

Fairfax Station ❖ Clifton ❖ Lorton
CONNECTION

Inside
Home Life Style

Heather Sarmiento (left) and Negar Ehsani from the Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services welcomed visitors to "The Art of Surviving" exhibition reception at the Vulcan gallery of the Workhouse Arts Center.

Community Action Space

The Art
of Surviving
sexual violence

'The Art of Surviving' Comes to Lorton

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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

MARCH 14–20, 2013

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CLIFTON \$569,000

This is a quality built 4BR, brick home on a level lot that has been well maintained and shows well. Nice floor plan. Some hardwood floors on the upper level. Newer appliances. Large recreation room and impressive fireplace on lower level. Lots of storage. Over 1,400 sq. ft. on each level. Call today!



ALEXANDRIA/LANDMARK \$144,900

Roomy 1BR w/fresh paint, updated kitchen, large picture windows w/views of park, 2 prkg. Permits avail. New convector/HVAC. & more! Easy commute to DC, Pentagon, Airports/Restaurants & Old Town! Pool, gym, 24 hr front desk. Low condo fee includes utilities!



SPRINGFIELD \$415,000

THIS HOME IS A JEWEL!! Like walking into Pottery Barn. Flagstone entry walkway & flagstone patio..Sunfilled home. Beautiful pillars in foyer upon entry..Crown mold in LR, DR and all BR's..Hardwds on main & upper lev..Updated kit w/corrian & gas cooking..Updated full bath..Garage..Fantastic utility room w/all kinds of storage..Flat, treed & fenced rear yard.



TRIANGLE \$379,990

Beautiful center hall colonial in sought after Cramer's Ridge. Five minutes to Quantico main gate and 10 min. to VRE! Don't waste your time with short sales! Standard sale, and owners have found their HOC. Lovingly maintained home shows pride of ownership. Popular floor plan features large kitchen, center island and morning room. 307sqft deck with stairs to ground lvl brick patio.



BROAD RUN \$750,000

Beautiful, huge 4BR, 3FB, 2HB contemporary on 2.5 acres, perfect for entertaining - indoors & out. Maple floors on top 2 levels. Covered trex deck as well as slate patio in outdoor living areas - including stone fireplace. Hi end kitchen with 6-burner stove. Entire top level is a master suite with luxury bath & sitting room. Lower level holds 3 BRs, 2 full baths, sauna & media/game room.



ALEXANDRIA \$254,900

Great Price! Great location! Fairfax Connector bus to Metro. Walk to Kingstowne's shops, restaurants, and entertainment. Well maintained 2 BR/2BA ground level unit. Walkout to patio is perfect for you bar-b-que aficionados. Standard sale. Quick settlement possible.



LORTON \$174,900

Gorgeous 2BR, 1BA, Light-filled ground level condo. No stairs - handicap accessible. New paint, carpet, and kitchen appliances! Great location close to shopping and transportation!



ALEXANDRIA \$489,950

Beautiful 3BR, 3.5BA, 2-sided brick TH located on a cul-de-sac & backing to trees features a new roof and windows, elegant moldings thru out, newly remodeled KIT w/ breakfast area w/bay window, 2-story foyer w/curved staircase, hardwoods in foyer & DR, LR w/French door to deck, MBR w/ w/in closet & full BA, sizeable 2nd & 3rd Bdrms, rec rm w/FP & SGD to fenced backyard & patio, close to Metro & Ft Belvoir.



ALEXANDRIA \$439,950

Fantastic 3 level, 2-car garage TH offers kitchen w/ hardwood floors, 42 inch cabinets w/ crown molding & door to deck, family rm off kitchen w/ 2-sided fireplace, living rm & dining rm w/ crown molding, 2 spacious master suites one w/ Jacuzzi soaking tub & walk-in closet, upper level laundry area, lower level rec rm, separate storage room, super close to 395.



ALEXANDRIA \$459,950

Unique contemporary SFH w/ tons of improvements to include a new roof, windows & skylights, garage door, flooring, MBA shower, plus a newer Trane heat pump & AC unit w/ humidifier, hot water heater, no poly pipes, and updated kitchen. Walk to the clubhouse, pool, gym, sports courts & jog/walk paths. Close to the Kingstowne Town Center, Metro, and all major commuter routes.



CENTREVILLE \$209,950

Terrific 2-level end-unit TH features LR/DR combo w/FP, recessed lighting & ceiling fan, KIT w/ss appliances & pass thru to dining area, MBR w/ walk-in closet & lighted ceiling fan, 2nd bdrm w/ lighted ceiling fan & chair rail, laundry area on upper lvl w/full size w/d, BA w/ceramic tile. Close to 66/28/29, Fairfax Co Govt Ctr, Fair Oaks Mall, walking distance to public bus.



LORTON \$649,950

Beautiful brick-front 4BR, 3.5BA colonial w/2-car garage backing to trees features new Trane HVAC, insulated garage door, newer ss fridge & microwave, newer front-loading W/D, plus an updated KIT, FR w/FP, breakfast rm w/ access to deck, library on main lvl, deluxe master BA, sizeable bdrms, den on lower lv, terrific rec rm w/ w/o to patio. Close to VRE, Ft Belvoir, Lorton Town Center & Lorton Marketplace.



LORTON \$679,950

Immaculate stone-front 5BR, 3.5BA, SFH w/2-car garage, newer energy efficient HVAC w/ humidifier, gleaming hardwoods & elegant moldings on main & upper lvls, sunlit LR, FR w/FP, updated KIT w/granite countertops, ss appliances, an island & custom pantry, MBR w/sep vanity & full BA, huge rec room w/FP & wet bar, professionally landscaped yard w/new AZEK deck. Close to Ft Belvoir, commuter routes & Kingstowne!.



ALEXANDRIA \$384,950

Fantastic 3 lvl TH features new carpet & HVAC, a recently remodeled KIT w/ granite countertops, 42in cabinets, new appliances, a deep double sink, pantry & ceramic tile, spacious LR w/dbl window, MBR w/sep vanity area & full BA, good sized 2nd & 3rd bdrms, rec rm w/FP & door to access the fenced backyard, sep laundry & storage rm. Close to Metro, the Beltway & Ft Belvoir.



LORTON \$639,950

Grand colonial near Fort Belvoir features fresh paint, hardwood floors, new carpet, elegant moldings, recessed lighting & extra windows, open kit w Jenn-Air wall oven & D/W, island w cooktop & SGD to deck w stairs to rear yard, FR off kit w FP, ML library, generous MBR w tray ceiling, 2 walk-in closets, MBA w Jacuzzi soaking tub, sep shower, huge LL bonus rm, rec rm & walk-out.



Lorraine Arora,
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Historic company celebrating Women's History Month are (clockwise from left) "Alice Roosevelt Longworth" (Elaine Flynn), "Confederate Spy Laura Ratcliffe" (Amy Beechler), "Freida Fromm-Reichmann" (Karen Webber Gilat), "Widow Mary Todd Lincoln" (Phyllis Verhalen), "Cornelia MacDonald [wife of Confederate Colonel Angus MacDonald III, Winchester, Va.]" (Beverly Pelcher), "Anonymous Civil War Woman" (Sandy Michel), "Capt. Sally Thomkins" (Rosemary Thoburn), "Clarrika Dale Fleming" (Karen Lyddane), "Clara Barton" (Jenee B. Lindner), "Harriett Brice—Freed Woman of Color" (Marion Dobbins), "Mrs. Silas Burke aka, Hannah Coffey Burke" (Cindy Bennett), "Capt. Sally Louisa Thomkins" (Margaret Rowe) and "Suffragist Mrs. Robert 'Mimi' Walker" (Lynne Garvey-Hodge).



