

Springfield CONNECTION

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Home Life Style

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A Story of Flying

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A long-time Springfield resident Ray Gilbert, right, poses with his friend Art, who also served in World War II, at the Udvar Hazy Air & Space Museum in front of the P-61.

Debate Over Residential Studio Units Continues

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Legislators Head to Richmond, Address Upcoming Session

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PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Many supporters and opponents to Residential Studio Units in Fairfax County attended the Planning Commission RSU Committee's planning session on Jan. 6.



Debate Over Residential Studio Units Continues

Housing advocates, Fairfax County supervisors, area residents address affordable housing.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County residents have yet to agree on the specifics of residential studio units and are continuing the debate on several aspects of the proposed amendment.

As of Jan. 6, the Planning Commission proposed amendment defines residential studios as efficiency units that make up a multiple-family residential building, or part of a building, in which 80 percent of the units must be for those who do not make more than 60 percent of the median income of the area. In the Washington, D.C. area, that is \$45,000.

The Residential Studio Unit Amendment has also been amended to remove residential studio units from consideration in lower density R-E through R-8 districts, where single family detached homes are allowed.

AS IT CURRENTLY STANDS, the amendment does not allow for the conversion of single family homes. It was this issue that several members of the Board of Supervisors, including Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), were opposed to and advised the Planning Commission RSU Committee to remove from consideration, along with removing from consideration the development of Residential Studio Units in lower-density neighborhoods.

"Some people thought someone could just go in and create a boarding house out of a single family home, so the Board asked the Planning Commission to just remove that option altogether," said Michelle Krocker, executive director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance.

Herrity, however, said that he is still opposed to the income limit of \$45,000 for 80 percent of the units, and believes the market should dictate the rates.

"The ordinance still needs a lot of work. 80 percent of the units will be out of the reach of our policemen, firemen, teachers and other young professionals in Fairfax County because of the rent controls," Herrity said. "I think that's still the chief problem with the ordinance."

Herrity said he has been working with state delegate Jim LeMunyon (R-67) on issues related to residential studio units.

"I've been working with Jim LeMunyon on a piece of legislation that would keep these RSUs out of neighborhoods and prevent single family conversions," Herrity said.

According to Krocker, residential studio units will provide those who work in positions vital to Fairfax County with an affordable place to live. Using Paycheck to Paycheck, a website that can compare the salary of different occupations in various areas,

Krocker said she was able to compile a list of jobs that make anywhere from \$19,000 per year to \$48,000 per year, including automotive technicians, bookkeepers, childcare workers, preschool teachers, cooks, bank tellers, and others.

"Single persons who work in those occupations could be well served by housing of this type; housing that is just small and an affordable place for them to live that doesn't have a huge amount of space that they have to pay for," Krocker said.

According to Joe Pettit, a volunteer at the Church of the Nativity in Burke, residents' concerns of overcrowding and illegal board houses are not related to residential studio units, but many groups have linked the two.

"This is a reflection that Fairfax County lacks low-income rental housing. If we had more affordable rental housing, there would be less pressure. It

"The RSUs would fill the need for many people who need low-income housing."

— Joe Pettit, volunteer at the Church of the Nativity in Burke

VIEWPOINTS

Residential Studio Units: Pros & Cons

— JANELLE GERMANOS

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

"The ordinance still needs a lot of work. Eighty percent of the units will be out of the reach of our policemen, firemen, teachers and other young professionals in Fairfax County because of the rent controls. I think that's still the chief problem with the ordinance, that our young professionals, teachers, policemen and firemen are all placed out of these units."



Al Smuzynski, Fairfax Station

"The current amendment I think is going in the right direction, but it's got some serious flaws that will make it hard to actually build these."



Keith Bender, Springfield

"This proposal of 500 square feet with no walls doesn't address someone who is making \$60,000 a year and has three kids. But it needs to. There are a lot of problems here. You have to include the smallest before you can ever think of taking care of the largest. If we don't address the need of someone making seven dollars an hour or twelve dollars an hour, we're still going to have housing problems. We will just be managing the problems that we ourselves have created."



Nancy Mercer, Braddock District

"If we were smart, we would take this opportunity of all this angst, that everybody has, and fear, and we would sit down and look at all of the tools we have available, and look at what we can build."



Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee District)

"I definitely think they should be in commercial districts, especially planned development commercial districts, which tend to be higher density. I think we should consider them in industrial areas because there's a lot of industrial areas that have untapped density and they do have connectivity to mass transit, and a lot of times they're bordering residential areas, but are not in them, and so the impacts can be better mitigated. I think there are some residential districts that make sense but the idea that first surfaced was anywhere and everywhere, and that makes no sense to me."



