Babes in the Woods

Sonia Cupala, 3, looks at her mom, Yasmin, through her new binoculars at Walker Nature Center Earth Day program on Monday.

Cycling for Change

‘Chapter Two’ Opens at CenterStage

Online at www.connectionnewspapers.com
Herndon-Reston FISH to Hold Annual Fundraising Event

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicating to help families meet emergencies and short-term needs, will hold its 9th Annual Fish Fling Gala at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel on Saturday, April 26, from 6 to 11 p.m. This gala is FISH's largest fundraising event to acquire the financial support for its Family Assistance Program. In 2013 FISH worked with over 1300 area families.

The 2014 FISH Fling Gala includes a sit-down dinner, an auction with dozens of great items, and live music by The Franklin Project band. The event also honors volunteers and partners who contribute to FISH’s effort. Fling chair, Susan Sather says, “This annual FISH Fling Gala is an important event for us to recognize our supporters, as well as to obtain funds for our program.”

The reservation for one person to attend this cocktail attire event is $85. There are five different sponsorship levels for the FISH Fling, including Angel Fish ($5,000), Big Fish ($2,500), Gold Fish ($1,000), Sail Fish ($500), and Sun Fish ($250). For further information on the event and sponsorships, contact Fling@HerndonRestonFISH.

Symposium on Reston at 50

Reston at 50: Looking Back at Forward Thinking, a Symposium on Diversity, Planning, Preservation, and Scholarship will be held on Monday, April 28, 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Reston Community Center 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

Panel presentations include:

❖ Lindsey Bestebreurtje, doctoral candidate in the George Mason University Department of History and Art History, will address the context of Reston’s groundbreaking policies of integration and diversity.
❖ Dr. Harold Linton, Director of the School of Art at George Mason University, will provide a window into the development of the Reston Plan, and its seven principles of design, design/planning precedents, architecture, success, awards, and liabilities.
❖ William Jordan Patty, doctoral student in the George Mason University Department of History and Art History and Archivist/Librarian with George Mason University Libraries, will highlight the history of the Planned Community Archives, a research collection developed by the community in Reston and donated to the George Mason University Libraries.
❖ Dr. Zachary M. Schrag, Professor of U.S. History in the George Mason University Department of History and Art History, will introduce three students scholars selected to present their research on Reston history.
❖ Dr. Wendi Manuel-Scott, Director of George Mason University’s African and African-American Studies, will moderate.

This program is cosponsored by George Mason University Libraries and the Reston Museum and Historic Trust and is presented with the generous support of Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

For information about the symposium, contact 703-993-2221; speccoll@gmu.edu

Chamber to Sponsor a Free Movie Night

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce will host a free “Movie Night at the Chamber” to benefit the Washington West Film Festival on Thursday, May 1, from 6-9 p.m. They will screen the Tom Hank’s produced award-winning film “An Article of Hope,” directed by D.C. native Dan Cohen. Cohen will be in attendance for a Q&A following the film, along with Washington West Film Festival president, Brad Russell.

The screening will in the Chamber offices located at 1763 Fountain Drive, Reston, from 6-9 p.m. Refreshments and the requisite popcorn will be provided.

To RSVP for this event, contact Mark Ingrao at marki@restonchamber.org or call 703-707-9045 to reserve your seat. Contributions are appreciated.
Cycling for Change
More than 150 attend Ride to Provide in Reston Town Center.

By Reena Singh
The Connection

More than 150 people gave up their Saturday morning last week to cycle for a cause. The fifth annual Ride To Provide, an event to raise money for youth programs and healing military veterans, drew in cyclists throughout the greater D.C. metro area thanks to the balmy weather and a chance to ride with Washington Redskins football players.

Former Redskins player, Lorenzo Alexander, started the program as a way to combine his two passions: cycling and service. He and Kedric Golston hosted the event at Reston Town Center.

“How veterans laid their lives on the line for us, we end up in second, but the event organizers do,” he said. “They are great to have here and his hometown, Oakland, California,” said event organizer Priscilla Johnson.

Priscilla Johnson sign autographs for their fans.

“Even though Lorenzo left, he still comes back here and does it,” he said.

He echoed what Johnson said about the National Football League Pro-Bowler.

“Even though he’s in Arizona, he still does events here and his hometown, Oakland, California,” said event organizer Priscilla Johnson.

Lorenzo’s big into cycling. It’s one of his loves.”

Alexander said he chose Reston as a place to host the event year after year because of its location.

“I like this area,” he said. “It’s unique. It’s centrally located, too.”

George Foster, Ashburn, just returned from his ride in the early afternoon and was ready to have a free meal, hosted by Chipotle.

“It was good,” he said about his ride. “I had some problems with my bike, but I enjoyed it.”

Richard Greene came all the way from Bowie, Md. to participate in the event. He said he only found out about it recently but took on the challenge anyway.

“I’m training for the diabetes race,” he said, talking about another one of Alexander’s events. “I just found out about it yesterday.”

He said he thought he finished first in his route. He ended up in second, but the event organizers do not keep tabs on finishing times for Ride to Provide.

“This is my first real ride of the season,” he said. “I hadn’t ridden in eight years. I will definitely be back next year.”

From left, Sherrod Jefferson, Chantilly, and Michael Howard, Reston, have lunch after cycling 35 miles.

Babes in the Woods
Toddlers find adventure at Walker Nature Center Earth Day program.

By Reena Singh
The Connection

A group of toddlers took turns hugging a massive blow-up globe after listening to a book about animals and insects that can be found in the woods.

The children, excited and attentive, were at the Walker Nature Education Center’s Earth Day Explorers program on Monday to trek through the forest and learn more about the planet they live in.

The event was for the Babes in the Woods nature program, targeted for children ages 18 to 35 months.

“There’s no time too early to get started,” said naturalist Karen Rosenthal, Reston Association.

“And sometimes the out-of-the-box thinking really gets me.”

His personal philosophy is there is no word or idea too big to introduce to a child.

