

Fairfax CONNECTION

Serving Areas of Burke

(From left to right): Jarla Ulman, Tammy Cohen, and Jodi Pick take part in the Fourth-Annual Cycle Fest at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia last Sunday. The event raised \$4,500 for the Wounded Warriors Project, the JCCNV, and Hazon, which creates healthier and more sustainable communities.

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Cycle Fest Raises \$4,500

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NEWS



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors hosted a ceremony designating Sept. 15-Oct. 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Fairfax County.

COUNTY NEWS & NOTES

Fairfax County Employees Receive \$850 Fall Bonus

As a result of a \$94 million year-end surplus in the FY2013 budget, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution Tuesday, Sept. 10, to give county employees an \$850 bonus this fall, which amounts to about \$500 after taxes, said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

The board unanimously approved the resolution outlining the spending plan for the FY 2013 Budget Carryover package. Carryover is the process by which certain unspent or unencumbered funds for commitments to pay for goods and services at the end of one fiscal year are appropriated in the next fiscal year.

The FY 2013 Budget Carryover Package includes:

- ❖ \$10.2 million to fund a one-time compensation adjustment of \$850 to county merit employees to recognize the hard work of county employees and the high quality services that they provide to the community. The FY 2014 Adopted Budget does not include an employee salary or market-rate adjustment increase.

- ❖ \$6 million to fund the first half of voting machine replacement. Fairfax County's current voting equipment has reached the end of its life cycle. With the availability of funding in the FY 2013 Carryover Package, the first portion of the new equipment will be in place for elections in FY 2015 and FY 2016 and the remainder will be purchased for the 2016 presidential election in FY 2017.

- ❖ \$2.5 million funding to accelerate the opening of the Wolf Trap Fire Station, which will allow for the location of a tanker truck at the station by October 2013 and the full operation of the station by July 2014.

- ❖ \$2.2 million to fund the opening of the Mid-County Human Services Center. The 200,000-square-foot facility will replace the Woodburn Center and include programs such as: 24/7 emergency services, mental health, substance use disorder, intellectual disability, emergency, health and wellness, and youth and administrative services.

- ❖ \$1.5 million funding to match School Board funds to continue to develop new synthetic turf fields throughout the county. More information on the

Fairfax County Budget can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget.

Putting Brakes on Neighborhood Speeding

In an effort to get drivers to slow down in residential neighborhoods, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved \$350,000 to fund a public awareness campaign and "traffic calming" measures in the county Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) initiated the measure last year, soliciting constituent support through an online petition, which resulted in more than 250 signatures and hundreds of emails from supporters.

"This marks the latest victory in a years-long struggle against dangerous driving in the county," Cook said Tuesday.

"I hear from constituents consistently about speeding and unsafe driving in their neighborhoods," Cook said, adding that this funding should be "just the start of Fairfax County's enhanced campaign against the dangers of speeding."

The "traffic calming" could include the installation of speed bumps in neighborhoods, as well as stepped-up enforcement and radar patrols.

The public awareness effort is expected to use traditional and online media to communicate the dangers of speeding in neighborhoods, and ask residents to commit to voluntary compliance with speed limits and safe driving practices. Cook will ask civic and homeowners associations to join in this effort to lead residents in a shared commitment to slow down and drive safely in our neighborhoods.

Nearly \$200,000 of the approved funding will be used for traffic calming measures, such as speed bumps and stop signs, in areas with frequent speeding issues at the request of residents. State funding for traffic calming ended recently and these funds would close some of the gap until state funding is restored.

"This effort is a first step," Cook said. "Greater traffic enforcement and enhanced technology for our police should be addressed in the years to come. But most importantly this effort calls on our residents to work together for the benefit of the community as a whole."



At the Fairfax County Parkway, progress continues on the 95 Express Lanes ramp from Alban Road to the lanes. The fast-track construction schedule requires extended HOV closures over the fall season.

HOV Lanes Closing On Weekends

Closures begin on Friday night, Sept. 13 and continue each weekend until late October.

BY MIKE SALMON

To advance the fast track towards completion, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will be closing the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes every weekend starting on Friday nights and keeping them closed until Sunday afternoons in September and Monday mornings in October for 95 Express Lanes construction. These closures are scheduled to begin on Friday night, Sept. 13 and continue each weekend until late October. The lanes will be closed from just north of I-495 to Dumfries.

Each weekend in September, the HOV lanes will reopen by 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon. In October the lanes will remain closed until Monday morning at 4 a.m. VDOT waited until after the summer for this closure schedule as a way to avoid disruption to vacationers.

"These closures will be necessary in order to advance construction for the late 2014 completion date," said VDOT spokesperson Steve Titunik. "We will look at other opportunities outside the HOV lanes to keep traffic moving on I-95, such as coordinating construction in other areas, or alternating from the north and south-bound sides."

The 95 Express Lanes project began just over a year ago and they are already halfway through construction. As the new flyover ramps and access points are completed, the traf-

fic disruption will not be as severe.

"This past summer was the worst of it," Titunik added.

The spring/summer activities of I-95 included:

- ❖ Demolition of Telegraph Road bridge in Quantico, April 2013

- ❖ Dumfries/Joplin Road flyover steel beam lift, July 2013

- ❖ Steel placement for the new Telegraph Rd. bridge in Quantico, July 18 and July 23

- ❖ Fairfax County Parkway beam hanging, Aug. 23, 2013

In the coming weeks, crews will hang steel beams over I-95 south near Route 610 in Stafford and just north of Edsall Road inside the Capital Beltway. There will be complete closures of I-95 and I-395 associated with those two construction activities. Following work for the new overpasses, placing steel beams over the lanes of I-95 will be minimal.

During the upcoming closure of HOV lanes on Saturdays for construction of the new I-95/395 Express Lane, the VA Megaprojects (VDOT) will provide free, MetroDirect service on Saturdays connecting the Potomac Mills shopping center and the PRTC Transit Center in Prince William County to the Franconia/Springfield Metro station. This service will run between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. on Saturdays between Sept. 14 and Dec. 28.

For more information, go to VAMegaprojects.com or PRTCtransit.org.

Eating Pizza Can Help Local Girl

Paisano's holding fundraiser for Tara Sankner.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A fundraiser being held by a local pizza chain won't cure Tara Sankner's cancer—but it'll certainly help her parents pay for her medical bills. Called "Let's Take Care of Tara," it began Sept. 3 and will run through Sept. 30 at all Paisano's locations.

This is National Childhood Cancer Awareness month, and Paisano's owner and founder Fouad Qreitem—who has children, himself—wants to do all he can to help this Fairfax family.

