goals from Lafuria and a single from Guidi.

The first place Saxons kept their bench tight due to the closeness of the score, but Coach Little ensured ice time to all the skaters.

First year icers Hanuschak, Westerheim, Eisner and Leighton continued to show their mettle for the team.

# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## 2013 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean



**2** 1288 Ballantrae Farm Drive, McLean — \$9,300,000



**4** 1015 Basil Road, McLean — \$5,677,777



**5** 633 River Bend Road, Great Falls — \$5,634,180



**7** 626 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — \$5,175,000



**10** 8900 Gallant Green Drive, McLean — \$5,000,000



© Google Map data

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 634 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	10	8	1	MCLEAN	.....	\$9,500,000	Detached	6.52	22101	CHAIN BRIDGE	10/11/13
<b>2</b> 1288 BALLANTRAE FARM DR	12	10	3	MCLEAN	.....	\$9,300,000	Detached	6.27	22101	BALLANTRAE FARMS	03/05/13
<b>3</b> 576 INNSBRUCK AVE	6	7	2	GREAT FALLS	.....	\$7,400,000	Detached	5.00	22066	GUNNELLS RUN FARM	09/04/13
<b>4</b> 1015 BASIL RD	6	7	4	MCLEAN	.....	\$5,677,777	Detached	2.40	22101	EAGLECREST	05/30/13
<b>5</b> 633 RIVER BEND RD	7	7	3	GREAT FALLS	.....	\$5,634,180	Detached	5.00	22066	GREAT FALLS HEIGHTS	03/29/13
<b>6</b> 1001 DOGUE HILL LN	5	5	2	MCLEAN	.....	\$5,570,000	Detached	0.89	22101	LANE ON GEORGETOWN PIKE	09/12/13
<b>7</b> 626 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	5	7	3	MCLEAN	.....	\$5,175,000	Detached	1.00	22101	CHAIN BRIDGE	03/21/13
<b>8</b> 1036 AZIZA CT	5	5	3	GREAT FALLS	.....	\$5,115,693	Detached	0.84	22066	PUTNAM FARM ESTATES	01/04/13
<b>9</b> 710 BULLS NECK RD	6	6	1	MCLEAN	.....	\$5,000,000	Detached	5.00	22102	BULLS NECK HUNDRED	01/16/13
<b>10</b> 8900 GALLANT GREEN DR	6	6	3	MCLEAN	.....	\$5,000,000	Detached	4.13	22102	WOODSIDE ESTATES	10/07/13

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## Lower Level Offers Multi-generational Solution

Remodeling a dark basement gives family spaces for grandparents on extended visits and play room for everyone.

BY JOHN W. BYRD

Eric and Tina Park, both physicians, were already quite busy 10 years ago when they purchased a 3,400 square foot two-level neo-Colonial near McLean.

Among other responsibilities, Eric Park is medical director of a local hospital; Tina Park has a bustling private practice. On occasion professional duties could stretch into the wee hours.

But blessed events have a way of changing basic assumptions for the better. In 2007, the couple's first daughter was born; a second daughter followed four years later.

Suddenly, active lives became still more fulfilling... and even busier.

"Our plan all along was to create a family home," Tina Park said. "We saw the lower level eventually playing a part in our daily lives, but we were only using it for storage. It wasn't until my mother began regularly helping us with the girls that we started looking at the house more closely."

Kay, Tina Park's mother, still lives mostly in Alabama with Park's father, Kon, also a physician. But in



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

With its private entrance, kitchenette and table for four, the new lower level allows Tina Park's mother, Kay, to host bridge parties for friends independent of any other household activities.

### Details

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently opened a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit [www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com)

recent years the couple now in their mid-60s has been evaluating retirement options.

"Mom started coming for extended visits when our second daughter was born in 2009," Park said. "At first she would stay in the guest room, but gradually we all started looking at ways to increase available privacy."

