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Immigration Fraud Alert

An imposter pretending to be an immigration officer has targeted Herndon in the latest fraud to hit northern Virginia.

The fraudulent immigration officer has called two residents over the weekend, threatening to deport them over information in their immigration papers unless they give them a large sum of money, according to the Herndon Police Department.

The caller asks the victim to go to a gas station or convenience store and transfer a large sum of money into green dot prepaid cards, said Public Information Officer Lieutenant Jim Moore.

"We actually had someone who actually fell for it and lost money this weekend," he said. "They actually went to the convenient store and bought a lot of cards. They lost a lot of money."

He declined to say how much

money the victim paid. Also, he did not know how someone could get access to information about residents who have filed immigration forms.

Fairfax County Police Department and Loudoun County Police Department are also getting reports from residents.

Lt. Moore urges anyone who has received a call to contact their local police department. To contact Herndon PD, call 703-435-6846.

"If you are unsure whether or not the person you are speaking with is a legitimate representative of the U.S. Government, hang up and call the police. Do not agree to send money over the phone. If you have questions pertaining to your immigration status, you should report to your local immigration office and inquire in person," according to a press release.

Herndon-Reston FISH to Hold Annual Fundraising Event

Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicating to help families meet emergencies and short-term needs, will hold its 9th Annual Fish Fling Gala at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport Hotel on Saturday, April 26, from 6 to 11 p.m. This gala is FISH's largest fundraising event to acquire the financial support for its Family Assistance Program. In 2013 FISH worked with over 1300 area families. The 2014 FISH Fling Gala includes a sit-down dinner, an auction with dozens of great items, and live music by The Franklin Project band. The event also honors volunteers and partners who contribute to FISH's effort.

The reservation for one person to attend this cocktail attire event is \$85. There are five different sponsorship levels for the FISH Fling, including Angel Fish (\$5,000), Big Fish (\$2,500), Gold Fish (\$1,000), Sail Fish (\$500), and Sun Fish (\$250).

For further information on the event and sponsorships, contact Fling@HerndonRestonFISH.org.

Help Save Paul's Smiling Eyes

A live and silent auction will be held for Herndon neighbor, Paul Fitzgerald. He has bone marrow cancer and needs a Stem Cell Transplant. As the main breadwinner, he has been unable to work and faces additional unemployment. The fundraiser is at 7 p.m. on April 26 at the Church of the Epiphany, 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive, Herndon. It will include hors d'oeuvres and dessert as well as live entertainment from SRO. Please buy your tickets at <http://tinyurl.com/paulssmilingeyes> or at the door. Tickets are \$25 per couple or \$15 per individual.

Green Lizard Fun Ride Bike-A-Thon on May 10

The 2nd Annual Green Lizard Half-Century Fun Ride Bike-A-Thon, held in conjunction with Herndon Rotary Club, is Saturday, May 10. All proceeds will be utilized to support the Herndon Middle School's Orchestra and Herndon High School's Chorus, Band and All Night Grad Party.

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Voters Wanted: Party canvas on Saturday

Republican candidates for Congressional 10th District seat offer a mix of experience.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

After weeks of debates and campaigning, the Republican party will choose a candidate on Saturday to oppose John Foust (D) to succeed U.S Rep. Frank Wolf in the Va. 10th District Congressional race.

The party canvass will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Two of the candidates, Barbara Comstock and Bob Marshall have held office previously as delegates.

According to VPAP.org, Comstock raised \$761,354, Stephen Hollingshead raised \$122,178, Howard Lind raised 140, 838, Marshall raised \$55,240, Marc Savitt raised \$13,764 and Rob Wasinger raised \$82,742.

Although Marshall raised significantly less than Comstock, he felt confident he is the right candidate for the 10th district race.

"I have won 13 consecutive elections in Northern Virginia. Barbara Comstock won three. Obama won the state delegate district I represent by 11 percent. Barbara Comstock's district split evenly between Obama and Romney. Groups from the left and the right have joined me to pass laws to protect our constitutional rights," said Marshall in an email.

Comstock, who felt she had the upper hand because of her work with Congressman Wolf, said she is concerned about several national security issues.

"I'm very concerned about our current national defense policy which was weakened by President Obama," she said.

Lind is the only candidate who has served in the military. He previously ran for U.S. Senate.

