

Louise Archer at 75

NEWS, PAGE 3

Joe and Doris Ellis
both attended Louise
Archer Elementary.
Last week the school
celebrated its
75th anniversary.

Inside



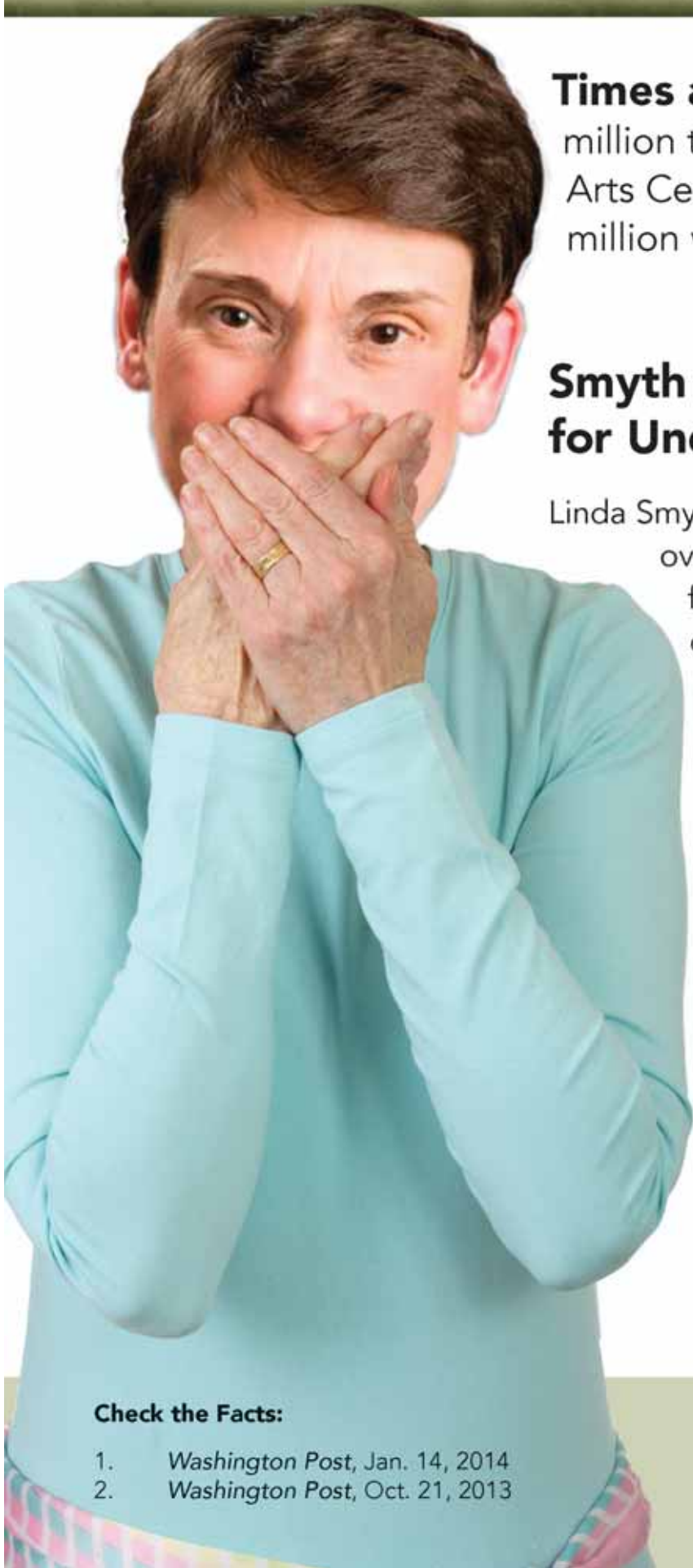
A Debt to Society

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Supervisor Linda Smyth Spent **\$30 Million** of YOUR MONEY to Avoid **"Embarrassment"**



Times are tough, but Linda Smyth voted for a \$30 million taxpayer debt to finance the failing Workhouse Arts Center. The *Washington Post* reported the \$30 million was to **avoid an "embarrassing foreclosure."**¹

Smyth Should Be Embarrassed for Underfunding Schools

Linda Smyth should be embarrassed for choosing a failing Center over investing in our kids. She has underfunded education four years in a row. What's worse is that the \$30 million could have supported over 3,000 students.²

Smyth's wrong priorities hurt students and taxpayers causing:

- ! Overcrowded classrooms
- ! Lower property values
- ! Neglect of teachers and buildings

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Phone: 703-560-6946

E-mail: provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov

Check the Facts:

1. *Washington Post*, Jan. 14, 2014
2. *Washington Post*, Oct. 21, 2013

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'We Formed Bonds of Friendship at Archer'

Elementary school celebrates 75th anniversary.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Past and present came full circle last week when alumni joined current students, their parents and teachers to celebrate Louise Archer Elementary's 75th anniversary. Sixth-graders proudly gave visitors tours of this historic school, while attendees looked at old class photos and other mementos in a museum in the library.

Vienna's Phillip Williams, 43, said every generation of his family has gone to Archer since it opened, and his son Justin is in fifth grade there now. Perusing the library displays during an open house, Friday evening, March 7, brought back fond memories to him.

"It's a great school," said Williams. "What I remember most is that the kids I went to school with here are the kids I graduated high school with. We formed those bonds of friendship here at Archer."

He found a photo of himself in the sixth grade on one of the displays and said the anniversary celebration was special. "I was tempted to move away," he said. "But I have four kids and I wanted them to attend this school because of the foundation it's always provided for kids. Back then, the neighborhood was African-American, but now most have moved away because of taxes and the high cost of living. But for me, this is home."

Earlier that afternoon, the school held an anniversary assembly. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) presented a Congressional Record statement commemorating Archer's roots as a one-room schoolhouse for African-American students.

GUEST SPEAKER was Archer alumnus Mark Merrell, now principal at Madison High. "He told stories about what it was like to go here when he was a child," said fourth-grade teacher Lauren Wagner. "His dad was the first white PTA president here."

Wagner and special-ed teacher Kris Beurmann co-chaired the anniversary celebration, along with the PTA, and were pleased with its success. "Some of Louise Archer's



Parents and children view the school's handmade quilt.



(From left) Fourth-graders Kate Bellamy and Havana Solano enjoyed looking at the historical displays.

actual students – women in their 60s – came to the assembly," said Wagner. "And they were so touched to see her honored this way. When they were here, the school just had three rooms, so they enjoyed taking a tour of the building."

Beurmann said one of the women, Gloria Carter, saw her graduation photo on one of the displays and said, "That's me." Then, said Beurmann, "She showed it to everybody; she was so proud. It was my favorite part of the day, and it shows how this building is filled with history. The community has so many alumni and we invited everyone to come see our amazing school."

Wagner said the current students know their school's story (see sidebar) and like talking about it. "Louise Archer's values of education, hard work and generosity are still practiced here today," added Beurmann. "And we hold Louise Archer Day and celebrate her and the school every year in March."

However, the teachers also tell today's 750 students that their contributions are important, too. In fact, said Beurmann, "Every student decorated a fabric patch that was made into a quilt now on display in the library. They each illustrated what this school means to them."

At the assembly, the children honored the school's namesake by singing original songs, reading poems they wrote, doing a "Louise Archer Rap" and singing, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Beurmann said it's considered "the Negro national anthem," and Wagner said Archer, herself, sang it with her students "and it's a tradition we want to carry on."

DURING THE OPEN HOUSE, fifth-grader Sam Palmertree said his school's special because "you get lots of challenges, like writing and group projects, that'll help you in later years. So if you really work hard, you can achieve things and improve."

His sister Katie, a third-grader, said she has "awesome teachers. They're nice and they don't give me a lot of homework. I liked doing a poem with my class at the assembly."

Sixth-grader Meredith Nawrocki likes her teachers, too, and all the "fun activities" the students get to do. "Everybody's so nice to each other," added fourth-grader J.T. Landwehr. "And the teachers teach things that you might need in life."

SEE ARCHER, PAGE 5

Looking Back at Louise Archer

Louise A. Reeves Archer was born on Oct. 23, 1883, and grew up in North Carolina. She attended Livingstone College, taught school in Southampton County and moved to Washington, D.C., in 1922.

