

Small Town, Big Ideas

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Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco shares a special moment with daughter Sophia, who is now a junior at James Madison High School.

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Spring Real Estate
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WEEK IN VIENNA

Vienna Tree-Planting Ceremony

The Town of Vienna and the Community Enhancement Commission invite the public to attend the annual Arbor Day ceremony on Thursday, April 24, at 4 p.m. A tree will be planted next to the Parks and Recreation Department's community learning garden behind Vienna Elementary, 128 Center St. S.

Green Expo Is April 24

Vienna will host the sixth annual Green Expo on Thursday, April 24, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E. It's a juried showcase of local and regional, earth-friendly exhibitors showing how people may achieve a green lifestyle. Admission is free, and more than 35 organizations and businesses will participate.

Attendees will receive information on energy efficiency, purchasing local organic products, creating green gardens, recycling options and more practical ideas to save money and help the environment.

New this year, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will offer rain barrel workshops, tips for rain gardens and guidance on protecting streams and rivers.

The alternative fuel auto collection will return for a second year.

Featured cars include a converted BMW Z3, Tesla, Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf and a converted bi-fuel, hybrid-electric Prius. All vehicles are owned by area residents who'll be on hand to answer questions.

Also featured will be the Children's Passport Program. School-aged children may visit vendors, learn new things and complete their passports for a chance to win prizes.

For more information, call 703-255-6360 or see www.viennava.gov.

Taste of Vienna April 25

Featuring food from a variety of the town's restaurants, the third annual Taste of Vienna will be held this Saturday, April 26, from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. It's hosted by the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department in its parking lot, 400 Center St. South, and will be held, rain or shine.

Prescription Drug Take-Back

In conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and state and local law-enforcement agencies, Vienna police will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

On Saturday, April 26, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., residents may turn in their old, expired, unused or unwanted medications. Prescription drugs, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be dropped off anonymously at a collection site inside Vienna Police Headquarters, 215 Center St. S.

If an original container is disposed of, people might consider removing any identifying information from the prescription label. Liquid products should remain sealed in their original containers to prevent leakage. Intravenous solutions, injectables and syringes will not be accepted due to associated hazards. Commercial businesses, pharmacies or other medical facilities may not use this as a means of discarding expired medications or medical waste. For more information, contact MPO Gary R. Lose at glose@viennava.gov or 703-255-6396.

40th Annual Walk on the Hill

Historic Vienna Inc., the Town of Vienna and residents of the Windover Heights Historic District are sponsoring the 40th annual Walk on the Hill. A self-guided walking tour through specially marked lawns and gardens in the Windover Heights Historic District, it'll be held this Sunday, April 27, from 2-5 p.m.

People may browse through any yard with a "Yard Open" sign and tour the grounds of the Historic District. The Vienna Community Band will perform a concert at 3 p.m. And during the walk, the Ayr Hill Garden Club will present a small flower show at 307 Windover Ave. NW.

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Small Town, Big Ideas

Meet Laurie DiRocco,
Vienna's current and future Mayor.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In January, when Vienna Town Council member Laurie DiRocco announced she would run for mayor, she had no idea that she would be the only candidate on the ballot, or that she would hold the title a month before the actual May 6 election.

But with the Feb. 23 death of Mayor Jane Seeman, who announced her retirement last year after being diagnosed with cancer, the six-member town council appointed DiRocco, the only registered candidate for the position, to serve out Mayor Seeman's uncompleted term.

"It's been a very bittersweet time for me," said DiRocco, 47, during an interview in her home, four days after being sworn-in as mayor on April 8. "I thought of Mayor Seeman as both a role model and a mentor. She gave so much to the community... I admired her service to the community and the fact that she really was a humble person."

In fact, it was Seeman who inspired DiRocco to run for office when Seeman was door-knocking during her 2000 campaign.

"I couldn't believe a candidate would actually come to my door to deliver her brochure about getting engaged in the community," DiRocco said. "I thought it was great! She inspired me to get involved."

DiRocco, a self-described "people person," has a strong history of community involvement. After Seeman's visit, she volunteered for the Town's Transportation Safety Commission. She went on to serve as chair of the Town's Planning Commission, and then successfully ran for office, winning a seat on the Vienna Town Council in 2009.

