

The originals, Jim Dunne and Joe Murphy, friends and neighbors for more than 50 years, pictured during the Dunn-Loring Woods 51st annual block party Saturday, Sept. 7. Murphy started the first block party in 1962, and Dunne carried on the tradition for several decades.

A Family Affair

NEWS, PAGE 4

Koi Bring a Bit of Japan to Vienna

NEWS, PAGE 2

Saving Jobs in Hard Times

NEWS, PAGE 3

Glenn Crispell's Gin Rin, the small black and silver koi, won Baby Grand Champion "B."

PHOTOS BY
DONNA MANZ/
THE CONNECTION



Koi Bring a Bit of Japan To Vienna

ZNA Potomac Koi Club hosts weekend competition at Meadowlark Gardens.



Glenn Crispell, of Vienna, brought 17 koi to the ZNA Potomac Koi Show, and six of them placed in competition.

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and glistening other-worldly koi proved to be a perfect fit as the flora-and-fauna pair wedded at a Sept. 7 and 8 koi show event and competition at the gardens. The ZNA Potomac Koi Club presented its annual competition, bringing in nishikigoi [koi] hobbyists from Connecticut to South Carolina, in a show open and free to the public. Two hundred and sixty two nishikigoi, "living jewels," entered the competition this year, breaking the Potomac chapter's record for the show.

"I keep koi for their beauty, for calming viewing. They are living flowers," said Glenn Crispell of Vienna. Crispell's koi won several awards, including "baby" Grand Champion and first-places. Crispell said that when he comes home from work, he goes outside to the 5,000-gallon koi pond to make sure everything there is "all right." He checks the filters, the waterfall, the ozone injectors. Then, he feeds his koi. "When they see me coming, boy, do they run to me. Like a torpedo going through water."

ZNA—which stands for Zen Nippon Airinkai—is an international association of koi clubs. The group started in Japan in 1968, and, even today, judging standards are defined by the governing body in Japan. Six judges, including two from Japan who paid their own transportation to Washington Dulles, judged the competition sponsored by the Potomac chapter.

At the weekend show, vendors sold koi food, koi-keeping equipment including massive filters, Japanese maple saplings and koi themselves. Vienna Aquarium, now located in Leesburg, sells koi to hobbyists from north to south and was a busy booth throughout the show.

Start-up cost to raise a koi is not cheap. Owners need the pool or pond, filters, food and other accoutrements of the hobby. Many owners include rocks that can cost several thousand dollars and create multiple waterfalls.

Typically, koi go dormant when the temperature falls below 55 degrees. They don't eat while they are dormant, which, in Virginia, is usually a six-month hiatus.

Nishikigoi, the ornamental cousin of carp, first appeared as mutations in the early 19th century. These mutated carp were bred to perpetuate the distinctive characteristics of each variety, of which now there are more than 100 varieties, divided into 16 groups by ZNA.

Zen Nippon Airinkai promotes nishikigoi-keeping as an artistic expression and its board sets the judging standards. The Japanese ambassador to the U.S. has a koi pond at the ambassador's residence.

"It's a hobby, it's beautiful," said Bernie Grace, a Vienna koi-keeper who loves landscaping projects. He built the koi pond himself. "We have a waterfall and we sit around and enjoy the sounds of the water and looking at the fish. It's just a lot of fun."

To learn more about the Potomac chapter of ZNA or to join, go to <http://www.znapotomac.org/>. At <http://zna.jp/eng/>, you can learn quite a bit about nishikigoi, the many varieties and the structure of the club.

—DONNA MANZ

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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 13

‘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.

Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) hands out a coloring book to Lan O’Roarke, 2, as his father Michael looks on during the Dunn-Loring Woods 51st annual block party Saturday, Sept. 7. Lan’s grandparents were one of the first families in the neighborhood.

PHOTOS BY
VICTORIA ROSS/
THE CONNECTION



A Family Affair

Generations of neighbors gather to celebrate the 51st annual Dunn-Loring Woods block party.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Joe Murphy and Jim Dunne, both Irish-Catholic alter boys from “up north,” have been neighbors, friends and friendly competitors for nearly 50 years.

The two men, now in their 80s, bonded quickly when they moved their families to Vienna’s Dunn-Loring Woods neighborhood in the early 1960s.

