

**Burke
CONNECTION**

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Commission Recognizes Outstanding Women in Fairfax County Government

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Edwyne Wingo of the Chantilly area began her career with Fairfax County as a nurse in the Health Department on Sep. 1, 1965 and worked her last full day Oct. 1, 2011.

Wingo graduated from the University of Virginia nursing school in 1964 and decided she didn't much care for rotating and night shifts. Looking for a more regular schedule, she found work in "Home Health," providing health services for individuals outside the hospital.

"The bug of public health really stuck," she said. "And I was on the cutting edge of public health back then. Home visits, community clinics, I did it all. And I never gave up on my love of patient care."

Wingo now works as part-time on special projects for the Fairfax County Health Department, including a car seat program for families whose income is low enough to make them eligible. She started with the project four years ago and said to date thousands of car seats have been given out.

Wingo is the longest-tenured of 12 women honored by the Fairfax County Commission for Women on March 1, Super Tuesday, at the Government Center prior to the Board of Supervisors regular meeting.

"I was absolutely floored when I got the email," Wingo said. "Fairfax County has been very dear to me. I've had opportunities in Fairfax County with the Health Department."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova spoke to the group before moving into the Board's auditorium to begin the regular business meeting.

The Chairman opened with her response when people ask her what the obstacles were to her achieving her success in public elected office.

"I've benefitted from years of wonderful leadership of women in Fairfax County," Bulova said, referencing the late Jean Packard, the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Audrey Moore and Kate Hanley.

"They've paved the way for me," Bulova continued. Then transitioning and acknowledging the 12 women being recognized by the Commission, she thanked them each for "your knowledge, and the way you served Fairfax County."

Eleven women, each having spent 40 years or more with Fairfax County govern-



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addresses the Fairfax County Commission for Women recognition program.



Lake Braddock Secondary School junior Laura Sizemore is the student representative to the Fairfax County Commission for Women.



Pat Harrison is Deputy County Executive for Human Services and spoke on behalf of the Commission for Women during the proclamation ceremony with the Board of Supervisors recognizing March as Women's History Month.



Donna Bird a business analyst for Special Projects with the Department of Public Safety Communications.



Pat Burton is a management analyst II with the Department of Cable and Consumer Services.



Beth Imming is a public health nurse II with the Department of Public Health, Annandale office.



Linda O'Brien is an administrative assistant III with the Reston District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department.



Mary Rezzarday-White is currently library assistant II for youth services in the Fairfax City Regional Library.



Doris Robey is a manager in the Department of Tax Administration, Personal Property and Business License division.



Deanna Velasco is an administrative assistant IV in the Department of Family Services, Self Sufficiency Division, Fraud and Investigation Unit.



ment, represented a collective 433 years of service.

The 12th, Deputy County Executive for Human Services Pat Harrison, was scheduled to speak on behalf of the Commission for Women during a proclamation ceremony with the Board of Supervisors recognizing March as Women's History Month.

"I've benefited from years of wonderful leadership of women in Fairfax County."

—Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova

Laura Sizemore, a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School and in her second year as the student representative to the Fairfax County Commission for Women, was in the audience for the recognition ceremony.

"I bring the perspective of teenagers to the commission," Sizemore said, "I know the school side of issues like dress code and sexual harassment."



Susan Woodruff retired Jan. 21, 2016, as Director of the Department of Human Resources.

To see the 12 women honored for their vast careers with Fairfax County, Sizemore said it inspires her to work hard and do what she wants with her life, "not what people want me to do," she said.

The junior said computer science is a big passion and she plans to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or government.

NEWS



Chris Barbuschak grew up in Burke, now works as an archivist in the Virginia Room of the City of Fairfax Library and is participating in a new Burke Historical Society program to learn new research skills.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Room at the City of Fairfax Library houses references including genealogical records, Confederate service records and archived newspapers.

Unlocking Libraries

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When Col. Blake Meyers' (U.S. Army, ret.) mother and grandmother died, he inherited boxes of family records that no one had ever taken the time to archive, much less even go through and organize.

"Nobody else wanted it," Meyers said. The Burke resident took the boxes on and endeavored to get their contents straight, becoming a family historian in the highly methodical process. As a Civil War history buff, he was particularly interested in finding out more about his three great-great-grandfathers, who Meyers said all served in the Confederate Army.

"Just putting together the stories of their service," Meyers said, "Two were from the Shenandoah Valley and served in 11th Virginia Cavalry, another was down in Lynchburg in the 11th Virginia infantry."

"It's so interesting to understand what happened to your family," Meyers continued, "all these connections, marriages, births, properties, movements. I've got tax

returns from the early 1900s."

Meyers has already tried his hand at accessing clerk's offices and the national archives to fill in gaps in his research, but he is learning there is much more information out there available to him, if he knows how to look.

The retired colonel is also a member of the Burke Historical Society, which held the first meeting of a new research seminar series the evening of Tuesday, March 1, at the Burke Centre Library.

SOCIETY PROGRAMS CHAIR and Burke resident Brian Slawski gave the program's first presentation about how to access intellectual property records — patents and trademarks, his wheelhouse — for researching family members and local history.

"Personally, when I go to research at a library for the first time, I don't really know where to begin," Slawski said. "That can be intimidating."

This new series for society members (and open to the public) is geared to help reduce that intimidation factor.

"It's part of the mission of the Burke Historical Society," said Slawski, "to get people

interested in history. We want to share the particular skills, experiences that we've had."

Meyers had no idea patents and trademark records might be useful to him before attending the first lecture.

"I thought it was great, a lot of good information," Meyers said. "I was like a sponge, just soaking it all up."

Even professional archivist Chris Barbuschak of Burke picked up a few new moves at the meeting.

"I like learning new things," said Barbuschak, who looks after rare and unusual tomes and records in the Virginia reference room of the City of Fairfax Library, "especially when I can then offer that to library patrons who come in and say, 'Where else can I search?'"

Barbuschak's charges in the reference floor's climate-controlled inner sanctum include 300 collections of manuscripts he is processing to make more accessible to patrons, as well as thousands of rare photos, newspapers and local records like old receipts from the former Davis Store on the outskirts of Clifton.

"There's a goldmine of information in

here," Barbuschak said.

FOR THE APRIL MEETING of the Burke Historical Society's monthly series, Barbuschak will give the society a tour of the rare books room and talk about how to better access library reference materials in house and through databases like The Washington Post, Evening Star and Library of Virginia.

Barbuschak is passionate about getting others to be as interested in researching as he is, how he's been all his life.

"Most people my age are really not into that," said Barbuschak, a 2011 graduate of Loyola in Chicago. But doing local or family research yourself, he said, is motivating regardless of age.

"There's a sense of accomplishment and you learn along the way, you learn about your past," he said. "It's really exciting, like being Indiana Jones yourself."

The Burke Historical Society "Year of Research" seminars are scheduled to take place every first Tuesday of the month, 7-8 p.m. at the Burke Centre Library, located at 5935 Freds Oak Road in Burke. For more information, visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Matthew Takes on Four More Life Sentences with Guilty Plea for Murders

Jesse L. Matthew, Jr., now 34, will never leave prison. Matthew was already beginning to serve three consecutive life sentences after he entered an Alford Plea for charges of abduction, sexual assault and attempted murder in Fairfax in 2005.

On March 2, Matthew chose to plead guilty to First Degree Murder and Abduction with Intent to Defile related to the deaths of



Matthew

Hannah Graham and Morgan Harrington, both college students at the time, a release from the Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney said.

Harrington was a 20-year-old sophomore at Virginia Tech who disappeared from a 2009 Metallica concert in Charlottesville, Va. Graham, a Mount Vernon resident, was in her second year at the University of Virginia

when she went missing in September 2014.

Matthew was indicted in Graham's case in spring 2015 and for Harrington's defiling and death in the fall.

With Matthew's guilty plea, he takes on an additional four consecutive life sentences and waives the right to release or parole for geriatric or any other condition, as well as any right to appeal.

"This resolution serves the interests of justice by ensuring the defendant will never again pose a threat to public safety," Albemarle County Commonwealth's Atto-

nor Robert N. Tracci said in a statement.

"It is consistent with the wishes of the Graham and Harrington families," Tracci continued, "and provides a measure of legal finality in cases that would have been subject to highly public trials and protracted appellate review. The agreement can be attributed to the outstanding work of law enforcement personnel and volunteers who made Hannah and Morgan's cause their own."

—TIM PETERSON

It Takes a Village

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When speaking with Kathy Albarado, one might not guess that she'd experienced periods of homelessness as an adolescent. Her success, confidence and ability to inspire others are readily apparent. However, her childhood experiences have given her insight into the magnitude of the problem with homelessness in Fairfax County.

"I was in and out of transitional housing," said Albarado, who is now president and CEO of Helios HR, a Reston-based human capital management consulting and talent acquisition firm. "Transitional housing bridges the gap. It helps [homeless people] get back on their feet."

It is that first-hand knowledge that led Albarado and Helios HR to the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness "Build a Village Campaign," a collaboration of local chambers of commerce, businesses, faith groups, non-profit organizations and individuals dedicated to raising awareness and funds to benefit the county's homeless community.

"As my husband says, 'the fall is not that far.' Some people are one paycheck or one illness away from being homeless and we've got the resources in this county to change that," said Albarado. "Fairfax County is one of the most affluent counties in the country. Even if we have one homeless person, it's one too many."

One hundred percent of the funds raised for the Build a Village Campaign will be directed to help end veteran homelessness and house homeless individuals being served through the county's Hypothermia Prevention Program, which provides shelter during freezing temperatures. The hypothermia shelters operate from November through March and have a policy of not turning away anyone in need during freezing temperatures.