Originally from East Windsor, N.J., DiRocco and her husband, Rob, have lived in Vienna nearly 20 years. They have two daughters – Sophia, a junior at James Madison High School and Allie, a freshman at High Point University.

Faith plays an important role in DiRocco's family life. They are active members of Vienna Presbyterian Church, the town's oldest church, a place where Laurie DiRocco has made many community connections.

"Laurie is loyal to the core," said Nina Graves, who met DiRocco 18 years ago when their oldest children were in a preschool class together at Vienna Baptist Children's Center. "She cares deeply about the future of Vienna. ... She will be a wonderful mayor."

A FORMER ADJUNCT PROFESSOR of finance at George Mason University, DiRocco graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in finance, and holds an M.B.A. from George Washington University.

Like many working mothers, DiRocco's



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The DiRocco family last summer. (From left) daughter Sophia, a junior at James Madison High School; Mayor Laurie DiRocco; daughter Allie, a freshman at High Point University and husband Rob DiRocco.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Mayor Laurie DiRocco at her Vienna home, where she enjoys cooking for family and guests.

Top 10 Things To Do in Vienna

Here is Laurie DiRocco's list of the top 10 things to do in Vienna:

10. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and listen to a free concert on the Town Green.
9. Run in one of the many 5Ks that the local schools sponsor. (Or walk or push a stroller.)
8. Sample as many dishes as you can from the local restaurants at Taste of Vienna.
7. See the large model railroad layout at the Vienna Train Depot. (The Northern Virginia Model Railroaders open their doors twelve times a year for viewing.)
6. Roast marshmallows and see Santa at the Freeman House during the Church Street Stroll.
5. Drink a cold beer at Oktoberfest (or two)!
4. Go on every single ride at Viva Vienna, even the Round-up that makes you sick to your stomach.
3. On 4th of July, lay a blanket out at Yeonias Park and enjoy the beautiful fireworks.
2. Watch, or better yet, walk in the Halloween Parade – it is special to walk down Maple Avenue with no cars!
1. Eat a chilidog at the Vienna Inn.

career path closely tracked her two daughter's education paths. She has served as treasurer of the Marshall Road Elementary School PTA, President of the Camelot Elementary School Hearing Association and is currently a member of James Madison High School PTSA. She is also in the midst of planning Senior Night for the Madison Girls Soccer Team, a team her daughter plays on.

As mayor, DiRocco said she will continue Seeman's legacy of "thoughtful growth," while maintaining Vienna's quaint small-

town charm.

"I love this community. We have a lot to be proud of," she said, noting that in addition to the highly ranked public schools, the town's assets include a vibrant "main street" with many small businesses, Metro stations on the southwestern and northeastern corners of the Town, a portion of the W&OD trail that goes through the center of the town and Vienna's Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

With a population of 16,000 and growing, Vienna ranked third on CNN/Money

and Money magazine's list of the 100 best places to live in the United States in 2013.

But DiRocco is not one to let the town rest on its laurels. She sees significant change on the horizon.

"I believe change happens all the time, and I'm comfortable with it. Change is a good thing. We need to embrace it and keep moving forward," DiRocco said.

DiRocco – who enjoys biking along the WO&D trail and taking long walks along Church Street – said she wants to enhance Vienna's reputation as a great place to live, work and play. The fact that Vienna created both a Bicycle Advisory Commission and a Pedestrian Advisory Commission says something about the town's priorities, DiRocco noted.

"I would like to see the town continue to expand its transportation network with new sidewalks, bicycle routes and bus services," she said.

She is also an enthusiastic supporter of the town's long-awaited Maple Avenue Vision plan, which uses a new commercial zoning code to create the "Maple Avenue Corridor" (MAC) district, a more

pedestrian-friendly area enhanced with mixed-use developments.

"We are changing demographically," she said. "We have a population of young families as well as older residents who want to remain here after they retire," she said.

She points to the fact that Vienna had a record number of single lot redevelopments this past year, which creates new single-family housing stock and attracts young and growing families to the community.

"In 2013, the town had 110 single-family lots redeveloped, the most ever in the town's recent history," she said.