“Selfishly, from an environmentalist’s point of view, it’s a great way to have them appreciate the environment,” he said.

Rosenthal called the parents “big people” and had the children create binoculars with recycled toilet paper tubes, yarn and their imagination.

After decorating their crafts, the group listened to a story about common animals, like fish and salamanders, that the children were likely to see during their nature trail adventure.

Many of the parents had come to previous Babes in the Woods events, which happen two consecutive days in a row every month.

Kristen Phillip, Reston, brought her 2-year-old daughter Leah.

“I started coming with my older son,” she said. “I think the program is really great.”

Yasmin Cupala juggled two daughters, 3-year-old Sonia and 1-year-old Farrah. She drives from Vienna once a month just for the program.

“We’ve been coming since Sonia was 18 months,” she said. “Their nature programs are the best. It’s a great way for them to learn more about the environment.”

Next month’s program, Wonderful Wetlands, will take place from 10 to 11 a.m. on May 12 and 13 at Sunrise Valley Wetlands. Reservations are required by May 7.

For more information about events at the Walker Nature Education Center, call 703-476-9689, extension 5, or visit https://www.reston.org/ParksRecreationEvents/Nature/WalkerNatureCenter/WalkerNatureCenter/

By Reena Singh
The Connection

Twenty-one-month-old Hannah Fialcowitz decorates her recycled binoculars with the help of her mother, Katie Oakley. David Bour, 2, tackles the project on his own.
Margarita Benavides started Children’s Adaptive Team Sports a year ago.

CATS Puts Special Needs Kids First

Children’s Adaptive Team Sports reinforces and praises with soccer and trophies.

By Reena Singh
The Connection

Children with special needs can sometimes feel like they are not a part of a community. CATS - which stands for Children’s Adaptive Team Sports - helps these kids feel like real winners by putting them on their own basketball and soccer teams.

“We’ve had some parents who were emotional and said they thought they’d never see their son play on a soccer team,” said founder and CEO Margarita Benavides. “Eighty percent of parents said there were improvements on motor skills or attention.”

Benavides was an athlete for most of her life. She said her 26-year-old cousin, Camilo Adolfo Torres, has Sanfilippo Syndrome. He inspired her to pursue a job in special education and to create CATS - which is also his initials. The sports teams are cross-disability and for children ages 4 through 16, she said. Disabilities range from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, hearing impairment and Cerebral Palsy. Practice is a one—hour session that includes stretching and friendly scrimmages.

The organization started its first season a year ago and now is played in Reston, Chantilly, Woodbridge and Annandale. About 40 people signed up last year and the organization serves nearly 120 so far this year.

“A lot of our players are returning players,” said Benavides. “We also have a lot players who play in both leagues, soccer and basketball. They all love getting a trophy at the end of the year, and it’s reinforcing to shoot or kick the ball themselves.”

Jay Thompson, Alexandria, has signed up his 14-year-old son Cyrus for several seasons. He said Cyrus has hearing loss in both ears, pervasive developmental disorder and spastic Cerebral Palsy.

“Cyrus is a sociable kid already,” he said. “He loves the company of other people.”

Thompson said he has already seen improvements in his son because of the program.

“He seems to be a little more balanced and stable,” he said. “The little guy was already a little dynamo to begin with. It gives him a little more confidence.”

Elizabeth Zielinski loves that she gets to cheer her 8-year-old son, Evan, on as he scores a soccer goal just like a “normal” family, she said. Evan is autistic.

“I hesitate to use the word normal,” she said. “It’s one of those things that when you have a special needs child, you just don’t think it’s going to be an experience they’ll have.”

She said her son slept with his first soccer trophy and shows it to everyone he meets.

“Not only is he happy and getting the behavioral support he needs, but we’re also getting that classic experience,” she said.

For more information on registration and locations, visit http://www.cats-sports.com/.

MLK Cultural Foundation Dream Makers Gala raises money for students.

Fifteen northern Virginia students received scholarships to follow their dreams last week.

The Martin Luther King Cultural Foundation Dream Makers Award Gala drew in hundreds of people to raise money and hand out college scholarships on Thursday.

“It’s something like this that will make me go to work tomorrow and want to make the world a better place for our children,” said Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam during a speech. He - as well as civil rights attorney Bernie Cohen and gospel music singer Rev. Richard Smallwood - were honored with unique paintings for their actions concerning civil rights. This year’s master of ceremony was Rear Admiral Norman Hayes, who was introduced as the first African-American to obtain Admiral status in naval intelligence. His speech was a lesson for the students and the adults at the gala - to never stop learning.

“I guarantee that if you stay the same, you will always be falling behind,” he said.

This is the first year the scholarship reach expanded to Loudoun County, said events chairperson Mary Ann Hovis.

“A lot about getting the scholarship has to do with community service,” she said.

She noted the foundation was started in 1999 to allow the founders - who went to the MLK Church in Reston - to give more back to the community.

Each student received a total of $4,000 split over the course of two years. Included with the scholarship is the Project Reach mentoring program, which was established in 2012.

“It was awesome,” said Victoria Powell, Manassas Park, describing how she felt to get the award. “Out of 158 applicants, I was one of the people to get an award.”

She is going to Northern Virginia Community College next year in hopes to save her parents money before she transfers to Virginia Tech. “I want to go into the criminology field,” she said.

Austin B. Atkinson, Ashburn, also plans to go to Northern Virginia Community College with hopes to finish his degree at George Mason.

“I’m going to NOVA on a business management concentration, but I’m undecided,” he said.
Exciting Week at Lake Anne Elementary
Lake Anne Elementary had an exciting week as several employees from the Smithsonian Zoo Migration Bird Center came to the school to work with first and second graders. The ladies captured birds, held them, tagged them (while students watched) and then released them back into the wild. In addition, the students were taken down a trial and shown how to lift logs and leaves to locate possible food that the birds might eat off of (worms, snails, etc.).
OPINION

Past Time for Later Start Times

It’s possible that, finally, high school will begin the day a time healthier for teens. T

For many years Jane and I have used our spring break to visit locations throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. This year was no exception. We went to the southwestern region of the state. Although we drove about 225 miles to Roanoke from Reston, we were not yet in what the locals call Southwestern Virginia. In fact, only the Holston River and through the mountains and streams in this part of the state are unequalled, and the local people are wonderful to meet.