It was in this phase that thoughts of a more accommodating family home turned again to the nearly 2,000-square-foot, unfinished lower level. Among other factors, the space boasts a ground-level course of windows and private rear entrance. Beyond these assets, however, the Parks considered the basement's suitability for mainstream living a little unclear.

"It's mostly below-grade," Park said. "We weren't sure about air circulation or possible moisture build up. Using the lower level occasionally is entirely different matter from setting up a master suite for your parents, so we had a lot of concerns."

It is at this point that Sun Design Remodeling enters the story.

"We had visited one of their remodeled homes, even attended a seminar," Park said. "The question for us was to what extent a room that is partly below-grade could satisfy the whole family's requirements."

Sun Design's interior designer Liz Lee said, "A basement conversion is challenging — especially when it's going to be mainstreamed with the rest of the house. In this case, we had to specify an appropriately-sized dehumidifier, and find a suitable location for a return air grill. Comfort and air quality are always critical to a successful lower level solution."

With several performance con-



The master bathroom is finished with espresso-colored maple wood cabinet facings, a floor-to-ceiling glass-facings linen closet and a vanity with granite surfaces. The spacious walk-in shower features a "rain" showerhead, a handheld sprayer and built-in cubbies.

cerns resolved, attention next turned to configuring the space.

For Kay, the top priority was a suite with all the features of independent living, including:

- ❖ A comfortable master bedroom suite with large closets.
- ❖ A dedicated master bath with textured finishes and a spacious walk-in shower.
- ❖ A fully functional kitchenette with a dining counter suitable for four.
- ❖ A private entrance.
- ❖ A dining alcove with a table for four where Kay could also host bridge games with friends.

**TO KEEP THE FAMILY** fit, the Parks envisioned a 195-square-foot gym with a treadmill ensconced behind a pair of frosted glass doors.

A family gathering area at the foot of the stairs would be subdivided by a counter and "built-ins" custom-designed for children's toys.

Nearby: a family entertainment zone equipped with flat screen TV,

surround sound and a karaoke machine.

Not coincidentally, all activity areas are just a few strides from the well-equipped kitchenette.

To gain uncluttered sightlines, Sun Design executed a few structural changes. The L-shaped stairway entrance was widened while preserving a necessary I-beam. Plumbing and ducting were re-routed.

"We didn't want the space to feel like a basement in any sense," Park said. "Fortunately, Liz Lee really understood our vision."

Describing the desired décor as "modern Asian contemporary," Park stressed simple lines, soft tones and visual continuum.

"My mother had very specific ideas that even included elements of Feng Shui," Park said. "She and Liz collaborated directly on most of the finish work details."

Along these lines, Kay's Korean-styled headboard faces southeast — towards a set of sliding Shoji screens that conceal closet space

SEE REMODELING, PAGE 17

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# Top Designs of 2013

**Local builders look back on their most impressive spaces.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

From outdoor patios with the comforts of indoor family rooms to a stark white bathroom replete with Carrara marble flooring, local designers said they've created some spectacular living spaces in 2013. Their personal favorites may be surprising, and include a lot of kitchens and bathrooms.

**GUY SEMMES**, of Hopkins & Porter Construction, Inc. in Potomac, named a whole house renovation that resulted in a clean, modern space as one of his company's top jobs. The remodel included a white kitchen with stainless steel appliances.

"It used to be a galley kitchen

and we added an 8-by-10-foot addition to make it larger," said Semmes. "The owner wanted to make things accessible with open shelves, rather than hiding them with cabinetry."

The master bathroom, also white, has Carrara marble tile floors, his and her sinks and a renovated claw foot tub that was reglazed and painted black.

"Everything [else] about the project is white," said Semmes. "That is an influence of the owner. She picked a lot of the tiles and fixtures."

The house also has a children's bathroom that features a playful, colored tile shower stall, a floating vanity and walk-in closet. "The architect, Kai Tong, has a modern flavor, which tied in well with the homeowner's style," said Semmes.