In addition to a demographic shift, DiRocco is acutely aware of the impact Tysons redevelopment will have on Vienna's 4.4 square miles of space.

TWENTY YEARS AGO, Vienna claimed Tysons as its nearby residential shopping district. Today, Tysons is the rapidly growing behemoth of Fairfax County – a distinct urban center with massive multi-million dollar redevelopment projects on the horizon.

Mayor DiRocco is ready for it.

She supports the renovation and expansion of the Vienna Community Center, as well as investments in the town's water, sewer and transportation infrastructure.

"There's a lot to love about Vienna," she said. "We have an amazing network of volunteers, community groups and small businesses that give their time and talent for the betterment of the town."

Vienna Town Council Candidates Speak Out

Besides voting for mayor – and Councilwoman Laurie DiRocco is the only candidate – Vienna residents will choose three Town Council members in the May 6 election. All Council candidates responded to The Connection's questionnaire.

Pasha Majdi

Vienna is his hometown. He and wife Jayme have a son, Maxwell Majdi, 7 months. He was on the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, but left in March to campaign full time.

Why are you running for election?

Vienna is my hometown [and] I want to keep Vienna a small town. Tysons Corner is projected to bring in 100,000 new residents over the next decade. Right now, the Town Council is discussing rezoning Maple Avenue and will likely vote on a new plan after the election. We need to be smart and prepare for the future, but we can't lose Vienna's small businesses to Tysons Corner development. If I'm on the Town Council, I'll support the plan that keeps Vienna's small businesses and small-town charm.

Qualifications?

As a member of the Town Business Liaison Committee and the Vienna Business Association, I know how important small businesses are to Vienna and I will fight to keep small businesses on Maple Avenue and Church Street. If we lose them, we lose Vienna's small-town charm.

My professional background also includes law school and government contracts. But most importantly, I grew up in Vienna. I'm



a Vienna citizen, a Vienna father, a Vienna son and a Vienna grandson. I understand issues that all generations are facing because we face the same issues in my own family.

Platform/issues:

1. Keep Vienna a small town. As the Town Council rezones Maple Avenue, the new zoning requirements need to keep the small, mom-and-pop shops on Maple Avenue and Church Street. If we lose them, we lose the

heart of Vienna.

2. Walkability. Traffic on Route 123 is unbearable. We can't get rid of the traffic, but we can get around it. We need Maple Avenue to be accessible to walkers and bikers so we can enjoy our town without sitting in traffic with Tysons commuters. Walkability should be the town's top priority as it rezones Maple Avenue.

3. Centralized parking. Right now, if you want to pick up dry cleaning, have dinner, and stop by your favorite shop in Vienna, you have to get back on Route 123 and park again each and every time – in terrible traffic. Why? We need centralized parking hubs so that we can park once, walk to all three stops, then walk back to the car and drive home.

Why vote for you?

Vienna is my hometown and I'm going to fight to keep Vienna a small town.

Dennis Rice

He's lived in the Town for about 10 years and in the greater Vienna area since 1987. Married, two daughters, three stepchildren.

Why are you running for election?

I am running for Town Council because I feel I can bring a wealth of construction and development experience to the Town.

Qualifications?

I have been in the construction industry for over 27 years. I have experience in residential, commercial and industrial construction, as well as land development and working with Fairfax County and VDOT on land issues.

Platform/issues:



1. Increase efficiency of town government to reduce spending. 2. Work to reduce residential real-estate taxes. 3. Improve our roads. 4. Install sidewalks to provide citizens a safe means to get around town.

Why vote for you?

People should vote for me because of my unique perspective and skill set. My work as a custom homebuilder has given me a strong understanding of Town of Vienna land use, as well as zoning and development issues within the Town, Fairfax County and Commonwealth of Virginia. I would use my private-sector experience to design workable budgets and personnel programs and to complete projects on schedule and under budget.

Mike Cheselka

Mike Cheselka's lived in Vienna for 38 years. He and wife Sue have a daughter, Janelle. Owner of Hometown Enterprises home improvements.

Why are you running for election?

As a long-time resident, I want to help shape the vision for future development, as well as address quality-of-life issues and needs of our town residents.

Qualifications?

