

From Rail To Trail at Freeman Museum

NEWS, PAGE 3

Historic Vienna, Inc.
Museum Chair Mike
Berger talks about one
of the many displays
in the new railroad
exhibit at Freeman
Store and Museum.

Bicyclists Pedal Onward, Despite Legislative Losses

NEWS, PAGE 4

Putting a Face on Homelessness

NEWS, PAGE 10

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From Rail to Trail at Freeman Museum

Museum traces history of the railroad passing through Vienna in the 18th and 19th centuries.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

There aren't many toys as equally-loved by big children as by little ones... particularly if you take TV remotes off the list. Model trains, however, transcend "toy." To a child who plays with an electric or battery-powered train, it's a fun pastime. To the grown-up with complex layouts and participation in model railroad clubs, a model train is a hobby, a stress-reliever, and even a bond with a grandchild.

Take a walk by the red caboose off Church Street on a warm day when the Optimists open up the caboose to the public, and you'll see children climbing all over it and families walking through the car.

"These are trains that used to be alive a long time ago. ... Now, they're abandoned, now they're scrap."

—Five-year-old Charlie Wilkins, Reston

Stop by the Vienna station when the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders open up it up, with its levels of routings and computerized mechanisms, and you'll see people of all ages moving their heads to the rhythm of the moving railroad cars. It's clear that trains

hold magic, sparking a child's imagination and an adult's memory.

HISTORIC VIENNA, INC. [HVI], in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and the Friends of The Washington & Old Dominion Trail, has debuted its first exhibition of 2013, "Roads to Rails to Trails," in the Freeman Museum on Church Street. The exhibition features hand-constructed dioramas, artifacts of Vienna's rail age, maps, photographs, replicas and memorabilia spanning 150 years, from 1855 to the railroad's demise in Northern Virginia and its evolution to park trail.

"The exhibit tells a story," said Mike Berger, chair of HVI's museum committee. "Did you know there was a railroad running through Vienna?



Historic Vienna, Inc. Museum Chair Mike Berger designed and built the replica of Freeman Store and railroad passing by it.



Five-year-old Charlie Wilkins of Reston says he "super-" likes trains. His younger brother Campbell, 4, is not as impressed by trains as he is by super-heroes. Charlie also said that trains used to be "alive a long time ago."

Where did it go? What did it cost to ride?" The railroad, Berger said, was involved in war efforts, starting with the Civil War when the Battle at Vienna took place, the country's first skirmish involving a train.

Among the displays is a missive written by Major-General R.E. Lee to General Bonham, instructing Col. Eppa Hunton to destroy railroad bridges of the Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad up to Alexandria.

The last revenue train rode through Vienna in 1968. "It only lasted that long because they brought all the materials to build Dulles [Airport] like that," Berger said. In 1974, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority opened the W & OD trail.



On loan from Aldie Mill Museum are lanterns used by railroad men for signaling.

HVI launched the railroad exhibit with an open house reception on Sunday, March 10. Signs announcing, "To trains," direct guests upstairs to the museum.

In the glass cases are pieces of the railroad's history, even a ticket and a schedule, as well as the stationmaster's watch and a railroad police identification card. Pieces of railroad equipment, much borrowed from Aldie Mill Museum, accent the historical background.

"I super-like trains," said 5-year-old Charlie Wilkins of Reston, visiting the exhibit with his father Chuck and little brother Campbell.

"These are trains that used to be alive a

long time ago," Charlie said. "Now, they're abandoned, now they're scrap."

Several visitors to the exhibition commented on the details of the exhibit. Bruce Rogers, visiting his children in Vienna from Pennsylvania, said he just happened to be in Freeman Store, a place he comes when visiting Vienna. Finding the train exhibit was just good chance, he said. He's building his own layout and enjoyed looking at the dioramas in the exhibit.

Berger worked closely with Civil War historian Jon Vrana to design the exhibit. Each contributed pieces to bring alive the history. A reproduction of Lydecker's Store, the original name of Freeman Store, sits in the midst of a local scene. Berger used two kits to replicate Freeman House in 1864, repainting and redecorating the miniatures in the vignette.

ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM is a telegraph machine, a lot of photographic materials, a milk can, lanterns, and layouts of Lionel and American Flyer trains. Throughout the spring and summer, some pieces will be replaced with new ones, keeping the exhibit fresh.

Like Rogers, Sandra Oakley was in Vienna visiting her grandchildren when she walked past Freeman House and noticed the sign promoting the train exhibit. "I think the exhibit is fantastic, especially all there is to read," Oakley said. "I love trains."

The Freeman Store and Museum, at 131 Church St., N.E., is open Wednesday through Sunday, noon until 4p.m. There is no charge for admission to the museum but donations are always welcome. Call 703-938-5187 or visit www.historicviennainc.org for more information.

THE COUNTY LINE

Bicyclists Pedal Onward, Despite Legislative Losses

FABB promotes extended hours on W&OD Trail.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, Northern Virginia bicyclists are back on the roads and trails, despite the Virginia General Assembly's antipathy for bike safety bills this session.

"Between us, BikeVirginia, RideRichmond, WABA, RABA, TBA, and other groups across the commonwealth, we put a lot of energy into getting cycling-friendly legislation through during the 2013 General Assembly session," said Michael Gilbert, co-founder of RideRichmond on the VBF website. "Unfortunately, none of it came to fruition."

State Senator Chap Petersen (D-34), who introduced several unsuccessful bike safety bills this session, said he was baffled by the defeat of his "dooring" bill, which would have required motorists to open their doors safely when there is oncoming traffic. The maximum civil penalty for recklessly swinging car doors open was \$100. The bill generated the most attention—and optimism from bike advocates—when it sailed through the Virginia Senate and a House transportation subcommittee.

But the House Transportation Committee swung the door shut on "dooring" when it voted 7-7 on the question of reporting it to the full House, since a tie vote equals a loss in the General Assembly. On his blog—OxRoadSouth—Petersen said his bill was "logical, fair and simple."

"It simply stated that a driver, who is opening a car door near moving traffic, must be accountable for any accidents caused by that open door," Petersen said.

"Why is this relevant? Am I restricting personal freedom? Common sense? No, it's about safety. As bike lanes become more prevalent in our urban areas, 'dooring' has become a major threat to cyclists. ... Since drivers are in the best position to avoid 'dooring' accidents, that is only fair," Petersen said, adding that more than 20 states, including Maryland and D.C., already have this law.

But area bicyclists refused to be sidelined by these legislative defeats. Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling put out its newsletter this weekend, sharing the following in-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FABB

A group of local cyclists take advantage of the good weather during a ride to Tysons Corner. To find "bike-friendly" paths in Fairfax County, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikemap.

More Information

Want more information on how to bike locally? Check out these websites:

For a copy of Fairfax County's bicycle maps and trails:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike/bikemap.htm

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/trails/maps.htm

www.fabb-bikes.org/resources.html

❖To help plan your bicycle trip online:

www.ridethecity.com/dc

www.wmata.com/ridertools/tripplanner

❖To get involved in bicycle advocacy:

www.fabb-bikes.org

www.waba.org

(FABB is affiliated with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, an advocacy group for the D.C. metro area.)

formation:

W&OD Trail Extended Hours

The W&OD Trail is now open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. between Shirlington and Herndon. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority recently installed signs along the trail showing the new hours and requirements for use after dark.

"This is good news for bike commuters and other people who need to use the trail at night," said Bruce Wright, chairman of FABB. "Most commuters currently ride on the trail after dark because they have few safe alternative routes. ... These new hours are experimental and could be expanded (or restricted) in the future. If you have comments, send feedback to NVRPA."

According to the Extended Hours of Use Requirements, cyclists are required to "wear reflective clothing that can be easily seen from the front and rear" and to have a front and rear light. Trail users on foot are also required to have front and rear reflective clothing and they "must carry a light or wear a flashing light."

Wright said FABB will be out on the trail over the next several weeks offering free lights to trail users. See the FABB blog for more details.

Bicycle Master Plan

The county Bicycle Master Plan was completed in July 2012. "We're hoping the plan goes before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors this spring," Wright said.

Parkway Trail Now Open

Due to construction of the Fairfax County Parkway overpass at Fair Lakes Parkway, the adjacent paved trail was dug up and closed for many months. Finally a replacement trail is taking shape. While parts of the new trail are not paved yet, the trail is now open between Route 50 and Fair Lakes Parkway. FABB tried to get the county and VDOT to provide a signed detour for trail users through a nearby neighborhood while the trail was closed, but despite numerous attempts, they were not successful. "The Parkway Trail is a major commuter and recreational trail that never should have been closed without a suitable detour," Wright said.

2013 Bike to Work Day

Registration is now open for



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling Chairman Bruce Wright and long-time cyclist Kerie Hitt get ready to bike to their home in Reston after receiving an award from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors last year.

Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 17. Several events will be held in Fairfax County: Burke VRE Station, Fairfax Corner, Herndon, the new Merrifield-Mosaic District, Merrifield-W&OD Trail, Collingwood Park (new), Reston, and Springfield Metro at Walker Lane, Tysons Corner Center, and Vienna.

"We plan to have FABB reps at each of these events to provide route information, answer questions, and to ask people to sign up for our e-newsletter," Wright said.

Upcoming Events

Many communities hold health and environmental fairs such as Earth Day, Arbor Day, and so forth during the spring, and we encourage everyone to ride your bikes and promote bicycling when you attend these events.

❖Wednesday, March 20—FABB Monthly Meeting

❖Tuesday-Thursday, April 9-11—Fairfax County Budget Hearings

❖Wednesday, April 17—FABB Monthly Meeting

❖Thursday, April 18—Vienna Green Expo

❖Tuesday, April 23—USGS and Freddie Mac Earth Day events

❖Saturday, April 27—Paul's Ride for Life, Clean Fairfax Earth Day event, and Be Fit McLean

❖Wednesday, May 15—FABB

Monthly Meeting

❖Sunday, May 5—Vienna Bike Safety Awareness Day

❖Friday, May 17—Bike to Work Day

❖Saturday, June 1—Tour de Fat

"Since 2006, Fairfax County has become more bike friendly with the adoption of the county-wide bicycle initiative, but cyclists still need better-connected bike routes, secure bicycle parking and education programs to help them travel comfortably and safely," Wright said, adding that passage of the Bicycle Master Plan is the group's primary goal.

"It contains a roadmap for making Fairfax a bicycle-friendly community. Implementing the plan will take a commitment from our community leaders to building a safe, connected bicycle network that will benefit all local residents."

"FABB is clearly focused on improving our quality of life and health by providing better opportunities for biking," said Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). "(The group) has already completed a key goal of informing the community and providing directions on how to improve biking opportunities with its wonderful guide."

Hudgins, who has backed many cycling initiatives, said she thinks cycling generally helps create more livable, healthy and sustainable communities by "connecting us as people."

