

McLean
CONNECTION

Inside
Home LifeStyle

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION

Garage Sale Of the Season

NEWS, PAGE 4

McLean Author Turns Words Into Film

NEWS, PAGE 4

Saving Jobs in Hard Times

NEWS, PAGE 3

The McLean Community Center's semi-annual flea market was held last Saturday, Sept. 7 and drew a large crowd.

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NEWS

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



Virginia Senator George Barker (D-39) stands with Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) during a Fairfax County Democratic Committee meeting last month.



David Balducchi, a national employment policy expert from Arlington, lobbies lawmakers to enact work sharing legislation.

Saving Jobs in Hard Times

Virginia lawmakers will push work sharing legislation this session.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

When Springfield business owner Tony Coombs felt the “mind-boggling impact” the \$87 billion in budget cuts would have on his IT and cyber-security company, he began preparing his 600 employees for the fallout.

He froze bonuses and pay raises; he cut some employees’ hours by as much as 50 percent; he consolidated where he could and he began leasing his Springfield office building on a month-to-month basis.

“I wanted to do everything I could to avoid laying off employees,” Coombs said. “There’s not someone here who doesn’t have some family connection, and a feeling of family is something we’ve always encouraged and embraced.”

But the sequester caused serious setbacks to his company and employee morale, and after a few months of treading water, Coombs considered layoffs.

“We had to rearrange our teams to use less people,” Coombs said. “That’s the worst thing for me because everyone knows my employees always come first.”

Coombs, who participated in Congressional business roundtables to keep his company moving forward, learned about a government program adopted in several other states that help employers keep experienced workers on the payroll.

CALLED WORK SHARING, more than two dozen states are now using the program—a kind of unemployment insurance in reverse—which comes with free federal dollars to keep workers in their jobs instead of supporting them after they’re laid off. Instead of getting a pink slip during an economic downturn, workers have an opportunity to stay on the job and receive unemployment benefits for the hours they lose.

And thanks to national employment policy experts such as David Balducchi of Arlington, work sharing is getting a new look from employers across the country and the state.

“With work sharing, an employee’s lost day of work doesn’t have to mean a lost day of pay,” Balducchi said. “The hours of all employees are reduced instead of sacking some employees. Employees receive

Virginia’s Potential Saving

According to David Balducchi:

❖ If Virginia enacted a work sharing law, the commonwealth is eligible for a U.S. Department of Labor planning and implementation grant of \$2,739,420. The cutoff date to apply for the U.S. Department of Labor grant is Dec. 31, 2014.

❖ Also, had Virginia enacted work sharing the commonwealth over the three-year period beginning with passing of the federal law in February 2012, it would have enabled Virginia to receive 100 percent of federal reimbursement of work sharing benefits. According to the center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), the potential annual estimated saving in Virginia with federal financing of work sharing could reach \$14,506,300. CEPR says this is an annual saving.

partial unemployment benefits only for their lost hours of work. And employees keep working and don’t have to search for a new position in a bleak market.”

Balducchi has been crisscrossing the United States to educate lawmakers about work sharing and to help them enact legislation. In Washington State, for example, the program has paid dental technicians and plumbers at struggling companies. “The funds enable companies to hang on to experienced workers while they wait for the economy to improve,” Balducchi said.

State Senator George Barker (D-39), a proponent of work sharing, is urging fellow lawmakers to make Virginia the next state that adopts the legislation.

Barker, who said he is making work sharing legislation one of his top priorities for the 2014 General Assembly legislative session, worked with Balducchi and John Horejsi of SALT (Social Action Linking Together) to lobby other lawmakers to enact work sharing.

“Having been through the recession and recent slight increases in Virginia unemployment rates as federal sequestration takes effect, it is important that we give Virginia businesses all the tools we can to help them and their employees get through challenging times. This bill does that,” Barker said Tuesday.

The program, Barker said, is not a red state or blue state issue. In fact, the most recent states to pass some form of work sharing legislation this summer—Wisconsin and Ohio—are led by Republican governors.

“This is a bipartisan bill put forth by Republican Senator Bill Stanley from Franklin County and myself,” Barker said. “We have worked with the business community on this bill, including the Virginia Federation of Independent Businesses, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and Virginia Association of Manufacturers as well as with community organizations. We have addressed the questions and concerns

SEE WORK SHARING, PAGE 5

‘Shared Work:’ A Win-Win-Win Solution

Preventing layoffs, maintaining the well-being of employees and their communities and keeping businesses competitive.

BY MARK COOPER
TYSONS CORNER

PERSPECTIVES

How do we mitigate the devastating effects of layoffs on employees, employers and their communities? Is there a “win-win-win” solution?

There is most definitely such a solution and it is called “Shared Work.” Borrowed from a program called “Kurzarbeit” in Germany, a country considered one of the world’s perennial industrial economies who knows a thing or two about surviving business cycles, this concept can decisively help Virginia companies, both large and small, weather temporary downturns by keeping their skilled workforce intact and on the job.

I know. Before coming to Virginia, I was employed by and operated my own businesses in Germany from 1980 through 2008.

From Fortune 500 companies like Texas Instruments, my first employer, to global giants like Mercedes, Bosch and others, I have personally experienced the effectiveness of these programs. And they work. A survey conducted by the state of Bavaria’s Chamber of Commerce in July 2009, the depth of the Great Recession, revealed that 60 percent of respondents were able to avoid permanent layoffs, another 16 percent were able to come away with only minimal layoffs so that well over three quarters or 76 percent were able to keep all or most of their workforce through “Shared Work.”

How? By reducing the days worked per week from 5 to 4, as an example, the companies are able to reduce a sizable portion of their labor costs, in this case 20 percent, maintain their workforce and additionally avoid costly rehiring and retraining expense when business picks up. More importantly, communities keep their breadwinners employed, which in turn continue paying taxes and consuming local goods and services. This keeps the “doors



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mark Cooper

open” which in turn keeps families together.

While the employee will see a reduction in gross salary or wages, through the clever use of unemployment benefits which the employer has been contributing towards previously, take-home wage reduction would be not as pronounced. And that extra day would be a welcome respite to those families where both spouses are working full-time and could restore some work-life balance in the interim; or the employer could decide to use the extra day for retraining and skill improvement.

How do we proceed? In the U.S., 26 states have already adopted such “Shared Work” policy. Our commonwealth has not, to date, but the General Assembly should consider this proven public-private solution. Virginia’s labor market, like many others, is still languishing. “Shared Work” can prevent layoffs, maintain the well being of employees and their communities and keep businesses competitive over the long run.

This is an intelligent, tested policy that can truly provide a “win-win-win” for all Virginians.



PHOTOS BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION

McLean sisters Teresa Pastolero and Josephine Tan are regular visitors to the MCC Flea Market. "Every year we come here in April and September," said Pastolero. "We love it."



Asefa Hemmati and her friend, Sofia Espin, sold many baked goods to raise money for Global Animal Rescue, which helps disabled animals and animals in need.

Garage Sale of the Season

Area treasure hunters visit McLean Community Center's semi-annual flea market.

BY LORI BAKER
THE CONNECTION

Longtime friends Nancy McCormick, Jeanne Nelsen and Liz Rothrock, who jokingly call themselves "poker widows," have always looked for ways to have fun while their husbands played poker. Recently, the friends of 26 years have discovered that they love to sell their wares at the MCC semi-annual flea market. "This is our fourth time here," said Nelsen. "We've gotten the same booth several times. We have an absolute blast." Not only do they have fun, they typically make up to \$300 in a four-hour day.

Last Saturday, Sept. 7, the McLean Community Center held its popular Fall Flea Market on Beverly Road, behind the Giant shopping center. The MCC offers this community-wide garage sale twice a year, in April and September. It has been a hit since its inception in 1989, when it became an annual event. A few years later, the event became so popular that organizers decided to offer the event twice a year.

"We thought that many residential neighborhoods in the McLean area would not normally have yard/garage sales, so we wanted to provide an opportunity for them to have a community sale," said Sam Roberts, MCC's director of special events.

Vendors can rent a booth for \$45, and there is no charge for customers to come browse. The McLean Community Center provides advertising for the event, and it draws shoppers from many parts of Northern Virginia.

Vendors sell anything from used clothing, jewelry and household goods, to valuable antiques. Commercial flea market dealers are also invited to sell both old and new items.



Nancy McCormick, Jeanne Nelsen and Liz Rothrock rented a space at the flea market for the fourth time. "We have an absolute blast," Nelsen said.



The flea market offered everything from antique treasures to new products from commercial vendors.

