

Fairfax NAACP To Host Rally

Seeking 'Justice for Natasha McKenna.'

By Tim Peterson
The Connection

airfax County NCAAP president Shirley Ginwright announced a rally will be held Sept. 27 to demand justice for Natasha McKenna, a 37-year-old woman with mental illness who died in February after she had been held in the Adult Detention Center.

During a struggle with a team of deputies who attempted to remove her from her cell and transport her to Alexandria police — who had a warrant for her arrest — McKenna was tased four times .

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid recently released a video of the incident, following a report from Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh that he determined none of the individuals involved had committed any criminal offense.

"Anyone who watched the 48-minute video released last week of Natasha McKenna's last conscious moments cannot help but be horrified," Ginwright said in a statement. "Those who have read the 52-page report from Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Raymond Morrogh and his conclusion that it was a 'tragic accident' cannot help but wonder, 'What video was he watching?"

Ginwright said she has been in touch with McKenna's family through their lawyer and that the



Photo by Tim Peterson/The Connection

Commissioner Shirley Ginwright, chairman, Communities of Trust Committee and president of the Fairfax County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, responds to protesters for Natasha McKenna at the public forum of the Fairfax County police practices review commission.

woman's mother is planning to attend the rally, where she'll make her first public statement on the incident. There will also be speakers from the Virginia and national NAACP groups, American Civil Liberties Union, members of McKenna's family, the family lawyer and social activist groups.

The rally will be held Sunday, Sept. 27, beginning at 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Fairfax County Courthouse, 4140 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 25-26 Children's Consignment Sale.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Children's clothing and toys in good condition available for purchase.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Community Coffee House. 6-9 p.m. The Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Community coffee house, benefiting the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse featuring live music, coffee and baked goods donated by members of the community and local businesses. Donations

appreciated.

Community Shredding Day. 9
a.m. - 12 p.m. Parking lot
between Whole Foods and Patrick
Henry Library, 133 Maple Avenue
East, Vienna. Gain peace of mind
by bringing outdated personal
documents to on-site shredding
service provided by TrueShred.
Non-perishable canned good will
also be collected for donation to
Food for Others during this event.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

Burke Historical Society

Meeting. 4:30 p.m. Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. This meeting will discuss the history of the "infrastructure" of the local jazz scene: the performance venues, festivals, educational institutions, and radio programs that have helped to support the music over the years.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

Friends of Burke Lake Park Information Meeting. 7-8 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Come find out how you can support Burke Lake Park through community and philanthropic activities.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Bikes for the World Collection.

9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Saint Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. October 3rd from 9 a.m. to noon.

Bring your usable/ repairable bikes and spare parts to the Farrell Hall parking lot for shipment to poverty stricken areas of the world. No bikes? Donations to offset shipping costs gratefully accepted. Make checks payable to Saint Mary of Sorrows Church with Bikes for the World in the memo line.

For more information contact: Cathy at 703-

3075512,cat.gaiser@gmail.com, or Brian at 703-764-3845, LBBAKEITH@gmail.com.

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Members of Fairfax County Police and Norfolk Southern Railroad Police teamed up to spread awareness of safety and laws surrounding railroad tracks, which are considered private property and are illegal to cross



Fairfax County Police officers from the West Springfield District Reem Awad (center) and Zachary Rocco (right) give a Lake Braddock student a warning after he crossed train tracks at Old Burke Lake Road.

Crossed Paths Law enforcement raising awareness of train track safety.

BY TIM PETERSON THE CONNECTION

dil Gour has been crossing the Virginia Railway Express tracks in Burke for three years. "It's convenient for me, instead of going all the way around," Gour said. All the way around in this case means taking Guinea Road to Roberts Road and south. On Sept. 17, Gour crossed the tracks and met a contingent of law enforcement, officers from both Fairfax County Police and the Norfolk Southern Railroad Police.

The two organizations teamed up that day to spread awareness of safety and laws surrounding railroad tracks, which are considered private property and are illegal to

Gour was stopped by Norfolk Southern special agent Matthew Caplan out of Manassas, who explained the safety risks and legal repercussions of crossing to him.

"I do understand, the warning was fair," Gour said. But since he makes the trip three times a day, the ten minutes crossing the tracks saves him adds up. "If you want your Hot Pockets quick, are you going to use the microwave or the oven?" he said. "You're going to look for the easiest way."

The Norfolk Southern Police are executing a year-long Trespass Abatement Program and chose to focus on five locations in Fairfax County this day because of the number of injuries and casualties involving railroad property locations seen here in the last two years.

The Norfolk Southern Railroad Police reported three fatalities in Fairfax County in 2014, two of which were juveniles. Other law enforcement-trespasser interactions that year included 19 who were warned and ejected (15 juveniles) and three arrests (2 juveniles).

Year-to-date in 2015, the railroad police said there are no casualties but a juvenile sustained multiple lacerations and a broken hand. Fifteen individuals were warned and ejected (11 juveniles) and there have been four arrests, all of which were juve-

Supervisory special agent George



Adil Gour, of Burke (left), receives a warning from Norfolk Southern Railroad Police special agent Matthew Caplan (right) after he crossed the Virginia Railway Express tracks by the Burke Station.



Eric Ivancic, 2nd Lt. with the Fairfax County West Springfield District "Bike Team," sees a major problem with students using train tracks as a cut-through while walking to and from school.

Kaufmann with the Norfolk Southern Police said the law enforcement group has been trying to approach as many individuals and local businesses as possible, including handing out 800 informational pamphlets to 74 businesses in the Burke area.

"If we can save one life, it's well worth the effort," Kaufmann said.

In addition to the Burke Virginia Railway Express station, another problem area is a spot on the same tracks next to Old Burke Lake Road where hundreds of students from Lake Braddock Secondary School are known to cut through and cross.

"They're just oblivious, ignorant," said Eric Ivancic, 2nd Lt. with the Fairfax County

Safety Reminders from Police

- Trespassing on railroad tracks is dangerous and illegal. The tracks, rail yards and equipment are private property. Walking, hunting, fishing, etc. on railroad tracks is considered trespassing. You could be hurt or killed.
- The only safe place to cross railroad tracks is at designated public crossings where there are warning signals. If you cross anywhere else, you can be ticketed and fined
- Trains overhang the tracks by at least three feet on either side. If you are in the right of way near a track, you can be hit.
- * Do not hunt, fish, or bungee jump from railroad trestles. Trestles only have room for a train. They are not designed to be sidewalks or pedestrian bridges. Never walk, run, cycle or drive ATVs on tracks, rights of way or through rail tunnels.
- Never attempt to hop aboard railroad equipment. A slip of the foot could cost you your life.

complacency and the headphones are a dangerous recipe.

Members of the bike team and railroad police positioned themselves on either side the area for them to disseminate.

West Springfield District "Bike Team." "The of the Old Burke Lake Road cut-through to stop any students trying to cross.

> Caplan said information was also being distributed to Student Resource Officers in

Fairfax Author Speaks on New Civil War History

n Wednesday, Sept. 30, Fairfax author Mark Tooley will speak at 7 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, Fairfax, on his his new book, "The Peace that Almost Was: The Forgotten Story of the 1861 Washington Peace Conference and the Final Attempt to Avert the Civil War."

His history is the first in over 50 years on the tense days in D.C. in early 1861 when some of the

America's most important statesmen, led by former President John Tyler, gathered at the Willard Hotel to try and prevent national disaster.

The book recounts not only the attempts at political compromise over slavery but also the colorful interplay of personalities involved, social and religious life in D.C. on the eve of Civil War, and the drama over Abraham Lincoln's arrival for his inauguration.

Tooley will be speaking as part the-civil-war/#



Mark Tooley

of the annual Fall for the Book literary festival sponsored by, among others, Fairfax Public Library and George Mason University. He is a native of Arlington, a 28 year resident of Fairfax County, a frequent commentator on politics, religion and history, and a lifelong Civil War buff.

