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Mike Henry, manager of Colvin Run Mill, points out the miller's house on a tour of the grounds.

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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill walk through the mill after their annual meeting Saturday, April 7.

Friends of Mill Plan for Future

More programs, Route 7 expansion discussed at Friends of Colvin Run Mill meeting.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

While Colvin Run Mill's claim to fame is its glimpse into life as it was 200 years ago, in the past, the Friends of Colvin Run Mill are just as concerned with its future.

The mill celebrated 200 years of existence last May, it was turned into a commercial mill by Philip Carper on land that was once owned by George Washington. It is one of the few brick mills remaining in Virginia.

"Following the bicentennial, we feel that it's most important to work on innovative and creative ways to set new expectations for the future," said Bob Lundegard, president of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill.

One of their goals is to replace the current dairy barn, which was built by the county at the approximate location of the barn that was there 200 years ago, with a new visitor's center. They have been raising money since 2003.

"The county has found money to make the drawings, and we have around \$50,000 in our building fund, but we're not ready to hand it over yet, not until we can put together an agreement with them about fundraising, which we expect in the next year or so," Lundegard said. "From there, we'll need funds for bricks and mortar."

The upcoming widening of Leesburg Pike is of strong interest for the Friends of Colvin Run Mill and park staff. Since the mill is less than 100 feet from the current roadway, the two-lane expansion can make quite an impact.

The old mill pond, as well as other features, are located on park property south of Leesburg Pike, making them practically inaccessible to visitors.

"It feels like our visitors are separated from the other side, and we'd like to take advantage of the



Mike Henry, manager at Colvin Run Mill, explains methods used in the mill's construction during a tour Saturday, April 7.

widening project to maybe put a tunnel underneath Route 7 to make the south side more accessible," Lundegard said. "In 1940, when the road shifted to its current location, there was a tunnel for the cows to go underneath Route 7."

Mike Henry, manager of Colvin Run Mill, said there are historical aspects to the area that go far beyond the 200 years of milling.

"We've found Native American artifacts and other signs from people that lived around here almost 9,000 years ago," he said. "Obviously most of our programming focuses on the last 200 years and European settlement. We're hoping expansion south of Route 7 will help us with the exploration of that."

The group also assisted with the Colvin Run Street Fair that took place last May, hosted more than 100 people for the annual Society for the Preservation of Old Mills and increased their outreach to local schools.

"It's amazing to think that things like bread and grain used to come from places like this," said Sam Archer, 8, of Great Falls, who visited the mill with his family Saturday. "It's cool that water runs it, the same power now is the same power that ran it 200 years ago."

Lundegard estimated almost 10,000 children visited the mill last year, which he said represents as much as a 30 percent increase over years past.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This is a picture of the last class at Forestville School 1952.

Revisiting Old Forestville Elementary in Great Falls

In response to the article "Great Falls History Revisited" by Kathleen J. Murphy/President of Great Falls Historical Society, in the Jan. 18 issue of the Great Falls Connection, a reader has posted the following note on The Connection's website:

"Hi folks, I used to live in Great Falls, Va. when I was a kid. I went to Forestville Elementary from the 1st grade through the 7th. That would have been 1946 to 1953 before going on to Herndon High where I graduated in 1958. I can't seem to locate any websites that talk about the old elementary school that used to be on Walker Road just behind the second fire department that was built. It was a two-story brick building completely square in size where the 1st, 2nd & 3rd grades were on the first floor and the 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th were on the 2nd floor. The new Forestville Elementary School was built further down the road during my 7th year and now is called Great Falls Elementary School. Can you help me in locating information on this old school house and



Teacher Margaret Marshall.

maybe point me in the way to finding pictures of it."

The Great Falls Historical Society provided the following response from Carolyn Cornwell Miller:

"The Forestville School was on Georgetown Pike where the Great Falls Fire Department is located now. I went to school from 1946 to 1952. I was in the last class at the Forestville School. I went to Herndon High School in fall 1952. The next fall they opened a new Great Falls school on Walker Road."



The Forestville School was on Georgetown Pike where the Great Falls Fire Department is located now.



Safe Community Coalition and Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA)

Present:

Bullying Awareness and Prevention For Parents

Please join us for an informational interactive workshop for parents. Topics that will be discussed include:

- Understanding the “Bullying” dynamic and the impact on the child and warning signs
- How to deal with the “aggressors,” the “witnesses” and the “targets”
- How to work with your school
- The “Cyber-Bullying Phenomenon”
- Promoting Conflict Resolution self advocacy skills for your child

When:

**Wednesday, April 25, 2012
7:00 to 9:00 PM**

Where:

**McLean Community Center,
1234 Ingleside Avenue**

Presented by:

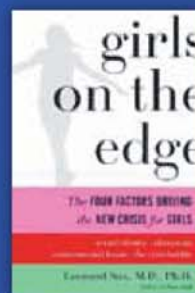
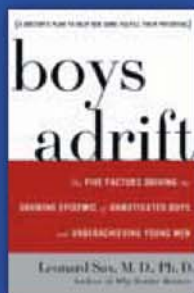
**Andrew McGahan, LCSW,
NoVA JSSA Clinical Director**

All schools, faith organizations or other civic groups in the Safe Community Coalition service area with at least three participants at this meeting will be eligible for a \$250 grant to provide follow-on bullying awareness activities with their school or organization.



Funds for the Community Meeting and Follow-on Bullying Awareness Activities are provided by a Gannett Foundation grant to the SCC.

Join the Conversation About Education:



**APRIL 16
7pm-9pm**

**Facebook
Ate My
Daughter**

Dr. Leonard Sax, psychologist and author of *Why Gender Matters*, *Boys Adrift*, and *Girls on the Edge*, talks about the role of technology in the lives of teenagers – social media, video games, and the effects of growing up in virtual worlds. Dr. Sax will answer questions that parents have today – Should I be my child’s Facebook friend? Which video games are OK? How much time spent playing video games is too much?



**APRIL 30
7pm-9pm**

Race To Nowhere

A documentary film examining the pressures faced by young people, teachers, and parents in our high stakes education system and pressure-cooker culture. Generate dialogue and examine assumptions about how to best prepare the youth of America to be healthy, bright leaders. The movie will be followed by a panel of educational experts including:

Patrick F. Bassett – President of the National Association of Independent Schools

Mary Ellen Weissman, Ph.D. – Clinical Psychologist

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THE COUNTY LINE

Interest in Budget Slows as Economy Picks Up

Employee compensation, human service funding compete for attention.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Rising property values, a relatively low unemployment rate, and the lack of hot-button issues — such as full-day kindergarten — have reduced public involvement in Fairfax County's proposed \$6.7 billion budget compared to recent years, according to county leaders.

During last year's budget cycle, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) said she heard from nearly 1,000 constituents advocating for their portion of the pie. This year, that number plummeted to 30.

"At budget time, I clear the decks to see as many people as possible," Bulova said. "My dance card is full."

Attendance at town hall meetings on the budget has also been low, according to several supervisors.

"The number of people who have signed up to speak is way down from last year," said Supervisor John Cook, (R-Braddock). "There is no one issue that's got people riled up. People are not scared. Things have stabilized. We're in a flat spot after several years of cuts."

Next week, the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on County Executive Anthony Griffin's proposed \$6.7 billion budget for the county's 1.1 million residents.

And supervisors want residents to know that their voice matters.

"Often testimony has caused us to adopt changes to the advertised budget," Bulova said. "It is critical that the community is engaged and at the table with us as we consider changes to what has been advertised."

BUDGET BASICS

In his final year as county executive, Griffin has proposed a budget based on the current property tax rate of \$1.07 for every \$100 of assessed value, which means the average homeowner, will pay \$4,801 in property taxes, \$33.85 more than last year, and \$45.36 less than in fiscal year 2007.

The proposed General Fund total is \$3.5 billion, up \$143 million over fiscal year 2012. More than half of the budget (52.5 percent or \$1.85 billion) is earmarked for the school system.

To mitigate potential shortfalls, the board voted to advertise a 1-cent tax increase to \$1.08 per \$100 of assessed value. Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) called the one-penny increase an "insurance policy" against any funding shortfalls.

In addition to allowing the rise in property taxes, Griffin's budget also imposes several new fees, including a storm water fee would increase from 1.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value to 2.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value.

The board can approve a rate lower than the advertised rate, but they cannot adjust the tax rate without first advertising a higher rate. The \$1.08 rate will provide

"It is critical that the community is engaged and at the table with us as we consider changes to what has been advertised."

— Board of Supervisors Chairman
Sharon Bulova (D-at-large)



"The number of people who have signed up to speak is way down from last year. There is no

one issue that's got people riled up. People are not scared. Things have stabilized."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

FAIRFAX COUNTY BUDGET MEETINGS

Public Hearings on the FY 2013 advertised budget plan and the FY 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program will be held in the board auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax, on the following dates and times:

- ❖ **Tuesday, April 10** at 6 p.m.
- ❖ **Wednesday, April 11** at 3 p.m.
- ❖ **Thursday, April 12**, at 3 p.m.

OTHER IMPORTANT BUDGET DATES

- ❖ **Friday, April 20** – Budget Committee Meeting Pre-Markup Session
- ❖ **Tuesday, April 24** – Fiscal Year 2013 Board Budget Markup Session and approval of FY 2012 third quarter budget
- ❖ **Tuesday, May 1** – Formal adoption of FY 2013 Budget

some wiggle room and – if adopted - add \$19.95 million to the county executive's proposed budget. Each 1 cent increase in the real estate tax rate impacts the average residential taxpayer's annual bill by approximately \$45.

Budget analysts expect revenue in the county to increase a moderate 3.4 percent in 2013, and continue at that level for the next several years.

Although that's the fastest rate of growth since fiscal year 2007, it's still less than half the average annual growth in revenue during the boom period from 2000 to 2007.