A visit to the Town of Abingdon is always recommended (http://visitingabingdonvirginia.com). Its historic streets in the center of town are lined with beautiful early Nineteenth Century homes. Its best known attraction is Barter Theatre with two stages offering bluegrass music. Check the schedule.

From Abingdon near the Tennessee border we headed almost due north with many, many twists and turns on 70 miles of winding mountains roads to Roanoke from Reston, we were not yet in what the locals call

Reston Connection  •  April 23-29, 2014

VICTORIA ROSS COUNTY REPORTER  •  703-502-6027

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Taxes, Taxes, Taxes

To the Editor:
The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has been wrestling with the question of how to meet their self-imposed demands for more services and how to raise revenue (read “taxes”) to support those demands. The first source is the real estate tax - the tax on our homes and businesses. The real estate tax is a function of the value of our property and a function of the rate of tax to be imposed based on the value of our property. Suffice to say, this is a game that is played every year - whatever you call it, about 15.5 percent more will have come out of our pockets over the past three years.

In Reston, we have a new demand for money for our own small Town of. Not learning from the Tysons experience, the new Reston Master Plan lays the groundwork for a Special Tax District to pay for the infrastructure features needed to support the new Metro Silver Line stations. For years, Fairfax County has placed this burden on the developers of the surrounding live, work, and play facilities to pay for these needs. What has changed? And why has the burden shifted to the small taxpayer?

Over the past year, new interest in building a North Reston Community Center with an improvement in Baron Cameron Park has surfaced. One of the options is a new $60M facility with a year-round 50-meter swimming pool, indoor tennis courts and meeting rooms. To fund this idea, we may well experience an increase in the RCC Small Tax District #5 rates. Not to be outdone, the Water Authority (or who ever controls the sewer charge) wants additional revenue.

What can we do to reduce these demands? First, we can delay the refurbishment of the Crescent Apartments by a year or two. These rent-controlled (affordable housing for the liberals) units can wait a couple of years for the refurbishment. We may even consider selling off a portion of our holdings. We can go back to the drawing board on paying for the Silver Line infrastructure and get more favorable proffers from the developers who stand to make a

Southwestern Virginia

By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

Southwestern Virginia’s equivalent of the W&OD. It is a 34-mile walking and biking trail that runs by the Holston River and through beautiful mountains. Jane and I took a fabulous 8-mile circular hike from nearby Damascus with half the distance on the Appalachian Trail and the remainder on the Virginia Creeper Trail (www.virginiacreepertrail.org).

To better understand the history and culture of the region a stop at Heartwood, the Southwest Virginia Artisan Gallery, in Abingdon is a must. (www.heartwoodvirma.org) While the exhibits are very informative and the creative works of the artisans are beautiful, the structure of Heartwood itself is a work of art and fine craftsmanship. Southwestern Virginia is filled with wonderful country and bluegrass music. Check the schedule at www.myswva.org for festivals and musical entertainment almost every weekend at some location on the Crooked Road, Virginia’s Heritage Music Trail. A visit to the Town of Abingdon is always recommended (http://visitingabingdonvirginia.com). Its historic streets in the center of town are lined with beautiful early Nineteenth Century homes. Its best known attraction is Barter Theatre with two stages offering bluegrass music. Check the schedule.

Two recent developments in Baron Cameron Park, which serves as the southwest equivalent of the state’s Herind Music Trail, are the opening of a new $60M facility with a year-round 50-meter swimming pool, indoor tennis courts and meeting rooms. To fund this idea, we may well experience an increase in the RCC Small Tax District #5 rates. Not to be outdone, the Water Authority (or whoever controls the sewer charge) wants additional revenue.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

T

teenagers are sleep deprived, and sleep deprivation takes a significant toll on safety, health and learning. We’ve known this for decades. But for decades, literally, Fairfax County Public Schools (and Montgomery County, Md.) have let a combination of reactionary blabber (“back up and get moving;” “just tell them to go to bed earlier”) and organizational resistance prevent implementing a solution to this very real problem.

Getting up at 5:30 or 6 a.m. to hop on a school bus at 5:45 a.m. or even as late as 6:30 a.m. to get to school by 7:20 a.m. is not healthy for teenagers. It is nearly impossible for teenagers to go to sleep before 11 p.m. or midnight.

Fairfax County high school students average six hours of sleep a night on weeknights. Research shows they need nine hours of sleep. Research has also quantified the costs of sleep deprivation.

That level of sleep deprivation contributes to depression and suicidal thoughts. Driving-while-teen is challenging by itself; driving with sleep deprivation is like driving under the influence, and contributes to car accidents both minor and major.

Sleep deprivation is also associated with lack of impulse control, another aspect of teenage life that needs no augmentation.

And why is it hard to learn when sleep deprived, and harder still to get excited about what one is learning. Children’s National Medical Center was contracted more than a year ago by Fairfax County Public Schools to develop proposals for starting high schools after 8 a.m. Specific proposals will be presented shortly, and those specific proposals are sure to bring up specific objections.

Yes, changing start times will cost money. Yes, changing start times will require changing a lot of other things that many will find inconvenient. It’s going to require significant will on the part of supporters of teen health, supporters of later high school start times to push this proposal across the finish line. Kudos to SLEEP in Fairfax advocates who have been pushing for so long. How much would you spend, how much would you be willing to be inconvenienced, to prevent a single suicide? To prevent a single serious car crash? These are genuinely the things that are at stake.