"The whole thing with my campaign is taking a stand, which is



Barbara Comstock

Age: 54
Current position: Delegate
Education: Middlebury College, Political Science; Georgetown University Law Center
Town of Residence: McLean
Family: Married to Chip Comstock. Three children.
Key Affiliations: Board for Friends of Clemjontri, Board for McLean Orchestra, Board for Childhelp, founded Arts House Caucus



Bob Marshall

Age: 69
Current position: Delegate
Education: Belmont Abbey College, History and Philosophy; California State University- Dominguez Hills, Humanities
Town of Residence: Manassas
Family: Married to Cathy Marshall, five children
Key Affiliations: All Saints Catholic Church, Prince William Republican Committee, Knights of Columbus

not just taking a stand against the Democratic party, but also taking a stand within our own party."

Savitt said his candidacy provides innovative ideas and a fresh face.

"I am the only candidate in this race, who has never worked for the government or held elective



Stephen Hollingshead

Age: 44
Current position: Board of financial services firm Candor, LLC
Education: University of Houston, Political Science; Marquette University, politics masters and doctorate
Town of Residence: Leesburg
Family: Married to Jan Hollingshead. Six daughters and seven sons.



Marc Savitt

Age: 59
Current position: President, National Association of Independent Housing Professionals; President, The Mortgage Center
Education: Keane University, Political Science
Town of Residence: Clear Brook
Family: Married to Cheryl Savitt; Five children.
Key Affiliations: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, Clear Brook Fire Department

office," said Savitt in an email. "I consider this an advantage, as those with such prior employment, are the very same individuals who are directly responsible for the government's loss of credibility with the American people."

However, Hollingshead finds that his work with the government



Howard Lind

Age: 56
Current position: Business Consultant at Howard R. Lind, LLC
Education: Virginia Tech, Statistics; Naval Postgraduate School, Information Systems
Town of Residence: McLean
Family: Four daughters
Key Affiliations: American Legion, Navy League, Association of the U.S. Army



Rob Wasinger

Age: 42
Current position: Former Chief of Staff to Senator Sam Brownback and Congressman Kerry Bentivolio
Education: Harvard University, Economics
Town of Residence: Fairfax Station

gave him strong ideas of what to change in the political sphere.

"I am uniquely qualified to change what is happening in Washington because I am a businessman who has created jobs and met payrolls; because I have actually reformed government as a member of the Bush Administra-

tion where I helped save \$2 billion a year in welfare fraud; and because I am the only candidate who has actually taught the constitution," said Stephen Hollingshead in an email.

Wasinger said he represents the future of conservatism, something he does not think the other candidates do.

"There's an old saying that old generals are always fighting the last war," said Wasinger in an email. "The pundits have anointed two frontrunners: an 11-term state representative intent on continuing the battles from 25 years ago and a career lobbyist coronated by the Washington elite because of her willingness to follow their lead. Neither will unite our party because they don't represent the future of conservatism."

Registered voters in the following precincts vote at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.:

❖ Hunter Mill Magisterial District: 240-Colvin

❖ Dranesville Magisterial District: 301-Chain Bridge, 303-Churchill, 304-Cooper, 306-Great Falls, 309-Kenmore, 311-Langley, 314-Mclean, 321-Clearview, 322-Forestville, 323-Shouse, 327-Sugarland, 328-Hickory, 329-Seneca, and 331-Spring Hill

Registered voters in the following precincts vote at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA 20124 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

❖ Hunter Mill Magisterial District: 229-Fox Mill

❖ Springfield Magisterial District: 803-Clifton, 804-Colchester, 805-Fairfax Station, 815-Woodyard, 838-Sangster, 839-Silverbrook, 841-Popes Head, 845-Fountainhead, 847-Greenbriar West, 849-Newgate North, 850-South Run, and 854-Newgate South

❖ Sully Magisterial District: 902-Brookfield, 903-Cub Run, 904-Stonecroft, 905-Franklin, 908-Kinross East, 909-Kinross West, 911-Navy, 913-Rocky Run, 914-Vale, 915-Virginia Run, 916-Waples Mill, 917-Stone North, 920-Chantilly, 921-Deer Park, 923-Bull Run, 925-Old Mill, 927-Lees Corner #1, 928-Poplar Tree, 929-Difficult Run, 930-Lees Corner #2, 931-Carson, and 932-Stone South

WEEK IN HERNDON

FROM PAGE 2

Green Lizard Cycling will provide pre-ride bike checks and the Herndon Rotary will host the post-ride party 12:30-3 p.m. at

the Green Lizard tent, free to all participating cyclists.

Registration forms may be obtained in person at Green Lizard Cycling, across from the depot in downtown Herndon, 718 Lynn

Street, Herndon or may be downloaded from the Green Lizard website www.greenlizardcycling.com

Advance registration, now through May 1, is \$40; May 2-May 10 registration is \$50.

