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News

Housing Market: Strong, But Slowing

Energized housing marketplace, but government cuts will eventually cool things down.

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

few weeks ago, George Mason University Professor Stephen Fuller, Ph.D, published an update of his July 17, 2012 report that projected imminent and hard-hitting economic effects from sequestration. A main component of the update regards the government mellowing the blow by using furloughs rather than layoffs. Payroll reductions still add up to equivalent job losses, the report explains, but the negative economic response ought to be slower to take effect.

Given the nose-to-nose nature of government spending and real estate economy, particularly in Northern Virginia, these calming words should inspire more confidence in a market that is already thriving.

First, interest rates have been in the basement: Freddie Mac reported a 30-Year Fixed-Rate of 3.57 percent for March this year, as opposed to 3.95 percent in March 2012 and 4.84 percent in 2011 (for reference, March 2005 was 5.93 percent).

Second, home prices are rising: RealEstate Business Intelligence reported a 10.23 percent increase in average sold price in Fairfax County between February 2012 and 2013. Even though inventory is shrinking across the county, distressed sales (foreclosures and short sales, for the uninitiated) are down. On the whole, everyone has warm fuzzies about the market.

"It's as healthy as it's ever been," said Dane Work, an associate broker with Re/Max Preferred Properties in Fairfax. "Everything is a hot potato. The whole market is red hot, white hot."

BUT HOW LONG until the extended honeymoon phase is over? And what will that market look like? According to GMU Professor of Finance Gerald Hanwek, a lot like it has before.

"The hype is, fundamentally, what you would expect from a market like this," said Hanwek, "not very dynamic, as had been in the past. For quite a while, this has been a terrific housing market in Fairfax County."

Hanwek came to GMU in 1985 after spending nearly two decades in the research division at the Federal Reserve Board. Today, in addition to teaching MBA finance courses, he is also associate dean for graduate programs.

The professor has seen real estate go through cycle after cycle over the decades, and is convinced "it really just took time to allow housing prices to get on a path of ris-



9816 Amsterdam Street, Lorton. "We may be building faster cars, but if there's fewer cars to sell, car sales won't make much money," said Ron Kowalski.

ing, at a rate they had in the past.

"When I first came here in 1968," Hanwek continued, "the thought was housing prices should always go up 10 percent a year. That was a rule. And in fact they did for some time."

Then, of course, there were bumps in the late 1970s and early 80s: double digit inflation caused price rising to slow and mortgages were harder to come by. The 80s and 90s looked more hopeful, but then an early 90s recession put the brakes on again.

"Now we've hit a plateau," said Hanwek, "to where we probably should take off and start having price rises between 4 and 6 percent a year, on average, for residential properties. Once we hit that, and that's been happening now for several years, prices are high enough—after they had fallen in 2005 and 2006—that people are willing to buy and sell. Enough time has passed."

But interest rates won't stay down; they can't, at least not much past 2014. And sequestration will take effect, whether government agencies start cutting expenditures in earnest later this year or into the next. "We're going to see a considerable slowdown in government spending," said Hanweck. "It's going to affect this area disproportionately, and it affects the housing market quickly."

And when the cuts do truly sink in? Fairfax County is an expensive place to live: furloughed workers and government contractors without projects will have a harder time affording to stay. Potential replacements could come from the service industry, but their salaries can't compete with those in the defense industry.

"There's going to be, perhaps, a real depression of price at the top line for homes as opposed to the lower price homes," said Hanweck. "\$300,000-\$400,000—in that range, they're not going to be as depressed. We'll go back to that two-tier question. It's happened here a lot and it will happen again."

Hanweck expects a repeat of what this

area saw between 1989 and 1990, when a slowdown in military spending caused the population of Northern Virginia to drop by 50.000.

"The long-term outlook is for slowing home sales and stagnating prices," he said. But, "after several years, after we've absorbed what's happening with the Federal Government, then prices will start to rise on their trend levels again. We're just running out of property, the supply is dwindling."

are several factors, according to Hanweck, all of which result in people hanging on to their properties. Among them is a gradual

WHY THE DWINDLING SUPPLY? There

increase in the number of retirees in this area. Another is people simply waiting to see how high prices will rise. And though more prevalent on the west coast, there are also more instances of business investors buying properties to rent.

But none of this should dissuade anyone, encouraged Hanweck. "Sell. Sell and buy," he said. "If you want to move, sell now, buy now. Buying six months ago would be even better, buying a year ago would've been even better. But buy. Over the next year, two years, it's going to be a good market. After that we're going to see Federal Government cuts actually start to impact."

"I'm incredibly optimistic," said Work. "I have been for about a year and a half. It makes me look like a saint. The writing was on the wall for some of this.

"It's such a great opportunity for the end user, for occupants," he continued. "Everybody's got to live somewhere. Now is the time to lock in on something and secure it."

That's assuming everybody qualifies for a mortgage right away. Which can be difficult.

However, "if they loosen the standards too much," cautioned Hanweck, "we'll be back in the world of the subprime loan: 110 percent funding of their house, and that's absurd. We know what happens." Hopefully.