“As soon as I heard he was from Brooklyn, we bonded,” Murphy said, in a still-prominent New Jersey accent. “We spoke the same language. We both came from immigrant Irish families, and we’re both focused on our Catholic faith and our families.”

When the two start talking about one of their proudest accomplishments—the long-running annual Dunn-Loring Woods block party—they become their own Martin and Lewis comedy team.

“I’m the cute one. He’s the tall one. Don’t forget that,” Murphy said, as the two sat in Dunne’s house one afternoon reminiscing about the famous block party, now in its 51st year. The event has been featured in local and national newspapers, magazines and television news spots.

“I started the tradition back in 1962 when we bought our house. The best part of the block party, the part all the kids loved,” Murphy said dramatically, glaring at Dunne, “was ‘The Secret Movie.’”

“Big deal,” Dunne shot back. “We moved the party down to this end of the block, and added some innovations ...”

“Oh, he innovated all right. He innovated away all of the good things,” Murphy said.

“Hey Joe, it’s about me now,” Dunne said. “Who began inviting the Merrifield firefighters as a way of thanking them for protecting our families?”

“And who do they call the Mayor of Syracuse Circle? Ask him that,” Murphy said.

“We really do like each other,” Dunne admitted. “He deserves a lot of credit for getting this started. If it were for Joe, there wouldn’t be a block party.”

“Ok, I always knew you loved me. Jimmy’s a great fella,” Murphy said, breaking into one of his signature Barbershop Quartet numbers. “There’s a Hole in the Bottom of the Sea,” Murphy sings, shuffling along with a soft-shoe routine.

“Stop, you’re making me seasick with that song,” Dunne complains with a wink.

On Saturday, Sept. 7, both men were honored for their community service by more than 75 Dunn-

Loring current and former neighbors, who gathered for the 51st annual neighborhood block party.

Frank Piazza, who officially took over the block party duties when Dunne retired last year, started the evening off by welcoming families and community leaders to the event.

“I know I have some big shoes to fill,” Piazza said, “which is why I want to thank a whole team of people who helped make this event happen this year. We have a lot to thank Joe Murphy and Jim Dunne for. They always made neighbors feel welcome. Once you become a neighbor, you’re always part of the family.”

Children were invited to hold the flag as the evening started off with The Pledge of Allegiance. Murphy, a former Barbershop Quartet member, then led the crowd in a series of patriotic songs, beginning with “God Bless America.” Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) presented Dunne with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and took questions from neighbors about neighborhood concerns.

DUNNE AND MURPHY welcomed firefighters from the Merrifield District Fire and Rescue Department, who brought their trucks for children to climb in, and took part in the always-popular water balloon fight.

“That is something that I will never forget,” Murphy said, welcoming old and new neighbors, who attended with their children and grandchildren. “This just shows the type of wonderful neighbors we have. This is a little bit of Americana that you just don’t see anymore.”

Murphy began orchestrating the event in 1962. His secret to success was his dogged determination, organization and the “secret movie.”

“I had a list of assigned dishes for people to bring. I knocked on neighbors doors to make sure they came, and I collected the money from each family for all the plates and cups and stuff like that,” Murphy said.

“I felt there were a lot of people who wanted to participate but not sure if they should, so I tried to do as much organizing and door-knocking as I could,” Murphy said.

The main event was Murphy’s “secret movie,” a children’s film he selected and projected on a sheet hung in his back yard.

SEE PARTY, PAGE 5



Joe Murphy, who orchestrated the first Dunn-Loring Woods block party in 1962, with wife, Kitty, offers hamburgers to guests at the annual neighborhood event.



Ready, Set, Toss! Firefighters from Merrifield Fire and Rescue Station 430 join in the annual water fight with neighbors young and old during 51st annual Dunn-Loring Woods block party Saturday, Sept. 7.



Kids and teens watch the “secret movie” in the 1960s and 1970s, the main event of the Dunn-Loring Woods annual block party, which celebrated its 51st anniversary Saturday, Sept. 7.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

NEWS

Party Goes on 51 Years

FROM PAGE 4

"We all remember the secret movie," said Bruce Henning, whose parents, Fred and Christine Henning, were asked to host the annual party in their yard as a condition of the sale of the house when they bought the home in the 1970s. "It was a little like Christmas. For weeks ahead of time, all the kids would ask Mr. Murphy 'what's the secret movie?' We all tried various ways to get the information."

