

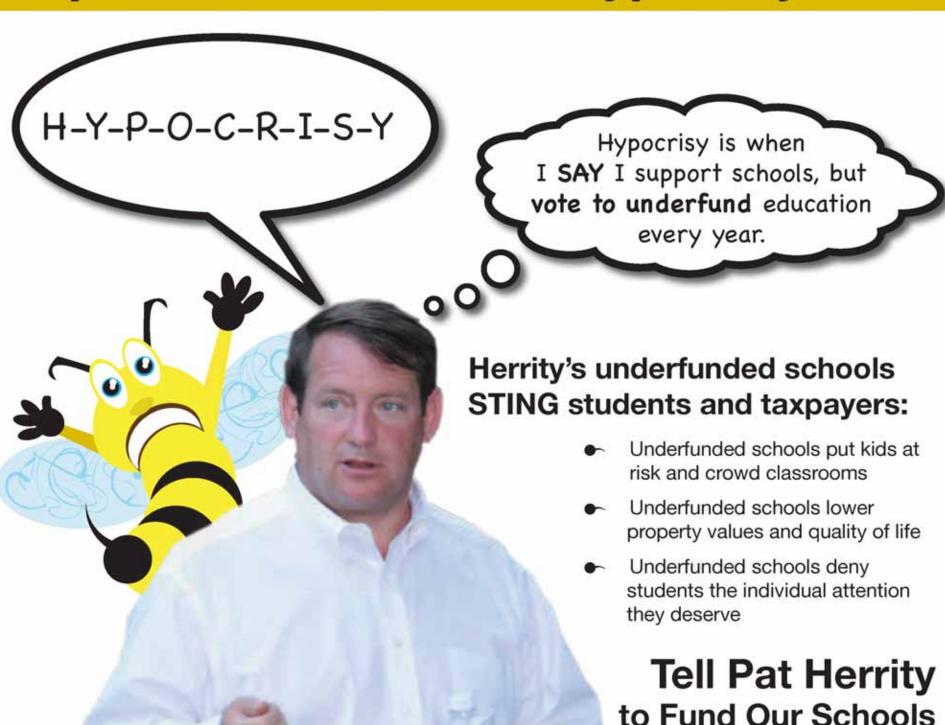
Entertainment, Page 14

Green Energy Triangle Versus Closed Landfill

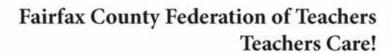
News, Page 6

Fairfax County Spelling Bee

Supervisor Pat Herrity: Expert Use of the Word Hypocrisy



Buzz him at: 703-451-8873 E-mail him at: springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov





NEWS

(From left) Senior Robyn **Smith explains Active Minds** while Lindsay Laiks, Rachel Chalkley, Karen Garza and Kim Dockery listen.



'Proud of Our Young People at Woodson'

FCPS informs parents about support for teens.

By Bonnie Hobbs The Connection

t was standing room only last week in Woodson High's auditorium when some 1,100 people, mainly parents, gathered for comfort and advice in the aftermath of two student deaths.

Principal Jeff Yost welcomed them and later received a standing ovation when Douglas Tyson, assistant superintendent of Cluster III, praised the job he's done at the school. First, though, FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza addressed the crowd.

"I'm a parent of four children, and there's nothing more heartbreaking than to hear about the untimely death of a child or learn about anyone who's suffering," she said. "We support you and want to help you build on the great work that's been done here."

Tyson thanked Woodson's teachers for always helping students do their best, and the parents, for attending the March 5 meeting. "If we're going to overcome and prevent these things in the future, we all

have to work together," he said. "[And] it's important to commend our students for keeping a positive mindset. We're proud of our young people here at Woodson, and we adults need your help to better learn how to provide for you."

Kim Dockery, assistant superintendent for Special Services and a parent of Woodson grads, said, "The things we're facing are complex issues; tonight's the first part of the conversation." Noting Fairfax County's many resources, Dockery added, "We're a community that takes care of our most precious asset, our children."

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, di-

Department, told parents she's contacted the Virginia Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control "to make sure we're not missing anything."

MaryAnn Panarelli, director of FCPS' Office of Intervention and Prevention, thanked the social workers and counselors "who've been working so hard with your children, the past week or two." She also acknowledged the social workers and counselors who came from other jurisdictions to help, as well.

"They go to the classes the person [who died] was in," she explained. "They also reach out to students who may have had a loss, themselves, and are particularly vulnerable. If a student is especially distressed, they tell the parents. And at the end of the day, all members of the Crisis Response Team make a list of students we're concerned about and want to follow up on later to offer additional support."

OFTEN, students or parents will tell the team members about other students they should talk to, and they do. "So there are several layers of active support available," said Panarelli. "We work with groups of kids and tell them there's a natural process for grief, but it's different for everybody." "Some kids

SEE WOODSON, PAGE 12



rector of the county Health People in the audience introduce themselves to each other.

(From left) are seniors Rachel Chalkley, Robyn Smith, Fran Mahon and Lindsay Laiks at the **Active Minds** information table.



Help Offered in the Wake of Tragedy

Organizations provide information, guidance.

By Bonnie Hobbs THE CONNECTION

oodson parent Karen Cogan called the March 5 meeting "a good first start. A lot of us were here to band together and let everyone know we're there for each other.'

"It was a great community turnout, and I appreciated the school-system support services being here to give us some guidance," she said. "They told us what's available to parents and kids and what [comprises] a crisis team."

Parents also gave written answers to questions they'd received before the meeting. They shared their ideas to better support students, plus what resources could help. Students answered similar questions.

Regarding the mood in the school these days, junior Jack Jacobs said, "I think everyone's doing a great job of being supportive, caring and listening when anyone needs to talk. Tonight was very good. It was nice to hear how everyone in the school system and School Board cares about us and have come together to help.'

After the meeting, parents received crisis and suicide-prevention cards with information, plus phone numbers they and students can call for help. Parents also visited 15 information tables in the cafeteria to learn about several resources.

At the Community of Soluaverage five teens and 20 adults per meeting."

The group helps teenagers deal with adversity and build resilience. It does so by listening to them and by establishing positive relationships within the community to focus on common strengths and abilities. For more information, see https:// www.facebook.com/groups/ Community of Solutions/.

At another table, four students explained Active Minds, a school organization that raises awareness of and de-stigmatizes mental illness. It encourages both hope and help. "We assess students for any risk or crisis, listen non-judgmentally and, when necessary, encourage them to get professional help," said senior Rachel Chalkley. "What we do helps foster a positive environment."

For example, they've held a yoga class to promote mindfulness and gave out hot chocolate to students returning from winter break. "It was to spread joy and help people have a better time at school," said senior Lindsay Laiks.

The group's a year old and meets once or twice a month. "It gets people to be more comfortable discussing mental health," said Laiks. "It isn't talked about the same way a broken arm is, but we want to show people it's OK to do that."

She, too, was glad people came together as a community to exchange ideas. In school, she said, "Students are trying to show each other that every person's cared about. There's a tions table, co-founder Carol sense of community. It's defi-Davis said, "We started this or- nitely tough, but we're coming ganization last year after the together. Things may be hard in third [Woodson] suicide. We the moment, but we have to remember that life continues on - we just have to keep going."