— MARY KIMM, MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ARTICLE

Editor

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has been wrestling with the question of how to meet their self-imposed demands for more services and how to raise revenue (read “taxes”) to support those demands. The first source is the real estate tax - the tax on our homes and businesses. The real estate tax is a function of the value of our property and a function of the rate of tax to be imposed based on the value of our property. Suffice to say, this is a game that is played each year - whatever you call it, about 15.5 percent more will have come out of our pockets over the past three years.

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‘Chapter Two’ Opens at CenterStage

By David Siegel  
The Connection

Neil Simon has a “trademark witty, snappy dialogue, and relatable characters that audiences enjoy,” said Joshua Redford, artistic director, Reston Community Players (RCP). Starting this Friday, the RCP will bring Simon’s “wide appeal to local audiences” with his “Chapter Two.”

“Chapter Two” follows the life of George Schneider, a recent widower trying to make his way in a new and rather bumpy world of dating after a long marriage. George is “still coming to terms with his wife’s death, who stumbles into a new relationship. He’s caught between wanting to move ahead but being unable to let go...” with his trademark charm and dry, acerbic wit,” said Jeff Breslow who plays George. “I appreciate Neil Simon’s rapid-fire dialogue, but this show has more gravitas than is often associated with typical Simon plays. In fact, its roots are semi-biographical,” said director Adam Konowe. “‘Chapter Two’ is really about learning to say goodbye and hello, as well as recognizing that we all have to play the imperfect hand we’re dealt. Futility and even loss ultimately can create opportunity.”

The show is set in New York City apartments during the late-winter and early spring as the sun begins peaks through grey clouds. “Chapter Two” received four 1978 Tony Award nominations. It was later made into a 1979 movie. Aspects of “Chapter Two” even found their way into a Seinfeld episode.

Describing the play, Lang said, “the play teaches about love and loss and how hard it is to move on when tragedy occurs. It teaches us that everyone deals with situations that are beyond their control and that happiness is not permanent or guaranteed but is something that takes hard work to achieve and hold on to...love isn’t something we choose it’s something that chooses us.”

Kristin Poling is Faye Medwick “a vivacious, and currently somewhat scattered, soap opera actress. She is disillusioned by the lack of excitement and warmth in her marriage and is floundering to find fulfillment.”

“Chapter Two is “witty, deeply moving, absolutely delightful,” added Polin.

Where and When

Reston Community Players present “Chapter Two” at CenterStage, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Hunters Woods Village Center, Reston. Performances: April 25-May 10. Friday & Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., Sunday, May 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets $17-$20. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restonplayers.org.

From left: Lori Brooks as Jennie Malone and Kristin Poling as Faye Medwick.
By Jon Roetman
The Connection

The Herndon softball team showed rust from not practicing during spring break, striking out a dozen times in an extra-inning contest against Marshall on April 21.

While the Hornets found hits hard to come by during their return to the diamond, Herndon made the most of the four they produced.

Catcher Melanie Martire drove in two runs with a double in the third inning and center fielder Mary Dugan plated the game-winner with a single in the eighth as the Hornets beat Marshall 4-3 at Herndon High School. The Hornets won their third straight game after starting the season 0-4.

“It’s just what we needed to keep us going,” Martire said. “After spring break, [we’re] feeling good.”

Martire, Herndon’s cleanup hitter, had two of the team’s four hits. Her two-out double to deep center field in the third inning drove in a pair of runs and gave the Hornets a 2-0 lead. She led off the bottom of the eighth inning with a double that glanced off the shortstop’s glove. Two batters later, Dugan’s single up the middle gave Herndon a walk-off win.

“(Martire is) everything a coach could hope for in a player,” Herndon head coach Amber Kirk said. “She’s very passionate about the game and just a passionate person in general, so that rubs off on the other girls. … She is a player that wants it and she makes the other girls know that she wants the game, she wants to win.”

HERDON SOPHOMORE PITCHER

Chase Cooksey delivered a two-out double in the fourth inning, stole third base, and scored on a throwing error, giving the Hornets a 3-0 lead.

While Herndon made the most of its opportunities, Marshall managed 11 hits but left seven runners stranded in scoring position. The Statesmen left the bases loaded in the fifth and seventh innings.

Trailing 3-0, Marshall cut the lead to one with a pair of runs in the fifth inning, including an RBI single by junior Ashley Stern. Center fielder Marieka Pierce tied the score with an RBI single in the sixth, but the Statesmen failed to capitalize on multiple opportunities.

“I thought that they were coming together, they were jelling,” Marshall head coach Missy Whittington said. “I just felt like we couldn’t get our hits in a timely fashion.”

I felt like (Herndon’s) hits kind of came in a timely fashion.”

Herndon senior Katherine Milazzo earned the victory in the pitcher’s circle, allowing one earned run in three innings of relief. She gave up six hits and walked three.

Cooksey made her first start of the year in the circle, lasting five-plus innings. She allowed two runs — one earned — and five hits, while striking out one.

“She has a lot of different pitches and she’s just a workhorse,” Whittington said. “She’s got a really great mindset. You can tell: when she’s smiling, she’s in the zone. I think tonight a few things took some twists and turns, maybe she just got off kilter. She’s one of those you want in there in the eighth, ninth inning.”

Sophomore left fielder Celestina Dunavan finished 2-for-3 for Marshall. Larsen, junior shortstop Kat Uher, freshman second baseman Amelia Ely and junior catcher Shelby Thomas each entered Monday’s game hitting better than .300.

Marshall entered the Conference 13 portion of its schedule on Tuesday, when the Statesmen traveled to face Wakefield, after The Connection’s deadline. Marshall will travel to face McLean at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, and will host Falls Church on Friday, April 25.

Whittington has lofty expectations for the Statesmen.

“We’re going to be in the state championship on June 12,” she said. “That’s my goal and it’s just one … game at a time.”

Herndon returned from spring break on a positive note. Marshall had its seven-game winning streak snapped and its record dropped to 8-4. The Statesmen are in the midst of the program’s best season since 2010, when Marshall finished 17-8 and reached the region semifinals.