"I would love to see Tara get into remission," he said. "I met Tara and her mother, Tammy, and they didn't ask for anything. But I could tell they were a family struggling and in need." Tara is just 8 and in the third grade. Her dad Craig is a letter carrier with the U.S. Post Office in Oak Hill and her mom is a medical biller at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital. And in February, their only child was diagnosed with an astrocytoma, a treatable but inoperable form of brain cancer.

"It would be a parent's worst nightmare," said Qreitem. "I have two daughters, 8 and 12, and cannot imagine my family being faced



Tara Sankner on her first day of third grade.

with this situation. So I want to help Tara and her family."

EVERY TUESDAY IN SEPTEMBER, callers ordering food from Paisano's and mentioning "Let's Take Care of Tara" will have 10 percent of their order donated directly to Tara's family to help pay for her treatment and growing medical expenses. And the more people participating, the more money will be raised.

Locally, Paisano's is at 12715 Shoppes Lane in Fair Lakes and



The poster advertising the fundraiser for Tara Sankner.

10330 Main St. in Fairfax. Phone numbers are at www.pizzapaisanos.com.

A successful businessman, Qreitem said, "We are where we are because of the people in the community, and we believe it's our civic duty to give back to the community." During the campaign, Paisano's will also accept cash or checks payable to Tara Sankner, any day of the week, to directly pass on to her parents.

"I hope everybody chips in and does their part to help her," said

Qreitem. "When Tara has chemo, she's sick afterward, and Tammy has to take off a week or two at a time from work, unpaid, to take care of her. So on top of her child having cancer, she's also dealing with the financial burden—and the last thing this family should have to worry about at this time is money." Grateful for Qreitem's generosity, Tammy Sankner said, "Thank you' just doesn't seem enough for everything he's doing. We are blessed and are really looking forward to working with him. It makes us feel good that there are people who care." Tara began another round of chemotherapy on Wednesday and then will have 36 weeks more. "She had a six-week break after the second round," said her mom. "But when she started the third round, she was really sick, so we switched up her cycle. So now it's four weeks of infusion, a two-week break and four weeks of infusion. But she won't have anymore oral chemo, which wasn't doing anything to help her." Then in mid-October, she'll have another MRI to see how things are doing. Meanwhile, Tara had a fun summer. "In July, we went to Tennessee for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary and saw some relatives I hadn't seen

since 1996," said Sankner. "Some of them hadn't seen Tara, so that was really nice."

IN AUGUST, Tara attended Camp Fantastic at the 4H center in Front Royal through the Special Love organization and had a great time with other children battling cancer like she is. And she continues to pitch for the Vienna Girls Softball League. She began third grade last week and, said her mom, "So far, so good. She's kind of bummed, though, because she hasn't had homework, yet. But we'll see how she does this week, when she starts getting it."

Meanwhile, Qreitem hopes lots of people participate in the "Let's Take Care of Tara" fundraiser. "It's all about Tara," he said. "We'll see how the campaign goes and, if we get a good response in September, we'll definitely continue on with it. I know this family is hurting, and I just want to help them."

Online donations to Tara may also be made; go to www.airbanking.com/tools/; where it says to pick a charity, click and scroll down to Pray for Tara. Or send checks payable to Tara Sankner to her at 13114 Willoughby Point Drive, Fairfax, VA 22033.

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SCHOOLS

Robinson's Lambert Named Business Teacher of the Year

Robinson teacher founded programming and FBLA clubs.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Earlier this summer, Robinson Secondary School teacher Cara Lambert received a pre-back-to-school surprise. The Virginia Business Education Association (VBEA) had named her the 2013 Al Roane Middle School Business Teacher of the Year.

"It was exciting," said Lambert. "This wasn't my chosen career to begin with, but it's a career that I love, so it's nice to be recognized. Anyone would enjoy winning an award."

With a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's degree in management information systems, Lambert was once a stockbroker and worked in international data communications, before choosing to live at home full time to raise five children.

When the 21-year Chantilly resident decided to re-enter the workforce, she sought a job that would allow her to spend more time with her family during their school breaks. "With a business background," Lambert said, "I thought, I could be a business teacher."

Now entering her eighth year teaching, and even nearing the end of a hectic first week of classes, she is all smiles. "I'm very grateful because I ended up loving it. I really like what I do and a lot of people can't say that."

LAMBERT IS STARTING her fourth year at Robinson teaching basic and advanced computer elective classes on the middle school side. She drew the attention of the VBEA with her "innovative ideas in the classroom," according to Stephanie Holt, VBEA board member and program manager for business and information technology for FCPS.

"And she's one of the few teachers who has implemented the middle level of FBLA (an extracurricular club and competition team for Future Business Leaders of America)," Holt continued. At the high school level, Robinson boasts a nationally competitive 250-per-



Cara Lambert, named the 2013 VBEA Al Roane Middle School Business Teacher of the Year.



Robinson Middle School Teacher Cara Lambert founded the school's first Future Business Leaders of America for the middle school four years ago.

son FBLA organization. With the luxury of being structurally linked with the high school, Lambert is able to tap those FBLA resources in the form of student mentors for her middle school version.

As part of only a handful of middle school programs in the county, Lambert's 20 to 25 FBLA students compete in national contests, sponsor outreach activities such as Robinson's annual gingerbread house competition and learn basic business-friendly organizational skills in a social environment.

Also on Lambert's award winning resume: starting a Robinson video game programming club (which has since been taken over by high school teacher Carol Wilt), facilitating and assisting in an open computer lab for students to do homework after hours or get extra help with PowerPoint presentations, and just simply being a great educator.

"She has a wonderful rapport with her students," said Holt, who has spent time sitting in with Lambert's classes. "She has great different tips and tricks to keep students interested in the projects.

She makes lessons come alive."

"A large part of it is being a mom," said Lambert, with regards to liking teaching. "I just have a lot more kids here. About 300 a year."

FOR EACH OF THOSE 300, having a higher level knowledge of programs like Microsoft Office, a confidence with various new digital devices, and business-minded organizational skills, is more important than ever. "They have to have a basic concept of databases, because they're everywhere," Lambert said. "How are they used, why are they important—they use those skills in high school and college."

Or in the job market. Lambert's programming initiatives have sparked interest that students carry into high school with higher level programming classes, knowing all the while that field of employment is full of opportunities.

"For the first time," said Holt, "our students really have the chance to learn a lot of technology skills, instead of just being expected to know how to use the computer."