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.



News

Joan Rogers to be Honored by The Friends of The Fairfax Station

n Monday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m., The Friends of The Fairfax Station will hold their annual meeting at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum honoring outgoing President, Joan Rogers.

Joan Rogers is stepping down from the presidency after serving in this position for 19 years. She was instrumental in the arrangements to move the original Fairfax Station Railroad building to its present site at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. She has also been involved in many community organizations such as the Dominion Valley Pony Club, Girl Scouts, PTA, St. Mary's Church and the Clifton Community Woman's Club during her many years as a resident of the Northern Virginia area.

During the years of her presidency, the Railroad Museum has continued to succeed as an important part of the greater community, well known for its annual Holiday Train Show, Sunday afternoon train displays, Quarterly Forums, Tours, Civil War displays, including a celebration of the Sesquicentennial in the summer of 2012. As a Museum Life Member, Rogers is leaving her dedication to the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum in the hands of dedicated volunteers.



Joan Rogers

The Museum annual meeting is free and open to the public. For more information visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.



locality	education debt	transportation debt	other general government debt	enterprise activities debt	total debt	per capita debt
Fairfax County	\$1,549,052,341	\$396,425,978	\$1,489,446,960	\$554,411,229	\$3,989,336,508	\$3,564.93
Arlington County	\$415,885,635	\$112,840,854	\$455,326,656	\$428,655,606	\$1,412,708,751	\$6,589.96
Loudoun County	\$890,389,301	\$0	\$360,213,903	\$2,060,377	\$1,252,663,581	\$3,803.35
Prince William	\$597,558,000	\$201,316,000	\$260,383,000	\$0	\$1,059,257,000	\$2,552.72
Alexandria City	\$152,270,716	\$17,340,064	\$365,761,922	\$27,144,311	\$535,372,702	\$3,731.76
Fairfax City	\$88,893,350	\$0	\$78,185,450	\$29,998,814	\$197,077,614	\$8,618.81
Manassas Park	\$58,228,329	\$0	\$59,670,144	\$14,776,604	\$132,675,077	\$8,930.79
Manassas	\$39,298,653	\$7,690,477	\$15,529,780	\$30,376,597	\$92,995,507	\$2,380.84
Falls Church	\$4,869,733	\$0	\$39,573,050	\$33,821,309	\$78,264,092	\$6,227.75

A Debt to Society debt as a tool to build

Local governments use for the future.

By Michael Lee Pope The Connection

ack in the 1920s, Harry Byrd became governor of Virginia on what he called a "pay-asyou-go" platform. Byrd had an almost pathological hatred of debt, fueled in part by mounting debt problems of his family's business. Now, almost a century later, leaders across Northern Virginia have a very different view about the role debt should play in balancing the books. Local governments across Virginia have taken on more than \$8 billion in debt.

"Some jurisdictions are having to be more careful with their debt load as they are small and have a weak real estate base," said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "Others see that having high quality infrastructure is the best way to support a growing economy that will enable them to pay off the debt."

Fairfax County has the largest debt by far, almost \$4 billion. But Fairfax also has more people than any of the other jurisdictions. So the county's per capita

debt burden is actually lower than Arlington or Alexandria. Financial reports show that local governments across Northern Virginia have been taking on increasing debt in recent years, and some believe that trend might accelerate in the near future. Because Congress is considering eliminating some exemptions for income tax on municipal bonds, local governments might consider taking on larger amounts of debt in the near future to take advantage of lower interest rates.

"There are some clouds gathering on the horizon that will impose significantly greater increases in costs for borrowing to issue bonds to finance longterm improvements," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership. "Local governments are asking themselves if they want to risk deferring borrowing knowing it might carry a much higher interest rate."

GOVERNMENT LEADERS say the old Byrd philosophy of "pay-as-you-go" is a relic of the past in SEE DEMANDS, PAGE 10

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Join us for an evening of important lectures about women's health presented by top Inova physicians. It's all about the ladies!

Ladies Night at Inova Healthplex - Lorton

Thursday, March 27, 2014 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Inova HealthPlex - Lorton 9321 Sanger Street Lorton, VA 22079

6:00 p.m. GYN Health As We Age Serena Floyd, MD, OB/GYN

6:45 p.m. Different Countries, Different Eras, Different Perspectives -The Truth About Mammography - David Weintritt, MD, Breast Surgeon

7:15 p.m. Facial Rejuvenation: Achieving a More Youthful Looking Face Kirit Bhatt, MD, Plastic Surgery

Come early and enjoy complimentary refreshments and a relaxing neck massage.

Everything is FREE, but to better serve you, we ask that you register online at www.inova.org/ladiesnight or by calling 1.855.My.Inova (1.855.694.6682)



Green Energy Triangle Versus Closed Landfill

Community members, stakeholders debate future of Lorton Landfill.

By Janelle Germanos
The Connection

n Thursday, the Fairfax County Planning Commission is set to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on whether EnviroSolutions should be permitted to continue the operation of the Lorton Landfill until 2040.

Along with this operation comes a green energy park that proponents say will push Fairfax County forward in terms of renewable energy.

But many opposed to the application, including some members of the South County Federation, believe that promises were broken in the past. These feelings stem from a previous application in which EnviroSolutions was to build a park on the landfill after it closed in 2019.

EnviroSolutions says that due to liability issues, they are unable to take ownership of the park.

"We were required to build the park. The park authority would own the land, and we

ture

EnviroSolutions has planted trees along the landfill to appease neighbors.

would not be part of that," said Conrad Mehan, EnviroSolutions' director of government relations. "At the end of the day, had the park authority not reversed its commitment, we wouldn't be sitting here today. It's that simple."

According to Bill Lecos, who is working on behalf of the EnviroSolutions' green energy proposal, liability was the main issue at stake.

"ESI is not equipped to manage the liabilities associated with people mountain biking down the property," Lecos said.

In 2010, when it was clear to him that the park was out of the question, Mehan said he went to the South County Federation to discuss possible alternative uses for the landfill.

"I also talked about the fact that we had

just gone through a horrific recession. For the construction industry, it was a depression, not a recession. I told them we would not be able to fill up the site by the time it was set to close," Mehan said.

Around this time, EnviroSolutions was approached by a Washington Gas representative about putting wind farms on the landfill.

"As these conversations were going on, there was also a county effort to identify where there were public-private partnerships available and how that could positively impact the county's sustainability goals," Lecos said.

The green energy components include three wind turbines, three acres of solar panels, geothermal infrastructure, and methane conversion.

SOUTH COUNTY FEDERATION mem-

bers, however, cite the buyout provisions in the application and don't believe the green energy will come to fruition.

"There are no guarantees that they will even build any of the green energy. In fact, they can buy their way out of building them at all," said Nick Firth, president of the South County Federation. "ESI is not a green energy company. They are a trash company. It will be a lot easier for them to buy themselves out of this than to hire an external company or third party to initialize and go through the intricate approval process ex-

plained in the SEA-2."