Payment can be made by mail or in person. Cash, check, debit or credit card accepted. For debit and credit card payment contact the Green Lizard at 703-707-BIKE (2453).

Alone on the Road

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

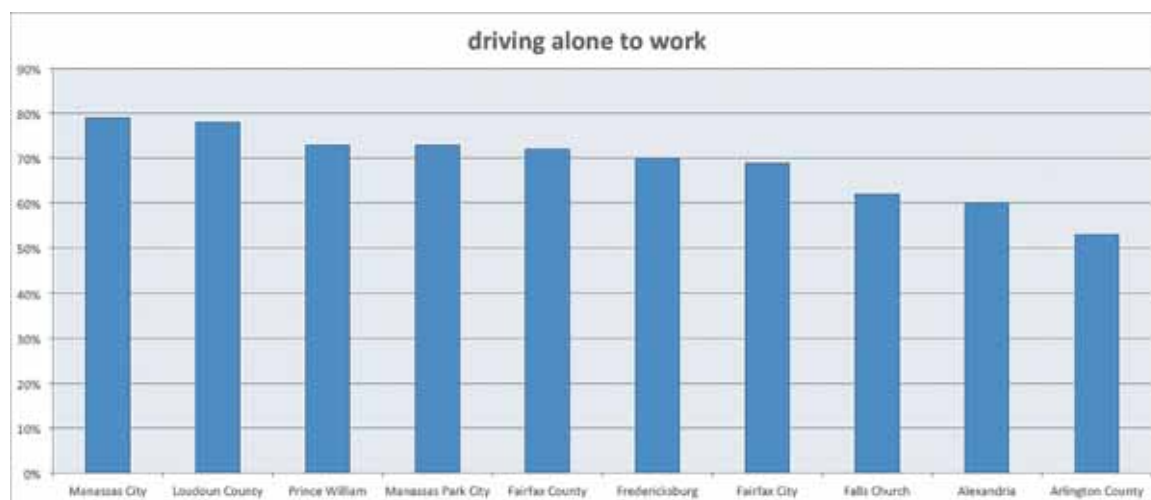
By MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

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.

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.



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH / THE CONNECTION

Officer Lee Trawick was chosen to be Jude's handler.

Jude, Reporting for Duty

Herndon PD's new bomb-sniffing dog a friendly workaholic.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Herndon Police Department's newest officer is charismatic, ambitious and, well, a little furry.

Jude, the department's new explosive-detecting English Springer Spaniel, is a lovable pup who will be used to snuff out bomb threats in the town and beyond.

The town acquired him in February after he received six weeks of training. His partner-in-law, HPD Officer Lee Trawick, was chosen to be his handler and had to receive six more weeks of training together. Both will have some type of training each month.

"My training was to learn how to read him and handle him," said Officer Trawick.

Chief of Police Maggie DeBoard said there were many good candidates to handle the dog.

"We were looking at overall experience, maturity. Someone who will work the shifts we need them to work. Someone who has a flexible schedule who can come out on the weekends during high-volume events."

She said that Officer Trawick only had a few years of experience in Herndon but also served as a police officer in Georgia for nine years.

Jude will be on location before high-volume town events take place, nose to the blacktop. He will also be used if a neighboring city or even Washington Dulles National Airport needs to know if a suspicious package could potentially be a bomb.

He has been taught to detect

numerous materials used in bombs, like black powder and water gel, by odor. Other dogs, like German Shepherds, tend to scratch the item or the ground. Jude simply sits, waiting for his handler to deal with the situation.

Herndon received the black and white 2-year-old dog with a federal grant through Northern Virginia Emergency Response System. Manassas Park, Town of Leesburg and Virginia State Troopers also received bomb-sniffing dogs through the grant.

Trawick said Springer Spaniels are frequently used as bomb-sniffing dogs in England.

While the town uses German Shepherds as patrol dogs, Springer Spaniels are typically friendlier. Jude loves belly rubs and getting scratched behind his floppy ears.

"It's been a little different having a dog like Jude," said Chief DeBoard. "I oversaw a bomb unit for a while, and I was used to having a Labrador. He's a smaller dog and not the traditional fit, but you can see he has that drive and ambition."

She said that explosive-detecting dogs are tools for the department to use, and can sometimes have good or bad days. She said they are not 100 percent accurate.

When Jude is off-duty, he is home playing with Officer Trawick's Westland Highland White Terrier.

"He's not aggressive," he said. "He's sociable."

He is trained to be calm around loud noises and different people petting him. Every dog has a different personality, just like every individual."