Rob Jackson, President, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

"We certainly think the concept of RSUs have some merit, as there are not many efficiency apartments in Fairfax County, and if done correctly, they could benefit the community."



Michelle Krocker, executive director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance

"This is meant to help working singles, but it could also be used to assist people who are homeless. Any kind of housing that is affordable is going to help low income people, so it's one of the strategies that the County can and should use, but it shouldn't be limited to just people who are homeless. It could serve a much greater percentage of the population."



SEE STUDIO, PAGE 5



Del. Dave Albo (R-42) has proposed a bill that would transform Virginia's Alcoholic Beverage Commission into a five-person Board of Directors with experience in business or law.



Supervisor Jeffrey McKay (D-Lee District), center, poses with Johnna Good Gagnon, right, a member of the the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and Ken Fox at the Lee District Table during the Fairfax County Democratic Council's Road to Richmond Legislative Brunch.

Legislators Head to Richmond, Address Upcoming Session

Proposed bills and priorities include ethics reform and ABC Transformation.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

As the General Assembly convenes on Jan. 8, several delegates from Fairfax County have written bills that tackle some of the issues they believe are important to Virginians.

Del. Dave Albo (R-42) proposed a bill that would get rid of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission's three person board and would replace them with five citizens with business experience who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state legislature. Members of the current three-person board make six-digit salaries and are appointed by the governor. Albo's plan would make the position part time and would pay 50 dollars per day.

"The bill was originally filed when the Governor tried to privatize the ABC stores. The idea was that the private sector could



State Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) spoke at the Fairfax County Democratic Committee's Annual Road to Richmond Legislative Brunch.

operate them more efficiently. We never could find a way to do it. If we privatized them, in a few years, the state would be losing tens of millions. So my bill basically keeps the ABC stores with the state, but organizes it as a business/corporation with a Board of Directors and a CEO," Albo wrote in an email.

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has proposed five ethics reform bills, some of which address issues that surfaced in 2013 due to ongoing investigation related to Governor McDonnell's gift scandal.

"I wanted to get those out there early in



Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) spoke at the Fairfax County Democratic Committee's Annual Road to Richmond Legislative Brunch.

the process, because I know there are discussions out there on what we should be doing. The bills themselves focus on holes in the states ethics laws," Surovell said.

Surovell's bills include banning economic ties with appointees and eliminating gifts during litigation, intended to keep politicians transparent.

"The last twelve months have raised a lot of questions among Virginians of how business is conducted in Richmond," Surovell said. "I think we owe it to our constituents to ensure that relationships between elected officials and lobbyists and special interests

have as much transparency as possible, so that citizens can make their own decisions as to whether that activity is appropriate or not and every one follows the law."

At the Fairfax County Democratic Committees' Annual Road to Richmond Legislative Brunch, Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) talked about retiring Del. Jim Scott's (D-53) legacy and mentioned the upcoming General Assembly session.

"One year ago, no one thought that we would get a \$1.4 billion per year transportation budget," Sickles said. "So that makes me think that we could get Medicaid."

Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) also addressed ethics reform, the expansion of Medicaid, and other legislative priorities at the legislative brunch. "We're going to have to deal with the ethics issue. It's not as easy to deal with as you think, because you're going to have to distinguish between what's entertainment and what is a gift," Saslaw said. "It's not an easy topic. We are going to deal with it, we are going to get legislation, and we will get something to the desk of the governor." According to Saslaw, economic development is one of McAuliffe's top priorities. "I don't know of any governor in the country that is as well wired with the business community across the planet as that man is," Saslaw said.

Suspicious Death in Springfield

Serena Hansken-Vierimaa, 41, of Springfield was found dead by police responding to reports of shots fired in a home on the 7100 block of Healy Drive on New Year's Day.

According to a report released by the Fairfax County Police Department Public Information Office, officers attempted to call the home several times and knocked on the door, but were unable to gain access until 9 p.m. Upon entry of the home at 9 p.m., police found the body of Serena Hansken-Vierimaa with an apparent gunshot wound. Aaron Vierimaa, 41, was not injured and

was charged with obstruction of justice, according to the Fairfax County Police Department. Maria Galo, a resident of Healy Drive, said she did not know either Aaron Vierimaa or Serena Hansken-Vierimaa, and that this type of event doesn't normally happen in her neighborhood. "I wasn't aware of what happened," Galo said. "I didn't hear anything about it." Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



This house on the 7100 block of Healy Drive was the site of a shooting on Jan. 1. Police found Serena Hansken-Vierimaa, 41, dead inside the house, with an apparent gunshot wound.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Studio Units Debate Goes On

FROM PAGE 3

wouldn't eliminate people looking for boarding types of situations, but it would lessen it," Pettit said. "The RSUs would fill the need for many people who need low-income housing. That's the bottom line."

