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John Leong is a freshman marimba player in McLean High School's award-winning marching band program. His film about the stationary percussionists of the band was awarded one of five slots out of 100 entries to be showcased at the Bethesda Film Fest on March 20-21.



Photos contributed

Conor Zeya with his drum named Evan, and Jade Deatherage in the background.

Freshman's funny film about McLean High School

Band featured in Bethesda Film Fest.

My Pit's The Pit

By Ken Moore The Connection

bout 100 people submitted films, and Josh Leong, 14, of McLean, is \$500 richer for earning one of five spots in an upcoming Film Festival for a comedy film sketch about his high school marching band.

Well, no, not his marching band, said Leong. The percussion section of the McLean High School marching band.

Well, no, not that either. "The pit" of the percussion section of the McLean High School marching band.

Leong and his friends are the musicians who don't move with the band, they are the ones who play instruments that can't be lugged around, like timpani drums, marimbas, xylophones, and other odds and ends.

Any noise making device, said McLean Band Director Chris Weise.

Snare drummers, bass drummers, "they're the prestigious ones who get to make noise and march around," said Leong.

THE PIT, they are the stationary ones, said Weise. "We try to give every percussionist some experience in the pit."

Perhaps for their lack of movement, "The pit has a reputation of being slackers," said Leong.

"My Pit's the Pit — McLean High School Marching Band," is the name of Leong's five-minute long film; actually a four-minute 58 second film that won a spot in Bethesda Urban Partnership's Film Fest 2015 to be shown in Bethesda at Imagination Stage on March 20 and 21.

Leong's is one of 100 entries that were submitted this year, the third year of the Film Fest, said Brenna O'Malley, of Bethesda Urban Partnership.

"It wasn't a surprise to me that he put something really good together," said Weise. "He's a talented student in a lot of ways."

"There is an enormous amount of talent in this area. To have students participate is great," said O'Malley.

Promotional materials say Leong's film is "a look at the unique, passionate and under-appreciated front ensemble percussion section. Each overlooked member of the Pit

Conor Zeya in Josh Leong's film about the McLean High School Marching Band pit section. The film will be featured at the Bethesda Film Fest on March 20-21.

is instrumental in the foundational success of the band."

Leong describes it a bit differently, albeit with a sense of humor. "When we created the video, we didn't create it with festivals in mind," he said. "It's original, it's short. It was created to be a comedy."

"I was a freshman in my first season in marching band. I quickly noticed that we had a bad reputation," he said. "We're shunned and underappreciated."

Although Leong talks about his film humorously, his band director calls him a student who is always prepared, serious, "a good student in every regard."

"He's not a class clown," he said.

Leong is a talented musician, said Weise; he also has aspirations to create more film.

He and his "pitmates" made the film to bring unity while doing something fun.

People in the band told him, "That's the only good thing I've seen come out of the pit," he said.

"It gave us a little respect, it showed our creativity."

Ten to 15 musicians play in the pit; about 160 students participate in marching band, said Weise.

"They are a fun and creative group of people," said Weise, who has been the band director for 7 years.

FILMS NEEDED to be between five minutes and 30 minutes. Leong's was 4 minutes, 58 seconds.

"That was an interesting predicament for

Go See the Film Fest

The Bethesda Film Fest will feature five short documentaries made by local filmmakers, screening Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21, 7 p.m. & 9 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Tickets cost \$10.

The evening will include a discussion with the filmmakers after the screenings. Five short films, between 5 and 30 minutes long, were chosen out of more than 100 submitted.

Here are the winners:

- "My Pit's the Pit," (4 minutes, 58 seconds) by Josh Leong; A look at the passionate and underappreciated front ensemble percussion section – the Pit. Each overlooked member of the Pit of McLean High School Band is instrumental.
- * "Towpath Joe" (7 minutes, 40 seconds) by Susanne Coates and Emily Wathen, follows island caretaker, musician, naturalist and Potomac River advocate, Joe Hage. After moving to a small island adjacent to the C&O Canal, Joe reconnects with his passion for music and becomes a diplomat for the river.
- "The Stillbrave" (17 minutes) by Jay Korff; Tom Mitchell, affectionately known as Tattoo Tom, attempts to finish a 100-mile off-road trail race in which each mile is dedicated to a different child battling childhood cancer.
- "Cal, The Writer" (6 minutes, 19 seconds) by Benjamin Boult and Harry Schock, produced by Sue Sheridan; When Cal was born, his mother and father were told that he would never walk or talk. Apparently, no one passed that info on to Cal, now a freshman in college and a Kennedy Center award-winning playwright.
- "Fate of a Salesman" (26 minutes, 46 seconds) by Ben Crosbie and Tessa Moran
- After 60 years of business, Men's Fashion Center faces its biggest challenge; a tough economy and a gentrifying neighborhood.
- Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave. Tickets cost \$10. See www.bethesda.org

our video," said Leong. "I didn't really think two seconds would make or break the acceptance."

The judges excused the two seconds.

"That's the judges decision," said O'Malley.

"I'd much rather see a film that's 4 minutes and 58 seconds than 38 minutes," said Weise.

Filmmakers needed to be from Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Each filmmaker will discuss his or her film after the screening.

The film festival is scheduled for Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21 at 7 and 9 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave. Tickets cost \$10. Visit www.bethesda.org for more information.

McLean Connection & March 11-17, 2015 & 3

Take It Outside

"Ultimately, it is about

citizens and to learn how

It makes a better society,"

to make good decisions.

making kids good

Playworks makes recess fun for all.

By Abigail Constantino
The Connection

reception for Playworks, a nonprofit organization that aims to change play in schools and recess, was held on Sunday, March 1 at the home of of Jim and Patrice Angle in McLean. Jim Angle is the former chief national correspondent for Fox News. The event was presented by the Angles and Chuck and Kristian Todd. Chuck Todd is the moderator of "Meet the Press" on NBC.

Founder Jill Vialet, Playworks board members, coaches and volunteers, and guests attended the reception, which an-

nounced the arrival of Playworks in Virginia. Eighteen elementary schools in Washington, D.C. have already participated in its direct service program, which places coaches in the schools. It is now venturing in Virginia to offer train-

ing services to schools and teachers on how to effectively use play to bring out the best in every child, said Rachel Hustedt, a program manager at Playworks.

One of the programs Playworks offers is Recess 360, a comprehensive program comprising of workshops and consultations that teaches how to prevent exclusion and exclusionary behavior.

"It's a good time for people in Virginia to realize what Playworks is so they can begin to support it," said Jim Angle. "Ultimately, it is about making kids good citizens and to learn how to make good decisions. It makes a better society," he said.

Ed Poe, of McLean, was invited by the Angles and remembered his own experiences in school, "I've been out of school for a while but I remember there was a bully in every class and so many children were intimidated and would not even go out for recess because they were afraid they were going to get beat up or assaulted. Bullying is so destructive today. It affects you the rest of your life."

Mo Abdullah, a Playworks coach at Tyler Elementary School in Washington, D.C., said that with the use of games, students learn conflict resolution skills and gain confidence that translates in so many different areas

Mike Isman, of Arlington, a board member at D.C. Playworks, attended a recess session and was immediately drawn in. He played jump rope with kindergartners and

after praising them for doing a good job a five-year old girl came up to him and reminded him to give the players a high five. "She said I forgot to give a high five to a girl who did a good job. Immediately I went to the playworks director and said I'm

in," he said. He also recruited his co-worker Shana Yearwood, of Alexandria, who now volunteers with the volleyball program and is also a board member. "Kids create structure...they are more focused on working as a team and improving skills than beating the other teams. I think it's awesome," she said.

— Jim Angle

"I'm impressed about how they teach children how to resolve their conflict on the playground...how to have self-confidence. I think it's really important," said McLean resident Judith Poe.

Go to http://www.playworks.org/ for more information about Playworks.



"Meet the Press" moderator Chuck Todd, speaks at the Playworks reception on Sunday, March 1 in McLean. He and wife, Kristian, presented a check to Playworks.

Photos by Abigail Constantino/The Connection



Ed and Judith Poe, of McLean, attend the Playworks reception at the home of neighbor Jim and Patrice Angle.



Jim Angle, and his wife, Patrice, along with Chuck and Kristian Todd, were the hosts of the reception announcing the arrival of Playworks training programs in Virginia.



Shana Yearwood, of Alexandria, is a volunteer and board member at Playworks.



Mo Abdullah, or Coach Mo, is a Playworks coach at Tyler Elementary in Washington, D.C.