Murphy said not even his own children knew, because he always hid the film reel in a clever out-of-reach place that he changed every year.

"I'd go out and get 16 MM projector, we'd see 'Sinbad the Sailor,' 'March of the Wooden Soldiers' ... 'El Sid,' now that was a bomb," Murphy said. "But the beauty of it was it would get dark and the kids would all spread out blankets on the lawn to finally get to see what the secret movie was. They loved that."

Over the years, the event evolved. The secret movie was dropped when the children got older and lost their enthusiasm for films they could see at the new

multiplex mall theaters. And the event was moved from June to September to avoid the frequent June thunderstorms.

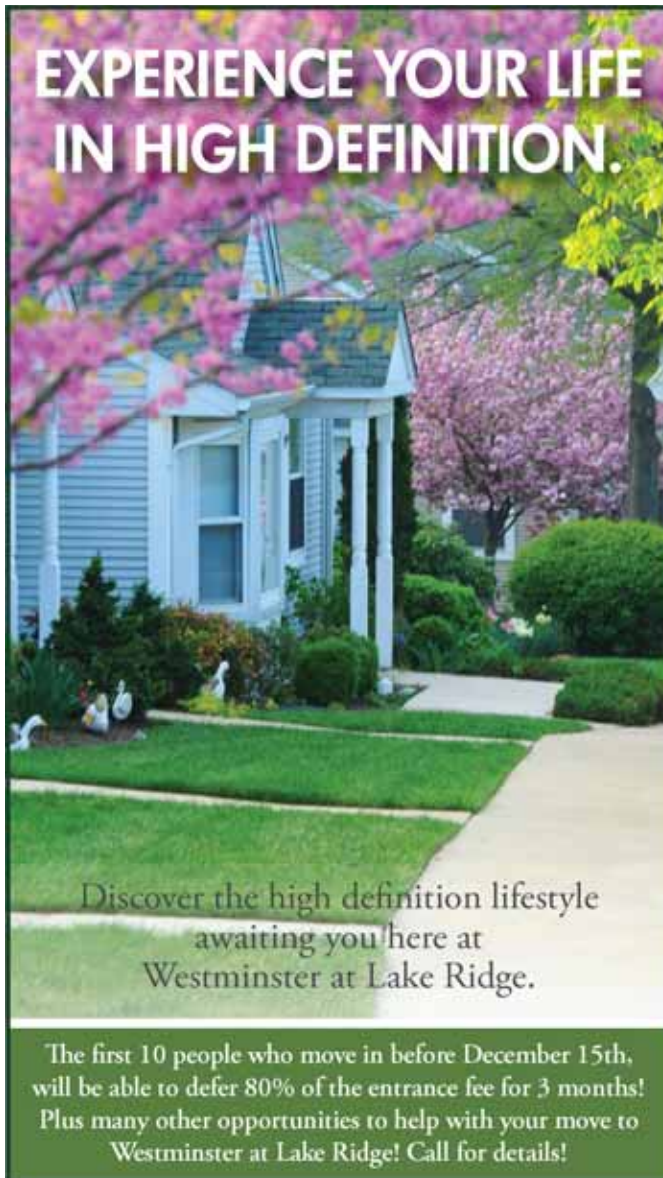
But one aspect of the event hasn't been lost in the half century of its history: the sense of neighborhood and community that brings families together for one evening a year.

Dunne said he and Murphy are proud of the diversity in the neighborhood.

"The families in the neighborhood represent a mini League of Nations," Dunne said. "We have neighbors born in China, Greece, England and India, and others whose heritage goes back to Ireland, Ukraine, Italy, Mexico, Croatia and Canada."

"We love the diversity. Everyone is welcome here," said Charlene Acuna, a longtime neighbor who attended with her husband's parents, her children and grandchildren.

"We try to come back every year," said Michael O'Roarke, who brought his son Lan and wife, Joan. "This was a great place to just be a kid. It still is."