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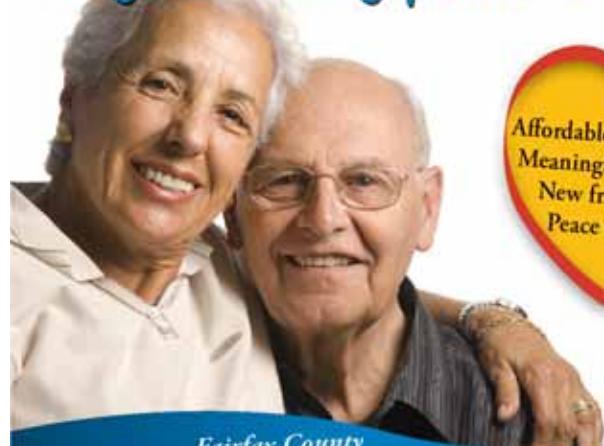
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OPINION

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 in danger of being homeless, but also for recent college graduates, for service workers, for 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, 2013.

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

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 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

Fear of Action Opens Way for Diplomacy

BY JIM MORAN
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-8)

Congress returned to Washington this week with a full plate of contentious issues.

The most immediately pressing was President Obama's request for congressional approval to carry out limited surgical strikes in Syria against the regime of Bashar al Assad, responding to his use of chemical weapons to attack Syrian civilians, which killed, in gruesome fashion, 1,429 people, including 426 children.

Most Americans, including a large majority in Northern Virginia, oppose U.S. military intervention in the Syrian conflict (my calls are running 93 percent to 7 percent against). I can understand their deep concern. The Bush Administration deliberately misled the public in seeking authorization for war in Iraq. That conflict, and the challenges we've faced in Afghanistan, have left a war-weary public, distrustful of any effort to engage militarily elsewhere in the world, particularly in the Middle East. It's shameful, the money spent on the Iraq War, especially given that the result was a country more aligned with Iran than the U.S. That money could and should have been used for nation-building here at home.



And first and foremost, the lives of American soldiers lost in both conflicts is heart breaking and at least with regard to Iraq, inexcusable.

But the situation in Syria is very different. Failure to stop Assad from using chemical weapons would be something we would deeply regret, allowing the use of chemical weapons to become a new norm of war fighting and increasing the threat that these attacks could one day be used against future generations of Americans.

What the president has been talking about is not war. It's limited missile strikes, designed to punish Assad, damage his military capability, and deter him from using chemical weapons again in the future. There is ample precedent for such actions. Presidents Reagan and Clinton both used their authority as president to launch limited strikes to achieve positive foreign policy outcomes. President Clinton essentially ended the atrocities in Kosovo and Bosnia through the use of military strikes. The biggest regret of his presidency, he has stated, was not using military force to curtail the Rwandan genocide.

In recent days, the situation has changed dramatically. Russia has agreed, with Syria's approval, to facilitate the securing of their chemical weapons arsenal in ex-

change for an agreement that the U.S. will not launch a strike. In this case, the fear of U.S. military action has pushed the Russians to finally engage constructively in this conflict. For the past two and a half years, the Russians have stymied every effort at the U.N. Security Council to stop Assad's atrocities against his own people.

This new plan has my support. As an adamant, vocal opponent of the Iraq War, I believe deeply that the use of military force should be a last resort after diplomatic efforts have been exhausted. If the Russians and Syrians are true to their word, and Assad's use of chemical weapons stops, the long standing international norm against the use of chemical weapons will have been upheld and no further direct U.S. military involvement is necessary. If the Russian intercession proves to be merely a ploy to buy time, forestalling international action while Assad gains ground on the battlefield through the further deployment of chemical weapons, I would be in support of military action.

Russia has long been the key to ending the conflict in Syria through diplomacy. Let us hope that their new tack will set the diplomatic process in motion which will always be the far preferable approach to military action.

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Grand Jury Indicts Requejo

A Fairfax man charged with sexually molesting a child has been indicted by a Fairfax County grand jury. He is Eduardo Requejo, 23, of Warwick Avenue. Besides working as a swimming instructor at the Oak Marr Rec Center in Fairfax since 2005, he was also a swim coach throughout the Fairfax community. But on July 15, Fairfax County police charged Requejo with two counts of aggravated sexual battery.

However, authorities say the alleged offenses didn't happen at his worksite; the child is an acquaintance and wasn't one of his students. The alleged victim is a 7-year-old girl, and police say the offenses reportedly occurred on March 1 and July 2. On July 25, Requejo waived his right to a preliminary hearing in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. He was then indicted by the grand jury, Aug. 19, and is scheduled to enter a plea, Oct. 10, in Circuit Court.

Woodson's Yearbook Wins All-American Rating

Woodson High's yearbook, the Cavalier, has earned an All-American rating with four marks of distinction from the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA). The All-American rating is the highest rating given to any publication in NSPA's critique service. Staff members received high praise for their work from a judge who noted that the staff "took a chance by being non-traditional."

Fairfax High Student Honored for Writing

A Fairfax High sophomore was among those honored Sunday for their entries in a Grandparents Day writing contest. She is Maeve Costello and she received an honorable mention for a story she wrote called, "Meeting Charlie."

The Writers of Chantilly, a local group of professional and aspiring writers, sponsored the competition, which was held over the summer. The winners were recognized during a Sept. 8 ceremony at the Chantilly Regional Library. Costello's story was about her grandmother's new puppy and, for her efforts, she received a certificate and will have her work published in an upcoming Writers of Chantilly anthology. She especially enjoys writing mysteries and her work

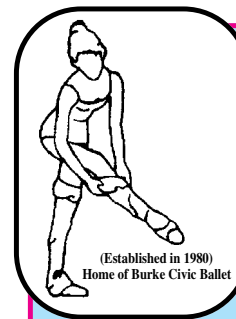


Honored writer Maeve Costello.

may be read at FanFiction.net.

"I like being able to create stories that are different from real life so, when you read them, you can exit your life a little while and enjoy the stories," she explained. "I feel very honored; I didn't realize my story would win an award."

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



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Riders gather at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia on Sunday for the Cycle Fest.

JCCNV Hosts Cycle Fest

\$4,500 raised for Wounded Warriors Project, Hazon and JCCNV.

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia hosted its fourth annual Cycle Fest on Sunday, Sept. 8, starting at its location on Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Some 91 registered riders and 14 volunteer riders participated in the event that raised more than \$4,500—more than doubling last year's funds raised—to benefit the Wounded Warriors Project, the JCCNV, and Hazon, which creates healthier and more sustainable communities. Three ride distances were offered—30 miles, 50 miles and 65 miles. The ride began at 8 a.m. with the last riders returning to the JCCNV around 3 p.m. Each rider received a t-shirt, a drawstring bag and light lunch.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Riders gather in the parking lot before the Cycle Fest.



Riders from The Bike Lane provided lead and sweep services during the Cycle Fest ride.

(From left): Margery Van Vleet and Colleen Maguire at the Cycle Fest at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia on Sunday, Sept. 8.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), right, stops at the Veterans of Foreign Wars table at the Burke Centre Festival last weekend.

Thousands Attend Burke Centre Festival

Free event provides entertainment, a wine garden and children's activities.

