

Burke CONNECTION

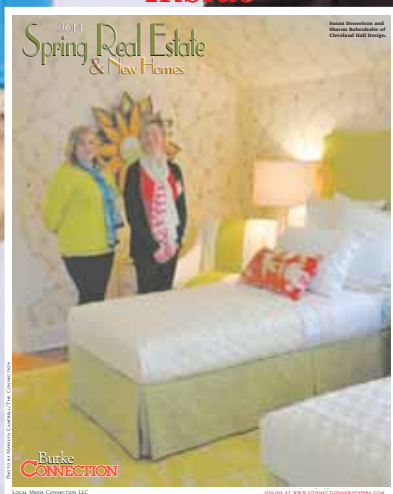
French Students Visit Robinson

NEWS, PAGE 9



A group of Robinson students and students from France mingle during the welcoming reception for the beginning of the exchange program.

Inside



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& New Homes

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30 Years in Prison for Three Deaths

One of the victims was a young Fairfax woman.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The man responsible for the heroin deaths of three people in Fairfax County will be spending the next three decades in prison. Eugene Asomani “Shine” Williams, 35, of Washington, D.C., was sentenced last week in federal court for con-

spiring to distribute heroin and possessing a firearm while doing so.

The three victims were Woodson High graduate Kara Schachinger, 22, of Fairfax; Joshua Pearson, 33, of Fairfax County and Timothy Huffman, 23, an active duty soldier who was serving in the Army at Fort Belvoir.

“Williams peddled a dangerous

drug and inflicted untold damage to the victims, their families, and our communities,” said Dana Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. “This case exemplifies the cooperative efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement to combat this pernicious crime.”

On Jan. 22 in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Williams pleaded

guilty to conspiracy to distribute one kilogram or more of heroin and possession of a firearm during and in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. In a statement of facts filed with his plea agreement, he admitted to distributing more than one kilogram of heroin in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia between 2004 and Sept. 26, 2013.

Williams further admitted that Pearson, Huffman and Schachinger all died as a result of their use of heroin distributed by him.

“I have heard firsthand from families about the devastation brought by the loss of a loved one in this wave of heroin-related deaths, and about the strain placed on law-enforcement and healthcare professionals as they work to respond to it,” said Attorney General Mark Herring. “Education, prevention and treatment will play a major part in dealing with this emerging threat, but I will also ensure that my office is doing all it can to keep these dangerous drugs, and those who distribute them, off the streets.”

Williams returned to court last Friday, April 18 and, at that time, U.S. District Court Judge Leonie Brinkema sentenced him to 30 years in prison.

“Today’s sentencing of Eugene Williams closes the book on a drug trafficker who was responsible for trafficking heroin that led to the death of three individuals in Fairfax County,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Karl C. Colder of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Washington Division. “Heroin is a drug that destroys lives and, tragically, sometimes takes them. This case clearly demonstrates DEA’s commitment, by working with our law-enforcement partners, to stop drug traffickers who profit from the harm – in this case deadly harm – they present to our community.”

Col. Ed Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Chief of Police, also weighed in on Williams’s punishment.

“Fairfax County is safer today thanks to the robust partnerships between local, state and federal law enforcement,” he said. “Today’s sentencing is proof positive these partnerships work against drug traffickers and others who set up criminal enterprises in our region.”

FAITH NOTES

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

Fairfax Baptist Temple, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children’s church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or www.fbtministries.org.

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NEWS



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Signs opposing the proposed cell phone tower line the path leading to the pool in the Landings community of the Burke Centre Conservancy.

Cell Phone Tower Challenged in Burke

Residents, trustees clash over 16-story AT&T tower.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Susan Gaertner, a resident of the Landings in Burke Centre Conservancy, spent most of last summer enjoying the community's pool and peaceful atmosphere.

It is that sense of tranquility and beauty, she says, that makes the community an inappropriate place for a cell tower.

In February, Gaertner learned that the Conservancy's Board of Trustees, a seven-member board that governs the community, was considering an unsolicited proposal from AT&T to build a cell phone tower in the community.

AT&T approached the Board of Trustees late last summer, Burke Centre Conservancy executive director Patrick Gloyd said.

Gaertner is not opposed to cell towers, but like several other Burke Centre residents, she is troubled by the proposed location. She says the tower would be too close to the pool, would cause health problems, and decrease property values.

"A residential neighborhood is not an appropriate location," Gaertner said. "Fixing the problem of cell service in Burke Centre can be achieved through other options."

NOTHING HAS BEEN decided on, Gloyd said, although some trustees have written articles in the Conservancy's newsletter about the tower.

This includes Scott Hoefke, trustee of the Oaks, who in the March newsletter wrote that opposition to the tower is based on "fear, ignorance, and emotion." He supports the construction of a cell tower.

"One reason for this is to improve the quality of service and quality of life for Oaks' residents and Burke Centre residents as a whole. The second rea-



Susan Gaertner, a Burke Centre Conservancy resident, is leading the opposition to the construction of a cell phone tower in the neighborhood.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

son is to give Burke Centre a say in what the cell tower looks like, which will not happen with towers built nearby off Conservancy property, like the tower going up behind the Kohl's. The third reason is the revenue that would be gained," Hoefke wrote in the newsletter.

The tower would be 160 feet high and would be located within a 2,500 square foot fenced area. Gloyd said AT&T prefers the Landings location because of its elevation.

"It's one of the highest spots in the area, and would bring the most signal strength," Gloyd said.

The trustees recently released an online survey to gather community opinion on the cell tower proposal, but Gaertner said the survey is

problematic. Less than five percent of Burke Centre residents have responded to the survey.

"It was designed by the board members. That itself is a problem. They're on a mission to get the cell tower here," she said.

The survey questions include: Do you feel that cell phone service is adequate in your neighborhood? Would you like to have improved service? How close to your home is too close for a tower to be built?

Gloyd says trustees are still considering all options and are in the information-gathering process, and have not made a decision.

"Right now, they are just doing their due diligence, trying to do all of the research on the cell tower, the proposal from AT&T, and getting advice from legal counsel on whether or not they have the authority even if they wanted to do it," he said.

Gloyd said the first meeting between the board of trustees and AT&T was scheduled to take place the evening of April 21.

Gaertner thinks that commercial and industrial locations should be considered as an alternative to the Landings location. There's even a cell phone tower going up behind Kohl's that she says could improve cell phone service. But in her opinion, the financial prospects are tempting for the trustees.

SEE TOWER, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

Sweet Virginia Executive Director Dan Price dons a bee suit as he investigates a hive.

The Honey Bunch

Sweet Virginia partners with GMU to educate students about bees.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Educational outreach is sweet nectar for Sweet Virginia.

Executive Director Dan Price is using college students to promote honeybee sustainability to college students in the changing world.

"I thought someone needed to get the population of bees in Washington, D.C. back to what it used to be," said Price. "I made that my mission."

Price has put bees in the forefront of minds in D.C. by installing two hives on top of the National Geographic Museum.

His partnership with George Mason University is officially in its first year. Unofficially, says New Century College professor German Perilla, Sweet Virginia has been working with the college for two years.

GMU currently has about 25 beehives provided by Sweet Virginia to research artificial and natural bee insemination and honeybee mortality.

"The reason we are studying them is because they are very special animals," said Perilla.

Price said they are special for many reasons. However, a big reason they are important is because they help control the prices for a lot of the food people eat on a regular basis. He said \$15 billion of food production depends on bees.

"Without bees, food will be less expensive and plentiful," he said. "Unless the world is going to figure out the honeybee problem, the world's not going to fall apart, but those foods are going to be more of a luxury item."

He has noticed it is harder

every year to keep his bees alive through the winter. Colony collapse is not a big problem in the state. The bigger problems are non-native pests and lack of nearby food sources.

"There were years that we lost half of them," he said about the bees. "This year was a pretty good year. I think we did a pretty good job preparing in the fall."

Bees can travel several miles to find a flower, but they prefer to stay closer to the hive. Price said his honey used to be better when he started Sweet Virginia in 2008 because of the acres of forests and wildflowers prevalent near the foundation's headquarters in Nokesville near Reston. However, the construction taking place off I-66 and a housing development near his property has destroyed that natural land.

"Seven years ago, that was the country," he said. "It's harder for them to make honey."

Local fields were torn up to make artificial turf fields - which the bees cannot use.

However, he feels that bees should be a part of the urban and suburban environment. In D.C., honeybees feast on the cherry blossoms and flowers that bloom alongside roads and in flower boxes.