"I like the fact that there are some new things, and also some nice vintage stuff," said Alexandria resident, Diane Sullivan. "I thought it was great."



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Author Suzi Weinert with actress Lori Laughlin, who will portray Jennifer Shannon, the protagonist in the movie "Garage Sale Mystery," which is based off of Weinert's first novel.

Author Turns Words Into Film

Suzi Weinert's first novel becomes Hallmark Channel original movie.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Four years ago, McLean resident Suzi Weinert wasn't sure she was capable of finishing her first book. Now she's preparing to watch that very same book premiere as a Hallmark Channel original movie and has released its sequel.

Weinert has spent much of her life in different places, growing up in an Air Force family and marrying an Army officer, but she has spent 25 years in McLean.

Her first book, "Garage Sale Stalker," was released at the end of 2010. It tells the story of Jennifer Shannon, who loves exploring garage sales around the McLean area, much like Weinert herself.

IN THE FIRST BOOK, Shannon finds herself in trouble after exploring a sale that is a little far off the beaten path.

When it came to "Garage Sale Stalker" turning into a movie, Weinert credits a fortuitous connection with the right people.

"I sent copies of the book to each of my five children, including my son who lives in San Diego. His wife has a friend in the TV business, and she read it, she told me it really had some potential to go on TV," Weinert said. "Then a few years passed, which I thought was bad news, but I was assured that was the normal course of things."

Producer Jonathan Axelrod led the project through three

drafts from one writer, then four more from another writer, before finally arriving at a screenplay for the movie.

"It's slightly different than my story, but they really did a fabulous job with it," Weinert said. "The villain is a little different, but Jennifer Shannon and other characters are there."

The character of Shannon will be played by Lori Laughlin, who is perhaps best known as Becky from "Full House."

"It reminded me of 'Murder She Wrote,' 'Columbo,' 'McMillan and Wife,' all the shows I grew up watching," Laughlin said of "Garage Sale Mystery" during a recent Hallmark interview. "I like mysteries anyway, and this to me wasn't a typical Hallmark movie."

Weinert was able to watch the production of the movie for several days in Vancouver.

"It was a terrific experience, everyone there works very hard, 12 hours a day, it was almost like going to school, because I learned so much about what directors, producers and cameramen do," she said. "They did not have to treat me as well as they did. By the time a film is made, the writer's contribution is done, but they treated me like royalty, and even gave me my own director's chair, and introduced me to the cast, who were all very sweet."

One change to her novel made by Hallmark was to set the story in "more of an Anytown, U.S.A. than McLean,"

SEE MCLEAN, PAGE 11

NEWS

Work Sharing Gains Support

FROM PAGE 3

raised by legislators.”

UNDER THE BILL proposed by Barker, the legislation would establish a shared work program that provides employers with the option of reducing the hours worked by employees, while permitting the employees whose hours are reduced to receive partial compensation for lost wages. Program participation requires Virginia Employment Commission approval of a plan, which must provide that the reduction in hours of work is in lieu of a layoff of an equivalent percentage of employees and that employees' fringe benefits cannot be reduced or eliminated during the plan.

According to U.S. Department of Labor data, work sharing has saved 61,299 jobs in a combined 19 states in 2012. Some states, like Colorado and New Hampshire, saved less than 100 jobs, while California, Texas and Washington each kept between about 10,000 and 21,000 employed, according to a Justice Center report.

Balducci said work share programs are gaining momentum with employers nationally because it gives them flexibility during an economic downturn. Instead of laying off highly-trained, experienced employees—which may save employers money in the short term—they have the flexibility to reduce hours and maintain a specialized workforce, which ultimately benefits employers in the long term.

For an employer like Coombs, who has invested significant time and money in training top-rated cyber-security employees, the program gives him and his employees some breathing room.

“If I have to lay off people, I’m not going to 7-11 and find the talent, training and security level my clients expect. ... This business revolved around a qualified team of people,” Coombs said.

The Department of Workforce Development estimates work-share programs will save the unemployment reserve fund \$4.9 million.

“We almost got it passed in 2013 and look forward to success next year,” Barker said, adding that he remains optimistic the bill will pass in 2014.

“We will rally the troops next year,” Horejsi said. “We are energized by the prospects for success for this commonsense legislation.”




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McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of members of the McLean Community Players, Inc. will be held at the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia 22101 at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2013.

Agenda will include reports of officers, election of directors, and such other business as may properly come before the meeting.



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OPINION

Small Steps to Fight Homelessness

Efficiency apartments would serve 20-somethings, service workers, retirees and more.

One way to prevent homelessness is to think small.

It doesn't take much space to house one person. Sure, many houses in our area have 1,000 square feet and sometimes two or three times that much per person, but that's really not necessary.

In fact, 350 square feet can provide space for an excellent efficiency apartment for one person. We have certainly heard a variety of anecdotes about apartments in New York City that are smaller than 150 square feet, and expensive to boot.

A proposal in Fairfax County would allow for the construction of efficiency apartments in a variety of settings, each one subject to approval individually. Efficiency apartments near public transportation could provide reasonably priced housing not just for individuals at risk of being homeless, but also for recent college graduates, for service workers and older folks who don't want or can't afford to stay in single family homes when they retire.

The move to smaller apartments and condos close to jobs, shopping and public trans-

portation is a national trend. Fairfax County needs to move forward with a flexible proposal to allow construction of efficiency apartments in certain settings, and compatible with existing neighborhoods.

Some neighborhood associations are concerned about the proposal. They envision buildings poised to build many apartment buildings filled with nothing but tiny apartments or single family homes split up into small apartment complexes.

There is no chance of such an outcome. The proposed amendment does not allow single family homes to be converted into efficiency apartments.

In fact, as a county, we would be very lucky if this proposal resulted in any efficiency apartments being built at all. The current restrictions are such that developers are unlikely to find incentive to build.

The proposed amendment requires that RSUs "shall be designed so as to be compatible with any existing development on the lot in terms of intensity, uses and scale. Additionally, the development shall be harmonious with

the development on neighboring properties in terms of character, building size, height, intensity and use."

Jeans Day

Jeans Day, coming Oct. 18, is a simple way to fight homelessness, designed for companies and their employees to make a difference.

In partnership with the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and Apple Federal Credit Union, the Connection Newspapers is a sponsor of the 3rd Annual Jeans Day to Put the ZIP on Homelessness, scheduled for Friday, Oct. 18.

Employees are allowed to wear jeans to work on Friday, Oct. 18, (Jeans Day) in exchange for a \$5 employee contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. Companies and organizations are encouraged to match employee contributions, but a match is not required. Companies and organizations that sign up by Sept. 20 will get extra exposure.

Sign up for Jeans Day 2013: Putting the ZIP on Homelessness at <http://jeansday2013.eventbrite.com/>.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why They Are Tired in the Morning?

To the Editor:

In "Later Start Times for High School" [The Connection, Sept. 4-20, 2013] all the facts that you cite are 100 percent correct but you failed to point out exactly why our children are so tired in the early morning hours. The answer is very simple — they don't go to bed early enough to get a good night's rest. It's as simple as that! When I was a high school student I went to bed at 9 p.m. and got up at 5:30 a.m. — eight and one-half hours sleep. Of course today's students can't do this because it would mean missing the late evening TV shows and doing the other the things they do until some crazy late hour. You write that students are getting less than five hours sleep and having to get up at 5:30 a.m.— this means they are going to bed at midnight. Is something wrong with that picture?

I am sending this message to Judith Owens, MD, director of Sleep Medicine at Children's National Medical Center to get her response.

Dixon Hemphill
Fairfax Station

Knowledge Is Power

To the Editor:

It's that time of year, when Labor Day passes and school traffic schedules take effect. In the midst of the post-summer hassle and bustle, September also begs our nation to reflect on a memory that still seems surreal. Coverage of the crumbling Twin Towers, debris, chaos, terror—seemed like a scene from an action movie and not something I should have been watching on the local news channel. Changed forever by this modern era Pearl Harbor, I have struggled to understand why and how. Over the course of the last 13 years I have also been forced to address the correlation of tragedy and terror with Islam. Being an American Ahmadi Muslim, I live the true teaching of Islam. The essence of my faith, Islam, which means peace in Arabic, can be captured in one phrase: "Love for all, Hatred for None" (the motto of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community).

America is called the land of the brave, so who is afraid of the unknown? Are we a society that is confined by stereotypes? Or are we willing to seek the truth? During an address, His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad, worldwide spiritual leader of the Ahmadiyya Mus-

lim Community said, "In order to see a religion's beauties or defects, justice requires that you should make its teachings or its holy scripture the anvil by which to judge it, otherwise everyone would accuse every other faith willy-nilly." On this anniversary of a scarring event, September 11th, take a vow to know more and dig a little deeper to uncover the truth. Make an effort to reignite the understanding and tolerance this country was founded upon.