"We have been out trying to identify veterans as quickly as possible and house them within 90 days from when we identify them," said Dean Klein, director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "The money we raise will provide case management, housing assistance and medical or dental resources."

The campaign was launched in December 2015 and Klein says they hope to reach their goal of \$100,000 by the end of March. "We're trying to reduce as quickly as possible the number of people who are homeless and prevent more people from becoming homeless," said Klein. "This campaign



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HELIOS HR

Employees of Helios HR volunteer for Cornerstones, Inc. in Reston which provides support for those in need. Such charitable efforts help create an awareness of the extent of homelessness in the community and breaks stereotypes about homeless people.

"We're trying to reduce as quickly as possible the number of people who are homeless and prevent more people from becoming homeless."

— Dean Klein, director, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.

will help us to reach our goals and engage as many people and companies as possible to make this happen."

The way the program works is that local chambers of commerce, businesses, faith groups, non-profit organizations and individuals from Fairfax-Falls Church build virtual houses one brick at a time. Giving levels range from \$25 for a single brick to \$500 for a virtual door to \$5,000 for a virtual house. The Build a Village campaign will run through March 2016.

"It is an issue that the business community feels offers an important opportunity to assist," said Jim Corcoran, president and

Campaign designed to end homelessness in Fairfax County.



Kathy Albarado cleans an apartment as a volunteer for Cornerstones, Inc. Her company, Helios HR, has joined the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness "Build a Village Campaign."

CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

The county is on a trajectory to reach the goal by the end of the month. "We've had very good response since our launch," said Glynda Mayo Hall, Partnership Development manager of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "Our governing board has also stepped up to their leadership."

Albarado's staff at Helios HR in Reston has volunteered with nonprofits that offer support to the homeless like the Reston-based Embry Rucker Community Shelter, which provides emergency housing for families and single men and women. Among the volunteer efforts designed to help the homeless in Fairfax County, Helios employees assembled and delivered bagged

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

An Easter Cantata, "Risen," will be presented at **Jubilee Christian Center** on Easter Sunday, March 27, 8:45 and 11 a.m. services. The center is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road,

Build a Village Campaign

- ❖ \$25 buys a Brick
 - ❖ \$250 buys a Gate, Window or Chimney
 - ❖ \$500 buys the Door
 - ❖ \$1,000 buys the Roof
 - ❖ \$5,000 builds each Virtual House
- To donate or get more information, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/build-a-village/>

lunches to the shelter's residents.

Making a personal connection with those in need is a benefit that Albarado believes will resonate with her staff and one that she hopes other volunteers will experience. "It made us feel good to see and meet the people we were helping," she said. "It's important to build awareness, because when people are aware they are more likely to get engaged and get involved."

In addition to donating money, personal involvement with non-profit organizations like Cornerstones, Inc. in Reston which provides support for those in need of human services such as food, shelter and childcare, helps create an awareness of the extent of homelessness in the community and breaks stereotypes about homeless people.

Meeting people who were helped by the donations and volunteer efforts has had a profound effect on Natalie O'Laughlin, communications manager at Helios HR. "We've been able to meet the individuals who have benefited from the programs and hear their stories, which are heartwarming, and give you a better idea of who is affected," she said.

In addition to donating to the Build a Village Campaign, Albarado hopes that community members will give of their time, which in turn, she believes, will encourage others to make financial contributions. "Volunteering with these non-profits is more effective than reading stats because people don't connect with statistics," she said. "But when you meet the people who are impacted by your work, it's really powerful."

Fairfax. There is no Easter Sunday evening service. Call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org.

Lenten Soup Supper. Fridays from Feb. 26-March 18. 5:30-7 p.m. will be offered at **Holy Spirit School** Cafeteria, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale. Meatless soup suppers on Fridays during Lent, followed by the Stations of the Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. Free. Contact Lambie Renner, lrenner@holyspiritchurch.us.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Time to Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m. So before going to bed Saturday night, make sure to turn all clocks, watches and the time on electronic devices forward one hour.

Real Food for Kids Expo at Robinson Secondary

Kate Sherwood, Executive Chef for Center for Science in the Public Interest, will be the emcee for the March 12 Real Food For Kids Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo and a culinary competition judge. The event is free to the public and will be fun and informative for the entire family. The Expo will be held on Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax. Register at <http://www.realfoodforkids.org/expo.html>.

You can learn about food writing, promotion and photography, family meal planning, school gardening and school food. And, everyone will enjoy watching a culinary competition among 11 student teams challenged to prepare a delicious and nutritious school breakfast, lunch or snack. Fairfax County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services director Rodney Taylor, a pioneer in farm-to-school dining programs, and executive chef Paul Davis will present their new specialty salad and sandwich lines for students and teachers as well as sample creative new school lunch dishes. Free admission. Drawings for prizes from Williams-Sonoma and Earls Kitchen + Bar. Lunch available for nominal prices.

Paul VI High Redevelopment

The second community meeting on the future of the Paul VI High School site is set for Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m., at American Legion Post 177, at 3939 Oak St. in Fairfax. At that time, the IDI Group Cos. will present its master plan for the property's redevelopment.

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Everyone is Welcome

Easter Weekend at Antioch

Good Friday Services
March 25th
Prayer Worship
5:30-6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Worship Center

Children's Egg Hunt
March 26th 1:00 p.m.
Ministry Center

Easter Sunday Worship Services
March 27th
8:00, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m.
Worship Center

Antioch
Fairfax Station



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Rev. Dr. Marshal L. Ausberry, Sr., Pastor



OPINION

Bringing Back the Electric Chair

In a word: Barbaric.

No doubt Virginia and Texas will be the last two states to continue with the death penalty until, in inevitably, evolving standards of decency lead the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

But fear of loss has motivated the Virginia General Assembly to amend a law that allows prisoners facing execution to choose between lethal injection and the electric chair so that the electric chair is used if drugs for lethal injection are not available.

It's barbaric, and execution debacles with electrocution and unproven drugs for lethal injection could speed overall rejection of the death penalty.

Most representatives from our area voted against, but in the House of Delegates, which voted 62-33 for the electric chair, Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Vivian Watts voted in favor; Tim Hugo didn't vote but registered that he intended to vote yes. (Voting no were Jennifer Boysko, David Bulova, Eileen Filler-Corn, Charniele Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam, Paul Krizek, Mark Levine, Alfonso Lopez, Bob

EDITORIAL

Marshall, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Marcus Simon and Rip Sullivan. Kathleen Murphy didn't vote but registered that she intended to vote no.)

The Virginia Senate voted for the electric chair 22-17. From our area, only Dick Saslaw voted in favor of the electric chair. Voting no were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Janet Howell, Dave Marden, Chap Petersen, Scott Surovell and Jennifer Wexton.

Residents of the 35th Senate District could rightfully question whether they are getting the repre-

sentation they expect from Senator Saslaw (D), who without doubt will continue to be reelected until he chooses to retire. Saslaw voted for mandatory use of the electric chair if lethal injection drugs are not available, worked to kill legislation that would protect consumers from predatory lending and interest rates of more than 200 percent, and was chief patron of the notorious proffer bill, which, if signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe as passed, will result in localities losing the ability to temper costs of development and likely property tax increases.

Making Good Choices On Saint Patrick's Day

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty's Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home.

For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

— MARY KIMM

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

A Step Backwards for Virginia

Virginia New American leaders respond to the nomination of Ken Cuccinelli for the State Supreme Court.

Today (March 8), the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus nominated former attorney general and 2013 gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli for the Virginia Supreme Court.

After the Senate failed to secure the votes necessary to put Appeals Court Judge Rossie D. Alston Jr. onto the State Supreme Court, the Senate Courts of Justice Committee promptly certified Cuccinelli by a party line vote for the position. He will be voted on by the full Senate tomorrow and it appears that the Republicans have the votes to secure his placement on the Court.

Despite the fact that Governor McAuliffe's pick, Justice Jane Marum Roush, is an eminently qualified and highly regarded jurist who has presided over many high-profile cases, including the trial of D.C.-area sniper Lee Boyd Malvo, Republicans have refused to give her a full 12-year appointment.

From immigration to contraception to climate change denial to LGBT rights, Ken Cuccinelli has built a career on extreme conservative positions that are out of step with Virginia today. He also has a long and sordid history of antipa-

thy towards New Americans, immigrants, and Latinos in particular:

❖ In 2013, gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli went so far as to compare immigration to pest control and immigrants to RATS.

❖ He drafted a bill that would deny unemployment benefits to employees who do not speak English.

❖ He derided the 2013 Congressional Immigration Reform Plan as legalization and "amnesty."

❖ He threw his full support behind Arizona's anti-immigration SB1070 law.

❖ As a state senator, he sponsored legislation aimed at stripping U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants of their right to citizenship.

❖ As attorney general he embraced policies that would authorize police to check the immigration status of anyone they stop or arrest.

❖ He has been a strong opponent of in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants brought to the country at no fault of their own and at a young age by their parents.

J. Walter Tejada, Community Leader and former Elected Official, stated, "From Donald Trump

inciting his supporters by calling Latino immigrants 'thieves' and 'rapists' or candidates calling for a divisive southern wall or hateful rhetoric being used against New Americans, it seems all we've heard is anti-immigrant nonsense spewing from Republican politicians. The proposed placement of Ken Cuccinelli on the Virginia State Supreme Court would represent a very significant step backwards for Virginia."

Alfonso Lopez, Democratic Member of the Virginia House of Delegates, stated, "As the son of a Latin American immigrant and the first Latino Democrat elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, it's incredibly difficult to hear the vitriol that Republicans use against immigrants day in and day out. Today, by proposing Cuccinelli for the State Supreme Court, Republicans are endorsing a person with a long history of doctrinaire, 'Trumpesque' positions that are out of step with a modern Virginia."