According to 2012 Fairfax County data mentioned in a staff note in the proposed amendment, less than one percent of the overall housing units in Fairfax County are efficiency units, while 23 percent of the population lives in single households.

"In some sense, portions of Fairfax are becoming like Arlington. People who have moved to the suburbs want to preserve the suburban atmosphere," Pettit said. "That was the type of housing they chose, and I can understand why they would want to preserve that, but it appears that more and more single individual living units are going to be needed."

SOME FAIRFAX COUNTY RESIDENTS at the Jan. 6 Residential Studio Unit Committee Meeting disagreed on who is meant to be the specific populations served by these units.

Clyde Miller, a resident of Falls Church, spoke at the meeting against the way the current proposed RSU amendment is written.

"There's no requirement and no thought in any of this language that any of this is regulated. It could have a halfway house in an R-12 residential district, unmanaged and unregulated. The County placed that in same pot with the notion that we need to do something for first-year school teachers, and they don't belong in the same pot. They need to be separated," Miller said.

Pettit, however, believes that residential studio units can help a variety of people.

"These are designed for people from all kinds of backgrounds, not just coming from the area of my particular interest, those with disabilities, but also older people, younger people, those just starting out that want their own place rather than boarding with some other people," Pettit said.

Keith Bender, a Springfield resident, believes that more thought needs to be put into the amendment.

"It's being crafted so it's a beautiful example of what could have been, but nobody wants to step up and build it," said Bender.

The next Planning Commission Residential Studios Committee will be on Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Read the draft to the proposed Residential Studio Unit here: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/rsu/1_6_14_draft_res_studio_amendment.pdf

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Broken Promises

Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services.

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Last month the disAbility Law Center (dLCV) is sued a report on the condition of mental health services in Virginia. It is an eye-opening report: Broken Promises, the Failure of Mental Health Services in Virginia. Its findings are direct: "Despite the promises of reform to the mental health service system in the last decade, Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services."

According to dLCV, there are more than 40,000 Virginians living with serious mental illness and thousands more with less serious emotional disorders that require treatment including an estimated 130,658 children between the ages of nine and eighteen who need treatment. The dLCV which

advocates for all people with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect, and discrimination considers the problem in part to be a misallocation of resources. As its report points out, on any given month about ten percent of residents of state hospitals continue to be hospitalized even though their treating professionals have found that they no longer need to be hospitalized. Thirty-one of the 133 individuals in such hospital placements in November, 2013, had been waiting for discharge for more than a year. The problem is that there are inadequate or non-existent facilities or programs in the community to continue services to these persons. At the same time, there were an estimated 26,990 inmates confined in local and regional jails of whom nearly



25 percent were known or suspected to be mentally ill. More than 3,500 persons in jails were diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

The dLCV maintains that funding is misdirected towards unnecessary hospitalization when funding is needed desperately for community-based crisis response services and housing options for people with mental health needs. Their position is not without controversy. Others maintain that both more hospital spaces and more community-based facilities are needed.

The tragic event surrounding the family of Senator Creigh Deeds has brought the need to the public's attention.

Outgoing Governor Bob McDonnell has proposed a more than \$50 million increase in the

budget for mental health services and has established a commission to develop a plan for mental health services in the Commonwealth. There is bipartisan support to address the issue in terms of additional funding as well as to amend existing statutes to permit persons who are a danger to themselves and to others to be held for a longer period of time until appropriate treatment is available to them.

We are past the time when we should have met the promises for reform to persons with mental health problems and their families. The 2014 session of the General Assembly must respond. You can view my interview with Colleen Miller, Executive Director of disAbility Law Center of Virginia and another interview with George Braunstein, Director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, both on the topic of mental health reform at <http://vimeo.com/album/1650266>.

Problem-solving on 2014 Agenda

BY SUPERVISOR JOHN COOK
(R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)

I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with my Board colleagues and Braddock residents on a number of important issues. Here are some of the key issues that will affect Fairfax County residents in 2014.

❖ Federal and state law requires the Board to pass a new Stormwater Ordinance this spring as part of Chesapeake Bay pollution control. Our stormwater program will also start to address flooding caused by prior development that did not adequately plan for run-off. I have been working to minimize the burden these requirements would place on homeowners seeking to make renovations, while still meeting important environmental goals.