In anticipation of Earth Day on April 22, he said homeowners can help bees by growing plants they are attracted to, like wildflower patches, anything in the mint family and herbs.

"There's all kinds of lessons you can get from bees," said Price. "This world isn't just random chaos. There's an order and beauty to it."

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News

Cell Phone Tower Debated in Burke

FROM PAGE 3

"In a word: money. It is revenue for the board," Gaertner said. "They are willing to sell out this community to AT&T."

Gloyd said this isn't true and that the board is only considering the proposal because of the issues with cell service.

"Money was never the reason behind whether or not to entertain the proposal," Gloyd said.

GAERTNER IS CONCERNED with what she sees as a lack of communication from the trustees regarding this issue. On the morning of April 21, she says that "no cell tower" signs were removed from the neighborhood.

"I saw the signs as a community service. So many community members didn't know about this," Gaertner said.

Many residents don't read the community's newsletter, Gaertner says. The cell phone survey was advertised on page 5 of the April newsletter. Gaertner believes that something as drastic as a 16-story tower should be placed on the newsletter's front page.

A town meeting is planned for May, Gloyd said, although a date hasn't been set yet.

"There is a long way to go before a decision is going to be made, one way or another, on the topic, I'm fairly certain," Gloyd said.

But Gaertner is worried that the trustees are set on the Landings location.

"Your homeowners association is supposed to protect your property values. How is this protecting it?" she asked.



A view from the top of the hill where Board of Trustees are considering a proposal from AT&T to install a cell tower.



PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

The cell phone tower, if constructed, could be close to the pool pictured here in the Landings community of the Burke Centre Conservancy.

Cankerworm Spraying: Is It Necessary?

Some residents believe spraying of fall cankerworm is unnecessary.

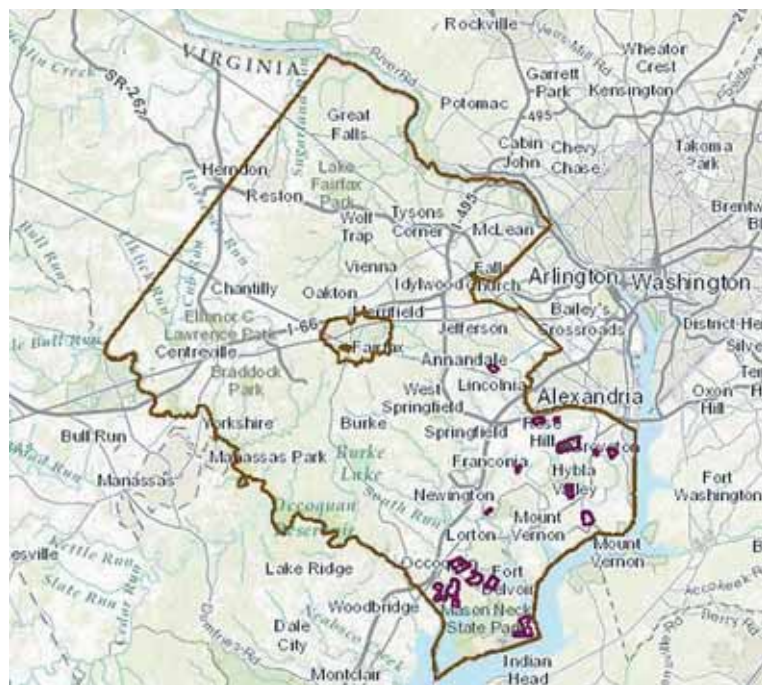
BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Later this month, the Fairfax County Forest Pest Management Branch is scheduled to spray 2,200 acres of the Mason, Lee and Mount Vernon districts with insecticide in order to rid these areas of fall cankerworms, commonly known as inchworms.

"It's kind of unusual for a native insect to be this bad," said Troy Shaw, an urban forester in the Forest Pest Management Branch.

Despite its name, fall cankerworms can be active in the spring, when large populations can lead to defoliation of tree species.

This year, the county has reported a dramatic rise in the num-



The areas in purple demonstrate where spraying for fall cankerworms will occur later this month.

bers of fall cankerworms in residential and forest areas. The county says that the cankerworms can damage hundreds of acres of trees through defoliation.

"Does defoliation kill trees? Absolutely," Shaw said. "In a subur-

ban environment, there are a lot of wildcards, so you can expect to see tree mortality."

So, to eliminate the cankerworm, the Forest Pest Management Branch will be spraying trees with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt).



Ashley Kennedy, an entomologist from Lorton, believes Fairfax County's spraying of fall cankerworms, scheduled later this month, is unnecessary.

The cankerworm will die within a week of ingesting the insecticide.

LORTON RESIDENT Ashley Kennedy, however, isn't convinced that the spraying of this species is justified, saying that it is unnecessary and actively harmful to the environment.

At the public hearings on Fairfax

County's proposed 2015 budget, Kennedy, an entomologist who is a researcher in the environmental science department at George Mason, told the Board of Supervisors that she's spent the last six weeks researching the cankerworms and working with entomologists from institutions across the country to determine the pros and cons of these spraying programs.

The consensus, she says, is that there are no pros. By eliminating the spraying program, the county will save nearly half a million each year.

Although it may be too late to stop the spraying this year, Kennedy said at the hearings that it should be considered in years to come.

A fall cankerworm is called so because the adult moths are active in fall. The county is spraying now because the larvae, or caterpillars, are active in the spring.

During an Ask Fairfax! online chat session on the fall cankerworm, Joan Allen, an urban forester in the Urban Forest Manage-

SEE SPRAYING, PAGE 10

DR. GENE SWEETNAM DR. GRACE CHANG

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AREA ROUNDUPS

Increased Tax Rate Approved In County Budget Markup

The FY 2015 budget markup passed 6-3 at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors public hearing Tuesday.

Those who opposed it were Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth, Springfield Supervisor Patrick Herrity and Braddock Supervisor John Cook.

The markup includes an increase in the tax rate.

"The package increases the tax rate from \$1.085 to \$1.090, a relatively modest half-cent," said board chairman Sharon Bulova.

"It represents a \$25 annual increase in the average residential taxpayer's bill. This would be on top of a \$332 average increase resulting from rising assessment bills."

The markup also proposed increasing the amount of money going into the School Transfer: \$17 million. This is a 3 percent increase than the current year's transfer fund.

The budget will be adopted after a public comment period at the next FCBS meeting on Tuesday, April 29.

Entrants Sought for Anti-Alcohol Awards

A Vienna-based, alcohol-education group wants to honor local, high school groups for their efforts in fighting underage drinking. To recognize high-school students for "doing the right thing," the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) will present its 2014 GEICO Student Awards at a May 16 ceremony in Washington, D.C., and is accepting applications for the honors through Monday, April 28, at <http://www.wrap.org/files/youthOutreach.htm>. Entry is free.

The GEICO Student Awards, now in their 22nd year, are presented each year to high-school student groups promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers. The

awards, including cash prizes up to \$1,000, are judged by a panel of area substance-abuse prevention professionals including representatives from local traffic safety organizations and prevention coalitions.

Student groups are judged on their leadership, effectiveness, innovation and involvement of both the student body and community in their efforts to prevent underage drinking. The winners will receive plaques and monetary awards.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is an award-winning, public private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington Metropolitan area. For more information, go to www.wrap.org.

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NEWS

Alone on the Road

Study raises concerns about amount of time Northern Virginia drivers spend in single-occupancy vehicles.