Mehan said that there aren't any loopholes, and that EnviroSolutions wants the green energy components to work out.

"If we fail, we can be shutdown," Mehan said. "Because they brought this up, there's a penalty cause in the application, that if for whatever reason, we do not install and operate one of the four green energy technologies, we have to pay money. It's the equivalent of what it would cost for us to do it."

Supporters and opponents of the application are also debating the impact the closure of the landfill will have on truck traffic.

Currently, trucks that enter the landfill must do so from the south to avoid driving through roads that pass by communities. If the current application is not approved and the landfill closes by 2019, a recycling center will be built across the street, as determined in the 2006 application.

According to Mehan, about 400 trucks a day come to the landfill.

"When we move across the street, if this is not approved, we will relocate as much of our operation as we can across the street. We will not be able to re-locate all 400 trucks," he said.

Mehan said the trucks will likely use the route from the north to come to the recycling center, and EnviroSolutions cannot

SEE LANDFILL, PAGE 7





SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria)

Household Hazardous Waste from residents will be accepted at no charge. We will <u>not</u> accept business or commercial waste, lead acid batteries, automobile batteries or propane tanks.

For complete details, go online to

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling,

or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication.

For reasonable ADA accommodations, please call

703-324-5230, TTY 711.



Landfill Debate Continues

From Page 6

afford to apply the same condition that prohibits truck traffic from the north on the new application.

"That condition drives up the cost of the trucking operations," Mehan said. "The cost of the recycling facility is much higher than the landfill."

The trucks wouldn't be going down residential streets, but would be able to use roads such as Hooes and Lorton.

"I'm very disappointed to hear the applicant state that they aren't willing to put in that same restriction if they open the recycling center. I consider that offensive as a member of my community," Firth said.

Some community members have concerns with environmental aspects of the green energy park, specifically regarding the wind turbines.

Catherine Ledec, who spoke on behalf of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, which opposes the application, said the group is concerned about the wind power aspect of the green energy park.

"Not all renewable energies are suitable for every site. We support renewable energy, but this needs to be done in the right way and in the right places. For this project, the question is, are the renewable resources to generate the energy that you want to generate present at that site and in enough quantity to justify the cost, both the monetary cost and other costs, including environmental impact," Ledec said.

A Virginia Annual Average Wind Speed Map at 80 meters does not offer a zoomed-in view of the Lorton area's wind resources and isn't specific to the height of the project, Ledec said, but it demonstrates that

wind resources are between 4 and 4.5 meters per second at an annual average. Areas with 6.5 meters per second or greater annual average wind speeds are appropriate for wind development, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Ledec also cited the presence of birds, including bald eagles, at the landfill.

"Wind power has the potential to negatively impact resident and migratory birds and bats in the project area, especially a large concentration of bald eagles," Ledec said.

According to Ivy Main, the chair of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, which has endorsed the green energy park plan, bird deaths from wind turbines are minimal.

"In general, however, the research seems pretty clear, that wind turbines fall very low on the list of ways that we humans kill birds," Main said.

However, Main said at the public hearing that if an eagle study in accordance with federal guidelines shows that wind turbines can't be built without hurting eagles, the wind turbines shouldn't be built.

"I suggest that a better contingency would be to have any money not spent on wind turbines to be earmarked for solar on county land or facilities, preferably on schools," Main said.

Mehan said that EnviroSolutions is dedicated to protecting wildlife at the landfill, and is open to bird-friendly technologies.

The Fairfax County zoning staff has recommended approval of the application. On March 13, the planning commission will make their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.



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Matthew Poggi, MD, Medical Director



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 Кімм,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting the **Arctic Wildlife**

To the Editor:

The influx of snowy owls this winter to the Lower 48 has

everybody talking, and here in Northern Virginia it's no different.

Given the unusual migration, many people have been lucky enough to have sighted one of these beautiful birds in the wild for the very first time. These birds can make amazingly long and dangerous journeys from their summer breeding grounds in the Arctic, and our piece of the Arctic in Alaska is a key sanctuary for this rare visitor.

As U.S. citizens we can work to protect our part of the Arctic, which includes the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a vital sanctuary to birds that migrate through all 50 states and nearly every continent of the

We can do our part by supporting efforts in Congress to ensure the protection of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge, not only for the birds, polar bears and caribou who rely on it, but for all of us. I hope Virginia's senators – Senator Mark Warner and Senator Tim Kaine – will show their support for

© Donald Sweig 201 Photo by Donald Sweig

A Snowy Owl settled on top of a parking lot light near Springfield Mall, where it delighted onlookers for several weeks last month.

the Refuge as well. It would show true leadership

and commitment to this special place if they would now sign on to co-sponsor the Senate bill to protect it, S. 1695.

Corey Himrod Burke

Alaska Wilderness League

More on School Budget

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter published in the February 13-19 edition entitled: "School Budget: How to Pay?" submitted by Christopher Thompson of West Springfield. In this letter, Thompson suggests that the reason for rapidly increasing enrollment in the Fairfax County schools is the rapidly increasing number of children of illegal aliens in the system. Up to this

point, I think he hit the nail right on the head... add to this the rapidly increasing number of English as a second language students- except that the number of children of illegal aliens in the system far exceeds the 6,000 number he quotes. Minus these children there would be no school budget crunch and I agree that those who are here or remain here must be educated.

Proving legal status of one par-

ent is a fine idea, but the democratic machine that runs this country would never go for that for purely political reason. And the idea of submitting a bill to the federal government is ludicrous. But how about this- how about a school tax based upon the number of children enrolled in the Fairfax County system per household, not a real estate tax per house? Or a combination thereof? Certainly every tax payer would pay something, but on

a graduated scale. This is an old idea, but perhaps the time has come for it to be revisited. And John Cook is 100 percent wrong when he says this crisis is "business as usual," unless he considers the continual decline of the quality of the Fairfax County school system as it relates to surrounding counties as "business as usual."

Richard Cheadle

Taking Exception on Medicaid

To the Editor:

The Editorial in last week's Connection ["Taking the Money"] does not include important facts about the risks of expanding Medicaid in Virginia:

Currently Medicaid is already 22 percent of the Virginia budget

Expanding Medicaid reduces funds for other Virginia programs - schools, safety, other medical,

❖ 40 to 60percent in the expan-

sion population already have private health insurance

❖ Anyone earning less than the 138 percent above the poverty level would be mandated to lose their private insurance and go onto Medicaid which provides less

As to Virginia expanding Medicaid to get increased federal funding, the U.S. government has already run out of "other people's money" with its more than \$17

trillion debt that is growing daily. Plus, there is no assurance the federal government will pay as much as it has said it would to the states because the rules of Obamacare are changing almost daily at the whim of the president.

In addition, Medicaid condemns those in the program to long waits in emergency rooms to get even routine care. Plus, it pays doctors so little and requires so much paperwork that many physicians can not afford to see more than a few

Medicaid patients.

Virginia taxpayers should not have to pay more for an already failing Medicaid program infamous for providing substandard care and being ripe with fraud. Government-controlled healthcare has caused costs to go up since its inception in the 1960s. It's time to look at free-market alternatives to providing medical care in America.

