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PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

OCTOBER 9-15, 2014

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# Focus on Transportation Priorities

**Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance presents regional priorities at 10th annual event.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**“What You Need to Know about Transportation in Five Minutes or Less”** was the working title of this year’s Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTa) seminar and reception held on Sept. 30 at Capital One’s auditorium in McLean. With the often confusing alphabet soup of Virginia’s transportation-related agencies, organizations, alliances, boards, and commissions it was good that the NVTa meant five minutes per speaker. No one could make sense of the Commonwealth’s transportation current state of affairs, its history, or plans for the future in 300 seconds.

Thankfully, the NVTa gathered the key players from those various organizations and gave each five minutes to make a presentation in keeping with the theme of their 10th Annual Seminar – “Regional Priorities and Prioritization.” The speakers were all recognized authorities on the subject and stayed on point with materials and comments that were accessible to audience members less in-the-know on all of the details of each agency and the projects they impact, as well as the most subject-knowledgeable in the audience. Bob Chase, president of the NVTa, in his role as moderator, for the 10th time, made the introductions, kept the speakers within their time budgets, and directed the Q & A session following the presentations.

According to the NVTa members, the seminar title was carefully chosen. Chase made reference during his opening remarks to a document published earlier this year by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board titled “Regional Transportation Priorities Plan” that “listed no actual priority projects. I’m not sure how we get to solving problems if we have no priorities,” said Chase. “The good news is that efforts are underway in Virginia to address this deficiency.”

**ANOTHER REASON** why prioritization of projects is critical and was a key focus of the seminar is the passage of HB 2 by the Virginia Legislature earlier this year and HB 599 which addresses prioritization for projects funded through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). As a follow-up to the historic bi-partisan passage of HB 2313 in 2013, which provided significant state funds for transportation for the first time in 27 years, HB 2, “Provides for the development of a prioritization pro-



The panel participates in the question and answer session after each gave a presentation to the attendees of the “What You Need to Know about Transportation in Five Minutes or Less,” seminar. From left are Charlie Kilpatrick, commissioner VDOT; Nick Donohue, Virginia deputy transportation secretary; Doug Allen, CEO VRE; Aubrey L. Layne, Jr., Virginia secretary of transportation; Camelia Ravanbakht, interim executive director, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning; Renee Hamilton, NoVa District deputy administrator, VDOT; Hal Parrish, mayor, City of Manassas and Northern Virginia Transportation Authority board member; Richard Sarles, out-going CEO/general manager, WMATA, and Helen Cuervo, NoVa District administrator, VDOT.



Enjoying the moment before getting down to business are, from left, David Birtwistle, CEO of the event’s organizer, the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, and NVTa President Bob Chase, who also served as the event moderator.

cess for projects funded by the Commonwealth Transportation Board ... that shall weigh factors such as congestion mitigation, economic development, accessibility, safety, and environmental quality.” With real money on the table with which to proceed, and a “wants and needs” list for each locale that far outweighs the funds currently or foreseeably available, some scoring method needs to be developed and implemented to ensure that the state gets the best “bang for the transportation buck” from every project chosen. As speaker Aubrey L. Layne, Jr., the Virginia secretary of transportation said, “Accountability was missing from the process.” By scoring each proposed

project and benchmarking it to the requirements of HB 2, Layne noted that the selection process would be fairer and more transparent. According to Layne, even projects already underway and those that are exempt from HB 2 should still be examined and scored.

Nick Donohue, Virginia deputy transportation secretary, provided more detail on the HB 2 Process, praising the “remarkable, unanimous, bi-partisan vote” that led to the bill which took effect on July 1. “The process will be developed over the next 12 months by the Commonwealth Transportation Board,” said Donohue, and applied to “projects based on the (planning document)



Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey L. Layne, Jr. was the final speaker of the evening.

VTrans 2040 needs assessment toward the drafting of a six-year improvement program.” Donohue, as well as several other speakers, also reminded the audience that many of Northern Virginia’s transportation plans had to also take into account emergency evacuations from the District. “It’s just one more of the realities our region faces.”

While there was much discussion regarding future transportation needs for a region that has grown from two million people in 1970 to more than five million today — with growth projections reaching almost seven million by 2040 — a number of the speakers addressed the status of recent projects

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



## Seeing Red and Blue

Colleagues say  
Gerry Connolly's vision  
central to productivity.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**G**erry Connolly doesn't have 20/20 vision. His round wire-framed spectacles and cropped salt-and-pepper mustache have long accessorized his look, whether sporting a black pinstripe suit or a billowy navy University of Virginia windbreaker (his daughter Caitlin Rose is an alumna).

But when the Star-Texaco storage facility at the Pickett Road tank farm started leaking oil that seeped into groundwater near his Mantua home, he could see with great clarity something needed to be done.

"It was quite a drama," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman and then-Braddock Supervisor Sharon Bulova. Bulova got to know Connolly in his capacity as president of the Mantua Citizens Association. "Gerry was magnificent in going to bat for his community. He was a calm, strong voice during that time."

That was nearly two decades ago, before Connolly's career in public office began in 1995 when he was elected Providence District supervisor on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. In 1999 no one opposed him for re-election and in 2003 he became chairman. He was re-elected in 2007, before



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

**Local, state and national officials at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Silver Line July 26 this year. Connolly (far right) was instrumental in bringing the project to completion. "Without him we wouldn't be here today," said Richard Sarles, Metro's CEO and general manager.**

being elected to Congress the first time in November 2008.

"He's a pretty quick study of problems," said state Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35). "He's a pretty bright guy, but the experience accounts for a fair amount of that. There's not many problems he hasn't seen."

Friends and colleagues who've known and worked with him over these years say it's his vision that drives his service-oriented work. He can see a finish line and methodi-

**"Most people know him by name. He's the epitome of a representative."**

— Del. Mark Keam (D-35)

cally goes about reaching it.

"Gerry's not afraid to go out on a limb for something that he thinks is right," said Bill

### Bio

**Candidate:** Gerald E. Connolly

**Political Party:** Democrat

**Current Position:** Third term as 11th congressional district representative. Currently serves on the House Committees on Foreign Affairs and Oversight and Government Reform.

**Born:** March 30, 1950 in Boston, Mass.

**Residence:** Mantua

**Spouse:** Cathy

**Children:** Caitlin Rose, 23

**Education:** B.A. in Literature from Maryknoll College. M.A. in Public Administration from Harvard University

**Previous Organizations:** Served as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (four years), Providence District supervisor (nine years), chairman of the Fairfax County Legislative Committee, vice-chair of the county's Economic Advisory Committee, chairman of the Board of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC), chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), member and chairman of the Board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), chairman of the regional Emergency Preparedness Taskforce, Fairfax County representative and president on the Board of the Virginia Association of Counties (VaCo), a term as Mantua Citizens Association (MCA) president and two terms as Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations president.

Bouie, chairman of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board and longtime friend of Connolly. "He's a guy of true conviction."

Bouie and Connolly each attended seminary earlier in life, and each ended up pursuing a different sort of public service.

**"HE'S GOT A PASSION** for parks," said Bouie. "He uses our parks and trails. He's the father of the Cross County trail. It was his vision to connect the entire county."

More than the parks and rec centers, Bouie said a needs assessment found trails were the Park Authority's most in-demand

SEE CONNOLLY, PAGE 4

## Family Fun Day for 'Growing Hope' Draws Big Turnout

Live music, activities, food and fun raises  
funds for families of children with cancer.

**T**he Vienna Town Green rung out with joyful sounds, from children's laughter to live pop music, on Saturday, Sept. 27, as the Optimists of Greater Vienna hosted its 9th Annual Family Fun Day and Fun Walk for "Growing Hope."

Every year, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna sponsors the four-hour event to raise funds for the Optimists' childhood cancer campaign, supporting Growing Hope's local efforts to provide resources to children with cancer and their families.