Tram Nguyen, Executive Director of New Virginia Majority, stated, "On International Women's Day, the Republican Party could not have nominated a more divisive anti-immigrant, anti-choice individual to serve on Virginia's

highest court. Cuccinelli's extreme views have no place on the Supreme Court. Virginia's judicial system should not be the victim of political maneuvers."

Marvin Figueroa, President of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia, stated, "I am extremely disappointed that Republicans in the General Assembly would nominate an individual to Virginia's Supreme Court with such an extensive track record of radical opposition to immigrants and New Americans. Someone who has so ardently campaigned to amend the U.S. Constitution to end birthright citizenship should not be allowed to serve on our Supreme Court and trusted with defending Virginia's Constitution."

The Honorable J. Walter Tejada, former Member of the Arlington County Board

The Honorable Alfonso Lopez, Virginia State Delegate, 49th District

Leni Gonzalez, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Marvin Figueroa, President of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia

Tram Nguyen, Executive Director of New Virginia Majority

Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, Chair of the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations

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LETTERS

How Come Cat 'Beats' State Champions?

To the Editor:

Really? How come?

Your Feb. 25-March 2 cover story was about a cat and buried on page 12 was the article on both Robinson Boys and Girls swim teams winning State Titles!

How your cover story could be more important and newsworthy than the Robinson title wins is a mystery to me.

We in the Burke area are very fortunate to have two great high schools in our area. For most of the Connection's history, Lake

Braddock events/sports have always taken precedent for the Connection even when Robinson has had similar outstanding achievements. However, even when it is just a Robinson achievement the Connection sees fit to not recognize it.

These students and their hard won accomplishments deserved to be on the front cover—not a cat.

Mickey Garrels

Burke

Lifting Stigma from Drug Users

To the Editor:

I believe that your in-depth look at Northern Virginia's heroin subculture ("Police Arrest 20 for Heroin Use in One Day," Connection, March 2-8, 2016) was a step in the right direction towards helping to lift the stigma from drug users. You chose to expand upon the stories of the 20 people recently apprehended for the possession and/or distribution of heroin instead of simply focusing on the crime itself. I applaud how the fine men and women of the police departments of Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William counties chose to opt for rehabilitating those arrested instead of simply detaining them and risking that they return to drugs. Instead of placing a "bandage" on the chronic issue,

they decided to treat the wound itself in order to prevent it from happening later on. It was very thoughtful and sensitive of them to realize that this wasn't just a private trouble in the lives of the addicts, but instead a public issue in their community that needed to be rectified. Helping the victims out of their addictions instead of just incarcerating them may have also helped in reducing the number of deaths attributed to heroin and the health consequences that result from its use as well. All in all this was a very well written paper and your dedication to providing the whole truth about the situation is refreshing and welcomed.

Preston Taylor
Springfield

Protecting Arts Programs in Schools

To the Editor:

After reading the article, "Fairfax County: Parents, Community Supporters Rally to 'Invest in Kids'" by Tim Peterson (Connection, February 18-24), spending on public education is clearly becoming a huge concern. Being a former student of Fairfax County, I remember how important programs related to the arts were to many students. Many students gained an interest in music beginning at an early age. Without the availability

of the classes or the teachers, many young children may have never discovered their hidden talents or interests in the field.

I strongly believe spending should not cut out the arts from public education, and students should continue to receive the same opportunities we did when we were in elementary school.

Roxana Jahanbani
Great Falls

Write

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Charlie Bliss (right) and Charley Moseley received their first U.S. patent together as co-inventors in late 2015

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Meeting the Challenge of Our Time

Greenspring resident and colleague receive U.S. Patent for process aimed at combating global warming.

Data recently released from NASA and NOAA confirmed that 2015 marked the hottest year since record keeping began in the late 1800s. Their data also confirms that 2015 was not an outlier; in fact, 15 of the 16 hottest years in history have been recorded since the turn of the century. In response to the data, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden indicated that "climate change is the challenge of our generation." Greenspring retirement community resident, 98-year-old Charlie Bliss, and his 78-year-old colleague Charley Moseley, are doing their part to suggest options for combating global warming; the two recently received a U.S. Patent (US 9,187,724), citing a method for utilizing captured carbon dioxide through the cultivation of microalgae, thus reducing harmful emissions to the atmosphere. Bliss will be honored for his achievements at Greenspring during the community's annual Earth Day celebration this April.

Bliss and Moseley first met while working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Pakistan in 1981. Moseley was the head of USAID/Pakistan's Office of Energy and Environment, and Bliss was an officer in the central Office of Energy where his focus was on the USAID technical and economic assistance program to Pakistan. During this time, he with Moseley participated in a comprehensive feasibility study aimed at establishing the first modern coal mining and power generation installation in the country, while also meeting their international standards for environmental protection. In recent years, Bliss has served as an independent consultant focusing on his concern over the declining role of coal-based power generation in the United States. These activities led to the application for a U.S. Patent, for which he and Moseley are co-inventors.

Bliss and Moseley cite the Environmental Pro-

tection Agency's (EPA) current plan to slow global warming tends toward closing power plants and eliminating the use of coal. They suggest a more constructive approach; cleaning up the burning of coal by finding uses for carbon dioxide other than storing it underground before it has the opportunity to enter the atmosphere. NOAA confirms that when the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere goes up, its temperature also goes up. While permanently storing carbon dioxide underground is a known option, Bliss and Moseley suggest that a better option is to produce a cost-effective way to capture the carbon dioxide and to find uses that yield revenue.

In their recently awarded patent, Bliss and Moseley have specified a method for cultivating and processing microalgae, which includes directing a continuous supply of carbon dioxide into an enclosed container, known as a photobioreactor, containing microalgae. Photosynthesis chemical reactions using renewable solar energy take place in the photobioreactor, producing both an algae biomass and a gaseous mixture. A separation occurs of the two substances, which can then be used in a variety of ways, such as for cattle feed and creating a renewable diesel fuel. Their patent industrializes the photosynthesis reaction and according to Bliss and Moseley, produces revenue rather than cost. The next step for them involves a physical demonstration that this is a viable process and a valuable substitution for current methodology. They have also just filed for a second patent complimenting the first.

Charles Bliss has spent his career as a progressive chemical engineer specializing in energy and economic development. He was awarded the professional degree of Chemical Engineer in 1948 by The Cooper Union in New York; 63 years later in 2011, his alma mater recognized his achievements with the Gano Dunn award for outstanding achievement in engineering, industry, or finance. This most recent patent marks Bliss' fifth U.S. Patent, but his first since the 1950s. Bliss first moved to the D.C. area from Boston in 1976; 13 years ago, he moved to Greenspring in Springfield. At age 98, Bliss suggests that his longevity may be due to the enduring ability to do what he loves. "I like retirement so much, I do it often," said Bliss.



Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20-21, more than 80 students and community members took part in the weekend Virginia Production Assistant Training for Film and TV co-hosted by GMU FAVS at the Harris Theatre in Fairfax.



Peg Crowder with the Virginia Production Alliance, Anne Chapman and Emily Wyman with the Virginia Film Office, and film professional Gary Fiorelli smile for a photo at the GMU Harris Theatre in Fairfax.

Film Studies Progress at GMU

Student media at George Mason University.

On Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 20-21, more than 80 students and community members took part in the weekend Virginia Production Assistant Training for Film and TV co-hosted by GMU FAVS at the Harris Theatre. The program included instruction by Gary Fiorelli and representatives of film groups with the Virginia Film Office, Virginia Production Alliance, Women in Film and Video DC, and a dozen guest speakers. Fiorelli has worked on projects including Pirates of the Caribbean, Jarhead, and Runaway Jury. A reception was held the evening of Feb. 20 at ThunderShot Studios at 9425 Mathy Dr, Fairfax. "I thought the session was really helpful," said GMU junior Kyle Finnegan.

Ryan Hill, a senior at GMU said the seminar sessions reflected on how the Film and Media Studies program has been expanding. ThunderShot Studios designed by industry insiders Lars Sandvik and Amy Krueger, noted the Virginia and D.C. market has many clients for video production. ThunderShot Studio, a modified warehouse, opened in September 2014. "In order to find air conditioning this quiet, you would have to go to either New York or Hollywood," said ThunderShot Studios president, Lars Sandvik. ThunderShot Studios was engineered to an NC-25 sound



ThunderShot studio in Fairfax opened in September 2014. In February, the studio hosted an open house in connection with a seminar co-hosted by the Film and Media Studies Program at George Mason University.

isolation standard. The studio is a 60-foot-by-40-feet-by-16-feet space with 1,000 amps of dedicated studio power and a 180-degree hard cyclorama.

Anne Chapman of the Virginia Film Office and FAVS Program coordinator Rebekah Mejorado helped organize the February Virginia Production Assistant Training for Film and TV event at GMU. Approximately 60 percent of those who attended were not students, but were interested in the opportunity to learn new skills and network. For those entering the film and production field, it was an opportunity to learn about groups such as Women in Film and Video (WIFV). Founded in 1979, WIFV is a resource for people who want successful media careers in the D.C. region. "We have a lot of regional reach," said Ariel Magno, a membership coordinator at WIFV.

Film and Media Studies Program at George Mason University (GMU) has grown since it was founded in 2006. The Film and Media Studies (FAVS) Program explores films, new media, and forms of television to understand media's contexts and effects. The program was founded when deans and the College of Visual and Performing Arts and the College of Humanities and Social Science, along with a group of local filmmakers, created the first multidisciplinary undergraduate degree in film in the Common-

Area Students Named to 2016 Virginia All-State High School Honors Choir

Sixty-five Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) high school students have been named to the Virginia All-State Honors Choir and as alternates include:

Langley High School: Camila Marie, Akbari Ammad, Regan Herberg, and alternates Trevor Goldhush, Matt Arrison, and Paloma Ferraz (Mac Lambert, director).