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OPINION

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 pas-



sage of a clean budget bill; that 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 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 adver-

tise, 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 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 brinkmanship. 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.

Write

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

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Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

Going Into Lyrical Woods

NextStop Theatre Company presents 'Into the Woods.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

There was a cheerful bustle taking place as NextStop Theatre company members were rehearsing Stephen Sondheim's striking musical "Into the Woods." Smooth voices were warming up as the keyboard began to bring musical life into the rehearsal hall.

"Into the Woods" is a big 17-member cast production directed by Evan Hoffman, with a 10-piece orchestra and a score of nearly 30 numbers, under the musical direction of Elisa Rosman. The show continues NextStop's poised move into its first year as Northern Virginia's newest professional theater company. The cast includes top notch musical theater talent who have performed at Signature, Ford's, Keegan, Toby's and many others.

"Into the Woods" has music and lyric by Stephen Sondheim, with book by James Lapine. It intertwines familiar Brothers Grimm fairy tales such as "Little Red Riding Hood," "Cinderella,"



Nora Palka as "Little Red Riding Hood" in NextStop Theater Company's "Into the Woods."

"Rapunzel" and "Jack (the giant killer)," with a new tale of a childless baker and his wife. It is constructed to show what happens after the usual, "happily ever after" fairy tale endings.

"We set the bar high for this season and ourselves when we transitioned to become NextStop



Brittany Martz as "Cinderella" in NextStop Theatre Company's "Into the Woods."

and audiences have embraced us," said Hoffman. "We are so very grateful to our audience for their support. Without them this would not have been possible."

Asked about "Into the Woods," Hoffman said that the company will be taking its own "fresh approach" to the iconic, award-win-



Priscilla Cuellar as the "Witch" in NextStop Theatre Company's "Into the Woods."

ning musical." That includes "not glossing over or exploring some of the hard-hearted aspects" that the fairy-tale characters in the show present as they pursue their "I wish" dreams.

When asked for an example, Hoffman mentioned Jack's Mother who sings lyrics, "We have to

Where and When

NextStop Theatre presents "Into the Woods" at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Performances are May 1-June 1; Thursday-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays 2 p.m. & 7 p.m. Tickets: \$30-\$32. Call 703-581-5930 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org

leave, I don't care how, do what you must to survive." In the Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales, characters were often "fighting for their lives, willing to do what it takes to survive."

The show's set will be a two-story library setting where the fairy tale characters will come to life as if magically from books being read.

The key role of the witch is played by musical theater veteran Priscilla Cuellar. She views the witch not as just an unpleasant evil-doer. "The witch has some softness in her that can be seen when you look in the way she poses, moves and in certain specific lyrics" such as "Our Little World." The NBC TODAY Show co-host, Kathie Lee Gifford, will be the voice of the Giant's Wife.



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SPORTS

Herndon Softball Edges Marshall in Eight Innings

Herndon catcher Martire delivers two clutch doubles in victory.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon softball team showed rust from not practicing during spring break, striking out a dozen times in an extra-inning contest against Marshall on April 21.

While the Hornets found hits hard to come by during their return to the diamond, Herndon made the most of the four they produced.

Catcher Melanie Martire drove in two runs with a double in the third inning and center fielder Mary Dugan plated the game-winner with a single in the eighth as the Hornets beat Marshall 4-3 at Herndon High School. The Hornets won their third straight game after starting the season 0-4.

"It's just what we needed to keep us going," Martire said. "After spring break, [we're] feeling good."

Martire, Herndon's cleanup hitter, had two of the team's four hits. Her two-out double to deep center field in the third inning drove in a pair of runs and gave the Hornets a 2-0 lead. She led off the bottom of the eighth inning with a double that glanced off the shortstop's glove. Two batters later, Dugan's single up the middle gave Herndon a walk-off win.

"[Martire is] everything a coach could hope for in a player," Herndon head coach Amber Kirk said. "... She's very passionate about the game and just a passionate person in general, so that rubs off on the other girls. ... She is a player that wants it and she makes the other girls know that she wants the game, she wants to win."

HERNDON SOPHOMORE PITCHER

Chase Cooksey delivered a two-out double in the fourth inning, stole third base and scored on a throwing error, giving the Hornets a 3-0 lead.

While Herndon made the most of its opportunities, Marshall managed 11 hits but left seven runners stranded in scoring position. The Statesmen left the bases loaded in the fifth and seventh innings.

Trailing 3-0, Marshall cut the lead to one with a pair of runs in the fifth inning, including an RBI single by junior Ashley Stern. Center fielder Marieka Pierce tied the score with an RBI single in the sixth, but the Statesmen failed to capitalize on multiple opportunities.

