

Senior Living

OCTOBER 2015



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Senior Living: Senior Olympics Results

Bridge, Cribbage, Mah Jongg, Scrabble, Wii and Ten Pin Bowling

Gold medal winners in duplicate bridge, cribbage, Mah Jongg, scrabble, Wii bowling and ten pin bowling, which took place during the 2015 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Sept. 12-25: **Duplicate bridge** winners of gold medals are (North-South Pairs), Lucy McCoy, Annandale, Martha Lackey, McLean; (East-West Pairs), Carol Aitken, Sterling, Fern Wallmer, Potomac Falls. Winner of a gold medal in **cribbage** was Mark Wever, Springfield, and in **scrabble**, Jennifer Frum, Arlington.

Wii bowling gold medalists were (women) 60-69, Fran Dudick, Arlington,

70-79, Sara Mason, Springfield, 80-89, Helen Mool, Springfield, 90-99, Vivian Mitchell, Springfield; (men) 60-69, Joseph Simpson, Alexandria, 70-79, Ed Ladd, Potomac Falls, 80-89, Lawrence Earl, Springfield, and 90-99, Henry Stawicki, Burke. (Note: 99-year-old Ray Kaminski, Springfield, won a silver medal.)

Gold medalists in **10 pin bowling** were (women), 65-69, Audrey Huthwaite, Springfield, 70-74, Sandra Graves, McLean, 75-79, Lourdes Rosales, Reston, 80-84, Barbara Williams, Herndon, 85-89, Winnie Tegge, Alexandria, 90-94, Eve Sorensen, Alex; (men) 60-64, Allan Dosik, Arlington, 65-69, Edward Dizon, Springfield, 70-74,

Jesse Barron, Woodbridge, 75-79, Marvin Smyth, Woodbridge, 80-84, Robert Layne, Springfield and 85-89, Leonard Kalkwarf, Springfield.

Basketball, Eight & Nine Ball Pool

Basketball free throws, field goals and 3 on 3 games took place at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington as part of the 2015 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Eight ball pool and nine ball pool (new event) were held at The Revolution Darts & Billiards Grille in Fairfax.

Gold medalists in **free throws** were (women) 50-59, Erin McKenney, Annandale, 70-79, Mary Lou D'Alessandris, Falls Church, 80-89, Sheila Gildea, McLean; (men) 50-59,

Philip Martinson, Fairfax, 60-69, Robert Smith, Gainesville, 70-79, Peter McGuirk, Arlington, 80-89, George Arvan, Fairfax. **Field goals** gold medalists were (women), 50-59, Erin McKenney, Annandale, 70-79, Mary Lou D'Alessandris, Falls Church, 80-89, Sheila Gildea; (men), 50-59, Peter Martinson, Fairfax, 60-69, Sam Slowinsky, Gainesville, 70-79, Allan Kellum, McLean, 80-89, George Arvan, Fairfax.

Four men's **basketball teams** competed. Winning gold medals were 50-59, Metro All Stars, Richard Suggs, Alexandria, Charles Harris, Alexandria, George Hall, Woodbridge, Adrian Lewis, Quantico, Eugene Thomas,

Woodbridge, Jose Lechuga, Dumfries; 70+, Virginians, Paul Peck, McLean, Peter Stackhouse, Alexandria, Sam Kountoupes, McLean, Peter McGuirk, Arlington and Leonard Upson, Washington.

Winning gold medals in **eight ball pool** were (women) 50-59, Danita Moses, Alexandria, 60-69, Shelly Wade, Arlington, 80-89, Elizabeth Roadcap, Ashburn; (men) 50-59, Mike Moon Fairfax, 60-69, Carroll Howard, Leesburg, 70-79, Clifford Nolan, Bristow, 80-89, Joseph Clement, Springfield; **nine ball pool**, (women) 60-69, Shelley Wade, Arlington, 80-89, Edwina Shelahl, Arlington; (men) 50-59, Kevin Cooper, Fairfax, 60-69, Vic Bukowski, Fairfax, 70-79, James Westray, Arlington and 80-89, Joseph Griffin, Springfield.

Handball, Racquetball and Pickleball

The Audrey Moore Recreation Center, Annandale, was the site of the 2015 **handball and racquetball** competition in the 2015 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Three days of pickleball competition was held at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. Gold medalists in **handball singles** were, 60-64, David Fleming, Alexandria, 70-74, Karl Lady, Alexandria, 75-79, Lewis Moore, Fairfax; **doubles, all ages** David Fleming, Alexandria, and Leven Gray, Fairfax. **Racquetball** gold medalists were (women), 50-54, Bethany Grigsby, Lorton; (men), 60-69, William Bouie, Reston, 70-79, Melvin Jones, Woodbridge.

