

Babes in the Woods

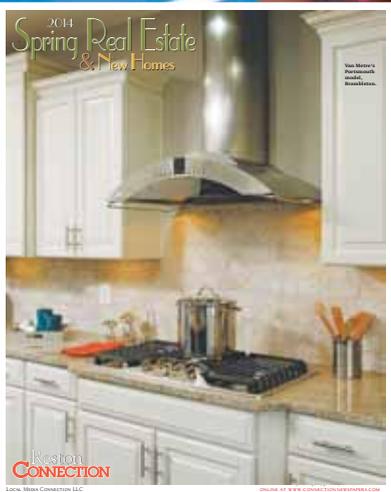
NEWS, PAGE 3

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

PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

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WEEK IN RESTON

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.

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PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

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

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.

“Those veterans laid their lives on the line for us,” he said. “Whether we agree what war they’re fighting in, they volunteered to go out there and protect us.”

Specifically, the event raises fund for Alexander’s ACES Foundation, Ride 2 Recovery and Dare2tri Para-Triathlon Club.

Other Redskins football players cycling at the event were Ryan Kerrigan, Antwaan Randle El, Logan Paulsen, Nick Sundberg, Chris Wilson and Kai Forbath.

Registered cyclists could ride 10, 20, 35 or 53 miles on the W&OD Railroad Regional Trail from Reston Town Center out towards Leesburg. At the end of the ride was live music, free lunch and a free autograph session with former and current Washington Redskins players.

Event organizer Priscilla Johnson said the event’s attendance has gone up every year except the current year - which remained the same as last year. When they planned the event’s date, they did not realize it was the day before Easter.

Still, many of the riders returned after being a part of previous years’ events.

Michael Howard, Reston, said this was his second year participating in the event.

“It’s for a good cause,” he said.

His friend, Sherrod Jefferson, found out about the event three years ago through members at his church. He’s been at every Ride to Provide event since. He loves Alexander’s commitment to the event.



From left, Nick Sundberg and Lorenzo Alexander 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.”



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

Children scribble on an Earth Day themed coloring page as their parents supervise.

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 Ken 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/Default.aspx?qenc=HzT9ACzZbNs%3D&fqenc=VPAItzaY9s8vSsTO%2Fr3Xcw%3D%3D>

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 of 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/>.



Team photo of some of CATS soccer all-star players.

PHOTOS BY
REENA SINGH/
THE CONNECTION



BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Rev. Richard Smallwood accepts his award.

Area Students Win Scholarships

MLK Cultural Foundation Dream Makers Gala raises money for students.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

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 stu-

dents 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.

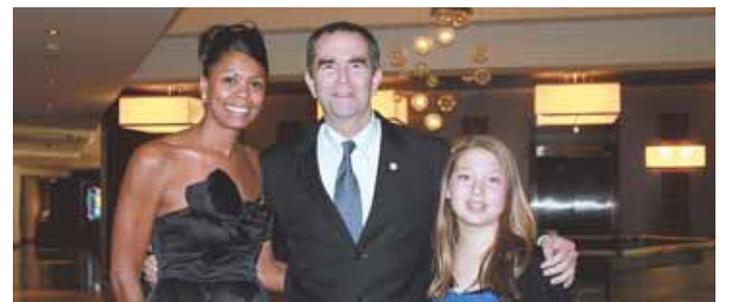
She noted the foundation was started in 1999 to allow the founders - who went to the MLK Church in Reston - to give more back to the community.

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.



From left, Jennifer Johnson, Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, Sally Miller strike a pose during the gala reception.

Exciting Week at Lake Anne Elementary

Lake Anne Elementary had an exciting week as several employees from the Smithsonian Zoo Migratory 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 trail and shown how to lift logs and leaves to locate possible food that the birds might eat off of (worms, snails, etc.).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

Reston Friends Spring Book Sale. 5-8 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Fox Mill Woods Swim & Tennis Club Open House. 12-3 p.m. 2634A Black Fir Court, Reston. Learn about membership, register for our swim team, and meet tennis pros. fmwstmembership@gmail.com.