Cindy Bennett, a 20-year resident of Burke, pulls off Hannah Coffey Burke, wife of Silas Burke, with relative ease.

'Re-enactress Tea' at Historic Clifton Home

Fairfax County History Commissioner Lynne Garvey-Hodge hosted former first ladies, Civil War wives and a Native American princess.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Amid a historically accurate buffet of fried codballs, "Election Day" cake and biscuits and ham with zucchini relish, there stood a true culinary symbol of the afternoon: purple and pale gold-layered gelatin desserts served in stately glassware with a blackberry garnish.

"Purple for royalty, yellow for the light of God that's within all of us," spoke the elegantly appointed Suffragist Mrs. Robert Walker, "and the colors of the state of Kansas." Home of the first referendum to fully enfranchise American women, the Suffragists readily adopted some of its symbolism to promote their cause.

And the Jell-O? The labor-intensive product was actually an upper-class treat around the turn of the 19th-century—a refreshment the real Walker may have offered her house guests.

To honor them, as well as Women's History Month, today's Walker (embodied by Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Fairfax County history commissioner and Progressive Era historian) chose to host a "Re-Enactress Tea" in her immaculately festooned 1880s-vintage Clifton home this past Sunday, March 10.

HAILING FROM AROUND VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND,



Garvey-Hodge's 1880s-era property in Clifton was once home to Linton Hall Military Academy. The original structure was added to in 1979, though the renovation includes original elements—floors, fireplace surrounds, wainscoting in the dining room, five-panel doors throughout and the stairwell banisters—from the Linton Hall guesthouse mansion.

the range of 14 exquisitely costumed re-enactresses represented a Powhatan princess (Rose Powhatan as Keziah Powhatan) through a modern era psychoanalyst (Karen Webber Gilat of Maryland as Frieda Fromm-Reichmann). They gathered—many meeting for the first time—to discuss their characters, their craft and enjoy a spot of historical tea.

Garvey-Hodge wasn't quite sure what to expect from her first "mini retreat" of this kind. But, she said, "I'm delighted with the turnout. I've been wanting to do this for a long time.

"We all learned something from one another," she added. "Like how many pairs of kids' gloves

Mary Todd Lincoln goes through shaking hands, and how to preserve drawers of petticoats and Civil War undergarments."

THOUGH ELEGANT AND EVOCATIVE, there were some tactical problems presented by the unwieldy period-perfect attire. Most women had some difficulty maneuvering through the narrow 19th-century doorways and the warm, sunny threat of Virginia spring had those who came prepared cooling themselves with vintage fans.

"I should've stuck with Mrs. Coolidge," lamented Phyllis Verhalen, as Mary Todd Lincoln. "Her garb is easier to drive a car in."



"Confederate Spy Laura Ratcliffe" (Amy Beechler, a firefighter/paramedic/classical ballerina from Warrenton, Va.) sits to enjoy a plate of historically accurate finger foods.

Despite the sartorial disadvantages, the women enjoyed sharing their personal and character stories. "It's a room full of passionate historians," said Garvey-Hodge. "There's a lot of devotion, and some even have true ancestors."

One such woman was Karen S. Lyddane, a resident of New Baltimore, Va., and director of activities for The Woodlands Retirement Community in Fairfax. Lyddane is a descendant of her character, Clarrika Dale Fleming, who was a Civil War Union wife from West Virginia and had family members

fight on both sides of the war. "I haven't had any famous [inspiration]," she said, "but my ancestors have kept talking to me."

Not all were as inherently connected with their characters. Cindy Bennett, a genealogist from Burke and member of the Burke Historical Society, has only been performing her Mrs. Silas Burke for about six months. "[The character Silas] needed a wife, and I was the only one who would put on a dress," she deadpanned.

Fortunately for Bennett, that dress is a bit more manageable in a horseless carriage.

EPA Will Not Appeal Court Decision on Accotink Watershed

EPA regulations could have cost county \$300 million.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

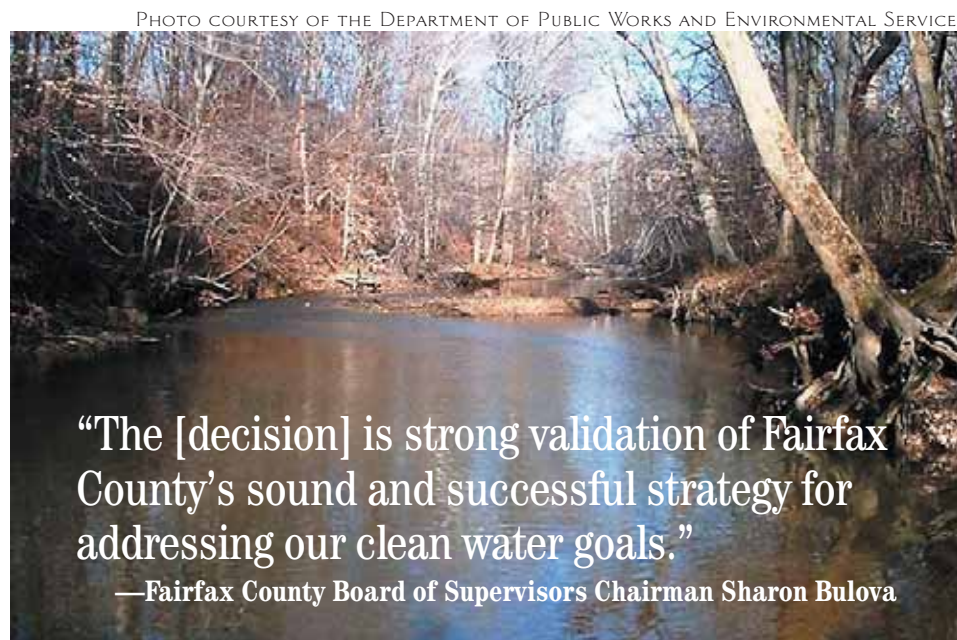
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) effectively ended a two-year legal battle with Fairfax County when the agency announced last week it will not appeal a federal court decision favoring Fairfax County's handling of the Accotink Creek watershed.

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 strat-



"The [decision] is strong validation of Fairfax County's sound and successful strategy for addressing our clean water goals."

—Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova

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

egy 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.