For more info on Tooley's Sept. 30 talk and Fall for the Book:

http://fallforthebook.org/ 2015/07/21/festival-spotlightthe-civil-war/#

---- Area Roundups -

Pedestrian Killed on Braddock Road

A pedestrian was pronounced dead at the scene after being struck by a car on Braddock Road, west of Twinbrook Drive.

The crash occurred Thursday, Sept. 17 around 9:58 p.m., Fairfax County Police said.

A 71-year-old man driving a 2004 BMW was traveling west on Braddock Road through a left-through lane before the pedestrian walked in front of his moving vehicle. Police are withholding the identity of the 37-year-old male pedestrian.

They said alcohol may have been a factor for him and are continuing to investigate the case.

-TIM PETERSON

Text to 9-1-1 Service Goes Live in Fairfax County

In emergency situations where calling 9-1-1 isn't possible, Fairfax County residents now have another option:

The County announced Tuesday that residents with text or data plans on through Verizon, Sprint, AT&T and T-Mobile are now able to request emergency services by texting "911" in the "to" or "recipient" field on their phones, followed by a short first message including the location of the emergency and whether police, firefighters or an ambulance are needed.

The service is available in Fairfax County, the towns of Herndon, Vienna and Clifton, and city of Fairfax, the report says.

Steve Souder, director of the Fairfax County 9-1-1 center, said, "it allows the person that is unable to hear or hearing impaired, a person that is in a precarious situation where it is not in their best interests or safety to voice a 9-1-1 call, or where perhaps a person injured and is unable to voice a 9-1-1 call — it now provides them the opportunity, using a smart device, to text a 9-1-1 call."

For more information on how the service works, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/text-to-9-1-1-launches-infairfax-county.

— Тім Peterson

Fairfax County Hosts Volunteer Fair

Older adults, seniors, and retirees looking for flexible, meaningful volunteer opportunities are invited to "Venture into Volunteering," a free volunteer fair, on Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Lorton Workhouse Arts, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton.

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services' Area Agency on Aging, AARP, Fairfax County Park Authority, RSVP Northern Virginia (Volunteer Fairfax, Volunteer Alexandria, and Volunteer Arlington) and The Positive Aging Coalition are partnering to host this event.

More than 30 organizations and Fairfax County agencies will be on hand to talk about their volunteer programs and benefits including: Fairfax Opportunities and Resources, Fairfax Pets on Wheels, Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, Lorton Community Action Center and the Shepherd's Center of Annandale/Springfield.

Refreshments will be provided and participants will have an opportunity to enter a prize drawing.

For more information or to request reasonable ADA accommodations, contact Jeannine Deem Purdy, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, at 703-704-6075, TTY 711, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.



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News



Burke and Springfield residents came out to the West Springfield government center for a meet and greet with candidates running for Springfield District supervisor and school board representative.

League of Women Voters Hosts Springfield Candidates

ozens of Springfield district constituents came out to the West Springfield Government Center to hear from candidates running for supervisor and school board positions. The Sept. 9 event was the first in a series of meet-and-greets for the different Fairfax County magisterial districts, hosted by the League of Women Voters.

Corazon Foley, of Burke, is running as an independent against

incumbent Pat Herrity (R). Elizabeth Schultz is the unopposed incumbent for school board representative. Herrity did not attend the event, due to a prior commitment recognizing the 50th anniversary of Northern Virginia Community College.

During her remarks, Foley summarized her advocacy for increased facilities for local seniors as founder of the Burke-West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls. Foley said she is opposed to a proposed meals tax and called for greater budget discipline.

Though Herrity was not able to attend the event, the League of Women Voters has published both his and Foley's responses to a number of questions as part of a voter's guide. That guide is available online at

onyourballot.vote411.org/race-detail.do?id=13600317#.VfiMQ9JVikq.
— Tim Peterson

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Candidates Corazon Foley (center), running for Springfield District supervisor, and Elizabeth Schultz (right), running for re-election to the Fairfax County School Board, attended a meet and greet event at the West Springfield government center.

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OPINION

Remembering Reston's Civil Rights Icon

"A local giant is gone from our midst. But his spirit and legacy will remain in Reston and beyond."

> By Gerald E. Connolly U.S. Rep. (D-11)

o one can say Bob Simon didn't lead a full life, but that fact doesn't make his loss any easier. To the end of his 101 years, he was a grand man of extraordinary vision, heart, compassion, humor and charm.

Last year my office embarked on a project to celebrate the Civil Rights Movement by capturing the histories, memories and stories of those who fought for equality. Our goal was to make sure we allowed these brave voices to share their accounts, firsthand, and preserve them for future generations. Today, that archive is available at http://ethnography.gmu.edu/ collections/the-northern-virginia-civil-rights-

I was fortunate to bring Bob into this project and sit down with him for a few hours to hear his civil rights story. Most of us know Bob as the founder of Reston, but it is his legacy as a civil rights icon and its lasting impact on our community, that I will forever hold in my heart. You see, Bob hated discrimination and bigotry because he experienced anti-Semitism firsthand as a young man. That experience forged in him a passion – a quiet passion – to build a small corner of the world where equality would be a reality.

Bob's insistence on making Reston the first racially-integrated housing development in Virginia made him a civil rights pioneer. It was not the popular thing to do, and he lost critical investment opportunities because of this decision. But to Bob, it was not a matter of doing the easy thing, or the popular thing. It was about doing the right thing. He had great clarity that to realize his vision of Reston there could be no racial barriers. To fulfill Reston's goals we had to be inclusive and welcoming.

Throughout his long life, Bob's moral compass remained true. He was an environmentalist before the term was invented, a patron of the arts, and passionate advocate for social justice. Northern Virginia owes much of its character and success to Bob. I feel this loss sharply and shall miss his dedication, his laugh and his friendship. A local giant is gone from our midst. But his spirit and legacy will remain in Reston and beyond.



Connection File Photo

Congressman Gerald E. Connolly: "Bob's insistence on making Reston the first racially-integrated housing development in Virginia made him a civil rights pioneer."

_Springfield

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Chamber Urges Congress to Avoid Another Shutdown

Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (Fairfax Chamber), representing nearly 700 member companies with more than 500,000 employees across Northern Virginia, we urge you and your colleagues in Congress to act immediately to find a path forward to enact legislation to continue funding the federal government beyond Sept. 30, without interruption. For the federal government to shut down would be so harmful to our region it would be, in a word, irresponsible.

A substantial segment of Virginia's economy is tied to the federal government, with federal contractors in the private sector employing a vast number of workers here in our region and throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, Northern Virginia is home to more than 65,000 federal employees and is where more than 110,000 federal employees work. As such, Northern Virginia's diverse business commu-

ear Members of the Northern Virginia nity, the economic engine of the Commonwealth, is tremendously impacted by federal

> Congress' inability in the past to enact individual appropriations bills, and rather to instead fund the government from continuing resolution to continuing resolution, has caused significant uncertainty and greatly disrupted business planning by federal contractors in the region. Such practices, combined with annual threats of government shutdowns and, in 2013, an actual shutdown, have caused private sector businesses of all sizes throughout Northern Virginia serious economic harm and forced them to lay off or furlough employees.

We are gravely concerned that such economic dislocation will again occur if the federal government shuts down on Oct. 1. Also, as you know, the impact of a shutdown would not be limited to the federal government and federal contractor workers in Virginia. As has been shown in the past, the downstream effects of a shutdown will also be harmful to small businesses in Northern Virginia and across the Commonwealth.

The Chamber recognizes the importance of restraining federal spending and different budget priorities for members of Congress. However with the U.S. economy continuing to underperform, Congress needs to act now to avoid inflicting any more substantial and enduring damage on the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States as a whole.

Congress must continue to fund the operations of government in a budget-conscious way, while avoiding any more damaging fiscal showdowns. We need and expect nothing less. Accordingly, we urge you to work with your colleagues and leadership to promptly enact legislation by Oct. 1 to fund the operations of the federal government without interruption.