Maliha Amjed Ahmed
Herndon

Believing in Miracles

To the Editor:

Over the past several months my daughter and I have been reading Kenneth B. Lourie's article about his cancer. We have been praying for him and encouraged by his strength. So many people struggle and never are able to put into words what they are dealing with each day. We are Christians and want so much to encourage him. Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for life now and eternity when we leave this earth. The Lord loves him and wants to comfort him as no earthly person can. For God so loved the world that He gave His

only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

Please pass this on to him. We are not on Facebook or Twitter and did not know how to reach him. Thank you so much because our hearts are burdened for him and his family. We want him to know that people are praying for him and encouraged for a healing as well.

God still does miracles. One may even be trusting in the One who saves!

Jim, Sheila, Beth and Ellie McCloskey
Herndon

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9441
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com
[@AMcVeighConnect](https://twitter.com/AMcVeighConnect)

Victoria Ross
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Trisha Hamilton
Display Advertising
703-778-9419
trisha@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



News

Used Book Sale Returns Sept. 20-22

The 44th annual AAUW event to be held at the McLean Community Center.

The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold the 44th AAUW Annual Used Book Sale at the McLean Community Center, Friday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 21 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and, Sunday, Sept. 22 from noon to 4 p.m.

The AAUW Book Sale is well stocked with tens of thousands of books plus hundreds of musical CDs as well as DVDs of television series and movies. Recent editions of histories, including many military histories, biographies, political analyses, as well as gardening, health, general literature and business and economics books are abundant. All travel books have been published between 2009 and 2013. There is also an assortment of treasured collectibles and



A photo from the last year's book sale: The many thousands of individual books and CDs and DVDs have been well sorted and will be displayed in clearly labeled and logical categories.

special art books, a huge and complete collection of mystery stories, lots of children's and general interest adult books.

The McLean Area AAUW is grateful for the ongoing support of the SunTrust Bank East Vienna which has provided facilities to allow AAUW volunteers to spend thousands of hours receiving, sorting and temporarily storing the more than 1,500 boxes of books, CDs and DVDs received this year and also thanks the McLean Community Center.

You can easily find the items you want because the many thousands of individual books and CDs and DVDs have been well sorted and will be displayed in clearly labeled and logical categories. A bonus for attendees will be the raffling of special baskets. Sunday noon to 4 p.m. entire bags of books will be sold at huge discounts by the bag.

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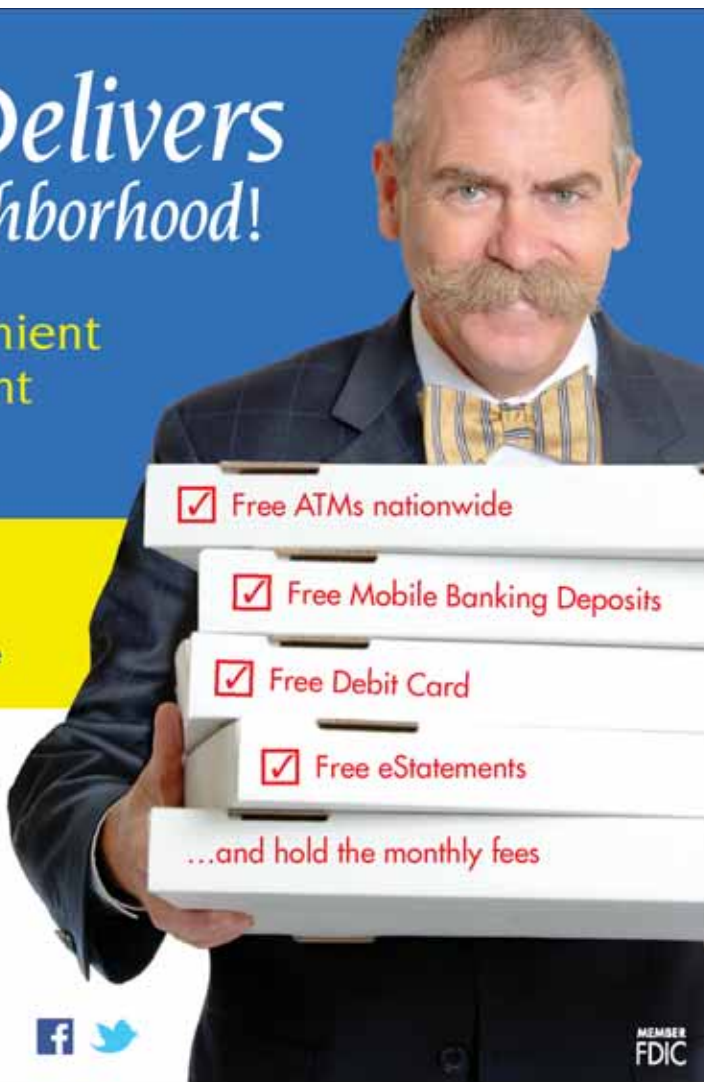
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Pear Tree Cottage is celebrating its 5th anniversary with a completely new look and a store-wide sale! Everything is between 25% and 80% off from Friday September 13th through Sunday September 22nd. New merchandise will be arriving throughout the sale period.

Check us out in Money & Washingtonian magazines this month and see what all the buzz is about!

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/ SEPT. 11-OCT. 4

Artists Atelier Exhibit: Carol Howard and Lisa Tureson.
Reception Saturday, Sept. 28, noon-4 p.m., at The Artists Atelier, 1144 Walker road, Suite G, Great Falls. Meet the artists at the reception and view Tureson and Howard's work highlighting contrast as seen in both artists' style.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 11

ZZ Top. 8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Texas band brings its unique blues-rock sound and rock anthems such as "La Grange" and "Gimmie All Your Lovin'" to Wolf Trap. \$30-\$45. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

Oil Painting Demonstration. 7:30 p.m., at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Suzanne Clifford-Clark, who has a studio at Lorton's Workhouse Art Center, demonstrates her layering technique of painting landscapes in oils at the Vienna Arts Society's September meeting. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Heather Maloney. 8 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The sincere singer-songwriter plays with Naked Blue and Dean Fields. \$12. jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 12-29

Home of Distinction Tour. Thursdays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays noon-5 p.m., with parking at The Surge Community Church, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean Thursdays and



For parents looking for an alternative to computer games for their children: toy trains are real objects that children can learn to put together and operate. See what they're all about at the Vienna Train Show at the Vienna Firehouse Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

All Aboard! for the Vienna Train Show

Children are engineers and adults are at the throttle at the Vienna Firehouse Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. during the Vienna Train Show, where an operating layout with three engines running simultaneously and 58 tables of trains for sale including Lionel, American Flyer, HO, N plus train accessories are all competitively priced.

Find train repair and parts dealers, the "Train Doctor" to fix broken trains, door prizes, free train appraisals and more. Admission is \$5 or free for children under 12, Scouts in uniform and military with proper identification.

Fridays; Saturdays and Sundays at Longfellow Middle School. See a McLean-area ABC 7 Home of Distinction. \$10 tours, proceeds benefit Easter Seals Veteran Staffing Network program.

invited to view and purchase a variety of train-related merchandise and service. \$5; free for children under 12, scouts in uniform, and military with proper identification.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Vienna Train Show. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. Children and adults are

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m. to noon, at American Legion Post 180, 330

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 10

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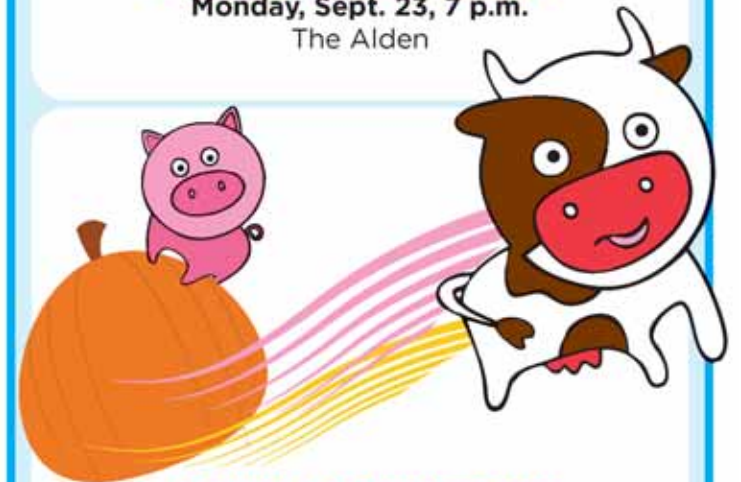
Peter McCory and the One-Man Band

Wednesday, Sept. 25

MCC Governing Board
Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole & Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget
Monday, Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Studio Rep Company Auditions For 9th-12th Graders

Monday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
The Alden



Harvest Happenings

Saturday, Sept. 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
\$5 per person/Free infants to 36 months

The Alden's McLean Kids Series
ArtsPower's production of "The Little Engine that Could Earns Her Whistle"


Saturday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m.
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PUBLIC NOTICE


**McLean Community Center
Governing Board**

Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget
(July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015)
**Follows the Finance Committee
Meeting of the Whole**

Monday, Sept. 16, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Copies of the draft budget proposal will be available during the committee meeting and public hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the Center's address (shown below,) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to feedback@mcleancenter.org. Written comments must be received prior to the Governing Board's regular September meeting, on Wednesday, September 25 at 7:30 p.m.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

Center St., N., Vienna. Enjoy a full breakfast while you meet your neighbors; on the menu are: omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon and all the fixings. Adults \$8, children \$3. 703-938-1379.

