

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our HomeLifeStyle sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connection newspapers.com or call 703-778-9431

CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



Traumatic brain injury. Not the opponent Connor was expecting.

Two years ago a simple game of catch ended with a trip to the emergency room. A baseball had struck Connor above the eyebrow and blood was pooling dangerously between his brain and skull. Watch how our experts responded at JustRightForChildren.com/Connor.





Tiara Jones, 17, North Stafford High School senior, helped other girls find dresses they like.

Kindness on Display at Diva Central

More than 200 teens flocked to the 12th annual Prom Dress Giveaway.

By Reena Singh The Connection

indness can turn an ordinary day into one that captures the happily-ever-after feeling of a Disney movie. Reston Community Center played Fairy Godmother over the weekend, giving hundreds of girls their Cinderella moment. More than 200 teens flocked to the center's Lake Anne location for free prom dresses, jewelry and shoes during Saturday's 12th annual Diva Central Prom Dress Giveaway.

"They could have saved upwards of \$500, and that doesn't even take into account the possibility of winning one of many restaurant gift certificates," said Director of Teen Programs Kenny Burrowes.

In just a few months, the community center - in conjunction with the Reston Chamber of Commerce and a high school chapter of Delta Sigma Theta - gathered 500 prom dresses and matching accessories to give away from noon until 6 p.m.

Other than attending high school, there was no prerequisite to get a free outfit. Teens of any income background just needed to stop by the community center during the hours of the event to take advantage of the racks of dresses and rows of heels. Dresses left at the end of the event were trucked to other prom dress drives.

"We made it open to anyone, because it's hard to say, 'You deserve it, but you don't," said Burrowes. "This is a program that can help both lower income family homes and affluent family homes. It's the best thing because everyone can enjoy it."

He said some teens donate the dresses they got the previous year. Others get a new one every year.

With prom just around the corner, many girls were hoping to find a last minute dress before their big night. Herndon High School junior Casey Molina, 17, ended up choosing a strappy floor-length lilac ball gown from the event.

"It's my first prom, so I wanted a long, elegant dress, but I didn't want it to be over-the-top," she said. She learned about the event through a friend.



Casey Molina, 17, Herndon High School junior, looks for "a long, elegant dress" for her first prom.

"My dad and stepmom are definitely going to be happy they're saving money," she said.

Tiara Jones, 17, a North Stafford High School senior, also found a dress at the event - a short kimono-inspired frock. As a member of Delta Sigma Theta, her involvement with the event was much more personal, however.

"For a lot of people, it's a blessing to get a dress for prom," she said "Through the sorority, we learn about self-confidence and loving yourself."

Tiara said the event is a chance to go out on a Saturday with friends for a makeover moment. She spent most of the day playing stylist for girls before looking for her own outfit. When she heard anyone complain that they could not find a dress to suit their style, she made it her mission to prove they were wrong.

"Once I pick out the dress, they end up taking it home," she said.

Elden Street Players Win Five WATCH Awards

By David Siegel
The Connection

he Elden Street Players received five awards from the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) for artistic and technical excellence in Community Theater. The Elden Street Players performed Herndon for over 25 years. In September 2013, the Elden Street Players became the professional level NextStop Theatre Company performing at the Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon.

"We are excited about the wealth of talent represented by this year's WATCH Award nominees and

winners," said Roy Peterson, WATCH Chair. "This group is just one indicator of the vitality of the DC metro community theatre scene."

WATCH is the organization that adjudicates productions and presents annual awards recognizing artistic and technical excellence in Community Theater. The WATCH awards help to foster and encourage the growth of community theater. A total of 114 productions (42 musicals, 72 plays) were judged in 2013 from which the nominations and awardees were chosen.

The WATCH awards were announced at a ceremony at the



Elden Street Players' production of 'Red' won four WATCH awards including the Best Play. In a rehearsal picture, from left, Brandon Herlig (as Ken) and Michael Kharfen (as Mark Rothko).

Birchmere in Alexandria on Sunday evening, March 9. The Elden Street Players received WATCH Awards for:

- ❖ Outstanding Play "Red"
- ❖ Outstanding Direction of a Musical - Evan Hoffman, "Caroline, or Change"
- ❖ Outstanding Direction of a Play Gloria DuGan, "Red"
- Outstanding Properties in a Play - Susan d. Garvey, "Red"
- Outstanding Set Painting in a Play - Mary Speed & Brian Garrison, "Red"

Information on the Elden Street players is at: http://www.nextstoptheatre.org/about-nextstop-theatre-company/. WATCH is at: http://www.washingtontheater.org/



Evan Hoffman won the award for Outstanding Direction of a Musical, for Elden Street Players' production of 'Caroline, or Change.' In a rehearsal picture, from left, Ivana Alexander, Andrea Gerald, Ariana Kruszewski, (as the trio in character as 'The Radio') and Anya Randall Nebel as Carolyn.

George Paine, secretary of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Robert Morris, and John Dudzinsky, forester at the town of Herndon.



Trout Fishing Derby Held In Herndon

Families fish at Sugarland Run Trail.

By Ryan Dunn The Connection

eginning Saturday at 7 a.m. at Sugarland Run Trail in Herndon, parents and children arrived to participate in the annual fishing derby. The Town of Herndon's Parks and Recreation Department coordinated the event. Other volunteer groups assisting at the event included members from the Town of Herndon Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 64 and Trout Unlimited. "This is our fifth time participating in this event," said George Paine, a resident of Reston and secretary of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited (NVATU).

Members of NVATU helped families clean and prepare the fish after they had been caught. NVATU is a diverse group of residents from the Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax County, and Prince William County, who enjoy fishing and associated activities to enhance fishing opportunities. The chapter holds regular meetings the first Thursday evening of every month at the Vienna Firehouse, in Vienna.

"Approximately 100 people registered to participate in the event this year, similar to last year," said John Dudzinsky, forester at the town of Herndon for more than twenty years. The fish, mostly rainbow trout, were brought in by Casta Line Trout Farms of Goshen, Va. The weather was relatively mild, yet there was still some scattered snow from the previous snowfall.

Greg Hayken, a resident of Herndon brought his children Jackson and Gianna to try fishing. "This is the third year we have attended," said Hayken. Reston resident Alan Cartwright and his daughter, Julia Cartwright, caught a rainbow trout. "She has been my fishing buddy for about four years," said Mr. Cartwright. "This is a great event."

Herndon resident Mustafa S. Hassan and his sons Ameen and Zayn also participated in the event. "We love being outdoors, and we thought we would make



Herndon resident Mustafa S. Hassan and his sons Ameen and Zayn participated in the 2014 Herndon Fishing Derby.



Herndon police officer Henry "Hank" Ruffin with Lee Duranko and his daughter Kaitlyn at Herndon's Sugarland Run Trail.

it a family activity," said Hassan. "I think it is great to have these sort of events in the suburban area and that organizations can make them financially accessible for lots of families."

The event lasted until noon, and volunteers were on hand to explain how to bait, cast and hook fish. Herndon Police officer Henry "Hank" Ruffin was also attending the event. "It is a really good event," said Ruffin. An FOP representative for four years, Ruffin said individuals with a valid Virginia State Fishing License and have a trout stamp can fish at Sugarland Trail. "The fish will be here for awhile," said Ruffin.



Alan Cartwright and his daughter, Julia Cartwright, of Reston, caught a rainbow trout at the 2014 Herndon Fishing Derby.



Greg Hayken, resident of Herndon, and his son Jackson ready their fishing rods for 2014 Herndon Trout Fishing Derby

ArtSpace Herndon Launches Children's Book Series

Book Look seeks to develop kids' literary desire.

By Ryan Dunn The Connection

n March 9, ArtSpace Herndon continued its Book Look Literary Series for Children with a reading by author and Herndon resident Kwame Alexander. The Book Look series is a new addition to events operating at ArtSpace Herndon, and began in February with a reading by author Debbie Levy.