I currently sit on the Architectural Review Board and Historic Vienna Inc. Board of Directors. I served on the Town/Business Liaison Committee and the VYI Board of Directors. This insight has helped me see the importance of fresh ideas with regard to the vision and development of our Town, the importance of fostering support and growth for our local businesses, and the need to improve youth programs, opportunities and facilities.

Platform/issues:

I would support the longstanding policy of limited growth and low density zoning



which has given us an authentic small town, unique in Fairfax County and the surrounding areas. I realize that we must be pro-active in our response to surrounding development, particularly with Tysons Corner and the Silver Line Corridor. It will no doubt have an adverse effect on our traffic situation. I will explore ways to improve traffic calming on our off Main Street neighborhoods. I will support and help shape a progressive approach to upgrading

services, infrastructure, recreational programs and facilities.

Why vote for you?

I possess a solid level of common sense and practicality. Having owned and operated a small business here in Town for 32 years, I have developed skills that would serve me well as a council member. I want our quality of life and our future development to be 21st century pro-active, but still maintain a small-town flavor.

Linda Jane Colbert

She's lived in Vienna from 1968-1988 and 2000-now. She's a math tutor and math SAT teacher. Husband Mike is an electronics engineer, Madison High football and track coach; daughters Hannah, 17 and Heather, 13.

Why are you running for election?

Having grown up in Vienna, I have a strong sense of its spirit. I loved the town I grew up in, but change is inevitable. Church Street is continuing to improve with its period architecture, brick sidewalks and new shops and restaurants. Maple Avenue Vision is a project that dedicated citizens and staff have put many hours into crafting.

Qualifications?

I currently serve on the Transportation



Safety Commission and have gained valuable insight into some new, innovative solutions to traffic problems and pedestrian safety.

Platform/issues:

If elected, I would like to work on acquiring a centrally located parking garage and encourage businesses to have underground parking or share parking spaces with neighboring buildings.

Why vote for you?

My family is involved in many activities in the town, so I talk with citizens about things they like and dislike.

Vienna has always been my home, and my husband and I have no plans to leave. I have the dedication, enthusiasm, insight and love for Vienna that would make me a good Councilperson. It would be an honor to serve Vienna.

NEWS



PHOTO BY CORRIN REID/THE CONNECTION

Victory

Members of the Vienna AllStars (Junior Level 2) gather after winning at the Annual Alexandria Invitational Cheerleading Competition on Saturday, April 5, at T.C. Williams High School. A variety of recreation centers and clubs at different age levels (Pee Wee Level 1, Youth Level 1, Youth Level 2, Junior Level 1 and Junior Level 2) competed with cheerleading routines.

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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. Re-

search 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.

Town Council Candidates Speak Out

Tara L. Voigt

She's lived in Vienna since 2000. She's the lead teacher at FB Meekins Preschool in Vienna. She and husband Chris have three children, Alex, 22, Sarah, 19, and Eric, 16.

Why are you running for election?

I was drawn to the appeal of Vienna even before my family moved here over 14 years ago. As a parent of three, homeowner, patron and employee within Vienna ever since, I've remained active in the community and take advantage of many of the town's services and activities. I am committed to serving the community in which I live. I have been involved in Vienna government at the commission level and am ready to take my commitment to the next level by running for Town Council.

Qualifications?

Vienna Transportation Safety Commission, Chairperson, 2007; Vienna Transportation Safety Commission, Commissioner, 2005-present; Marshall Road Elementary PTA, President, 2003-2005; Marshall Road PTA, Fundraising, 2005-2010; La Leche League leader, 2003-present; James Madison Crew Parents Boosters, Hospitality Chair, 2012-2013.

James Madison High School



PTSA, Student Directory Production, 2008-present; James Madison Band, Band Lunch Coordinator, 2007-present; Vienna Aquatic Club, Board of Directors, 2007-present; Vienna Youth Soccer coach, 2002-2007; FB Meekins Preschool Board, President, 2001-2002; Girl Scout assistant leader, 2001-2007.

Platform/issues:

Maintaining walk- and bike-ability of Vienna; keeping Vienna's endearing qualities while supporting purposeful growth; listening to citizens' concerns.

Why vote for you?