NEWS

Fire Department Auxiliary Hosts Craft Fair, Taste of Vienna

Crafts show launches VVFD's spring schedule of events.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department [VVFD] hosts community-wide public events and fundraising events from craft shows and scrapbooking workshops to an annual food festival. Some events, such as the family-focused Fire Prevention Week Open House and the department's pancake breakfasts, are presented as good neighbor offerings.

Fundraisers direct the proceeds back to VVFD; the Auxiliary bought the new canteen truck for the department.

The craft fair on Saturday, March 9, brought in local vendors and shoppers from the community. The Auxiliary sold lunch and refreshments throughout the day, and members donated baked goods.

"Everything we [VVFD Auxiliary] do goes back to the community," said Auxiliary president Joan Dempsey. "That's what we're all about."

Vendors selling food products, fabric crafts, novelty pieces and jewelry, rented space from the Auxiliary and each contributed a prize for VVFD's raffle. "Our vendors have been, historically, very generous and have given more than we asked for," said Dempsey. Volunteers accepted donations for baked goods and trinkets from Vera's Attic. The Auxiliary sold its member-compiled cookbook, favorite recipes from fire department family, the community and supporting friends. All raffle prizes were donated.

"I buy something most of the time," said Margaret Portwood, Vienna. "I found something good, going to show it to my husband. I love craft fairs."

One of Vienna's most-anticipated food-focused events is the 2nd Annual Taste of Vienna, sponsored and hosted by the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. In 2013, Taste of Vienna is on Saturday, April 27, running from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the fire station at 400 Center St. S., across from Waters Field. Held rain-or-shine, the parking lot fills with the tables of 35-plus local restaurants, including Vienna's most well loved food spots. Live entertainment is planned and the Auxiliary will sell its cookbook, as well.

On the Taste of Vienna participant list to-date are Culinary Cooking School, Donato's Pizza, Tara Thai Vienna, Vienna Inn, Church Street Pizza, Chef Geoff's Tysons, Sweet City Desserts, Robek's Fruit Smoothies, Famous Dave's BBQ, Maplewood Grill, Seasons 52, Mad Fox Brewing Company, Crepe Amour, Turmeric, Noodles & Company, Pure Pasty Co., Caffè Amouri, Bazin's on Church, Whole Foods Market Vienna, The Fresh Market, Brio Tuscan Grille, Ya Hala Authentic Lebanese Cuisine, Maple Avenue Restaurant, La Sandia, Outback Steakhouse, Pazzo Pomodoro, and Plaka Grill.

For more information on Taste of Vienna, go to www.tasteofvienna.org or www.facebook.com/events/237494859717281/?ref=ts&fref=ts.

—DONNA MANZ



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary launched its spring events season with a craft fair that featured hot food, a raffle and baked goods.



Goldie Appleton and Vera Lloyd, both with 40 years of service with VVFD Auxiliary, help out at Vera's Attic during the Auxiliary's spring craft show.



Culinary Cooking School in Vienna was one of more than 30 food vendors participating in the 1st Annual Taste of Vienna, sponsored and hosted by the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

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OPINION

Hybrid Hijinks Discouraging innovation in high-tech Virginia.

Consider this as a possible scenario (although perhaps we should have saved this for April 1): Fewer people are smoking, and many of those who do are smoking less. Virginia's cigarette tax, the lowest of any state at 30 cents a pack, is a declining revenue source. Higher cigarette taxes are proven to reduce smoking. Under current logic in the commonwealth, there would be two courses of action to raise revenue: a) cut the cigarette tax, and b) charge non-smokers a fee to make up the difference and to compensate for the fact that they don't pay cigarette taxes.

This is basically the convoluted approach that leads to the \$100 annual hybrid fee as part of Virginia's proposed transportation plan, to help make up for the reduced tax on gas.

The annual \$100 surcharge for owners of hybrids vehicles should be stripped out of the transportation bill. Something that could add \$1,000 to the price of owning a car over a normal period of time discourages innovation and punishes people who are trying to reduce pol-

lution and dependence on oil.

It also seems likely that the greatest concentration of ownership of hybrid vehicles would be in Northern Virginia, so it's one more way to extract more money from our region.

To replace these funds, plus a little, why not charge an additional \$100 annual registration fee for any vehicle with a purchase price of \$40,000 or more? Or charge the additional \$100 for any personal vehicle with a miles-per-gallon rating of less than 25 miles per gallon highway, especially since the more gas your car burns in Virginia, the more of a break you are receiving on the gas tax reduction. Or charge a sliding fee based on the number of miles driven and the weight of the vehicle (hint: the fee would go up with the miles and weight).

Or raise, rather than reduce, the gas tax and index it to inflation.

Sober on Saint Patrick's Day?

Saint Patrick's Day has always been a holi-

day associated with alcoholic beverages.

You, and/or the young adults in your household, will naturally have a plan to celebrate without drinking and driving. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to take public transportation home. Plan to party at home or at a friend's house where you can spend the night.

If all of those plans fall through, however, and you end up without a ride home when you've been drinking on Saint Patrick's Day, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has a safety net for you, SoberRide — Saint Patty's edition.

WRAP's 2013 Saint Patrick's Day SoberRide program will be offered on Sunday, March 17, from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Monday, March 18. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30.00 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. Last Saint Patrick's Day, more than 600 potentially impaired drivers made use of this service. SoberRide has provided more than 57,000 free rides home to people who otherwise might have driven drunk.

See www.soberride.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Call to Reduce Gun Violence

To the Editor:

Following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, a group of Northern Virginia residents, Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence (CCAGV), has been taking action to reduce gun violence in our nation. In February, CCAGV launched a grassroots effort to gather signatures to show our representatives in Congress that their constituents want action on reasonable measures to reduce gun violence. The group also rated McLean area state senators and delegates on their gun safety voting record and hosted a forum with statewide and local public safety groups to educate the pub-

lic on measures to reduce gun violence.

A recent poll conducted by Mayors Against Illegal Guns found that 88 percent of voters in the 10th Congressional District support background checks and CCAGV's results are consistent: 90 percent of the people we canvassed have signed the petition to our federal elected representatives urging them to support universal background checks for all gun purchases, limit magazine clip size to 10 rounds, and ban military-style weapon sales. More than 1300 of Frank Wolf's (VA-10th) constituents have so far signed this petition. (The houses we visit are not selected for voting history or party affiliation; our volunteers walk neighborhoods every weekend and knock on every door.)

These results should not surprise anyone. Poll after poll shows that a majority of Americans want common-sense gun reform that reduces the number of illegal guns on our streets and keeps guns out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves and others. People understand that, rather than a means of protection, a gun often is an instrument of escalation, accident, and suicide. Most people we talk to have not realized that some 40 percent of gun sales are made without any background check, enabling militarized assault weapons such as the AR-15 rifle used at Sandy Hook to be purchased by virtually anyone. In the Virginia Tech massacre, Virginians witnessed the horrible consequences of weak gun laws that allow a person legally prohibited

from purchasing a gun easily to obtain one.

Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence is working with other community organizations including religious organizations, the Virginia Center for Public Safety, Million Mom's March, March on Washington for Gun Control, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and Moms Rising. Every week, we send an email to individuals in the community with information and actions they can take to support local and national initiatives to end gun violence. Anyone who would like to receive these updates or support the activities of the CCAGV is invited to email ccagv01@aol.com.

Margot de Ferranti
McLean

My Year in The USA

BY NADINE KASSNER

Why are we doing this? Why are we going away from our families for one year and move into a family's house we don't know? We are exchange students and we wanted to learn more about another country, about the culture, the language and the people. With the Academic Year in America we found an organization that gave us the chance to study abroad and that found nice people/families who were willing to host us and who welcomed us as normal family members. We meet our Local Coordinator

Louise Hackman every month.

She always plans interesting and funny things we can do together. Our last meeting was on Saturday, Dec. 15. We spent some time together at the Arlington Cemetery National Wreath Across America Ceremony and learned a lot about it. We also laid down wreaths on the graves. It was an impressive experience how the cemetery looked like after the ceremony. All these new experiences are the reason why this year is/will be one of my best years in my life.

Nadine Kassner is a German exchange student attending Herndon High School 2012-2013.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Exchange students participate in Wreaths Across America Ceremony 2012.

Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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WEEK IN VIENNA

Historic Vienna, Inc. to Hold Spring Meeting

Historic Vienna, Inc. will hold its spring Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at the Dyer-Gunnell American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. Following a brief membership meeting, the speaker will be local Civil War historian and reenactor Jon Vrana, who will speak on the evolution of the railroad that ran through Vienna from 1855 to 1968, along the right-

of-way now known as the Washington & Old Dominion Trail.

The meeting is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served. For information call 703 938 5187 or visit www.historicviennainc.org.

Vietnam Veterans to Host Cobra Pilot

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends and the general public to attend the March 21 chapter meeting at Neighbor's Restau-

rant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna, at 7:30 p.m. Maj. Dan Sheehan, USMC retired, will speak about his Tour of Duty as a Marine attack helicopter pilot in the Iraq War in 2003 and as a forward air controller with a special operations unit in 2004.

He is the author of the book, "After Action: The True Story of a Cobra Pilot's Journey" which relives his Iraq tour of duty. The general public and all veterans are invited. Admission is free.

For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit the web page at www.vva227.org.

America's Next Top Dog, Fashion Photo Contest

America's Next Top Dog Fashion Photo Contest will run until March 30 at Patrick Henry Library. Bring in a photo of your dog (real or plush) decked out in the latest fashions, and your pooch could be awarded the title "America's Next Top Dog." For complete contest rules, including photo guidelines, dates and prizes, stop by the library's infor-

SEE WEEK, PAGE 13

THANK YOU!

The James Madison High School Athletic Booster Club would like to thank the following donors for their generosity and support of our athletic programs! Please thank them when you patronize their business!

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Creative Framing	Metropolitan Chiropractic	Trader Joes
CrossFit of North Vienna	Middleburg Country Inn	Trousseau
Culinaria	Mr. Wash	Tyson's Corner Marriott
Curtsies & Petals	Mt. Kim Martial Arts	Tysons Corner Center
Dahn Yoga	Nail Experts	Underhill Family
Dandelion Patch	Newseum	Velocity Photos
Davis, Kevin & Aimee	Noodles	Vienna Community Center
Deborah Wascom	NV Tutoring	Vienna Eyecare Center
Doctor Beauty	Old Peking Restaurant	Vienna Inn
Dolan Family	Oskui Service Center	Washington Capitals
Edible Arrangements	Panera Bread	Washington Nationals
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VDOT Virginia Department
of Transportation

Vienna Metro Access Ramps Fairfax County

Design Public Hearing

Wednesday, March 27, 2013, 6 – 8 p.m.