"No one should go through an experience like this without the support of the community, friends and family," said Optimist, Pat Hackerson, whose Weichert Realty colleague lost a daughter. "We recognize the need for a cure for cancer, especially for the children. This [financial support] is for the babies, and ba-

bies are our future. And most of us have children and we can relate."

Hackerson's office has contributed more than \$4,500 to the Optimists' childhood cancer campaign over the past nine years.

Family-fun activities included a fun run, bounce-house, dunk tank, local artists, face-painting, live music, refreshments, raffle drawings, and a live auction. Vienna resident Mark Keam, representing the 35th District in the Virginia House of Delegates, volunteers 30 minutes in the dunk-tank each year, and ball-throwers did a pretty good job of dunking Keam on Saturday.

Donaldson's Run performed a selection of classic rock, songs like "Son of a Preacher Man" and "Heat Wave." It was enough to draw bikers and walkers from the W & OD trail and families walking down Church Street.

The McKinley family was one such family walking by. They heard the music and



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Two-year-old Kristina McKinley had her face painted by Angela McCall of Paint Me a Party. McCall volunteered her service.**

dropped in for the bouncehouse and face-painting. "This is a great event," said Biljana McKinley. "It made me happy to live in Vienna."

Local businesses donated food, raffle and auction prizes to the Optimists. Amphora, Foster's Grille Vienna, Giant Food, Costco, Manhattan Bagel, Dunkin' Donuts, Walgreen's and Starbucks provided free refreshments. Again this year, neither Donaldson's Run nor Angela McCall of Paint Me a Party took a fee for their services.

Donations and raised funds stay in the community. Seventy-five percent of the Family Fun Day's proceeds go directly to Growing Hope. The remaining 25 percent is donated to the childhood cancer research program at Johns Hopkins University & Medical Center.

For more information on the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna or Growing Hope, visit [www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/childcc2014](http://www.optimistclubofgreatervienna.org/childcc2014)

—DONNA MANZ



## NEWS

# Incumbent Connolly is a 'Calm, Strong Voice'

FROM PAGE 3

amenity. The full trail now touches every magisterial district in the county, "which is no easy feat," said Bouie.

"Gerry, along with the trail advocates, heard that message loud and clear. He went into action to make sure we were able to provide such an amenity."

Another, more expansive, example of what Bulova said is Connolly's "commitment to getting things done" is the first phase completion of the \$5.6 billion Metro Silver Line rail extension.

**"WITHOUT HIM** we wouldn't be here today," said Richard Sarles, Metro's CEO and general manager, at the July 26 ribbon-cutting in Reston.

Bringing the vision of the new rail to life was a lengthy process, spanning Connolly's time as an elected official, across various levels of government.

"There was period of time when the project was in danger of falling apart again because of funding issues and discord on the [Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority] board," said Bulova. "Gerry moved the Silver Line forward during a really rocky time."

"I had real clarity," said Connolly, "I can't imagine our future without it. We have to have this. I think it's a transformative investment that's going to change the Dulles corridor and anchor this part of northern Virginia to the core of Metro. That's absolutely essential for our economic future."

He didn't do it alone, but what colleagues describe as his "personable" and appropriately "light-hearted" and "serious" demeanor helped him engage across party lines and public offices.

"He had a lot of interaction with Secretary [of Transportation Ray] LaHood and Congressman Wolf, in bipartisan fashion," said Eileen Filler-Corn, Virginia House delegate from the 41st district. "Just focusing on trying to reduce the cost."

Working together with LaHood, Wolf, 8th District representative Jim Moran and senators Warner and Kaine, Connolly and company secured a \$1.9 billion TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) loan from the Department of Transportation for the second phase of the Silver Line.

"A lot of people go into politics to make a point," said Filler-Corn. "I think Gerry goes into politics to make things happen."

"My philosophy about being in this job is making a difference," Connolly said, "getting something done for people, for my community."

Del. Mark Keam (D-35) jokingly said Connolly's constant presence around his district makes constituents "spoiled." "I see him probably one to two times per week," said Keam. "Most people know him by name. He's the epitome of a representative."

Part of Connolly's vision philosophy derives from the WWII-era Lutheran minister and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The minister died in a Nazi prison, having challenged the conviction of a collapsing arts, academic and religious establishment.

"How passionately do you believe in what you say you believe?" said Connolly. "He had clarity about that in a very difficult time. It took a lot of courage and he gave his life for it. That was a profound insight to me."

**THOUGH HE DIDN'T ENTER** the clergy, Connolly made humanitarian work an early priority in his time on the Board of Supervisors, committing to end homelessness in Fairfax County. He led the adoption of a homeless coordinator and housing initiative, part of a systematic policy.

Louis Crandell was a Fairfax County waste water lab tech before a work-related fall left him with frontal lobe brain damage, living on disability compensation. Crandell spiraled downward with substance abuse after charges filed against him in North Carolina cost him his benefits. He found himself living in a tent in the woods.

Linda Wimpey, founder of the homelessness outreach organization FACETS, recommended Crandell meet Connolly and ask for help.

"I tell you, it was like magic," said Crandell. "It's a direct result of Mr. Connolly that I'm not on that forest floor right now."

Connolly and his constituent services staff investigated Crandell's charges (which were ultimately dropped) and insurance situation, and helped Crandell find another job and subsidized housing. Crandell now volunteers with FACETS and at First Baptist Church on Braddock Road.

"He was so pleased with this whole set of initiatives that bettered his life," said Connolly, "that came into our office and framed it as 'I am a walking advertisement for all you were advocating.' It works."

"He says his door's always open," said Crandell. "That's literally the truth."

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## AREA ROUNDUPS

### Farmers Market on Thursdays

Each Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., the Fairfax County Government Center hosts a farmers market in its parking lot. The Government Center is at 12000 Government Center Parkway, in Fair Oaks. The next markets are slated for Oct. 9 and Oct. 16.

### K-9 Krawl 5K is Oct. 18

The Fairfax County Police Department's annual K-9 Krawl 5K is set for Saturday, Oct. 18, at the county Government Center's parking lot C. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by a K-9 demonstration at 8:45 a.m. and the 5K walk at 9 a.m.

This event was created to bring awareness to the connection between animal cruelty and the link to domestic violence, and people are welcome to walk with their dogs. Register at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/FCPD2014K9KRAWL](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FCPD2014K9KRAWL).

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 9

**Savvy Social Security.** 7 p.m. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, downstairs Fellowship Hall, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. This one hour workshop covers the basics of Social Security and reveals strategies for maximizing benefits, including five factors to consider when deciding when to apply for benefits, how to minimize

taxes on Social Security benefits and how to coordinate Social Security with other sources of retirement income. RSVP's and further questions will be handled by calling or emailing, Financial Associate, Sheri Swackhamer at 571-970-0454 or [sheri.swackhamer@thrivent.com](mailto:sheri.swackhamer@thrivent.com).

#### FRIDAY/OCT. 10

**Red Cross Blood Donation.** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. To make an appointment to donate blood, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



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# OPINION

## Ebola? Whooping Cough? Enterovirus?

### Wash your hands, get your flu shot.

There is plenty to be fearful about. Local outbreaks of whooping cough, due to some parents opting out of vaccines; whooping cough can be deadly for infants. Enterovirus, an upper respiratory illness mostly affecting children, which can become very serious very quickly for some children. The spectre of ebola killing thousands of people in West Africa, and also possibly arriving via any international airport.

But there are a few things you can do to protect yourself and those around you from likely the biggest infectious health threat in your neighborhood, influenza.

The flu will kill thousands of people in the United States this flu season, ranging from October to May. Over 30 years, the average number of deaths was more than 20,000 annually according to the CDC, although the number ranged from 3,000 to 48,000.