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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:

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Gene and Ella Barnes and their son Matt were happy with the food. Matt Barnes called it "fantastic."

PHOTOS BY
DONNA MANZ/
THE CONNECTION



Regional Flavors of India Come to Vienna

Curry Mantra 3 offers traditional and signature dishes.

The only topic Vienna-Oakton readers like to read about more than festivals is about restaurant openings. This is one.

Curry Mantra 3 turned upside-down the adage, "there's no such thing as a free lunch," on Sept. 8. Not only did the new restaurant at Cedar Park Shopping Center serve free lunch to celebrate its grand opening, it served free dinner, as well. Vienna guests and loyal customers from Curry Mantra 1 and 2 lined up at the door in support of Vienna's newest entry into the town's burgeoning restaurant scene. A hostess manning the door let people in as guests left—that's how busy it was.

"We are different from other Indian restaurants in Vienna because we're a little more upscale than most curry houses," owner Asad Sheikh said. "We're celebrating festivals of India," he said, pointing to the wall murals.

Sheikh said he and Curry Mantra 3 will support the community any way they can. Curry Mantra 1 opened in Fairfax three years ago, and Curry Mantra 2, six months ago. Sheikh lived in Vienna for seven or eight years before moving to Falls Church about three or four years ago, he said. "I love Vienna, I used to live here. I love the people of Vienna," Sheikh said. "The people of Vienna are very loyal to local businesses."

Curry Mantra 3 serves regional dishes from all over India, the owner said. The chef is London-born and raised. And diners who commented on the food raved about it.

"It's fantastic," said Matt Barnes of Vienna, at a table of emptied plates with his parents Gene and Ella Barnes. "It's spicy without overpowering the flavor of the food and they use good-quality meats."

Ella Barnes was finishing up her dessert of rice pudding. "It's perfect," she said. "Not too sweet, and it smells divine. It's very delicious, with the right blend of spices."

Setting itself apart from the typical ribbon-cutting ceremony, Curry Mantra 3 went a step further: staff and guests threw fresh coconuts to the ground, breaking them in pieces. It's supposed to bring good fortune. If the lines were an indication, good fortune will stand with the restaurant.

Appetizers range from \$5 to \$7. Mixed vegetable pakora is \$5; palak angoori is \$7, for example. Veg-



Terry Prime of Oakton plated a selection of curries and rice from the buffet at Curry Mantra 3.

etarian main courses run \$13 to \$15, and meat specialties—chicken, lamb, goat, seafood and tandoor meats, range from \$15 to \$18. Main dishes unique to the Vienna restaurant include Kashmir kofta, Kabuli lamb and a signature dish of chicken tikka, malai kebab, boti kebab and tandoor shrimp.

Aalap Shah manages Curry Mantra 3.

Curry Mantra 3 is in the Cedar Park Shopping Center at the intersection of Park Street and Cedar Avenue. The restaurant is open every day. Buffet lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and dinner is served from 5 to 10 p.m. daily.

There is free delivery within five miles and diners can order their meal online at www.currymantra3.com. Phone 703-992-6332 for reservations.

—DONNA MANZ



Troop 1978 took a four-day bicycle tour of the C&O Canal from Cumberland, Md., to Washington, D.C. The Scouts: front row, from left: Heather Barrett, Max Butler, Ryan O'Connor, Peter Barrett, Alex Cann, James Packer, Michael Fronzaglia, Nick Ruszkowski, Carl Packer (kneeling), Tara Ruszkowski, Paul Renard. Second Row, from left: John Mee, Elizabeth MacGregor, Lukas Butler, Carl Packer, Andrew Nicholson, Max Cretal, Douglas Preaskorn, Eric Cann, Andy Doran, William Doran.

St. Marks Scouts Take 184-mile Ride

Fourteen Scouts from Troop 1978, sponsored by St. Marks Church, Vienna set out on a four-day bicycle tour of the C&O Canal from Cumberland, Md., to Washington, D.C. Friday, July 12.

The Scouts made the 184-mile ride in four days, finishing Monday, July 15. The Scouts, ranging in age from 11 to 15,

all finished the ride. The young cyclists earned the Boy Scouts of America Cycling merit badge, as well as the C&O patch and five rockers representing each of the Scout councils through which the towpath passes. Several adults from the troop joined the Scouts on the canal towpath and others drove support vehicles.