VIEWPOINTS

'Perfect Storm' in Area Real Estate Market

Pat Richter, Residential Preferred Properties, Burke

"A year ago, we were happy to get one good offer. And here we have three. It's consumer confidence. They're think in g, everyone's looking for the bottom. I feel people think we've hit the bottom. Ev-



ery offer I've received was full price. Two years ago you'd see properties on the market 30 days or more. Last year that changed to 10 days or so. It's timing. And price. There is a difference when you're priced under \$600,000 versus over \$800,000—it's strong under six, slower over eight. There's not many houses in Burke over \$1 million. Price makes a difference. We're not seeing vacancies. We're seeing good turnover, solid contracts. Short sales and foreclosures are minimizing—it's mainly standard sales. When you've got inventory turning over that quickly and you love the business like I do, it makes it exciting."

Dane Work, Re/Max Preferred Properties, Fairfax

"Fairfax is pretty diverse, one end to the o the r. Herndon, for example, has adjusted for the coming transportation. It's the buy of the century. Inside the Beltway is ab-



solutely red hot. It's contracting so quickly, with multiple bids. It's reminiscent of 2001, 2002. A lot has a lot to do with the school systems: it's a very desirable county and people aren't hesitant to spend the money. Inventory, historically, is at 50 percent or less than what we're used to at this time of year, rates are at this historic low. It's the perfect storm for appreciation to go up very quickly. Here's what's happening: the rate of compression is designed to help Kentucky, Ohio Valley, Nebraska, Michigan, but it's uber-stimulating us."

—Tim Peterson



NEWS

The Easter **Bunny made** an appearance at the City of **Fairfax Egg Hunt on Mon**day, April 1, handing out candy and hugs to nearly 1,000 children.

> Рнотоѕ в Jo Ormesher/





In addition to egg hunts, the City of Fairfax Egg Hunt at Van Dyck Park included bunny hop sack races, a treasure hunt and egg-related crafts.

Egg Hunters on a Roll At Van Dyck Park

an Dyck Park was filled with more than 10. The oldest children searched for eggs in the 1,500 egg-hunters on Monday, April 1, woods at night, with flashlights provided. when the City of Fairfax hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt at the new, larger location.

"This turned out to be a great new location," said City of Fairfax Marketing Director Jo Ormesher. "The event used to be at Fairfax High School. This was so much more fun because of the surroundings of the

The egg hunt began at 5 p.m. for children ages 2-

Ormesher said there were several new events this year prior to the egg hunts, including an egg spoon carrying contest, bunny hop sack races, treasure hunt in the sand and a variety of crafts and face-painting. The event was sponsored by the City of Fairfax Department of Parks and Recreation.

-Victoria Ross

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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

15 Years Prison for Robbery

A man convicted of the Jan. 1, 2012 robbery of a City of Fairfax restaurant has been sentenced to 15 years in prison. He is Colin Thomas Bowie, 47, of 8801 Jones Mill Road in Chevy Chase, Md., and the incident occurred around 6:30 a.m. at the Denny's Restaurant at 10473 Fairfax Blvd.

Bowie entered the restaurant, drew a handgun and ordered the assistant manager into the office. Bowie also told him to open the safe and surrender the cash. The manager did so and the robber fled through the back door and escaped.

Following an investigation, Bowie was arrested Feb. 17, 2012 by Takoma Park police and charged with armed robbery. He was returned to Fairfax County for trial in Circuit Court. At his sentencing last Friday, March 29, he received 30 years in prison with 15 years suspended.

Stroke and Osteoporosis Screenings Coming to Fairfax

Residents living in and around the Fairfax community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. Way of Faith Assembly of God will host Life Line Screening on April 15. The site is located at 8800 Arlington Blvd. in Fairfax. Four key points every person needs to know:

- ❖ Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability;
- ❖ 80 percent of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke;
- ❖ Preventive ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke;
- Screenings are fast, noninvasive, painless, affordable and convenient.

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-697-9721 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.







OPINION

April Is Poetry Month

Send us your poems, your Mother's Day photos, and even your poems about mothers.

pril is poetry month, and we invite our readers to share their poems with us. Some will appear in the print edition and some will appear online.

We'd love to have a note from you about what inspired your poetry, and EDITORIAL an illustration, photo of you, etc., are welcomed as well. Include the text of your poem, your name and address (we will only print your name and town name, not your full address), email address and phone number to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Here are some poetry happenings from around the area:

Alexandria's new poetry society, based at the Duncan Library, will hold its second meeting at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub on April 8 from 8–10 p.m. and will explore beat poetry. For more, contact the Duncan Library at 703-746-1705.

At presstime, Alexandria was expected to announce the name of the new Alexandria Poet Laureate, replacing Amy Young.

Bernadette Geyer of Vienna was selected for the 2012 Hilary Tham Capital Collection for story — will play an important role in the se-

her poetry manuscript, "The Scabbard of Her Throat."

The Iota Club and Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, holds an annual poetry event on Mother's Day. This year's event, Sunday, May

12, 6-8 p.m., will feature Bernadette Gever of Vienna and James Arthur. Iota Club and Café is at 2832 Wilson Blvd.,

Virginia's current Poet Laureate, Sofia M. Starnes, has launched The Nearest Poem Anthology project, which will collect 50-100 poems submitted by Virginia residents "that are most meaningful to us and thus create a testimony to the immediacy of poetry and its closeness to everyday life." Submissions will be accepted through June, and should include the full text of the poem, the name of the poet and the source, including where you encountered the poem, and 200-250 words of persuasive explanation of why you selected the poem. "This should include some information about yourself and why you consider your selected poem 'nearest' to you," Starnes writes. "The compelling nature of your write-up — your

Contrary to Popular Belief

Poem by Bernadette Geyer of Vienna as a pan flute carved from a grain of rice passed down through generations in folk tales and dreams.