Oakton High School Cafeteria

2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Find out about plans to construct a flyover ramp to provide direct access for mass transit buses between the I-66 high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and the Vienna Metrorail station. This project would improve peak-hour mass transit accessibility and enhance ridership.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. to view displays and learn about the project. VDOT staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project details at www.virginiadot.org, at the hearing, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1768, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer questions.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR Part 771, a Categorical Exclusion is being prepared and will be available for review 15 calendar days before the meeting. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed project on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will also be available for review.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **April 11, 2013** to Mr. Leonard Siegel, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Vienna Metro Access Ramps" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the VDOT manager at the above phone numbers.

UPC: 81009 State Project: 0066-029-132,P101,R201,C501,B617,B618
Federal Project: STP-5401(773)

ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Paul Thorn. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Former boxer turned bluesy rocker Paul Thorn returns with his gritty vocals and powerful Southern beats. \$24. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Paint with Paper! 10 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Collage artist Megan Coyle demonstrates her mixed media method of creating landscapes and portraits with paper. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

2013 Spring Used Book Sale. 1-8 p.m., at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Friends of Oakton Library hold the sale featuring shelves and shelves of books for bottom dollar. 703-242-4020.

FRIDAY/MARCH 15

2013 Spring Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Friends of Oakton Library hold the sale featuring shelves and shelves of books for bottom dollar. 703-242-4020.

Johnnie Walker Whisky Night. 6:30 p.m., at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, third floor, McLean. Join for a special evening at Wildfire, when we explore and enjoy the most widely distributed

brand of scotch whisky in the world, Johnnie Walker; featuring Ewan Morgan. \$90. 703-442-9110.

Chatham Baroque: The Discovery Series. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Pittsburgh-based chamber music ensemble Chatham Baroque arrives at The Barns at Wolf Trap to perform renditions of 17th and 18th century arrangements. \$35. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

2013 Spring Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Friends of Oakton Library hold the sale featuring shelves and shelves of books for bottom dollar. 703-242-4020.

BandHouse Gigs' Tribute to Chrissie Hynde & The Pretenders. 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road Vienna. Bethesda-based BandHouse Gigs joins forces with 35

local musicians to recreate the music of '70s rock legends. \$25. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org. **Gypsy.** 8 p.m., at the Oakcrest School,



PHOTO COURTESY OF WOLF TRAP

Chatham Baroque's unique instrumentation (violin, viola da gamba, and theorbo), technical prowess, and gifts of improvisation make their Friday, March 15, performance at The Barns at Wolf Trap a must-hear evening for baroque aficionados.

850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The McLean Orchestra Concertmaster Nurit Bar-Josef and NSO cellist James

Lee join for a performance of Brahms' Double Concerto for Violin and Cello; post-concert cake and champagne reception. Adults: \$40; Seniors: \$30; Youth: \$15. <http://tinyurl.com/add2k58>.

MONDAY/MARCH 18

Lunch n' Life. Noon, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. ABC7/WJLA-TV Chief Meteorologist Doug Hill speaks on forecasting weather and life at the educational series for seniors and those caring for seniors; blood screenings available from 11 a.m. on. Reservations by March 11. \$10. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org or office@scov.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

Good Food, Good People, Good Fun and Some Business. 6:30 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Suriyah Shahrill, wife of the deputy chief of mission for the Embassy of Malaysia, accompanied by diplomatic wives in Malaysian dress, shares Malaysian textiles and designs used in traditional attire; cultural and culinary treats as well as the annual branch meeting potluck dinner precede the business meeting. www.mcleanaauw.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Computer C.O.R.E. Business to Business Networking. 5-7 p.m., at DaDomenico Ristorante, 1992 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. A networking event with light appetizers and door prizes and a cash bar; two hours of networking and meeting new people. \$10 (cash or check). Gina@ComputerCORE.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

"Never the Sinner." 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageTysons.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

America's Next Top Dog Fashion Photo Contest. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring in a photo of your dog (real or plush) decked out in the latest fashions, and your pooch could be awarded the title of America's Next Top Dog. 703-938-0405.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

2013 Asian American Chamber Gala. 6-10 p.m., at The Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. AACC Chamber Award Gala recognizing businesses and leaders of Asian & Pacific Island descent who have made outstanding contributions to the D.C.-are business community and economy; cocktails, dinner, auction and cultural performances included. www.asian-americanchamber.org/2013gala.

A Night of Music with Peter Kolkey. 8 p.m., at The Barns, 1635

Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap National Park presents the bassoonist and first-prize winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition, Peter Kolkey. \$35. http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?agency=WOLF_TRAP&pid=7295869.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Gustafer Yellowgold's Rock Melon Tour. 10:30 a.m., at the Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Equal parts pop rock concert and animated storybook, Gustafer Yellowgold concerts are a truly different multimedia experience. \$10. 703-255-1566 or <https://jamminjava.com/events/gustafer-yellowgold-april6>.

Tour of the Bluebells in Memory of Eleanor Week. 11 a.m., at Riverbend Park, 8814 Jeffery Road, Great Falls. A guided tour of the bluebells in the park in memory of Eleanor Week, founder of the Great Falls TrailBlazers; light refreshments follow. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/visitorcenter.htm.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Run & Remember 5K Corporate Challenge. 8:30 a.m. (7 a.m. day-of registration), at Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Run to benefit TAPS, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, which honors fallen military heroes by caring for those who they loved and left behind; call for info on sponsorships. 703-281-1333 or www.tysonschamber.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

MoveMENT: Christopher K. Morgan

and Artists. 8 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. As part of the Artist-in-Residence at the Alden program, choreographers and dancers bring athletic, contemporary dance; a collaboration between male choreographer sand composer/cellist Ignacio Alcover perform with special guests. \$25; \$18, MCC residents. www.aldentheatre.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Tylan. 7 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Tylan, previously of folk-pop group Girlyman, tours with her debut solo record, made in the year after losing her 16-year partner and fellow Girlyman member Doris Muramatsu to leukemia. www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

McLean Orchestra Gala Midnight in Paris. 6-11 p.m., at The Hilton McLean, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. McLean Orchestra's annual gala will feature extraordinary live auction packages and world-class live entertainment. \$250. <http://mclean-orchestra.org/gala/gala-tickets/> or <http://mclean-orchestra.org/gala/>.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

2013 ValeArts Spring ART Show: Jewels of Color. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. ValeArts hosts the 17th annual art show featuring more than 150 original oils, watercolors, acrylics, and mixed media by nine local artists. www.valearts.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

2013 ValeArts Spring ART Show: Jewels of Color. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. ValeArts hosts the 17th annual art show featuring more than 150 original oils, watercolors, acrylics, and mixed media by nine local artists. www.valearts.com. **Garden of Light Reception.** 3-6 p.m., at Holiday Inn & Suites on the Rooftop Patio, 625 First St., Alexandria. The Vienna-based Bethany House of Northern Virginia holds a garden party with a silent auction, live music and refreshments to benefit their family assistance program, devoted to helping women and children who have suffered domestic violence regain health and dignity through temporary housing and support services. \$55. 703-658-9500, <http://gardenoflight2013.eventbrite.com> or www.bhnv.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 6

2013 ValeArts Spring ART Show: Jewels of Color. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. ValeArts hosts the 17th annual art show featuring more than 150 original oils, watercolors, acrylics, and mixed media by nine local artists. www.valearts.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 22

BSA Troop 152 80th Anniversary. 4-8 p.m., at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The troop sponsored by the Vienna Presbyterian Church celebrates their 80th anniversary at a party open to current and former Scouts, and adult leaders. RSVP. troop152.80thanniversary@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 8 P.M.
For one night only, and only a portion of it at that!

Tickets: \$30/\$20
MCC district residents

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at The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711

For tickets or for more detailed information, visit www.aldentheatre.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2015 Programs
Wednesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2015, which runs July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: ellen.barial@fairfaxcounty.gov

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

vienna@connectionnewspapers.com
or mail to:
Calendar, Connection Newspapers
1606 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314.

For more information, call 703-778-9410.

THE CONNECTION
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SAVE THE DATE FOR:
The World's Fanciest Rummage Sale
BENEFITING

Sunday, April 7th, 12-4pm
The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner
Donations are needed!!!
Make your spring cleaning count this year.
Please Donate new (or like-new) items for Sale Now

Have a really big item to donate?
Contact Helen Kruger (703-748-4068) to make pick-up arrangements
Join us at this incredible event and get unbelievable items at ridiculous prices!!!
You cannot afford to miss this event!!!!

Small items and clothing drop-offs may be made to the front of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Tysons Corner with the Bell Staff. Please indicate that the items are for the Boys and Girls Clubs Rummage Sale. Donation receipts will be available at drop-off.
On-site moving company available for hire for large item purchases.
For more information, visit our event site.
<http://www.fairfaxbgcwg.org/index.php/rummage-sale>
Admission: \$5 per Person
Members of the Military FREE with Military ID

Here's What's Happening at MCC

Silent Film Series
"Buster Keaton: Rare - Reconstructed - Rediscovered"
Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.
\$10/\$6 MCC district residents

An Alden Production
"Raggedy Ann & Andy"
Saturday and Sunday,
March 16 & 17, 3 p.m.
\$10/\$8 MCC district residents

Morning Movies
"Tootsie"
Wednesday, March 20, 10 a.m.
Free admission

Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company
Saturday, March 23, 8 p.m.
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

Spring Break Camps & Trips
Day Camps: March 25-28
Half-Day and Full-Day Options
Old Firehouse Teen Center Day Trips:
March 25-29

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
1234 Ingleside Ave.,
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ♦ MARCH 13-19, 2013 ♦ 9

8 ♦ VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ♦ MARCH 13-19, 2013



Lesha Debose and Tchonda Bishop call out to those living in a homeless encampment in the Lorton area while volunteering their time to help identify and register the chronically homeless during Registry Week.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Encampments like this were found scattered around the Lorton area, usually near major shopping areas, but sometimes in isolated fields. Not all encampments had tents for people to sleep; volunteers often found old couches and sleeping bags, or temporary shelters made of cardboard, plastic and scrap pieces of wood.

Putting a Face on Homelessness

462 homeless interviewed during Registry Week, an intense effort to document Fairfax County's chronic homeless.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Under a bright moon on a chilly Monday morning, a team of volunteers and homeless advocates roamed the woods near Reston Town Center to put a name and a face to those in Fairfax County considered "chronically homeless."

One of the teams, which included Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), stumbled across wood scraps, broken branches and pieces of plastic that served as the home for Thomas, a 40-year-old unemployed carpenter from Florida who had been living under a cluster of trees since Christmas Eve.

Wearing several layers of clothing, including a dark blue hoodie for warmth and camouflage, Thomas apologized for his living conditions.

"I'm really sorry you all had to come out like this. Be careful of the branches," he told volunteers.

Thomas said a rough divorce and getting laid off from his job contributed to his homelessness. He said the temperature, nearing 40 degrees by 5 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, wasn't "too bad for sleeping. I've slept in worse."

"My biggest concern is getting robbed or beaten. That's why I try to protect myself with this little fortress of branches and blankets," he said.