> Susan Lider Clifton

Fairfax Station, Lorton & Clifton

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: discuss ideas and concerns, Call: 703-778-9410 e-mail:

burke@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic Editor ❖ 703-778-9414 kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan

Editorial Assistant 703-778-9410 ext.427 cbryan @connection newspapers.com

Victoria Ross

County Reporter 301-502-6027 rosspinning@yahoo.com

Bonnie Hobbs

Community Reporter south@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman

Sports Editor 703-778-9410 jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com @jonroetman

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information **e-mail:**

sales@connectionnewspapers.com

Steve HoganDisplay Advertising, 703-778-9418 shogan@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith

Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411

Debbie Funk National Sales 703-778-9444

Editor & Publisher Mary Kimm 703-778-9433 mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

Executive Vice President

Jerry Vernon jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief Managing Editor Kemal Kurspahic **Photography:**Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft, Craig Sterbutzel

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager: Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher

Jeanne Theismann 703-778-9436

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426 Ann Oliver

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 13

Corporate Gary Job Fair. 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Waterford in Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. The company's career events attract a wide variety of employers that want to hire military veterans and spouses, including large organizations like Coca-Cola, Lockheed Martin, Hewlett-Packard, Engility, State Farm, the National Security Agency, and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale.
1 – 9 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds
Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the three
large annual sales with all genres represented in
the roughly 8,000 books for sale PLUS media
like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 14

Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the 3 large annual sales with all genres represented in the roughly 8,000 books for sale PLUS media like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Fairfax City Regional Library Children's Book Sale. 10 a.m. -3 p.m. 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Thousands of gently-read books and nonbook media organized into categories including picture books, early readers, nonfiction, holiday, chapter books and more. \$.25-\$2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4.

\$.25-\$2.00. Some specials \$3 and \$4.

Fairfax County Mothers of Multiples SemiAnnual Consignment Sale. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
The nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly. 200+
families will be selling gently used clothing,
shoes, toys, books for the whole family. Find
good deals on infant, toddler, school age,

'tween, teen, and adult apparel. http://www.fcmom.org/

Spring 2014 Burke Centre Used Book Sale.

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. T. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. This sale is one of the 3 large annual sales with all genres represented in the roughly 8,000 books for sale PLUS media like DVDs, CDs, audiobooks, and more.

Girl Scout Cookie Booths. 10 a.m. -12 p.m. PETCO, 9230 Old Keene Mill Rd, Burke. Troop 1791 will be collecting cookie donations for T2T Programs that send cookies to soldiers overseas.

Girl Scout Cookie Booths. 3-5 p.m. PETCO, Giant Food, 5740 Union Mill Rd, Clifton. Troop 1791 will be collecting cookie donations for T2T Programs that send cookies to soldiers overseas.

Sugar, Sex, and Poison: Shocking Plant
Secrets Caught on Camera. 10:30-11:30
a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring
Road, Alexandria. Award winning director of
Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, Bill Cullina,
shows how this world of pollen, poisons,
pigments, pheromones, sugars and sex translates
to sound organic practices that benefit us all.
Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/
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WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

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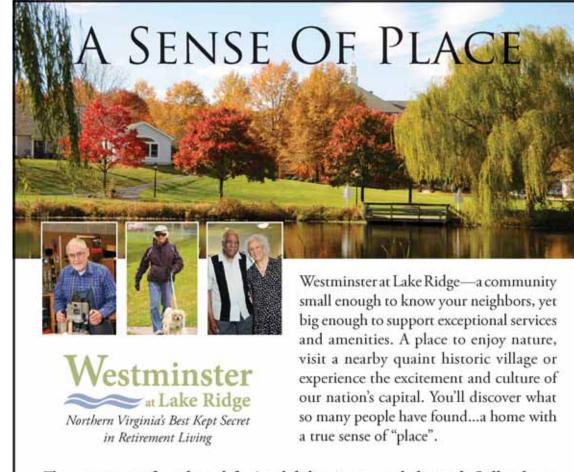
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Demands Dictate the Debt

much the same way as the policy of racial segregation associated with the Byrd machine. Although government officials acknowledge that local governments are taken on increasing amounts of debt, they argue that it's all relative to the amount of money the jurisdiction raises each year and how much value is tied to land in the jurisdiction.

"All the Northern Virginia jurisdictions are looking at the same metrics — they can't exceed a three percent limit of outstanding debt as a percent of assessed value, and annual debt payments can't exceed 10 percent of their total budget," said Joe LaHait, debt coordinator for Fairfax County.

Per Capita Debt \$10,000.00 \$9,000.00 \$8,000.00 \$7,000.00 \$6,000.00 \$5,000.00 \$4,000.00 \$3,000.00 \$2,000.00 \$1,000.00 \$0.00 Manassas Fairfax City Arlington Falls Church Loudoun Alexandria Fairfax Manassas

Per capita debt.

"Those two metrics are strongly abided by, and they are constantly monitored by the bond rating agencies who ultimately provide the ratings to every single jurisdiction in the state."

Arlington County has one of the highest per capita debt loads in Northern Virginia, an indication that county leaders are willing to use its bonding authority to borrow money to construct everything from schools to a new aquatics center at Long Bridge Park. Supporters of the county's efforts say the bond rating agencies approve because Arlington has an Aaa/AAA/AAA credit rating. Arlington

is one of the few jurisdictions in America to have a triple-triple A credit rating, a distinction it's held for 13 consecutive years.

"You could make a reasonable argument, I think, that we have got a number of different programs doing the same things sometimes and you could probably streamline some things in Arlington.

There's no doubt about that," said Robert Hynes, a member of the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission. "But I also do not think there's a lot of great waste in the money they spend. They spend it well I think."

ONE POTENTIAL drawback for local governments deciding to take on more debt is the risk of violating self-imposed debt limits. In Alexandria, for example, city leaders are trying to find a way to finance a new Metro station at Potomac Yard.

Last year, members of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee sounded the alarm that the city was actually on track to violate its debt ceiling even without calculating the massive borrowing that would be needed to finance the Metro station, which could be anywhere from \$200 million to \$400 million.

That means borrowing money to build the station would violate the city's debt policy at least temporarilv.

"The idea was, I think, to make an exception that would be paid down and then go back to the guidelines—in other words break the guidelines," said James Bulter, former chairman of the Alexandria Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. "But I believe that they should carefully examine their options because the debt policy has a real meaning, and it should be followed if at all possible."

Local governments are not alone in trying to borrow money to balance the books. Last year, the commonwealth of Virginia's total debt increased to \$37.3 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion, or 3.2 percent.

According to a study by the nonpartisan State Budget Solutions, that means each private sector worker in Virginia has a state debt burden of more than \$21,000. And the federal government problems with debt are well known.

"My own personal debt concerns me, so certainly the debt of my county does as well," said Ed Batten, a member of the Lee District Budget Advisory Group.

"But when I look at what the demands are in this county, the human demands as well as what's going on in the economy, I think that what we are doing is the best we can do given the circumstances."