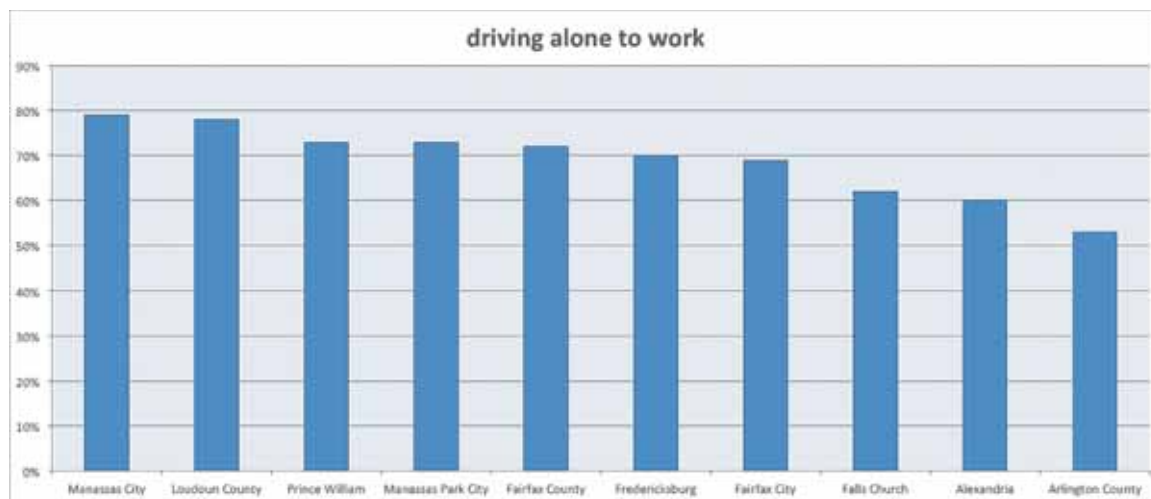
BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Despite the decades-long war against the single-occupancy vehicle, seven out of 10 workers in Northern Virginia drive to work alone every workday. And half of those drivers are alone in their cars for more than 30 minutes each day. These are some of the conclusions of the County Health Rankings, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

"It should be unacceptable to everybody," said Kitty Jerome, action center director at County Health Rankings. "This should be seen as too high a figure when we look at the rate of obesity in America, when we look at the air pollution in America, when we look at the lack of physical activity and we look at the outcome of social isolation and stress."

The good news for Northern Virginia is that most jurisdictions are below the state and national average for the use of single-occupancy vehicles, which is 76 percent nationwide and 77 percent in Virginia. The average in Northern Virginia is 69 percent. The bad news is that the drivers who are alone in their cars are in for a long commute. Of those who commute alone to work, 33 percent of Americans spend more than 30 minutes alone in their car, and 38 percent of Virginia single-occupancy vehicle operators have a commute that's longer than a half hour. The average for Northern Virginia is 47 percent.

"I've seen this phenomenon in some of my nationwide research on private-vehicle commuting



Percent of the workforce that drives alone to work.

where commuter rail absorbs some commuters and those who live beyond the reach of the Metro, in the case of D.C., have no other choice than to drive to work," said Ed Zolnik, assistant professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University. "This makes driving commutes longer on average the further away you get from the reach of the Metro."

BECAUSE NORTHERN VIRGINIA has access to the Metro, rates of drivers who are alone in their cars during the daily commute are lower than other parts of Virginia or the country. Arlington County leads the region, with 53 percent of workers using a single-occupancy vehicle each day. Only Lexington County has a lower rate, which is 51 percent. Arlington's relative success in reducing single-occupancy vehicles is a function of decades of land-use decisions, although the county still has one out of every two workers driving alone to work each day.

"Alexandria and Fairfax County are struggling to catch up from the far-sighted efforts undertaken by

Arlington," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. "These efforts will matter more as the federal commitment to transportation infrastructure continues to remain bankrupt." Perhaps more vexing to people who live in the region is the length of the daily commute for people who are alone in their cars, which is far greater in Northern Virginia than the rest of the commonwealth or nation. According to the Bureau of the Census, the longest average commute times are all in Northern Virginia: Stafford County, Fauquier County and Prince William County all have average commutes near 40 minutes.

"We know that if you're driving alone for very long periods of time, that's costing you in the opportunity to be with other people," said Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of the County Health Roadmaps program at the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. "And we know that having good social support and good interaction with other

folks is also very helpful to supporting good health."

THE DEBATE about single-occupancy vehicle use is slowly moving from a conversation about social behavior to a discussion about economic incentives. When the 95 Express Lanes open in Northern Virginia in early 2015, every vehicle using the HOV lanes will need an E-ZPass or E-Z pass Flex to use them lawfully. Drivers riding alone won't always be able to use Interstate 95's High Occupancy Vehicle lanes during off-peak hours the way they can now, a significant shift from the way the system works now.

"In Northern Virginia and in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, we suffer from the worst congestion in the area," said John Townsend, manager of public and government affairs at AAA Mid-Atlantic's Washington office. "People are so exasperated and so fed up with congestion that they are willing to pay their way out of it."

The 95 Express Lanes begin in Stafford County and include a por-

"In Northern Virginia and in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, we suffer from the worst congestion in the area."

— John Townsend, manager of public and government affairs at AAA Mid-Atlantic's Washington office

tion of I-395 between the Capital Beltway and Edsall Road in Fairfax County. Drivers who choose to use the HOV lanes between Edsall Road and D.C. will be subject to current HOV rules for peak hours. Experts say the shift is not only about using transportation policy to influence social behavior. It's also about raising money to build infrastructure, a trend that has grown in recent years as drivers are asking to pay for a premium services, sometimes known as "Lexus lanes" because of the cost associated with using them.

"There's a lot of capital expenditure that's going on that's being paid for by private investors, either lenders or equity investors," said Jonathan Gifford, director of the Center for Transportation Public-Private Partnership Policy at George Mason University. "These folks are interested in having their loans paid back or generating earnings on their investment, so why would you operate a road for free and say, 'Yeah, come and use our facility for free?' If you have the right to charge for it, you're going to charge for it."

Volunteer Opportunities

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon needs a volunteer knitting instructor to assist with an existing knitting class on Thursday mornings. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Franconia, Reston, McLean

and Falls Church. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults

and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Sully Senior Center, 5690 Sully Rd., Centreville needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults, for one hour two days per week.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer

Solutions.

The Wakefield Senior Center, 8100 Braddock Rd., Annandale needs an experienced canasta player, Spanish-speaking interpreters, and certified instructors for Dance, Zumba Gold, and Pilates. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Past Time for Later Start Times

It's possible that, finally, high school will begin the day a time healthier for teens.

Teenagers are sleep deprived, and sleep deprivation takes a significant toll on safety, health and learning. We've known this for decades.

But for decades, literally, Fairfax County Public Schools (and Montgomery County, Md.) have let a combination of reactionary blabber ("buck up and get moving;" "just tell them to go to bed earlier") and organizational resistance prevent implementing a solution to this very real problem.

Getting up at 5:30 or 6 a.m. to hop on a school bus at 5:45 a.m. or even as late at 6:30 a.m. to get to school by 7:20 a.m. is not healthy for teenagers. It is nearly impossible for teenagers to go to sleep before 11 p.m. or midnight.

Fairfax County high school students average six hours of sleep a night on weeknights. Research shows they need nine hours of sleep.

Research has also quantified the costs of sleep deprivation.

That level of sleep deprivation contributes to depression and suicidal thoughts.

Driving-while-teen is challenging by itself; driving with sleep deprivation is like driving under the influence, and contributes to car accidents both minor and major.

Sleep deprivation is also associated with lack of impulse control, another aspect of teenage life that needs no augmentation.

It's hard to learn when sleep deprived, and harder still to get excited about what one is learning.

Children's National Medical Center was contracted more than a year ago by Fairfax County Public Schools to develop proposals for starting high schools after 8 a.m. Specific proposals will be presented shortly, and those specific proposals are sure to bring out specific objections.

Yes, changing start times will cost money. Yes, changing start times will require changing a lot of other things that many will find inconvenient. It's going to require significant will on the part of supporters of teen health, supporters of later high school start times to push

this proposal across the finish line. Kudos to SLEEP in Fairfax advocates who have been pushing for so long.

How much would you spend, how much would you be willing to be inconvenienced, to prevent a single suicide? To prevent a single serious car crash? These are genuinely the things that are at stake.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 11 and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.) You can upload photos and information directly to our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to editor@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, May 2.

COMMENTARY

The Richmond Hostage Crisis

BY PAT HERRITY
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

The ongoing Medicaid expansion political chokehold that has seized control of Richmond is both frustrating and frightening. As the birthplace of our nation, we Virginians hold our elected officials to a higher standard. We expect our leaders to guide the Commonwealth forward on a path of common sense governance and prudent fiscal responsibility. We expect our leaders to be able to hold a conversation on the pressing matters of the day without it devolving into name-calling and Washington-style politics. And we expect our leaders to know the difference between a principled fight and politics as usual. Unfortunately, the very real issue of whether or not to commit the Commonwealth to significant future financial constraints has shown that many of our leaders are unable to live up to our expectations.

As a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I was the lone vote against our board's endorsement of Medicaid expansion in Virginia. I made that vote after I attempted to amend our endorsement to call for the passage of a clean budget bill; that



Fairfax County and our public schools; a fact affirmed by our staff. I cannot begin to imagine the disastrous impacts to our Commonwealth's smaller jurisdictions should aid from Richmond be delayed. Everything would be affected from public safety to schools to the human services safety net provided by the Commonwealth and its localities.