Thomas was just one of 462 chronically homeless individuals found in the woods, in cars, and in tents last week.

Armed with flashlights, food, gift cards and assorted items of warm clothing, more than 200 volunteers and homeless advocates fanned out across Fairfax County for three days—Monday, Feb. 25, through Wednesday, Feb. 27—roaming the woods and other homeless "hot spots" to count,



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Cedric Smith, 40, has been homeless and living in a tent behind a Herndon shopping center for the past five years. On Monday, Feb. 23, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) talked with Smith about resources available to help him find a permanent home.

photograph and get names and histories for the county's chronically homeless.

THE UNPRECEDENTED EFFORT to create a name and photographic "registry" is a component of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, a nationwide initiative to help nonprofits and local governments prioritize and allocate housing and support resources for the chronically homeless, defined as those living consistently without a home for more than a year.

The county's goal is to get half of them in housing within three years.

"I was struck by the differences in talking with someone in their 'home'—in their space—versus when we are in shelter and

other settings where we must set the rules," said Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith. "There was a sense of pride from those homeless interviewed when they showed volunteers their campsites."

"After giving my gloves to a man who immediately placed them on his hands for warmth, I realized that this is home and his struggle every day," said Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH).

Cedric Smith, 50, who has been homeless for five years, was found living in a tent behind a Herndon shopping center. Supervisor Cathy Hudgins asked him how he became homeless and his goals for the future.

"Five years from now, I hope to be in my

Key findings from Registry Week

Volunteers and homeless advocates gathered the following information from the 462 individuals they interviewed last week. The information was released during a community debrief at Jubilee Christian Center on Monday, March 4.

- ❖ Nearly a quarter were between 18-34 years old
- ❖ 10 percent were veterans
- ❖ Nearly half were employed
- ❖ The largest number of chronically homeless (151) were found in the Route 1 corridor
- ❖ More than three-quarters of the chronically homeless were male
- ❖ "Unable to pay rent/utilities" and "job loss" were the most often cited reasons for homelessness
- ❖ 40 percent had a physical disability

own apartment," he said. He told Hudgins and other volunteers that he also misses his two children, who live in southern Virginia.

"I want to have a place where they can visit. They're in my heart every day. ... They're my primary concern and they keep me going every day," he said.

HUDGINS, who has worked extensively with Fairfax County's nonprofits to help find affordable housing for the homeless, said she hoped the 100K homes campaign opens doors and eyes to the plight of homeless individuals.

"We have to step up to this question. ... Are we going to walk away from this tonight and say, 'That's just the way people live?' Well, it's not the way people should live," Hudgins said.

"The theme for me this week was persistence," said Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS. "Most importantly the persistence of the men and women we met living in their cars or on the street. In the worst conditions they continued to smile and seemed hopeful this caring community would help find them a home. Some of them were gone to work before we got there or were on their way back to the woods from an overnight shift."

EPA Will Not Appeal Court Decision on Accotink Watershed

EPA regulations could have cost county \$300 million.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) effectively ended a two-year legal battle with Fairfax County when the agency announced last week it will not appeal a federal court decision favoring Fairfax County's handling of the Accotink Creek watershed.

The agency's decision follows a Jan. 3 ruling by U.S. District Judge Liam O'Grady, who struck down an EPA mandate imposing restrictions on the flow of water into Accotink Creek, which could have cost Fairfax County taxpayers as much as \$300 million for storm water abatement.

In a nine-page opinion, O'Grady wrote that storm water runoff could not be considered a "pollutant" under the Clean Water Act, "so the EPA is not authorized to regulate it."

Monday, March 4, was the last day the EPA could appeal the ruling.

"The [decision] is strong validation of Fairfax County's sound and successful strategy for addressing our clean water goals," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) in a statement released last Tuesday. "Fairfax County remains committed to improving the health of the Accotink Creek as well as other tributaries of the Potomac and Chesapeake in the county."

The county filed a federal lawsuit in July of 2012 after months of negotiations and talks with EPA officials failed to yield an acceptable compromise, according to county officials. Faced with a regulatory deadline, the lawsuit was the county's only recourse.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The county has been at odds with the EPA over management of the 52-square-mile Accotink Creek watershed for years.

FILED JOINTLY with the state of Virginia on behalf of the Virginia Department of Transportation, the lawsuit claimed the EPA's regulations vastly exceeded its legal authority and would create a "massive expansion" of the EPA's regulatory power if left unchallenged.

The board's decision during the 2012 presidential election to join forces with Virginia's conservative attorney general, the state's Republican gubernatorial nominee, was "politically difficult," and showed "just how egregious the EPA's actions are here," said Braddock Supervisor John Cook, one of three Republicans on the Democrat-controlled board.

Bulova (D-at-large) said the board believed putting aside partisan politics and joining the state in the legal action was nec-

essary to strengthen the lawsuit against the EPA.

In a statement last week, Cuccinelli said the EPA mandate would have done "more harm than good."

"Its effectiveness was unproven and it would have diverted hundreds of millions of dollars Fairfax County was already targeting for more effective methods of sediment control," Cuccinelli said.

The county has been at odds with the EPA over management of the 52-square-mile Accotink Creek watershed for years. In 2011, the EPA decision to define the flow of water as a "pollutant"—rather than sediment, the pollutant actually at issue in Accotink Creek—was the tipping point for Fairfax County.

"The EPA literally is treating water itself—

the very substance the Clean Water Act was created to protect—as a pollutant," Fairfax County asserted in its complaint.

To comply with the EPA-mandated thresholds for water flow meant Fairfax County and VDOT would have to find ways to further reduce storm water runoff, in some cases by as much as 50 percent. VDOT officials said they would have been forced to acquire significant amounts of private property to build numerous new storm water management structures.

Meeting those standards was unrealistic, Bulova said. "I am pleased to be able to put this legal battle behind us so we can focus on addressing improvements to our watersheds and water quality."

She said the Fairfax County has already invested significant resources in developing 30 Watershed Management Plans covering all of the drainage areas in Fairfax County. Each plan includes an assessment of the existing conditions within the particular watershed and 10-year and 25-year project plans for improving and protecting the water quality in each watershed.

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S RECORD includes more than \$300 million in wastewater system improvements and dedicated annual funding for storm water system improvements since 2006. In 2009 the county instituted a dedicated tax for storm water and has since increased it to a current rate of \$.02 per \$100 assessed value, or \$100 per year for the median home. The countywide tax funds the \$40 million budgeted storm water program in fiscal year 2013.

"Investing in the health of Accotink Creek and other tributaries in Fairfax County not only improves local streams and rivers, it provides downstream benefits to the Potomac River and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay," Bulova said.

"The EPA was way out of control on this," Cook said. "We have the best storm water program around, and the EPA's actions simply went too far."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Mom & Pop Stores in Great Falls. 7 p.m., in the Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Historical Society presents the history of the town's mom and pop stores, featuring an in-depth account of Thelma's Store presented by friend Doris Carpenter and a talk from Carol Wright on Buck's Store. kathleenjm@aol.com.

James C. Macdonald Fine Arts Scholarship Competition. All day, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. High school students and residents of Dranesville Small Tax District 1A looking to further their interests in the fine arts may compete to win a \$400 to \$1,200 scholarship in dance, instrumental music, vocal music, theatre and

visual arts; enter by Monday, April 1. \$15 entry fee. www.aldentheatre.org or kathleen.herr@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Networking Mixer. 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Lebanese Taverna in Tysons Galleria, 1840G International Drive, McLean. Lebanese Taverna hosts the March networking event meant for sampling culinary delights and making new contacts. \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. info@tysonschamber.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

The Smart Split. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. An overview of the fundamentals of the Virginia divorce process with summary of fault/no-fault grounds, child custody, spousal and child support, property and retirement asset division, health insurance and considerations for choosing an attorney/mediator. \$55; \$45 for members. Register. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or

www.thewomenscenter.org.

Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon.

Donate to the Josh Anderson Foundation for preventing teenage suicide by giving to their largest fundraising event and/or running in the marathon. www.active.com/donate/joshafoundation2013.

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

Avoiding Divorce Court I. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. An overview on how to negotiate or mediate settlement agreements with focus on strategies and pitfalls to avoid and thorough discussion of each issue in the agreement. \$40; \$30 for members; \$70 per couple; \$50 per member couple. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Avoiding Divorce Court II. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. An overview of provisions of settlement agreements covering standard provisions and

creative provisions. \$40; \$30 for members; \$70 per couple; \$50 per member couple. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

Youth & Education Reception and Mini Expo.

6-8 p.m., at The Gannett Building, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The 2013 mini expo focuses on entrepreneurs celebrating future leaders; the reception showcases the accomplishments of students in the Vienna and Tysons Corner area and highlights opportunities for schools and businesses to partner. info@tysonschamber.org.

Reclaiming Your Future.

6:30-9:30 p.m., at the Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Get the practical information needed from a certified divorce planner to make educated financial decisions; covers all financial components of the property settlement agreement. \$50; \$40 for members. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

Travel Smart. 7 p.m., at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University

Women (AAUW) will host "Travel Smart," a presentation on how to travel safely and wisely. 703-321-7499.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

The Targeted Job Search. 10 a.m.-noon at the Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Learn new ways to approach job searching from professional with 25-plus years helping people get the job they want. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Presentation. 7 p.m., at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust holds a town hall meeting to give residents an opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed FY 2014 budget. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

Langley Boys' Lax Looking for Fifth Straight State Title

Defense figures to be Saxons' strength in 2013.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Earl Brewer, who enters his 19th season as head coach of the Langley boys' lacrosse program, has led the Saxons to four consecutive state championships.

Brewer, whose Saxons have also captured two region crowns and nine district titles under his guidance, prefers a positive approach to coaching and likes to keep in perspective that real pressure is faced by parents paying a mortgage rather than students playing a game. That being said, Brewer knows anything short of a fifth straight state title would result in some unhappy campers.

"I think the expectations are going to be if we don't win a state championship, people are going to be disappointed—the fan base, the student body, the players themselves," Brewer said. "We have some seniors on this team that have been on three straight state championship teams. For them, to



The Langley boys' lacrosse team will open its season Friday at home against Dominion.

leave the legacy not to win it I think would be sad for them."

Senior captains Brad Dotson, Robby Byrne and Luke Salzer were part of the last three Langley state championship teams. Byrne said past success creates motivation.

"I don't think it puts more pressure (on the team), it just makes us want to continue that legacy," he said. "It gets the young kids

going, gives them something to work toward."

Byrne, at 6-foot-3, and Dotson, who stands 6-foot-6, are part of a physical Saxon defense which figures to be the strength of the team. Dotson was selected first-team All-Liberty District and first-team All-Northern Region last season and will play lacrosse at Bucknell University. Senior Tyler Kovacs (6-3)

and junior Hunter Yates (6-0) will also be contributors as defensemen. Senior Clay Kennedy is the Saxons' goalkeeper.