Playworks coaches Mo Abdullah and Sean Riddick attend the reception on Sunday, March 1. "Grown-ups norming positive behavior, such as kindness and leadership," underlies what Playworks is about, said founder Jill Vialet.

WEEK IN MCLEAN

Residents Invited to Share Ideas on Community Center Programs

The McLean Community Center's (MCC) 11-member home to the Robert Ames Alden Theatre. A satellite Governing Board will hold its annual Public Hearing on Programs at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25. The board is asking residents of Dranesville Small District 1A to come to the meeting and share their thoughts on Center programs and services. The regular monthly meeting of the Governing Board will follow the hearing. All meetings of the board are open to the public. The Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

Residents of the Center's tax district who attend the meeting can voice their opinions on current Center offerings and make suggestions for improving current programs and/or adding new initiatives. The hearing is one step in planning for the FY 2017 budget cycle, which begins July 1, 2016. The Center is

program, The Old Firehouse Teen Center, is located at 1440 Chain Bridge Road.

Residents who would like to speak at the hearing may call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to have their names placed on the speakers' list so that a schedule may be established. Residents may submit written comments by mail, fax (703-556-0547), email (george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov) or in person up to seven days after the hearing.

Residents who want to find out if they live within the Center's tax district, may call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: http:// www.mcleancenter.org/about/district. For more information, visit the website: http://bit.ly/1C29YGZ.







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OPINION

Balancing Act: Budgeting for Housing

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Good Shepherd Housing and Family

n our work housing families and individuals experiencing homelessness, many of them have never lived in housing of their own. They have lived doubled

up with relatives and friends, camped out in broken-down minivans, or checked into motels for overnight stays. But signing a lease with a com-

mitment to a year's worth of monthly rent payments — that's a new or long-ago experience for them. And it's a scary one, too.

That's when we come into their lives to help them out. Our housing locators and case managers work with them to understand the basics of renting a housing property. Without question, the rental lease gives them rights. It bestows on them the new lawful designation of "tenant." But a rental lease also comes with new responsibilities.

The responsibilities are not easy. Paying rent on the first of the month is their highest priority as a tenant. Keeping in line with rental community rules and regulations is equally important. Making sure that they keep their housing

By David Levine in a good condition is another one. Excessive damage and wear-and-tear of their rental housing will make their security deposits — the one they had struggled for weeks to pull together - vanish into thin air.

> We know the hardest part is making that rent payment on the first of each month. It is a real balancing act. As the sociologist Sudhir Venkatesh once noted about low-in-

> > come families living in South Chicago who struggled to make rent payments: "This does not mean people fail to plan but ... there are

separate temporal horizons, one in the immediate future and the other a longer way off." In other words, these families focus on the expenses to be paid today, not tomorrow

In its just released poverty study of women and girls in the Washington D.C. metropolitan region, the Washington Area Women's Foundation included information on the average monthly expenses faced by poor families living in our region. Drawing on 2013 U.S. Census Bureau data and other datasets, the author of the study provided measures of economic security for what a family of three without public assistance would need to pay its

For example, even at \$1,325/month as the average rent in Fairfax County, this monthly rent is actually not the most costly of the family's household expenses. In fact, at an average of \$1,821/month, the highest monthly expense is for childcare. All told, when all the expenses are added up, a typical family of three would need \$82,572 in annual income in Fairfax County to afford to live comfortably there and cover all its expenses.

The federal poverty line annual income for a family of three is \$19,530. As many families experiencing homelessness are earning just above the poverty line, the amount of income needed to live without worries in Fairfax County is a long way off for them.

Still, even for low-income families and individuals experiencing homelessness, our case managers and housing locators can make a world of difference. They work to find them very affordable housing within a shrinking pool of this kind of housing. Once housed, they support them in getting a budget in place — and then we can only hope that nothing upends their budgets.

No medical emergencies. No transmission repairs on their cars used for work. No onetime spikes in their heating costs. It is a balancing act.

■ McLean

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter to Governor

Dear Governor McAuliffe,

When you visited our Pre-Session Round Table Luncheon in December 2013, we in the League of Women Voters were thrilled to hear you say, "I think we should do everything we can to make voting as easy as possible in Virginia."

You have kept your word, and have been a wonderful friend to voters in Virginia. We were proud to sit near the front when you announced budget money for new voting equipment, at your press conference in Virginia Beach - and to lobby for that budget line.

Now a bill has been passed by both houses, requiring citizens who apply for absentee ballots to include a photocopy of their valid photo ID. There is no real purpose to this bill, beyond making it harder to vote– because registrars have no photo with which to compare the mailed copy.

This measure would have especially harsh effects on the old, the poor, the disabled, and the homebound–depriving them of an easy way to vote if traveling presents a challenge.

cluding many in the electoral sual biker but the major bikers board and registrar associationsoppose this bill. The League stood with them to lobby against this suppressive measure. And now we

veto House Bill 1318!

COMMENTARY

We are counting on your strong promise to defend voters in Virginia. Thank you again for all you do for citizens.

Anne Sterling

President, League of Women Voters of Virginia

Bully Bikers

To the Editor:

I'd like to share some comments about our wonderful town (Vienna) and the surrounding communities regarding bicycle riders. As a point of reference, I love to ride my bicycle, a Trek Hybrid that is perfect for the trails and the W&OD. I ride at least once a week and get in approximately 20 miles to get my exercise in and just general enjoyment.

My point here is that I recognize and appreciate all bikers and what they are doing as fun and exercise.

However, I witnessed yesterday an incident that is indicative of the increasing "bully" population of many bikers today. Bikers who ride in our streets designed for cars but taking aggression out on vehicles for following the motor vehicle laws when they themselves do not. A number of organizations— in- I'm not talking about just the cawho think they are powerful enough to keep up a 50 mile an hour ride on our streets.

I was in the parking lot of Noodles ask you, with great respect: Please and Company and Starbucks on

Maple Avenue on Sunday afternoon. A young lady driving her car in the right lane adjacent to the parking lot attempted to make a right turn (correctly) into the lot. A biker was attempting to pass her on her right side and he nearly clipped her. He started screaming and yelling at the young woman and then started hitting and kicking her car. She was terrified.

His obscenities and aggression was so horrific that it attracted numerous people.

As the young lady pulled into the parking lot the biker came to chase her and was all set to start yelling and screaming at her for "her fault" of hitting him. I intervened and stopped his aggressive approach and then he started taking it out on me! He saw my license plate as a Marine Corp's vanity plate and told me I was a disgrace to the Corps! He wanted a fight. That is all there is to it.

When is the Vienna Police department going to start ticketing these aggressive bikers who are driving on our roads but are not driving within the laws enacted for our roads? Also, what about "aggressive bicycle driver" behavior of these bully bikers? Can we do something about them as well?

Money Talks

To the Editor: I must say I agree wholeheartedly with the "ugly" segment of your article that summarizes the end of the Virginia General Assembly (Editorial, "Good, Bad and Ugly: A look at recently ended session of the Virginia General Assembly," Connection, March 4-10, 2015). It seems as though lobbying and payoffs are far too common an occurrence in politics these days. This makes me question the legitimacy of our representatives, not to mention the government as a whole. When corporations fund a representative to a far greater degree than the majority of the public could donate during a campaign, wouldn't it be safe to assume that the money comes with multiple strings attached?

It comes with a price, that price presumably being an unwavering loyalty that disregards public opinion entirely. I see it almost as blackmail, "you put through policies that favor our business practices, the money keeps flowing and you get to stay in office."

Nowadays your bank account is your mouth, and if you don't have the money then your mouth is sewn shut. This is classism in a nutshell, and if we want to be true to democratic process, then there is no place for lobbying practices in the people's government. Oh Sean DuGuay wait I forgot, corporations are Vienna people too right?

Christopher S. Fenwick

McLean





Comstock Reflects on 'An Inspiring Weekend'

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10):

"It was such a privilege to mark the 50th anniversary of Selma to Montgomery civil rights marches with my colleague, Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights leader and foot soldier in the fight for voting rights and justice. It was an inspiring weekend of faith and commemoration with over 100 Members of Congress attending to honor these American heroes."



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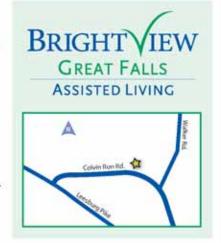
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Class Sizes, McLean Day, Cookies and Noise

Look at McLean Citizens Association Board by the numbers.

By Ken Moore The Connection

he McLean Citizens Association Board passed a resolution on March 4 "addressing longstanding McLean community concerns about inequitable and large class sizes in elementary, middle and high schools located in the greater McLean and other similar areas," according to Sally Horn, MCA president.

