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## The Family That Plays Together ... Needs New Space

Innovative Great Falls solution with art studio meets needs of three generations.

BY JOHN BYRD

“A home is a machine for living in,” architectural pioneer Eduard LeCorbusier said in the 1930s, by which he meant good residential design should meet current lifestyle requirements, yet retain enough flexibility to readily transition into a place that supports newly arising needs.

Design consultant Mindy Mitchell, concurs on some basic principles.

“You want a solution that fully responds to everyday needs,” Mitchell says. “But it’s also useful to consider how you might be re-using key spaces from time to time, or even a decade from now.”

This may be especially true in a “creative” household, Mitchell adds, where the goal is fostering an environment that organically responds to all sorts of overlapping projects.

Case in point: the recently re-invented lower level plan to the Great Falls home of Lesley and Tim Hackman, two long-term residents now actively involved in the community’s burgeoning art scene.

Looking around the sunny family play space, which will be featured in the upcoming remodeling home tour Oct. 17-19, it’s a little hard to imagine that last year the Hackmans were scarcely using the suite at all.

Recently retired, Tim was free from professional obligations. The couple’s two



PHOTO COURTESY OF MITRO HOOD

**In the newly designed family entertainment area, a wall-sized console with a flat screen television stretches out in front of an L-shaped “viewing” couch. A fully stocked beverage center is on the opposite wall convenient to an outside patio.**

daughters were out of the house, raising families of their own. Like most empty-nesters, the Hackmans were idly wondering how to better use a spacious home designed for past needs.

“We had been talking about upgrading some rooms, but weren’t using the lower level for much more than laundry and storage,” Lesley recalls. “All the light in the entire suite originated from windows and doors on the rear [side of the house], so the interior rooms were too dark. Still, we hadn’t gotten too far into an actual plan.”

Then an unexpected turn brought latent remodeling considerations to the fore: last spring the entire lower level was flooded by three inches of water when a sump pump failed; it was a situation that could not be ignored.

“One way or another, we knew we were

going to have to do something about it,” Lesley said.

A professional organizer as well as a space planner, Mitchell has been working with Sun Design Remodeling for close to a decade.

“I’m generally the point person and *de facto* project manager,” Mitchell said. “My job is to help owners get a clear idea of what they’re looking for so that the design process is focused and on-track from start to finish.”

This is especially critical, Mitchell notes, when the makeover needs to satisfy a diverse agenda.

Lesley wanted functional studio space for her quilting and photography, but she had also decided to babysit two of her grandchildren three days a week, a commitment that would require work stations for arts

### Details

Visit the Hackmans’ remodeled lower level during the Great Falls Studio Tour, Friday-Sunday, Oct. 17-19, 1-5 p.m. daily. Visit [greatfallsstudios.com/tour.php](http://greatfallsstudios.com/tour.php) or [www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com) or call 703-425-5588.

and crafts projects as well as kitchenette suitable for the occasional cooking lesson.

They wanted a media center large enough for the extended family (both daughters live in the metro area), and places to prepare and share a meal with easy access to an adjacent outdoor patio and backyard barbecue.

On an entirely different note, the lower level still had to perform its duties as the family laundry room. And it should also provide quarters for the occasional sleep-over guest.

“It’s when an agenda becomes more specific that space planning really needs to be thoughtful and precise,” Mitchell says.

The existing full bath is enlarged and upgraded into something suitable for overnight guests while one wall of the studio now accommodates a handsome custom cabinet that conceals a comfortable Murphy bed. The redesigned “all purpose room” (laundry/kitchenette/dining table) now features a full-sized refrigerator, microwave and dishwasher.

Lesley Hackman says the makeover has proven to be a perfect solution in this newly active phase of her life.

“I can spend the morning or afternoon working on art projects and helping the grandchildren. Then take a hot bath. It’s a great environment,” she said. “I’m really glad we created it.”

## Planting for Fall Planning your autumn garden and yard.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As the first few weeks of fall unfold, carrying with them the promise of rich and vibrant colors, many local residents are starting to plan their fall gardens, both ornamental and edible. Pruning and overall garden cleanup will make way for fall plants. In fact, this is the perfect time to clear away summer foliage and plant, horticulture gurus said.

“Because the ground is still warm and air is cool, there is less transplant shock for plants when you take them out of the con-

tainer to plant them,” said Kelly Grimes of Good Earth Garden Market in Potomac, Md. “Now is a great time to put in a landscape.”

The first step is preparing the ground. “You have to amend the soil; that is mixing in compost and soil so the plants’ roots can grab a hold of the soil with compost,” said Grimes. “That really helps any planting.”