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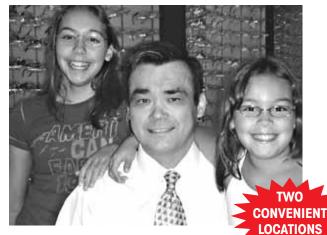
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Never Giving Up

New play at Workhouse about Alice Paul and the Suffragettes.

BY DAVID SIEGEL

hen you put your hand to the plow, you can't put it down until you get to the end of the row." American Suffragette and life-long crusader for Women's voting rights Alice Paul (1885-1977) used this phrase as her watch words. It was a metaphor for never giving up.

Those words are the inspiration for a new play about Paul to be performed at the Workhouse. The play, written by Northern Virginia playwright Margie O. Tompros. will chronicle Paul's journey as she marched, picketed and was imprisoned for her belief that women deserved the right to vote. The Workhouse has a role in the play.

Tampros indicated that it is fitting that her new play, "Deeds Not Words," have a stage reading premiere at the Workhouse since so many Suggragists were imprisoned at the facility in 1917. The play is sponsored by the Workhouse Museum and History Committee of the Workhouse Arts Foundation.

The play will have five actors in Alice Paul multiple roles, along with a pan-

orama of vintage photographs portraying the actual individuals who worked to bring the vote to women in the early 20th century. The production will be directed by Catherine Flye who is a multiple Helen Hayes nominee and award recipient.

"The message of her play is important for all of us to understand, for the sacrifices made in the past by those brave and passionate women, enable us to live



Photo courtesy of Margie O. Tompros Margie O. Tompros, playwright, "Deeds Not Words."



Photo courtesy of Collections of Library of Congress

in an equal and free society today," said Flye.

In a recent interview, Tompros described eloquently about her interest in Alice Paul and the Suffragettes. She spoke about the 1917 demonstrations for the right to vote in front of the White House and how the women were sentenced for their actions. Over 70 were imprisoned at the Women's Workhouse at Lorton. Some went on hunger strikes and were forced fed. Alice Paul was taken to the psychiatric facility at St. Elizabeth's in DC.

"Deeds Not Words" is sponsored by Workhouse Museum and History Committee. Laura McKie, Committee Chair, provided history of the Museum and the work of Irma Clifton a founding member of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Committee and 2013 Fairfax County Volunteer Service awardee.

Trompos hopes her one-hour play will "inspire school-age students to want to learn and know more about Paul, the history of the times, and about the Workhouse. What happened here is just so important to know and remember. "

Where and When

"Deeds Not Words" at W-3 Theatre, Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Performance: Sunday, March 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$5 for children, \$10 for adults. Visit: www.workhousearts.org. Note: For audience 12 and over. Note: "Deeds Not Words" is part of the national SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now) events in the Northern Virginia area. More information on SWAN Day at: www.georgetowntheatre.org and www.SwanDay.org

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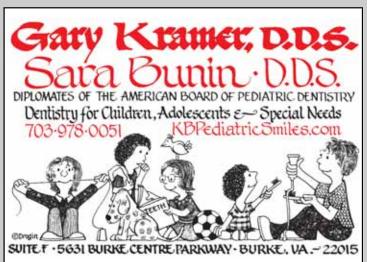
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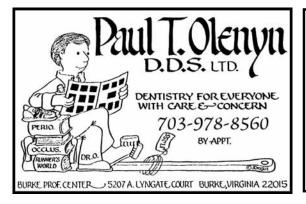


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CONECTION

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, said

News

Woodson Teens Find Support in Crisis

From Page 3

may have difficulty sleeping, concentrating or being motivated," she continued. "One may be angry, while another is quiet. But they need to be respectful and empathetic of each other's feelings. As difficult as this time is, your kids are strong and they'll work through it. Let them know you're there for them. Avoid generalizing this as part of a pattern; each tragedy is a situation unto itself."

Panarelli also advised parents to "Let your children know it's OK to laugh and have a good time and not feel guilty. It's our natural way of dealing, and it's OK to forget for a minute and go on. Grief comes and goes. Do low-key activities as a family; it's reassuring and doesn't demand a lot of energy from them."

If necessary, she said, reach out to a school counselor, school psychologist or social worker. "Depression is a treatable mental illness, not a flaw in a person and not something to be ashamed of," said Panarelli. "Discuss with your children how you'd respond if they told you they're depressed, involved in substance abuse or having other troubles, so they won't fear coming to you for help."

"Encourage your child to determine three adults he or she could talk to about things, because sometimes that's easier," she continued. "Or they can talk to their friends. But you can be proud of your children; they've responded [to these tragedies] with resilience, grace and compassion and banded together in groups for comfort. Let them know you're proud of them."

Fairfax County Prevention Manager Jesse Ellis makes sure everything possible is being done to help students. "Last year, county and school staff identified recommendations regarding suicide prevention and put together a team to look at suicide incidents," he said. "Each is unique, but has lessons we can learn as we move forward."

Ellis said activities strengthening the bonds students have with their communities help prevent suicides. "When we talk about suicide prevention, we're talking about parents, neighbors, Scout and church leaders, coaches, etc.," he said. "And we need to make sure you have the skills and resources to do that effectively. We want to develop strategies to empower you with the knowledge to do this well."



FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza



MaryAnn Panarelli said everyone grieves differently.

"Your kids are strong and they'll work through it."

— MaryAnn Panarelli, FCPS Office of Intervention and Prevention

Ellis, "We as a community are doing well – our suicide rates are the lowest in the state because our kids have neighbors, teachers and friends to turn to. But we need to do that better. We have great people in the community and, if we build on that, we can make an even bigger difference."

"Until we get parents involved, we won't solve these problems," added Woodson parent Bob Phillips. "Carol Davis and I formed Community of Solutions. We saw what worked in other communities with similar problems, looked at several organizations and included students to hear their concerns."

Phillips said teens told them their biggest fear is what will happen to them when they do some-



Parent Bob Phillips discusses Community of Solutions.



Cluster III head Douglas Tyson

thing wrong. "They worry, 'Will people be angry at me? Will I be ostracized? Will the police come?" he said. But the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board has trained 40 students, so far, to identify teens with problems and refer them to helpful resources

"We're putting together a package so parents can more easily access these resources," he told them. "You're the solution to help solve this."

School Board members Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District), Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield), Ilryong Moon (chairman) and Ted Velkoff (at-large) also attended. "We're so fortunate to have all these services here in Fairfax County," said Velkoff afterward. He was also pleased that Panarelli described how FCPS responds to student tragedies.

"I was struck by the pro-active communication they do when they come into a school," he said. "I was also impressed with Dr. Garza's leadership; I thought this meeting was approached with humanity to let people know we care."

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.



The cast and crew of the Clifton Dinner Theater, which raises money for the town of Clifton, will be performing "Death at The Devereux" on March 20-22.

Clifton Dinner Theater Presents 'Death at The Devereux'

Performances are March 20-22 at Clifton **Town Meeting** Hall.

By Janelle Germanos THE CONNECTION

he cast of "Death at The Devereux," the spring performance of the Clifton Dinner Theater, will take audience members back to the 1920s in this musical-murder-mystery-comedy.