I am truly committed to the citizens of Vienna. Although I am new to running for Town Council, I am familiar with current issues within the Town. I've sat on the Transportation Safety Commission since 2005, working to find new and innovative ways to keep pedestrians and cyclists safe and help keep traffic moving in and around Vienna.

I've invested my personal time to gain a greater understanding of the mechanics and concerns of Town Council. I attended both budget work sessions and numerous Council meetings. I have the passion and commitment to serve the citizens of Vienna.

Edythe Frankel Kelleher

An incumbent, she's a 12-year Town Council member who's lived in Vienna 20 years. She's executive director of a small nonprofit, Southeast Fairfax Development Corp., working on revitalization. She and husband Gary have three college-age sons.

Why running for reelection?

I enjoy serving my community on the Town Council. In the last six months, two Council members announced their retirements and our Mayor passed away in office. I feel that my experience will be valuable to the Town as we transition forward.

Qualifications?

Twelve years on a Council team that managed the Town and its finances extremely well, for example, improving our bond rating twice to AAA. Including my experience on staff to Supervisor Penny Gross, I have devoted more than 18 years to local government.

Platform/issues:

Better access for pedestrians and bicyclists (sidewalks, bike racks); improved communications with residents (cable TV channel; Vienna Alerts); lowered water rates; traffic calming; providing alternative housing styles for older and younger people and opportu-



nities for shared parking, fewer curb cuts, an improved business climate, and public spaces through implementing the Maple Avenue Vision.

Why vote for you?

I have worked diligently to provide the high-quality services residents expect, while being responsible to them as taxpayers. I supported maintaining the Town tax rate to offset changes in property assessments, and I have pushed for solutions to high water rates. After 18 years working in local government, I have knowledge and experience in how proper regulations and policies can affect positive change in communities.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

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

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9438
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Donna Manz
Contributing Writer
dmanz@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-778-9410
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
[@jonroetman](https://twitter.com/jonroetman)

Victoria Ross
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027
vross@connectionnewspapers.com

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Don Park
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Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecqueux
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



SPORTS

Marshall leadoff hitter Kat Uher slaps at the ball during a game against Herndon on April 21.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Herndon Softball Edges Marshall in Eight Innings

Marshall sophomore pitcher Larsen strikes out 12 in defeat.

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."

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

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 sophomore Madison Larsen struck out 12 batters during a 4-3, eight-inning loss to Herndon on April 21.

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."

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The family farmhouse at 340 Glyndon St. N.E.



Outside 320 Glyndon St. N.E. is a 100-year-old fish pond.

Vienna Homeowners Welcome Visitors

House and Garden Tour is April 29.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Spring is here, trees and flowers are in bloom and it's time for Vienna's annual House and Garden Tour. Presented by the Garden Club of Fairfax, it's set for Tuesday, April 29, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

On tour are four private homes and gardens in the historic area, plus a full day of gardening-themed activities at Wolftrap Performing Arts Center and Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

Advance tickets are \$25 at www.vagardenweek.org or at these Vienna shops: The Dandelion Patch, 111 Church St. N.W., ReFind, 101 Church St. N.W., and Cocoa Vienna, 120 Church St. N.E. On tour day, tickets may be purchased at any of the homes or at Meadowlark. Cost is \$30 to visit all the sites or \$15 for just one location. Children ages 6-12 are \$15.

It's a combination shuttle bus and walking tour, so attendees are advised to wear comfortable shoes. Visitors should park at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens or at Wolf Trap National Park. Shuttle buses will drive visitors between the two parks and to two stops within the 3/4-mile loop connecting the homes on the tour's walking portion.

Backpacks, strollers, high heels, interior photography, smoking and cell-phone use aren't allowed inside the homes. Strollers aren't permitted on the shuttles, either.

340 Glyndon St. N.E. — Owned by Tommy and Randy Staats, this family farmhouse dates back to the 1890s. The windows and floors are original, as are the doorknobs. An eat-in kitchen with fireplace was added during a renovation, as were a sunroom and back porch. And during the Civil War, Union soldiers camped in the front and side yards of this

home.

320 Glyndon St. N.E. — This 30-year-old house is a post-and-beam saltbox also owned by the Staats. It features a wisteria archway and a century-old fishpond in the front yard. Inside, there's a double-sided fireplace on the first floor and an antique, candlelit chandelier. Highlighting the patio are a large, outside fireplace plus a fountain.