Weichert, Realtors Recognizes Patricia Stack

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced Sales Associate Patricia Stack of the Vienna office was individually recognized for her exceptional industry success during the month of July. A top producer, Stack led the region, which comprises offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, in resale dollar volume.

Invite this top neighborhood specialist in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. She can be reached in Weichert's Vienna office at 156 East Maple Avenue or by phone at 703-938-6070.



Patricia Stack

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to vienna@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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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Jammin' Juniors

Free, lunchtime concerts for preschoolers
Concerts begin at 12:30 p.m.
McLean Central Park Gazebo

Teddy Bear Band

Wednesday, Sept. 11

SteveSongs

Wednesday, Sept. 18

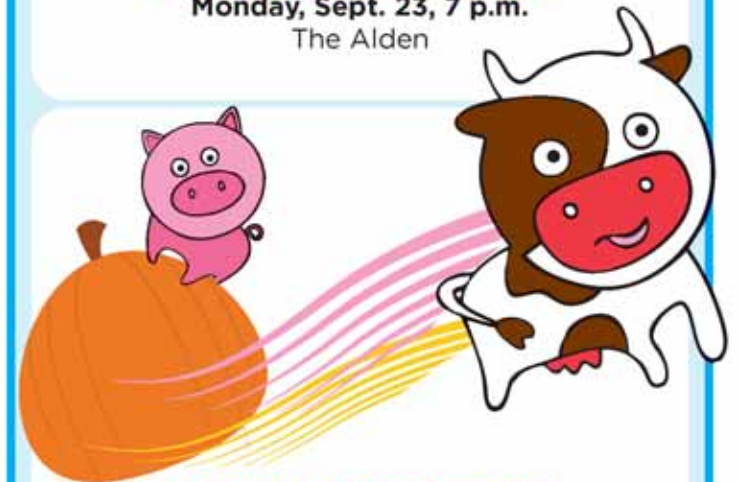
Peter McCory and the One-Man Band

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.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



1234 Ingleside Ave.,
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711





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.



"Dark Waters," watercolor by Ruth Ensley, 33" X 41", is featured in the Vienna Art Society Gallery on the Village Green, 513 Maple Ave. W. through Oct. 5. The exhibition hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Pickling Day. 1-4 p.m., at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the colonial farm wife prepare vegetables and other tasty treats for pickling. Learn how to combine salt, water, vinegar and spices to preserve summer crops. \$3 for adults, \$2 for children. <http://www.1771.org/directions.htm>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 21-29

Around Town: A Plein Air Event.

Various times, around Vienna; enter at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society calls artists to enter a plein air painting competition to win up to \$700 in awards. For entry details, artists may either drop by the Vienna

Art Center, call 703-319-3971 or check the website www.ViennaArtsSociety.org. The paintings inspired by Vienna will be judged, with awards presented at a reception at the art center on Oct. 5, 3-5 p.m.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

America's Adopt a Soldier 5K/10K.

10 a.m., at Lake Fairfax Park, 400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Wear red, white or blue and run or walk varied terrain in support of America's Adopt A Soldier projects and programs; donate coats for homeless veterans or other items (see at <http://run-walk.eventbrite.com/>) for care package assembly during and after the event. Preregistration only. \$40. <http://run-walk.eventbrite.com/>.



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FAITH NOTES

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

National Back to Church Sunday at Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna on Sept. 15, at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. welcomes those interested in being part of a community and finding friends to go through life with. Free refreshments. www.antiochdoc.org.

Passages at Vienna Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Maple Avenue and Park Street, offers a 15-week Divorce Care series Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., beginning Sept. 24 for those going through the pain of separation

or divorce. \$20 (covers materials, scholarships available). 703-938-9050, Passages@ViennaPres.org or www.viennapres.org.

GriefShare, a weekly support group for adults grieving the death of a loved one, meets Sundays 6-7:30 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Part St., Vienna with a video/discussion format through Dec. 8. \$20 for workbook. GriefShare@viennapres.org.

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

HAVEN of Northern Virginia of-

fers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.



ANNIVERSARY SALE!

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!