The county-wide elementary school class size (excluding Level 2 special education students) for Fairfax County Public Schools is 22.3, but seven of the nine elementary schools in the greater McLean area have average class sizes of between 23.5 and 25.8, and only two have lower average class sizes, according to MCA's resolution passed March 4 that was spearheaded by Louise Epstein, vice-chair of the Education and Youth committee.

"Whereas, by school, the average class size for each McLean-area elementary school is: 23.9, Chesterbrook; 25.8, Churchill Road; 24.7, Colvin Run; 23.5, Haycock; 25.3, Kent Gardens; 22.1, Lemon Road; 24.6, Franklin Sherman; 25.8, Spring Hill; 21.4 Westgate.

"The resolution commends Dr. Garza for the steps that she already has taken to address this problem and urges the Fairfax County School Board to take several additional steps," according to Horn.

Below is a "By The Numbers" look at the March 4 resolution and other matters at the Board meeting of the McLean Citizens Association.

34

Board Members attended along with two reporters, one likely campaign manager and one tub of cookies.

70

The McLean Citizens Association's 70th President in its 100 year existence, Sally Horn, announced Wednesday, March 3 that she would like to pass the baton to another conductor. "It's time for fresh leadership," she said. "I think fresh blood is a good thing.

"That's disappointing news. I think she's done a spectacular job in running the McLean Citizens Association," said Supervisor John Foust, past president of the MCA in 2001-2003. "That's not an easy job."

26.75

Fairfax County Public schools general education staffing formulas budget for a maximum average of 26.75 at the elementary school level, 27.5 at the middle school level, and 30.5 at the high school level, according to the MCA resolution, spearheaded by Louise Epstein.

22.3

However, "Fairfax County Public Schools reports a much lower actual county-wide average class size for each of these three levels, and specifically a county-wide average class size at the elementary school level of 22.3, a county-wide average middle school class size of 24.6, and a county-wide average high school class size of 25.6," according to the MCA resolution.

100

McLean Citizens Association celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year. For its 20th anniversary, the McLean School and Civic League, as MCA was then called held a community celebration and dance. In 1964, the MCA's 50th Anniversary, MCA published a special edition of its newsletter and held a ceremony honoring past presidents. Charlotte Troughton Corner, the first principal of the Franklin Sherman School, was given a corsage. At its 75th Anniversary, past presidents gave speeches and told stories at the Potomac School in 1989. MCA published "The Voice of McLean: 100 Years of the McLean Citizens Association," written by Merrily Pierce and Paul Kohlenberger in November 2014, the source of the above information.

539

Current members. 297 paid annual dues currently, MCA officials said Wednesday at the Board meeting.

A 90-bed, 73-unit, 40,309 square foot assisted living facility requested by Sunrise Development has been proposed for 1988 Kirby Road. "We were a little disappointed they didn't have more for us with landscaping," said Mark Zetts, of MCA's Planning and Zoning Committee.

A Planning Commission hearing on the special exception (SE 2014-DR-068) is tentatively scheduled for May 21.

16

McLean Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

108.1

Fairfax County's Chapter of the County Code on Noise Ordinance, which is currently being discussed, revised and adapted. Rules and regulations regarding use of lawn equipment, to barking dogs, to people noise, to trash collec

SEE MCA. PAGE 9



PHOTO BY ISABELLE ZAPOATA

From left — Alex Stone and Jack Posey in McLean High School's production of "Big Fish."

CAPPIES REVIEW Where Reality and Fantasy Meet

McLean High School's production of "Big Fish."

By by Morgan Perigard Westfield High School

ris Murdoch once said, "We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The great task in life is to find reality." This task rings especially true for one man, an optimistic dreamer. This is the man that will take you on a journey... a journey through McLean High School's production of "Big Fish."

"Big Fish," based on the Daniel Wallace novel and Tim Burton movie, opened on Broadway in 2013. The show, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and book by John August, ran for 98 performances. Following two story lines, this heartwarming story of love, acceptance and family, chronicles the life of Edward Bloom through the extraordinary fairy tales of his history. Swapping back and forth between past fantasies and presentday realities, Edward's estranged son Will works to put together the puzzle of Edward's fantastical stories to meet the father he never really knew before it is too late.

McLean Theatre's professionalism was evident as they tackled this larger-thanlife show, complete with seamless technical aspects, endearing performances, and showstopping musical numbers.

Alex Stone's entrancing portrayal of Edward Bloom was consistently animated and vivacious, allowing him to demonstrate a full range of emotion in every situation. Stone's impeccable vocals and precise tonal quality added an extra flair every time he was on stage. As a foil to Edward, Jack Posev played Will Bloom with simplicity and a realistic approach. Stone and Posey embodied the estranged relationship between son and father with a comfortable, yet alienated chemistry. Rounding out the

Bloom family was wife and mother Sandra, played by Rachel Lawhead. Lawhead added a stable middle-ground to the broken family, using her sunny and firm disposition to truly embody her character, especially in the song "I Don't Need a Roof."

As the show moves forward through Edward's fantasies, the audience is introduced to numerous mystical characters who Edward meets along the way. The Witch, played by Helena Doms, captivated the entire theater with her chilling voice and eerie qualities. Matt Lucero, who played Karl the Giant, combined his spot-on comedic timing and quirky nature to develop his friendship with Edward. The entire ensemble, made up of cowboys, circus performers, and silk aerialists to name a few, kept up the energy and vibrancy, never faltering or losing character. Each group had defined characterization which aided the overall lively and exciting dynamic of the show.

McLean's countless technical facets added a whole other side to this superb production. Almost completely student done, standout categories included the intricate choreography, detailed costumes, and motorized sets. The choreography consisted of many different styles of dance, including stomping, tapping, and even square dancing. The performers looked comfortable with the moves, though many were new and challenging. Sets and costumes blended together beautifully to incorporate the blue color scheme of the show. Numerous sets were featured and transitioned easily and efficiently due to the automated platform and sliding stairs & screens. Each costume was designed specifically for each character and moment, giving the whole show a clean and crisp look.

Smiles were abundant as the curtain closed and the audience left the theater. which goes to show that even if you consider yourself a realist, McLean High School's production of Big Fish can make anyone feel like they are living in a fantasy.

MCA in Numbers

From Page 8

tion, to golf course lawn maintenance and to loudspeakers at school ballgames are discussed, much in terms of permissible hours in the morning and night and decibel level.

"It's so difficult to explain," Mark Zetts told the Board, in terms of the measurement Fairfax County uses to measure noise. "Tysons is urbanizing, our neighborhoods are not."

"Fairfax County staff distributed an updated draft Noise Ordinance Amendment and summary chart" at a committee meeting on Feb. 3, 2015. The committee directed staff to bring the proposed amendment to the Board of Supervisors to advertise a public hearing process.

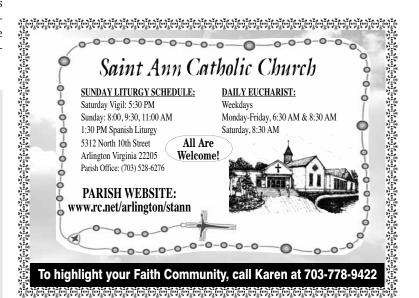
1922

The MCA, then known as The League, sponsored the 1922 start of the McLean Fire Department and provided its early funding. "The Fire Department establishes a committee to request funding from the league and officially co-sponsors McLean Day in 1923 for a share of the proceeds," according to "The Voice of McLean: 100 Years of the McLean Citizens Association."

50

McLean's 50-plus committee is looking at proposed software system/app that families can input medical history and medical wishes so 911 personnel have access to it when responding to emergency calls. This technology could be valuable for families with children with disabilities, said Jim Phelps, committee member. MCA will continue exploring how such technology is used in other jurisdictions.

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WEEK IN MCLEAN

Tysons Bike Projects Announced

Fairfax County recently announced that several major roads in Tysons could soon have bike facilities as part of the summer repaving schedule. Cyclists are encouraged to attend an information meeting on **Monday**, **March 16**, **at Westbriar Elementary School from 7-9 p.m.** These are the proposed new bike facilities:

- \boldsymbol{v} $\mathbf{Greensboro}$ \mathbf{Drive} Road Diet from Spring Hill Road to Solutions Drive
- v **Westbranch Drive** Road Diet from Westpark Dr to Jones Branch Drive
- v ${\bf Jones}$ ${\bf Branch}$ ${\bf Drive}$ Climbing lane from International Drive to Westpark Drive
- v Spring Hill Road Combination of bike lanes/sharrows from Route 7 to International Drive
- $\ensuremath{\mathnormal{\upsilon}}$ Westwood Center Drive - Sharrows from Route 7 to the end of the road

Since these projects are part of the repaving schedule, no additional funds are available to supplement the projects. They may not be perfect, but it's important that we support this effort by the county. If you work or bike in Tysons, please consider attending this meeting to support these important projects. Check the Fairfax Bike Pages or the FABB blog for more info.