Thousands attended the Burke Centre Festival last Saturday and Sunday at the Burke Centre Conservancy festival grounds. The free event off Burke Centre Parkway included live entertainment, bands, dancers, puppet shows, interactive wildlife shows, a wine garden, amusement rides, arts and crafts show, a blood drive, children's activities and special appearances by the Angry Birds, SpongeBob and Elmo.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Lisa from the Grammy-nominated Milkshake Duo leads dancing and singing.



The Sandstorm Ride is a hit at the Burke Centre Festival.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY EXPOSURE—MICHELLE STELLA RIORDAN/ COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Guests at the "ARTS by George!" 2012 reception.

An Artistic Evening Like No Other

"ARTS by George!" returns to George Mason stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With an open invitation to the community, the George Mason University College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA) is holding its eighth annual "ARTS by George!" event. It has quickly become one of the premiere arts events in Northern Virginia.

The mission of "ARTS by George!" is to showcase and support Mason students in a wide range of artistic fields including arts, dance, music, theater, computer game design, film and video studies and arts management. The gala raises funds to provide for student scholarships. It is capped off this year by the headliner performance of Tony Award winner Laura Benanti.

"We want this to be an event to build and maximize student and community connections. This is a special day since students and the audience will be in such close physical proximity at the performances," said William Reeder, dean, GMU/CVPA. "This will make for a great, vibrant evening.

Guests will enjoy performances and exhibitions by CVPA's student and faculty artists, while enjoying food and wine provided by local businesses. The evening's festivities will also include a silent auction of a wide range of unique arts-related items and experiences.

This year's co-chairs of "ARTS by George" are Mark and Merrill Shugoll. The Shugolls have a long-standing passion for the arts.

"The arts are critical in our soci-



PHOTO BY KEN BROWAR

Tony Award winner Laura Benanti.

Where and When

Saturday, Sept. 28 at 5 p.m., "ARTS by George!" takes place at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances will be in the de Laski Performing Arts Building as well as Harris Theater and a tented plaza next to the performing arts building. Tickets can be purchased separately for the Laura Benanti concert. Tickets for the entire "ARTS By George!" including student performances and exhibitions, food, beverages, Laura Benanti concert and champagne and dessert reception on stage with the artist are \$200/person. Contact Deborah Páez Hoesly at dpaez@gmu.edu or 703-993-4188 or visit artsbygeorge.gmu.edu for details including tax deductible benefits.

"ARTS By George!" schedule:

- ◆ 5 p.m.—Student showcases in visual arts, music, dance, theater, computer game design, film and video studies and arts management throughout the classrooms, studios and performance spaces of the de Laski Performing Arts Building and Harris Theater.
- ◆ 5 p.m.—Creative cuisine and fine wine bars throughout the event.
- ◆ 5 p.m.—Silent auction of unique arts-related items and experiences.
- ◆ 8 p.m.—Concert Hall performance by Laura Benanti.
- ◆ 9:45 p.m.—Champagne and dessert reception on stage with Laura Benanti.

ety," said Mark Shugoll. "Giving students on a college campus the opportunity to see great artists perform, while developing their own artistic talents, is a responsibility to which we should all commit. "ARTS by George!" does just that. Contributions fund performances on campus by leading artists from around the world, as well as scholarships for arts students so they can fulfill their artistic promise."

"ARTS by George" is "the most fantastic event and focuses on students. It is such a rewarding event; so inspiring to see the students

perform," said Merrill Shugoll. "It is a lovely, informal event with the concert by Laura Benanti the icing on the cake."

Headliner Benanti has won acclaim for her performances as Maria von Trapp in "The Sound of Music," a Tony nomination for her role in "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" and a 2011 Tony Award for wallflower-turned-stripper Gypsy Rose Lee in "Gypsy." In performance she is noted for her delightful humor and vocal nuance. Benanti will also give of her time to teach master classes to Mason students.



A Michael & Son Fun Zone at Fair Oaks rendering.

Michael & Son Fun Zone Comes to Fair Oaks Mall

Michael & Son Services, the leading home improvement service in the mid-Atlantic region, will sponsor the new Michael & Son Fun Zone play area at Fair Oaks Mall through 2018. The Michael & Son Fun Zone, now under construction as part of Fair Oaks' multi-million dollar renovation, is scheduled to open in November of this year. The new play area will be located in the wing located off the center courts at the lower level entrances to the Fair Oaks DMV, JCPenney, Talbots, Regis Salons and Sweet Rainbow.

The new Michael & Son Fun Zone will feature a variety of activities and play areas for youngsters. Children will be able to crawl through oversized tape measures and colorful rolls of electricians tape or sit atop a large antique shower knob. The centerpiece of the Michael & Son Fun Zone will be a 15-foot long replica of Michael & Son's signature blue and white truck, giving youngsters a chance to get behind the steering wheel or climb into the truck by way of a stair made of a 17-foot long hammer and then slide down the back of the play vehicle.

One of the most unusual features of the Michael & Son Fun Zone will be a larger than life paintbrush with a brightly colored paint blob. The paint blob

will be a soft cushion made with heat-sensitive upholstery that will change colors when children leave handprints on the fabric. The entrance to the Michael & Son Fun Zone will have a base relief of Mousa "Mike" Mansour, founder of Michael & Son in 1976, and "Lil Mike" (Basim Mansour, president and proud son) that will measure youngsters up to 42" tall as they enter the Fun Zone.

"We are thrilled to be the new sponsor for the play area at Fair Oaks," said Basim Mansour. "I have two young boys of my own and I can't wait to bring my kids there to enjoy the Fun Zone."

The Michael & Son Fun Zone will have continuous interior cushioned seating for parents and guardians, plus a 50" monitor showing home improvement tips from the Michael & Son "Helping Hands" television series. On special occasions, families will find toy drums in the Michael & Son Fun Zone with special surprises for youngsters, including Michael & Son Coloring and Activity books.

The Michael & Son Fun Zone will be surrounded by contemporary modular furnishings, café table seating, and "tech tables" with charging outlets and high-top stools.

For more information visit www.michaelandson.com.

"I have two young boys of my own and I can't wait to bring my kids there to enjoy the Fun Zone."

— Basim Mansour

FAITH

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

The Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center, 10875 Main St., Fairfax City provides free classes to both newcomers and advanced practitioners of Tibetan Buddhism. The center emphasizes working with the mind and learning how to understand the workings of the mind, overcoming inner causes of suffering, while cultivating causes of happiness. Under the direction of Lama Zopa Rinpoche, the center is a place of study, contemplation and meditation. Visit

<http://www.guhyasamaja.org> for more information.

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran offers services at two locations, in Fairfax at 5114 Twinbrook Road and in Clifton at 13421 Twin Lakes Drive. Services in Fairfax are held on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m.