ONGOING

Fairfax County's Meals on Wheels urgently needs drivers in the Annandale, Franconia/Kingstowne, Reston, Mount Vernon and McLean areas. 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

Knitting Enthusiasts, Musicians Needed. 10:30 a.m.-noon, at Herndon Senior Center. Herndon Senior Center seeks a knitting enthusiast to teach basic procedures. Musicians to play soothing music on weekend mornings also needed. 703-324-5406, TTY 711, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadult or VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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Great Falls Swim and Tennis offers its members and their families a casual environment for the enjoyment of swimming, tennis and social programs.

Our facilities include a large, heated pool with two diving boards, a wading pool, changing rooms, a covered pavilion, six lighted tennis courts (4 clay, 2 hard), a heated bubble for indoor tennis from October through April, a lighted platform handball/basketball court, a picnic and grill area, snack bar and large grass area for volleyball, tetherball, lacrosse, soccer and numerous other outdoor games.

Club activities include: adult and junior tennis year-round private and group lessons, camps and tournaments with two of Northern Virginia's top tennis professionals, adult and junior NVTL tennis teams, junior NVSL swim and dive teams, tennis, swim & dive group and/or private lessons and lots of fun, family social activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
SHERI AT slandf@aol.com | www.gfsandt.com

Past Time for Later Start Times

It's possible that, finally, high school will begin the day a time healthier for teens.

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 ("buck 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 at 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.

It's hard to learn when sleep deprived, and harder still to get excited about what one is learning.

Children's National Medical Center was con-

tracted 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 out 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

Southwestern Virginia

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

For many years Jane and I have used our spring break to visit locations throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. This year was no exception

as 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 Southwest Virginia. In fact, only by driving another 134 miles down I81 to Abingdon did we get to what many consider the doorstep to Southwest Virginia. It would have been possible to drive another 111 miles west with a short swing into Tennessee to get to the western-most point in Virginia at Cumberland Gap. That point is further west than Detroit. Regardless of how far you travel, the



natural beauty of 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://visitabingdonvirginia.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 professional productions (www.bartertheatre.com). The name came from the fact that in 1933 when it was first founded attendees often paid in produce for there was little money to be had. Abingdon is also the beginning of the Virginia Creeper Trail,

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.heartwoodvirginia.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.

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 Breaks Interstate Park—"the Grand Canyon of the South"—on the Kentucky border. (www.breakspark.com) Almost 200 million years ago the Russell Fork River gouged out a 5-mile gorge that created a "break" from crossing the mountains for the settlers passing through the region and spectacular geologic formations and views for modern day visitors. As one local resident advised us, be sure to take the geologic trail to view the wonders of the formations from below.

E-mail me at kenplum.com if you need help planning your trip to the great southwest or to other regions of the state. It is a great place to visit.

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 each 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 more money. 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 to 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

SEE KENNY, PAGE 11



'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. "Chap-



From left: Lori Brooks as Jennie Malone and Kristin Poling as Faye Medwick.

ter 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. Fallibility 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.

Greg Lang who plays Leo, George's brother, described his character this way: "Leo is the type of guy you'd love to hate but can't. He's like Charley Harper in 'Two and a Half Men' or, more from the time frame, Jack Tripper from 'Three's Company.' He's the wisecracking womanizer who loves his brother but thinks more about himself than anyone else."

Describing the play, Lang said, "the play teaches about love and

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.

PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIOS

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 hilarious, and thoroughly delightful," added Polin.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23 WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

Kirby Celebrates "Reston at Fifty" in Photos. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Reston Center Two Building, 12005 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23-SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Mind, Heart, Vision Exhibit. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Every spring Art teachers at Herndon High School invite senior artists to participate in a juried art show. Students show paintings, photographs, drawings, and digital art. Student work is juried by professional artists in the local community. 703-956-6590 www.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Taste of the Town: April in Paris.

5:30-8:30 p.m. Worldgate Centre at the intersection of Elden Street, Centreville Road and Worldgate Drive in Herndon.

Enjoy an evening featuring entertainment reminiscent of Paris, delectable food from 20 local restaurants, raffle and auction. Tickets are \$15/person, \$25/couple, \$5 for children 4-12, children 3 and under free. Proceeds from Taste of the Town fund arts programming and outreach activities produced by the Foundation at ArtSpace Herndon. www.artspaceherndon.org

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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Herndon Softball Edges Marshall in Eight Innings

Herndon catcher Martire delivers two clutch doubles in victory.