Ranked one of the best boutiques in the D.C. region. (2009-2013).

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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Inspired to Give

Local teens positively impact youth on a global scale.

BY LAUREN BORDEAUX
THE CONNECTION

Picture this: An impoverished young teenager sits in a hospital bed in rural India, suffering from a life-threatening cancer, opens up a tablet device filled with educational tools and apps to distract them from their daily struggles. You would probably expect the tablet to have been shipped there by a large, national non-profit run by paid staff members. Not so. It was delivered to this teen by other teens, all working toward the same goal: to connect with pediatric cancer patients around the world in order to provide them with encouragement, support and education.

John Cui, a senior at Langley High School and resident of Great Falls, came up with the idea for Youth Inspire in 2010 and had staff members involved and programs running by 2011. "As you imagine, every patient that's being treated, whether for cancer or any other disease, they spend the majority of their time in a hospital. And for that reason the main people they interact with are doctors, nurses, not really people their own age," said Cui. "So we saw that as a problem and our program is a solution for that."

CUI AND HIS 11-MEMBER TEAM have made it their mission to reach out to pediatric hospital bound patients globally, by starting right here in the Northern Virginia area. They started with a program called "Youth Inspire" at Inova Children's Hospital in Falls Church, volunteering their time by playing and spending time with the patients. "It was just really cool to see these kids who are obviously going through a trying time in their life, just be able to make them smile by coloring a Disney princess with them," said Courtney Cuppernull, director of PR/Community Affairs for Youth Inspire and a senior at Langley High School from Great Falls.

Jamie Gentile, director of Child Life Services at Inova Children's Hospital, is continually impressed by the teens. "To see this type of altruism in today's youth is really inspiring," said Gentile, "Jason and his team have had such a positive impact on the children here."

The team has raised funds through an innovative photo fundraising program called "Teens Helping Teens" which contributed to the spread of awareness for Youth Inspire all around the world. From this program launched "Inspire Connect," which has provided hospital bound children in rural India and China with \$2,000 worth of tablet devices to use as distraction from their daily struggles. "We wanted the ability to impact hospitals around the world because we can't organize hospital exchanges between high schools and hospitals out there," said Ezzy Sriram, co-founder and chief operating officer of Youth Inspire and senior at Langley High school from McLean.

RECENTLY, Youth Inspire launched a new program, Independent Projects. The purpose of the program is to fund projects proposed by teens that will positively affect youth. "I did an independent project in Africa where Youth Inspire helped support. I went and worked with small children in Africa in a very impoverished school area," said Cuppernull. Other programs that have been approved include an im-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Youth Inspire, represented by Ezzy Sriram, Jason Cui, Kristen Wolaver, and Courtney Cuppernull, visits INOVA Fairfax Hospital's pediatric patients for a holiday style greeting.



PHOTO BY ROSIE BROCK

Youth Inspire Co-Founders Jason Cui and Ezzy Sriram are pictured with Marshall High School students Sara Hahm, Manjari Kumarappan and Katia Anderson for their hat drive at INOVA Fairfax Hospital's pediatric division.

proved recycling program at Langley High School, a backpack and school supply drive for Washington D.C. school children and a used prom dress project.

All of this has been done by a group of teens, not yet graduated from high school. Cui and Sriram achieved approval for Youth Inspire to be an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. None of the fully teen-staffed team is paid, so all \$10,000 that the organization has raised so far has gone directly to programs. The staff hopes to see the organization continue to spread to other high schools and hopefully continue their efforts into college. Keep updated at <http://globalyouthinspire.com>.

Participating Restaurants:
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La Sandia Mexican
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at The Ritz-Carlton



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SPORTS

Lauren Prosser scored a goal against Langley on Sept. 9.

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."

Oakton reached the last four Concorde District championship games, only to lose to Westfield each time. Last year, the Cougars finished 11-9 and lost to South County in the region quarterfinals.

"I want to see us do really well in the district," Prosser said. "We've been to the district finals every year I've been a part of this program. This year, I want to get it. I want to show Westfield and South County and ... Fairfax that there are multiple dominant teams in this region and ... that we're definitely a contender."

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.

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.

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.

Balducchi 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.”