"I agree we're seeing a mild recovery — not strong or vigorous," Bulova said. "I think that Tony Griffin has done a good job hitting the high notes. There are still cuts, but not as many and not as severe."

That doesn't mean, however, that this year's budget is without its share of challenges and competing interests.

Two groups, the Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services and the Fairfax County Government Employee Union, have signaled their commitment to keeping their issues front and center as the board moves toward adopting a the final budget on May 1.

Both groups want to see the board adopt the advertised tax rate.

EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

The largest new spending measure on the table is Griffin's proposed 2.18 percent market rate adjustment for the county's

wearing thin after three years without pay-for-performance or step increases.

Cook said he will encourage his colleagues to use their individual budget requests – which total about \$8.5 million - to bump up employee salaries beyond the market-rate-adjustment in the proposed budget.

"I think we need to sharpen the pencil and find the money," Cook said. "Look, if you want top services, you have to pay for top employees."

Bulova said the board is keeping its eye on what other jurisdictions are proposing for employee compensation. "We don't want to lose our best employees. We want to do right by our workforce."

FUNDING HUMAN SERVICES

Fairfax County's Alliance for Human Services, a non-partisan partnership that advocates for public and private human service providers, is also lobbying the board to adopt the advertised tax rate, and use the additional \$19.95 million to fund "unmet human service needs."

"While Fairfax County's poverty rate is better than most (5.8 percent in 2011), it still translates to nearly 63,000 people living below the poverty level," the AHS said in a letter to the board.

"What I think is important to recognize is that it's not just one year of cuts, it's the accumulation of cuts since 2007, and the resulting increase in demand," said Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS, a nonprofit that provides emergency shelter, food, and medical needs, as well as educational, life skills and career counseling programs.

"We're all concerned about our employee's salaries, but the bigger issue is what services have been cut," Andere said.

Linda Patterson, executive director of the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC), which provides food and other services in the south county area, said any additional cuts in services have the potential to make those who are already struggling more vulnerable.

"I am especially concerned about the Community Services Board (CSB) cuts. Mental health services are vital for the well-being of our community. Any cuts not only stress the county system, but trickle down to non-profits like LCAC," Patterson said.

Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread, a nonprofit that helps residents avoid homelessness, said ODB continues to get more requests for assistance than it can handle. Whetzel said ODB is encouraging supporters to attend Wednesday's budget hearing.

"The Board of Supervisors should vote to follow through with fully funding the 10-year plan to end homelessness," Whetzel said.

Both the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Reston Cham

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greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Great Falls Connection, “Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,” 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Seniors Survey Open Until June 28

Great Falls residents have an opportunity to provide guidance to the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) on the future direction of senior, caregiver and volunteer programs.

The GFCA proposes to create the Great Falls Senior Center in a public-private partnership with Fairfax County. This Center will be designed as a “center without walls” using existing public, private and church buildings for the meetings, having the goal of helping seniors “age in place” here in Great Falls.

Equally as important, is to offer assistance to the caregivers who may need some support or assistance in their care of a senior. Plans for the “Center” include special events and classes, transportation, and social visits.

Great Falls residents of all ages are encouraged to participate. The survey takes only a few minutes to complete. The GFCA and the new Senior Center will use the survey results to guide them in developing programs to serve senior citizens.

“We're interested in having as many people as possible take this survey,” said seniors group member Bob Lundegard. “We want the young people who volunteer, the middle aged people who are caregivers and the seniors themselves. We're hoping for a huge response, so we can find out how to best guide our efforts.”

Since many seniors do not use computers it would be a great service if a caring family member or neighbor could assist a senior to complete the survey so that most seniors can be reached.

The initial survey period is April 1 through June 28. The survey can be taken at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GFCA>.

Art Exhibit Opens at Great Falls Library

An art exhibition featuring 43 paintings, photographs, art quilts and other new works by Great Falls artists, opened April 3 and will be displayed through the end of the month at the main conference room of the Great Falls Community Library.

The works on display are for sale, with 10 percent of the sale price going to the Friends of the Library to support library programs. The library is located at 9830 Georgetown Pike. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon., Wed., and Friday; 1 to 9 p.m. Tues. and Thur.; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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Game Ends 6/16/2012

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REAL ESTATE

First Quarter Numbers Tell 'A Great Story'



Karen Briscoe

McLean, Great Falls real estate market 9.5 percent up.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The real estate market in McLean and Great Falls for the first quarter 2012 in terms of sales over first quarter 2011 is up 9.5 percent. The most significant market improvement was the upper brackets, considered for this area to be \$1.25 million plus. Looking deeper into the data for the upper brackets, there are more properties under contract as there were sales in the first quarter, which means that second quarter should be even better than the first three months. The number of homes available to purchase in the upper brackets is for the first time in the market recovery cycle in balance with absorption.

The number of homes sold for under \$1.25 million in McLean and Great Falls was about the same for first quarter 2012 compared to the same time period in

McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales

1ST QTR. 2012 COMPARED TO 2011

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
1ST QTR. 2012					
22101	1	6	21	20	29
22102	2	7	8	13	34
22066	2	3	9	16	14
Total	5	16	38	49	77
Combined Total	59				126

ALL SALES 1ST QTR. 2012: 185

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
1ST QTR. 2011					
22101	1	2	11	28	25
22102	2	2	7	12	42
22066	2	1	14	14	6
Total	2	1	14	54	73
Combined Total	42				127

ALL SALES 1ST QTR. 2011: 169

2011. Delving into the numbers further reveals that the number of properties under contract for this price range is three-quarters of what was sold in all of the first

quarter (as of April 2). If this pattern continues, that indicates that the second quarter should be sub

SEE MARKET, PAGE 9



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 Rockville, Maryland 20850

Saturday, May 5th from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm
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On Funding the Silver Line

Commonwealth will collect the dividends, but refuses to invest; Northern Virginia pays.

Northern Virginia localities should together commission a study now to determine how much growth is stimulated by the opening of the Metro stations in Tysons and along the toll road out to Dulles, how many new jobs created, quantify how much that growth leads to increased income and sales tax, and how much revenue (taxes) would get shipped off to Commonwealth coffers.

There should be a way to keep that money here in Northern Virginia.

Residents from around the region will pay for the majority of the construction of rail to Dulles via the Dulles Toll Road.

Virginia is all too happy to benefit from one of the biggest drivers of the Northern Virginia economic engine, Dulles Airport. Rail to Dulles, part of the plan for the airport since its conception, is a key part of supporting the expected volume growth in passengers and other commerce at the airport. But at every turn, the state has pushed paying for the rail line onto Northern Virginia, onto Fairfax and Loudoun county

governments, onto property owners in the corridor and especially onto drivers on the Dulles Toll Road.

While Virginia had committed to contributing an additional \$150 million to the rail project, and at various points the governor and the General Assembly dangled \$200-300 million, it now appears that money will not be forthcoming. It was never enough.

This is one more example of the Commonwealth of Virginia happily collecting revenues, including income and sales taxes, generated from the economic vitality of Northern Virginia, then forcing Northern Virginia residents to pay for the infrastructure of that economic activity out of local funds and personal pockets.

The most recent Virginia Department of Aviation report identifies at least \$17.5 billion in annual economic activity in Virginia from Dulles and Reagan National airports, with Dulles providing the majority of that. The num-

ber of jobs created and maintained by this activity is staggering, and in Virginia, the state collects 100 percent of the income tax; there is no local income tax.

The state collects the income tax from the good jobs generated here in Northern Virginia by the airports, by the high tech firms, by the business innovators, by proximity to the Pentagon and the federal government. Then the governor celebrates the result, that Virginia is top ranked as business friendly.

The Commonwealth collects much of the tax revenue that results from this activity, but would pay only three percent of the \$6.2 billion cost of rail to Dulles. This will force more than 80 percent of the costs of building rail to Dulles to local drivers and property owners. The toll road contribution is projected at 57 percent of the total.

Having major airports adequately served by rail and other transportation options is more than an amenity, it is part of sustaining the economic benefit that comes from major airports. The question is not whether we should be building rail to Dulles, but about who benefits and who pays.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Missing Republican Party

To the Editor:

I miss the Republican Party. I miss the party whose first Presidential candidate ran on a slogan of "Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Speech, Free Men, and Fremont." I miss the Republican Party founded in opposition to the expansion of slavery, and later its abolition. I miss the Republican Party that gave us the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution placing equal rights for all in one of our founding documents. I miss the Republican Party of Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant who restored our union and abolished slavery. I miss the Republican Party of Teddy Roosevelt, one of the founders of the modern environmental movement. I miss the Republican Party of Dwight Eisenhower who led the west to victory over forces of genocide and totalitarianism in Europe, and warned of the military-industrial complex at home. I miss the Republican Party of Everett Dirksen, who allied with Hubert Humphrey, Lyndon Johnson, and Martin Luther King to pass the landmark Civil Rights acts of the 1960s. And I miss the Republican Party of Gerald Ford, who helped heal the country after the shame of Watergate. Most of all, I miss the Republican Party that preferred to compete with their opposition on the basis of their ideas,

rather than trying to stifle their speech, the control of their own lives, and their right to express themselves at the ballot box.

Mary Kimm was spot on in her editorial "Reenacting A Dark History?," relative to efforts by Republicans in Richmond to restrict speech, access to the ballot box, and the control women have over their own reproductive health. Placing these efforts in a historical context was very effective, and reinforces how important it is to be vigilant about protecting access to rights guaranteed by the constitution, that nevertheless had to be fought for by succeeding generations. That this is occurring is obvious. What is not so obvious is why.