Services in Clifton are held on Sundays at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m. 703-323-9500 or www.Lordoflifeva.org.

First Baptist Church of Springfield offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10:30 a.m. worship service at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or www.fbcspRINGfield.org.

Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton, offers Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery care is provided. Christian education for all ages is at 9:45 a.m. 703-830-3175.

St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic

Church, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton, conducts Sunday masses at 7:30 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. It also offers a Saturday vigil at 5:30 p.m. and a Thursday Latin mass at 7 p.m. 703-817-1770 or www.st-andrew.org.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or www.poplc.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

Community Emergency Preparedness Fair. Noon-3 p.m., at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. City departments, state and federal agencies, and local vendors have partnered to provide participants with valuable information on what to expect and how to be prepared for emergencies along with valuable resources to assist you in making an emergency plan and building an emergency kit. Visit the Preparedness Fair for an opportunity to talk with representatives from a variety of agencies and an opportunity to win an Emergency Preparedness Kit. 703-385-4856 or oem@fairfaxva.gov.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

Dementia Research Presentation. 1:30 p.m., at Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax. A professional in the field of dementia research will discuss the latest research and clinical updates for the disease process. RSVP. 703-204-4664.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Lunch N' Life. Noon-2 p.m. The Abiding Presence, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. Robert Thompson of the Washington Post discusses traffic issues and plans for the area's future. \$10, for ages 50 and up, checks payable to the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. Call Faye Quesenberry at 703-620-0161 to make reservations; the S.C.F.B. office at 703-323-4788 for transportation; scfbva.org for more information.

ONGOING

Adventures in Learning. Mondays, Sept. 30-Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a day designed to exercise the body and mind. \$30; open to adults 50 and older; bring a bag lunch; registration began Aug. 30 at www.scfbva.org or at 703-343-4788 and continues throughout the session.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Assembly of God

Jubilee Christian Center
703-383-1170

Fairfax Assembly of God
703-591-4284

Way of Faith Assembly of God
703-573-7221

Baptist

Braddock Missionary ... 703-830-4125

Calvary Hill... 703-323-1347

Fairfax Baptist... 703-273-1820

Fairfax Circle... 703-573-7372

Greater Little Zion... 703-764-9111

Iglesia Bautista La Gran Comisica... 703-323-5858

Judah Praise Fellowship Christian... 703-758-1456

Northern Virginia Primitive Baptist... 703-255-0637

Buddhist

Guhyasamaja Buddhist Center... 703-774-9692

Bible

Bancroft Bible Church... 703-425-3800

Catholic

St. Leo the Great Catholic... 703-273-5369

St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church...
703-978-4141

St. Paul Catholic Church... 703-968-3010

Coptic Orthodox

St. Mark... 703-591-4444

Disciples of Christ

Fairfax Christian Church... 703-385-3520

Episcopal

Church of the Apostles
703-591-1974

Truro Episcopal... 703-273-1300

Jewish

Congregation of Olam Tikvah... 703-425-1880

Chabad Lubavitch... 703-426-1980

Lutheran

Bethlehem Lutheran... 703-978-3131

Christ Lutheran... 703-273-4094

Kings of Kings... 703-378-7272

Lord of Life... 703-323-9500

Methodist

Bruen Chapel United... 703-560-1665

Fairfax United... 703-591-3120

Pender United... 703-278-8023

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Non-Denominational

Fair Oaks... 703-631-1112

Fairfax Church of Christ... 703-631-2100

Fairfax Community Church...
703-323-0110

Sovereign Grace Church... 703-691-0600

Jesus Christ Crucified... 703-385-9015

Metropolitan Community Church
703-691-0930

Salvation Army... 703-385-9700

Shepherd's Heart... 703-385-4833

Word of Life Church International...
703-978-7101

Pentecostal

The Greater Pentecostal Temple... 703-385-9426

Presbyterian

Christ Presbyterian Church... 703-278-8365

Fairfax Presbyterian... 703-273-5300

Korean Presbyterian... 703-321-8090

Providence Presbyterian... 703-978-3934

New Hope... 703-385-9056

Shalom Presbyterian... 703-280-2777

Seventh Day Adventist

Fairfax Seventh Day Adventist
703-978-3386

United Church of Christ

Little River United Church of Christ
703-978-3060

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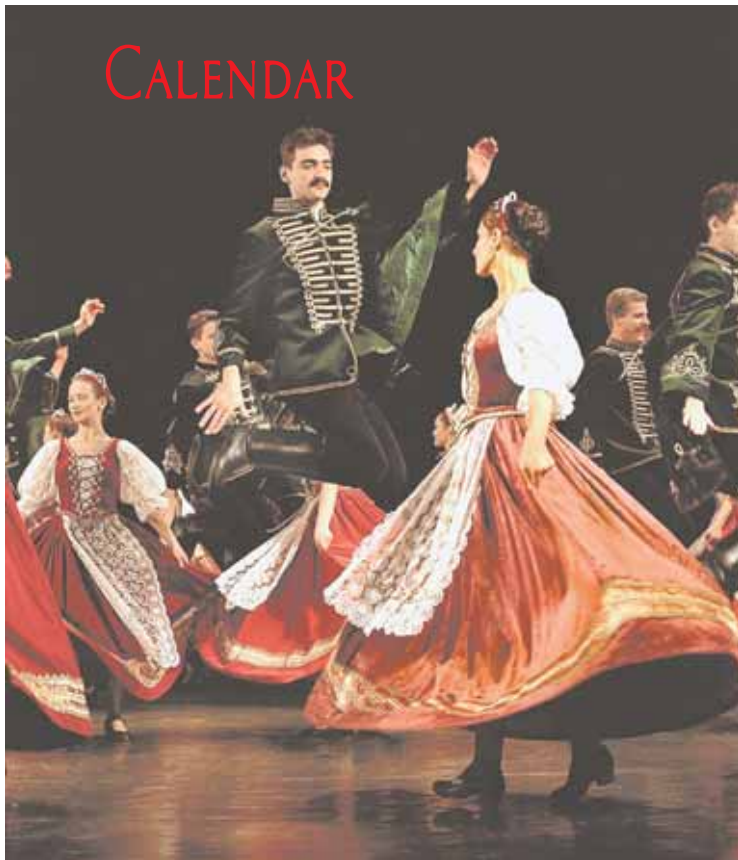
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CALENDAR

PHOTO BY COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT INC.



The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble will perform Saturday, Oct. 19, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts.

