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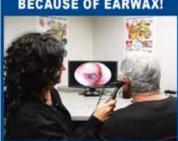
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Cardio and weights available to members of TITLE Boxing Club in Springfield.

Fit Club, Not 'Fight Club'

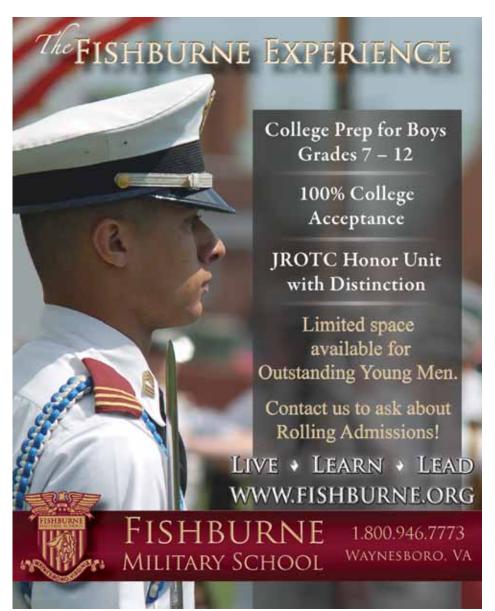
ome call it back-to-school stress. Others call it a seasonal rush. Either way, early fall is filling up Springfield gyms like TITLE Boxing Club with moms and children ready to punch one of the 58 heavy bags the center houses.

Opened in October of last year, TITLE Boxing Club Springfield is attracting members who strive to participate in a challenging, high impact and motivational workout. (No sparring, says co-owner Kate Carski: "It's a fit club, not a fight club.")

Current members at TITLE Boxing Club, Springfield are men and women, ranging

in age from 13 to 60. Julie Silverman Peasley favors the kickboxing classes as cross-training to her marathon prep. She says she sees them as almost meditative and the focus to perform the punch and kick combos leaves her with no mental space to worry about anything else. She also employs the cardio equipment and free weights. Peasley chose TBC Springfield because of their friendly and encouraging staff and their diverse membership base.

Ted Croushore works out with his family, and says he likes the classes because they don't get boring like other workouts.



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-Atlarge).

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

o 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 southbound 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 traffic 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

- ❖ 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.

Chili Cook-off Winners Announced

reenspring recently hosted its first Chili Cook-off. The top resident recipe winners were announced and culinary team recipes from around the community were judged. Greenspring resident Clint Lambert and Chef Eric Phipps took home the "Best in Show" titles. Both recipes will be entered into the 2014 DC101 Chili Cook-Off. As a special surprise, Angie Goff from NBC Washington helped Greenspring announce the winners. Now a weekend anchor News4Today, Goff worked as a production intern Greenspring in 2001.

> NBC4's Angie Goff and Chef Eric Phipps—Best in Show winner (culinary team).

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



NBC4's Angie Goff and Clint Lambert—Best in Show winner (resident).



FAITH NOTES

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.

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.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

JCCNV Mother's Circle program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or LaurieA@jccnv.org.

Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15. 703-971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org or www.franconiaumc.org.





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Key Center Introduces New Classes

Key Center is introducing two new classes during the 2013-14 school year to help students expand knowledge of their surroundings. Passport to Adventure will offer students the opportunity to become educated travelers. In an effort to learn about different countries, students will research specific travel destinations, including history, culture, famous people and events, and current events in each country. Classes will learn about famous and historical landmarks and experience aspects of each country's music, food, and art. Also new is My Class, a course designed to strengthen students' social skills while enhancing peer relations; encouraging self-management; and increasing academic, compliance, and assertion skills. Students will learn about personal development and care, healthy eating, and self-advocacy; living at home and leisure activities; how to handle money; the jobs done by community helpers; and job and career exploration.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7



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OPINION

Small Steps to Fight Homelessness

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

ne 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 EDITORIAL 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 transportation 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 builders 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

to fight homelessness, designed for companies and their employees to make a difference.

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

Sign up for Jeans Day 2013: Putting the ZIP Homelessness http://

Jeans Day, coming Oct. 18, is a simple way

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.

Employees are allowed to wear jeans to work up by Sept. 20 will get extra exposure.

jeansday2013.eventbrite.com/.

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 the things they do until some crazy late hour. You write that students are getting less than five hours sleep and having to get up at 5:30 a.m.— this means they are going to bed at midnight. Is something wrong with that picture?

I am sending this message to response.