Semmes says remodeling a 1960s Bethesda home is also among his company's top projects for 2013. "The fireplace was in the living room and the kitchen was half the size it is now," he said. "We gutted the house. We opened up the wall going into the den and added a first floor powder room."

Maple cabinetry in a light, natural finish now hangs in the new kitchen. "There are also marble countertops in grey and tan with a little bit of color like red and green for interest," he said.

**MCLEAN-BASED** Joshua E. Baker, founder and cochairman of BOWA Builders, Inc. names two condominium projects as his company's best.

"As some of our clients are moving in closer to the city and sizing down, they're looking to bring with them the luxury and residential feel of their single family homes," said Baker. "Projects range from pull-and-replace kitchens to remodeled master suites to whole-unit renovations."

For example, the kitchen of an Arlington condominium includes a custom-designed range hood that was built on site, and a space in Chevy Chase, Md., features intricate woodwork. Baker says these rank among his company's chicest spaces.

"The [Chevy Chase] project really shows how a simple, boring condo hallway can be transformed



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING, INC.

**Bill Millholland, executive vice president of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. says this McLean kitchen renovation by Allie Mann and Steve Scholl of Case Design/Remodeling is one of his company's top 2013 projects. "The scale of the kitchen as well as its crisp, all-white, transitional look and high-end finishes make it a standout project."**

into a beautiful, customized gallery," said Baker. "Custom woodwork in the walls and built-ins ... in the hallways maximize space."

**KEN NIES**, owner and cofounder of Two Poor Teachers in Reston, says an Arlington bathroom remodel ranks as his company's top project. His crew installed, "floor-to-ceiling glass tile that went from dark to lighter, and incorporated 'wood tile' (tile that resembles

hardwood) for a rustic feel," Nies explained. "[The space] was modernized with LED lights. The shower is a steam unit that was enclosed with a frameless glass pivot door. A Jacuzzi tub and pendant lighting spruced it up even further."

**JOE STARKEY**, of Old Town Kitchen and Bath in Alexandria, also gives an Arlington space the top honor. "We had many projects throughout 2013, but the one that comes to mind was a kitchen on Washington Boulevard in Arlington," he said. "By expanding slightly into an adjacent area, we managed to turn a dated, awkward kitchen and miniature powder room into fully functional, comfortable, useable, family-friendly area."

Starkey said that the homeowners have children and trying to prepare meals had become difficult. "By completing the redesign, we were able to make a genuine improvement to someone's life," he said. "That makes for a memorable job."

**BILL MILLHOLLAND**, executive vice president of Case Design/Remodeling, with offices in Bethesda and Falls Church, said there are three projects that that he considers among his company's best work of 2013.

He gives a nod to a McLean renovation by Allie Mann and Steve Scholl: "This project involved the total renovation of a kitchen, including opening it to the family room and breakfast room, as well as creating a mudroom," he said. "The scale of the kitchen as well as its crisp, all-white, transitional look and high-end finishes make it a standout project."

Also noteworthy, said Millholland, is a Falls Church project by Jim Wrenn. The own

SEE DESIGNS, PAGE 17

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**BEFORE:** For nearly a decade, the Park's 2,000 square foot basement has mainly served as storage. Tina Park describes it as "dungeon-like," a perception reinforced by the narrow L-shaped access stairway.