Madison High School: Ben Schwartz,

Jordyn Pistilli, and alternate Kate Gibson (Claire Rowan, director).

Marshall High School: Sarah Koo, Conor Kelly, and alternates Sammy Graceson and Alexandra Stenseth (Keri Staley, director).

McLean High School: alternates Daniel Thomas and Eric Juneau (Linda Martin, director).

Oakton High School: Megan Griggs, Andie Carroll, Kathryn Conley, Jack Lankenau, and Jillian Tate (Tiffany Powell, director).

Virginia All-State Honors Choir is sponsored by the Virginia Choral Directors Association, an affiliated unit of the Virginia Music Educators Association.

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Gifted Dancers, Thrilling Artistry

George Mason University School of Dance presents Dance Gala.

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

These are exciting times for the Mason School of Dance; we want to share our excitement with all of Northern Virginia," said Susan Shields, director School of Dance, George Mason University. Shields was describing the upcoming Mason School of Dance concert as an opportunity to watch and meet with Mason's talented student dancers.

Shields also noted that the Gala supported scholarships for Mason's "exceptional dance students."

"We want everyone to know that the evening of dance will have something for everyone and every taste," said Shields. "This year's gala event will feature four works from the best of contemporary choreographers performed by Mason's gifted dancers." And there will be a celebratory dinner with a very special guest speaker; Robert Battle, artistic director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The dance works to be performed include "Impetere" from award-winning choreographer Nick Pupillo. It is a fearless, invigorating work about human relationships performed by ten dancers, both male and female. There is also "Bhangra Fever" developed by choreographer and Tony nominee Donald Byrd. It is a high-energy, colorful, cross-cultural work set to infectious music from northern India.

Audiences will also witness "Vespers," an absorbing, provocative, athletic work for two dancers by David Grenk set to music by Grammy Award winner Tom Waits. And finally, Mark Morris' "V," a modern work performed to the classical music of Robert Schumann. "V" refers to the Roman numeral for five as in a quintet. The performance by the Mason dancers is the first of "V" to be performed outside of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Mason students Taylor Pasquale (Northern Virginia) and Joey Day (Herndon) spoke of their hunger to dance. For Pasquale, dance allows her "to express feelings through movement; using my body as an instrument of expression." Dancing provides an opportunity to visually "communicate ideas that can be difficult through language



PHOTO BY TIM COBURN/
COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

George Mason University School of Dance students Donyae Bush and Charlotte Samaroo.

Where and When

George Mason University School of Dance presents 2016 Mason Dance Gala Concert, Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: March 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15 for seniors and Mason students, \$25 for adults. Tickets by phone 888-945-2468 or online at www.cfa.gmu.edu.

♦ Note: There is a George Mason University Dance Gala Concert Celebration and Dinner on March 19. Tickets start at \$150 per person. For information regarding sponsorships or tickets for the Mason Dance Gala Concert Celebration, contact Cody Clarke at cclarke17@gmu.edu or 703-993-4749. The program for the March 19, Celebration and Dinner: 5 p.m. Champagne reception, preview and insights with guest choreographers, students and faculty 6 p.m. Dinner with special guest Robert Battle, artistic director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Battle will speak about his career and the art of dance. 8 p.m. Mason Dance Gala Concert Performance

alone." Pasquale will perform "Bhangra Fever."

Day described how Mason welcomed him "with open arms, even with my unconventional hip hop background. The school seemed like a community, and I found that appealing." For Day, "dance brings a certain fulfillment, it challenges mentally, physically and emotionally" as he delves into an art that is so human. Day will perform in "Impetere" and "Vespers."

An opportunity to witness choreography that is joyful, soulful and visually arresting is coming at the 2016 Mason School of Dance Gala with performances by an emerging generation of accomplished dancers.

CALENDAR



PHOTO BY GREGOR EISENHUTH

Singers, Irish dancers and actors tell the story of the spirit of Ireland on Sunday, March 20 at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Woodbridge Flute Choir "A Touch of Irish." 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Twenty-five members who play flute, piccolo, alto flute, bass flute and contrabass flute. Part of Bonita Lestina Performance Series. www.fairfaxva.gov.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 11-12

Consignment Sale. Friday, 7-10 p.m. Saturday, 8-11 a.m. Spring-Mar Preschool, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Find great deals on kids and baby clothes, toys, baby gear, shoes and accessories, as well as maternity and nursing gear. spring-mar.org/ sales.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Real Food for Kids-Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo: Learn about food writing and photography, family meal planning, school gardening and school food. Watch 11 student teams compete to create a delicious school breakfast, lunch or snack. realfoodforkids.org/expo.html.

Richmond Ballet II. 7:30 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A performance of classical and contemporary dance, including "The Friar's Tale," "Excerpts from Stolen Moments," and "Rachmaninoff Rhapsody." \$20-\$34. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Sarah Kaufman. 6:30 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Pulitzer Prize winning dance critic Sarah Kaufman talks about her book, "The Art of Grace." Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3075.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Jewish Plays Project Contest. 6:45 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Readings of three plays selected from the top 10 Jewish Plays Projects plays of 2016. The audience will vote on the winning play. \$10-\$18. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Silhouette Artist. Noon-5. Dawn Price Baby, 2905 District Ave., Fairfax. Original silhouettes are \$25, duplicates are \$15, and framing is available for \$20. Reserve a spot at

<https://fairfax2016.eventbrite.com>.
The Saga of Martha Washington's Will. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Katrina Krempasky with the Fairfax County Circuit Court Historic Records will relate the travels of the First Lady Martha Washington's will following its removal from the Courthouse by a Union soldier during the Civil War until the document was returned to Fairfax County in the early 20th-century. Free. 703-385-8414.

Jewish Plays Project. 6:45 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Part play reading and part American Idol, the Contest is a night of theater, drinks, and conversation which invites audience members to help decide the future of Jewish arts by using their cell phones to vote on the best new play. \$10-\$18. jccnv.org.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 15-20

Used Book Sale. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. On Sunday, book sale is open from 2-5 p.m. Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Gently read books for sale from \$0.50 to \$3. 703-978-9789.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Lunch N'Life. Noon-2 p.m. Jubilee Christian Church, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The guest speaker will be Fairfax County Supervisor, Mr. John Cook (R-Braddock). Reserve by March 11 by calling 703-620-0161. 410. If you need a ride to the event, call 703-323-4788.

Out of the Past. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Susan Gray, Curator of the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, will discuss how First Lady Jackie Kennedy selected new china and crystal for the White House and the reasons behind the choices. Attendees may bring 1960s crystal glassware for show and tell. Non-members welcome. Free. 703-273-6090.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

City of Fairfax Senior Center Appraisal Event. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Proceeds go to the City of Fairfax Senior Center. \$5 admission. \$5 per appraisal. 703-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10
273-6090.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-19

2016 Mason Gala Dance. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Event supporting scholarships for School of Dance students. Special guest Robert Battle artistic director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. \$15, \$25. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Music at the Box Office. 7:30 p.m. Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. City of Fairfax band welcomes the coming of spring with an evocative selection of classic compositions for the silver screen. The program features music of famous 20th-century Hollywood composers. \$10, \$16. www.fairfaxband.org.

The Peace that Almost Was. 2 p.m. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Author Mark Tooley, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, will tell the story of the 1861 Washington Peace Conference, a bipartisan, last-ditch effort to prevent the Civil War. 703-591-0560.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

Celtic Nights: The Spirit of Freedom. 4 p.m. Center for the Arts George Mason University, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Cast of 14 accomplished singers, Irish dancers and actors tell this story of the spirit of Ireland to more than 50 communities in the U.S. \$29-\$48. cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

Easter Event. 3:30 p.m. King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Lots of fun activities, picture with the Easter bunny, egg hunts for different ages, and decorating Easter trees. Easter Egg hunt for special needs children, too. Children up to sixth grade. kofk.org. 703-378-7272 ext. 225.

NOVA Pro Wrestling. 5-7:30 p.m. Annandale Sports Center, 6728 Industrial Road, Springfield. "Last Exit to Springfield," with Sonja Dutt, Logan Easton Laroux, Arik Royal, et al. \$20-\$25. novaprowrestling.tumblr.com. novaprotickets@gmail.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 21

Art Therapy Day at NVTRP. 9 a.m.-noon. NVTRP, 6429 Clifton Road, Clifton. A morning of therapeutic art activities designed to encourage self-confidence, socialization, and creative expression! Multi-media activities may include painting, movement, music, group art, drawing, creative play, and more. Ages 5-12. \$100. Sign up at office@nvtrp.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Easter Egg Hunt. 10-11:30 a.m. Sangster Elementary School, 7420 Reservation Drive, Springfield. Parkway Bible Church will hold an Easter Egg Hunt. There will be separate egg hunts for the little tykes and the school aged kids. Pre-K and school-aged children and families. Free. www.parkwaybibleva.org.

Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. 9 a.m. Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Free. All welcome. gracepresby.org.

Children's Performance Series. 10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Good Gollie, It's Mollie. Free.

Ongoing

Scholarship. Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullrunnewrt.org>.

Cell Phones for Soldiers. March 1-April 18. Liberty Tax, 5622-G Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Donate unwanted cell phones to help active duty military and vets call loved ones. 703-323-5580.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

Palingenesis. Feb. 19-April 9. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. New art exhibition. Curated by Mojdeh Rezaeipour and Hannah Son, Palingenesis brings together an eclectic group of local and D.C. artists working in a variety of media. 571-212-7227. epicurecafe.cart@gmail.com.