That year, she became the teacher and principal for the one-room, segregated Vienna Colored School. She devoted her life to educating African-American children and often drove them to school, herself.

Archer organized a Parent-Teacher Association to raise funds for supplies and a new building, which opened on its current site in 1939 with three rooms. In 1941, students, parents and faculty raised \$300 to pay for a music teacher, bus expenses, kitchen supplies and the installation of electric lights. Besides academics, Archer taught sewing, cooking, music, gardening and poetry to her students in fifth through seventh grades – then the highest level of public education available to African-Americans. Highly respected, she taught children many important life skills that would serve them well throughout their lives.



(From left) are teachers Lauren Wagner and Kris Beurmann under a portrait of Louise Archer.

She led Archer until March 1948, dying a month later. Two years later, to honor her memory and legacy, parents petitioned the

School Board and, in 1950, the school's name was officially changed to Louise Archer Elementary.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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

Local governments use debt as a tool to build for the future.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Back in the 1920s, Harry Byrd became governor of Virginia on what he called a “pay-as-you-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 ex-

emptions 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.

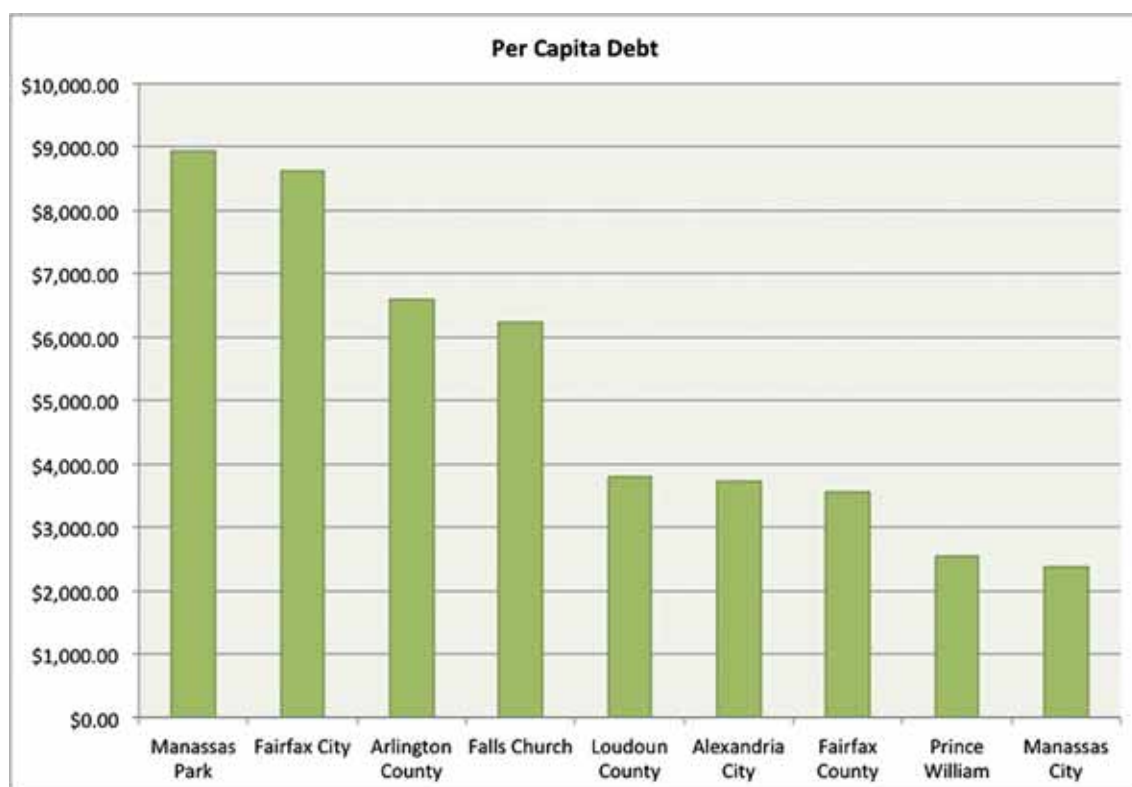
“There are some clouds gathering on the horizon that will impose significantly greater increases in costs for borrowing to issue bonds to finance long-term improvements,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership. “Local governments are asking themselves if they want 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 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. “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 author-

SEE DEMANDS, PAGE 9



Per capita debt.

Preventing Teen Suicides

Recent deaths shine light on FCPS suicide prevention programs.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Every 15 seconds, a teen in the United States tries to commit suicide.

Every 90 minutes, one succeeds.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also reports that the number of attempted suicides among teenagers increased from 6.3 percent in 2009 to 7.8 percent in 2011.

In Fairfax County, between four and seven students take their own lives every year, according to the authors of a 60-page report compiled last September by a team of community mental health agencies and Fairfax County Public School specialists.

“The youth rate, despite also being below state and national rates, remains unacceptable. The impact of suicide on families, friends, and communities is immeasurable,” the report states.

In a span of 30 days, Fairfax County residents have felt the impact and pain of teen suicide on four separate occasions. In early February, two Langley High School students committed suicide a day apart. Last week, two more students from Woodson High School took their own lives.

“It’s very clear there’s an increased frequency of suicidal behavior and thinking in Fairfax County this winter,” said Dr. Peter Robbins, M.D., medical director of The Child & Family Counseling Group in Fairfax. “If you compare this number to last winter, there’s been a higher frequency of this behavior.”

While Robbins acknowledges there are “no great answers” to the rash of teen suicides, he has been working with Fairfax County Public Schools to conduct seminars that clue parents in to the warning signs of depression and suicide.

“Numerous studies have shown that identifying at-risk students early is the best chance of prevention,” Robbins said.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS is doing that, through an array of programs and services aimed at spotting students at-risk for depression and suicide. Programs range

from 24/7 crisis response services to police training to mental health screenings to primary prevention programs.

Being a teenager has never been easy.

But today’s teens are feeling new pressures from many different fronts. According to a new poll, conducted by NPR along with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health, nearly 40 percent of parents said their high school students are experiencing added stress from school.

The curriculum is more demanding, homework sessions are longer and gaining admission to college is more competitive, which means the stakes are high for testing.

Add social media to the mix, where students can compare their existence to other teens 24 hours a day on Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter and other social networks, and the resulting stress can lead to depression and suicidal thoughts.

How can parents, students, friends, teachers help a student through the roller-coaster years of adolescence?

“It is easy to misread depres-

SEE SUICIDE, PAGE 9

Additional Resources

THE PREVENTION TOOLKIT:

a collection of data and resources regarding youth behaviors and risk factors, including depression and suicide, in Fairfax County. The toolkit supports organizations, communities, and individuals in developing data-informed strategies to address identified needs. It includes links to and resources about developing programs, implementing policies, and accessing services. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/prevention/toolkit.htm>

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY YOUTH SURVEY:

A joint initiative of Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), the annual survey provides data on student behaviors and risk and protective factors. The 2011-12 school year survey taken by eighth, tenth, and twelfth graders included questions about mental health and suicide. Full results can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/youthsurvey.

FAIRFAX COUNTY’S PREVENTION SYSTEM:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/prevention



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fifth-grader Justin Williams and dad, Phillip Williams, who also attended Archer Elementary.

Louise Archer at 75

FROM PAGE 3

Archer parent Patricia Solano said, "I love the school and its creative approaches to interest the students in what they're teaching. They're exposed to current topics, and they get to choose, design and develop projects from beginning to end."

Her daughter, Havana, says Archer's teachers are "the best," and classmate Kate Bellamy likes "having good friends like Havana and lots of people who help out and support the school."

Also enjoying the open house was Vienna's Joe Ellis, perusing old class photos as memories came

flooding back to him. "I came here in '46 to first grade," he said. "The school's so much bigger now than it was then, but the cafeteria and stage look the same."

When he was a student, said Ellis, "We all did custodial-type work together and cleaned up our own messes. And sometimes, two grades were in one room. I could walk to school from my house, and I used to be a safety patrol on the corner of Nutley and Orchard streets. This is the first time I've been here in years. I think this celebration is great, and I'm glad they changed the name of the school in Louise Archer's honor."