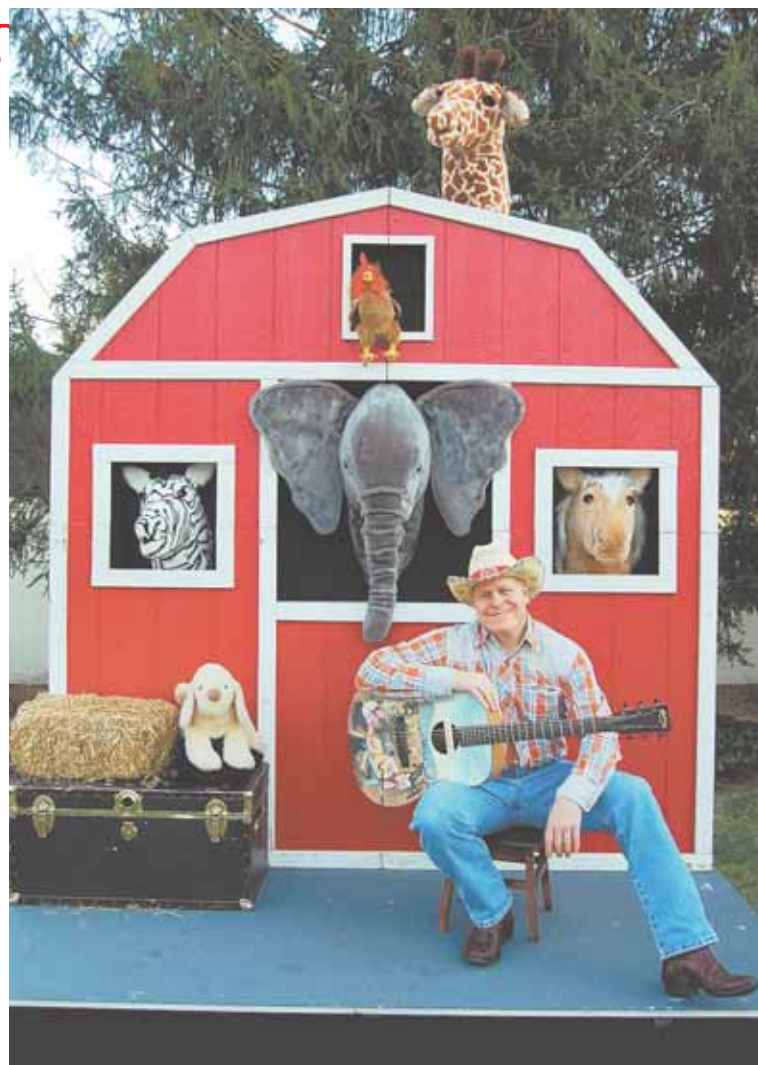
FRIDAY/SEPT. 20

Encaustic Art Talk. 7-9 p.m., at the Emerson Gallery at McLean Project for the Arts, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Susanne K. Arnold gives an art talk on her three dimensional encaustic techniques. <http://www.mpaart.org/exhibitionsfutr.php>.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Encaustic Art Workshop. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Susan B. DuVal studio at MPA, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Artist Susanne K. Arnold works with artists interested in the medium of encaustic, or hot wax and pigment, also using charcoal, tools and brushes to create works on panels; bring additional paper, tools, pastels, collage material, if desired, and a smock. \$60 per person (max of 10). info@mpaart.org.

Painting Demonstration: Robert Thoren. 1-4 p.m., at Color Wheel Gallery 65, 1374 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Robert Thoren presents a painting demonstration and talk about painting and the "En Plein Air" artistic process. He will be demonstrating the painting process from initial drawing, to blocking in, to refinement and completion. 703-356-6345, X165.



Kidsinger Jim performs at the McLean Community Center's Harvest Happenings festival Saturday, Sept. 28, where amusement and carnival games, arts and crafts, pumpkins galore and food are the features.



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NEWS

McLean Author's Novel Premiers as Movie

FROM PAGE 4

Weinert said.

But McLean and its local flavor will once again feature heavily in Weinert's sequel, "Garage Sale Diamonds."

Her character Jennifer Shannon has once again resumed her favorite hobby. This time it leads her into possession of a cache of rare, valuable diamonds, and eventually she crosses paths with their owner.

"McLean's close proximity to the nation's capital, not to mention as the home of things like the CIA, gives us a certain vulnerability, and Jennifer is going to be thrown into the middle of some very explosive plans from some terrorists," Weinert said. "It's another psychological thriller, like the first one, where we also get glimpses into the mind of the terrorist, we see how he was brought up, and the circumstances that led him never to question authority, then he meets an American who opens his mind, and all of a sudden he's dealing with questions of his own."

Weinert said she enjoyed returning to her characters from the first novel, likening it to seeing old friends again.

"The second book lets the shoe drop a bit on other characters that weren't in the first one as much," she said. "Also, much like how I went deep into the world of garage sales and antiquing in the first book, this one required a lot of research into diamonds, the history of terrorism and even Islam itself."

THE MOVIE "Garage Sale Mystery" will air on Hallmark Saturday, Sept. 14 at 9 p.m. Eastern.

"Garage Sale Diamonds" is currently available online in paperback and e-book. Weinert will also do a book-signing event at The Artisans in the Langley Shopping Center on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Artisans is located at 1368 Chain Bridge Road in McLean. It currently has copies of "Garage Sale Stalker" on the shelves, and will stock "Garage Sale Diamonds" after Weinert's Sept. 28 event.

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SPORTS

Oakton defeated Langley 2-0 on Monday, Sept. 9 in a matchup of undefeated field hockey teams.



PHOTO BY
STEVE PROSSER

Oakton Beats Langley in Matchup of Undefeated Teams

St. Louis, Prosser score goals for Cougars.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

While the Oakton field hockey team's toughest tests are still to come, the Cougars are playing like a group that will be ready when those challenges arrive.

Oakton defeated Langley 2-0 on Sept. 9 in a matchup of undefeated teams at Langley High School. The Cougars improved to 7-0 thanks to a first-half goal by junior Shelby St. Louis and a second-half goal by senior Jen Prosser.

Oakton opened the season by sweeping four games and winning its pool during the two-day Under the Lights Tournament at Lee High School on Aug. 26 and 27. The Cougars beat Osbourn Park and T.C. Williams the first day and followed with wins against Mount Vernon and Lee during the second. Oakton also beat Woodson and Madison prior to Monday's win over Langley.

The Cougars beat Osbourn Park 3-1 in the season opener and have not allowed a goal since, outscoring opponents 17-1.

"I could not be more proud of my girls," second-year Oakton head coach Kaitlin Fleischmann said after Monday's victory. "They're extremely coachable. They go out and they do everything we ask of them."

OAKTON will host South County, last season's region runner-up, on Wednesday, Sept. 11 and will open conference play at home against 2012 region champion Westfield on Sept. 26. Prosser said the Cougars are hoping to improve before conference play comes around. Oakton competes in 6A North's Conference 5 after the VHSL's six-class realignment, which contains the same six teams which competed in the former Concorde District—Centreville, Chantilly, Herndon, Oakton, Robinson and Westfield.

"We have had a bit of an easier schedule," Prosser said. "Concorde District play is about to get really

tough, but I think we're ready for it and this is a great start. ... When people [say], oh, you're 7-0, you're doing great, [I say], no, we could be doing better. We could be scoring more goals, we could be talking better [or] making better passes. We really need to use these as chances to improve. It's not necessarily the win; it's how we get the win—making them good so that we can still get them when we're playing against tougher opponents."