❖ The Board will consider a zoning amendment to permit Residential Studio Unit (RSU) apartments. An RSU is a small zero-bedroom apartment, of no more than 500 square feet (the size of a good-sized living room), with a bathroom and kitchenette included. The Board has already voted to keep RSU's out of low-density residential areas. I hope we can work out remaining issues so we can allow the private sec-



tor to create new, market rate affordable housing at no cost to the taxpayers.

❖ I am co-chairing a joint Board of Supervisor-School Board Infrastructure Financing Committee charged with figuring out how to pay for school renovations, major maintenance needs of County buildings and parks, and new construction of schools, parks, and facilities to meet the demands of population growth. I am also part of a working group tasked with designing a new compensation plan for our County workforce that will keep employee pay compa-

rable to our competitors and still be affordable to the taxpayers.

❖ The County budget is in decent shape. Last year we dealt with our structural challenge by stopping the practice of balancing the budget with one-time money. Now, we should be able to balance this year's budget without raising the tax rate, holding agency spending basically flat, giving schools the 2 percent increase we promised them, and giving our workforce a cost-of-living raise.

❖ In Braddock District, one of the first uses of the new state transportation funding could be widening Braddock Road from Guinea Road to the Beltway, including HOV-Bus lanes. I will put together a citizen task force to ensure the interests of our neighborhoods are protected as we ex-

plore how to design this project. I am also looking forward to the completion of George Mason's "Campus Drive" project and the beginning of the County's improvements to the Braddock - Route 123 intersection.

❖ I am also looking forward to the launch of our newly-funded initiative against neighborhood speeding. I will be asking our neighborhoods to join in making the commitment to encourage residents to slow down and drive safely.

How are we going to accomplish all these things? By working together in a positive manner, involving our citizens, looking for solutions instead of problems, and adhering to principles of sound fiscal management. It's a new year. Let's get to work!

Write

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

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NEWS



Reggie

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Shelter Offers 'Pet Haven' Services

Many people may not be aware that domestic violence and animal abuse are connected. People may stay in dangerous and traumatic situations in fear of leaving their pets behind to an abusive spouse or partner. The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is launching an expansion of the "Pet Haven" program offering emergency housing, food, supplies and care for pets in domestic violence situations.

The Animal Shelter is a partner, along with the Police Department's Victims Services Unit and the County's Domestic Violence Network, in the new program. Statistically, 71 percent of pet-owning victims entering shelters reported that their batterer had injured, maimed, killed or threatened family pets and 68 percent of victims reported past violence towards

their animals. Domestic violence continues to be a serious concern in Fairfax County. In its 2012 Annual Report, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team reported that more than half (57 percent) of all Fairfax County's homicides were domestic violence-related. Overall, only 38 percent of the victims sought law enforcement intervention, only one sought a protective order and none sought domestic violence advocacy services.

Victims seeking a safe place for their pets should contact the Animal Shelter at FCPDPetResources@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-0208. For more information and available resources, contact the 24-hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline at 703-360-7273.

Members of 100+ Women Who Care Donate \$3,800 to Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread has received \$3,800 from the members of 100+ Women Who Care Northern Virginia to help ease the plight of low-income residents in the Fairfax County. The nonprofit was selected by the members of 100+ Women Who Care during the organization's Nov. 7 meeting.

"We are very thankful for the support of 100+ Women Who Care Northern Virginia," said Lisa Whetzel, Our Daily Bread Executive Director. "This generous contribution enhances our ability to serve the needs of Fairfax County families who are in financial crisis, especially during the holidays, and throughout the year. In fact, at least seven families will avoid eviction this winter because of this donation. Now that's a holiday gift!"

"Our Daily Bread is a great example of a local, volunteer-run organization that is making a measurable impact in Fairfax County," said Traci Richards, co-founder of 100+ Women Who Care Northern

Virginia. "Our members are proud to support such an outstanding organization that helps individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet."

Founded in 2012, 100+ Women Who Care Northern Virginia is one of many women's giving circles across the nation that focus on coordinating funding for local, community charitable organizations. Women gather at quarterly meetings to hear three short presentations on local nonprofits in need; members vote and the group makes a collective donation directly to the local nonprofit chosen. 100+ Women Who Care Northern Virginia is run entirely by volunteers with no administrative fees solicited from members. Meetings last no more than an hour.

The next meeting of 100+ Women Who Care Northern Virginia will be held on Feb. 6, 2014 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library at 7584 Leesburg Pike in Falls Church, Va.