Why would the party of Grant and Dirksen, pass a bill whose only result will be to restrict the ability to vote of minorities and the elderly? Why would a party founded on the right to control one's own person and property, pass a bill requiring women be subjected to an unnecessary medical procedure against their wishes? Why would the party of Teddy Roosevelt, push continued dependence on fossil fuels, and deny the truth of global climate change? And why would a Party founded on a dedication to freedom of expression, call out the riot police to quash a peaceful demonstration of women trying to advocate for these rights? In my opinion the answer is fear ... fear that in our increasingly diverse country,

the ideas that have propelled them to power since the 1980s, will no longer resonate with a true majority. So rather than trying to bring conservatism into the 21st century, they try to force Virginia and the country back to the 19th. They force clearly unpopular restrictions on fundamental rights to privacy and speech, while hoping to restrict access to the ballot box of those they know will reject their ideas. This strategy will work in the short term, but in the long term is a recipe for disaster for the Republican Party ... and that makes me sad.

As a lifelong Democrat I recognize the importance of a vibrant two-party system. It is good for the country to have two parties with different ideas for achieving common goals, compete for power. That only works though, when both parties are more interested in doing what is beneficial than in maintaining power.

Jim Daniels
Centreville

Laws That Violate Woman's Right

To the Editor:

Anne Gruner's letter to the editor ["General Assembly More Productive Than reported," Connection, March 28-April 3, 2012] fails

to note that the General Assembly's job is specifically to pass legislation as it relates to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Should we commend the General Assembly for doing its job? I hardly think so. Her letter commends our Delegate's accomplishments, as Ms. Comstock herself does so frequently, strangely, on this specific opinion page. The contents of the page week in and week out lead me to believe it is the "Barbara Comstock Weekly 'Look What I've Done' Journal" and not an opinion page. Your newspaper should report her work like news, not like an opinion. By the way, I do not favor any Democrats doing the same.

Nevertheless, the point here is that it is one thing for the Legislature to pass bills that purportedly help create jobs and help our communities in some way but it is quite another that they pass laws which violate a woman's right to choose her medical care. It is simply outrageous that Ms. Comstock voted in favor of such a law that would take away a woman's right to choose her own health care and instead force the Government to make health decisions for that woman. We live in a country where a woman's right to choose is the law and also supported by a majority of people in the Commonwealth of Virginia as it is throughout the United States.

Robert Cox
McLean

REAL ESTATE Market Rebounds

FROM PAGE 7

stantially up over the first three months. The most significant distinction about this market segment is that there is so little available to buy. With the current absorption of homes, there is less than a 2-month supply of inventory. A balanced market is considered a 6-month supply of inventory, so this clearly indicates that McLean and Great Falls for under \$1.25 million it is a great time to be a seller. Good homes priced correctly are selling quickly and with multiple offers.

Market cycles tend to go in seven year interims, from peak to peak. Real estate values in the Northern Virginia market area peaked in 2005-2006. It has always been my prediction that this area should return to market peak in some segments beginning in 2012. The numbers for first quarter 2012, should they sustain through the year, indicate that we are on the road to proving this to be the case.

*Karen Briscoe is a Principal
Huckaby Briscoe Conroy Realty
Group Keller Williams in McLean.*

Contact

Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy are active and experienced Realtors in the Northern Virginia, Washington D.C. market place and would be delighted to assist whether for home buying or selling. The Huckaby Briscoe Group was recognized in September 2011 as one of the Wall Street Journal Top Real Estate Teams in the United States. Contact via the means most convenient:
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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Opportunity 2012 Business Conference and Trade Show.
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Networking, breakout sessions, roundtables, exhibitors and more. Hosted by ViennaTysons Regional Chamber of Commerce. Admission \$49-\$229.
www.viennatysonstradeshow.com or info@vtrcc.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 16

Great Falls Historical Society. 1-5 p.m. Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meeting Mondays through April. www.gfhs.org.

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April 14th 9:00 am

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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Colvin Run Elementary School third grader Jasmine Patia tries her hand at “double dutch” jump rope Monday, March 5 at the school’s Jump for the Heart Event.



Colvin Run Elementary fifth grader Sara Vavonese jumps mini-hurdles during the school’s Jump for the Heart event Monday, March 5.

Colvin Run Jumps for the Heart

Students participate in events to raise money for American Heart Association.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Students at Colvin Run Elementary School got a little extra time in the gym Monday, March 5 and they were able to raise funds for the American Heart Association while they did it. The school hosted a Jump for the Heart event, where children could jump in many different ways to learn the importance of physical activities.

Students jumped rope alone or with friends, climbed the rope, played Wii and even tried to jump a length that was equal to their height as part of the event. They had a chance to stay at each station for about four minutes before moving onto the rest.

“Doing double dutch jump ropes was the hardest by far,” said fourth grader Aly Trumbull, referring to

a game where two people held two different jump ropes that students had to jump over. “It’s really hard to jump and duck at the exact same time.”

Other students preferred the more familiar games. “I like played with the Wii, because it’s cool to play a video game in school,” said fourth grader Evan Bremser. “Plus it was fun to dance along with the game and make sure we were moving right.”

The “Jump You” game didn’t allow any student to have an advantage based on their size. Children first lay down on a mat, and the length of their body was marked with a piece of plastic. Then they had to try and jump farther than the plastic.

“It was really hard to jump myself, especially since they didn’t give us a running start,” said Emilie Gregory, a fourth grader. “But at least it wasn’t easier for taller people, they have long legs, but they also have to jump farther.”



From left, Sarah McGrath and Sophia Ambrose, first graders at Colvin Run Elementary, try to climb the gym rope while volunteer Sabrina Thomas cheers them on.



Faith Skeen, a fourth grader at Colvin Run Elementary School, tries to jump a distance equal to her own height at the school’s Jump for the Heart event Monday, March 5, which raised funds for the American Heart Association.

SCHOOLS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Team Picture – front row from left: Ela Pandellapalli, Andy Sharpe, Esh Pandellapalli. Back row from left: Sofia Rojas, Coach Doug Sharpe, Eliza Pastore

Colvin Run Students Win Odyssey of the Mind Competition

On March 31, Colvin Run Elementary school fifth graders participated in the NOVA North Odyssey of the Mind competition held at Langley High School. A total of 100 plus teams from Northern Virginia participated in this competition. Team A from Colvin Run participated in “Odyssey Angels” long term problem. The team worked numerous hours starting from

November 2011. In addition to long term problem the team participated in spontaneous verbal competition as well. Overall the team stood 1st in the competition. The Team consisted of Ela Pandellapalli, Esh Pandellapalli, Andy Sharpe, Sofia Rojas and Eliza Pastore. The team will be participating in the state finals on April 14 in Newport News, Va. All the best Colvin Run Dragons!

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Fourteen Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students are among more than 800 students nationwide who have won Achievement Scholarships from the 2012 National Achievement® Scholarship program (NASP). The Achievement Scholarships are awarded to Black American high school seniors to be used for undergraduate study at any regionally accredited United States college or university.

The FCPS students named National Achievement® Scholars, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Katherine Branche of Langley High School (medicine).
- ❖ Stephen Preston, Jr., of Langley High School (aerospace engineering).
- ❖ Brandon Allen of Marshall High School (biology-law).
- ❖ Nana-Kwabena Adjapong

Abrefah of McLean High School (mathematics).

❖ Gabrielle Tate of Oakton High School (mechanical engineering).

❖ Beakal Gezahegn of South County Secondary School (medicine).

❖ Austin Chustz of South Lakes High School (medicine).

❖ Ian Crutcher of South Lakes High School (engineering).

❖ Chantelle Ekanem of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (chemical engineering).

❖ Adrienne Ivey of TJHSST (engineering-computer science).

❖ Stephanie Pitts of TJHSST (medicine).

❖ Alexandria Sutton of TJHSST (medicine).

❖ Mickeal Taylor of TJHSST (electrical engineering).

❖ Bryan Williams of TJHSST (computer science).

Each of the students received \$2,500 National Achievement Scholarships supported by the National Merit Scholarship Corpo-

ration (NMSC), which conducts the NASP, with the exception of Tate, whose educational plans or other awards preclude receipt of a monetary scholarship. Her name is included in the public announcement in recognition of outstanding performance in the competition.

Michelle Bovee of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2011 dean’s list at James Madison University. The daughter of Greg and Candace Bovee is majoring in political science with a minor in economics.

Rachel Christine McGonigal of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2011 president’s list at Clemson University of Clemson, S.C.

Kelly Anne Tremaine of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2011 president’s list at Clemson University of Clemson, S.C.

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Home Life Style

BOWA basement renovation in Great Falls features ample storage for children's toys.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB NAROD PHOTOGRAPHY & BOWA BUILDERS



Sophisticated lockers help control the clutter of a busy family in Great Falls.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN WYNER & BOWA BUILDERS

Design With Children in Mind

BOWA Builders share tips for design that works for the whole family.

By JOSHUA BAKER
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Whether it's a closet, the kitchen or a study area, there are numerous ways to incorporate child-friendly design into any space, and children today are becoming more and more involved in the process. Even if the child is toddler-aged, simple tasks, such as picking colors, themes or bedding, can help them feel that they are part of the process. Besides being used more frequently, greater input in the planning stage should result in more pride in the space later and a desire to keep it neat and tidy.



ing supplies, and providing the area with adequate lighting.

A recent project in Vienna features a whimsical study that was built in one of the turrets of the house. The study opens up from the bedroom into an octagonal room, and includes a storage bench for additional seating, lots of windows streaming in natural light, and a high ceiling with three-dimensional hanging stars.

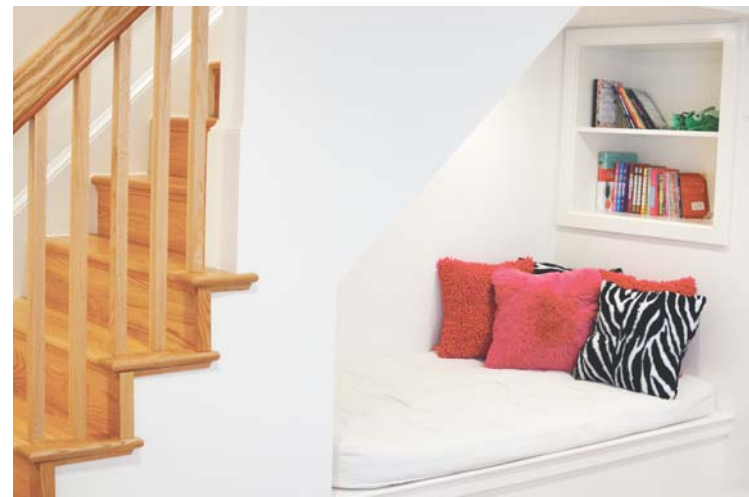
In another recent project, a reading nook was carved out under the stairs. This little hideaway features a daybed with big, comfy pillows and built-in shelving for holding the children's favorite books.