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- · Elite Invisalign Provider
- Attending Faculty

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Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2017 Programs

Wednesday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2017, which runs July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov



The McLean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101 703-790-0123/TTY: 711 www.mcleancenter.org



For more information.

please contact the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 411,

or write elections@mcleancenter.org.

Calendar

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 12-SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Youth Art Exhibition I. MPA, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Opening reception March 14 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Save the Environment, Tackle Healthcare and Build Social Security By Learning

Economics. 7-8 p.m. Caffe Amouri, 107 Church Street, SE, Vienna. Join Economist Dorian Rahmim as he discusses "Economics for Anyone." It's about your job, your house, your medicine and your food. Economics is the most important thing that affects your daily life. And it doesn't have to be boring or hard.

Artist's Demonstration. 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society invites the public to discover how Potomac artist Jack Harding creates subtle textural effects with watercolors on distressed rice paper. Free. 703-319-3971.

Fit2Finish. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Meet Dr. Wendy LeBolt, author of "Fit2Finish: Keeping Your Soccer Players in the Game". Help your athletes play their best, prevent injury and have fun. Adults.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Weather or Not. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. March 3 – April 4.Members of the Vienna Arts Society bring Mother Nature. Meet the artists, to include National Gallery of Art copyist Dick Neff and featured artist Ginger Sanaie, at a reception Friday, March 13, 7 – 9 p.m. Free and open to the

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn about Pokemon and play. Ages 5 -18.http:/ /www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/ph/.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/ MARCH 14, 15, 21 AND 22 "Totally RED!" 3 p.m. McLean

Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. An Alden Production. Meet Red (who is nobody's fool) and the wolf (who tries to be cool). The story is told in classic storybook theatre style and the show will be performed by MCC tax district youth. \$12/\$10 MCC tax district residents. www.mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14



See and hear model trolleys, steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends in the Historic Vienna Train Station along the W&OD trail just past the Caboose on March 14 from 1-5 p.m. at 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. For more information visit www.nvmr.org.

Northern Virginia Restaurant Week March 23-30

The 2nd Annual Northern Virginia Restaurant Week, being held from March 23-30, is a week-long, value priced dining experience taking place at a variety of establishments, ranging from fine dining to fast casual.

Building on the success of last year, which included more than 20 participating restaurants, the event once again brings together some of the area's favorite and new restaurants, including: American Tap Room, Big Bowl, Captain Mas Crab House, Il Fornaio, Tavern 64, McCormick & Schmick's - Reston Town Center, Mon Ami Gabi, Morton's - Reston Town Center, The Melting Pot - Reston, Mellow Mushroom - Herndon, M&S Grill, Paladar Latin Kitchen & Rum Bar, The Zone, JALEO by Jose Andre's, Mum Mum, Naked Pizza, Europa Herndon, Seasons 52, Trummer's on Main.

For more information about Northern Virginia Restaurant Week or the partnership with VHTA please contact Latraniecesa (LJ) Wilson at 703-707-9045, ljw@restonchamber.org or visit restonchamber.org/northern_virginia_restaurant_week.aspx.

Model Railroad Open House. 1-5

p.m. 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends in the Historic Vienna Train Station along the W&OD trail just past the Caboose. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. For more information visit www.nvmr.org.

6th Annual Running to Remember Josh. 7:30 a.m. The Josh Anderson
Foundation (JAF) was formed for

two purposes – to keep Josh's memory alive and to collect funds for the education and prevention of teenage suicide. Register at http://runrocknroll.competitor.com/dc/register

Church Concert. 7 p.m. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free. Classical guitarist LeeLee Hunter and harpist Anna Odell will be performing.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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Calendar

From Page 10

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Tiny Tots. 10:30 - 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Join us for an exciting storytime featuring stories, rhymes and songs. Ages 13 - 23 months with adult. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ library/branches/dm/.

Star Language Learners. 1:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Become a language star! Join us for a fun foreign language storytime in Mandarin, Spanish, French or Arabic. No previous experience needed. All ages. To register visit http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/dm/

Vienna VIP. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Support for individuals with vision impairments. Adults. Contact Chato Carter at 703-938-1533.

American Girl Book Club- Meet **Molly.** 4:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join us to read and discuss Meet Molly. Please read the book prior to attending; dolls are welcome but not required. Ages 6 - 9. To register visit http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/ph/.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

Treasured Threes to Fives. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library. 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join us for stories and songs. Ages 3-5 with adult. To register visit http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/

branches/ph/.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Treasured 2-5's. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime featuring stories, rhymes and songs. Age 2-5with adult. To register visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/dm/.

Pokemon League. 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends! http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ library/branches/gf/.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Enter the Haggis. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Experimental roots-rock stalwarts push the boundaries of Celtic music with vigorous performances and inventive albums. Tickets: \$28.

St. Paddy's Day Party. 7-9 p.m. The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. These popular 5th and 6th grader parties include music, dancing, games, snacks, videos and more. \$35/\$25 MCC tax district residents. Advance registration is required. Call 703-448-

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn and play Pokemon. Age 5-18. http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/ph/.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

New Artist Reception. 1-4 p.m. 212 Dominion Rd NE, Vienna. New Artist Reception for Thomas Xenakis.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Choral Splendor: Music of France.

4 p.m. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Reston Chorale presents works of Maurice Duruflé, Gabriel Fauré, César Franck, Louis Vierne and Charles-Marie Widor — including Vierne's magnificent Messe Solennelle as the composer intended: with two organs. Guest artist: Paul Skevington. Advance, online tickets \$20/Seniors, \$25/Adults; at door \$25/Seniors, \$30 Adults. Youth 17 and under admitted free with adult or senior. Tickets and information atwww.RestonChorale.org

Music from Oberlin at Oakton.

7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Music from Oberlin at Oakton is a musical outreach program that is designed to give the Conservatory students an opportunity showcase their musical talents for interested audiences beyond Oberlin. Different groups of students perform in Oakton three times a year and we are kicking off our 14th season. Local alums and community gets an opportunity to enjoy superb music from the Conservatory that has received the 2009 National Medal of Arts from the

TUESDAY/MARCH 24

Annual Children's Printmaking Workshop. 4-5 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society invites children ages 7 - 12 to create prints using fish, vegetables, and more at a workshop. To register, call the Children's Librarian at 703-938-

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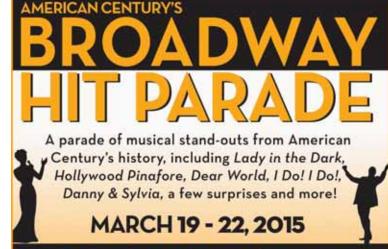
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McLean senior Jacqueline Green placed fifth on floor, earning all-state honors at the VHSL individual state gymnastics meet on March 8 at **Patriot High School.**



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax gymnast Rachel Barborek won the all-around championship at the VHSL individual state meet on March 8 at Patriot High School. Hickory's Haley Cole finished runner-up, followed by Marshall's Morgan Stahl, Cox's Mary Munitz and Washington-Lee's Sophie Hatcher. Stahl finished second on floor (9.625) and beam (9.6), ninth on vault (9.575) and tied for 20th on bars (8.825).

McLean's Brown-Kaiser, Green Earn All-State Honors

Seniors each place top eight in one event.

By Jon Roetman THE CONNECTION

ore than two weeks after helping the McLean gymnastics team win the 6A state championship, seniors Lizzy Brown-Kaiser and Jacqueline Green received some individual recognition.

Brown-Kaiser and Green each earned allstate honors in one event at the VHSL individual state meet on March 8 at Patriot High School. Brown-Kaiser placed sixth on beam with a score of 9.3, and Green finished fifth on floor with a score of 9.425.

"I am very satisfied with my beam performance," Brown-Kaiser wrote in an email. "It always feels good to get through a routine without a fall and it was a nice way to wrap up my beam career."

Brown-Kaiser competed in the all-around after qualifying with a top-four finish at regionals. She finished seventh with a score

Along with her beam result, Brown-Kaiser finished 12th on floor (9.25) 17th on vault (9.4) and tied for 12th on bars (9.05).

