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\$599,000-\$1,599,000

E



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- 9003 Patton Blvd (22309) (MLS Pending)
- 4008 Ronson Drive (22310) MLS#FX8678885
- Arlington
- 23 Pershing Drive South (22304) MLS#AR8740154
- 713 South Veitch Street (22204) MLS#AR8734738

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## HomeLifeStyle **Trading Spaces**

Two retirees swap Old Town Alexandria digs for an RV

By Marilyn Campbell The Connection

retired couple is feeling liberated after selling their Old Town Alexandria home and buying a Winnebago. Cathy and Mick Hanratty, who'd been living in their Winnebago at Fort Belvoir, left town earlier this week to see the country.

"We have three greyhounds so we had to have our dogs with us when we travel," said Cathy, a retired nurse. "With the RV, we can go anywhere we want to go and take our dogs with us. ... We don't have to worry about finding a hotel when we travel that accepts animals."

The couple lived in Old Town for 16 years. While they enjoyed the community, they found the winter weather too brutal for their liking. "When winter came, I hated it," said Cathy. "Now we'll be in Florida in winter."

The Hanrattys say the transition wasn't as difficult for them as it might be for some because of their backgrounds. "We are both Army brats so we've been doing this all our lives," said Mick, a retired Army colonel. "It's not like someone who lived in the same place all our lives to all of a sudden move to an RV. We're used to a transient manner."

The Hanrattys say their Winnebago is comfortable. It boasts a living room with a large-screen television, recessed lighting and an electric fireplace. The kitchen is equipped with a convection-microwave oven, an apartment-sized refrigerator in stainless steel and a propane stove. There is a king-size bed in the bedroom and woodwork in a cherry finish.

"One thing that impressed us was all the storage," said Mick. "There's even a lot of overhead storage."

Porcelain flooring throughout "makes it much easier to clean," said Cathy.

The Hanrattys, who have been married for 42 years, say their new lifestyle offers



Cathy and Mick Hanratty sold their Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, home and bought a Winnebago.

them flexibility. "It's much more relaxing," said Cathy. "If we go someplace we don't like, we can pick up and go somewhere else. When you own a house in Old Town, you can't just leave if you decide you don't like it.'

Their Old Town Alexandria home, which was located in Old Town Village, actually sold before it went on the market. "It's a

really popular area," said Lisa Groover, of McEnearney Associates, the couple's real estate agent. "People are always looking for homes there."

"I was thrilled to have an opportunity to work with friends and neighbors," said Groover. "They were open to ideas and suggestions about marketing."

Although the couple have yet to de-

cide on their final destination, they're optimistic.

"We're anxious to travel around the country and to find a place where we feel comfortable enough to settle down," said Mick. "We have to find a place that affords us a home base where we can park our RV. We're thinking about a house with an RV garage, probably in Georgia, Florida or South Carolina."



The living room of Cathy and Mick Hanratty's Winnebago has an electric fireplace and large-screen television.



Cathy and Mick Hanratty's Winnebago has a king-sized bed and an abundance of storage.

COURTESY OF

of McEnearney Associates

# HomeLifeStyle Evolution of a Family Home

## By John Byrd

tarting in the late 1990s, Paul and sonal residence.

Remodeling, the Carters nursed their vision of an exceptional property with a stunning indoor-outdoor continuum.

This past September, the public was invited to see the results.

Paul and Laurie Carter purchased a new production house in a new neighborhood not guided the Carters throughout nearly every far from Mount Vernon. At 3,700 square feet, it was a perfect spot to settle down and raise their son. The schools nearby were excellent; the house was just a few miles from Old Town Alexandria. But there were some things about the property Carters thought they might improve — if they were to stay in residence long enough.

Cramped master bathroom; no family play area; dark rear rooms with no visual continuum; cabinet-cluttered kitchen; builder- Austin, and I could enjoy pleasant summers grade finishes ... Just a few of the perceived together as a family," recalls Laurie. "Our shortcomings.

the whole house remodel that the public was we wanted to pursue in day-to-day living." invited to see this past September demonstrates the kinds of improvements and up- instance, the Carters hired Sun Design Regrades that can occur when owners continue modeling to convert the home's unfinished to occupy, modifying the environment to suit evolving interests.

In fact: it's no longer merely a house. It's

the Carter's long-term residence.

"The ideal of long term ownership is the option to create a home that, over time, be-Laurie Carter began transforming a comes more supportive of favored activities simple production house into a per- and aesthetic preferences," says Bob Gallagher, Sun Design Remodeling's Execu-Collaborating closely with Sun Design tive Vice President. "We are finding this kind of on-going commitment to personalizing a residence much more frequently than in decades past.'