WEEK IN VIENNA

Vienna Election Candidates

Councilwoman Laurie DiRocco has filed to run for Town of Vienna mayor, following the death of long-time Mayor M. Jane Seeman. Town Council members Michael Polychrones and Laurie Cole are not running for re-election, but Edythe Kelleher is.

Joining her on the ballot are Mike Cheselka, Linda Colbert (Seeman's daughter), Pasha Majdi, Dennis Rice and Tara Voight. Besides voting for mayor, town residents will also choose three Council members in the May 6 election. The terms of Council members Carey Sienicki and Howard Springsteen aren't up until June 30, 2015.

Vienna Town Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Vienna Town Council is slated for Monday, March 17, at 8 p.m., in the Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. The Town Council also plans to hold a budget work session on Monday, March 24, at the same time and place.

Award for Green Practices

The Vienna Town/Business Liaison Committee is accepting nominations for the Vienna Green Business Recognition Award, which recognizes local businesses and nonprofits who have adopted green practices. Nominations are due by close of business on Thursday, April 3, and should be emailed to tblc@viennava.gov.

This award acknowledges entities that have adopted sustainable and environmentally friendly practices that protect the environment by conserving energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving water quality. It'll be presented during the sixth annual Vienna Green

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

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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.

When 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 priorities.

"Real people are suffering because of this,"

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

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

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Manufactured Crisis

To the Editor

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

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

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

describing it as an impasse.

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

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

Jack Kenny
Reston Republican

Race to Watch - II

To the Editor:

There were a few errors in my letter published in the

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

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

Sue Rosenberg
Vienna

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12

Great Falls Citizens

Association Town Hall Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. This meeting will focus on deer management and trails. Come give your opinions on these issues, and on what GFCA should be working on to better the community.

THURSDAY/MARCH 13

Vienna Arts Society Meeting.

10 a.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Nationally known expressionist artist, Chica Brunsfold, NWS, AWS, will give a demonstration on painting in watercolor on Yupo, she will pull images out of her non-objective beginnings in a process she calls "play, observe, study and discover." www.ViennaArtsSociety.org 703-319-3971.

TUESDAY/MARCH 18

Providence District

Supervisor Linda Smyth, School Board Member Patty Reed, and the county and schools budget staffs will discuss the FY 2015 Advertised Budget. The meeting will be held in Room 110 of the Dunn Loring Administrative Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring starting at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

Vienna Photographic Society

Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Elementary School, 3000 Chain Bridge Rd., Oakton. Karen Messick will judge the March 19 competition of the Vienna Photographic Society ("VPS"), which focuses on close-ups. The competition is open to anyone who is a paid member of VPS on the evening of the judging. www.vpsva.org

Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 5

Expo on Thursday, April 24. For more information, call 703-255-6330 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Vienna Welcomes Birdwatchers Seed and Supply Co.

Birdwatchers Seed and Supply Company, located at 396 Maple Avenue E, will host an open house and ribbon cutting, with support from the Town of Vienna's Town/Business Liaison Committee, on Thursday, March 13. The event will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., with the ribbon cutting scheduled for 6:15 p.m.

The public is invited to attend to meet the business owners and learn more about the company. Birdwatchers Seed and Supply Company first opened its doors in Vienna in November and offers a wide selection of goods that provide the back yard bird watcher with everything needed to enjoy the wild birds that make Vienna their home.

This event is free and open to the public; no rsvp required.

Birdwatchers Seed and Supply Company is owned by Vienna residents Cindy and Jeff DiMeglio who have lived in the Lakevale community of Vienna with their three sons, Brian, Andrew, and Nick for seventeen years.

For more information on this company, visit www.birdwatchersvienna.com.

Family Skate Nights

Family Skate Nights are held on Friday nights, 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the gym of the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE. The cost is \$1 per person and is appropriate for the whole family! Participants need to bring their own skates and safety equipment; no scooters; roller skates and in-line skates only. Parents are required to stay and are invited to participate!

Vietnam Veterans to Host 'Battle of the Bismarck Sea' Talk

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the April 17 chapter meeting at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna, at 7:30 p.m. Edward D. Connor, WW II Army Air Corps veteran, will discuss the Battle of the Bismarck Sea of March 2-4, 1943. American and Australian air force attacks successfully defeated the Japanese army attempt to reinforce their New Guinea bases to stop the Allied advances on the Philippine Islands. Connor was a B-25C bomber crew member that flew missions against Japanese forces in New Guinea during WW II. The general public and all veterans are invited. Teachers and students are especially welcome. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit the web page at www.vva227.org.

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Remembering Segregation in McLean and Vienna

Longtime resident reflects on life in McLean and Vienna during uncertain times.

BY LORI BAKER
THE CONNECTION

Deloris Evans remembers the excitement of riding the bus with students from The Madeira School. She was thrilled because they were going to see Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1941 inauguration parade. She was also delighted because this was her father's bus. He was the chauffeur for Lucy Madeira, head and founder of The Madeira School. And for this event, he was given permission to bring his young black daughter onto a bus full of white students to see the historic parade.

A lot has changed since that time, and Deloris Evans has lived that change. Today's youth likely cannot imagine that at one time, young African-Americans from McLean could only enter a favorite restaurant through the back door. That is how Evans grew up. But over the years, Evans has seen McLean and Tysons evolve from a small segregated town, to an open and vibrant community.

Evans, whose strength of character is evident, says it is those very struggles that made her strong. And on the heels of Black History Month, she recalled some of the stories that helped shape her. She was affected by the time and events around her; and she, in turn, helped to shape and improve the lives of young Northern Virginia African-Americans that would follow after her.

EVANS was born off of Swinks Mill Road in McLean. At that time, Black women in the McLean/Great Falls area were only permitted to have their babies delivered at Freedman's Hospital, which is now Howard University Hospital; or at home by the local doctor. Deloris Evans was born in her family's home in July of 1932, with the help of Dr. Harold Johnson. "He served the entire Black community by visiting homes," Evans said. She recalled waiting numerous times, as a child, with chronic and painful ear



Deloris Evans, born and raised in McLean and Vienna, has seen dramatic change in Northern Virginia over the years.

problems for the busy Dr. Johnson to arrive.

Once she reached school age, Evans would walk from her home on Balls Hill Road, down Lewinsville to its intersection with Spring Hill Road. The small Odrick's School was located there, and offered education to Black children in grades one through seven. "It was a long walk," she laughed. Charity Baptist Church now sits very close to where Odrick's School once stood.

Soon afterward, she attended Louise Archer School on Nutley Street, after her family moved to Vienna. The school, in its early days, was called the Vienna Colored School. Dedicated educator, Louise Archer, along with two other teachers, taught and fed black students in the three-room brick building. The school was renamed Louise Archer Elementary School not long after the much-loved educator's death in 1948. "Ms. Archer taught history like it was the only subject in the curriculum," Evans said. "You knew everything about the presidents."

When it came time for high school, McLean and Vienna's African-American students were bussed to Manassas, unless they could find transportation to a black high school in Washington, D.C. So Evans attended Manassas Regional High School for four years starting in 1945. After graduation, Lucy Madeira, who Evans considered a kind friend to the family, strongly encouraged Evans to attend Howard University, and

SEE BARRIERS, PAGE 7



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Deloris Evans, pictured on the right, founded the Esther Honesty Scholarship Committee in 1963. The scholarship awarded college funds to young members of Shiloh Baptist Church in McLean. The Scholarship Committee still exists today. The late Pastor Roger V. Bush is pictured in the center back.

Photo Contest and Exhibit at Community Center

The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department's annual Photography Contest and Exhibit will be held Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, March 16, from noon to 3:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE.

Entries will be accepted Thursday, March 13, from 5 to 8:30 p.m. and Friday, March 14, from noon to 3:45 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. Photos will be judged by local professional photographers and ribbons awarded in eight categories: animals, architecture,

digital, nature, pictorial, photojournalism, portraiture and scenic. There will be a separate contest section for middle and high school students.

The entry fee is \$10 per person. Entries are limited to four photos per person and a maximum of two in any one category.