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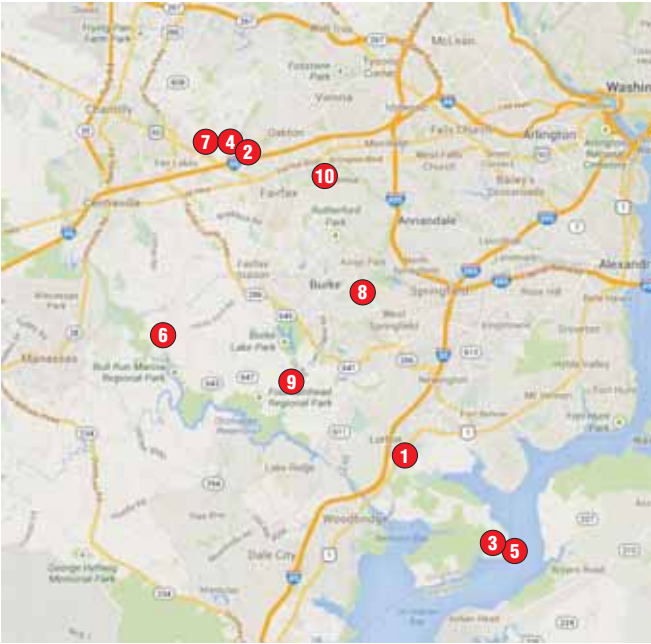


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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	..	Type	Lot AC	..	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold		
1 9829 GUNSTON RD	5	..	3	..	1	.....	LORTON	.....	\$1,680,000	...	Detached	..	14.76	.....	22079	.....	INDIAN SPRING	.....	05/08/13
2 11390 AMBER HILLS CT	4	..	4	..	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$1,582,924	...	Detached	..	1.00	.....	22033	....	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS	....	06/13/13
3 5817 RIVER DR	3	..	2	..	2	.....	LORTON	.....	\$1,555,000	...	Detached	..	0.72	.....	22079	..	HALLOWING POINT RIVER	..	09/27/13
4 11399 AMBER HILLS CT	5	..	4	..	2	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$1,476,665	...	Detached	..	0.84	.....	22033	....	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS	....	01/31/13
5 5805 RIVER DR	5	..	5	..	1	.....	LORTON	.....	\$1,425,000	...	Detached	..	0.72	.....	22079	..	HALLOWING POINT RIVER	..	08/19/13
6 12900 WYCKLAND DR	5	..	5	..	2	.....	CLIFTON	....	\$1,395,000	...	Detached	..	5.28	.....	20124	.....	WYCKLAND	.....	08/22/13
7 11657 Pine Tree DR	5	..	5	..	1	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$1,393,860	...	Detached	..	1.37	.....	22033	.....	FAIRFAX FARMS	.....	09/20/13
8 6151 REZA CT	6	..	4	..	2	.....	SPRINGFIELD	..	\$1,392,649	...	Detached	..	0.35	.....	22152	.....	CARDINAL ESTATES	.....	11/07/13
9 8168 COTTAGE ROSE CT	5	..	4	..	2	...	FAIRFAX STATION	.....	\$1,380,000	...	Detached	..	5.34	.....	22039	....	ESTATES AT ROSELAND	...	05/29/13
10 3555 EARLY WOODLAND PL	6	..	5	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,325,000	...	Detached	..	0.19	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	07/22/13

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This kitchen by Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. was built with open shelving that offers extra storage as well as easy access to dinnerware.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
CASE DESIGN/
REMODELING, INC.



Kitchen Organization for the New Year

Local organizers, designers and culinary experts offer smart tips for making space and clearing clutter.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

If organizing an unruly kitchen, one where there never seems to be enough space for storage containers and pots and pans, is on your list of resolutions this year, the project might be less daunting than you think. From creating a system for grouping spices to keeping plates in easy reach, local experts share secrets for a well-maintained kitchen.

Hang pots and pans inside pantry doors, says Sallie Kjos of GreyHunt Interiors in Chantilly, Va. "It organizes them, but decoratively can look effective."

Pots and pans can also be hung from the ceiling using a hanging cookware rack. "These are actually very pretty hanging over a kitchen island and it frees up cabinet space for other items when storage space is limited," said Susan Unger, of ClutterSOS in Vienna.

Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria at Home in Alexandria, agrees: "Pot racks are totally underutilized," she said. "They offer extra storage for your pots and pans and add a decorative element above an island or along the wall."

Unger also recommends storage racks that hang from walls and doors. "[They are] very functional and I've used them many times in kitchens and other rooms," she said. "It is not unattractive, but [it's] not a 'pretty' organizing item."