"I have never been to the ArtSpace Herndon before, but I like it," said Levy.

"This is a beautiful space and I love the exhibit they have here." Levy shared her work engaged in poetry with her audience, sang "We Shall Overcome" (from her new picture book about the song), and did a craft activity.

"We want to light a reading spark here in Herndon by bringing live authors to their door," said Alexander. Alexander proposed the idea of a children's book series to members of the Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts board of directors, and was supported by members Ann Rust and Sharon Nachman. "It was Kwame Alexander's idea and we decided to run with it," said Sharon Nachman. "I made the phone calls and asked friends for the favor to read at ArtSpace," said Alexander. "If it goes well, we may continue this into the fall." Currently the Book Look series is scheduled the second Sunday of the month until May 2014. The events are free, but reservations are suggested as seating is limited.

Alexander is a poet, publisher, and an award-winning producer of literary programs. He has written for television, the stage, and authored 13 books including "Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band." Alexander conducts writing workshops at schools and conferences throughout the country.

"Most of the writers will be local, but we will have some visiting from other parts of the country," said Alexander.

"It was great for the kids to attend and become better readers," said Herndon resident Itir Hallberg who brought her son Emre to the February book reading event.

The Book Look guest for April will be guest author Paula Young Shelton, writer of "Child of the Civil Rights Movement."

Other guest authors will be Laura Murray, Kelly Starling Lyons, and Anne Marie Pace.

The Book Look Literary Series for Children aims to bring notable children's book authors to ArtSpace Herndon and cultivate reading appreciation.

To learn more about Book Look, visit www.artspaceherndon.com.



Author Debbie Levy reads at the ArtSpace Herndon Book Look event. The Book Look Literary Series for Children brings notable children's authors to ArtSpace Herndon.



Author Kwame Alexander with Sharon Nachman at the ArtSpace Herndon. Alexander proposed the idea of a literary series event at ArtSpace Herndon for children.





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Music 4 years to 2nd grade

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II



OPINION

Voting Against Virginia?

Local proponents of expanding health coverage for poor people have a point about those in the General Assembly voting against it.

hen Delegates Scott Surovell, Charniele Herring and Rob Krupicka, along with Sen. Adam Ebbin got together to make the case for expanding Medicaid in Virginia, they brought slide presentations, charts, spreadsheets, poll results and more.

It is a compelling argument that expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act is not only good for the health of working poor Virginians, it's good for the health of Virginia's economy. What's more, polls show that Virginians support expanding Medicaid, even Virginians who didn't vote for Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

EDITORIAL

Expanding health care for poor individuals and families who so far have been cut out of health care reform by the General Assembly's refusal would create more than 30,000 new jobs, hundreds of jobs in every district in the state. It would bring in \$5 million in Federal dollars every day, \$1.8 billion a year. It would save the General Fund \$285 million over the biannual budget, money that could be spent on education, mental health and other critical

"Real people are suffering because of this,"

said Ebbin. "Real people would be helped." That includes working families and more than 12,000 veterans. Ebbin related the story of a taxi driver from his district who had a stroke in his 40s. With no insurance, Mount Vernon Inova Hospital covered his acute treatment and recovery. But without insurance, his access to rehabilitation was limited and as a result, his lifetime expectations are likely limited.

Saying no to \$5 million a day is, in fact, voting against Virginia.

- Mary Kimm,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com by the Friday prior to the following week's paper

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Brain Awareness Day. 9 a.m. -2 p.m. Amen Clinics, Inc. 10701 Parkridge Boulevard, suite 110, Reston. This is a free community event to be held at our clinic where you will learn more about brain health, nutrition, ADHD, concussions, anxiety and depression. Please RSVP to: http:// AmenClinicReston.rsvpify.com

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

March Meeting of the Women's Club of Greater Reston. 10 a.m., Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. The guest speaker for the March Meeting of the Women's Club of Greater Reston will be Ken Knueven, president of Reston Association; refreshments provided.

www.restonnewcomers.org or

571-201-8719. The MOMS Club of Herndon

will host a Spring Swap from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church (651 Dranesville Rd, Herndon). All Herndon (zip codes 20170 and 20171) stay at home mothers are encouraged to come and meet other at-home mothers. Bring gently-used children's clothing, shoes, toys, books, etc. and exchange for other items that you see at the swap. When you're done, relax and mingle with other Herndon-area moms. For more information or to RSVP contact: Tomoko Azuma, Membership VP at Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Friends of Reston Regional Library Children and Teen Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The library will hold sales of gently used books and teaching materials for Children/Educators, and books for teens.

A Manufactured Crisis

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor

Visit your local sports equipment store to purchase a \$100 fishing pole. You may not know that Medicaid will collect an additional \$2.83 in what used to be known as a Federal Excise Tax – reserved for luxury goods and services- now an ObamaCare Medical Devices tax. Buy a new set of tires for \$500 and you pay an additional \$14.15 on the Medical Devices tax. This is just another, in a long string of hidden provisions of a bad law. Go figure how a new set of tires or a fishing pole is a medical device. The Department of Health and Human Services has asked retailers to not show the tax on your sales receipt! Why an open, transparent Federal Government would ask that is beyond this writer.

Our General Assembly has ended the 2014 Session without passing a balanced budget - a requirement in our Constitution. A special session (passing a clean budget and extending the session) was proposed by the Republicandominated House. Not good

enough for the socialist Governor and Senate - in an irresponsible, cynical move, the socialists demanded No Medicaid - No Budget. Welcome to government by manufactured crisis. The ramifications of this action will have a serious impact on state agencies and our local governments who depend on the state for additional funds. Each of these organizations cannot complete their budgeting process. Sheriff's deputies, mental health reform, schools, roads, state universities - all in line for modest pay increases are being held hostage. Our teachers have not seen a pay raise in three years. On July 1, 2014, the government effectively stops. We are quite familiar with government shutdowns. In this case, the blame can be laid squarely at the doorstep of the Governor and Senate: ruling on the barest of winning margins in the recent elections. With a 20-20 split in the Senate (the Lieutenant Governor, until recently did not have a tie-breaking vote on budget matters), we will have to suffer through to see who blinks first on this well-documented train wreck. Some prefer to dress up this shameful, morally repulsive tactic

describing it as an impasse.

The Medicare expansion proposal (Obamacare in disguise) provides for the Federal Government to subsidize Virginia with a substantial portion of the additional cost for the first three (5?) years. Ask yourself: where are the Federal dollars coming from? Answer: they are borrowed! (The Federal Government just got Congressionaloconcurrence to increase the debt ceiling limit.) You can be sure we taxpayers will wind up paying for it eventually wondering why the Virginia bubble

It's no secret that the current Medicare system in Virginia suffers from as much as 30 percent fraud, waste, and abuse. It badly needs fixing. Do we expect the current Attorney General's Consumer Affairs Department to fix it? Dream on. Let's fix what is broken first then take stock on what we really need for the substantially less number than the WAG 400,000 health-care denied people. In the meantime - No ObamaCare, No WarnerCare, No HowellCare, and No PlumCare!

> **Jack Kenny** Reston Republican

Race to Watch - II

To the Editor:

There were a few errors in my letter published

Connection of March 5th ["Race to Watch"]. I stated that Barbara Comstock spent \$1.4 on her race and won by less than 52 percent of the vote. She actually spent \$1.4 million and received 50.6 percent of the vote, a margin of only 422 votes.

I also understated Bob Marshall's margin of victory. He won by 495 votes, not close to 400 votes.

> Sue Rosenberg Vienna

Write

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

> Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

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Calendar

Send announcements herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

MONDAY/MARCH 10-FRIDAY/APRIL 11

Artists Honored at LRA's "Winter Dreams" Exhibit. Monday through

Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd.,

WEDNESDAY/MARCH12SATURDAY/MARCH15

GRACE Art: Works from Participating Schools.