"Shrek the Musical JR." April 22, 23, 29, and 30. Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Come see this talented group of young actors ages 8-18 as they travel Far Far Away with everyone's favorite ogre, a wise-cracking donkey, and a cast of fairy tale misfits. \$14. www.nvplayers.com.

FUN-Exercise. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. Contact Chris Moore at moorefitt@yahoo.com or 703-499-6133.

Adventures in Learning. Mondays, 8:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. April 4-May 9. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge, and canasta. Bring a brown bag lunch. \$30. www.scfbva.org. 703-426-2824.

Art Classes. Tuesdays. Jan. 30-April 2 and Feb. 2-March 15. Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Winter art classes. Art lesson for youth 8 and up. Drawing plus color 5-8 years. Art workshop/Chinese brush painting for teens and adults. Ongoing enrollment. \$11/\$15 per class. Carol Zeitlin, www.czartlessons.com. 703-250-6930.

Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe). Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (Hello)! Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel! Free (we ask that you try to attend regularly). RSVP Naama.Gold@jccnv.org.

After the Holocaust. April 5-May 19. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Bodzin Art Gallery presents an art exhibit observing the 70th anniversary of the conclusion of the Nuremberg Trials. Watercolors by Alexandra Rozenman, a political refugee from Moscow, and sculptures by Paula Stern. Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

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March 20 - worship at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 am

March 24 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm

March 25 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm

March 26 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am

March 27 - Easter Sunday worship at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am

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Fairfax senior Noe'll Taylor dribbles the ball up the floor against Cosby in the 6A state quarterfinals on March 4 at Robinson Secondary School.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Ends Historic Season in State Quarterfinals

Rebels finish 27-3, including undefeated regular season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax girls' basketball team made history and got a taste of the big stage during the 2015-16 season. Head coach Pat Deegan said the Rebels laid the foundation for a successful future.

Fairfax's season came to an end on March 4 when the Rebels lost to two-time defending state champion Cosby 53-44 in the 6A state quarterfinals at Robinson Secondary School. Facing a pair of Division I recruits in 6-foot-3 center Tyra Whitehead (Wake Forest) and guard Jocelyn Jones (North Carolina), Fairfax trailed by three in the fourth quarter but wasn't able to come all the way back.

The Rebels were down 34-31 late in the third quarter when guard Karah Murphree drove to the basket, made a shot and an official called a foul. However, rather than having a chance for a three-point play and to tie the score, the official called Murphree for an offensive foul and the bucket was waived off.

"I definitely thought," Murphree said, "I had the and-1..."

Cosby followed with a 3-pointer at the other end, extending its lead to six.

"It certainly blunted our charge at that time, but that's basketball," Deegan said.



"That's the toughest call in basketball — the block/charge."

Senior guard Noe'll Taylor led Fairfax with 20 points, according to allmetsports.com. Murphree finished with nine points and senior guard Jalita Montgomery had five.

Despite the disappointing loss, Fairfax produced a memorable season.

The Rebels finished with a 27-3 record, including the program's first undefeated regular season. Fairfax reached the Conference 6 and 6A North region tournament championship games, and qualified for the state tournament.

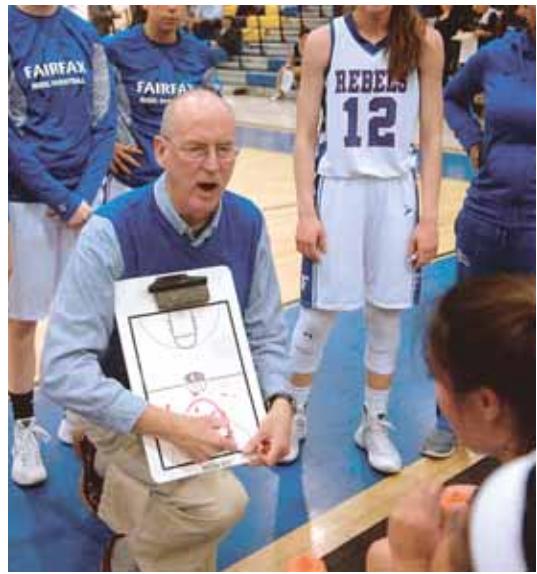
Fairfax senior Jalita Montgomery was a primary contributor for a team that finished the season with a 27-3 record.

Fairfax head coach Pat Deegan led the Rebels to an undefeated regular season and trips to the Conference 6 and 6A North region championship games.

"I think we accomplished so much," said Taylor, Conference 6 Player of the Year. "We made history at our school and I couldn't ask for better teammates."

Fairfax will graduate a trio of starters — Taylor, Montgomery and Alexandra Wendling.

"What these kids did was pretty awesome," Deegan said. "If I go back and look at the preseason predictions, a lot of people didn't even have us in the top four in our conference to start the year off. When you look at what we put out in the floor — [5 feet 3], 5-4, 5-5, 5-8, 5-8 — we're pretty small, but they didn't realize that. They like to play the game of basketball, they're great teammates, they bought into the whole thing ...



"What they did was I think they built a foundation for the kids to have even more success next year."

Murphree and junior Dominique Webster figure to be two of the Rebels' top returners next season.

"Hopefully [the seniors'] greatest legacy will be kids like Emma [Heslep] will sit there, and Dom will sit there and say, 'I'm going to be next year's Jalita and Noe'll,' and if they do that, their legacy will continue on."

Deegan, who has also coached at Westfield, Madison and Bishop O'Connell, said he has enjoyed his time with the Rebels.

"I've coached for 34 years," Deegan said. "I probably haven't had as much fun as I did with this group in the last 20 — maybe never. They were just a really special group to work with."

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Spartans Lose in State Quarterfinals

The West Springfield boys' basketball team, the No. 3 seed from the 6A North region, lost to 6A South runner-up Oscar Smith 48-41 in the state quarterfinals on March 4 at Old Dominion University.

The Spartans ended the season with a 23-6 record. West Springfield finished atop the Conference 7 regular-season standings, finished runner-up in the conference tournament and took third place at the region tournament.

The Spartans will lose forwards Lewis Djonkam and Brock Vaughn, and guards Andrew Storr and Spencer Askew, among

others, to graduation.

Robinson Lax Teams to Open Regular Seasons

The defending state champion Robinson

lacrosse teams will open their respective regular seasons next week.

The boys' team, which has won the last two state titles, will host Broad Run at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15. The Rams are led by head coach Matt Curran. The girls' team, led by head coach Liz Case, will travel to face Broad Run at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.



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Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Finding Balance When a Parent Moves In. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Learn how to balance your time and establish boundaries while caring for your children and your aging parents. Free. RSVP to 703-204-4664. InsightMCC.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 11-12

Free Dental Services. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. NOVA Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. NOVA MEC partners with the Northern Virginia Dental Society to provide free dental services for low-income residents of Northern Virginia. Schedule a spot at 703-642-5297. To volunteer as a dental professional, go to nvds.org/.

TUESDAY/MARCH 15

Saturday Night in the Suburbs. 7 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. The program features a panel of high school seniors who talk openly about alcohol and drug use, teen parties, social media, parent supervision and enabling, and communication with parents. Middle school and high school parents are encouraged to attend. www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org. www.facebook.com/unifiedpreventioncoalition.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

Aging-in-Place Seminar. 10-11:30 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Learn about a program, designed for active adults 55 and older, is supported and managed by Goodwin House, a mission-driven, nonprofit organization with two residential properties in Northern Virginia. Free. RSVP not required but space is limited. Reserve at 703-575-5202 or at athome@goodwinhouse.org.

Taking Care of Me. 1 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Mary Ellen Gizzie, a certified Thanatologist, will discuss how to define and deal with stress, recognize and understand guilt and how it affects us physically, emotionally and mentally. Free. RSVP to 703-204-4664. InsightMCC.org.

Teen Trafficking Awareness Event. 7 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. West Springfield High School, in cooperation with the Just Ask Prevention Project, invites the community to join us for an awareness night to address the issue of sex trafficking in the region. Speakers from public services, organizations and police. justaskprevention.org. 571-348-0231.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

Budget Town Hall. 7-9 p.m. Community Room, West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. County Executive Ed Long and representatives from the Department of Management and Budget will be available to answer questions. Sponsored by Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). 571-585-4540.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Breathe Out. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. Breathe Out has been developed to address teen stress. Registration required. breatheoutnow.wix.com/goldaward.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Annual Spring Event: Luncheon & Silent Auction. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Hosted by Assistance League of Northern Virginia to benefit its Operation School Bell programs. Event will feature a presentation on Identity Theft and Personal Safety. \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. lindamshils@gmail.com or 703-424-6652. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

