

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

From left: Aubrey Phares,
Ed Monk and Ryan Rickard
hold the State Championship
trophy for theater.



HomeLifeStyle

Hail to the Champions

News, Page 3

United at Last With Family

News, Page 4

Fun on a Snowy Day

News, Page 2

Having Fun on a Snowy Day

While plow-truck drivers did their best to clear the roads, children home from school, last Thursday, March 5, had fun in the snow in this Fair Oaks neighborhood. It was the area's third snowfall in less than three weeks, bringing 6 inches or more of the cold, white stuff each time.



Armed with sleds and a snow tube, this trio prepares for an afternoon of snowy fun.



Wearing a funny face mask to keep warm, this boy slides down a snow mountain created by the three, recent snowstorms.



This Bobcat driver clears the snow from a residential road.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS



Sledding in a backyard in Fair Oaks.



Top of the World: This boy stands atop a snow mountain during the March 5 storm.

Hail to the Champions

Chantilly High wins VHSL One-Act State Competition.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Long known for its outstanding theater program, Chantilly High just added another award to its collection. On Saturday, March 7, the theater students became state champions, winning the VHSL One-Act State Competition.

Performing an original play written by their director, Ed Monk, the young thespians won Districts, Jan. 30, and Regionals, Feb. 7, en route to the top. And seniors Aubrey Phares and Ryan Rickard were named Best Actress and Best Actor.

“Winning the state championship was a very nice surprise because it was just a funny, little play,” said Monk. “It’s subjective. Some judges seem to think that comedy is easy, and comedies don’t usually win Oscars and Tonys like dramas do.”

He said his actors don’t intentionally aim to win awards, anyway. “I just tell the kids to do the best job they can,” said Monk. “I just care that they give a good performance that the audience enjoys.”

The award-winning play was “Day Six,” which Chantilly performed for the second time in eight years. The first time, it won Districts, but didn’t advance beyond Regionals. This time, though, it went all the way, taking the top prize in the state competition for the 6A region (large schools).

“It’s about the last day of creation, and a committee is trying to figure out how to put people together,” said Monk. “But they’re afraid that, if they design people wrong, they’ll get into trouble with God. So they slough it off onto a bunch of losers — which is why people are so screwed up.”

Phares portrayed God and, said Monk, Rickard played “the poor schlump who was the head of the committee.” Phares’s acting award was her first with this play, but Rickard won Best Actor at Districts and Regionals, as well as States.

“They really bought into their characters and played them as real people, not as actors trying to get laughs,” said Monk. “And that’s what made them so believable and funny.” The play featured a cast and crew of 37. And with each competition, Monk told his actors to “give a stronger performance than they did the last time.”

The state championship was held at Piedmont Community College in Charlottesville. But the road there was anything but easy for the Chantilly students. Auditions were held in December and they’ve been working on this play for three months.

“But we did three shows — the Holiday Spectacular, ‘A Christmas Carol’ and ‘Little Red Riding Hood and the Power Mutants’ — in between then and States,” said Monk.



Chantilly High’s jubilant theater students with Director Ed Monk (in front) after winning the State One-Act Championship.

“Half the cast was in the regional forensic finals — which they won — and our dress rehearsal for the school, plus our evening performance for the parents, both got cancelled because of snow. So the last time the whole cast and crew got to rehearse together was Feb. 7 — a month before the state competition.”

Besides that, he said, “We had a six-piece set, with each piece 4 feet wide. But the state stage was 10 feet smaller than ours. So we had to cut a foot off each piece to fit on their stage — which sounded simple until we got all those snow days when we couldn’t get into school to work on it. And with last week’s snow cancelling school again, we didn’t even know until Friday at

11 a.m. that we’d be allowed to go to the competition, at all.”

For winning States, the students received state-championship rings, plus medals to go with their District and Regional patches. And the school took home a banner and a trophy.

“I am extremely proud of the kids,” said Monk. “They did a really great job of creating funny characters, and everyone in the cast was engaged with each other. They were having fun, so the audience was having fun with them, so everything worked.”

Rickard described his character, Nick, as “sort of an idiot because he took the job of committee head without knowing what he was getting into. God gives him 20 minutes

to create the male and female human prototypes. Nick’s initially confident, but finds out the committee is filled with other idiots. It was fun playing him because he’s very stressed and his anxiety builds throughout the show.”

Regarding the play’s victory, Rickard said, “I think the judges liked its comedic timing and how — although it was an ensemble cast — each character had their own, unique traits.” As for his own award, he said, “It was a shock because there were other great actors and we were the only comedy, so I thought a dramatic actor would win.”

But Phares wouldn’t let him get away with being modest. “We all knew Ryan was going to win because he’d won Best Actor before [with this part] and because he’s an amazing performer,” she said. “His character was so layered and Ryan put a lot of work into it, so we weren’t surprised when he won.”

Phares portrayed God as a woman. “She acted like she knew what was going on when, in reality, her angel Gabrielle was actually keeping track of everything,” said Phares. “I played God as domineering and intimidating to many of the characters. My favorite line was, ‘You don’t touch God.’”

She also enjoyed working with all her friends and “seeing all our work pay off. But I was nervous in this role because it was my first, real play with a speaking part, other than a children’s show.”

Phares said they were all excited when Chantilly won because “as a cast, I think we all deserved it, working so hard in such a condensed time period. So it was amazing that we were even able to pull this off.” But she called her own acting award a “huge surprise” because, unlike Rickard, she hadn’t won it at Districts and Regionals.

“So it was very surreal,” said Phares. “It’s great to be able to do

SEE CHAMPIONS, PAGE 11



Chantilly’s award-winning play, “Day Six,” featured a cast and crew of 37.