STUDY SPACES. A well-designed study area can be invaluable when it comes to helping a child stay focused and motivated. The kitchen is a popular choice for such a designated area, as parents are readily available to answer questions, keep their young scholar on task, and supervise internet usage.

Have a wide hallway or nook elsewhere in the home that doesn't receive a lot of traffic? As another option, consider transforming this unused space by placing a desk against the wall, adding wall cabinets or shelving above it for hold-

STORAGE SPACES. Children have stuff. Lots and lots of stuff. Books, toys, clothing, sports, hobby and school stuff. The question is: where to put it all? Collecting it as soon as it comes through the door can help to avoid it being strewn all over the place, as children (and their clutter) come home in a whirlwind of excitement from school, games and play dates.

Individual cubbies for each child in a foyer or mudroom can help to keep family members organized and prevent any mix-ups of belongings. A closet that features built-



McLean basement renovation by BOWA features children's reading nook under the stairs.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BOWA BUILDERS

ins with plenty of drawers, cubbies, hooks and shelving will help encourage independence by giving children the ability to grab what they need and easily tidy up too. Some parents choose to remove the doors to make a closet even more inviting for their little ones to use. Hanging a set of curtains or draping fabric from a rod can add color and complement the overall design scheme, while hiding the contents at the same time.

KITCHEN DESIGN FOR THE SOUS CHEF. There are a number of things to do to help a future chef feel at home in the kitchen.

If it's time for a kitchen renovation, consider creating a set of counters at a lower, child-friendly height so they can help with the

cooking. As children grow, this area will continue to come in handy when baking and doing other tasks. Also consider placing light-switches at lower heights for a youngster's easy reach, or installing light-switches with automatic sensors to avoid bumps in the dark. Worried about a little one climbing on the countertop? Providing children with their own set of dishes in a base cabinet will eliminate the need for them to reach those items on high shelves. In addition, placing the microwave at a lower height allows for easier accessibility and can help foster an earlier sense of autonomy for one's loved one. Consider having a pull-out drawer-style microwave installed for easy access. A designated "kid's drawer" in the



Child's study in Vienna.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GWIN HUNT PHOTOGRAPHY & BOWA BUILDERS

refrigerator is a great way for them to conveniently grab snacks without risking spillage from a high shelf or pestering mom and dad.

And throughout the home, soft-close drawers and door dampers will help avoid pinched fingers.

Designing for children requires creativity, innovation and the input of an experienced remodeler, as the

space should be fun and functional. Whatever the space is, and whether remodeling existing space or creating an addition, a residential design build contractor can help in figuring out the best options for a family's needs, budget and lifestyle.

Josh Baker is founder of BOWA, learn more at www.bowa.com.

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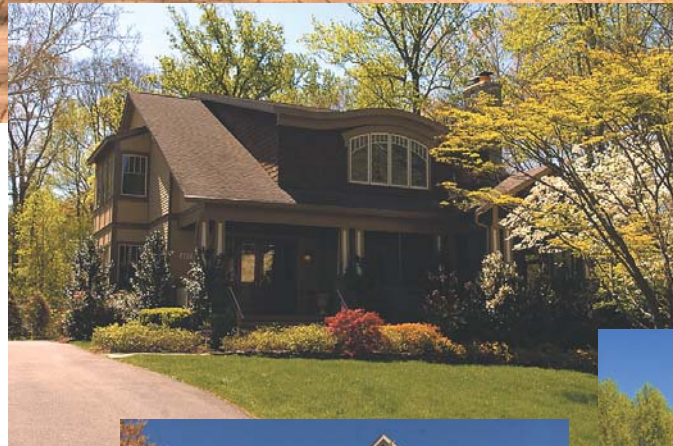
Top Sales by Town in February, 2012



1 701 Gouldman Lane, Great Falls — \$3,650,000



2 1880 Massachusetts Avenue, McLean — \$2,400,000



8 207 McHenry Street Southeast, Vienna — \$1,550,000



14 11660 Preference Way, Herndon — \$1,250,000



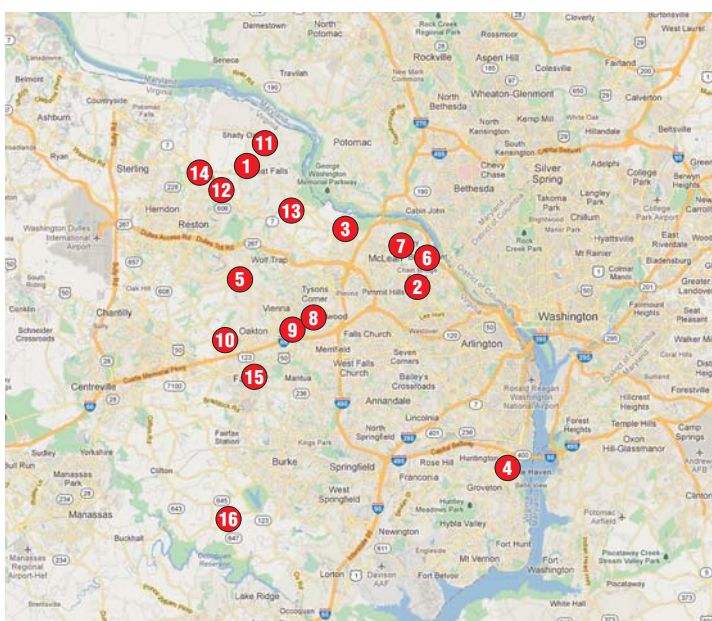
10 3359 V Lane, Oakton — \$1,500,000



16 7951 Kelly Ann Court, Fairfax Station — \$1,075,000



15 3813 Daniel's Run Court, Fairfax — \$1,120,000



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2 1880 MASSACHUSETTS AVE	5	5	2	MCLEAN	\$2,400,000	Detached	0.57	22101	FRANKLIN PARK	02/28/12
3 7820 LOUGHRAN RD	4	3	2	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,300,000	Detached	1.17	22102	GARFIELD PARK	02/17/12
4 6238 RADCLIFF RD	7	6	2	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,865,000	Detached	0.26	22307	BELLE HAVEN	02/29/12
5 1671 HUNTING CREST WAY	5	5	1	VIENNA	.....	\$1,786,175	Detached	1.81	22182	BACHMAN PROPERTY	02/29/12
6 6000 CLAIBORNE DR	7	7	0	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,700,000	Detached	0.45	22101	POTOMAC HILLS	02/15/12
7 6507 RIDGE ST	6	5	1	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,600,000	Detached	0.34	22101	LANGLEY FARMS	02/13/12
8 207 MCHENRY ST SE	5	5	2	VIENNA	.....	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.46	22180	MCHENRY HEIGHTS	02/21/12
9 122 KINGSLEY RD NE	5	4	1	VIENNA	.....	\$1,528,705	Detached	0.63	22180	VIENNA ACRES	02/28/12
10 3359 V LN	6	5	1	OAKTON	.....	\$1,500,000	Detached	0.83	22124	WESTOAKS	02/19/12
11 405 WALKER RD	5	4	1	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,450,000	Detached	1.73	22066	RIVER BEND WALK	02/16/12
12 1155 FIELDVIEW DR	5	4	1	RESTON	.....	\$1,365,000	Detached	0.58	20194	ESTATES AT WYNDHAM HILLS	02/15/12
13 1036 LEIGH MILL RD	5	6	2	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,275,000	Detached	5.64	22066	COLD STREAM FARMS	02/07/12
14 11660 PREFERENCE WAY	5	5	2	HERNDON	...	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.86	20170	CARIS GLENNE	02/16/12
15 3813 DANIEL'S RUN CT	5	5	1	FAIRFAX	.....	\$1,120,000	Detached	0.20	22030	FARRCROFT	02/03/12
16 7951 KELLY ANN CT	5	5	0	FAIRFAX STATION	..	\$1,075,000	Detached	5.00	22039	BRIARLYNN ESTATES	02/22/12

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

Arlington-based designer David Doughton says furniture vanity cabinets, like those in the bathroom of this McLean home are increasing in popularity as homeowners look for effective ways to add additional storage space.



PHOTO BY DAVID DOUGHTON/
KITCHEN AND BATH FACTORY

Creating a Dream Bathroom

Local pros share the latest design trends for this essential space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Updating or renovating a bathroom can be a daunting project. From selecting tile and fixtures to choosing a tub and vanity, options are overwhelmingly plentiful. One source of inspiration when transforming a boring bath into a luxurious, spa-inspired retreat is the newly released National Kitchen and Bathroom Association's annual design trend survey. The 2012 list offers a snapshot of the latest in bathroom decor. Local designers and association members discuss the list and share their ideas for making stunning visual statement in this essential space.

FREESTANDING TUBS. The focal point of any bathroom is the tub. Local designers say a freestanding tub can transform a bathroom into serene sanctuary. "It is like your master bathroom is like a hotel," said designer Megan Padilla of Aidan Design. "We're seeing the emergence of the bathroom as a retreat or spa experience."

"We're seeing the emergence of the bathroom as a retreat or spa experience."

— Megan Padilla of Aidan Design

POLISHED CHROME. Bathroom accessories are increasingly bright and shiny as polished nickel and chrome finishes gain popularity. "Polished chrome tends to work especially well with grays, blues and white. It is also an easy choice if you are budget-conscious," said Falls Church-based designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling. "Another choice is polished nickel. It has nice brown undertones that can pair well when you're going outside the traditional white and grey tones."