"My defense is very big," Brewer said. "... They look like a college team when you see them on the field. And they're talented too—they're not just big lummoxes. They can run, they can dodge and shoot, themselves. They play great

one-on-one [and] they're all smart."

Salzer, a midfielder, had 25 goals and 46 assists last season. He will play collegiately at the University of Delaware.

"He's got the whole package," Brewer said. "We call him an old-school middle because he can play middle, he can play defense and offense, he runs the field [and] he's a tough guy, too."

Seniors Brian Ochoa and Jack Reilly will also contribute as midfielders.

Junior attackman J.T. Meyer returns for his third season on the varsity and is one of the Saxons' top offensive threats. However, Meyer suffered a knee injury prior to the season and could miss some time. Junior Billy Orme, seniors Nick Guglielmo and Patrick Kearney, and sophomore Weston Simonides will also look to contribute.

Langley opens the season with a home game at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 15, against Dominion—the Saxons' first test in their quest for a fifth consecutive state championship.

"We're out here having fun and all," Dotson said, "but at the end of the day, we're here to get business done."

Oakton Baseball to Open Against National District Opponents

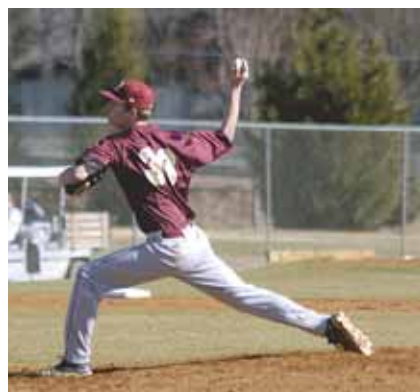
The Oakton baseball team scrimmaged defending state champion Lake Braddock on March 9 for the Cougars' final preseason tune-up.

Afterward, Oakton head coach Justin Janis said the team needs to make some changes. The Cougars will have a chance to show they've improved when they travel to face Yorktown for the regular season opener at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13. Oakton will face another National District opponent two days later when the Cougars host Washington Lee at 6 p.m. on March 15.

"I thought today was a good learning experience for us," Janis said after the Saturday scrimmage. "Any time you go up against a good opponent like [Lake] Braddock, I think that gives you a good chance to kind of see what you're made of."

Senior right-hander Matt Gregor will be Oakton's No. 1 starter on the mound.

"The biggest thing is he just throws strikes," Janis said. "He's a competitive kid, he's very composed out there, he's a good leader—just by his body language he makes his teammates confident."



Oakton senior Matt Gregor enters the season as the Cougars' No. 1 pitcher.

Janis is also looking for significant contributions from senior middle infielders Joey Bartosic and Mitchell Carroll, and senior right-fielder Brian Burns, who was a first-team All-Northern Region selection last season.

"We're looking for (Burns) to step up again as a leader," Janis said, "and hopefully have the same kind of production that he had last year."

—JON ROETMAN



Seventh grade girls from Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Vienna on their basketball team in Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in the Arlington diocese: back row, coach Duane Knauf and assistant coach Ray Mills; middle row from left, Kristen Jones, Cate Latessa, Tracey Mills, Katie Skoff, Kirsten Knauf and Grace Atiyeh; and front row from left, Hannah Gaffney, Rachel McFaul, Megan Nayak, Kelsey Shea, and Emily Cannon.

Seventh Grade Girls Win Eighth Grade Division

The seventh grade girls from Our Lady of Good Counsel School (OLGC) in Vienna, playing in the Division 1 eighth grade Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Arlington diocese basketball league, were tied with St. James' eighth grade team for the season. When the team of 11 seventh grade girls went to the championship game on Sunday, March 3, at Annandale High School and played the eighth grade St. James girls, OLGC beat their opponent out, winning the championship 38 to 35. They are the CYO

varsity champions for Division 1 in the Arlington catholic diocese. Duane Knauf was their coach and Ray Mills was the assistant coach.

The girls are ages 12-13 and are all seventh graders. They started out in the seventh grade Division 1 league for the Arlington Catholic Diocese. As a result of the team's large-margin wins, the commissioner decided to move the team up to the eighth grade Division 1 team to give them more competition.

Wiehle-Reston East Station 82 Percent Completed

Construction of the five stations in Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail stations is now focusing on interior finishes, installation of elevators and systems. The Wiehle-Reston East Station, the temporary end of the Phase 1 alignment, is now 82 percent done and is the most complete of all the stations.

With completion of Phase 1 expected to take place in late summer, crews will soon be doing significant work in Tysons Corner, especially along Route 7 where crews will be completing storm water drainage systems and creating the future roadway alignment.

When that's done, permanent sidewalks, new traffic signals, lighting and landscaping will be put into place.

Project officials expect to complete construction in late summer. Then the project will be turned over by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to the



The photo shows significant progress as seen from the median of the Dulles International Airport Access Highway/Dulles Toll Road looking west towards the Wiehle-Reston East Station.

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to become part of the existing Metro system.

Currently, testing is taking place

all along the corridor, especially in the Falls Church area. Extensive testing will continue until as WMATA prepares to open the line. WMATA will set the opening date.

WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 7
mation desk.

Tickets Go on Sale for 'Hallelujah Girls'

The Vienna Theatre Company will present the comedy "Hallelujah Girls" at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., April 19, 20, 26, 27, May 3 and 4 at 8 p.m., and April 28 and May 5 at 2 p.m.

This southern comedy takes place in SPA-DEE-DAH!, an abandoned church-turned-day-spa, where a group of feisty female friends gather every Friday afternoon. After the loss of a dear friend, the women realize time is precious and if they're going to change their lives and achieve their dreams, they have to get on it immediately. Tickets are \$13 general admission and \$11 for students and senior citizens and go on sale March 25, at the Vienna Community Center. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=678.

Potomac River Watershed Cleanup Day

Area residents and organizations are invited to join in the 25th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. The cleanup takes place at sites in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and West Virginia—all part of the lands, or watershed, that drain into the Potomac. This year local efforts will focus on Piney Branch Creek at Northside Park, Bear Branch Creek near Vienna's Southside Park and Wolftrap Creek at Wildwood Park. Volunteers for the Piney Branch Creek site should meet at the Glyndon entrance to Northside Park and at Southside Park's Ware Street parking lot (accessed via Nutley Street to Marshall Road to Ware Street) for the "Bear Branch Creek location." If you are interested in volunteering at the Piney Branch Creek or Bear Branch Creek

site, contact Rick Ayers at rayers@esri.com or 703-989-3221. The Wolftrap Creek site is limited to Boy Scout volunteers and will meet at 9 a.m. on Follin Lane. For information on volunteering for the Wolftrap Creek site, contact Scott Truax at struax@tidalwave.net or 571-643-1656.

Monday Walking Tours to Start April 8

A Monday morning walking group will meet for a three-mile walk each Monday, April 8 through May 6, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E. Walking routes will vary but include local trails, neighborhoods, scenic paths and parks in the area. A wide range of moderate walking speeds will be accommodated. All sessions meet in the lobby of the Community Center.

The cost is \$5 for residents and \$6.25 for out-of-town participants and advanced registration is necessary. The program fee includes cost of guide and written directions. For information, or to register visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360 and reference class number 443282 A1.

Gentle Yoga and Mindfulness Meditation on Tuesdays

Experience Gentle Yoga and Mindfulness Meditation each Tuesday, April 9, through June 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E. Each session includes instruction in joint-freeing movements, breathing techniques, postural alignment, balance and self-massage to boost energy, concentration, flexibility and strength. The fee is \$70 for Town of Vienna residents and \$87.50 for out-of-town participants. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 and reference class number 442475 A1 or visit www.viennava.gov.

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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MARCH 16 & 17

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Burke			
7023 Veering Ln.....	\$559,950.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
6203 Gemini Ct.....	\$379,950.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
Centreville			
6487 Trillium House Ln.....	\$964,900.....	Sun 10-4.....	Jean Marotta.....Birch Haven..703-402-9471
Chantilly			
42344 Astors Beachwood.....	\$830,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Vera Buonafede.....Weichert..703-501-5015
Clifton			
12646 Water St.....	\$1,125,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812
13912 Rock Brook Ct.....	\$589,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Lisa Clayborne...Long & Foster..703-502-8145
Fair Lakes			
4435 Fair Stone Dr #202.....	\$189,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Mike McDonald...Samson Props..703-400-2598
Fairfax Station			
10005 Rough Run Ct.....	\$774,950.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
Lansdowne			
19396 Susquehanna Sq.....	\$479,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Sara Helmke...Samson Props..703-217-6181
Manassas			
7996 Knightshayes Dr.....	\$550,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Karen Paris...Keller Williams..571-220-7503
Reston			
12393 Copenhagen Ct.....	\$617,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Kirk Harper...Long & Foster..703-585-8405
Springfield			
6582 Forsythia St.....	\$615,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Dallison Veach.....RE/MAX..703-477-7920
7415 Jervis St.....	\$524,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986
Sterling			
21127 Brookside Ln.....	\$629,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	J. Graeme MacHorton...Long & Foster..703-777-2900
Vienna			
2078 Hunters Crest Way.....	\$1,595,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Casey Samson...Samson Props..703-508-2535
9924 Browns Mill Rd.....	\$1,349,000.....	Sun 1-4:30.....	Pat Bryant...Keller Williams..703-893-9811
314 George St SW.....	\$1,175,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Mansoor Dar...Keller Williams..703-564-4000
8183 Carnegie Ct #207.....	\$316,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Vinh Nguyen...Westgate..703-208-9999
Woodbridge			
2219 Emporia St.....	\$269,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Jonathan Brown...Samson Props..202-591-6837

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Don Park at 703-778-9420, or donpark@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

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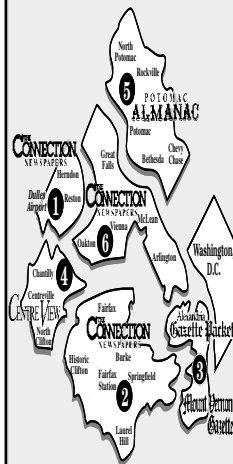
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Ronald E. Jerro,

September 5, 1936 – March 3, 2013

Ronald E. Jerro, 76, president of REJ Associates – a life and health insurance agency, passed away peacefully on Mar. 3 at Virginia Hospital Center surrounded by his family and close friends after a long fight with myelodysplastic syndrome.

Ron was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and graduated from Georgetown University in 1958. He served 3 years active duty in the USAF and 25 years in the USAF Reserve before retiring with the rank of Lt. Col. After active duty, he worked in NYC for the family shoe manufacturing business for 3 years before entering the life and health insurance industry where he continued to work for 50 years. He also served as a volunteer and director for numerous non-profit organizations and was a Member of the Knights of Malta. He was married for 23 years, has 3 children and lived in Northern Virginia since 1966.