> Jim Corcoran, President & CEO Fairfax Chamber of Commerce

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Powerful and Accountable

To the Editor:

death of an inmate, I want to connationally and internationally at a gratulate you for dealing with a serious PR problem Fairfax County has been developing.

Virginia and this county maintain an admirable fear level among

a great state and county to live in. But, when that turns into front With your focus on the recent absolutely going to be punished time when we must be building new bridges and attracting the best people to maintain our standard of life and living here.

Please keep the pressure on to

wrong doers that helps to keep this fix this without turning this region into another crime friendly, revolving door justice, victims last place page stories about torture with to live like Maryland and all of stun guns and stonewalling we are New England. We are not Texas but we are not chumps either. We need well regulated law enforcement that is powerful and account-

> **Drake Wauters** McLean

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444. By e-mail: south@connectionnewspapers.com

WEDDING

Rachel Marie Tomlinson and Andrew Scott McGregor Married

achel Marie Tomlinson and Andrew Scott McGregor, of Virginia Beach (formerly of Springfield,) were married Saturday, June 13, 2015, at Founders Inn in Virginia Beach. Pastor Jeff Shrout of Yorktown officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Larry and Roxanne Tomlinson, of Springfield, and grand-daughter of James and Sigrun Norton of St. Petersburg, Fla. (formerly of Springfield).

The bridegroom is the son of Daphne Cox and Steven Feinsmith, of Springfield; and David and Pamela McGregor of Reston.

Rachel and Andy met in high school and both played varsity lacrosse for West Springfield High School from 2005-2009. They graduated from Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Va., in 2013, where they both played four years of lacrosse for the Captains. Rachel graduated with a sociology degree and is currently a vocational counselor with The Choice Group, working to transition students with disabilities in the Project Search Program. Andy graduated with a finance degree and currently works as a senior consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in their Norfolk, Va., office.

The ceremony was held outside in the English Gardens of the Founders Inn. Vocalist, Laren Minton of Staunton, Va., and cousin of the bride, sang several songs before the ceremony and "In Christ Alone" written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, during the ceremony. Matthew Norton of Houston, also cousin of the bride, read Matthew 19:4-6 for



Rachel Marie Tomlinson and Andrew Scott McGregor, of Virginia Beach, (formerly of Springfield) were married Saturday, June 13, 2015, at Founders Inn in Virginia Beach.

the ceremony. The reception was held afterwards in the Founders Inn Conference Center.

Emily Kennedy, of Pittsburgh, was her sister's matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Rebecca Geist of Annandale; Kelly Lane of Great Falls; Katie Gargiulo of Fairfax; Lauren McGregor of Reston; Kristin Benoit of Manhattan, Kansas (formerly of Springfield); and Amy Auker of Fredericksburg, Va (formerly of Springfield). Becca, Kelly, and Katie are Rachel's former roommates and CNU lacrosse teammates. Lauren, Amy, and Kristin are sisters of the groom. Jake Myers, of Virginia Beach, was best man. Groomsmen were 1st Lt. Matthew Harrison of Springfield; Ethan Emanuele of Chesapeake, Va.; Adam Shen of Chantilly; Ari

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Elgort of Charlottesville, Va.; Chase Walton of Burke.; Billy Crist of Norfolk. Matt was Andy's best friend in high school. Ethan graduated CNU in finance and currently works with Andy. Jake, Adam, Ari, Chase, Billy and Andy played CNU lacrosse together.

Elizabeth and Caitlyn Akers, daughters of the bride's cousins, William and Catherine Akers of Richmond, were flower girls. Ward and Colson Gardiner, sons of family friends of the groom, Edward and Tracey Gardiner, of Springfield, were ring bearers.

After their honeymoon to the beaches along the Outer Banks, including skydiving, the couple returned to Virginia Beach where they recently purchased their first home. WEEK IN SPRINGFIELD -

Leaf Clean Up Fundraiser

Need help with raking your leaves? The West Springfield Crew Team Leaf Raking Fundraiser starts Oct. 1 and runs through Dec. 20. Members of the crew team will rake and bag your leaves this fall. Cost is \$9/hour per raker. You provide the bags and they will provide the brawn, along with rakes, blowers and tarps. This annual fundraiser helps the rowers meet their fundraising goals. Please contact info@spartancrew.org to sign up or for more information.

Volunteer Fair

Older adults, seniors, and retirees looking for flexible, meaningful volunteer opportunities are invited to a free volunteer fair, on Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton.





Profits support Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) (left) and Fairfax **County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright (center)** present (right) Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) with a president's award acknowledging his work to include **Hybla Valley and Gum Springs communities in Fairfax** County revitalization.

Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright (left) presents the community service award to Valerie (center) and Rubin Cuffee (right), who accepted it on behalf of Celeste Peterson. Peterson and her husband Grafton created the Erin Peterson scholarship Fund in honor of their daughter who died in 2007 at Virginia Tech.

Your Vote, Your Power' Fairfax County NAACP hosts 70th Freedom Fund Awards

70th Freedom Fund Awards.

By Tim Peterson The Connection

.E.B. Stuart High School seniors Anna Rowan, Cassie Marcotty, Marley Finley, Abby Conde and Lidia Amanuel were bothered by the Confederate legacy of their school. Inspired by a history class with teacher Keith Bropst on the Massive Resistance antisegregation policy, the girls set out to change Stuart's name. mascot and colors. They suggested a name change to Thurgood Marshall, in honor of U.S. Supreme Court's first African American justice.

County NAACP Freedom Fund banquet, held Sept. 19 at the

"These are students who saw guidance. that a change needed to be made and made that change," repercussions."

The students have gained sup-said. port through a petition and are

ive, lovely community."



The Students for Change, as (From left) J.E.B. Stuart High School seniors Anna Rowan, Cassie Marcotty, Marley their group is known, were Finley, Abby Conde and Lidia Amanuel accept the Fairfax County NAACP president's among several recipients of award recognizing their Students for Change petition to change the name of their awards at the 70th Fairfax school to Thurgood Marshall.

Waterford reception hall in awareness in their school, includ-Springfield. There were two ing sharing a new video they shot president's award winners, in- the same day as the awards. Over NAACP." cluding the students, and two the summer, they also met with community service award win- members of the Fairfax County told him stories about gaining the vote or your blood" as a path-NAACP who offered support and

The students have reached out to School Board members, includsaid Fairfax County NAACP ing Mason District representative president Shirley Ginwright. Sandy Evans. They met with Evans, "They didn't worry about the "but everyone is staying neutral

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) reworking to connect more with ceived the second president's created the Erin Peterson scholar- more African Americans to "get community members in the Falls award in recognition of his work ship Fund in honor of their daugh-involved in the electoral process." Church neighborhoods that feed on the revitalization of the Route ter who died in 2007 at Virginia Stuart prior to a Fairfax County 1 corridor and keeping the Hybla Tech. School Board vote scheduled for Valley and Gum Springs communities involved in the process.

Now, the girls are trying to raise sive Jewish people, "They joined was co-written with his best the only organization who would take them," Surovell said, "the

Surovell said his grandmother right to vote, the poll tax and de- way for change. He talked about segregating schools in Fairfax the importance of African County. "It's a sound base to guide Americans registering to vote my actions going forward," he said. "We still have a lot of work to go."

Community Service awards went to Debbie Kilpatrick, president of until after the election." Marcotty the Fairfax County Council of PTAs. and Celeste Peterson, who, together with her husband Grafton

noon was Eric Broyles, a Washing-"It's great to be recognized," In his acceptance speech, ton, D.C.-based attorney and co-eral Assembly bills for raising said Cassie Marcotty. "We've Surovell told the story of his grand- author of the book "Encounters the felony robbery charge gotten mixed reactions, but parents moving to a Fairfax County with Police: A Black Man's Guide amount from \$200 to \$850 and overall there's been a support- farmhouse from Brooklyn in 1935. to Survival." Broyles spoke briefly having records expunged in As politically active and progres- about the book, explaining how it certain circumstances.

friend, who is himself a cop. But the majority of Broyles'

speech focused on the mantra "Your vote, your power; It's your and being more engaged with the democratic process.