Fleischmann said junior midfielder Jackie Toye, senior goalkeeper Sophie Donohue and Prosser have been standouts for the Cougars.

LANGLEY entered Monday having won its first five games by a combined score of 18-1. After beating Lake Braddock in their season opener, the Saxons

won the Herndon tournament by defeating Yorktown, Battlefield, Marshall and Madison. After the strong start, Langley went eight days without a game before facing Oakton.

"I thought Oakton did a great job," Langley head coach Jennifer Robb said. "They have several good players and the big thing is they played very well together as a team. ... I think it was a hard week for us. We had a long

break off and, unfortunately, haven't had an opportunity to get a lot of time on our turf, and our passes just weren't up to what we're capable of."

This is Langley's first season with home games on turf and Robb said the Saxons are still adjusting to the surface.

Robb said junior goalkeeper Brittony Trumbull, sophomore forward Halle Duenkel, who had seven goals during the Herndon tournament, and senior forward Lizzie Rollman have played well for Langley.

"This is one game and there's a long season ahead of us," Robb said. "We were very fortunate that we did very well early on, but we've got a lot of things going forward. ... We've got a lot of offensive talent. We've got to work to put it together consistently every day. ... There's a strong season ahead for these girls. If we can build upon what we did in the Herndon tournament and make sure we come out here consistently and play, they're capable of great things."

Langley will travel to face Hayfield at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Marshall's Haight Places Second at Monroe Parker

Marshall harrier MacKenzie Haight finished runner-up at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 7, recording a time of 15 minutes, 5 seconds.

Haight finished 22 seconds behind meet winner Louis Colson of Edison, who crossed the finish line in 14:43.

Madison's Matthew Calem placed fifth with a time of 15:20.

Chantilly finished first in the team competition with a score of 88. Patriot finished runner up with a total of 121, followed by Robinson at 144.

Marshall finished 14th with 356. South Lakes took 19th with 446. The Seahawks' top finisher was Andrew McCool, who finished 42nd with a time of 16:20. Madison finished 20th with a total of 460.

Langley came in 23rd with a total of 640. The Saxons' top finisher was Alessandro Shapiro, who finished 118th with a time of 17:20. McLean took 26th with a total of 762. The Highlanders were led by David Russell, who finished 114th (17:17).

In girls' action, West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta finished first with a time of 16:58. Madison's Amanda Swaak placed fourth (17:57).

Lake Braddock captured the team title with a total of 159. Madison finished second (163) and Chantilly (171) placed third.

South Lakes finished fourth with a total of 185, led by Monica Lannen, who finished 20th in 18:57. Marshall (333) finished 14th, led by Olivia Martin (19th, 18:53). Langley (697) finished 23rd, led by Mikayla Allen (98th, 20:43).

Langley Football Beats Yorktown

The Langley football team won its season opener on Sept. 6, beating Yorktown 35-28 at Langley High School.

Yorktown finished 12-1 and reached the Division 5 Northern Region championship game each of the last two seasons. The Patriots had not lost a regular season game since 2010.

Langley's Tyler West rushed for 278 yards and two touchdowns. Quarterback Nick Casso passed for 164 yards, rushed for



PHOTO BY Ed LULL

Marshall's MacKenzie Haight placed second at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 7.

92 and totaled three touchdowns.

Langley will host Stone Bridge at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.

McLean Football Falls to W-L

The McLean football team dropped its season opener to Washington-Lee, 14-11, on Sept. 6. The Highlanders will host Marshall at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.

Marshall Loses To Wakefield

The Marshall football team lost to Wakefield on Sept. 6, 19-9.

The Statesmen (0-1) are looking for their first win since 2011.

Marshall will travel to face McLean at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.

Herndon Edged by Mount Vernon

The Herndon football team lost its season opener to Mount Vernon, 19-17, on Sept. 6.

The Hornets will travel to face West Springfield at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.

South Lakes Drops Opener At Westfield

The South Lakes football team opened the 2013 season with a 45-7 home loss to Westfield.

The Seahawks will travel to face Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Green Paradise, LLC trading as New Grand Mart, 6326 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22044.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Lydia Lee, Director
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Northern Virginia Deli and Restaurant Corp. trading as Deli Italiano, 9911 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises/Delivery Permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Yasser Baslios, Member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC trading as Thaiphoo, 1301 S. Joyce St, #D4, Arlington, VA 22202.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises, Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Vinal Kulnarong, Managing Member of V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC
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21 Announcements

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Weatherization ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING

PURSUANT to 42 U.S.C.6851 et seq., 42 U.S.C. et seq., and 10 CFR 440, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) hereby announces its intention to hold a Public Hearing to receive comments from interested persons regarding the draft 2013 State Plan for weatherization assistance to low-income persons.

A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, September 16, 2013 from 10:00am until 11:00 a.m. in Conference Room 12 South on the 12th floor of DHCD's offices at 600 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia. Please contact Brett Jackson at (804) 371-7112 to receive a copy of the draft application prior to the hearing. Written comments regarding this proposed plan may be received until 5:00 p.m., September 13, 2013 and should be addressed to:

VA Department of Housing and Community Development
Attention: Nancy Palmer
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219
Nancy.Palmer@dhcd.virginia.gov

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Caroline Henning Divone, devoted wife of Charles and loving mother of Sophia and George passed from this world peacefully at home in her husband's arms on Friday, September 6th after a courageous battle with cancer at the age of 48. She was born in Stockholm, Sweden and lived in Great Falls, Virginia. Caroline received her B.A., M.A. and doctorate in Psychology from Pepperdine University. Prior to the birth of her children, she worked in private practice in Los Angeles where she counseled abused and neglected children and long-term substance abusers, the Marlboro Psychiatric Center in Marlboro, NJ, where she treated and counseled an inpatient population with severe psychiatric conditions and the Institute for Family Centered Care, a non-profit health care advocacy organization in Bethesda, MD. Caroline also worked as a Court Appointed Special Advocate in Montgomery County, MD, a volunteer advocacy program for the placement of abused and neglected children in safe, permanent homes.

Caroline worked as a volunteer after the birth of her children. She held several positions in the Great Falls Elementary PTA including President running many successful fund raising events. Caroline was a swim team representative at her club Trump National and a class leader in the Apple Blossom Chapter of the National Charity League, a national mother/daughter philanthropy organization. An avid tennis player, Caroline played on the Lowes Island Club and Trump National tennis team for many years and USTA teams compiling an astounding winning percentage. Her family was the center and focus of her life. She was dearly loved by so many in her community because of her warm smile, open heart, compassion and willingness to help others.

Caroline leaves to cherish his memory her husband of 16 years, Chuck; two children, Sophia (13) and George (10); brother, Nilas Henning of Carpinteria, CA; mother, Sofi Henning of Santa Barbara, CA; mother-in-law Eileen Divone Delaney (Jerry) of Juno Beach, FL; brother-in-law Paul Divone (Carolyn) of New York, NY; Aunts Elise Koelsch of Santa Barbara, CA and Camilla Nygren (Otto) of Sweden; cousins Richard Burton (Tamara), Sharlene Koelsch, Sofia Nygren and Pontus Nygren; the Widen family, many relatives in Sweden, countless loving friends, many tennis partners and teammates. A funeral service will be held at 11 am on Friday, September 13, 2013 at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, VA 20190. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to the Melanoma Research Foundation, PO Box 759329, Baltimore, MD 21275 (www.melanoma.org) or the Maddie James Foundation, www.maddiejamesfoundation.org. Additional information and condolences at www.adamsgreen.com.

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-Werner
Heisenberg

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Now This is What



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Do nothing (no more treatment) and live life to the fullest (for as long as I'm able, and right now, I'm extremely able); start another chemotherapy protocol – with an I.V. chemotherapy drug which, according to my oncologist, has not been proven in any clinical setting to be better than the patient doing nothing; or, try to get into a Study (Phase 1, 2 or 3) at either N.I.H. (National Institutes of Health) or Johns Hopkins (in Baltimore) and let the treatment chips fall wherever experimental/research medicine takes them. This is what my oncologist discussed with Team Lourie at my most recent appointment, my first appointment with him since my hospitalization and subsequent release.

It was my decision, of course. My oncologist, as he has opted to do so in the past when similar treatment options have been considered, tried to remain neutral, yet informative and responsive to our questions. He did offer up some personal opinions/assessments when we pressed him which turned out, oddly enough, to be contrary to mine. His feeling was, if he was the patient (and feeling as good I do), that he'd forgo any additional treatment – conventional or otherwise, and “take as many vacations as possible.” As compelling as his extremely honest answer was, I/we decided not to give up quite yet and instead I authorized him to make inquiries about getting me into a Study at one of the preeminent research facilities in the world: National Institutes of Health, especially considering they're located approximately 30 minutes by car from my home.