The contest is open to all metropolitan area amateur photographers. Photo contest and exhibit is assisted by the Vienna Photographic Society. For more information, call Vienna Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Flint Hill School Wins Design & Communications Awards

Flint Hill School has earned recognition for delivering clear, concise, and creative messages to its school community and prospective families. The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, District III (CASE III) announced Flint Hill as awardees in three categories: graphic design, annual fund publication, and magazine. Award winners were named at the organization's annual conference, in Orlando, in mid-February. All of the awards are listed on the CASE III website.

The annual fund publication, called "Spring Clean Shave," won the top prize—a Gold Award. And the Award of Excellence—second place—was earned both for design of the "Mr. Roboto" cover on the Flint Hill School Magazine (winter

2012-13 issue) and the writing, editing, tone, voice and professional execution of the entire spring 2013 issue of the magazine, featuring the "scaffolding of learning." CASE III covers the southeastern United States region, and their membership comprises approximately 900 schools, predominantly colleges and universities. "This achievement, being recognized among the top of highly respected educational institutions, reflects the emphasis we place on the quality of our school's overall message," said Headmaster John Thomas. "Our communications aim to capture the essence of our school's mission, vision, values, and to bring to life the spirit that makes Flint Hill School a special place. We are grateful for the acknowledgement."

Tax Relief Deadline April 1

Both the Town of Vienna and Fairfax County offer real estate tax relief for low-income homeowners who are 65 years old and over, or permanently and totally disabled. To qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- ❖ Total household income of \$72,000 or less. This amount excludes \$6,500 of income of relatives, other than the spouse, who reside in the household. Also excluded is \$7,500 of any income received by a disabled homeowner. 100 percent tax relief is given for total combined income of \$52,000 or less, 50 percent tax relief between \$52,001 and \$62,000, and 25 percent tax relief between \$62,001 and \$72,000.
- ❖ Total combined assets of no

more than \$340,000. This amount excludes the value of the residence, up to one acre of land, and household furnishings.

❖ Disabled persons applying for the first time must show evidence of disability.

In addition to real estate tax relief, Fairfax County provides rental grants and relief from personal property tax for one automobile per household.

Applications for 2014 for all programs are due April 1. This date may be extended to December 31 of this year for first-time filers or if hardship conditions exist which, through no fault of the applicant, prohibit applying by April 1.

Applications can be found at www.viennava.gov and www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Demands Dictate the Debt

FROM PAGE 4

ity 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 temporarily.

"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."

Suicide Prevention

FROM PAGE 4

sion as normal adolescent turmoil," said Mike Parker, director of Student Services at Thoreau Middle School in Vienna, noting that depression appears to be occurring at a much earlier age, and is a leading risk factor for suicide. "In addition, self-injury has become a growing problem."

In an effort to "proactively address these issues," Thoreau sent a letter to parents in January informing them that the school would offer depression screening to all eighth grade students in February.

The screenings were free, voluntary and confidential, a way to assess whether students have symptoms consistent with depression.

The effort to address student stress and prevent teen suicides is a priority for Fairfax County school, according to Ryan McElveen, one of three at-large members of the FCPS school board. In an interview Tuesday, McElveen said that Superintendent Karen Garza is currently working with staff to craft an action plan to address student stress and suicide prevention.

"This plan will involve collaboration with county agencies and include various new strategies, training sessions, and reporting systems.

I believe that the Board will fully support these efforts once a finalized plan has been crafted," McElveen said.

One educational tool FCPS currently uses is Youth ACT- Signs of Suicide (SOS), a depression awareness and suicide prevention program. Its primary objectives are to educate teens that depression is a treatable illness and to equip them with techniques to respond to a potential suicide in a friend or family member. The program includes a depression and suicide screening component and is available for middle and high school aged youth.

FCPS is also in the process of forming a Youth Suicide Review Team to review incidences of suicide in the county, analyze trends, and recommend to the Board of Supervisors programmatic and policy solutions to prevent future suicides.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, such as the one hosted by Thoreau's PTA and facilitated by Robbins, are also offered at a number of schools throughout the county.

McElveen added that students should always feel free to come to school staff or parents with concerns about their classmates.

"Students need to know that we're all in this together as a community, and the school system has the resources to support them. If they are feeling stressed, they should talk with their teachers and counselors and find better ways to strike the important balance between school, extracurriculars, social life and family life," he said.



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for a listing of all our upcoming trips and socials.

NEWS

School Board members Ilryong Moon, Janey Strauss and Ryan McIlveen with Wonhee Kang and Mark Sherwin.

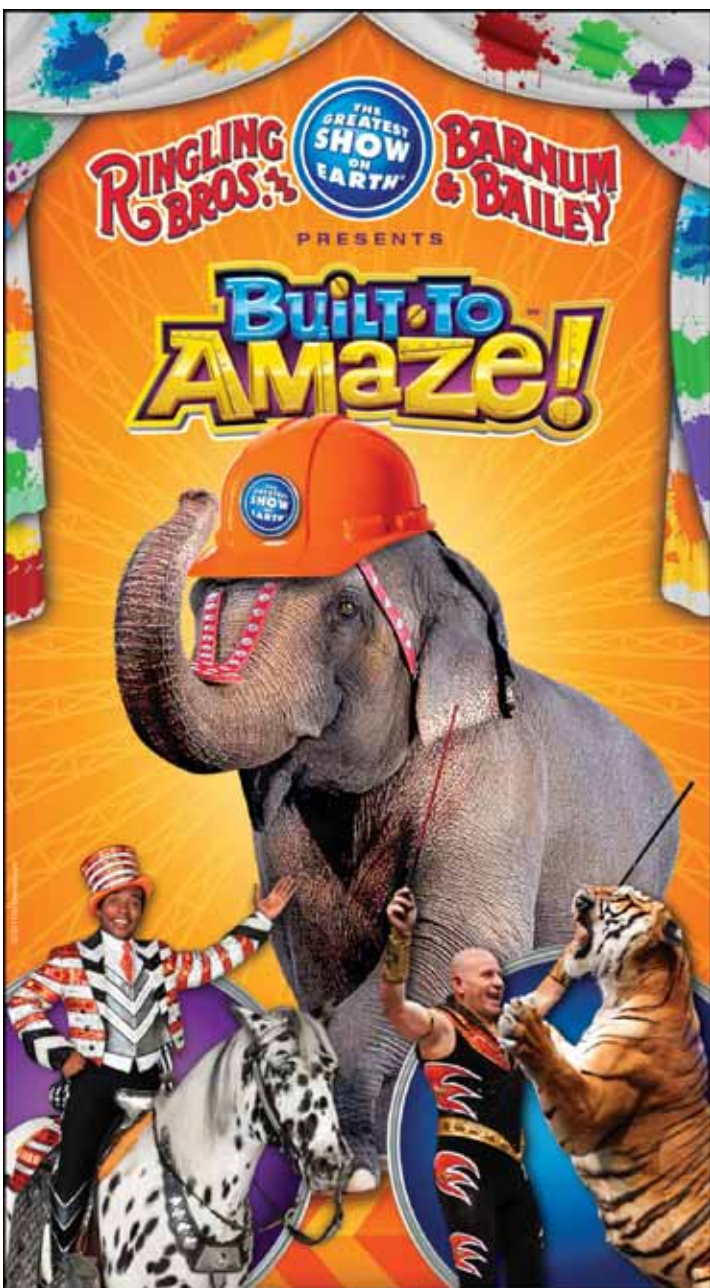


Casino Night at Ritz-Carlton for Boy and Girls Clubs

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, Fairfax Region runs clubs that serve children and teens in Mount Vernon and Falls Church, and held its inaugural Casino Night at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons on Friday, March 7. About 200 attended and enjoyed gam-

ing, good food, music and live and silent auctions for a good cause.

The mission of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington is to help boys and girls of all backgrounds, especially those who need the most, build confidence, develop character and acquire the skills needed to become productive, civic-minded and responsible adults.