Pickleball, which is similar to tennis with a shorter net, singles (women), 60-69, Judy Aw, Falls Church, 70-79, Sun Y. Yang, Arlington, 80-89, Betty De La Cruz, Arlington; (men) 50-59, Franz Roland, Arlington, 60-69, Michael Thayer, Arlington, 70-79, Donald Tomb, Arlington, 80-89, Horacio Reyes, Arlington. **Pickleball doubles medalists**, women, 50-59, Carolyn Mobley and Roxanne Tigh, Arlington, 70-79, Jo Ferry, Alexandria and Sun Y. Yang, Arlington, 80-89, Alease Brooks and Betty De La Cruz, Arlington; (men) 50-59, Corey Chamness, Falls Church, Stephen Nurre, Annandale, 60-69, Michael Knight, Falls Church, Michael Thayer, Arlington, 70-79, Donald Tomb, Arlington and Jerry Bigenho, Arlington. **Pickleball mixed doubles**, gold medalists, Mary Rousselot and Corwin Umbach, Arlington, 70-79, Sun Y. Yang, and Herb Levitan, Arlington, 80-89, Alease Brooks and Horacio Reyes, Arlington.

Volleyball, Golf, Mini Golf

Seven women's and five men's **volleyball** teams competed in the 2015 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, held recently at the Chinn Aquatics and Fitness Center in Woodbridge.

Gold medalists were, women, 50-54, Keep Swinging team members Bertha Otoy, Sterling, Maritza Serrano, Falls Church, Maria Barrientos, Alexandria, Olga Navarro, Alexandria, Gloria Ruiz, Springfield, Elizabeth Taylor, Alexandria, 55-59, Play To Win members, Berdette Colbert, Berlin, Sara Abarca, Falls Church, Betty Sifuentes, Centreville, Constance Lindsley, Arlington, Maria Dodd, Vienna, Jean Zamora, Woodbridge, 60-64, VB-Diggers members, Melanie Morton, Reston, Gloria Pinto, Falls Church, Judy Olson, Fairfax, Laura Ponder, Manassas, Kristi Nickerson, Reston, Carmela Miller, Arlington; men, 50-54, Dewey Burns team members, Michael Ryan, Annandale, Peter Silins, Darnestown, William Hazard, Alexandria, Gregory Sadosuk, Fairfax, Lamar Dougherty, Fairfax, Keith Pierce, Gainesville, Kim Grubbs, Annandale; 55-59, Hawkeye team, Annandale.

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Senior Living

819 Compete in Local Senior Olympics

Pickleball closes out two-weeks of Olympic events

By Emily Rabbit t
The Connection

With more than 40 events ranging from Scrabble to shotput, the Senior Olympics was conducted across Northern Virginia at two dozen locations ranging from Loudoun County to Arlington and around Fairfax; 819 Northern Virginia seniors participated in this year's games.

Volunteers met with parks and recreation staff in Arlington County, the City of Alexandria, the City of Fairfax, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Loudoun County, Fauquier County, and Prince William County nearly year-round to plan and execute the games.

Pickleball singles at the Thomas Jefferson Recreation Center in Arlington was one of the final events concluding the two-week Northern Virginia Senior Olympics on Sept. 25.

Volunteer Irene McDonnell explained the appeal of pickleball: "Tennis players love to switch to pickleball when they've had a few joints replaced."

Judy Aw started that way: "I was a tennis player, but after I had rotator cuff surgery I wasn't able to serve overhead. My neighbor plays pickleball, so that's how I started." Aw took first prize in the over 60 age group, and talked with her opponent, Charlotte Hicks, at length after their match, trading information on their favorite places to play. Pickleball combines the challenge and athleticism of tennis in a badminton-sized court with wooden paddles similar to table tennis. The ball used is akin to a wiffle ball. Depending on the players, it can look like leisurely volley, or a heated court battle.

Alease Brooks and Betty de la Cruz, both of Arlington, faced off for the 80 and up singles competition, but earlier in the week they took the gold for doubles together.



Judy Aw of Falls Church takes gold as Charlotte Hicks looks on for 60-plus pickleball singles.

Photos Contributed

Brooks loves pickleball, walking, and anything else that gets her out and moving around. On exercising into her golden years Brooks said, "It's done wonders for me — it keeps my mind clear, gets me doing things for other people. I don't take any medication but an aspirin. Exercise is the key to everything. Do it while you can, that's what I say."

USA Pickleball Association Mid-Atlantic Ambassador Helen White can't say enough



Alease Brooks (left) and Betty de la Cruz, both of Arlington, take the gold medals in 80-plus pickleball singles.

Record-Breaking Registration

"For the fourth year in a row, the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics can report a substantial increase in registration," said Northern Virginia Senior Olympics chairman David Jerome of Burke.

The total registration is 815, up from 772 in 2014 and up from 75 in 1982, when the event first started.

The opening ceremony of the 2015 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Saturday, Sept. 12, took place at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, in Arlington. Taking part in the opening ceremonies were T.C. Williams High School Army JROTC Color Guard, Alexandria; Debbi Miller, 2013 Ms. Senior America-Virginia, who sang the National Anthem; and torch bearer, Dr. Charles Toftoy, Arlington.

Mary Hughes Hynes, Arlington County Board chairman, welcomed athletes from the sponsoring jurisdictions. Jerome recognized William Bouie, chairman, and Ken Quincy, vice chairman, Fairfax County Park Authority and Jennifer Collins, acting program manager, Office of Senior Adult Programs, Arlington's Department of Parks and Recreation plus gold and silver sponsors who support and promote NVSO throughout the year.

about the game. A court sport enthusiast who splits her time between facilitating pickleball and basketball for all ages and especially the 50 and up set, White is passionate about finding ways for mature adults to play — from piloting a seated pickleball league for patients at Walter Reed to lobbying to get underutilized outdoor courts lined for pickleball use. She's always advocating that senior citizens and pickleball are a great match.