"Most police officers are honorable, good people," Broyles said, but there can be some bad officers and bad leadership, which is why it's important for

At the conclusion of the awards, president Ginwright Keynote speaker for the after- announced the organization's plan to promote Virginia Gen-

Spartans to Host Stallions in Matchup of 3-0 Teams

football team will host South County at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25 in a matchup of 3-0 teams from Conference 7.

For South County, Friday's game will be the Stallions' conference opener. South County rushed for 419 yards during last week's 70-29 blowout of Hayfield. Demarcus Ramsey carried 13 times for 120 yards and three touchdowns, and Michael Salisbury rushed five times for 146 yards and three Senior quarterback DeAndre

Clayton rushed four times for 76 yards and a touchdown. He also completed 5 of 12 passes for 84 yards, with one touchdown and one interception.

Dillon Spalding had two receptions for 122 yards and a touchest test to date. West Springfield 43-yard touchdown reception.

South County also has wins (47-13) and Lee (34-7). against Briar Woods (47-29) and Westfield (26-19) this season.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated innouncements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

William Douglas Krawczak of Springfield has been recognized by George Mason University on the school's dean's list for his academic achievement during the spring semester. William graduated from West Springfield High School and is double majoring in English and Economics at George Mason University. Recognition on the George Mason University dean's list is reserved for students who were registered for 12 or more semester hours and received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work

Katie Bershadsky, born and raised in Burke, has been selected to the Delta Epsilon Iota Academic Honor Society in the local chapter at Kennesaw State University. Delta Epsilon Iota was established to recognize and encourage academic excellence in all fields of study Bershadsky is expected to graduate in 2018 with a major in public relations. Her parents are Scott and Kim Bershadsky. Her grandparents Malcolm and Marcia have lived in Burke for more

The Fairfax County Band Directors Association has recognized 16 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students for excellence in solo instrumental music performance as part of the 2015 Fairfax County Band Directors Association Solo Competition. A total of 33 schools were represented; 66 students competed in the event.

winners in the elementary school division: Third place: Maia Trafton (trumpet), Keene Mill Elementary

The following students were named winners in the high school division: First place: Hunter Lorelli (bassoon), West Springfield High School.



ll Palenscar

During last week's win over Lee, quarterback Peter Muskett For West Springfield, Friday's completed 9 of 13 passes for 147 for 92 yards and two touchdowns and shared the conference title game will be the Spartans' tough- yards and a touchdown. He has against Lee. EJ Strother and with Lake Braddock.

completed 67 percent of his Jeremiah Pickell each scored a ference opponent Mount Vernon with eight touchdowns and one tans. interception.

down. Mike Williams hauled in a has beaten Robinson (35-28), conpasses this season for 609 yards, rushing touchdown for the Spar-

South County defeated West West Springfield running back Springfield 42-13 last season. Each Eric Vercellone carried seven times team finished 5-1 in the conference



From left — Sam Cornbrooks, 17, of Springfield, Chad Vann, 16, of Lorton, and James Woods, 16, of Alexandria

Metro School of the Arts Students Present 'Songs for a New World'

Metropolitan Youth Theatre students of the Met- Chad Vann of Alexandria is the director, while Sam ropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria Cornbrooks of Springfield is the producer and James and Lorton will present its student-directed and Woods of Northern Virginia is the music director. produced performance of Jason Robert Brown's Newcomer Jason Robert Brown, composer-lyriwww.metropolitanarts.org.

performed by Metropolitan School of the Arts high and a soulless marriage. These are the stories and

"Songs for a New World" on Friday, Nov. 6 at 8 cist of the critical smash "Parade," transports his p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7 at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sun-audience from the deck of a 1492 Spanish sailing day, Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. at the W-3 Theatre at the ship to a ledge 57 stories above Fifth Avenue to Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. Tickets are \$20 meet a startling array of characters ranging from a per person and can be purchased online at young man who has determined that basketball is his ticket out of the ghetto to a woman whose dream This production is completely student run and of marrying rich nabs her the man of her dreams school students studying to have careers in theatre. characters of today, the songs for a new world.



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Wellbeing Senior Living Pullout

.. Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I

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10/7/2015...

11/19/2015...

10/14/2015 .HomeLifeStyle 10/21/2015. .A+ Camps & Schools Halloween is October 31 10/28/2015... **Election Preview NOVEMBER** 11/4/2015... .Wellbeing 11/11/2015. ..HomeLifeStyle 11/18/2015... ..A+ Camps & Schools

Thanksgiving is November 26 11/25/2015...... .. Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

12/2/2015. Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II 12/9/2015. 12/9/2015. .HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays 12/16/2015.......A+ Camps & Schools: Holiday Entertainment & Gifts Pages

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Entertainment

From left -Gayle Grimes, Joanna Snitzer, Susan Garvey, Michelle Fletcher, Jayne Victor and Barbara Gertzog in rehearsal for the Providence Plavers production of "Calendar Girls."



PHOTOS BY CHIP GERTZOG/COURTESY OF PROVIDENCE PLAYERS OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Joyful and Unconventional

Providence Players open the season with "Calendar Girls."

> By David Siegel The Connection

pening its 18th season, the Providence Players are in a heartfelt, uplifting comic mood presenting "Calendar Girls." It is about women's friendships along with the power of imagination, risk-taking and resourcefulness under trying conditions.

The comic play, about human triumph after a loss, has been on the Providence Players list to produce for several years. The theater troupe is one of the first community theater groups to obtain the rights to produce the show.

"Calendar Girls" written by Tim Firth is based upon a true story; later turned into a movie about unusual events that took place in a small village in Great Britain. A local women's organization wanted to raise funds to help those in need. The group came up with a novel way to get donations; produce an unconventional calendar that soon attracted worldwide inter-

Directed by Michael Donahue, who described it as a "wonderful play with many strong roles for women...with universal themes about changes that can take place in the inner person when there is a need. It clearly shows how one person can and does make a difference in the lives of others."

Many in the 13-member cast are making their Providence Players debuts. Several originally hail from Great Britain knowing of the real life "Calendar Girls" background story.

In a recent interview, cast members described their various roles as colorful, if not quirky characters. All agreed it was a "very empathetic play." Michelle Fletcher, from England, "gets to play a liberating character; who is somewhat of a 'tart' in her own way." Fletcher described her role as "a challenging one with plenty of physical movement and energy."

Barbara Gertzog plays "the trophy, pleaser wife who is learning to throw off the restrictions of her upper class mores." As the play progresses her character becomes "a very believable person." Jayne Vic-



From left — Susan Garvey as Annie and Jayne Victor as Chris, in rehearsal for Providence Players production of "Calendar Girls."

Where and When

Providence Players present "Calendar Girls" at James Lee Community Center Theatre, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Performances: Thursday, Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m., and Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m. on Oct. 4 & 11. Tickets \$17-\$20. Call 703-425-6782 or visit www.providenceplayers.org

tor, Providence Players board chair and actor in "Calendar Girls," described how "the play presents strong friendships among the women characters, as well as how they became comfortable in their own skin."

The cast further includes actors Angela Cannon, Smitty Chai, Bob Cohen, Diana Conn, Susan Garvey, Gayle Grimes, Anne Lloyd, Bob Thompson, Joanna Snitzer and Andra Whitt. Set design is by Patrick David who is creating the inside of small village church hall, along with some special surprises.

The cast nodded in agreement when Gertzog said they wanted "the audience to be mesmerized."



The Workhouse Arts Center present its inaugural 2015 Workhouse Fall Arts Festival on Sept. 26-27. Over 100 of the best artists, including visiting artists from around the country and the artists at the Workhouse, will exhibit painting, ceramics, glass, fiber/clothing, mixed media, wood, jewelry, printmaking, photography, furniture, digital art and sculpture.

Calendar

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

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 24-26

Children's Book Sale. 6 p.m. Thursday till 2 p.m. on Saturday. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Children's books of all ages will be

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 24-27

Fall for the Book Sale. Thursday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday: 1-4 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke.