> Gallagher was at the house Sept. 12 to greet neighbors who wanted to learn more about remodeling in phases. Sun Design had revision over the past decade. Many guests seem surprised at the project's top-to-bottom scope.

> The Carters are quick to acknowledge that their periodic home remodeling efforts have been a logical and sequential response to family needs — beginning with an 18-footquarter acre lot in 2006.

"We wanted a place where Paul, our son, remodeling changes reflect the different But skip ahead almost two decades, and stages of our lives, and the lifestyle options

As Austin's circle of friends expanded, for lower level into a spacious family room and fitness center complete with a billiards table and TV viewing area suitable for guests of

all generations.

During this same time period, Paul and Laurie, both working professionals, sought improvements to the second floor master suite, introducing a sizable master bath with a walk-in shower and changing vestibule. The plan was designed so that one partner could shower, dress and slip off to work without rousing the other partner, who might be still sleeping.

"The new master comfortable for both of us." Laurie says, ing "and it still works beautifully today."

More recently, when Austin left for college, the Carters,



by- 36-foot swimming pool installed on their The Carters purchased the original production house in 1998 and have steadily made focused improvements and upgrades.

the home's rear suite of rooms with its lovely that innovative storage solutions would three-part glazing solution consistpoolside setting.

The landscaping and mature trees confer a lot of backyard privacy, so the Carters were looking for graceful ideas to better integrate indoor and outdoor horizons. "It made no sense not to have a better view and more natural light from the back of the house," she said. "Also, we didn't have a comfortable outdoor dining zone."

Not surprisingly, the core problem was the home's original floor plan.

Unchanged since the late 1990s, the three rooms on the west-facing rear elevation consisted of a central kitchen flanked by a formal dining room to the right and a family room to the left.

The dining room was sequestered from the kitchen by a floor-to-ceiling wall festooned with builder-grade cabinets. There was one small window above the kitchen sink which was, likewise, bordered by cabinets on two sides. To the left, one entered the family room, which provided an exit to a rear veranda partially covered by a shed roof.

"We had talked about a more open floor plan," Laurie recalls, "But how do you tear down the walls that are holding up the cabinets you use every day?"

As it turned out, this was a good question suite made life more for Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming, who supervised the Carter's most recent remodel-

"Something as simple as custom-designed cabinets can inspire a completely new, and much more functional, floor plan," Fleming Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming exsays.

now empty nesters, wall between the kitchen and dining room rotating fans add comfort.

began considering ways to better integrate could come down," he adds, "it was clear make it possible to further develop a special ing of a 45-inch picture window visual continuum from inside the house."

A counter surface with a gas-fueled dows. cooktop range between the kitchen and the formal dining area, thus, provides storage for both the best family china (accessed from flat cabinet facings and bright, rethe dining room) and everyday cooking necessities (retrievable from the kitchen). A reach-in pantry next to the refrigerator offers supplemental storage. Though the eyelevel cabinet clutter has been deleted, Fleming says there's actually been a 35 percent increase in storage capacity.

To improve natural light, the small kitchen sitional-style interior design solu-



tended the shed roof to cover sun-"Once the Carters were satisfied that the exposed decking. Two overhead

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in evidence.

a billiards table and media viewing area.

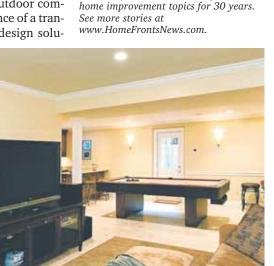
A sizable master bath with a walk-in shower and changing vestibule was designed so that one partner could shower, dress and slip off to work without rousing the other still-sleeping partner..

4 \* ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE PACKET \* HomeLifeStyle Fall 2015

window has been replaced with a flanked by two double hung win-

Better yet, with its bianco romano granite surfaces, square flective wall coloring, the new space has acquired a design elegance that was never previously

"An open plan that segues to a free-flowing indoor/outdoor component is the very essence of a tran-



tion," says Fleming, "The formal el-

ements provide definition and bal-

ance, yet the clean lines allow a

To provide for outdoor dining,

Fleming extended the rear shed

roof over the previously sun ex-

posed decking. The former outdoor

dining niche now becomes a view-

ing area adjacent to a recently in-

With the addition of two over-

head rotating fans, the new out-

door space is both intimately con-

nected to the house and visually

linked to the pool and well-land-

"We couldn't be more pleased

with how well the house has

evolved over the years," says

Laurie. "We look forward to living

John Byrd has been writing about

here long into the future."

lively visual continuum."

stalled flat screen TV.

scaped setting.