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication; we recommend submitting your event two weeks ahead of time. To see more entertainment events, go to: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 12-14

Walking Tours of Old Town

Fairfax. Reservations (90 minute tour), leaving at 11 a.m., from Ratcliffe-Allison House, 10386 Main Street, Fairfax. The walk includes a tour of the historic house and stops at the Fairfax County Courthouse (1800) and several antebellum buildings. \$5/adults; \$3/youth, ages 6-12, under 6 free. Family rate: \$15. 703-385-8414.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/SEPT. 12-20

"Magnitude," by Jennet Inglis concurrent with School of Art Faculty Exhibition. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday, at The Fine Art Gallery, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Jennet Inglis's work shows where supernovae, quantum mechanics and human emotion intersect; the faculty exhibition shows drawing, painting, photography, printmaking, graphic design, sculpture and new media from GMU's art professors. 703-993-8898, avt@gmu.edu or [facebook.com/gmu.soa](https://www.facebook.com/gmu.soa).

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Dog Adoption. Noon-3 p.m., at Petco, 13053 Greenbriar Towncenter, Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Homeless Animals Rescue Team holds an adoption event. 703-817-9444 or <http://www.hart90.org/>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

Jeffrey Siegel's "Gershwin and Friends." 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. Steinway Piano Gallery of Washington, D.C. sponsors the acclaimed pianist's performance of American music. \$19-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket. cfa.gmu.edu and HyltonCenter.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Free 55-plus Piano or Guitar Class. 1:30, 6 p.m., at GMU Potomac Arts Academy, 4620 Chain Bridge Road,

Fairfax. Adults age 55-plus who want to explore something new can join us for a free piano or guitar class. RSVP. 703-993-9889.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 20

"The Prime Male" Open House. 6-7 p.m. master class, 7-9 p.m. open house, at Studio Be Pilates, 11881 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. Kevin Bowen, men's pilates teacher, leads a master class with experience Pilates students and hosts an open house to follow with Pilates demonstrations. 703-222-0122 or info@studiobepilates.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

18th annual CCÉ Irish Folk Festival. Noon-6 p.m., at Sherwood Community Center at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, and The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Workshops, gaelic football, three performance stages, the "Ceili" from 6:30-8:30 and Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann celebrate Irish culture all afternoon. <http://www.ccepotomac.org/www/IrishFest.html#schedule>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

GMU Potomac Arts Academy Open House. 1-3 p.m., at the school, 4620 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Bring the whole family for free arts activities, entertainment and light refreshments. 703-993-9889.

SUNDAY-FRIDAY/SEPT. 22-27

15th Fall for the Book Festival. Various times, in and around Fairfax. From a Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist to one of the most important figures in today's political landscape to the memoirist whose adventures launched Oprah's Book Club 2.0, Fall for the Book welcomes some of the nation's most exciting and provocative writers to its landmark 15th annual festival. Dave Barry, David Baldacci, Ralph Nader, Sonia Sanchez, and Cheryl Strayed are among the nearly 150 authors who will appear at this year's festival. www.fallforthebook.org.



FSO in concert.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Celebrating Diversity Through Music

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) will be presenting bilingual master classes and outreach presentations at various Fairfax County venues.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arts Council of Fairfax County, the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) will be presenting bi-lingual master classes and outreach presentations at various Fairfax County venues in the coming weeks.

What is unique about the FSO English and Spanish language presentations is that they will be presented by Philadelphia Orchestra principal clarinet, Ricardo Morales. According to the US Census, the Fairfax County population includes about 16 percent who identified as Hispanic.

Morales will give workshops and presentations at the Spanish Immersion Rose Hill (Alexandria) Elementary School, Woodburn (Falls Church) Elementary School and the Greenspring Retirement Community. He will also conduct a master class for the clarinet community in which the FSO is partnering with George Mason University and the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association.

His goal is "to help inspire someone to open their minds and hearts to the wonderful world of music," said Morales. To have people "more comfortable with the idea of music, helping people realize that 'music is music' and that while we highly regard many of the composers of the past, the reality is that they were just as human, with just the same kinds of needs and hopes that we have."

When asked about other forms of music he enjoys beyond classical, Morales indicated that he enjoyed "all kinds of music, but when I am not involved with the classical music I love to listen to salsa. It is rhythmic, many lyrics are about love and I usually like the play on words."

"We do not often have the opportunity to have

Where and When

Ricardo Morales and the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra outreach and performances Sept. 17-21. For detailed information for events contact FSO at: www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

- ❖ **TUESDAY, SEPT. 17:** Bilingual performance/presentations for students at Rose Hill Elementary.
- ❖ **WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18:** Performance/presentation at Greenspring Retirement Complex.
- ❖ **FRIDAY, SEPT. 20 AT 2:20 P.M.:** Presentation/performance at Woodburn Elementary.
- ❖ **SATURDAY, SEPT. 21 FROM 3-5 P.M.:** Clarinet master class with up to 5 selected students at George Mason University, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax.
- ❖ Fairfax Symphony Orchestra with soloist Ricardo Morales, Concert Hall, Center for the Arts, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: **SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 8 P.M.** Tickets: \$25-\$60. Student tickets (ages 6-18) are \$5 at the door. Call 1-888-945-2468 or visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org. Note: There will be a pre-concert discussion with audience members starting at 7 p.m.

one of our guest artists make presentations in two languages, so in an area as multi-cultural and diverse as Fairfax County, we want to take advantage of it," said Christopher Zimmerman, FSO maestro.

In describing the FSO's season opening performance, Zimmerman indicated that beyond "one of the most popular and beloved of all Beethoven's symphonies, no. 7 ... we are also playing two pieces by the iconic American composer Aaron Copland, his clarinet concert and 'Music for the Theater.'" The concerto was originally written for Benny Goodman.

"The Copland Clarinet Concerto is a piece of haunting, expressive beauty, coupled with huge rhythmic energy and drive. There is also lots of pyrotechnic virtuosity for Ricardo Morales and a ton of jazz," added Zimmerman. "This is a rare opportunity to hear one of the greatest living clarinetists."



Ricardo Morales



Christopher Zimmerman, maestro, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

SPORTS

Lake Braddock Girls Win Monroe Parker

The defending state champion Lake Braddock girls' cross country team won its second consecutive Monroe Parker Invitational title on Sept. 7 at Burke Lake Park.

The Bruins produced a five-harrier total of 159. Madison placed second with at 163, followed by Chantilly (171), South Lakes (185) and Osbourn Park (194). West Springfield finished ninth (250), Robinson took 12th (287), Woodson was 14th (333), South County was 20th (497), Hayfield finished 25th (710) and Fairfax was 26th (761).

Hannah Christen led the way for Lake Braddock, placing second with a time of 17 minutes, 28 seconds. Katy Kunc placed fifth (18:03) for the Bruins, Sonya Butseva finished 25th (19:10), Katie Voegtlin was 52nd (20:00) and Macy Trump finished 83rd (20:34).

West Springfield senior Caroline Alcorta, who finished state runner-up last season, won the individual title with a time of 16:58. Lee's Bailey Kolonich placed third (17:55) and Robinson's Lauren Berman was ninth (18:16).

