

Photos by Veronica Bruno/ The Gazette

Top Sales in August, 2014

In August 2014, 132 homes sold between \$1,599,000-\$116,500 in the Mount Vernon area.



2 7103 Marlan Drive — \$1,420,000



1806 Edgehill Drive — \$1,599,000

1210Huntly Place\$950,000



4205 Kimbrelee Court — \$1,070,000



7 1110 Arcturus Lane — \$950,000



10 4201 Kimbrelee Court — \$900,000

 Address
 BR FB HB
 Postal City
 Sold Price
 Type
 Lot AC
 Postal Code
 Subdivision
 Date Sold

 1
 1806 EDGEHILL DR
 4
 3
 1
 ALEXANDRIA
 \$1,599,000
 Detached
 0.39
 22307
 BELLE HAVEN
 08/27/14

 2
 7103 MARIAN DR
 5
 4
 1
 ALEXANDRIA
 \$1,420,000
 Detached
 0.28
 22307
 MARIAN FOREST
 08/29/14

 3
 9322 OLD MANSION RD
 5
 3
 1
 ALEXANDRIA
 \$1,300,000
 Detached
 0.37
 22309
 RIVERWOOD
 08/28/14

 4
 4205 KIMBRELEE CT
 5
 4
 1
 ALEXANDRIA
 \$1,070,000
 Detached
 0.71
 22309
 DAWSON WOODS
 08/15/14

 5
 3808 KINGS HILL CT
 5
 4
 1
 ALEXANDRIA
 \$950,000
 Detached
 0.32
 22309
 DAWSON WOODS
 08/15/14

 6
 1210 HUNTIY PL
 4
 3
 0
 ALEXANDRIA
 \$950,000
 Detached
 0.50

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Home LifeStyle

Oronoco Condos Almost Sold Out

Size matters in 60-unit residences with panoramic views.

By Veronica Bruno Gazette Packet

he Oronoco Waterfront Residences, condominiums at 601 N. Fairfax St., are almost completely sold out. Only six units are left and sales began in May. Panoramic views of Oronoco Park, Old Town and the Potomac River as well as expansive city skyline views, are at least part of the reason. Then there is sheer size.

"Nowhere else in Old Town are one level condos available up to 3,500 square feet," said Preston Innerst, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for EYA, a leading developer of urban and transit-oriented properties. "Ample outdoor space up to 1,000 square feet provide a relaxing retreat. Ample amenities and concierge service provide a hotel-like atmosphere."

The stunning views aside, there are plenty of luxury features that set apart the new addition along the Old Town waterfront, which completed construction just this past summer. It is the first major addition of waterfront housing in Old Town in a dozen years, according to EYA.

Floor plans include libraries for some units and go up to 3,500 square feet for the penthouse residences. Also incorporated into penthouse suites are outdoor terraces up to 1,000 square feet.

The Oronoco was developed from the former Sheet Metal Workers International Association Building. The building has been adapted according to LEED for New Construction standards set by the U.S. Green Building Council and has retained much of the original parking space. Each unit includes two garage spaces and a private storage room.



Photo by ThomasArledge.com

The spacious residences include up to 1,000 square feet of patios and terraces as well as river and cityline views.

"THE CHALLENGE WAS that the floor plans and designs were driven by an existing footprint and shape of the building," said Innerst. "Residences were designed to maximize views in living area, so utility spaces are thoughtfully tucked along corridor walls."

The building includes 41 different floor plans to allow for different needs. "We understand that purchasers will have a variety of space needs, such as needing guest space or living quarters for live-in help, or desiring the owner's suite to be in a separate wing of the home," Innerst said. "In

some cases, units offer formal and informal living spaces."

The on-site workout area includes a yoga room and additional meticulous perks include a children's playroom, a dog-washing station as well as 24-hour security. The outdoor heated pool area also integrates a private clubhouse with a kitchen. A concierge desk is located in the two-story lobby.

Several of the Oronoco condos have been the top sales in the Old Town Alexandria area since they went to market. In the month of August alone, several units sold with the top price being \$3.2 million. The amenities of the City of Alexandria itself help explain why 90 percent of the condos are sold, Innerst said. "Old Town Alexandria is a vibrant community offering shopping, dining, the Torpedo Arts Center, spas and athletic clubs, a waterfront promenade, immediate access to the Mount Vernon trail for bikers, runners and walkers, Metro access to downtown DC and Reagan National on the Yellow line, and a water taxi to points on the DC waterfront. All are in walking distance and reflect EYA's mantra 'life within a walking distance."