Information about submitting your favorite poem for a Virginia anthology: http://sofiamstarnes.com/ Nearest Poem Anthology Brochure.pdf.

lection of the poems to be included." Visit http://sofiamstarnes.com/ NearestPoemAnthologyBrochure.pdf.

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 12 and every year at this time we call for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of you and your mother, grandmothers, great-grandmothers. Please name everyone in the photo, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. Send photos editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

You can also submit poetry, poetry about mothers and photos celebrating mothers directly through our website at http:// www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/

LETTERS

A Photo ID: Victory for Voters

To the Editor:

The voters of Virginia won a great victory when Governor McDonnell signed SB 1256, which changes Virginia's law to require a recent photo ID as the only acceptable identification for voting. Thus, a positive identification can now be made with a visual check to verify that the person coming to vote is actually who he claims to be. The existing law allows a number of passive identifiers such as a voter registration card or even a utility bill which proves nothing other than that the person has in his possession a piece of paper with a name and address on it. The person's identity is not verified.

Voters across the commonwealth now can be assured that their individual vote will not be nullified by a fraudulent vote. Opponents of this bill will argue that there is no evidence of fraudulent voting and thus SB 1256 attempts to solve a problem that does not exist. However, when non-verifiable identification is allowed, it is virtually impossible to identify and convict fraudulent voters except in the most flagrant of cases where multiple votes are

Paying More for Less

Poorer taxpayers are hit the hardest.

By Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

hen it was first presented to the board, I described the county executive's proposed FY 2014 budget as asking taxpayers to pay more for the same services, and asking county employees to work harder for the same pay. It's clear that county taxpayers are hurt by this budget. The average home assessment increased by 3 percent, and I know many in Braddock saw higher increases than that. The county executive also added 2 cents to the rate. That is bad enough, but making matters worse, poorer taxpayers are hit the hardest.

In one condominium community in working class Annandale, assessments went up over 20 percent and middle class townhouses are, on average, up more than single family homes. The result is that some lower and middle class taxpayers will see huge tax increases due to assessments. This adds to an already increased burden as the two-year payroll tax holiday ended this year and the new transportation funding bill (a good thing for Fairfax overall) means the sales tax will go up a full percent.

Whenever taxes are raised, some automatically conclude that government must be out-of-control with rampant spending increases. While that makes for a great political sound bite, it's not always accurate. Total general fund disbursements increase only 1.45 percent in the county executive's proposed budget, less than the local 1.8 percent inflation rate—all in all, a rather flat budget.

What explains the proposed county tax increase then? A year ago, the county projected commercial



real estate growth of about 8 percent. That was the increase last year, and would be consistent with normal growth at the end of a recession (commercial real estate is the last to enter and the last to recover from a recession). Instead, this year commercial real estate assessments did not grow at all. Since commercial real estate is

roughly 20 percent of the real estate tax, that fact alone accounts for almost all of the 2-cent rate increase proposed by the county executive.

Commercial real estate has stalled almost entirely due to uncertainty over the federal budget. It's not sequestration itself that's the problem; it's that no one knows what is coming next. Business needs certainty. The federal government is operating on threemonth continuing resolutions. In contrast, the county budget we vote on this month runs through June 2014. Unless and until there is some long-range certainty in the federal budget, commercial real estate will remain stagnant and residential taxpayers will either make up the difference or see county services decrease.

I am hopeful our board will scale back the county executive's proposed tax increase and come together with a common sense consensus budget. But no matter what the final terms are, it won't be pretty. The truth is, we are going to pay more for less, and that's the real life consequence of what is happening in Washington, D.C.

■ Fairfax

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LETTERS

From Page 6

proven to be cast by a single voter or where the person attempting to vote is clearly known not to be the voter listed in the registration book.

Photo identification has become a necessary requirement for many of our routine daily activities. Yet, somehow opponents of this bill believe that proving our identity to exercise our constitutional right to vote is less important than proving our identity before boarding an airplane or cashing a check at a bank or donating blood. Since

An Overlooked Aspect of Homelessness

To the Editor:

Thank you for the well written article, "Putting a Face on Homelessness," by Victoria Ross (The Connection, March 6-12, 2013). There were also articles and stories in local media, including The Washington Post, local radio and TV stations. One thing each of these media left out was that over one quarter of the people surveyed by the army of volunteers were over age 55. Much was said about the 23 percent of those surveyed that fell into the 18-34 age bracket. I think most would agree that people in this age bracket are physically more able to withstand

the new law provides for free photo IDs to be issued to those few without one, it is meaningless to claim that requiring a photo ID for voting will disenfranchise various groups such as the poor, the elderly and minority groups. In fact, studies from other states have shown just the opposite result. Voter registration and turnout have actually increased within these groups after enactment of a photo ID law.

Anne Damon

Fairfax

the rigors of being homeless than people over the age of 55-and especially more so than those over the age of 70. People age 18-34 are also much more able to gain employment than seniors. I could go on, but am just curious why not one media outlet (including The Connection) chose not even to mention this fact. Like most people, I would like to see homelessness totally eradicated in our county and all counties for that matter.