Fear of Action Opens Way for Diplomacy

By Jim Moran U.S. Representative (D-8)

ongress 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, par-Judith Owens, MD, Director of ticularly in the Middle East. It's Sleep Medicine at Children's Na- shameful, the money spent on the tional Medical Center to get her Iraq War, especially given that the result was a country more aligned with Iran than the U.S. That money Dixon Hemphill could and should have been used Fairfax Station 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 exchange 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

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.

Springfield

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alarming Case

To the Editor:

On Thursday, Aug. 29, Fairfax County Police in Springfield responded to a domestic call in which the caller said her boyfriend had thrown out her clothing and that the boyfriend has a gun.

If that is the extent of her call, the response of a single police unit would be hard to justify. But according to news reporting, a helicopter and the SWAT team were also on site!

During the negotiations between the police and the boyfriend, who according to news reports remained in the house throughout the entire episode, an officer fired a shot into the home. The shot killed the boyfriend.

This case is alarming because thousands of county residents own firearms, and a benign call to the police in which "gun" is mentioned, could trigger a Springfield incident with similar or worse outcomes.

The loss of any life is tragic, but we are hoping that there is more to this case, more that would justify the police response in terms of manpower.

Steve A. Brown Springfield

Area Roundups

From Page 5

The class is designed to help them learn more about their world by exploring weather, nature, current events, and holidays. Students will participate in social skills inventories and self assessments at the beginning and end of the course to help measure progress.

Prevent Bicycle Thefts

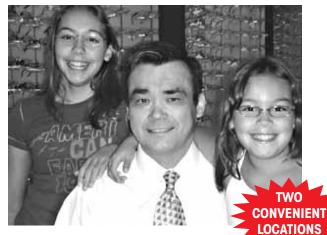
Fairfax County police warn residents to take precautions to protect their bicycles from thieves. Crime analysts report an approximately 36-percent increase in the number of stolen bicycles over last year at this time. Many bikes are taken when residents leave their garage doors open.

Crime-prevention officers suggest bicycle owners take the following precautions to help prevent becoming victims: close garage doors; buy a hardened-steel U-lock; don't leave bicycles outside for days or nights on end; consider installing motion-sensor lights or alarms on the property; and photograph the bike and record its serial number to aid recovery if it's stolen.

Bikes may also be registered on the National Bike Registry at http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com/. Stolen bikes may be reported online at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs/.

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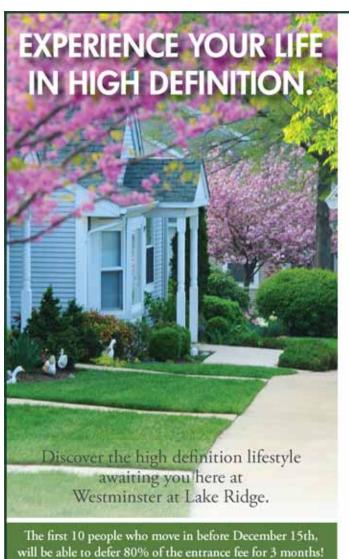
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News

An Artistic Evening Like No Other

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

> BY DAVID SIEGEL THE CONNECTION

> > "It is a lovely,

the concert by

informal event with

Laura Benanti the

icing on the cake."

- Merrill Shugoll, co-chair

of 'ARTS by George'

ith 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 fac-

ulty 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 society," 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-turnedstripper 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.



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.

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Register at moran.house.gov For more information, contact **703-971-4700**

Home Sales

In July 2013, 196 Springfield homes sold between \$815,000-\$151,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$585,000-\$390,000 range.

For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

ddress216 RUSHING CREEK DR	431	SPRINGFIELD	\$585,000	Detached	0.23	22
514 NANLEE DR 216 BONNIEMILL LN		SPRINGFIELD				
727 ROCKLEDGE CT						
320 SWEET GUM PL	421	SPRINGFIELD	\$557,500	Detached	0.26	22
24 DONNA DEAN DR '07 DELAND DR						
214 CUTTING HORSE CT						
308 SCARBOROUGH ST						
40 DONEGAL LN	4 2 1	SPRINGFIELD	\$550,000	Detached	0.21	22
002 FERNCLIFF CT						
47 ARLEY DR 07 CARRSBROOK CT						
35 CARRLEIGH PKWY						
42 DUNWICH WAY						
45 FIELDHURST CT						
01 POWDER HORN RD						
58 CONSERVATION DR 08 SALFORD CT						
04 THURLTON DR						
15 GAME LORD DR						
08 HALL ST						
55 CROSS GATE LN						
35 SANDYFORD ST						
46 TALIAFERRO WAY 51 NORHAM DR						
37 MELIA ST						
35 GREEN GARLAND DR						
28 WELCH CT						
08 INZER ST						
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18 LAKE PLEASANT DR						
54 BRAELEIGH LN	3 2 1	ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Townhouse	0.05	22
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5 PIECO CT						
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8 SEDGWICK LN						
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9 GLENALLEN ST	411	SPRINGFIELD	\$412,500	Detached	0.30	2
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52 BRIGHOUSE CT						
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15 BEVERLY PARK DR						
05 DUDDINGTON DR	4 2. 1	ALEXANDRIA	\$391 000	Inwinhouse		