Every spring, local governments around the Commonwealth advertise, debate, and adopt a budget. However, not a single local government in Virginia would be as reckless as Richmond and set out on a course of government shutdown because of an ideological difference of opinion. As elected officials we know how to move from the rough and tumble of political campaigning to leading and engaging in solutions for our constituent's best interests. Contrary to Governor McAuliffe's recent campaign promise to not play

failed 2-7 with one abstention. In my comments, I pointed out that this Medicaid fight could directly jeopardize \$500 million

in state aid to

politics with the budget, he and his fellow Senate Democrats have repeatedly threatened that they will shut down the not only the state government, but also many local governments who rely on significant funding from Richmond, if not given their way on Medicaid expansion. This is the sad state in which we find ourselves when just a few short months ago Governor McAuliffe used his inaugural address to call for Virginians to find "common ground" to solve our most pressing problem.

The Medicaid expansion issue

has been thrust upon Virginians in an effort to sharply divide our leaders in Richmond. Clearly there are opinions on both sides but the sad reality is that the people of Virginia are pawns in this political game of brinksmanship. Governor McAuliffe should use his position as Virginia's chief executive officer to walk us back from this disaster, to settle the future for the coming year in our counties, cities and towns and take the Washington-style politics out of Virginia. Then we can find common ground.

Emergency Response Classes Begin in Springfield

This Saturday, April 26, Fire and Rescue Department is beginning a basic Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class at the LDS Church in Springfield. There is still plenty of room if you'd like to attend. The class will meet on four Saturdays and run each day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; tentative class dates are April 26, May 3, May 10 and May 24.

Fire and Rescue also has added a new CERT Class at the Fire and Rescue Academy beginning Monday, May 5. This class will meet on every Monday from 7-10:30 p.m. (except for May 26) and will finish on June 23. To sign up for either class, you first must register as a volunteer at www.fairfaxcert.com to receive registration information on the classes.

If you have trouble registering, or have any questions, email fire.cert@fairfaxcounty.gov.

CERT helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members also can help with non-emergency projects that help improve the preparedness and safety of the community.

For more information on CERT, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr.

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NEWS

Savannah Willet, a tenth-grader at Robinson Secondary School, meets her French pen pal Adrien for the first time at Dulles on April 20.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONICA JUGNET



French Students Visit Robinson

American and French students learn language, culture through exchange program.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

For Monica Jugnet, a French teacher at Robinson Secondary School's International Baccalaureate Program, teaching French is more than just advising students on grammar or learning verb conjugations.

Exchange programs like the one taking place at Robinson this week is what makes learning a language worthwhile, she says.

"This is why we learn a language," Jugnet said. "It's not just for the grammar; it's for the reason of communicating with others and having experiences like this."

And the students agree. They are hosting 23 students and three teachers from Digne les Bains in Haute Provence. From April 20 to May 1, the students are staying

SEE EXCHANGE, PAGE 10



Matt Eline, a principal at Robinson, speaks with two teachers from France.



Robinson French teacher Monica Jugnet, left, greets exchange students during a reception on April 21.



Robinson students who are hosting 23 students from France and two teachers, along with three teachers at Robinson, gather together to celebrate the exchange program on April 21.

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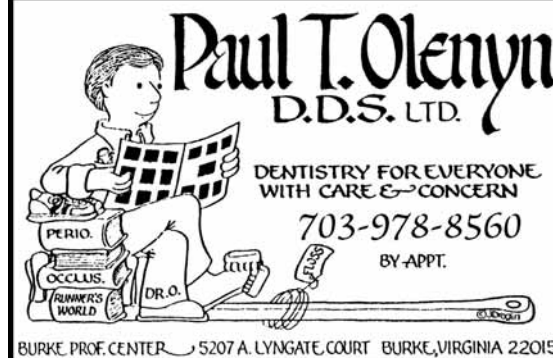
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THE CONNECTION

Exchange Program Promotes Friendship

FROM PAGE 9

with Robinson families, learning about American history and culture while strengthening their language skills.

Christine Schaffrath, a French teacher at Robinson, said the students have been communicating via Facebook and Skype prior to their arrival at Dulles on April 20.

"This program really brings French to life," Schaffrath said.

Victoria Fong and Beige Casey, students at Robinson Secondary School, said on the second day of the exchange program that the experience has been interesting so far. Both students are hosting French students at their homes.

"Yesterday we played video games. That seems to be a universal language," Fong said.

Fong is even taking the French student she is hosting to a Ludacris concert at George Mason during the visit.

Jugnet has pushed for an exchange student program ever since her husband, who is French, reconnected with his exchange family from Germany at age 54. It's an important connection that she



Mr. Likaj and Mr. Moutte, teachers from France who accompanied 23 students to the United States, celebrate the exchange program at a reception on April 21.

wanted her students to experience.

Robinson students hosting French exchange students this year had the chance to visit France last year, and they loved it.

"The region where these French students are from is just beautiful,"

said Robinson French teacher Pamela Dister.

Robinson students participating in the program have various levels of fluency in French. The level of English among the French students also varies. This has made communicating somewhat interesting at times, Fong and Casey say. Fong is in IB French, so she is able to communicate more efficiently than some of the other students, and often acts as a translator.

Technology apps such as Google translate have also been helpful, the students said.

The French students are joining their host students for school at Robinson, and are also participating in a variety of excursions in the area. They'll be visiting Mount Vernon, the Crime and Punishment Museum and several Washington, D.C. monuments.

This is only the second time in Robinson's history that the program has taken place. Two years ago, French students visited Robinson. Jugnet, the other teachers and the students hope this is the beginning of a long tradition.

Insecticide Spraying Questioned

FROM PAGE 5

ment Division, said it is believed that only the caterpillars will be directly affected during the spraying.

"While Bt only directly harms caterpillars, there may be a shortage of food available to birds in the limited areas being treated," Allen said during the chat.

Kennedy discovered through her research that a pair of chickadees requires between 4,000 and 9,000 caterpillars to rear one clutch of chicks.

"Songbirds will undoubtedly suffer if the county proceeds with this Bt spraying plan," she said.

Fairfax County has consulted the Virginia Department Conservation and Recreation's Natural Heritage division and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to ensure no endangered species are affected.

"There is a chance that we would be killing other species of caterpillars while we are spraying, but there is nothing out there that is available that is just specific for cankerworms," Shaw said.

But Kennedy says the program's targeting of one pest will cause collateral damage. Larvae of Virginia's state insect, the Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly, and Monarch butterflies could be affected.

Kennedy points to the fact that the cankerworm does not bite or sting, and poses no threat to humans, pets or livestock.

"The fall cankerworm is not a pest of enough significance to warrant such a wide scale offensive," Kennedy said.

Shaw, however, says that the caterpillar is a nuisance for many homeowners.

"There's a lot of truth to be told that the caterpillars cause nuisance issues. It drives people crazy," he said.

DUE TO THE HEAVY WINTER experienced this year in Fairfax County, Kennedy thinks it is unlikely a cankerworm outbreak is occurring.

"Fall cankerworm population already suffered to natural forces," she said. "Cool wet spring weather, which we have experienced plenty of this year, has an adverse effect on its numbers."

Shaw, however, says that there isn't really scientific evidence that the cold winter alone has caused a decrease in cankerworms.

The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Friends of Dyke Marsh, Friends of Mason Neck, Northern Virginia Bird Club and Friends of Huntley Meadows have also voiced their opposition to the spraying.

After hearing Kennedy's testimony, Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey asked whether it was too late to stop the program from occurring this year.

Although the supervisors asked for Kennedy's testimony to be referred to the Urban Forest Management Division, spraying is still set to occur the week of April 29. If there is rain or colder weather, Shaw said, spraying may be delayed since it is leaf dependent.

The spraying of Bt, which has no impacts on humans or other mammals and will only last for a maximum of two weeks, will prevent homeowners from using other insecticides that kill all insects and could last all summer, Shaw said.

"If we don't do what we're doing, there's going to be an increase in homeowners' use of pesticides that will have the direct opposite effect of what we're trying to prevent," Shaw said.