Historic Vienna to Host Book Event

Historic Vienna, Inc. is sponsoring a lecture by USAF veteran, retired diplomat and author Robert F. Dorr. On Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 in the Council Chamber of Vienna’s Town Hall, Dorr will discuss his latest book, “Mission To Tokyo,” the story of the American airmen, ground crews and escorts who flew long-range bombing missions during the final months of World War II. Dorr’s presentation is open to the public and refreshments will be served. For more information call 703 938 5187 or go to www.historicviennainc.org.

Vienna Among Top-earning Towns, Best for Families

In addition to being one of the top three “Best Places to Live,” Money Magazine has named Vienna on its list of “Top-Earning Towns.” Vienna is ranked 24 in a list of 25 towns across the country that have above national average household income and home prices. Vienna is joined on the list by Falls Church, at number 18 on the “Top-Earning Town” list. For more information, visit money.cnn.com/gallery/news/economy/2013/08/12/best-places-top-earning-towns.money/24.html.

Money Magazine also ranked Vienna as number 12 on the list of “25 Best Places for the Rich and Single,” which was compiled by looking at the percentage of the community who is single, the median family income and quality of life. According to the magazine, 35.2 per-

cent of Vienna’s population is single. Two other Virginia localities also made the list with Falls Church ranked at number six and Tysons Corner listed at number 14. For more information, visit money.cnn.com/gallery/real_estate/2013/08/12/best-places-rich-single.money/12.html.

Vienna was also recognized earlier this year by NerdWallet as the number two “Best City in Virginia for Young Families.” NerdWallet considered public school standardized test scores, affordability, including real estate taxes, insurance costs, utilities, fuels and other monthly bills, and the community’s local economy, and compiled a list of the best communities in Virginia for young families. Vienna was behind Glen Allen, Va. in Henrico County and followed by Fairfax City. For more information, visit www.nerdwallet.com/blog/2013/best-cities-virginia-young-families/.

Town Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Town of Vienna received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the field of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and

its attainment is important to the town in maintaining its excellent bond rating.

The town’s financial report was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to communicate clearly its financial story to citizens.

Copies of the financial report are available for public review at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S., and online at www.viennava.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=39.

Native Plant Sale at Vienna Community Center

The Town of Vienna will hold a native plant sale on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Along with vendors selling a variety of native plants at a reduced cost to the public, the town’s professional horticulturists will be on-site to answer questions.

Native plants are easy to care for, consume less water and many are deer resistant. Fall is a great time to plant as there is less heat stressing your new plants. To protect your trunk and to reduce the use of new plastic, please bring bags or boxes to carry your plants home.

Credit cards, checks and cash accepted. Profits earned by the town will benefit future town sustainability programming. This event is sponsored by the Town of Vienna’s Community Enhancement Commission. For more information, e-mail csalgado@viennava.gov, call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=958.

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Fellowship Baptist Church ...
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First Baptist Church
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Vienna Baptist Church
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New Union Baptist Church...
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Church of the Brethern

Oakton Church of the Brethern
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Catholic

Our Lady of Good Counsel ...
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St. Athanasius Catholic Church
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St. Mark's Catholic Church ...
703-281-9100

Charismatic

New Song Church
... 703-698-9777

Church of Christ

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

Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church
... 703-938-6753

Episcopal

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

Church of the Holy Cross
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St. Francis Episcopal
... 703-759-2082

Jehovah's Witness

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

Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
... 703-938-2119

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

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

Methodist

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

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

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

Ephiphany United Methodist
... 703-938-3494

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

Oakton United Methodist
... 703-938-1233

Vale United Methodist
... 703-620-2594

Smith Chapel United Methodist

... 571-434-9680

Wesley United Methodist
... 703-938-8700

Non-Denominational

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

Presbyterian

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

Korean Central Presbyterian
... 703-698-5577

Vienna Presbyterian
... 703-938-9050

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Zone 4.....Wed @ 1:00

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The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South

Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

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 Premises/Mixed Beverages on Premises 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.