Flu vaccination is cheap, easy and effective. Getting vaccinated was associated with a 71

percent reduction in flu-related hospitalizations among adults of all ages and a 77 percent reduction among adults 50 years of age and older during the 2011-2012 flu season.

Get a flu shot. Make sure everyone in your family gets a flu shot. Most people with health insurance can get the vaccination without paying anything for it. Getting vaccinated doesn't just protect you, it also protects the people around you who might be more vulnerable, including young children, people over 65, pregnant women, people with other health conditions like being in cancer treatment or with chronic upper respiratory problems.

### EDITORIAL

Quoting the CDC:

"Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. Over a period of 31 seasons between 1976 and 2007, estimates of flu-associated deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people. During a regular flu season, about 90 percent of deaths occur in people 65 years and older. "Flu season" in the United

### More on Flu and Flu Vaccines

#### Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

#### Fairfax County

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/>

States can begin as early as October and last as late as May.

"During this time, flu viruses are circulating at higher levels in the U.S. population. An annual seasonal flu vaccine (either the flu shot or the nasal spray flu vaccine) is the best way to reduce the chances that you will get seasonal flu and spread it to others. When more people get vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through that community."

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Home Values on the Rise

BY KERRIE B. WILSON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CORNERSTONE



Why do you live where you live today? Is it convenience to work or good schools? Access to attractions? Does the housing cost fit your budget?

For most people, finding the perfect home often comes down to a family's values and priorities for the stage of life they are in, choosing what's most important if you can't get everything in one home.

Yet, for many families and individuals in Fairfax County, there are only hard choices and tradeoffs that no person would willingly accept for their family. To afford a 2-bedroom apartment in our area at fair market rate of \$1,469 requires an annual household income of \$56,480. For a minimum wage worker that equates to 132 hours of work per week. In Fairfax County, nearly 1/5 of households earn less than would be required to pay that rent without some temporary or ongoing support. Do you move out miles and add hours and cost to getting to your job? Do you sacrifice housing safety or time with your children to work two or more jobs to pay the bills? The stress on those with limited incomes or ability to earn a "hous-

ing wage" hurts everyone in community. Recognizing this, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors prioritized "livable, caring and affordable communities" that reflect the options families value. Despite the headline goal, we have not kept pace with housing production and preservation needed to support affordable living opportunities. Huge increases in construction and land costs have outstripped growth in household income, compounded by the reduction in government subsidies now available to bridge those gaps.

At Cornerstones, we understand the consequences for those who fall into this affordability gap and we are working on many levels to address the challenge.

Consider, the Brown family who entered the Embury Rucker shelter with their children this summer. Shaken by the reality of shelter living, they are willing to make changes. It won't be an easy road. Mr. Brown is unemployed and never completed high school. Mrs. Brown is an administrative assistant in a Reston-based business earning \$36,000. They have two elementary age children who have made friends and feel at home at

a local elementary school. The Browns' total household income means they earn too much for some benefits, but not enough to support their family. A short-term solution is a transitional housing program that emphasizes educational attainment and job training for people willing to work hard to increase earning potential in exchange for time-limited rent support.

Will the Browns' make it? They have a lot going for them, but will still join thousands of other families in Fairfax County who are on waiting lists for housing vouchers or other affordable rental subsidies essential to surviving this chapter in their life.

Long-term, the only sustainable solution requires a community investment. Cornerstones has worked in our community for more than 40 years to preserve affordable housing and give families like the Browns realistic housing options.

This month—after a long journey aided by our supporters and partners like Bozzuto, Wells Fargo, Fairfax County, Virginia Development Housing Authority, Freddie Mac and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Best of Reston partnership—Cornerstones will purchase and assume sole ownership responsibilities for The Apartments at North Point in Reston's

desirable North Point community. Walkable to shopping, on the bus line, and just miles from the Silver Line metro, these attractive, accessible garden style apartments are available at below market rents—expanding the choice of living and working in a community rich with opportunities for service, great schools, and access to open space and recreational opportunities.

Who are these neighbors? North Point residents include teachers, government employees, retired individuals and students, and formerly homeless families like the Browns. Annual household income for our tenants range from \$15,000 to \$70,000 per year.

The permanent subsidy required for Cornerstones to guarantee affordability can be as much as \$25,000 per unit per year, depending on the situation of the individual tenant. As tenant income grows, so too will the amount paid towards rent and the equity we reinvest to keep homes affordable for all.

While the 100 units we own and manage are part of the solution, Fairfax County is still far short of the overall number of homes needed to support a healthy, thriving community; a minimum of 1,650 units are still needed just to

SEE WILSON, PAGE 7

## Springfield CONNECTION

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## LETTERS

### Meeting ID Requirements

To the Editor:

Thank you for your informative editorial about the new Photo ID requirement ("Does the Change in Voter ID Laws Matter?" Connection, October 1-7, 2014) and the opportunity for those who do not have acceptable Photo IDs to obtain free ones for voting purposes from any general registrar's office.

The Fairfax County Office of Elections is not arranging transportation for people to get to the office, though some organizations may be. The county is taking the photo ID equipment out to libraries, government centers, in-person absentee voting sites, and other locations to enable citizens to get the IDs

more easily. The schedules of locations and times are on the Office of Elections website.

People who apply for a Photo ID too late to receive it in the mail can ask for a temporary photo ID. It will be accepted as a valid ID for voting. Registered voters going to the polls on election day who do not have an eligible photo ID can vote a provisional ballot and then go to the Office of Elections by noon on the Friday after election day, obtain a temporary photo ID, and have their provisional ballot counted.

**Sidney Johnson**

Voter Service Director

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

### Wilson

FROM PAGE 6

meet the goals established under the 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

We are often asked to enumerate the benefits of our work. Every dollar spent on affordable housing production or subsidy helps revitalize family incomes, business bottom lines and government revenues. Housing recipients benefit from reduced risk of homelessness, safer neighborhoods, improved physical and mental health and raising motivated children who succeed at

school and in life. The most significant short-term economic impact from housing development is on employment. Each job supported or created through affordable housing projects generates another one or more at the local level. Every \$1 in rental income generates over \$2 in economic activity for local economies. It all adds up.

Cornerstones is proud to be part of this equation, working locally to build thriving communities.

At the same time we will engage in today's important values conversations, talking now with the Fairfax

County Economic Advisory Commission as it creates a strategic plan that recognizes the role that housing and workforce development play in economic development (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/success/>). We have joined the county's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee in calling for revenue bonds for affordable housing (join the conversation on Twitter #FFXBonds4Home).

Home values are on the rise, in North Point and Fairfax County. Prioritize housing choice for your neighbors; it's a community value we can live with.

## Safety Apps are Now Available

**See Something, Send Something:** This app is a nationwide suspicious-activity reporting tool to help fight terrorism and criminal activity. It does not replace 911 for emergency situations. This app allows people to send suspicious activity as a photo or text directly to the Virginia State Police. Visit [www.vsp.virginia.gov/FusionCenter/mobileApp.shtm](http://www.vsp.virginia.gov/FusionCenter/mobileApp.shtm).

**Child Safe Kit:** This site provides a free Child Safe Kit, delivered to people's doors. They may record vital statistics and urgent medical information in case it's needed quickly by authorities. Visit [www.childsafekit.com/](http://www.childsafekit.com/).

**FBI Child ID:** This application provides a convenient place to store vital information about a child. Allows quick emailing of the information and provides safety tips. Visit [www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/august/child\\_080511](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/august/child_080511).

**Alert ID:** A site for keeping up-to-date on what's happening around home/work. People will get email notifications when certain offenses occur within the chosen radius of an address. This site also offers other information, such as weather updates, and is a social network too. People may use it to have discussions with neighbors and meet new neighbors. Visit [www.alertid.com/](http://www.alertid.com/).