334 Ayr Hill Ave. N.E. — This Craftsman-style house was featured in Home and Design Magazine in 2008. There are wide plank floors and 12-foot-high ceilings, and stone-based pillars anchor the foyer. The central kitchen has two stone islands, and the master-bedroom suite includes a large bathroom with an antique Italian chandelier. Owners are Kathy and Richard Igercich.

156 Church St. N.E. — Boasting slate and copper roofs, this remodeled farmhouse is owned by the Downs family. Highlighting the living room are stained-glass windows and heart-pine floors, and the fireplace was constructed with the house 100 years ago. The kitchen has a farmhouse sink and solid walnut counter tops, and there's a recreation area on the lower level.

Wolf Trap National Park — Wolf Trap will offer a variety of special activities, including tours of its three, native-plant gardens containing more than 100 different species.

There'll be live music, plus other performing artists throughout the day. Visitors may learn about birds, bees and butterflies and may view ceremonial plantings, too.

Meadowlark Gardens — The 95-acre Meadowlark Botanical Gardens is a park featuring paved walking trails over hills, through wooded areas and around three lakes, gazebos and an 18th-century farmhouse. Attendees may also enjoy the more than 20 varieties of cherry trees, as well as azaleas, lilacs, peonies, irises, a hosta and fern garden and a children's garden. There's even a Korean Bell Garden featuring native Korean plants and the Bell of Peace and Harmony.



This Ayr Hill house was once featured in Home and Design Magazine.



This Church Street home has stained-glass windows.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DONNA MOULTON

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CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

All Star Beer Dinner. 6:30 p.m.
Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, McLean. A four-course menu of baseball-inspired food and beer pairings. Each "inning" will feature a craft brew from a different baseball-loving city. Nick Hardt, On Tap On Line "bierdo," will be the guest speaker for the evening. \$50 per person. To make a reservation, call 703-442-9110.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Annual Arbor Day Celebration. 4 p.m. The tree planting ceremony will be held next to the Parks and Recreation Department's community learning garden, located behind Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center Street S.
6th Annual Green Expo. 6:30 - 9 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. Presentations and discussions for children and adults from more than 35 juried organizations and businesses will include information on energy efficiency, purchasing local organic products, creating green gardens, recycling options and more practical ideas to save money and help the environment.
www.viennava.gov.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24- SATURDAY/APRIL 26

"Catch Me if You Can." 7 p.m.
McLean High School Burks Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. A musical that tells the story of Frank Abagnale, Jr., a teenager who runs away from home in search of the glamorous life. Tickets are available at www.mcleandrama.com. Adults \$15; Students/Seniors \$10.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25- MONDAY/MAY 5

Six Artists Return. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday through Saturday. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of paintings, drawings, sculpture and jewelry by local artists Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. www.theframefactory1.com

FRIDAY/APRIL 25- SUNDAY/MAY 4

"Willy Wonka, The Musical." Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. through May 3, with Sunday matinee performances at 2 p.m. on April 27, and May 4. Vienna Theatre Company, Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry St., SE Vienna. This multi-generational, family friendly musical is Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir in this stage adaptation of Dahl's book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, which features the songs from the classic family film Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. General admission \$14. To reserve tickets, email vtcshows@yahoo.com. For more information, call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25- SATURDAY/MAY 10

"Perfect Wedding." Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. An awkward morning-of-the-wedding situation and then spins out of control in the McLean Community Players production of this farce/romantic comedy. 703-790-9223. www.McLeanPlayers.org. \$16-\$14.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26- SUNDAY/APRIL 27

"Catch Me if You Can." 2 p.m.
McLean High School Burks Theater, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. A musical that tells the story of Frank Abagnale, Jr., a teenager who runs away from home in search of the glamorous life. Tickets are available at www.mcleandrama.com. Adults \$15; Students/Seniors \$10.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

"The Lion's Whiskers" Puppet Show. 2 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A musical adaptation of a traditional Ethiopian folktale, "The Lion's Whiskers" features a charming cast of human characters as well as African animals. www.aldentheatre.org
Taste of Vienna Food Festival. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department 400 Center Street, South, in Vienna (rain or shine). Admission is free and guests will be able to purchase food and beverages. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Vienna.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Flower Show. 2-5 p.m. 307 Windover Avenue, NW, during the annual Walk on the Hill through Vienna's historic Windover Heights District. The show will feature floral designs as well as members' cuttings of local horticulture to be evaluated by National Garden Club Judges. There will also be educational exhibits.
40th Annual Walk On the Hill. 2-5 p.m. Windover Heights Historic District. A self-guided walking tour through specially marked lawns and gardens in the Windover Heights Historic District. www.historicviennainc.org.