"I thought that they were coming together, they were jelling," Marshall head coach Missy Whittington said. "I just felt like we couldn't get our hits in a timely fashion."

Herndon sophomore pitcher Chase Cooksey made her first start of the season on Monday against Marshall.

PHOTOS BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION



Herndon catcher Melanie Martire went 2-for-3 with a pair of doubles and two RBIs against Marshall on April 21

I felt like [Herndon's] hits kind of came in a timely fashion."

Herndon senior Katherine Milazzo earned the victory in the pitcher's circle, allowing one earned run in three innings of relief. She gave up six hits and walked three.

Cooksey made her first start of the year in the circle, lasting five-plus innings. She allowed two runs — one earned — and five hits, while striking out one.

"I'm really impressed with how she did," Kirk said about the sophomore pitcher. "Her personality, she's kind of more timid, a quieter person on the field, but her performance ... just proved she can hold her own

out there."

Senior Sarah Kurtz also pitches for Herndon.

"They're all hitting their spots," Martire said, "and that's all a catcher could ask for."

Kirk said junior shortstop Ashley Schnarrs has also played well for Herndon this season.

Last season, Kirk's first with the Hornets, Herndon went 15-5 in the regular season and entered the Concorde District tournament as a top seed, but the Hornets lost to Chantilly in the semifinals. Kirk said the team has its sights set on winning the Conference 5 tournament this year.

"It's just what we needed to keep us going. After spring break, [we're] feeling good."

— Herndon catcher Melanie Martire

While Herndon returned from spring break on a positive note, Marshall had its seven-game winning streak snapped and its record dropped to 8-4. The Statesmen are in the midst of the program's best season since 2010, when Marshall finished 17-8 and reached the region semifinals.

"We're trying to set the bar really high for the girls," said Whittington, who is in her second season as Marshall head coach. "We expect a lot out of them. Our Marshall girls, we're here to play. We've got some really talented players on the team; we've got talented players coming to Marshall. It's not a slam dunk to be on this team as [it might have been] with a smaller school from past years. The population is growing and the competition is getting super."

SOPHOMORE PITCHER MADISON

LARSEN is a primary reason for the Statesmen's success. After being named team MVP as a freshman, the right-handed hurler has put together another strong season. Against Herndon, Larsen allowed four runs — one earned — and four hits in 7 1/3 innings. She walked four and struck out 12.

While dominant at times, she also appeared frustrated with the home-plate umpire's strike zone.

"She has a lot of different pitches and she's just a workhorse," Whittington said. "She's got a really great mindset. You can tell: when she's smiling, she's in the zone. I think tonight a few things took some twists and turns, maybe she just got off kilter. She's one of those you want in there in the eighth, ninth inning."

Sophomore left fielder Celestina Dunavant finished 2-for-3 for Marshall. Larsen, junior shortstop Kat Uher, freshman second baseman Amelia Ely and junior catcher Shelby Thomas each entered Monday's game hitting better than .300.

Marshall entered the Conference 13 portion of its schedule on Tuesday, when the Statesmen traveled to face Wakefield, after The Connection's deadline. Marshall will travel to face McLean at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, and will host Falls Church on Friday, April 25.

Whittington has lofty expectations for the Statesmen.

"We're going to be in the state championship on June 14," she said. "That's my goal and it's just one ... game at a time."

Herndon traveled to face Westfield on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Hornets will host Centreville at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25.

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23 WEDNESDAY/APRIL 30

Kirby Celebrates "Reston at Fifty" in Photos. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Reston Center Two Building, 12005 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston.
www.leagueofrestonartists.org

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23-SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Mind, Heart, Vision Exhibit. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Every spring Art teachers at Herndon High School invite senior artists to participate in a juried art show. Students show paintings, photographs, drawings, and digital art. Student work is juried by professional artists in the local community. 703-956-6590
www.artspaceherndon.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Taste of the Town: April in Paris. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Worldgate Centre at the intersection of Elden Street, Centreville Road and Worldgate Drive in Herndon.
Enjoy an evening featuring entertainment reminiscent of Paris, delectable food from 20 local restaurants, raffle and auction. Tickets are \$15/person, \$25/couple, \$5 for children 4-12, children 3 and under free. Proceeds from Taste of the Town fund arts programming and outreach activities produced by the Foundation at ArtSpace Herndon.
www.artspaceherndon.org
Amphibian Idol. 7 - 8 p.m. Sunrise Valley Wetlands - 12700 Sunrise Valley Drive. Park on the left (west) side of the office building. All ages. Frogs and toads sing in the spring hoping to attract mates, providing us with a memorable outdoor experience. Learn which songs belong to which amphibians, and explore Sunrise Valley Wetlands to see which are calling. Reservations required by April 21. Fee: \$5/person RA members, \$7/person Non-members. For more information, email naturecenter@reston.org, or call 703-476-9689 and press 5.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Senior Container Gardening. 1 - 2:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Adults 55 & older. Learn what flowers and herbs grow best in containers and how to arrange them creatively. Listen to a presentation then plant a small container to take home. Reservations required by April 22. Fee: \$8/person RA members, \$12/person Non-members. For more information, contact Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-