"It's a great way to stay active, have fun, get some fitness, and make friends," White said, pointing out that it's a relatively low cost sport to get involved with, with paddles costing \$15 and up, depending on the seriousness of one's level of play. Senior centers and community centers across Northern Virginia include accessible options for people to participate in pickleball and other activities.

Get in touch with the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics Committee through its website at www.nvso.us to find out how to participate in or contribute to next year's event.

NVSO Gold Medalists

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drew Levy, Crofton, Erik Johnson, Arlington, Paul White, Centreville, Rodney Anderson, Manassas, William Bell, Alexandria, David Moss, Arlington and Glenn King, Springfield.

The Montclair Country Club in Dumfries hosted the NVSO **golf competition** for the first time and players competed in five year age groups by gender. Gold medalists were women, 60-64, Becki Davis, Sumerduck, 65-69, Kathryn Chandler, Falls Church, 75-79, Nancy Huff, Woodbridge; men, 55-59, Mark Wuckovich, Springfield, 65-69, Gary Usrey, Arlington, 70-74, Craig Olson, Arlington, 75-79, Lawrence Dawson, Dumfries, 80-84,

Larry Lasik, Herndon and 85-89, Marvin Reed, Oak Hill.

Miniature golf gold medalists were women, 50-59, Sheila Beard, McLean,

60-69, Judy Landolt-Korn, Clifton, 70-79, Barbara Klementz, Annandale, 80-89, Patricia Gallagher, Springfield; men, 50-59, Jon Woodyatt, Fairfax, 60-69, Steve Ferguson, Vienna, 70-79, Erwin Stierle, Vienna and 80-89, Charles Toftoy, Arlington.

Field Events, Tennis and Table Tennis

Field events were held at the Stone Bridge High School in Ashburn. Gold medalists in the **high jump** were (men), 60-64, Steven Kopp, Arlington, 65-69, Gerard Nezet, Arlington, 70-74, Parviz Youseffi, Gainesville, 75-79, Bernard Stamm, Ashburn; **standing long jump**, (women) 50-54, Bethany Grisby, Lorton, 55-59, Keg Good, Woodbridge, 60-64, Hannah Phillips, Alexandria, 70-74, Gail Johnson, Gainesville, 80-85, Alease Brooks, Arlington; (men) 60-64, Douglas Hill, Woodbridge, 65-69, Douglas Hastings, Alexandria, 70-74, Parviz Yousseffi, Gainesville, 75-79, Carlos

Rodriguez, 80-84, Elmer Primo, Arlington, 85-89, Leonard Kalkwarf, Springfield; **running long jump**, (women) 50-54, Sheila Beard, McLean, 55-59, Kathleen Wilson, Springfield, 60-64, Hannah Phillips, Alexandria, 70-74, Gail Johnson, Gainesville, 80-84, Alease Brooks, Arlington; (men) 65-69, Douglas Hastings, Alexandria, 70-74, Donald Meli, Annandale, 75-79, Carlos Rodriguez, 80-84, Elmer Primo, Arlington and 85-89, Leonard Kalkwarf, Springfield.

In the **mini javelin event**, gold medalists were (women) 50-54, Maureen Pan, Alexandria, 55-59, Sue Hedges, Ashburn, 60-64, Hannah Phillips, Alexandria, 70-74, Gail Johnson, Gainesville, 75-79, Angela Fernandez, Burke, 85-89, Elizabeth Martin, Falls Church; (men) 50-54, William Johnson, Arlington, 55-59, Craig Day, Falls Church, 60-64, Douglas Hill, Woodbridge, 65-69, Eiji Yasuhara, Sterling, 70-74, Thomas Sullivan, Oakton, 75-79, Carlos Rodriguez, Dumfries, 80-84, Jerry Bradley, Oakton and 85-89, Leonard Kalkwarf, Spring-

field. **shot put**, (women) 50-54, Maureen Pan, Alexandria, 55-59, Kathleen Wilson, Springfield, 75-79, Angela Fernandez, Burke; (men) 50-54, Mitchell Frid, Broadlands, 55-59, Craig Day, Falls Church, 60-64, Douglas Hill, Woodbridge, 70-74, Thomas Sullivan, Oakton, 75-79, Roger Webb, Ashburn, 80-84, Jerry Bradley, Oakton, 85-89, Harold Mueller, Oakton; **discus**, (women) 50-54, Maureen Pan, Alexandria, 55-59, Sue Hedges, Ashburn, 65-69, Margaret Rodriguez, Dumfries, 70-74, Gail Johnson, Gainesville, 75-79, Angela Fernandez, Burke, 85-89, Elizabeth Martin, Falls Church; (men) 50-54, William Johnson, Arlington, 55-59, Craig Day, Falls Church, 60-64, Douglas Hill, Woodbridge, 65-69, Eiji Yasuhara, Sterling, 70-74, Thomas Sullivan, Oakton, 75-79, Carlos Rodriguez, Dumfries, 80-84, Jerry Bradley, Oakton and 85-89, Leonard Kalkwarf, Spring-