GreaterRestonArtsCenter, 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston. This exhibition highlights artwork from the GRACE Art program. Over 40 area schools participate in this program, in which classroom volunteers deliver an interactive art history lesson with visuals followed by an engaging hands-on art project designed to reinforce the lesson. Selected student projects from 17 participating schools will be presented at GRACE, promoting the impact of this important visual art literacy program. Restonarts.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12

Lúnasa. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This group of Irishmen continues its 20-year tradition of famed Celtic music. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston.

www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

THURSDAY/MARCH 13

Herndon High School Sports

Booster Raffle. 6 p.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring Street, Herndon. There will be raffle tickets for sale and the drawing will be held during the evening. There are over 40 great prizes to win. Prizes include four Disney Park Hopper Passes \$100 Mon Ami gift card, four White Water Rafting passes, Clyde's \$100 gift card, two Medieval Times tickets, and more. You choose the prize to put your tickets towards. Come help support student athletes and athletic program by trying your luck at winning any of these prizes.

FRIDAY/MARCH 14

Senior Tea. 1-2 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Every month seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea. Seniors from the Herndon Senior Center are regular visitors. Free and open to the public. 703-956-6590. www.artspaceherndon.org

1st Annual Casino Night and Silent Auction. 7-11 p.m. South Lakes High School, Reston. Gaming, raffles, great prizes, Silent Auction, food, dancing and Cash Bar. All proceeds goes directly to support South Lakes High School Athletic Boosters Club. Get your tickets now as space is limited and there is no guarantee of admission at the door. http://www.seahawkboosters.com/ casinonight.htm

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Treble Clefs Concert: An Evening with Cole Porter. 7 p.m. ArtSpa Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. An evening with Cole Porter including Golden Love Songs of the 70s and featuring Classic Cole Porter arranged by Mac Huff, Directed by Jean Goldsby and Accompanist Becki Jones Tickets are \$12. 703-956-6590. www.artspaceherndon.org

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Watch Classical Ballet Theater's performance of "The Sleeping Beauty," on Sunday, March 30.

SUNDAY/MARCH 16

Slipping into Spring. 2 - 3 p.m., Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Test your nature observation skills and see if you can recognize the call of spring; reservations required by March 13. Reston Association members: \$5; Non-members: \$7. naturecenter@reston.org, or 703-

476-9689 and press 5. Nowruz Festival. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Discover more than 3,000 years of traditions, customs and festivity of the Persian New Year (Nowruz) with music, group dances, and costumed characters, along with a Persian Bazaar offering exotic food, goods, products, arts and more. Free admission. www.nowruzfestival.org.

Free Concert. 6 p.m. The Westminster Choir of Trinity Presbyterian Church will present a free concert of The Faure' Requiem for Choir, Organ and Chamber Orchestra. Members of the Herndon Community have joined with Trinity, under the Direction of Choir Masters, Tricia Neff and Jeremy Shoop to present The Mass of the Dead as part of Trinity Presbyterian's Lenton Worship experience.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Spring Swap on Thursday. 10-11:30a.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Hosted by The MOMS Club(R) of Herndon, clean out your closets and get ready to freecycle. The Spring Swap is a great opportunity to declutter your home and save money by swapping items your children have outgrown. Simply bring gently-used children's clothing, shoes, toys, books, etc. and exchange for other items that you see at the swap. When you're done, relax and mingle with other Herndon-area moms. For more information or to RSVP email Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

Return of the Reptiles. 10-11 a.m. or 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Discover Reston's cold-blooded reptiles as they are emerging from their winter sleep ;reservations required by March 17. Reston Association members: \$7; \$ Nonmembers: \$9.

naturecenter@reston.org, or 703-476-9689 and press 5. Friends of Reston Regional

Library Children and Teen Book Sales. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The library will hold sales of gently used books and teaching materials for Children/ Educators, and books for teens.

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

Friends of Reston Regional Library Children and Teen

Book Sales. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The library will hold sales of gently used books and teaching materials for Children/ Educators, and books for teens.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Nature Walk: Sunrise Valley Wetlands. 1-3 p.m., Sunrise Valley Wetlands - 12700 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the boardwalk and get an upclose look at the amazing diversity of life. naturecenter@reston.org, or 703-476-9689 and press 5.

Friends of Reston Regional Library Children and Teen **Book Sales.** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.

The library will hold sales of gently used books and teaching materials for Children/Educators, and books for

Registration

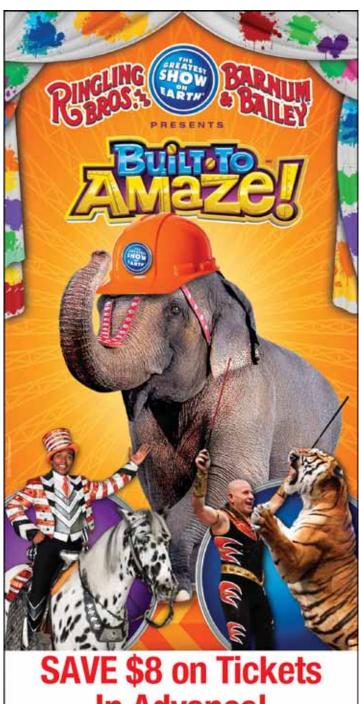
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Sex Trafficking in Our Backyard

Fairfax County detective, trafficking victim testify at Congressional hearing.

By Janelle Germanos
The Connection

ince its creation in October 2013, the human trafficking unit of the Fairfax County Police Department has received over 70 tips and leads about human trafficking in Northern Virginia.

"Fifty-two percent of those leads involve juvenile sex trafficking cases," said Detective William Woolf, lead investigator of the Fairfax County Police Department's human trafficking unit, at a House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee on Feb. 26.

In his testimony, Woolf addressed the need for stricter penalties on those responsible for human trafficking and the ways Fairfax County is addressing trafficking.

"We've taken on a very victim-centered approach. Our number one priority is recovering these young people from these terrible situations. The problem with that is it is extremely resource intensive," Woolf said.

THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT is

taking a three-pronged approach of education and awareness, prevention and intervention to reduce trafficking in Northern Virginia.

"This particular crime is something that affects all communities. It's a crime that does not discriminate on race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class-it's something that has the potential of touching each and every community and each in every state here in the United States," he said.

Woolf said that a nation-wide anti-trafficking awareness campaign is necessary to prevent this crime. Fairfax County recently launched the "Just Ask" Prevention Project, which includes a website and is intended to increase awareness of sex trafficking in the area.

Fairfax County Public Schools recently adopted a sex trafficking awareness curriculum, the first of its kind, for students in grades six through twelfth. Woolf said programs like this are needed throughout the United States to prevent trafficking.

Sex traffickers also use Facebook and Twitter to lure victims in, Woolf said.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), chairman of the subcommittee, said that internet pages such as Backpage.com are used to advertise commercial sex, including in Winchester, Va., which is part of Wolf's district.

"How do the people who own Backpage.com live with themselves? How do they honestly live with themselves?" Wolf said at the hearing.

Wolf, who has been working for several years to combat sex trafficking and raise awareness of this crime, said that as long as Backpage.com continues to operate, trafficking will continue to be an issue.



U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) speaks at a forum on human trafficking at the McLean Community Center in May. Wolf is chair of the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, which hosted a hearing on human trafficking on Feb. 26.

"I have personally written the Attorney General several times over the last two years urging the department to prosecute Backpage.com and similar sites," Wolf said.

Since 2011, 42 defendants have been prosecuted for trafficking related crimes in Northern Virginia, Detective Woolf said, the Underground Gangster Crips case being one of the more notable cases.

In this case, female adults and juveniles were being trafficked for more than six years in Northern Virginia by Crips gang members. The gang used Facebook and local malls, bus stops and metro stations to recruit young girls. The gang members advertised the girls on the streets, as well as through Backpage.com.