Before using the following two apps, people must check to see if their specific campus has this program. Students may use it to stay up-to-date about campus emergencies:

**Campus Alerts:** <http://www.campusalerts.com/webcorp/default.html>.

**Live Safe:** <http://www.livesafemobile.com/>.



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## News

# Transportation Priorities Discussed

FROM PAGE 2

and those currently in progress, like Helen Cuervo, Northern Virginia District administrator for VDOT. Cuervo reported on the opening in August of three eastbound lanes as part of the Route 50 widening project, with the three westbound lanes on schedule to open in spring of 2015. FY2014 saw more than 670 lane miles paved in our region, with another 826 lane miles scheduled for paving in FY2015. Express Lanes on 95 were also reported to be on schedule for a late 2014/early 2015 opening, running from Edsall Road in Fairfax County for 27 miles to Garrisonville Road in Stafford County. Cuervo also provided updates on improvements for Route 7 and work on interchanges along Route 28 and other highly congested byways. The Express Lane project and other projects noted by Cuervo that extend well into Loudoun and Prince William counties from Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria all served as prime examples of the "regional" cooperation that the NVTAA believes essential to address transportation woes.

Mayor Hal Parrish of the City of Manassas represented the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the body created by the General Assembly in 2002. Embracing the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park, the authority is responsible for preparing a regional transportation plan and has the power to implement transportation facilities in the plan, acquire land for transportation facilities, and contract to provide, or operate transportation facilities.

Parrish reported that the authority has already

approved 34 projects. The first year of approved projects are valued at \$209,793,000. He noted that 70 percent of available funds would be utilized for regional projects included in the TransAction 2040 Plan that have been evaluated by VDOT for congestion mitigation or emergency evacuation as called for in HB 599, as well as mass transit capital projects.

Other speakers included outgoing WMATA CEO and General Manager Richard Sarles, who was awarded with applause from the crowd when he spoke of Metro's "Eight Car Train Initiative" to add to the current train length and increase ridership significantly. CEO Doug Allen outlined the plans for Virginia Railway Express's growth, particularly along 395, 95, and I-66.

Charlie Kilpatrick, commissioner of VDOT, presented "I-66: What's the Fix and When?" Most of the proposed works from the Beltway to Haymarket will still be a long time coming. Kilpatrick described the vision of I-66 with two express HOV-3 lanes, three non-tolled general lanes, ramp-to-ramp connections and a Rapid Bus Service with direct access opportunities from Park-and-Ride lots to Express Lanes.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTAA) is a private sector organization focused on collaboratively developing ways to make better transportation a reality for the region's citizens and businesses. It leads a coalition of more than 20 major Northern Virginia business organizations, aimed at supporting transportation investments of the greatest regional significance. The presentation materials of the seminar's speakers are available on the website [www.nvtta.org](http://www.nvtta.org).

## You Can Make a Difference



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## NEWS

# Gone Girls Next Door

PSA roll-out marks one-year anniversary of “Just Ask” project.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n a sunny afternoon, a police officer pulls over a young male driver. There’s an innocent-looking, girl-next-door type in the back seat of the car. The driver responds to the officer’s basic questions with cold indifference. When questioned, the girl in the back says she’s fine. Maybe she betrays a hint of unease.

Off-screen, a man’s voice makes the sorrowful observation that he never expected his daughter to become involved with human trafficking. The voice is sad, but not self-critical. Who’s at fault in this situation? The parents? The daughter?

The public service announcement, an outreach effort by the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force “Just Ask” Prevention Project, was rolled out to the public last week at the Fair Oaks District Police Station.

The date of the roll out coincided with the halfway mark of the project itself, a two-year, \$1 million Department of Justice grant-funded enterprise to help with enforcement and education related to human trafficking crimes. “Our message is just to let the community know that this exists and it’s a growing problem,” said Kristin Fitzmorris with Just Ask. “These girls, usually girls, are victims, not criminals. That’s been a problem up until recently, where people are shunned, especially in some of the cultural communities in Fairfax County. There’s a tendency sometimes to think that, if they get involved in this, you’re a bad person. It’s not the case.”

As part of the Just Ask project outreach, members of the task force created an interactive website for teens and their parents, teachers and members of the community, as well as developed a high school curriculum to bring the issue up at schools.

**THROUGH RESEARCHING** the schools, Fitzmorris said they found Krya Beckman, a senior at West Springfield High School. Beckman had already started her own awareness club called Spartans against Human Trafficking. Just Ask asked her to join a group of current and former FCPS students that produced the PSA.

Only a year old, the club already has 70 members and meets weekly to write supportive letters to trafficking survivors and organize public displays like wristband campaigns.

“I wanted to start a club against women’s oppression,” said Beckman. “But then I realized there was actually trafficking in our area and it was a huge problem. So then the best way for me as a student to help out, because I knew I had to do something about it, was to start a club to raise aware-



**West Springfield High School seniors Elaine Stewart and Kyra Beckman worked with the human trafficking community outreach Just Ask Prevention Project to create a new trafficking public service announcement.**

ness.”

“She has this real insight into knowing how to motivate people her own age,” said Fitzmorris. “It feels rewarding, but also it feels kind of right,” said Beckman. “I really wanted people my age to know about it too, because it’s kind of hidden in the shadows.”

In the first year of the Just Ask project, community members have supplied 141 leads that lead to 253 victims being identified, 13 percent of whom were juveniles.

Separate law enforcement investigation identified an additional 69 suspects.

One example is the case of Tayron Weeks, an Alexandria man who approached a 14-year-old girl at the Braddock Road Metro station and engaged her about prostituting herself. After a successful sting operation, Weeks plead guilty to trafficking charges last month.

“That would not have been possible without the Just Ask campaign,” said Detective Bill Woolf of the FCPD Human Trafficking Unit. “What ultimately gave that girl the courage to come forward and report what was going on was because of an event that was sponsored by the Fairfax County Office for Women, in conjunction with Just Ask. After that she was educated by the website and got the courage to come forward.”

Elaine Stewart, a friend of Beckman’s and also a senior at West Springfield, played the girl in the PSA. “It was very interesting, just because I knew I was in a safe environment,” she said. “It was hard to actually imagine what it would be like to be a victim.”

“I think this video will help reinforce that,” she said, “so people will see it and understand that they themselves might be being trafficked. Or they know someone. So they’re able to approach it and get out of the situation appropriately.”

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, visit [www.justaskva.org](http://www.justaskva.org). The PSA is available to view on the Just Ask YouTube page.

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## THROUGH WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

**War on the Doorstep: Fairfax Militia in the War of 1812.** Exhibition. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Open Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free tours at 1 p.m. 703-591-0560.

## THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8, 2015

**Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events.** Exhibition. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Stree, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 703-385-8414.

## THROUGH THURSDAY/OCT. 23

**Drawing and Painting Lab.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria. Every Thursday of October, explore drawing and painting techniques. Students should bring a 9"x12" watercolor pad, graphite pencils, fine Sharpie or Pitt pen, a set of colored pencils, a set of watercolors, brushes #4 and #6 and a flat brush for washes and blending. Admissions: \$74/person. Register at [www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring) using code 290 430 3501 or call 703-642-5173. For adults.

## THROUGH SUNDAY/OCT.19

**Earth and Fire Ceramics Exhibition.** Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. An exhibition featuring the works of 35 leading ceramic artists from the nine nations: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. <http://workhousearts.org>

## THROUGH SUNDAY/OCT. 12

**Edgar Allan Poe's Nevermore.** Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd, Lorton. Take a musical journey into the heart and soul of Edgar Allan Poe, America's first truly visionary poet. Lyrics are adapted from Poe's writings. Admissions: \$15. [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). 703-584-2900.