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Mark Sherwin with George Ross, executive vice president and senior counsel for the Trump Organization, and father of Boys and Girls Club Board member Nanci Adams. George helps with the live auction, including a visit to Trump studios. Ross has been featured on the hit NBC reality TV competition, The Apprentice, along side Donald Trump.



Daphne Benbow with Nanci Adams, center of State Farm, with Walter Adams of College Moving and Ed Asher of Northrop Grumman in the background.



Ed Asher of Northrop Grumman and John Ruff of Booz Allen Hamilton.



Wonhee Kang, Director of the Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Region, Catelyn Thurman, Robin Thurman and Debrajeen Overholt.



Mike Leone, The Council for Professional Recognition.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

FRIDAY/ MARCH 14

Casino Night & Silent Auction. 7 p.m., The Grand Atrium, 2236 Gallows Road, Vienna. James Madison HS (JMHS) Athletic Booster Club hosts its 8th Annual Casino Night & Silent Auction. Advance: \$55, At the door: \$65. www.warhawkspports.org or jmhsathleticbooster@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Ballroom Dance. 8-11:30 p.m., Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ music from Craig Bukowski playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. \$15. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

Model Trains. 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. 1-5 p.m. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends in the Historic Vienna Train Station along the W&OD trail just past the Caboose. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders. www.nvmr.org.

Special Lenten Program. 9-11:30 a.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Details and questions 703-759-3705.

"Lullabies From Around the World." 4:30 p.m. Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road SW, Vienna. Vienna Choral Society sings "Lullabies From Around The World." Special guests will include the Mosby Woods Mustang Chorus, a story teller, and a student accompanist on violin. Kids 14 and under attend free. Tickets at www.viennachoralsociety.org and at the door.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

William Bird at the Great Falls Library. Noon to 1:30 p.m., Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Writer's Group will host William Bird, curator of the Division of Political History at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, for a light luncheon and forum. 703-757-8560.

Tom Principato Band. 8 p.m., The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Tom Principato Band features everything from harmonica-heavy rock to reggae and funk infused tracks, as well as a locally inspired instrumental song, "22042 Falls Church, Virginia." \$25. 1.877.WOLFTRAP or wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Celebrate the Cherry Blossom Festival. 1-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Taste the many styles beyond what is used in the Japanese tea ceremony in this fascinating tasting. Shade grown, roasted, twig style, are just a few examples. Experience Japanese teas and tea treats beyond the traditional and take home tea samples including a Cherry Blossom Blend. Advance reservations and payment (\$30 each) required through the Mill at 703-759-2771.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Jump for Joy! 2-4 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. A community event for elementary age children. Pre-school SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Check out some model trains and Thomas and his friends at the historic Vienna train station on Saturday, March 15 at 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna.



"Undercover," watercolor on Yupo by Chica Brunsvold, won 2nd place in the 2009 Virginia Watercolor Society exhibition. See more of her work on March 13 at the Vienna Arts Society Meeting.

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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Studio Rep "Code 20: Proceed to Improv"

Thursday, March 13, 7-9 p.m.
Old Firehouse Teen Center
Free admission



Christopher K. Morgan & Artists Contemporary Dance Co. "Dissolving"

Fri & Sat, March 14-15, 8 p.m.
\$27/\$18 MCC district residents

Lifetime Learning Coffee & Conversation

Friday, March 21, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Free admission

5th & 6th Grader Party Island Sensations

Friday, March 21, 7-9 p.m.
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

UnRuly TheatRe

Friday, March 21, 7-9 p.m.
Old Firehouse Teen Center
Free Admission

Theatre Unspeakable presents "Superman 2050"

Saturday, March 22, 8 p.m.
\$20/\$15 MCC district residents

MCC Governing Board Public Hearing on Programs

Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

An Alden Theatre Production "Miss Nelson is Missing"

Sat. & Sun, March 29-30 &
April 5-6, 3 p.m.
\$10/\$8 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



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CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

The Madison girls' lacrosse program won the 2013 state championship and two of the last three state titles.

Madison Girls' Lax Motivated to Repeat as State Champs

Warhawks have won two of the last three state titles.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

How does a team remain motivated when it has already reached the top? For members of the defending-state-champion Madison girls' lacrosse team, motivation comes from a personal desire to maintain an elite level of performance. For head coach Amanda Counts, having a team of self-starters is probably her best chance to avoid succumbing to the pressure of expectations.

Of the 25 athletes on the Madison roster, 21 received playing time last season, during which the Warhawks compiled a 20-1 record and won the AAA state title. Madison returns standouts Katie Kerrigan, Alex Condon and Kierra Sweeney, among others. Four Warhawk seniors have experienced winning two state championships, including the 2011 title during their freshman seasons.

The pieces are in place for another run at state title.

"There's a little pressure on my shoulders," Counts said. "It's my fault if we're not successful this year because [the players have] proven they know what they're doing, so I've got to pull it all to-

gether. I'm feeling that a little bit, but I'm going to try to fake it so I can hide that from them as long as possible."

What are Counts' expectations? "I never want to move my expectations backwards," she said, "so we'll start from where we left off last year."

Counts and the Warhawks have good reason to aim high.

MADISON IS LED by a strong core group of athletes, including senior attacker Kerrigan, senior midfielder Condon, junior midfielder Sweeney, senior defender Rachel Brennan and junior goalkeeper Sigourney Heerink.

Kerrigan, who signed with Ohio State, was one of the Warhawks' top point-scorers last season.

"She can get through situations that don't make sense," Counts said. "She has an uncoachable approach to offense. She can find holes where holes don't exist. She's so persistent; she makes things happen that I wouldn't put another player in a position to do the same thing and expect it to work out the way it does for Katie."

Kerrigan is one of four Warhawks to experience winning two state championships, along with seniors Condon, Sam Babbitt (attacker) and Maddie Renshaw (midfielder). Kerrigan said success drives the Warhawks.

"I think that's what motivates us in general: by winning those two state championships," she said. "After those two great seasons, we don't want anything less than that."

Brennan signed with UC Davis, and Babbitt will play at Messiah College. Sweeney is committed to Dartmouth, junior Maddie Roberts is committed to the University of California, Berkeley, and Heerink is committed to Drexel.

Counts said she expects midfielders Renshaw and Roberts to have increased roles this season.

"I've been super impressed with [Roberts]," Counts said. "... [S]ince the day that she walked onto this team she has been just an absolute workhorse. She challenges herself more than I could if I tried. ... [Renshaw] always did her job, but now she's going to push that a little bit more from what I've seen so far."

MADISON WILL HOST Dominion for its season opener at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19. The Warhawks will host Langley on April 10 in a rematch of last year's state championship game, won by Madison, 12-7. Madison went 4-0 against Langley last season, beating the Saxons in the regular season and the Liberty District, Northern Region and state championship games.

Madison enters the 2014 season with a bull's eye on its back, but Sweeney said the Warhawks have to stay focused on themselves.

"It's easy to get bogged down in what everyone else is doing and what everyone else thinks," she said, "but I think it's important that we stay focused on ourselves and keep internal motivation to get better."

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Junior Golf Tournament

The Capital Challenge at Westfields Golf Club will be held March 15-16 in Clifton.

The top five finishers in each division during the two-day, 36-hole junior golf event will earn preferred entry into the remaining IJGT Major Championships. To register, visit IJGT.com or call 843-785-2444.

Madison Baseball Scrimmage

The Madison baseball team is scheduled to host a scrimmage against Herndon at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 14.

The Warhawks, led by head coach Mark "Pudge" Gjormand, finished 22-2 last season. After dropping its opener, Madison won 22 straight before falling to Lake Braddock in the region quarterfinals.

Oakton Softball Scrimmage

The Oakton softball team is scheduled to host a scrimmage against Woodson at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 13.

The Cougars are led by senior pitcher Allison Davis.

Herndon's Goldman Wins 3200 State Title

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

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

South Lakes, Herndon Baseball Scrimmages

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

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

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

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

Great Falls Resident Wins Conference Championship with MIT

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tim Higgins
their 2012 undefeated team.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

children accompanied by parents are also welcome. The event will involve giant inflatables, the Providence House of Bounce, inside their gym.

Music from Oberlin at Oakton.