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."

HERNDON 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.

Herndon sophomore pitcher Chase Cooksey made her first start of the season on Monday against Marshall.

PHOTOS BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION



Herndon catcher Melanie Martire went 2-for-3 with a pair of doubles and two RBIs against Marshall on April 21

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.

"I'm really impressed with how she did," Kirk said about the sophomore pitcher. "Her personality, she's kind of more timid, a quieter person on the field, but her performance ... just proved she can hold her own

out there."

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 Schnarrs 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."

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."

Sophomore left fielder Celestina Dunavant 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 14," she said. "That's my goal and it's just one ... game at a time."

Herndon traveled to face Westfield on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Hornets will host Centreville at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

Amphibian Idol. 7 - 8 p.m. Sunrise Valley Wetlands - 12700 Sunrise Valley Drive. Park on the left (west) side of the office building. All ages. Frogs and toads sing in the spring hoping to attract mates, providing us with a memorable outdoor experience. Learn which songs belong to which amphibians, and explore Sunrise Valley Wetlands to see which are calling. Reservations required by April 21. Fee: \$5/person RA members, \$7/person Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Senior Container Gardening. 1 - 2:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults 55 & older. Learn what flowers and herbs grow best in containers and how to arrange them creatively. Listen to a presentation then plant a small container to take home. Reservations required by April 22. Fee: \$8/person RA members, \$12/person Non-members. For more information, contact Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-6530 for reservations.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser. 5:30-8 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Pre-event tickets are \$25 and tickets at the door are \$30. It will include a bowl handcrafted by a local potter, that you may keep, plus soup, bread, a beverage and dessert. All proceeds raised will go to hunger relief in Northern Virginia. Pre-event tickets can be purchased by mailing a check made out to Food for Others and sent to Giving Circle of HOPE, P.O. Box 8832, Reston VA 20195. Tickets will be held at the door. For questions, please contact: emptybowls@givingcircleofhope.org or call 703-665-9334. Visit www.givingcircleofhope.org

FRIDAY/APRIL 25, 26 - MAY 2, 3, 9, 10
"Chapter Two." 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Neil Simon's sparkling comedy. Tickets can be purchased at www.restonplayers.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Champions4Children 5K Race and Fun Run. 9 a.m. Lake Fairfax Park, Reston. Fun for the whole family including performance by children's magician The Great Zucchini Race proceeds to benefit SafeSpot of Fairfax, a safe haven for abused children in Fairfax County. SafeSpotFairfax.org

Global Camps Africa Dinner and Auction. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Oracle Headquarters 1900 Oracle Way,

Reston. 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 combatting the spread of HIV/AIDS. Tickets: https://www.globalcampsafrika.org/celebrate-sizano-2014 or call 703-437-0808.

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/billemerison

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Trout 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/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

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Where Am I?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"I'm sitting in the rocking chair, good buddy," (a "Smokey and The Bandit" reference, if you're not of a certain vintage), between two 18-wheelers where the police radar can't find me - further referencing the C.B. radio days. Updating to the "Kenny-with-cancer" days, I'm a month or so past my last very encouraging CT Scan, the one I wrote about when my oncologist offered me a congratulatory handshake, a gesture he had not made in the five-plus years since we've been tangling with this damn disease; and I'm approximately seven weeks away from my next CT scan, "intevalued" every three months at present. Seven weeks is far enough away where I'm not even thinking about it, or the possibility of its discouraging results that I'll know about on or about June 9th. I am cruising, emotionally, and savoring the excellent results from the last scan and not yet worrying, wondering, hoping, praying (too much) about my next scan. This means, at the moment - or moments, I should say, I am enjoying a relatively stress-free and blissful ignorance to what may - or hopefully may not, be happening in my lungs. I am, to quote a Three Stooges line: "as safe as in my mother's arms."

Let me admit for the record, when you're originally scheduled as terminal by your oncologist ("13 months to two years"), grasping at straws, rationalizing, wishful thinking and denial (which as you regular readers know is more than just a river in Egypt...an "NYPD" reference), become de rigueur, a sort of standard operating procedure - whether you intend it to be or not. And whether these days - or should I further admit and characterize them as daze - are simply a grand illusion, or a type of non-arrogant delusion, is another distinction I'm not the least bit worried about. The reality, for me, is that I can breathe easily - figuratively and literally, thank God? (And to be fair, thanks also go to my oncologist and to myself as well; for we've both played a part in this cancer battle.)