Ron was an avid pilot and scuba diver but more importantly he was a devout Catholic with a kind heart who spent the majority of his life helping people. He touched many lives and was so special to many in different ways...a loving Father, caring brother, loving uncle, best friend, big brother that some never had, mentor, hero, incredible source of inspiration; and his unique sense of humor and enthusiasm were contagious.

Ron is survived by his brother John; ex-wife Susan Jerro of McLean, VA; three children, Will Jerro of McLean, VA, Kimberly McCorry of Arlington, VA and Melissa Jerro-Hencken of Catonsville, MD; eleven grandchildren, Billy, Lizzy, John, Luke, Patrick, Ella, Eli, Dean, Jack, Peter and Colin; and hundreds of other family members and close friends. He is loved and cherished by many, and he will never be forgotten.

Viewing is on Mar. 19 between 9:00-11:00am and 1:00-3:00pm at Murphy Funeral Home - 4510 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA; Funeral is on Mar. 19 at 7:30pm at Holy Transfiguration Church Melkite Greek-Catholic Church - 8501 Lewinsville Rd, McLean, VA and Prayer Service and Burial is on Mar. 20 - prayer service is at 8:45am at the Fort Myer Memorial Chapel -101 McNair Rd, Arlington, VA 22211 immediately followed by the burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please send tax deductible contribution checks made out to Gonzaga College High School and designated for the Ronald E. Jerro Endowed Scholarship. The school's address is 19 Eye Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

21 Announcements

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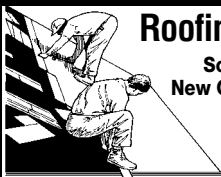
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-William Van Horne

Writing What Four



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As far as anniversaries go – and I hope this one “goes” a lot further; acknowledging, dare I say, celebrating, my four-year survival anniversary from “terminal” stage IV (inoperable, metastasized) non-small cell lung cancer, a diagnosis I initially received on February 27, 2009, along with a “13-month to two-year prognosis” from my oncologist, is certainly column-worthy.

Not that I haven’t mined these emotional depths before; end of years one, two and three if truth be told, but I’m sure I can be given a pass, given the subject matter. And what matters more than a characterized-as-terminal cancer patient outliving his prognosis – by years? Not too much, from my perspective. Quite frankly, this is content of a column I can get used to writing – repeatedly, if need be, and I’m hoping the need be. Oh, I don’t suppose I’ll be recycling material from previous anniversary columns, even though the sentiment would be familiar: amazing good fortune, gratitude, anxiety concerning an unpredictable future, etc. Nevertheless, I’ll risk expressing some feelings here that might be somewhat reminiscent of columns and anniversaries gone by.

Being diagnosed with lung cancer two and a half months after my widowed mother succumbed to her old age – thereby making my brother Richard and I orphans, as it were (my father had died two years earlier, almost to the day of my mother’s passing) seemed a bit unfair, especially considering how much my brother and I had sacrificed as we cared and concerned ourselves with the last years of our parents’ less-than-ideal lives. But “fair” has never really entered into my equation. That’s not how I look at things. I look at things the way I’ve heard – on sports talk radio, anyway, how football players describe their attitude toward a starting player being injured: “Next man up.” There are no excuses. It’s not exactly poker, but you play the cards you’ve been dealt. And so, in my four years of living with cancer since February, 2009, I have not pursued justice, nor have I declared my independence, but I have tried to live my life with good humor, and liberty and happiness – when I could manage it.

Not always have I achieved these goals or maintained the balance necessary to counter the emotional weight and physical toll receiving a terminal diagnosis – and the treatment protocol, can impose. I’ve had my moments, to be sure, but overall, I’m proud of how I’ve changed – for the better, and persevered. Though cancer has proven over the years to be an equal-opportunity-disease, my diagnosis has never caused me to feel doomed (a little gloomy, maybe). Moreover, I’ve always felt hopeful and as such have tried to be proactive, open and compliant in order to give myself every possible advantage in this life yet to be lived.

Woe is not me. Why is of no concern. How it could have happened – is of no particular interest. Reviewing my past transgressions never mattered to my oncologist. His only concern was the future and treating me forward. For the most part, I have embraced that/his philosophy; except this time of the year: my still-living-with-cancer anniversary when I revisit the past – hopefully as a prelude for the future. That’s my intent, anyway.

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

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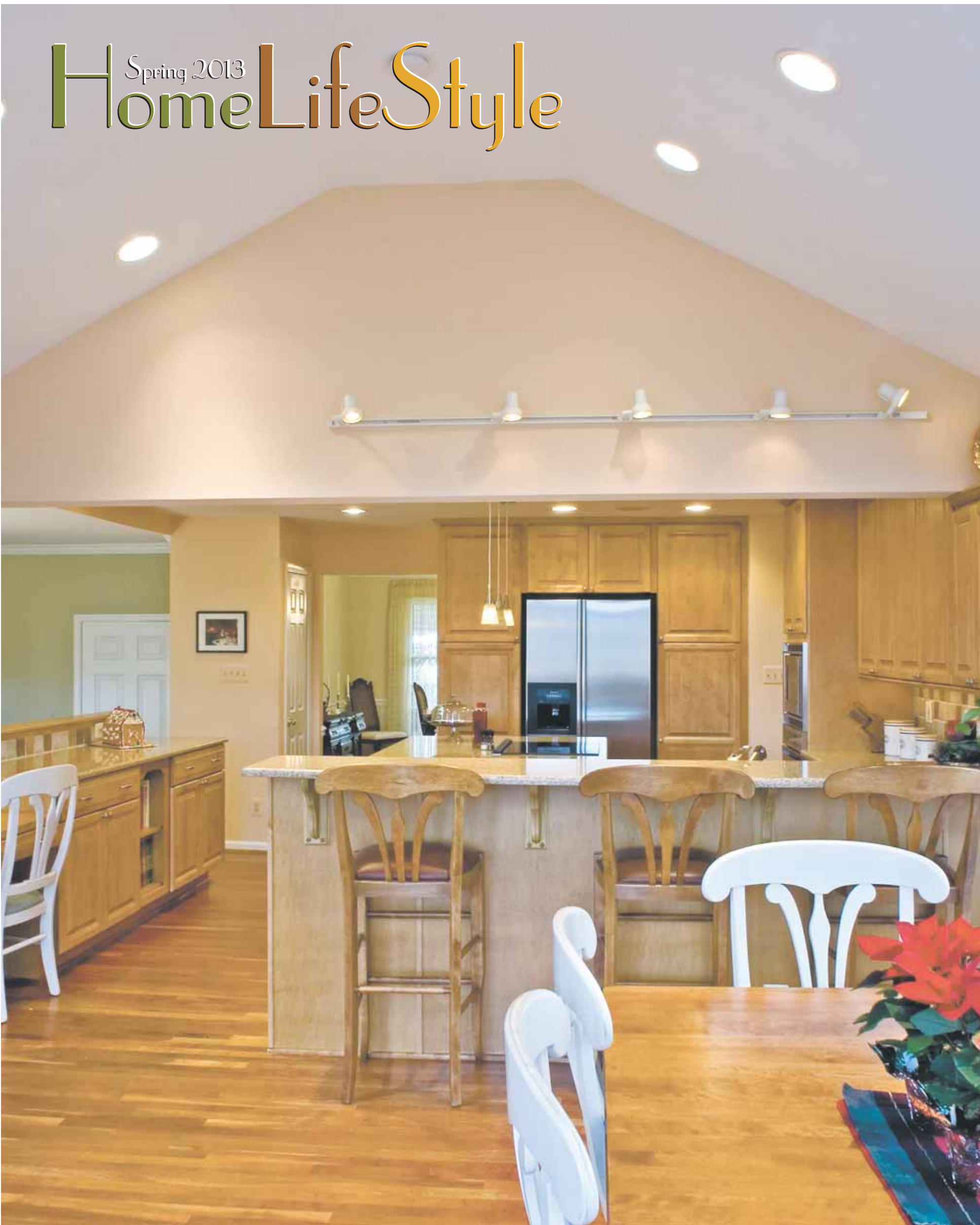
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PHOTO COURTESY OF NARI

This McLean kitchen by BOWA took top honors in the “Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000” category. The homeowners wanted to create a free-flowing, light-filled space.

80th Historic Garden Week, April 20-27

Historic Garden Week 2013 will feature approximately 200 private homes and gardens open on 32 separate tours throughout the state of Virginia over eight consecutive days. It is the largest ongoing volunteer effort in Virginia and represents the coordinated efforts of 3,400 club members. One hundred percent of tour proceeds are used to enhance Virginia’s landscape. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

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The Fairfax County communities of Oakton and Vienna have emerged from small rural towns into thriving family-oriented neighborhoods with homes and gardens reflecting a wide range of architectural and personal style. Ticket price includes admission to the Cosby Home, the Unger Home and Garden, the Buster Home and Garden, the Kampa Home and Garden, the Rosenthal Home and Garden and Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

Advance tickets are \$20 through April 9. Contact Marty Whipple at mwhip155@aol.com. For more information about the tour, contact Bonnie Rekemeyer at chezdarbon@aol.com.

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This home in the Vienna/Oakton area is featured on Virginia’s Historic Garden Week.

The Region’s Best Home Designs

Local contractors get top honors for remodeling projects.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From designing a kitchen with a concave glass tile backsplash to creating a backyard with a fire place and pool, some local home remodelers were honored recently with the National Association of the Remodeling Industry’s (NARI) 2013 Regional Contractor of the Year awards for design acumen. Winning projects ran the gamut from historic preservation projects to environmentally conscious conceptions.

A MCLEAN KITCHEN by BOWA took top honors in the “Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000” category. The homeowners were looking to create a free-flowing, light-filled space.

“Their kitchen was not as open as they would have liked,” said Josh Baker, founder and co-chairman of BOWA. “They wanted to make it more integrated and useful for the family.”

To accommodate a larger kitchen, the design team, which included BOWA’s George Hodges-Fulton, built an addition and added a sitting room, screened porch

and additional windows to allow an abundance of natural light to stream into the space. The new kitchen also included a butler’s pantry and a family dining area.

What is the key to turning one’s home into an award-winning, showcase house? Baker, who founded BOWA with his college friend Larry Weinberg, says an open dialogue is essential to a successful remodeling project. “The key is finding a person or company that you communicate very, very well with and whose process is in line with how you like to do business,” he said. “This is a customer service business. It is not just a construction business. The entire process is important, not just the end result.”

FAIRFAX-BASED FIRM RJK Construction, Inc. received top honors in the category of “Residential Addition \$100,000 to \$250,000” for a home in the Mantua area of Fairfax County. Company president Robert Kalmin says the homeowners’ goal was to blend their interior and exterior spaces. “They wanted to make their exterior landscaping a visual point because they entertain a lot,” he said. “The windows act as murals to the exterior landscaping bring the outdoors in and the indoors out.”

The owners requested an open floor plan that allowed guests to move freely between the kitchen and the backyard. “They were very specific about how they wanted people to meander from the outside to the inside,” Kalmin said. “We had to relocate the powder room so that people are able to use the

restroom without having to go anywhere else.”