View the Mind, Heart, Vision Exhibition until April 27 at ArtSpace Herndon.

6530 for reservations.
Empty Bowls Fundraiser. 5:30-8 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Pre-event tickets are \$25 and tickets at the door are \$30. It will include a bowl handcrafted by a local potter, that you may keep, plus soup, bread, a beverage and dessert. All proceeds raised will go to hunger relief in Northern Virginia. Pre-event tickets can be purchased by mailing a check made out to Food for Others and sent to Giving Circle of HOPE, P.O. Box 8832, Reston VA 20195. Tickets will be held at the door. For questions, please contact: emptybowls@givingcircleofhope.org or call 703-665-9334. Visit www.givingcircleofhope.org

FRIDAY/APRIL 25, 26-MAY 2, 3, 9, 10

"Chapter Two." 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Neil Simon's sparkling comedy. Tickets can be purchased at www.restonplayers.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Champions4Children 5K Race and Fun Run. 9 a.m. Lake Fairfax Park, Reston. Fun for the whole family including performance by children's magician The Great Zucchini Race proceeds to benefit SafeSpot of Fairfax, a safe haven for abused children in Fairfax County. SafeSpotFairfax.org
Global Camps Africa Dinner and Auction. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Oracle Headquarters 1900 Oracle Way, Reston. Global Camps Africa (GCA) is hosting a dinner and auction to raise money to send to HIV-affected children to camp where they learn life skills, health and HIV awareness. GCA, a locally run, internationally active nonprofit provides young people in South Africa a chance to spend two weeks connecting, learning, laughing, and camping, all in hopes of combatting the spread of HIV/AIDS. Tickets: <https://www.globalcampsafrika.org/>

celebrate-sizananai-2014 or call 703-437-0808.

Bill Emerson & Sweet Dixie. 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. A phenomenal group of musicians led by Bill Emerson who was a founding member of the Country Gentlemen and also founded the Navy's Country Current band. Bill surrounds himself with superb musicians and their combined talents are absolutely top notch. \$15 admission. <http://www.bluegrassville.com/billemerison>

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Trout Fishing in America. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This Grammy Award nominated duo's infectious mix of folk/pop and family music is enriched by the diverse influences of reggae, Latin, blues, jazz and classical music. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston.
www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

Worm Composting. 2 - 3:30 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Ever thought about composting but just don't have the space? Worm composting is a natural method of recycling food waste. It's so simple and odor free that it can be done anywhere. See an established bin and make one to take home. Learn how to turn your kitchen scraps into rich organic soil and compost tea. Reservations required by April 24. Fee: \$35/bin RA members, \$40/bin Non-members.
Organic Gardening. 7 - 8 p.m. Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Organic gardening uses landscape design and the environment to improve and maximize the health and the development of plants and soil without the use of commercial pesticides and fertilizers. Learn about this mainstay method of sustainable gardening, and bring your questions. Reservations required by April 24. Fee: \$6/person RA members, \$8/person Non-members.

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FAITH NOTES

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

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

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

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m.

Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Morning prayer on

Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-reston.org.

Adult Sunday school will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.



PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

Where Am I?

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



"I'm sitting in the rocking chair, good buddy," (a "Smokey and The Bandit" reference, if you're not of a certain vintage), between two 18-wheelers where the police radar can't find me – further referencing the C.B. radio days. Updating to the "Kenny-with-cancer" days, I'm a month or so past my last very encouraging CT Scan, the one I wrote about when my oncologist offered me a congratulatory handshake, a gesture he had not made in the five-plus years since we've been tangling with this damn disease; and I'm approximately seven weeks away from my next CT scan, "intervals" every three months at present. Seven weeks is far enough away where I'm not even thinking about it, or the possibility of its discouraging results that I'll know about on or about June 9th. I am cruising, emotionally, and savoring the excellent results from the last scan and not yet worrying, wondering, hoping, praying (too much) about my next scan. This means, at the moment – or moments, I should say, I am enjoying a relatively stress-free and blissful ignorance to what may – or hopefully may not, be happening in my lungs. I am, to quote a Three Stooges line: "as safe as in my mother's arms."