Prices range from \$1.59 to \$4.49 million.

Planting for Fall Planning your autumn garden and yard.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

s 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 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 container 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



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Sunday Open Houses in Villamay

Dir.: G.W. Parkway South from Old Town, right on Tulane & follow Partners Signs.



7214 Valon Court \$1,500,000

•Custom-Built by Gene May in 1966 • First Offering by Original Owner • A Heavily Wooded **1.24 Acres** situated high above the **Potomac River** Villamay's Only Three-Level Colonial • Almost 6,000

square feet of Living Space • Magnificent Foyer Entry & Staircase • Formal Rooms designed for Entertaining •6 Bedrooms, 4 1/2 Baths •Main & Lower Level Family Rooms • Wet Bars on Main & Lower Levels • Rear Terrace – 52 feet in length

Burtonwood Drive \$989,000

• First Offering by **Original** Owner • Strikingly Beautiful Custom Split Level • Corner Lot with tremendous Curb Appeal • Professionally manicured landscape &



hardscape •One-of-a-Kind Floor Plan •Meticulously Maintained •4 Bedrooms •3 1/2 Baths • Family Room Wet Bar • Breezy Sunroom & Patio with Fountain in Rear • Updated Galley Kitchen w/Enormous Pantry Closet



7413 **Park Terrace Drive** \$999,000

 Exceptional Revitalization of Villamay's Largest Rambler One-of-a-Kind Gene May Creation • Captivating Sunrises over the Potomac River • Knockout Granite & Stainless Kitchen

• Expanded Main Level Master Suite • Five Bedrooms • Home Office • Main Level Hardwoods • Two Masonry Fireplaces • Full Service Wet Bar • Enlarged Laundry/ Utility Room • Three Magnificently Remodeled Baths • More Surprises in Store!

Fort Hunt Road \$800,000

 Smashing New Island Kitchen • True Center Hall Colonial •All Brick •Marble Entry • Hardwoods on Both Levels • New Roof • New Windows •Generous Formal



Rooms Flank Entry Foyer • Cathedral Beamed Ceiling in Massive Family Room •Two Masonry Fireplaces •Two-Zone HVAC System •Custom Deck with Builtin Seating • Two-Car Garage • Convenient Public Transportation Just Steps Away



7319 **Fairchild Drive** \$425,000

•Spacious Formal Rooms Granite & Stainless Kitchen • Family Room with Cathedral Ceiling • Hardwoods • Ceramic Tiled Baths •Fully Finished

Walkout Basement •LL Rec Room w/Fireplace & Wet Bar •LL Full Jacuzzi Bath •LL Den/Study Dir.: From I-495, Rt 1 South, R on Lockheed Blvd, L on Fairchild to 7319 on left.

Home LifeStyle

2014 Alexandria Beautification Awards

he Alexandria Beautification Commission announced the 2014 Alexandria Beautification Award winners in a ceremony held on Sept. 15, 2014 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. The Commission, Vice Mayor Allison Silberberg and Councilman Paul Smedberg presented 25 awards.

The 2014 awardees include: Farmers Market Food Waste Recovery Program; The Asher Apartments; 1201 Colonial Ave.; 910 Green St.; Jones Point Park; 223 Oronoco St.; 3200 Cameron Mills Road; 1305 Dartmouth Road; Fire Station #209; 103 West Linden St.; 310 Mansion Drive; 120 West Maple St.; 563 East Nelson St.; Potomac Yard Park; 30 Rosecrest Ave.; 2 Washington Circle; 729 North Ashton St.; 4401 Ford Ave.; 4302 Fox Haven Lane; 49 South French St.; 4825 Maury Lane; 3912 Taney Ave.; 5337 Truman Ave.; 5669 Rayburn Ave.; and 2307 North Sibley St.