field. The Charles Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria was the site of the **table tennis** competition. Gold medalists were (women) 50-59, Jenny Lang, McLean, 60-69, Jieying Shi, Chantilly, 70-79, Sun Y. Yang, Arlington, 80-89, Betty De La Cruz, Arlington; (men) 50-59, Larry Kirk, Woodbridge, 60-69, Shaw Zee, Fairfax Station, 70-79, John Papp, Nokesville and 80-89, Edward Scchio, Dumfries. Wakefield District Park, Annandale, hosted three days of **tennis competition, singles** 70-79 (women), Sun Y. Yang, Arlington; (men) 70-79, John Lisack, Woodbridge, 80-89, Robert Shellhouse, Alexandria; **doubles** (women), 50-59, Luanne Lohr, Arlington, 60-69, Jacqueline Lawrence, Arlington, 80-89, Kelly McCaffery, Springfield; (men) 50-59, Mark Matsko and James Callan, Arling-

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Senior Living

It Takes a Village

Local groups help seniors socialize, manage everyday tasks.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

When Penelope Roberts, 73, of Alexandria, Virginia, had knee replacement surgery last month, she knew she would be out of commission for several weeks. Although Roberts is divorced and doesn't have any children, she had a network of support in place to drive her to medical and physical therapy appointments, pick up prescriptions and even return a library book.

Several years ago Roberts joined At Home In Alexandria (AHA), a local not-for-profit group, built on the "village" model of community-based aging. Villages are membership-based, nonprofit organizations, run by both volunteers and paid staff, that offer access to services from a network of volunteers like technical support, household maintenance and repairs, social activities and educational opportunities.

Need a new light bulb in your dining room chandelier? Want to see a play or discuss Jane Austen? A village volunteer can help.

"I bought patio furniture and after I struggled for an hour-and-a-half putting together one chair, a volunteer came out and put together all of my patio furniture in almost no time," said Roberts. "These are small things, but if you can't do them for yourself, you want to feel that you can call upon somebody and not feel embarrassed about it."

AHA is one of more than 48 villages around the Washington, D.C., area, according to the Washington Area Villages Exchange (WAVE). The movement, which began in Boston in 2002 with Beacon Hill Village, is on the rise as more seniors express desires to remain in their homes and communities as long as possible.

Volunteers offer services like home repairs and maintenance, transportation, social health and wellness programs, social and educational activities, and fulfill other day-to-day needs, enabling individuals to remain connected to their communities throughout the aging process.

Patricia Sullivan, interim operations manager for Arlington Neighborhood Villages, reports that the organization is growing and

"We can work on a leaky faucet or short-term pet care, we can take care of short-term plant watering needs."

— Cele Garrett, executive director of AHA

adding services at a slow but steady and deliberate pace. In fact, two new services were added in August, "Walking Buddies" and "Friendly Vis-

tors."

"With the friendly visitors service, a volunteer goes over to someone's house to spend time with them," Sullivan said. "There was one instance where a volunteer went over to a member's house to watch a football game with him."

The Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council provides guidance to those in the county who are interested in setting up villages. Interest in the village

concept is on the rise in the county.

"We're definitely seeing growth," said Patricia Rohrer, Village Liason with the Fairfax County Health Department. "I'm seeing a kind of shift where at one time people came together on their own to form a village, now community associations and other similar groups are becoming interested in the village concept and adding it on as a component of their existing organizations."

"We can work on a leaky faucet or short-term pet care, we can take care of short-term plant watering needs," said Cele Garrett, executive director of AHA. "If they need IT support or if they're trying to get their DVR set up ... we can help with that." Garrett says the Washington-area has the highest concentration of villages in the country.



Photo courtesy of At Home In Alexandria
Tom Crowley, Christena Nielsen and Jack Clopper enjoy an At Home in Alexandria picnic.



Photo courtesy of At Home In Alexandria
Ruth Arnold and May Adams join other At Home in Alexandria members at a recent luncheon at a local Virginia restaurant.

Details

For more information about local aging villages:

- Fairfax County: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/ltccc/villages.htm
- Washington Area Villages Exchange (WAVE): wavevillages.org
- Herndon Village Network (HVN): www.herndonvillagenetwork.org
- Lake Barcroft Village: www.lakebarcroftvillage.org
- McLean Community: A Village for All Ages (MCVA): www.mcva.weebly.com
- Braddock District Council Aging in Place Program: wallbdc@gmail.com
- Mount Vernon at Home Village: www.mountvernonathome.org

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS are one of the most vital aspects of village communities. "It's really important for people not become isolated if you want to maintain a healthy outlook on life," said Sheila Moldover, communications chair, Potomac Community Village in Potomac, Maryland. "Social connections add flavor to your life."

In fact, village officials name the social component as one of the most important aspects of their programs. "Our members want to get out and meet people and enjoy themselves," said Roberts. "That is a critically important role that we play."