In conjunction with this decision, I am also going to recommit myself to a more non-traditional, immune system-boosting/heal-thyself-type dietary pursuit that for the past four-and-a-half years has not – in total – been a part of my anti-cancer lifestyle: juicing organic fruits and vegetables, very specifically to include wheat grass and carrots; ingesting a drop or two of hemp oil per day and Berry Green (another super food/super healer: nutrient-rich and loaded with antioxidants); none of which is of course FDA-approved. Nevertheless, if my life is to go on (and I feel as if it should – duh!), it feels like now is the time to ramp up, especially considering the admission by my oncologist that he as no more anti-cancer drugs that he feels offer any real hope in stabilizing/shrinking my tumors and/or reducing/preventing the inevitable fluid build-up common with my diagnosis. Unsettling, sort of, after 54 months, but after assimilating and digesting his news/medical opinions, I view this more as an opportunity. The doctors have done what they can do – responsibly, ethically; now it's time for me to do what I can do.

Certainly I'll have lots of questions – and anxiety – moving forward, but if I indeed want to move forward and live, repeating the past seems unlikely to be the answer (and quite frankly, after enduring multiple lines of chemotherapy already, the protocols actually don't allow it). I think I'm ready for the change, though (what choice do I have, really?); scared of course, but eager for the challenge. I've lived this long – post-diagnosis, against all odds (or so I was told originally); I'd like to think (hope certainly) that I can live a little bit longer.

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

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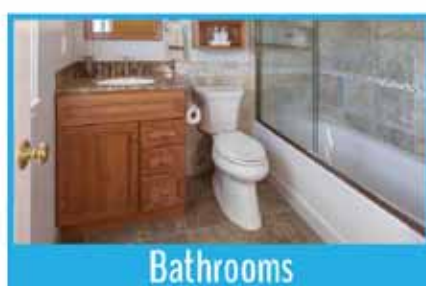
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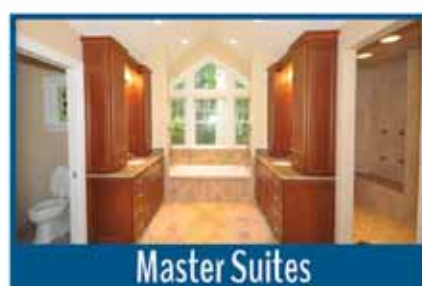
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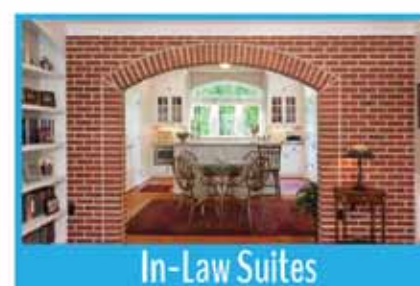
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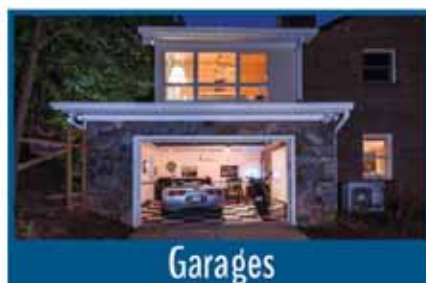
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NVAR Summit at GMU's Mason Inn

Complex shortage of homes for sale likely to persist.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Nationally syndicated columnist and moderator Kenneth R. Harney introduced the expert panel for the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) 17th annual Economic Summit Thursday morning, Sept. 5.

Dr. David Crowe, chief economist and senior vice president of the National Association of Home Builders, joined economic experts David E. Versel, a senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis, and Dr. Lawrence Yun, senior economist for the National Association of Realtors. The panel addressed a full house — representing the nearly 10,000 realtor and “affiliate business members” that comprise the NVAR — on issues they believe best explain the current housing market and outlook, for both northern Virginia and the United States as a whole.

Though none could offer any “silver bullet” solutions to address all their concerns for housing, all agreed that growth in the market within a genuinely rebounding economy is sustainable, if only at a slower rate than the last year.

HARNEY, WHOSE COLUMN “The Nation’s Housing” appears in The Washington Post and in syndication, opened the program on a positive note, praising the “fortunate” market of the last year. And the increased sales, listings and home prices, he said, are demonstrative of a second, more generally sustainable phase of economic rebound that should give buyers and sellers alike hope.

But Harney was also quick to follow with qualifications and caveats to the optimism. “It may vary where you are,” he said, “but as far as I can tell, the entry-level buyer is still missing in action. They’re out there, but



Members of the Northern Virginia Realtors Association filled the conference hall at the Mason Inn on the campus of George Mason University for the 17th Annual NVAR Economic Summit.

they face hurdles. Student debt load is a big issue. And the job market is a huge constraint for the first-time buyer.”

VERSEL WAS THE FIRST PANELIST to speak, giving more detail regarding past, present and future economic forces in the DC metropolitan area as they relate to housing. A major concern for Northern Virginia is the decline in federal jobs and federal procurement. His data show a continuation of the trends, with one example being a \$14 billion decrease in spending from 2010 to 2017.

“There’s no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam,” Versel said. “That said, we’re not Detroit. We haven’t been a one-horse town for the last 30 to 40 years. For example, Fairfax County has attracted Volkswagen North American Headquarters. We have that base of brainpower, and hopefully that’s leading into a new generation of economic growth.”

Versel sees a steady increase in building permits as a positive marker. Between 2012 and 2017, he forecasts 55,000 new jobs

being created in the housing industry, which should come as a package with increased construction and greater inventory.

Lack of inventory, Versel explained, is a key impediment to the more rapid strengthening of the market. Families or individuals looking to trade up have fewer options to do so, and first-time or entry-level buyers have fewer options to become involved at all. Versel attributes this mainly to the vast amount of homeowners in northern Virginia between the ages of 45 and 64.

“Nearly half of all homeowners in this region are in the Baby Boomer demographic,” he said. “Let that wash over you for a second.” Versel cited data from the 2010 Census.

“That’s in no small part why inventory remains a problem,” Versel continued. “They don’t want to retire, they don’t plan to retire. Some of it is financial and some of it is lifestyle: ‘I’m not old, I’m never going to get old, and I’m living here forever.’ They’re probably going to stay in these places for another 20 to 30 years. For younger people who want to buy houses in

those areas, unless you have new construction, there just isn’t any inventory to purchase.”

CROWE ECHOED HARNEY’S call out of the missing entry-level buyers, citing national survey data from University of Michigan studies, among others. “No matter what market you’re in, the larger picture does matter. The government is going to react to what the rest of the economy’s going to do.”

Crowe said lifestyle choices — children of Baby Boomers moving in with their parents and deferring marriage, childbirth, etc. — and economic insecurity had and continue to have profound influence on household creation.

“We’re in store for enormous pent up demand,” said Crowe. “When people don’t know what their future’s going to be,” they’re less likely to move out of their parents’ basements, get divorced, have more children, etc. “That’s why we had such a surplus of houses. We didn’t build too many houses — people stopped moving out. That’s coming back again.”

During the last housing peak, Crowe said household creation at the national level was 1.4 million annually. In the slump, that figure dipped to half a million. According to Crowe, it should be at about 1.2 million.

With the slow but now steady growth of the national housing market — contributing a three percent out of a more ideal six percent to GDP — Crowe is optimistic more and more of this pent of demand will emerge as entry-level sales. But there are still potential lags: availability of credit can be limiting and discouraging, the cost of building materials is increasing.

YUN ALSO STRESSED the importance of job creation in helping prop up the missing entry-level segment. He specifically referenced students who, whether they “over-borrowed” or not, collectively feel the weight of loan debut. “What will most help them pay off debt or buy a home,” he said, “is really jobs. If they have jobs, student

SEE NVAR, PAGE 7

Home Tour Raises Funds for Easter Seals Veteran Staffing Network

Easter Seals presents the Home of Distinction by Sidd Kashyap Custom Home Builder. This home will showcase the latest in building products and design trends during the public tour, which will raise funds for the Veteran Staffing Network.

The home, located on Kirby Road in McLean, will be open for tour Sept. 12-29, Thursdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sundays from noon-5 p.m. The tickets are \$10 at the door or \$8 online with 100 percent of the proceeds going to Easter Seals.