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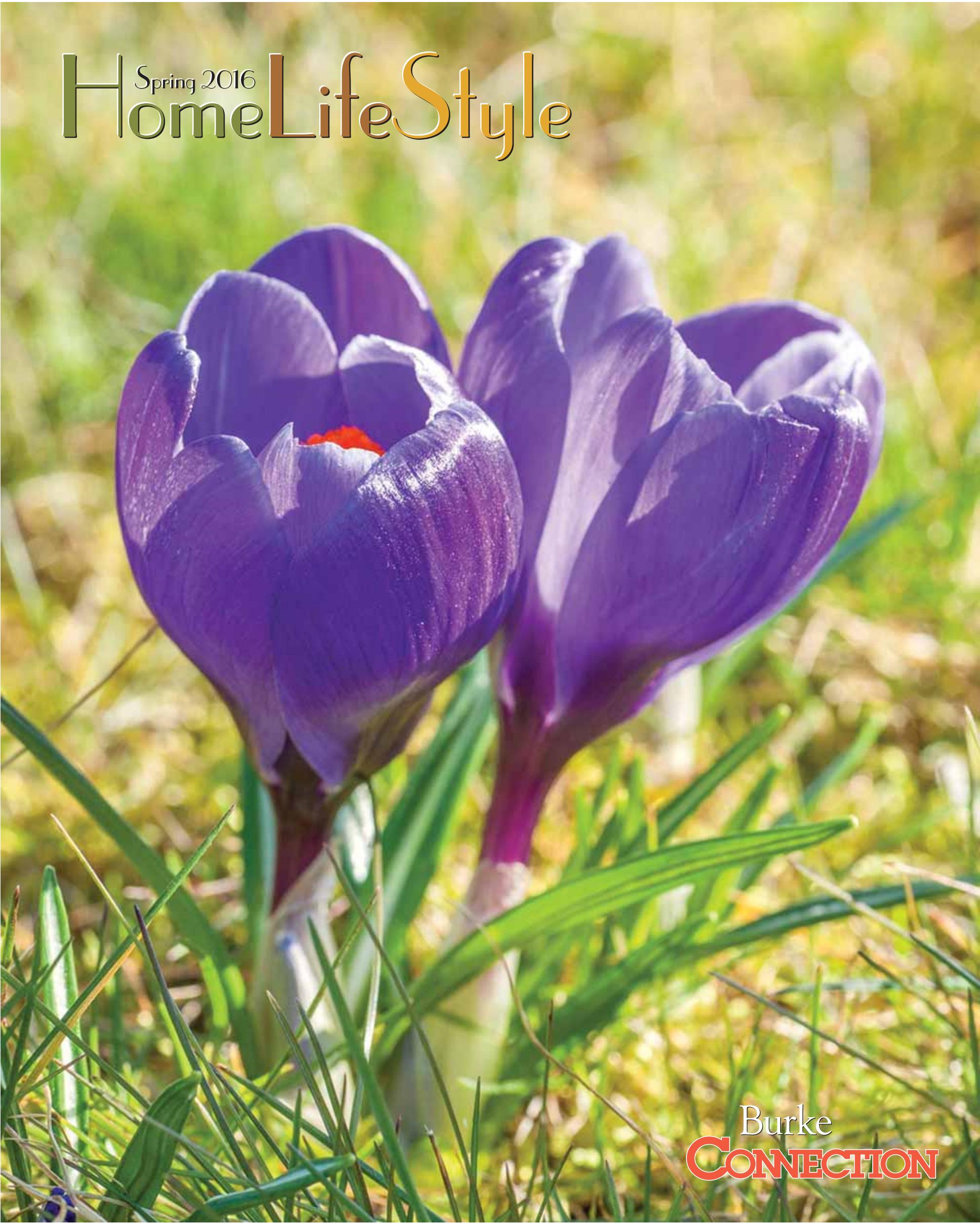


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Good Advice:

"I let sellers know that they need to expect that some of their privacy will be compromised...their home needs to be in showing condition every day before they leave, clean kitchen, beds made, everything put away, pets secured and comfortable, and that the home smells clean and fresh. I always suggest they visit model homes to see examples of what buyers fall in love with and why."

— Megan Bailey, Bailey Fine Properties,

"Some of my absolutes ... for buyers, please be careful what you say. There could be a recording device in the house. Not unusual anymore with today's security technology. For example, don't look at pictures and say that their children look creepy. Yes, I have had this happen, but luckily it wasn't recorded. Sellers, put away medications and jewelry. It's rare, but prescription drugs are the number one item that 'goes missing' during open houses or showings."

— Smita Lal, Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon

"Recently had a listing that needed a bit of updating. The seller was fine with spending some money to get their home in selling condition, but balked at my suggestion to replace the fluorescent lighting in the kitchen. Four months later, the seller finally agreed to spend the \$1000 to replace the light. We ratified a contract 5 days after the work was done. Moral of the story: If you are hiring a pro to help you buy or sell a home, listen to their advice. They do this for a living, not once every 5 – 10 years. By the way, lighting is super important. Current and bright, please."

— Andy Krumholz, Keller Williams Realty, Utopian Homes

"I always tell my sellers, 'To be clear, I will give you a list of customized items to prepare your home. It will be in order of importance. You may not agree with the list, and I understand that, but I assure you, the more you complete, the fewer days on the market, and of course at the right price.' So far I haven't missed."

— Lisa Carlisle, Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon

More tips
on page 4

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Remodeled Home Tour Set for March 12

Home evolves from center hall colonial to open plan with boldly original finishes.

BY JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

A dramatic "kitchen-centric" first floor interior design solution in a 30-year-old Colonial-style production house will be featured on a "Remodeled Home Tour" sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling on Saturday, March 12.

The house at 7990 Oak Bridge Lane in Fairfax Station is owned by Andrew Smith and Madelynne McCarthy. The residence will be opened to the public from noon-4 p.m.

Purchased by Smith and McCarthy in 2002, the original house was a traditional center hall Colonial with four bedrooms. The couple, now in their late 50s, have occupied the home for 14 years.

While the 4,000-square-foot house (the couple's second) has been satisfactory to the owners in many respects, the first floor's comparatively small rooms, narrow doorways and builder-grade finishes had come to seem dated and cramped as the couple looked ahead to retirement years.

"We wanted our house to be more of personal residence that reflects our tastes," Andy Smith said. "A place we can really enjoy for another 10 years, or more."

As longer occupancy became a consideration, the production house limitations seemed glaring.

"The kitchen was space-constricted and pretty drab," Smith said. "There was a small island with a cooktop that didn't provide a useful working surface. Doors to the hall closet and powder room frequently obstructed traffic at the kitchen archway,



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

Fairfax Station homeowners Andy Smith and Madelynne McCarthy relocated an adjacent dining room in order to gain 78 feet for a gourmet kitchen that accommodates a large food prep island and a three-stool wine bar a few steps from the back deck. The island surface is "blue flower" granite.

which was too narrow. The kitchen clean-up area was too exposed from the family room. Overall, we wanted a more balanced, aesthetically-pleasing interior."

An addition off the back of house was an earlier space-enhancement consideration.

"We had plans to remove the rear wall and add 800 square feet," Smith said, "but when we looked more closely at our real requirements this approach didn't make economic sense. Fundamentally, we just wanted a larger kitchen and pantry, and a

warmer interior that would work well for entertaining; we weren't sure how to accomplish this."

A seminar by Sun Design Remodeling last year unveiled to a new way of assessing priorities.

"The program prompted us to explore ideas of re-purposing space within the home's existing footprint," Smith said. "I suddenly recognized we were getting almost no use from our 200-square-foot formal living room. It was just wasted space."



The bow front farm sink, six-burner stove and food prep island form the three sides of a work triangle that facilitates cooking and clean-up tasks. The custom-designed barn door (right) leads into the new formal dining room.

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



With its coffered ceiling and Wedgwood interior treatment, the dining room explores 18th century (Colonial-era) themes. The circa-1890's glass-and-wood barn door mounted on rollers was created by Sun Design. The innovation provides privacy, yet allows light from the home's west-facing rear elevation.

Details

Sun Design Remodeling will be sponsoring a tour of a recently remodeled Fairfax Station home on March 12, 2016. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

Soon after the seminar, the couple contacted Craig Durosko at Sun Design Remodeling for an on-premise meeting.

"A center hall Colonial has long been one of the most popular floor plans in northern Virginia" said Craig Durosko, Sun Design's founder and chairman. "The way people now use their homes, however, has changed dramatically in the past few decades. There's a movement towards open, well-defined, interactive spaces, and departure from interior walls that may not be strictly necessary."

Durosko sees his role as one of helping owners develop a plan tailored to how they want to use their home in the foreseeable future — one that will also present an appropriate interior design solution.

Once Smith and McCarthy established that the front-facing living room could be incorporated into a broader floor plan reconfiguration, Sun Design's team began re-assigning "use zones" within the existing first floor template.

Several critical decisions followed in rapid

SEE REMODELED, PAGE 6

BURKE CONNECTION ♦ HomeLifeStyle Spring 2016 ♦ 3

Buying or Selling?

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Here we are, once again right on the cusp of the Spring real estate season when it seems like "For Sale" signs become the most common lawn ornament or condo window decoration.

With help from some knowledgeable sources like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and some respected local experts, here's a bit of a primer on buying or selling a property.

Let's start with sellers, since for the most part, they have the most work to do to get the job done. Let's assume that you are working with an agent. Hopefully, you asked all the right questions before signing an agreement to sell. Don't be shy. It's okay to "interview" several agents and ask for references. What's the average variation between the initial listing price and the final sales price? The answer here may spare you some disappointments and provide some indication about your real estate agent's skills at pricing your property and negotiation the best price.

Now what? Put on your thickest skin, open your wallet just a tad, listen to that agent, and before you even have that first showing:

Be realistic about your asking price. "Don't be too aggressive," cautioned real estate agent Jennifer Boyce of Long and Foster in Burke. Anita Lasansky, CRB, managing broker-vice president Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon, agrees with that advice, and adds that sellers around the Wiehle Metro station in Reston shouldn't expect a big bump in sales price just because of Metro's arrival. Lasansky has seen sellers factor in 5-10 percent increases on that basis, but "it just hasn't had that effect," she said. Getting a pre-appraisal or advice from a lender can help in setting the best realistic sales price, since most buyers will need a mortgage.

Think about getting a pre-sale home inspection. This could cost a bit. Think at least \$500, depending on the size and age of the property. The buyer will have an inspection done, but being proactive could help locate potential problems that might stall, or even end a sale. Even if you don't go for the professional inspection, take a look around and get on with those repairs or more affordable upgrades you've been meaning to tackle. If you think that bigger ticket items like a new roof or replacement of major appliances might be an issue, at least get estimates on costs to help in negotiating with your potential buyers. While you're at it, locate those warranties and manuals - something that really impresses those buyers, while last-minute searches could pose a problem at closing.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

What's wrong with this picture? It's a gorgeous kitchen, but real estate agents will tell you that the green plastic cup, the dishwashing soap and the drainboard should all vanish from the selling photos of your house, and certainly during any showings.