A Taste of the Vine. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Historic Fairfax City, Inc. is sponsoring a Wine Tasting Fundraiser o benefit the historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center. Sample wines from local vineyards paired with hors d'oeuvres. Silent Auction. Tour the Historic Mansion. Free parking. \$55 per person. For reservations contact Hildie Carney at 703-591-5305 or visit the website at www.historicfairfax.org

TGIFairfax Rock the Block: Almost

Journey/U2. 6-9 p.m. Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The second best U2 show in the world and the complete Journey experience. www.fairfaxva.gov/ RockTheBlock

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 25-27

Fall Book Sale. Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday: 1-3 p.m. Thousands of gently-read books in all categories including art, architecture, history, cooking, gardening, foreign language, travel, spirituality reference, classic and popular fiction.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Pohick Annual County Fair. 10 a.m.

- 3 p.m. Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The 70th Annual Country Fair includes games, booths, barbecue, homemade apple butter, historic church tours, living history re-enactors, organ concerts, live music, pony rides and more. 703-339-6572. http://

www.pohick.org. **Fighting Chance 8K Run/Walk**. 8 a.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Burke. Run to give an orphaned child a fighting chance for a future free from poverty, disease and violence. Register for the 8K run/walk at www.2540.org

20th Annual CCÉ Irish Folk

Festival. Noon-7:30 p.m. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax and The Auld Shebeen Irish Pub, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. All are invited to enjoy, free of charge, the "pure drop" - the beauty and depth of Irish music, dance, language and sport as it has taken root and come into full

flower in our community. **Azalea Sale.** 1-4 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. The Northern Virginia Chapter, Azalea Society of America (ASA), will be holding their 8th Annual Public Azalea Sale and

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 26-27

Workhouse Fall Arts Festival

2015. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Over 100 of the nation's best artists will exhibit their original fine art and crafts. The two-day outdoor festival will include work by artists from across the Mid-Atlantic region, showcasing paintings, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, handcrafted furniture and much

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

The Best Roses for Your Garden.

2-4 p.m. Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn new roses and the best sources for ordering roses that are hard to find, full of form or fragrant.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 27 - SATURDAY/OCT. 3 Annual Fall for the Book Festival.

George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A weeklong, multiple-venue, regional festival that brings together people of all ages and interests. Featured authors are National Book Award winner Tim O'Brien and "Outlander"

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

News

Winning Five Gold Medals

Springfield formerly Burke resident wins five gold medals in Senior Olympics swimming.

reenspring resident Phil Case, 85 - formerly resident of Burke - began his long history with senior athletic competition in 1994, when he first entered the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in the 50-meter backstroke event. Now, 21 years later, he has earned over 190 ribbons and medals in local, state and national senior events. "A few years ago, I set a goal to reach 200," said Case, who fully intends to reach that figure at the Virginia Senior Games in May 2016. Case is well on his way to that goal, having earned five more gold medals in all five swimming events he entered at the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics this year: 100yard freestyle, 50-yard freestyle, 50-yard backstroke, 100-yard backstroke, and 50-yard breaststroke. Over the years, Case's athletic achievements have earned him qualifications for several National Senior Games events. Since 1999, he has traveled across the country to seven national events, earning bronze medals in 2001 (Baton Rouge, Louisiana) and in 2013 (Cleveland, Ohio). The event Case recalls with the most pride is his seventh place finish in the 200meter backstroke at the 1999 National Senior Games in Orlando, Fla. That year, there were 19 par-

Calendar

From Page 10

author Diana Gabaldon. Visit www.fallforthebook.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 28

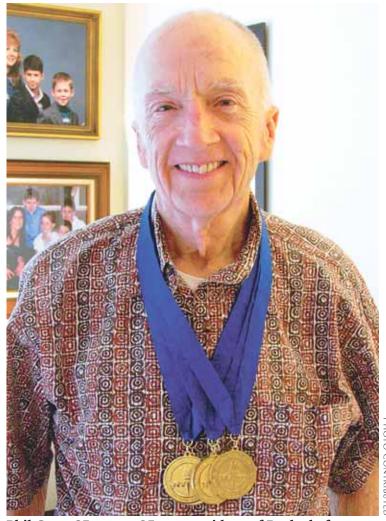
Animal Decomposers, 4:30 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn about the hidden insects that can be found in decomposing logs that you dissect yourself with the help of staff from Hidden Pond Nature Center.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

Celebrate Calm Workshop. 7-9 p.m. Irving Middle School Barker Hall. 8100 Old Keene Mill, Springfield. Ten ways to stop defiance, disrespect and yelling. Free parent workshop presented by Kirk and Casey Martin.

Tai Chi. 10 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Come experience the benefits of Tai Chi led by Dante Gilmer of Still Water Tai Chi Center. Wear comfortable clothes that allow movement. Adult.

Meet Author Colin Gunderson. 7



Phil Case, 85, was a 35-year resident of Burke before moving to the Greenspring community.

ticipants in the 200-meter backstroke event.

Case stays in shape throughout the year by following a fitness regimen. He swims 1200-yards three times per week either at Greenspring's indoor pool or the South Run Recreational Center. Case also plays tennis weekly with a group of friends who've been playing together for over 40 years.

Case credits his start in senior

competitions to a former U.S. Naval Academy classmate, who competed in basketball events. "His participation and success really got me started," said Case.

Greenspring is a repeat Gold Sponsor for the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics; for seven years, the community has also hosted the competition's Wii bowling events at their specially designed six-lane virtual bowling alley.

p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Meet Colin Gunderson, former Los Angeles Dodgers staff member and author of "Tommy Lasorda: My Way." Books available for sale and signing.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30

Celebrate Calm Workshop. 9:30-11:30 a.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Preschool, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Ten ways to stop defiance, disrespect and yelling with America's Calm Coach Kirk Martin and his son,

A is for Apple. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce Street, Springfield. Fun stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult.

Chess Club. 4 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn openings, strategies, tactics, and more. Players paired with others of

THURSDAY/OCT. 1

Jammin' Book Party. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

Explore fun stories and games. Snacks provided. Age 9-12.

FRIDAY/OCT. 2

Movie Night in the Campground.

7-9 p.m. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, Join in the fun of Movie Night by watching Ghostbusters at the Campground at Burke Lake Park this fall.

An Afternoon with Tim Federle.

4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Tim Federle, author of books for middle graders including Better Nate Than Ever and its sequel, Five, Six, Seven, Nate! Books available for sale and signing.

SATURDAY/OCT. 3

Concerts from Kirkwood Season

Opener. 3 p.m. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. New Yorkbased pianist Martin Soderberg presenting an exciting program of music by Spanish and Latin composers.

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. Six (6) raffle tickets Bronze-\$2,500

- · Signage at golf bag drop
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- Two (2) golfers
- · Four (4) raffle tickets · Color logo on event banner displayed at banquet
- . Opportunity to present skills competition
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Sports

Lake Braddock Football Holds Off Robinson Rally

Bruins build 21-0 halftime lead, improve to 3-0.

> By Jon Roetman The Connection

fter outscoring Lee and Annandale 109-0 in its first two games, the Lake Braddock football team appeared on its way to a third consecutive lopsided victory when the Bruins entered halftime of Friday's rivalry contest against Robinson with a threetouchdown lead.

But thanks to a conservative second-half approach by Lake Braddock and a pair of fourth-quarter touchdown passes by Robinson, a potential blowout turned into an early-season test for the Bruins.

Robinson tight end Mason Velasquez's second touchdown reception pulled the Rams within a single score with 32 seconds remaining, but Lake Braddock recovered the ensuing onside kick and held on for a 21-14 victory on Sept. 18 at Robinson Secondary School.

LAKE BRADDOCK improved to 3-0, while Robinson fell to 1-2.

The Lake Braddock defense held opponents scoreless for the first 11 quarters of the season before surrendering two touchdowns to Robinson in Friday's final 10 minutes. The Bruins also failed to score in the second half after producing 130 points in the season's first 10 quarters.