Some designers say that brushed metal finishes are still a practical choice for many homeowners. "Many people prefer brushed nickel because it shows fewer water spots and looks cleaner," said David Doughton, kitchen and bathroom designer at the Kitchen and Bath Factory in Arlington.

WATER CLOSETS Designer April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling has seen a spike in the demand for bathrooms with a separate room for the toilet. "If the bathroom is large enough, a lot of people like to add water closets. Even though they are sharing a bathroom with a spouse or partner, water closets give them the opportunity to be a little bit more private when they are using the toilet."

SEE LATEST, PAGE 16

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6907 Spanker Dr.....\$599,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808	
9210 Wyeth Ln.....\$549,900.....Sun 1-4.....Ellen Ing.....RE/MAX..703-795-0648	
Chantilly	
25746 Rawley Springs Dr.....\$619,888.....Sun 1-4.....Tony Motevalli.....Keller Williams..703-472-3000	
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6917 Winners Cir.....\$789,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812	
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Falls Church	
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Herndon	
12803 Lady Fairfax Cir.....\$369,900.....Sun 1-4.....Min & Jimmy O'Burns.....Long & Foster..703-437-6110	
Leesburg	
40994 Waxwing Dr.....\$669,900.....Sun 1-4.....Donny Samson.....Samson Props..703-864-4894	
Manassas	
10720 Meadow Grove Ct...\$165,000.....Sun 12-3.....Stephanie Wayne.....Century 21..703-965-1643	
Montclair	
15161 Holleyside Dr.....\$375,000.....Sun 1-4.....Pattie Mancini.....Avery-Hess..703-625-1861	
Oak Hill	
12814 Turberville Ln.....\$516,000.....Sun 1-4.....Debbie Tencza.....Long & Foster..703-597-4667	
Oakton	
10662 Oakton Ridge Ct...\$1,239,000.....Sun 1-4.....Pat Stack.....Weichert..703-597-9373	
11001 Sweetmeadow Dr...\$1,249,000.....Sun 1-4.....Daphne Hendricks.....Prudential..703-328-7290	
11254 Waples Mill Rd.....\$686,000.....Sun 1-4.....Shaheen Haroon.....Weichert..703-691-0555	
Reston	
11475 Waterhaven Ct.....\$534,900.....Sun 1-4.....Min & Jimmy O'Burns.....Long & Foster..703-437-6110	
1617 Sierra Woods Dr.....\$304,900.....Sun 1-4.....George Azzouz.....Samson Props..703-728-0843	
Springfield	
8383 Uxbridge Ct.....\$299,999.....Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Burch.....Century 21..703-328-5606	
8230 Running Creek Ct...\$644,990.....Sun 1-4.....Ryan Rice.....Keller Williams..571-212-8339	
8301 Covington Woods Ct..\$819,900.....Sun 1-4.....Patrick Kessler.....Keller Williams..703-405-6540	
8305 Covington Woods Ct..\$819,900.....Sun 1-4.....Leah Bradshaw.....Keller Williams..703-282-7740	
8430 Springfield Oaks Dr...\$349,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808	
Vienna	
314 Center St.....\$975,000.....Sun 1-4.....Casey Samson.....Samson Props..703-508-2535	
371 Church St. NE.....\$1,385,000.....Sun 1-4.....Pamela Dargue.....Keller Williams..703-564-4000	

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or salome@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

Why Is My Home Rotting Away?

HOME WORK

BY MICHAEL PORTER DENKER
AND TODD MCPHEE
SPECIAL TO THE ALMANAC



Mike Denker, left, and Todd McPhee of Hopkins & Porter.

“Mike, why is my house rotting away!?” This is the kind of question brimming with alarm and horror that builders and remodelers often hear.

“How old is your house?” I asked.

“It’s only 15 years old.”

“Ray, your house is not rotting away, but the skin of your house might be.”

“Well, it’s creeping me out. My window trim, some of the siding, and my cedar roof have cancer.”

I had to explain to my distressed acquaintance that we were at the end of an era, that the period when wood was the preferred exterior finish on new homes and additions was over. It’s like the period before the fluoridation of water. Before fluoridation, dentists were spending a lot of their time filling cavities. In our case, every day our employees face having to repair wood rot.

In the building industry today, there is a definite trend away from using wood for the trim and siding on the outside of houses being built. Houses are still being roofed with cedar, but those days are numbered as are those roofs. This trend began 20 years ago and has accelerated recently.

When I first became a builder remodeling and repairing homes 35 years ago, wood was still king. Windows were made of wood, doors were made of wood. The outside skin of the house, unless it was covered with brick or stucco, was wood siding or wood shingles. The trim around doors and windows was wood. The boards that trimmed the edges of the roof were wood.

What has happened, and why? The world has changed. From the 1600s until the mid-20th century Americans were awash in wood, and it was special wood. This wood had grown slowly in the primeval forests. We cut down the forests, but there was always another untouched forest to the west. The last of our ancient forests was on our northwest coast, and we began to cut into those in the late 19th century. By the late 20th century, a cry arose nationally to save what was left of this unique environment in the great Northwest. The environmental and conservation movement helped to limit cutting trees in what was left of those old growth forests. The products from the forests: “old growth” redwood, cedar, and Douglas Fir are no longer available in the generous quantities of the past, and the prices have skyrocketed. Trees that are now grown in plantations grow much more rapidly — and these same species might as well be completely different species.

The knotless giant trees of the great Northwest (and the South for that matter) that fueled the building industry since the late 19th century grew slowly over hundreds of years adding tiny growth rings. If

you look at old growth redwood, for example, there could be 20 to 50 years or more per inch. Today’s fast grown redwood have four rings (or four years) to the inch and can, under certain conditions, begin to rot immediately.

I WILL NEVER FORGET the time a client of mine called to ask me to look at his porch railing materials which we had installed only six months before. Much of the wood had turned black and there were mushrooms growing out of the wood. That was a wake up call for me.

Our old trustworthy materials were not working any more. The wood we were buying through the lumber yard was the new stuff, and, to quote one of our carpenters, it was just like marshmallow. Rot and creatures ate it up.

In typical fashion, American ingenuity rushed to replace this missing resource, and, like any change, there has been a period of confusion, some success, but a lot of failure. Along with change in any industry, there are always baby steps that fail, unintended consequences, and companies that go out of business as their new products fail. Even today, none of the new products have been around long enough for us to really know how long they will last under the sun and weather. Many homeowners are familiar with the paper-based siding called Masonite which was only marginally successful, and today we are still tearing it off homes. We now replace Masonite with another new material: cement siding.

Builders and remodelers all over the country are facing the same dilemma I did: the wood that they depended upon is letting them down. As responsible professionals, we have to go back and tear out these defective wood products and replace them, spending thousands of dollars of our own money in the process.

It begs the question: what sort of longevity can any of us expect when it comes to home construction? I like to think 50 years for exterior materials, but, when you compare that to the longevity of the mature wood we used to build with, a 50-year lifespan doesn’t seem very long at all. In the next column we will discuss the new materials, their pros and cons, their costs and what kind of life expectancy they might have.

We welcome your questions and comments: mike@hopkinsandporter.com.

“Home Work” is a monthly column devoted to the mundane but critical issues of looking after one’s home, protecting that investment, and at the same time maintaining one’s sanity.



PHOTO BY DAVID DOUGHTON/KITCHEN AND BATH FACTORY

One option for additional bathroom storage space is a furniture-style vanity cabinet like the one that Arlington-based designer David Doughton installed in the bathroom of this Great Falls home.

Latest in Bathroom Design

FROM PAGE 15

MEDICINE CABINETS. As homeowners look for effective ways to add additional storage space, shelving and cabinetry in the bathroom, the time-tested medicine cabinet is making a re-emergence after a decline in popularity. “In [the Washington, D.C. area] where bathrooms are small, every inch of space is premium,” said Doughton. “Medicine cabinets are definitely a must in this area. I’ve even made units that are 60 inches tall that go behind a door to give people the ample amount of storage space.”

Another option is a furniture-style vanity cabinet. “They are different from traditional cabinets because they look like a piece of furniture and can add a ‘wow’ factor to a bathroom,” added Doughton.

SOLID SURFACES. When it comes to vanity tops, granite, quartz and marble are the top choices. “Quartz vanity tops are low maintenance, but some people want the natural look of granite,” said Doughton.

As an alternative, Mann suggests an engineered stone known as Cambria. “It is man-made and is a good solid surface,” said Mann. “It is not a porous material and does not require a lot of maintenance.”

A National Kitchen and Bathroom Association survey found that another trend is the use of glass vanity tops. “It gives a bit of flair,” said Mann. “It adds a little bit of interest to the space and gives it a little bit of charm and personality.”

SHADES OF GRAY. While whites and off-whites continue to be the most popular color for bathrooms, gray is gaining ground as a versatile option. When used skillfully, gray color schemes can provide a distinguished backdrop without overpowering a design.

“What’s nice about gray finishes is that it can accent just about any palette, especially blues or greens,” said Doughton.

Mann used gray paint and white marble to turn an Arlington bathroom into a tranquil sanctuary “Gray is pleasing and calming,” she said. “It has become the new neutral. [Designers] say it has become the new beige.”

TRANSITIONAL OVER TRADITIONAL. For the first time since the National Kitchen and Bathroom Association began tracking annual trends, traditional is no longer the most popular design style. Replacing it is transitional style, a combination of traditional and contemporary elements that creates a classic, timeless design.

“I think some people may be afraid to commit to one style over another,” said Doughton. “Transitional allows them to incorporate things that they like from both realms and blend them together. What you pair with it really determines which way it sways on the line between modern or contemporary or traditional.”