## THROUGHT SATURDAY/OCT. 25

**40 Years of Potomac Valley Watercolorists Public Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, 22079 Lorton. This exhibit of 100 watercolor painting celebrates the 40 year anniversary of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists. <http://workhousearts.org>

## THROUGH FRIDAY/NOV. 3

**Adventures in Learning.** 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. This program is open to all adults age 50 or better. Registrants bring a bag lunch and stay for a full day of classes/activities and socializing, or pick and choose the classes that interest them the most. \$30. [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) or 703-323-4788.

## THROUGH FRIDAY/OCT. 31

**Pumpkin Patch.** 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Messiah United Methodist Church,



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**The Unicycle Lady entertains at Clifton Day last year. This year's Clifton Day will be on Oct. 12.**

6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Pumpkins are available from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily until Oct. 31, when the patch closes at 6 p.m. 703-569-9862.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 10

**Ancestors 101: Library Edition.** 1 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. FCPL's Virginia Room's Elaine McHale shares wealth of genealogical data available on Ancestry, including census, immigration, military, and vital records. Adults. Free. 703-249-1520.

**Late Night in the Virginia Room.** 6-11 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Join fellow researchers and genealogists for after-hours research in the Virginia Room. Attendees must be in the library before 6 p.m. and may leave at any time. Adults. Registration is required. 703-293-6227.

**Researching the History of Your Fairfax County House.** 6 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Learn how to research the history of your Fairfax County home and property. Discover more about the former owners of your land. This class is offered during "Late Night in the Virginia Room." Attendee must also register for "Late Night in the Virginia Room" and must be in the library before 6 p.m. Adults. 703-293-6227.

**Introduction to Ancestry Library Edition.** 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Come learn about the wealth of genealogical data available on Ancestry, including census, immigration, military and vital records. Attendee must also register for "Late Night in the Virginia Room" and must be in the library before 6 p.m. Adults. 703-293-6227.

**Amici Vocal Ensemble – An Evening of Opera Arias.** 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Amici Vocal Ensemble is made up of Jeongseon Choi (piano), Jennie Yeonjin Kim (soprano), and James Jongsik Joo (tenor). They present "An Evening of Opera Arias," which consists of love songs and love duets from major operas by Verdi, Puccini and Gounod. For more information, visit [www.fairfaxarts.org](http://www.fairfaxarts.org) or call 703-352-ARTS.

**Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series.** 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Occurs 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, except during government holidays. Will feature 12 performances by groups playing music ranging from classical and opera to Latin and jazz. [www.fairfaxarts.org](http://www.fairfaxarts.org).

**Late Night in the Virginia Room.** 6

- 11 p.m. The Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Amateur genealogists and local historians are invited to a special "night owl" research night. Participants can do independent research or attend classes and drop-in sessions on topics that include house and property history, on-line genealogy, researching at the National Archives and cemetery research. Light refreshments will be provided. Must arrive before 6 p.m. 703-324-8380.

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 11 – 12**  
**"Sweeney Todd – The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."**

Saturday: 8 p.m. Sunday: 2 p.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Award-winning musical thriller about revenge, murder and meat pies.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 11

**Fall Festival in Old Town Historic Fairfax.** 10209 Main St., Fairfax. What started out as a small market for artisans has grown to a festival with over 400 arts, crafts and food vendors, children's activities and entertainment for all ages. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/fall-festival](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/fall-festival).

**Girl Scout Daisies.** 10-11:30 a.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria. Want to work towards your Earth & Sky Journey? Join us and complete activities that satisfy the requirements. Admissions: \$10/child. Register at [www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring) using code 290 474 6601 or call 703-642-5173.

**Girl Scout Juniors.** 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria. Want to work towards your Flowers badge? Join us and complete activities that satisfy the requirements. Admissions: \$12/child. Register at [www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/greenspring) using code 290 474 4401 or call 703-642-5173.

**Dog Adoption.** 12 -3 p.m. Petco, Greenbriar Towncenter, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Call 703-817-9444 or visit [www.hart90.org/](http://www.hart90.org/)

**Burke History Day.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, 9501 Old Burke Lake Road, Burke. This year's Burke History Day will feature exhibits, activities, presentations, and children's activities about the diverse types of transportation that have played a role in the settlement and day-to-day life from pre-Colonial to present time. Visitors will learn about railroads and steam engines, bi-planes and jet runways, buggies and early automobiles, subways and canal boats.

**Genealogy Help Desk.** 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Bring family history stumbers to the experts. Accomplished genealogists and library staff will be on hand to assist. Ask at the Virginia Room desk or call 703-293-6227, option 6. Adults, Teens. 703-293-6227.

**Art Exhibition Opening Reception.** 8 p.m.-12 a.m. Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. A new art exhibition, "Fallen," curated by The Bunnyman Bridge Collective, brings together eight local artists from across the DMV. Exhibit will run through Dec. 5. 703-789-6144.

## SUNDAY/OCT.12

**Taking Tea: Teatime Across the Centuries.** 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum, 10209 Main St, Fairfax. Tastings of hot tea, scones, teacakes, and shortbread will follow a presentation on the history of tea. \$8. 703-385-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIRGINIA OPERA

**Stephen Powell (as Sweeney Todd) with straight razor.**

# Revenge and Passion on Mason Stage

## Virginia Opera opens 40th season with a full-of-life "Sweeney Todd."

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

"Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd..." Such are well known lyrics for those familiar with the musical "Sweeney Todd-The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." Good news is coming. The production of "Sweeney" as a rarely done opera is arriving from the Virginia Opera.

And for those who have not seen this Tony Award-winning, musically moody rich account of revenge and passion this is a golden opportunity. Sung in English, the production is arriving soon at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. "Sweeney Todd" has music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler. Why in operatic form? Well, Sondheim himself called "Sweeney Todd" a "dark operetta."

"Sweeney Todd" is a musical tale all about a man named Sweeney Todd living in Victorian England. He is wronged by a powerful, lecherous judge.

Todd loses all that matters to him. He spends years plotting his payback. Todd and a colorful meat pie shop owner named Mrs. Lovett work as partners to build a thriving business built upon a most unexpected ingredient for tasty meat pies.

"Stephen Sondheim transformed a play into a musical that captures in full measure its vigorous full-throated, full-blooded and emotionally generous story telling — which is what opera is," said director

## Where and When

George Mason University, Center for the Arts presents Virginian Opera's production of "Sweeney Todd — The Demon Barber of Fleet Street." 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$44-\$98. Tickets are half price for youth through grade 12. Call 888-945-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

Ron Daniels. It is "exuberant; full of energy the audience will feel and experience. The show emotionally spins the audience on a dime from horror to comedy and back again. It is not a timid production."

Conducting the music will be Adam Turner, Virginia Opera's principal conductor and artistic advisor. He will be directing an orchestra of 30. The production has "great, powerful voices that will amplify the story. There will also be a full chorus singing with an intensity and a joyful presence," said Turner.

The role of Mrs. Lovett is performed by Phyllis Pancella, a renowned mezzo-soprano. She is relishing the role of someone with "raw emotions as they spin out of control." She said, "Mrs. Lovett doesn't think what she does is unethical. She is broke and needs money to survive. And she loves Sweeney."

Sweeney Todd is played by baritone Stephen Powell. "The character of Sweeney drew me to the role. I want to create some sympathy for him," said Powell. "Is his behavior at being wronged so far-fetched" as he seeks revenge? Come taste the "Sweeney Todd" magical elixir for yourself.



# ‘A New Day Has Dawned’ Same sex marriage goes forward in Virginia.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t 10:01 a.m. on Oct. 6, Cathy Baskin of Ravensworth Baptist Church in Annandale received her usual New York Times set of alerts. “I read it 15 times,” said Baskin. “This can’t be true.”

Around 11:30 a.m., the Rev. Laura Horton-Ludwig of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax started seeing social media alerts as well. And she received an email blast from People of Faith for Equality in Virginia, the Richmond-based group that’s been organizing clergy members around the state to be prepared for this moment.