Anyone who has questions or concerns related to the fall cankerworm spraying can call the Fairfax County Forest Pest Management Branch at 703-324-5304.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 25, 26 & MAY 2, 3

"Pride & Prejudice." Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. www.wtwdrama.org to purchase tickets.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25-SUNDAY/JUNE 1

The Fantasticks. Fridays & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The Fantasticks is a funny and romantic musical about a boy, a girl, two fathers and a wall. Tickets : \$15.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25-SUNDAY/MAY 18

"Failure, A Love Story" Play. Performances: April 25-May 18. Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Call 1-800-494-8497 or www.thehubtheatre.org. Note: For ages 10 and up.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

"The Sixth Generation" - Spring 1960s Sock Hop Series. 7:30 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Attention all Baby Boomers and Bobby Soxers! Join The Sixth Generation for a special concert in 60's Dance Hall Style at the Workhouse Arts Center! \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Robinson Crew Team Annual Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Burke Nursery and Garden Center at 9401 Burke Road, Burke. The entire nursery inventory is for sale, including annuals, perennials, stones, hanging baskets, shrubs, trees, and master gardener/landscaping design. www.robinsoncrew.org or plantsale4crew@gmail.com or 703-980-8725.

22nd Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. 8- 10 a.m. The Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield. Honoring real-life superheroes at the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. Tickets: www.volunteerfairfax.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. PF Chang's in Fairfax Corner, 4250 Fairfax Corner Avenue, Fairfax. Cost of \$30 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. RSVP required. Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women. Call 301-924-4101 or visit www.newbeginningsusa.org.

2014 Healthy Strides Community 5K/10K. 7:30 a.m. Burke Lake Park. Head on out to Burke Lake Park on April 26 and join the Fairfax County Park Authority for the Healthy Strides Community 5k/10k!! Enjoy a scenic run around the beautiful grounds of Burke Lake Park. The 10k runs along a wooded path and takes runners around the lake. While the 5k follows a scenic tree-lined road through the park. Register here: http://pracing.racebox.com/events/register/5224ef94-365c-408a-b417-7f46c0a86524.

Spring Faire. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carleigh Parkway, Springfield. There's something for everyone - jewelry, fashion, home decor, kitchen, garden, gourmet, and more. Free admission and door prizes. Proceeds will be donated to Bethany

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PHOTO BY HELEN PAFUMI/HUB THEATRE

From left: Tia, Shearer, Carolyn Kasner, Maggie Erwin in Hub Theatre's production of "Failure: A Love Story," which traces the lives and departure of three sisters in the Fall Family in 1920s Chicago. The play starts April 26-May 18 at John Swayze Theatre at the New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax.

House to help victims of domestic abuse. www.womansclubofspringfield.org.

Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony. 8 p.m. GMU Center for the Performing Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) and music director Christopher Zimmerman present Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony.

SpringFest 2014. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. www.springfestfairfax.org.

Spotlight International Children's Festival. 4-10 p.m. The Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts and Pinnacle Academy are proud to invite students, staff, and international organizations from our metro DC community to represent their national heritages, share their national costumes, music, and folklore dances.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Beau Totale Salon & Spa Cut-A-Thon. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Beau Totale Salon & Spa, 5765-T Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke. In honor of Earth Month, Beau Totale Salon & Spa is conducting its 7th Annual Cut-A-Thon with all proceeds benefiting for clean water. From 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., haircuts are \$50, facials are \$40 and make-up applications are \$20. All are by appointment only. 703-250-0495.

Jeffrey Siegel, "Mistresses and Masterpieces." 7 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. The pianist performs music inspired by composers' major love interests. \$19-\$38, Mason ID permits 1 free ticket on April 15. cfa.gmu.edu.

Young Artists Musicales. 6 p.m., George Mason University Center for the Arts lobby, 4400 University Drive, MS 2F5, Fairfax. Piano students and winners of the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association Honors Recitals perform short pieces. Free admission. cfa.gmu.edu.

Break a Sweat for a Homeless Pet. 9 a.m. Giles Run Meadow Park, 8400 Lorton Road, Lorton. Registration is \$15 at www.metrorunwalkspringfield.com/. This is the second annual Break a Sweat For A Homeless Pet, the area's premier running event for people and their dogs, featuring a five mile, 5K and one mile race to benefit The Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Last year the event raised nearly \$2,000.

Racers are encouraged to run with their dogs in the 5K and one-mile races. The five-mile race is for human runners only. Post-race activities include a hot dog bar with all the fixins', dog photo booth, dog care giveaways, dog agility play, and

canine splash pools.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

A Fragile Trust: Plagiarism, Power, and Jayson Blair at The New York Times. 4:30 p.m.

Johnson Center Cinema, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A Fragile Trust is a fascinating documentary that explores power and ethics, corporate and office politics, race politics, representation, and accountability in the mainstream media. Free admission. http://fams.gmu.edu/

American Women: The Long and Winding Road. 7:30 p.m.

Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Join a discussion with three panelists about the differing ways men and women now think and feel about their work and home life. Should there still be gender-specific roles in contemporary society?

International Jazz Day Concert. 8 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and free for Mason students with a valid Mason ID.

THURSDAY/MAY 1

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Season Preview Event. 7 p.m. Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Tickets: \$10.

FRIDAY/MAY 2- SATURDAY/MAY 3

"The Producers." 7 p.m. South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. A musical performed by South County High School students that will provide laughter and comedy. PG- 13. General admission at the door is \$12 and \$10 for senior citizens and students. Discounted tickets can be purchased in advance at southcountytheatre.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 2, 3, 9, 10

"Be Our Guest." 7:30 p.m. May 3 and 10 at 1: 30 p.m. Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Step into the enchanted world of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. For tickets please visit NVPlayers.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 3- SUNDAY/MAY 4

4th Annual Fairfax Fine Art Festival. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday. Fairfax Corner, 11901 Grand Commons Ave., Fairfax. Watch as Grand Commons Avenue blossoms into an extraordinary outdoor art gallery showcasing the original handmade work of artisans from 17 states.

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South County Boys' Lax Beats State Champion Chantilly

Stallions have sights set on competing for state title.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The South County boys' lacrosse team still has plenty of work to do in order to fulfill its hopes of winning a state championship. On Tuesday evening, however, the Stallions proved they deserve to be mentioned as a title contender.

South County jumped out to a 4-0 lead and never trailed during an 8-6 victory over defending state champion Chantilly on April 22 at South County High School. Both teams entered the contest undefeated, but it was the Stallions who took control early.

"It means a lot, but you can't let it get to your head," senior midfielder David Symmes said. "... It's just a statement win. It shows we're contenders."

Junior midfielder Kevin Quigley scored with 2:40 remaining in the third quarter, giving South County an 8-4 lead. Chantilly answered with a goal by sophomore attackman Colin Zimmerman late in the third and another by senior midfielder/attackman Conor Kelly with 5:49 remaining in the fourth, but the Chargers got no closer.

SOUTH COUNTY handed Chantilly its first loss since the Chargers fell to Madison in last season's AAA Northern Region championship game on May 24, 2013.

"I think it just puts us in the conversation right now as one of the best teams in the region," said first-year South County head coach Dale Nalls, who spent last year away from coaching after leading the Mount Vernon boys' program from 1994-2012. "That's where we want to be; we want to be in the conversation as a team that's going to be a tough out, hopefully, when we get to the playoffs."

Players on both teams struggled with footing after first-half rain-fall left the grass playing surface slick. South County managed to build an early lead, however, starting with Symmes' first goal less than 2 minutes into the contest. Sophomore midfielder Nate Cho and junior attackman Austin



South County senior attackman David Krein shoots against the Chantilly defense during the teams' April 22 contest at South County High School.

Fitzmaurice also scored in the first quarter, giving the Stallions a 3-0 advantage.

Quigley scored in the opening minute of the second quarter, extending the Stallions' lead to 4-0.

"With our physical abilities, we use it to our advantage," Symmes said. "I think we have a faster tempo than any team out there, in my opinion. We really beat people into the ground. We're relentless."

Chantilly junior midfielder Colin Meehan got the Chargers on the board with a goal at the 9:08 mark of the second quarter and senior attackman Jonathan Popham added a goal with 6:33 remaining in the first half, cutting the South County lead in half. Fitzmaurice responded with his second goal in the final minute of the second quarter, giving South County a 5-2 halftime lead.

SYMMES' SECOND GOAL gave South County a 6-2 advantage with 8:21 remaining in the third.

Symmes, who will play college lacrosse at West Point, broke the shaft of his stick while contacting a Chantilly player in the second quarter. Symmes used the shaft of a teammates' stick to fix his own and returned to the field to score his second goal.

"He's vital to our offensive success," Nalls said. "He draws shutoffs — they were shutting him off for a lot of the game. Other teams have to game plan for him so that sometimes throws their own players out of sync a little bit.