"We killed them early," Lake Braddock junior running back/safety Lamont Atkins said. "Offensive line did great, defense did great, we all did great, but then in the second half we had a couple mental errors. ... It shouldn't have been close, but, as I said, we had a couple mental breakdowns."

The Bruins built a 21-0 halftime lead with a run-heavy offense. Lake Braddock continued to pound the ball on the ground in the second half, but found limited success.

After the game, Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress wondered whether the Bruins should have turned to the passing game in the second half.

"Maybe I got too conservative - run it down, run the clock down," Poythress said. "We probably should have spread them out at that point and chucked it. We had them about to break, and I just wanted to stay with what we were doing. [The Robinson defense loaded] it up and [that] makes it hard to run."

Meanwhile, Robinson started creeping back into the game. Rams quarterback Alex Miller rolled to his left and connected with Velasquez for a 16-yard touchdown with 9:38 remaining, cutting the Lake Braddock lead to 21-7.

Later, after stopping the Bruins on fourth and 2 with less than 2 minutes remaining, the Rams needed 41 seconds to drive 93 yards in five plays, cutting the Lake let his speed take over," Poythress said. "I



Lake Braddock defenders Andrew Niedringhaus (44), Daniel Dinges (51), Asa Ward (3) and Ibrahim Mansaray (25) swarm Robinson ball carrier Dajon Lee during Friday's game at Robinson Secondary School.

Lake Braddock's David Fofi (2) and Peyton Scott celebrate Fofi's secondquarter touchdown reception during the Bruins' 21-14 win over Robinson on Sept. 18.

Braddock lead to seven when Miller hit thought he did a good job." Velasquez for a 30-yard touchdown.

Poythress said he could sense nervousness on the Lake Braddock sideline late in the

"They need to develop confidence and they need to learn how to put people away," he said. "When we can do that, we'll have a good team. Until then, we're just a pretty good team."

The Bruins held on to win, recovering the ensuing onside kick and running out the clock with three kneel downs.

Lake Braddock ran the ball 36 times for 108 yards and two touchdowns.

"I would describe it as smash-mouth football," Atkins said. "We just let our linemen do what they need to do and they did a great job today. We just did what we do best."

Atkins finished with 11 carries, often times taking a direct snap, and a team-high 72 yards. His 5-yard touchdown run with 35 seconds remaining in the first half gave Lake Braddock a 21-0 lead.

"We've been after him to run harder and

Edwards carried 17 times for 18 yards and a touchdown.

"Smash mouth," is how Edwards described Lake Braddock's running game. "Up front, it's a mentality that we want to impose on the other team. This was a great test for us playing a traditional, perennial runner like Robinson, just to see how we can match up and can we run the ball. Obviously, I think we can run the ball on them, but this is just a piece of the plan trying to run the ball down in the playoffs."

Edwards completed 10 of 17 passes for 97 yards and a touchdown. He was intercepted once.

Lake Braddock took a 7-0 lead on its first possession, when Edwards punched it in from 1 yard with 2:07 remaining in the opening quarter. The Bruins traveled 64 yards in 12 plays, using 4 minutes, 38 sec-

Robinson's ensuing possession ended with a lost fumble, and Lake Braddock responded with a five-play, 52-yard drive, ending with an 11-yard touchdown pass from Edwards

"We killed them early. Offensive line did great, defense did great, we all did great, but then in the second half we had a couple mental errors. ... It shouldn't have been close, but, as I said, we had a couple mental breakdowns."

> — Lake Braddock junior **Lamont Atkins**

to David Fofi with 9:41 left in the second

Robinson lost another fumble at its own 14-yard line late in the first half and Lake Braddock capitalized with a 5-yard touchdown run by Atkins, extending its lead to

The Rams fumbled four times in the first half, losing two.

"We were our own worst enemy in the first half," Robinson head coach Scott Vossler said, "but you've got to give a lot of credit to Lake Braddock."

ROBINSON, a wing-T team that relies heavily on the ground game, generated points through the passing game in the fourth quarter. Miller did not attempt a pass in the first half and missed on both his thirdquarter throws. The junior completed 4 of 9 attempts in the fourth quarter for 109 yards and two touchdowns, with Velasquez on the receiving end of all four completions.

"We work on that stuff all the time," Vossler said about the passing game. "We obviously want to do it on our own terms instead of when people force us to do it. It's something that we're open to doing if we feel like we've got that advantage. Quite honestly, I think [Lake Braddock's] secondary is pretty good and I think they might have got lulled to sleep a little bit just by not having to cover a whole lot throughout the game. I've seen those guys on film, and I think we might have got lucky a little bit tonight there at the end doing that stuff."

Robinson ran the ball 37 times for 131 yards. Dajon Lee finished with a team-high 52 yards on nine carries. Sean Foncha rushed 14 times for 36 yards, Roman Lowery carried eight times for 23 yards and Miller rushed six times for 20 yards.

Robinson defensive back Wes Richmond and linebacker Tyler Iriondo intercepted passes.

Lake Braddock will travel to face West Potomac at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25. Robinson will host Oakton.

"Honestly, 109-0 sounds great," Edwards said, "but being tested is what's going to help you go on in the playoffs."

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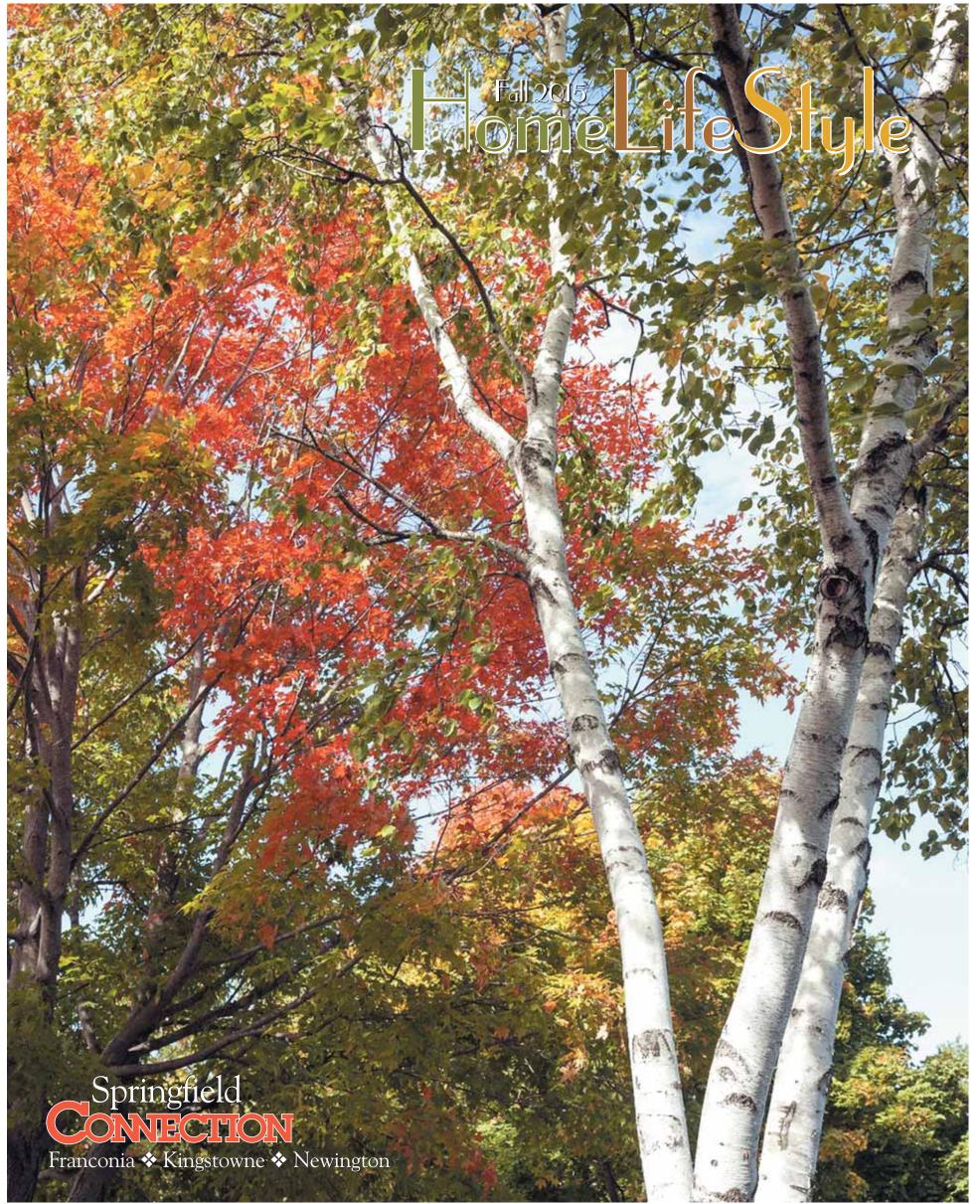
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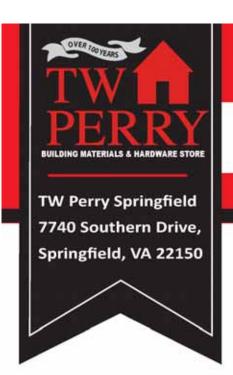