In 2013, an Atlanta man pleaded guilty to trafficking underage girls in Virginia and several other states. According to court documents, the girls were sold for sex at several hotels in the Northern Virginia area, including Homestead Studio Suites in Sterling, Aloft Hotel in Ashburn, and the Holiday Inn Express, Washington Dulles Marriott Suites, and the Hyatt House Hotel, all located in Herndon.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR

and advocate Stephanie Vu testified at the hearing, providing a glimpse into the life of someone who has been sold for sex.

"At the age of 12, I was chosen. I was invited to a party and there I met a handsome older boy who took a lot of interest in me. Although flattered, I never thought I would see him again," Vu said.

However, she did see him again-nearly everywhere she went.

"In my 12-year-old mind, I was convinced this was fate and soon began intentionally meeting him every chance I had," Vu said.

Vu's father was deployed, and her mother worked day and night, leaving Vu responsible for her younger siblings but with little supervision.

"I was free to go on dates with this charming, older boy. I was searching for something in life and he looked like the answer,

filling my loneliness and my young heart's desire for love and romance. But I soon learned though that he was a 'wolf in sheep's clothing,' who intended on turning me into a product to be devoured," she said.

For some time, Vu said it seemed her dreams had come true.

"He said he loved me and wanted to marry me; he bought nice things for me and took me out to clubs and places I could never go to without him," Vu said. "However, in just a few months he demanded a return—I was sent to perform in a strip club. I resisted, but he said he was in a financial jam and he needed my help, and so it began. I began skipping school and dancing in the strip clubs."

Vu was soon forced to begin selling her-

"We've taken on a very victim-centered approach. Our number one priority is recovering these young people from these terrible situations. The problem with that is it is extremely resource intensive."

— Detective Bill Woolf

self for sex. Her trafficker threw her out into the streets on a cold night, telling her she could either make money or freeze.

After hours of being in the cold, Vu gave in.

"In desperation, I finally accepted one and climbed into the car. The moment changed my life forever. There were three men that night; at the end of it I couldn't stop vomiting," she said.

Vu continued to be trafficked, and soon faced depression and took drugs and alcohol to deal with the pain. She was arrested one night and sent home after being recog-



Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Detective Bill Woolf speak about human trafficking at the McLean Community Center in May. Woolf testified at a sex trafficking hearing on Capitol Hill on Feb. 26.

nized as a missing child. Although she was sent home, she returned to her trafficker.

After being arrested again and sent to juvenile detention, Vu's probation officer suspected Vu was a victim of trafficking. After returning home, she was brutally raped by her trafficker in front of her home.

"At this point I had finally had enough. At just 15 years old, I was ready to give up on life," Vu said.

Vu was hospitalized after the rape, and was soon sent to Northern Virginia based Youth For Tomorrow, 3,000 miles from her home.

She is now advocate and advisor to Youth for Tomorrow and Shared Hope International, also located in Northern Virginia.

Woolf said that more resident treatment centers are needed across the country, as survivors such as Vu have to travel nearly 3,000 miles to receive the treatment they need.

According to Woolf, judges are often going below the federal sentencing guidelines in trafficking cases.

"They are oftentimes just imposing the mandatory minimums as provided by the statute, when the guidelines suggest much higher penalties for this type of criminal conduct," he said.

There is also a need for federal legislation addressing the demand side, Woolf said.

"There are individuals out there that are purchasing sex from our children, and these individuals need to be punished or we at least need the tools to be able to address that as well, particularly when their actions are affecting interstate commerce," Woolf said.

The Virginia General Assembly has addressed legislation dealing with sex trafficking this session, including HB 235, which has passed both the house and senate. The bill, introduced by Delegate Rob Bell (R-Albemarle), would place convicted sex solicitors on Virginia's online registry of sex offenders.

Those looking for more information and prevention tools for sex trafficking can visit Justaskva.org.

SPORTS

Great Falls Resident Wins Conference Championship with MIT

im Higgins of Great Falls is a member of the 2013 - 2014 New England Men's and Women's Conference (NEWMAC) championship basketball team. Higgins, a freshman, plays for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) men's basketball team. After winning four games and losing four games during February, MIT went on a roll and swept the conference playoffs beating last year's champion WPI in a semifinal game, and outlasting Springfield College in the championship game. With the NEWMAC conference win, the MIT Engineers received an automatic bid to the NCAA basketball tournament. Tim attended and played basketball for Paul VI high school in Fairfax and was part of their 2012 undefeated team.

> Tim Higgins

Photo contributed

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Sports Roundups

Herndon's Goldman Wins 3200 State Title

Herndon's Andrew Goldman won the 3200-meter state title at the VHSL 6A indoor track state championships Feb. 27-March 1 at Boo Williams Sportsplex in Hampton.

Goldman recorded a time of 9:19.24, beating second-place Matthew Calem of Madison by more than five seconds.

Junior Golf Tournament

The Capital Challenge at Westfields Golf Club will be held March 15-16 in Clifton. The top five finishers in each division during the two-day, 36-hole junior golf event will earn preferred entry into the remaining IJGT Major Championships. To register, visit IJGT.com or call 843-785-2444.

South Lakes, Herndon Baseball Scrimmages

The South Lakes baseball team is scheduled to travel to Centreville for a scrimmage at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 15.

The Seahawks will open the season on the road against Marshall on March 21. South Lakes' home opener will be March 25 against Thomas Jefferson.

Herndon baseball is scheduled to scrimmage at Madison at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 14.

The Hornets will open their season at home against Loudoun Valley at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21. Herndon will travel to face South Lakes on March 26.



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Whew!



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Originally, this column was to be a discussion about the communication process between my doctor and this patient. Specifically, the time lag between when tests are performed/ completed and when those results are communicated to the doctor who in turn – per this patient's request, e-mails them to me. In the olden days, results were most likely offered up in person; in the post-olden days, more likely a phone call was made; presently, at least in my experience, results most likely will be e-mailed. I imagine an enduring problem for the patient – during all three "days," has been the time waiting for test results and hearing about them from your doctor. Excruciating is one of the most accurate characterizations of that delay, combined with an unhealthy dose of helplessness. Eventually, if you live long enough, you sort of become accustomed to the process and learn to roll with the punches, both figuratively and literally. Nevertheless, the patience and experience you learn can't totally stop the rampant speculation that keeps you up at night and sleepy during the day.

Àll of this being said and mostly internalized and assimilated into my terminal-patient brain, unfortunately doesn't prevent the process from negatively impacting your waiting-for-testresults-from-your-doctor compartment where you've (at least where I have) attempted to compartmentalize this process so that it doesn't adversely impact every other psychological compartment I've previously constructed. But I may have learned my lesson this time. The reason being that even though I received an e-mail from my oncologist two days after my CT Scan was completed, it turned out to be sort of an incomplete/inaccurate assessment: "Some better, some worse. I'll explain more on Friday," (the date of my next infusion and coincidentally, the date of our next face-to-face appointment, a week later). It seems the Radiologist had compared this recent scan to one I had taken nine months ago and consequently, made some incorrect assumptions - but of course, we didn't know any of this until we saw my doctor; as such, we stressed about the content of the email.

Friday arrived and we went to The Infusion Center where I was hooked up as usual. Within a few minutes, my oncologist walked over to my Barcalounger. Dina immediately whispers: "He's not smiling." (Reading the facial expressions and body language of your doctor has no doubt become the bane of every patient's existence, especially when dealing with oncologists.) Soon enough though, after my doctor began talking (and explaining the radiologist's mistake), it became clear that my results were quite the opposite of what the original e-mail had indicated. It was not "some better, some worse," it was Tony-the-Tiger GREAT! news with which I could most definitely live – and for many years, too, he said. To say were pleasantly surprised might be the understatement of the universe. To say we were over the moon might be a bit more realistic, hyperbole notwithstand-

So what did I learn? What did my oncologist advise me going forward? To not interpret the delay in the communication process as indicating anything other than the nature of the process; nothing to be taken personally or interpreted in any meaningful way. And even though the news we received was extremely encouraging this time, the process, such as it is, likely ontinues, and anticipating that news bad or indifferent – is to be delivered in any other way is unrealistic. As difficult as it is for this patient to be patient, in some cases, as I learned this past week, your patience can sometimes be rewarded.