"I am really happy with my overall performance," Brown-Kaiser wrote. "This was one of my best meets of my personal high school career, so I'm thrilled that I could peak at my last competition."

Along with floor, Green also competed on vault (18th, 9.375) and bars (16th, 8.95).

Fairfax senior Rachel Barborek won the all-around title with a score of 38.7, becoming the first Fairfax County gymnast to accomplish the feat since Herndon's Maria Hayden in 2010. Prior to Hayden, the last Fairfax County gymnast to win the state allaround title was Lake Braddock's Christina Ghani in 2002.

Barborek finished first on bars, beam and floor.

Marshall's Morgan Stahl placed third in



Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

McLean senior Lizzy Brown-Kaiser competes at the VHSL individual state gymnastics meet on March 8 at Patriot High School.

the all-around (37.625) and Washington- helped McLean win the 6A team title. The home the first-place trifecta as a team and Lee's Sophie Hatcher finished fifth (37.325). The individual competition was originally scheduled for Feb. 21, but was postponed

three times due to inclement weather concerns. The meet was re-scheduled for Feb. 28, March 7 and finally March 8.

On Feb. 20, Brown-Kaiser and Green

Highlanders, led by head coach Courtney Lesson, became the first Fairfax County team to win the title since Langley in 2004. McLean also captured Conference 6 and 6A North region championships during the season.

"I could not have asked for a more perfect season," Brown-Kaiser wrote. "Taking



McLean senior Jacqueline Green competes on bars during the VHSL individual state gymnastics meet on March 8 at Patriot High School.

performing one of my best individual meets at states is an incredible feeling. I am so proud of my team and very thankful for my amazing coach Courtney Lesson, friends, and family for their support and faith in the team throughout my final season. This was an extremely memorable year."

12 * McLean Connection * March 11-17, 2015

SPORTS



The Langley hockey team split their final two games.

Langley Hockey Finishes with Win Against Patriot, Loss to Stone Bridge

The Saxon hockey team played against Patriot in the first round of the NVSHL playoffs. Patriot was the No. 5 seed with Langley coming in as the underdog.

The Saxons got off to a slow start and surrendered two goals before freshman Evan Guidi got the team on the board with three and a half minutes to play. Junior assistant captain Jason Guidi netted the equalizer in the final minute of the period.

Strong defense from seniors Chris Lane and captain Will Clemson, and sophomore Kevin Wang held Patriot at bay while Wyatt Conrow, Sam Shapiro and Jason Guidi provided the rest of the offense that was necessary. Freshman JT Gorman had another strong showing between the pipes as Langley ended Patriot's season with a 5-3 victory.

Round 2 of the playoffs brought on a much more formidable foe. Stone Bridge was undefeated with a 10-0 record in the regular season. With the drop of the puck, play quickly moved into the Langley zone where Stone Bridge peppered Langley's goalie with shots. Less than 2 minutes into the game, Langley Senior Sam Lafuria got a break away and scored the first goal of the night. With 4 minutes to go in the first, Stone Bridge tied it up and went ahead 2-1 early in the second. Although Langley was outshot 11-3 in the first period, the team continued to play with heart and tied the game at 2 when Wyatt Conrow tipped a shot from Will Clemson that bounced hard into the upper corner with less than a minute to go in the middle period.

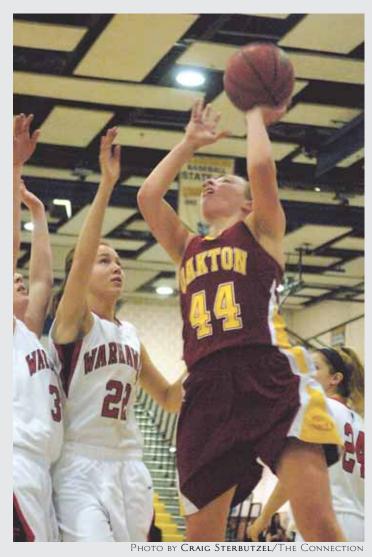
The Saxons would again take the lead early in the third with another goal from Lafuria, but Stone Bridge tied the game quickly thereafter and pulled ahead with 11 minutes to play. The Saxons played hard and evened the score with 6 minutes remaining on another goal by Conrow, but Stone Bridge proved too much for the Saxons to handle as the game ended 6-4.

Oakton Girls Win Region Championship

Oakton forward Delaney Connolly knocked down four 3pointers, scored a game-high 20 points and helped Oakton beat Madison 50-42 in the 6A North region championship game at Robinson Secondary School. It was the Cougars' first region title since 2012, when Oakton went undefeated and won the AAA state championship.

Each team clinched a berth in the state tournament by reaching the region final. The semifinals are Friday in Richmond.

Oakton sophomore **Delaney Connolly scored** 20 points and grabbed nine rebounds during the Cougars' 50-42 victory over Madison in the 6A North region final on March 7 at Robinson Secondary School.



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Parcel 4 (Mohammed N. Shirazi, et al.): 4242 Chain Bridge Road #D, Fairfax; Fairfax Professional Village Condos. Tax Map #: 57-4-20-7D

Parcel 5 (John Samuel Jackson, et al.): 6313 Old Dominion Drive, McLean; Chesterbrook; 0.438+/- Acre. Tax Map #: 0313-01-0070



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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Caboose Brewing Company, LLC trading as Caboose Brew-ing Company, 520 Mill St. NE Vienna, VA 22180. The above OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Wine and Beer on premises li-cense to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Matthew Greer, member
NOTE: Objections to the issu

ance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later that 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices.

objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

101 Computers

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE Istanbul Blue, LLC trading as Istanbul Blue Restaurant, 523 Maple ave, W. Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer

and Wine, Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Janet Provencal, owner NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later that 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices

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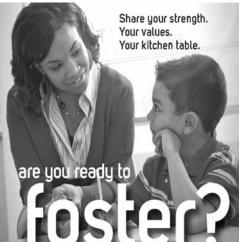
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How Lucky



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You'll note there's no question mark after the "I." If any grammatical mark, there could be an exclamation point, but that's overstating my reaction a bit. I am not referring to the usual happy-luckygrateful to be alive sentiment I regularly express in this space; no, this is micro more than macro. What I am specifically referring to is the winter weather and its predictable effects on appointments: cancellations in general, chemotherapy cancellations to be Kenny-column specific.

Yesterday, March 5, the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area received approximately six inches of snow, give or take, complicated further by the previous days' ever-unpopular "wintry mix." Ergo, governments and schools were closed and many lives were put on hold, for a day at least, as many activities/appointments were likely to be re-scheduled. All well and good, mostly, except when you're a "terminal" cancer patient and your chemotherapy infusion (your presumptive life-saving/sustaining treatment) is to be administered that day - then it's not so good. Then your life passes before you even faster than when your oncologist first advised you of your extremely unexpected, abbreviated life expectancy/ prognosis (for me, it was "13 months to two years").

Fortunately, Thursdays are not my chemotherapy day; Fridays are. But what brought this column's subject into focus was a call I received Thursday evening from the Infusion Center providing me/patients with a special inclementweather phone number to call to find out if the Center would be open the next day, what hours, etc. This was the first time in six years of non-stop treatment – when I was given such a specific number/circumstance to call. Previously, I would have simply called the Center or "cellphoned" my oncology nurse (I have his number on speed dial), to learn of any closures or delays. But, and this is the luck I referred to in the title, never had I experienced any weather-related/affected reason to stress/call. Never experienced the anxiety of wondering, worrying and waiting to learn if my hoped-for, life-saving treatment could go in as scheduled.

Now, whether skipping/delaying treatment really matters in the medical world's reality, I can tell you this: in my world, the patient's world, it seems like it matters an awful lot. Rescheduling feels like you're losing days of your life. What little I know (and it's very little; it's mostly what I feel and think) is that any change in frequency, duration, reduction in medicine and/or protocol, all of which so far has kept me alive way past my original expiration date, can't be a good thing, certainly not a preferred thing; again, in my head, anyway

And it's these feelings that can complicate the cancer experience: knowing what to make of things externally, and of course, internally. Controlling one's emotions so as not to exacerbate an already difficult situation is my macro cross to bear. However, sometimes small things can weaken that resolve. After six years, I should know better, and usually I do. But receiving that phone call last evening was a reminder of how fortunate and yet sort of clueless I've been about what has happened to other patients and what hasn't happened to me.