The home's unfinished lower-level was converted into a spacious family room and fitness center complete with



to virtually walk the halls of a project currently in design!

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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## HomeLifeStyle



BOWA kitchen renovation in Arlington features under-counter microwave and beverage center.

Photos by Bob Narod Photography and BOWA



BOWA basement renovation includes space for arts & crafts, games and media.

## Remodeling in 2015: All about Family

Adapting your home so it tracks your family's development over the years.

By Joshua Baker BOWA

lmost every luxury remodel starts with the same question "How can we improve our family's life at home?" But this answer varies as our families grow, age and evolve. And the best designs consider both current and future needs.

For young families, the focus is almost always child-centric. Kitchens are designed with low drawers for easy access to the most important items, like sippy cups and napkins. Refrigerator drawers installed as beverage stations and below-the-counter microwaves allow the "vertically challenged" to help themselves. Study areas are incorporated into family spaces to allow for parent-child interaction at homework time. Creative storage solutions and child-friendly finishes, like washable wall paint, chalkboard paint in play areas, and custom ceramic tiles featuring kids' artwork in their bath, all lend to a successful design.

In the teen years, the question asked most often is, "How do I create the house where all the kids and their friends want to hang out?" For this age group, creative basement remodels with game areas are most popular, and perhaps not surprisingly, basement bars are often minimized or omitted completely. As opposed to the closed-off theaters of the past, media viewing rooms are now open and designed as multi-purpose spaces that also facilitate informal gatherings and entertaining. For the ambitious, outdoor features, such as pools, patios and fire pits, can create a neighborhood destination. (Though pools and water features are of-



Renovated home office by BOWA features space for the whole family. 6 & Alexandria Gazette Packet & HomeLifeStyle Fall 2015

ten delayed until kids are old enough to be safe around water.)

Teen-friendly designs often include a family foyer, an entrance from the garage with plenty of storage for sports equipment, coats, backpacks, etc. Other potential opportunities for teens include creating small, fun spaces like lofts in bedrooms, themed bedrooms, and making sure that there are plenty of USB charging stations.

For empty nesters, remodeling typically involves "downsizing" within the home by planning to use the space more efficiently. Often, one-level living is designed for convenience and to reduce energy use. Heating and cooling systems are zoned so only the inhebited energy of fully con-

the inhabited areas are fully conditioned when in use. Apartmentstyle washer and dryers are right sized for a couple. Smaller, drawer-style dishwashers are also available. And, perhaps now is the time to discuss repurposing spaces that were previously used as game rooms or homework stations into areas to accommodate hobbies and interests.

Almost all design discussions should at least contemplate the potential for boomerang kids (children coming home after college), in-laws, or elderly family members who might join the home. For those wanting more independence and privacy, in-law suites sometimes include private entrances and even a small kitchenette. Sometimes kids' rooms are moved to the basement to add more privacy.

For all of us as we get older, a house that incorporates the principles of universal design, which allow us to live comfortably and safely in the homes we love, is a critical conversation. Design considerations include creating accessibility-friendly baths, kitchens, entrances and passageways and perhaps reconfiguring to minimize steps. Often, a strategy that comes up is the consideration of the installation of an elevator to facilitate long-time use.

The design priorities for each remodel are unique to the family, but thinking about all the different phases of family life is critical to long-term success.

Josh Baker is the founder and co-chairman of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction company specializing in luxury renovations, remodels and additions in the greater Washington, D.C. area. BOWA has more than 25 years of experience and has been honored with 170 local and national awards. Visit www.bowa.com or call 703-734-9050.



Custom designed cabinetry in this renovated family foyer in Great Falls keeps a busy family organized.



**Mary Bayat**, owner of Bayat Realty Inc. in Alexandria, was installed as the 2015 chair of the Board of Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. As a director for the National Association of Realtors, Bayat has supported the implementation of core standards for local associations to ensure industry professionalism. Bayat has also been involved with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Global Forum.

**Harry Braswell**, Inc., of Alexandria, which has served the Northern Virginia area for more than 30 years, is introducing Concierge Home Services for homeowners in Northern Virginia. The members-only services include home maintenance plans, snow removal, off-site storage and à la carte consultation.

The headquarters of the **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** will relocate to the Victory Center in Alexandria with a 15-year lease.

Weichert, Realtors' Alexandria/Old Town Office was recognized for outstanding performance in May. The office led both the company and the region, which is comprised of offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for resale dollar volume.