Reduce clutter any way you can. "Clear off the fridge," said Kjos. "Paint the inside of your cabinets with magnetic chalk paint and write your messages there with your calendar and coupons hidden away for a cleaner look."

When it comes to storing cooking utensils that need to stay within easy reach, Kjos said, "You can replace canisters that may look bulky with glass jars. Use urns to store your wooden spoons and spatulas to make them into a pretty and decorative arrangement."

Anna Reeves, owner of Tiny Chefs with locations in Potomac, Alexandria, Fairfax, Arlington, Vienna and Oakton, gets back to basics when it comes to cooking and kitchen organization. She starts with an old-fashioned pad and pencil, organizational tools that would be helpful in most kitchens.

"One good tip is to write down everything you need before you sit down to make a recipe, so you have a list of all the supplies and ingredients" she said. "I have friends who start a recipe and then realize that they don't have all of the ingredients and tools they need."

Even something as simple as stacking storage containers becomes easier when they are similar in size. "Uniform Tupperware containers make for easy storage," said Reeves.

Kristen Robinson, a chef instructor at The Art Institute of Washington, a branch of The Art Institute of Atlanta, has an organizational safety warning, however. "Most people don't realize that food poisoning usually occurs in the home due to improper food storage and handling," she said. "I label and date everything that goes in the refrigerator and freezer. It's important to label and date leftovers and pay close attention to expiration dates. One thing I do to keep items fresh on the shelf is to store my grains, beans and rice in mason jars. I label and date these items, too. I hate having open bags of these items and Ziploc bags can be clumsy."

IF YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH to have a kitchen remodel on your agenda for 2014, consider cutting-edge cabinetry that offers storage solutions. "I am both pleased and amazed at the new designs for base corner cabinets," said Joe Starkey of Old Town Bath and Kitchen in Alexandria. You can still find and still use traditional lazy Susans, but alternatives out there, [such as a] blind corner with full access or with swing out or with pull out, are staggering. Newer mechanics have allowed redesign of the actual storage areas."

Bill Millholland, executive vice president at Case Design/Remodeling, with offices in Bethesda and Falls Church said, "One particular project always comes to mind when I think of kitchen organization and clever storage solutions, and it incorporates the idea of placing heavy items [like] plates in a drawer rather than up high in a wall cabinet. This is both convenient and practical for people of all ages and abilities."

Trendiest Color for 2014: Radiant Orchid

Local designers offer tips on using this exotic hue tastefully and share their own color predictions.

BY MARILYN
CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

It has been called exotic, vibrant and even magical. Now it has been named the 2014 color of the year: orchid, or radiant orchid to be exact.

Pantone, color authority and provider of professional color standards for design industries, says this shade of purple will be everywhere in 2014. Local design experts agree that this lively hue can add bursts of energy to almost any interior when used tastefully. But before you lay radiant orchid marble in your powder room, remember that Pantone will crown a new shade in less than 12 months.

"I would use this color in 'easily changed' items such as linens and accessories to add a pop of color to a space," said Bill Millholland, executive vice president at Case Design/Remodeling, with offices in Bethesda and Falls Church. "I think of the Pantone selection as primarily fashion focused. As a result, it has a limited lifespan and is not appropriate for tile [and] cabinetry É that you want to look great for a long time."

Jim Nicolson, of Tech Painting Company in Alexandria, said, "We might get a request for an accent wall in a deep purple or violet, but it would be fashion-forward type people who uses those colors, at least in the Washington area."

Instead, designers say to look for radiant orchid in textiles. "A great complementary color is navy blue," said interior designer Sallie Kjos of GreyHunt Interiors in Chantilly. "You can inject these colors into your home by using throw pillows and throws. Replace rugs with navy blue and white indoor-outdoor rugs, [using] the pops of orchid on the pillows and



PHOTO BY GREGORY TINIUS

While radiant orchid might be the color of the year, Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria at Home in Alexandria, says "Neutrals are here to stay."

artwork. É Look É for orchid pillows in solids and mix [them] with a geometric pattern in navy blue."

Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria at Home in Alexandria, said, "Orchid is going to be the new blue for the bedroom. It will take the place of blue and can be paired with similar neutrals."

Sanchez predicts that soft colors will also be popular in 2014. "Neutrals are here to stay," she said. "We'll still be enjoying grays, taupes and shades of ivory with their soothing palettes."

Lisa Magee, project designer at Case Design/Remodeling anticipates seeing shades of gray this year. "Grays are where it's at. We're moving away from the earth tones and into the cooler colors like grays and blues."

Nicolson said that "Grays were big last year, a lot of shades of gray, and that doesn't seem to be changing, but that could very well be unique to Washington."