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

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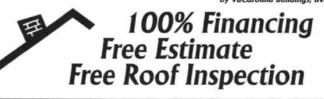
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Reston Man Pleads Guilty to **Exporting Unlicensed** Goods to Iran

ahid Hosseini, 62, of Reston, pleaded guilty to two felony counts arising from his involvement in exporting various unlicensed goods from the United States to Iran.

Dana J. Boente, acting United States attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Valerie Parlave, assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, made the announcement after the plea was accepted by United States District Judge Liam O'Grady.

Hosseini pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the Iranian Transactions and Sanctions Regulations under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) and a separate count of money laundering. Hosseini faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and fines totaling \$250,000 when he is sentenced on June 6.

In a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, from at least as early as January 2008 to July 2013, Hosseini operated a business known as Sabern Instruments from his residence in Reston. Through this business, Hosseini procured more than \$250,000 worth of goods from over 60 American manufacturers, which he then repackaged and shipped to entities in Iran. The list of high-tech goods included tachometers, power supply instruments, high-temperature probes, ammonia test tubes, valves, and machinery parts, all of which are used in a variety of commercial applications, including power plants. Hosseini routed these shipments through the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in an attempt to disguise the fact that the items were destined for Iran. Such exports are prohibited without a license issued by the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control. In a related money laundering scheme, Hosseini had over \$700,000 wired into his company business account from entities in Iran and the UAE, much of which was derived from his illegal export business. He then unlawfully withdrew money from his business account for personal expenditures.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office. Assistant United States Attorney Neil Hammerstrom is prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org



First place: Look-up Eiffel by Jeffrey Miller

Fine Art Photography Winners Announced

uror D. B. Stovall announced the competition winners during the Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 8, before a crowd of 130. Cash awards were given for first place: Look-up Eiffel by Jeffrey Miller; second place: Blue by Claire Carroll; and third place: Ariel by David Segal. Honorable mentions were given to Ybor at Night by William J. Faeth; Black Bute by Peter Foiles; and Vintage Aviation by Rhett Rebold.

Fifty images from 37 finalists in the 2014 Fine Art Photography Competition will be on display in the 2014 Fine Art Photography Exhibit through April 6, at ArtSpace Herndon. Be sure not to miss this fantastic exhibit of astounding colors, extraordinary textures, remarkable people and breathtaking places.

ArtSpace Herndon exhibitions and receptions are free and open to the public.

Please visit www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org for the gallery's hours, location, and exhibition and events schedule.



Second place: Blue by Claire Carroll



Third place: Ariel by David Segal



The members and families of Pack 157 enjoyed a space-themed evening.

Celebrating Space

Herndon Cub Scout Pack 157 celebrates space with visits from the Empire and Orbital.

ub Scout Pack 157, based at Herndon Elementary School and chartered by Herndon United Methodist Church, celebrated its annual Blue and Gold Banquet on Friday, Feb. 21, with a focus on space. Held throughout the United States in February, Blue and Gold Banquets are an opportunity for the youth and families that participate in scouting to get together with food and fun.

The members and families of Pack 157 enjoyed space-themed food, including moon rocks (chicken nuggets), meteor showers (salad), Little Dippers (veggies & dip), and sun glow (mac and cheese); as well as presentations from Michael Orlowski, the Mission Operations Director at Orbital and members of the Star Wars costuming organization, the 501st Legion. In addition, many scouts celebrated the evening by donning handmade spacethemed costumes.

Mission Ops Director, sincerel Orlowski wowed the boys with several hands-on physics demonstrations, involving a skateboard, hula-hoop, and effervescent tablets and water to demonstrate the concepts of friction, force, gravity, and propulsion. Orlowski presented images and videos related to

Orbital's successful completion of the first of eight $Cygnus^{TM}$ operational cargo logistics spacecraft missions to the International Space Station (ISS).

The excitement of the evening reached a fever-pitch as members of the 501st Legion entered the cafeteria. Initially formed to bring Star Wars costume enthusiasts together, the Legion is an all-volunteer organization that, among other things, facilitates the use of Star Wars-themed costumes for charity events and volunteer work. Representing the 501st were Kievan Mereel as a Rebal Fleet Trooper, Victor B. as Boba Fett, Raymond Trouve as an Imperial Officer, Brian Robinson and Kevin Belling as Storm Troopers, and Anna Mitchell as an Imperial Officer.

According to Barry Dresdner, Pack 157 Committee Chair, "We're fortunate to live in an area that has such a rich and accessible base of people interested in science and space. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of Orbital and the 501st Legion in helping our young scouts discover both the science and dream behind space travel."

Additional information on Cub Scout Pack 157 can be found at http:// www.pack157.org



Van Metre Wins Sales, Marketing Awards

an Metre Homes won eight Silver Awards at the 2014 National Sales and Marketing Awards, hosted by the National Sales and Marketing Council.

Van Metre Homes were honored as Rookie of the Year, Sales Person of the Year, Sales Manager of the Year, Best Direct Mail Program, Best Print Campaign, Best Overall Advertising Campaign, Best Computer Sales Tool, and Best Design Center.

Individuals recognized for outstanding achievement included Omayra Dehring for Rookie of the Year, Ernie Kyger for Sales sand apartments, as well as office buildings Person of the Year, and Danny Faulkner for Sales Manager of the Year. Van Metre Homes won for Best Direct Mail Program with their Fashion Week. Their Fresh Campaign won two awards for Best Print Campaign and for Best Overall Advertising Campaign. Van Metre Homes' Hologram won for Best Computer Sales Tool and the Van Metre Design Studio won for Best De-

Van Metre Companies has constructed more than 16,000 houses and several thouand shopping centers in Northern Virginia. Van Metre communities include their own master-planned developments, as well as neighborhoods in smaller subdivisions and third-party planned communities.

The Van Metre portfolio of new homes includes condominiums, townhomes and single-family homes designed for first-time and move-up buyers throughout the Northern Virginia suburbs.

Van Metre's exclusive Design Studio, located in Stone Ridge, Va., allows homebuyers to choose their interior finishes and options. Van Metre also offers turnkey mortgage financing services through their own lending affiliate, Intercoastal Mortgage. Through the Van Metre in-house architecture team, buyers can modify architecture based on a community's design plan and surrounding environments. They are also able to quickly adapt to market changes, as well as offer customization with Van Metre's Dream Home Portfolio — offering homebuyers an easy path to personal home customization.

Near Zero Temperatures Call for Back-to-Basics

What mid-winter maintenance can reveal about your home's needs.

By John Byrd

hile common sense suggests that home improvements should be put off to warmer weather, a sustained period of colder temperatures often reveals systemic problems that will need correction sooner or later.

As temperatures dropped precipitously several weeks ago, all Reston homeowner Craig Mattice knew was that his original mansard roof was plagued with ice dams and his 10-year-old, 600-square-foot addition was so cold the pipes were freezing. Moreover, no amount of thermostat adjustment improved the situation much.

"After living in the house for over 25 years the chill was a surprise," Mattice said. "It wasn't just that the winter has been colder than usual ... it was beginning to look like a larger problem, particularly in the new wing, which was five degrees colder than other rooms."

To determine the cause of ice-clogged gutters, Mattice turned to remodeler David Foster who had completed a number of home improvements for his son.

"The damming was literally the tip of the iceberg," said Foster, principal of Foster Remodeling Solutions. "When I inspected the attic it was clear that the envelope was not adequately sealed, insulated or ventilated, which is why the upstairs had been too hot last summer."