And why shouldn't I be exceedingly - and perhaps naively - grateful, for my still being alive and reasonably well. Only 16 percent of lung cancer patients survive beyond five years; I'm at five years and two months now. Whatever good news I receive, whatever positive spin I can give my results, whatever smiles and handshakes I elicit are crucial to this pursuit of life that I live every day. The only recurring and disturbing thought I have, now that I'm past this statistically relevant five-year survivability measure (and this is not about being in remission, which I'm not; I'm still undergoing chemotherapy) is: I can't help juggling in my mind whether being five years post-diagnosis makes me closer to the end of my life or further away from it. As such, when I experience a kind of break in my action, when I'm between halves, so to speak, when the past and future of my cancer life is not front and center but instead more off to the side, these are days to relish and I don't even like condiments. But that's what a cancer diagnosis, particularly a terminal one, will do: change everything. Rolling with the punches is how one has to learn to live: good with the bad, bad with the good, the last scan, the next scan, comparing the results from your ongoing lab work and your occasional face-to-face appointments/exams with the oncologist are what drive this cancer bus that you'd rather never have been on. But you're on it, all the time. This experience is a never-ending (hopefully never ending, let's be honest) roller coaster-type ride of emotions, treatment options, preoccupations and mental gymnastics. Anything and everything I can do to find some peace in the life-expectancy challenged and very unexpected medical circumstances in which I find myself so immersed, is what I do. I'm in a good place right now. It won't last given the timing of what my life's cycle is at present (scans and all), but no matter. I'm not stressing backwards or worrying forwards. This is as good as it gets, realistically speaking.

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

Entrants Sought for Anti-Alcohol Awards

A Vienna-based, alcohol-education group wants to honor local, high school groups for their efforts in fighting underage drinking. To recognize high-school students for "doing the right thing," the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) will present its 2014 GEICO Student Awards at a May 16 ceremony in Washington, D.C., and is accepting applications for the honors through Monday, April 28, at <http://www.wrap.org/files/youthOutreach.htm>. Entry is free.

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their 22nd year, are presented each year to high-school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers. The awards, including cash prizes up to \$ 1,000, are judged by a panel of area substance-abuse prevention professionals including representatives from local traffic safety organizations and prevention coalitions.

Student groups are judged on their leadership, effectiveness, innovation and involvement of both the student body and community in their efforts to prevent underage drinking. The winners will receive plaques and monetary awards.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington Metropolitan area. For more information, go to www.wrap.org.

Fundraiser To Support SHARE

A fundraiser for SHARE, Inc. has been announced by HBC Realty Group's (Keller Williams Realty) Community Charity Champions. Come to dinner on Tuesday, May 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean to support SHARE, Inc. Enjoy dinner and know that approximately 70 percent of the proceeds from food and drink will go to the charity, as long as the diner brings the flyer for the event. Contact HBC Realty Group at 703-734-0192 or visit www.HBCRealtyGroup.com to receive a flyer.

Kenny

FROM PAGE 6

lot of money on each parcel developed (think campaign donations). We can put the development of the Baron Cameron Park on hold. It has been doing well for the past 30 years. It can wait a few more years.

However, most of the discussion on the budget and taxes is moot until the Socialist Governor and leftist-controlled Senate of Virginia stop playing leverage games and face the fact that two out of every three Virginians oppose Medicare expansion. In spite of denials and flat out lies, the majority of Virginians do not want the train wreck Medicare-expansion - No McAwfulcare, no Warnercare, no Howellcare, and no Plumcare. Pass a clean budget bill.

Notice how quiet the Democrat-dominated BOS has been. Nobody has come forth to state what tax increase will be needed to pay for Medicare-expansion. You can be sure it is not chump-change.

Jack Kenny
Reston

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 25 Sales & Auctions 25 Sales & Auctions

Obituary

Ruth H. Eckhardt (Age 99)

Of Springfield and Reston, VA on April 15, 2014. Preceded in death by her husband of more than 60 years, Paul Eckhardt. Survived by JoAnn, Richard and Nancy (Sorenson) Eckhardt, and granddaughter Danielle Eckhardt. Services will be held privately. Contributions in her memory may be made to: Green-spring Scholars Fund, Philanthropy Office, 7440 Spring Village, Dr, Springfield, VA 22150 or to Friends of Lake Anne, 11400 Washington Plaza W. #403, Reston, VA 20190.