Katia Goffin of Katia Goffin Gardens in McLean, Va., likens planning a garden to putting together a puzzle. “Everything has to [look] like it belongs,” she said. “It’s about designing your bed line so it enhances your property, versus ‘I stuck this in my garden and doesn’t it look good?’”

Take a few minutes and actually plan out your garden because no matter what you decide to plant for fall, an aesthetically appealing garden starts with an effective strategy. “It is getting a good plan together,” Goffin said. “It is a question of scale and putting it together right. You have to look at your plot of land and decide where you want plants to go and how you want it to look.”

**FOR DECORATIVE GARDENS** and yards, mums and pansies are among fall’s

SEE PLANTING, PAGE 7

Vienna & Oakton  
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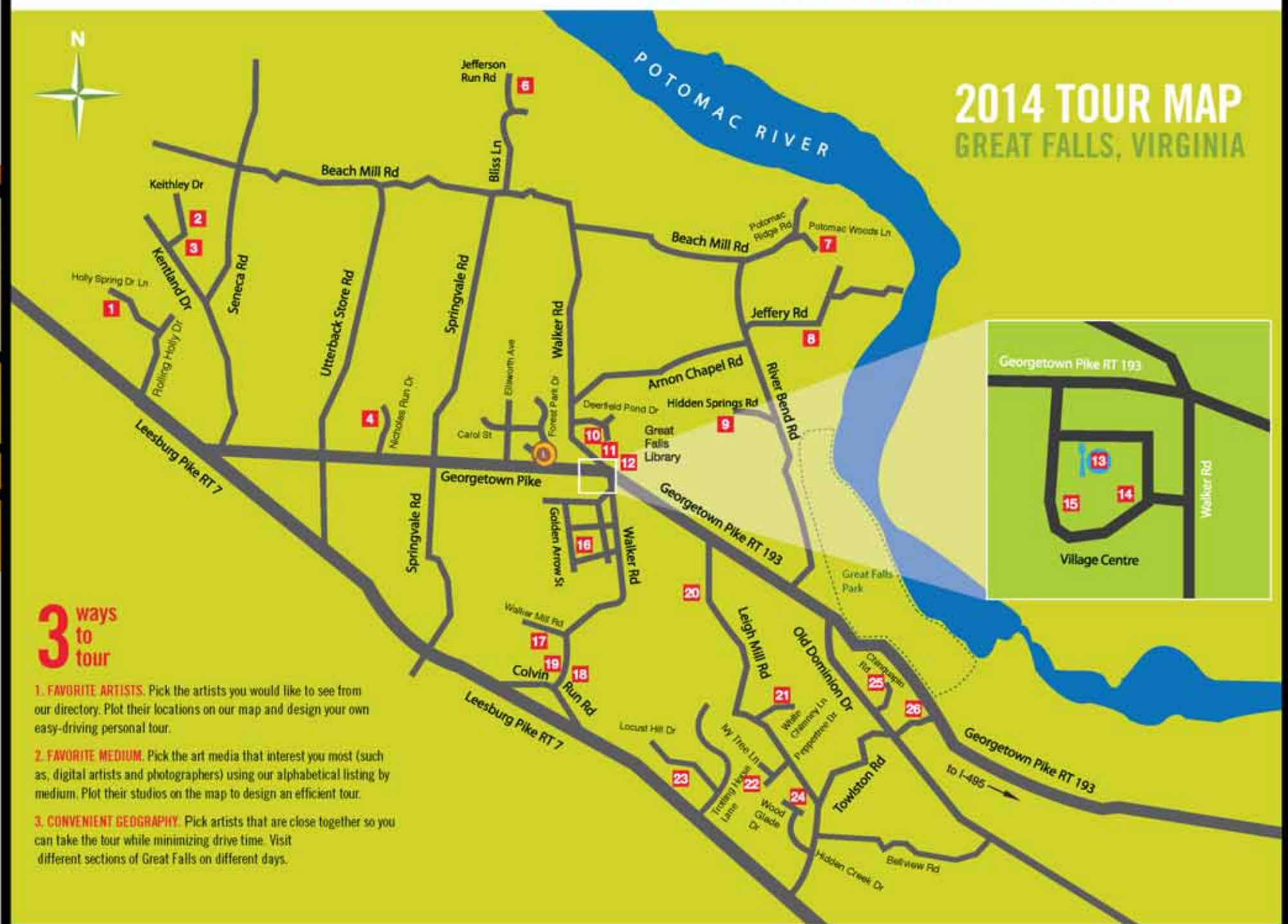
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## THE MAP

The Studios. The numerals in the red squares correspond to the number given to each studio. The numbers run roughly from west to east and north to south on the map. At right, you will find an alphabetical listing of the artists by medium, and the number of each artist's studio. These numbers will also be found on the road sign nearest the studio. Wheel chair access is marked with a wheelchair icon, hands-on activities marked with a hand icon.