Tour guests are asked to park at The Surge Community Church at 1988 Kirby Road on Thursdays and Fridays. Saturdays and Sundays, visitors will park at Longfellow Middle School, 2000 Westmoreland St. A free shuttle

will take them to and from the home each day.

The Home of Distinction is a 9,200-square-foot brick and stone, Energy Star Qualified, luxury home with three levels and sits on a 0.6 acre lot on Kirby Road. The home contains a master suite on the upper level in addition to three upper level bedroom suites, a main level master suite and a lower level bedroom. The home features floor to ceiling windows in the family room, living room, morning room, master bedroom and master bathroom. Architectural ceilings are also provided in select rooms of the home.

Visit <http://homeofdistinction.com> and click on Washington DC.



Artist rendering of the Easter Seals' Home of Distinction in McLean. Tours run Sept. 12-29 and will raise funds for Veteran Staffing Network.

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HomeLifeStyle

Top-to-Bottom Makeover Embraces Longterm Horizons

The Hollis family wanted a house that would work better today — and long into the future.

By JOHN BYRD

Sometimes it's not limited square footage that makes a house feel inadequate — it's how that square footage is configured.

Take, for example, the circa 1970s Vienna split-level Andre and Katy Hollis purchased in 2005. With more than 3,200 square feet of living space that included four bedrooms, three bathrooms and a large family room, most would consider the house sufficient — even enviable — as the primary home for a family of four.

True, the previous owners had been empty-nesters, which partly explained why there was a soaking tub instead of a shower in an upstairs bathroom allocated to two pre-teen boys.

Still, the structure's two-level main block seemed to have capacity to spare. There was a guest room; a full bathroom on the first floor; a home office.

In fact, it was the lack of need for changes that had prompted the Hollis' to buy the house in the first place.

But while recuperating from an accident a few years ago, Katy Hollis began to reassess. "I decided that I really like our neighborhood and that we could stay in the house indefinitely. But I also saw that I had been ignoring a lot of things that didn't work for us. And the shortcomings were even more obvious when I looked ahead."

All of this sounded familiar to Mindy Mitchell, the Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist at Sun Design Remodeling Katy Hollis called in to talk over some ideas.

"In the last two decades, designers have learned a lot about how to customize a traditional production house floorplan for longterm use," Mitchell said. "Size is less important than how rooms are purposed and configured. The goal is to create a plan that will logically support priorities."

As discussions with Mitchell evolved, Katy Hollis unveiled her larger agenda. To make the house more functional for both current and foreseeable needs, the home-

owner envisioned a series of focused revisions: a spacious first floor bedroom; a gourmet kitchen; television-viewing that's not in the midst of other entertainment zones; a guest suite with dedicated bath; an indoor-outdoor segue to the beautifully wooded backyard.

The new plan had to serve a variety of concurrent scenarios. There should be beautifully articulated front-facing rooms that would support the occasional dinner party. They needed a family gathering area for daily meals and everyday interaction. The new kitchen should be equipped with a gas range, a wine refrigerator and generous food preparation surfaces.

"I found it reassuring to talk about the house as a place we might occupy 30 years from now," Katy Hollis said. "I thought that we probably had the necessary square footage to make the changes I had in mind, but there were many space planning considerations we needed to work out carefully."

Certainly, the current plan was problematic.

The entryway foyer was flanked by an L-shaped galley kitchen to the left and a family room four steps down on the right.

One could proceed to the back of the house from the galley kitchen to a rear dining room, or from the parallel foyer directly to

More

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a small sitting room adjacent to the dining room.

The arrangement often led to bottlenecks. At parties, guests would circulate back to the family room after dinner creating traffic jams in the foyer.

Moreover, a promising view of the pretty backyard was hampered by undersized windows — which made the back of the house too dark.

SUCH PROBLEMS were equally apparent upstairs. The front-facing master bedroom suite was large enough — but the master bathroom could only be accessed through a closet/changing area, and the plan lacked a walk-in closet and privacy. Adding to the inconvenience, the only shower available for second floor guest room was one flight down, on the

ating the TV in the newly remodeled basement allowed us to fully convert the family room into a more formal living room and eliminate the marginally useful sitting room.

Freeing-up the 17-foot-by-8-foot sitting area in the back of the house, Mitchell and team next shifted the dining room to the front (across the foyer from the new living room), allocating 170 square feet in the rear for a gourmet kitchen and family dining area.

A course of large back windows now dramatically improves natural light availability and visual continuum.

THE CENTERPIECE of the new kitchen is an L-shaped food preparation and dining counter. The custom built-in provides seating for four, easy access to the butler's



Following an accident, the Hollis family decided to reconfigure their Vienna home for both improved day-to-to functioning, and long-term use. From left: Alex, Max, Katy and Andre in the newly remodeled family room.



The former galley kitchen offered few supports for inspired food preparation.



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS

Moving TV-viewing from the living room to an upgraded lower level has made the first floor far more functional while adding an element of privacy to the new master suite.

first floor.

"Our challenge was comprehensively re-imagining how space could be allocated while staying inside the envelope of the house," Mitchell said.

Interestingly, a decision to move TV-watching away from the front-facing family room set the reconfiguration process in motion.

"We saw the rooms in the front of the house as a suite that would better serve all formal entertainment needs," Mitchell said. "Situ-

pantry en route to the new dining room, and a critical leg in a work triangle that facilitates essential cooking and clean up tasks.

"It's much easier to both cook and tend to guests," Katy Hollis said. "The dining room, foyer and new living room are well-unified aesthetically; guests don't even need to see the kitchen."



BEFORE: Living Room

Re-purposing bedrooms and bathrooms also figured prominently in the makeover. Katy Hollis wanted both a guest room with dedicated bath and a larger, more private master bedroom suite.

"We had to scrutinize the footprint closely," Mitchell said. "Fortunately, there were first level utility rooms adjacent to the family room we could either delete or re-assign in our search for space to accommodate a first level master suite." Relocating an upstairs hall bath, thus, gave Mitchell

the option to move the laundry to the second floor. The former master bedroom suite now becomes the coveted guest quarters. A second floor corner bedroom has been transformed into a bathroom for the two boys complete with a double sink vanity.

With the laundry now out of the way, Mitchell and team re-deployed 300 square feet on the rear of the first level for a spacious and very private master bedroom suite that includes a master bath and generous walk-in closets.

A home office behind glass-facing French doors opens directly into the redecorated living room. The first level bath has been re-fashioned as a handsomely appointed guest powder room.

"It's a terrific solution in every detail," Katy Hollis said. "And knowing we've already made some solid decisions about the future is really quite satisfying."

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Home LifeStyle

Like Magic

New plan in built-out 1940s colonial gains vital square footage as young family looks ahead.

BY JOHN BYRD

In the end, a skillful spatial reconfiguration is like a deft magician's trick — you've seen it with your own eyes, but you still can't figure out how they did it.

"Really, I don't know how this plan created so much more usable space," Alexandria resident Alice Goulet said, discussing a recent reconfiguration to several rooms in the family's 1,800-square-foot center-hall Colonial.

"All the changes stayed within the house itself, yet there's much more capacity and openness."

Sarah Wolf, the designer at Foster Remodeling Solutions hired by Alice and Paul Goulet to find an alternate floorplan solution, is pleased with the outcome, too, but she's seen this before. She said that owners often think the only way to gain useable square footage is to build an addition.

"The real challenge to converting less into more," Wolf said, "is knowing where existing space is being wasted."

But to start at the beginning: the Goulets purchased this brick-clad circa 1940s three-bedroom house 10 years ago when Alice Goulet was expecting the couple's first child.



The master bath is articulated in Tuscan accents: natural clay tile combined with maple cabinet facings brushed in black stain; a tile wainscoting unifies the entire room including a spacious soaking tub.

As the family grew (there are now two girls and a boy — all under age 10), so, too, did the need to plan ahead. Starting in 2007, in fact, the Goulets hired Foster Remodeling on two occasions: first to finish the basement and enclose a porch; the sec-

ond time to design an eat-in kitchen.

One fact emerging in the earlier remodelings, however, seemed daunting relative to the future. Under city code, the Goulets learned, the amount of new construction that could be added to the exterior had already been maxed-out.

"That meant we were looking for more usable space inside the existing structure," Wolf explains. "And this is the real frontier in older close-in homes; it's interior space planning that has really revolutionized the way traditional homes are now being used."

Itemized as a "wish list," the Goulet's goals seemed simple enough. Alice Goulet wanted a soaking tub, and an upstairs location for the washer/dryer. Paul Goulet envisioned a large walk-in shower. Both sought more closet space and "elbow room" in the master suite — plus, a larger bathroom for the kids, a new place for the linen closet...