Seeing senior citizens living on the streets, in their cars and in county homeless shelters is particularly unnerving. Hopefully others will feel the same way.

Robert Paxton

Falls Church

BULLETIN BOARD -

FRIDAY/APRIL 12 **Leading to Well Being:**

Facilitating Leadership for a Well-Lived Life. 8:30 a.m.-

p.m., at the Mason Inn & Conference Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Notable scholars and industry leaders address innovations in leadership and well-being. Mason students: \$225; general: \$300. wellbeing.onmason.com or info@cct.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

Healthy eating: Making better dietary choices. 3 p.m., at

ATFA, 3949 University Drive, Fairfax. Dr. Gewa Constace talks about the interaction between dietary practices. RSVP required. http://www.atfa.us/category/ womens-club/.

MONDAY/APRIL 29

Kindergarten Orientation/

Registration. 2 p.m., at Greenbriar East Elementary School, 13006 Point Pleasant Drive, Fairfax. Explore the option of enrolling your child; contact the office with questions regarding the registration process. 703-633-6400.



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Contact

Lisa Adler Ikadler@upcfairfax.org

Funded partially by Virginia ABC. Virginia SPF-SIG, and federal STOP and Drug Free Communities grants

The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) is a nonprofit organization with more than 50 community partners working togethe to keep youth and young adults safe and drug-free.

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- "'Best Dance Studio' Family Magazine
- * 'Best of NoVa' Northern Virginia Magazine
- * 'Best Day Camp' Family Magazine



SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013

Local Researchers Address 'Concussion Culture'

Education and proper health care are keys.

> BY MARILYN CAMPBELL The Connection

ith the impending warmer weather comes an increased number of children participating in outdoor activities. Some local health care professionals and researchers are issuing words of caution.

"More children will be outside playing with friends, riding bicycles and engaging in contact sports. These activities and others where impact is a possibility place children at risk for a concussion," said Dr. Faith Claman, who holds a doctor of nursing practice and is an assistant professor in the Malek School of Health Professions at Marymount University in Arling-

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Researchers in George Mason University's College of **Education and Human Development (CEHD) joined the Advancing Healthcare Initiatives for Underserved Stu**dents (ACHIEVES) project to offer concussion education.

occurs as a result of a fall or blow when jolted violently, the brain to the head or body, said Dr. Dalila Birem, associate medical director of Molina Healthcare of Virginia Local educators say it is impor- and Fairfax Community Health tant to know the facts. "A concus- Care Network. "Normally, the sion is a brain injury, which often brain is cushioned by fluid, but

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crashes into the skull, resulting in damage to the soft tissue."

Birem says that while some people may lose consciousness, more common symptoms of a concussion include headache, blurred

"Others may experience no concussion," said Birem. "However, severe concussions or repeated incidents may lead to more

rampant across the country right now and it seems that no one, from middle school student athletes to professional players, are exempt," said university spokeswoman Catherine J. Probst. "As a and concussion education," Probst result, some states are enacting new laws to change this concussion culture. Virginia's General Assembly [passed legislation] that requires student athletes and their parents to receive annual concussion education. ... The law also states that schools form concussion management teams to provide and document concussion education for students, staff,

coaches and parents." Implementing the legislation

presents challenges, however. "Many Virginia public schools lack symptoms at all [and] with rest, the necessary resources to propmost people fully recover from a erly deliver concussion education,"

To address the dearth of resources, researchers in Mason's serious consequences, such as College of Education and Human problems with speech, mobility or Development (CEHD) joined the Advancing Healthcare Initiatives Researchers at George Mason for Underserved Students University in Fairfax are taking (ACHIEVES) project to offer effecaction. "Concussions are running tive medical care and concussion

"The project has already reached more than 80,000 student athletes, staff, coaches and parents to deliver more effective medical care

ACHIEVES offers services that run the gamut from implementing an electronic medical record-keeping program to offering both online and face-to-face sessions. Probst says university researchers hope the ACHIEVES project will serve as a model for other school systems at the local, regional and national levels as more states en-

News

The Perks of Planning a Park

New City of Fairfax website allows citizens to take part in parks and recreation planning.

he City of Fairfax launched a new website Monday—Our Parks, Our Future—where citizens can engage, communicate and collaborate with the Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department and other residents on a new parks master plan for the city.

The community engagement website, developed by MindMixer, is designed to get the community involved in the planning process. Along the way, Our Parks, Our Future will be used as an online tool to generate new ideas and feedback from citizens using this interactive and accessible platform.

Feedback from the engagement website will be used by the city in order to prioritize future projects.

"Our Parks, Our Future gives contributors a chance to share new ideas, second others' ideas, expand upon existing ideas and give feedback on initiatives, working with Fairfax leaders on a variety of topics online anytime, anywhere," said Fairfax Mayor Scott

The discussion will start with topics, such as the following, and branch off from there based on in-

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* What is your vision for the future of parks, recreation, trails, open spaces, cultural arts and community events in Fairfax?

❖ What are the most important park facilities to have within walking distance from your home?

The site also measures and tracks participation, identifying the most interested citizens and most compelling topics. MindMixer's tools make it easy for administrations to communicate back with citizens, and they deliver measurable results and invaluable insights for the planning process.