In boys' action, defending state champion Chantilly won the team event with a total of 88. Patriot placed



PHOTOS BY ED LULL

Lake Braddock's Hannah Christen finished runner-up at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 7 at Burke Lake Park, and the Bruins captured the team title.



West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta won the individual title at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 7 at Burke Lake Park.

second (121) and Robinson finished third (144).

Robinson's Nathan Schulte placed seventh with a time of 15:32. Dustin Juras finished 20th (15:57) and Brendan O'Connell was 21st (15:58).

Edison's Louis Colson won the individual title with a time of 14:43. Lake Braddock's Alexander Corbett placed sixth (15:21) and teammate Forrest Isenhour finished 11th (15:39).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left (front row) Wesley Duffy, David Stanford, Michael Stanford, Graham Kalan, Mason Jones, Josh DiZinno; (back row) coach Josh Tremblay, PGA, Noah Blocher, Logan Schwartz, Kyle Cardenas, TJ Repczynski, asst. coach Tommy Smith, PGA.

'Beltway 1' Goes to Georgia

Ten boys ages 7 to 13 representing four Northern Virginia area golf clubs (Army Navy Country Club, Springfield Country Club, Country Club of Fairfax, and Mount Vernon Country Club) defeated similar all-star teams from Chattanooga, Tenn., Louisville, Ky., and Chesapeake, Va. to win the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship of the PGA Jr. Golf League. The team comprises TJ Repczynski, Kyle Cardenas, David Stanford, Michael Stanford, and Graham Kalan representing Army

Navy Country Club; Logan Schwartz and Mason Jones representing Springfield Country Club; Wesley Duffy and Josh Dizinno representing Mount Vernon Country Club; and Noah Blocher representing the Country Club of Fairfax. "Beltway 1," as the team is known, now moves on to the National Championships to be held at TPC Sugarloaf in Georgia where they will compete against regional winners from Chicago, New England, Texas, California, and the Southeast.

FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Fairfax Improves to 2-0

The Fairfax football team defeated West Potomac 39-25 on Sept. 6 to improve to 2-0. The Rebels beat Woodson 14-7 in their opener on Aug. 29.

Fairfax has a bye this week before hosting Madison at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20.

Lake Braddock Football Beats Stone Bridge

The Lake Braddock football team improved to 2-0 with a 31-26 victory against Stone Bridge on Sept. 6 in Ashburn.

Bruins running back Trevor O'Brien carried 24 times for 151 yards and three touchdowns. Quarterback Caleb Henderson completed 16 of 26 passes for 131 yards and a touchdown to AJ Alexander, who finished with five receptions for 54 yards.

Lake Braddock led 31-14 in the fourth quarter and held on for the win.

Stone Bridge finished 14-1 last season and reached the AAA Division 5 state championship game. After the VHSE's six-class realignment, Lake Braddock moved to 6A and Stone Bridge 5A.

Lake Braddock has a bye this week before taking on Westfield in the Bruins' home opener and first game on its new turf field

at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20.

Robinson Football Bounces Back

The Robinson football team bounced back from a season-opening 38-22 loss to Lake Braddock on Aug. 30 with a 35-3 win over Woodson on Sept. 6, evening its record at 1-1.

The Rams have a bye this week before traveling to face Mount Vernon at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20. Robinson's conference opener is Sept. 27 on the road against Herndon.

West Springfield Football Drops Opener to Edison

The West Springfield football team came up short its first game under first-year head coach Jason Eldredge, losing at home to Edison, 26-20.

Edison improved to 1-1 after dropping its opener, 75-61, to Lee.

West Springfield will host Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12. Edison has a bye this week before hosting Yorktown on Sept. 20.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

Fairfax running back Nick Scott carries the ball against West Potomac on Sept. 6.



Fairfax running back Jabril Cartier carries during a 39-25 victory against West Potomac on Sept. 6.

South County off to High-scoring Start

The South County football team defeated Hayfield 56-21 on Sept. 6 to improve to 2-0. The Stallions thumped Mount Vernon 56-7 on Aug. 30.

South County has a bye this week before traveling to face Chantilly at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20.

Woodson Suffers Second Loss

The Woodson football team lost to Robinson 35-3 on Sept. 6, one week after dropping its opener to Fairfax, 14-7.

The Cavaliers have a bye this week before hosting West Potomac at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20.

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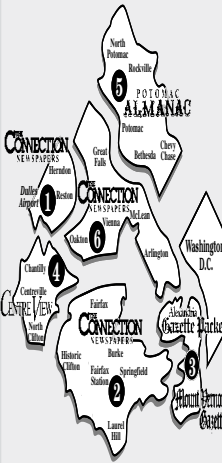
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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

21 Announcements

Weatherization ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

VA Department of Housing and Community Development
Attention: Nancy Palmer
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
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A library jubilee to raise funds for programs.

Fairfax Library Foundation will be hosting its fifth annual Library Jubilee, with this year's theme, "Let Loose in the Library!" Oct. 5, 5-8 p.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Thanks to many sponsors, especially Signature Guardian Sponsor, the Friends of Burke Centre Library, the jubilee is the foundation's largest fundraising event of the year, and all proceeds will help enhance programs and services offered by Fairfax County Public Library including: Changing Lives Through Literature, Early Literacy Outreach, programs and presentations, scholarships, and books and materials. Last year's jubilee raised a record amount of \$130,000.

The event will feature refreshments, live music and both live and silent auctions. Guests can bid on a seven-day African Safari, themed dinners, costumed walking tours, autographed books, gift certificates and much more. Even if you have other plans that evening, you can still help make this year's Jubilee successful by donating or sponsoring the event. To purchase tickets, donate or become a sponsor, please fill out and return the form on the Jubilee page at www.FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org.

The organizers extend their thanks to the following: signature guardian sponsor, the Friends of Burke Centre Library; publisher sponsors, the Friends of Pohick Regional Library, the Friends of Richard Byrd Library, ExxonMobil, and A.J. Dwoskin & Associates; editor sponsor, the Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library; author sponsors, the Friends of Oakton Library, Mary Petersen, Richard & Christine Peterson and Zulu Game Safari; book club sponsors, Patrick & Martha Dexter, Brian & Maxine Engler, Heart Sing, LeonLoard, Mai Land Corporation and the Peterson Family Foundation; and reader sponsors, the Friends of Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, Crest Cleaners, Kristin Cabral, Frank & Joy Whittington, and Ken Workman.

Fairfax Library Foundation is a private, nonprofit corporation committed to providing supplementary support to the Fairfax County Public Library. The foundation, while reinforcing the need for continued and increased public support for the library, serves as a catalyst for attracting private funding from individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations to enhance library services for our community.