Clean and get organized. Here's where you need that thick skin. Your agent isn't casting aspersions on your personal taste or "dissing" your kids, pets, hobbies, etc. when she tells you to neutralize as much as possible, put away the toys and pet paraphernalia, and all the other stuff that is part of our comfortable living. Your agent is merely looking out for you, and making your home appealing to the widest pool of potential buyers. Pay special attention to closets and bathrooms, and no, don't use the spare bedroom as the storage catch-all. If there isn't space inside the house, consider the smallest space at a storage facility for the extra boxes, furniture, gadgets and whatnots while your property is on the market.

First impressions. That means check out curb appeal, from the condition of lawn and landscape to the front entryway. Trim those bushes. Edge that grass. Put down some new mulch, and clean up those oil spots on the driveway. Inside might await an affordable Taj Mahal, but if your buyers won't cross the threshold because of what they see on the outside... Even adding a pot of bright flowers, a seasonal wreath, and maybe a new doormat can help.

Photos. Unless you are one gifted photographer, let the professionals handle this one. Most buyers today do their scouting online. Lots of quality photos attract the most visitors. Equally, photos that don't show off each room to advantage, or contain pets wandering by, the piled-high laundry basket, or a reflection of the photographer can put your property on the "don't want to see that one" list.

A primer for doing either and avoiding pitfalls.

one. A potential buyer's 3-year-old son decided to let my crated dog out for some "play time." Thankfully, I left my cell number right there on the kitchen counter – along with those cookies – so the showing agent could quickly contact me before my poor pooch took to the hills.

❖ **Make your property accessible –** If potential buyers can only see your property from 10 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, prepare for a long wait before a successful closing. Selling a home is often a numbers game. As disruptive as it can be, the more people who look, the better chance of a sale.

FOR BUYERS. Just as with the sellers, buyers should shop around for a trusted real estate partner. Again, ask those questions, get those referrals and be sure that your agent understands your needs and expectations and that you understand the process as they describe it.

Buyers don't have to do all that physical prep work until it's time to get ready for their actual move, but there are a lot of considerations to deal with on this side of the real estate fence, as well. The best starting place is making sure that you know what you are looking for. Single family house with an enormous backyard or a "zero lot?" A condo in an urban setting with Metro access, or a more resort feel with access to walking/biking trails or other amenities? The National Association of Realtors suggests developing a "Home/Neighborhood Wish List," prioritizing from "must have" to "it would be nice if ..." and reviewing the list after a few viewings to see if your thoughts have changed.

Some of the basics as advised by the NVAR and NAR and some of their area experts:

❖ **Get pre-qualified.** Better yet, get pre-approved by a lender before you start looking. That way you will know what you can afford, be ready to make an offer and be a more attractive buyer since the seller knows you can make good on that offer. In many markets within Northern Virginia, buyers still out number inventory, so pre-approval can help set your offer apart. Megan Bailey of Bailey Fine Properties says "Buyers must be pre-approved before going out to look at homes with me. It's important to know that they feel comfortable ... by having the lender provide them with a "Good Faith Estimate" to break down the costs and to make sure the lender can finance the home. Taking someone to look at homes out of their price range ... sets the client up for disappointment."

❖ **Be ready to move** – sounds simple, but buyers have lost out on deals because they weren't ready. Worse yet, they may put their "Earnest Money Deposit" at risk if they can't go through with a sale as contracted.

❖ **Think about resale.** This may sound counter intuitive at this point, but especially for first-time buyers with an average of 10

SEE BUYING OR SELLING, NEXT PAGE

HomeLifeStyle

Tips

years in the home, it's good to think ahead and consider what the area and the home might be like when it's time to move on.

❖ **Keep repair, maintenance and running costs in mind.** Even a brand-new home may require some work or customizing to suit your lifestyle, so consider those costs. You may have the approval for that attractive "McMansion" but are you prepared for the electric bills, mowing that acre, and the property taxes on top of the monthly mortgage? Ask the seller for details on utility costs and other maintenance that the property requires, i.e. pool upkeep.

❖ **Don't go "house-blind."** When you are so taken with the house that you might ignore factors that will ultimately make for a poor buying decision. Visit the property several times, inside and out, at various times of the day and on different days of the week to get a real feel for the neighborhood. Track travel distance for more than your work commute. What about your favorite stores and activities? Take a ride through the entire neighborhood and even

its surroundings to see if you like what you will be seeing for a long time to come.

❖ **Research.** Your agent can direct you to resources where you can check out local schools. Even if you don't have school-aged children, it's something to think about for re-sale down the road.

Now, about the local market. Checking the data from RealEstate Business Intelligence (RBI), an arm of the local MLS system, Fairfax County had the most closed sales in 2015, up 14.6 percent from the previous year. Alexandria, Fairfax City, Arlington and Falls Church round out the top five markets in the area for closed sales last year. The figures for January 2016 show an uptick in sales volume, but a slight decrease of 2.5 percent in median sales price across the Metro region.

The best news for sellers was that the homes sold in January averaged 96 percent of their asking price. "A properly priced property in good condition is still the fastest mover," are the words to the wise from Anita Lasansky CRB, managing broker-VP, Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon with her more than forty years of local experience.



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Contract Pending

Multiple Offers Received

Immaculate TH w/ remodeled eat-in kit w/ hrdwd flrs, tall cabinets & tile splash, 3.5 updated baths, new carpet & fresh paint, fin bsmt w/ storage, fenced yard w/ patio, new roof 2016, remodeled MBA w/ double sinks, newer windows, heat pump & more. Walk to school!

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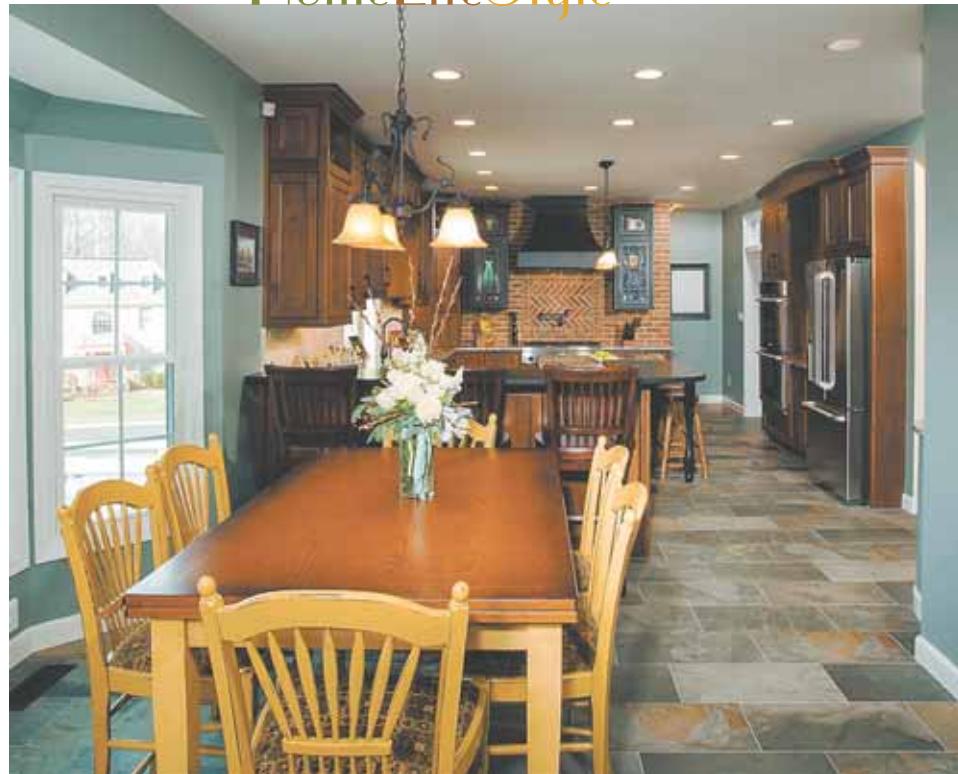
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PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY



The exposed brick, tile floor and raised square panel cabinet facings create a softly textured, elegant-but-casual interior. The floors conceal a radiant heating system which keeps the room comfortable in cooler temperatures.

Remodeled Home Tour Set for March 12

FROM PAGE 3

succession:

❖ The wall between the kitchen and the dining room would be removed, extending the kitchen by 78 square feet while allowing generous square footage for a walk-in pantry and a new powder room;

❖ The hall powder room would give way to an enlarged and upgraded laundry room/mudroom linked to the garage and only accessible from inside the kitchen;

❖ All 200 square feet of the old living room would be re-purposed as a distinctively finished formal dining room accessed directly from the new kitchen;

❖ With the cluster of doors between the foyer and the kitchen relocated or replaced with pocket doors, front-to-back access from the foyer is now unencumbered and free

flowing, an effect aided by improved sightlines.

Simultaneously, a series of interior design conferences evolved into an inspired collaboration.

"In a finish work elaboration, the details are everything," Smith said, noting that his enthusiasm for design extends from a lifelong interest in architecture. "Maddie and I had done a lot of research into the kinds of materials, colors and textures we wanted, but Katie Coram at Sun Design really helped us narrow and refine our choices, assembling the pieces into a coherent whole."