Let me admit for the record, when you're originally scheduled as terminal by your oncologist ("13 months to two years"), grasping at straws, rationalizing, wishful thinking and denial (which as you regular readers know is more than just a river in Egypt...an "NYPD" reference), become de rigueur, a sort of standard operating procedure – whether you intend it to be or not. And whether these days – or should I further admit and characterize them as daze – are simply a grand illusion, or a type of non-arrogant delusion, is another distinction I'm not the least bit worried about. The reality, for me, is that I can breathe easily – figuratively and literally, thank God? (And to be fair, thanks also go to my oncologist and to myself as well; for we've both played a part in this cancer battle.)

And why shouldn't I be exceedingly – and perhaps naively – grateful, for my still being alive and reasonably well. Only 16 percent of lung cancer patients survive beyond five years; I'm at five years and two months now. Whatever good news I receive, whatever positive spin I can give my results, whatever smiles and handshakes I elicit are crucial to this pursuit of life that I live every day. The only recurring and disturbing thought I have, now that I'm past this statistically relevant five-year survivability measure (and this is not about being in remission, which I'm not; I'm still undergoing chemotherapy) is: I can't help juggling in my mind whether being five years post-diagnosis makes me closer to the end of my life or further away from it. As such, when I experience a kind of break in my action, when I'm between halves, so to speak, when the past and future of my cancer life is not front and center but instead more off to the side, these are days to relish and I don't even like condiments. But that's what a cancer diagnosis, particularly a terminal one, will do: change everything. Rolling with the punches is how one has to learn to live: good with the bad, bad with the good, the last scan, the next scan, comparing the results from your ongoing lab work and your occasional face-to-face appointments/exams with the oncologist are what drive this cancer bus that you'd rather never have been on. But you're on it, all the time. This experience is a never-ending (hopefully never ending, let's be honest) roller coaster-type ride of emotions, treatment options, preoccupations and mental gymnastics. Anything and everything I can do to find some peace in the life-expectancy challenged and very unexpected medical circumstances in which I find myself so immersed, is what I do. I'm in a good place right now. It won't last given the timing of what my life's cycle is at present (scans and all), but no matter. I'm not stressing backwards or worrying forwards. This is as good as it gets, realistically speaking.

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

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THE CONNECTION
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Fairfax County COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP

**SATURDAY
APRIL 26**

**Household Hazardous
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9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the
Reston South Park & Ride Lot
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and Fox Mill Road, Reston)

Household Hazardous Waste from residences will be accepted at no charge. We will **not** accept business or commercial waste, lead acid batteries, automobile batteries or large, grill-sized propane tanks.

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 26**

**Secure Document
Shredding**

from 8 a.m. to noon at the
North County Human Services Center
(1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston)

Securely shred up to five boxes of paper documents. Please remove paper from binders and remove binder clips, plastic covers and binding. We will not accept CDs, floppy discs, credit cards, film or photographs.

**SUNDAY,
APRIL 27**

Electric Sunday

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the
I-66 Transfer Station
(4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax)

Recycle old or unwanted televisions, computers and other peripheral electronics such as stereos, speakers, printers, scanners and more. Also recycle unbroken fluorescent lights.



These **FREE** events are available to Fairfax County residents only. No business waste will be accepted. For complete details, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling, or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.

A Fairfax County, Va., publication.
For reasonable ADA accommodations, please call 703-324-5230, TTY 711.



2014 Spring Real Estate & New Homes

Shaker Knolls by
Carr Homes in
Herndon.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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Realtors: Great Kitchens Help Sell Homes

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Designer Jacquelin Lluay, 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," Lluay. "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 like Lluay's 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.

SEE TIPS, PAGE 7

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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

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?"

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

— Chris Pritchard

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."

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."

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. They created "cascading light down the hand-woven wall covering..." 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 was able to preserve and refinish the home's original iron bathtub.

Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer, of Cleveland Hall Design created a guest



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

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

bedroom in the home. In an effort to create a light and airy space, the duo selected wall paper in a pink floral pattern. "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,



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

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Victoria Sanchez, of Victoria At Home in Old Town, Alexandria, designed the family breakfast room. The room, which has large, picture windows that offer uninterrupted views of nature, connects the kitchen with butler's pantry/wine tasting room.

Janice Donelson, a classically trained artist.