The U.S. Supreme Court had announced it would not review five cases that sought the freedom to marry. The decision effectively allows rulings supporting same sex marriage to take effect in the Tenth, Seventh and Fourth Circuit courts, and rejects bans on gay marriage in Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia,



**From left: George Mason University freshman Megan Crenshaw, GMU freshman Emily Simpson, GMU freshman Evan Baines, the Rev. Dr. David Lindsey of Little River United Church of Christ in Annandale, the Rev. Hank Fairman of Little River United Church of Christ, Jon Fleming of Centreville, Cathy Baskin of Ravensworth Baptist Church in Annandale and Patricia Burton of Reston all came out to the Fairfax County Courthouse to support the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to turn down same sex marriage ban appeals on Oct. 6.**

West Virginia, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Virginia’s Fourth Circuit made the formal mandate at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, meaning marriages could commence immediately.

“A new day has dawned,” Attorney General Mark Herring said in

a statement, “and the rights guaranteed by our Constitution are shining through.”

“I’m glad; I would’ve preferred that they actually take a case and settle the law,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said in an interview just after the mandate was

announced. “Equal protection under the law means just that. Whether you’re gay or straight, you’re entitled to equal protection. I think that’s what this is all about.”

Horton-Ludwig didn’t have any other appointments after the

morning, so she made the short drive from their church to the Fairfax County Courthouse. “It was obvious to all of us whoever could get over the courthouse should do that. It was very fortunate,” she said.

In her robe and stole, Horton-Ludwig saw a couple getting their license. Then, she said, “I just went up to them and said ‘Excuse me, I wanted to wish you congratulations. I’m here if there’s anything I can do for you.’ They decided they did want to get married today. That was just a joy.”

The first couple at this courthouse was Yvonne Landis and Melodie Mayo of Falls Church. They were going to do the ceremony in front of the building until a staff member suggested they use the central courtyard.

“It was a huge honor, very exciting,” said Horton-Ludwig. “This is a day that a lot of us have been working very hard for for a long time. It’s just incredibly joyful that we finally have marriage equality in Virginia, that we can honor and recognize that legally. It was really powerful.”

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

George Mason Elementary School teachers past and present came out to support the Survive the 5 5K: (From left, top) Julie Westcott of Alexandria, Katie Rudolph of Arlington, Laura Greeson of Fairfax, Laura Aristizabal of Fairfax, Leanne Dellibovi of Burke, Elizabeth Wood of Alexandria, Mary Lu Mahoney of Arlington, Caroline Doughtey of Arlington, Meagan Carrick of Arlington, and (bottom) Robin Thompson.

# Pounding the Pavement

First annual 5K raises awareness of teen driving safety.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Robin Wallin of Alexandria has been training for this day at Cameron Run Regional Park for three months. She and sister-in-law Carolyn Wiser of Baltimore used a seat-to-5K app on their smartphones to prepare for the Oct. 4 race, encouraging each other through Facebook messaging.

But much more than for the exercise, Wallin was here to support her friend of 17 years and fellow Alexandria City nurse Robin Thompson. Thompson's daughter Ashley Renee Thompson died in a car crash on June 10, 2003.

"Anybody who has a teenager who's learning how to drive knows the anxiety of the parent," said Wallin. "And I certainly walked through that with Robin too."

Ashley was a sophomore at Lake Braddock Secondary School: a strong student, dedicated competitive gymnast and licensed driver. One day she borrowed a friend's car to drive home from school, lost control of the vehicle within a mile of her house and slammed into a tree. She died on impact.

**CRASH INVESTIGATORS** ruled out alcohol, speed, phone and other passengers as contributing factors. Ashley was a skilled driver, but her training and experience hadn't prepared her to regain control of an unfamiliar vehicle.

Robin Thompson created an awareness, training and advocacy organization in honor of Ashley called The Art of Driving. She's spent the last decade on a mission to elevate conversation that youth crashes are both predictable and preventable.

That's where the "Survive the 5" in the race's title comes in. It's a reference to the



Young, eager runners pushed to the front of the first annual Art of Driving Survive the 5 5K on Oct. 4.

top five reasons for teen crashes and injuries: Driver inexperience, driver distractions, excessive speed, not wearing a seatbelt and alcohol and illegal drugs.

"It's not a topic a lot of people want to talk about," said Thompson, buzzing around her organization's first annual 5K like a master hostess. "Getting people to understand just how serious a problem is, that it is truly an epidemic. This is not a transportation issue; it's a public health issue."

Where previously the CDC had listed car crashes as the leading killer of adolescents aged 15-19 (between 3,000 and 4,000 deaths annually), that figure was updated last month to show crashes are the single leading cause of death and injury among all youth.

Thompson had wanted to do a 5K for years to help raise awareness of the issue and increase the reach of The Art of Driving's program of awareness responsibility training for teenage drivers and their parents, and work with school groups and civic organizations. Finally a year ago, Th-

ompson began attending 5Ks and simply taking notes.

"I just started putting it together, piece by piece," Thompson said, "and I have an awesome community behind me that believed in the cause. I think from the looks of this morning, we did it."

**267 RUNNERS AND WALKERS** of all ages, shapes, sizes and dog breeds came out, including a strong contingent of teachers and students from George Mason Elementary School. "She took such a personal and tragic thing in her life and turned it into a positive," said Laura Aristizabal of Fairfax. "Her daughter is still living. How many lives is Ashley going to touch through her mom? It's incredible."

"If by keeping Ashley's memory alive today I just keep one child alive, then it's all worth it," said Thompson. "That's what this is all about. Keeping our children safe."

For more information about Ashley's story and The Art of Driving programs, visit [www.theartofdriving.org](http://www.theartofdriving.org).

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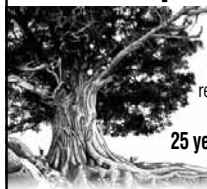
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# SPORTS

**Robinson's Addie Walsh, right, and Chantilly's Bryndie Ballam battle for the ball during Tuesday's game at Chantilly High School.**



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## Strong Play Doesn't Translate to Victory for Robinson Field Hockey

**Rams' Arnsmeier comes up short against former coach.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**C**hantilly field hockey coach Ralph Chapman felt the Chargers outplayed Robinson during the teams' 2013 regular-season meeting, but the Rams pulled out a victory in strokes.

One year later, it was Robinson that came out on the short end of the stick.

Chantilly forward Victoria Iturbe scored the game winner with 37 seconds remaining on Tuesday, Oct. 7, as the Chargers pulled out a 1-0 victory over Robinson on senior night at Chantilly High School.

The Chargers earned a penalty corner late in regulation, and after forward Bryndie Ballam dribbled through the Robinson defense, Iturbe found the back of the cage, keeping Chantilly alive for one of the top seeds in the Conference 5 tournament.

"It's definitely a relief because if you don't score in [regulation] time, you go to overtime and overtime is really tricky because it's only [7-on-7]," Iturbe said, "so it's just a lot of relief to just be able to get the game over with fast."

Robinson head coach Lindsay Arnsmeier, a former Chantilly player and assistant coach under Chapman, said her team played well before surrendering the game's lone goal in the final minute.

"I think [we] played very strong," Arnsmeier said. "I think they caught us watching toward the end, so that's why they capitalized at the end."

How frustrating is it to lose a game in that fashion?

"Very frustrating," Arnsmeier said. "There were 37 seconds left in the game."

Chapman had fun with his former pupil after the game.

"I said, 'Lindsay, this is payback from last year,'" Chapman said. "She started laughing."

The victory improved Chantilly's record to 10-2, including 2-1 in Conference 5. The Chargers have games against Centreville and Herndon remaining, with a chance to earn a top-two seed in the conference tournament.