As a neutral, gray would work with radiant orchid as well. But if such a bright color still makes you a little gun shy, Kjos offers a simple solution: "For your coffee table, purchase a live orchid to bring in the color."

SPORTS

Robinson Gymnastics Wins Five-Team Meet

The Robinson gymnastics team won a five-team meet on Jan. 6 at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The Rams posted a score of 125, followed by West Potomac (111), TJ (103.575), T.C. Williams (94.2) and Annandale (38.5).

Robinson's Caroline Burda placed fourth in the all-around with a score of 32.25. She placed fourth on vault (8.6) and bars (7.65), fifth on floor (8.5) and eighth on beam (7.5).

Sarah Gross placed fifth in all-around (32) and Juliann Maroyka finished sixth (30.725). Gross placed second on floor with a score of 8.7 and Maroyka (8.65) was third.

Jacqueline Link, Devin Anderson, Bailey Young, Kayla Mathews and Amanda Hill also competed for Robinson.

The Rams will compete in a meet at Langley on Jan. 18.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Robinson gymnastics team took first place with a score of 125 during a meet at Thomas Jefferson on Jan. 6.

out to cheer also will get free "cheer sticks" to help them get into the spirit.

FANQUEST, presented by Booz Allen Hamilton, is one of many events offered year round by Special Olympics Virginia.

Burke Lake Seniors Golf Club Seeks Members

Interested golfers are invited to join the Burke Lake Seniors Golf Club. Must be 55 and older, enjoy playing golf, meeting new people and having an all-around good time. Reserved tee times on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Par 3 Burke Lake Golf Course on Ox Road. Annual dues for the season – April 1 through Oct. 31 – are \$20 plus green fees at a reduced rate. For more information, call Charlie Ryan 703-690-4227.

Adult Softball Teams Wanted

Registration is now open for Fairfax Adult Softball. Deadline to register is March 3 with play beginning as early as April 4. Men's, women's, coed, corporate coed, elite and free agent leagues available. For further information, please call 703-815-9007 or email office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com. The registration process is conducted online via the FAS website at www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Paul VI Student-Athletes Sign With College Teams

Two student-athletes from Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax recently signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports.

Steven Hillenbrand signed to play lacrosse at Rutgers University. A defensive player, Hillenbrand has been named Second Team All-WCAC twice and Second Team All-Virginia State. Hillenbrand has earned a 3.9 GPA, and is a member of the Student Government Association, Model United Nations and the VI Man. He also serves as team captain and is an Eagle Scout.

Ariana Freeman signed to play basketball at the University of Louisville. A combo guard, Freeman has been named First Team All-Met,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Steven Hillenbrand and Ariana Freeman at the signing ceremony.

WCAC All-Conference, ESPN Top 100 and the Virginia Player of the Year. She scored her 1000th point last season. In addition, she serves as a Peer Mentor for students with intellectual disabilities and holds a 3.6 GPA.

South County Basketball Coach Hess Beats Former Team

Stallions win two out of three at tournament.

BY ANDREW MINER
FOR THE CONNECTION

The South County Stallions beat the Langley Saxons in day-two action of the Mount Vernon Holiday Basketball Tournament 59-52 in the consolation bracket play on Dec. 27.

Stallion coach Travis Hess wished South County played any other school than the one he formerly coached.

"It was the one team I didn't want to play," Hess said afterwards. "At least not so soon, after a tough loss the following night, it was easy to game plan but I still know most of the kids on that team as well as coach [Scott] Newman."

Newman, on the other hand, said, "[coach Hess and I] shared some funny texts back and forth and while we preferred not to play them it was just another game and we gave them all we had."

Hess, less than a year removed from being the head coach at Langley, squared off against first-year head coach Newman of the Saxons. Newman had been Hess' assistant at Langley for the last four years and there were still players on the Saxons who Hess had personally coached.

After the first quarter, the score was knotted at 12. Then the Stallions outscored the Saxons 17-7 in the second quarter.

"We gave better effort today than yesterday," Newman said. "South County is a good team and we are still young."

In the second half, South County jumped all over the Saxons. The Stallions extended their lead to 16 by outscoring the Saxons 15-9 and led 44-28 entering the fourth quarter. Langley, however, scratched and clawed back into the game by doing what it does best: draining 3-pointers. They hit three that quarter and by using a diamond press were able to cut the Stallion lead to four with 1:25 remaining. South County then hit six of its next eight foul shots to cement the victory in the final 73 seconds.

South County finished the tournament with a 72-66 win over Garfield on Dec. 28, improving the Stallions' record to 8-3. South County will host West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10.