Activities include trips to local museums, performances, concerts, and lunch and dinner engagements. For example, the Lake Barcroft Village in Fairfax County, Virginia, hosted an author talk with Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Pat Sloyan, who discussed his book, "The Politics of Deception: JFK's Secret Decisions on Vietnam, Civil Rights and Cuba." Later this month, the Arlington (Virginia) Neighborhood Villages Opera Buffs group is hosting a happy hour and discussion of Verdi's "Othello."

THE SERVICES OFFERED vary from village to village and are tailored to meet the specific needs of the local community. For example, in Mount Vernon, transportation is a concern. Barbara Sullivan, executive director of Mount Vernon at Home says that her volunteer drivers provide an average of 100 rides to seniors each month.

"There are virtually no sidewalks and there are hills," said Sullivan. "Transportation is a huge issue for seniors who want to stay in their homes and remain active."

"One day soon we'll be making requests for the same help that we provide," said Steve Nelson of Del Ray, Alexandria, an AHA volunteer. "We've met such incredibly terrific and fascinating people that we never would have met otherwise. That's a great motivator."

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Senior Living

NVSO Gold Medalists

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ton, 60-69, John Lisack, Woodbridge and Gary Scavongelli, Burke, 70-79, Al Grossi and Don Tomb, Arlington and 80-89, Phil Doherty, Burke and Neil Lane, Reston **mixed doubles**, 50-59, Brian Bochiccho, Vienna and Barbara Heard, Oakton, 60-69, Albert and Suellen Grossi, Arlington, 70-79, Bob Howe and Sharon Timmons, Alexandria, 80-89, L. Wayne Bell, Annandale and N. Shaila Zadd, Vienna.

Swimming

Gold medals were awarded and 12 records broken in six swimming events at the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics held at the Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling. In the **half-mile freestyle**, gold medalists were women, 50-54, Maureen Harp, Annandale, 55-59, Sharon O'Neill, Annandale, 60-64, Jieying Shi, Chantilly, 65-69, Carol Mackela, 70-74, Joan Jackson, Lake Ridge, 75-79, Gertruida DeRosa, Springfield; men, 50-54, John Leahy, Springfield, 55-59, Ralph Swiger, Leesburg, 65-69, Bruce Fisher, Fairfax (new record, 70-74, James Leimkuhler, McLean, 75-79, David Nicholas, Oakton, 80-84, Lawrence Cohen, Sterling (new record) and 85-89, Loren Mead, Falls Church.

Freestyle, 100 yards, medalists were women, 50-54, Ellen Rotchford, Arlington (new record), 60-64, Bobbe Duquette, Herndon (new record), 65-69, Charlotte Miller, Ashburn (new record), 75-79, Jane Geison, Haymarket; men, 50-54, John Leahy, Springfield, 55-59, Ralph Swiger, Leesburg, 60-64, Frank Millikan, Woodbridge, 65-69, Bruce Fisher, Fairfax, 70-74, James Leimkuhler, McLean (new record), 75-79, David Nicholas, Oakton (new record), 80-84, Lawrence Cohen, Sterling (new record) and 85-89, Phil Case, Springfield.

In addition, gold medalists in the **50 yard freestyle** event were women, 50-54, Elaine Clancy, McLean, 55-59, Margo Lassiter, Lovettsville, 60-64, Bobbe Duquette, Herndon, 65-69, Charlotte Miller, Ashburn, 70-74, Gail Johnson, Gainesville, 75-79, Jane Geison, Haymarket, 80-84, Mary Simpson, Manassas; men, 50-54, Bill Conover, Purcellville, 55-59, Ralph Swiger, Leesburg, 60-64, Douglas Hill, Woodbridge, 65-69, Kevin Culhane, Lorton, 70-74, James Leimkuhler, McLean, 75-79, John Dineen, Springfield, 80-84, Lawrence Cohen, Sterling and 85-89, Phil Case, Springfield.

In the **50 yard breaststroke** competition, gold medalists were women, 50-54, Elaine Clancy, McLean (new record), 55-59, Margo Lassiter, Lovettsville, 60-64, Jieying Shi, Chantilly, 65-69 Carol Mackela, Arlington, 70-74, Gail Johnson, Gainesville, 75-79, Jane Geison, Haymarket; men, 50-54, John Leahy, Springfield, 55-59, Ralph Swiger, Leesburg, 60-64, Edwin Allen, Arlington, 65-69, Kevin Culhane, Lorton (new record), 70-74, James Leimkuhler, McLean, 75-79, John Dineen, Springfield (new record) and 80-84, Lawrence Cohen, Sterling (new record).

Gold medalists in the **50 yard backstroke** event were women, 50-54, Ellen Rotchford, Arlington, 55-59, Margo Lassiter, Lovettsville, 65-69, Carol Mackela, Arlington, 70-74, Gail Johnson, Gainesville, 75-79, Jane Geison, Haymarket; men, 50-54, John Leahy, Springfield, 55-59, Ralph Swiger, Leesburg, 60-64, Douglas Hill, Woodbridge, 65-69, Kevin Culhane, Lorton, 70-74, James Leimkuhler, 75-79, Leo Deege, Vienna, 80-84, Niel Sween, Vienna and 85-89, Phil Case,

Springfield.