"I'm proud of my girls," Chapman said. "I'm a little upset that they didn't play their best, but they found a way to win when they didn't play their best. Hopefully, we'll go back to playing our best."

Robinson dropped to 11-3, including 1-3 in the conference. The Rams defeated Centreville, and lost to Westfield, Herndon and Chantilly. Robinson will travel to face Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

"I think the competition is definitely stiffer in our conference, but I think [during the] Westfield and Herndon [games], we started off very slow," Arnsmeier said. "Today, we played very strong. I think [we] moved the ball very well [and] I think [we] dominated for I would say 80 percent of the game until the end."

**Gwen Carsten (4) and the Robinson field hockey team lost to Chantilly, 1-0, on Oct. 7.**



## SPORTS ROUNDUPS



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

**Vicki Baez (12) and the Lee field hockey team lost to West Potomac, 4-0, on Oct. 6.**

## Lee Field Hockey Falls to West Potomac

After a 4-1 start, the Lee field hockey team dropped its seventh straight game on Oct. 6, falling to West Potomac, 4-0.

The Lancers opened the season by winning three of four at their own "Under the Lights" tournament, finishing runner-up in their bracket. Lee followed with a 4-0 win over Hayfield on Sept. 3, but as struggled since, including five one-goal losses.

Lee will travel to face Edison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10.

## Lee Hires Wrestling, Gymnastics Coaches

Robert E. Lee High School hired Daniel Malcolm as its new wrestling coach, the school announced recently.

Malcolm is a resident of Prince George's County, Md. He is originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., where he lettered in varsity football and wrestling and then later played football at Bowie State University on a scholarship. Malcolm has been coaching wrestling since 2006, both as an assistant and a head coach at Bladensburg and Northwestern high schools.

Lee also hired Diana Edgell as a gymnastic coach. She is a 2003 graduate of West Springfield, where she participated in gymnastics and competitive cheer. She has been coaching gymnastics and cheer for the last 12 years at Robinson and West Potomac.

## Football Schedule

Many of the area football teams are returning to action at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10, following a bye week.

The undefeated Robinson Rams (5-0) will host Madison for homecoming. Fellow unbeaten South County (5-0) will host T.C. Williams in a rematch of last season's 6A North region first-round playoff matchup.

Lake Braddock (4-1), which won back-to-back games after suffering its lone loss to Robinson, will travel to face Woodson (2-3), which has won two straight.

West Springfield (3-2) will host West Potomac. Lee (1-4) will travel to face Annandale.

Fairfax High defeated Thomas Jefferson 41-28 last week (Oct. 2), improving to 2-3. The Rebels will host Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 10. Hayfield earned its second straight win last week, beating Wakefield 37-10 on Oct. 2. The Hawks (2-3) will host Yorktown.

Edison (1-4) will play on Saturday, traveling to face Herndon at 2 p.m. on Oct. 11.



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# Fireplaces Warm Outdoor Spaces

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As 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."

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 evening.

"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 wood-

burning 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 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."

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 mono-rail track system lighting, where you can install different types of lights depending on the mood you want to create."

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.

Matus suggests a finishing touch: "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."

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## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Clifton residents to hold open-house tour of newly remodeled homes for the benefit of local widow.

BY JOHN BYRD

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. Armendaris has also raised several thousand dollars for the project.

**ARMENDARIS' STORY IS ONE** of quiet determination in pursuit of the American Dream.



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.

With its tree-shaded lot and sizable liv-

ing and family rooms, the house provided a perfect setting. Among other features, the two-level structure is off the main road, down a winding driveway. A safe place for kids.

Initially, the center did well. Since it was

### Details

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.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOME FRONTS NEWS

**LEFT: Granite surfaces, marble tile wall covering, a coffered ceiling are among the finishwork details distinguishing the Layfield kitchen by Sun Design Remodeling.**

convenient to nearby Clifton Elementary, parents would leave their children with Armendaris before and after school. Many of the children at the center were friends with her own children.

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.

Armendaris says that she and her children with the help of a friendly neighbor have been patching the drive for years. However, it eventually became obvious that her own fix-up efforts wouldn't be enough.

Soon she began soliciting bids from professional pavers, some of whom were simply working the neighborhood.

"I wasn't sure what I really needed, or who was reliable," she recalls. "But what really slowed the process was the cost."

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."

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 4

## 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

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# Home LifeStyle

# Clifton Home Tour

## Details

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FROM PAGE 3

### THE TOUR

The tour has been conceived to provide a close-up look at how Clifton residents live today, and to profile several design trends now being applied to local homes. It also will reflect some of the community's varied demographics — which range from young families to retirees retrofitting their house to age-in-place.

### MAKEOVER IN COLCHESTER HUNT

In Clifton's Colchester Hunt section, Steve and Maureen Landry are putting the finishing touches on a forward-looking retrofit executed by Tom Flach at Kohlmark Architects. The Craftsman-style architecture embraces an open floor plan which the Landrys see as perfect for a host of regular social pursuits such as book clubs and after-church gatherings.

Referring to the house as "his last home," Steve Landry, 65, says he and his wife actually looked for a larger house "further out" before deciding that improving what they had was their best option.

"It was Tom Flach's clever ideas that were the deciding factor," Maureen Landry said. The plan included needs for the immediate future, and also elements that might be needed to age in place over extended time.

For instance, the former 400-square-foot garage has been converted into a master suite with 14-foot cathedral ceilings, a full bath and an 8-foot wall of windows focused on the garden and two-tiered pond. While the couple's initial plan is to use the new space as a reading room, Maureen Landry said that the suite is a nod to an aging-in-place strategy that calls for frequently used spaces to be on the same floor.

"We've even got ideas and costs for an elevator, should we need one," she said.

With the former powder room absorbed into the new suite, and interior walls removed, the architect developed the new open floor plan.

The kitchen and dining zone is now formed into a 600-square-foot family kitchen that revolves around a two-tier food preparation island and dining counter. Mounted on a cherry wood base, the island is surfaced in both walnut butcher block and Vermont soapstone.

Adjacent to the kitchen/dining area, delineated by a peninsular fireplace, the 300-square-foot family room/sitting room provides ample space for an enlarged social gathering. The 225-square-foot sunroom, now mainstreamed into the home's HVAC system, is a gathering spot with a panoramic view of the wooded surroundings.

### KITCHEN SUITE IN ELEGANT TRANSITIONAL STYLE

Not too far away in Clifton Heights, Rick and Kelly Layfield are reveling in a new family-friendly kitchen and outlier zones cus-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOME FRONTS NEWS

**Remodeler Ted Daniels added 2,000 square feet to his personal residence on Hunting Horse Drive and reconfigured the first floor to include a comfortable family room adjacent to a large gourmet kitchen. Daniels had purchased the cherry wood mantle years before he knew where he would use it.**

tom-designed for their active daily household needs by Jon Benson, lead designer at Sun Design Remodeling.

"We have three children under age 12," Kelly said, "so we wanted a plan that would make it easier for everyone to interact, and that also offered sightlines from the kitchen to the backyard where the kids play."

That meant re-working a course of windows on the rear elevation, making it easier to access the outside from several directions and introducing a floor plan more conducive to free-flowing traffic.

The starting point was the two-tiered ceiling, a reminder of the fact that the back half of the kitchen has a separate roof unconnected to the structural supports in the first half of the kitchen which are holding up the home's second floor.

"Structurally, the existing plan is perfectly logical," Jon Benson said. "Aesthetically, it was a strange effect ... one that Kelly Layfield wanted to change."

Benson proposed a coffered ceiling. The end product unifies the room visually and reintroduces the classical design elements found in the home's formal front rooms that had been curiously missing in its kitchen.

The ceiling also set the tone for a much more refined and elegant plan featuring several of Benson's original built-ins.