LARGE TILE. Local designers say that large tiles for the floor and walls of the shower are a practical and popular choice. “What people like about larger tiles is that there is less grout involved so there is less maintenance and cleaning. It ends up looking like you have one piece of solid flooring in your bathroom,” said Doughton.

MULTIPLE SHOWERHEADS. Multiple showerheads can turn a daily activity into an indulgent luxury.

“They can create a spa-like feel, but there are also practical and great for young families with little kids,” said Padilla. “You can use the hand held hose and rinse the shower down like you would in a sink to clean it out.”

THE COUNTY LINE

Chambers Seek Support for Human Services

FROM PAGE 5

ber of Commerce have pledged support for the county's Housing Blueprint. Adopted by the board in 2011, the blueprint bolsters the county's goal to prevent and end homelessness by 2018 by mapping out strategies to create 2,650 housing opportunities. It reflects the philosophy of the board that affordable housing is a continuum

ranging from the needs of the homeless to first-time homebuyers.

In a joint letter to the board, Eileen Curtis, president and CEO of the Dulles chamber and Mark Ingrao, president and CEO of the Reston chamber urged the board to provide funding to support the proposed investment in the Housing Blueprint as follows:

- ◆ \$4.1 million (continuing au-

thorization) for the Bridging Affordability Program

- ◆ \$5 million (\$3 million from Fund 319/\$2 million from the General Fund) to support acquisition of 200 units that address the Blueprint housing goals

- ◆ \$2.61 million in rental subsidies, matched by nonprofit partners who provide the housing and services to address underfunded goals outlined in the Blueprint.

"As chambers of commerce representing the leading businesses in Fairfax County, we recognize that housing policy is an essential factor in economic development," Ingrao and Curtis stated in the letter.

"A lot of folks are concerned about human services," Andere said. "These are things that are worthy of some investment."

Employee Compensation in Fairfax County

◆ Proposed Salary Increase for FY-2013

Fairfax – 2.18 Percent (No step increases for public safety employees or pay for performance increases for general employees are proposed.)

Alexandria – 2.3-5 percent

(Alexandria's FY 2013 proposed budget includes funding for merit-based pay increases ranging from 2.3 to 5 percent. No across-the-board pay increases are funded. Also, public safety employees at the top of their grade – those not eligible for a merit-based pay increase – will be eligible for a one-time 2.3 percent pay supplement

if warranted by performance.)

Arlington – 2.5 percent

(Arlington's FY 2013 budget proposal including funding for merit/step increases, which average 2.5 percent. No COLA/market pay adjustment has been proposed.)

Loudoun – 0.0 to 2 percent

(Loudoun County's budget proposal includes a zero percent increase option up to an average increase of 2 percent for all county employees. No merit increases are assumed in the proposal.)

Prince George's – 0.0 percent

(No merit or cost-of-living adjustments are proposed for G-scale

employees. The County is currently in negotiations with the union.)

Prince William – 3 percent

(This is a proposed pay-for-performance increase provided to employees who receive a "fully achieves" performance rating. As part of Prince William's "Performance Plus" system, employees who receive ratings above "fully achieves" will receive bonuses on top of the 3 percent increase. A one-time bonus of 1 percent will be provided to employees with an "exceeds" rating and a 2 percent bonus will be provided for those with a rating of "greatly exceeds."

The county proposes to increase the top of the pay scale to allow all employees to earn a merit this year.)

Fairfax County Public Schools – 4.3 percent

(Fairfax County Public Schools have proposed merit increments, averaging 2.3 percent, as well as a 2 percent market scale adjustment.)

- ◆ Due to the timing of the budget releases, data was not available from Montgomery County or the District of Columbia. Information provided by Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach, and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual growth. 7:45 a.m. Worship Service without music; 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children's Chapel and Children's Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

Visit These Houses of Worship

To Highlight Your Faith Community call Karen at 703- 917-6468

SMITH CHAPEL UMC CHURCH

11321 Beach Mill Road
Great Falls, VA 20165

It's like coming home

SmithChapel@live.com
www.SmithChapelUMC.com

Rev. D. J. Zuchelli, Pastor

WORSHIP HOURS SUNDAY: 11:00 AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

450 ORCHARD STREET
VIENNA, VA
703-938-8525
fbcvoffice@verizon.net
www.fbcv.org



**Dr. KENNY SMITH,
PASTOR**

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 11:00 AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

Progressive & Welcoming

ST. ANNE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • Reston



7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sunday school/Music: preschool - grade 2
10:25 a.m. Sunday school/Music: grades 3 - 12
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service

Nursery care provided at 9:00 and 11:15 services

The Rev. James Papile, Rector
The Rev. Jacqueline Thomson
The Rev. Denise Trogdon
703-437-6530
www.stannes-reston.org
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston

Assembly of God
Vienna Assembly of God ...
703-938-7736

Washington Christian Church...
703-938-7720

Cristo Es Mi Refugio...
703-938-7727

Baha'i
Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ...
703-821-3345

Baptist
Global Mission Church ...
703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ...
703-757-8134
Cartersville Baptist Church ...
703-255-7075

Fellowship Baptist Church ...
703-385-8516

First Baptist Church ...
703-938-8525

The Light Mission Church ...
703-757-0877

Vienna Baptist Church ...
703-281-4400

New Union Baptist Church...
703-281-2556

Buddhist
Vajrayogini Buddhist Center...
202-331-2122

Church of the Brethern
Oakton Church of the Brethern ...
703-281-4411

Catholic
Our Lady of Good Counsel ...
703-938-2828

St. Athanasius Catholic Church ...
703-759-4555

St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

Charismatic
Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

Church of Christ
Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

Disciples of Christ
Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal
Church of the Holy Comforter ...
703-938-6521

Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991

St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

Jehovah's Witness
Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

Lutheran
Emmanuel Lutheran Church...703-938-2119

Christ The King Lutheran Church...
703-759-6068

St. Athanasius Lutheran Church...
703-455-4003

Methodist
Andrew Chapel United Methodist ...
703-759-3509

Church of the Good Shepherd ...
703-281-3987

The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336

Ephiphany United Methodist ...
703-938-3494

Great Falls United Methodist...
703-759-3705

Oakton United Methodist ...
703-938-1233

Vale United Methodist ...
703-620-2594

Smith Chapel United Methodist ...
571-434-9680

Wesley United Methodist ...
703-938-8700

Non-Denominational
Celebration Center
for Spiritual Living
... 703-560-2030

Christian Assembly Church ...
703-698-9777

Presbyterian
Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church
...703-560-6336

Korean Central Presbyterian ...
703-698-5577

Vienna Presbyterian ...
703-938-9050

Quaker
Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394

Seventh-Day Adventist
Northern Virginia Christian
Fellowship ... 703-242-9001

Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ...
703-938-8383

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Fairfax ...
703-281-4230

Unity
Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767

Shop til you drop! 50 sellers!

Saturday, April 14

9 a.m.-1 p.m.

1420 Beverly Road
(Behind the Giant Shopping Center)

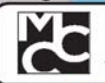
WE'RE GOING GREEN!

- Paper shredding
- Medicine disposal
- Truck for drop-off donations

Selling spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$40. Deadline to apply is Tuesday, April 10. Activity No. 2003.312.

**MCLEAN
SPRING COMMUNITY
GARAGE
SALE**

Register online or at the Community Center.



The McLean Community Center
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org/special-events



Safe Community Coalition
Prescription Medicine Collection

at the
McLean Community Center's
Spring Garage Sale
April 14, 2012, 9:00am-1:00pm
1420 Beverly Road, McLean, VA

Proper disposal of expired and unused medicine prevents:

**Accidental intake and poisoning
Adolescent drug misuse and abuse
Damage to our environment**

Drop off unused
medications*
on
April 14th
between
9am and 1pm,
at
1420 Beverly Road.

*Only medications in liquid or pill form may be dropped off. No needles or pressurized canisters will be accepted.



Questions? E-mail us at:
scc@safecommunitycoalition.net

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

THURSDAY/APRIL 12

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Vous êtes Des

Animaux. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Robbie Schaefer and Ellis Paul. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. \$18. www.wolftrap.org.

Vienna Arts Society. 7:30 p.m., Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. With artist and architect Robert Gilbert. Free. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

"Side Man." 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. Turmoil in a jazz musician's family as his career crumbles at the dawn of rock-and-roll. \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage Tysons.org.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Tommy Stinson (from Guns n' Roses & The Replacements) and The 27s. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Rachel Barton Pine. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

Friday Afternoon Chess Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All ages and skill levels welcome. 703-757-8560.

American Legion Dinner. 5:30-8 p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St., Vienna. Shepherd's pie, mixed vegetables, roll, dessert, \$10. Public welcome. 703-938-9535.

Artists' Reception. 6-9 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. "Art in Bloom." 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

McLean Community Center Spring Community Garage Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 1420 Beverly Road, McLean. Paper shredding, the Safe Community Coalition's safe medicine disposal unit and a truck for donations on site. Admission and parking are free. 703-790-0123 or www.mcleancenter.org/special-events.

5th Annual Run for the Arts 5k and Fun Run. Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 7-8 a.m. Packet Pickup at Encore Circle Lounge, 8:30 a.m. 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk, 8:30 a.m. 5K warm-up, 8:45 a.m. 5K Race shotgun start, 9-11 a.m. Finish Line Festival with live entertainment. Proceeds benefit Wolf Trap Foundation's arts and education programs. www.wolftrap.org.

Model Railroad (HO Scale) Open House and Display. 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The layout depicts the Western North Carolina Railroad (now a portion of the Norfolk Southern) during the period of transition from steam to diesel. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

"Side Man." 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. Turmoil in a jazz musician's family as his career crumbles at the dawn of rock-and-roll. \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage Tysons.org.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

The Great Zucchini. 11 a.m. Lemon Road Elementary School, 7230 Idylwood Road, Falls Church. Magic and comedy for pre-school age children. Proceeds benefit the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center. \$7 in advance, \$9 at the door. www.fcmlcc.org.