The musical, written by director Charlotte Yakovleff of Centreville, follows the grand re-opening of "The Devereux," Bobby Lyle's speakeasy.

This is Yakovleff's fourth year directing the Clifton Dinner Theater.

"A lot of people came back this year, and we have a lot of new faces," Yakovleff said. "It's always nice to see what the actors have to bring to the table, as far as developing their character."

Yakovleff says this year is different, as she wrote the play and a musical is being done for the first time.

"A friend and I were brainstorming, and she said it was a cool concept. She asked if I would write it, and I said yes, not really thinking of how hard it was going to be, because it's a period piece," she said.

Yakovleff said learning the vernacular from the 1920s was somewhat of a challenge.

"I had to go and research. I spent a lot of hours watching



Laura Walsh, Helen Rusnak, Terri Marin, and Sheldon Hofferman during a rehearsal of "Death at The Devereux."

The Cast

Cast of the 2014 Clifton Dinner Theater, "Death at the Devereux" Mabelline Lyle - Lynne Strang, Bobby Lyle - Matt Brooks, Charlie - Phil Williams, Maggie - Laura Walsh,

Madam Twotoes - Terri Grimes-Marin,

Vinney "No-Nuts" McGee - Charles Hoffman,

Bonnie Lyle - Teri Pierce, Johnny Bostello - Jim Boykin, Dixie - Stephanie Lawrence, Veronica McGee - Helen Rusnak, Lucinda Bell - Jolanda Janczewski, Alexander Bell - Max Snyder, Gilbert Bell - Daniel Serpaty, Ruby the Cocktail Waitress - Teri

Producer - Dianne Janczewski. Director - Charlt Yakovleff, Pianist - Marie Koneczny, Sound - Matthew Rusnak, Lighting/Sound - Gary Aspesi

period movies, like Dick Tracy and Chicago, and the Untouchables, just to get a feel for how those characters carried themselves, and what they said," she said.

Lynne Strang, a Clifton resident who plays Mabelline Lyle in the play, is in her third year of performing for Clifton Dinner Theater.

"It's a great group and lots of fun. There's a lot of community spirit," Strang said. According to Dianne Janczewski, the show's producer, the dinner theater has been a sellout every year.

"Most of the cast members are from the town. We first advertise within the town," Janczewski said.

This year is also the first year the show is done in a lounge format. Dinner will be served by children from Clifton.

Matt Brooks, who plays Bobby Lyle, has lived in Clifton since 1998 but is participating in the dinner theater for the first time this year.

"It's a lot of fun," Brooks said. "I enjoy my character- he has the role of being a manager and a gangster-style person." The Clifton Dinner Theater is an annual event that raises money for Clifton. Cast members include several residents of Clifton, as well as Centreville and Fairfax. Tickets are \$35 for the Thursday, March 20 performance and \$40 for March 21 and 22, and are available at several locations in Clifton, including All that Glitters, The Clifton Wine and Tasting Shoppe, Clifton Brite Cleaners and Hydrangea of Clifton. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8.



Come out to Northern Virginia's Premier Party-Planning Expo on March 23 for all of your party needs at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.

Calendar

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 14

Friday Night Film Series Presents: Half Nelson. 7 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10215 Lakehaven Court Burke, Virginia. 703-503-4579. HYPERLINK "http:// www.accotinkuuc.org' www.accotinkuuc.org. This is a non-

religious event open to the public.

Old Town Hall Performance Series Irish Breakfast Band. 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A free performance of traditional Irish folk music and dance. http://www.visitfairfax.com/ category/commission-on-the-arts/

SUNDAY/MARCH 16

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

David Barden of Sandy Hook

Promise Speaking Event. 12:30 2 p.m. St. Stephens United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke. Come and learn about Sandy Hook Promise's new nationwide campaign, Parent Together, an effort to empower families to focus on the wellbeing of their children. They will share with us tools in the area of mental wellness, healthy development, community connectedness, and gun safety. Call the church office at 703-978-8724 to reserve a lunch.

Early Spring Containers. 1:30-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. In the cold of winter, spring never seems to come soon enough Chanticleer Garden's Jonathan Wright shows you how to plant beautiful early spring containers that will thrive and 'warm up' any cold day. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring or call Green Spring

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TUESDAY/MARCH18-THURSDAY/MARCH20

Annie Jr.! The Musical. 7 p.m. Kings Glen Elementary, 5401 Danbury Forest Drive, Springfield. Tickets cost \$4 in advance and \$5 at the door. Call 703-239-4000 today to purchase tickets in advance.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

"Death at The Devereux." Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre,

show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are \$35. The Clifton Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's.

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

"Death at The Devereux." Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre, show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are \$40. The Clifton Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

The Annual Antiques & Trinkets Appraisal Show. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Verbal appraisals given by six appraisers. \$5.00 admission (1 item included), \$3.00 each additional item

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on^owww.fairfaxchoralsociety.org **"Death at The Devereux."** Doors open at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvre, show starts at 8. Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Tickets include dinner and the show and are \$40. The Clifton Dinner Theater spring performance is a musical murder mystery comedy set in the 1920's

The Fairfax Symphony Up Close and Personal. 8 p.m. GMU Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celebrating the 100^{th} Anniversary of English composer Benjamin Britten, set in a framework of works traditional and modern.

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as a rallying cry and has spear-

ments will be served and President



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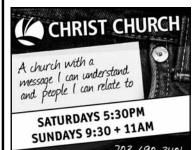


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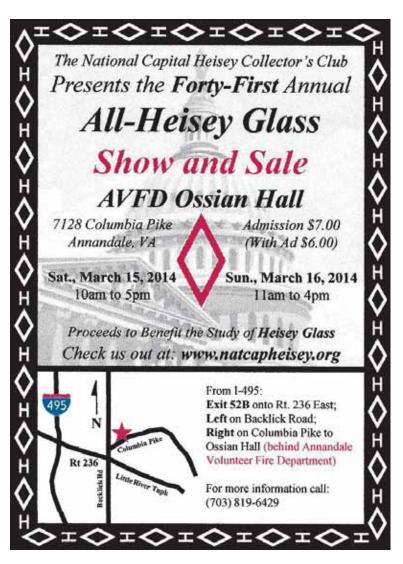
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Woodson fans and the Cavalier bench react during the 6A state semifinals against Landstown on March 8 at Robinson Secondary School.



Lake Braddock's A.J. Alexander scored 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds against Colonial Forge on March 7.

Cavaliers, Bruins Fall in State Semifinals

Woodson boys struggle offensively against Landstown.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

he Woodson boys' basketball team experienced much in the way of adversity during the 2013-14 season.

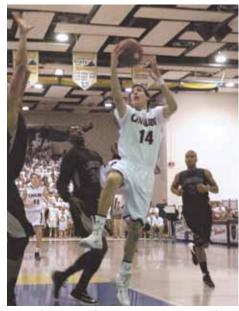
The Cavaliers overcame the graduation of three of their top players from the 2012-13 campaign. A busted pipe inside Red Jenkins Gym forced Woodson to practice and play away from its home. And during the region tournament, the Cavaliers dealt with the death of two classmates in the same

None of this derailed Woodson during its quest for a second consecutive region title and another trip to the state semifinals. But on March 8, with Woodson one win shy of reaching the state championship game, a simple off-shooting afternoon ended the Cavaliers' season.