Sun Design venue. The yellow-and-brown sun icon corresponds to a location where Sun Design is showcasing home renovations. Join Sun Design and Children's Author and Homeowner, Lesley Hackman for a remodeled home tour, 735 Forest Park Road.



### 3 ways to tour

- 1. FAVORITE ARTISTS.** Pick the artists you would like to see from our directory. Plot their locations on our map and design your own easy-driving personal tour.
- 2. FAVORITE MEDIUM.** Pick the art media that interest you most (such as, digital artists and photographers) using our alphabetical listing by medium. Plot their studios on the map to design an efficient tour.
- 3. CONVENIENT GEOGRAPHY.** Pick artists that are close together so you can take the tour while minimizing drive time. Visit different sections of Great Falls on different days.

## THE ARTISTS

<p><b>Digital Artists</b></p> <p>Walt Lawrence.....#19          Terri Parent.....#19</p> <p><b>Fiber Artists</b></p> <p>Dory Emmer.....#26          Cindy Grisdela.....#19          Vad Moskowitz.....#3</p> <p><b>Jewelry Designers</b></p> <p>Jorge Adeler.....#15          Donna Barnako.....#19          Richard Masaniello.....#26</p> <p><b>Layered Paper Artist</b></p> <p>Ronni Jolles.....#19</p> <p><b>Mixed Media Artists</b></p> <p>Roberta Pruett Beasley.....#19          Penny Burk.....#21          GuruSangat Khalsa.....#20          Heidi Mraz.....#10</p>	<p><b>Painters</b></p> <p>Naz Akbar.....#13          Leslie Anthony.....#14          Jill Banks.....#19          Karen Bateman.....#9          Hwa Crawford.....#18          Coty Dickson.....#14          Jennifer Duncan.....#17          Elaine Elmsky.....#19          Robert Gilbert.....#24          Lori Goll.....#11          Layla Gray.....#14          Yeganeh Hejazi.....#19          Carol Howard.....#19          Yiyun Huang Huff.....#7          Linda Jones.....#26          Tina Learned.....#19          John McCabe.....#19          Begonia Morton.....#4          Pat Neuman.....#8          Ann Noel.....#11          Vandana Pamecha.....#25          Gail Pean.....#14          Jay Pigeon.....#11          Lockini Rumburg.....#1          Judith St. Ledger-Roty.....#19          Lisa Tureson.....#19</p>	<p><b>Photographers</b></p> <p>Jan Bender.....#2          Robin Kent.....#22          Dee Leggett.....#11          Silvia Gonzalez Roman.....#18          Dean Souleles.....#23</p> <p><b>Potters</b></p> <p>Barbara Gatterdam.....#16          Laura Nichols.....#9</p> <p><b>Printmakers</b></p> <p>William Tutthill.....#6</p> <p><b>Wood Carver</b></p> <p>Michael Long.....#20</p> <p>Great Falls School of Art.....#19          The Old Brogue.....#13</p>
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*Most artists are open for all 3 tour days. Refer to the full brochure available at all studios for exceptions.*



# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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1 11797 Stuart Mill Road, Oakton — \$2,198,430



2 3003 Weber Place, Oakton — \$1,729,795



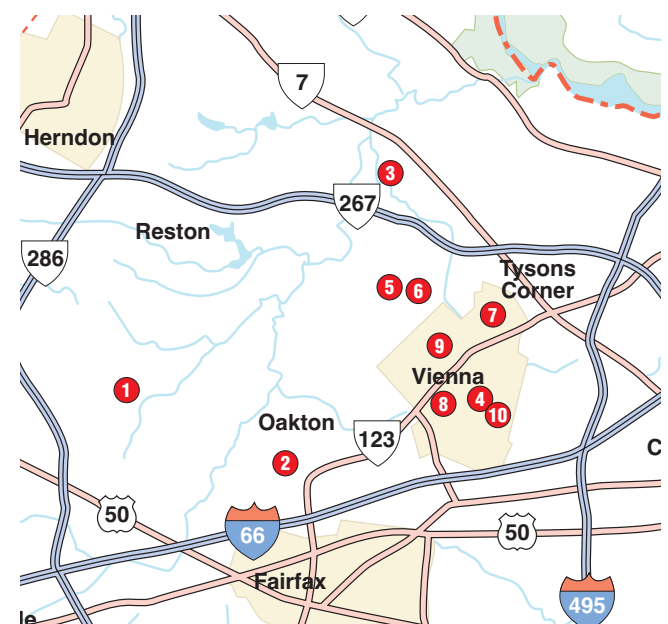
4 900 Glyndon Street SE, Vienna — \$1,574,482