Vinai Kulnarong, Managing Member of V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC 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 legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

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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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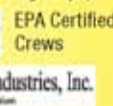
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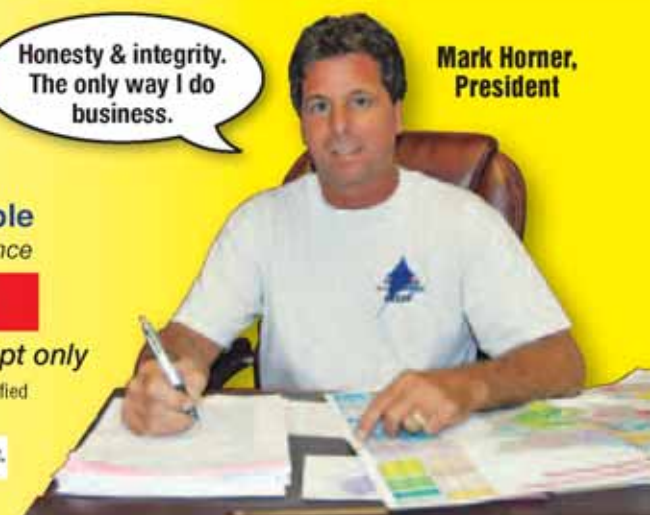
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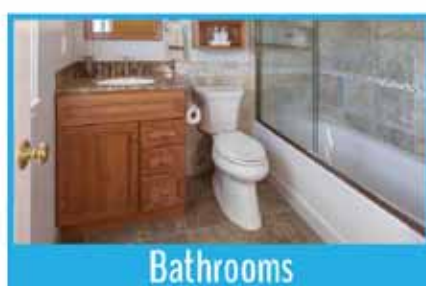
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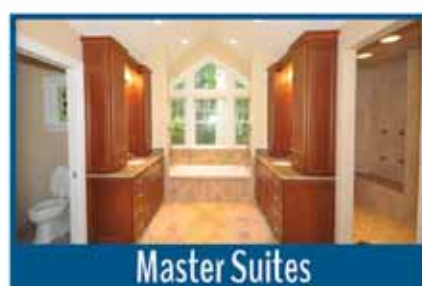
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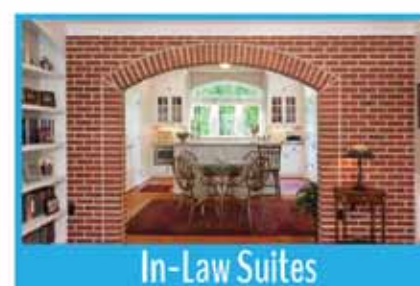
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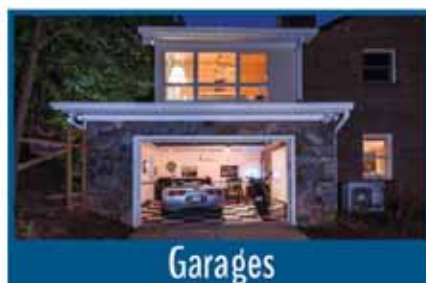
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NVAR Summit at GMU's Mason Inn

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

Northern Virginia Designers Awarded Rooms in Showhouse Event

Northern Virginia/metro area interior designers Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design and Wayne Breeden of E. Wayne Breeden Design are among 17 designers awarded rooms at the benefit Winchester Showhouse & Gardens, open to the public through Sept. 29.

The Showhouse features an 18th century home in the Shenandoah Valley, Long Green, known for its historic and architectural prominence and beautiful vistas.

Landscaping, shopping, artwork and designer sales complement the event, which benefits Blue Ridge Hospice, a not-for-profit hospice organization serving the Piedmont and Shenandoah Valley.

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Long Green, an 18th century home in the Shenandoah Valley, is made over to benefit Blue Ridge Hospice.

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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

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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.



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.



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS

"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.

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 second 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



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.

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-



BEFORE: No room for a soaking tub here. While Wolf's only deletion was a small linen closet, the designer says that "inches count" in a tight-space plan solution.

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 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-

More

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. Visit www.fosterremodeling.com or call 703-550-1371.

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



BEFORE: The old L-shaped configuration consisted of two converging legs, both too narrow for comfortable habitation, the owners say.

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."



Designer Sarah Wolf reconfigured an Alexandria couple's master bedroom suite to create a more functional floorplan that gains a 36-square-foot closet and a spa bath with soaking tub and a walk-in shower.

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