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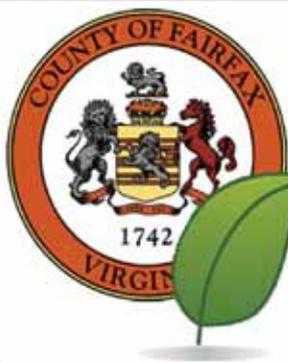
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Fairfax County

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

**SATURDAY
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Household Hazardous Waste Clean-up

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the
Reston South Park & Ride Lot
(Near the intersection of Lawyers Road
and Fox Mill Road, Reston)

Household Hazardous Waste from residences
will be accepted at no charge. We will **not**
accept business or commercial waste, lead
acid batteries, automobile batteries or large,
grill-sized propane tanks.

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 26**

Secure Document Shredding

from 8 a.m. to noon at the
North County Human Services Center
(1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston)

Securely shred up to five boxes of paper
documents. Please remove paper from
binders and remove binder clips, plastic
covers and binding. We will not accept CDs,
floppy discs, credit cards, film or photographs.

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 27**

Electric Sunday

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the
I-66 Transfer Station
(4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax)

Recycle old or unwanted televisions,
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such as stereos, speakers, printers, scanners
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lights.



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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 Mantua, 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 McEneaney Associates.

Alexandria-based Realtor Elizabeth Lucchesi of the LizLuke Team at McEneaney 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 compliment 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

SEE TIPS, PAGE 7

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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 McEneaney 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."

HOME PRICES are on the rise. "If you put a home on the market and it gets multiple offers, the eight other people who didn't get the house will bid on another house," said Cromwell. "In a market where there are multiple offers it definitely drives the prices up and it drives them up quickly."

"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."

— Marsha Schuman,
Washington Fine Properties

Anthony B. Sanders, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Real Estate Finance at George Mason University said, "Very simply, this is still an area that is growing, so housing home sales will continue to rise, but more slowly than during the real estate bubble."

Still, agents are optimistic as they enter the spring buying season. "The state of the real estate market is great," said Marsha Schuman of the Washington Fine Properties' Schuman Team. "The weather is behind us and there is a momentum going into the spring market that feels very positive."

The spring market in the Washington, D.C. area is aligned with academic calendars. "It starts in April and May in the suburbs," says Cromwell. "Those in the military or who work for the World Bank for example, put their homes on the market in spring to prepare to relocate during the summer."

Proximity to public transportation increases desirability. "For example, Reston

Fairfax County Real Estate Overview

- ❖ In February, 789 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 2013 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 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.

SOURCE: Fairfax County Office of Management and Budget

SEE WHAT TO EXPECT, PAGE 7

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."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUPLACE

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 McEneaney Associates suggests starting by

"The sense of arrival is very important — you never get a second chance to make a first impression."

— Chris Pritchard

critiquing your own home. "Stand in front of your house and take a look," she said. "Walk up the driveway, ask yourself what

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

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 mortar?"

McLean Realtor Ann McClure of McEneaney 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

SEE PICTURE PERFECT, PAGE 7

RESTON CONNECTION ❖ Spring Real Estate & New Homes 2014 ❖ 3

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Local Designers Help Unveil DC Design House

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

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

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 a three-car garage 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's Rill Architects. Inspired by the stately stone home, the duo decided to add a bit of detail and interest in the form of "style appropriate light fixtures, shutters, furniture and accent colors." When choosing a paint color for the front door, they wanted a hue that was traditional, but unexpected. Their choice: a "high-gloss verdigris green-blue [that] immediately catches your eye from the street. They replaced the existing solid wood single door with a glass-paned French door that "pulls outside views and daylight into the entry hall."

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 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-woven wall covering..." The room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and "nods to both a mid-century flair and modernism."

One of the home's guest bathrooms was created by Arlington-based Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling Inc. Mann describes the small space as "chic, classic and timeless ... a jewel box bath." The room features Calcutta marble flooring in a herringbone pattern and the acoustic "Moxie" showering system that allows one to listen to music while bathing. Mann was able to preserve and refinish the home's original iron bathtub.

Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer, of Cleveland Hall Design created a guest



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

One of the home's guest bathrooms was created by Arlington-based Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling. The room features Calcutta marble flooring in a herringbone pattern and the acoustic "Moxie" showering system that allows one to listen to music while bathing.

bedroom in the home. In an effort to create a light and airy space, the duo selected wall paper in a pink floral pattern. "We choose streamlined furniture and fabrics to accent the Asian 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,



"I wanted to create a room with a casual and cozy feel."
— Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria At Home in Old Town Alexandria

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria At Home in Old Town, Alexandria, designed the family breakfast room. The room, which has large, picture windows that offer uninterrupted views of nature, connects the kitchen with butler's pantry/wine tasting room.

Janice Donelson, a classically trained artist.

THE MASTER BEDROOM was designed by Nancy Colbert of Design Partners in McLean. The space was repurposed to al-

low for a larger master bathroom and a walk-in closet with built-in shelving. Colbert discovered a painting that she thought would be perfect for a master bedroom, and designed the room around it. She chose an ivory turned-post king bed that she furnished with silk bedding in parchment and seafoam

green. Colbert added crown molding for additional detail. "One of the room's multi-purpose features is a silver toned gilded butterfly side table that was created by a newly discovered artist. It is a work of art and a table."

Beth Boggs, Teri Lohmann and Lynne

Go: D.C. Design House

Location: 4600 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008
Hours: Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., closed Monday, \$25. The home will be open for tours through May 11, 2014. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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 "nods to both a mid-century flair and modernism."

Parmelee of C2 Paint, Potomac Paint & Design with locations in Alexandria, Arlington and Chantilly, added color to the back staircase. The team chose paintable wallpaper in shades of plum, lilac, and spring green. Paintable wall paper "conveniently camouflages old plaster wall cracks, provides durability for high-traffic use and creates a

striking textured design." Now in its seventh year, the annual event is a fundraiser for Children's National Health System, formerly Children's National Medical Center. The D.C. Design House has raised more than \$1 million and attracted more than 55,000 visitors over the past six years.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown, of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria, designed the family room of the DC Design House. The 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.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

The home's front façade was designed by Rill Architects' David Benton and Jim Rill of Potomac.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer, of Cleveland Hall Design created a light and airy guest bedroom in the DC Design House. The room, designed whimsically in pink and green, features twin beds. Art in the room was painted by Donelson's mother, Janice Donelson, a classically trained artist.

Sampler of New Homes Offerings



The Van Metre Portsmouth Model at Brambleton includes 3,692 square feet with five bedrooms and three baths with a main level bedroom and full bath. Van Metre homes operates an award-winning new homes design center at 24600 Mill Stream Drive #400, Stone Ridge, VA 20105.



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 (3,331-5,849 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.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

New homes in Vienna in the Maymont community, built by Basheer & Edgemoore.

Basheer & Edgemoore Wins Silver

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-\$831,845, 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.

Potomac Yard — 1,736-4,167-square-foot condominiums and townhomes priced from \$619,990-\$1,133,845. Located at 2400 Main Line Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22301. Call 888-617-8583 or 800-665-4161, or visit www.pulte.com.

Evergreene Homes

Columbia Place — 1100 S Edgewood St., Arlington, VA 22204, Condos From the Mid 500s - Towns from the 800s. 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. Townhouses from the \$800,000s. Call 703-652-2949.

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.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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.”

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

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Local REAL ESTATE

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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



8 2882 Hibbard Street, Oakton — \$1,025,000

9 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 LYNN ST SW	5	4	1	.....	VIENNA	\$1,367,000	Detached	0.37	.....	22180	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 9868 PALACE GREEN WAY	6	5	1	.....	VIENNA	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.10	.....	22181	WILLIAMSBURG COMMONS	02/20/14
7 1226 ADMIRAL ZUMWALT LN	5	4	1	.....	HERNDON	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.88	.....	20170	STUART ESTATES	02/10/14
8 2882 HIBBARD ST	5	4	1	.....	OAKTON	\$1,025,000	Detached	0.34	.....	22124	GRAYS	02/28/14
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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