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ABOUT ALEXANDRIA'S BRENDAN O'TOOLE

Brendan O'Toole served in the United States Marine Corps from 2008-2012. He enlisted during his senior year at T. C. Williams High School in Alexandria. During his time in the Corps, O'Toole completed two overseas deployments as a communications specialist based out of Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (N.C.).

On his first deployment (2009), Brendan served as a member of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) which assisted in the Haitian earthquake relief effort, before serving in the Indian Ocean, the country of Djibouti, and patrolling the Gulf of Aden and the east coast of Africa where piracy was a major problem. During their Haitian duty, O'Toole established a functioning communication system that was used to coordinate the distribution of vital humanitarian supplies.

On his second deployment (2011), O'Toole was stationed in Afghanistan with Marine Air Support Squadron 1. Upon his arrival, he was assigned to Regimental Combat Team 6, which was assigned to the western part of the Helmand Province, outside the city of Delaram. O'Toole was responsible for all ground communications efforts of the Direct Air Support Center's area of operation. Sgt. O'Toole established and maintained radio and tactical communications systems used to coordinate air strikes against insurgent forces as well as support medical evacuations, and re-supply to U.S. military and coalition forces throughout the battlefield. It was during his Afghanistan deployment that Brendan started planning for The Run for Veterans.

In June 2012, Brendan completed his active duty military service with the rank of Sergeant. On his return home to Alexandria, he began planning and organizing The Run for Veterans, which was chartered by the State of Virginia in August, 2012.

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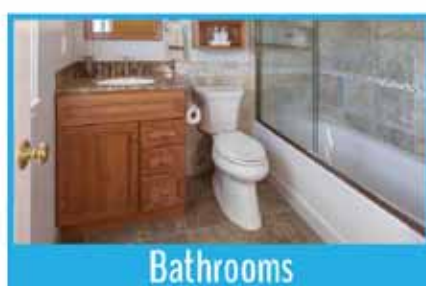
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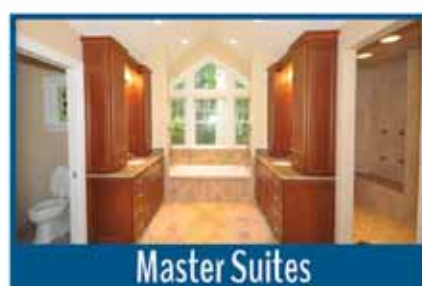
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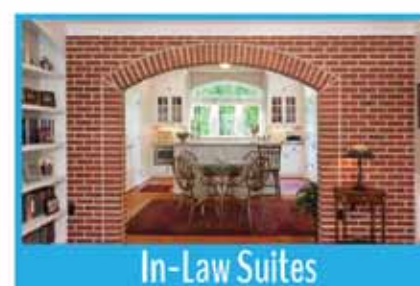
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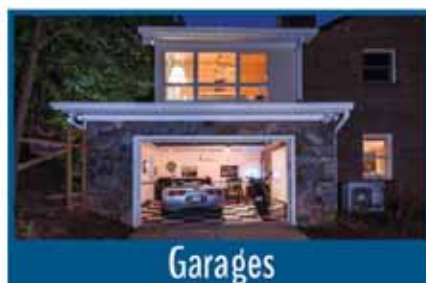
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BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

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.

Purchase online at winchestershowhouse.com or by calling 540-313-9268.



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 homeowner envisioned a series of fo-

cused 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 a small sitting room adjacent to the

More

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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 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. "Situating the TV in the newly remodeled basement al-

lowed 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 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



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.

even need to see the kitchen."

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

private master bedroom suite.

"We had to scrutinize the footprint closely," Mitchell said. "Fortunately, there were first level utility rooms adjacent to the family room we could either delete or re-

assign in our search for space to accommodate a first level master suite." Relocating an upstairs hall bath, thus, gave Mitchell the option to move the laundry to the second floor. The former master bedroom suite now becomes the coveted guest quarters.

A second floor corner bedroom has

been transformed into a bathroom for the two boys complete with a double sink vanity.

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

A home office behind glass-facing French doors opens directly into the redecorated living room. The first level bath has been refashioned 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."



BEFORE: Kitchen

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



BEFORE: Living 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.

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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."

Big Ideas for Small Spaces

Local designers offer ideas for decorating small rooms.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Whether one is sprucing up a small powder room or decorating a studio apartment, space limitations often pose a design challenge. However, local designers say that no matter how a small space's square footage or how awkward the layout, there are plenty of decorative cures for small spaces.

Jean Freeman, a professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington, recommends multiuse furniture. "[On] one project I put in a Murphy bed that folded up and there was a desk that could then be put down from the underside of the bed. It was fantastic," she said. "Work and eat on it during the day, clear the table and sleep on it at night."

Designer Debbie Wiener, of Designing Solutions in Silver Spring, Md., also suggests maximizing the

use of wall space. "There's only one floor, but there are four walls, so don't just decorate the walls, furnish them," she said. "Tall book cases, floating wall shelves, wall-mounted cabinets, desks and tables that fold up against the wall are all functional pieces that give great storage and work space without taking up any valuable floor space."

LARGE FURNITURE can overwhelm a small space, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Using small-scale furnishings helps keep things in proportion," she said. "A narrow bookcase is great for small spaces."

Small tables and chairs with folding legs are another good option.

Thomas also said mirrors are a great way to make a small space seem larger. "They help reflect light and bring depth to a space," she said. "Even a small mirror in a narrow hallway or tiny room can make a big difference."

Storage ottomans can serve a dual purpose in small spaces. "They can be used as a coffee table but can also serve as extra storage," said Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax.

"They are large enough and sturdy enough to be sat on for extra seating and they are also great for ottomans. Choosing a fun fabric is a great way to add some color to your space and they can always be tucked under a console table or into a corner when not in use."

WHEN DESIGNING a small kitchen, Arlington, resident Allie Mann, project designer at Case Design/Remodeling said, "Keep floor coverings such as hardwood the same from the kitchen into the adjacent rooms. If you use floor tiles, use larger format tiles to minimize the amount of grout needed."

When it comes to appliances, Mann suggests mini-models. "Use space saver appliances such as microwaves and built-in organizers



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN O'SHIELDS

An oversized storage coffee table such as this one can also be ideal in a very small space, says Ann O'Shields. "It will allow enough surface space to use for food and drinks for entertaining."

for knives and spices," she said. "Additionally, a microwave can be installed in the island or below a cabinet to free counter space."

When it comes to color in small spaces, Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman suggests using bold and dramatic hues, but not patterns. "Use lush fabrics with lots of texture to create interest," she said. "For example, in a small powder room, I might use an antique mirror on one wall and then wallpaper in a rich color on the other walls." She added that it's best to pick wallpaper with a small to medium pattern.

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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