Children's Show: Gustafer Yellowgold. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Love146 Awareness Concert with The RuinCity, The Atlantic Light, Crush Atlantic and Semper Fly. 1:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Mad 5K Run and One Mile Walk. 9 a.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Awards for the top 3 male and female finishers, age group awards, T-shirts and refreshments. \$15 students, \$20 adults. Proceeds benefit James Madison High School track and field team. Register at www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com or 703-790-4031.

Bandhouse Gigs' Tribute to Rod Stewart: Back to Gasoline Alley. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Saturday Storytime. 11 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Stories, songs and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-757-8560.

SUNDAY/APRIL 15

"Side Man." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tyson's Corner. Turmoil in a jazz musician's family as his career crumbles at the dawn of rock-and-roll. \$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage Tysons.org.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot circle, Fairfax. "Fully Charged." Pre-show Party one hour before show time, free to ticket holders. \$14-\$30. 800-551-SEAT or www.ticketmaster.com.

Gungor- Ghosts Upon the Earth Tour. 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Used Book Sale. 1-4 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

From left: Sun King Davis, Kevin Hasser, Patrick Bussink (center in striped sweater), Maboud Ebrahimszadeh and Chris Mancusi in the 1st Stage production of 'Side Man.' Performances through April 22, 2012. Fridays 8 p.m., Saturdays, 2 & 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com or 703-790-4031.

Russian Storytellers. 3 p.m. Center for the Arts at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. American Youth Philharmonic, Daniel Spalding, conductor. Liadov's Baba-Yaga, Op. 56 and The Enchanted Lake, Legend for Orchestra, Op. 62, Tcherpnin's The Distant Princess, Op. 4, Rimsky-Korsakov's A Night on Bald Mountain, Fantasy for Orchestra and Stravinsk.: Petrushka (1911). \$14 adult, \$10 senior, \$10 student. www.aypo.org, events@aypo.org or 703-642-8051.

Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. 2:30 p.m. Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. With Mary Anne Barton, past president of the Washington Daffodil Society. Free admission and refreshments. 703-560-8776.

MONDAY/APRIL 16

Bike Rodeo. 1-3 p.m. Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center St. South, Vienna. Free and open to children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. The rodeo is designed to help children who already know how to ride a bicycle develop safety skills. Drop-off gently used children's bicycles to benefit the Wheels to Africa, to be used to provide basic transportation for people to reach school, food, water and medical care. kbarr@viennava.gov or www.wheels-to-africa.org.

Set It Off and Divided By Friday. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Stories, songs and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-757-8560.

Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club Monthly Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Dunn Loring Firehouse, 2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Col. Wallace H. Pedé, CEO of the Senior Conformation Judges Association, will discuss the inconsistency in judging shelties. Refreshments and raffle. Free and open to the public. www.potomacvalleyssc.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 17

The 6th Degree, Atlas and Grand Revival. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Personalized Internet Training. 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A 45-minute one-on-one Internet training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Mystery Book Discussion. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. Adults. 703-790-8088.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

- Lovedrug, Last Royals and Andy Zipf (full band).** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
- Feathered Friends.** 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Stories and activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-356-0770.
- Book Discussion Group.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.
- Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia.** 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Learn more about investing. Adults. 703-790-8088.
- Student Volunteer Training Session.** 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Students receive training from library staff and sign up for volunteer hours. Bring completed application. Grades 7-12. 703-293-6227.
- Vienna Photographic Society Monthly Photo Competition.** 7:30 p.m. Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Judging by Nikhil Bahl. Images may only be submitted by VPS members. 703-451-7298.
- Jim Brickman.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Pop pianist. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

- 4th Annual Green Expo.** 6:30-9 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. Presentations and discussions for children and adults from 35 organizations and businesses will include information on energy efficiency, purchasing local organic products, creating green gardens, recycling options and more ideas to save money and help the environment. Free admission. 703-255-6356 or csalgado@viennava.gov.
- Green River Ordinance and Graham Colton.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.
- Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc.** 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Edward J. LaClare, Vietnam War veteran, will share his father's, Col. Edward F. LaClare, WWII experiences as an Army Air Force combat fighter pilot. Free admission. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.
- Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.
- One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- One-on-One English Practice.** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call for appointment with an ESL volunteer. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese. Adults. 703-242-4020.
- Bedtime Storytime.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and songs. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.
- eBook/eReader Instruction.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about library ebooks and how to access them with your compatible device. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.



"Betty's Daffodils I" by Karen Bateman. Great Falls Studios presents the sixth annual Spring Art Festival, April 21-22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. All of the artwork is created by Great Falls artists. The show includes oil and watercolor paintings, photography, pottery, digital art, jewelry, weaving, and woodcarving and more. A portion of the sale proceeds will go to the school. Free admission. 703-442-9251.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Stories, songs, fingerplays and more. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-293-6227.

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library,

10360 North St., Fairfax. The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox by Maggie O'Farrell. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Jim Brickman. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Pop pianist. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.



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21 Announcements **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

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Look What I Saw, Really

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



A male patient sitting directly across from me being infused with his unique chemotherapy cocktail, a bit too far for a conversation, but certainly close enough for a knowing/empathetic glance. He didn't look too well; jaundice in the face, a baseball cap covering up a chemotherapy-affected hair line (as I can similarly attest) and a thin physique exuding the type of stress commonly found in cancer patients being infused. Dressed casually in blue jeans and a long sleeve cotton shirt; with his sneakers pointing toward the ceiling resting on the elevated foot support of the Barcalounger as the I.V. continues its drip. Accompanied by his wife, as I overheard her described, sitting supportively to his left.

Though I had never seen this man during my three-plus years of regular (every month, basically) infusions, he looked eerily familiar, or at least his circumstances and appearance did. The more I thought about it, more so after I had left the facility, the more obvious it became: he looked like me, or rather, I looked like him. It wasn't quite like looking in the mirror, but it was a bit like seeing the truth (of my appearance). Whatever I thought I looked like (see 3/7/2012 column titled "Look What She Saw, Really") or denied what I actually looked like, it became ever more apparent and clear the longer the two of us sat across from one another. Then the clincher: I found out from my oncology nurse that this man and I were approximately the same age. Which was extremely distressing because, by looking at his gaunt and frail appearance, I would have guessed that he was much older than me. Finding out that we were close in age was in fact was unsettling. Unsettling because this revelation came on top of my observation that he and I looked similar. And if I thought he looked much older than me, then maybe I too looked much older – and less healthy than I thought I did. If so, then maybe the woman in the supermarket whom I wrote about in my March 7th column had every reason to stare at me the way she did that day.

Seeing my fellow patient for what he and I apparently are, was not exactly like seeing a ghost, but it wasn't like seeing George Clooney, either. Whatever I think in my head about how I feel/how I look; presumably, if looks could kill, I'd be dead already. And since I don't want, nor think that I am dead already, considering now that my appearance might actually reflect the severity of my underlying diagnosis – in spite of how I think I feel and in spite of how people say I look, would be (A) news to me and (B) news that isn't very good.

The question is, whether it's news with which I can live. I have always tried to take this cancer diagnosis in stride and not let it effect my demeanor. Part of that strategy has involved a bit of denial to the seriousness/inevitability of it all. Seeing this fellow cancer patient sitting across from me, however, looking so familiar – and similar to me, caused my life to pass before me, but rather my death. It's not what I had in mind when I went to the Center that day and it's rarely how I want to begin my day. Nevertheless, his image and its reality is in my head now. No wonder I felt the need to write about it.

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

Go to the place where the thing you wish to know is native; your best teacher is there. Where the thing you wish to know is so dominant that you must breathe its very atmosphere, there teaching is most thorough and learning is most easy. You acquire a language most readily in the country where it is spoken; you study mineralogy best among miners; and so with everything else.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

ON STAGE

Roller Coaster Mystery Ride

McLean Community Players present 'Deathtrap.'

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"Deathtrap," by Ira Levin, has been fascinating audiences more than 30 years, since it debuted on Broadway. "Experiencing 'Deathtrap' is like your first visit to a circus, a thrilling delight with every twist and surprise," said veteran McLean Community Players' director Jerry Bonnes.

"I love mysteries and thrillers; they are intricate and enjoyable. This play is so very well thought-out with plenty of nuance to entertain," said Bones who has put together a cast of five, including newcomers and old-hands. "Deathtrap" was nominated for the 1978 Tony Award for Best Play and ran on Broadway for about four years and 1800 performances.

The story line sounds simple enough, but the journey is far from a straight line through its two acts. It all begins with Sydney Bruhl (newcomer Dan Eddy) trying to deal with a long dry spell in his play writing career. What was once effortless, is now desperation. He hasn't had a hit show in 18 years. So what is he to do? And that is how "Deathtrap's" twisty ride of deceit, murder, laughter and who knows what else begins.

Eddy describes his character "as a fabulous role with lots of different emotions. It is a fun and challenging role of an urbane playwright undergoing a dry spell and searching desperately for a way out of his dry spell."

Clifford Anderson (newcomer Will Spilman) spoke of the joy in "the sarcasm of some his lines that he gets to say." His character in "the play is a charming individual with quite a few unexpected complications" to keep the audience guessing. Spilman said he "wanted the audience to have a good time as they figure things out."

Sydney's wife, Myra (Laura Peterson) loves mysteries and being in "Deathtrap" is great fun. Her character gets to "look on in horror at what is going on quite often in a play that is complex, along with its lighter humorous touches. Her character is generally "trying to prop up her husband during his desperate times and as they are at a crossroads."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRACI J. BROOKS PHOTOGRAPHY

Laura Peterson and Dan Eddy in the McLean Community Players' production of "Deathtrap" opening on April 20 at Alden Theatre.

Where and When

"Deathtrap" from McLean Community Players, at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performances: April 20-May 5. Fridays-Saturdays 8 p.m., Sunday matinees 2 p.m. Tickets \$14-\$16. Call 703-304-3176 or visit www.mcleanplayers.org.