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 necessary 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 sedi-

SEE ACCOTINK, PAGE 5



Fairfax County

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

<p>SATURDAY MARCH 16</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste Clean-up</p> <p>9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria)</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste from residences will be accepted at no charge. We will not accept business or commercial waste, lead acid batteries, automobile batteries or propane tanks.</p>	<p>SATURDAY, MARCH 23</p> <p>Secure Document Shredding</p> <p>from 8 a.m. to noon at the South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria)</p> <p>Securely shred up to five boxes of paper documents. Please remove paper from binders and remove binder clips, plastic covers and binding. We will not accept CDs, floppy discs, credit cards, film or photographs.</p>	<p>SATURDAY, MARCH 24</p> <p> Electric Sunday</p> <p>from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the I-95 Landfill Complex (9850 Furnace Road, Lorton)</p> <p>Recycle old or unwanted televisions, computers and other peripheral electronics such as stereos, speakers, printers, scanners and more. Also recycle unbroken fluorescent lights.</p>
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These **FREE** events are available to Fairfax County residents only. No business waste will be accepted. For complete details, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling, or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.

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NEWS

County Wins on Accotink

FROM PAGE 4

ment, 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.”

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- Canned fruit, canned non-green veggies, beans, rice, cereal, and mac n' cheese
- Donations accepted Mon, and Wed-Fri 9am-4pm; Tuesday 12pm-7pm
- Donation address: 9518 Richmond Highway, Lorton VA 22079
- Mailing address: PO Box 154, Lorton VA 22199

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LCAC would like to thank The Connection Newspapers for their support.

Lorton Community Action Center

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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

Preserving Electoral Board Integrity

To the Editor:

Keith Damon wrote a letter to the editor (The Connection, March 8, 2013) in which he professes to be "upset" over a decision to remove Hans von Spakovsky from the Fairfax County Electoral Board. Mr. Damon misinforms Connection readers about a number of facts and omits others that are relevant.

First, contrary to Mr. Damon's implication that the Fairfax County Republican chairman gets to choose the Electoral Board member; that decision actually resides with the 14 judges chosen by the General Assembly to comprise the Fairfax Circuit Court. The majority of the judges, based on the statement the

court released, chose to replace von Spakovsky by appointing attorney Brian Schoeneman, another Republican and former General Assembly candidate. Both individuals were on a list of names recommended by the Fairfax Republican chairman.

Second, it is true that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee objected to von Spakovsky's reappointment. In fact, I objected to von Spakovsky's initial appointment to the board in 2010 when I was chair of Fairfax County Democrats, yet he still served a term on the board. Mr. Damon offers no evidence to support his assertion that Democratic objections to von Spakovsky unduly influenced the judges.

A quick Internet search can con-

firm that von Spakovsky is known chiefly for his nationwide efforts to suppress voter rights, especially among minority voters, in the name of fighting mythical challenges to the integrity of election administration. He works for a right wing organization funded by the notorious Koch Brothers. Further, while serving on the Fairfax Electoral Board he was responsible for removing multi-lingual voter registration materials from the Office of Elections, blocked the office from distributing the nonpartisan League of Women Voters pamphlet "Facts for Voters," and ducked meetings of the Electoral Board in the days before the 2012 presidential election that denied the board a quorum

and kept it from resolving open issues.

Finally, Mr. Damon neglects to inform readers of his own partisan motives. He belongs to the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee and frequently represents Fairfax County Republicans at Electoral Board meetings.

The integrity of our elections administration is too important to be trusted in the hands of someone who may have ulterior motives or seek partisan advantage. For that reason I am pleased that Hans von Spakovsky will no longer be on the Fairfax County Electoral Board.

Rex Simmons
Fairfax Station

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 public on measures to reduce gun vio-

lence.

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.

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

Fairfax Station,
Lorton & Clifton
CONNECTION

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Youth look forward to the color misting at the Color Fun Run for Technology at Halley Elementary. From left: Zach Burcher, Will Ardrey, Chris Ardrey and Michael Ardrey after finishing last year's race.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Halley Elementary Races for Technology

The Crosspointe subdivision around Halley Elementary School was awash in color Saturday, March 9, with a color misting, obstacles and a road course for more traditional runners and walkers, offering professional ChronoTrack timing system for accuracy. The school's Parent Teacher Organization, led by Juliana Stroup, PTO president, invited everyone to join the festivities to raise money for classroom technology during its Halley Race for Technology 5k and Color Fun Run.

The event was sponsored by Vulcan Materials Company and offered something for all ages and energy levels. For more traditional runners and walkers, the 5k race kicked off at 8:30 a.m. and featured a fast road course through the beautiful Crosspointe neighborhood. For children ages 12 and younger, at 9:30 a.m. the Color Fun Run with obstacles and crazy color misting started. The race takes place at 8850 Cross Chase Circle, Lorton. To learn more and register, go to www.halleypeto.com.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Recycle During Electric Sunday

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices—such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes—including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, March 24, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-95 Complex, 9850 Furnace Road in Lorton. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

RR Museum Needs Volunteers

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is currently looking for volunteers. Run by the Friends of the Fairfax Station, a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization, this community museum played an important role in local history from pre-Civil War days through the mid-20th century.

Many types of volunteer opportunities are available, including docents to give tours to the public or work in the gift shop on Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Training will be provided.

The museum also sponsors many special events such as Civil War forums and the Holiday Train Show. It's at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. To volunteer, call Michael Chinworth at 703-506-0753 or 703-945-7483. For more information about the museum, go to www.fairfax-station.org.

Fashion Show at Waterford

The 33rd annual fundraising fashion show/luncheon/silent auction for the Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary is slated for Friday, April 12, at the Waterford in Fair Oaks (across from Fair Oaks Mall). The social hour and silent auction begin at 10:30 a.m., followed at 11:30 a.m. by a performance from guest entertainer Carlos Alberto Ibay, an accomplished concert pianist and talented tenor.

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 10



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NEWS

The Irish 'Rose' of Burke

Briana Apgar shares her experiences as the 2012 Washington Rose.

BY BRIANA APGAR

The Rose of Tralee Festival is celebrated in Irish communities worldwide. Each Rose Centre selects a female with Irish heritage between the ages of 18-27 as their "Rose," who will serve as a role model and ambassador for their community at the international festival in Ireland, where one international Rose of Tralee is selected.

I love the Rose of Tralee because the tagline is "connecting the global Irish community." We are Irish American, Canadian, French, British, and beyond, not forgetting our Irish identity because of our postal addresses. Last April, I worked up the courage to enter the Washington, D.C., Selection. After having the most amazing weekend getting to know the other girls and celebrating Irish culture, I was honored to be chosen as the 2012 Washington Rose.

A few short weeks later, I was off to Portlaoise for regionals. With police escorts, we zipped across town from site to site, participating in parades, visiting hospitals and schools, and dining like royalty in a castle! Ireland's famous Dáithí Ó Sé conducted our on-stage interviews. He is such a hilarious character that it is difficult to feel too nervous! Along with eight other Americans, I was selected to go on to finals.

Finals are held in Tralee, of course, but kick off with the Rose Tour traveling around the country. There were autograph hunters everywhere. I was given a Certificate of Irish Heritage in Croke Park, toured the Galway Prom, and even had a lesson in pint pouring from Fergal, the Guinness master brewer himself. My on-stage interview was again with Dáithí. This time, I chose to do a party piece and sang. Our interviews were aired on RTE 1, the national television channel

for Ireland, and streamed worldwide. My family was able to watch me, wherever they were.