The Commission sponsors the Alexandria Beautification Awards each year, recognizing community member's efforts to contribute to the beautification of their neighborhoods and public vistas with landscaping



120 West Maple Street

are made by members of the Commission and the community and are judged by members on the use of plants, texture and color, neighborhood context, marked improve-

Winners are limited to properties visible from the public right of way.

Photos by Louise Krafft/Gazette Packe

The Alexandria Beautification Commission is a 12-member volunteer board approved by the City Council for two-year

terms. The Beautification Commission represents citizens' values in City beautification matters and coordinates projects to encourage and achieve beautification.



For more information about the Awards program email Cathleen Curtin, Commission Co-chairperson at

AlexandriaBeautification@gmail.com.

Beautification Winners

Recycling

Farmers Market Food Waste Recovery

East Alexandria

- ❖ The Asher Apartments
- ❖ 1201 Colonial Avenue
- ❖ 910 Green Street
- ❖ Jones Point Park
- ❖ 223 Oronoco Street

Central Alexandria

- ❖ 3200 Cameron Mills Road
- ❖ 1305 Dartmouth Road
- ❖ Fire Station #209
- ❖ 103 West Linden Street
- ❖ 310 Mansion Drive ❖ 120 West Maple Street
- ❖ 563 East Nelson Street
- ❖ Potomac Yard Park
- ❖ 30 Rosecrest Avenue 2 Washington Circle

West Alexandria

- ❖ 729 North Ashton Street
- ❖ 4401 Ford Avenue
- ❖ 4302 Fox Haven Lane
- ❖ 49 South French Street
- ❖ 4825 Maury Lane
- ❖ 3912 Taney Avenue
- 5337 Truman Avenue
- ❖ 5669 Rayburn Avenue
- ❖ 2307 North Sibley Street





Home LifeStyle

Fireplaces Can Warm Outdoor Rooms

Tips for making your outdoor spaces comfy through the fall.

> BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE CONNECTION

s the air turns crisp and we settle into fall, the time is ideal for creating a cozy setting, whether it's elegant or rustic or modern. Many people have adapted part of their landscape as an outdoor room.

"Outdoor porches whether screened or just covered with a roof are great fall spaces," said Susan Matus, a Potomac, Md.based architect. "One can cozy them up with pillows and throws and outdoor lights, such as decorative twinkle lights or candles can create great ambiance."

Local designers reveal their favorite accessories and ideas for outdoor rooms and screened porches to help welcome the new season with style.

An outdoor fireplace commands attention and can offer a warm place for reading, napping or chatting with friends, and makes it comfortable to sit outside on a chilly

"I just built a stunning fireplace in a screened-in porch that transformed the space into a three-season room just in time for fall," said Robert Kalmin of Skill Construction and Design, LLC in Fairfax, Va. "Indoor-outdoor rugs and seating in fall colors make the space great for entertaining."

When it comes to outdoor fireplaces, however, there are a few caveats: "If it is a screened in porch, be careful of your ventilation. Whether you have a gas or woodburning fireplace you have to have noncombustible material for the mantle and it needs to back discharge for smoke," said Kalmin. He says such fireplaces can be added to an



Photo courtesy of Skill Construction and Design, LLC

Whether it's in an outdoor room or a screened-in porch, a fireplace commands attention and can offer a warm place for reading, napping or chatting with friends.

existing space in one-to-two weeks.

Accessories in warm, vibrant colors can help can transform an outdoor room from summer to fall. "Adding some cozy throw blankets to outdoor sofas allows you to stay outside on chilly nights," said Kerra Michele Huerta of Apartment Envy. "Also, as it gets darker and cooler earlier in the day, candles are a perfect accessory, adding both warmth and light."

Scented candles can add an aroma of fall. There are fabulous new pumpkin chaiscented candles by Nast Fragrance of New York that are wonderful," said John Brown of J. Brown & Co. in Old Town Alexandria.

In fact, lighting can transform a screened porch or outdoor room. "To a screened porch, you can add a ceiling fan with a down light and an up-light," said Kalmin. "The higher light can give you general lighting and the lower lights can create ambient lighting, and can be moved in different directions for setting a mood. There is also a monorail track system lighting, where you can install different types of lights depending on the mood you want to cre-

"Indoor-outdoor rugs and seating in fall colors make the space great for entertaining."