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BOWA kitchen renovation in Arlington features under-counter microwave and beverage center.



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-

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 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.



Renovated home office by BOWA features space for the whole family.

Evolution of a Family Home

By John Byrd

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

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



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..

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 Remodeling, the Carters nursed their vision 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-bot-

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-footby-36-foot swimming pool installed on their The Carters purchased the original production house in 1998 and have steadily made focused improvequarter 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

> > professionals, sought improvements to the

suite, introducing a

sizable master bath

with a walk-in shower

and changing vesti-

designed so that one

dress and slip off to

work without rousing

the other partner,

who might be still

beautifully today."

More recently,

college, the Carters,

Not surprisingly, the core problem was the all generations. home's original floor plan. During this same time period, Paul and Laurie, both working

able outdoor dining zone."

poolside setting.

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 second floor master room to the left.

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 comfort-

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 bule. The plan was was, likewise, bordered by cabinets on two sides. To the left, one entered the family partner could shower, 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 sucomfortable for both pervised the Carter's most recent remodelof us," Laurie says, ing.

"Something as simple as custom-designed "and it still works cabinets can inspire a completely new, and much more functional, floor plan," Fleming Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming exwhen Austin left for says.

"Once the Carters were satisfied that the **exposed decking. Two overhead** 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 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 evelevel cabinet clutter has been deleted, Fleming says there's actually been a 35 percent increase in storage capacity.

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 in evidence.

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

dining niche now becomes a viewing area adjacent to a recently installed flat screen TV. window has been replaced with a With the addition of two overhead rotating fans, the new outdoor space is both intimately con-

> linked to the pool and well-landscaped setting. "We couldn't be more pleased with how well the house has evolved over the years," says Laurie. "We look forward to living here long into the future."

> > John Byrd has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years. See more stories at www.HomeFrontsNews.com



Design's Jeremy Fleming created the opportunity for a different floorplan.

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

nected to the house and visually

lively visual continuum."



HOME RENOVATION VIRTUAL REALITY

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.

3. no longer owned or known

2. not appreciated or understood.



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the home's rear suite of rooms with its lovely that innovative storage solutions would three-part glazing solution consistmake it possible to further develop a special ing of a 45-inch picture window

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



tended the shed roof to cover sun-

The home's unfinished lower-level was converted into a spacious family room and fitness center complete with a billiards table and media viewing area.

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HomeLifeStyle Condo Living Ideal for Recent Retirees

A pair of luxury baths add comfort and charm to 30-year old unit.

By John Byrd

ne of the challenges of modern retirement is creating a space that will serve for the long term; another is stretching the budget.

Approaching retirement, Kathleen David explored both of the these considerations recently with husband when they decided to sell their multi-level townhouse and find a suitable one-level living option. The goal was a condominium that could be obtained at a favorable price and upgraded within a

Accustomed to urban living, the couple mainly wanted freedom from stairs, available parking, and a spot for a favorite China

"We were quite satisfied with our choice," Kathleen says of the 1,300-square-foot-unit in an 11-story, 30 year old Crystal City complex. "But after we had been in residence for about a year, we started looking for contractors to help us upgrade the master bath, which was terribly dated."

What came as a surprise as interviews got under way was how few contractors were willing or able to work in a condominium.

"There are lots of restrictions," Kathleen recalls. They learned that remodeling a room in a condo can take 20-to-30 percent longer than it takes to a complete a comparable project in a single family home. "Several well-known firms wouldn't even meet with us," she said.

As such, Sarah Wolf at Foster Remodeling Solutions headquartered in Lorton was a breath of fresh air.

"We hit it off right away," Kathleen says. "She understood condo remodeling challenges completely.

So much so, in fact, that the single full bathroom slated for improvement became two, and the interior design ideas grew progressively more sophisticated.

"Condos have always been interesting to me— partly because they require very precise space plans," Wolf says. "In a tight footprint, inches make all the difference and the design effects that add to that crucial sense of spaciousness must be expertly executed. Professionally, it's exhilarating to design out of the picture the apparent limitations in a room, so that only thing an owner is aware of is how attractive the space is, and how well it works."

Beginning with a "style preferences" slide show narrated by Kathleen (who had stockpiled ideas for close to a year), Wolf began by grappling with an unyieldingly compact 220 square feet that could not be enlarged in any direction.

Removing a wall between the vanity and tub in the master bathroom, for instance, added just two inches of floor space, yet the half-wall and frameless glass space di-



The black and white art deco-style ceramic basketweave pattern for the shower prevents slipping. As an aging-in-place consideration, Wolf, of Foster Remodeling, found room for an in-shower bench and grab bars. A hand-held shower head on a slide bar adjusts to the owners' different height requirements.



A blue-grey-black Cambria quartz counter top has been color-coordinated with vanity cabinet facings lacquered in a black-brush-applied mushroom gray stain.



Recognizing that inches count in a tight footprint that can't be expanded, Sarah Wolf at Foster Remodeling Solutions gained just two inches of floor space by removing a wall between the vanity and the tub (left); the half-wall and frameless glass space divider that now surrounds the newly installed walk-in shower (right) invites line of sight hat previously didn't exist.

vider that now surrounds the newly installed walk-in shower invites a visual continuum that previously didn't exist.

More to the point, Wolf's softly textured interior design scheme provides the eye with something to enjoy, and narrow spaces now seem much wider.

"Alternation and balance are important when working with small spaces," says Wolf. "In effect, you have a three dimensional canvas formed by walls, floors, ceiling, and each side is a critical part of the whole. When the design statement is well-made, the finished space feels peaceful, pleasant, a room you want to spend time in. Size becomes unimportant."

That said, Wolf applied considerable engineering skill in designing built-ins to satisfy precisely-measured storage require-

"There was nothing but an open cabinet under the vanity before," Kathleen says. "Sarah designed appropriately-sized drawers, shelves and recessed a storage spaces

The single full bathroom slated for improvement became two, and the interior design ideas grew progressively more sophisticated.

> MORE: Foster Design will be at the Capital Home Show at the Dulles Expo Center Sept. 25-27 in booth 540-542, and is also offering a free remodeling and design seminar at their Lorton facility on Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. RSVP@FosterRemodeling.com or call 703-550-1371.

for everything. The new sense of order has been wonderful."

As an aging-in-place consideration, Wolf found room for an in-shower bench and grab bars. A hand-held shower head on a slide bar adjusts to the owners' different height requirements.

"Everything has been carefully tailored to our needs," says Kathleen. "We feel fortunate to have gotten such a winning result."

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years. See more stories at www.HomeFrontsNews.com.

Elegant Organization

Experts offer tips to keep your home and family organized all school year long.

> BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE CONNECTION

esign elements can make maintaining organization throughout the school year elegant and stylish as the activities start to aggregate, notices pile up and calendars start to fill.