With St. Patrick's Day around the corner, I am at the height of Rose business, even as my year draws to an end. My last adventure as the reigning rose will be to Belarus to volunteer with Chernobyl Children International. While being a Rose comes with some glitz and fame,

what really matters is the work we do and the friendships that we keep after the festival. The festival lasts approximately 10 days, but I will keep the memories and my friendships for life. I am immensely grateful for the Rose experience in its entirety and for all of the opportunities that it has presented to me.

Handing over my sash this April



Briana Apgar being greeted by the Kerry County Council in Tralee, Ireland, at their Civic Reception for the Roses.



Briana Apgar of Burke participating in the Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade.

will be so bittersweet. However, I am very excited to welcome the new Rose into our family and help prepare her for the wonderful year she has in store. Whether I'll see you at our selection weekend or not, I hope that you have a won-

About the Author

Briana Apgar is a Burke resident. She was selected as the Washington, D.C., Rose of Tralee to represent the area's greater Irish community in the Rose of Tralee International Festival in Ireland. The festival is the largest Irish festival worldwide and seeks to unite the global Irish community. The Roses toured Ireland, met government officials, and were selected to work with different philanthropic organizations. Apgar is continuing her work in the area at home, and they will be looking for a new Rose in April. She wanted to share her experiences in order to inspire area girls to follow in her footsteps. Her email is Briana13@vt.edu.

derful St. Patrick's Day! Éireann go Brách!

Questions about applications and tickets for selection weekend can be addressed to washingtondrcrose@gmail.com or on Facebook. Applications will be due on March 27, and selection weekend will be April 19-21.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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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

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11107 Hampton Rd.....\$1,295,000.....Sat 10-1.....Dana LaFever.....Weichert..703-609-3479
8401 Cardinal Rose Ct.....\$1,099,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ceari Buehler.....Active..703-864-1268
8117 Glenhurst Dr.....\$795,000.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365
10005 Rough Run Ct.....\$774,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
9606 Burnt Oak Dr.....\$595,900.....Sun 1-4.....Bob Lovett.....RE/MAX..703-690-0037

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6407 Caleb Ct.....\$719,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6016 Clames Dr.....\$699,900.....Sun 1-4.....Michael Malferrari.....Classic..703-637-1400
6104 Mulberry Ct.....\$569,500.....Sun 1-4.....Brian Mahoney.....EXIT..703-766-4600
5719 Evergreen Knoll Ct.....\$379,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Lorton

8496 Silverview Ct.....\$759,900.....Sun 1-4.....Kathy Peters..Long & Foster..703-915-2165
6793 Tiddle Way.....\$699,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207
8815 Hampton Station Ct.....\$699,900.....Sun 1-4.....Sheri Allen.....Weichert..703-897-4777
8303 Fitt Ct.....\$679,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207
9032 Harrover Pl.....\$678,950.....Sun 1-4.....Barb White Adkins.....RE/MAX..703-642-3380
8521 Barrow Furnace Ln.....\$649,900.....Sun 1-4.....Tim Belanger..Long & Foster..703-475-5242
8353 Middle Ridding Dr.....\$600,000.....Sun 1-4.....Gary Eales..Long & Foster..703-609-4331
8940-A Milford Haven Ct.....\$324,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207

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7996 Knightshayes Dr.....\$550,000.....Sun 1-4.....Karen Paris..Keller Williams..571-220-7503

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6582 Forsythia St.....\$615,000.....Sun 1-4.....Dallison Veach.....RE/MAX..703-477-7920
7396 Loughboro Ln.....\$599,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc..Long & Foster..703-822-0207
7415 Jervis St.....\$524,900.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

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218 Locust St. SE #145.....\$250,000.....Sun 1-4.....Charlie Rose..Long & Foster..703-919-9361

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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

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<http://www.fairfaxbgcgw.org/index.php/rummage-sale>

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

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.

CASA Volunteer Info Session. 11 a.m.-noon, at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Drive, Alexandria. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) hosts an info session for volunteers to learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526 ext. 22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Muslim Women in STEM. 1-3 p.m., at the Lorton Community Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. A presentation on Muslim women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics sponsored by the Nubian Benevolence Association in observance of Women's History Month; light lunch included. RSVP. nubianbenasc@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Navigating Difficult Relationships: Loving Boundaries. 10-11:30 a.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Pkwy., Springfield. Counselor Joanne Owens helps define what a difficult relationship is, what healthy boundaries look like and how to speak emotions without attacking—even to one's own mother; includes coffee, tea, homemade breakfast fare and childcare. \$7. RSVP. MomsOnTheRun4@gmail.com.

ONGOING

Mount Vernon Rep. Dan Storck Community Office Hours. 10 a.m.-noon, at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. School Board Member and Mount Vernon District Representative Dan Storck hosts drop-in community office hours the second Saturday of each month. Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or Barbara.Larsen@fcps.edu.

Thank veterans for their service via the post: draw or write a note of thanks and encouragement—no need to seal in envelopes, Adopt a Soldier will do that—and send to Americas Adopt A Soldier, P.O. Box 1049, Springfield, VA 22151. www.americasadoptasoldier.org.

AREA ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 7

Lunch catered by the Waterford will be served at noon, and the fashion show featuring clothing from Bloomingdale's of Tysons Corner will be presented at 12:50 p.m. Tickets are \$40 (\$10 is tax-deductible); reservations must be made by March 27.

The event helps support all the Salvation Army's charitable programs. To purchase tickets, become a sponsor or donate gift certificates and merchandise for the silent auction, contact Event Coordinator Angela Ganey at angelaganey@verizon.net or 703-250-5809.

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March 28 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm

March 29 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday Celebration at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am

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Visitors examine the mixed media artworks created by survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON/
THE CONNECTION



'The Art of Surviving' Comes to Lorton

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

For some visitors exploring the Vulcan gallery last weekend during the Second Saturday Art Walk at the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton, happening upon deeply emotional and traumatic pieces created by rape and domestic abuse victims was a bit alarming.

For others who came for the exhibition in particular, it was informative and perspective-building. Regardless, the traveling showcase of mixed media, entitled "The Art of Surviving," dramatically raised awareness of the existence of and recovery from many forms of sexual violence.

Saturday night in the somewhat industrial gallery confines was a reception for the exhibition, which runs until April 7. The evening included refreshments and remarks from Negar Ehsani and Heather Sarmiento, specialists with the Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services. The Workhouse collaborated with their organization to bring the project—sponsored by the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance—to Northern Virginia.

The powerful and sometimes unsettling artworks range from sculpture and painting to prose and poetry, with contributors aged 19 through 75. Each piece is displayed with a detailed placard containing information on the artist or poet and a comprehensive, often deeply revealing explanation from the creator.

No two stories were the same—some works immediately followed a traumatic episode, some weren't created until decades after the fact—but in each case, the artistic process served as a coping mechanism.

There is clearly visible and legible anger, helplessness and fragmentation; the vivid colors and words convey visceral emotion and are obviously the manifestation of a long and highly painful process. But the constant reminder is that these people are indeed survivors and have channeled their experience through a creative outlet.

The colors are bold, the words biting, and while dramatic, they're decidedly vibrant, full of life. Just like their creators.

"The Art of Surviving" runs until Sunday, April 7, at the Workhouse Arts Center Vulcan Gallery, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, www.workhousearts.org.