There is a new granite-surfaced island and

dining counter. While the kitchen also formerly provided a spot for family breakfasts, Kelly Layfield said it mostly seemed space restricted. There is also now a door from the family room to the screened porch.

Benson added a grilling deck next to the screened porch and just outside the new kitchen door. Rick Layfield, who is the family's grilling chef finds it a great place to interact with friends and family while pursuing a favored recipe.

### FAMILY HOME ON HUNTING HORSE DRIVE

Those who know their way around Hunting Horse Drive sometimes might wonder what happened to the circa-1970s Colonial style house that used to be perched up on the overlook. Clearly, the sprawling manor house there now is an entirely different home, but how did it get there?

Owner and professional remodeler Ted Daniels says the makeover was the result of an inspired plan to create an environment that would work better for himself, wife Gayle and their two children.

Purchasing the 4,400-square-foot production house in 2000, Daniels initially thought the house adequate for raising a family, and focused on the serious business of renovating other people's homes. Certainly, the five-acre wood lot had everything to offer in the

way of a lovely bucolic setting.

But after living in the house for a while, Daniels developed a growing list of possible improvements, which prompted a decision to add 2,000 square feet to the rear of the house, and gut the entire first and second floors almost down to the studs.

"For starters, I didn't like the way the first floor was configured," Daniels says. "The kitchen and family room were partitioned in a way that inhibited traffic, and the interior was really dated. I wanted a quiet first floor place where the kids could do their homework. Also, there wasn't enough storage." He also wanted better lines-of-sight.

Upstairs, the master bedroom was too small. The sitting room, which offered the best view, also became a kind of clutter-prone foyer between the walk-in closet and the master bath.

"It was as if we were living in someone else's house," Daniels said. "I wanted a plan that would really support a whole spectrum of daily family requirements."

With substantial new square footage now extending out the rear of the existing structure, Daniels reconfigured floor plans on the first and second level, concentrating on how his family would use the new space.

The 396-square-foot kitchen segues easily into a rear-facing great room that features floor-to-ceiling windows flanking a



# Clifton Home Tour

central French door. The many original built-ins include a food preparation island and knee-high walnut cabinets which provide a space divider between two primary activity zones. The inside corner of the kitchen accommodates a family dining nook.

The primary focal point of the family room is a hand-carved cherry wood mantle piece Daniels bought years ago, having no idea when or where he would use it.

"It's comforting to see an impulse buy become a real focal point," he said.

Upstairs, Daniels built a 715-square-foot master bedroom suite that opens directly to a sprawling balcony with views in three directions. "This is the spot where we can have some privacy and still keep an eye on the kids," Gayle Daniels said. "It's quite romantic."

The master bath includes a soaking tub, a spacious walk-in shower and a private closet for Gayle's vanity.

The formal living room and dining room are on the right side of the first floor, segregated by a fully-wired well-appointed room the kids use for homework.



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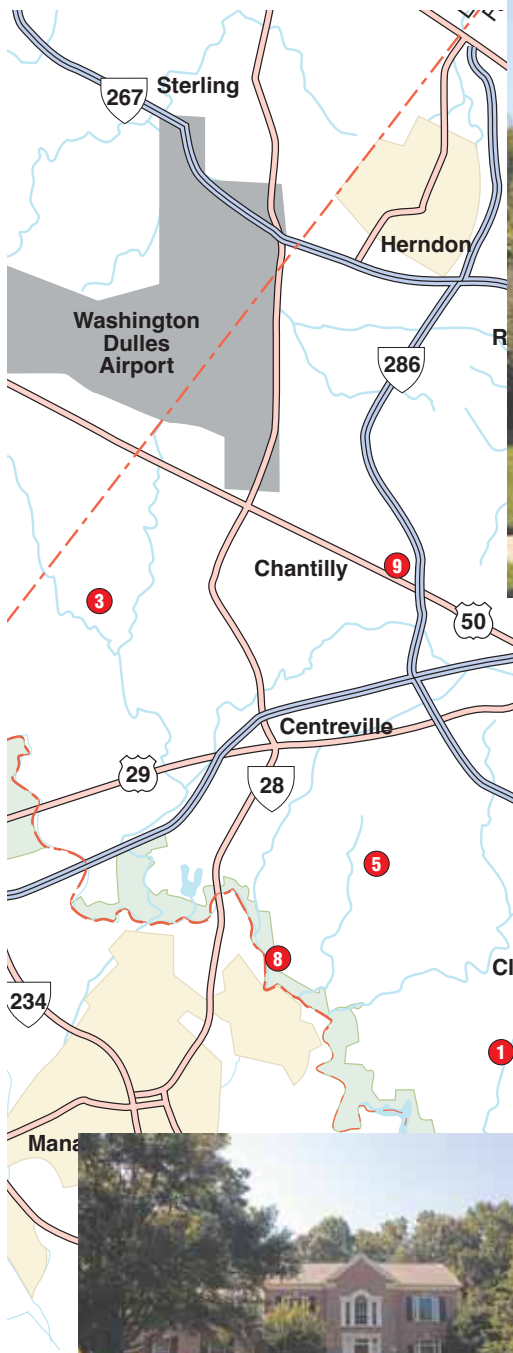


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1 11900 CUSTIS ACRES DR .....	5	..	5	..	0 .....	CLIFTON .....	\$1,380,000 ....	Detached .....	8.22 .....	20124 .....	TOWERING OAKS .....	08/01/14
2 9402 OLD RESERVE WAY .....	5	..	4	..	1 .....	FAIRFAX .....	\$1,345,000 ....	Detached .....	0.25 .....	22031 .....	PICKETT'S RESERVE ...	08/25/14
3 5152 PLEASANT FOREST DR .....	5	..	4	..	1 ....	CENTREVILLE ...	\$1,165,000 ....	Detached .....	1.06 .....	20120 .....	PLEASANT VALLEY .....	08/28/14
4 6150 REZA CT .....	6	..	5	..	2 .....	SPRINGFIELD ....	\$1,100,000 ....	Detached .....	0.24 .....	22152 .....	CARDINAL ESTATES ...	08/29/14
5 6297 CLIFTON RD .....	4	..	3	..	2 .....	CLIFTON .....	\$1,050,000 ....	Detached .....	5.00 .....	20124 .....	CLIFTON DOWNS .....	08/07/14
6 10107 WATERSIDE DR .....	5	..	4	..	1 .....	BURKE .....	\$1,050,000 ....	Detached .....	0.73 .....	22015 .....	EDGEWATER .....	08/22/14
7 9812 PORTSIDE DR .....	4	..	3	..	1 .....	BURKE .....	\$1,035,000 ....	Detached .....	0.94 .....	22015 .....	EDGEWATER .....	08/25/14
8 13749 BALMORAL GREENS AVE ...	4	..	5	..	1 .....	CLIFTON .....	\$1,030,000 ....	Detached .....	1.20 .....	20124 ...	BALMORAL GREENS ...	08/29/14
9 4004 WOODBERRY MEADOW DR .	4	..	4	..	1 .....	FAIRFAX .....	\$960,000 ....	Detached .....	0.17 .....	22033 ...	KENSINGTON MANOR ..	08/28/14
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## 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.”

One plant that is often associated with cooler weather is a holly tree, but Eric Shorb of American Plant in Bethesda, Md., offers a caveat.

“As we get closer to the end of November and the beginning of December you want to be careful about planting such broadleaf evergreens,” he said. “If they haven’t had time to develop a sufficient enough root system they can become susceptible to wind burn because the roots will not be able to absorb moisture.”

Instead, he recommends deciduous trees and fine leaf evergreens. “A Leland Cypress or an Arborvitae that don’t need as much moisture will survive better as the weather gets colder.”

**“Burning bushes have beautiful fall colors like orange and fire red.”**

**Joel Cook of Merrifield Garden Center**



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