Add to this the fact that prior to 1980 local building code required less thermallyresistant insulation (R-19) than the current R-38 standard and the outlines of a common problem with older production homes begins to emerge.

"It's not unusual to find that the existing insulation just isn't the best application for some of our coldest days" Foster said. "Different parts of a house can call for different insulation strategies."

Since the goal for the Mattice attic was to dramatically increase R-value, Foster rearranged the old insulation, adding soffit



Photo courtesy of Foster Remodeling Solutions

A sustained period of cold weather can reveal problems with your home's basic systems that will need to be addressed in any season if further deterioration is to be prevented.

baffles to improve ventilation. The larger technical solution, however, was to blowin R-25 fiberglass, which raised the attic's thermal resistance to R-44.

"One of the benefits of fiberglass is that it wraps everything...creating an air-tight insular envelope," Foster says. "This makes all aspects of the home's heating and cooling more efficient.'

The more recently completed family wing was another matter. Turns out the Mattice's artfully-designed addition was built over an unheated crawl space, and the HVAC duct wasn't even connected in the kitchen.

"An appropriate insulation strategy starts with a kind of forensics," Foster said. "Where is a wall, ceiling or roof exposed to outside conditions? Is it difficult to regulate temperatures in different parts of the house? These are some basic questions we start with."

Given challenges inherent in insulating rooms built over an unheated crawl space — which also must support air circulation, Foster re-engineered the entire thermal equation: existing fiberglass batt was removed; sprayed-in closed cell foam was then applied to the underside of the floor system. This elevated the thermal value to

R-20 while providing a draft-free air-tight seal to the kitchen floor. To accommodate for summer conditions, Foster added ventilation to both the crawl space and the attic.

So how do the upgrades perform?

"Beautifully," Craig Mattice says. "The house is noticeably tighter and the new wing is much more comfortable."

A PROFESSIONAL REMODELER for 35 years, Foster said he's somewhat surprised by the calls he gets when temperatures drop, usually from homeowners who've found that previous attempts at keeping the house comfortable and well-functioning haven't worked very well.

A few months ago, for example, he executed a re-roofing and gutter protection assignment for Alexandria homeowner Steve Piper, who had previously hired him to design and build an extensive interior makeover.

'We knew we had a leaking problem before we met David," Piper said. "But the situation had gotten worse — and I wasn't sure what to expect from roofers. Finally, it occurred to me to ask David for his assessment."

Foster traced the problem to inappropri-

"An appropriate insulation strategy starts with a kind of forensics. Where is a wall, ceiling or roof exposed to outside conditions? Is it difficult to regulate temperatures in different parts of the house?"

ate and poorly installed flashing which was allowing water to seep into siding and under roof shingles.

His prescription: a re-shingled roof, a new gutter protection system and attic ventilation equipped with an electronic thermo-

"It's important to address the whole problem when the system has failed," Foster said. "This is a plan that not only eliminates the leaking, but functions much better in all seasons.'

A few miles away, Alexandrian Jeff Hage came to Foster when he noticed one of the posts to a front porch was sagging.

Foster, who had finished an interior for Hage a few months before, quickly recognized that the whole roof had settled, making it impossible to stop worsening deterioration by simply replacing the corner

"When the problem becomes structural you have to remake the basic supports, "he says. "In this case that meant raising the porch roof and re-aligning posts and beams."

Foster has encountered similarly shortsighted solutions associated with window replacement. Homeowners with drafty homes procure state-of-the-art insulated windows only to have them installed with inadequately sealed window jambs.

"Winter is not particularly forgiving of partial solutions," Foster said. "When a problem is recurring, it's time to look at the larger system. After all, this is how a house works."

Empty-Nesters Re-invent the Family Home

Built-ins, cleverly articulated interior increase usable space without need to add-on.

By John Byrd

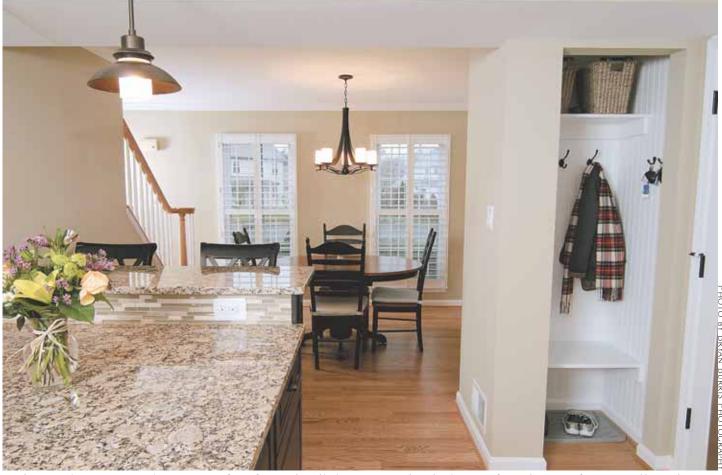
ometimes life's second act requires a bold set change. How else are others to know that the featured players have moved on, embracing new beginnings?

Reinvention is after all the quintessential triumph of creativity, and can be a very personal process when the thing reinvented is your home itself.

"Of course, large-scale life changes don't necessarily demand a whole house makeover," recently retired teacher Cindy Borer said. But in the past year, her only son moved out to start a new career and her husband is now traveling less, so the timing was right for discoveries.

BUT TO START AT THE TOP: last spring the Borers had celebrated 20 years residency in their two-story, four-bedroom Colonial-style house in Burke, and were taking stock of what they wanted from the years ahead.

At just over 800 square feet, the home's primary living area had been serviceable enough; even so, the formal dining room and adjacent den on opposite sides of the front facing foyer were hardly ever used and the rear family room was dark and cramped.



By borrowing a mere nine square feet from the dining room, the designers found space for a small mudroom with bench immediately to the right of a side kitchen door.

Evaluating options, Borer considered enlarging a few rear rooms. She also wondered if some of the home's interior walls could be modified in way that would allow for more natural light. What to do?

It was at this juncture that Craig Durosko, founder of Sun Design Remodeling, was called-in to discuss possible space improvement scenarios.

Durosko pointed out that the couple

didn't so much lack square footage as a sensible space plan tailored to how they actually use their home. The existing "center-

SEE EMPTY-NESTERS, PAGE 4

Kitchen Confidential

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE CONNECTION

hen Allie Mann of Arlington, a designer and senior interior specialist at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. was tasked with giving the first



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From light-filled to dramatic, local designers create dream kitchens.

floor of a McLean, Va., home a face lift, she had to think free-flowing and airy.

"[The] client wanted to focus on making the kitchen feel open and connected to rest of home," said Mann. "[They] needed to have plenty of space to cook and entertain plus lots of storage."

Mann said the homeowner was making a cross-country move and settling in Virginia, so adhering to a strict timeline and budget were critical.

homeowner wanted to make a change

"At nearly 85 percent job completion, client decided they wanted to completely remove the wall between the kitchen and family room. In the original design, we partially removed the wall," said Mann. "This meant a shift and redirection of scope, additional



Photo courtesy Nicely Done Kitchens

However, near the end of the project, the A vertical, glass subway tile backsplash adds a dramatic flair to this kitchen by Nicely Done Kitchens.

> engineering [because] the remaining portion of the wall housed a three-story fireplace, relocation of cabinets had already been installed and modifications to counter tops. And still deliver a project close to on

The finished kitchen is a light-filled space with cabinets by Crystal Cabinetry, honed Vermont Marble countertops and appliances SEE KITCHEN, PAGE 4

From Page 3

hall" configuration defined rooms were consistent with tradition, vet were functionally underutilized most of the time. This accounted for daily traffic patterns that didn't work as well as they might, and a nagging sense that the entire first floor was space-restricted.