**Ruppert Landscape** promoted Joshua Araujo and Mike Lopes in its Alexandria Landscape Management Branch. Araujo has been promoted to area manager. Lopes has been promoted to enhancement manager.

**Morgan Price** has joined the Alexandria office of BB&T Scott & Stringfellow as vice president and financial advisor. Price has more than seven years of experience in the financial services industry, most recently with SunTrust Investment Services.

Managing Director at Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, **David Speck**, was recognized in the 2015 edition of the Financial Times 400 Top Advisers in the United States.

**Michael Ormonde** has been named the new area president for Well Fargo's South Potomac Region. Ormonde has worked for Wells Fargo since 1998 when he became a teller at a San Francisco branch. Most recently he served as a district manager. Ormonde replaces **Ravi Chandra**, named regional president for Western Virginia.





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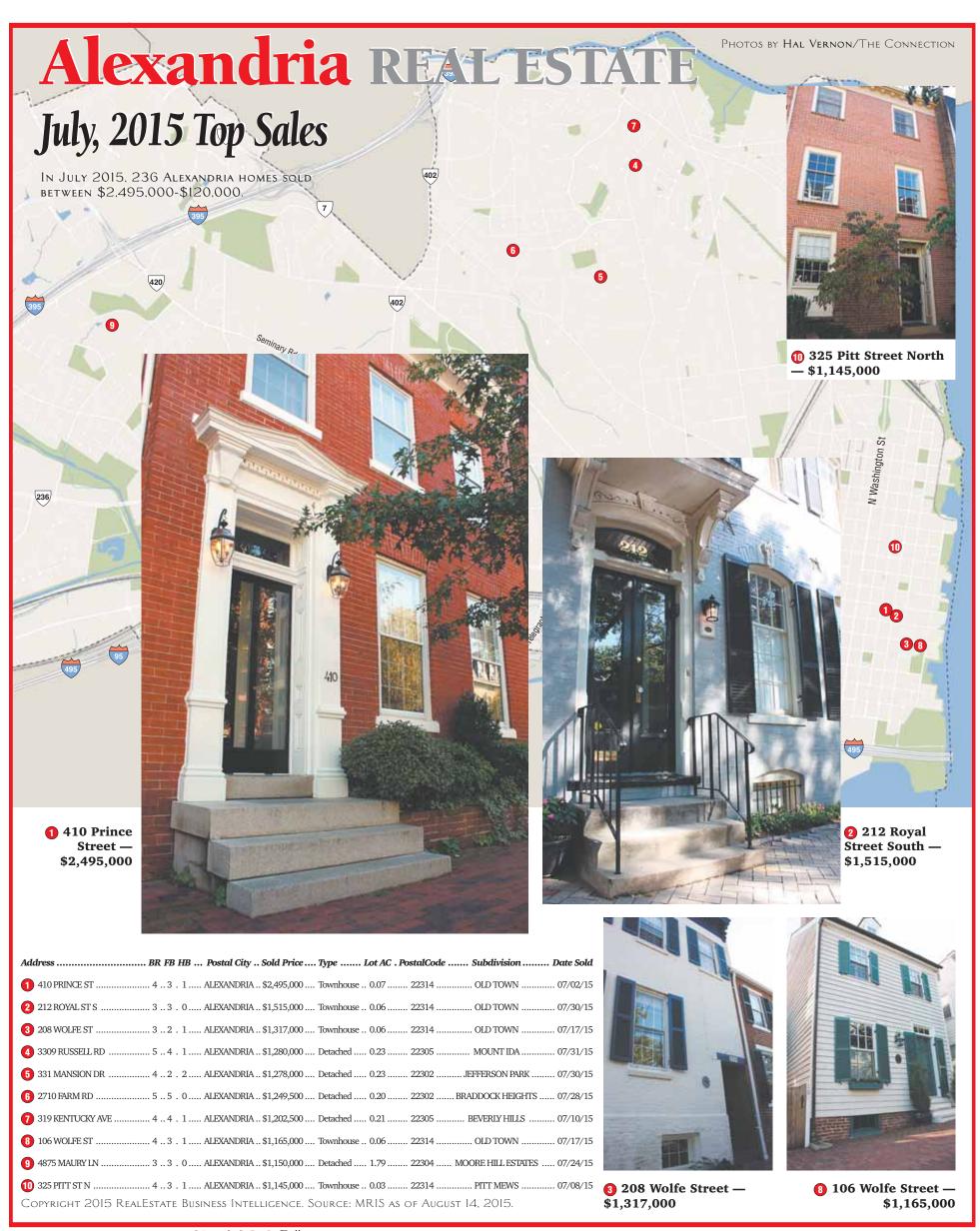


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