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

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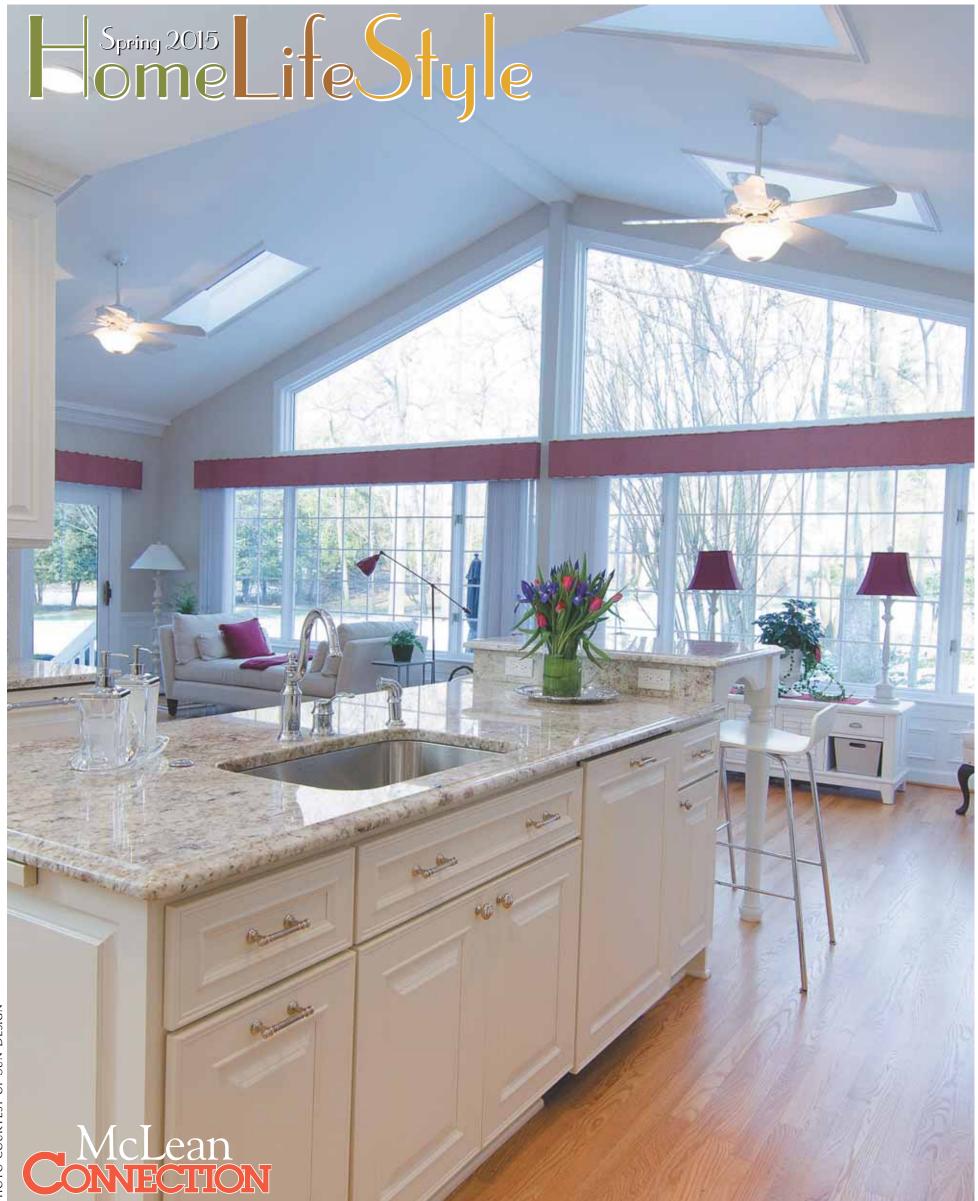






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HomeLifeStyle

Luxury Apartments Popping Up

Renters want resort-like amenities and access to transportation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL The Connection

fter a long, hard day at work, Jordan Coleman comes home to a large apartment with modern amenities, including a 24-hour concierge, ample living space, a state-ofthe-art fitness center and a pool. The apartment features high-end appliances and finishes as well as an open, flowing layout and large walk-in closets. Coleman - a lawyer and Capitol Hill staffer – shares the pricey rent with a friend. The complex is owned by Avalon, which has properties in Arlington, Fairfax, Herndon, Falls Church, Tysons Corner and Vienna, Virginia, as well as Bethesda, Maryland, and Washington.

The demand for high-end apartments in the Washington, D.C., area is high, with rents soaring over the \$7,000 mark. There are some who say the luxurious living spaces and carefree lifestyles are worth the extra money.

"There are two kinds of people who would be inclined to spend that kind of money in

the luxury rental market," said David Freishtat, who teaches in the Masters in Real Estate Development program at the University of Maryland and practices law in Potomac, Md. "First there are fairly successful, young people who buddy up and share an apartment with two or three friends. They can afford to spend 35-40 percent of take home pay in housing. They don't spend much on food because they don't have a family to feed," he said.

"Empty-nesters who've sold their homes and decided to downsize are also inclined to rent high-end apartments. If they bought their house 20-30 years ago and sold it recently, they're flush with cash," said Freishtat. "They might be looking to buy a house in Florida or Arizona where there's no income tax, but for the year and a half until they make that decision they're going to live in a nice apartment because they've always lived in a nice house so they're adaptable to those kinds of apartments."

"The trade off in these buildings is that they are in great neighborhoods," said Coleman. "They're new construction and



Luxury apartments buildings like The Harrison at Reston Town Center in Reston, offer 28,000 square feet of luxury, resort-style living and an easy commute to downtown Washington, D.C.

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the layout is like you're living in the suburbs, but with the convenience of living in the city. There are kitchens, bathrooms, living spaces are fluid and the closets are ridiculously large."

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See Northern Virginia, Page 3

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Home Life Style

All Over Northern Virginia

From Page 2

tation. A new, luxury apartment building will has 360 apartments with easy access to such a lifestyle.

The Harrison at Reston Town Center is now open, promising 28,000 square feet of luxury, resort-style living, and an easy trip to downtown Washington, D.C. for work or play.

At The Harrison, where rent runs from just under \$2,000 to as high as \$6,650 a month, residents are offered such amenities as a culinary demonstration kitchen; a private dining room for wine tastings; a gaming area that offers pool, shuffleboard, chess, and card tables, a massage room, a spin studio and a 24-hour gym with state-of-the-art equipment. The pet-friendly property even caters to four-legged friends with a dog park and pet spa.

"People now want to simplify their lives," said Karen A. Kossow, Vice President of Marketing, Community Realty Company, Inc. which provides leasing and management services for The Harrison. "They want an opportunity for a healthy and enriched lifestyle. For example, with the fitness center and lounge area, there are opportunities for socialization. You can keep youf pet here, and there's even a place to walk your dog or give it a shower. If you work from home there are offices with a printer and fax and conference rooms where you can hold a meeting. These things just make your life easier and simpler and give you more time to enjoy life."

Also at Reston Town Center is The Metropolitan, owned by Kettler, a real estate development firm based in McLean, Va., and which manages apartments throughout Northern Virginia. Residents at some of the firm's properties pay more than \$7,000 a month for features such as 17-foot ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, wood flooring and ceramic tile bathrooms.

Kettler is also putting the finishing touches on The Acadia, a 411-unit, highrise luxury apartment building in the Metropolitan Park section of Arlington, Va., and plans to begin leasing units this spring. In October, the firm will begin construction on m.flats Crystal City. It will beKettler's sixth property in the Pentagon-Crystal City neighborhood in Arlington.

"Our m.flats apartments are meeting a growing demand for living spaces within walking distance of work, shops and entertainment," Robert C. Kettler, chairman and chief executive officer of Kettler, said in a

Grand Opening: The Harrison at Reston Town Center

The Harrison at Reston Town Center invites the public to its grand opening weekend, Saturday and Sunday, March 14-15: noon — ribbon cutting; 1-4 p.m. — property tours, cooking demonstrations, wine tasting, fitness class. RSVP for the grand opening events at www.liveharrisonapts.com



Photo courtesy of Renaissance Centro

Easy access to public transportation and close proximity to restaurants and shops attract residents to luxury apartments communities like The Harrison at Reston Town Center in Reston.



Photo courtesy of Kettler

Luxury apartment communities like Midtown Alexandria Station offer amenities that help simplify life for busy professionals and empty nesters alike.

statement. "Many young people are forming families later in life. As a result, they not only want to enjoy the vibrancy of city life, but live in an apartment that has many conveniences and amenities."