Some highlights of the makeover's interior design solution include:

❖ **A custom-designed barn door between the kitchen and the new**

dining room. While the interior makeover generally explores rustic, early American sensibilities, a glass-and-wood barn door created to specification by Sun Design carpenters is an iconic stand-out that keeps the dining room private as needed while allowing light from the west-facing rear windows;

❖ **A dining counter/wine bar situated at the back door accessing the deck.** Equipped with a wine rack and wine refrigerator for easy access to the rear deck, the wine bar also obstructs sightlines from the family room to the kitchen sink, making the fireside space a visually-independent entertainment zone.

❖ **A food prep island and dining counter.** Topped with blue flower granite and equipped with an under-cabinet microwave and a warming drawer, the built-in is positioned for easy access to a circumscrib-

ing U-shaped counter completing useful work triangles in several directions.

❖ **Six burner gas stove with hood.** Designed in black mocha glazed wood, the distressed facing picks up several of the kitchen's rustic themes, including the exposed brick, and flagstone-accented tile flooring which conceals a radiant heating system.

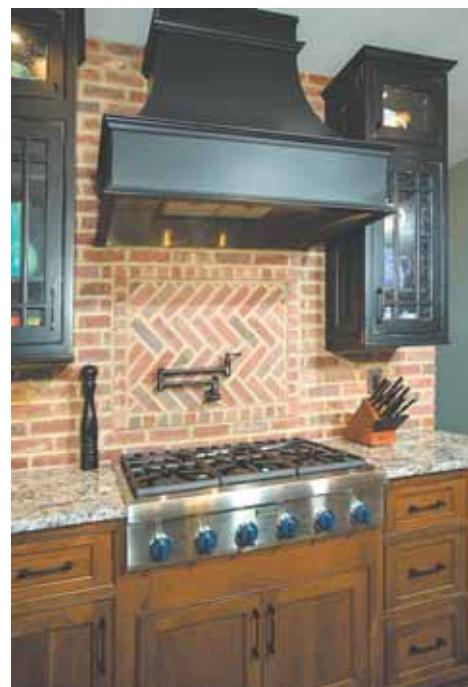
❖ **Dining room with coffered ceiling; Wedgwood interior design.** In a nod to the 18th-century (Colonial era) sensibilities, the new formal dining room's elegant wall elevations include raised panels, crown molding and wainscoting.

"From room to room, the new first floor explores a lot of style elements in well-balanced combinations," Andy Smith said, "It's a much warmer, more inviting interior. People will enjoy seeing what we've done."

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com; www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.



A wine rack and wine refrigerator are convenient to a serving counter convenient to the family room and back deck.



Exposed brick, a cooktop hood and glass-facing cabinets in distressed black mocha glaze are elements in the kitchen's distinctively rustic interior design.



Relocating the hall powder room added square footage needed for a laundry and mudroom that links to the garage.



The home's new rear footprint accommodates walk-in pantry with pull-out storage racks — as well as a larger powder room

Nanny Suites Add Value

High-end live-in quarters attract au pairs and can increase property values.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Peggy Delinois Hamilton relocated to the Washington, D.C. area and began working full-time after spending eight years as an at-home mother of two children, childcare was one of her top concerns. She decided that a live-in au pair was the best choice for her family.

"I like the live-in because I don't have to worry about issues with transportation on the caretaker's part," said Hamilton. "I don't have to worry about them having competing obligations."

Finding and keeping a live-in nanny in a competitive childcare market can be a high stakes game. To lure and retain experienced, nurturing caregivers, many families shell out as much as \$100,000 to create stylishly appointed living space for their au pairs. From kitchens with marble countertops and stainless steel appliances to bathrooms with luxury showerheads and rich wood cabinetry, local designers create living quarters so enchanting and thoughtfully designed that a nanny wouldn't dream of leaving.

"If you're a live-in nanny, you want your own space. In fact, nannies won't take a job from a family that won't provide it," said Jackie Wood-Gobuluk, owner of Metropolitan Nannies in Herndon, Virginia.

The spaces most often used for nanny suites are the lower level or attic, says Christopher Dietz of Dietz Development. "We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house," he said. "We don't do Formica or IKEA cabinets. We generally use ... granite, marble or Silestone. You don't want people to say, 'Wow, we can tell you really cut corners on this space.'"

Maintaining a continuity in quality while being budget conscious requires judicious planning. "We may splurge on custom window treatments and a bedskirt and save on things like furniture using retail pieces," said Marika Meyer, principal of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda.

When an Arlington, Va. family enlisted architect J.P. Ward of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc. to design an au pair suite for their home, they wanted him to maintain continuity in both color and materials. A cathedral ceiling, granite countertops, and under cabinet lighting were key as he blended the rich aesthetic quality of the original home with the new space. "We used a higher end tile and materials that blended with the rest of the house," said Ward. "It turned out to be like a high-end studio apartment that you could get high rent for."

The au pair's space has a separate entrance, something that offers privacy to both



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUPLACE

The space serves as a nanny suite in an Alexandria home. Additional living areas can increase a property's value, say real estate agents.

the nanny and the family. "We made it so that the au pair has an independent way of coming in and so they're not working 24 hours a day," said Ward.

Contractors say the cost of adding a nanny suite can range from \$5,000 on a property where there is an existing bathroom and space for a bedroom to more than \$100,000 on properties where plumbing must be installed or an small addition is required. "[A] bathroom is the biggest expense because of the plumbing," said Ward.

Because such an addition requires a significant investment, Kai Tong of Hopkins and Porter Construction in Potomac, Md. encourages clients to think long term. "One of the most important and useful realizations when considering nanny suites is that, unlike your kitchen or bath or bedroom, the nanny suite will only be a nanny suite for a finite amount of time in your lives," he said. "As your children grow, the nanny will move on, and the nanny suite is destined to become something else."

In the Washington, D.C. area, adding an au pair suite to one's home can make a property more appealing. "Particularly in neighborhoods with lots of young, affluent families, nanny suites are a popular, although not essential, amenity," said David DeSantis, Partner and Managing Broker of TTR Sotheby's International Realty. "Ideally these suites are somewhat separated from the family sleeping quarters and have their own entrance so the nanny can come and go freely."

A nanny suite can offer a good return on investment. "The fact that it could be used as a nanny suite is a plus, but it's the same sort of thing as an in-law suite [so] it offers the ability for multigenerational living with some level of privacy," said David Howell,

may make a difference in price from 5 to 10 percent as they ... would count as an additional bedroom," said real estate agent Nancy Itteilag, of Long and Foster Christie's International Real Estate.

"We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house."

— Christopher Dietz,
Dietz Development

Ann Dozier Michael, an Alexandria-based associate broker with McNearney Associates, has a current listing that includes a nanny suite. "When you have a property listed that can serve the various needs of buyers, then that will add value because you have a larger buying pool," she said.

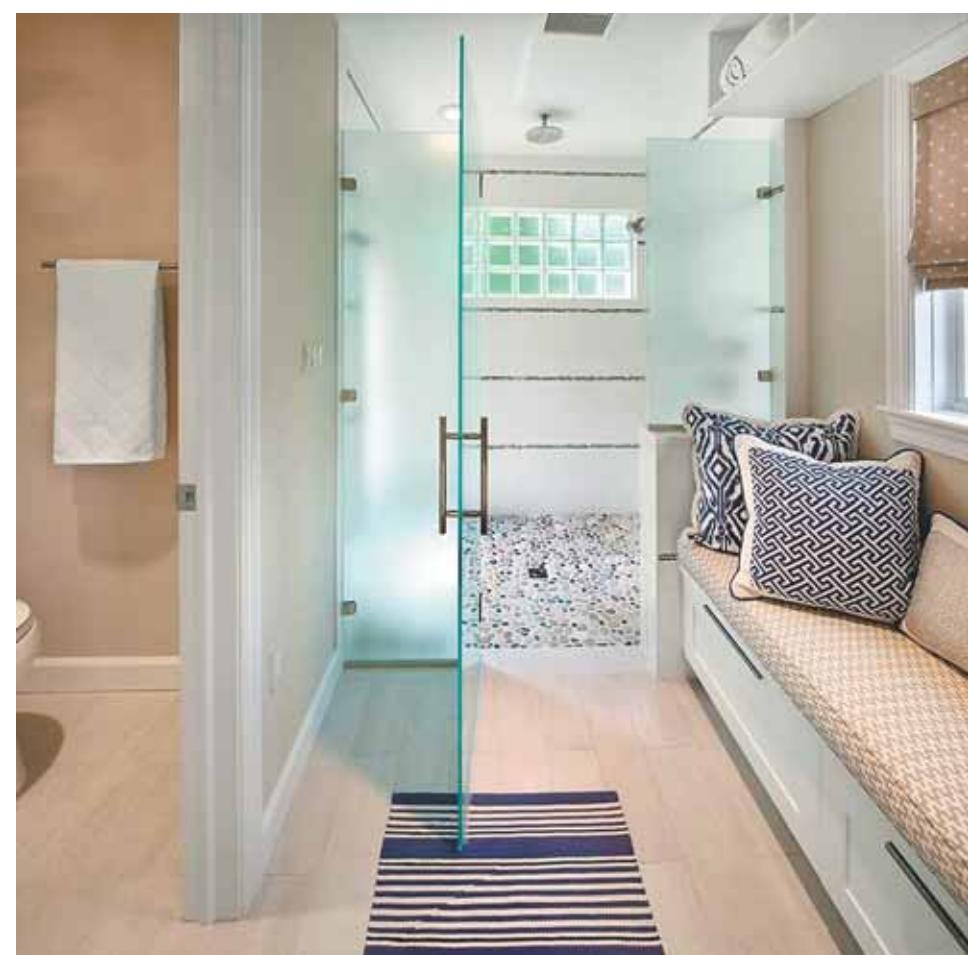


PHOTO BY MORGAN HOWARTH

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