“We’re trying to set the bar really high for the girls,” said Whittington, who is in her second season as Marshall head coach. “We expect a lot out of them. Our Marshall girls, we’re here to play. We’ve got some really talented players on the team; we’ve got talented players coming to Marshall. It’s not a slam dunk to be on this team as it might have been] with a smaller school from past years. The population is growing and the competition is getting super.”

SOPHOMORE PITCHER MADISON LARSEN is a primary reason for the Statesmen’s success. After being named team MVP as a freshman, the right-handed hurler has put together another strong season. Against Herndon, Larsen allowed four runs — one earned — and four hits in 7 1/3 innings. She walked four and struck out 12.

While dominant at times, she also appeared frustrated with the home-plate umpire’s strike zone.

“She has a lot of different pitches and she’s just a workhorse,” Whittington said. “She’s got a really great mindset. You can tell: when she’s smiling, she’s in the zone. I think tonight a few things took some twists and turns, maybe she just got off kilter. She’s one of those you want in there in the eighth, ninth inning.”

Senior Sarah Kurtz also pitches for Herndon.

“They’re all hitting their spots,” Martire said, “and that’s all a catcher could ask for.”

Kirk said junior shortstop Ashley Schnarr has also played well for Herndon this season.

Last season, Kirk’s first with the Hornets, Herndon went 15-5 in the regular season and entered the Concorde District tournament as a top seed, but the Hornets lost to Chantilly in the semifinals. Kirk said the team has its sights set on winning the Conference 5 tournament this year.

“It’s just what we needed to keep us going. After spring break, [we’re] feeling good.”

— Herndon catcher Melanie Martire

While Herndon returned from spring break on a positive note, Marshall had its seven-game winning streak snapped and its record dropped to 8-4. The Statesmen are in the midst of the program’s best season since 2010, when Marshall finished 17-8 and reached the region semifinals.

“We’re trying to set the bar really high for the girls,” said Whittington, who is in her second season as Marshall head coach. “We expect a lot out of them. Our Marshall girls, we’re here to play. We’ve got some really talented players on the team; we’ve got talented players coming to Marshall. It’s not a slam dunk to be on this team as it might have been] with a smaller school from past years. The population is growing and the competition is getting super.”

Laura Kirk said her second season as Marshall head coach.

“We’re going to be in the state championship on June 12,” she said. “That’s my goal and it’s just one … game at a time.”

Herndon returned from spring break on a positive note. Marshall had its seven-game winning streak snapped and its record dropped to 8-4. The Statesmen are in the midst of the program’s best season since 2010, when Marshall finished 17-8 and reached the region semifinals.

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Global Camps Africa (GCA) is hosting a dinner and auction to raise money to send to HIV-affected children to camp where they learn life skills, health and HIV awareness. GCA, a locally run, internationally active nonprofit provides young people in South Africa a chance to spend two weeks connecting, learning, laughing, and camping, all in hopes of combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. Tickets: https://www.globalcampsafrica.org/celebrate-sizamani-2014 or call 703-637-0809.

Bill Emerson & Sweet Dixie. 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. A phenomenal group of musicians led by Bill Emerson who was a founding member of the Country Gentlemen and also founded the Navy’s Country Current band. Bill surrounds himself with superb musicians and their combined talents are absolutely top notch. $15 admission. http://www.bluegrassville.com/billemerson

SUNDAY/APRIL 27
Trotting Fishing in America. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This Grammy Award nominated duo’s infectious mix of folk/pop and family music is enriched by the diverse influences of reggae, Latin, blues, jazz and classical music. $15 Reston/$50 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.org or 703-476-4500.

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Reston’s civic and community organizations will be celebrating anniversaries all year. Check out all the fun in store for the community at www.restoncelebrates.org.

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One man with courage makes a majority.

-Andrew Jackson
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Van Metre’s Portsmouth model, Brambleton.
Spring Real Estate & New Homes

Realtors: Great Kitchens Help Sell Homes

Designer Jacquelin Lluy, of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield, recently transformed the kitchen of a home in Manassa, in Fairfax, from a small, dark space to a light-filled, free-flowing culinary oasis. “The kitchen was built in the ’70s with a small, dark eat-in kitchen table for four,” Lluy. “The family wanted a view of their expansive wooded lot and an island built for entertaining and family meals with their young boys.”

The new kitchen includes an island made of maple. “The two-height island has a ‘truffle’ finish [and] was designed for game nights, football watching, entertaining friends on the higher level while the lower level is used for quick weekday meals and easy clean up with sink, trash/recycle and dishwasher located there.”

BEFORE PUTTING ONE’S HOME on the market, real estate agents encourage homeowners to spruce up the kitchen. Well-designed, free-flowing kitchens like Lluy’s can often make or break the sale of a home say some local Realtors.

“I think a kitchen is one of the top things that a buyer looks at,” said Arlington Realtor Michelle Sagatov of the Michelle Sagatov group at McEnearney Associates. Alexandria-based Realtor Elizabeth Lucchesi of the LizLuke Team at McEnearney Associates said, “Kitchens are the nucleus of the house. It is where everybody hangs out. The kitchen has to look good and feel good.”

Ken Nies, of Two Poor Teachers in Annandale, recently remodeled the kitchen in a Falls Church home adding “custom window millwork, lighting, a backsplash, a large center entertainment island and farm sink.” Nies advises using “different materials on your island to give a custom look.”

Realtors suggest investing in quality cabinetry and countertops. “Granite is something people look for but there are other materials that people can use like caesarstone and quartz,” said Sagatov. “Choose nice, solid counter tops that complement the cabinetry.”

FOR THOSE WHO WANT to update a kitchen and think they will be selling their home within five to seven years, Sagatov suggests that homeowners think about the resale value before remodeling. “Make the kitchen timeless,” she said. “Don’t put too much of your personality into the kitchen. If you want to show off your personality, do that with paint or kitchen decorations, but make the things that cost a lot of money neutral and timeless, so when you go to sell your home, it appeals to a much broader audience.”