Note: Adult themes, production is most suitable for audiences 15 and older.

To add to the realism of things, Producer Bunny Bonnes brought in a fight choreographer, Carl Brandt Long, so that "the audience sees fights that are both real and safe and enjoyable to watch. Everyone associated with the production wants the audience to have a great experience and even enjoy themselves more than they expected."

Friends of Clemyjontri to Host Concert in the Park

On Saturday, April 21, the Friends of Clemyjontri will hold their Second Annual "Concert in the Park", a black-tie event in the Clemyjontri playground in McLean. This is the rescheduled event that had been postponed in September 2011. Themed "Under the Big Top," the concert and dinner will feature a performance by the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (with appropriately circus-worthy musical selections) and a sit-down dinner catered by Susan Gage Caterers. This fun and intimate event is limited to 100 invited guests.

Clemyjontri is Virginia's

first all-accessible playground, built so that all children can play side-by-side without differentiation or limitations. The 5-acre playground's centerpiece is its carousel, which features 14 moving horses alongside chairs for riders in wheelchairs. The playground's equipment is designed and installed so that all can play - and more than 200,000 visitors do just that each year.

The first "Concert in the Park" event raised nearly \$100,000, which was used to help donate a new Liberty Swing to the site. This year's concert theme is "Under the Big Top," and thanks to the support from sponsors and

through ticket sales, Friends of Clemyjontri is donating a new canopy/tent on the site, affording much-needed additional shade for playground users as well as providing an additional location for event use and rental.

Confirmed attendees for the concert include Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. Also, Virginia's Governor and Mrs. McDonnell are expected to attend this event.

Please call Sarah Lessa at 703-506-8980 for more information, and visit <http://www.friendsofclemy.com/>.

McLean Baseball Hands Bruins Their First Loss

Highlander left-handed pitcher Brock Hunter holds Lake Braddock bats down in spring break tournament game win.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The McLean High baseball team handed previously unbeaten Lake Braddock its first loss of the season last week, 5-2, in a spring break tournament game played Tuesday, April 3 at McLean High School.

McLean, which received an outstanding outing from starting pitcher Brock Hunter, escaped two bases loaded scenarios and scored three times in a miscue-filled sixth inning en route to the win at the five-team tournament.

The Bruins entered the contest ranked No. 1 in the Northern Region Top 10 Coach's Poll with a 9-0 record. A day prior to the loss to McLean, Lake Braddock had defeated No. 2 Oakton, 2-0.

McLean, which is under head coach John Smith, jumped in front of the visiting Lake Braddock team 2-0 in the first inning before the Bruins tied the score at 2-2. But Lake Braddock, over the next several innings, could not take advantage of scoring opportunities to break the tie against the No. 7-ranked Highlanders.

"We got beat in every facet," said Lake Braddock head coach Jody Rutherford. "We were outcoached. They were tougher than we were - just mentally more tough than we were."

Rutherford said he took nothing positive from the outcome, rejecting the idea of an early-season loss benefiting the Bruins down the road.

"No, I'll give them a wake-up call on my own," he said. "There's nothing good about losing a game. We had plenty of opportunities to take the lead. We couldn't even run a bunt coverage there at the end of the game right. I don't take anything good out of a loss."

While Rutherford wasn't pleased with the Bruins, he praised the effort of starting pitcher Thomas Rogers, who kept Lake Braddock in the game before leaving with a back pain in the fifth inning. Rogers, a left-handed junior, surrendered five hits and two earned runs while walking one and striking out nine over 4-1/3 innings. He threw 48 of 74 pitches for strikes.

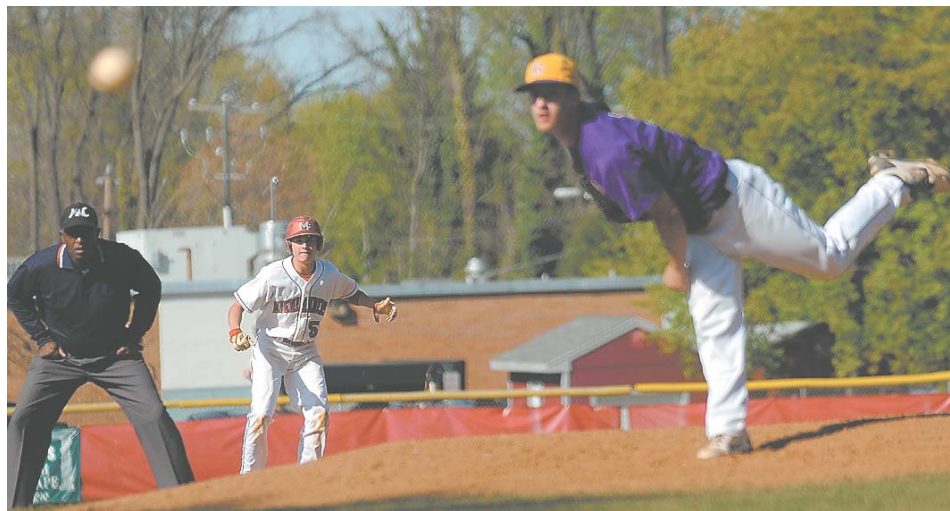
Rogers allowed two runs on four hits in the first inning, surrendering singles to the first three McLean batters he faced.

Rogers was out of the game when McLean scored its three runs to break a 2-2 tie in the bottom of the sixth inning. Two Bruin errors and a well-executed suicide squeeze bunt by McLean's Brock Hunter led to three runs for the Highlanders.



Tom Cresce of McLean High swings at a pitch during the Highlanders' spring break win over Lake Braddock on April 3. Cresce, a senior, had three of his team's hits in the win over the Bruins.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



McLean High base runner Joey Sullivan, a sophomore, watches Lake Braddock's Thomas Rogers release a pitch.

Hunter, on the mound for the Highlanders, tossed a complete game (7 innings), allowing two runs and seven hits. The senior southpaw walked three and struck out six.

"I think they can hit just about all the pitches I throw," said Hunter, of the tough Lake Braddock lineup. "I just mixed it up right and they stayed off balance and, luckily, they were hitting it hard right at people."

Offensively, McLean's Tom Cresce had three hits to pace his team in the win.

McLean was scheduled to play a pair of Liberty District home games this week, versus Jefferson High on Tuesday, April 10 and against Madison this Friday night, April 13 at 6:30.

MCLEAN'S WIN over Lake Braddock was its second in a row at the tournament. The Highlanders had overwhelmed perennial Northern Region power West Springfield by a lopsided 19-0 score a day earlier. Prior to that, the Highlanders had actually lost three straight games - setbacks to tough region opponents Westfield (7-2 on March 28), district rival Fairfax (8-6 on March 30), and Oakton (7-4 on March 31).

McLean (6-4) has wins this season over West Potomac, South Lakes, Stone Bridge, Marshall, and, most recently over the spring

break week, the Spartans of West Springfield and Bruins of Lake Braddock, both members of the Patriot District.

The Highlanders, going into their game with Jefferson this week, stood at 3-1 in Liberty District play. The wins over South Lakes, Stone Bridge, and Marshall were all district victories. The district setback came to Fairfax.

Members of this year's McLean High team are: senior pitcher/outfielder Phillip Morse; senior utility player Mark Hannibal; junior infielder Dalton Taylor; junior pitcher/infielder Cole Oldenburg; sophomore infielder Joey Sullivan; senior infielder Coleman Luwis; senior pitcher/outfielder Nathan Goff; junior outfielder Wells Jones; junior pitcher/infielder Jack Fant; senior outfielder Donnie Eckrod; junior pitcher/outfielder Eamon McGoldrick; senior catcher/first baseman Hardy Cox; senior pitcher/outfielder Brian Ristig; senior pitcher/infielder Tom Cresce; junior catcher/outfielder Hunter Eckrod; senior outfielder Gordon Rogo; junior outfielder Matthew Lewis; senior pitcher/infielder Josh Sborz; and senior pitcher/outfielder Brock Hunter.

Rich Sanders also contributed to this story.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Sign up with Northern Virginia Senior Softball (NVSS) to play two slow-pitch, seven inning games Tuesday and Thursday mornings, April 12 through Aug. 5. Placement on one of 26 teams in one of three skill level conferences is by skill assessment, not a try-out. Everyone present bats and 11 play defense. For fun, fitness, and friendship, see nvss.org and call Dave at 703-524-5576.

Alexandria's Earl Lloyd, the first African-American to ever play in the NBA, is set to be inducted into the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Basketball Hall of Fame on May 5 at Capital Hyllon. Lloyd, a forward who played collegiately at West Virginia State, was originally selected in the ninth round of the NBA Draft by the old Washington Capitols in 1950. Later in his career, he was a member of the old Syracuse team that won the NBA title in 1955. Following his playing days, Lloyd enjoyed a stint as head coach of the Detroit Pistons. In 2003, he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. In recent years, the T.C. Williams High basketball court was named in Lloyd's honor.

The All-Virginia State Girls' Basketball Team was named recently. Caroline Coyer, the Oakton High senior guard who helped the Cougars capture their first-ever state AAA title this past season, was named Co-Player of the Year, along with Woodside's Adrienne Motley. Katherine Coyer, meanwhile, was named to the Second Team, as was West Springfield High's Logan Battle. Katherine Coyer, twin sister of Caroline, was this year's Northern Region Tournament MVP. Two other Northern Region players made the All-State Team - Fairfax High's Liz McNaughton (Honorable Mention) and Edison High's Ruth Sherrill (Honorable Mention). In all, seven players made first team, five made second team, and eight made honorable mention.

Stuart High School in Falls Church will host its annual sports camps this summer. The girls' combination Volleyball-Basketball camp will be held July 16-19 for grades kindergarten through fifth. Also, a girls' Volleyball-Basketball camp for youngsters sixth through 10th grades will take place July 23-26. The boys' basketball Camp will be held June 25 through June 29. For more information and to get registration forms, go to raidersports.org.



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