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FAITH NOTES

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

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 innner 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 703-323-8100 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.

Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield, supports a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) program on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church. All mothers and children are welcome. The program provides mothers an opportunity to get to know other mothers through discussions and craft activities. Register. 703-451-5320.

Schools

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.

Sean A. Scott of Clifton received the Pamplin College Leadership from the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech, offered through University Honors for the 2013-2014 academic year. The Centreville High School graduate will major in general engineering at Virginia Tech's College of Engineering.

Pierce Eggan of Fairfax Station was one of 19 American students chosen to attend the summer science program at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel after graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and

Patrick Hishta, a junior at Hayfield High School, has graduated from the 2013 Summer Residential Governor's School for Agriculture at Virginia Tech.

Jennifer A. Martinelli graduated summa cum laude from Virginia Commonwealth University Dec. 8, 2012 with a degree in fine arts education. She has accepted a job as an art teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools and plans to start work in September.

Melissa Martinelli-Brown, a cancer survivor and alumnus of Lake Braddock High School, graduated from Georgetown University Dec. 15, 2012, with a master's degree in nurse anesthesia. She has accepted a job at Fair Oaks Anesthesia Associates and works at Alexandria Hospital and Fair Oaks

The following students are Scholarships for Military Children Program winners, all of whom received \$1,500 college scholarships, awarded at Fort

Meredith Zettlemoyer of Springfield, daughter of Mark and Gloria Zettlemoyer, plans to use the scholarship towards paying for her education at the University of Virginia.

Molly MacDonald of Fairfax Station, daughter of Anthony and Jennifer MacDonald, plans to use her scholarship towards paying for her education at High Point University.

Rebecca Birke of Springfield, a graduate of Annandale High School, received the Shippensburg University Foundation Scholarship and the Shippensburg University Scholarship for Outstanding Students to attend Shippensburg University.

Mansfield University totaled 59 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference scholar-athletes during the 2012-13 academic year according to data distributed by the conference office. 30 percent of Mountaineer student-athletes garnered Scholar-Athlete status. The 16 institutions of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference have combined to set a new record of 2,200 scholar athletes during the 2012-13 academic year, breaking the previous mark of 2,187 set a year

The following students received the DAR Youth Citizenship Medal from the Providence Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution: From Fairfax, Brett Morrow and Anthu Cung, Oak View Elementary School; Sonia Chaudhary and Ian Drummond, Greenbriar East Elementary School; Sidhu Dogiparthi and Seon Woo Cho, Greenbriar West Elementary School; Yoshi Iketani and Emma Rowson, Lees Corner Elementary School. From Fairfax Station, Joshua Sawin and Dylan Syron, Fairview Elementary School.

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Church...

703-455-4521

Westwood Baptist Church...703-451-5120 Bible

Immanuel Bible Church... 703-941-4124 Catholic

St. Bernadette's Catholic Church... 703-451-8576

Christian Science First Church of Christ, Scientist...703-866-4325 Central Christian Church... 703-971-0277

Springfield Church of Christ... 703-451-4011

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints... 703-451-0631

Disciples of Christ Springfield

Christian Church... 703-354-4994 **Episcopal**

St. Christopher's Episcopal... 703-451-1088 **Evangelical Covenant**

Community Covenant Church...703-455-4150 Jewish

Congregation Adat Reyim... 703-569-7577 Ohev Yisrael Messianic Congregation...