> - Robert Kalmin of **Skill Construction and Design**

Whether real or faux, fall produce can also add a seasonal touch to an outdoor room or screened porch, particularly on the mantle or around the hearth. "You can add faux pumpkins, gourds and berries," said Brown. 'Squirrels don't like the taste of those."

Don't forget serve wear, particularly when entertaining. "There are trays to carry coffee, tea, dessert in fall colors with fall leaves and birds with pumpkins," said Brown.

Matus suggests a finishing touch for outdoor spaces. "Another option is to hang drapery to create not only a more interior feeling but also drapery can be used to shield from the wind as a thermal barrier," she said.



Photo courtesy of J. Brown & Co

Pumpkins, gourds and other fall produce can also add a seasonal touch to an outdoor room or screened porch.

Photo courtesy of Skill Construction and Design, LLC Lighting can transform a screened porch or outdoor room.

Home LifeStyle

Planting for Fall

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. "This shrub develops in great clumps and is a wonderful contrast against any red twig. Oval-shaped green leaves turn to orange-red in fall, followed by white fruit tinged with green."

Grasses, added Katia Goffin, are ideal for fall and can be mixed with other foliage. "You can put evergreens in your yard and add some grasses. There are tons [of grasses] that are flowering and look [good] with evergreens."

ORNAMENTAL VEGETABLES also work well in fall and beyond. "There is decora-

"Because the ground is still warm and air is cool, there is less transplant shock for plants when you take them out of the container to plant them. Now is a great time to put in a landscape."

— Kelly Grimes



The fading colors of hydrangea blooms add subtle color..

tive cabbage and kale, which will grow anywhere and are deer resistant, which is a big factor these days," said Grimes. "As the temperatures get cooler, they get more color and last in winter."

Then there are the edible vegetables. Good options are spinach, Swiss chard, arugula, mustard greens and red lettuces, said Storvick, who also suggested "root crops [like] carrots, radishes, parsnips and beets. You can also plant garlic and leeks now for spring harvesting."

There are a few common mistakes that homeowners make, however: "Planting plants that deer eat and not thinking about the critters that come though your yard is something I see a lot," said Grimes.

Giving a garden too much water is an-

other frequent mistake, according to Storvick. "Overwatering, especially when the weather starts to get colder, [and] leaving new plants unprotected ... are probably some of the most common mistakes I've encountered. Mulching around the base of plants helps protect them from cold and wind, as well as keeping in moisture."

Also, take care when pruning springblooming shrubs and trees, he cautioned: "While a lot of plants prefer winter pruning, a lot of our great spring-blooming shrubs, like azaleas, for example, will only produce flowers on the previous season's growth, so by pruning in the winter, you eliminate all of the flower buds. For these plants, it's best to prune them immediately after they're done blooming for the season."

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

eighbors 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.



Photos courtesy of Home Fronts News

Remodeler Ted Daniels added 2,000 square feet to his personal residence on Hunting Horse Drive.

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. 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 deteriorate.

That's when her friend, Christina Gallagher, whose children had at-

tended 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."

In Clifton's
Colchester Hunt
section, architect
Tom Flach at
Kohlmark Architects checks
plans for Steve
and Maureen
Landry's Craftsman-style renovation, now
getting its finishing touches.

Remodeler's Charity Home Tour, Nov. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.Remodelers CharityHomeTour.com or call 703-425-5588 for more





Home Life Style

Great Falls Studios Art Tour Set for Oct. 17-19

Falls Studios art tour is its easy accessibil-

With 50 professional artists situated within an 18-mile radius offering access to their personal working space, all a motivated art tourist needs to do is get the map and head to their destinations of choice between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Friday, Oct. 17 to Sunday, Oct. 19.

Participating artists have arranged an "open house" for the weekend at each stop and relish the opportunity to show off re-

One of the simple pleasures of the Great cent work. Disciplines range from traditional painting and photography to layered paper, fiber art, pottery and jewelry making. A diversity of style and vision blossoms in all directions.

> Overall, the consortium represents 113 artists; many have been plying their craft for decades; some have received national honors. The tour is free and all are welcome to any of the participating studios. Nichols says that many visitors develop a practical trip plan by following a particular theme.

For more, see www.greatfallsstudios.com



Painter Robert Gilbert in his home studio.

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