"Our tools go beyond just technology. Our mission is to build community contributors. Ideas, voices and perspectives are shared to facilitate deeper and better conversations that yield actionable insights and a stronger community," said Nick Bowden, CEO of

As part of its service, MindMixer consults and collaborates with clients to identify issues that are critical to stakeholders in order to update topics and content for their websites.

For more information, call 703-385-7858 or email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov. Residents can also watch the City of Fairfax mayor's video introduction at http:// youtu.be/F2m9bOFtvoA.

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Hundreds of Low Income Residents Receive Free Dental Care

Event was part of The Northern Virginia Dental Society's 10th Annual Mission of Mercy

come and uninsured residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County received free dental care recently when the Northern Virginia Dental Society (NVDS) hosted its 10th Annual Mission of Mercy (MOM) project.

During the two-day event, which was held at Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus in Springfield, area dental care professionals donated their time and expertise to help those in need.

"It really is an incredible initiative and I truly believe in the work that the Northern Virginia



ceived dental care during the Northern Virginia Dental Society's 10th Annual Mission of Mercy (M.O.M.) project.

Dental Society does. There tal care. "The MOM Project ... the community." cially dentists helping hundreds emailed Cathy Griffanti, execu- were pre-screened and pre-regand hundreds of patients. This tive director, Northern Virginia istered for the MOM Project was my second year helping Dental Society. "Many of the through local social service out," said Jenny Del Carpio, of area legislators stopped by the agencies, and estimated that Molina Healthcare, one of the Project and witnessed the dedi- the value of services provided cation of the oral health care was approximately \$355,000. A total of 844 low-income providers in Northern Virginia and uninsured received den- and what we do to give back to

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

were so many volunteers, espe- was a wonderful event," Griffanti said that patients

Calendar

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

Turkish Coffee Night. 7-9 p.m., at ATFA, 3949 University Drive, Fairfax. A monthly gathering in a warm environment with presentation, fun activities, conversation, Turkish food, and Turkish Coffee. RSVP required.www.atfa.us/category/ womens-club/.

Designing Resilient Communities. 7 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics David W. Orr, of Oberlin College, talks on a world made unpredictable by climate change. 703-993-1170.

Passaggio. 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mason playwriting program student and rising playwright Michael Patrick Smith presents the story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the operaloving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20



PHOTO BY LARISA PEDENCHUK

The Russian National Ballet Theatre performs Giselle on Saturday, April 6, at George Mason University's Center for the Arts.

Russian National Ballet Theatre **Dances for Fairfax**

The tragic tale of a peasant girl betrayed by the man she loves will be told on pointe by the Russian National Ballet Theatre at GMU on Saturday, April 6, at 8 p.m. The next day, Sunday, April 7, at 4 p.m. the ensemble dances the beloved Swan Lake, the tale of the cursed princess and the prince who loves her. The Center for the Arts is at 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets are half price for youth through grades 12 when accompanied by an adult. \$27, \$46, \$54. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

Passaggio. 8 p.m., at the Harris

program student and rising

Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Mason playwriting

playwright Michael Patrick Smith

Italy during the festival of the

presents the story of a small town in

Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets,

demand that he bring wealth back to

hidden love and the townspeople's

the community. \$15 for students,

for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

faculty, staff, seniors and groups: \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Passaggio. 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community, \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

MCCP Foundation Dress-up With

Grown-Ups Gala. 6-10 p.m., at the Mason Inn Conference Center & Hotel, 4352 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Bring children and grandchildren willing to dress up for the family friendly gala held by the Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation. Adult: \$150; child: \$75.

Giselle. 8 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The tragic tale of a peasant girl betrayed by the man she loves will be told on pointe by the Russian National Ballet Theatre: tickets are half price for youth through grades 12 when accompanied by an adult. \$27, \$46, \$54. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Trivia Night. 8:30 p.m., at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Compete with a table of old friends or new ones to win a \$25 gift card for every seat at the winning table and a chance to win two tickets to Theater J and dinner for two at Distrikt Bistro: drink ticket and light refreshments included. \$22 per seat; \$144 for table of eight. 703-323-0880 or jccntrivia.brownpapertickets.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 7

Passaggio. 2 p.m., at the Harris Theater at GMU, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The story of a small town in Italy during the festival of the Madonna, during which the opera-loving mayor confronts town secrets, hidden love and the townspeople's demand that he bring wealth back to the community. \$15 for students, faculty, staff, seniors and groups; \$20 for general admission. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Feeding Roses. 2-4 p.m., at Merrifield Garden Centre, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn about fertilization of rose bushes that achieves optimum health and blooms. 703-371-9351.

Swan Lake. 4 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Russian National Ballet Theatre performs the beloved tale of the cursed princess and the prince who loves ĥer; tickets are half price for youth through grades 12 when accompanied by an adult. \$27, \$46, \$54. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

Reportero. 6 p.m., at GMU in the Meese Conference Room in Mason Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Film & Media Studies Program presents the story of veteran reporter Sergio Haro and his colleagues at Tijuana-based independent newsweekly "Zeta" as they ply their trade in one of the deadliest places in the world for media. http://fams.gmu.edu/articles/4885.