Jehovah's Witness Springfield North Congregation... 703-971-2936

Lutheran

Prince of Peace Lutheran... 703-451-5855 St. John's Lutheran Church... 703-971-2210 St. Mark's Lutheran Church... 703-451-4331 Immanuel Lutheran Church...703-549-0155 Methodist Messiah United Methodist Church... 703-569-9862 Springfield United Methodist... St. John's United Methodist... 703-256-6655 Sydenstricker United

Methodist...703-451-8223

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CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. For more entertainment events in the county, go to: http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/ news/2013/may/22/fairfax-county-calen-

THURSDAY/SEPT. 12

Zoogma. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$12, open to ages 18 and up. www.ampedandalive.com/ eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1161.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 13

Anathema and Alcest. 6 p.m.-12 a.m. Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Alcest performs metal music and Anathema plays atmospheric rock, bringing their successful-in-Europe sound stateside. \$20. www.ampedandalive.com/ eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1176.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 14

Opening Reception: "New Directions," by Toni Bragg and Lynn Goldstein. 6-9 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center, Studio Building 6, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Bragg and Goldstein will be featuring paintings that represent the ongoing growth and experimentation in their work; the exhibit is up Wednesday, Sept. 11 through Sunday, Oct. 6. 703-548-2900, www.tonibragg.com or www.lynngoldstein.com.

Second Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, The Workhouse Arts Center is proud to present featured artists and studio exhibitions for the month of September. An opening reception for all studio shows and featured artists listed below will be held campus-wide. Among the featured exhibits are watercolors by Toni Bragg, oils by Jill Brabant and art inspired by the Korean War Veterans Memorial. www.workhousearts.org.

In Concert: Sunset Serenade. 7 p.m. Rizer Pavilion, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road. Lorton. Live performances of classic showtunes celebrate the end of the summer. Free, concessions and cash bar available. workhousearts.org.

Cool Cow Comedy. 7 and 9 p.m., W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Rahmein Mostafavi hosts five standup routines by touring comedians. \$15. http://workhousearts.org/ events/performing-arts/cool-cowcomedy-4

SUNDAY/SEPT. 15

NTRAK N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a display and N gauge trains running at the museum. Museum members, free; adults 16 and over, \$4; children 5-15. \$2: under 4 free, www.fairfaxstation.org phone 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Sixth Generation Concert. 8 p.m. Rizer Pavilion, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The 1960s rock band performs retro hits. \$10-15; seating is provided but guests are welcome to bring chairs or blankets; beer, wine, and concessions will be sold; no outside alcohol,

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Homestead Farm Musical Freestyle Challenge/Hoofbeats to Hope Auction. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at



Simple Pleasures, Jill Brabant, 16" x 14", Oil on Panel, is featured in the group exhibition, "Out of the Woods" a series of works created by the artists of Building 10, showing their relationship to the "woods". See the work at an opening reception Sept. 14, 6-9 p.m.

Homestead Farm in Clifton. The dressage musical freestyle horse show and silent auction benefit ovarian cancer awareness and research. The silent auction ends at 1:30 p.m. 540-788-1977, www.homesteadhorses.com or www.hoofbeatstohope.com.

Milan Piano Trio at Concerts From Kirkwood. 3 p.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Jason Solounias, pianist, Diana LeGrand, violinist, and Devree Lewis, cellist, play classical pieces with Latin flair as part of the free concert series. 703

451-5320 or go to

www.kirkwoodpres.com.

The Gypsy Sons. 7-11:30 p.m. Empire-Alchemy Room, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. The Gypsy Sons, Jammboxx, and Fusebox perform music of the rock genre. \$10. www.ampedandalive.com/ eventdetails.aspx?eventId=1189.

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8:30 p.m., at GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Christopher Zimmerman conducts, Ricardo Morales plays clarinet and the symphony performs Beethoven and Copland. 888-945-2468 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. 2-5 p.m., at Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. The theme of the evening is "Together We Stand" and guest speaker Rev. Dr. Kenny Smith and emcee Sheila Stewart of Radio-One DC, guide guests through the evening. \$65 for adults; \$45 for youth 16 and under. www.fairfaxnaacp.org.Freedom_Fund_2.php

SATURDAY/SEPT. 28

Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. McGuirewoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. A Workhouse instructor leads an evening of social ballroom dance. \$5 for a mini-lesson, \$10 for the social dance.

SATURDAY/NOV. 2 **Lorton Senior Center Advisory**

Council's Bake and Craft Sale Lorton Senior Center, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton. Baked goods and products made by local artists and crafters will be sold. Admission is free. 703-550-7195.



FSO in concert.

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

ith 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

he 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



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).



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 VHSL'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.