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Here's What's Happening at MCC



Catskill Puppets
"The Lion's Whisker"
Saturday, April 26, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

The Crabgrass Puppet Theatre
"The Pirate, the Princess and the Pea"
Saturday, May 3, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

Take a Day Away!
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia
Tuesday, May 6
\$134/\$129 MCC district residents

Jammin' Juniors
Roger Day
Wednesday, May 7, 12:30 p.m.
McLean Central Park Gazebo
Free admission

Studio Rep
"Code 20: Proceed to Improv"
Thursday, May 8, 7-9 p.m.
Old Firehouse Teen Center
Free admission

Old Firehouse Teen Center
Open House for Rising 7th Graders
Thursday, May 8, 6-7:30 p.m.

5th-6th Grader Party
Cinco de Mayo
Friday, May 9, 7-9 p.m.
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
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Or to mail photo prints, send to:
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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 conditions. 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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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.

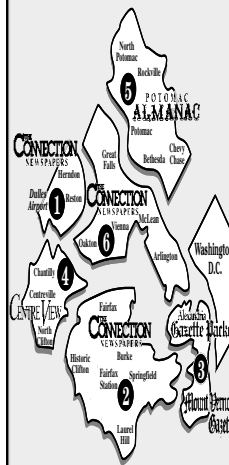
Fundraiser To Support SHARE, Inc. on May 13

A fundraiser for SHARE, Inc. has been announced by HBC Realty Group's (Keller Williams Realty) Community Charity Champions. Come to dinner on Tuesday, May 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean to support SHARE, Inc. Enjoy dinner and know that approximately 70 percent of the proceeds from food and drink will go to the charity, as long as the diner brings the flyer for the event. Contact HBC Realty Group at 703-734-0192 or visit www.HBCRealtyGroup.com to receive a flyer. SHARE, Inc. is a non-profit, nonsec-tarian, all-volunteer community relief organization helping people in need in McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills area for over 45 years. They provide essential assistance through their food pantry, where people and families in need throughout the community can go for assistance with groceries. SHARE also provides emergency financial assistance, used furniture pick-up and delivery, distributes grocery gift cards at Thanksgiving and the holidays, holiday gifts, school supplies and rides to medical appointments. Sponsors of the event are: Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with the HBC Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty, The Simmons Team of George Mason Mortgage LLC, Betty Sparkman and Chris Lara of Reveal Remodel, Kevin Dougherty of Pillar to Post Home Inspections, Marcus Simon with EKKO Title, Moe Jebali of Pulcinella Italian Host, and One to One Fitness Centers.

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William Licamele MD will be retiring and closing his practice of Child Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry on June 26th, 2014. Until that date he can be reached at his office at 6760 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean Va. 22101 --- phone 703-734-6927 for any questions, referrals, or follow-up. After June 26th, he can be reached at PO Box 338, McLean, Va. 22101 for any requests for information, records, referrals. Etc.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

John P Steg MD will be retiring and closing his practice of Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry on June 26, 2014. Until that date he can be reached at his office at 6760 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean VA 22101 -- Phone 703-442-8116. After that date he can be contacted at his billing address: 1837 Baldwin Dr, McLean VA 22101 -- Phone 703-893-4836.

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2014 Spring Real Estate & New Homes

Maymont in Vienna by
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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,



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.



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

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

Basheer & Edgemoore Wins Silver

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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.

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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.’”



VAN METRE DESIGN STUDIO

Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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

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



❷ 11704 Sugarland Road,
Herndon — \$1,425,000



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



❸ 2882 Hibbard Street,
Oakton — \$1,025,000

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

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