ROUNDUPS

Pedestrian Struck and Killed on Lee Highway

A Fairfax County woman was struck as she crossed Lee Highway at about 6:23 a.m., Wednesday, March 4. The 52-year-old woman was crossing the road in the direction of the metro parking lot just east of Stone Road when she was struck by a Toyota Camry. The woman suffered severe, life-threatening injuries in the crash and was transported to Fair Oaks Hospital where she died. Police identified the woman as Pavithra Kenjige.

The driver of the Toyota was a 39-year-old man from Culpeper. Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives are investigating the crash; neither speed nor alcohol appear to be factors.

Over the past three years, more than 400 pedestrians have been struck and injured in crashes on Fairfax County roadways. Fairfax County police urge walkers, motorists, and bicyclists to pay close attention to pedestrian safety rules, such as crossing with a light and using a crosswalk. Police note that both pedestrians and motorists are equally responsible for observing laws and safety practices related to pedestrian right of way. More information regarding pedestrian safety may be found at <http://www.dmv.virginia.gov/safety/#programs/pedestrian/index.asp>

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 12, from 5 - 8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. (The inspection may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather). Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Torch Causes House Fire

Units responded to a house fire Friday, Feb. 27, at approximately 5:20 p.m., in the Fair Oaks area. The single-family home is located at 3425 Tilton Valley Dr.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke and fire coming from the second floor and roof of the two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 20 minutes. The occupants escaped unharmed when smoke alarms sounded. Two occupants have been displaced. Red Cross support was offered but declined by the occupants. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$300,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. An open flame torch used within the roof area to repair plumbing caused the fire.

Man Charged in Walmart Fire

Fire investigators charged a 22-year-old man of no fixed address with multiple charges in connection with an intentionally set fire at a Walmart, Feb. 4., in the Chantilly area.

He was charged with burning an occupied building, Virginia Code 18.2-79; burning property of value greater than \$200, Virginia Code 18.2-81; disorderly conduct, and possession of illegal fireworks.

The Walmart at 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center received approximately \$1,000 in property damage. There were no injuries.

The man is being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

Lamp Causes House Fire

Units responded to a house fire Thursday, March 5, at approximately 1:30 a.m., in the Centreville area. The single-family home is located at 6929 Confederate Ridge Lane.

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 11

NEWS



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

James Davis's relatives gathered Monday afternoon for his reburial in the Oakton Baptist Church Cemetery in Chantilly.

United at Last with Family

Man who died in 1863 is reburied in Chantilly cemetery.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

James Davis died in 1863, but he was just buried Monday in the Oakton Baptist Church Cemetery in Chantilly.

Actually, it was his second burial. The first was shortly after his death, but his remains were recently moved so a memory-care facility may be built upon his original gravesite.

"He's the first person with whom I've ever had the chance to experience a resurrection," said the Rev. Lewis Holmes, the church pastor, during the March 9 graveside service. "Out of the thousands of funerals I've done, it's the first one where we've gotten to take someone's remains and put them back into the ground."

Several of Davis's descendants — members of the Birch family — were there to witness his re-interment. Among them was his great-great-grandson, Ray Birch, 89, who was raised in the Chantilly/Pender (now called Fair Oaks) area and lived in the City of Fairfax for 58 years.

The roots of the Davises and Birches run deep in this area. And shortly before the reburial, Birch related some of his family history. He said Davis was his great grandmother's father.

"She was born in 1846 and remembered the Civil War," said Birch. "She used to tell us about hearing the cannon fire from the Battle of Bull Run in Centreville, and also from the Battle of Ox Hill [in Fairfax], which was fought in a fierce rainstorm."

Years later, Fairfax County preserved almost 5 acres of the 500-acre Ox Hill battlefield and erected monuments to the two Union generals who died there in

battle. And in 1914, as a teenager, Birch's father cleared the land for those monuments.

As for James Davis, he was a farmer who owned property at Flatlick Branch in Chantilly, by the Centreville/Walney Roads intersection with Route 50. "I have the Birch family bible and also did some genealogy," said Birch. "James married Elizabeth Cross and they had four children, three daughters and a son."

Eventually, Birch's paternal grandfather was born in Chantilly on the Davis farm property. His own father, Alvin Birch, was born on property that later became the Greenbriar community — and what's today known as the Birch Pond community nearby was named after him (Alvin).

Ray Birch graduated from Fairfax High in 1942, when it was in the building that now houses Paul VI High. He later married his wife Dot and worked for Fairfax County for 30 years before retiring in 1977. "I rose from a clerk typist to assistant director of finance," he said.

Getting back to Davis, he died of natural causes at age 56 and was buried on his farm. But now, a cen

SEE UNITED, PAGE 7



Dot and Ray Birch

OBITUARY

Kenyon William Davis

Kenyon William Davis, a veteran of World War II died at home on March 5, 2015 in Centreville at the age of 94.

Kenyon is survived by his wife of 68 years Edna Kathleen Davis of Centreville, his two children, Shirley Buckley and her husband Buddy of Centreville and Brenda Jones of Warrenton, three grandchildren Heidi Sterling and her husband John of Warrenton, Travis Jones and his wife Andrea of Warrenton, and Paula Araujo and her husband Joe of Dulles, seven great grandchildren, Cassidy and John Sterling, Erin and Ryan Jones and Megan, Tyler and Ashley Araujo. He is preceded in death by his parents Daniel and Jennie Davis and his brother E. Spencer Davis.

Kenyon was born on June 21, 1920 in Clifton. He grew up milking cows and splitting wood on his family farm where he learned a work ethic that he carried with him throughout his life. He joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in the 5th, 7th and 9th Armies and the British 8th spanning the territories from North Africa, Sardinia,



Corsica to France and Germany during World War II 10 days after D-Day. He returned to the states in 1945 where he met and married Kathleen on June 1, 1946 and settled in Centreville.