7:30 p.m. 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Music from Oberlin at Oakton hosts current Oberlin Conservatory students three times a year to provide top-notch music to the local community. In its 14th season, this program will feature two pianists, a violinist, clarinetist, and a bassoonist. Free admission. 703-281-4230.

TUESDAY/MARCH 25

Annual Children's Printmaking Workshop.

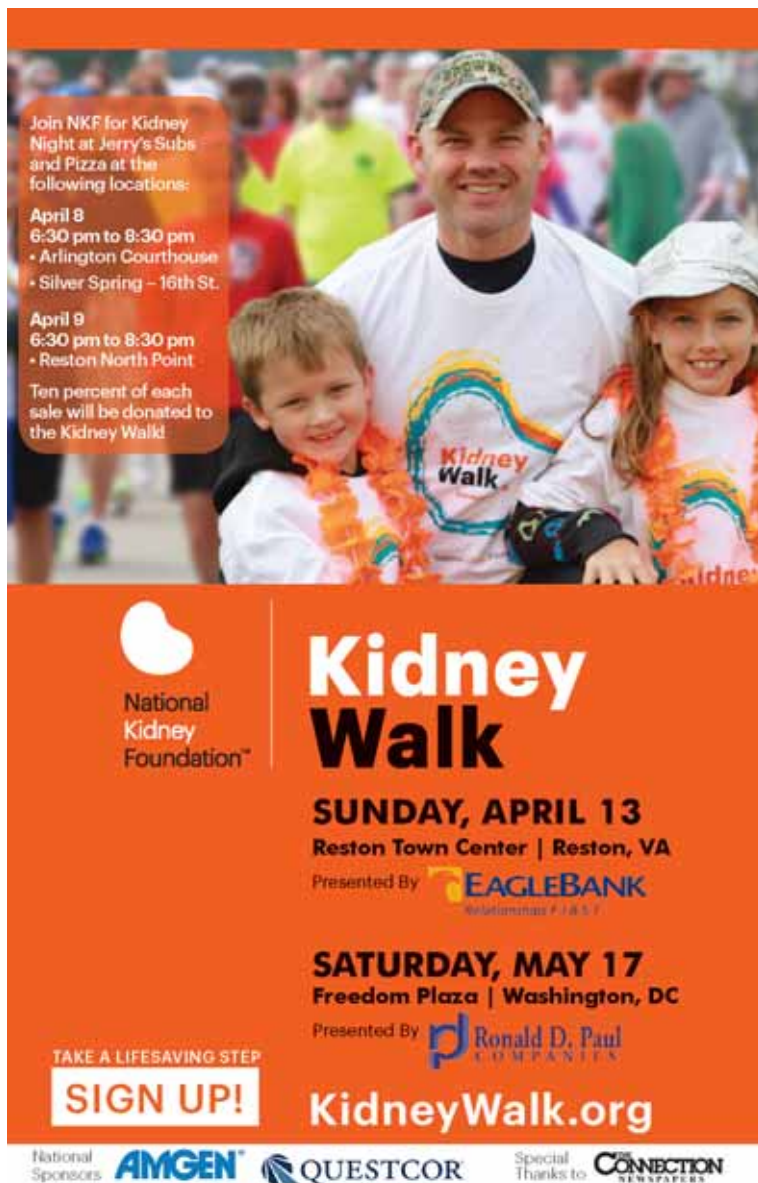
4-5 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. A dozen members of the Vienna Arts Society will assist children ages 7 - 12 as they create original prints, to include printing a fish, making relief prints and mono-prints, etc. Free. Registration required by contacting the Children's Librarian at 703-938-0405.

ONGOING

Straight Ahead Jazz. 8 p.m., at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Every Monday drummer Karl Anthony hosts a night of straight ahead jazz featuring guest musicians and open to sit-in musicians. www.maplewoodgrill.com.

Personalized ebook/e-Reader Instruction.

Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Learn about your e-reader and downloading eBooks; event continues through March 31.



Join NKF for Kidney Night at Jerry's Subs and Pizza at the following locations:

April 8
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
• Arlington Courthouse
• Silver Spring - 16th St.

April 9
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
• Reston North Point

Ten percent of each sale will be donated to the Kidney Walk!

Kidney Walk
SUNDAY, APRIL 13
Reston Town Center | Reston, VA
Presented By **EAGLEBANK**

SATURDAY, MAY 17
Freedom Plaza | Washington, DC
Presented By **Ronald D. Paul**

KidneyWalk.org

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

You've heard about St. Patrick who drove the snakes out of Ireland, but did you know about St. Patrick, who saved the kittens out of shelters? Now's your chance to find out! Join Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation for a St. Patrick's Day celebration, and learn how you can help save lives.



Charlie, delivered by St. Patrick, is available for adoption

LOST DOG & CAT RESCUE FOUNDATION

- Foster Crew Members will answer questions about the most important thing you can do to help.
- Adoption Center Coordinators will provide information about volunteering at PetSmart centers.
- Our Transport Coordinator will explain how you can help with little more than some time and a car.

Join us at Lost Dog Café-McLean
Saturday, March 15, 3-7 p.m.
Enjoy snacks & soft drinks while learning how you can help.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2016 Programs
Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2016, which runs July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
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www.mcleancenter.org

Whew!



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

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

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

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

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

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

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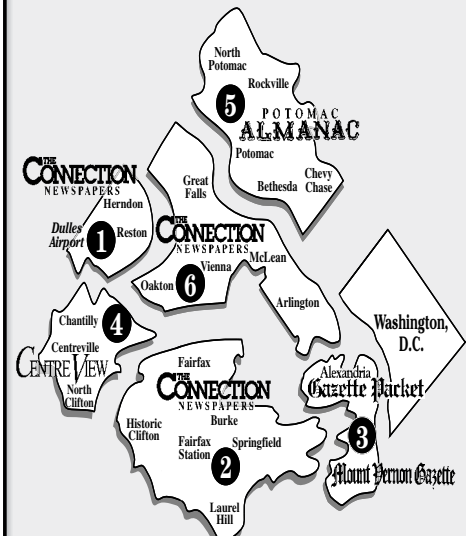
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Sex Trafficking in Our Backyard

Fairfax County detective, trafficking victim testify at Congressional hearing.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Since 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.

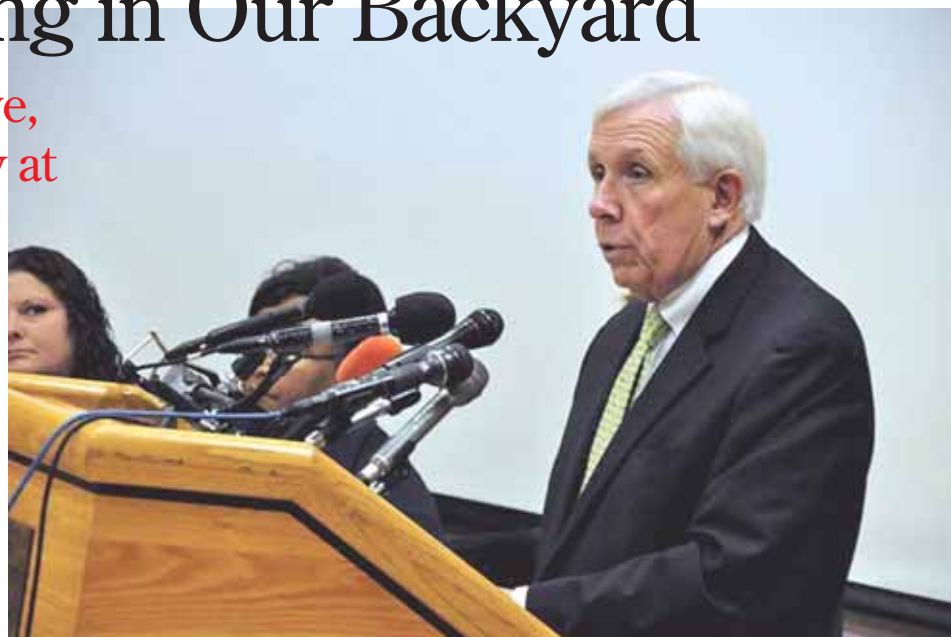
Fairfax County Public Schools recently adopted a sex trafficking awareness curriculum, the first of its kind, for students in grades six through twelfth. Woolf said programs like this are needed throughout the United States to prevent trafficking.