At Bent Tree in Centreville, Va., managed by Lincoln Property Company, high-end units include cathedral ceilings, walk-in closets, lighted tennis courts, racquetball courts, a resort-style swimming pool, a cyber café, a fitness center, bike trails, barbeque and picnic areas and a spacious club house where people can hang out.

Proximity to transportation is another bonus, said Jeremy Feldman of Bent Tree. "You have the Fairfax Connector and we're near the Metro."

Luxury apartments that offer residents access to public transportation are doing well. Twenty percent of the units in The Harrison have already been rented, even before its grand opening.



HomeLifeStyle

His and Hers: Special Spaces

Addition pulls together styles and overcomes challenges.

By John Byrd

n the face of it, adding a two-level structure to a 30-year-old brick house is not espe cially difficult. Essentially, Vienna homeowners Al Dobson and his wife Joan Davanzo each have a pet project — a spacious first level garage to house sport cars, motorcycles and '60s rock for him; a lovely sunroom comprised of floor-to-ceiling window walls for her.

Knock out the existing screen porch; slightly expand the footprint for the garage; sun room goes on top embracing the rear deck and pool; and, Bingo, it's done.

Yet as anyone who has lived in the Fairfax County for a while knows, no project is without complications, and add to this the problems of an unlevel grade, set-back restrictions, strict rules on structures with lots of glass and the owner's desire to preserve all the surrounding trees, and suddenly there are the makings of an intricate engineering challenge — the sort of brain-buster most contractors wouldn't attempt to unrayel.

That's how it all started with this deceptively understated Vienna addition: several contractors told Dobson and Davanzo they couldn't have the amount of glass in the sunroom they were looking for; county rules regarding glass and where it can be positioned are rigorously enforced; and then, too, the glass must to be "braced" to resist winds that otherwise might cause it to implode — a requirement which inevitably reduces sightlines.

"County rules on glass in new construction have been in place for over a decade," said David Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions, the contractor the couple hired to execute the project. "Because of some tricky complications, a lot of contractors stay out of the sunroom arena — so it's become somewhat specialized."

What several contractors plainly told Joan Davanzo, nevertheless, was that her dream project — as she envisionsed it — simply couldn't be built.

"We were told the windows couldn't be as low to the floor, nor as close to the corner as we wanted," Davanzo said. "Since I had particularly liked the openness of the old screen porch the sunroom was to replace, this was discouraging."

By contrast, Davanzo said, Foster began addressing the project's technical hurdles from the first meeting.

"His experience was palpable," said Al Dobson, 70, who has had several previous encounters with remodelers. "The first consideration — which he pointed out imme-

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Al Dobson and his new spacious garage to house his sport car, motorcycles and '60s rock memorabilia.

diately — was how to develop a site plan that would satisfy the county, but also give us a sustainable result that allows the aesthetic effects we were seeking."

Part of the assignment would also entail a plan for preserving mature trees on the property's eastern side.

THE GARAGE, which would house Dobson's collectible motorized vehicles, needed a footprint of some 400 square feet, the contractor determined; the sunroom, one level up, would be plenty spacious at slightly over 200 square feet. Hence, Foster's "stacked" pyramidal design not only satisfies family "use" requirements, but also allows the "growing room" needed for an entire grove of mature trees bordering the property's perimeter.

The plan was, of course, partly predicated on lowering the lot's existing grade some five feet, enough to carve out a foundation for the garage and create driveway access.

The foundation also figures prominently in an innovative engineering solution that gives the couple the amount of glass they had been seeking in the sunroom.

To meet the county's wind-bracing requirements, Foster and team designed a narrow-gauge, all-steel framework for the sunroom's many large glass panels which is anchored all the way down to the concrete foundation itself.

Though not visible to the naked eye, the infrastructrure allowed designers to extend windows to within a few feet of the floor and mere inches from the corner of the room.

"Our dogs can even look out the windows," Joan Davanzo said. "The design gives us a really a stunning view in all directions."

But, surely, a nearly all-glass room must be quite cold in the winter?

"All the windows are Low-E Argon-filled double pane — state of the art thermal resistance," Foster said.

To reinforce the comforting insularity, however, the contractor applied thermallyresistant spray foam behind the wall sur-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTE

The sun porch solution emphasizes views. Windows are insulated and wind-resistant.

faces — and drilled holes in the steel columns to accommodate an added infusion.

"It's all about creating a tight structure," Foster said. "That's what keeps outside temperatures out."

On the other hand, the sunroom feature Davanzo most appreciates this time of year is how fluidly it opens to spring's balmy breezes. All the windows are casement-style which can be independently adjusted to let in cross breezes. Overhead, two skylights open electronically — and individually. The skylights are also equipped with electric blinds and rain sensors.

The room's interior design scheme, which Davanzo developed in conjunction with Foster, reflects a number of favored owner lifestyle preferences. The golden duotone teakwood floor — comprised of a framed rectangular perimeter traversed with diagonal slats — is a pattern the couple came upon in their travels in Italy. The tongue-and-groove ceiling and warm sea-foam green wall color, likewise, were chosen to

highlight a verdant visual continuum that recalls childhood adventures in the country.

The new sunroom is accessible through an adjacent family room separated by three French doors which Davanzo mostly leaves open.

"This is where I spend most of my time when I'm at home," she said.

For Al Dobson, the favored hang-out now is his "man cave" garage which houses a Corvette, his Italian motorcycle and a sound system that plays choice sounds of the '50s and '60s.

A racing enthusiast who participates in time trials at Summit Point, Dobson wanted a room that speaks to his passion for motor sports. Underfoot, PVC tiles in an iconic checkerboard pattern set the tone for a private retreat decorated with '60s movie posters and other period memorabilia.

"It's a really peaceful spot to just relax," Dobson said. "That's what this process was always for, so I'm glad we pursued it."

4 * McLean Connection * HomeLifeStyle Spring 2015

HomeLifeStyle

Historic Virginia in Gardens

Tour includes a rare private look at special properties in Fairfax County, Old Town Alexandria and Leesburg.

he Virginia Historic Garden Tour is an 8-day event that stretches across the Commonwealth. Each spring visitors are welcomed to over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks. This event provides the opportunity to see unforgettable gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

The Clifton Historic District, registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark, was a Civil War railroad stop and is filled with shops, memorable restaurants and restored homes. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, tended to soldiers after the Battle of Second Manassas at St. Mary's Church and the historic Fairfax Station, now a Railroad Museum.

A self-drive tour on April 21 features stables, vineyards, a world-class garden,



Courtesy of Garden Club of Fairfax

Located in a pastoral setting with grazing horses nearby, this graceful 1987 Georgian Revival house in Clifton draws its inspiration from historic Williamsburg.



Photo courtesy of Garden Club of Fairfax

Nestled in an equestrian neighborhood, a 10,000 square-foot contemporary home was built in 2013 for an active family with young children, and includes a stable.

Georgian-revival architecture, and a 10,000 square-foot contemporary home with a vanishing edge swimming pool – four private homes with gardens and two stables in all. Tour ticket includes a tea at the Clifton Presbyterian Church.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic gardens, and provide graduate level research fellowships for building comprehensive and ongoing records of historic gardens and land-

scapes in the Commonwealth, and support the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.

For a complete list of tours, see www.vagardenweek.org

Virginia Historic Garden Tour in Clifton and Fairfax Station

Redlac Drive, Clifton: Located in a pastoral setting with grazing horses nearby, this graceful 1987 Georgian Revival house draws its elegant inspiration from historic Williamsburg. Large rooms with arching Palladian windows overlook a formal boxwood knot garden and serene five-acre landscape. The hardwood tree canopy shades a hill-side azalea and rhododendron garden with a bridge over a swale

The bedrooms upstairs are filled with vintage linens and series of grace-family heirlooms including the family's first-communion dress, and are connected by a central library furnished with an antique parlor set. Balconies overlook a shaded flagstone patio and swimming pool. Dennis and Cyndy Patrick, owners.

each open to a series of grace-ful garden rooms with an entertaining deck, a yoga/ meditation deck, an outdoor shower and a seating

❖ Willowbrook Road, Fairfax ing a fire pit.

Station: Nestled in an equestrian neighborhood, this 10,000-square-foot contemporary home was built in 2013 for an active family with young children on the site of their previous house. A handsome entrance of stone, leaded glass and ironwork leads to a spectacular open-plan living, dining and kitchen area designed by the fun-loving owners with year-round entertaining in mind. The immaculate two-stall stable on the property has attached horse trailer storage and is home to a beloved horse and a pony. Local equestrians will be in the stable to answer horse-related questions. Garth and Heather Viar, owners.