After moving to Centreville, Kenyon began working for the Centreville Garage as a mechanic for five years and then for the County Garage as the motor equipment superintendent and remained there for 29 and a half years retiring in 1975. He was a founding member of the Centreville Volunteer Fire Department in 1950 and served as the Fire Chief from 1954 until 1966. Kenyon was just awarded his 65 years of service pin the week before his death; he was the oldest and longest serving member at the time. While working for the department, Kenyon helped by building needed equipment from discarded vehicles and even built the first ambulance from a used hearse. He was also an honored founding member of the Centreville Moose Lodge 2168 and was one of only two surviving

founding members at the time of this death. He served as a Past Governor, Treasurer, Trustee and the Sergeant of Arms for many years. Kenyon also served his community as a member of the Centreville Lions Club and the American Legion Post 177.

Kenyon was accomplished at many skills and would often be found in his garage tinkering on different projects and welding birds and animals from shovels, rakes, bicycle parts and other tools to give to family and friends. He was a dedicated family man and

was proud to share in all of their accomplishments. He was probably most proud to have a namesake, Tyler William, his 6th great grandchild who shared his middle name.

He was passionate about life and always gave credit to the "man upstairs" for his long journey on this Earth.

He had a wicked sense of humor and could always be counted on for a good joke. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him, but most of all by his family.

The viewing is scheduled for

Wednesday March 11, 2015 at National Memorial Park in Falls Church, from 6-8 p.m. A funeral is scheduled for 2 p.m. on March 12, 2015 at National Memorial Park with a reception to follow at the Centreville Volunteer Fire Department.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate Kenyon's life. In lieu of flowers, send donations to the Centreville Volunteer Fire Department. The family would like to thank the Comfort Keepers staff for their care and support during Kenyon's last days.

Centreville Author Nominated For Literary Award

"South Pacific Cauldron" by Centreville resident Alan Rems has been nominated by the Library of Virginia as a finalist in the nonfiction category of the 18th annual Virginia Literary awards. These awards celebrate Virginia authors and their literary contributions.

Rems' book, the first complete history of World War II in the South Pacific, has been praised by critics as a work of history, for readability, and quality of prose.

On Wednesday, March 25 at 7 p.m., Rems will discuss his book at the Chantilly Library. The program will begin with a 50-minute Powerpoint presentation built around rarely seen photographs of the little-known campaign on Bougainville. After a question-and-answer period, signed copies will be available for purchase.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. This telephone support group is designed to help caregivers of older adults share experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. These are one-hour free sessions. Find out more and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

Fair Oaks Parkinson's Support Group for people living with Parkinson's disease, caregivers and family, meets on the fourth Saturday monthly, 10 a.m.-noon at Sunrise at Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-378-7221 or visit www.fairoaksparkinsons.com for more.

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Balancing Act: Budgeting for Housing

BY DAVID LEVINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING
AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

In 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 commitment 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

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-income 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 or next month.

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 expenses.

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 one-time spikes in their heating costs. It is a balancing act.

COMMENTARY

Citizen Group Justice for John Geer Reacts to Ad Hoc Commission

In response to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' announcement of an ad hoc commission to review police department practices and policies, the citizens group Justice for John Geer released the following statement:

Fairfax County needs a permanent, effective civilian oversight board that is independent of police influence, trusted by the public, supported by the board, and tasked with a broad review over all practices and policies relating to law enforcement activity.

We didn't get that today. What we got was a panel hastily thrown together in an effort to provide political cover rather than real reform.

The formation of the ad hoc commission exhibits the lack of transparency and disrespect for the public that lies at the heart of police misbehavior. Comments by Supervisors Herry, Hudgins, and Frey confirm that the ad hoc commission was formed by Bulova without involvement from other Board members or the public at large.

The make-up of the ad hoc commission appears designed to frustrate independent civilian review and meaningful reforms.

❖ It is shocking and unacceptable that representatives of law enforcement are so numerous and unaffiliated civilians so few. The Police Department has ample opportunities to access and influence Supervisors directly and indirectly. Concerned citizens do not. Citizens deserve an oversight body independent from police pressure.

❖ It is disappointing that no one representing the family of Sal Culosi is on the commission. We are told Sal Culosi's father, Sal Culosi, Sr., requested to be on the commission but was denied.

❖ It is surprising and disappointing that none of the lawyers named to the commission stands

out as a spokesperson for the vigilant protection of civil liberties.

❖ The inclusion of David Rohrer in any capacity is a conflict of interest and an insult to the public's intelligence. Rohrer was the police chief from 2004 to 2012. During his tenure, Sal Culosi and David Masters were shot and killed by police. After both those shootings, the Police Department adopted the same secrecy and hostility to transparency and accountability that we have witnessed in the wake of John Geer's shooting. Purported "reforms" from Rohrer's tenure clearly failed to prevent the unnecessary shooting of John Geer. As Deputy County Executive for Public Safety, Rohrer currently oversees the police department.

The responsibilities of the ad hoc commission are insufficiently broad. Justice requires not just transparency but accountability, which is entirely absent from the commission's responsibilities. True civilian oversight requires a broad, comprehensive purview over law enforcement practices and policies, with a Board of Supervisors committed to meaningful reform.

We object to the inscrutable method by which the ad hoc commission was formed. We object to the makeup of the commission, which should offer civilian oversight and guidance independent of law enforcement influence. We object to the too-narrow purview of the commission. And we object to Chair Bulova's refusal today to allow for a period of public comment on the formation of the commission.

The need for reform has been longstanding. The creation of an important oversight body should have happened long ago in a straightforward and competent manner. Chair Bulova has failed as a leader and should resign as chair of the Board of Supervisors.

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United at Last with Family

FROM PAGE 4

tury-and-a-half later, Artisan Land Group LLC is going to build The Arbors of Chantilly on that same property, off Downs Drive, at 13622 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (Route 50). A 48-unit, residential structure, it'll focus on caring for people with Alzheimer's and dementia.

However, when it was discovered that there was a grave on the property, the developer needed to find its exact location so it could be moved. So Artisan President and owner Sean Ambrose contacted local banker Rick Hutchison to ask if he knew any longtime Chantilly residents who might know where the grave was.

"In the late 1970s or early '80s, the county was putting in a water or sewer line next to the property," said Birch. "I saw it and told the county there was a grave there, so the county put the grave on its maps." But Artisan was unable to find it since its marker – a red rock on which Birch had painted a white cross – had disappeared long ago.

So Hutchison connected Ambrose with Birch and, about a year ago, Ambrose, a lawyer and an archaeologist contacted Birch to enlist his help finding the grave. "My father had told me about that grave when I was a kid," said Birch. "I was the only living person who knew where it was."

The foundation of an old house was still onsite, and Birch told Ambrose to look for the grave 20 feet northwest of it. "They went back and found it," he said. "Now Artisan is moving [Davis's remains] and paying for his reburial. I suggested Oakton Baptist Church because it was my grandparents' and great grandparents' church. It was established in 1874 as an Episcopal church, and we appreciate the church letting us bury him there."

The church cemetery contains graves from the Birch family going back several generations. "There are 12 family graves there now," said Birch. "My grandparents and great grandparents are buried there, along with some aunts and my sister, who died as an infant."

Regarding Davis's reburial, he said, "I think it's unique being able to say you went to your great-great grandfather's burial. And it unites the family's past history with the current generation."

During Monday's service, which brought together family members from both Virginia and Maryland – including three great-great-granddaughters – everyone recited The Lord's Prayer. And Holmes told them that, one day, "James's body will rejoin his spirit in heaven."

The church cemetery is right beside Route 50, and Birch said afterward that he was thinking during the service "what a different world it is today from when James was alive. Cars were whizzing by and airplanes flew overhead – and none of these things were invented then."

"I think this is great," said Birch's wife, Dot. "It's a historic event and it's important because there are still relatives living."

Barbara Miller, who's married to Davis's great-great grandson, Jack Miller, said, "I just think it's neat that he came home to rest with his people. And it's so nice to see all the family together. I think he'd be happy knowing he's here where his children and grandchildren are buried."

— Ray Birch

Brothers Asa and John Swart Jr., also Davis's great-great grandsons and Fairfax High grads, attended the service, too. "It's not something you see very often," said Asa.

"I'm glad they were able to restore him to a natural place to be buried with his family," said John.

Even Ambrose was there. He said they hope to break ground on the Arbors of Chantilly this fall, with construction expected to take about 10 months. "I feel great because this really worked out well," he said. "It was amazing to find out about this cemetery and see all the other family members that are buried here."

I think Mr. Davis would be happy to be here with his family and not in a field somewhere."

Summing it all up, Ray Birch said, "All those who came here today at least know where his final resting place is. This closes a chapter."

"She used to tell us about hearing the cannon fire from the Battle of Bull Run in Centreville, and also from the Battle of Ox Hill [in Fairfax], which was fought in a fierce rainstorm."




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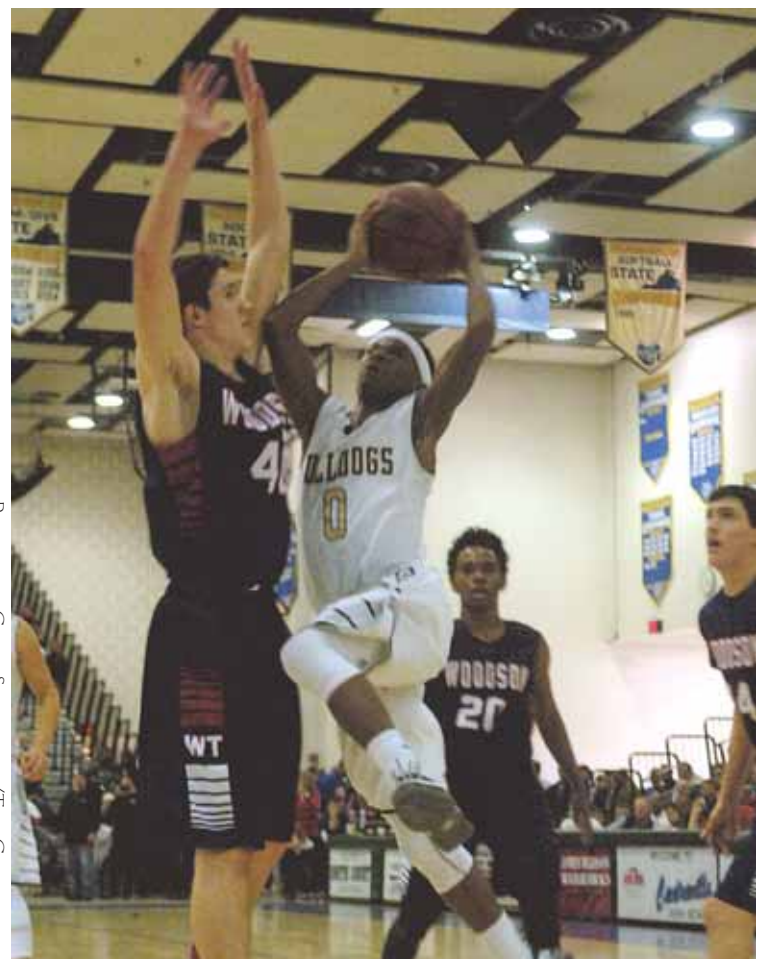


SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Westfield boys' basketball team celebrate winning the 6A North region championship on March 7 at Robinson Secondary School.



Westfield point guard Blake Francis scored 18 points against Woodson in the region final on Saturday.

Westfield Boys' Basketball Wins 6A North Region Title

Bulldogs defense puts clamps on defending champ Woodson.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Woodson point guard Eric Bowles, the 6A North region Player of the Year, entered Saturday's championship game averaging 30.7 points in three region tournament contests. Sharp-shooting guard Matt Ayoub, a second-team all-region selection, was fresh off a 29-point effort against Battlefield in the semifinals, during which he drained five 3-pointers.

"We were mainly trying to take [Eric] Bowles and [Matt] Ayoub out of the game because they score most of the points for their team. ... That's what we did a good job of."

— Westfield junior Blake Francis

Along with talent, many members of the Woodson boys' basketball team

held championship experience, as the Cavaliers had won the previous two "big school" region titles.

While Woodson had plenty of reasons to be confident, the Westfield Bulldogs used lock-down defensive to show there's a new sheriff in town.

Westfield held Woodson to its lowest offensive output of the season and the Bulldogs defeated the Cavaliers 52-43 to win the 6A North region championship on March 7 at Robinson Secondary School.

Westfield limited Bowles to 17 points, held Ayoub scoreless and won its first region title since 2012.

"It was great defense. We prepared a lot for this game," Westfield point guard Blake Francis said. "... We were mainly trying to take Bowles and Ayoub out of the game because they score most of the points for their team. ... That's what we did a good job of."

It was the first time all season Woodson had been held under 50 points.

"Our goal was to try to limit [the number of] times Bowles gets to the rack," Westfield

head coach Doug Ewell said. "That was our No. 1 goal. Even though we know he shoots the crap out of it, but he finishes a lot better. And when he gets to the rack, he's making everybody else so much better."

"... We just tried to make sure we stick to [Ayoub] like glue. ... We knew that once he catches fire, he can shoot it from halfcourt and it's gonna go, so our goal was to try to make sure that he had to put the ball on the floor. I think we did a decent job."

After a jumper by Woodson's Jackson Boehman tied the score at 35 with 7:09 remaining, Westfield responded with a 10-0 to gain some separation. Woodson cut the lead to five, but the Bulldogs responded with a 7-1 run to clinch the victory.

"You've got to give [Westfield] all the credit," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "I thought they played great defense tonight. I thought they really just clamped down on us. I think they decided they weren't going to let Matt beat them and we didn't get enough out of everybody else."

While the Bulldogs played well defen-

sively, Francis and junior forward Tyler Scanlon, a pair of first-team all-region selections, led the Westfield offense, scoring 18 points apiece.

Scanlon, a receiver on the Westfield football team, said he was motivated by the Bulldogs' loss to Centreville in the region football championship game.

"I failed the last time I was here in this situation in football," Scanlon said. "It was a disgrace, honestly."

Jacob Williams scored seven points for Westfield.

The victory improved Westfield's record to 26-1 and extended its win streak to 24 games. The Bulldogs, who won the Conference 5 championship, will face Landstown in the state semifinals at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, March 13 at VCU's Siegel Center.

"It's good for our school, it's good for our program, it just feels good," Francis said about winning the region championship. "We've got one more to go."



Westfield fans rush the court at Robinson Secondary School after the Bulldogs defeated Woodson in the 6A North region championship game.



Westfield junior Tyler Scanlon cuts off a piece of the net after the Bulldogs defeated Woodson in the 6A North region championship game on March 7.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Regional Forensics Champions

The Chantilly High School Forensics team won the championship at the regional forensics tournament on March 4, at Hayfield High School. The following students competed: Aron Malantinszky, Liam Darroch, Sarah Kratt, Justine Clougherty, Jason Saitta, Daniel Ricks, Barbara Clougherty (coach), Ryan Rickard, Mary Sophia Clougherty, Diego Encarnacion, Nora Malantinszky, Lyndsay Steinberg, Maggie Schircliff, Joey Cronin, Vi Trinh, Michael Rosegrant, Kristen Popham, Asriel Walker, and Shannon Darroch. The State forensics tournament will be held Saturday, March 28, in Midlothian, Va.

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Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

order-form.html to order online. Mulch spreading service available for \$2 per bag, limited availability. Volunteers needed. Email bulldogmulch@westfieldhs.org for more.

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THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Fall Registration Open House.

9:30-11:30 a.m. at Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. Bring children and tour Clifton Children's Academy. To register, call 703-968-8455 or visit www.childreacademy.com.

Caregiver Bootcamp.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join Insight Memory Care Center for a day-long training event including a Virtual Dementia Tour. Presentations from experts in the fields of financial planning, medical issues, legal needs, and caregiver support. There will be a small fee for this session and lunch is provided. RSVP to Christi Clark at 703-204-4664, or christi.clark@insightmcc.org.

Community Briefing.

1-2:30 p.m. at VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation will provide a briefing on plans to transform I-66. Email transform66@vdot.virginia.gov to RSVP.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Tax Relief Workshop.

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications; they may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters. Department of

THROUGH APRIL 15

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THROUGH APRIL

Kindergarten Registration.

Greenbriar West Elementary School, 13300 Poplar Tree Road, Fairfax, is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Parents of students within Greenbriar West's boundaries, who will turn 5 years of age by Sept. 30, 2015, should call the school office at 703-633-6700.

MULCH SALES

Westfield High School. Mulch delivery is scheduled for April 10-11. Order early to guarantee driveway delivery. Delivery limited to the WHS boundary area only. High-quality, double shredded mulch, \$4.95 per bag, \$2.65 of that amount is tax-deductible. Minimum order for delivery is 15 bags. Visit <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/parents/mulch>

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Award for Essay

Libby Oswalt (center), a senior at Chantilly High School, recently won \$500 toward her college education. The award, sponsored by Turbo Tutoring (www.turbo-tutoring.com), was given to Oswalt based on her response to an essay contest the local prep company offered to any student who had attended one of its SAT seminars. The prompt asked students to explain why higher education was important to them, and Oswalt's answer impressed Gregg Greentree (left) and Dan Harris (right), FCPS educators and co-owners of Turbo Tutoring. The cash award is co-sponsored by the All American Steakhouse and Manhattan Pizza.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Supporting Final Salute

At a recent chapter meeting, Heidi Haynes, Regent of the Lane's Mill Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented Jocelyn Colvin-Donald, Ret. Lt. Col., USAF, with a donation to Final Salute. A member of the board of directors of this organization, Colvin-Donald presented a program on the origins of Final Salute and the ways in which it provides homeless female Veterans safe and suitable housing. For more information visit: www.finalsaluteinc.org

CHS Wins Press Freedom Award

Chantilly High School is one of seven high schools from across the United States — and the only school in Virginia — to be named a winner of the 2015 First Amendment Press Freedom Award by the Journalism Education Association (JEA).

The award recognizes public and private high schools that actively support, teach, and protect First Amendment rights and responsibilities of both students and teachers, with an emphasis on student-run media where students are responsible

for all final decisions of content.

This is the first time Chantilly High School has won the First Amendment Press Freedom Award.

Winners were chosen by a committee made up of representatives from JEA, the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), and Quill and Scroll International Honorary Society.

Recipients will be recognized April 16 at the JEA-NSPA national high school journalism convention in Denver.

How Lucky Am I

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-lucky-grateful 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 inclement-weather 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 "cell-phoned" 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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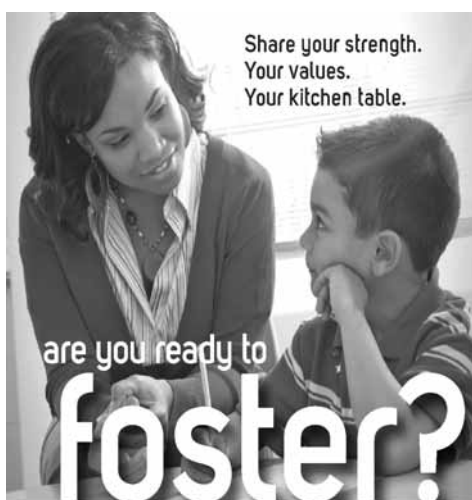
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NEWS

Champions

FROM PAGE 3

what I love on stage, plus get that validation from others who've seen me perform." She also praised her director. "Mr. Monk is a genius," she said. "In his head, he knows how he wants things performed and he's able to translate that to us. It was fun getting to work with him, and it added to the win even more that he wrote the play."

"Everyone in the cast and crew worked hard, but Mr. Monk teaches us not to go into a show to win, but to put on a good performance," added Rickard. "But winning the State Championship is a nice bonus."

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 4

Firefighters encountered smoke and fire coming from a second floor bedroom of the two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 10 minutes. The occupants escaped unharmed when smoke alarms sounded. Three occupants have been displaced. Red Cross is providing support to the occupants. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$100,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. A lamp placed too close to combustible materials caused the fire.

West Centreville House Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire Saturday, Feb. 14, at approximately 2:50 p.m., in the West Centreville area of Fairfax County. The single-family home is located at 14509 William Carr Lane.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the top floor of the two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters quickly brought the fire under control. The fire originated in the laundry room near the clothes dryer. Due to dead batteries, there were no working smoke alarms in the home. Two adults, three children, and a dog have been displaced. Red Cross is providing support to the family. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$80,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. An electrical anomaly in the laundry room caused the fire.

Learn about Policing

Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Police Department will host a series of lectures as part of its 75th anniversary.

❖ March 18 - FCPD Narcotics - Investigations, Trends, and Public Awareness, 1 p.m. at the Sully District community Room
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fcpd-narcotics-investigations-trends-and-public-awareness-tickets-15373711184>

❖ April 20 - Public Safety Communications - Call taking, Dispatching, and Technology, 2 p.m. at MPSTOC community room
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/public-safety-communications-call-taking-dispatching-and-technology-tickets-15373766349>

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Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

The **Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center**, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "Interstellar", "D-Day: Normandy 1944", "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot" and "Hidden Universe". Visit airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule or to schedule an IMAX On Demand show for groups of 50 or more.

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first Congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubilaires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an award-winning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

2015 Summer Programs.

Registration is now open for the following Fairfax County Public Schools summer camps. Students should register for programs based on the grade they are in during the current 2014-15 school year. Visit www.fcps.edu/is/summer/

[index.shtml](#) for more.

* **Tech Adventure Camp** will be held July 20-31 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for students currently in grades 5-7. This camp allows students to explore careers and technology by rotating through eight areas including graphic design, automotive technology, culinary arts, television production, robotics, and computer technology.

* **STEM Camp.** Held in two sessions at Robinson Secondary School: July 6-10 and July 13-17 both from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., daily. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Camp is a one-week camp for students currently in grades 3-5 to explore careers and technology as they rotate through activities focused on science.

* **Elementary Institute for the Arts.** Held July 13-24 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 3-5, E-IFTA offers participants a total immersion in the arts as they rotate through classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

* **Institute for the Arts.** Held July 6-30 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 6-11, IFTA allows students to create, perform, experiment, and explore—all in various music, dance, visual art, and theatre venues.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Dog or Cat. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog, kitten or cat. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Author Bert Dunkerly will be presenting and signing copies of his newly released book, "To the Bitter End: Appomattox, Bennett Place, and the Surrenders of the Confederacy." Visit www.bullruncwrt.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Gardening for Year Round

Interest. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. With planning and patience, you can have a beautiful garden in all four seasons. Peggy will show you how to combine trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals to make your landscape special. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Heritage Family Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Explore Women in Aviation and Space. Admission is free. Parking at the Udvar-Hazy Center is \$15, free after 4 p.m. Call 703-572-4118 or visit airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy.

St. Patrick's Day / St. Joseph's

Day Party. 6-9:30 p.m. at St. Veronica's Church Parish Hall, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. Family event includes food, drink, sing-alongs, Irish dancers and plenty of smiling Irish eyes. Adults \$7, children \$5, drinks extra. Call 703-773-2000 or visit www.stveronica.net.

Casino Night. 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Enjoy a night of craps, blackjack and roulette. Professional instructional dealers and raffle prizes provided. Cash bar and assorted desserts. Live art auction. Open to adults over 21. \$36 per individual; \$54 per couple. Call Jennifer Harding 703-217-8938 or visit www.BethTorah.net.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Model Trains Running. 1-4 p.m., at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and over, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Feng Shui Presentation. 7 p.m. at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club presents Pamela Faye, who will discuss how Classical Feng Shui can help one achieve balance in everyday life. Guests are welcome, admission is free. Visit www.wfccc.org or call Marion at 703-631-7093.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Guided Civil War Tour. 8:30 a.m.-4

p.m. The Friends of the Fairfax Station will sponsor a guided Civil War Tour of sites related to the Battle of Sangster's Station. Tour cost \$30 per person; \$20 for Station members payable on arrival at the Station. Wear clothing and shoes suitable for low stress hiking. Bring lunch. Space is limited. Contact the Station at events@fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

Perennials in Every Garden. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. There is a perennial that is just right for every garden. Learn about new varieties and some time-honored favorites to consider adding this spring. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Family Fun Day. 1-4 p.m. at Centreville Dance Academy, 14215 Centreville Square, Centreville. Bring the family to meet the teachers and tour the facility. Staff will be on hand to assist with registration for summer camp as well as summer dance classes. Free, open to the public. Visit www.centrevilledance.com or call 703-815-3125.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Alan Rems, author of "South Pacific Cauldron," will discuss his book, followed by a question and answer period. Signed copies will be available for sale. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch or call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 27-28

Jazz Festival. Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Watch as jazz bands and combos from area middle schools and high schools compete for bragging rights and learn about jazz. Featured artists this year are the Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra, George Mason University Jazz Ensemble, No Explanations, National Jazz Workshop All Star Jazz Orchestra, and YouTube sensation trombonist Christopher Bill. Exhibition performances by Chantilly High School's own Workshop Jazz and Chantilly Jazz groups. Free, open to the public. Visit www.chantillyband.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Growing Herbs. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring out the best in recipes with home-grown herbs. Learn how to plan, plant and harvest an herb garden that will look as good as it tastes. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Festival of Colors and Kites. noon-6 p.m. at Bull Run Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Presented by IntenseDMV, thousands of people from all walks of life are invited to come together for a day of peaceful celebration with dancing, live performances, a variety of food, kite flying and color throwing. \$5 per person. Visit intensedmv.com for more.

Children's Gardening Workshops. 2 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. These seminars are ideal for parents and grandparents who want to introduce children, ages 6-12, to gardening. Children will work on a garden project to invite nature into their homes. An adult must be present. Space is limited, so please sign up online here. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

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Spring 2015 HomeLifeStyle



PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA MOULTON/GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

Chantilly
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Luxury Apartments Popping Up

Renters want resort-like amenities and access to transportation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

After 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-of-the-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



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENAISSANCE CENTRO

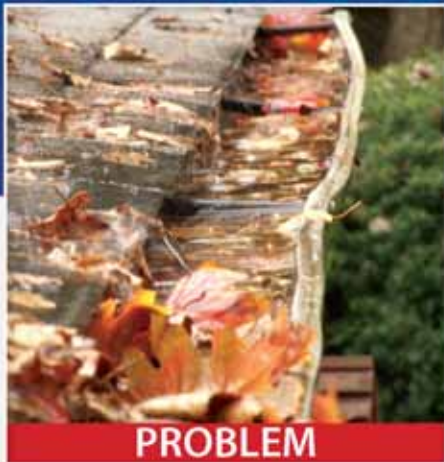
Luxury apartments buildings like The Harrison at Reston Town Center in Reston, offer 28,000 square feet of luxury, resort-style living and an easy commute to downtown Washington, D.C.

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."

ONE OF THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS is Reston Town Center in Reston, Va., with restaurants and shops and public transpor-

SEE NORTHERN VIRGINIA, PAGE 3

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HomeLifeStyle

All Over Northern Virginia

FROM PAGE 2

tation. A new, luxury apartment building will have 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 your 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, high-rise 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 be Kettler'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 apartment 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.

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His and Hers: Special Spaces

Addition pulls together styles and overcomes challenges.

BY JOHN BYRD

Details

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. Call 703-550-1371 or visit www.fosterremodeling.com

On the face of it, adding a two-level structure to a 30-year-old brick house is not especially 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 unravel.

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 envisioned 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 im-

mediately — 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 infrastructure 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 thermally-resistant spray foam behind the wall sur-



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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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."

Historic Virginia in Home and Gardens

The 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.

SEE GARDENS, PAGE 7

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. 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.
www.vagardenweek.org

Clifton and Fairfax Station, 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 visit www.gardencluboffairfax.blogspot.com for a list of local retailers selling tickets.

Leesburg, April 19-20

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.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

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Home Improvements Earn Awards

Four Sun Design remodeling projects named Washington-area “Contractor of the Year” winners.

BY JOHN BYRD

It’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 southeastern region.

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.

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 Layfield’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.



PHOTO BY MITRO HOOD

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 Duroske said, “we thought custom-built-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 built-ins.

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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Historic Virginia in Home and Gardens

FROM PAGE 5

A self-drive tour on April 21 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.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic gardens, and provide graduate level research fellowships for building comprehensive and on-going records of historic gardens and landscapes 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 hillside azalea and rhododendron garden with a bridge over a swale. Details inside include formal dining and living rooms with deep crown and base molding and regal blue and gold wallpaper. Antiques and the owners' serendipitous flea market finds abound. The foyer, with Currier and Ives prints, leads to the living room with its 1876 grand piano. Dennis and Cyndy Patrick, owners.

❖ Willowbrook Road, Fairfax 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 living area contains a double fireplace and a backlit onyx bar. Other thoughtful details include an elevator, a home gymnasium and a separate garage for the children's bikes and toys. 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-



COURTESY OF GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

This graceful Georgian Revival house in Clifton draws its inspiration from historic Williamsburg.

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 studies, an open-plan 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. Inside, visitors find delights like a glass conservatory and studio. The eco-friendly, award-winning stable complex contains a four-stall barn, equipment storage, dry lots, round pen, composting system and pastures. Randall and Joan Onders, owners.

❖ Poplar Grove, Lakewood Lane, Fairfax Station: Time stands still at Poplar Grove. A curving driveway leads visitors through towering oaks and flowering cherry and plum trees to a slower, more gentle way of living. 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. The owners' passion and expertise brought to life a two-level Colonial parterre kitchen garden with boxwood topiary, oyster-shell walkways and

a climbing-rose-covered chicken coop. 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. In fact, fountains can be heard bubbling and splashing in every direction. Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions in the gardens. Charles Prillaman and Parker Jennings, owners.

More at www.viriniagardenweek.org.

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SEE HISTORIC GARDENS.
PAGE 11

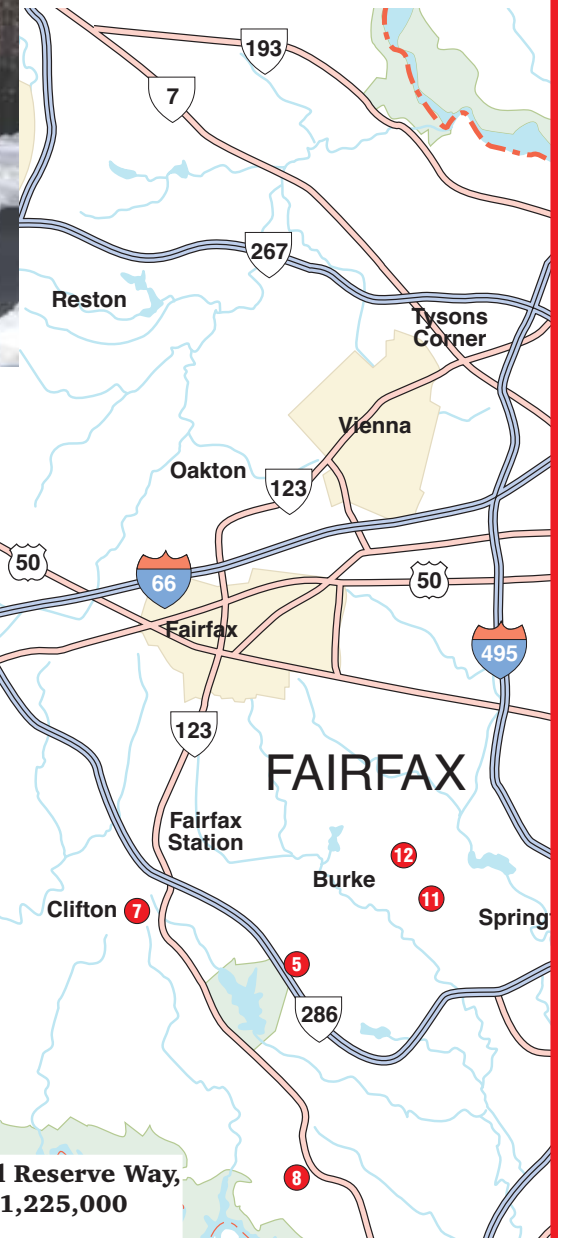
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Local REAL ESTATE

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January, 2015 Top Sales

2 7063 Balmoral Forest Road,
Clifton — \$1,415,700



4 9407 Old Reserve Way,
Fairfax — \$1,225,000

8 8740 Mountain Valley Road,
Fairfax Station — \$1,047,500



10 5105 Bebe Court, Centreville — \$802,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 12995 WYCKLAND DR	6	..	8	2	CLIFTON	\$2,100,000	Detached	5.00	20124	WYCKLAND	01/16/15
2 7063 BALMORAL FOREST RD	5	..	5	3	CLIFTON	\$1,415,700	Detached	3.00	20124	BALMORAL GREENS	01/23/15
3 12510 YATES FORD RD	3	..	2	0	CLIFTON	\$1,300,000	Detached	15.62	20124	PEPPER MILL FARM	01/08/15
4 9407 OLD RESERVE WAY	5	..	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,225,000	Detached	0.27	22031	PICKETT'S RESERVE	01/09/15
5 6511 BURKE WOODS DR	6	..	5	2	BURKE	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.83	22015	BURKE LAKE MEADOW	01/26/15
6 13102 BELLE COTE LN	5	..	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.83	22033	OAK HILL RESERVE	01/15/15
7 11311 CHAPEL RD	4	..	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,060,000	Detached	5.00	22039	WOLF RUN HUNT	01/05/15
8 8740 MOUNTAIN VALLEY RD	5	..	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,047,500	Detached	5.91	22039	HAMPTON HILLS	01/13/15
9 10687 YORKTOWN CT	3	..	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,005,000	Townhouse	0.05	22030	JAGUAR/YORKTOWN	01/06/15
10 5105 BEBE CT	5	..	3	1	CENTREVILLE	\$802,000	Detached	0.17	20120	FAIRLAKES CROSSNG	01/26/15
11 6114 GARDEN RD	4	..	3	1	SPRINGFIELD	\$729,000	Detached	0.19	22152	LEE-BROOKE	01/16/15
12 5413 MOUNT GREENWICH CT	4	..	2	1	BURKE	\$715,000	Detached	0.23	22015	SIGNAL HILL	01/15/15

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