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Twain Family Night. 6-8 p.m., at Twain Middle School, 4700 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Rising students can explore the school as current students share activities and the staff and community join for food games, face painting, cake walks, putt putt, poetry slams, a food drive and more. csoto@fcps.edu.

FRIDAY/MARCH 15

Totally Laughable: Risque Not Raunchy. 8:30-10:30 p.m., at Kilroy's Sports Bar and Restaurant, 5250 Port Royal Road, Springfield. A 21-and-up show produced by comedian Wes Martens featuring local talent Brandon Fisher among seven performers. 571-502-7651.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Concerts From Kirkwood: Classical FX. 3 p.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 833 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. A vocal quartet ensemble that has performed with the Washington National Opera, Wolf Trap Opera and Washington Concert Opera sings everything from Broadway tunes to folk spirituals and classical opera music. concerts@kirkwoodpres.com.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks V. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman performs J. Strauss' Emperor Waltz and Tick Tack, Pizzicato, Trisch-Tratsch Polkas and Overture to Die Fledermaus; R. Strauss' Suite from Der Rosenkavalier, Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks and Salome's Dance. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 17

Display and N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Road Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. A display with trains runs all afternoon; museum open with shows. \$3 for adults; \$1 for children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

Small Business Breakthrough Book Club Launch. 7:30 a.m., at the Community Business Partnership, 7001 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Explore different aspects of the "Small Business Breakthrough" book at the monthly Breakthrough Book Club, the third Tuesday of every month. Kevin@LMKpartners.com or 703-539-2631.

West Springfield Pyramid Art Show.

6-7:30 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. A showcase of art from the entire pyramid school system of West Springfield High School, kindergarten through 12th grade. www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

The Last Days of Pompeii. 1:45 p.m., 7 p.m., at Crestwood Elementary School, 6010 Hanover Ave., Springfield. Crestwood After School Theater presents a drama and music by Debra Kay Robinson Lindsay set in Roman times. RSVP. 703-923-5404.

West Springfield Pyramid Art Show.

7 a.m.-1 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. A showcase of art from the entire pyramid school system of West



Natalie MacMaster, acclaimed fiddler of Cape Breton.

St. Patrick's Spirit Surrounds Celtic Concert

Spirited Cape Breton fiddler Natalie MacMaster plays a tribute to Celtic culture in honor of St. Patrick's day. The acclaimed folk artist step dances and plays on Sunday, March 17, at 7 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets for youth grades 12 and under are half-price when accompanied by an adult. \$24, \$40, \$48. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Springfield High School, kindergarten through 12th grade. www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Barrel Room 2012 Futures

Tastings. Noon-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enter the barrel room and taste future Paradise Springs wines from the 2012 vintage; learn how oak influences wines, how vineyard site selection affects flavors and the like; groups leave every 20 minutes and sample six to eight wines paired with light fare. \$25. 703-830-9463.

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

Barrel Room 2012 Futures

Tastings. Noon-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enter the barrel room and taste future Paradise Springs wines from the 2012 vintage; learn how oak influences wines, how vineyard site selection affects flavors and the like; groups leave every 20 minutes and sample six to eight wines paired with light fare. \$25. 703-830-9463.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Asian Art and Culture Day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. On National Cherry Blossom Festival and Asian Art and Culture Day the Workhouse hosts workshops, demonstrations, performances, talks and exhibitions featuring Asian art and culture. Join for a Japanese tea tasting, origami workshops and film, brush painting demonstrations, artist talks, cherry tree planting and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

2013 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. 8 a.m.-10 p.m., at Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism and the awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service. Nominations/online application are due: Feb. 4 by 4 p.m. 703-246-3825 or www.volunteerfairfax.org.

VIEWPOINTS

Audience Reactions: Feelings on the Wall

— TIM PETERSON



Allison Riese, marketing manager, Centreville

"We were doing the Saturday night art walk here. We're still digesting the different ways people choose to deal with [sexual abuse] — there are a lot of dark and dramatic colors. People are lucky here. In Fairfax County there's a lot of money, so there are a lot of organizations women can reach out to."



Stephanie Scovel-Toney, scientist, Frederick

"I feel guilty about enjoying eating cookies here, looking at art these people made about traumatic experiences. I see a lot of anger, angry colors. But it seems like they're all approaching calm. [Echoing Allison] Wherever you see more money, there are more services."



Janet Fries, lawyer, Washington, D.C.

"It was coincidental that we came into this exhibit. There's a variety of technical ability and materials. Some of it is quite moving and remarkable. Some of it is quite violent. It's great that they can get [their feelings] out, on to the wall."



Sandi Goldman, artist, Annandale

"The stories are powerful. It's all very emotional. Connecting is so important, and that's what the art does for the people. I don't personally know any victims of sexual abuse, but I believe it exists. It's something that's hard to talk about. Reading about it, TV shows — they open people's minds to what's really happening. If something bad happens, people know they have someone to turn to."



Saskia Clay-Rooks, George Mason University Student Affairs

"I work in higher education. With my interest in social justice, I saw this exhibition in the newspaper as a call to action. I want to become more aware. In the art I see fear, anger, compassion. There is hope, particularly in the write-ups. It's a healing process for these people; they've found God, love, support. Sexual abuse is pervasive. You hear one in four. I do believe that statistic."

SPORTS

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Northern Region Baseball Coaches Poll

Defending state champion Lake Braddock is ranked No. 1 in the season's first Northern Region baseball coaches poll.

The Bruins, who also won the Patriot District title and finished Northern Region runner-up, finished last season with a 26-3 record. Lake Braddock is led by senior outfielder Alex Gransback.

Madison is ranked No. 2. The Warhawks went 15-6 last season but failed to qualify for the region tournament, losing to Langley in the first round of the Liberty District tournament.

Defending Liberty District champion Stone Bridge is ranked No. 3, followed by defending Northern Region champion West Springfield (4), defending Concorde District champion Robinson (5), Oakton (6), Chantilly (7), South County (8), Westfield (9) and defending National District champion Yorktown (10).

The Concorde District has the most teams ranked in the top 10 with four. The Patriot District has three, followed by two for the Liberty District and one for the National District.

W.T. Woodson Field Hockey Camp

W.T. Woodson High School will host a field hockey camp for rising fifth through ninth graders July 22-26 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. on the school's baseball field. Camp cost is \$160 and the deadline to sign up is July 10.

For more information, contact Woodson head coach Meg Jarrell at margaretkjarrell@gmail.com or by calling 571-276-8555.