In the **100 yard backstroke** event, women, 50-54, Elaine Clancy, McLean (new record), 65-69, Carol Mackela, Arlington, 75-79, Jane Geison, Haymarket; men, 50-54, John Leahy, Springfield, 55-59, Ralph Swiger, Leesburg, 60-64, Douglas Hill, Woodbridge, 65-69, Bruce Fisher, Fairfax, 70-74, James Leimkuhler, McLean, 75-79, Leo Deege, Vienna, 80-84, Neil Sween, Vienna and 85-89, Phil Case, Springfield.

Mexican Train Dominoes, Bunco, Horseshoes and Bocce

Mexican Train dominoes, bunco, horseshoes and bocce were among the events taking place the first week of the 2015 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Gold medalists in the bocce and horseshoe competition held at the Fairfax Senior Center were, **bocce**, women, 70-79, Dona Hobbs, Lake Ridge, 80-89, Nancy Van Scoyoc; men, 60-69, John Murphy, Fairfax Station, 70-79, Ralph Tapp, Warrenton, 80-89, Lucio D'Andrea, Lake Ridge; horseshoes, women, 60-69, Jackie Peyton, Herndon, 80-89, Margie Miller, Herndon; men, 50-59, Jay Lerch, Manassas, 60-69, Jerome Jackson, Fairfax, 70-79, Carlos Rodriguez, Dumfries and 80-89, Leonard Kalkwarf, Springfield.

Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads was the site of the **Mexican Train dominoes** event. There are no age or gender divisions. Fran Dudick of Arlington was awarded a gold medal.

Bunco is another event where both men and women of all ages over 50 compete together. Winning gold medals at Hollin Hall Senior Center, Alexandria, were 83-year-old Joan Fogarty of Burke and 86-year-old Audrey Drzemiecki of Herndon.

Cycling

Men and women cyclists over the age of 50 competed in the 2015 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, held at the Northern Fauquier Community Park in Marshall. There were both 10K and 20K time trial races in five year age groups and divided by gender.

Gold medalists in the **10 K race** were (women) 50-54, Susan Lengel, Fairfax, 55-59, Karen Sullivan, Arlington, 65-69, Lynn Saunders, Gainesville, 70-74 Rosemary Schwartzbard, Arlington, 75-79, Joyce Tobias, Haymarket; (men) 50-54, Eric Lengel, Fairfax, 55-59, Jim Crowley, Alexandria, 60-64, Thomas Tice, Centreville, 65-69, James Degoe, Reston, 70-74, Giulio Porta, Annandale, 75-79, Stephen Forman, McLean, 80-84, Thomas Tobias, Haymarket and 85-89, Otto Gercken, Gainesville.

Gold medalists in the **20 K race** were (women) 55-59, Karen Sullivan, Arlington, 60-64, Apharat Siler, Manassas, 65-69, Lynn Saunders, Gainesville, 70-74, Rosemary Schwartzbard, Arlington, 75-79, Joyce Tobias, Haymarket; (men) 50-54, Eric Lengel, Fairfax, 55-59, Jim Crowley, Alexandria, 60-64, Jim Gleason, Reston, 65-69, James Degoe, Reston, 70-74, Giulio Porta, Annandale, 75-79, Charles Nelson, Arlington, 80-84, Thomas Tobias, Haymarket and 85-89, Otto Gercken, Gainesville.

Track, Rowing and Diving

Nine track events and a 2K rowing competition took place at Thomas Jefferson Community Center, Arlington, on Sept. 12 plus a diving competition in late afternoon at the Yorktown High School aquatic center in Arlington.

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Kill the living room,
maximize the kitchen.

By John Byrd

There's no doubt that the concept of a family kitchen has been radically altered in the past few decades. Homeowners are comfortable with less enclosure; more visual continuum. They are also embracing zoning ideas that make it easier for a hostess to move between food preparation tasks and entertaining guests.

But suppose the proposed solution for more kitchen space is to "lose the living room?" Unthinkable at first, but then — "really innovative, clever... a huge breakthrough."

Such were the revelations of Joy Green, owner of a 3,000-square-foot residence in Oak Hill, as she contemplated a plan to introduce a gourmet kitchen into the rear of traditional-style three level home.

Joy and husband Helmut, both in their mid-60s, had purchased the house new in 1983; raised three boys in it and, like most homeowners of the period, had happily adapted to what the home had to offer.

What the home offered was a 1,000-square-foot first level template consisting of a front foyer with a living room to the left; a family room, kitchen and dining room (moving from right to left) on the rear of the house.

One could walk directly from the foyer to the family room, but each room was less than 150 square feet. "And," Joy adds, "there was an excess doors." Five in the family room alone.

"The traffic through the kitchen was frequently clogged," she said.

Yet, curiously, the spacious front-facing living room was scarcely used.

"When the kids were small, the living room was a kind of containment area for their games," Joy said. "But as they got



Marcelo Dobrauchi of Terranova Construction K&B combined a former family room and tiny kitchen to create a gourmet kitchen nearly three times the size of the original for seniors Helmut and Joy Green of Oak Hill.



The new food prep island features two baking ovens positioned to help Joy Green enjoy one of her favorite culinary pursuits.