Woodson shot 28 percent from the floor and produced a season-low point total during a 40-37 loss to Landstown in the 6A state semifinals at Robinson Secondary School. Sophomore guard Matt Ayoub was the only Cavalier to score in double figures, finishing with 14 points. Junior point guard Eric Bowles, the 6A North region Player of the Year, finished with one point, missing all five of his field-goal attempts. The Cavaliers' previous season-low point total had been 47.

Down by three, Woodson's final possession began with 31.4 seconds remaining. The Cavaliers passed the ball around looking unsure of what to do. Andy Stynchula ended up with the ball at the top of the arc and the senior forward shot a contested 3-pointer, which was tipped by a Landstown defender. thought we said. "Some ball in the Ayoub, a VI, knocked ing one that remaining." It's been "It's been thought we said. "Some ball in the It's been thought we said. "Some ball in the It's been thought we said. "Some ball in the It's been thought we said. "Some ball in the It's been thought we said. "Some ball in the It's ball in the It's been thought we said. "Some ball in the It's ball

AFTER THE GAME, Woodson coach Doug Craig said the Cavaliers called a play expecting to face a zone defense. Instead,



Woodson sophomore Matt Ayoub scored 14 points during a loss to Landstown in the 6A state semifinals on March 8 at Robinson Secondary School.

Landstown came out in a man defense. Woodson tried to change the play, but Landstown defended it, and the Cavaliers were unable to get a good shot.

"They switched to man and we had a play, we just didn't get into it fast enough," Craig said. "They switched out on it, took the shooter away. They kind of kept us off balance all night. We never really got into a rhythm offensively at any point in this game."

Woodson finished 11-for-40 from the floor.

"I thought our defense was good, I thought we battled them on the glass," Craig said. "Sometimes you've just got to put the ball in the basket."

Ayoub, a sophomore transfer from Paul VI, knocked down four 3-pointers, including one that tied the score at 37 with 1:27 remaining

"It's been a great season," Ayoub said.
"Coming in as a sophomore, my first year
ever playing varsity, to be on this type of
team was great. It's fun. We bond very well
See Woodson, Page 18

Lake Braddock falls to Colonial Forge in 6A State Semifinals.

By Jon Roetman The Connection

ake Braddock's skilled big men propelled the program to new heights this season. The Bruins reached the state tournament for the first time in program history due in large part to the strength of their frontcourt. Their bigs often created matchup problems for the opposition and made a significant impact in the paint.

On March 7, Lake Braddock encountered a Colonial Forge team that possessed the strength and athleticism to contend with the Bruins' post players. The result for Lake Braddock: a one-and-done trip to Richmond. The Colonial Forge boys' basketball team defeated Lake Braddock 76-67 in the 6A state semifinals at VCU's Siegel Center. After trailing by as many as 15 points in the second half, the Bruins cut the Eagles' lead to six on three occasions in the fourth quarter, but couldn't complete the comeback.

Lake Braddock missed several shots near the rim, some of which resulted in Colonial Forge fast breaks. The Eagles outrebounded the Bruins 32-25. "I just thought they were a little bit more powerful tonight than we were," Lake Braddock head coach Brian Metress said. "I thought they got to balls quicker and they had some strength that we were having a little bit of trouble dealing with. ... We were trying to get it in [the paint] and I thought we took some shots around the basket but every time we'd miss one of those, [zoom], they were gone. Give them credit. They got out and ran."

COLONIAL FORGE held 6-foot-7 Lake Braddock forward Will Gregorits without a field goal in the first half. Gregorits scored 10 of his 13 points in the second half, including a dunk that cut the Eagles' lead to five at 43-38 with less than three minutes remaining in the third quarter. Colonial Forge responded by outscoring Lake Braddock 16-6 during the next six-plus minutes, taking its largest lead of the night when Marco Haskins knocked down a pair of free throws to give the Eagles a 59-44 advantage. "They're not the tallest guys that we've played against," Lake Braddock junior forward A.J. Alexander said, "but they're definitely the most athletic we've played against."

Alexander finished with 13 points, eight rebounds and two steals. James Butler, a 6-foot-6 sophomore center, had 13 points and five rebounds. Freshman guard Corey Pelham knocked down a trio of 3-pointers

See Lake Braddock, Page 18



Lake
Braddock
senior Will
Gregorits
scored 13
points
against
Colonial
Forge on
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16 * Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection * March 13-19, 2014

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Sports

Woodson

together. Through the course of the season, our chemistry got so much better than what it was at the beginning."

Senior forward Jimmy McLaughlin finished with seven points for Woodson. Stynchula had six points and senior guard Mike Szabo added five.

BOWLES had one point, eight rebounds and five assists. Woodson finished the season with a 21-9 record, with six of its losses coming by six points or fewer, and four coming by three points or less. The Cavaliers lost to Lake Braddock three times during the season by a combined eight points, including a one-point defeat in the Conference 7 championship game, but came back to beat the Bruins by 10 in the 6A North region championship game on Feb. 21.

Woodson's projected returning athletes for the 2014-15 season include: Bowles, Ayoub, junior guard Trey Johnson and junior forward Tyler Wilson.

"Yeah, I'm disappointed, but no one else can say, yeah, we won back-to-back regional championships and got to the state semifinals two years in a row," Bowles said. "For everything that we've been through this vear — everyone doubting us, not playing in our gym and everything - [I think we've been] successful this year."

Lake Braddock

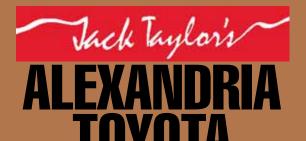
From Page 16

and finished with 10 points. Senior guard John Nice made a pair from behind the arc and totaled eight points - all in the first quarter. "I got some better looks in the beginning," Nice said. "[The Eagles] started to close out toward the end, so I either had to dribble or pass it off right away."

Lake Braddock finished the season with a 23-5 record. The Bruins repeated as conference/district champions, beating Woodson 62-61 in the Conference 7 tournament championship game on Feb. 21. It was Lake Braddock's third victory over Woodson this season, with the wins coming by a combined eight points.

"Even when things weren't clicking in the winter tournament, we stayed strong and we kept it together and I'm really proud of that," Gregorits said. "Our guys this whole year just played great. Nothing more I can ask for." Seniors Gregorits, Nice, Sam Fiedorek, Vince Sica and Mo Ibrahim suited up in a Lake Braddock jersey for the final time. Juniors Alexander, a Division I football recruit, and Reagan Jones, sophomore Butler, and freshmen Pelham and E.J. Johnson would be the Bruins' top returnees for the 2014-15 season.