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.

Woolf, 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.

Spring 2014 HomeLifeStyle



PHOTO BY BRYAN BURRIS

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Van 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 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 Design Center.

Van Metre Companies has constructed more than 16,000 houses and several thousand apartments, as well as office buildings and 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.

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Empty-Nesters Re-invent the Family Home

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

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes 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 Borer 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

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

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.

However, near the end of the project, the 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

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

time."

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

SEE KITCHEN, PAGE 4

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Empty-Nesters Re-invent the Family Home

FROM PAGE 3

hall” configuration defined rooms were consistent with tradition, yet 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 details.”

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-square-foot 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 articulated.

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 Benson original—provides an elegant yet useful wall for the new reading room. The new family room fireplace hearth was custom-designed to accommodate the plasma TV that now hangs above it.

Additional interior design decisions emerged from Borer’s collaboration with



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, Borer’s research revealed a strong personal attraction to transitional-style interior design, a contemporary concept that seeks to reconcile traditional architecture with the spatial freedom of an open floor plan.

On this score, Benson’s original floorplan 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 Siorato 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 traditional and open really works well for us,” Borer said. “I found the whole process really enlightening.”

Kitchen Confidential

FROM PAGE 3

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 ogee-edged granite counter tops.

OPENING UP and adding light were priorities when Guy Hopkins Semmes, partner and founder of Potomac-based design-build firm Hopkins and Porter and Lea Allen, one of the firm’s senior architects, remodeled the kitchen of a Bethesda, Md., home.

“The kitchen was small, but we were able to add a lot more space, by making few minor changes,” said Semmes. “Before there was an enclosed porch next to the kitchen. We opened the wall between the kitchen and the adjacent enclosed porch.”

Semmes and Allen made another major elimination: appliances. “We got rid of the



COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING INC

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 Semmes. “All of the other appliances are located under the counter and open up like drawers.”

Semmes also found a creative way to make the space more light-filled. “We took out a stairway wall to the second floor and replaced it with a triangular opening so light from stairwell came down into the kitchen.”

The kitchen now has maple cabinetry and white Silestone countertops. “It was done on a budget. It’s amazing what you can do when you work with what you’ve got.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOPKINS AND PORTER

Guy Semmes and Lea Allen of Potomac-based design-build firm Hopkins and Porter removed walls to create space and add light to the kitchen of this Bethesda, Md. home.

Garden Club of Virginia Celebrates 81st Tour



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

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

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

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

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



PHOTO COPYRIGHT CAROLINE WILLIAMS

Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

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

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

on the environment. It reduces bad bug populations and is safe over all.”

It doesn’t feel like spring. Last week’s snow made it seem like warm weather might never arrive, so planting a garden might be the last thing on your mind. However, local gardening experts say this is the ideal time to start preparing your landscape to yield colorful spring foliage.

Bill Mann, of Behnke Nurseries in Potomac, Md., said spring garden preparation plans differ from year to year. “It depends on the landscape beds you have and whether or not you’re planning to put in a vegetable garden,” he said.

“This is the time to inspect shrubs for damage that might have been broken during the snow load,” said David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center, which has locations in Fair Oaks, Merrifield and Gainesville, Va., Don’t go overboard, however: “You don’t want to prune plants before they bloom. A good rule of thumb is to prune a flowering 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 mulch and just clean up,” said Watkins. “Everybody is sick of winter, especially this winter. This is the time to clean up old leaves. Because the winter has been so cold, there are going to be some plants that won’t have made it.”

“In March, a lot has to do with inspecting the yard for winter damage,” said Mann. “This is a great time of the year to look for insect damage and deer damage.”

Mann expects extensive deer damage this year. “Deer didn’t have much to eat except for plants like azaleas and rhododendrons.”

Insect damage is less obvious and more difficult to identify. “This is the time to do damage-control by using safe or organic-based products like neem oil,” said Mann. “When sprayed on plants, it smothers insect eggs or some insects in the larva stage. It also kills stinkbugs. If you can see them, you can control them. You can use a higher concentration this time of year and it is a lot safer and easier

WHILE EAGER GARDENERS may be excited to start planting spring flowers in their newly cleaned plots, Watkins offers a caveat: “It is a little early for most annual flowers in pots on patios, but you can plant annuals like pansies, which are cold season annuals,” he said. “They don’t like heat, so in June they start to wither. Then you can put other flowers in like petunias and geraniums.”

Watkins recommends planting hearty, ornamental shrubs in patio flowerpots and surrounding them with flowering plants to ensure year-found foliage. “A nice thing to do in pots is plant a woody ornamental,” he said. “It is nice to have plants in the pots that stay year round. I put a Japanese maple in a pot on my deck. In another pot I put ilex verticillata [winterberry] and I had red berries all winter long. In the spring, I’ll put petunias in the soil around it, and around the edge I’ll plant a flowering plant that will trail down over the pot from April to October. Then the rest of the year I’ll get red berries.”

Sowing grass seeds is also an ideal project to begin now. “The seeds won’t germinate until it gets to be 52 degrees,” Watkins continued. “So even if we get another snow storm, it helps work the seeds into the soil.”

Randee Wilson of Nature By Design in Alexandria encourages the use of indigenous plants. “Look for sources for native plants — they help sustain our local wildlife. If we didn’t have local plants, butterflies would be gone.”

Native plants also require less maintenance. “Some native plants are cardinal flower, which is bright red; bee balm, also bright red; blue cardinal; iron weed, which has purple flowers, and native wisteria vine,” said Wilson.

If a new patio is in your plans this spring, Watkins says to get started now. “We’ve been putting down putting patios all year long,” he said. “A good garden center is going to get backed up when the weather is warmer. The sooner you start getting your job in the line, the better.”

Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

January, 2014 Top Sales in Great Falls, McLean, Vienna, Oakton, Reston and Herndon