AND, STILL, there was this lingering question of: what next? Where could more space be found if needed?

"Initially, I found it hard to see how we were going to gain any usable space," Alice Goulet said. "The master suite was pretty built-out."

Specifically, previous owners had constructed a rear elevation two-level wing with the master bedroom on top accessible through a small bedroom in the main house. The suite itself was configured as an L-shaped sleeping area wrapping a shelled-in enclosure that included a wardrobe closet, a linen closet and a master bath.

"The adjacent room in the main house had become a sort of foyer and dressing area for the master suite," Alice Goulet said. "Since the walk-in-closet was immediately inside the bedroom door, the entrance to the bedroom often got pretty cluttered."

All that changed when Wolf went to work.

Exploring several budget variations, Wolf presented two plans: one that retained the

More

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existing space configuration as-is; a second option that "wipes the slate clean" — eliminating the "L" and reapportioning the suite into two parts: a rectangular sleeping area on the wing's eastern side; a walk-in closet and master bath positioned side-by-side on the room's western wall.

"We saw immediately how well the second plan worked," Alice Goulet said. "It makes the bedroom much more functional, and private."

While relocating a small linen closet was the only functional en suite deletion, Wolf's master bathroom layout finds the vital square footage needed for both a soaking tub and a walk-in shower.

The part of the floor previously occupied by the old bath now becomes a 36-square-foot walk-in closet complete with tray ceilings. The plan also reassigns the former suite foyer as the footprint for a new children's bathroom — which is now twice the size of its predecessor.

The real boon to Wolf's solution, though, is how well the new space works.

"The bedroom feels much larger," Alice Goulet said. "The narrow dressing zone has been eliminated. The whole room is open and airy."

Alice Goulet credits Wolf, too, with interior design that really differentiates the master suite's featured assets.

Choosing lighter reflective colors for wall surfaces, the new scheme draws out the brighter natural ambiance of a room that features east-facing French doors, a second window and a skylight.

A new teakwood custom-designed bed and headboard provides a suitably geometrical focal point to a room that is otherwise tranquilly elemental.

By contrast, the master bath is articulated in warm earthy Tuscan accents: natural clay tile combined with maple cabinet facings brushed in black stain; a tile wainscoting that unifies the entire room including a spacious soaking tub.

Alice Goulet said that most of the space planning and finishwork decisions were made at Foster Remodeling's showroom in Lorton.

"The showroom helped to made the process orderly," she said. "So many options inspire creativity."

Thinking ahead, the Goulets had the design team create stair access to a third floor attic, which they plan to eventually build-out as either their son's bedroom or a children's playroom.

"What we really appreciate about the incremental approach we've pursued with Foster is that it allows us to think everything through carefully," Alice Goulet said. "That really matters when you have a growing family."

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Sun Design Named One of U.S.'s Fastest Growing Private Companies

Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, Inc., of Fairfax, was named by Inc. Magazine as one of America's fastest-growing private companies. This is the fourth time the magazine has included Sun Design on its annual Inc.5000 list.

Sun Design was one of the Virginia companies to be included on the list this year.

Companies are chosen for the list based on their growth rate for the previous three years; Sun Design's revenue was up 9 percent over that period. A statement released by the magazine said, "The elite group you've now joined has, over the years, included companies such as Microsoft, Timberland, Vizio, Intuit, Jamba Juice, Oracle, and Zappos.com." The awards will be formally presented at The 32nd Annual Inc. 5000 Conference and Awards Ceremony, Oct. 10-12, 2013 at the Gaylord National.

Bob Gallagher, president of Sun Design, said, "Being recognized by Inc. Magazine for this national award four times is a great testimony to the success of our company, the creativity and drive of our entire team and our reputation as a company that clients love to work with. We're very pleased to be included among such great companies."

Sun Design, celebrating its 25th year, has been the recipient of dozens of industry awards. Each year, Sun Design shows off its work during a series of home tours and other special events. Visit www.sundesigninc.com or call 703-425-5588. Sun Design is located at 5795 B Burke Centre Parkway, in Burke.

NVAR

FROM PAGE 3



loans are not a problem. It's about job creation. We are creating jobs, but at a slow pace. This is hindering young people in the country."

But like all the panelists, Yun's presentation was peppered with plusses and minuses. A positive for employment seekers, as well as their potential employers, is the concept of "clustering," according to Yun. Clustering takes place when a sizable number of skilled workers congregate in a certain area and that attracts employers, which attracts more skilled workers.

Yun applauded the multi-skilled workforce in and around DC as "a clustering effect beginning to grow." He believes more businesses will be drawn to the workforce, independent of government, which could in turn help create more jobs in the region.

Finally, noting the rising population of renters, Yun implored the audience (to pass along to their clients) to be wary of inflation over the next year. "We may actually get a 6 percent mortgage next rate next year, if inflation rate pops out. It's something to watch carefully."

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Home LifeStyle Condo Renovations

As sales of condominiums grow, so does demand for luxury renovations.

More people are moving from leafy, sprawling suburbs to more urban areas, neighborhoods both in the city and in Northern Virginia that offer close proximity to restaurants, jobs, cultural activities and Metro.

Sales of condominiums in Northern Virginia are up, with growth in sales of condos outpacing both single-family homes and townhouses in the past year, according to the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors.

Both “echo boomers” (30-and-under) and retiring baby boomers want smaller homes near public transportation, shopping and workplaces, driving up the demand for condominiums, Lisa Sturtevant, deputy director of GMU’s Center for Regional Analysis reported to NVAR in March.

With the growth in demand for condominiums comes growth in demand for condominium renovations.

One local company BOWA, a residential remodel and construction firm based in McLean, is responding to that trend by bringing on a new project leader, Mark Miller, with expertise in condo remodeling and commercial construction. Miller and BOWA say they are responding to the demand to push the boundaries of luxury condo transformation.



Mark Miller

JOE PARISI PHOTOGRAPHY

Most upscale condominium buyers will select a location where they want to live first, and then search for a condo to buy, said Miller, who is an Arlington resident, often in older buildings.

“Condos come in all different sizes and flavors,” Miller said. “Years ago people didn’t even think of renovating a condo.”

People moving from larger suburban homes often are not satisfied with the smaller room sizes, utilitarian kitchens and cramped bathrooms that are typical of many condominiums.

“But now we can change the footprint from smaller rooms to open layouts,” Miller said, creating room for luxurious kitchens open to spacious entertaining areas, luxurious bathrooms, audio/visual spaces and even outdoor spaces.

When renovating a condominium, Miller says they see some very demanding cooks. “They want high-end appliances. ... What clients want for their finishes is high end residential.”

“Ten years ago, it was not even possible to produce that environment in a condo.”

Some clients are renovating even in brand new buildings. “People will buy two units and combine them. Sometimes they are looking for different space than the [condo developers] are willing to do,” Miller said.

RENOVATING CONDOMINIUMS is fundamentally different than renovating a single-family home, and it requires very different expertise, even if the desired outcome inside might look similar.



This remodeled Chevy Chase condominium kitchen included a sleek kitchen with ample storage.



This BOWA-remodeled master bath illustrates the recent trend for all-white bathrooms.



This renovated kitchen gained storage and space saving features.

More

Contact BOWA’s McLean office at 703-734-9050 or see www.bowa.com for more information.

“It’s a completely different animal,” Miller said. The permitting and approval process is far more stringent, requiring commercial standards in many cases.

“The normal renovation process is completely different in a condominium building. The structural systems are different,” Miller said. “The stakes are so much higher.”

In a condominium renovation, you might have 10 very close neighbors who are concerned about noise. Just the installation of a dryer vent is likely to require a permit. Delivery of building materials and taking care of debris are more complex. Tapping into the heating and hot water systems in a condominium building requires different expertise than most single-family home builders have.

Miller recommends that anyone planning to buy a condo to renovate consult an experienced condo remodeler before they buy.

An experienced company can help guide the design with a realistic sense of what they actually can do and what sort of budget the project would require, can help with the permitting process.

“By understanding what’s possible, we can come in very early, so if someone is contemplating a purchase, we can evaluate ‘is this one remodeling friendly?’ By getting on board early with a customer we can avoid some of the pitfalls,” Miller said. “We can offer some design ideas for some things they haven’t even thought of.”

Renovating a condo is completely different, but it doesn’t have to be bad, he said. You can create “brand new luxurious space out of something that wasn’t that way before.”



This renovation features custom woodwork and built-ins to maximize space.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOB NAROD PHOTOGRAPHY/BOWA