If you plan on renovating the kitchen, do it early, “not when you’re about to sell so that you can enjoy it too,” continued Sagatov.

HOWEVER, ONE DOESN’T need to remodel an entire kitchen before putting a home on the market. Real estate agents say there are a few changes that homeowners can make to help their kitchen sparkle.

“If you don’t have an updated kitchen there are things that you can do to make it look updated, clean and fresh,” said Sagatov. “Make sure the kitchen has matching appliances that are in good working order. It doesn’t matter if they are stainless steel, black or white as long as they match,” said Lucchesi.

An open kitchen appeals to buyers. “Having a kitchen area where you can cook while spending time with family, is important,” said Lucchesi. “Having it open into a living area allows the cook to be connected to others.”

Don’t underestimate the power of lighting. “Under-counter mounted lighting makes all the difference in the world,” said Lucchesi. “It gives you the ability to have your island well lit while having your counters well lit.”

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**Spring Real Estate & New Homes**

**What to Expect Buying or Selling**

By Marilyn Campbell

The Connection

Real estate agent Joan Caton Cromwell says she lost a home bidding war last week in Falls Church even though her client was a strong contestant.

“We were one of five contracts and we even waived the appraisal,” said Cromwell of McInearney Associates. “Any house that is close-in [to Washington, D.C.] and that is in nice condition, is going to attract a lot of attention.”

Real estate agents say spring is one of the busiest times of the year for home sales and there is dearth of available homes in popular neighborhoods. “The lack of inventory in sought-after communities like Arlington and McLean has already ushered in the return of bidding wars for move-in ready properties,” said John Eric, Vice President TTR Sotheby’s International Realty in Arlington. “I expect all sectors of the market to see price gains and demand to remain high.”

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**Fairfax County Real Estate Overview**

In February, 798 homes were sold in Fairfax County, an increase of 2.1 percent from the 773 homes sold in February 2013.

On average, homes that sold in Fairfax County in February were on the market for 60 days, 8 days longer than the 52-day average in February 2013.

The average home sales price of all homes that sold in February 2014 in Fairfax County was $499,765, an increase of 4.8 percent over the February 2013 average sales price of $476,735. Compared to the annual average home sales price of $531,136, the February price decreased 5.9 percent.

The average sales price for detached homes that sold in February 2014 was $677,199, an increase of 7.4 percent over the February 2013 average sales price of $630,557.

The average sales price of attached homes increased 6.9 percent in the same time period, to $352,384 from $329,534 the year before.

In February, the number of active listings in the County was 1,814, an increase of 26.3 percent over the 1,436 listed in February 2013. Based on the February 2014 listings and the current sales rate, there is a 2.3 month supply of homes for sale in the County, up from the 1.9 month supply a year ago.

**See What to Expect, Page 7**

SOURCE: Fairfax County Office of Management and Budget

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**A Picture Perfect Home**

By Marilyn Campbell

The Connection

When Realtors Marsha Schuman and Betsy Schuman Dodek drive up to a home to show it to a prospective buyer, they know that they have only one chance to make a good first impression. Potomac-based Dodek and Schuman of the Schuman Team of Washington Fine Properties say a home’s curb appeal matters.

“When we think of curb appeal we think of the lawn and landscaping, front door, windows, roof and how it all looks,” said Dodek. “Buyers want to buy from someone who has taken really good care of their home and that translates in to curb appeal.”

Realtors say this Oakton home exemplifies ideal curb appeal, a critical factor when selling a home.

Schuman added, “If things are not nice on the outside, then [potential buyers] wonder what the house will be like on the inside.”

**REAL ESTATE AGENTS SAY** buyers want to purchase a well-cared for home, and the exterior aesthetic of a home creates that impression. Whether you’re planning to put your house on the market or would just like a clean and fresh exterior to welcome you home each day, local real estate experts offer advice on enhancing a home’s exterior.

McLean-based realtor Chris Pritchard of McInearney Associates suggests starting by

“Walk up the driveway, ask yourself what you would want to see if you were shopping for a house.”

The yard should be pristine and vibrant. “Trimming, mulching and planting some colorful plants are key,” said Pritchard.

“Add color with flowers, pots with plants, choosing things like geraniums and pansies,” said Dodek. “Adding color just makes such a difference. It makes the yard pop.”

Consider safety. “Is the yard hazard-free?” asks Dodek. “It needs to be freshly mowed and mulched with dark mulch because that makes the greenery pop. Make sure your bushes are trimmed and proportionate. Look at trees to make sure they aren’t blocking the size of the house.”

“One of the next areas we look at are patios, walkways and fences,” continued Dodek. “Do they need repairs? Is there loose siding?”

McLean Realtor Ann McClure of McInearney Associates says that a home’s exterior should be well-lit. “You need good looking and functional lighting which should be on in the evening.”

Examine the entrance. “Take a look at the front door,” said Dodek. “Does it need painting?” We had a recent listing and we painted the door red and added new hardware and a kick plate and that made it stand out. That is something that is very cost effective to do.

A clean appearance is critical. “There should be no algae stains on the roof,” said McClure. “The homeowner should make sure that if they have siding that it doesn’t have any algae stains.”

The Connection

Tips from the pros on boosting a home’s curb appeal.

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See Picture Perfect, Page 7
Local Designers Help Unveil DC Design House

Area tastemakers dream home, currently on the market for $3.85 million.

By Marilyn Campbell

Local designers showed off their master work when the 2014 DC Design House was unveiled recently from Arlington to Burke, and Alexandria to Potomac, MD. The area’s top designers competed for an opportunity to donate their talent to transform a local grand home into a showcase home.

The home, which is on the market for $3.85 million, is now open to the public for tours. It features six bedrooms, five full and two half-baths. Built in 1929, the home features three-car garages and a pool. The stone house offers three levels and nearly 8,000 square feet of living space, which local designers transformed.