Kiddie Country Kindergarten Open House. 7 p.m., at Kiddie Country II, 9601 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Meet kindergarten staff and enjoy an informative overview of the program while your child enjoys a MAD SCIENCE® presentation. RSVP. 703-644-0066.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

American Festival Pops Orchestra:

Cinema Magic. 8 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Beloved movie masterpieces performed by the iconic Northern Virginia-based orchestra; tickets are half price for youth through grade 12 accompanied by an adult. \$24, \$40, \$48. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

The Marriage of Figaro. 8 p.m., at the GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The final installment of the Virginia Opera 2013 season: Rossini's characters of "The Barber of Seville" find themselves in a day of lunacy, as Figaro fights and outwits enemies to be with his betrothed, Susanna, \$44 \$72, \$86. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

Ringling Bros and Barnum and Baileys' Dragons. 1 p.m., at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Circus performers from the farthest reaches of the earth have assembled for DRAGONS to showcase their astounding talents. \$15. 800-745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

The Marriage of Figaro. 2 p.m., at the GMU Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The final installment of the Virginia Opera 2013 season: Rossini's characters of "The Barber of Seville" find themselves in a day of lunacy, as Figaro fights and outwits enemies to be with his betrothed, Susanna. \$48, \$80, \$98. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

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Entertainment

'Familiar Fairytale With a Talented Cast'

Paul VI presents "Once Upon a Mattress."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

dances and a classic musical comedy—they're all part of Paul VI's upcoming production of "Once Upon a Mattress." The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, April 12-13, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 14, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students and senior citizens and \$15 for adults at the door and online at paulvi.net or pviproducers@yahoo.com.

olorful costumes, an elaborate set, songs,

"It's the story of 'The Princess and the Pea," said Director Katherine Miller. "The queen says no one in the kingdom can get married until her son does. But he has to marry a bona fide, certified princess. So the queen devises impossible tests no one can pass."

The show features a cast and crew of 60, including a live orchestra of both students and professionals. The conductor is Naj Qureshi, and his wife Erin is the vocal director. Kathy d'Alelio is the choreographer.

"It's a familiar fairytale with a talented cast," said Miller. "The audience knows that goodness and happiness will prevail, and there'll be a whole lot of laughs along the way. It's a family show all ages will enjoy."

PORTRAYING PRINCESS Winnifred is Abby Rozmajzl and, although she's a freshman, Miller said she definitely deserves the role. "There was no question Abby was the princess when I heard her voice," said Miller. "She blew us away with her singing; and every time she performs, she's better."

Describing her character as "a mess," Rozmajzl said Winnifred lives in the swamps. "She's strong, energetic, tomboyish and very pretty," said Rozmajzl. Thrilled to be in her first production at PVI, Rozmajzl said it's "a blast" playing Winnifred because, "we both have that same enthusiastic spark, and she has some fabulous lines." Her favorite song is her opening number, "Shy," because she really gets to belt it out. She said the audience will love the show's music, comedy, sets and costumes. "The costumes are beautiful and elaborate and so many different colors,"



PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN KILEY

(From left) Taylor Kiechlin (minstrel), Brendan McAlevy (king) and Jacob Rozmajzl (jester) are a happy trio in "Once Upon a Mattress."

said Rozmajzl. "I really feel like a princess in mine."
Senior Kristen Washington plays the queen. "She's
the classic, wicked Disney villain," said Washington.
"And she's an overbearing, in-your-face mother. She's
overprotective of her son, Prince Dauntless, and
doesn't want him to leave her side. She totally wears

the pants in the castle."

And Washington's having fun bringing out that evil side. "I'll be happy if everyone in the audience hates my guts," she said. "I get to dominate the stage. It's such a great part; all the other characters are scared of the queen." She especially likes singing "Sensitivity," in which the queen decides how to test the princess

PORTRAYING PRINCE Dauntless is senior Alex Siegal. "He's dopey, but a kind and nice guy who's easy to please," said Siegal. "I'm enjoying it because we're both fun-loving. It's exciting to have a lead role, and I get to put my own personality into it. I also sing some good songs, 'Song of Love (Fred)' and 'Man-to-Man Talk."

Junior Brendan McAlevy plays the king. "He likes goofing around, eating and chasing girls," said McAlevy. "He doesn't speak because a witch cursed him, so he does everything through charades. He's a trio with the minstrel and jester and they're his translators. It's a challenge—I really have to emote and be distinct with my actions and body movements."

The multi-level set features several rooms inside the castle, including the great hall, a corridor and eight staircases, plus a courtyard. "And our set pieces are really cool," said McAlevy. "There's a giant bed with 20 mattresses, a big birdcage and giant thrones. The audience will love it."







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SPORTS

Robinson Boys' Lax Beats State Champ Langley

Sophomore Jasien leads Rams with three goals against Saxons.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

n March 27, the Robinson boys' lacrosse team lost to an unknown opponent. The following day, the Rams beat the four-time defending Virginia state champion, leading head coach Matt Curran to voice concern about his team potentially resting on its laurels.

While Curran might have to play the role of team psychologist, the Rams showed during spring break they can hang with the best

Robinson defeated Langley 9-6 on Thursday, March 28, at the Ram Slam tournament at Robinson Secondary School. The Rams jumped out to a 5-0 lead against the fourtime defending state champion Saxons and cruised to victory.

Now Curran will have to deal with any repercussions.