"I think it just puts us in the conversation right now as one of the best teams in the region. That's where we want to be; we want to be in the conversation as a team that's going to be a tough out, hopefully, when we get to the playoffs."

— South County boys' lacrosse coach Dale Nalls



South County junior midfielder Kevin Quigley, right, scored two goals against Chantilly on April 22.

When that happens, then other players on our offense benefit and reap the rewards. ... It wasn't just David, but David creates mismatches for other guys and that opens things up for Nate Cho and Kevin Quigley and Austin Fitzmaurice and David Krein and

Tyler Alexander."

Goals by Chantilly's Zach Gilbert and Nick Jung cut the South County lead to 6-4 in the third, but the Stallions extended the lead back to four with goals by Krein and Quigley.

With the win, South County im-

proved to 9-0. The Stallions hosted Osbourn Park on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline, and will host Lake Braddock at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

South County won the Patriot District championship last season. This year, Symmes said the Stallions have their sights set on greater accomplishments.

"Really, the district is sort of looking at the small picture to us," he said. "We're looking for something bigger — state championship. If you're going to go to the state championship, you have to compete with teams like Chantilly."

Chantilly dropped to 9-1. The Chargers faced Yorktown on Wednesday, after The Connection's deadline, and will travel to face Woodson at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Robinson Baseball Improves to 10-2

The Robinson baseball team defeated Chantilly 2-1 on Tuesday, improving its record to 10-2.

The Rams have won three straight and four of their last five, including a 6-5 win over McLean on April 17.

Robinson will travel to face Westfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25 before hosing Lake Braddock at 6:30 p.m. the following evening.

Lake Braddock Baseball Wins Fourth Straight

The Lake Braddock baseball team defeated T.C. Williams 16-15 on Tuesday, giving the Bruins four straight wins while improving their record to 7-5. Lake Braddock defeated Woodson 13-2 on April 21 and won the final two games of its spring break trip to Charleston, S.C. The Bruins will travel to face Robinson at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 26 and will host South County at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29.

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Friends of the Burke Centre Library Annual Meeting: 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

SATURDAY/ APRIL 26

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. hart90.org
CASA Information Session. 11 a.m.-Noon., at Fairfax CASA office, 4103 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 200, Fairfax. Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is hosting an information session on advocating for abused or neglected children. 703) 273-3526, x22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org
Community Emergency Response Class. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 6942 Sydenstricker Road, Springfield. Sign up here: www.fairfaxcert.com.

MONDAY/ APRIL 28

Greenbriar East Kindergarten Orientation/Registration. 2:15 p.m., at Greenbriar East Elementary, 13006 Point Pleasant Drive, Fairfax. 703-633-6400.

WEDNESDAY/ APRIL 30

Book Donation. Robert E. Lee High School Library, 1200 N Coalter St, Staunton. All types of books are welcome—fiction, nonfiction, children's books, cookbooks, college textbooks and more! 703-924-8370.

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Dog Adoption. 12-3 p.m. PETCO, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. 703-817-9444 or for more information visit hart90.org

TUESDAY/MAY 6

Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax. For individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer's. This program is for anyone who would like to know more about what legal and financial issues to consider and how to put plans in place.

TUESDAY/MAY 13

Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Drive, Suite 400, Fairfax. For individuals and families dealing with Alzheimer's. This program is for anyone who would like to know more about what legal and financial issues to consider and how to put plans in place.

ONGOING

Singers Wanted for the Celebration Singers. The women's show choir is interested in new talent to perform at various Northern Virginia community sites. Practices are Wednesdays 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Burke. Contact Gayle Parsons, 703-644-4485 or email gparsons3@cox.net.

Online Scavenger Hunt. Visit Fairfax tasks those interested in becoming "citizen ambassadors" to the county (those informed on fun, creative weekend outings in the area) to find two Fairfax County Ambassador icons hidden throughout the fxva.com website in order to join the ambassador team; those who find all five hidden pins will receive a complimentary gift. www.fxva.com/online-ambassador.

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m., at the Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesday and/or Thursday classes in a heated pool designed to work on balance and core muscles for injury prevention. \$10. 703-667-9800.

American Red Cross CPR, First Aid and AED. Various times, at 2720 State Route 699, Suite 200, Fairfax. One-year certification, digital or print materials and continued education on Mondays through Thursday and Saturday. \$70-110. www.redcrossna.org.

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Realtors: Great Kitchens Help Sell Homes

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Designer Jacquelin Lluy, of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield, recently transformed the kitchen of a home in Mantua, in Fairfax, from a small, dark space to a light-filled, free-flowing culinary oasis.

"The kitchen was built in the 70s with a small, dark eat-in kitchen table for four," Lluy. "The family wanted a view of their expansive wooded lot and an island built for entertaining and family meals with their young boys."

The new kitchen includes an island made of maple. "The two-height island has a 'truffle' finish [and] was designed for game nights, football watching, entertaining friends on the higher level while the lower level is used for quick weekday meals and easy clean up with sink, trash/recycle and dishwasher located there."

BEFORE PUTTING ONE'S HOME on the market, real estate agents encourage homeowners to spruce up the kitchen. Well-designed, free-flowing kitchens can often make or break the sale of a home say some local Realtors.

"I think a kitchen is one of the top things that a buyer looks at," said Arlington Realtor Michelle Sagatov of the Michelle Sagatov group at McEneaney Associates.

Alexandria-based Realtor Elizabeth Lucchesi of the LizLuke Team at McEneaney Associates said, "Kitchens are the nucleus of the house. It is where everybody hangs out. The kitchen has to look good and feel good."

Ken Nies, of Two Poor Teachers in Annandale, recently remodeled the kitchen in a Falls Church home adding "custom window millwork, lighting, a backsplash, a large center entertainment island and farm sink." Nies advises using "different materials on your island to give a custom look."

Realtors suggest investing in quality cabinetry and countertops. "Granite is something people look for but there are other materials that people can use like caesarstone and quartz," said Sagatov. "Choose nice, solid counter tops that compliment the cabinetry."

FOR THOSE WHO WANT to update a kitchen and think they will be selling their home within five to seven years, Sagatov suggests that homeowners think about the resale value before remodeling. "Make the kitchen timeless," she said. "Don't put too much of your personality into the kitchen. If you

want to show off your personality, do that with paint or kitchen decorations, but make the things that cost a lot of money neutral and timeless, so when you go to sell your home, it appeals to a much broader audience."

If you plan on renovating the kitchen, do it early, "not when you're about to sell so that you can enjoy it too," continued Sagatov.

HOWEVER, ONE DOESN'T need to remodel an entire kitchen before putting a home on the market. Real estate agents say there are a few changes that homeowners can make to help their kitchen sparkle.

"If you don't have an updated kitchen there are things that you can do to make it look updated, clean and fresh," said Sagatov.

Make sure the kitchen has matching appliances that are in good working order. "It doesn't matter if they are stainless steel, black or white as long as they match," said Lucchesi.

An open kitchen appeals to buyers. "Having a kitchen area where you can cook while spending time with family, is important," said Lucchesi. "Having it open into a living area allows the cook to be connected to others."

Spruce up dated cabinetry. "Painting cabinets a crisp white goes a long way," said Sagatov. "A lot of older kitchens have dark wood. Putting a coat of fresh paint and new hardware goes a long way and is an investment that gives you so much money back."

Sagatov said, "Another easy fix would be painting the walls. Taupe or grey paint on the walls in the kitchen would be soothing and go well with the white cabinets."

Fixtures are another minor element that can make a big impression. "Make sure that cabinet pulls are updated with materials like glass or brushed nickel," said Lucchesi. "Great faucets are like a nice pair of shoes or a good belt."

Lucchesi speaks from experience. "We sold a 1940s house recently with a small kitchen," she said. "We added new appliances, a new faucet, new cabinets and it sold for \$24,000 above the list price in four days with seven offers."

"When enhancing a house for sale, you want to appeal to the broadest audience," said Lucchesi. Polished and updated kitchens create appealing pictures. "Sexy kitchens photograph well," she said. "When people are looking at kitchens in online photos, we don't want to give them a reason to tell their agent, 'No I don't want to see that house.'"

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What to Expect Buying or Selling

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Real estate agent Joan Caton Cromwell says she lost a home bidding war last week in Falls Church even though her client was a strong contestant.

"We were one of five contracts and we even waived the appraisal," said Cromwell of McEneaney Associates. "Any house that is close-in [to Washington, D.C.] and that is in nice condition, is going to attract a lot of attention."