Through snow days and a prolonged football season, Hess admitted, "it's on the coaching staff" and that "we haven't had enough practices" when asked how South County can better learn how to close games. Both tournament games the Stallions have let their opponents back into the game. They blew a nine-point fourth quarter lead before losing to Oakton the night before. Hess was excited to get back to practice, however, in order to "work on everything."

Lake Braddock Boys' Basketball Wins 7 of 8

The Lake Braddock boys' basketball concluded the 2013 portion of its schedule with a 7-1 record.

After winning their first five games, the Bruins suffered their first loss of the season on Dec. 26, falling to McLean 63-57 during the Glory Days Holiday Tournament. Lake Braddock bounced back the next two days with wins against Hylton (72-69) and Mills Goodwin (85-63).

The Bruins will travel to face Annandale at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10 and will play at T.C. Williams on Jan. 14.

West Springfield Girls' Basketball Starts 10-0

The West Springfield girls' basketball team won each of its three games during the Westfield holiday tournament, improving its record to 10-0 during the 2013 portion of its schedule.

The Spartans defeated Cannon County (Tennessee) 66-51 on Dec. 27, Westfield 57-35 on Dec. 28 and Madison 64-57 on Dec. 30.

West Springfield will host South County at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10 and travel to take on West Potomac on Jan. 14.

Special Olympics to Hold FANQUEST at Robinson

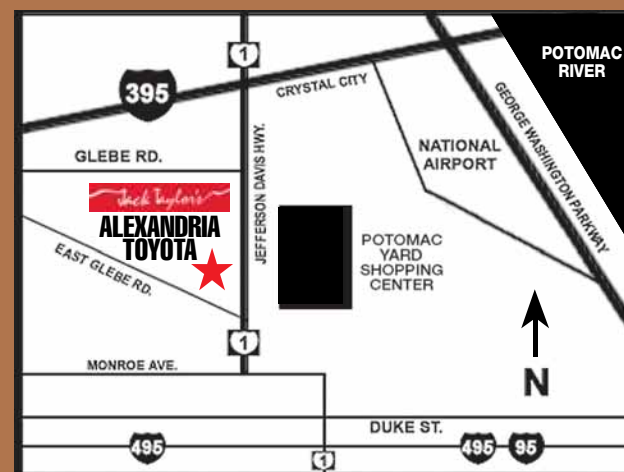
The Special Olympics Virginia's FANQUEST will be held on Saturday, Jan. 18 at 6 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School (5035 Sideburn Road) in Fairfax. Special Olympics basketball athletes will take to the courts for basketball contests, a shoot-out and an all-star game featuring two local Special Olympics teams. The public is encouraged to attend signing up at www.volunteer2cheer.com.

Check-in will be at the "Volunteer to Cheer" table at the gym entrance. You will be given materials to make posters and signs, and everyone who comes

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Leadership Fairfax to Host Annual Supervisors Breakfast

The Leadership Fairfax 23rd Annual Board of Supervisors Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 - 9:30 a.m. at Hyatt Fair Lakes in Fairfax.

In its 23rd year, the breakfast provides leaders from business, government, and the non-profit sector an opportunity to hear straight from the Supervisors about happenings in Fairfax County, including the "State of the County" address from Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Leadership Fairfax will recognize Capt. Willie F. Bailey, of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, as the winner of the 2014 Katherine Hanley Public Service Award.

Capt. Bailey is recognized for his service, not only to the fire department, but also to the community. Throughout his career, he has spearheaded efforts to collect much needed items (such as backpacks, school supplies, and winter coats) for children in need in Alexandria and the South County area. He has been honored by the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria City Schools, the Rotary Club of Tysons



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Capt. Willie F. Bailey, LFI '12, of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will receive the 2014 Katherine Hanley Public Service Award,

Corner, Commerce Bank, Volunteer Fairfax, the Fire and Rescue Department, and Fairfax County Government, and was named a 2013 Living Legend of Alexandria.

Tickets are \$55 LFI member/ \$70 general public) or a corporate table of ten seat.



Burke Filmmaker Participates in New York Festival

Michael Deigh of Burke, an aspiring film director who graduated in 2008 from Lake Braddock Secondary School, had one of his movies, "The Greatest Act," named an official selection and shown Jan. 6 at the New Filmmakers New York film festival in New York City. He is seen here at the event just before his film screened. Michael is a graduate of the NYU Tisch School of the Arts for Film and Television. He lives in Burke and in Brooklyn, N.Y.

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The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL(ABC) for a Wine Importer and Wholesale wine license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. James Ungerleider, sole member.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices.

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