"It gives them confidence," Curran said. "What I don't want it to do is make them cocky, get their heads too big. ... We can't get complacent. We can't think, oh we beat Langley so we're really good. We lost [on March 27] to a team called Midlothian these guys have never heard of before. They're a good team. I feel like there's a lot of parity so we can't—and I've got to try to impart it on young guys—that we can't come out and think just because our name is this and their name is that that the game is going to go a certain way."



Robinson sophomore attackman Chapman Jasien scored three goals against Langley on March 28.



Robinson goalkeeper Nick Kondracki finished with 12 saves against Langley on March 28.

SOPHOMORE ATTACKMAN Chapman Jasien led the Rams on offense, scoring three goals. Jasien, listed at 5-feet-6, 140 pounds, led Robinson with 17 goals through five games.

"He's an exceptional player," Curran said.
"... He's not a big guy, but he's super quick and he's very, very strong for a little guy and I think that he's deceptive in that people think they can push him around and they can't. He also has the absolute best stick skills on our team—some of the best stick skills I've ever seen in a player, especially a sophomore. He started last year as a freshman; he's that type of player."

Jasien's third goal gave Robinson a 7-2 lead with 5:52 remaining in the third quarter. The Rams led by as many as six in the second half.

"We really just wanted to play smart and get the job done, that's really all we discussed," Jasien said. "We didn't even talk about them being four-time defending state champs because that's obviously intimidat-

ing. We just said play smart and just get it done."

Senior attackman Charlie Morrisette and senior midfielder Connor Lloyd each had two goals for Robinson. Freshman midfielder Johnny Daniel and sophomore attackman Chris White each had one.

Curran praised the effort of sophomore defenseman Jack Rowlett, who is committed to the University of North Carolina, saying he played a "phenomenal" game.

Junior goalkeeper Nick Kondracki finished with 12 saves.

"He played extremely well, especially down the stretch," Curran said about Kondracki. "This is a very good team we played, so he did a good job coming up with some really big saves—saves that you want a good goalie to make, or you're kind of expecting, but they don't always make them, and he did today."

Kondracki and the Robinson defense held Langley without a goal for the first 22 minutes of the contest.

"I felt great," Kondracki said. "During my warm-up, I didn't do too well, but I stepped up."

Daniel scored the only goal of the first quarter, giving Robinson a 1-0 lead. The Rams extended their lead to 5-0 before Langley scored a pair of goals in the final two minutes of the first half. Robinson outscored Langley 3-0 in the third quarter, including a pair of goals by Lloyd, and took an 8-2 lead into the fourth quarter. Morrisette's goal with 7:32 remaining gave the Rams a 9-3 lead before Langley scored the final three goals of the contest.

ROBINSON LOST its following game, falling 15-9 to Madison on April 1. The Rams went 2-2 during spring break, moving their overall record to 4-2. Robinson beat Bethesda-Chevy Chase (13-1) and Langley at Ram Slam, and lost to Midlothian (7-6) and Madison.

The Rams will travel to face Woodson at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 5.

Sports Roundups

Northern Region Baseball Top 10

The Madison Warhawks held onto the top spot in the latest Northern Region baseball top 10 poll.

Robinson moved up to No. 2, followed by Lake Braddock (3), Oakton (4), Chantilly (5), McLean (6), West Springfield (7), West Potomac (8), Herndon (9) and Langley (10).

McLean, West Potomac, Herndon and Langley each made their first appearance in the top 10.

The Concorde District has the most representatives with four. Three Patriot District and three Liberty District teams were voted in. No teams from the National District made the top 10.

T.C. Williams, South County, Westfield, Stone Bridge and Yorktown each received votes.

Lake Braddock Baseball to Host West Springfield Friday

The Lake Braddock baseball team will host West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 5, in a rematch

of last year's Patriot District and Northern Region championship games.

Lake Braddock got the best of West Springfield in the district final, but the Spartans avenged the loss by beating the Bruins in the region championship game.

Lake Braddock went on to win the state title.

This year, Lake Braddock improved to 5-2 with a 5-4 victory over St. John's on March 30. The Bruins faced South County on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline.

West Springfield lost a pair of one-run games at the Mingo Bay Classic in Myrtle Beach, S.C., dropping the Spartans' record to 3-4. West Springfield took on T.C. Williams on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Lake Braddock Softball Starts 6-0

The Lake Braddock softball team improved to 6-0 with an 11-1 victory over Mount Vernon on March 23. The Bruins outscored their first six opponents 51-5.

Lake Braddock faced South County on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Bruins will host West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 5. Lake Braddock will face Edison (noon) and West Potomac (2 p.m.) on Saturday during a spring break tournament at Madison.

Lake Braddock Boys' Soccer Improves to 3-0

The Lake Braddock boys' soccer team defeated Yorktown 5-3 on Tuesday, improving its record to 3-0.

Aaron Hollins scored three goals for the Bruins and Stephen Durbin added two. Akram Bensalem had two assists, and Shady Abdel-Salam and Zack Hopkins each had one.

Lake Braddock will host Westfield at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 4.

West Springfield Girls' Lax Wins 5 of 6

The West Springfield girls' lacrosse team started the season 5-1, including winning three of four during a trip to Orlando, Fla.

The Spartans faced Annandale on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline. West Springfield will travel to face Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10.

ENTERTAINMENT

Father-Son Band Raises Money for Breast Cancer Research

Waiting Man with Treece to perform at Fat Tuesday's.