Real estate agents say spring is one of the busiest times of the year for home sales and there is dearth of available homes in popular neighborhoods. "The lack of inventory in sought-after communities like Arlington and McLean has already ushered in the return of bidding wars for move-in ready properties," said John Eric, Vice President TTR Sotheby's International Realty in Arlington. "I expect all sectors of the market to see price gains and demand to remain high."

HOME PRICES are on the rise. "If you put a home on the market and it gets multiple offers, the eight other people who didn't get the house will bid on another house," said Cromwell. "In a market where there are multiple offers it definitely drives the prices up and it drives them up quickly."

"We see a new trend in all price ranges where buyers want to buy where they can walk to amenities, restaurants and shops. Buyers are satisfied with smaller houses that are conveniently located."

— Marsha Schuman,
Washington Fine Properties

Anthony B. Sanders, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Real Estate Finance at George Mason University said, "Very simply, this is still an area that is growing, so housing home sales will continue to rise, but more slowly than during the real estate bubble."

Still, agents are optimistic as they enter the spring buying season. "The state of the real estate market is great," said Marsha Schuman of the Washington Fine Properties' Schuman Team. "The weather is behind us and there is a momentum going into the spring market that feels very positive."

The spring market in the Washington, D.C. area is aligned with academic calendars. "It starts in April and May in the suburbs," says Cromwell. "Those in the military or who work for the World Bank for example, put their homes on the market in spring to prepare to relocate during the summer."

Proximity to public transportation increases desirability. "For example, Reston

SEE WHAT TO EXPECT, PAGE 7

Fairfax County Real Estate Overview

- ❖ In February, 789 homes were sold in Fairfax County, an increase of 2.1 percent from the 773 homes sold in February 2013.
- ❖ On average, homes that sold in Fairfax County in February were on the market for 60 days, 8 days longer than the 52-day average in February 2013.
- ❖ The average home sales price of all homes that sold in February 2014 in Fairfax County was \$499,765, an increase of 4.8 percent over the February 2013 average sales price of \$476,735. Compared to the annual 2013 average home sales price of \$531,136, the February price decreased 5.9 percent.
- ❖ The average sales price for detached homes that sold in February 2014 was \$677,199, an increase of 7.4 percent over the February 2013 average of \$630,557.
- ❖ The average sales price of attached homes increased 6.9 percent in the same time period, to \$352,384 from \$329,534 the year before.
- ❖ In February, the number of active listings in the County was 1,814, an increase of 26.3 percent over the 1,436 listed in February 2013. Based on the February 2014 listings and the current sales rate, there is a 2.3 month supply of homes for sale in the County, up from the 1.9 month supply a year ago.

SOURCE: Fairfax County
Office of Management and Budget

A Picture Perfect Home

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Realtors Marsha Schuman and Betsy Schuman Dodek drive up to a home to show it to a prospective buyer, they know that they have only one chance to make a good first impression. Potomac-based Dodek and Schuman of the Schuman Team of Washington Fine Properties say a home's curb appeal matters.

"When we think of curb appeal we think of the lawn and landscaping, front door, windows, roof and how it all looks," said Dodek. "Buyers want to buy from someone who has taken really good care of their home and that translates in to curb appeal."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUPLACE

Realtors say this Oakton home exemplifies ideal curb appeal, a critical factor when selling a home.

Schuman added, "If things are not nice on the outside, then [potential buyers] wonder what the house will be like on the inside."

REAL ESTATE AGENTS SAY buyers want to purchase a well-cared for home, and the exterior aesthetic of a home creates that impression. Whether you're planning to put your house on the market or would just like a clean and fresh exterior to welcome you home each day, local real estate experts offer advice on enhancing a home's exterior.

McLean-based realtor Chris Pritchard of McEneaney Associates suggests starting by

"The sense of arrival is very important — you never get a second chance to make a first impression."

— Chris Pritchard

critiquing your own home. "Stand in front of your house and take a look," she said. "Walk up the driveway, ask yourself what

you would want to see if you were shopping for a house."

The yard should be pristine and vibrant. "Trimming, mulching and planting some colorful plants are key," said Pritchard.

"Add color with flowers, pots with plants, choosing things like geraniums and pansies," said Dodek. "Adding color just makes such a difference. It makes the yard pop."

Consider safety. "Is the yard hazard-free?" asks Dodek. "It needs to be freshly mowed and mulched with dark mulch because that makes the greenery pop. Make sure your bushes are trimmed and proportionate. Look at trees to make sure they aren't blocking the size of the house."

"One of the next areas we look at are patios, walkways and fences," continued Dodek. "Do they need repairs? Is there loose mortar?"

McLean Realtor Ann McClure of McEneaney Associates says that a home's exterior should be well-lit. "You need good looking and functional lighting which should be on in the evening."

Examine the entrance. "Take a look at the front door," said Dodek. "Does it need painting? We had a recent listing and we painted the door red and added new hardware and a kick plate and that made it stand out. That is something that is very cost effective to do."

A clean appearance is critical. "There should be no algae stains on the roof," said McClure. "The homeowner should make sure that if they have siding that it doesn't

SEE PICTURE PERFECT, PAGE 7

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Local Designers Help Unveil DC Design House

Area tastemakers dream home, currently on the market for \$3.85 million.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Local designers showed off their master work when the 2014 DC Design House was unveiled recently. From Arlington to Burke, and Alexandria to Potomac, Md., the area's top designers competed for an opportunity to donate their talent to transform a local, grand home into a showcase home.

The home, which is on the market for \$3.85 million, is now open to the public for tours. It features six-bedrooms, five full-and two half-baths. Built in 1929, the home features a three-car garage and a pool. The stone house offers three levels and nearly 8,000 square feet of living space, which local designers transformed.

THE HOME'S FRONT FAÇADE was designed by David Benton and Jim Rill of Potomac's Rill Architects. Inspired by the stately stone home, the duo decided to add a bit of detail and interest in the form of "style appropriate light fixtures, shutters, furniture and accent colors." When choosing a paint color for the front door, they wanted a hue that was traditional, but unexpected. Their choice: a "high-gloss verdigris green-blue [that] immediately catches your eye from the street. They replaced the existing solid wood single door with a glass-paned French door that "pulls outside views and daylight into the entry hall."



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown, of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria, designed the family room of the DC Design House. The duo created a room with French doors that open to the pool area when the weather is mild, but added a linear, modern fireplace to create a warm and cozy space during cooler months.

Victoria Sanchez of Victoria At Home in Old Town, Alexandria, designed the family breakfast room. "I wanted to create a room with a casual and cozy feel," she said. The room, which has large picture windows that offer uninterrupted views of nature, connects the kitchen with butler's pantry/wine tasting room. Sanchez choose woven rattan furniture to fill the space.

Jeff Akseizer and Jamie Brown of Akseizer Design Group in Alexandria designed the family room, which overlooks the pool and patio. The design duo created a room with French doors that open to the pool area when the weather is mild, but added a linear, modern fireplace to create a warm and cozy space during cooler months. The room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and "nods to both a mid-century flair and modernism."

One of the home's guest bathrooms was created by Arlington-based Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling Inc. Mann describes the small space as "chic, classic and timeless ... a jewel box bath." The room features Calcutta marble flooring in a herringbone pattern and the acoustic "Moxie" showering system that allows one to listen to music while bathing. Mann includes the home's original iron bathtub.

Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer, of Cleveland Hall Design in Burke, created a guest bedroom in the home. In an effort to create a light and airy space, the duo selected wall paper in a pink floral pattern.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

One of the home's guest bathrooms was created by Arlington-based Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling.

"We choose streamlined furniture and fabrics to accent the Asian feeling of the wallpaper." The room, designed whimsically in pink and green, features twin beds. The art in the room was painted by Donelson's mother, Janice Donelson, a classically trained artist.

The master bedroom was designed by Nancy Colbert of Design Partners in McLean. The space was repurposed to allow for a larger master bathroom and a walk-in closet with built-in shelving. Colbert discovered a painting that she thought would be perfect



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The master bedroom was designed by Nancy Colbert, of Design Partners in McLean. The space was repurposed to allow for a larger master bathroom and a walk-in closet with built-in shelving.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria At Home in Old Town, Alexandria, designed the family breakfast room. The room, which has picture windows that offer views of nature.

"I wanted to create a room with a casual and cozy feel."
— Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria At Home in Old Town Alexandria

for a master bedroom, and designed the room around it. She chose an ivory turned-post king bed that she furnished with silk bedding in parchment and seafoam green. Colbert added crown molding for additional detail. "One of the room's multi-purpose features is a silver toned gilded butterfly side

table that was created by a newly discovered artist. It is a work of art and a table."