"Designate a location for baskets for each family member, such as the entryway or mudroom, and use them daily to keep mail [and] school notices ... organized and in one place," said Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors. Meyer used this technique in a Potomac, Maryland home recently.

"Consider a couple baskets for each person, one for notices and one for objects such as toys that can be taken to designated spaces throughout the day."

It makes life easier on everyone, even the smallest family members. "I also like to keep my kids' different items for activities in tote bags or bins in our mudroom area," said Jody Al-Saigh of Picture Perfect Organizing in Arlington. "They can quickly grab what they need for soccer or Girl Scouts on their way out the door, rather than searching all over the house for stray items.

"We make it a rule that those items always live in the designated bag or bin," said Al-Saigh. "If uniforms are washed or water bottles cleaned, for example, they are returned to that area when they are clean."

A home's entryway often becomes a depository for shoes, hats, gloves and other items that are removed when busy families come home after a long day. Simple shelving can offer a solution with aesthetic appeal, especially with mounds of clutter.

"If there's space within an entry closet, install shelving along the top for hats, gloves and miscellaneous seasonal items so they can be reached easily and not fall out each time you open the door," said Elle Hunter, director of project development, Case De"Consider a couple baskets for each person, one for notices and one for objects such as toys that can be taken to designated spaces throughout the day."

sign/Remodeling. "If there is currently a single shelf but room for another, consider hiring a handyman to add that extra storage. It will go a long way."

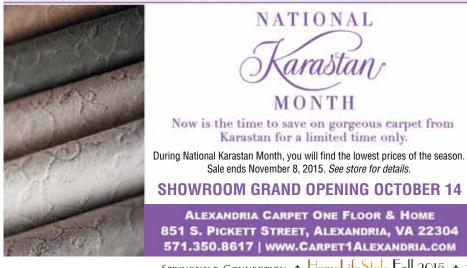
For larger or double entry closets, consider installing storage bins or shelves for shoes and boots. "There are shoe trays that can work in a pinch, but also consider building in shelving for bonus organization," said Hunter. "In one instance, we installed closets around a bench in a home for ... ultimate ... entryway organization."

If you don't have a closet in the entryway. invest in a hall tree with hooks or a bench with storage, advises Hunter. "These can often be built into an underused space or under the staircase," she said.

The kitchen is often a hub of a busy family's activities. Afternoon snacks are simplified with latest in kitchen and appliance design including beverage drawers or centers. "They make it easy for young ones to grab a juice box or healthy drink by themselves," said Brian Knipp, remodeling consultant with Fred, a division of Case Remodeling. "Consider installing these if you're planning a kitchen remodel any time soon."









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Diversification Could Help Real Estate Market

Home sales have increased, particularly in Fairfax County, which saw a 22 percent uptick.

> By Andrea Worker THE CONNECTION

ienna-based realtor Craig Lilly with Long and Foster agreed with how Ken Harney, the moderator for the 2015 Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) Economic Summit, described the current year's market trends at the gathering earlier this month at the Fairview Park Marriott.

"His assessment of 2015 is on target with what I am experiencing," said Lilly. "So far,

Harney, a nationally-syndicated columnist, categorized 2013 as the "rebound year" when sales and house prices seemed to be back on a roll after years of post-recession doldrums. Then 2014 started out impressively strong as well, but mid-year the market became more "restrained."

"Last Spring things were rocking," said Lilly. "I think that caused some sellers to price too aggressively too quickly in a market that was changing. That certainly had an effect on the slowdown we saw for the rest of the year."

The data for 2015 is on Harney's side. Home sales have increased, particularly in Fairfax County, which saw a 22 percent uptick in sales. Figures just released by Real Estate Business Intelligence report the second-highest level of August sales since 2006, with inventories remaining fairly healthy and time-on-the-market about equal with the same period last year. The August report also showed the average sales price of single-family homes down slightly (.02 percent), while the average price of attached homes and condominiums rose slightly.

But even those positive numbers didn't keep the summit's panellists from making presentations that leaned decidedly towards the cautionary, for both short-term real estate transactions, and the future economic health of the region.

LOOMING ON THE HORIZON is the spectre of another potential government shutdown if Congress fails to pass even a temporary budget by the end of the month. Describing the region as a "company town," and as such, somewhat "vulnerable" to Congressional activity, panellist Dr. Terry Clower, director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis. said he wouldn't discount the possibility of a shutdown, despite the insistence of others that neither political party would tolerate that turn of events. Additional sequestration during a Presidential election year is also possible, he said. With a laughing



From left - Jonathan Aberman of TandemNSI, Jill Landsman, NVAR VP of Communications, and summit moderator Ken Harney at the 19th Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Economic Summit.



Dr. Terry Clower, director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, provided detailed data on area employment figures, income, job sector changes and more during the Economic Summit. There was considerable note taking during his presentation.

acknowledgement of his "slight accent - I am from Texas," Clower reminded the audience that for a "good lump of the rest of the country, a government shutdown is not seen as a such a bad thing."

But for a region where almost 40 percent of the economy is directly related to federal wages and salaries, procurement and other federal activity, Clower's analogy of the "company town's" vulnerability seems right on target.

The seemingly endless "Federal Reserve Watch" for interest rate hikes was also discussed by Clower, and by Dr. Lawrence Yun, chief economist with the National Association of Realtors.

"A rate increase is coming, probably sooner rather than later, before the end of the year," predicted Yun, but he also believes that any increase will not have an immediate impact on mortgage rates.

That's an opinion that Weichert Realtors Fair Oaks managing director Lorraine Arora



Rob Whitfield, a member of several regional transportation citizens' groups including the Dulles Corridor Users Group, asks a question of the panellists.

shares. "People will still be buying and selling. I think the current situation continues to make people a bit cautious, as Yun suggests, but I agree that we probably won't see much impact on mortgage rates, at least for awhile," said Arora.

Lilly was more struck by Yun's powerpoints showing homeownership at a 50-year low combined with rental vacancies at a 30-year low and rents at a sevenyear high. "There's some things to be thinking about as a Realtor, and really as anyone living and working in this area," he added.

In Yun's research, millennials - who currently represent a large portion of the renters - are actually the most confident about the housing situation, and despite the many obstacles to their entering the market, the majority want to eventually become homeowners. Their achievement of that goal is crucial, according to Yun, who noted that the net worth of homeowners tends to exceed that of renters.

One positive note on real estate trends by Yun that the Realtor attendees appreciated was his belief that the "trade-up" market would probably see an improvement, with potential buyers having more cash-inhand from their current homes' sales with which to make the move. The figures show that many homes that had fallen below their original purchase price have at the least returned to parity, and in many cases even seen a modest increase in value.

Back on the subject of the "company town" dependency, Clower and Yun both argued that diversification of job sectors is critical to the region's future economic success, requiring greater regional cooperation.

SPEAKING OF ROBOTS, drones, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and the "We Work" models of sharing work, living spaces and resources, Jonathan Aberman, chairman of TandemNSI, focused on technological trends and how they would affect our daily lives. Aberman said that any region that doesn't prepare for these changes with an emphasis on affordably "educating people on how to think, rather than just how to do" will be quickly left behind.

Aberman said that more effort is needed to keep the federal dollars spent on technology and related research here at home. "We need to be encouraging our next generation of 'gazelles,' what we call our fastgrowth companies and entrepreneurs. And we need to consider that these people will be more interested in data-ways than highways when considering their work options."

To Aberman, that includes rethinking the number of "trophy offices" under construction and in the pipeline. He worries about over-building in commercial properties that sit empty for so long that they cease to be Class A buildings. Before they can be occupied, many are already not up to par for the next wave of change, either technologically, or culturally speaking, he said.

Lorraine Arora tends to agree with Aberman's concerns. "Look at the commercial vacancy rates in Arlington, as just one example," she said. She was also fascinated by Aberman's predictions on technology's influence on society in the very near future.

"It's a little concerning," she said. Technology is good, but I hope we don't get to the point where people just don't leave their homes."