On a second subject: the mid-house floor-to-ceiling bearing wall dividing the front and rear sections of the house could be completely deleted by installing concealed vertical supports at strategic intervals, Durokso said. Such a move would dramatically increase natural light, creating the floor space needed for an alternative layout more appropriate for both daily use and entertainment.

"On the first visit Craig pretty much solved our space plan problem," Borer said. "From this point on, I was mainly to think about the interior design de-

So Borer's meeting with Jon Benson, the makeover's lead designer, proved a revelation from the start.

A veteran home remodeling specialist as well as a nationally recognized furniture designer, Benson's input shaped a floor plan focused on personal requirements in which custom built-ins eliminate unneeded walls while sharply improving both room function and interior design integrity.

To create a more functional relationship between the kitchen and the dining room, for instance, the designer replaced an interior pantry with a 27.5-squarefoot food preparation surface and dining counter that serves both rooms equally.

By borrowing a mere nine square feet from the dining room, Benson also found space for a small mudroom with bench immediately to the right of the side entrance to the kitchen.

Re-situating the front hall closet to the right of the front door not only widened the front foyer but also created dramatic front-to-back sight lines that make the entire house seem much larger.

Measured in square feet, the changes are small. Yet such revisions liberate the first level circulation plan, re-organizing the home's primary living area into rooms that are both interactive and ar-

To visually differentiate the front-facing library from the family room, the designer converted existing overhead beams into an elegant tray ceiling supported by Craftsman-style piers.

A floor-to-ceiling bookcase—also a



Photos by Bryan Burris Photography

To differentiate the front-facing library from the family room visually, Sun Design converted existing overhead beams into an elegant tray ceiling supported by Craftsman-style piers.



The new transitional-style interior employs decorative elements to create distinctive use-zones in an open floor plan.

Sun Design's Jessica Page.

"Jessica helped me discover the design style I'd been looking for," Borer said. "She opened up a lot of resources. Ideas that I liked were added to a project scrapbook which we both referenced regularly to keep the decision process on track."

As space plan modifications proceeded, Benson original—provides an elegant vet Borer's research revealed a strong personal useful wall for the new reading room. attraction to transitional-style interior de-The new family room fireplace hearth sign, a contemporary concept that seeks to was custom-designed to accommodate reconcile traditional architecture with the tional and open really works well for us," the plasma TV that now hangs above it. spatial freedom of an open floor plan.

Additional interior design decisions On this score, Benson's original floorplan really enlightening." emerged from Borer's collaboration with sketch anticipated the use of loveseats as



Transitional interior design style seeks to reconcile traditional architecture with the spatial freedom of an open floor plan.

space dividers between the family room and the den. Meanwhile, Borer's preference for soft white and grey duotones inspired an interior paint scheme that combines sharp white and khaki.

In the kitchen, Giallo Sioriato granite surfaces are set off by a vividly original glass tile and stone backsplash which lends an invigorating streak of color to the broader visual panorama.

"Its very comfortable balance of tradi-Borer said. "I found the whole process

Empty-Nesters Re-invent the Family Home Kitchen Confidential

by Sub-Zero, Wolf, KitchenAid and Miele.

NICELY DONE KITCHENS in Springfield, Va., created a kitchen with drama for a Centreville, Va., family. "White semi-custom cabinetry and a contrasting dark island creates a dramatic look," said Stephanie Brick, designer. Brick cited the focus on the vertical, subway tile back splash.

The rest of the back splash in the kitchen is horizontal, which is the standard for subway tile, said Brick.

The kitchen also includes ample, easily accessible storage space.

"The paneled refrigerator helps conceal the appliances and helps them to blend in with the cabinetry to give the aesthetic more continuity," said Brick. The kitchen includes easily accessible storage space and ogeeedged granite counter tops.

OPENING UP and adding light were priorities when Guy Hopkins Semmes, partner and founder of Potomac-based designmodeled the kitchen of a Bethesda, Md., drawers."

"The kitchen was small, but we were able to add a lot more space, by making few out a stairway wall to the second floor and minor changes," said Semmes. "Before there replaced it with a triangular opening so light was an enclosed porch next to the kitchen. from stairwell came down into the kitchen." We opened the wall between the kitchen and the adjacent enclosed porch."

elimination: appliances. "We got rid of the when you work with what you've got."



of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. created a free-flowing and elegant feel in this McLean, Va. kitchen.

refrigerator and moved it downstairs," said build firm Hopkins and Porter and Lea Semmes. "All of the other appliances are Allen, one of the firm's senior architects, re- located under the counter and open up like

Semmes also found a creative way to make the space more light-filled. "We took

The kitchen now has maple cabinetry and white Silestone countertops. "It was done Hopkins and Porter removed walls Semmes and Allen made another major on a budget. It's amazing what you can do to create space and add light to the



Guy Semmes and Lea Allen of Potomac-based design-build firm kitchen of this Bethesda, Md. home.

David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center savs cold season annuals like these yellow pansies can add bright color to a garden now.



Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

Local experts tell you what you should do now, in spite of the cold weather.

By Marilyn Campbell on the environment. It reduces bad bug THE CONNECTION populations and is safe over all."

t doesn't feel like spring. Last WHILE EAGER GARDENERS may be last thing on your mind. However, local annual flowers in pots on patios, but you gardening experts say this is the ideal can plant annuals like pansies, which are time to start preparing your landscape cold season annuals," he said. "They to yield colorful spring foliage.

Bill Mann, of Behnke Nurseries in whither. Then you can put other flowers Potomac, Md., said spring garden prepa- in like petunias and geraniums." ration plans differ from year to year. "It depends on the landscape beds you have and whether or not you're planning to and surrounding them with flowering put in a vegetable garden," he said.

damage that might have been broken ornamental," he said. "It is nice to have during the snow load," said David plants in the pots that stay year round. I Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center, put a Japanese maple in a pot on my which has locations in Fair Oaks, deck. In another pot I put ilex verticillata Merrifield and Gainesville, Va., Don't go [winterberry] and I had red berries all overboard, however: "You don't want to winter long. In the spring, I'll put petuprune plants before they bloom. A good nias in the soil around it, and around the rule of thumb is to prune a flowering edge I'll plant a flowering plant that will plant right after it blooms."

Instead, spend some time tidying up. "Right now is the time to fertilize your shrubs, remove old mulch, put down new so cold, there are going to be some plants seeds into the soil." that won't have made it."

ing the yard for winter damage," saud enous plants. "Look for sources for na-Mann. "This is a great time of the year tive plants — they help sustain our local to look for insect damage and deer dam- wildlife. If we didn't have local plants,

Mann expects extensive deer damage except for plants like azaleas and rhodo-

difficult to identify. "This is the time to wisteria vine," said Wilson. do damage-control by using safe or or-
If a new patio is in your plans this time of year and it is a lot safer and easier the better."

week's snow made it seem like excited to start planting spring flowers warm weather might never arrive, in their newly cleaned plots, Watkins ofso planting a garden might be the fers a caveat: "It is a little early for most don't like heat, so in June they start to

Watkins recommends planting hearty, ornamental shrubs in patio flowerpots plants to ensure year-found foliage. "A "This is the time to inspect shrubs for nice thing to do in pots is plant a woody trail down over the pot from April to October. Then the rest of the year I'll get

Sowing grass seeds is also an ideal mulch and just clean up," said Watkins. project to begin now. "The seeds won't "Everybody is sick of winter, especially germinate until it gets to be 52 degrees," this winter. This is the time to clean up Watkins continued. "So even if we get old leaves. Because the winter has been another snow storm, it helps work the

Randee Wilson of Nature By Design in "In March, a lot has to do with inspect- Alexandria encourages the use of indigbutterflies would be gone."