The home’s front façade was designed by David Benton and Jim Rill of Potomac. Rill Architects’ Benton designed the family room, which overlooks the pool and patio. The design duo created a room with French doors that open to the pool area when the weather is mild, but added a linear, modern fireplace to create a warm and cozy space during cooler months. They created “cascading light down the hand-sewn wall covering... The room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and hues to both a mid-century flair and modernism.”

Victoria Sanchez of Victoria At Home in Old Town, Alexandria, designed the family breakfast room. “I wanted to create a room with a casual and cozy feel,” she said. The room, which has large picture windows that offer uninterrupted views of nature, connects the kitchen with butler’s pantry/wine tasting room. Sanchez chose woven rattan furniture to fill the space.

Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria designed the family room, which connects the kitchen and butler’s pantry/wine tasting room. They created a room with French doors that open to the pool area when the weather is mild, but added a linear, modern fireplace to create a warm and cozy space during cooler months. They created “cascading light down the hand-sewn wall covering... The room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and hues to both a mid-century flair and modernism.”

Susan Donelson and Sharon Rubensoh, of Cleveland Hall Design created a guest bedroom in the home. In an effort to create a light and airy space, she also selected wall paper in a pink floral pattern. “We choose streamlined furniture and fabrics to accent the areas of feeling of the wallpaper.” The room, designed whimsically in pink and green, features twin beds. The art in the room was painted by Donelson’s mother, Janice Donelson, a classically trained artist.

The master bedroom was designed by Nancy Colbert of Design Partners in McLean. The space was repurposed to allow for a larger master bathroom and a walk-in closet with built-in shelving. Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria At Home in Old Town, Alexandria, designed the family breakfast room. “I wanted to create a room with a casual and cozy feel,” she said. The room, which has large picture windows that offer uninterrupted views of nature, connects the kitchen with butler’s pantry/wine tasting room.

The home’s front façade was designed by Rill Architects’ Benton and Jim Rill of Potomac. The team chose paintable wallpaper with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and hues to both a mid-century flair and modernism.”

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THE HOME’S FRONT FAÇADE was designed by David Benton and Jim Rill of Potomac. Rill Architects’ Benton designed the family room, which overlooks the pool and patio. The design duo created a room with French doors that open to the pool area when the weather is mild, but added a linear, modern fireplace to create a warm and cozy space during cooler months. They created “cascading light down the hand-sewn wall covering... The room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and hues to both a mid-century flair and modernism.”

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Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown, of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria, designed the family room of the DC Design House. The room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and hues to both a mid-century flair and modernism.”

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Spring Real Estate & New Homes

Sampler of New Homes Offerings

Carr Homes, Herndon

Shaker Knolls — nine homes set along a private drive and cul-de-sac in a prime Herndon location in the Langley School District, just south of Leesburg Pike. These 4,000+ square-foot homes, with three-car garages are priced from $1.34 million. Located at 1142 Shaker Woods Road, Herndon, VA 20170. Call 703-926-7241 or visit www.carrhomes.com.

Stanley Martin

Summit Oaks — a community of new single family homes in Lorton, within seven miles of Lorton Station Town Center, Kingstowne Wegmans (coming in 2014), Kingstowne Center, Springfield Target and the Springfield Town Center project. Summit Oaks will offer two floorplans: The Carey (3,311-5,849 square feet) and The Davidson (3,492-4,917 square feet). Prices start in the low $700,000s. Contact Lisa Sullivan at 703-339-9670.

The Maymont community in Vienna, Va. won a Silver Award for Basheer & Edgemoore at the National Sales and Marketing Awards for 2014. Hosted by the National Association of Home Builders, Basheer & Edgemoore took silver in the Community of the Year category. The 5,000-8,000-square-foot homes at Maymont feature amenities such as hardwood flooring, granite countertops and brick and stone exteriors. Since its founding, Basheer & Edgemoore has emerged as a leading developer and builder of luxury estates and communities. The company selects and develops each property based on its natural beauty, convenience and potential, with a sense of respect for preservation and history. Over the years, Basheer & Edgemoore used technological advances and improvements in construction and design, and these efforts have garnered industry recognition for leadership and innovation. Visit www.basheerandedgemoore.com.

Pulte Homes

Metro West — with prices from $454,990-$821,845, Pulte has 1,256-1,942 square-foot condominiums and townhomes next to the Vienna Metro with 2-4 bedrooms, 2-3.5 baths, located at 2952 Rittenhouse Circle, Fairfax. Call 888-817-2201 or visit www.pulte.com.


Evergreene Homes

Columbia Place — 1100 S Edgewood St., Arlington, VA 22204, Condos From the Mid 500’s - Towns from the 800’s. Call 703-868-8196.

Vale Oakton — 11797 Stuart Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124. Single Family, $2,313,925. Call 703-466-5411.

Wolf Trap Woods — 9518 Leemay St., Vienna, VA 22182. Single family, $1,449,900. Call 703-466-5411.

Oakton Heights — 10412 Miller Road Oakton, VA 22124. Single family homes from $1.3 million. Call 888-925-7411.

Westover Place — 1009 North Kensington St., Arlington, VA 22205. Townhomes from the $800,000s. Call 703-625-2949.
Spring Real Estate & New Homes

What to Expect

FROM PAGE 3

is popular because of the Silver Line,” said Cromwell. “North Arlington and Falls Church are popular. Anything that offers a decent commuting experience for someone who can’t afford what they want in the city will be sought after.”

Schuman said, “We see a new trend in all price ranges where buyers want to buy where they can walk to amenities, restaurants and shops. Buyers are satisfied with smaller houses that are conveniently located. They want an easier life. Convenience is the new real estate buzzword. Property becomes compelling when buyers see value.”

Sanders said some communities are especially competitive. “Virginia has two of the wealthiest counties in the country, Loudoun and Fairfax counties, so those communities should see a fairly short turn over.”