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



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

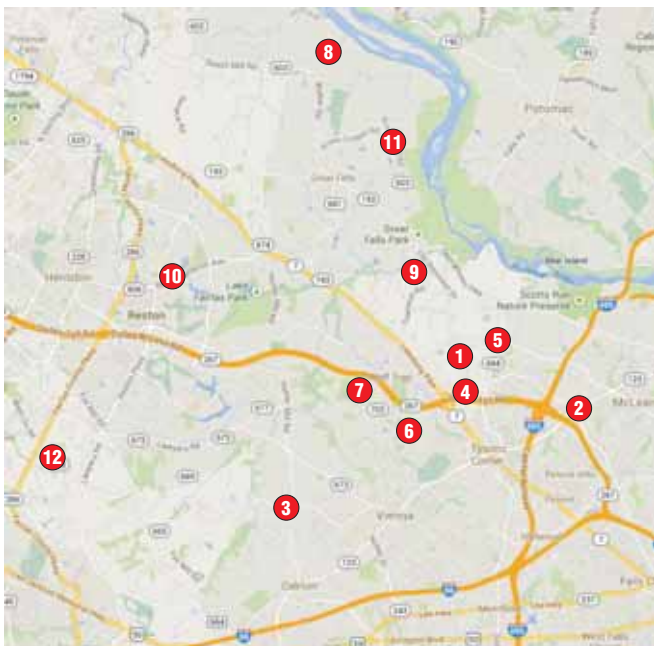


8 9909 Windy Hollow Road, Great Falls — \$1,322,000

© GOOGLE STREET VIEW



4 8500 Stony Point Court, McLean — \$1,660,000



© Google Map data

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	...	Sold Price	...	Type	...	Lot AC	PostalCode	.....	Subdivision	.....	Date Sold		
1 8419 BROOKEWOOD CT	5	..	6	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,198,800	.....	Detached	.....	0.70	.....	22102	.....	WOODLEA MILL	.....	01/31/14
2 1418 HARVEST CROSSING DR	4	..	5	..	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,850,000	.....	Townhouse	.....	0.07	.....	22101	.....	EVANS FARM	.....	01/08/14
3 10406 OAKTON HILLS CT NE ..	5	..	5	..	2	.....	OAKTON	.....	\$1,700,000	.....	Detached	.....	1.72	.....	22124	.....	OAKTON HILLS ESTATES	.....	01/08/14
4 8500 STONY POINT CT	6	..	5	..	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,660,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.71	.....	22102	.....	STONY POINT	.....	01/31/14
5 8103 RIDINGS CT	4	..	4	..	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,500,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.84	.....	22102	.....	THE GREAT HAMPTONS	.....	01/06/14
6 1681 DREWLAINE DR #5	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	.....	\$1,355,764	.....	Detached	.....	0.35	.....	22182	...	WOLF TRAP DOWNS SEC. 2	...	01/30/14
7 1652 WHITE PINE DR	6	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	.....	\$1,350,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.83	.....	22182	.....	SYMPHONY MEADOWS	.....	01/06/14
8 9909 WINDY HOLLOW RD	6	..	4	..	1	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,322,000	.....	Detached	.....	1.72	.....	22066	.....	FALCON RIDGE	.....	01/24/14
9 9115 WHITE CHIMNEY LN	4	..	3	..	1	...	GREAT FALLS	....	\$975,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.92	.....	22066	.....	LEIGH MILL COMMONS	.....	01/16/14
10 1608 NORTH VILLAGE RD	3	..	2	..	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$970,000	.....	Detached	.....	0.98	.....	20194	.....	RESTON	.....	01/09/14
11 9212 MARIA AVE	3	..	2	..	1	...	GREAT FALLS	....	\$889,000	.....	Detached	.....	1.00	.....	22066	.....	GREAT FALLS ESTATES	.....	01/29/14
12 2989 FRANKLIN OAKS DR	5	..	4	..	0	HERNDON	\$827,575	Detached	0.31	20171	FRANKLIN OAKS	01/08/14

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Extreme Weather and Your Home

BY JOHN BYRD

While 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.

"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 thermally-resistant insulation (R-19) than the current R-38 standard. "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."

The larger technical solution was to blow-in R-25 fiberglass, which raised the attic's thermal resistance to R-44.

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."

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.
2. not appreciated or understood.
3. no longer owned or known



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Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2014 Assessments by Area

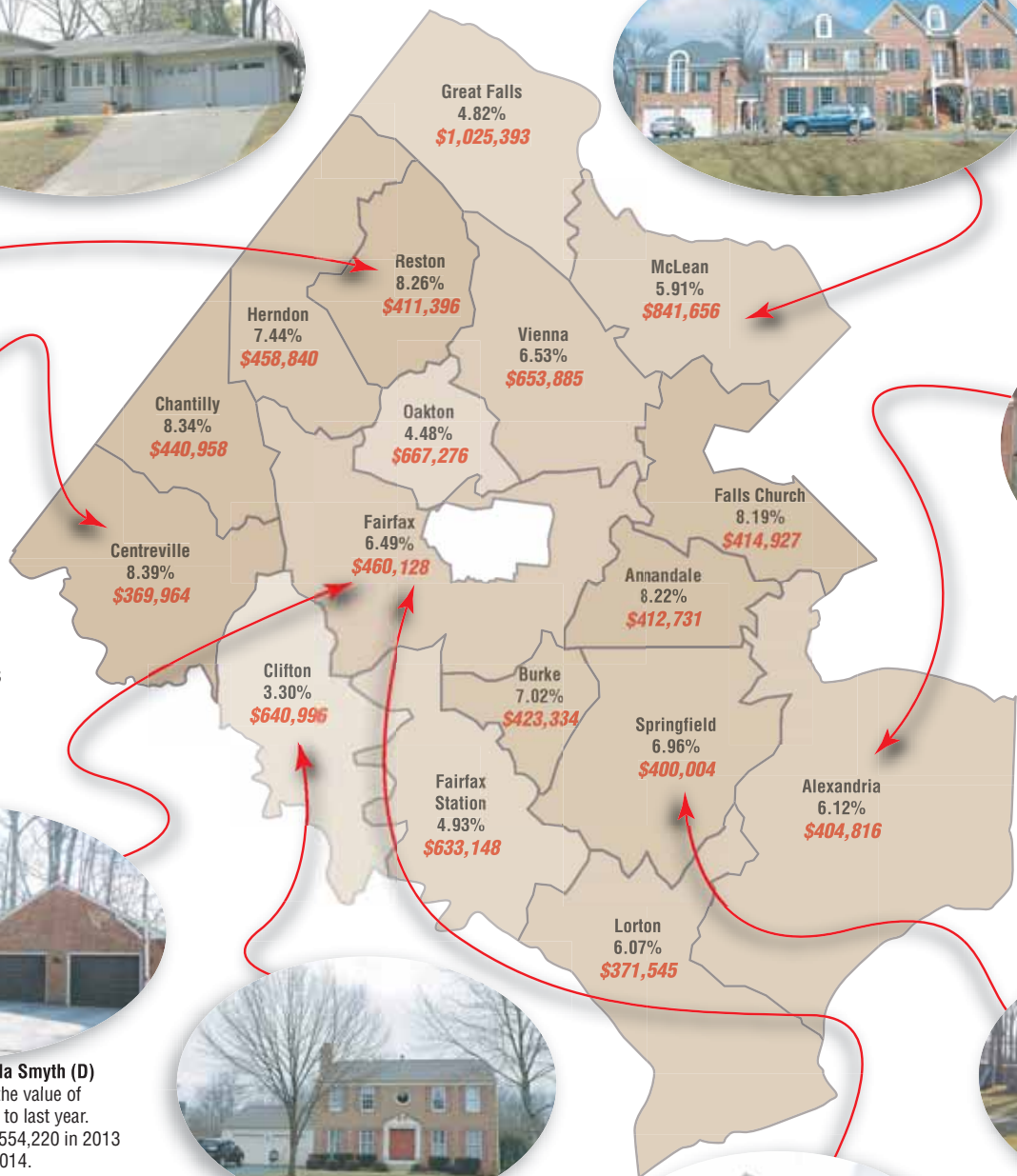
Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**
saw her assessment go up 10.80%
from \$575,910 in 2013 to \$638,100 in 2014.



Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)**
saw a 6.16% drop in his property value when compared to 2013.
The county valued Foust's house at
\$3,109,050 last year and \$2,917,660 this year.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)**
saw a 11.96% increase in
the value of his home over the last year.
Frey's home was assessed at \$225,820 in 2013
and \$252,830 in 2014.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**
saw no change in his home assessment.
This year, his home was worth \$710,220,
same as last year.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**
saw a 7.22% increase in the value of
her house when compared to last year.
Smyth's home was valued at \$554,220 in 2013
and \$594,220 in 2014.



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)**
saw a 3.56% gain in his property value
when compared to 2013.
Last year, his home was worth \$553,770 and
this year it is valued at \$573,460.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**
saw a 13.37% increase in
the value of his home over the last year.
Cook's home was assessed at
\$586,220 in 2013 and \$634,760 in 2014.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**
saw her home value go down 2.62%
from \$617,750 in 2013 to \$601,550 in 2014.

0% 10%

2014 County Average (Percent Change)
Single Family Detached **\$598,711 (5.82%)**
Townhouse **\$370,849 (8.39%)**
Condos **\$247,943 (10.51%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2013 MEAN	2014 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	381,426	404,816	6.12
Annandale	381,386	412,731	8.22
Burke	395,580	423,334	7.02
Centreville	341,337	369,964	8.39
Chantilly	407,026	440,958	8.34
Clifton	620,491	640,996	3.30
Fairfax	432,104	460,128	6.49
Fairfax Station	603,429	633,148	4.93
Falls Church	383,502	414,927	8.19
Great Falls	978,233	1,025,393	4.82
Herndon	427,060	458,840	7.44
Lorton	350,288	371,545	6.07
McLean	794,688	841,656	5.91
Oakton	638,692	667,276	4.48
Reston	379,741	411,096	8.26
Springfield	373,964	400,004	6.96
Vienna	613,796	653,885	6.53

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a
single family home in Fairfax County
for 2014 is \$598,711, up 5.82%

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY