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Langley Docket Adjourns

Langley Case Day seniors to attend **United States Supreme** Court Tuesday.

> By Ken Moore THE CONNECTION

angley senior Eryney Marrogi sat on the judicial bench four seats from U.S. Supreme Court Clerk Gen. William K. Suter, retired.

Suter and Marrogi grilled Langley seniors Katherine Cassidy, Madeline Shaw, Cameron Davis and Paul Dell for 15 minutes each.

"Mr. McFadden refers to the substance like 'white powder,' he sold it in baggies," said Suter. "What legitimate thought could he have had?"

"Under your reasoning," said Marrogi, "how can anyone be convicted if they don't have a doctorate in chemistry?"

And the questions during Langley High School's Case Day kept coming and coming, only stopping for the 15minute timer.

"That's what we call a hot bench," said A.P. Government teacher Allison Cohen, who assists students who run Langley High School's Case Day program. "We had so many tough questions from the justices. Especially, those student justices."

"Saucy," she said.

Thirty-seven Langley seniors auditioned to be the two respondents and petitioners. Marrogi and Shivani Gupta served as student judges.

"How many questions did it feel like I answered or how many questions did I answer?" said Shaw.

"I'm typically a calm person, but this time I was a little nervous," said Davis. "The 15 minutes go by a lot quicker than you think."

"I watched these kids devour merit briefs in 30 minutes, and answer questions that would stop most mortals."

> — Allison Cohen, teacher, **Langley High School**

A couple hours later at the end of the full-day court program in Langley's library, their peers asked them to describe how they felt, using only one



Photos by Ken Moore/The Connection

Nine mock Supreme Court Justices presided over Langley's 2015 Case Day.



Madeline Shaw and Katherine Cassidy find it easier to laugh at the conclusion of Case Day.

"Victimized," said Davis. "Awestruck," said Shaw.

"Entertained," said Cassidy.

"The better question is how do I feel now that it's over," said Dell.

"Paul just asked himself a question again," said Davis.

The four Langley scholars, who have been rehearsing, debating and mocking since February, were able to laugh again.

They and about 21 other Langley students involved with Case Day will be attending McFadden v. United States, to be argued in the United States Supreme Court on Tues-

CASE DAY is a Langley institution. This year marked the 23rd annual Supreme Court oral arguments presented by stu-

"This is the best program in American like

it," said Suter, who was clerk of the United States Supreme Court from 1991-2013. "That's why we are here, year after year."

And it is student run. Students from Langley government classes, there are nine A.P. government classes, conduct the day's pro-

There are 30 committee chair people who coordinate everything from decorations, hospitality, to food and finance, to education, research, social media, technology, and interest and publicity. All 396 students in Langley government classes have roles to play.

'Don't underestimate what a high school student is capable of," said Cohen.

Seniors Isabel Marcovici and Trey McKula coordinated all of it. McKula called his job "an excuse to drink way more coffee than is healthy for any human."

The four attorneys were stars of the day,

with the highlight of the day being their oral arguments, presided over by Suter, Justice Antonin G. Scalia's son John Scalia, and other attorneys, professors of law, and Janie Strauss, Dranesville School Board member.

Cameron Davis, respondent, and Paul Dell, petitioner. "I

think the one thing all of us can agree on is that there is

now some relief that it is all over," said Paul Dell.

"I watched these kids devour merit briefs in 30 minutes, and answer questions that would stop most mortals," said Cohen, who has been involved with Case Day the last 12 years.

But each part of the day served to make it an educational day for all students, those involved and those who watched.

"Since 1993, Case Day has united the entire school to take a comprehensive look into the American judicial system and the inner workings of the Supreme Court," according to the mission of Case Day. "This event allows the student body to delve into

SEE LANGLEY CASE DAY, PAGE 9



Cleaning Up Local Stream, Trails in Great Falls

The nine volunteers picked up about 50 pounds of trash—including a tire—from the banks of Difficult Run in Great Falls and along the trails on Saturday, April 11. The Difficult Run stream clean up was sponsored and organized by the Great Falls Citizens Associa-

tion and included adult residents as well as students from area middle schools. It was part of a Potomac wide clean up sponsored each year by the Alice Ferguson Foundation.



WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Longfellow Middle, Langley High Win Science Olympiad

Teams from Longfellow Middle School and Langley High School captured first place in Division B and Division C, respectively, in the 2015 Virginia Science Olympiad, held at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The Longfellow team is made up of students Shihao Cao, James Chen, Matthew Cox, Alexy Didenkov, Alice Fontaine, Alex Kao-Sowa, Michael Kruppa, Jules LeMenestrel, Cathryn Liang, Jocelyn Liu, Zain Mirzam, Matt Moschella, Siona Prasad, Reva Siva, Katherine Wu, Kathryn Yang, Vicky Yang, Hana Yu, and Arnold Zhang.

Members of the Langley team are Andrew Chen, Zach Chou, Paul Dell, Jaisohn Kim, Andrew Makris, Amy Zhao, Tyler Larkworthy, Sungho Lee, Ashley Zhang, Nathan Bala, Ben Culmer, Callan Cramer, Kevin Zhou, Andy Tan, and Trevor Dankworth.

Great Falls Senior Center to Host Talk on Terror

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) has announced Dr. Sebastian Gorka as guest

speaker for the May 5 event. His subject will be "The Rise of ISIS And Its Impact on America."

Dr. Gorka is a recognized international authority on terrorism, irregular warfare and national security. At the highest level he has briefed and advised the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the US Special Operation Command, NATO, the National Intelligence Council and the CIA. He has also served as lead lecturer for US Special Operations Command's Terrorism program and is a frequent guest lecturer at the FBI, the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School as well as other related agencies and war colleges. Dr. Gorka appears regularly as an analyst and commentator in the US and international media, to include the BBC, CNN, Fox News and EuroNews.

The May 5 event will be held at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls. The program runs 11 to 1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. A modest contribution is appreciated.

The event sponsor is Thrivent Financial, a faith-based, not-for-profit membership organization, a Fortune 500 financial services organization and the nation's largest fraternal benefit society.

Reservations are a must and need to be made by April 28 by emailing Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or calling 703-759-4345. For additional information see website at gfseniors.org.

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22 Houses on 52 Acres Proposed for One of Last Farms in Great Falls

Public hearing on Brooks Farm proposal scheduled for June 10 at Planning and Zoning.

> By Ken Moore The Connection

asheer/Edgemoore, a builder, wants to build 22 houses on the 51.97 acre Brooks Farm property. The Department of Planning and Zoning received the fourth and latest iteration of the proposal last week.

"Our next step is to meet to see how they have addressed the issues," said Catherine Lewis, from the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning. "We are just one part of the review."

After the department issues its staff report, the Department of Planning and Zoning will hold a public hearing, currently scheduled for June 10, 2015.

"That's when everyone else gets involved," said Lewis.

After planning and zoning makes a recommendation, the Board of Supervisors will hold its own scheduled process, including additional opportunity for public involvement and testimony.

MORE THAN 70 residents clustered into a Great Falls Library meeting room Tuesday, April 14 for an update scheduled by the Great Falls Citizens Association's Land Use and Zoning and Environment committees on the Brooks Farm proposal.

The applicant seeks rezoning to R-E zoning, which permits .2 to .5 dwelling units per acre and conforms with the Comprehensive Plan recommendation, according to Gregory A. Riegle, attorney with McGuire Woods for Basheer/Edgemoore.

"As shown the Brooks property is planned for the exact same density as all of the surrounding area and, in fact, as most of Great Falls," according to Riegle.

The proposal for cluster development is intended "to better preserve the environmental features of the property, preserve more trees in dedicated open space, provide more homeowners' open space and generally create a better designed, more cohesive community," said Riegle.

BUT GREAT FALLS residents have concerns: environmental concerns, septic, well water and stormwater management concerns. And, perhaps, traffic and density concerns.

The developer says that density is on par with subdivisions that surround the property, and that the

SEE BROOKS FARM, PAGE 6

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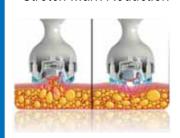


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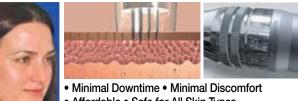


















Brooks Farm Hearing June 10

From Page 5

additional 17 trips in the morning peak hour and 23 in the afternoon peak hour can be mitigated.

The Great Falls Citizens Association held its second meeting of the year on Brooks Farm to update residents on the proposal, and to voice questions and concerns to county officials.

"The Environmental Committee has a goal to try to preserve the semi-rural na-

ture our community," said Bill Canis, vice president of the Great Falls Citizens Association. "People can't take well water and quality of water for granted."

Brooks Farm is one of the last old farm properties of Great Falls to be developed.

盒

Although planners said they just received the latest version of the application and need to meet with each other before voicing opinion, they attempted to address dozens of questions raised by the committees.

The newest application, for example, evaporated an old plan for a wet pond for stormwater management in favor of a safer

dry pond.

"Our primary concern is safety. We look to see if you have exhausted other options," said Camylyn Lewis, with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. "They will create a more traditional dry pond," and will use other stormwater management tools, including a rainwater garden.

The applicant has also chosen an alternative system to remove impurities in runoff, according to Riegle. "The alternative

system is projected to remove 85 to 99 percent of the impurities and reduce nitrogen by at least 50 percent."

Craig Herwig, of the Urban Forestry Management Division, said he will make an inventory of the trees on

ite

"People can't take well

— Bill Canis, vice president of the

Great Falls Citizens Association

water and quality of

water for granted."

"We would like to see native plants in their landscape," he said. "we will require species diversity."

If approved, all the details will be addressed at in the site plans, said Herwig. "There could be one, two, three submissions of this plan until staff has a chance to make sure they get it right."

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~ Leesa Donner, Great Falls

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~ Watt H., Reston, VA

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~ Scott Kreitz

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News

Colvin Run Mills Hosts **Restoration Celebration**

Community attends Great Falls park open house.

By Ryan Dunn THE CONNECTION

uests and residents of Fairfax County attended a free ceremony and open house at Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls the afternoon of Sunday, April 19. In addition to brief remarks made by local and county delegates, the event was an opportunity for visitors to tour the restored and fully operational mill. "It was a very active day, a lot of people enjoyed their visit and we hope they will come visit us again," said Kitty O'Hara, a long term volunteer at Colvin Run Mill Park and affiliate of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill (FOCRM).

"Today, our community and our community leaders continue to support the operations of our mill. And it's still such a mechanical wonder that people will come from miles around to watch it work. What's old is new again," said park manager Mike Henry. "Thank you for supporting us and entrusting us with this treasure of the past, present and the future."

Miller Mason Maddox and assistants dressed in the garb of 19th century millers showed and displayed how grain can be made into grist. At Colvin Run Mill visitors can see the setting of a bygone age and marvel at the technological innovations of the early 1800s. The park is operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority and located at 10017 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls. The mill is a popular yearround destination, with visitors including children on school field



Park staff, volunteers and community leaders hold the ceremonial ribbon for the restoration celebration of Colvin Run Mill historic site.

THE MILL opened as a museum in 1972, and visitors can observe the historic machinery in full operation. Restoration work completed at Colvin Run Mill now shows the Oliver Evans' (1755-1819) automated process that revolutionized late 18th and early 19th century flour milling in America. Evans' system was the foundation of the modern automated industries that followed. Locally, George Washington received one of the first licenses to use Evans' system in his mill on Dogue Creek in Fairfax County.

Colvin Run Mill grinds enough corn and wheat to supply the associated general store, as well as several area restaurants. Representatives from some of these local area restaurants attended the restoration celebration. This included Executive Chef at the Hyatt Dulles Elements restaurant, Matthew Warschaw, who offered samples of freshly made grits. Grits are just one dish which uses flour ground at Colvin Run Mill. "We have been using flour from this park at the hotel for the past three years now," said Warschaw.

Warschaw enjoys using fresh local and regional ingredients at his kitchen. "Colvin Run Mill is a great local treasure," said Warschaw.

Providing samples of cornbread and BBQ were Brian and Megan Varani. "With the good weather, it was a great community event," said Megan Varani. The couple will open a full service restaurant and bar, Big Mook's BBQ, this summer at 1141 Walker Road, Great Falls. Opening seven days a week, the menu will consist of typical barbecue fare as well as dishes for non-barbecue eaters. In addition, Saturday and Sunday the restaurant will be open for brunch. The couple intends to use flour ground at the Colvin Run Mill in the restaurant cornbread.

HELPING THE VISITORS were teams of volunteers and other staff. "We had a fun time," said Pam Gennari who has worked as a Fairfax County staff employee at Colvin Run Mill for five years. "This is a great place to work and we have great volunteers," said Gennari. For more information on Colvin Run Mill, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ colvinrunmill/.

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OPINION

Connection Papers Win Awards

Variety of coverage honored at annual Virginia Press Association conference.

n Saturday, April 18, a group of journalists from the Connection Newspapers traveled to Roanoke for the annual Virginia Press Association event to collect awards

for business reporting, government writing, writing about health, science and the environment, feature writing, sports writing, column writing, obituaries, cartoons, entertainment pages and writing, public safety writing, editorial pages and writing, page design, informational graphics and more.

A look at the themes of some winning entries gives some insight into the mission at the Connection: to tell stories of significance, using reporting, data and analysis while getting to the heart of why the issues matter in local lives. In a time that we, like all newspapers, are functioning with reduced resources, it helps affirm that the effort can make a difference.

Bonnie Hobbs won for ongoing coverage of

EDITORIAL

a family's efforts to provide the best life for a son they call "not special needs, but a special person," and a second award for coverage of issues related to affordable housing and homelessness.

Judges call Michael Pope's business reporting "first-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues." Stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable Care Act are called "well-researched, clearly written and engaging. The use of real-live people high up in stories to illustrate makes for very compelling material."

Vernon Miles won for breaking news coverage of Arlington's first same sex marriage, being "on the scene of a local event that has local, statewide and national significance. ... The story is multi-sourced; has a strong lead that gives readers a sense of the scene; places the event in historic context; and captures the celebratory feel of the event."

On Pope government reporting: "Rather than regurgitating official statements, the reporter tells people's stories to illuminate the consequences of government decisions. This represents a model for all government reporting."

On Marilyn Campbell's reporting for Wellbeing: "These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term."

Even in recreation and entertainment, our mission is to provide our readers with the information they need to have fun, and our annual update to the "Insiders Guide to the Parks," brainchild of Jean Card, is designed to do that.

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— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Winners

Truncated list, for a complete list, see www.connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman, The Vienna/Oakton Connection Sports Writing Portfolio, First Place. Madison's Koshuta Scores 39 Against 'Idol' Floyd; Oakton Girls' XC Repeats as State Champs; Madison Volleyball Drops Heartbreaker in State Final. Judge's comments: Strong and clear writing and excellent storytelling helps game stories feel more like features. Excellent work.

Victoria Ross, Oak Hill/ Herndon Connection -Government Writing, First Place. Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws, Mr. Horejsi Goes to Richmond; Bulova: 'This Will Be a Challenging Budget.' Judge's comments: An engaging look at a lobbyist who fights for the little guy; an entertaining story on a political candidate, helping

readers put the upcoming election into context; one of the better budgeting stories I've seen lately that helps readers understand how the county's budgeting process is going to cost them more money. The supporting sidebars help bring the message home.

Joan Brady, Great Falls Connection — Column Writing, Second Place. No, I'm Not a Parent; I Just Act Like One; Small Acts of Kindness; *Nurturing Happy Memories.* Judge's comments: Brady draws on her wealth of experience with the foster parent system to write empathetically but authoritatively on family ties. And she does so with humanity and in-



Jon Roetman

Mary Kimm





Joan Brady





Marilyn Campbell



Bonnie Hobbs

sight. Her writing combines depth and subtlety with eloquence of expression. In some senses, her subject matter is narrow. But viewed through a different filter, it is universal. She writes engagingly on a consistent basis.

Marilyn Campbell, Chantilly Connection — Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Third Place. Spiritual Wellness in the New Year; Consistent Bedtimes Aid Children; How To Age in Place Safely; Judge's comments: These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term. They should serve as very helpful resources for readers of a variety of ages. In concise manner, they effectively made the

concepts clear and applicable to the reader. The aging in place article was particularly relevant and insightful, the childhood sleep story was unlike anything I'd ever read (and I have two kids) and really summed up how a specific approach to children's health makes sense. The spiritual health article was unusual, refreshing to see, and I love the variety of sources and comments.

Bonnie Hobbs, The Fairfax Connection — Personal Service Writing, Third Place. Affordable Housing Lack Can Lead to Hunger; 'Help Us, Will You Please?' City of Fairfax to Tackle Affordable Housing; Council 'Honored to Support this Project;' 'Dream Come True' for Lamb Center. Judge's comments: Solid writing and good follow-through on the housing issues. The writer did

a good job of including income and free lunch data without breaking the flow of the story.

Mary Kimm, The McLean Connection -Editorial Writing, Third Place. Trending in the Right Direction; Virginia Proves Elections Matter; More Affordable Housing Needed; Tragic Consequences; Deadly Medicaid Debacle. Judge's comments: This submission consists of five well-articulated and well-grounded pieces tackling access to affordable housing and health care, a pair of closely related state and national issues with important local ramifications. The work combines passion with a persuasive factual underpinning.



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Great Falls artist Judith St. Ledger-Roty with several of her recent paintings at a reception at Katie's Coffee House at The Old Brogue.



Great Falls artist Judith St. Ledger-Roty with Alane and Ralph Dashner at a recent art show reception at The Old Brogue.

Artist's Homecoming

Great Falls painter Judith St. Ledger-Roty exhibits at Katie's, shows new Artists' Atelier.

uests at a reception at Katie's Coffee House at the Old Brogue on April 11 not only got a close-up look at the work of Great Falls painter Judith St. Ledger-Roty, but also a sneak preview of the art studio she and nine others will be opening in May.

St. Leger-Roty's exhibit at Katie's, "Containers for Living," will be on display through the end of April. She spent the last several years studying at the Studio Incamminati in Philadelphia, a realist artist's workshop, and the show at the Brogue is her "homecoming party," she explains.

Following the reception at Katie's, guests were invited to the new location of the Artists' Atelier, a studio, gallery and school for aspiring artists that will open in early May in space on the Great Falls Green formerly occupied by a wine shop. In recent years, the Atelier (French for "workshop" for the fine or decorative arts) has been located in space at Colvin Run. The new location will put the artists and photographers right in the heart of Great Falls village, just a short walk from the Old Brogue. It features windows nearly all the way around the studio space, and provides an impressive view of the Green.

Patrick Korten

Great Falls artist Judith St. Ledger-Roty on the porch of the new home of the Artists' Atelier, which will formally open in early May.



Artist Judith St. Ledger-Roty and art lover Elizabeth Nassar at an art reception at Katie's Coffee House.



Calendar

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

THROUGH SATURDAY/MAY 6

6 Artists: 5 Years. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of artwork by local artists: Jackie Elwell, Elaine Floirmonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner.

THURSDAY/APRIL 23

Reading Buddies. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers practice with teen volunteers.

Arbor Day and Green Expo. 4 p.m. Peet's
Coffee at 332 Maple Ave E, Vienna. The tree planting ceremony will be held in front of Peet's Coffee. After the Arbor Day ceremony, the public is invited to attend the 7th annual Vienna Green Expo at the Vienna Community Center from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Vienna Green Expo is a juried showcase of local and regional earthfriendly exhibitors educating the public on how to achieve a green lifestyle. Presentations and discussions for children and adults from 30 juried exhibits, includes information on energy efficiency, purchasing local organic products, creating green gardens, recycling options and more practical ideas to save money.

Introduction to Painting. 1-4 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna. If you have always wanted to learn how to paint, attend this class with Donna Grone and you will take home your own finished painting. All supplies provided by the Vienna Arts Society. No experience necessary. Free. Call to register: 703-319-3971.

FRIDAY/APRIL 24

Arts Night Out. 7-9 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The New Dominion Women's Club will host the annual "Arts Night Out." This is a fun evening to relax and enjoy a special showing at the gallery. There will be hor'deorves, wine and dessert served, along with an opportunity to participate in a silent auction. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit our website: www.ndwc.org.

Sybarite5. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. String quintet blurs boundaries with exacting musicianship and adventurous programming for a transfixing result. \$35. 703-255-1900.

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Melodic island music with uncommon tunings and finger picking by Hawaii's finest players. \$25-27. 703-255-1900.

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. 400 Center Street South, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. to http://www.tasteofvienna.org/ . https:// www.facebook.com/tasteofvienna?fref=ts. Rain or shine.

Great Falls Farmers Market Chef Cook Off. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. The Great Falls Farmers Market, the Great Falls Historical Society and local nonprofit Green Fire are teaming up to provide residents with a taste of locally-harvested venison, as part of a "Field to Table" program. Three local chefs have signed up to use venison in delicious recipes. Tasting of their handiwork will be available free of charge that day, the opening day of the Farmers Market summer season.

SUNDAY/APRIL 26

"Walk On the Hill." 2-5 p.m. Free. Windover Heights. Experience a peaceful time as part of Vienna's Quasquicentennial (125th) celebration by touring the historic district and meandering through any yard with a "Yard Open" sign. Programs throughout the event, including native habitat at Salsbury Spring and concerts by The Old Time Machine, Green Hedges School and Vienna Community Band. Roads closed to vehicles at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served. (Rain Date: May 3) For information call 703-938-5187 or visit www.historicviennainc.org.

11th Annual Vienna Elementary PTA "Run for Fun" 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk. 8 a.m. Vienna Elementary School. 128 Center

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11







The art on exhibit includes: Her Royal Highness by Katelyn; Snorkel Self-Portrait by Cynthia, and Tree Silhouette at Sunset by Evan.

Colvin Run Students Exhibit at Great Falls Starbucks

ing on the walls at Great Falls Starbucks. Curated by Sandy Pugh and Lauren Grimm, art specialists at the local school, the exhibit - sponterpretations of 13 young artists: historical illustra-

olvin Run Elementary School art is bloom tions, royal highnesses, magical forests, sunsets, silhouettes, self-portraits and more, rendered in colored pencil, oil and watercolor paint, pastel, collage, linocut print. The exhibit runs through mid June. sored by Great Falls Studios - includes creative inwas held April 14 at Great Falls Starbucks.

CALENDAR

From Page 10

Street South, Vienna. Bring out the whole family to help support academic activities and improvements at Vienna Elementary School. DC Roadrunners will provide a ChronoTrack timing system for the USATF Certified 5K course. The cost is \$25 before 4/19 and \$30 after. Children 14 and under are \$15. For more information and to register, please visit www.vienna5krun.org.

St. Francis Choral Concert. 4 p.m. St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The performance will include PING, a select group of vocalists specializing in acapella music from all periods. The featured work of the concert will be Morten Lauridsen's beautiful Lux Aeterna, accompanied by distinguished organist Paul Skevington, music director of St. Luke's Catholic Church in McLean. Va. The concert will be directed by Larry Vote, Professor of Music at St. Mary's College of Maryland and codirector of music at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 29

Fashion Show to Benefit Kenyan

Village. 8 p.m. Babalu, 8605 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna. Hair-fashion show sponsored by Tyson's Corner salon Noufal will benefit local nonprofit "Serve a Village," in support of village in Kenya. In the show, models will display hair styles created by awardwinning Noufal Haircolor Studio stylists. Guests in attendance can win prizes through a raffle with a ticket

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 3

"Young Frankenstein." Thursday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 2 at 2 & 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m. George C. Marshall High School is located at 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Come and be transported back to Transvlvania with Dr. Frederick Von Frankenstein and a zany cast of characters. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for students/ seniors. Note: This production contains language and content that may not be suitable for young children. Visit http:// statementheatre.org for more details.

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SATURDAY/MAY 2

Annual Plant Native Sale. 8-11 a.m. The Great Falls Grange Pavilion, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Buy a variety of indigenous wildflowers, including bluebells, trees, shrubs and ferns that benefit our watershed, woodlands and fauna. Native plants are as beautiful as invasive ornamentals and exhibit a better rate of survival. It's the right thing to do for the environment, and the proceeds will help support summer staff and educational programs at Riverbend Park.



Can't Vote at McLean Day or Just Want a Head Start on Voting?

Vote by Absentee Ballot through May 13 at either:

McLean Community Center (MCC) 1234 Ingleside Avenue McLean, VA 22101 (703) 790-0123/TTY 711

Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC) 1440 Chain Bridge Road McLean, VA 22101 (703) 448-8336/TTY 711 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Requesting Absentee Ballots:

You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at MCC or OFTC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by email at elections@ mcleancenter.org or by telephone at (703) 790-0123.

Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:

You can return your application and ballot to the front desk at either MCC or OFTC. Or, you can mail your application and ballot using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package.

Absent voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13. Hand delivered applications and ballots must be received at either MCC or OFTC by that time. Absentee applications and ballots returned by mail must be received at MCC on May 13.

If you have questions:

Please call (703) 790-0123 or email elections@mcleancenter.org



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Sports

Strong McLean Pitching Performance Goes for Naught

Highlanders hold Fairfax to four hits, lose 1-0.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

laying in the second of back-to-back games following five days off, and with the second half of the conference schedule approaching, McLean baseball coach John Dowling opted to use four members of his pitching staff during Friday's game against Fairfax.

While the use of multiple arms increased the chance of a Highlander hurler having an off night on the hill, McLean pitchers encountered few bumps along the road, limiting Fairfax to four hits.

But while McLean's pitching staff gave the team a chance to win, a frustrated Dowling

was left standing on the field after the game, answering questions about his lineup's inability to produce.

The Highlanders lost to Fairfax 1-0 on April 17 at McLean High School. Jon Clines, Charles Groppe, CJ Downey and Billy Gerhardt each pitched for the Highlanders, and the foursome limited the Rebels to just four hits, including none in the final three innings. However, Fairfax senior Christian Leckert tossed a three-hit shutout and did not allow a McLean runner to reach third base.

A two-out single by McLean's Thomas Buckman and a wild pitch by Leckert put the tying run in scoring position in the bottom of the seventh inning, but Leckert induced a groundout from the following batter to end the game.

"I was feeling really loose," Leckert said. "[I threw] a lot of sliders, curve balls, pretty much offspeed, living in the zone. Sometimes [I would] sneak some fastballs in there."

Afterward, Dowling shared his frustration with the Highlanders' inability to handle Leckert's breaking pitches.

Jon Clines was of who helped limith hits on April 17.

"All the credit in the world to Leckert," Dowling said. "He threw strikes and we did not come into the game with a strong approach and we did not adjust to what he was doing. If I'm him, I'm going to do the same thing: a lot of breaking balls that were effective."

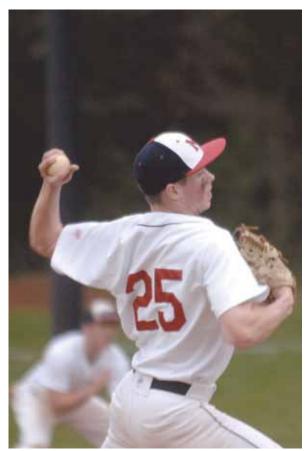
What would Dowling have liked McLean batters to do differently?

"Adjust to a lot of breaking balls," Dowling said. "We were taking fastball swings in fastball counts and he was not throwing fastballs. And for seven innings, we contin-



Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Senior catcher Caleb Beatty is one of McLean's top returning players from last year's team that reached the state playoffs.



Jon Clines was one of four McLean pitchers who helped limit Fairfax to one run on four hits on April 17.

ued to do the same thing. That is not acceptable."

THE LOSS dropped McLean's record to 6-5. It was the Highlanders' third loss in their last four games, with the trio of defeats coming by a combined four runs.

"We've got this little magic formula," Dowling said. "We know that when we throw strikes, we know we're going to field the baseball, then it just becomes a matter of getting enough quality at-bats and we did not [have] anything close to that to-



John Dowling is in his second season as head coach of the McLean baseball program.

day.'

Clines started the game and pitched two innings, allowing one hit. Groppe pitched the next two innings, allowing one run on three hits and suffered the loss. Downey pitched the fifth inning before Gerhardt pitched the final two.

One of the reasons Dowling gave for having four pitchers throw limited innings was the second half of conference play approaching. In Conference 6, only the second half of the schedule counts toward the conference standings. For McLean, it started

"We were taking fastball swings in fastball counts and he was not throwing fastballs. And for seven innings, we continued to do the same thing. That is not acceptable."

— McLean baseball coach John Dowling

with Tuesday's contest (April 21) against Langley, after The Connection's deadline.

"Our [guy] pitched well, but their guys pitched very well, also," Fairfax head coach Rick Freeman said. "They ran a bunch of guys out there, they all threw strikes [and] they all kept

us off balance. We generally get seven or eight hits a game."

Downey, Caleb Beatty and Buckman each singled for McLean.

Center fielder Matt Collins nearly gave McLean the lead with a two-run homer in the fourth inning, but his blast down the left-field line that ended up in the parking lot sailed foul.

McLean returns several key players from last year's team that reached the state tournament, including senior catcher Beatty and junior shortstop Conor Grammes. The Highlanders stumbled during the middle of the 2014 campaign, but won six of seven games down the stretch to reach the 6A North region final against Chantilly.

THE HIGHLANDERS finished region runner-up

finished region runner-up and lost to Western Branch 5-4 in the state semifinals.

"We return a number of guys that played in important spots and at the very

least were here last year with us," Dowling said. "I think they know one game does not make a season. Our goals don't change and we believe we have the physical tools to be playing deep into the postseason again. We've just got to figure out the other mental half of it."

McLean will travel to face Marshall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22.

"[We want to go] back to where we were last year," Beatty said, "[and go] further."



The four student attorneys will be present in the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday, April 21 to hear the actual oral arguments in the case.



Photos by Ken Moore/The Connection

William K. Suter and Cary Greenberg acted as mock justices.

Langley Case Day 'the Best in America'

From Page 3

a controversial national issue and tackle analysis and argument on a professional level, and provides the unique opportunity to work alongside and hear from legal professionals."

The question presented in McFadden: "Whether to convict a defendant of distribution of a controlled substance analogue, the government must prove that the defendant knew that the substance constituted a controlled substance analogue."

"Most of us changed our opinions of the case. In my case, I changed my opinion five times."

— Madline Shaw

And, from the United States:

"Whether, in a prosecution under the Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986, the government must prove that the defendant knew, had a strong suspicion, or deliberately avoided knowing that the substance that he was intentionally distributing for human consumption was substantially similar in chemical structure to a controlled substance."

Students also invited legal experts and others who dissected the case from different points of view. They also heard from DEA's John Scherbenske, who described the horrors he sees from the effects of synthetic drugs that are made by people trying to outmaneuver the legal system.

SUPREME COURT CHAMBERS is the next stop for the coordinators, the student judges, the attorneys, and many other case day participants.

"I'm fairly confident the government should win," said Davis. McFadden "had a strong suspicion he wasn't doing the right thing."

"He was an unsympathetic defendant but just because he's not sympathetic doesn't mean there's not a legitimate case," said Shaw. "We are here because it is an unclear

"The one thing we agreed on is how poorly worded it is," said Dell.

Langley students and teachers wanted to choose a case that was relevant to high school students and capable of changing a person's view of the case, said students Davis and Shaw. They also wanted a case that would allow them to secure 25 seats in the United States Supreme Court.

Many got a tour of the Supreme Court approximately one week before Langley Case Day.

"Breathtaking," said Davis.

Most of those involved in Case Day said they aspired to be involved since they heard about the program as freshmen four years ago.

"I've never had an experience like it," said Shaw.

"It gave us one last chance to get involved," said publicity chair Alex Grieco, "one last hurrah with the senior class."

"Finishing senior year with Case Day is a blessing," said Marcovici, the coordinator. "I'm kind of sad it's over," said Shaw.

Marcovici thanked teacher Cohen for all the support she and other teachers gave to the program. "We are in awe for what you do for us, you do so much, that we forgive you for taking vacation for two weeks," said Marcovici.

"She left us alone for two weeks before Case Day," said Marcovici.

And Case Day went perfectly, due to students' expertise and efforts.

"We thank the faculty, the students and

the program sponsors for an outstanding program," Suter said. "The Court is adjourned until next year."

The Case

McFadden v. United States

Question Presented: Petitioner

"Whether to convict a defendant of distribution of a controlled substance analogue, the government must prove that the defendant knew that the substance constituted a controlled substance analogue."

Question Presented: United States

Whether, in a prosecution under the Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-570, 100 Stat. 3207-13 (21 U.S.C. 813), the government must prove that the defendant knew, had a strong suspicion, or deliberately avoided knowing that the substance that he was intentionally distributing for human consumption was substantially similar in chemical structure to a controlled substance.

Langley students and teachers wanted a case that was relevant to high school students and capable of changing a person's view of the case, said students Cameron Davis and Madline Shaw.

Students Chairs

Case Coordinators: Isabel Marcovici and Trey

Debate Committee: Andrew Rifken, Sean Gordon

Decorations: Jennie Kim, Ashlyn Klosterman Education: Connor Halm, Sara Zahir, Brittony Trumbull, Ryan Shaw

Emcees: Shakir Naji, Weston Simonides Finance: Ethan Zell, Casey Britt Shaw argued on behalf of defendant and petitioner McFadden while Davis argued for the United States Government. "Most of us changed our opinions of the case. In my case, I changed my opinion five times," said Shaw.

"The one thing we all agreed on is how poorly worded [the Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986] was," said Paul Dell. "At the end, when we got close to the middle ground, it was so very close."

Oral arguments in front of the U.S Supreme Court in this case were scheduled for Tuesday, April 21. In choosing a case, Langley students and teachers also wanted a case that they would be able to get access to. About 25 students will be attending the arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court Case this Tuesday.

"I'm fairly confident the government should win," Dell said. McFadden "had a strong suspicion he wasn't doing the right thing."

Student justice Ernyney Marrogi asked Shaw and Dell, who argued for the petitioner in Langley's mock trial, "couldn't you only convict a defendant who has a doctorate in chemistry?"

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE AT&T proposes a modification to an existing facility with tip heights of 132 feet on a building at 1125 North Patrick Henry Drive in Arlington, VA (Kentucky Dr). In accordance with feder-al regulation 47CFR 1.1307, the NEPA and the ACHP 36 CFR

800, parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so by contacting Scott Horn (856-809-1202, scotthorn@acerassociates.com) at ACER Asciates, LLC at 1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes a modification to an existing facility with tip heights of 66 feet on a building at 4241 Columbia Pike in Arlington, VA (Tanglewood). In accordance with federal regulation 47CFR 1.1307, the NEPA and the ACHP 36 CFR 800, parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so by contacting Scott Horn (856. Historic Properties may do so by contacting Scott Horn (856-809-1202, scotthorn@acerassociates.com) at ACER Associates, LLC at 1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES SALE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY HUNTER MILL EAST, L.L.C.

LOCATED AT 1623, 1627, AND 1631 CROWELL ROAD, VIENNA, VIRGINIA; 627 HUNTER MILL ROAD, VIENNA, VIRGINIA; AND AN ADJACENT PARCEL LACKING AN ADDRESS

SALE TO BE HELD AT THE FAIFAX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

MAY 7, 2015, AT 10:00 A.M.

MAY 7, 2015, A1 10:00 A.M.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust and Security Agreement dated May 5, 2008, and recorded May 5, 2008 in Deed Book 19918 at Page 1894, as amended by a certain Amendment to Deed of Trust and Security Agreement dated October 14, 2009, and recorded October 15, 2009 in Deed Book 20741 at Page 0680, each among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia (collectively the "Deed of Trust"), made by HUNTER MILL EAST, LL.C., a Virginia limited liability company, now securing CATJEN LLC, a Virginia limited liability company (the "Note-holder"), default having occurred in the payment of the

debt secured thereby, and being instructed to do so by the Noteholder, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale the property described below at public auction by the main entrance to the Fairfax County Circuit Court, located at 4110 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030 on May 7, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The real property encumbered by the Deed of Trust that will be offered for sale by the Substitute Trustees is commonly known as 1623 Crowell Road (Tax Identification Number: 0184-08-0003), 1627 Crowell Road (Tax Identification Number: 0184-08-0002), 1631 Crowell Road (Tax Identification Number: 0184-08-0001A), 1627 Hunter Mill Road (Tax Identification Number: 0184-08-0 0184-01-0023), and an adjacent parcel lacking a street address (Tax Identification Number: 0184-01-0026B), all located in Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia, as more particularly described in the Deed of Trust, and all improvements, fixtures, easements and appurtenances thereto (the "Real Property"). The Real Property will be sold together with the interest of the Noteholder, if any, in the following described personal property at the direction of the Noteholder as secured party thereof, as permitted by Section 8.9A of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended the "Parcenal Property".

noticer as secured party thereot, as permitted by Section 8.9A of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended the ("Personal Property"): Improvements, Fixtures and Personalty, and any and all other personal property and any proceeds thereof as more particularly described in the Deed of Trust (the "Personal Property"). The above described Real Property and Personal Property are collectively referred to as the "Property."

ALL CASH. The property will be offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be conveyed by Substitute Trustees' Deed (the "Substitute Trustees' Deed") subject to all encumbrances, rights, reservations, rights of first refusal, conveyances, conditions, easements, restrictions, and all recorded and unrecorded liens, if any, having priority over and being superior to the Deed of Trust, as they may lawfully affect the property. Personal Property, if any, shall be conveyed without warranty by a Secured Party Bill of Sale.

The Substitute Trustees and the Beneficiary disclaim all warranties of any kind, either express or implied for the property including without limitation, any warranty relating to the property.

or implied for the property, including without limitation, any warranty relating to the zoning, condition of the soil, extent of construction, materials, habitability, environmental condition, compliance with applicable laws, fitness for a particular purpose and merchantability. The risk of loss

or damage to the property shall be borne by the successful bidder from and after the date and time of the sale. Obtaining possession of the property shall be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder (the "Purchaser"). A bidder's deposit of \$250,000.00 (the "Deposit") by certified or cashier's check shall be required by the Substitute Trustees for such bid to be accepted. The Substitute Trustees reserve the right to prequalify any bidder prior to the sale and/or waive the requirement of the Deposit. Immediately after the sale, the successful bidder shall execute and deliver a memorandum of sale with the Substitute Trustees copies of bidder shall execute and deliver a memorandum of sale with the Substitute Trustees, copies of which shall be available for inspection immediately prior to the sale, and shall deliver to the Substitute Trustees the Deposit and the memorandum of sale. The balance of the purchase

substitute Trustees the Deposit and the memorandum of sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by the Purchaser. Settlement shall occur within thirty (30) days after the sale date, TIME BEING OF THE ESSENCE with regard to the Purchaser's obligation. Settlement shall take place at the offices of Venable LLP, 8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 300, Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182 or other mutually agreed location. Purchaser shall also pay all past due real estate taxes, rollback taxes, water rents, water permit renewal fees (if any) or other municipal liens, charges and assessments, together with penalties and interest due thereon. The Purchaser shall also pay all

interest due thereon. The Purchaser shall also pay all settlement fees, title examination charges, title charges and title insurance premiums, all recording costs (including the state grantor's tax and all state and county recordation fees, clerk's filing fees, congestion relief fees and transfer fees and taxes), auctioneer's fees and/or bid premiums, and reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements incurred in the preparation of the deed of conveyance and other settlement documentation. The Purchaser shall be required to sign an agreement at settlement waiving any cause of action Purchaser may have against the Substitute Trustees, and/or the Beneficiary for any condition with respect to the property that

may not be in compliance with any federal, state or local law, regulation or ruling including, without limitation, any law, regulation and ruling relating to environmental contamination or hazardous wastes. Such agreement shall also provide that if notwithstanding

such agreement, a court of competent jurisdiction should permit such a claim to be made, such agreement shall serve as the overwhelming primary factor in any equitable apportionment of response costs or other liability. Nothing herein shall release, waive or preclude any claims the Purchaser may have against any person in possession or control of the property. If any Purchaser fails for any reason to complete settlement as provided above, the Deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs of the sale, including Trustees' fees, and the plagance if any shall be delivered to the Repeticient to be applied by the Repeticient against the balance, if any, shall be delivered to the Beneficiary to be applied by the Beneficiary against the indebtedness secured by and other amounts due under the Deed of Trust in accordance with the Deed of Trust or applicable law or otherwise as the

Beneficiary shall elect. There shall be no refunds. Such forfeiture shall not limit any rights or remedies of the Substitute Trustees or the Beneficiary with respect to any such default. If the property is resold, such re-sale shall be at the risk and the cost of the defaulting bidder, and the defaulting bidder shall be liable for any deficiency between its bid and the successful bid at the re-sale as well as the costs of conducting such re-sale. Immediately upon conveyance by the Substitute Trustees of the Property, all duties, liabilities and obligations of the Substitute Trustees, if any, with respect to the Property so conveyed shall be extinguished, except as otherwise

provided by applicable law.
/s/ Henry F. Brandenstein, Jr., Substitute Trustee /s/ Patrick W. Lincoln, Substitute Trustee FOR INFORMATION CONTACT Henry F. Brandenstein, Jr., Esq. Venable LLP 8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 300 Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Big Mooks BBQ, LLC trading as Mookies, BBQ, 1141 Walk-er Rd. Great Falls, VA 22066. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DE-PARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on

Premises/Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Brian Varani, member

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. objections should be regis-

ABC LICENSE

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Arlington, VA 22202. The
above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for
a Bear and Wine On Premises

a Beer and Wine On Premises

license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Robinson Hill LT, Inc.

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later that

beverages. Karan Singh,
Manager
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. tered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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

Robinson Hill LT, Inc. trading as Lebanese Taverna Express, 2401 Smith Blvd

ABC LICENSE
Big Mooks BBQ, LLC trading
as Mookies, BBQ, 1141 Walker Rd. Great Falls, VA 22066.
The above establishment is
applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer Limited license to sell or man-

ufacture alcoholic beverages. Brian Varani, member 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

30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be regisnewspaper legal notices. objections should be regis-tered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200. tered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Staged to Sell

Real estate agents give the lowdown on getting your home ready for the market.

> BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE CONNECTION

hen a Burke family hired E. Diane Neustrand to sell their home, she did her standard walk-through of the house to assess it, but when she reached the dining room, she stopped cold.

"It was painted with three different shades of orange and accessorized with black, white and gold furniture," said Neustrand, a real estate agent with Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc. in Burke, Fairfax Station and Clifton.

First on Neustrand's chopping block: a pair of zebra print chairs. The boisterous wall colors were next.

"It wasn't harmonious at all," said Neustrand, who also works as a professional home stager. "We had to calm that down because orange is not a color that sells well. You want neutrals in paint and furniture, so potential buyers can visualize their own items in your home."

Residential real estate staging, the practice of preparing a home to go on the market for sale by making it aesthetically appealing, is credited with giving homes an advantage over the competition.

Staging can range from rearranging furniture, decluttering and painting the walls to furnishing a home in which the seller no



Realtors say professionally staged homes spend less time on the market.

longer resides.

The National Association of Realtors' 2015 Investment & Home Buyers Survey showed that staging can have a positive impact on the number of days a home sits on the market and the amount of money potential buyers a willing offer for the home.

"STAGED HOMES traditionally present themselves better than the competition by being clean, clutter-free and ready to show to prospective buyers," said Mona Bekheet, a real estate agent with McEnearney Associates, Inc. in McLean. "Home staging is decluttering, depersonalizing and preparing a seller's home to look like a model

home so the potential buyers can see themselves living in the home."

The survey showed that 49 percent of agents say most buyers are affected by home staging, while a 2013 study by the Real Estate Staging Association showed staged homes sold 83 percent sooner than houses that weren't staged. Realtors also believe buyers usually offer a 1-5 percent increase on the value of a staged home.

"Staged homes take less time on the market and they sell at the best price," said Bekheet. "Buyers view them as well cared for properties and appraisers are more likely to appraise staged homes at a full or higher

That increase can offset the expense of

having a home professionally staged. Services, including consultations and furniture rental, can cost \$250 to \$2,000. Neustrand uses as many of the homeowners' possessions as she can to minimize out-of-pocket expenses.

"Since staging gives a home a clean, fresh, current look, it makes a home more attractive to buyers," said Betsy Schuman Dodek of Washington Fine Properties in Potomac.

Initiating conversations with homeowners about their homes and suggesting changes must be handled delicately.

"You don't want to hurt someone's feelings by telling them that they need to move items or get rid of items like the wrong artwork or too much furniture," said Maria Smith of Arlington Realty in Arlington. "But the homeowner's objective should be to sell the home."

"Even if you have a large home, if your closets are over-stuffed or if you have too much furniture, a prospective buyer can't get a sense of the space and dimension of a room or visualize themselves in the home," said E.J. Stone, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Alexandria.

REMOVING ULTRA-PERSONAL ITEMS

like family pictures or bills is another part of the staging process.

"You want to get a potential buyer to envision their things in the home," said Stone. "Neutrals can help with that. Those are things that a home stager can suggest."

Less is often more in the home staging game, say Realtors. "I tell my clients to take stuff off the walls, rent a storage space and take all the stuff you don't need and put it into a storage unit, so it opens up more space," said Michael Richter, real estate agent for residential preferred properties at the Richter Group in Burke.

Realtors rank the living room as the number one room to stage, followed by the kitchen, then the master bedroom, dining room and the bathroom.

"Your home should be a model home, like no one lives there," said Neustrand. "The bathroom counters should not have products or clutter. There should not be trash in the garbage can."

Optimism for 2015 Real Estate Market

By Andrea Worker The Connection

fter what seemed to be an endless winter, spring has finally come call ing, signaling the start of the year's first real estate high season. Homes trade hands all year long, but spring is often for buyers, seller, agents, brokers and lenders like those weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas; buyers at full speed searching out the best bargains and sellers looking to move their wares without having to resort to price-slashing sales tactics.

So far, area real-estate experts and the data from sources like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), Movoto

Real Estate, and SmartCharts (powered by RealEstate Business Intelligence with data supplied from the MLS listing service) are all aligned in their assessment of the outlook for the 2015 market in Northern Virginia. Compared to a lackluster 2014 after a strong 2013, there's reason for optimism.

Veronica Seva-Gonzalez, NVAR board member and Realtor with Compass Real Estate, noted that the spring weather and positive housing market news had arrived simultaneously. "It's great to see how all of the numbers are up from last year and also from the beginning of this year," she said.

Across the board, the numbers do look positive. Combined data collected for the counties of Fairfax and Arlington, the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton, show a first quarter increase of total units sold of just over 9 percent, with 3,657 units sold in 2015 compared to 3,352 the prior year. For the same period and for the same localities, days on the market (DOM) per unit actually rose in 2015 and the average ratio of sales price to list price showed marginal slippage, but Realtors and market analysts see the significant improvements in March 2015 numbers vs. March 2014 figures as an indicator of a healthy selling season ahead

The March 2015 increases were seen in

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 4



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Spring Real Estate

Outlook Optimism for 2015 Market

From Page 3

all sectors of the residential market, with "attached" homes like townhouses leading the way with a 3.6 percent uptick in average sales price. Condominiums came in at second place, with a 1.8 percent increase in the month compared to 2014. Single-family homes came in last for the March 2015 totals, but still better than the prior year by 0.7 percent.

Greatly increased inventory versus last year could be one factor in the more modest single-family home price increases. In 2015, 3,165 new properties came onto the market during the month, while only 2,656 were put on the books during that month last year. A total of 3,381 units were available to buyers in March this year compared to 3,011 last year.

"In some areas and some price ranges, there is definitely more choice," said Reston Long and Foster Realtor Anita Lasansky. "Sellers are starting to get more confident."

Realtor Jennifer Boyce, Long and Foster Gold Team, also noted that some buvers were starting to "come out from under," having held on during the worst of the economic downturn. "Equities are looking stronger, so they can get back in, selling or buying."

The data does vary around the region. Not all areas experienced an increase in sales prices in the month-to-month comparison. Falls Church City, for example, posted an increase in the numbers of units sold, but a 19.12 percent decrease in median sales price.

Arlington County, on the other hand, saw the largest increase in the March 2015 vs. March 2014 sideby-side; with 24.43 percent more closed sales and a 10.68 percent increase in the median sales price.

Janet Gresh of the Gresh Group in McLean says that her experience so far this year is in line with those numbers. "Arlington is definitely hot right now, close in and enough quality properties that you see serious competition."

Lasansky gave the numbers she is seeing for Reston a "thumbs up," as well. "We're up about 15 percent in the first quarter over last year and about 5 percent up in median sales price."

In the City of Alexandria, the median sales price rose by more than 10 percent in March on an increase of 14.37 percent in closed sales. Fairfax County and Fairfax City both saw more moderate improvements in median sales prices at 2.79 percent and 2.00 percent respectively. For Fairfax City, the positive takeaway from the March figures is that the median sales price rose despite a drop in total closed sales of more than 50 percent compared to last year.

While all of the data provided is considered preliminary and still subject to revision, the numbers available to date suggest a good start to the year - and barring the unforeseen negative impact - a positive 2015 real estate market.

Plus-column numbers on the books, the collective optimism of many of the area's top real estate professionals, and respected organizations like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors adding that "2015 may be different because of its more sustainable, positive market direction," all offer signs that the real estate market in the region is looking at a healthy year. Any number of factors, including the ever-present threat of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates sometime this year, could stall or even reverse the positive trends.



Photo GALLERY

"Me and My Mom"

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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.



Spring Real Estate & New Homes

On Tour: Aging in Place Renovation

By John Byrd

Vienna whole house remodel that incorporates an Aging-In-Place solution will be featured in the Parade of Homes/ Remodeled Home Tour April 25-April 26.

The circa-1970s split-level owned by Andre and Katy Hollis was substantially repurposed and renovated by Sun Design Remodeling of Burke.

"I decided that I really liked our neighborhood and that with changes we could stay in the house indefinitely," Katy Hollis said

Mindy Mitchell, the Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist (CAPS) at Sun Design Remodeling who executed the Hollis design solution, says such inquiries have become more common in recent years.

After considering options, the Hollis family settled on several revisions: a spacious first floor bedroom; a gourmet kitchen; a better entertainment plan; and a guest suite with dedicated bath.

"I thought we probably had enough



hoto contribute

A whole house aging-in-place solution by Sun Design Remodeling will be featured in the Parade of Homes' Remodeled Homes Tour, April 25 and April 26. The firm executed a top-to-bottom makeover to a circa 1970s split-level, creating a first level master suite and a gourmet kitchen.

square footage to achieve what we wanted," Katy Hollis said, "but there were lots of functional problems, and we weren't sure how to address them."

The challenge was reconfiguring adequate existing space into a better plan serving long term horizons.

Katy wanted both a guest suite and a larger, more private master bedroom suite.

The former master bedroom suite now becomes spacious guest quarters. A corner bedroom has been transformed into a second upstairs bathroom

Mitchell and team re-deployed 300 square feet on the rear of the first level for a very private master bedroom suite that includes a master bath and generous walk-in closets.

A home office behind glass-facing French doors opens directly into the redecorated living room.

"It's a terrific solution in every detail," Hollis said. "And knowing we've already made some solid decisions about the future has really given me peace of mind."

Call 703-425-5588 or www.SunDesignInc.com.

Autumn Wood Wraps Up, New Opportunities at Fallsgate

utumn Wood, a community of 18 homes off Georgetown Pike, is a bright spot for new homes in Great Falls over the past several years. Most homes sold between \$2 million and \$2.5 million, and during several of the last few years sales of Gulick have made up nearly half of the sales in that price range in Great Falls.

With only two homes, including our model home, remaining in Autumn Wood, we are pleased to introduce Fallsgate. Fallsgate is a community of five homes nestled within the broader community of Longwood, and offers an opportunity to live in a community setting among coordinating homes in Great Falls.

Longwood is a great neighborhood to walk through, and is near lots of shopping, including Great Falls Village Center, Reston

Town Center and Tysons. Plus, it is in the Langley School District.

Gulick has introduced two new floorplans for Fallsgate, the Ashcroft (3460-5445 square feet) and the Grayson (4040-7430 square feet).

We have the first Grayson nearly complete and ready to show in Autumn Wood. We designed these homes for the modern family, or someone interested in downsizing, as the 10,000-square-foot McMansions seem to be a thing of the past.

Both of these floorplans exemplify our attention to detail and the Gulick design sense, offer open spaces and opportunities to interact both within and between rooms, without losing the drama we are known for.

– Jamie Gulick, Gulick Group





Magnificent 5 Bedroom, 8 Bathroom Colonial. 10,000 SF of finished space, elegant rooms for entertaining. An electronic metal gate, a 34-foot mirrored exercise room with steam shower, two-sided deck with connecting barrel-ceiling bridge, home office, sunroom, walk-out recreation room with fireplace and tavern, and much more, available 5/1/2015. Brokers welcome.

For information, please call Shawn Tahmassian, Owner Agent • National Realty • 703-850-3209

Nominal Opening Bid: \$1,000,000
Auctions: 6pm, Thu Apr 30 on site or bid live from anywhere at auctionnetwork.com
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MCLEAN, VA • 1003 Spring Hill Rd. 15,000+/- sf home w/6BR, 8.5BA and exquisite

moldings throughout. Eight fireplaces, wine cellar, in-ground diving pool and 4-car garage.

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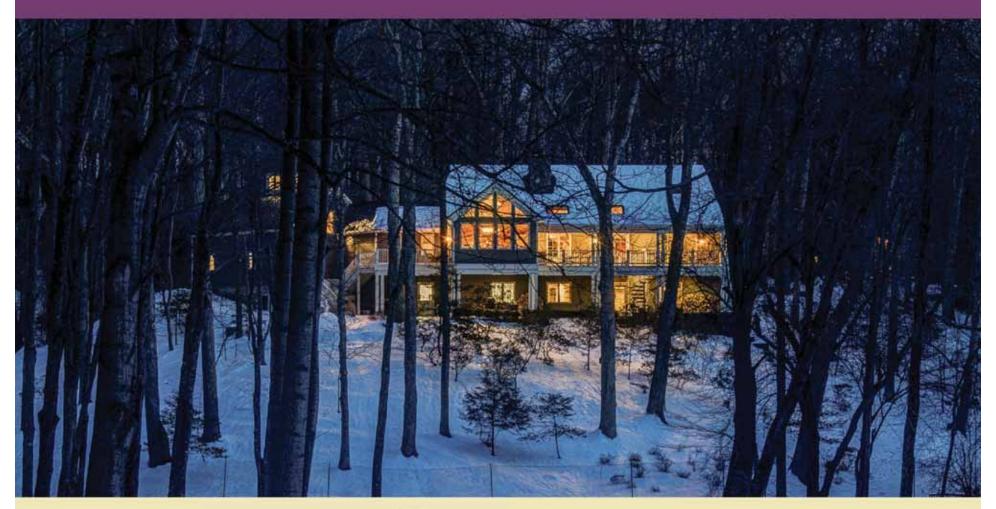
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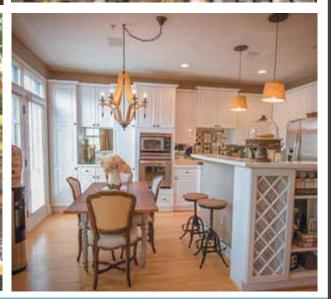




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