NOT EVERYONE IS KEEPING with the trend. “We’re not seeing middle class families buying homes through the mortgage market,” said Sanders, the GMU professor. “Their income was devastated during the housing bubble burst due to foreclosures. Real household income has fallen since 2007. So the American middle class is worse off than it was in 2007. It’s more high-income families with cash or investors who are buying homes.”

Tips for Creating an Appealing Kitchen

FROM PAGE 2

the illusion that you have a lot of countertop space when in reality maybe you don’t.”

Spruce up dated cabinetry. “Painting cabinets a crisp white goes a long way,” said Sagatov. “A lot of older kitchens have dark wood. Putting a coat of fresh paint and new hardware goes a long way and is an investment that gives you so much money back.”

Sagatov said, “Another easy fix would be painting the walls. Taupe or grey paint on the walls in the kitchen would be soothing and go well with the white cabinets. Those fixes don’t cost a lot of money.”

Fixtures are another minor element that can make a big impression. “Make sure that cabinet pulls are updated with materials like glass or brushed nickel,” said Lucchesi. “Great faucets are like a nice pair of shoes or a good belt.”

Lucchesi speaks from experience. “We sold a 1940s house recently with a small kitchen,” she said. “We added new appliances, a new faucet, new cabinets and it sold for $24,000 above the list price in four days with seven offers.”

“When enhancing a house for sale, you want to appeal to the broadest audience,” said Lucchesi. “Polished and updated kitchens create appealing pictures.”

“Sexy kitchens photograph well,” said Lucchesi. “When people are looking at kitchens in online photos, we don’t want to give them a reason to tell their agent, ‘No I don’t want to see that house.’”

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Spring Real Estate & New Homes

John Eric, Vice President TTR Sotheby’s International Realty says lack of inventory in sought-after communities like Arlington and McLean has already ushered in the return of bidding wars for move-in ready properties like this Arlington home.

Schuman says that homes priced below $1.3 million “are being snapped off the market if they are well conditioned and fairly priced. The ultra-luxury market, homes over $2 million, is a little bit slower paced at present, but there are signs that these buyers are out there and wanting to buy.”

Cromwell agrees, “The 600-900K price point is very busy for a house in good condition.”

A Picture Perfect Home

FROM PAGE 3

need power washing.”

“Power wash driveways, walkways and even the house sometimes,” said Pritchard. “The house should be washed before it is painted. Do any kind of painting or touch up painting of siding trim and doors that needs to be done. Sometimes you don’t have to paint at all if you do power washing. All homes get dusty. Sometimes paint fades and needs repainting.”

“Another easy thing is the windows,” said Dodek. “Remove screens and wash the windows. You want your house to sparkle inside and out.”

Pritchard said, “Curb appeal also goes to having a fence in good shape: washed and painted or washed and sealed. The home’s deck should be in good shape. More often than not a deck should be power washed and painted or stained or sealed or whatever the appropriate finish is.”

Minor touches can make a major impact. “Take a look at your mailbox,” said Dodek. “Is it upright? Is it tilted? Does it need to be painted?”

Don’t hide your amenities. “If you have a swimming pool, we get them to remove the cover,” said Dodek. “There’s nothing more beautiful than a beautiful blue swimming pool.”

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM PAGE 3

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Local REAL ESTATE

February, 2014 Top Sales in Vienna, Oakton, Reston and Herndon

1 11600 Hunting Crest Lane, Vienna — $1,700,000

2 11704 Sugarland Road, Herndon — $1,425,000

3 2882 Hibbard Street, Oakton — $1,025,000

4 11312 South Shore Road, Reston — $1,425,000

Address .................................. BR  FB  HB ... Postal City ... Sold Price .... Type ....... Lot AC PostalCode.......... Subdivision............ Date Sold
1 11600 HUNTING CREST LN .... 5 .. 5 .. 1 ....... VIENNA ..... $1,700,000.... Detached .... 1.76 ...... 22182........ BACHMAN PROPERTY .......02/27/14
2 11704 SUGARLAND RD ......... 5 .. 6 .. 1 ....... HERNDON ... $1,425,000.... Detached .... 1.04 ...... 20170 ........ DRANESVILLE ......... 02/25/14
3 975 DNN ST SW ............... 5 .. 4 .. 1 ....... VIENNA ..... $1,367,000.... Detached .... 0.37 ...... 22182 ........ VIENNA WOODS ......... 02/17/14
4 1201 DRAKE ST SW ........... 5 .. 4 .. 1 ....... VIENNA ..... $1,198,500.... Detached .... 0.26 ...... 22180 ........ VIENNA WOODS ......... 02/27/14
5 911 SYMPHONY CIR SW ....... 5 .. 4 .. 1 ....... VIENNA ..... $1,175,000.... Detached .... 0.24 ...... 22180 ........ VIENNA WOODS ......... 02/14/14
6 9684 PLACE GROEN WAY ...... 6 .. 5 .. 1 ....... VIENNA ..... $1,150,000.... Detached .... 0.10 ...... 22181 .... WILLIAMSBURG COMMONS .... 02/20/14
7 1226 ADMIRAL ZUMMITZ LN .. 5 .. 4 .. 1 ....... HERNDON ... $1,100,000.... Detached .... 0.06 ...... 20170 .......... STUART ESTATES ....... 02/10/14
8 2882 HIBBARD ST ............... 5 .. 4 .. 1 ....... OAKTON ..... $1,625,000.... Detached .... 0.34 ...... 22124 .......... GRAYS .......... 02/29/14
9 11312 SOUTH SHORE RD ...... 4 .. 2 .. 1 ....... RESTON .... $970,000 .... Detached .... 0.32 ...... 20190 ......... RESTON ............ 02/07/14
10 2050 BEACON HEIGHTS DR .... 3 .. 3 .. 1 ....... RESTON .... $940,000 .... Townhouse ... 0.06 ...... 20191 ......... RESTON ............ 02/28/14

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