THE MASTER BEDROOM was designed by Nancy Colbert of Design Partners in McLean. The space was repurposed to al-

low for a larger master bathroom and a walk-in closet with built-in shelving. Colbert discovered a painting that she thought would be perfect 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

Go: D.C Design House

Location: 4600 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008
Hours: Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., closed Monday, \$25. The home will be open for tours through May 11, 2014. Visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.



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 room is filled with organic textures, tone-on-tone colors and "nods to both a mid-century flair and modernism."

Parmelee 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 annual 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 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.



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 ANGIE SECKINGER

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



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Susan Donelson and Sharon Bubenhofer, of Cleveland Hall Design 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.

Sampler of New Homes Offerings



Carr Homes

Shaker Knolls — nine homes set along a private drive and cul-de-sac in a prime Herndon location in the Langley School District, just south of Leesburg Pike. These 4,000+ square-foot homes,

with three-car garage are priced from \$1.34 million. Located at 1142 Shaker Woods Road, Herndon, VA 20170. Call 703-926-7241 or visit www.carrhomes.com.



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

luxury estates and communities. The company selects and develops each property based on its natural beauty, convenience and potential, with a sense of respect for preservation and history.

Over the years, Basheer & Edgemoore used technological advances and improvements in construction and design, and these efforts have garnered industry recognition for leadership and innovation.

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Pulte Homes

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.



Stanley Martin

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.”

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.”

“I expect all sectors of the market to see price gains and demand to remain high.”

John Eric, TTR Sotheby’s International Realty in Arlington



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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON FINE PROPERTIES

This Potomac home exemplifies ideal curb appeal. Marsha Schuman and Betsy Schuman Dodek, of the Schuman Team of Washington Fine Properties, say a home’s curb appeal is critical.

A Picture Perfect Home

FROM PAGE 3

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 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 win-

dows. 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.”

Tips for Creating an Appealing Kitchen

FROM PAGE 2

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.”

Don’t underestimate the power of lighting. “Under-counter mounted lighting makes all the difference in the world,” said Lucchesi. “It gives

the illusion that you have a lot of countertop space when in reality maybe you don’t.”

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. Those fixes don’t cost a lot of money.”

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,” said Lucchesi. “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.’”



Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

February, 2014 Top Sales in Vienna, Oakton, Reston and Herndon

**1 11600 Hunting Crest Lane,
Vienna — \$1,700,000**



**2 11704 Sugarland Road,
Herndon — \$1,425,000**



**8 2882 Hibbard Street,
Oakton — \$1,025,000**

**9 11312 South Shore Road,
Reston — \$1,425,000**

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	...	Sold Price	....	Type	.....	Lot AC	.....	PostalCode	.....	Subdivision	.....	Date Sold	
1 11600 HUNTING CREST LN	5	..	5	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,700,000	....	Detached	....	1.76	.....	22182	.....	BACHMAN PROPERTY	.....	02/27/14
2 11704 SUGARLAND RD	5	..	6	..	1	.....	HERNDON	...	\$1,425,000	....	Detached	....	1.04	.....	20170	.....	DRANESVILLE	.....	02/25/14
3 975 LYNN ST SW	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,367,000	....	Detached	....	0.37	.....	22180	.....	VIENNA WOODS	.....	02/17/14
4 1201 DRAKE ST SW	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,198,500	....	Detached	....	0.26	.....	22180	.....	VIENNA WOODS	.....	02/27/14
5 911 SYMPHONY CIR SW	5	..	4	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,175,000	....	Detached	....	0.24	.....	22180	.....	VIENNA WOODS	.....	02/14/14
6 9868 PALACE GREEN WAY	6	..	5	..	1	.....	VIENNA	....	\$1,150,000	....	Detached	....	0.10	.....	22181	...	WILLIAMSBURG COMMONS	..	02/20/14
7 1226 ADMIRAL ZUMWALT LN .	5	..	4	..	1	.....	HERNDON	...	\$1,100,000	....	Detached	....	0.88	.....	20170	.....	STUART ESTATES	.....	02/10/14
8 2882 HIBBARD ST	5	..	4	..	1	.....	OAKTON	....	\$1,025,000	....	Detached	....	0.34	.....	22124	.....	GRAYS	.....	02/28/14
9 11312 SOUTH SHORE RD	4	..	2	..	1	.....	RESTON	.....	\$970,000	....	Detached	....	0.32	.....	20190	.....	RESTON	.....	02/07/14
10 2050 BEACON HEIGHTS DR ...	3	..	3	..	1	RESTON	\$940,000	Townhouse	.	0.06	20191	RESTON	02/28/14

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