Native plants also require less maintethis year. "Deer didn't have much to eat nance. "Some native plants are cardinal flower, which is bright red; bee balm, also bright red; blue cardinal; iron weed, Insect damage is less obvious and more which has purple flowers, and native

ganic-based products like neem oil," said spring, Watkins says to get started now. Mann. "When sprayed on plants, it "We've been putting down putting pa smothers insect eggs or some insects in tios all year long," he said. "A good garthe larva stage. It also kills stinkbugs. If den center is going to get backed up you can see them, you can control them. when the weather is warmer. The sooner You can use a higher concentration this you start getting your job in the line,

Garden Club of Virginia Celebrates 81st Tour



This Alexandria garden will appear on the 81st Historic Garden Week

ouse and garden tours will take place across Virginia during the 81st Historic Garden Week. Garden week runs from Saturday, April 26-Saturday, May 3.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic gardens. Each spring visitors are welcomed to more than 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during "America's Largest Open House." This eight-day statewide event provides visitors an opportunity to see gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with over 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Statewide tour passes are available for \$175. The Alexandria tour takes place Saturday, April 26, tickets are \$35. The Vienna tour takes place Tuesday, April 29 and tickets are \$25. There is a 240-page guidebook with detailed descriptions of properties on each tour. The \$10 charge covers the shipping and handling cost of the book. Free copies of the guide are available at Virginia businesses, visitor centers, and some AAAs. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

Local REAL ESTATE

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1 8419 Brookewood Court, McLean — \$2,198,800



2 1418 Harvest Crossing Drive, McLean — \$1,850,000



1 9909 Windy Hollow Road, Great Falls — \$1,322,000



1 8500 Stony Point Court, McLean — \$1,660,000



Address BR FB HB Postal City Sold Price Type Lot AC PostalCode Subdivision Date Sold
1 8419 BROOKEWOOD CT 5 6 2 MCLEAN \$2,198,800 Detached 0.70 22102 WOODLEA MILL 01/31/14
2 1418 HARVEST CROSSING DR 451 MCLEAN \$1,850,000 Townhouse . 0.07 22101 EVANS FARM 01/08/14
3 10406 OAKTON HILLS CT NE 5 5 2 OAKTON \$1,700,000 Detached 1.72 22124 OAKTON HILLS ESTATES 01/08/14
4 8500 STONY POINT CT
3 8103 RIDINGS CT
1681 DREWLAINE DR #5 5 4 1 VIENNA \$1,355,764 Detached 0.35 22182 WOLF TRAP DOWNS SEC. 2 01/30/14
1652 WHITE PINE DR
3 9909 WINDY HOLLOW RD 6 4 1 GREAT FALLS \$1,322,000 Detached 1.72 22066 FALCON RIDGE 01/24/14
9 9115 WHITE CHIMNEY LN 4 3 1 GREAT FALLS \$975,000 Detached 0.92 22066 LEIGH MILL COMMONS 01/16/14
10 1608 NORTH VILLAGE RD 3 2 1 RESTON \$970,000 Detached 0.98 20194 RESTON 01/09/14
1 9212 MARIA AVE
2989 FRANKLIN OAKS DR 5 4 0 HERNDON \$827,575 Detached 0.31 20171 FRANKLIN OAKS 01/08/14 COPYRIGHT 2014 REALESTATE BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE. SOURCE: MRIS AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2014.

15th Biennial Ikebana Show at the Art League

Washington, D.C., branch of the Sogetsu School participated in the 15th biennial Ikebana Show at the Art League in the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria last week.

The art of Japanese flower arranging, Ikebana, is promoted by more than 300 different schools of thought. The Sogetsu School of Ikebana originated in Tokyo, Japan in 1927 as a new, modern style of Japanese flower arranging. The idea among the members is that Ikebana may be created at anytime, anywhere, by anyone, with any material.

Members of the school made numerous visits to the Torpedo Factory during January to select artwork for their arrangements. They returned Thursday morning, March 6, to set up arrangements in the Art League for an opening

Twenty-five members of the reception that evening. The exhibit continued through Sunday, March 9. For more on the school, contact Jane Redmon at 703-931-5519 or janebredmon@aol.com. Visit www.sogetsuwashingtondc.org.



Elise Schoux created her arrangement with work from two artists: Constance Slack's acrylic painting, "In The Key of Green And Gold" and Joann Ackerman's stoneware piece "White With Red Circles."

Mary M. Corley worked with "The Choir" a porcelain piece and a clay centerpiece container both by Christine Hubloue.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ GAZETTE PACKET



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Susan Rudy used Janos Somogyi's "Untitled XXXA" and a stoneware vase by Klaudia Levin.

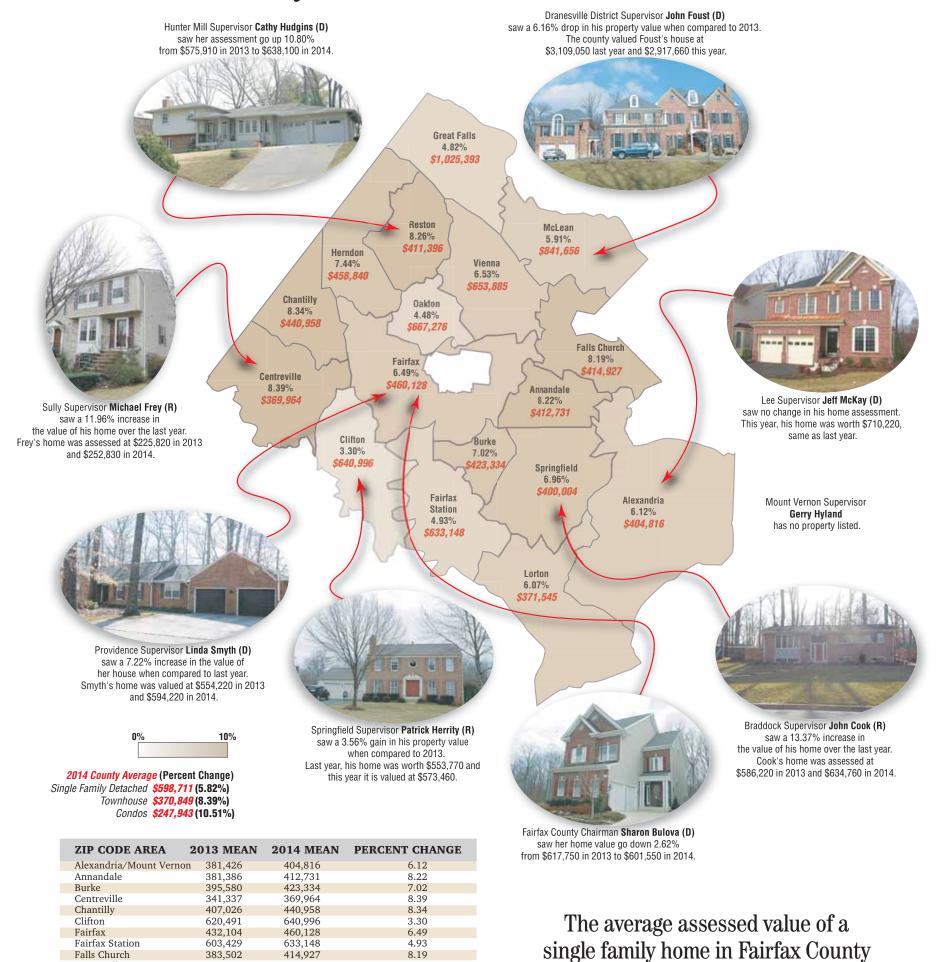


Jeanne Garant's oil painting "A Bit Of Curry" and Jennifer Bernhard Hatfield's "Tall Bowls" set the stage for Diana Cull's arrangement.



Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2014 Assessments by Area



383,502

427,060

350,288 794,688

379,741

373,964 613,796

414,927 1,025,393

458,840

371,545

841,656

411,096

400,004 653,885

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

6.07

5.91

6.53

Falls Church

Herndon

Lorton

McLean

Reston

Vienna

Springfield

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY

for 2014 is \$598,711, up 5.82%