BY TIM PETERSON THE CONNECTION



Though their collaborative efforts have benefited several different charities, the proceeds from this show will be split between the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade and Susan G Komen Foundation.

Singer-songwriter Emily Toler opens the evening, advertised as "Drink for Pink." Toler's mother was a breast cancer victim; her story inspired the charity event.

THE BLUES ROCK-BASED JAM BAND Waiting Man has



Pete (left) and Patrick Laiti

been playing together for seven years, but broke the no-gig streak last year to raise money for the family of Robinson softball coach Barry Gorodnick. Gorodnick had suffered from non-Hodgkin lymphoma and passed away at just 47

Patrick, a rap artist (performing as "Treece") and founder of the hip-hop project House of Syntax,

first hatched the idea to perform a benefit concert for the Gorodnick family. After a few past attempts at joining forces with Waiting Man, this seemed like perfect timing to link up.

"Knowing that there would be an older crowd," said Patrick, "having a live band got brought into the mix was a good idea." Patrick performed keyboards on Waiting Man's originals, Allman Brothers and Jimi Hendrix covers, and the band played live versions of Patrick's backing tracks.

It's awesome, to be honest, playing live rather than with just a DJ," said Patrick. "I've been around my dad as a guitarist my whole life, and watching what he's done inspired me to get into music."

TREMENDOUS AUDIENCE **SUPPORT** and feedback from the first concert in August 2012 inspired the group to perform again, and again, picking a different charity each time. From several performances at Kilroys restaurant in Springfield and Fat Tuesday's in

people—they've raised roughly \$6,000.

"Audiences have been very kind to us," said Patrick, who works as a loan accountant and lives in Fairfax. "It's been a really good run," added Pete, a Fairfax Station resident and owner of Air Cleaning Technologies.

Pete described the hybrid result

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Fairfax—each bringing 150 to 200 of their talents as "a hip-hop, blues, rock, jamming multi-generational thing. It's definitely got chemistry."

> Emily Toler opens for Waiting Man with Treece at Fat Tuesday's, located at University Mall in Fairfax Saturday, April 6; doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m.; \$5 (www.fatsfairfax.com).

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 6 & 7

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

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..\$945,000.. Sun 1-4..... Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster.. 703-503-1812 12421 Clifton Hunt Dr..... 6417 Springhouse Cir..... ..\$614,500.. Sun 1-4. Robin Jenks Vanderlip....Keller Williams.. 703-969-4966Robin Garbe.....Long & Foster..540-349-1400 7467 Clifton Rd.... ..\$539,000..Sun 1-4...

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.\$959,000..Sun 1-4.....Bill Hoffman....Keller Williams..703-309-2205 3783 Penderwood Dr...

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9803	Thorn Bush Dr	.\$1,298,900 Sun 1-4	Eileen Lanser	E-Realtors 703-625-9058
8112	Vista Point Ln	\$899,000 Sat 1-4	Chris Rendall	Prudential 703-672-0646
7713	Stoney Creek Ct	\$839,950 Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli	Weichert 703-862-8808
8728	Foxhall Terr	\$769,900Sun 2-4	Tracy Jones	Acquire703-690-1174
8303	Knotty Pine Ln	\$749,000Sun 1-4	.Carol Hermandorferl	ong & Foster703-503-1812
6321	Youngs Branch Dr	\$695,999 Sun 1-4	Christine Shevock	RE/MAX703-475-3986
9116	Silver Pointe Way	\$609,900Sun 1-4	Bob Lovett	RE/MAX703-690-0037

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\$819,000 .. Sun 1-4......Patrick Kessler....Keller Williams .. 703-405-6540

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6611 Thurlton Dr	\$530,050 Sun 1-4 Tom	R. Cindy R. Accor	Long & Foster703-822-020	١7
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6534 Kelsey Point Cir	\$460,000Sun 1-3	James Nellis	RE/MAX703-503-437	'5
6019-F Curtier Dr	\$289,950 Sun 1-4 Tom	& Cindy & Assoc	Long & Foster703-822-020	17
7428 Salford Ct	Call Agent Sun 1-4 Tom	& Cindy & Assoc	Long & Foster703-822-020	17

Lorton

9044 John Sutherland Ln\$1,090,000Sun 2-4	Pat Fales	RE/MAX703-503-4365
8970 Fascination Ct #210\$347,905. Sat 12-3	Shawn EvansLo	ong & Foster703-790-1990
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14049 Baneberry Cir	\$620,000Sun 1-4	Rachel Pullen	Century 21703-774-8800
7755 Glade Ct	\$560,000Sun 1-4	Suzanne Burch	Century 21 703-328-5606

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8603 Langport Dr	\$499,999Sun 1-4	Mary RuehlCo	oldwell Banker 703-451-2500
8818 Trafalgar Ct	\$479,000Sun 1-4	Susan Metcalf	Avery-Hess 703-472-6512
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1st IO Command, 8825 Beulah Street Ft Belvoir, VA. 22060.

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According to the Lease by and between (1112) Alan Cottrell and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: boxes furniture, TVs, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed or on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

According to the Lease by and between (2028) Andre W Hicks and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: bike, chair, boxes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes.

According to the Lease by and between (24032) Shirley Jones and TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage unit, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain: totes, boxes, clothes, ect. Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of on April 18, 2013 @ 12:00pm at 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax VA 22030 to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes

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