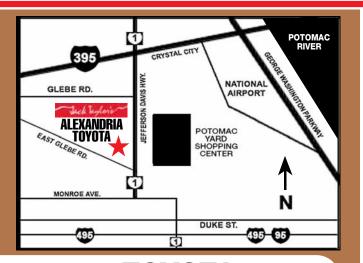
"It's heartbreaking, but the guys have been great," Metress said. "I told them after the game, all of us coaches are all exbasketball players and we just wanted to hang around the game and they gave us the best treat we could ever have: a district championship over Woodson, then being in the regional championship and taking a trip down to the state — first Lake Braddock team to ever do it."



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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

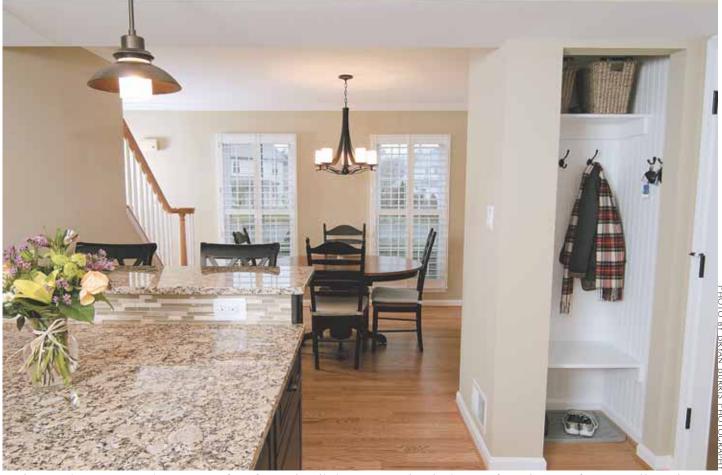
ometimes life's second act requires a bold set change. How else are others to know that the featured players have moved on, embracing new beginnings?

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 the plasma TV that now hangs above it. spatial freedom of an open floor plan.



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,"

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 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."



Arlington, Va., designer Allie Mann 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 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."

The kitchen now has maple cabinetry and 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 white Silestone countertops. "It was done Hopkins and Porter removed walls kitchen of this Bethesda, Md. home.

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den week runs from Saturday, April 26-Sat-

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and

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Statewide tour passes are available for

\$175. The Alexandria tour takes place Sat-

urday, April 26, tickets are \$35. The Vienna

tour takes place Tuesday, April 29 and tick-

ets are \$25. There is a 240-page guidebook

with detailed descriptions of properties on

each tour. The \$10 charge covers the ship-

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copies of the guide are available at Virginia

businesses, visitor centers, and some AAAs.

Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

Club of Virginia members.

urday, May 3.

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



Top Sales in January, 2014

1 7540 Clifton Road, Fairfax Station — \$2,250,000



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2 11394 Amber Hills Court, Fairfax — \$1,626,036



5 7111 Granberry Way, Springfield — \$1,060,000



6 6471 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke — \$1,037,500



Local designers will turn this estate into a "flowing design home" to raise funds for a local charity.

The D.C. Design House Designers Announced

ome of the area's top designers competed for an opportunity to donate their talent to transform a local, grand home into a showcase home. Local designers chosen to help transform the 2014 DC Design House include:

- ❖ Jim Rill and David Benton of Rill Architects in Potomac, Md.
- ❖ Victoria Sanchez of Victoria Sanchez Interiors in Old Town, Alexandria, Va.
- ❖ Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria, Va.
- ❖ Allie Mann, based in Arlington, Va., of Case Design/Remodeling
- Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer of Cleveland Hall Design in Alexandria.
- ❖ Nancy Colbert of Design Partners, LLC in McLean, Va.

Now in its seventh year, the annual event is a fundraiser for Children's National Health System (formally Children's National Medical Center). The D.C. Design House has raised more than \$1 million and attracted more than 55,000 visitors over the past six years.

Built in 1929, the home, located in northwest Washington, D.C., has six bedrooms, five full baths and two half baths and also features a three-car garage and a pool. The stone house offers three levels and approximately 7,929 square feet of living space for 24 designers to transform.

The DC Design House opens to the public on Sunday, April 13 and runs through Sunday, May 11.

ome of the area's top designers competed for an opportunity to donate their talent to transform

Hours are Saturday-Sunday, noons 5 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., closed Monday, \$25.

Saturday, April 12, \$50. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.

- MARILYN CAMPBELL





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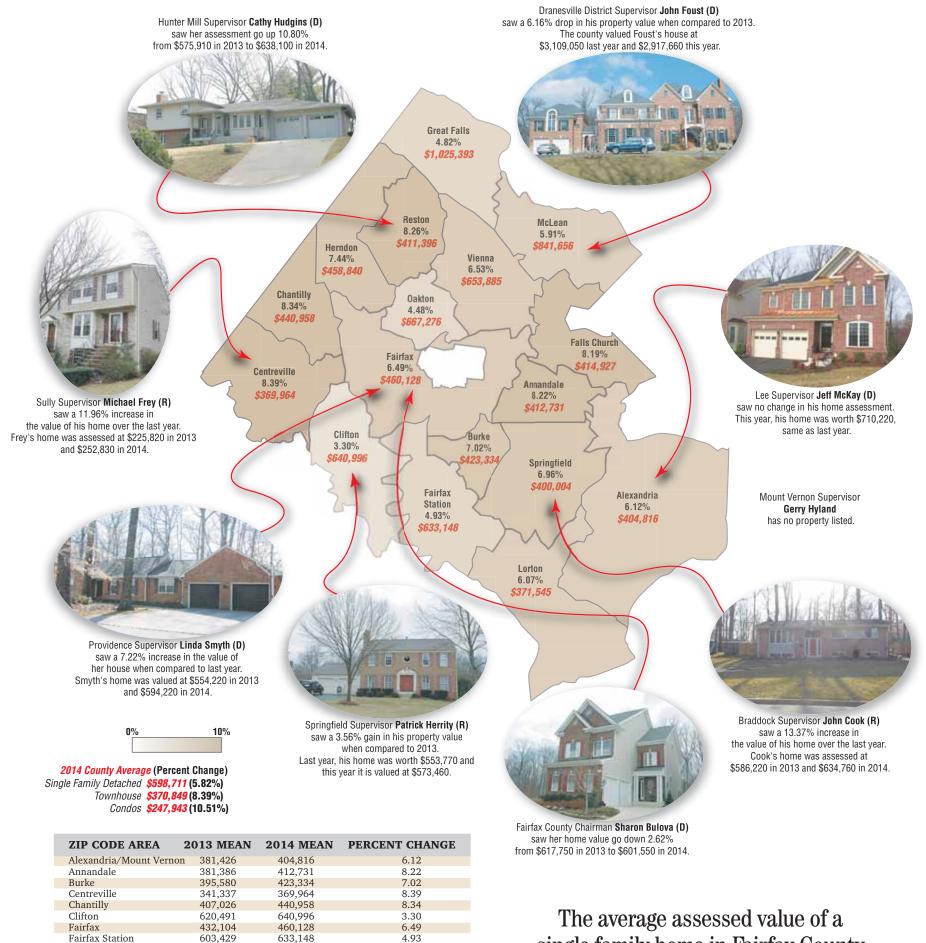
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