An abundance of windows allows natural light to flow throughout the home. “The kitchen has red oak flooring and other colors and finishes that compliment the natural scenery outside,” said Kalmin.

HARRY BRASWELL of Harry Braswell, Inc. in Alexandria, was named Contractor of the Year in the “Entire House \$500,001 to \$1,000,000” category for the renovation of a home that had not been updated since the 1950s. “The house was outdated, too small for the family’s needs,” he said.

The renovation included a kitchen outfitted with cabinet-front appliances and porcelain sinks including an apron farm sink and an island sink in a pale aqua. “That color is carried throughout the house,” said project manager Gretchen Brown.

A concave glass tile backsplash surrounds the durable, brown-toned quartzite counter. “Quartzite doesn’t stain easily,” said Brown. “It is strong like granite, but is more expensive.”

The Braswell team also got a nod for energy efficiency for this project, which was named “NARI Green Project.” Brown noted that the team installed energy efficiency lighting and energy star appliances.

“The homeowners had specific criteria about wanting to meet [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certifica

SEE DESIGNS, PAGE 4

The Region's Best Home Designs

FROM PAGE 3

tion because they are dedicated to protecting the environment,” said Braswell.

CABIN JOHN, MD., BASED firm Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc. received kudos in the “Residential Exterior, \$100,000 and Over” category for a backyard space that includes a pool and fireplace. “The homeowner wanted four separate living spaces in the backyard,” said company spokeswoman Danielle Frye. “He wanted a dining room, a living room with a heat source, a place to sunbathe near his pool and a place to play cricket on his lawn.”

Frye said the Wilder team, which included architect George R. Bott and

lead designer Anthony Wilder, developed a backyard plan that replaced overgrown grass with flagstone and a badly worn fence with foliage to create a sense of privacy. “There is a sundeck and spaces for a sofa and dining table, but the fireplace is the focal point,” said Frye. “We used really tall bamboo to shield the view from the hotel across the street.”

A BETHESDA HOME ADDITION garnered a top prize in the “Residential Addition Over \$250,000” category for A.R.T Design Build Inc. with team member Grossmueller’s Design Consultants, Inc.

“The client wanted to expand their one story house to have a separate area for [bedrooms] and create a more functional first floor with more communal spaces, the kitchen, family room [and] dining room,” said Cindy G. McClure of Grossmueller’s



PHOTO COURTESY OF MORGAN HOWARTH

This backyard oasis, designed by Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc., won a Contractor of the Year Award in the “Residential Exterior, \$100,000 and Over” category. The homeowner wanted a backyard space with a place to sunbathe near the pool, a dining room, a living room with a heat source and a place to play cricket.

Design Consultants, Inc.

The design team added a new second floor to the home, which accommodates a laundry room, a master suite, two additional bedrooms and a bathroom. A stair

tower and cathedral foyer create an open floor plan and connect the first and second levels.

“Elements of the old house, like the wide chimney on the front and the contemporary 1960 style were played upon and accentuated,” said McClure. “The result is a functional home that meets the needs of today’s family, remained within budget and was completed on time.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NARI

Harry Brawell of Harry Braswell, Inc. in Alexandria, was named Contractor of the Year in the “Entire House \$500,001 to \$1,000,000” category for renovating a home that had not been updated since the 1950s. Braswell and his team installed cabinet-front appliances and a concave glass tile backsplash that surrounds the durable, brown-toned quartzite counter. The kitchen also features porcelain sinks, including an apron farm sink.



This kitchen, designed by Grossmueller’s Design Consultants, Inc. and A.R.T Design Build in Bethesda, Md., was part of a remodeling project that earned a 2013 Contractor of the Year award. The homeowner’s goal was to create a free-flowing kitchen, dining and family room space.

“The key to a successful project is finding a person or company that you communicate very, very well with and whose process is in line with how you like to do business.”

— Josh Baker, founder and co-chairman of BOWA

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Home Recycle, Reuse, Remodel

BY JOSHUA
BAKER
BOWA



Remodeling often affords an opportunity to re-purpose existing materials by donating to those less fortunate. Ask your remodeler if there is a plan or policy for saving materials for re-use rather than sending it to a land fill. Every project is different. And some materials are more easily removed and saved than others. Here are a couple of organizations that accepted used materials.

A WIDER CIRCLE

This organization provides basic-need items to families transitioning out of shelters and those living without life's necessities. If you wish to donate furniture and other home essentials that are in good condition (no rips or stains), you can drop off items at their Center for Community Service in Silver Spring, Md. You can also schedule a pickup in most areas throughout greater Washington, D.C. Visit www.awidercircle.org.

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Founded in 1902, Goodwill accepts gently used clothing, furniture, housewares, working electronics, and other household items. These items are then sold at their retail locations, with the proceeds used to fund employment, job training, and placement services for the disadvantaged and those with disabilities. To view their full list of goods accepted, and for the list of donation centers and stores, visit www.dcgoodwill.org.

BOWA HOME CLEANUP DAYS

As a thank you to the neighbors in the communities in which we work, from time to time BOWA hosts Home Cleanup Days. Home Cleanup Day is a great opportunity to donate and recycle gently used household items, toys and clothing, and dispose of any debris or other unwanted clutter. A BOWA employee will help folks unload their items and a Goodwill representative will be on hand to accept donations and provide receipts.

To find a BOWA Home Cleanup Day in your area, please visit our <http://info.bowa.com/communityblog/>.

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

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HomeLifeStyle

Demand for Incremental Improvements

Over time, some owners makeover the entire house — one phase at a time.

BY JOHN BYRD

If you compare the current home remodeling market to 2007, it's clear that homeowners are less likely to execute a top-to-bottom makeover in a single stroke than they were five years ago.

Home resales are rising again, but the belief that every dollar spent on a Northern Virginia home will be quickly recovered has been suspended — if only temporarily — as homeowners reassess.

For most local homeowners, a house is an asset of enormous personal appeal: an expression of identity and aspiration, periodically adapted to life's changes.

While the scale of the average project may be smaller, it's evident that many homeowners middle age or older have come to see the home as a long-term — even lifelong — work in progress, one that they take up passionately, and at regular intervals.

Veteran remodeler David Foster calls these homeowners "incremental" improvers, and has come to see

them them as the primary focus of a home improvement enterprise he started 30 years ago.

As president of Foster Remodeling Solutions in Lorton, Foster regularly coaches his team on the importance of understanding what these homeowners need, what they are expecting and how to articulate their best options with clarity.

"Providing an experience that the homeowner will value unequivocally is probably our most important marketing activity," Foster said. "Our core belief is that there are many homeowners who will make a notable home improvement every two to five years, so we place a high priority on earning that person's trust. In this sense, there is nothing more important than outperforming expectation."

WHILE THERE MAY BE many reasons why a homeowner will remodel in stages, Foster said that the typical incremental improver has a pay-as-you-go orientation — often driven by evolving family requirements.

Vienna resident Kelly Grems, for



The plans for a kitchen remodel were complicated by the fact that the home's rear elevation backs into a woodland set-aside and a notably precipitous drop.

instance, has executed four remodeling projects with Foster starting with a kitchen addition in 2003.

"We bought the house in 1995 when I was pregnant," Grems explains. "My husband [Ed] and I had been living in a much smaller house in Maryland, but envisioned a traditional home that would offer our growing family lots of useful activity areas."

A kitchen with a sizable breakfast room was the first item on the "wish list," an assignment complicated by the fact that home's rear elevation backs into a woodland set-aside and a precipitous drop.

"The ground level decking was already in place," Grems said. "But David showed us a plan for an elevated breakfast room extension built on pilings that wouldn't require a ground level foundation. Turns out, this solution created a welcome canopy for the ground level patio. And it was also a more sensible, eco-

nomical choice for us at the time."

Grems said her first step was handing Foster a file of articles on kitchen interiors she had clipped from Southern Living; the Foster Remodeling design staff then took over, helping the couple visualize design ideas with the aid of a CAD computer program. The team also provided an array of relevant finish work choices, mostly pointing

to readily available considerations on display in the company's showroom.

"The selection and pricing process was transparent, and really anticipated what we needed," Grems said. "When you're as busy as we are, you appreciate this quality of support."

Apart from budget considerations, Grems said taking a pause

between projects allowed the couple to pay more attention to how the family is actually using the house, and to develop ideas that work for everyone.

The recently completed family room upgrade didn't become an immediate action plan, for instance, because the family design process was fomenting slowly — again starting with magazine ar-



The Pipers' new powder room includes a Mediterranean-style foot bath ringed in glass and mosaic tiling. A vessel basin with exposed copper piping, marble floors and a coffered ceiling with concealed lights complete the portrait.

ticles and other sources.

"We're particular; we let the look come to us piece by piece," she said.

In the end, Foster Remodeling Solutions designers created interior elevations that bear no resemblance to the original.

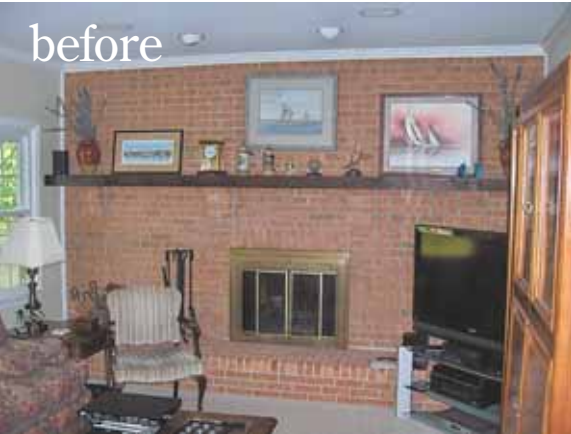
The half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by perfectly symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and Edwardian-style mantle.

"It's an entirely different mood from the sun room," Grems said, "and perfectly satisfies another dimension of our lifestyle."

SEE DEMAND, PAGE 8



The existing half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by perfectly symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and Edwardian-style mantle.



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HomeLifeStyle

All in the Family

With solid planning and skillful remodeling, seniors convert personal residence into a multi-generational household.

BY JOHN BYRD
FOR THE CONNECTION

Challenging times demand creative thinking — so you don't have to look far to find homeowners executing remodeling projects with far-reaching objectives.

Take, for instance, the case of Mary and Harry Warren of Mount Vernon, both in their mid-70s.

Scrolling back a few years, the Warrens were weighing various retirement options when they learned that their daughter and three grandchildren would be moving back to Virginia from the midwest and might be amenable to participating in a three-generation household.

"There was really a lot for us to consider," said Mary Warren. "Harry and I thought that if we expanded the house to incorporate the extended family, we could eventually pass it on to the next generation. We could also make some changes that would help us to move around as we get older."



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

The multi-generational solution introduced by Sun Design Remodeling includes a one level seniors wing supplemented by a sitting area that exits through French doors to the newly formed courtyard. Hallways and doors in the new section are wheelchair friendly.