6 1862 Brothers Road, Vienna — \$1,500,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 11797 STUART MILL RD	5	6	1	OAKTON	\$2,198,430	Detached	2.92	22124	NONE	08/15/14
2 3003 WEBER PL	5	4	1	OAKTON	\$1,729,795	Detached	0.92	22124	WEBER PROPERTY	08/18/14
3 1359 BLAIRSTONE DR	5	5	1	VIENNA	\$1,665,000	Detached	0.46	22182	MAYMONT	08/27/14
4 900 GLYNDON ST SE	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,574,482	Detached	0.32	22180	DIANE MANOR	08/26/14
5 9519 FRANCIS YOUNG LN	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,510,000	Detached	0.36	22182	FRANCIS YOUNG ESTATES	08/14/14
6 1862 BROTHERS RD	5	6	1	VIENNA	\$1,500,000	Detached	2.65	22182	ANKER OAKS	08/29/14
7 1102 WESTBRIAR CT NE	5	5	1	VIENNA	\$1,489,900	Detached	0.51	22180	WESTBRIAR CC HILLS	08/28/14
8 206SW CHERRY ST	5	5	1	VIENNA	\$1,415,140	Detached	0.25	22180	WEST VIENNA WOODS	08/28/14
9 330 SHERWOOD DR NE	6	6	2	VIENNA	\$1,395,000	Detached	0.30	22180	SHERWOOD MANOR	08/07/14
10 302 ADAHI RD SE	5	5	1	VIENNA	\$1,340,000	Detached	0.26	22180	IRIS MANOR	08/15/14

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# Fall Plants

FROM PAGE 3

best flowering plants. "Mums need full sunlight to open and come in obvious, bold fall colors," said Grimes. "Pansies will take part sun, are a great color and will continue to bloom through spring."

Yarrow, asters, sedums, Lenten roses, and coral bells are among the fall plants that Jonathan Storvick, natural resource manager at the Office of Sustainability at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., recommends.

"Fall is a great time to plant larger-sized perennials and container shrubs," said Storvick. "It also happens to be the time of year when nurseries are trying to get rid of a lot of their stock, so you can find some great deals."

For example, said Joel Cook of Merrifield Garden Center, in Fairfax, Merrifield and Gainesville, Va., "Burning bushes have beautiful fall colors like orange and fire red. As far as trees, maples like Japanese maples, sugar maple or black gum maple have beautiful colors."

Another eye-catching option is the yellow twig dogwood. Its "bright yellow branches and twig color ... are also fantastic for winter," said Mark White of GardenWise in Arlington, Va.

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# Neighbors Helping Neighbors

## Clifton residents to hold tour of remodeled homes to benefit widow.

Neighbors help each other. That's what communities have always been about. Long-time Clifton resident Bob Gallagher is rallying his friends and peers to help his neighbor Elsa Armendaris.

Armendaris, a mother of seven, needs funds to repair the badly deteriorated driveway to her home, which is also a local day care center. To help out, Gallagher, who is a principal at Sun Design Remodeling, has organized a tour of three newly remodeled Clifton homes, each the handiwork of a different remodeler.

"The homes are all pretty spectacular in

their own right," Gallagher says. "We've found that homeowners really enjoy seeing what their neighbors are doing. But this is also about helping a local person in need; that's the sense of community which Clifton has always exemplified."

In addition to showcasing a home recently renovated by Sun Design Remodeling, the tour will feature recent work by Daniels Design and Remodeling and Kohlmark Group Architects and Builders, all active in Clifton and environs for years.

Tim Reed of Tibbs Paving will be donating the labor, equipment and trucking needed for the driveway re-paving.

A native of El Salvador, Armendaris lost her husband, David, to leukemia six years ago and, as the sole means of her family's support, decided to set up her home as a day care center.

Since it was convenient to nearby Clifton Elementary, parents would leave their children with Armendaris before and after school. But when Clifton Elementary closed in 2010, the day care center lost more than half its students. Not long after that, the winding asphalt driveway leading to the house began to seriously deteriorate.

That's when her friend, Christina Gallagher, whose children had attended the

day care center, offered to ask her husband, Bob, for ideas.

"I just thought there must be a way that a community as old and close-knit as Clifton could help one of its own," said Bob Gallagher, who grew up in Clifton where his father practiced medicine. "My company has learned a lot from doing our own home tours, so a coalition of remodelers already active in Clifton seems like a logical way to reach out to the community."

Remodeler's Charity Home Tour, Nov. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit [www.RemodelersCharityHomeTour.com](http://www.RemodelersCharityHomeTour.com) or call 703-425-5588 for more.

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