Robinson Boys' Tennis Scrimmages TJ

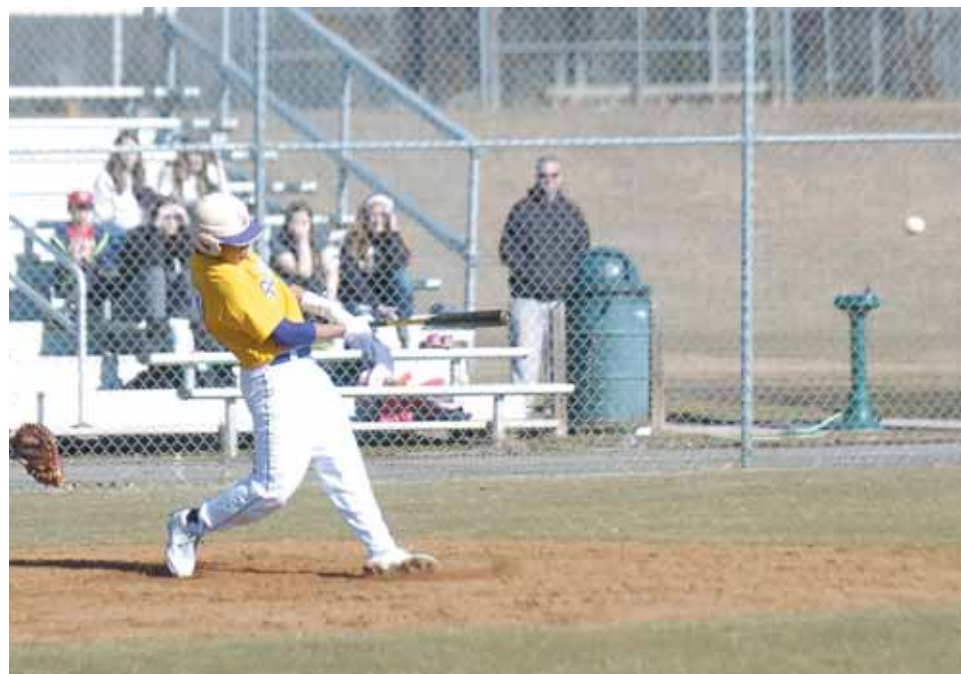
The Robinson boys' tennis team scrimmaged Thomas Jefferson to open the 2013 season.

Jefferson is one of the region's powers and has had an influx of talented freshmen to an already powerful lineup. However, the Rams played with great effort and intensity. Aaron Christian returns at the No. 1 position and played an excellent match to win 10-8. At No. 3, senior Jacob Schreiman out-steadied his opponent to top him, 10-6.

Senior Brian Bui moves up to the No. 2 spot from No. 3 in 2012. Another senior, Dylan Martin, started off slowly before falling 10-6 at No. 5. Sophomores Sam Wagner and Charlie Ferrell got their first varsity singles experience.

Doubles was another story as Robinson rebounded with wins at No. 1 and No. 3 and was leading at No. 2 when darkness fell. Austin Mathews joined Christian at No. 1 and both were very active at the net, dominating TJ in an excellently played match. Sophomores Wagner and Ferrell also played very well to win in a tiebreaker. Ferrell used his groundstrokes to set up Wagner's poaches. Newcomer Peter La joined Schreiman and were leading 7-4 as darkness fell.

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Senior infielder Alex Lewis is one of several Lake Braddock baseball players overcoming an offseason injury.



Lake Braddock sophomore Kevin Haswell pitches against Oakton during a scrimmage at Lake Braddock on Feb. 9.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Bruins Baseball Begins Title Defense

Several key Lake Braddock players suffered off-season injuries.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Members of the defending state champion Lake Braddock baseball team gathered in left field following Saturday's home scrimmage against Oakton. The Bruins would split into two groups and start running sprints.

Head coach Jody Rutherford didn't instruct his players to run for conditioning purposes. Think of the exercise as more of a wake-up call.

Lake Braddock is dealing with several injuries to key players. Elbow injuries to senior pitcher Thomas Rogers and senior infielder Mitch Spille; shoulder injuries to Spille and senior catcher Garrett Driscoll; and a broken leg suffered by senior infielder Alex Lewis are just some of the Bruins' ailments. Several athletes are being eased back into their roles to avoid further injury—something Rutherford said led to a lack of focus during Saturday's scrimmage.

"It's tough for them because they're not used to being [out of] the game," Rutherford said. "That's kind of the reason we're doing this running—because they're not in the game. They're always used to being in the game, so they don't know really how to handle it and they didn't handle it well today. I think they all feel like they're heading in the right direction, like they're all positive they'll come back. It's just tough [when] you live and die baseball and then you don't have it."

LAKE BRADDOCK enters the 2013 sea-

"I expect to win another state championship. I cannot say that the guys that really need to have that same mindset for us necessarily do."

—Lake Braddock baseball coach Jody Rutherford

son traveling a bumpy road as the Bruins look to defend last season's state championship—the first in program history. Along with losing 2012 Northern Region Pitcher of the Year Michael Church to graduation, Rogers, a Division I-caliber left-hander, underwent Tommy John surgery on his pitching elbow in August. If Rogers is able to return to the Bruins this season, he is unlikely to pitch, Rutherford said.

A back injury to sophomore pitcher Matt Supko, a neck injury suffered by Nick Balenger, which has the senior in a wheelchair, and other circumstances leave Lake Braddock entering the season with a pitching staff which did not throw a single varsity inning for the Bruins last season.

Senior Nick McIntyre, who transferred from Bishop O'Connell, sophomore Kevin Haswell and Driscoll are among those who will see time on the mound this season. Driscoll, a standout catcher for the Bruins, will pitch while recovering from a torn labrum in his left (non-throwing) shoulder.

"I think it's just accepting it," senior outfielder Alex Gransback said. "Just knowing it's a new year ... [and saying] all right, we have a few guys injured, but it's time to step up and rise above it."

Gransback was a member of the VirginiaPreps.com AAA all-state team and a Washington Post first-team All-Met selec-

tion last season. The Bruins will likely need his bat even more this season.

"He's playing really well," Rutherford said, "and he's back and fully healthy."

Lewis and junior shortstop Jack Owens are also key returning members of last season's state championship team, which also won the Patriot District title.

DESPITE FACING ADVERSITY early in the season, Rutherford said his expectations remain high for the Bruins—though the coach is unsure of how serious his players are about working toward another state crown.

"To be perfectly honest, my expectations haven't changed," Rutherford said. "I expect to win another state championship. I cannot say that the guys that really need to have that same mindset for us necessarily do. Whether it's because they're so focused on the injuries and recovering, or a lot of it has to do with complacency. We've had talks about it and it's not acceptable to me. If they're coming in with anything less than winning-another-state-championship attitude, they probably won't be playing for me."

Lake Braddock figures to have a target on its back this season. The Bruins are ranked No. 1 in the first Northern Region baseball coaches poll, and ranked No. 12 nationally in the latest MaxPreps.com top 25 rankings. Lake Braddock opened its season on Wednesday against St. John's, after The Connection's deadline (game was moved from Tuesday due to inclement weather). The Bruins will host Westfield at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 14.

"I think it's kind of fun," Driscoll said of getting each opponent's best shot. "They're going to come out fired up trying to beat us, giving everything they've got. It will be more interesting for us, but I'm pretty sure everyone's up for a good game [and] for a fight. It will just be, overall, more fun."

Time will tell if Saturday's sprints were enough of a wake-up call for the Bruins.

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Spring 2013 HomeLifeStyle



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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.