On the other hand: the more the Warrens scrutinized the existing property, the more they wondered if their vision was even feasible.

FOR STARTERS, at 1,500 sq. ft., the three-bedroom split-level the couple had occupied since 1994 was neatly centered on a small lot in a neighborhood with strictly observed set-back requirements.

To provide all three generations with the necessary space and privacy, the Warrens figured they would have to increase usable living space by 40 percent or more.

A carefully planned addition along the property's western side offered promising possibilities. But even if you could find the needed lot space, the floorplan configuration that would satisfy everyone's privacy requirements remained elusive.

It was at this juncture that the Warrens turned to Craig Durosko, founder and principal of Sun Design Remodeling.

"The program was certainly tricky," Durosko said. "The Warrens wanted a functionally independent suite that would include

Demand for Incremental

FROM PAGE 7

ON A SIMILAR NOTE, south Alexandria resident Sandy Nusbaum attributes her periodic home upgrade inclinations to a gradual but decisive recognition that the four bedroom colonial she has occupied for 28 years with husband Mike is the last single family residence the couple will ever own.

"We raised three children here, and when the last of them moved away, we looked at other houses in the area and even a retirement village in North Carolina," Nusbaum said. "That's when I renewed my appreciation for the many advantages of this house. I recognized that everything we wanted was already here; we just needed a few pointed improvements to take us into the foreseeable future."

Initially that meant introducing an open, "kitchen-centric" plan in the back half of the house, and creating an outdoor component — in the form of a 16-by-16-foot back

screen porch — that allows for easy warm-weather circulation.

Replacing a wall between kitchen and dining room with a three-stool dining counter proved an effective starting point to delineating a more interactive entertainment space. The new surface is also well-positioned as a serving station for *al fresco* porch dining.

Although the needed structural changes were relatively minor, a new shelled-in niche for the refrigerator allows for additional storage. Maple cabinets with a Barton door style and honey-spice stain evoke a clean linear look within a softly lit ambiance. Likewise, the Silestone quartz surfaces in ebony pearl provide a tonal and textural contrast.

With a better rationalized kitchen in place, a few years on the Nusbaums began planning a follow-on phase: an extension of the rear family room, an open-air grilling deck and a layout that permits children, grandchildren and many guests to circulate freely through a now wide-ranging en-

tertainment suite.

Then, just last year, the largely unused lower level was converted into a multi-purpose suite that serves as both an exercise room and guest accommodation.

"The built-ins include closets on either side of a new Murphy bed — one exclusively for guest use," Nusbaum said. "We also made the laundry room more functional and added a full bath with handicapped access."

Meanwhile, Nusbaum uses the remade lower level for her daily treadmill workouts: "It's a luxury having so many useful things exactly where you want them."

OF COURSE, CONSIDERATIONS to functional and aesthetic improvements aside, the long term remodeler also may venture into non-essential, even quite personal, "tweaks" to the existing property from time to time.

After comprehensive upgrades to their kitchen and master bath, for instance, Alexandrians Steve

More

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

a luxury bath, lots of custom built-ins and interior design improvements. Our thought was: if we could satisfy this requirement from the ground up, Meg and the grandchildren could take over half of the existing house as their own wing.”

“We particularly liked the consideration to everyone’s privacy needs,” Mary Warren said. “Their plan allows for independence where you want it.”

Thus, stripped to its essentials, Duroske’s solution called for converting the three-bedroom split-level into a five bedroom two-level structure that provides the Warrens with private quarters, yet also incorporates transitional zones suitable for easy everyday interaction.

TO ACCOMMODATE the elder Warrens, Duroske and team designed a 650 sq. ft. wing adjacent to a newly formed rear courtyard. The perfectly-integrated one-level addition features two large bedrooms, a master bath and large reach-in closets. A former family room now serves as the couple’s sitting room.

By extension, Meg and the grandchildren inherit sleeping quarters in the existing bedroom wing — a configuration of rooms

that affords everyone with the sufficient convenience and living space. Both families share the newly upgraded kitchen.

The makeover also allowed the Warrens to introduce a number of Universal Design features. Hallway widths in the new wing have been expanded to 44”; doors are 34” wide — compliant with American Disabilities Act requirements. The rear entrance has, likewise, been designed to accommodate a ramp, should a wheelchair be required in the future.

“We’re just thinking ahead,” Mary Warren said.

More recently, Mindy Mitchell — Sun Design’s certified Aging-In-Place Specialist — followed Universal Design principals in renovating the original circa 1960s kitchen. Revisions included removing unneeded walls, widening doors and hallways and introducing roll-out cabinets with drawer pulls. There’s also task lighting, easily maneuvered faucets and a multi-level island suitable for standing or sitting.

“The new kitchen feels significantly expanded, yet it’s very efficiently designed — a great solution for a family like ours,” said Mary Warren. “The changes have made life easier for everyone.”

Improvements

and Diane Piper decided that their eclectically re-designed powder room should include a Mediterranean-style foot bath ringed in glass and mosaic tiling.

The artfully-executed first floor facility — planned with an assist from Foster designer Sarah Wolf — includes a vessel basin with exposed copper piping, marble floors and a coffered ceiling with concealed lights.

The Pipers — who often travel internationally — say the foot bath is a pleasant convenience in the summer when they are often wearing sandals.

“I wouldn’t say a footbath adds anything to re-sale value,” Diane Piper said, “But we do plan to be in this house for at least another ten years.”

AND SPEAKING OF PERSONAL vision: after re-doing the front elevation — and before remodeling the kitchen — the Baldinos of Springfield had Foster design a screen porch with a floor-

to-ceiling stone hearth. The porch is closed on three sides and features a 15-foot cathedral ceiling with an overhead rotating fan. The project included an extensive flagstone patio, a privacy fence, a retaining wall and landscaping.

“We wanted space that brings us into the outdoors, and the fireplace keeps the porch surprisingly comfortable in cooler weather,” said Nancy Baldino. “It’s a great place to watch the game.”

The Baldinos, who have lived in their circa 1970s split-level for 24 years, say that their four remodeling projects have always been focused and budgetable.

“We love the neighborhood, so the improvements are just a natural result of efforts to make the house feel even more like home.”

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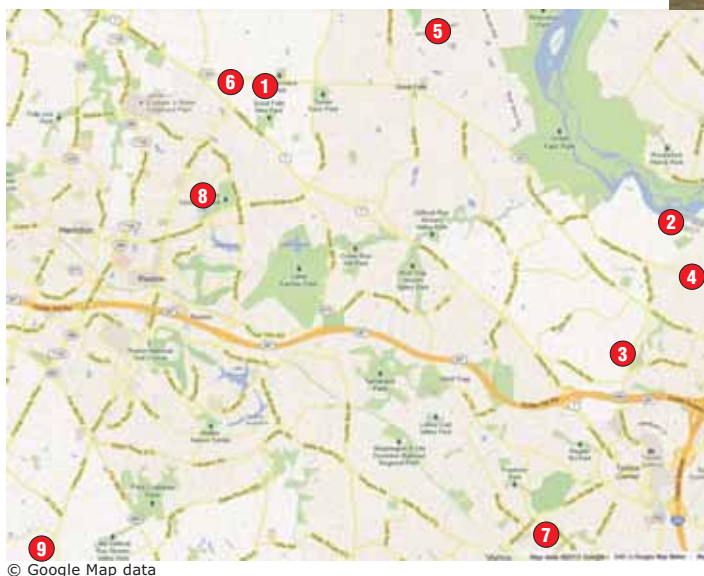
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Decorating for Easter

Easy ideas to welcome spring into your ahome.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From floral arrangements that burst with pastel blooms to candles that fill one's home with scents reminiscent of warm weather, local style experts offer suggestions for accents that welcome spring.

Turn simple twigs and greenery into a harbinger of Easter. "Welcome guests into your home with a spring wreath on the front door decorated with

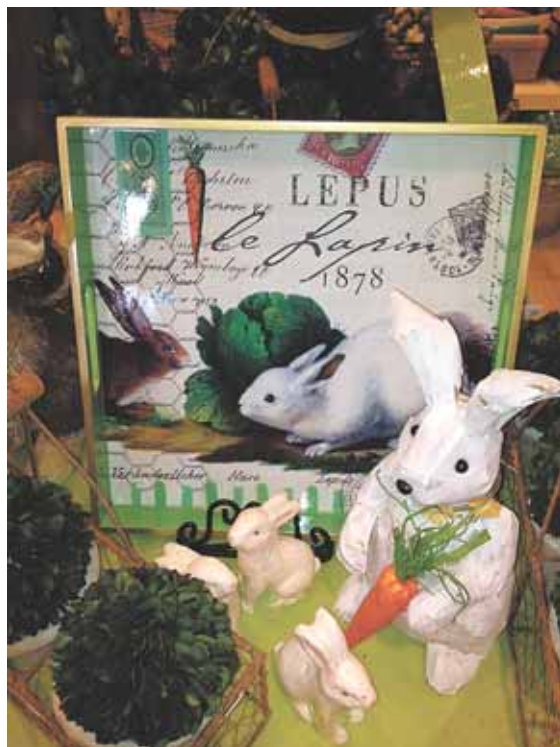


Hydrangeas in white or soft green, daffodils, tulips in yellow, hyacinths in pink or blue, Esperance roses and white or pink hybrid lilies are popular for Easter.



Welcome guests into one's home with wreaths made of twigs, greenery, spring flowers and wooden eggs in colors like bright green and lavender.

PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION



Local design experts suggest using serveware imprinted with produce like lettuces that herald the new season.

"Welcome guests into your home with a spring wreath on the front door decorated with greenery, flowers or eggs."

— Ann O'Shields

greenery, flowers or eggs," said Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg in Fairfax. "Scents of spring are a sure way to alleviate the end of winter."

Laura Smith of The Dandelion Patch in Vienna, Reston and Georgetown recommends filling air with crisp, fresh aromas. "There are candles with really nice spring scents, like jasmine or gardenia and lemongrass. Citrus scents are also very big in spring and summer."

Smith suggests setting one's table with serveware imprinted with spring produce like lettuces that herald the new season. "You can use cutting boards with artichoke prints or platters with asparagus prints. They are entertaining and fun accessories," Smith said.

Festive baskets filled with paper grass, wooden eggs, bunnies and flowers make ideal home accents. "Using seasonal blooms are a great way to welcome spring," said O'Shields.

A floral arrangement displayed in baskets covered with spring flower petals make a chic centerpiece for one's dining table. "When it comes to floral arrangements, people are often driven by what their home décor is," said Potomac, Md., based floral designer Evelyn Kinville. "The most popular flowers for Easter are hydrangeas in white or soft green, daffodils, tulips in yellow, hyacinths in pink or blue, Esperance roses, which are large pink and cream two-toned in color, and White or pink hybrid lilies."

O'Shields said, "Pick one flower style and repeat it in various places throughout the room for the most impact."

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