❖ Also Willowbrook Road, Fairfax Station: Serenity awaits visitors at this single-story California-style property. The experience begins on the long drive that winds past a riding ring and pastures. Slate steps lead to the entrance courtyard, where a koi pond and bamboo fountain set the warm spa-like mood of this wonderful home. The house, purchased in 2003, has been completely renovated by the current owners, and has been personalized with twin stud-

ies, an openplan kitchen.
Clean, contemporary and connected to nature, the rooms
along the back
of the house
each open to a
series of graceful garden
rooms with an
entertaining
deck, a yoga/
meditation
deck, an outdoor shower
and a seating
area surrounding a fire pit.

Old Town Alexandria, Saturday, April 18

Old Town Alexandria was in 1946 the third city in the country to create a historic district to preserve its downtown. Today it has 4,000 buildings with a historic designation. The April 18 walking tour in Old Town includes five row houses with courtyard gardens in this preserved area, and refreshments at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. In addition to the private properties featured, the tour ticket allows access to The Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee- Fendall House Museum and Garden, George Mason's Gunston Hall and George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. The tour is hosted by The Garden Club of Alexandria and Hunting Creek Garden Club. www.vagardenweek.org

Clifton and Fairfax Station, Tuesday, April 21

This self-drive tour features stables, vineyards, a world-class garden, Georgian-revival architecture, and a 10,000 square-foot contemporary home with a vanishing edge swimming pool – four private homes with gardens and two stables in all. Tour ticket includes a tea at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Advance Ticket Sales: \$30 at www.vagardenweek.org or email fairfaxtickets@vagardenweek.org. Visit www.gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com for a list of local retailers selling tickets.

Leesburg, Sunday and Monday, April 19-20

Leesburg was mapped and recognized by the Council of the Colony in 1758. Most of the 11 featured tour properties are located on two historic roads, Edwards Ferry Road and Cornwall Street. The neighborhoods offer a variety of architectural styles and well established gardens. This two-day Towne and Country tour features 11 properties and coincides with the Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival, which takes place on April 18 and 19.

Randall and Joan Onders, owners.

❖ Poplar Grove, Lakewood Lane, Fairfax Station: The cream-colored Federal-style home was built in 1964 and renovated quite literally from the ground up in 2001.

The owners, one a landscape architect of world-class talent and the other a graduate of DuPage School of Horticulture and a seventh-generation Virginian, carved a paradise of 18th-century grandeur out of what had been seven overgrown acres. Nearby is a vineyard with over 400 Petit Verdot grape vines. Visit the swimming pool garden and follow a shady path that leads to the secret white garden with a pond and splashing fountain. Gardeners will be available to answer questions in the gardens. Charles Prillaman and Parker Jennings, owners.

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3 859 Nicholas Run Drive, Great Falls — \$2,550,000



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HomeLifeStyle

Home Improvements Earn Awards

Four Sun Design remodeling projects named Washingtonarea "Contractor of the Year" winners.

BY JOHN BYRD

t's been a good year for Sun Design Remodeling.
In January, the full-service design/build remodeler won four "Contractor of the Year" awards from the Washington, D.C. chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). Then, in February, an already locally-honored gourmet kitchen was named category best ("kitchen above \$150k") in the 10-state

Winning projects include: a rear elevation poolside recreation solution; a French Country gourmet kitchen (the southeastern regional winner); an open kitchen plan in a traditional interior style; and a lower-level build-out to designed for use by three generations.

southeastern region.

French Country Kitchen Is Local and Regional COTY winner: Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000

For Dr. Rick Layfield and his wife Kelly Layfield, the search for their dream kitchen started shortly after they purchased their 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom home in Clifton eight years ago.

"The kitchen suite was a primary selling point," Kelly Layfield said of the 400-square-foot room.

But she found the rear of the house dark and dated. Sightlines to the children's backyard play areas were not well-aligned. And there was a visually obstructive bulkhead over the primary food preparation zone.

Also, the pentagon-shaped food preparation island and dining counter wasn't well suited for in-kitchen dining. And the corner breakfast area was cramped — making it hard to access a door to the back porch which used to be a pathway to the family's outdoor grill.

Fortunately, Kelly Layfields's first meeting with designer John Benson was productive from the start. He proposed a rectangular food preparation island with a granite surface, parallel with the two corners of the cook's work zones.

Benson also helped Layfield explore the lighter, more textured hues she had been seeking: marble subway tile wall covering; surfaces in Granite Bianco Antico; white cabinets with glass facings; and an oven backsplash in a white quatrefoil tiling. The coffers, likewise, are delineated in a white and grey duotone.

"This is just the balance I was looking for," Layfield said. "It feels like home."



Photo by Bryan Burris

With its private entrance, fully operative kitchenette and dining table for four, the new lower level allows Tina's mother, Kay, to host bridge parties for friends independent of any other household activities.



Рното ву Мітко Нооб

BEST RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN: Sun Design's winning kitchen solution takes full advantage of a 13' cathedral ceiling with a two-level window wall. Owner Melynda Britt says the space is much better organized, yet more accessible — perfect for entertaining.

Open Floorplan Defines Casual But Elegant Kitchen Residential Kitchen; \$80k to \$120k; COTY Honorable Mention

Steve and Melynda Britt's four-bedroom colonial in Vienna offered considerable charms when the couple purchased it 10 years ago.

There was a nicely finished library and living room, a formal dining room and a sizable family room in the back half of the house with a 13-foot cathedral ceiling framing a lovely view of mature landscaping.

For Melynda Britt, the larger goal was a kitchen footprint that offered an efficient work space — integrated with the surrounding great room.

"Since the emphasis was on a more intelligent use of limited square footage," Sun Design's Durosko said, "we thought custombuilt-ins would help create better coordi-

nated work zones."

Critiquing the kitchen now, Britt is amazed at how much more effectively the solution works on several fronts: The food preparation island protects the cook's work triangle, and is positioned for easy service to the family room; the beverage station, an effective space divider, is accessible from both the breakfast area and family room; the coffee bar is situated between doors leading to the dining room and the breakfast room, out of the chef's way; the kitchen's mosaic tile flooring has been replaced by a refinished hardwood flooring.

"We can now comfortably entertain 20-25 guests," Britt said. "Better yet, the space is really warm and comfortable."

Finished Lower Level Offers Multi-Gen Family Solution COTY Honorable Mention Eric Park and his wife Tina, both physicians, were already quite busy 10 years ago when they purchased a 3,400-square-foot two-level neo-colonial in Falls Church.

"Our plan all along was to create a family home," Tina Park said. "We saw the lower level eventually playing a part in our daily lives, but were only using it for storage. It wasn't until my mother began regularly helping us with the girls that we began looking at the house more closely."

At first Park's mother, Kay, would stay in the guest room, but gradually everyone started looking at ways to increase available privacy.

It's at this point that Sun Design Remodeling enters the story.

"A basement conversion is challenging," said Sun Design's Liz Lee-Sint, who guided the Park project from concept to completion, "especially when it's going to be mainstreamed with the rest of the house."

For Kay, the top priority was a suite with all the features of independent living, including a private entrance, a comfortable master suite and a fully functional kitchenette with dining for four.

On a separate note, the Parks envisioned a 195-square-foot family fitness center and a children's play zone with custom builtins.

Describing the finished décor as "modern Asian contemporary," Tina Park stressed simple lines, soft tones and open visuals.

"It's really the nicest place in the house now," Park said. "And it satisfies so many different needs that it's become our main gathering place."

House and grounds reconciliation judged this year's best Exterior Solution/COTY Grand award winner

As Monte Zaben tells it, the rear elevation to his 8,300-square-foot colonial in Fredericksburg was so sun-exposed it was uncomfortable sitting by the pool he had just installed the year before.

After researching several options, however, he stumbled on Sun Design's portfolio of indoor-outdoor solutions, and set up a meeting.

Combining an extended radius that steps down to the pool with vaulted entrance way, the structure's architecture is welcoming.

Tapered craftsman-style piers support a seam metal roof. Inside, three distinct activity zones flow together: an open-air lounge; a cozy poolside vista with a pair of wicker chairs; and an outdoor kitchen equipped with a traditional grill, a power burner and refrigerators. A second level grilling deck is now, likewise, under roof.

Happy with the outcome, Zaben said he enjoys the outdoor kitchen so much he was out grilling one of his specialties this past January. "We make regular use of the outdoor space on just about every seasonable day," he adds. "It's very much a part of our lives now."

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement for 30 years. He can be reached at byrdmatx@gmail.com.

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