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

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. For 80 years, the grounds of the Commonwealth’s most cherished historic landmarks have been restored or preserved with help from proceeds from Historic Garden Week including Mount Vernon, Monticello and the grounds of the Executive Mansion in Richmond. In addition to the amazing interiors and gardens on display, Garden Club of Virginia volunteers will create more than 2,000 spectacular floral arrangements to decorate the rooms. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2013

Old Town Alexandria
Sponsored by the Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All eight private properties on the historic Old Town Alexandria tour are within an easy walk of each other, allowing visitors to enjoy strolling the quaint streets lined with charming townhouses and intimate walled gardens. The full tour ticket includes free admission to George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate (entrance is normally \$15 per person), as well as six other notable historic sites in Alexandria on the day of the tour. Refreshments are offered from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the historic Lloyd House

SEE VIRGINIA GARDEN, PAGE 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

This home in the Vienna/Oakton area is featured on Virginia’s 80th annual Historic Garden Week tour in Fairfax County.

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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.

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

SEE DESIGNS, PAGE 5

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.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NARI

Home

Region's Best

FROM PAGE 4

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 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."



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.

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Historic Renovation in Alexandria

Designer/owner brought the home up to date while preserving its architectural integrity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Decades before Alexandria-based interior designer Sydnye Pettengill and her family moved into a stately Victorian home near Old Town, it was well established as a spacious retreat. “The former owners were a family of seven who had lived there for 45 years,” she said.

When Pettengill purchased the property, which was built in 1917, little had changed. The home, which connects to King Street, was in disrepair. However, Pettengill, who started her own business in 1987 after studying in London and a stint with prominent interior design firm Milo Hoots Associates, Inc., saw a diamond in the rough. “I thought it had incredible potential,” she said. “I found the high ceilings particularly appealing.”

Pettengill’s husband Bill Wiley, a systems engineer and director of the Science Engineering Research Center at the Potomac School in McLean, said, “We bought it knowing that it was going to be a full renovation. We didn’t know what the final blueprint was going to be, but it was so large that we knew we could do whatever we wanted to.”

The 7,590-square-foot, six-bedroom, eight-and-a-half bathroom home also included a two-story carriage house, and although she needed to expand and update the home, Pettengill worked to preserve the historic home’s architectural integrity. “We remodeled and gutted, but we wanted to keep the character of what it was,” she said. “We were careful about integrating the spaces that we added.”

ONE OF THE KEYS to maintaining the original design was salvaging and reusing materials as much as possible. “We kept the original front doors, original French doors going into dining room, as well as the original windows on the first floor in front of the house,” said Pettengill.

“The hardwood floors in the master bedroom are original,” she continued. “There is a sitting room off the master bedroom. It is quite a suite. The pine floors on the second and third levels were also saved from the original home and reused.”

A striking Belvedere window in the kitchen creates an ideal marriage of style and function by filling the room with natural light. “The kitchen is the heart of the house,” said Pettengill. “There is a side terrace and you can go in and out of the kitchen through two door ways.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ©BRAD PETTENGILL PHOTOGRAPHY

This 7,590 square-foot, six-bedroom, eight-and-a-half bathroom home near Old Town Alexandria, is on the market for \$2,995,000.



The open staircase in the foyer of designer Sydnye Pettengill’s Alexandria home offers a view from the foyer to the third floor. The designer found a carpenter who replicated the home’s original stair railing.

The kitchen, which opens into the home’s great room, has pale yellow painted cabinets and contrasting dark, honed Uba Tuba granite counters. “One of the eureka moments for us was the kitchen,” she said. “We struggled with it for a couple of years and then decided to push it out and make it more open.” The flow continues into the dining room, which has a bay window that

is original to the home.

“It is spectacular for entertaining,” she said. “There is a terrace off the back of the house that is concealed and very private. There is also a side terrace off the kitchen.” The original service kitchen became the library after Pettengill added built-in bookcases.

Pettengill says that the foyer is the pivotal point of the house. “There is an open

stairwell and you can see from the foyer straight up to the third floor.” She even found a carpenter to replicate the original stair railing.

A round table stands in the middle of the foyer, complimenting the shape of the space and the period of the home. “It is a hand painted table that’s reminiscent of the Victorian era when the house was built,” said Pettengill.

FORMER CLIENTS SAID that one of Pettengill’s strengths is her ability to navigate the often-daunting task of creating fresh designs that compliment historic homes. Alexandria resident Grace-Marie Turner hired Pettengill to complete the interior design on her expansive Old Town home. The oldest part of the house was built in the mid-1700s and subsequent additions span the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

“The house had 50 windows that all required different window treatments,” said Turner. “We wanted them to be new and fresh and at the same time respect the period.” The result, she continued, was a balance of elegance and coziness that honored the home’s range of architectural periods.

Pettengill, who has adult children, said it’s time for her family to find a smaller abode and turn her spacious Alexandria property over to another family. “As a friend told me, we’re not down-sizing, we’re right-sizing,” she said.

The home is on the market for \$2,995,000. For more information, call 703-838-8480.

Virginia Garden Week to Feature NoVa Gardens

FROM PAGE 3

and garden. Adding further convenience for tour visitors is the free King Street Trolley that travels from the Metro station down our main commercial street to the Potomac River every 15 minutes.

Tickets are \$40 and available at the Ramsey House Visitors Center at the corner of King Street and North Fairfax Street on the day of the tour. For advance tickets contact Mrs. Donald Rocen Virginia.rocen@comcast.net 703-684-3876. For more information, please contact Tour Chairmen Mason Bavin at mbavin@mcenearney.com, Twig Murray attwig@twigweb.com or Catherine Bolton at 4boltons@comcast.net

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Fairfax: Oakton/Vienna
Sponsored by The Garden Club of Fairfax
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

This home in the Vienna/Oakton area is featured on Virginia's 80th annual Historic Garden Week tour in Fairfax County.

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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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 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



PHOTOS BY DIMITRI CANAS

The Pipers' new powder room includes a Mediterranean-style foot bath ringed in glass and mosaic tiling.

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.

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 observes that the typical incremental improver has a pay-as-you-go orientation — often driven by evolving family requirements.

Vienna resident Kelly Grems, for 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 said. “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 notably 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, economical choice for us at the time.”

Grems says 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 articles and other sources.

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

In the end, Foster Remodeling 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 says, “and perfectly satisfies another dimension of our lifestyle.”

ON A SIMILAR NOTE, Sandy Nusbaum, of south Alexandria, 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

SEE PIECE BY PIECE. PAGE 12

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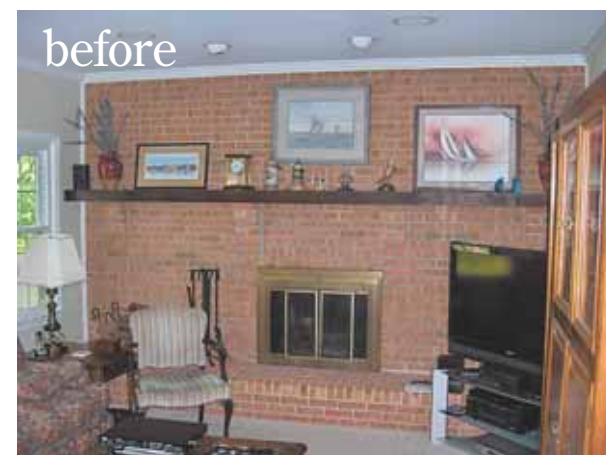
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The existing half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by perfectly symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and Edwardian-style mantle.