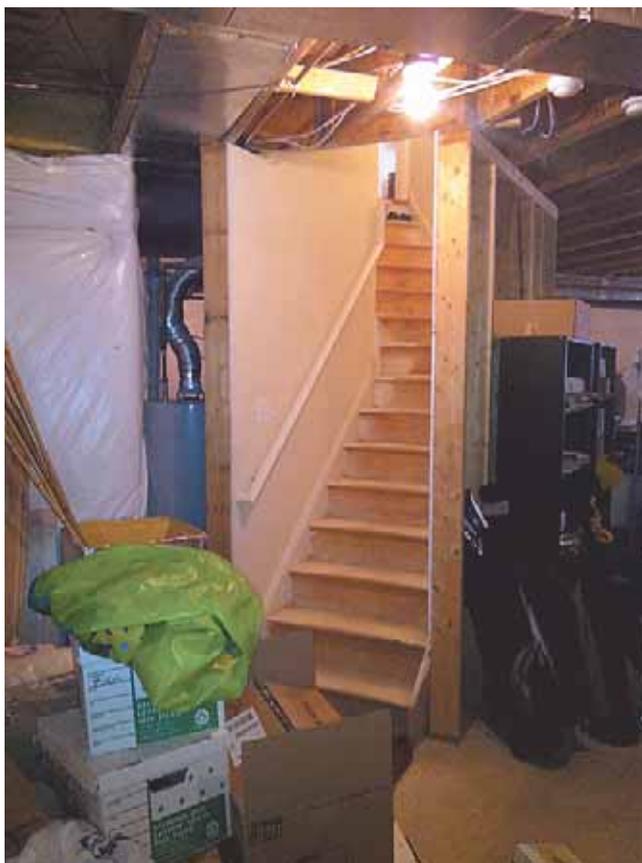


PHOTO BY  
BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

## Remodeling

FROM PAGE 15

and other personal effects. The master bathroom is finished in espresso-colored maple wood cabinet facings, a floor-to-ceiling glass-facing linen closet and a vanity with granite surface.

While the 150-square-foot kitchenette and dining counter provides everything needed for food preparation and clean-up, it blends with other elements in an open, yet cleverly-zoned great room.

Walnut cabinet facings, marble surfaces and a tile backsplash present a pleasing con-

trast to the eggshell white walls and random-width pine flooring. Ceiling level bulkheads and tapered columns define key activity zones.

Recessed lights and three dangling pendant lamps provide regulated illumination and appropriate aesthetic accents. To eliminate cooking aromas, the kitchenette is even equipped with concealed ventilation fans.

"It's really the nicest place in the house now," Park said. "And it satisfies so many different needs that it's become our main gathering place."

## Designs

FROM PAGE 16

ers wanted to improve their home's layout and add amenities such as a wine cellar. "This project involved several additions, including digging out a basement to add a wine room [with] a staircase up to a new exercise area, screened porch and patio," said Millholland. "The renovations also include a reoriented staircase leading from the family room to the upper level bedrooms, including a new master suite."

A condominium renovation by Valery Tessier that included both a kitchen remodel and a new master bathroom is also among the most impressive spaces completed by Case in 2013 says Millholland. "The contrast of the rich espresso cabinet stain with the cool palette of the countertop, backsplash and walls is very soothing, but gives an edge to this kitchen," said Tessier. "The galley layout with the peninsula offers multiple work areas and the open shelves lighten up the corner."

**BETH WALTERS**, spokeswoman for Sun Design, Inc., which has offices in Fairfax County, listed projects in Vienna, Great Falls

and Oak Hill as the company's best for 2013.

In Vienna, a construction project tied a home's indoor entertainment space with the outdoors. The new space includes a rear, screened porch with a pizza oven, lounge and dining areas. Tile flooring, recessed lighting, pendant lighting, a chandelier, a tray ceiling with handcrafted wood trim and an outdoor surround sound give this outdoor space the feel of a cozy family room.

In Oak Hill, a kitchen renovation created an open floor plan that allows the cook to move freely while guests relax at an expansive, triangular center island. The kitchen includes a coffered, wave accent tile featuring both Carrara mosaic tiling and black marble borders over the range, two full-sized refrigerators in the kitchen, one hidden behind cherry wood facing to match the cabinets.

A Great Falls master bathroom is another project of which Sun Design is proud, said Walters.

The new space, which includes his and her vanities, a large walk in shower and foot ledge for shaving, allows two people to use it simultaneously.