Beth Boggs, Teri Lohmann and Lynne Parmele of C2 Paint, Potomac Paint & Design with locations in Alexandria, Arlington and Chantilly, added color to the back

staircase. The team chose paintable wallpaper in shades of plum, lilac, and spring green. Paintable wall paper "conveniently camouflages old plaster wall cracks, provides durability for high-traffic use and creates a striking textured design."

Now in its seventh year, the an-

nual event is a fundraiser for Children's National Health System, formerly Children's National Medical Center. The D.C. Design House has raised more than \$1 million and attracted more than 55,000 visitors over the past six years.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

The home's front façade was designed by Rill Architects' David Benton and Jim Rill of Potomac.

Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer, of Cleveland Hall Design in Burke, created a light and airy guest bedroom in the DC Design House. The room, designed whimsically in pink and green, features twin beds. Art in the room was painted by Donelson's mother, Janice Donelson, a classically trained artist.

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Sampler of New Homes Offerings



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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

New homes in Vienna in the Maymont community, built by Basheer & Edgemoore.

Basheer & Edgemoore Wins Silver

The Maymont community in Vienna, Va. won a Silver Award for Basheer & Edgemoore at the National Sales and Marketing Awards for 2014. Hosted by the National Association of Home Builders, Basheer & Edgemoore took silver in the Community of the Year category.

The 5,000-8,000-square-foot homes at Maymont feature amenities such as hardwood flooring, granite countertops and brick and stone exteriors.

Since its founding, Basheer & Edgemoore has emerged as a leading developer and builder of

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Ryan Homes — Hampton Reserve, Fairfax Station

Ryan Homes is offering several models of single family homes up to 6,000 square feet at Hampton Reserve in Fairfax Station. Homes at Hampton Re-

serve sit on lots of at least one acre and have three-car garages. Located at 8830 Chrisantho Court, Fairfax Station, VA, 22039. Call 540-940-9397.



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Metro West — with prices from \$454,990-\$831,845, Pulte has 1,256-1,942 square-foot condominiums and townhomes next to the Vienna Metro with 2-4 bedrooms, 2-3.5 baths, located at 2952 Rittenhouse Circle, Fairfax. Call 888-817-2201 or visit www.pulte.com.

Potomac Yard — 1,736-4,167-square-foot condominiums and townhomes priced from \$619,990-\$1,133,845. Located at 2400 Main Line Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22301. Call 888-617-8583 or 800-665-4161, or visit www.pulte.com.



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Summit Oaks — a community of new single family homes in Lorton, within seven miles of Lorton Station Town Center, Kingstowne Wegmans (coming in 2014), Kingstowne Center, Springfield Target and the Springfield Town Center project. Summit Oaks will offer two floorplans: The Carey (3,331-5,849 square feet) and The Davidson (3,492-4,917 square feet). Prices start in the low \$700,000s. Contact Lisa Sullivan at 703-339-9670.

Cameron Glen — new homes located just off Judicial Drive in the City of Fairfax, with the benefits of new construction amidst the charm and conveniences of Old Town Fairfax. Prices start at \$639,900. 4092 Sutherland Place, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Callaway — a community of new single family homes in Annandale, with three single family floor plans ranging from 3,037-4,363 square feet. Prices start in the upper \$700,000s. Contact Rhonda Shapiro at 571-266-9172 or Lisa Chapel at 703-994-3780.

Evergreene Homes

Columbia Place — 1100 S Edgewood St., Arlington, VA 22204, Condos From the Mid 500s - Towns from the 800s. Call 703-868-8196.

Vale Oakton — 11797 Stuart Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124. Single Family, \$2,313,925. Call 703-466-5411.

Wolf Trap Woods — 9518 Leemay St., Vienna, VA 22182. Single family-\$1,449,900. Call 703-466-5411.

Oakton Heights — 10412 Miller Road Oakton, VA 22124. Single family homes from \$1.3 million. Call 888-925-7411.

Westover Place — 1009 North Kensington St., Arlington, VA 22205. Townhouses from the \$800,000s. Call 703-652-2949.

What to Expect

FROM PAGE 3

is popular because of the Silver Line,” said Cromwell. “North Arlington and Falls Church are popular. Anything that offers a decent commuting experience for someone who can’t afford what they want in the city will be sought after.”

Schuman said, “We see a new trend in all price ranges where buyers want to buy where they can walk to amenities, restaurants and shops. Buyers are satisfied with smaller houses that are conveniently located. They want an easier life. Convenience is the new real estate buzzword. Property becomes compelling when buyers see value.”

Sanders said some communities are especially competitive. “Virginia has two of the wealthiest counties in the country, Loudoun and Fairfax counties, so those communities should see a fairly short turn over.”

NOT EVERYONE IS KEEPING with the trend. “We’re not seeing middle class families buying homes through the mortgage market,” said Sanders, the GMU professor. “Their income was devastated during the housing bubble burst due to foreclosures. Real household income has fallen since 2007. So the American middle class is worse off than it was in 2007. It’s more high-income families with cash or investors who are buying homes.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

John Eric, Vice President TTR Sotheby's International Realty says lack of inventory in sought-after communities like Arlington and McLean has already ushered in the return of bidding wars for move-in ready properties like this Arlington home.

Schuman says that homes priced below \$1.3 million “are being snapped off the market if they are well conditioned and fairly priced. The ultra-luxury market, homes over \$2 million, is a little bit slower paced at

present, but there are signs that these buyers are out there and wanting to buy.”

Cromwell agrees, “The 600-900K price point is very busy for a house in good condition.”

A Picture Perfect Home

FROM PAGE 3

need power washing.”

“Power wash driveways, walkways and even the house sometimes,” said Pritchard. “The house should be washed before it is painted. Do any kind of painting or touch up painting of siding trim and doors that needs to be done. Sometimes you don’t have to paint at all if you do power washing. All homes get dusty. Sometimes paint fades and needs repainting.”

“Another easy thing is the windows,” said Dodek. “Remove screens and wash the windows. You want your house to sparkle inside and out.”

Pritchard said, “Curb appeal also goes to having a fence in good shape: washed and painted or washed and sealed. The home’s deck should be in good shape. More often than not a deck should be power washed and painted or stained or sealed or whatever the appropriate finish is.”

Minor touches can make a major impact. “Take a look at your mailbox,” said Dodek. “Is it upright? Is it tilted? Does it need to be painted?”

Don’t hide your amenities. “If you have a swimming pool, we get them to remove the cover,” said Dodek. “There’s nothing more beautiful than a beautiful blue swimming pool.”

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

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Local REAL ESTATE

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Top Sales in February, 2014



1 3802 Millard Way, Fairfax — \$1,700,000



3 7840 Gold Flint Drive, Clifton — \$1,237,522



6 11418 Lilting Lane, Fairfax Station — \$1,165,000



9 16700 Cedar Post Court, Centreville — \$1,045,000

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1 3802 MILLARD WAY	5	..	5..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,700,000 ...	Detached ...	1.21	22033	THE OAKS	02/18/14
2 11389 AMBER HILLS CT	5	..	5..	2	FAIRFAX	\$1,423,061 ...	Detached ...	0.83	22033	ESTATES AT FAIR OAKS	02/27/14
3 7840 GOLD FLINT DR	6	..	6..	2	CLIFTON	\$1,237,522 ...	Detached ...	5.00	20124	WYCKLAND	02/21/14
4 6212 SUDLEY FOREST CT	4	..	5..	1	CENTREVILLE ..	\$1,235,140 ...	Detached ...	5.02	20120	FAIRFAX NATIONAL ESTATES	02/14/14
5 12489 FALKIRK DR	5	..	4..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,199,000 ...	Detached ...	0.51	22033	DARTMOOR WOODS	02/12/14
6 11418 LILTING LN	5	..	4..	0 ...	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,165,000 ...	Detached ...	6.95	22039	SINGING WOODS THE	02/27/14
7 9751 THORN BUSH DR	5	..	4..	1 ...	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,162,500 ...	Detached ...	5.02	22039	ESTATES AT ROSELAND ...	02/14/14
8 10500 SUMMERWIND LN	4	..	4..	2 ...	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,050,000 ...	Detached ...	5.00	22039	SUMMERWIND	02/06/14
9 16700 CEDAR POST CT	5	..	4..	1	CENTREVILLE ..	\$1,045,000 ...	Detached ...	5.02	20120	CEDAR CREST ESTATES ...	02/18/14

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