Fairfax running back Nick Scott carries the ball 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.



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

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

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

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

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airfax 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 sevenday 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.

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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 pirating 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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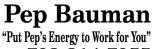


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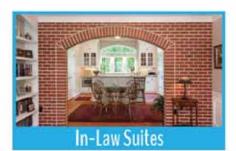
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Home LifeStyle

NVAR Summit at GMU's Mason Inn

Complex shortage of homes for sale likely to persist.

By Tim Peterson The Connection

ationally 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



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.

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

"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 still missing in action. They're out there, but and 2017, he forecasts 55,000 new jobs

they face hurdles. Student debt load is a 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 entrylevel 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 GPD — 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 "overborrowed" 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

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



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Home LifeStyle

Top-to-Bottom Makeover Embraces Longterm Horizons

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

1970s Vienna split-level Andre and shortcomings were even more ob-Katy Hollis purchased in 2005. With more than 3,200 square feet of living space that included four Mindy Mitchell, the Certified Agbedrooms, three bathrooms and a ing-In-Place Specialist at Sun Delarge family room, most would sign Remodeling Katy Hollis called consider the house sufficient — in to talk over some ideas. even enviable — as the primary home for a family of four.

True, the previous owners had been empty-nesters, which partly tion house floorplan for longterm explained why there was a soak- use," Mitchell said. "Size is less ing tub instead of a shower in an important than how rooms are upstairs bathroom allocated to two purposed and configured. The goal pre-teen boys.

main block seemed to have capac-

for changes that had prompted the Hollis' to buy the house in the first

But while recuperating from an owner envisioned a series of fo- a small sitting room adjacent to the ometimes it's not limited Hollis began to reassess. "I decided square footage that makes that I really like our neighborhood it's how that square foot- indefinitely. But I also saw that I had been ignoring a lot of things Take, for example, the circa that didn't work for us. And the vious when I looked ahead."

All of this sounded familiar to

"In the last two decades, designers have learned a lot about how to customize a traditional producis to create a plan that will logi-Still, the structure's two-level cally support priorities."

As discussions with Mitchell ity to spare. There was a guest evolved, Katy Hollis unveiled her room; a full bathroom on the first larger agenda. To make the house in mind, but there were many more functional for both current space planning considerations we In fact, it was the lack of need and foreseeable needs, the home-

accident a few years ago, Katy cused revisions: a spacious first dining room. floor bedroom; a gourmet kitchen; a house feel inadequate — and that we could stay in the house midst of other entertainment would circulate back to the family zones; a guest suite with dedicated bath; an indoor-outdoor segue to the beautifully wooded backyard.

> should be beautifully articulated dark. front-facing rooms that would support the occasional dinner party. **SUCH PROBLEMS** were equally They needed a family gathering apparent upstairs. The front-facing area for daily meals and everyday master bedroom suite was large interaction. The new kitchen enough — but the master bathshould be equipped with a gas room could only be accessed range, a wine refrigerator and genthrough a closet/changing area, erous food preparation surfaces.

"I found it reassuring to talk about the house as a place we might occupy 30 years from now," probably had the necessary square footage to make the changes I had needed to work out carefully."

Certainly, the current plan was

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

One could proceed to the back inspired food of the house from the galley **preparation.** kitchen to a rear dining room, or from the parellel foyer directly to

Sun Design Remodeling frequently holds workshops on home remodeling topics at

The arrangement often led to

television-viewing that's not in the bottlenecks. At parties, guests room after dinner creating traffic

Moreover, a promising view of the pretty backyard was hampered The new plan had to serve a va- by undersized windows — which riety of concurrent scenarios. There made the back of the house too

> and the plan lacked a walk-in closet and privacy. Adding to the inconvenience, the only shower

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

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.

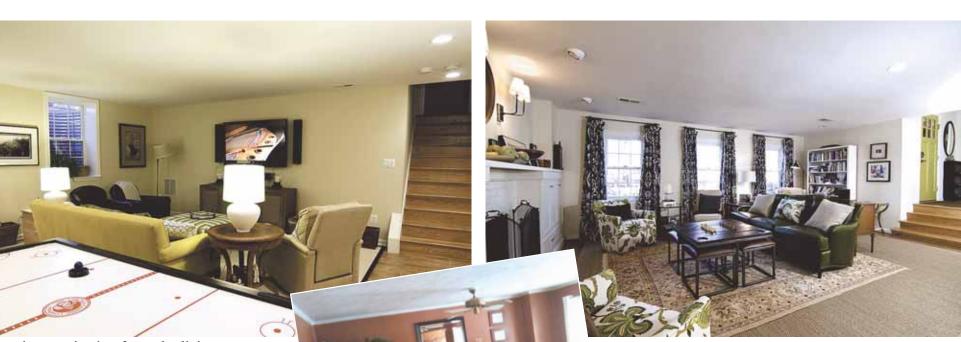
A course of large back windows now dramatically improves natural light availability and visual con-

THE CENTERPIECE of the new kitchen is an L-shaped food prepa-



ration and dining counter. The cusavailable for second floor guest tom built-in provides seating for both improved day-to-to functioning, and long-term use. From left: Alex, Max, Katy and Katy Hollis said. "I thought that we room was one flight down, on the four, easy access to the butler's **Andre in the newly remodeled family room.**

double sink vanity.



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

first floor.

"Our challenge was comprehensively re-imaging how space could be allocated while staying inside leg in a work trithe envelope of the house,"

Interestingly, a decision to move and clean up tasks. IV-watching away from the front- "It's much easier to facing family room set the both cook and tend to

better serve all formal entertainment needs," Mitchell said. "Situ-

pantry en route to the new dining room, and a critical angle that facilitates essential cooking

reconfiguration process in motion. guests," Katy Hollis said. "The din-"We saw the rooms in the front ing room, foyer and new living nently in the makeover. Katy Hollis ond floor corner bedroom has been detail," Katy Hollis said. "And of the house as a suite that would room are well-unified aestheti- wanted both a guest room with transformed into a bathroom for knowing we've already made some the kitchen."

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Re-purposing bedrooms and ter bedroom suite now becomes pointed guest powder room. bathrooms also figured promithe coveted guest quarters. A sec- "It's a terriffic solution in every cally; guests don't even need to see dedicated bath and a larger, more the two boys complete with a solid decisions about the future is private master bedroom suite.

BEFORE: Living Room

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"We had to scrutinize the foot-With the laundry now out of the print closely," Mitchell said. way, Mitchell and team re-de-'Fortunately, there were first ployed 300 square feet on the rear level utility rooms adjacent to of the first level for a spacious and the family room we could eivery private master bedroom suite ther delete or re-assign in our that includes a master bath and search for space to accommogenerous walk-in closets. date a first level master suite." Relocating an upstairs ing French doors opens directly hall bath, thus, gave Mitchell into the redecorated living room.

A home office behind glass-facthe option to move the laundry to
The first level bath has been rethe second floor. The former mas- fashioned as a handsomely ap

really quite satisfying."

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Home LifeStyle Like Magic

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

By John Byrd

n 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

"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 threebedroom 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

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 shelledin 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

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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

"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 buildout 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."



room suite to create a more functional floorplan that gains a 36-squarefoot closet and a spa bath with soaking tub and a walk-in shower.

Home Life Style

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

hether 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.

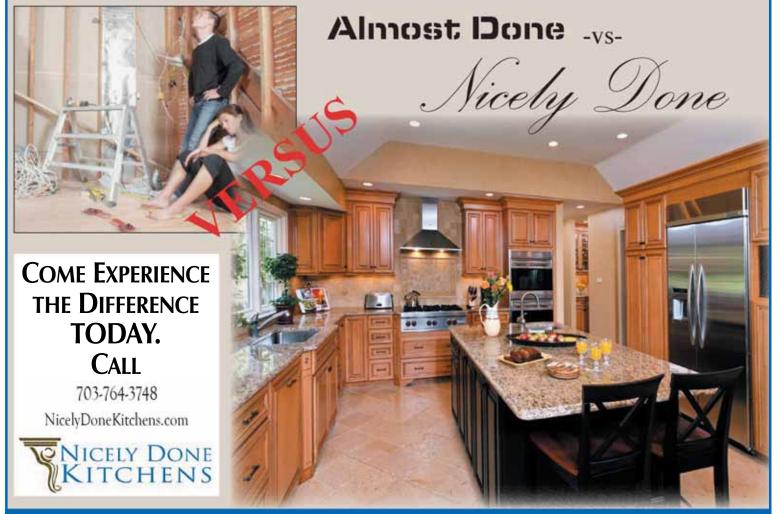
"They are large enough and sturdy enough to be sat on for extra seating and they are also great for ottomans. Choosing a fun fabric is a great way to add some color to your space and they can always be tucked under a console table or into a corner when not in use."

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 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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