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# Living With My Decisions



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

On multiple occasions throughout my nearly five years of being treated for stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, my oncologist has given me opportunities to stop and/or take a break from my treatment, or to consider alternatives to the normal protocols – for the expressed (literally) purpose of sustaining/enhancing the unexpected, above-average quality of life I have mostly experienced during my nearly non-stop, every three-week chemotherapy infusions which began in early March, 2009. The goal being to enable me to enjoy my life and not be subjected to/beaten down by the ravaging and debilitating effects of chemotherapy.

As many of you probably know, chemotherapy is hardly a cure for what cancer ails you; in many cases, it is the last line of a faltering defense against the indefensible: a terminal prognosis. When your oncologist characterizes you as “terminal,” and gives you “13 months to two years” to live, the presumptions, the logic, the understanding is that whatever treatment you endure is not likely to save your life. Stage IV means inoperable, incurable (though “treatable”); words which are not used indiscriminately. They are used, as is the “stage,” to define a set of medical conditions that are extremely serious and based on the most current and best-known medical knowledge available at the time, and are not likely to result in a happy ending. As I’ve said previously, “being called ‘terminal’ is all it’s cracked up to be.”

In spite of everything – all the discouraging words, all the chemotherapy, all the varying lab work (good and bad) and miscellaneous results from CT Scans, MRIs and the occasional bone scan and X-Ray – I have managed to outlive the original prognosis offered by my oncologist. My body has held up to the rigors of chemotherapy (I’ve never been a candidate for radiation as my tumors are too numerous and too spread out for the targeting strategy to benefit me, if I understand the process clearly) amazingly well. Still, there are limits of effectiveness. Your body can only take so much before it begins to work against you.

Nevertheless, when offered a respite from treatment and given an opportunity to live life to the fullest and enjoy what time I have remaining – not hooked up to an I.V. – I have always opted to continue treatment. Regardless of the oncologist’s motivation in suggesting these breaks (though they are discussions we have together; it’s hardly unilateral, one way or the other), it’s always felt to me as if I were giving up and/or giving in. Diagnosis-to-date/treatment-to-date, it’s never appealed to me. In retrospect, I imagine I was being naive to think that my overall very manageable quality of life as a lung cancer patient/survivor would/will continue, so why stop now when the worst-case scenario seems to be have been/is a bit overstated? I don’t know if that’s hubris on my part, stupidity or wishful thinking (certainly that), but my feeling is that if I think I’m going to die, I probably will (sooner rather than later is what I mean). And not that this whole strategy of mine has been about trying to out-think cancer by being positive and optimistic; hardly. But I will admit this: given my current alive-and-reasonably-well status, I wouldn’t say it’s worked against me.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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# OBITUARY

## John Micocci, 59, Dies

FROM PAGE 7

John popped through the door, as he almost always did on house league game days in McLean. He checked on the refs. He discussed and addressed any problems. Most importantly, he shook their hands and said thanks for helping the kids. To every ref. Every weekend. Every season.

MCLEAN YOUTH BASKETBALL is a huge organization – more than 2,000 kids, more than 200 teams, hundreds of volunteers. John took it upon himself to make sure the refs knew someone in the organization personally knew, kept up with and cared about what they were doing.

That was John Micocci, who died Jan. 2, in his sleep at his home on North Rochester Street near the McLean-Arlington border. He was 59.

Among numerous other posts within McLean Youth Basketball and McLean Youth Athletics, John was chief commissioner of McLean's house basketball leagues. House leagues are for the regular Joes of kids' basketball. There are no outside trainers. There are no fancy uniforms. There are no tournaments in the big facility at Disney World.

There are just volunteer coaches, an hour and a half of practice a week and 10 games, plus a tournament that concludes with a pizza party and awards ceremony at McLean High.

That was John's world ... making sure the regular kids of McLean had a program that served their interests and the volunteers to make it successful.

He'd always had a knack for seeing the big picture – he was chosen from among dozens of U.S. Postal Service employees to move to Washington and join the government relations team, a position he held until he retired in 2011 – and soon he found himself volunteering to become an age-group coordinator.

After that, he was named chief commissioner of all house league basketball. He was uncommonly valuable in this position. He knew how to keep meetings on point and egos in check. Joel Stillman, longtime president of McLean Youth Athletics, the umbrella athletic organization in McLean, said John was indispensable in finally getting the Spring Hill Rec Center gym project under way.

Unlike the brash new ref he encountered back in 2002, he knew the limits and extent of the power of the organization. He knew how to help guide it to proper ends.

Once, I was tasked with doing a survey of coaches to see how the program could be improved.

One of my questions pertained to the quality of the gyms we use. I asked John to review the survey. "So, if it comes back that everyone hates our gyms, what will you do?" he asked. "Can you get them other

gyms? If not, that may not be a good question."

Much has been and will be made of the influence he had on his players and the thousands of other kids he helped. But, with John, it was more than an encouraging word after a tough loss.

**HE CHALLENGED** kids to take control of the program. No one knew better than them how to strengthen its strengths and weaken its weaknesses, he told them.

He got older kids involved as coaches, refs, score-keepers. He stretched their capabilities, which gave them confidence, which helped McLean Youth Basketball become the vital, dynamic organization it is today. More importantly, he made sure the adults kept the proper perspective.

"He loved it," said his daughter, Maria Micocci Pike, who got married last summer and now lives in Fairlington. "Just knowing he was serving the kids ... that was always his focus. He was always so protective of all the players and so against anyone being overbearing with them. If there is one thing people will remember about him it is that he always put the kids first."

There was a John Micocci less-known to the McLean basketball community. He was an Italian who loved to

cook, a sports fan who took Maria and his wife, Debbie, to hundreds of baseball games over the years.

Though he and Debbie had grown up as high school sweethearts in Nanticoke, Pa., he was an Orioles fan until "he jumped on the Nats bandwagon," Maria said. There was also a love/hate relationship with George Washington University basketball.

His family has asked that those who wish to honor John contribute to the John Micocci Scholarship Fund (checks payable to McLean Youth Basketball) at P.O. Box 7637, McLean, VA 22106.

But there will be no funeral for John Micocci. "He hated funerals. He hated funeral homes. He hated the whole thing," said Maria. But his many friends and admirers are invited to come by the house at 6465 North Rochester St., on Saturday from 12 to 6 p.m. Yes, that's a long visitation. But it's a game day in the McLean house league, and John would want everyone to have time to attend without having to miss their games.

His final visit to me came right at the end of a game in which one team staged a big comeback to win at the wire. "Who won?" he asked. "The red team," I said. "The one with the kids coaching?" "Yes." "Good," he said, a wry smile growing over his face. "I always love it when the kid coaches do well."

With that, he disappeared through the door, out into the cold, bound for another gym to say thank you to some other refs.

**"If there is one thing people will remember about him it is that he always put the kids first."**

— Daughter Maria Micocci Pike

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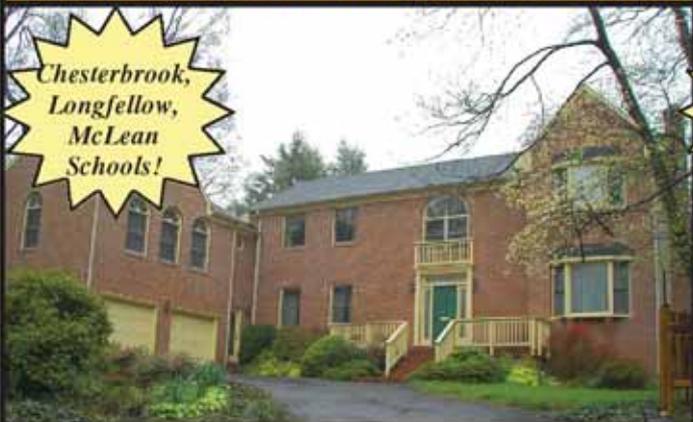
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