The kitchen's work triangles include a farm sink and custom designed cabinetry supporting spacious work surfaces.

Details

Designers at Terranova Construction K&B periodically offer workshops on home remodeling topics at their Tysons Corner showroom. Call 703-761-0604 or email Info@terranovaCKB.com.

online. She came across kitchen design pro Marcelo Dobrauchi of Terranova Construction K&B and set up meeting in her home.

"I had been experimenting with new space plan ideas for months," Joy said.

"I was kind of stumped. But Marcelo put everything into perspective almost immediately. In the end, he drafted eight floorplan variations. He was very thorough on every issue — and there were many."

"I thought an open plan might be better suited to what Joy and Helmut were looking for," Dobrauchi said, "so I sketched out a concept showing how they could convert the living room to a formal dining room while reconfiguring the adjacent kitchen/family room space as a large open kitchen revolving around a food prep island and dining counter."

Since this would entail deleting three interior walls concealing electrical wiring and plumbing, Dobrauchi devised a way to re-route much of the critical infrastructure into a specially-designed 12-foot-by-8-foot passageway conjoining the kitchen to the relocated formal dining room.

Meanwhile, by rerouting HVAC vents, the designer eliminated the need for ceiling-flush bulk-heading, adding the vital inches needed for higher, more capacious cabinets.

To accommodate a wide assortment pots, pans, cooking utensils, the design team built an L-shaped system of floor cabinets fitted out with custom-designed slots and cubbies.

At 16-feet-by-3-feet, the handsome food prep island and five stool dining counter is the kitchen's focal point. A pair of state-of-the-art baking ovens are within easy reach of the white quartz counter surface — which parallels a black quartz surface that includes a wine refrigerator and a glass-facing stemware cabinet.

The built-in works perfectly for the couple's everyday dining requirements, but is also an ideal staging area for the buffet-style service they generally employ for larger parties.

Jana Neudel, a Terranova interior design expert, worked closely with Joy in developing the kitchen's finish work elevations.

Nordic white mission-style cabinet facings present a pleasing shade contrast to the truffle-colored facings of the food prep island. Natural stone tiles with herringbone detail in a 3-inch-by-6-inch brick pattern, meanwhile, present a softly neutral back splash that ends texture to an open sunny space.

Completing the transitional-style interior design statement, walnut flooring and crown molding create a visual unity. Natural light floods in from all directions.

A perfect space for entertaining, and gourmet cooking pursuits.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years. See more stories at www.HomeFrontsNews.com.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Senior Living

Senior Calendar

MEDICARE 101

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015, 10-11:30 a.m., Vienna Presbyterian Church – Great Hall, 124 Park Street, NE, Vienna, VA 22180. To register: Call Charles Geschiere at 703-938-9050, ext. 151; TTY 711.

SENIOR MEDICARE ENROLLMENT

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Vienna Presbyterian Church – Room 205, 124 Park Street, NE, Vienna, VA 22180; To register: Call Charles Geschiere at 703-938-9050, ext. 151; TTY 711.

MEDICARE 101

Monday, Oct. 19, 2015, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Lorton Senior Center - Main Room, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton, VA 22079. To register: Call Kim Frenkel at 703-550-7195, TTY 711.

MEDICARE 101

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, 1-2:30 p.m., Braddock District Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015. Directions: 703-425-9300, TTY 711. (No registration necessary.)

SENIOR MEDICARE ENROLLMENT

Friday, Oct. 23, 2015, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Lorton Senior Center - Computer Room, 7722 Gunston Plaza, Lorton, VA 22079. To register: Call Kim Frenkel at 703-550-7195, TTY 711.

SENIOR MEDICARE ENROLLMENT

Thursday, Oct. 29, 2015, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., WFCM, Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20151. To register: Call Carrie Brill at 703-324-5456, TTY 711.

SENIOR MEDICARE ENROLLMENT

Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. To register: Call Carrie Brill at 703-324-5456, TTY 711.

Volunteers Needed

Help urgently needed with the following interesting positions and tasks. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711

The **Little River Glen Senior Center** in **Fairfax** needs a **Computer Lab Assistant**. The **Lewinsville Senior Center** in **McLean** needs instructors for the following classes: **Line Dance, Zumba Gold, Certified Arthritis Exercise, Square Dance, Basic Guitar, Art and Basic Spanish**.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** in **Alexandria** needs a volunteer to help with once a week **fish aquarium upkeep** and instructors for the following classes: **Basic Guitar, Italian, Pottery and Ballroom Dance**; dance class meets on Thursday afternoons.

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs a **Bingo Caller** on Fridays at 2:00 p.m. and an **Art Therapy Assistant** once or twice a month.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in **Alexandria** needs a **Country Western Line Dance Instructor, Hula Hoop Class Leader, African Style Dance Instructor** and an instructor to teach a class in **Mosaic Art or Jewelry Making**.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments** and wellness programs.

Meals on Wheels needs **drivers, coordinators, and co-coordinators** for routes throughout the county. Meals are delivered midday on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The **Sully Senior Center** in **Centreville** needs a **certified personal trainer**, preferably with experience working with older adults, for one hour, twice a week.