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Decorating for Easter

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.

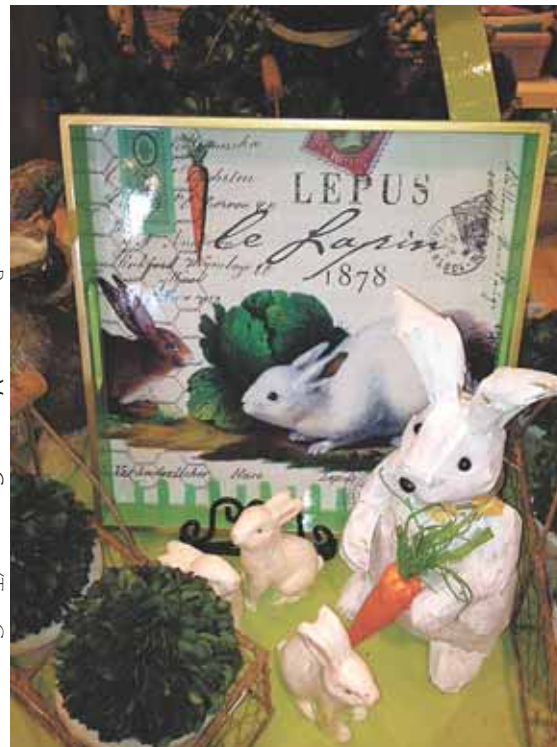
Turn simple twigs and greenery into a harbinger of Easter. "Welcome guests into your home with a spring wreath on the front door decorated with greenery, flowers or eggs," said Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg in Fairfax. "Scents of spring are a sure way to alleviate the end of winter."

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



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.



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

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

Easy ideas to welcome spring into your home.


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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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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.



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.

A WIDER CIRCLE

This organization provides basic-need items to families transitioning out of shelters and those living without life's necessities. A Wider Circle furnishes the homes of more than 1,000 children and adults each month. 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. Refer to their website for a full list of accepted items and their "wish list" of the most needed items at www.awidercircle.org.

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ReStore is a resale business that sells new and used building materials and home items to the general public. All donations are tax deductible and donated by individuals, local retailers, building contractors and suppliers. Donated items are then sold at 50-90 percent off the retail price, with all proceeds benefiting Habitat for Humanity, an organization that provides safe and affordable housing to low-income families. ReStore accepts appliances, furniture, cabinets, roofing and flooring materials, exercise equipment, countertops, electronics, lighting and plumbing fixtures, among many others. All materials and items must be in good and working condition. For more, check out their stores in Alexandria and Chantilly - www.restorenova.org

GOODWILL

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.

SALVATION ARMY

Although the Salvation Army is involved in many community programs, proceeds from items donated to their stores will benefit their Adult Rehabilitation Center. Each rehabilitation center offers residential housing and work, along with individual and group therapy. This enables many to be reunited with their families and resume a normal life. Items commonly donated include appliances, clothing, furniture, and household goods. For more information on their donation program, please visit www.satruck.org.

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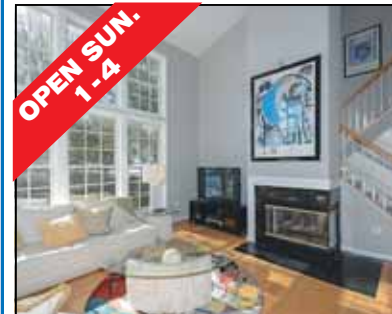
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A Better Brand Homes

Renovating Everything, Piece by Piece

FROM PAGE 8

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 later 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 entertainment 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 re-made 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 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 Remodeling Solutions’ 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 10 years.”



PHOTOS BY DIMITRI CANAS

The Nusbaums’ initial goal was an open “kitchen-centric” plan that would make it easier for Sandy Nusbaum to entertain. A three-stool dining counter proved an effective starting point; the new surface is also well-positioned as a serving station for porch dining.



A follow-on remodeling project at the The Nusbaums’ home included an extension of the rear family room, an open-air grilling deck and a layout that permits guests to circulate freely

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.”

Staff at Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offer workshops on home improvement topics at the

Lorton showroom. Call 703-550-1371 or visit www.FosterRemodeling.com.

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

World's Fanciest Rummage Sale Coming April 7

Rumor has it that the "world's fanciest" rummage sale will feature some of the crystal light fixtures and other items recently replaced in the remodeling of the Ritz-Carlton Tysons.

Make your spring cleaning count this year. Donations are needed for the World's Fanciest Rummage Sale, benefiting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax Region. Small items and clothing drop-offs can be brought to the front of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel,

Tysons Corner and left 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.

Have a really big item to donate? Contact Helen Kruger 703-748-4068 to make pick-up arrangements.

The sale will feature upscale, new or like-new items, including designer clothing and shoes, furniture, and home goods at ridiculously low prices.

In addition to bargains, the price of admission includes a live DJ, delicious food and opportunities to purchase raffle tickets for prizes ranging from hotel stays, luxury dining experiences to spa packages, dinner with a celebrity, gift certificates, and more.

Suggested donations: Women's Purses, Shoes, Designer Apparel and Accessories, Jewelry, Outerwear, Men's Ties, Bicycles and Cycling, Ski Equipment, Golf Equipment, Exercise Equipment, Pool Tables, Table Tennis, Pinball, Darts, Foosball, Art, Pictures/Paintings, Small Appliances, Wines, Houseware, China/Serving Pieces, Decorative Accessories, Rugs, Furniture, Antiques

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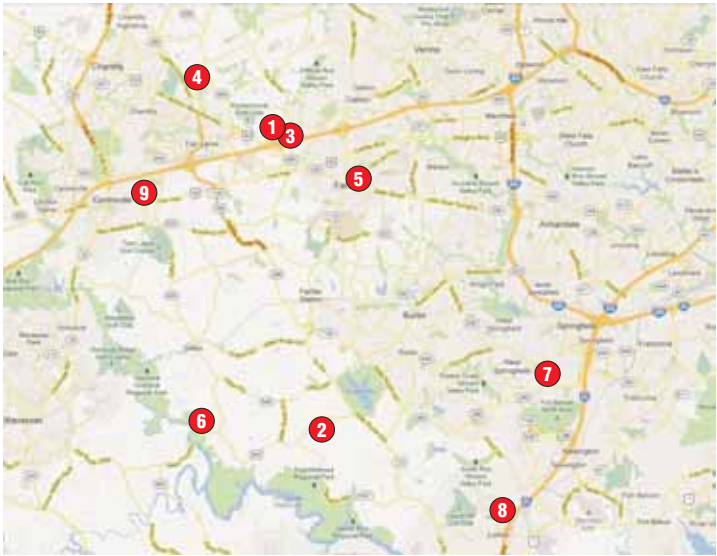
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Home LifeStyle

All in the Family

BY JOHN BYRD
FOR THE CONNECTION

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

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.

transitional zones suitable for easy everyday interaction.

TO ACCOMMODATE the elder Warrens, Durosko 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."



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.

PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY



Initially, the Warrens were not sure if the existing three-bedroom split level could be converted to a larger home accommodating their new plans.

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 where 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."

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 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, Durosko'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

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