The **Herndon Senior Center** needs **Social Visitors** daily anytime from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and a **Baked Goods Table Manager**, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Korean Meals on Wheels needs drivers to deliver meals midday on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. (Speaking Korean not required.)

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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Senior Living



Photos by Andrea Worker/The Connection

Brightview Great Falls executive director Tina Aulakh gave the welcome speech and made the toasts, surrounded by her staff on the stairs above her. Then it was on to leading the gathering in a few rousing tunes before getting the dancing underway.



Porta Nickles is preparing to celebrate her own birthday soon, looking forward to blowing out 100 candles. Surrounded by her grandchildren, (from left) Aletta, Laura, John and Philip, Ms. Porta says that the welcome that family members receive at Brightview Great Falls is one of the reasons she loves her home there. "Family of all ages are always invited and welcome," she said.

BrightView Celebrates One-Year

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

“When you live in a retirement or assisted living community, every birthday is a reason to celebrate – so why not give three cheers to the place itself!” quipped one resident of the BrightView Senior Living community in Great Falls, speaking at the facility’s one year anniversary bash.

The event was a dress-up occasion, and staff, residents and family and friends alike turned out in cocktail attire for the reception, special dinner and entertainment. Guests could tell they were in for an unusual evening when a smiling gentleman greeted them at the front entry on stilts, towering with impressive ease above the crowd. Inside the main lobby, offerings of flutes of champagne and “Vibrant Great Falls Bellinis” (No, we didn’t get the recipe!) ensured that the party really did get started.

Resident John Donahu was one of the first to move in when BrightView Great Falls opened in September 2014. Donahu came to the community because both he and his wife could be accommodated. With the facility’s Wellsprings Village section, which offers secure dementia care in a residential setting, the couple could continue to live in proximity, despite her deteriorating mental health. Sadly, Mrs. Donahu passed away shortly after their arrival, but John has become an active member of the BrightView residents’ gang and was found at the gathering greeting friends and enjoying the delights on the unique dessert tray – served on a floating table surrounding a very well-dressed young lady.

PORTA NICKLES is another resident who thinks birthday parties are “just wonderful!” Nickles attended this celebration surrounded by a table-full of her grandchildren who all live nearby and are frequent visitors. Even her great grandchildren are well



Ann Corsino joined the Brightview Great Falls community about half way into this, their inaugural year. She chose to enjoy her reception treats in one of the several outdoor spaces that surround the campus where she was still able to keep an eye on the action.

known and loved by BrightView families and staff. “They’re around here somewhere,” laughed Nickles granddaughter Aletta. “They are so comfortable here and so welcomed, that they just wander about and mingle with their many friends here.” While Nickles is decidedly happy to celebrate the one year birthday of her new home, she’s even more excited to prepare for her own 100th birthday, coming up early in the new year. “I’m ready! My life here is full and rich and I look forward to every day,” she said, just before heading off to join the group of residents who were preparing to sing a special BrightView ditty written and conducted by their beloved, piano-playing Josh Graf, director of Vibrant Living at BrightView Great Falls.

Brightview Great Falls is part of Brightview Senior Living, LLC, based in Baltimore. To residents like Donahu and Nickles, it’s no wonder the company keeps expanding the number of its communities throughout Virginia, Maryland and beyond. “It’s really all about the wonderful staff,” said Ann Corsino, who has been in residence

for about six months. “There are so many lovely, caring young people here. They really brighten things up.” Donahu and Nickles agreed that the staff is the key ingredient to the community’s success. Both cited numerous staff members for their professionalism, respect, and “just liking to have and share in a bit of fun!”

Once the gourmet buffet dinner, prepared under the direction of Chef Meldor, was reduced to not much more than leftovers, it was time for welcomes, toasts, singing, party favors, and some serious rug-cutting. “That’s ‘dancing’ for you young folks who might not know that expression,” the partygoers were educated by several residents. Executive Director Tina Aulakh made those welcomes and toasts, and then led the introductions and applause for the staff, praising them for their part in “getting us to this wonderful day.” After acknowledging her team, Aulakh told the attendees that the “real reason we are here this evening” is because of the residents, thanking them not only for choosing Brightview Great Falls as their home, but for enriching the lives of



Resident John Donahu chats with the “Floating Desert Lady” – who is actually executive director Tina Aulakh’s daughter Katja Milosevic. Milosevic says that she enjoys interaction with the residents. “It’s really good karma here,” she said.

those “privileged to be part of your family here.”

THE EVENING’S ACTIVITIES were scheduled to conclude at 7:30 p.m., but it was obvious by the numbers hitting the improvised dance floor of the facility’s “great room” that the action was only just getting started. It seemed a given that everyone inside the Brightview Great Falls community are ready to take Porta Nickles’ advice and “live life to the fullest and look forward to every day.”

Tina Aulakh, and Community Sales Director Joanna Banks invite anyone interested in exploring senior living options either for themselves or for family members to contact Brightview Great Falls or any of their other locations. “We do a number of ‘get to know us’ events,” said Banks. “And our residents love to show people around.” The community is located at 10200 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls and can be reached at 703-759-2513 or see their website www.greatfallsva.brightviewseniorliving.com.